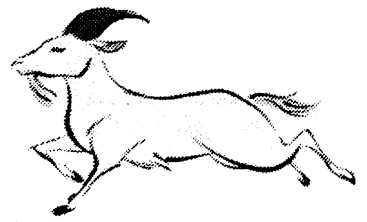




# THE STING

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November 10, 2004

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

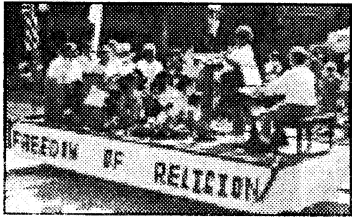
Volume 59, Edition 4

## QUICK NEWS

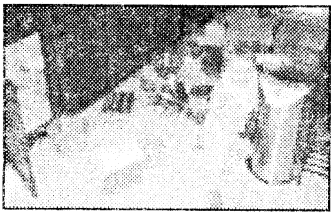


Read all about the school's poker champions. Make sure to stay away from those guys in a poker tournament (pg 2).

## QUICK OPINION

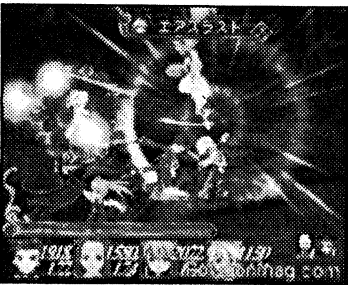


What? (pg 4)

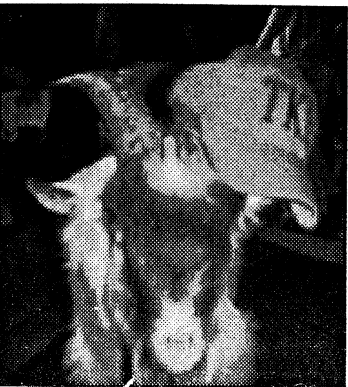


Is this kid responsible for trashing the University Courtyard? Probably not, but one student is tired of it (pg 5).

## QUICK FEATURES



Tales of Symphonia. Though it's been out for a while, does it still pack a punch? (pg 8)



A night of goats. Read everything there is to know about it, thanks to Dave Bachtel (pg 10).

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# Female student avoids rape at SPSU

## Student fights attacker off with keys

Heather Giroux  
Staff Writer

On Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at approximately 8:45 PM a female student was assaulted in the mailbox room located between the Commons and Courtyard Apartments on Southern Polytechnic State University's campus. The woman was physically and sexually accosted in what appears to be an attempted rape. The victim was able to fight off her attacker and escape. The suspect was described as a 20 to 25 year-old black male, approximately 165 pounds, 5'9" to 5'11" tall. At the time he was wearing a red hat, white "do rag", red t-shirt, and dark blue jeans.

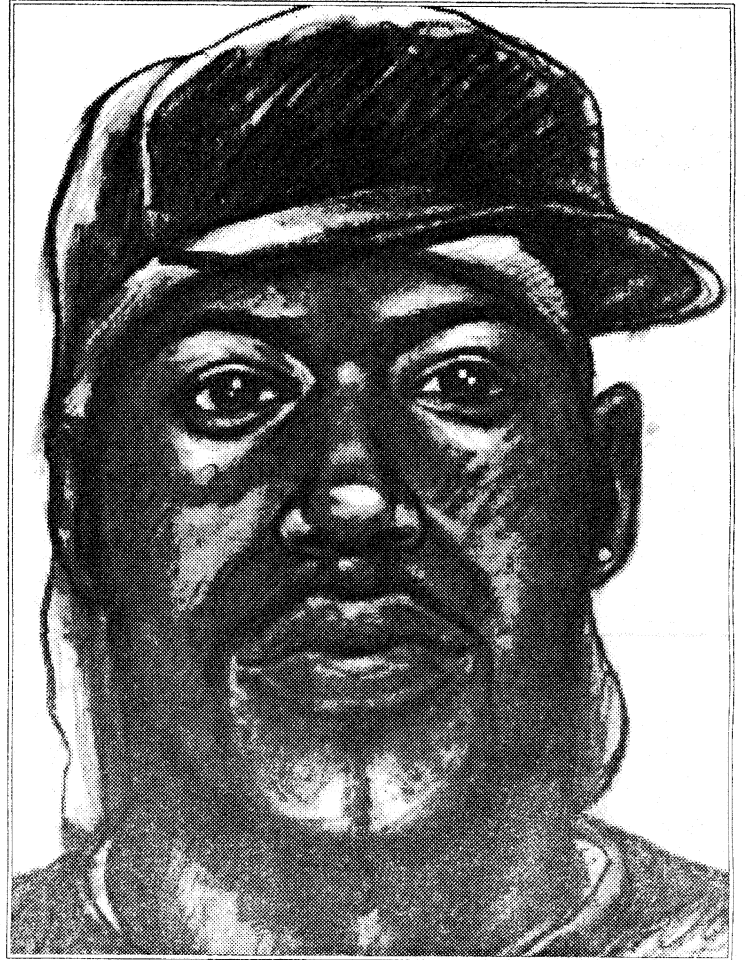
The victim defended herself with the use of her keys, fought off her attacker, and got away. She then had a friend call the police on her behalf. Chief Chasteen stated the proper procedure in a situation such as this one, or any instance when one fears for their safety, is to first "go to a secure location and then notify the police as soon as safely possible."

The investigation is being headed up by Detective Sergeant Mike Tarcan. There have been a few tips that the police are looking into. The Police Department has also

had a sketch drawn in hopes of someone recognizing the perpetrator. This sketch has been distributed throughout campus as well as sent to various locations in the Marietta area and other universities. Another avenue the police are pursuing is talking to those who were in the mailroom near the time of the incident, before and after. As always, the Chief would appreciate it if everyone would keep a look out for any suspicious persons and notify the station immediately if one is seen.

Historically, our campus has had a very high safety rating and a good record as far as these things are concerned. The "Crime on Campus Report," which itemizes various violations for the past three years as per the Cleary Act, can be found at [police.spsu.edu](http://police.spsu.edu). Just click on "Crime Statistics." There have been two forcible sex offenses over the past three years. They also just so happened to occur in the residential facilities but were both acts of acquaintance rapes. According to David G. Curtis (a clinical psychologist), acquaintance rape or date rape is defined as a person being subjected to unwanted sexual inter-

*Continued on Page 2*



The police ask that if you see someone matching this description, please call them at Ext. 5555 or (678) 915-5555 as soon as possible.

## Roundtable discusses tuition modeling, policy

Heather Giroux  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> there was a University Roundtable held in the Dogwood Dining Room. Dr. Koger, a member of the Tuition Task Force, was the guest speaker on the subject of tuition. Many students were in attendance, including the SGA.

The state of Georgia is #14 out of 16 states in the Southeast in the scale of tuition cost. Currently, the state pays 60% and students pay only 40% of their total university costs. Koger's goal was to gain input from students on the various options there are concerning tuition. The main strategies discussed were the Plateau Model, Differential Pricing: Upper and Lower Division, Surcharge for Excess Hours, and Surcharge for Repeat Hours.

The Plateau Model is what the University System of Georgia (USG) now implements. A student pays per class up to 12 hours, and they are not charged for any hours past that. The Differential Pricing option aligns the actual cost of a class with how much a student is charged. This will increase tuition greatly, but take a large burden off of the University System where budget cuts are concerned. The Surcharge for Excess Hours and Surcharge for Repeat Hours plans are pretty self-explanatory. Charging students for hours taken over 12 hours would, in theory, encourage students to

graduate faster. Charging students for taking classes more than once would encourage them to pass the class the first time around.

There are, of course, downfalls to all of these different tuition options. If the Plateau Model is still used, it will not be enough to make up the budget cuts. The Differential Pricing is what the USG is considering at the moment. This would increase the cost for the students, but at a small rate of \$5.00 to \$25.00 per year.

The two Surcharge options sound good for most universities, but would not work as well at Southern Polytechnic. Many people at our school have accumulated an excess amount of hours because of changing their major, transferring from another school, or choosing to also pursue a minor or even a double major. "Don't punish students for changing their major under excess hours," stated Billy Parish, a Junior in Management.

As for the Repeat Courses option, many of our students have legitimate reasons for dropping a class and retaking it at a later date. A good deal of our students have jobs and families that might interfere with classes since Southern Polytechnic is mostly a commuter school.

The final decision on what tuition model will be implemented next should be out sometime later this month.

## ACM competes in South Carolina

### Students return home empty handed

CJ Shiflett  
Staff Writer

Students from the SPSU chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery competed on Saturday, November 6, in the Eleventh Annual Southeastern Small College Programming Contest. The contest was sponsored by the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges and was held at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Andy Digh, from Mercer University, and Chris Healey, from Furman University, were the co-directors of the event.

Twenty-five teams from 18 colleges came from across the Southeast to compete in the event. Each team consisted of between two and four students. Representing Southern Polytechnic were Erik Hadley, Matt Mastin, CJ Shiflett, and Jerry Wu, with Professor Roth as the team's faculty advisor. The contest marked Southern Polytechnic's first participation in competitive programming in recent memory. Close to 100 students participated in the contest.

This year, the colleges in attendance were: Augusta State University, Carson-Newman College, Elon University, Furman University, Gardner-Webb University, Georgia Perimeter College, Hampden-Sydney College, North Georgia Col-

lege and State University, Roanoke College, Southern Polytechnic State University, and Spelman College, all with only 1 team. Bob Jones University, Jacksonville State University, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Lipscomb University, Maryville College, Mercer University, and Wofford College also attended, each providing 2 teams. Only the Maryville and Mercer teams were uniform shirts.

The contest started around 10:00 am, with a practice session to familiarize the participants with the computers, sample problems, and the programming environment. Many teams wisely used the given time to play games of hangman and draw pictures on a blackboard. This session lasted until 11:15, at which point the contest started in earnest. Every team member received a list of 6 problems. The first team to complete all 6 programs within the designated 3 hour time limit would win. If no teams correctly completed all 6, then the team with the highest number correct programs would be declared the winner, with any ties going to the team with the lowest submission time. An additional 20 minutes would be added to the team's time for each incorrect submission. The submissions were judged by a new judging software, developed by Bob Jones University.

*Continued on Page 2*

### Student avoids rape Continued from Front Page

course, oral sex, anal sex, or other sexual contact through the use of force or threat of force. What had occurred October 31<sup>st</sup> is considered a stranger to stranger rape attempt. About.com defines stranger to stranger rape as being nonconsensual sex of any kind by a person the survivor does not know. This type of rape is much more uncommon and has never happened in the past 12 years of Chief Chasteen's career at Southern Poly.

Pierrette Maillet, Acting Manager of Residence Life, is looking into implementing a few changes in response to this attempted rape. She has a recommendation that the mailbox room doors have certain hours that they will be open. She is also exploring the idea of having a self defense class or 'model mugging' demonstration here on campus. Residence Life has also teamed up with the Police Department in

response to this incident and to make the campus feel safer to its students as a whole. The interior doors of the mailbox room, namely the bathroom, have been locked, safety information will be posted around campus, and they are looking into possibly installing cameras and convex mirrors. Chief Chasteen reiterated that the Southern Poly community "needs to think this through and make decisions based on predictable outcomes. We should avoid knee jerk reactions." The Chief, as much as anyone else, wants to have this case solved and have our campus return to its very high safety record as soon as possible, but he's not quick to jump into anything too quickly, "Let's do this thing right."

Statistically, 1 in 4 college women will become the victim of rape. There are things a woman can do to help lower these odds and protect herself. If you feel in danger, use one of the many call boxes strategically placed throughout

campus. These boxes have a flashing blue light on top and contain a phone where all you need to do is press the red button. This will alert the police to your location and someone will respond as soon as possible. Students also have the option of calling the police for an escort if they feel it would not be safe for them to venture out on their own. Other things you could do to protect yourself is to buy some pepper spray, carry a pocket knife (only 2" or less is permissible on campus), walk with at least one other person after dark, walk smartly and with a purpose, walk with your keys in your hand, and always be aware of your surroundings.

If you believe you have any information relevant to the incident on Sunday evening that might help in the investigation or in the identification of the suspect, please advise the University Police Department, Ext. 5555 or at 678-915-5555 if off campus.

### ACM competes off-campus Continued from Front Page

Judges were provided by Bob Jones University, Furman University, Lipscomb University, and Maryville College, to serve as backups for the software and to answer any questions asked by the competitors.

The contest was called at 2:15 PM, and the judges convened to verify the validity of each team's submissions. The team from Furman University was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place, with 3 correct submissions, and a total time of 265 minutes. Bob Jones University's primary team came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4 successful programs in 455 minutes. First place went to the first-string Mercer team, with 4 correct submissions in 299 minutes. Southern Polytechnic placed 20<sup>th</sup>, with 0 submissions in 0 minutes. When asked to comment on the results, Matt Mastin from SPSU said, "we did good for the amount of effort we put in."

Stuffed footballs were given to the teams once they had successfully completed a program. Each football was color-coded based on

how many programs had been completed. Pink footballs were given for a team's first correct submission, orange for the second, blue for the third, and green footballs were given for the fourth submission. Purple and yellow footballs were reportedly used for the fifth and sixth programs, respectively, but no team completed more than 4. Each member from the top 3 teams was also allowed to pick a prize from an assortment of items. These prizes ranged from programming books to computer games.

An honorable mention was given to Lipscomb University's 2 teams, for having traveled the farthest to attend the competition. Lipscomb University is located in Nashville, Tennessee, 286 miles from Spartanburg. This mention may have been given out erroneously as Jacksonville State University is 318 miles from Spartanburg. Jacksonville State did win an honorable mention, however, for placing both of their teams in the Top 10.

The Twelfth Annual Southeastern Small College Programming Contest will be held next year at Lenoir-Rhyne College, in Hickory, North Carolina.

## Students compete in CAB's first annual Fall Poker Classic

CJ Shrader  
Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, November 5, the Campus Activity Board and 5<sup>th</sup> Street Poker hosted their first Fall Poker Classic in the Community Center.

Students began arriving well before the 7:00 PM start time. Arriving players were greeted to a Community Center which had been

Nearly halfway through the tournament a raffle was held for a set of 500 poker chips, graciously donated by SPSU student Will Juris, of Poker Chip Designs. The winning ticket was held by Ryan Spencer, who proudly took home his prize.

When there were only seven contestants left, spread across two tables, they consolidated into one

Harmeyer.

These experts (or extremely lucky players) played each other in different ways. Some would sit quietly in concentration, some would nervously bob their leg, while others would skillfully twirl poker chips between their fingers. Kevin Bolton was the first to be knocked out, followed shortly by Braxton Wilder and then Adam Harmeyer.

When only four were left, Sean McCray folded while both Doug Hannah and Patrick McDuffie went all in against Vincent LeFevre's sizeable amount of chips. LeFevre won the hand, and Hannah, who had put more chips in than McDuffie, was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

In the end, it came down to LeFevre and McCray. Though both players continued skillfully for nearly fifteen minutes, including a few good wins by McCray, LeFevre ended up being the victor.

For his efforts, Vincent LeFevre was awarded a \$100 Visa Check Card. Sean McCray took home a \$50 Best Buy Gift Certificate, while Doug Hannah took home a \$25 Visa Check Card.

If any students are interested, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Poker, a local company owned by SPSU student Dale Greenman, and CAB will be hosting another poker tournament on November 19.



The Champion's Table, preparing for the final showdown.

transformed into a poker casino, complete with twelve green felt card tables and poker chips.

Everyone who showed up at the free poker tournament were given an equal amount of chips and invited to find a table and sit down. At about 7:15, employees of 5<sup>th</sup> Street Poker told the tables that they could begin playing.

The style of poker was Texas Hold 'Em, with a double blind ante. Double blind means that the player immediately to the left of the dealer antes one chip, and the next player antes two. It is then up to the rest of the players to decide whether to fold, call, or raise the bet. As the game progressed, the double blind was raised to make sure the poker game didn't last all night.

People began to drop from the tournament as soon as the first hand, with two daring students actually going all in with their opening hands. Naturally, they lost.

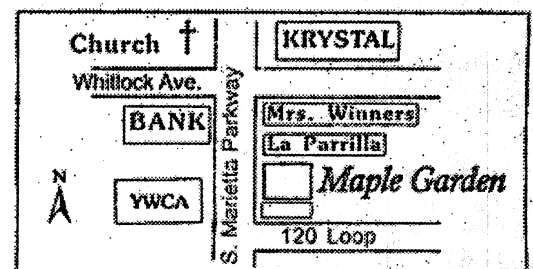
Champion's Table. The final contestants were Braxton Wilder, Patrick McDuffie, Kevin Bolton, Doug Hannah, Sean McCray, Vincent LeFevre, and Adam



The three champions combined took home \$175. Providing that free refreshments were available, CAB certainly spent a lot. The champions, from left to right, are: Doug Hannah, 3<sup>rd</sup>; Vincent LeFevre, 1<sup>st</sup>; and Sean McCray, 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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## A SAFE response to funk

Sexual Acceptance for Everyone  
Campus Organization

*Editor's note: This article and the one below it are written in response to Christiaan Funkhouser's article, "A Possible Solution to the College Tuition Hike?" printed in the October 27 issue of The Sting. If interested, you can read it online at [www.thesting.org](http://www.thesting.org).*

Let's start by getting our facts correct. The amount we are budgeted by SGA is \$450. Divide that by the number of Southern Poly students (there are approximately 3,800 students according to the SPSU website) and that's a whole whopping \$0.12 per student. We were not allotted this amount because of our "lifestyle." If so we would not have heterosexual supporters. Again, the budget amount is not about promoting our lifestyle or agenda, it's about promoting tolerance, acceptance, dignity, respect towards Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) students, and providing support to our fellow GLBT students. Many people preach that homosexuality is somehow wrong and unacceptable, even though that's the way they were created. This is the type of attitude that we are trying to fight. This is also the kind of attitude that someone would write "SAFE or Dangerous?" in an article. That is in incredibly poor taste. If you have a problem with homosexuals may I suggest that you see a counselor from the Career and

Counseling Center; they will be happy to help you.

About renting movies from Blockbuster: SPSU is a public place and therefore must adhere to all federal laws regarding public performances. Renting a movie to be shown in an SPSU public setting requires a performance license (i.e. royalty) to be paid. Therefore, it would be illegal for SAFE to just rent movies from Blockbuster.

Colored flyers: They get your attention don't they? One of the missions is to be visible on campus. If we simply put up a few black and white ones or get creative and used red paper, they won't have the same impact. We also have to put a great amount of flyers up because people tend to tear them down as soon as we put them up. Now as to the cost... We pay out of our own pocket the expense of the flyers, which we are printing from a color laser printer, significantly cheaper than Kinko's or inkjet. Sure we could save a little by using black and white but the group's decision was to have the color for impact. Otherwise, our flyers would be lost among the countless others.

Is there a need for SAFE?

Absolutely!

According to the Kinsey institute approximately 10% of the human population is homosexual by nature. So if there are approximately 3,800 students there are approximately 380 GLBT students at SPSU.

Since its recognition in March 2004, seven months ago, 4 members

came out to family, friends, and co-workers on National Coming Out Day. That's four students that have learned to accept themselves, to not feel ashamed of who they are even though you feel they are wrong. That's four students less likely to commit suicide or be treated for deep depression.

In that same seven months, SAFE has sponsored 5 movie nights - some were gay-themed, others, like Kill Bill, were not. SAFE sponsored a meet-n-greet cookout. SAFE co-sponsored with CAB the Fall Party. SAFE provided students an opportunity to see "Much Ado" by Shakespeare. SAFE also sponsored two camping trips, one to High Falls and the other to Hard Labor Creek. Both were Friday-Sunday. SAFE provided an opportunity for students to go to Six Flags for Fright Fest. SAFE hosted Emory University's GLBTA group on Amendment One. SAFE has hosted and will be hosting future programs by AID Atlanta for STD education and awareness. This is important for all students since most college students are in the age range where they are statistically more likely to contract an STD, no matter their sexual orientation, gender, or ethnicity.

Homophobia on campus? Yes.

A Greek organization that will not be named has harassed members of SAFE. Several members before joining were harassed in classes for no obvious reasons other than perception.

## Christiaan funks up

Christiaan Funkhouser  
Staff Writer

While it does not happen much, I made a mistake. After much controversy and fact checking, I must make a correction. In my article entitled, "A Possible Solution to the College Tuition Hike?" I misstated that SAFE received \$4,500 when in fact they only received \$450. My sources were a fairly new member of the SGA and a mis-punctuated budget and wrong budget to which I found in two places.

Nevertheless, with that said, I do not intend for this to be a retraction. I wrote that as an opinion piece, not a news piece. My opinion is that money from college tuition should go to organizations that help a person in their major, career, or can bring recognition to the school (such as sports), those types being here-on referred to as essential organizations.

The point I was trying to get across was that if we only support those types of organizations then we (as college students) would have to give less money to the SGA, less money to the college thus giving us a break in tuition costs.

In response to the impression that many people got by my "focusing" on SAFE, I was under the impression that they received 10 times the amount of money they were actually receiving. I focused on them for about 17% of my article. The advice I gave them were suggestions that are open to any organizations that can save any organization money. It was not intended as an attack.

I feel that nonessential groups should be supported voluntarily. I was not intending it to be an anti-gay article or trying to ban a gay group. I am, however, against any SGA funding of nonessential groups. Whether you're a gay

group, a group specialized in one culture, many cultures or one of our many Greeks, I'm anti-SGA funding. I think we should give them the facilities to meet and allow them to use the resources of the Student Center, just not money. Remember that no SGA monetary funding does not mean no SGA support or that it can't be a group, look at the BSU.

Lastly, I want to dispel any myths that might lend themselves to imply that I am a homophobe or anti-gay. I believe there are absolutes. I believe there are choices we all make. I believe some choices are right, and likewise some choices are wrong. I believe that the homosexual lifestyle is one of those wrong choices. God gave us all the ability to choose whether to do what is right or wrong, and I believe that someone choosing the homosexual lifestyle is making the wrong choice. I don't hate anyone that makes the wrong choice, I do not hate homosexuals.

## Correction

In the October 27, 2004 issue of The Sting, in the article "A Possible Solution to the College Tuition Hike?" we printed that SAFE's budget was \$4,500. The budget for SAFE, in fact, is only \$450. The Sting apologizes to SAFE and to anyone who may have been inconvenienced by our error.

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### ORGANIZATIONS

Articles written by organizations to inform the campus of activities and events are welcome. Articles must be submitted in electronic format (e-mail, 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 1:00 PM. in A252, upstairs in the student center, or call (678) 915-7310. This includes YOU, all you so-called members that never attend. *The Sting*: It's not a job, 'cause a real job pays more.

### DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue is Friday, November 19 at 5:00 P.M. Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of *The Sting*, except through special permission.

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# Uncensored: Which right is right?

Christiaan Funkhouser  
Staff Writer

Which right is right? This past election (thank God President Bush won) we've heard a lot about rights. Voter rights, women's rights, gay rights, the list could go on and on; but what rights are really rights?

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights (C/BOR) are our only rights given to us by the government that the government cannot take away or mess with; all other laws and 'rights' the government is allowed to change, give, or take away. Regardless what the government wants to do it cannot take away our Constitutional rights. The C/BOR is there to help protect us from the government imposing its way on us and abusing its power. However, it also helps the government by giving a universal standard and people cannot just say, "Well, it's my right to..." Unless it's in the C/BOR the federal government can change its mind about certain things. However, we have a democratic republic so the government has to keep us happy, or else we can change our government.

This is a multipart editorial. This first part is going to focus on our First Amendment rights that the government is required to give us and also to disperse a myth that is generally afforded the First Amendment.

The First Amendment is as follows, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the free-

dom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The first thing that the writers thought was most important was the freedom of religion. It gives the definition of what the government can and cannot do about religion. The government (Congress not the States) cannot do anything to stop religions from meeting or from being practiced; Congress cannot create a church state, or force people to believe a certain religion over others. As a Supreme Court Justice cited, "No person can be punished for entertaining or professing religious beliefs or dis-beliefs"[sic]. It gives us a freedom OF religion not the mindset that some people believe that it's a freedom FROM religion.

I also have the right to say, and print anything I want. But just because I have that right I shouldn't always exercise it. Just as I have the right to print anything I want, *The Sting* has the right not to print what I say. Writing whatever I want could also have other repercussions.

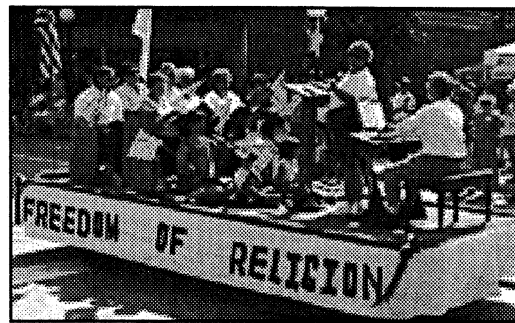
We are also given the right to "peaceably assemble" and protest/petition the Government when we think it's making mistakes. However, like any of our rights, we must, while exercising them, respect laws that were made that do not infringe on them. For instance, we must "peaceably assemble" and not get violent like many so-called 'peace' protestors do. When people get

violent, they are no longer under the protection of the First Amendment.

I have a real problem with "hate speech" laws. It's not because I say a lot of hate speech, it's a problem because I do not want the government legislating what is hateful. My definition of hate speech most likely differs from other peoples. I would not agree with certain teachers who say that the 10 Commandments are 'hate speech.' All that has to happen is that someone abuses their power and we could have a situation like there is in Canada where the Bible is seen as hate speech. I would be fined for my remarks about believing that the homosexual lifestyle is a wrong choice that people make and that wouldn't be printed by law.

The misconception that the first amendment supports "freedom from religion" has mainly stemmed from Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black who said in his majority opinion in *Everson v. Board of Education (1947)*, "The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable." This is where the myth of the separation of Church and State (SCS) has arisen. The SCS implies that the government and religion are two separate entities which cannot share any common ground. That all religion must be absent from any public office and anything public. The

SCS tries to ignore the true intent of the First Amendment (freedom to all religions) and tries to prohibit the free exercise of certain religions which—whether on purpose or not—gives preference to a lesser known religion: Secular Humanism. The false conception of the SCS and Justice Black's words have given groups like the American Civil Liberty Union (ACLU), Freedom From Religion (FFR), and many other groups the ability to wage a legal war against Christians and other



These people are \*really\* into their freedom of religion. When was the last time you were in a parade celebrating it?

followers of Christ to remove Christianity from the public square. Rarely do these groups do the same against pagan religions, Islam, and Secular Humanism.

Secular Humanism is a religion. The first *Humanist Manifesto* referred to humanism as a religion. Even the United States Supreme Court, in *Torcase v. Watkins (1961)*, recognized secular humanism as a religion: "Among religions in this country which do not teach what would generally be considered a

belief in the existence of God, are Buddhism, Taoism, Ethical Culture, Secular Humanism and others." Evolution is taught in schools everywhere as fact but it is a main tenant of Secular Humanism.

The problem with the SCS argument is the inconsistencies. Banning the terms Christmas and Easter from some high-schools with penalties of detention given if the words are said and little elementary school kids being sent to the principal and lectured about being tolerant for bowing their head at the cafeteria quietly before they start eating is an infringement on the SCS. However, kids required to be Muslim for a week including dressing, receiving Muslim names, praying to Mecca at the proper times, and even making a "journey to Mecca" and being graded on their enthusiasm and believability is not considered a violation? Teaching the main tenants of Secular Humanism isn't wrong either? Could it be that groups trying to create a "Freedom from" certain "religions" are abusing the SCS?

Make sure you know your First Amendment rights, regardless of your race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, or religion. Don't allow people to trample on your rights, but if you abuse them you could be up for a lot more than you want to deal with. Your First Amendment rights are ones that you as a United States citizen are guaranteed.

# Should marijuana be legalized? Both sides of the story

Kristin Masterson  
Student Contributor

Is marijuana a harmful drug that should not be legal? Some people say yes, and some people say no. There is one thing that comes to mind that is legal and kills people every day. A gun. Unlike a gun that has killed billions of people, marijuana has not killed a single person. The government spends billions of dollars keeping marijuana illegal; the question is, why? Why not spend it on something of more importance, like the war or medical research? On the other hand, marijuana is the doorway drug to harsher, more dangerous drugs. Legalizing marijuana will make the drug readily available to our country's youth. Marijuana has also been shown to cause lung cancer. In this article, I will show you both viewpoints on the controversial topic of marijuana.

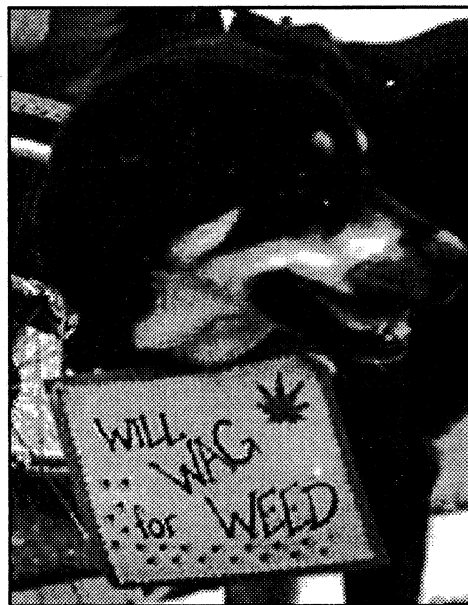
Let's start off with why marijuana should be legalized. Marijuana as medicine has been studied for years. In some cultures, marijuana is legally prescribed medicine. Studies have shown marijuana reduces nausea and pain, especially in patients facing cancer. Tons of patients, families, and doctors have seen the benefits of marijuana.

Some people say there is not enough evidence to legalize marijuana. There is enough evidence to see that decisions about marijuana

for medical use belong in the hands of doctors, and there is no reason to subject medical patients who use marijuana for legitimate reasons to the risk of jail time or fines. Even if one drug dealer is caught, there are ten more out there ready to take his place. It costs money to jail and take down these dealers. In an essay at cyberessays.com they make a good point: if marijuana was to be legalized for everyone, it would save the government money, and the government would even profit. "The legalization of marijuana would benefit the government in two ways: the federal revenues would increase, because marijuana cigarettes would be taxed at the point of sale. In return, the companies that make the cigarettes would also pay income taxes. Second, there would be a reduction on the amount spent in law enforcement efforts to apprehend and prosecute users and sellers of marijuana." If this is true, more money could be used to focus on harder drugs, violent crimes, or terrorism.

After hearing the justification for legalizing marijuana, let's look into why marijuana should stay illegal. Marijuana not only has been proven to give people lung cancer, but your short term memory can be

lost. According to Justine Springer in her article "Keep marijuana illegal," short term memory is often lost among those who use marijuana, and those who use it for longer periods of time have a harder time dealing with stress when they are not smoking marijuana, which may cause them to become dependent on the drug.



This dog votes overwhelmingly "Yes!"

Marijuana is not the only drug that has to be used by medical patients. Some legal drugs that cancer patients take to ease pain are Paracetamol, or Opioids, according to the Better Health Channel. People

do not have to only take a pill to relieve pain, they can do hypnotherapy—the use of imagery to induce a dreamy, relaxed state of mind, relieving nausea in cancer patients. Massage, meditation, Tai Chi, Yoga, Acupuncture, or Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) therapy—a minute electrical current passed through the skin—can all be used to relieve pain.

Marijuana has "impaired thinking, mood, memory, and coordination [in smokers]," reports The Association for Better Living and Education, "Marijuana (THC) is an extremely powerful and pleasurable intoxicant. It affects, alters, and damages brain cells controlling thinking, emotion, pleasure, coordination, mood and memory. The pituitary gland is also damaged which regulates hunger, thirst, blood pressure, sexual behavior, and release of sex hormones." Marijuana is also harmful to the heart; it "speeds up the heartbeat as much as 50%, increases blood pressure, and poses a great risk to those with hypertension and heart disease."

Marijuana also affects the reproductive system in males and females. Still according to The Association for Better Living and Education, "Marijuana use can decrease

and degenerate sperm, sperm count, movement, and cause lowered sex drive. Females can have egg damage, suppression of ovulation; disrupt menstrual cycles, and alteration of hormone levels. Regular use during pregnancy can lower birth weight and cause abnormalities similar to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome."

Marijuana can also affect the throat, creating lung cancer. Some "harmful effects of marijuana on the lungs are: significant damage and destruction of the air sacs of the lungs, reducing the lungs' ability to bring oxygen and remove carbon dioxide—Emphysema; causes bronchial tubes to be inflamed, thickened and to produce more mucus; resulting in narrowing of the air passages—chronic bronchitis; Marijuana smoke has twice as much 'tar' as cigarette smoke and significantly increases the chance of lung cancer, inflammation and infection." These are only some of the affects marijuana can have on the human body.

I hope you have gained some knowledge about marijuana and are able to decide which side of this controversial topic you are on. Both sides have convincing points. I now know why the government is having such a hard time deciding whether it would be a good idea to legalize marijuana.

# The trashing of the apartments

**Tyler Cheatwood**  
Student Contributor

I would like to talk about an issue that is affecting the campus apartments. The apartments have been getting trashed on different occasions. It is like the people living there don't even care about what the area they live in looks like. That doesn't really say much for the other people who live in the apartments and don't do the trashing. It needs to come to an end.

First, I need to really explain the problem. The problem is that the residents of the apartments are writing in the halls, scratching stuff inside the elevator, and throwing stuff off of their balconies. I have heard other students talk about what has been going on and some of them don't care but others think that this needs to come to an end and pretty soon before someone gets hurt.

I spoke with the campus police, who really didn't have much of anything to say. The next step was to go directly to the students. This is where I found out what really happens. Patrick Muza, a resident of the University Courtyard, said, "Sometimes at night I will hear

noises and don't think anything of it until I wake up and see what went on outside."

There were other people who also said that they would experience stuff like that throughout the day. One person said that they would

hear something hit the ground outside their window and it would be someone from somewhere above them dropping stuff. "What happens if I were to walk outside and get hit by something on the head?" Jack Page expressed. It sounds like

some of the people are actually worried and that is why I schemed up some ideas.

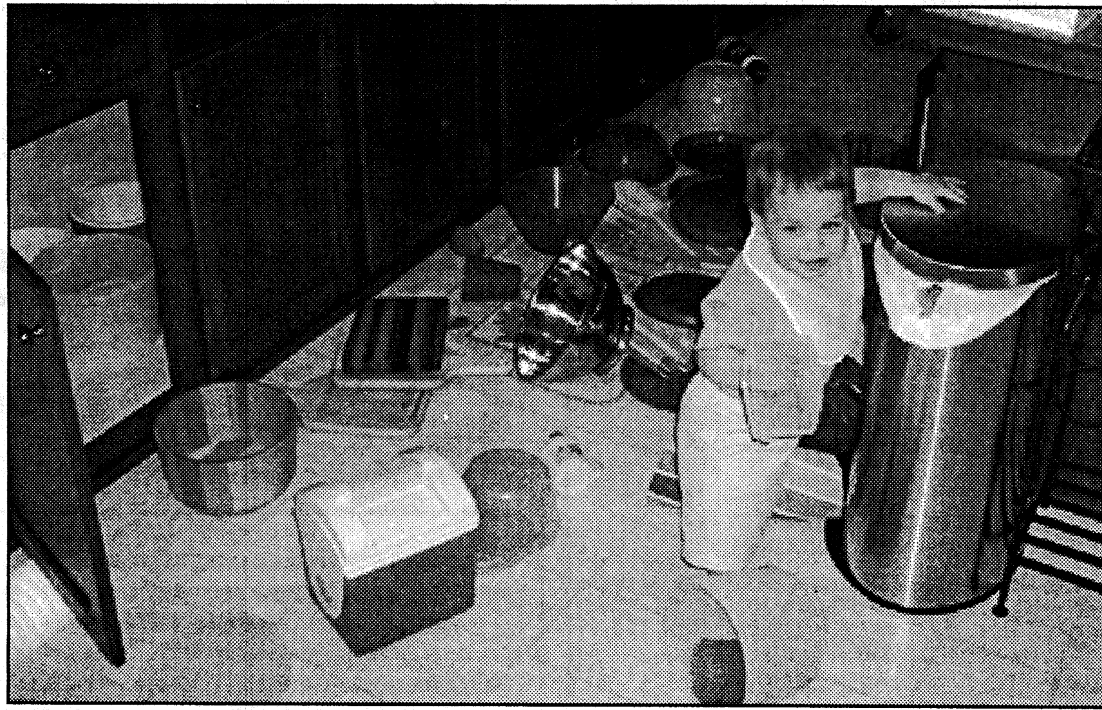
Some solutions for the issue could be having a security guard do a patrol during the suspected times of the trashing. This might

frighten the students who are doing the trashing.

Another step that might be taken could be offering an award for the turn in of whoever may be doing all the destruction. To be a little more high-tech the school could put cameras around the areas that are hit the hardest with damage. This way they would have evidence against the criminal.

The last thing I could think of would be to threaten whoever is doing it that if they get caught there will be tremendous consequences. I know if I was doing the trashing and I heard that there was a tremendous consequence for the person or persons who were doing it, I would be scared.

Overall, I am still trying to find out who is doing it. I hope that by using some of the solutions that I have talked about from above the culprit one day might be discovered. By talking to students and putting the word out about what is going on, we might give some other students the incentive to also try to find out who is causing this destruction. Until then, keep your eyes open.



The Sting believes it may have found the culprit. It always starts when their young.

# Can you party and make good grades?

**Thomas Butterworth**  
Student Contributor

Many of today's college students are having problems in school because of partying too much, but is it possible for a college student to do well in college and still be able to party? That is what is going to be answered in this article. There are those that can party and not do well in school, and there are those that can party and do well in school. This question all comes down to if a person has enough responsibility or not.

I interviewed myself and I believe if you have enough responsibility and maturity then a person is able to have a great time in college and go to parties and still do well in school. As I know, teachers and parents would recommend that we, as college students, not party very much, but we are college students and we are going to party sometimes. So I say if a college student wants to party and do well in school then they better have their priorities straight. Even though I am not one to party very much I have friends in other schools that do party and have their own opinions on this topic.

I interviewed my friend Chris England, who is a student at Berkley, California. He had quite a bit to say about this topic, he is one student who parties and still does quite well in school. He said, "Even though I party quite often I still have time to study a lot. I often have to choose between partying and work, and for me work always comes first. For this reason is why I am doing so well and still I am able to party often." He has made the Dean's List

two semesters in a row at Berkley, so he is a great example of a student who is doing great in school and still being able to party.

In turn, I also interviewed my friend Paul Hendrix, who is an employee at Honda Motor Company in Roswell. He said, "I recommend to students in college to take advantage of being in college and do well, and to not party so much that their grades fail." Paul went to college and within his first semester had failed every single one of his classes because he partied too much. He says he regrets every party he went to that year even though he had a good time at parties he still lost his chance of getting a better career opportunity, just because of a few parties. He said, "The reason I did horrible is because I never studied and never did my homework. If I would have done my homework and studied first I could still have stayed in school and partied, but I had little responsibility and did not see the importance of an education until now, after I have gotten kicked out of school."

This proves that even though everyone can party and do well in school it all depends on how much responsibility and how much maturity you have. Not everyone wants to have to study a lot, but often students have to. "Along with freedom comes more responsibility," says Chris England. "If you like to party and are doing poorly in school then you need to straighten out your priorities, what is more important: partying or your career?" says Paul Hendrix. These are two great statements that a wise college student should definitely heed.

# The evils of outsourcing

**Matt Polis**  
Student Contributor

A trend has arisen in the industry lately and its popularity has only grown. This trend is a monster, and its name is outsourcing. Lately, many companies have tried outsourcing. One of the big areas which businesses outsource to is call centers. You know them well. Your phone or internet breaks down and you call some 1-800 number and wait. You usually hear music for a little and then someone picks up. You tell them all about the issue you are having, and they try to help you solve it. If they can't they usually, very cheerfully, point you in the right direction. You think the call you just made was all done in the US, but no. You just talked to someone in India who was trained to sound American. He or she was taught different accents. They were also given an American name. They are taught to be and act like you. I believe this is working very well, as your probably didn't even notice. Scary, isn't it? The reason this is done is because of cheap labor. Instead of paying minimum wage to an American worker, they can pay a few dollars a day to the people working at the India call centers.

That, however, is not what bothers me. That was just one of my examples. The part that bothers me most concerns people in the computer industry. This subject touches a raw nerve considering I am studying to become a programmer. Businesses lately have been laying-off many programmers. Let's give an example. We have a programmer named Bob. Bob has been working at XYZ Industries for years now. Bob was just told he was being laid off. This was not due to negligence, bad work ethic, or anything of that sort on Bob's part. Bob was laid off because XYZ Indus-

tries learned that for 1/10 of Bob's salary, they can get the same job done overseas. Yes this is good for XYZ. Now Bob, who may have a family to take care of, is jobless. XYZ is happy, but Bob is not. Before he can get even his severance pay, he must train the person who is taking his job away from him. Now not only is Bob out of a job but he must also train his replacement. Talk about the ultimate form of debase-

I do not think this is right. This is taking jobs away from hard working Americans. They went to training of some sort or even college. They took time to try to become the best in their field. They studied hard and interviewed for the job. They were hired. Now, all that time and work will mean nothing. Yes, they can go looking for another similar job, but usually it will not pay as much. It may not even be in the same field of work. Not only that, but they must spend more of their time being trained on how the new job works, on what their role will be, and on any new skills they must be taught. It doesn't stop at computer jobs. It can affect any type of job.

If you want to see just how outsourcing affects people and their families read the article "Fade to Black" in the July 2004 issue of *Reader's Digest*. One woman recounts her time at Kodak. She had said she started out with low pay, but said moving up the ladder was no problem. She started out making single-use cameras and then moved up to a training position. Then one day she was listening to the news and heard that Kodak was moving production of single-use cameras to China and Mexico. There goes her job. She was a single mother who worked at Kodak pulling extra shifts to pay for her kids' college tuition.

Another ex-employee for

Kodak spent 25 years of his life creating film. Then one day he lost his job. He now spends time taking classes to learn a new trade. His new job is heating and air conditioning. Here is a great example of having to be retrained for a new job. He has to go to college all over again. He is now working in a field in no way related to his previous job. In fact, Kodak had made the outsourced employees train their replacements. And to top it off they had to be nice to them. To give an example of how many people can be affected by this, the number of people employed worldwide at Kodak dropped from 136,500 to 63,900. Plans to cut 15,000 more jobs are coming to fruition.

Many people had planned their lives out working at a specific company such as Kodak. They trained, invested time and money, and planned retirement working at their company. Then they are laid off. If we are not careful and do not try and put a stop to this now, many more companies will realize that YOUR job can be outsourced. You think that this issue cannot affect you? That's what the 70,000+ Kodak employees thought also.

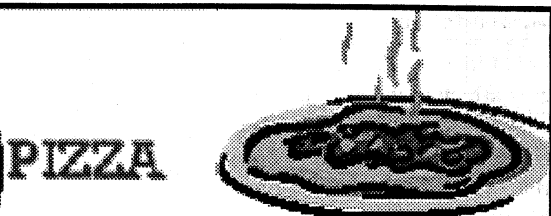
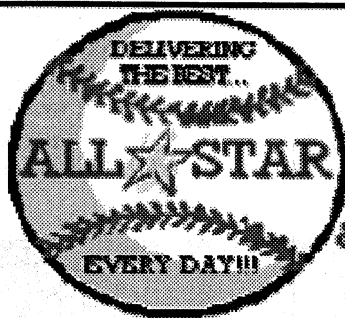
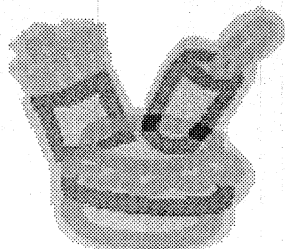


If nothing is done, these people could have your future job. Yes, I know I used this picture in a previous outsourcing article. But it's good.

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4. SPICY BUFFALO CHICKEN- CHICKEN, BLEU CHEESE DRESSING, EXTRA CHEESE, HOT SAUCE.
5. BBQ PIZZA- CHICKEN, BBQ SAUCE, EXTRA CHEESE.
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7. WHITE PIZZA- NO SAUCE, RICOTTA, FRESH GARLIC, EXTRA CHEESE, PARMESAN, OREGANO.
8. PEPPERONI POWERHOUSE- DOUBLE PEPPERONI, EXTRA CHEESE.
9. MEATBALL PARMESAN- MARINARA SAUCE, MEATBALLS, EXTRA CHEESE, PARMESAN.
10. HAWAIIAN, HAM, PINEAPPLE, EXTRA CHEESE.
11. GREEK- TOMATOES, ONION, FETA, PEPPERONCINI PEPPERS, BLACK OLIVES, EXTRA CHEESE.
12. STEAK RANCHERO- RANCH SAUCE, STEAK, ONIONS, TOMATOES, EXTRA CHEESE

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**TOPPING: LETTUCE, TOMATOES, OIL, VINEGAR, OREGANO, SALT, PEPPER, MAYO, MUSTARD, ONION, BLACK OLIVES, GREEN PEPPERS, MUSHROOMS, JALAPENOS, BANANA PEPPERS BY REQUEST**

**COLD SUBS:**

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2. HAM & CHEESE- BOILED HAM AND PROVOLONE CHEESE.
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2. STEAK AND CHEESE- MARINATED STEAK AND PROVOLONE CHEESE (SAUTEED VEGGIES BY REQUEST).
3. MEATBALL PARMESAN- MEATBALLS, MARINARA, PARMESAN AND PROVOLONE CHEESE
4. CHICKEN PARMESAN- FRIED CHICKEN STRIPS, MARINARA, PARMESAN AND PROVOLONE CHEESE.

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3. VEGGIE POCKET- MOZZARELLA, GREEN PEPPERS, ONIONS, MUSHROOMS, BLACK OLIVES, SLICED TOMATOES.
4. SAUSAGE WITH PEPPERS AND ONIONS- MOZZARELLA, SAUSAGE, ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, MARINARA.
5. CLASSIC CALZONE- RICOTTA, MOZZARELLA, PARMESAN. (ADDITIONAL TOPPING'S EXTRA)
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4. ITALIAN- LETTUCE, TOMATO WEDGES, ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, BLACK OLIVES, MOZZARELLA, HAM, PEPPERONI, BANANA PEPPERS.
5. DICED CHICKEN- LETTUCE, TOMATO WEDGES, ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, BLACK OLIVES, CHICKEN, BANANA PEPPERS.
6. CHEF- LETTUCE, TOMATO WEDGES, ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, BLACK OLIVES, MOZZARELLA, HAM, TURKEY.
7. FRIED CHICKEN- LETTUCE, TOMATO WEDGES, ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, BLACK OLIVES, MOZZARELLA, FRIED CHICKEN STRIPS.

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# The Histories that Matter - mo' money, mo' problems

**CJ Shrader**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

While passing time in one of our super-exciting Computer Science courses, CJ Shiflett says to me, he says, "I know that a quarter is a quarter of a dollar. But what is a penny, nickel, and dime?" And I says to him, I says, "I don't know, sounds like a Histories that Matter to me."

**Quarters**

Yep. Quarter, or one-fourth, of a dollar. They are made of copper plated in nickel. That's all there is to this one.

**Nickels**

It all started in 1866 with a thing called the Shield Nickel. It was made of the metal nickel. Then in 1883 there was the Liberty Head Nickel, also made of nickel. In 1913, the Indian Head Nickel was made of nickel. In 1938, the Jefferson Nickel, the nickels that we use today, was created. They were made of chocolate. I mean nickel.



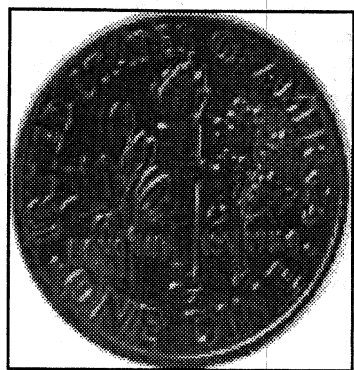
The most recognizable mullet of all time.

Ok, I think you see where I'm going with this. Nickels are called nickels because they are made out of nickel. The only time this wasn't true was from 1942 to 1945 (World War II, for those of you who only read these histories and none other). Nickels, at that time, were actually made from a silver alloy because nickel was being rationed for the war effort.

**Dimes**

It all started in the 60's with the ad-

vent of marijuana. You see, "dime bags" were very popular during that time, and people would only need to pay one ten cent piece in order to get them.



It's not even enough for a local phone call.

Yeah, ok, I'm a liar. Actually, the word dime comes from the French word "dixieme," meaning one-tenth. Originally, the English name of the coin was "disme," but the 's' was dropped in the 1800's.

If you're curious, dimes were made of 90% silver and 10% copper. The reason they are so small is to keep the levels of silver low so that the coin wouldn't be worth more melted down than it would just buying something. Today, the coin is actually made of copper plated with nickel.

**Pennies**

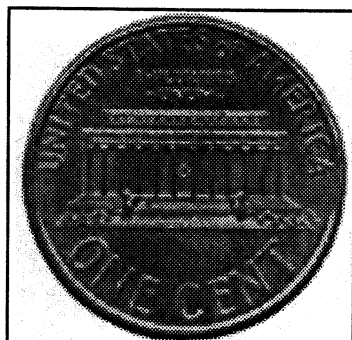
Penny is not the official name of this coin. It's simply called the "one-cent coin." The word "penny" comes from the British coin, a pence. You know, a six-pence, so on, and so forth.

The penny has been made out of copper, then bronze, then copper again, then bronze again, then zinc-plated steel (During the war), then bronze, then (guess what!) copper, and today, is mainly made of zinc with just a hint of copper mixed in for flavor.

**Other Crazy Coins**

While researching this article, I found that the US Mint had printed some pretty weird coins over the years. Other coins that are not currently in circulation include: the half cent, the two-cent, the silver three-cent, the nickel three-cent, the half

dime (Yet, not a nickel), and the twenty cent.



One Olympic torch is worth 10 Lincoln Memorials.

**Coin Worth**

Making the coins doesn't actually cost as much as they are worth. A penny costs .81 cents to make. A nickel costs 3.13 cents. The dime costs less than the nickel, weighing in at 1.88 cents. The quarter costs 4.29 cents, and the half dollar costs 9.63 cents per coin. The golden dollar is the king of them all, costing little over a dime to create. The golden dollar costs a whopping 10.03 cents.



Made from real buffalo dung.

That's it for this edition. Look for the next issue, where I try to figure out why my roommate (Coincidentally, my roommate is CJ Shiflett) is singing "O Canada."

Ever wanted to be first in the world to do something that has had the opportunity of being done for two years? Then e-mail me at rshrader@spsu.edu with your ideas for topics in the next Histories that Matter.

# Review: A Whisper in the Thunder

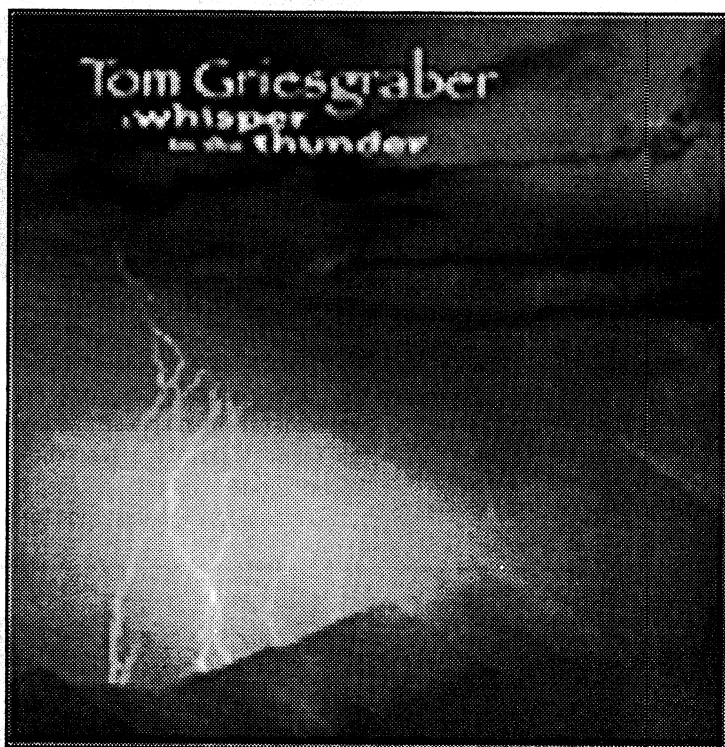
**CJ Shrader**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

A Whisper in the Thunder is the name of Tom Griesgraber's debut CD. The CD, oddly enough, has no whispers and no thunder.

The entire CD is instrumental, which usually translates into straight garbage in my mind. However, I decided to give this one a chance. It was a free CD sent to The Sting, after all.

According to the press release for the CD, "is a 12 string instrument played with both hands fretting and sounding notes simultaneously." I don't know what that means, honestly, but it makes for some very unique music that is pleasurable to listen to.

This music is not for the heavy metal enthusiast. But if you like instrumental music or simply need some good study music (It might even double as make out music, if



Shouldn't a whisper be too quiet to hear?

The music is very hard to describe. It has a very earthy feel, and is extremely calm and relaxing. It makes for great background noise when you're driving in your car or studying for a test. Honestly, I rarely, if ever, like instrumental music but I felt that this CD was pretty decent. Pretty decent indeed.

Griesgraber plays an instrument called "The Stick," which, ac-

you are so inclined) I think this would be a good CD for you. If you're interested in hearing Tom Griesgraber live, he is playing at the Red Light Café on Friday, November 19. Doors open at 7:30 PM, and the show is at 8:30 PM. Admittance is a mere \$17.50. On second thought, as of this writing, you can get the CD used for \$7.50 from Amazon.com. Maybe you'd rather try that first.

# Team America: World Police

**Elliott Skiles**  
*Staff Writer*

Rating: A-  
When trying to describe a majority of Trey Parker and Matt Stone's work, one blanket phrase generally comes to mind: f\*\*ked up... and absolutely hysterical.

Team America: World Police, the South Park creators' fourth full-length film, is no letdown in either of these departments. Team America has all of the trademarks of a Parker/Stone film: crude toilet humor, intelligent political satire, and a truly twisted plotline.

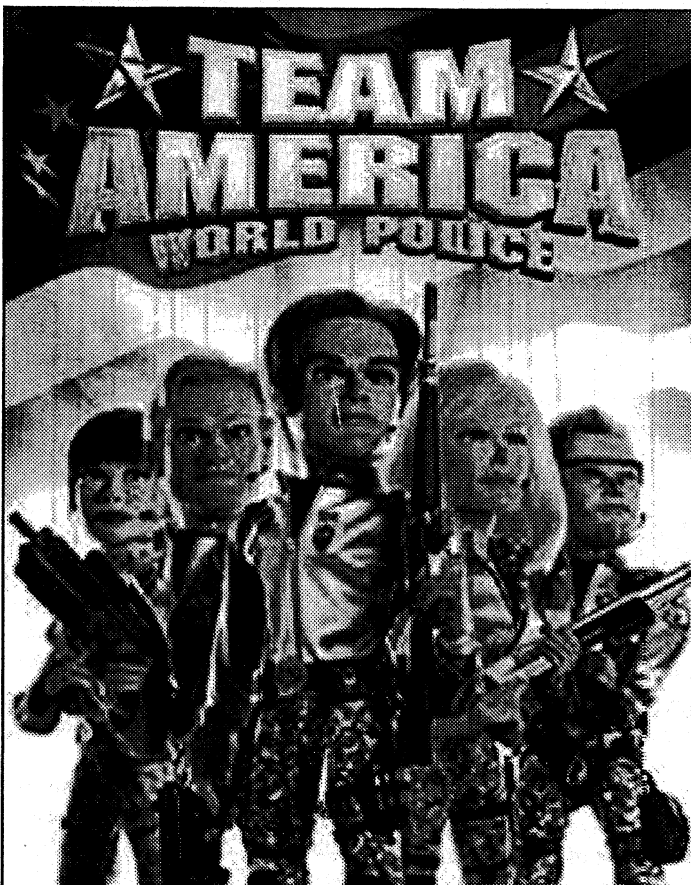
The movie showcases a host of original songs written by Trey Parker and performed by none other than DVDA, a band composed of Parker, Stone, and one of their sound engineers. Those of you who have seen Orgazmo (with its NC-17 rating) know exactly why I can't put the full name in print.

While the movie starts out slow at first (with the exception of "Everyone Has AIDS!") it picks up into a roller coaster of jokes, gags, F.A.G.s, and a minute long hardcore puppet sex scene that is sure to make even the darkest man blush. The sex scene was so graphic, in

fact, that Parker and Stone were forced to cut the scene in half and remove some elements that pushed it over the edge to an NC-17 rating.

As with most of their work, no race or ethnic group is spared ridicule in this film, underscoring the creators' philosophy that the entire world has something very, very wrong with it.

Leave the kids at home, bring a friend, and empty your bladder before you take your seat. Especially for people who don't like France or celebrities who think they're smart, this movie is an absolutely must see.



# Game Review: Tales of Symphonia

Preston Coursey  
Student Contributor

The Nintendo Gamecube has been running too long without a real RPG for its fans. An RPG is a role-playing game in which you form a party of some sort and try to complete some quest or goal. Some fans may consider Final Fantasy: Crystal Chronicles an RPG, but it really is not considered an RPG because the system of fighting and storyline do not correlate like an RPG usually does. Tales of Symphonia is the first true RPG for the Nintendo Gamecube.

The story first begins with the tale of the "Giant Mana Tree" that supplies the Earth with mana. Mana is the essence of life and magic that keeps the world alive and provides the minerals to make food. A mana war was fought and used up all the mana, so the tree withered. A hero was sacrificed to take the place of the tree. Once the tower of salvation appears, a "chosen" will have to make "the journey of regeneration."

After hearing about the story you get a scene of the main character, Lloyd, who is sleeping in class while the other students are learn-

ing about the ancient war and why a chosen is needed to save their world, Sylvarant. In Lloyd's class you are introduced to three other characters: Genis, the ultimate student and younger brother of the

scene for the tower of salvation, you are ordered to go and investigate the first seal. While you are in the seal you basically go around fighting monsters and solving puzzles. After defeating a boss guarding the

cess of regeneration. You soon learn that your world is connected to another world, Thethe'alla. Both of the worlds are connected through a delicate balance of mana. The mana is pulled between the two worlds, and as one world declines the other prospers. Your group is now attempting to save both worlds.

All RPGs need a good sense of character attachment, which is usually created through dialogue between characters and revealing the character's past. In Tales of Symphonia, most of the characters have a very shallow level of emotion. Colette, for example, has the pure heart of a Chosen. In other words, she is extremely shallow and only cares about others and causes players to not care at all about her. The dialogue is very bland and dry. At times I found myself wanting to skip the dialogue between the characters. The story itself involves the betrayal between characters of your group, which after a while becomes very predictable through their personalities. Overall the characters' personalities in the game were very unnatural, and I did find myself indifferent if any of the characters died.

This RPG has a completely different battle style compared to most

RPG games. In games like Final Fantasy you have turn-based combat, which you basically wait your turn to do a spell with a group of people. In Tales of Symphonia, you have an active battle where the four fighting members of your party are moving around the entire time. Before you battle you can pick a character you want to control overall through a party menu. This character is the one you make most of your attacks with and you are completely in control of all its movements, which is a lot like a fighting style game with all sorts of combos you can do. Further into the game you can make unison attacks, which are attacks that your party members all make together to make an even stronger attack. This battle style is actually very fun and is what really moves the game along.

Tales of Symphonia has good qualities all games should have and keeps the player interested in the game. At certain points in the game the player will become frustrated, but overall the game is exciting. I have already bought my copy and have put a lot of time into the game. Tales of Symphonia is worth buying and is a great game for anyone of any age.



teacher; Colette, the Chosen; and Raine, the teacher and archeologist. As Raine is teaching the class, the tower of salvation appears, and so the quest begins for regeneration of the world!

After you experience the cut

seal an angel comes and orders you to release all remaining seals to open the way to regenerating the world. As you are running around this world doing quests and opening seals, you meet new characters and find more information about the pro-

## The Sidekick 2: The ultimate communication device

Iain Quityne  
Student Contributor

The original Sidekick (SK) made by Danger/Hiptop was like nothing anyone had ever seen before. It was like a laptop and phone combined in one, a "smart phone." Now the highly anticipated Sidekick 2 (SK2) has finally hit the market, sporting some new features.

**Design:** The first SK was a bit too bulky and awkwardly uncomfortable when held up to a person's face. The SK2 is a little heavier and longer, but it has a thinner more comfortable design. The screen still flips about 180 degrees, but now it fits into the keyboard so talking on the phone isn't such a hassle. The SK2's scroll wheel is now between the call and end buttons and the directional keypad has been moved to the outside of the phone (it used to be on the keypad).

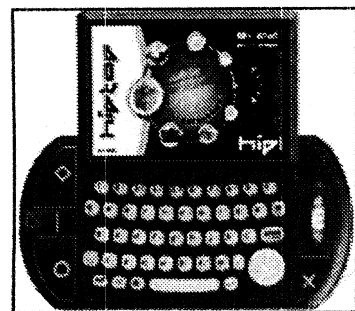
**Improved signal and sound:** The first Sidekick could not receive reception anywhere. I could not even get reception in my own apartment. With the SK2's new antenna I can now get a good signal in my apartment and around campus. It has a stronger antenna so it can receive a signal where most of the other phones can.

The speaker and microphone are great. The speaker is loud and clear and they both are positioned to block wind noise.

**Calling:** Making calls on the SK was always pretty easy. The phone has all of the shortcuts that regular phones do when it comes to calling.

The speakerphone is easily accessible during a call and when it comes time to make a call.

**Volume:** Unlike the SK, the SK2 comes with external volume keys that make it easier to control how loud the phone is. It also has two levels of silent; one just vibrates while the other does nothing but makes lights go off on the phone.



It's still no tricorder...

**Address book and messaging:** The SK2's address book can hold up to 2,000 contacts. You can put a person's street address, e-mail address, multiple phone numbers, and picture in the address book.

You can go online to check your e-mail from the SK2 or you can have up to three e-mail accounts deliver mail to your phone. The thump keypad makes text and instant messaging a breeze. It comes with AOL Instant Messenger and you can download Yahoo! Instant Messenger for free.

**Web browsing and the camera:** Surfing the web is also very easy with the SK2 since you can type in the name of just about any website. The websites look pretty much like

they would on a real computer.

The new built-in camera is fun and so easy to use, it even comes with flash. The picture could use a little work, but you can say that for just about any camera phone. The cool thing about the SK2 is that the button you press to take a picture is positioned in the upper right-hand corner of the phone. The SK2's shape plus that gives you the feel of actually taking a picture with a real camera.

**Weaknesses:** Nothing is perfect, including the SK2; it does have some areas it can get better in. First of all, the SK2 has no alarm (one can be downloaded for a charge). On most phones when you set an event in the calendar and turn the phone off it will automatically wake back up to tell you the event. The SK2 does not do that, if the phone was off at the time of the event it doesn't alarm or even tell you that you missed the event.

For people who like to personalize their phones do not get the SK2. You cannot customize the look of the phone (except you can change the color of the bumpers). You cannot change the menus or set your own wallpaper.

**Rating:** On a scale of 1-10, I would rate this phone an 8.5. I would recommend this phone to anyone who has from \$199-\$299 to put into a really cool phone with lots of features. People who are always on the go and love text and instant messaging will absolutely love this phone. Although it is not perfect, it has improved since it first came out, look for it to only get better.

## Friday test drive!

Elliott Skiles  
Staff Writer

Bored on a Friday afternoon... what to do, what to do? I'm already too awake to sleep anymore, and it's too early to start drinking. Ok, scratch that last part. Why not go for a test drive? This week I decided to check out two domestic newcomers to the sport compact scene, the Dodge Neon SRT-4 and the Saturn Ion Redline. Both are four cylinder forced induction front wheel drive sport compacts, and both of them have a very attractive sticker price that is well within the grasp of many college students. With the price issue out of the way, we can get down to the good stuff: performance and styling!

Essentially, the SRT-4 is a Neon with a stiffened suspension, a performance wheel and tire set, more aggressive styling, and the decent sized 2.4L intercooled PT Cruiser engine. The engine is boosted by a relatively meager-sized Mitsubishi turbocharger that together produces 230 bhp and 250 ft-lbs of torque. The stiffened suspension greatly reduces body roll during cornering and the formerly optional limited slip differential is now standard equipment on the 2004 models.

By and large, the SRT-4 handled well and had phenomenal pickup, but the shifter was sometimes less than painless to operate. What time and attention was spent on performance, however, was not matched in the interior design. The seats provide a superior view of the road and at the same time sit much too high off the pavement to provide a com-

manding feel of the road. The interior also feels cramped after much time in the driver's seat. Overall, this recent introduction from Dodge was a pleasant surprise that left little to be desired.

The Saturn Ion Redline is the little heard-of evil twin of the relatively tame family-oriented Ion. Boasting a supercharged DOHC 2.0L intercooled Ecotec engine that produces 205 bhp and 200 ft-lbs of torque, the Ion Redline definitely takes the prize in the interior styling department. The driver is treated to a smooth ride via deep bucket Recaro seats as a standard feature as well as a center-mounted instrument panel. The exterior hides the soul of a sedan, which is inconspicuously hidden behind suicide doors.

In terms of performance, the Redline's short throw shifter was much smoother than its Chrysler counterpart, but the gearbox it was linked to is an example of mediocre equipment with its first and second gears being sorely mismatched in terms of length. The Ion Redline experiences more body roll and understeer than the SRT-4, making cornering a much slower (and less entertaining) evolution. Additionally, the Ion Redline reaches 60 mph in 6.3 seconds, a whole .5 seconds off the pace the SRT-4 sets. Overall, this is a decent performing vehicle, but it doesn't quite reach the bar the SRT-4 has set -- after all, there's no replacement for displacement. So after driving the both of them, which one would I choose? Hell, I'd buy a Porsche. But that's just me.



# A Space Piracy Odyssey

**Kenny Pattillo**  
Student Contributor

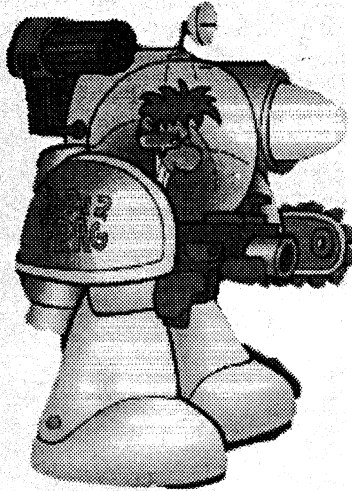
Every person has thought at least once, "I want to be a Space Pirate." I am one of those people. My dream is to become a Space Pirate. To accomplish such a task, one first needs a space ship. There were many personal spacecrafts created for the X-Prize contest and before the X-Prize contest. The X-Prize contest was funded by the U.S. government. The government offered a \$10 million prize to the first group of people to fly a spacecraft a certain height into space twice in two weeks. One such group accomplished this task and the competing groups have crafts that could attempt the task.

The way to become a Space Pirate would be to steal one of these spacecrafts. Most of the crafts

aren't really designed to stay in space for too long, but with a little effort the craft could be piloted into orbit. Most of these crafts are tiny, so extended stay in space would require a little sacrifice of American luxuries. No real bathing, maybe a little sponge bath out of a bottle of water, little food storage, little room for a pirate crew, and very little other human interaction.

There are many things a Space Pirate can do. For starters, a Space Pirate can visit the Russian Space Station Mir, satellites, and if the Space Pirate lives long enough, he can visit future space stations, such as the International Space Station. Of course, the Space Pirate might not be welcomed, considering the past record of stealing equipment designed for space travel, or possibly more welcomed so a Space Pi-

rate might not steal from the people who welcomed him so nicely. How-



ever, pirates should be able to take things by force, as is the na-

ture of any pirate. Stealing is what pirates are supposed to do. They would not just be visitors to the Space Stations; they would be commandeering any such space stations.

In order to become a successful Space Pirate, you would need to be able to change and grow in order to stay alive. Such as adding things onto the spacecraft. Weapons, defenses, and added life support systems will be needed for extended runs from the law. A Space Pirate wouldn't want to travel too far from Earth, because it might get significantly harder to get back to Earth the farther he gets from it. Thus, a Space Pirate will need to land somewhere safely on Earth. This will enable him to steal fuel, food, and commit other such crimes.

My idea of a Space Pirate would

to be a pirate in the name of good, what I like to call a Justice Pirate. This idea is similar to Robin Hood. To steal from the unjust, wicked, evil, or corrupt people of the world to give to the good and the needy that deserve it. Keeping a little bit of the booty would be required in most actions, being a Space Pirate would require some funding and supplies.

Being a Justice Pirate could be fun, though you still would be considered a criminal, most likely. However, the cops in the Spider-Man movies always let Spider-Man get away, even though they often considered him a criminal vigilante. As long as you are doing far more good than evil, and somehow are a hero to most people, I am sure being a Justice Pirate could be a long-lasting career.

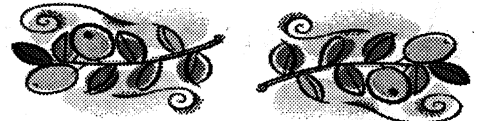
## Filler: A word search adventure of epic proportions

rossbacher      apathy      transfer      hornet      architecture  
 technology      university      semester      dorm      november  
 marietta      squirrel      basketball      nontraditional      campus

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# Goat Night 2004

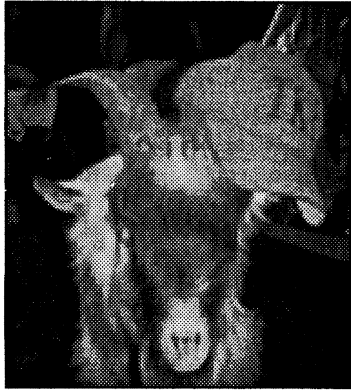


Dave Bachtel

Staff Writer

SPSU's Goat Night 2004 kicked off at 8:30 on October 27 following a last minute relocation from amphitheater to the student center theatre. Reportedly, this decision was based on Gimpy the Weatherman's forecast. "It's 'GON RAIN!!!"

SPSU's Greeks participated in six different events during Goat



TKE's Goat was Hardcore.

Night. Head SPSU Basketball coach Mike Helfer and assistant coach Jeffrey Pourchier acted as judges for the events.

A breakdown for how much each event was worth follows (from

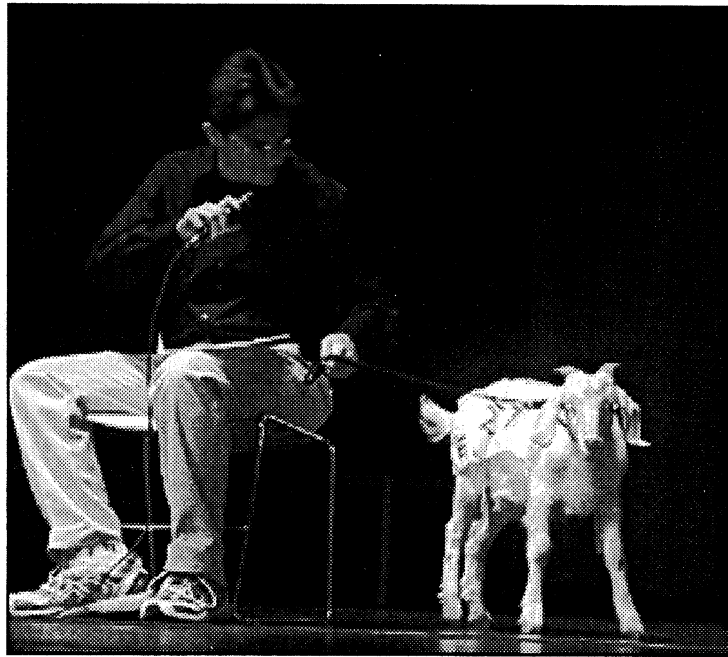
· Eating and drinking: 15% - 6 Krystals and frozen margarita

· Points deducted for: Bashing other fraternities or sororities or incorporating non-Greeks into the events.

The first event to take place was Eating and Drinking. It was a tight race between Sigma Nu and Sigma Pi with Sigma Nu besting Sigma Pi by only a matter of seconds. Third place went to Tau Kappa Epsilon, Fourth to Beta Sigma Chi, Fifth to Pi Kappa Phi, and Sixth to Gamma Phi Beta.

The next event was the Goat interview. TKE scored a win with Scruffy the goat getting a second chance at life and facing the parole board. BEX came in second with a dialog between three election candidates followed by EN's controversial "Goat or Hornet" suicidal goat. Sigma Pi came in fourth with "Channel 1897" news, with Gimpy the weatherman setting the comedic pace for the rest of the night: "Its 'GON RAIN!!!!' Pi Kappa Phi took 5<sup>th</sup> with their presidential debate skit and Gamma Phi Beta took sixth with a "Gamma View" interview of "Horny Goat."

The Improv portion of the competition didn't disappoint on laughs



Interview with the Vampire...oops, I mean goat (Sigma Pi).

Michael Jackson's Thriller, while TKE took first with a Rocky/Matrix/SPSU Basketball theme. Sigma Nu took second, Pi Kappa Phi took third, Beta Sigma Chi took fourth, Gamma Phi Beta took fifth.

Banners were constructed before hand and judged between the Goat Interview and Improv sections. First place was Sigma Nu, second was Tau Kappa Epsilon, Third was Pi Kappa Phi, Fourth was Gamma Phi Beta, Fifth was Beta Sigma Chi, Sixth was Sigma Pi, and seventh was Alpha Zeta Delta.

In the end, TKE took first place, capturing three first place positions in five of the events. Sigma Nu came in second followed by Sigma Pi in third. Beta Sigma Chi took fourth and Pi Kappa Phi took fifth. Gamma Phi Beta came in sixth.

No matter who won the competition, a good time was had by everyone in attendance. "You can never have enough fun with shaving cream, slime, a little thriller, a little this, a little that, a good time," remarked Jason Candler, dressed as George Bush for Pi Kappa Phi. Some, like Nish Patel of Sigma Pi, enjoyed this year's level of competition. "I've been here, this is my second Goat Night. It's been great, just because everybody's been competitive... it just makes it so much more fun."

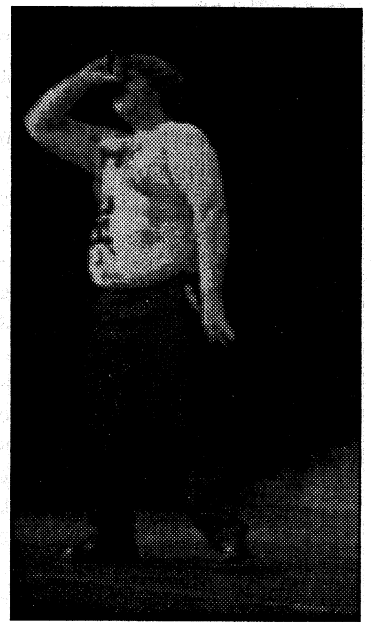
Coach Helfer then took the stage to encourage the crowd to come out and make their presence more known at SPSU's basketball games. "It's funny because that's the place where you can come and

be as loud as you are tonight... believe me, I'll support you, I love it when the officials go over there and say 'Oh those guys gotta sit down or get off the court'."

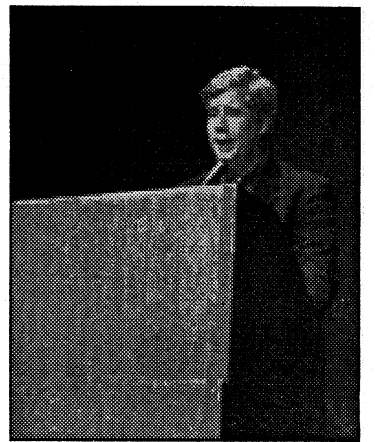
As an added bonus, Helfer then asked for each Greek organization to send a pledge member up to the stage. Then, using money from his own pocket, Helfer offered \$60 to the pledge who could sink the most free throw shots. Another \$40 was added to the pot by Coach Pourchier. The contestants were organized in height from shortest to tallest at the free throw line. Two shots were given as a warm up, and the third shot would count. The only female on stage (Sarah of Gamma Phi Beta) took home the \$100 prize by sinking a single shot.

Coach Pourchier seemed to enjoy his role as a judge during his goat night experience. "It was a great experience for me. I'd like to see all the people at our game though. Man, it'd be kind of good. We're going to try to work on getting a kind of a sorority/fraternity night up at the game."

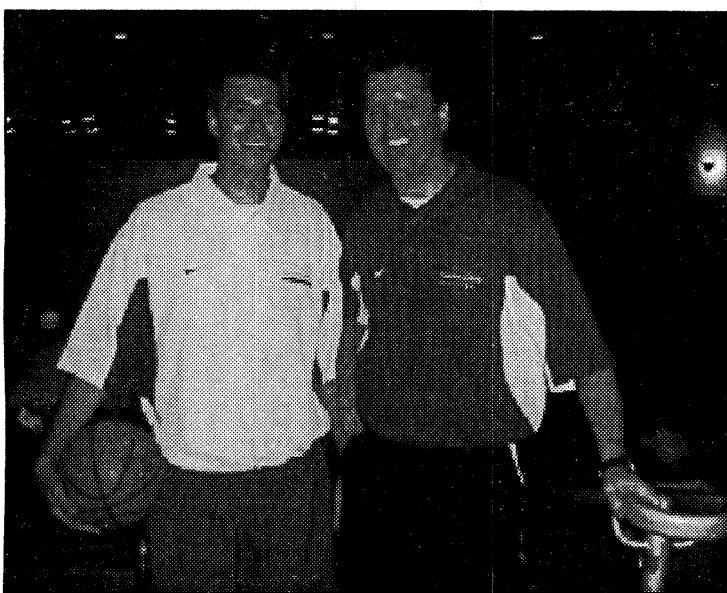
Billy Parish, a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and also the MC for the night got the last word. "I just wanted to say... Everybody had a great time... it could not have happened without the fraternity and sorority support, and hopefully next year we'll see some non-Greeks out here... and we'll have it outside with a big bash afterwards."



Goat Night can be a very scary place.



George W. addresses Goat Night.



Judges - (L to R) Coach Pourchier and Coach Helfer

the Judge's Score sheet):

· Song and Dance: 30%

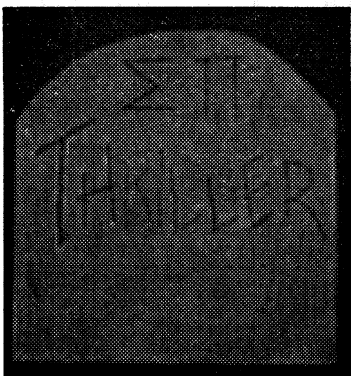
· Interview a Goat: 20% - "Chapters must have something representing a goat. It can be a real goat or someone dressed up as a goat or a paper cut out of a goat. Just have something."

· Banner: 20% - "Banners must incorporate basketball, SPSU, your chapter, Goat Night, and the semester."

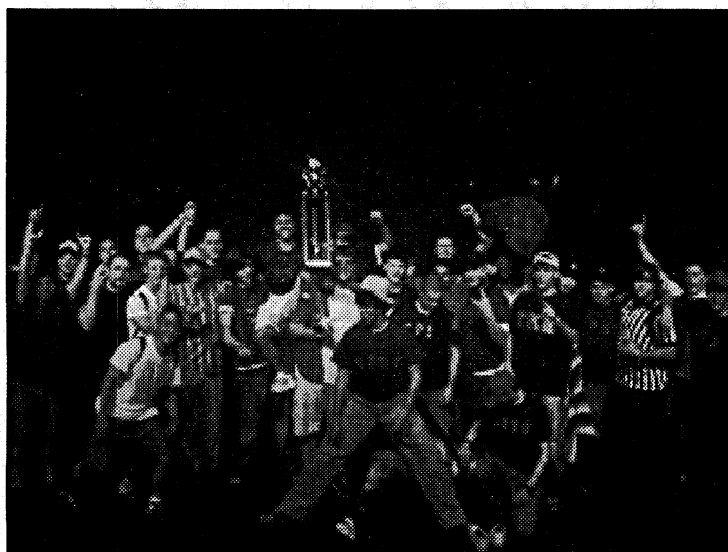
· Improv: 15% - "Improv will consist of two events. 1<sup>st</sup> is the props and second is topic."

either. Tau Kappa Epsilon took first, Sigma Pi - second, Sigma Nu was third, Beta Sigma Chi fourth, Gamma Phi Beta fifth, and Pi Kappa Phi sixth.

In Song and Dance, Sigma Pi tied Tau Kappa Epsilon with a well-choreographed rendition of



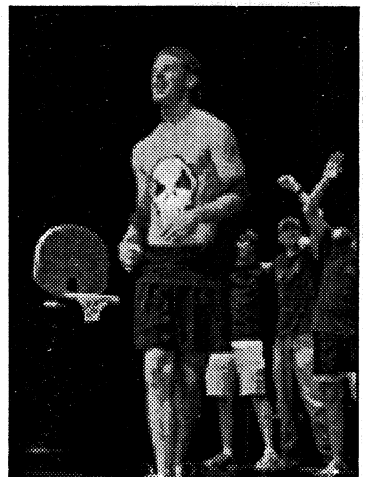
Sigma Pi performed an old-school rendition of MJ's Thriller.



TKEs claim their place in the Goat Night hall of fame.



Goat or Hornet...Sigma Nu says make up your mind or jump!



TKE - We are the Champions.



# Annual author's reception held in Library Rotunda

Mark A. Kirkley  
Johnson Library Circulation Assistant

The Sixth Annual Author's Reception was held on Monday, October 25 from Noon - 1:00 PM, in the Library Rotunda to recognize all the students, faculty, and staff that published works throughout this past year. The works can be anything from poetry, freelance writing, academic, fiction or nonfiction.

The majority of the publications were academic writings from faculty. Library Director Dr. Joyce Mills wanted at least 50 publications, and she got her wish with President Dr. Lisa Rossbacher's story in the Marietta Daily Journal Sunday, October 24 about protecting the educational quality at Southern Polytechnic.

Other notable publications that were recognized at the reception were Professor Brian Moore's

'Preparing the International Construction Practitioner.' The paper was also presented at the Second International Conference on Construction in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Hong Kong 2003. Professor Herb Smith's 'German Academic Programs in Technical Communication' that can be found in the *Journal of Technical Writing & Communication 2004*. Last, Professor Frank Tsui's 'Managing Software Projects,' which is on reserve and can be checked out for two hours at the Library Circulation Desk and is a part of the library book collection. To see a full list of all the authors go to <http://www.spsu.edu/library/bibs/Authors/authors2004.htm>

-On a side note: Pictures to hang in offices are available for checkout by faculty and staff. See all the pictures around the outside of the Library Rotunda check them out at the circulation desk

# Carvations of Horror Contest

CJ Shiflett  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM, Residence Life held a pumpkin carving contest in the new Community Building between the apartment complexes. A total of 5 pumpkins were submitted for judging.

In no particular order, the pumpkins and their respective carvers are: *Pumpkin Pi* by Steven McGee and Randall Baldwin, *Dog Peeing on Fire Hydrant* by Chris

Originally the prize was set at a \$40 dollar Best Buy gift card, but due to unforeseen acquisition errors, Residence Life was forced to give four Wal-Mart gift cards worth \$10 each instead. The judging committee was comprised of Eric White, Pierrette Maillet, and Ashley Schenck. After much deliberation, the judges decided that the contest was too close to declare a single winner and that instead of one first-place prize of \$40, they would instead give out a prize of \$30 to the



Better the fire hydrant than your leg.

Colyar and Heather Giroux, *Snickers* by CJ Shiflett, *Trogdor™* by CJ Shrader, and *The Keyword* by Daniel Grant.

first-place contestant and a \$10 prize to the runner-up. *Dog Peeing on Fire Hydrant* won first place, with *Pumpkin Pi* coming in a very close second place.

# WGHR is still back, Jack

Tony Perez  
Staff Writer

WGHR is Southern Polytechnic's own radio station located right here on campus in the Student Center. The station is run by students and therefore plays what students want to hear. With a variety of genres including progressive, techno, hip-hop, rock and just plain talk, the station is sure to provide candy to everyone's ears. The station broadcasts over the internet and can be heard from computers

anywhere off-campus. Due to bandwidth issues with the existing campus network, on-campus streaming is not yet available.

WGHR has been here since 1981 when it served the campus and neighboring streets on the air at 102.5 FM. However, because of a couple of new commercial stations that came into service with frequencies that would conflict with WGHR's, the campus radio station was forced to go off the air.

But "Off The Air" does not mean "Out of Business". Today the

station broadcasts exclusively over the internet reaching far more people than it ever did before. So whether you live at Campus Walk or in Maharashtra, India you can still hear "The Voice of Southern Polytechnic."

To listen or just read interesting information and look at photos about the station, go to <http://wghr.spsu.edu/>. Here is a schedule of programs and events airing on WGHR radio:

Show	Genre	Day/Time	DJ
Carson	Indie Rock	T 2:00-4:30pm	Carson
WGHR Morning Show	Rock/Talk	T 8pm-10pm	Lee
Zeke Show	Rock	W 3pm-5pm	Kai
The Lance Show	Unknown	W 6pm-8pm	Lance
The Heather Show	Rock/Hip-Hop	W 8pm-10pm	Heather
Trippin' & Hippin'	Trip-Hop/Downtempo	Th 8pm-10pm	Sick Nyk
CJ & CJ	Various/Talk	F 4pm-6pm	CJ&CJ
6:00 Cypher	Hip-Hop/R&B	F 6pm-8pm	D.J. Twice
Surface To Air	Drum & Bass	? 9pm-1am	Scan Section & Mayhem
Christiaan Show	All Genre's & Talk	S 5pm-7pm	Christiaan
UK BreakBeat	NoSkool Breaks	S 8-10pm	Crim

# RLAB letter to SPSU students

Heather Giroux  
Staff Writer

Hello students:

My name is Heather Giroux and I am the chair of the Residence Life Advisory Board. The creation of this new organization was suggested to me by Dean Barry Birkhead. He wanted to have direct contact with the students when dealing with complaints or suggestions pertaining to living on campus.

We have set up an e-mail address, [rlab@spsu.edu](mailto:rlab@spsu.edu), where you will be able to send any complaints/suggestions you might have for Residence Life. This will be an excellent way for us to keep in touch with you, the students, at all times.

We meet on a semiweekly basis from 8:00 - 9:00 Tuesday evenings in the SGA office located in the Student Center. All students are

invited and encouraged to come to these meetings to find out more about us and what we are trying to achieve. We are also looking to expand our membership. We currently have six members, but we would like to increase that number to ten. If you are interested in joining, please come by and let us know.

The Residence Life Advisory Board was created with the students in mind. We will do whatever we can to create a gratifying on-campus living experience. Please take advantage of this new opportunity for you to vent your frustrations with Residence Life.

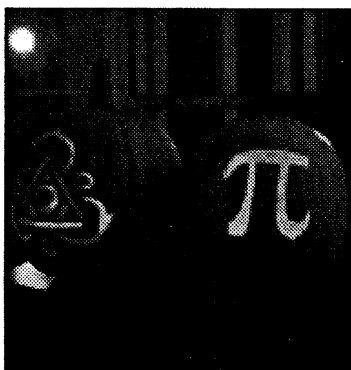
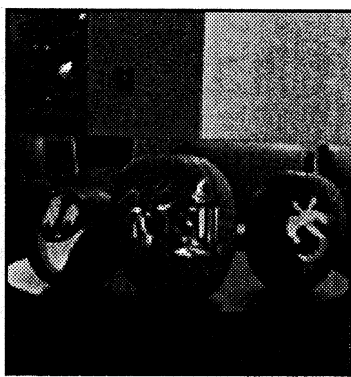
-Heather Giroux  
Residence Life Advisory Board Chair



Congratulations to Gamma Phi Beta and their new sisters, Casey Adcock and Sara Gallina! They were initiated on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004!

Gamma Phi Beta will be looking forward to next semester's recruitment. If you would like more information on their Sorority, please log on to:

[www.gammaphibeta.8m.com](http://www.gammaphibeta.8m.com)  
Or [www.gammaphibeta.org](http://www.gammaphibeta.org).



# China Kitchen

470 Franklin Rd, Marietta  
(770) 429-9020

3305 Acworth Oaks Dr.  
Suite #700  
Acworth  
(678) 574-0848  
(678) 574-0864



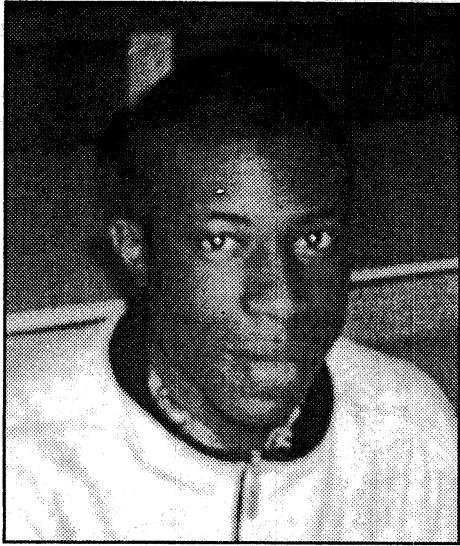
S. Marietta Pkwy	Franklin	

Students:  
Daily \$3.75 Specials  
Plus Free Drink with Student ID

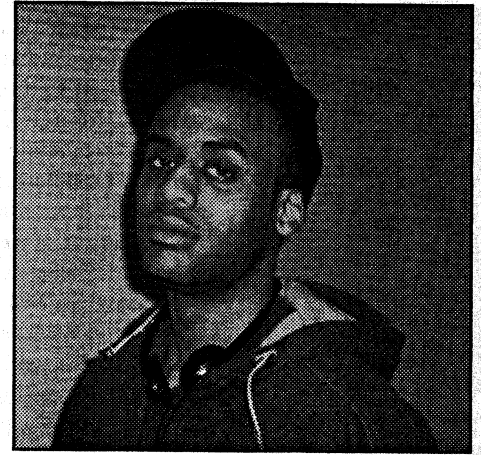
# Student Question

We found some random people who claimed to be students and asked them an irrelevant question

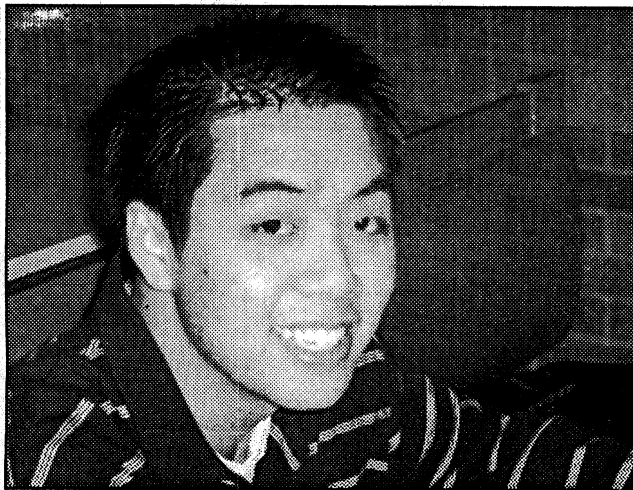
## What major would you like to see SPSU add?



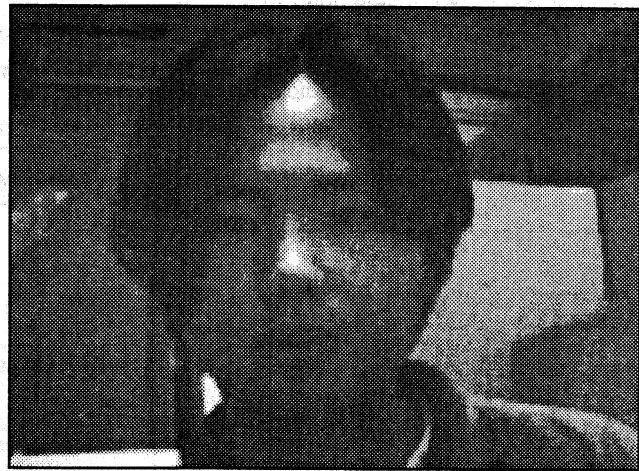
"Economics, because it is important for everyone to understand how money works." - Marvin Amos



"Music, because they have the equipment and we should use it." - Tori Solomon

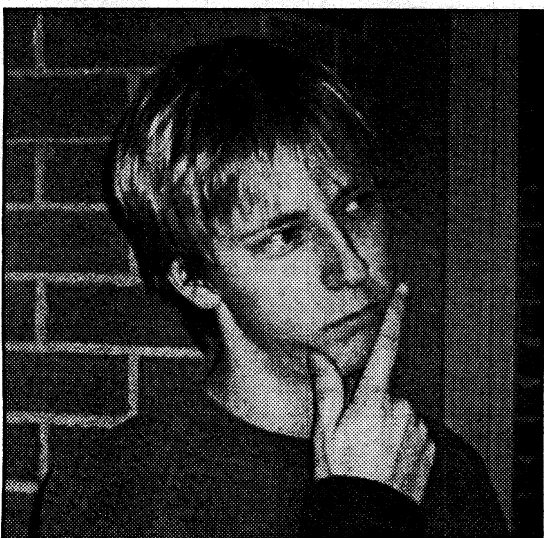


"Whatever brings women." - Kin Ly



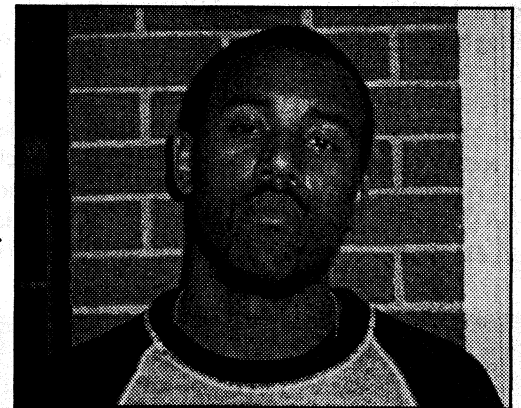
"Culinary, because food here sucks." - Jerry Wu

Note: The Jerry Wu who answered this was never able to get us a picture, so the picture above is from another guy named Jerry Wu who was nice enough to have his picture on Google. The Sting asks that neither Jerry Wu sue us.



"Nursing, so that women would come here." - Lee Siddal

"Media production. This school is full of talented people who do music here." - 'Mr. Louis'



## Consensus Editorial: Thank you faculty and staff

### The Sting Staff

#### Makers of what you're reading

With Governor Perdue and the Board of Regents agreeing to avoid a midyear tuition increase at state universities, it is appropriate for us students to acknowledge that this comes with a cost. For one thing, the system-wide hiring freeze will continue, meaning that positions vacated by retirements, hiring by the private sector, and deaths will likely go unfilled. Where new professors are hired, they are more likely to be short-term adjuncts, plugging the gaps at several local universities by teaching the odd class here or there, without any personal investment in the university system or individual

students.

Likewise, maintenance of physical plant probably will be deferred further to realize additional short-term savings. But inevitably, these costs will have to be paid in repairing or replacing equipment and structures which could have lasted much longer through preventative care.

Already our library has had its book budget practically zeroed, and the rising costs of periodicals has meant that some subscriptions to important technical journals and data bases have been dropped. As an example, the Compendex engineering data base is no longer available at Southern Polytechnic State University - while at Georgia Tech,

it is available *only* to Georgia Tech students, faculty and staff.

All of these cost-cutting measures have already been taken at SPSU. So the University System will cut \$68 million by other means while avoiding, for now, a tuition increase.

Already mentioned was the hiring freeze, meaning our faculty and staff will have to absorb a further increase in workload with no compensation in pay as attrition thins their ranks. Furthermore, through a temporary accounting scheme, their state health care plan will see its reserves reduced by \$24 million this year - a cost which will need to be recovered next year through some means not yet specified.

An additional \$9.4 million will

come from a fund at the University of Georgia for a new pharmaceutical research center, now cancelled, and the Regents intend to find another \$7 million from a similar unspecified fund. That still leaves \$20.3 million to be cut system-wide from university budgets.

It is possible that some of that cost may come at the expense of layoffs of staff and faculty, and reduced course offerings. But the bottom line is that the primary burden of these cuts is being passed on to our faculty and staff.

As students, we have successfully lobbied to avoid an unexpected midyear tuition increase. But it is time that we recognize who is paying the price for this, and give them

our thanks. Be nice to our professors and staff, and help them out where you can - you actually owe them.

It also means that we students need to recognize that a tuition increase has not been cancelled, but merely deferred. This means that now is the time to line up that extra job, or apprise parents of increased costs, or file for more financial aid and accept an increase in further student loan debt if it can be arranged. There is no such thing as a free lunch, and we bear a personal responsibility for paying for the quality of education we believe we deserve.