

Congratulations!

# THE STING

www.THESTING.org

(It's a word we made up to congratulate people for graduating.)

April 20, 2005

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume 59, Edition 11

## QUICK NEWS



¡Estamos triste! All of the April Fools edition of *The Sting* were stolen. Read about it here (pg 2).



VPAA Dr. Hornbeck is retiring. *The Sting* spoke to him one last time before he went (pg 2).

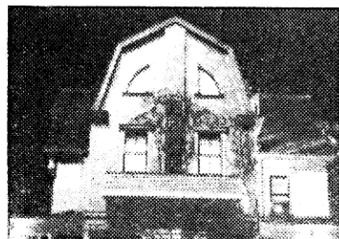
## QUICK OPINION



Looking for a place to live? Remy Lebeaux shows you that you do have a choice (pg 4).

## QUICK ENTERTAINMENT

Graduating senior staff writer Heather Giroux's has written her final beer article as an official *Sting* writer (pg 7).



The Amityville Horror. How horrible was it? (pg 8)

Two reviews of books you probably haven't heard of. One is about rocket packs and another is about eggs (pg 9).

## QUICK ORGANIZATION



TKE had their annual Cruzn' TKE fund raiser. Read about it and look at pictures here (pg 11).

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# Floyd College comes to SPSU

Syl Turner  
Staff Writer

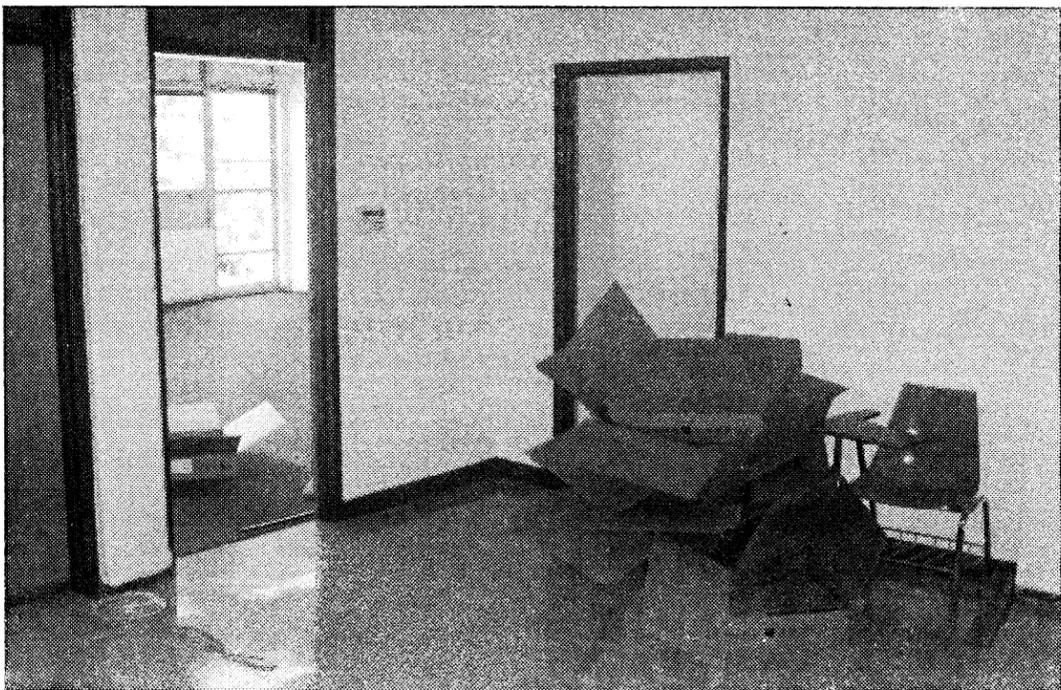
Members of Floyd College will be taking classes in the D building, completely separate of SPSU students

Floyd College will occupy eight classrooms of the D (Math) Building starting June 6. Floyd will rent the space to teach core classes to about 1000 students.

Floyd College is a two-year school based in Rome and has three campuses around North Georgia. The North Metro campus, located in Acworth, is running low on space. Over 600 students who attend the North Metro campus live in Cobb County, so Southern Polytechnic State University is a good choice for Floyd's expansion. Floyd approached Southern Polytechnic about the idea a few times in the past, but SPSU did not have any extra space to rent until recently.

The eight classrooms in the D Building were used by the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. The program has fewer students now than it did 4 years ago. To free some space, ESL recently moved to the trailers by the K (Mechanical) Buildings. This provided extra space in the D Building for Floyd College to rent classrooms.

Floyd will have an office in the D Building for administrative needs. They will also provide an additional librarian. Their students will not be using any of Southern Polytechnic's student services. "There's no real downside," Dr. Ron Koger, Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services for South-



Renovation has already begun in the D building to accompany students from Floyd College.

ern Polytechnic, said. "There's definitely some income flow."

Floyd students will have to pay for Southern Polytechnic's services. They will have to pay for parking. If they want to use the recreational center, they need to pay the same fees Southern Polytechnic students pay. If they want to see a sporting event, they will need to pay for a ticket. Floyd is also providing an additional student ac-

tivities stipend of \$5000 a month, to pay for events from CAB or picking up issues of *The Sting*. All of Floyd's textbooks will be available at the Southern Polytechnic Campus Bookstore.

"The only negative is that there might be tighter parking at night," Koger said. "You just won't be able to park right next to *The Sting* office, so you might have to walk a few extra feet."

Southern Polytechnic students may not be interested in the classes Floyd will be teaching here. "They're mostly lower level ... for nontraditional students," Koger said. Since Floyd doesn't have any higher level Math classes, an idea is for them to pay Southern Polytechnic Math majors to tutor the Floyd students.

"I can't see how this will affect us negatively at all," Koger added.

# New vice president of Academic Affairs named

CJ Shrader  
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Zvi Szafran will become Southern Polytechnic State University's newest vice president of Academic Affairs on July 1, 2005. He will be replacing Dr. David Hornbeck, who has been interim VPAA for the past two years.

During a public interview with faculty and staff, Szafran discussed a few changes he would like to see happen at SPSU during the next few years.

"Certainly over time what is going to need to happen is the development of traditional engineering programs to augment the engineering technology programs that are here now, and expansion of the science program," says Szafran. "Personally I think that more needs to be done with the general education/liberal arts."

Szafran spent six years as the vice president for Academic Affairs at New England College in New Hampshire. He also spent another six years as Dean of Science and Engineering at Merrimack College in Maine.

During Szafran's time as VPAA of New England College, he was able to accomplish many goals. He

never once went over his allotted budget. When Szafran began as VPAA of New England College, enrollment was at an all time low. By getting federal grants to build new buildings, creating new courses which better used the courses that were already in existence, and creating a more aggressive recruitment strategy, Szafran was able to create a 15% annual growth rate in first-year enrollment for the first three years of his time as VPAA.

Szafran has a Bachelor's of Science in chemistry from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He also has a Ph.D. in Physical Inorganic Chemistry from the University of South Carolina. He has written several books and had them published, most regarding chemistry.

### Selection

Choosing the new VPAA is a large process that takes many months to complete. Selection was made by a diverse council of students, faculty, and administration. This council had representatives from Information Technology, Architecture, the Lawrence V. Johnson Library, the Grant Development Center, the Student Government Association, and others. The council was headed by Ron Koger, Vice

President for Student Enrollment Services.

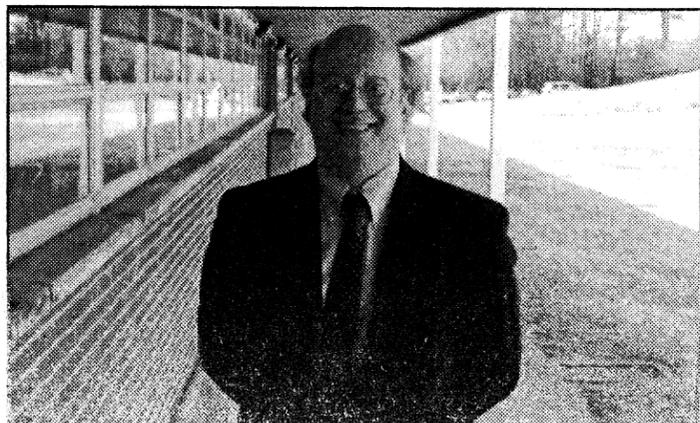
Originally, sixty candidates applied for the position of VPAA. Of those, all without a Doctor's degree were cut from the list. The list was then further narrowed down to only ten candidates. Those ten candidates were interviewed in a conference call by the council. The ten were narrowed to six, then the six were narrowed to three.

Those three were Dr. Duane Hrcir of Mesa State College in Colorado, Dr. Robert Kraushaar of SUNY Maritime College in New York, and Dr. Zvi Szafran. Each candidate went through a private in-

terview with the heads of the departments on campus, followed by an open interview with administration, faculty, and students (Though only one student showed up for each interview).

Each candidate ended with a final interview with Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, President of SPSU. Rossbacher showed the candidates around campus as she interviewed them.

When all interviews had been completed, Rossbacher looked over the information gained from each interview and chose the candidate she felt best fit the needs of SPSU.



Dr. Zvi Szafran is currently training with outgoing VPAA, Dr. David Hornbeck.

# VPAA Hornbeck retiring

**CJ Shrader**  
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. David Hornbeck, interim vice president of Academic Affairs at Southern Polytechnic State University, will be retiring on June 30, 2005.

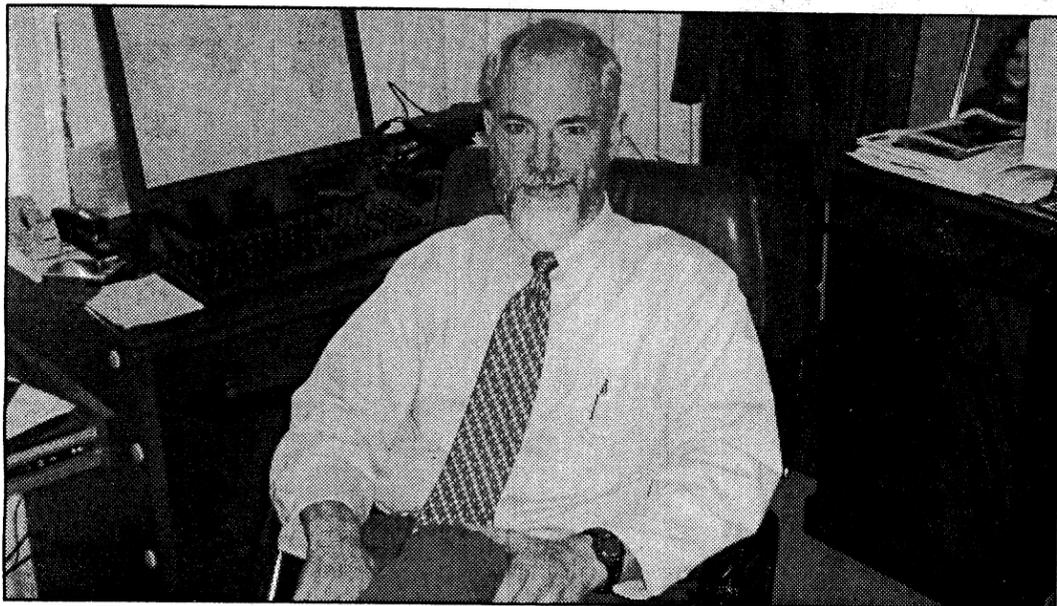
Hornbeck has been the interim VPAA for two years, ever since Dr. William Sanborn 'Sandy' Pfeiffer retired from the position on June 30,

After two years in office, the Hornbeck can begin to pursue his own interests.

means not only assessment of the performance of individuals but also the effectiveness of curriculum," Hornbeck says.

Hornbeck believes that a good system of assessment is something that accrediting agencies will con-

"We're trying to improve the environment for students in a number of ways. For so many years we had a very narrow focus and a very narrow repertoire of programs and so students coming here finding out that they don't like this [the pro-



Dr. David Hornbeck is considering going into consulting after retirement, but is finished with full-time work.

2003. Hornbeck will be replaced as VPAA by Dr. Zvi Szafran on July 1, 2005. Dr. Szafran is an outgoing VPAA from New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire.

Hornbeck says that the most difficult challenge of being the vice president of Academic Affairs is prioritizing jobs as they come in. He handles student appeals, maintains and updates university policies and procedures where necessary, and makes sure those policies and procedures are consistent between each department. He has also helped to improve the school's budget in order to make the school run more efficiently.

While VPAA, Hornbeck spent a lot of time ensuring the school would be ready to keep its accreditation when it was up for approval.

"One of my goals is to lay the groundwork for a good assessment program in Academic Affairs. That

stantly expect to see completed.

Hornbeck also says that the bulk of what he has to do as VPAA is general office paperwork, including signing documents, sending e-mails, and making phone calls.

Though Dr. Hornbeck might be leaving the paperwork behind, he doesn't seem to be leaving the educational system of Georgia completely yet.

"For several years, I've been active with the organization that accredits Engineering programs and Computer Science programs," says Hornbeck. "There is opportunity for me to do more things with them."

Hornbeck may also choose to do some consulting, though he has no intentions of taking up another full time job.

Hornbeck had one last message for the students of SPSU.

"I think there is an enormous amount of opportunity for the graduates here," Hornbeck says.

gram they are in], there's not much else to go in to, so over the years we've added some programs and we will continue to do that."

Hornbeck has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from West Virginia Institute of Technology, a Masters in Structural Engineering from Vanderbilt, and a Ph.D. from Georgia Tech in Civil Engineering with a specialization in Geotechnical Engineering.

Hornbeck has been at SPSU since "right after Kennesaw Mountain was born," as he describes it. He actually started in 1976 where Hornbeck has been both the department chair and a regular faculty member of the Civil Engineering Technology program.

Before coming to SPSU, Hornbeck taught at the West Virginia Institute of Technology for five years.

# The Sting stolen

**Dave Bachtel**  
Senior staff writer

Between April 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> approximately 750 issues of the April Fool's edition of *The Sting* were taken from the J building and the student center. The theft of the papers is valued at \$337, the bulk of which came from student activity fees allocated to *The Sting* by the SGA and paid for by SPSU's student body.

The theft was first discovered by CJ Shrader, Editor-in-Chief of *The Sting*, on Sunday night (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) in the student center. Shrader verified that issues of the *Sting* were also missing from the J building and filed a report with the SPSU Police Department.

Detective Tarcan of SPSU's Police Department is handling the case. One problem that has arisen during the course of the investiga-

tion is that the theft of a free newspaper falls into a legal gray area under Georgia's Theft Statute, although similar cases have been successfully prosecuted in other states, according to Shrader. Tarcan cited the illustration of being offered a single free sample of a food item and eating the entire plate.

Although the *Sting* does include a notice in every issue about theft, it appears that the statements may not be legally binding.

Detective Tarcan would like to see witnesses come forward but none have so far. If you have any information about the theft of *The Sting*, please contact Detective Tarcan at 678-915-7348.

*The April Fool's Edition is still accessible online at [http://www.thesting.org/display\\_issue.asp?id=71](http://www.thesting.org/display_issue.asp?id=71).*



As of the writing of this article, it is unknown who took *The Sting*.

# Library owl flies the coop

**Remy Lebeaux**  
Staff writer

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the director of the library was walking past the glass walkway that flanks the library's first row of periodicals when she noticed that the Library Owl (Lowl) was missing. A student assistant was dispatched to check the grounds to attempt to find the creature, but Lowl was nowhere to be found.

Purchased in 1999, the hard-plastic owl was placed in front of the long-glassy walkway that exists behind the trees to the right of the library's front entrance. This owl was both for decoration and function as it served to frighten birds and prevent them from flying at full speed into the glass (the assump-

tion is that they think they're flying into the sun from the glass' reflection or they just don't notice the glass at all). Lowl had become sort of an unofficial mascot of sorts, and if you have any information on his whereabouts (for example, if you see him flying around downtown Atlanta, or in your buddy's dorm room) please contact the library.



Have you seen me?



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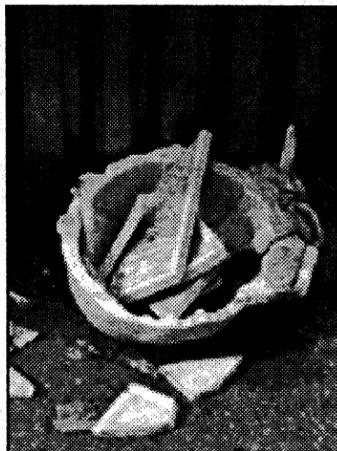
# Should everyone be punished?

Chris Gamblin  
Student contributor

Tired of paying fines? If you live in the Howell hall dorm you know what this is about. What has the world come to? Why do people have to destroy something when it does not even belong to them? Residents in the Howell hall dorm are getting fined countless amounts because of damages done inside the dorm. When will this stop? There have been damages to the elevator, shaving cream everywhere in the bathroom, and trash cans overflowing

inside the bathroom.

Students, can we all respect the places where we live and have enough common sense to quit doing all of this damage? Every student in the dorm does not want to spend their money on fines for your wrong doings. The dorms will last a whole lot longer if people just took a little bit of care for them. Just remember, other students will live in the dorms for years to come. Take care of the dorm so that future students will want to attend Southern Polytechnic State University.



Don't expect this to be fixed soon

# It is annoying to give blood

A.L. Johnson  
Staff writer

It is annoying to give blood.

First they want you to read this long book to save their ass, then they take you behind a screen that gives a false sense of discretion while they ask you questions about sex, traveling, tattoos, and piercings. They test your iron count with a prick on your finger so f\*cking painful that you are forced to remember why you agreed to do this in the first place. But you look around, and

would be. All your friends are still being screened or already done, and you really don't have anyone to talk to. You have homework to do, or you need to go to work, or you wanted to see what's up with that hot guy in Bio. ANYTHING but sitting here staring at the ceiling tiles, draining to death.

But then you're almost done, and the juice and cookies beckon you. The thought of downing all the free thanks-for-making-us-look-good food seems to make donating a worthy cause,

ness to suck everyone of their blood so it's needed in a time of crisis, and everyone who is eligible should make it their business to donate.

Fact: Someone needs blood EVERY 2 SECONDS.

Fact: Only 5% of eligible people donate.

### What are platelets?

- \* Platelets are the clotting factor in blood.
- \* The body continuously makes platelets.
- \* Platelets are fragile and last only 5 days.

### Who needs platelets?

- Platelets are needed to treat:
- \* Cancer \* blood disorders
  - \* Leukemia
  - \* Bone marrow transplant patients

### What is apheresis (ay-fur-ee-sis)?

Apheresis is the name of the procedure used to separate and collect only platelets from a donor. The process allows the Red Cross to collect up to 8 times more platelets than through a normal blood donation. The other blood components are returned to the donor.

### Who can donate platelets?

- Requirements are the same as for donating whole blood. Donors must be:
- \* healthy
  - \* 17 or older
  - \* weigh at least 110 pounds
- Also, no aspirin products should be taken 48 hours prior to donating.

It's easy to donate blood. Not only is there an American Red Cross (ARC) Donation Center everyfrickin' where, they come out to our school in the fall and spring semesters, and now, it looks like the summer semester will be included to give SPSU students three chances a year to give life.

## Did You Know?

Newborn open heart surgery requires 1-10 units of platelets  
Leukemia patients use 5-8 units of platelets daily for 2-4 weeks  
Bone marrow transplant patients use 6-8 units for 4-6 weeks  
Liver transplant patients use 10 units of platelets  
Adult open heart surgery patients require 1-10 units of platelets

Find out how you can donate platelets

Call Arlene Cummings 404-879-8046

Together we can save a life!

your friends seem to be taking it in stride, and of course you can't bitch up over a little pin prick, so you choose your "I PROBABLY/ PROBABLY DON'T HAVE AIDS" sticker, and you are on your way.

They put the funky iodine on your arm and stick the longest needle possible in your "happy" vein and they suck you dry. You squeeze a ball periodically wondering why you are there. It's not as engaging as you thought it

especially since sometimes they give you pizza.

And as you sit there, light-headed, with all the annoying literature to peruse, someone tells you the bottom line.

EVERY PINT OF BLOOD HELPS THREE PEOPLE IN THE LOCAL AREA.

That's right. Three to one. My bookie has never heard of a win so guaranteed. The American Red Cross makes it their busi-

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### 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 Thursday, May 26 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.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

### PRICE

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

## Where can I donate platelets?

Platelet donations can be made at any of the American Red Cross donor centers in:

- \* Atlanta
- \* Marietta
- \* Alpharetta
- \* Duluth
- \* Sandy Springs
- \* Stockbridge

Together, we can save a life

Call Me Soon!

Arlene Cummings  
American Red Cross  
404-879-8046

# You have a choice for housing!

Remy Lebeaux  
staff writer

First of all, I feel I should say this upfront: this article deals primarily with showing students that they have a choice for housing and do not have to pay for the overly expensive University Courtyard or University Commons apartments. This article is NOT an attack on most of the people employed in Housing that have been employed since the previous management was in place, specifically Peggy Romanowski and the (now departed) Eric White (the only two people that don't/didn't seem to exist to make student's lives miserable).

That being said, if you are currently living in the University Courtyard or University Commons and considering renewing your lease, or you live in the dorms, or even if you commute, I highly encourage you to at least skim this article. The vast majority of people living in the University Courtyard have been deluded into thinking that the astronomically expensive \$485 dollar monthly rent-per-person is a "good deal," and that living off campus would cost a great deal more. This just isn't true at all. Living off campus IS cheaper with the only disadvantage being that you have to drive a few minutes to class everyday and can't wake up at 1:55 for that 2:00 class.

With the next leasing term, the 1,235 square foot, four-bed and four-bath University Courtyard apartments (pre-furnished) will be selling for \$495 per month (per person). This "all-inclusive" "deal" covers internet, phone, cable, and power, but if you go over your allotted usage for every month you are to pay the overage out of your pocket (and during the hotter months, you WILL go over). If you don't use your allotted amount per month, you lose that money to the wind. If you decide to pay your rent with a credit card, you will be stuck with a \$10 PROCESSING FEE, bumping up your monthly rent to \$505 per month per person! For the non-mathematically inclined, that's \$2020 PER MONTH for AN APART-

MENT!

Before I get angry e-mails from the management staff at the apartment complex on campus, I should note that you do sign an individual lease when you sign on for the apartment, meaning that if your roommates don't pay their rent for the month your total rent is still only \$495 (or \$505 if you pay with a credit card). However, realistically, you'll be living with three other people that are paying their full rent every month. This means that the same money you're paying individually could be pooled into one lump sum and then applied to a much cheaper place. But maybe you don't live in the University Courtyard, or aren't

ment.

**So, What Should I Do?**

Simple, don't renew your lease with the Commons or the Courtyard or sign a lease if you're looking for a new place. For over \$2,000 a month you can find a nice HOUSE, and for \$1,030 a month you can find an elegant 2-bedroom apartment and possibly even a small house. But what if you don't have the time to go apartment hunting, or just don't know how to start the procedure or where to look in this area?

**Try Promove**

This FREE apartment hunting service has been informed of the pricing problems Ambling (the management company that operates the

erties.

**Why not just search for myself?**

Promove works with countless properties in the Atlanta and surrounding areas, and since they refer a lot of people that eventually sign a lease, lower-cost monthly rent is almost always available if you mention Promove sent you.

**What's the Catch?**

Nothing, really. When you go to view a property, you have to mention Promove as the person/company that referred you to the property.

**Personal experience**

No, I don't work for them, but they did get me a nice deal on an 1197 square-foot two-bed, two-bath

apartment. When you have decided on a couple of other people you want to live with, and you've visited Promove for your apartment package, then it's best to decide who will pay the extra money per month to get the master bedroom and his/her own personal bathroom.

**Can I afford to live off-campus?**

If you can afford to live in the Courtyard or the Commons, then the answer is an enthusiastic "yes." Although I cannot release exact pricing information on my own apartment or the prices of apartments that came up in the search Mr. Smallwood performed, I can say that the average price per unit for a two-bedroom apartment was about \$100 less per person for a larger living area than that provided by the Commons. As for the three-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments, the average rent per person would have been about \$150 less than the comparably sized Courtyard apartment. If that isn't good enough, then consider that most properties will occasionally offer you a great deal to move in, such as a free month's rent, a \$170 rent deduction for the duration of your lease (per month no lease), or a deposit/application fee waiver.

What I'm trying to convince you all is that you DO have a choice. You don't have to live in campus housing and commuting isn't nightmarish if your trip is only a 5 minute drive to campus (as mine is). If you're absolutely dead-set against moving off campus, then you should at least let the people at Promove show you some nearby properties in your price range.

**Article at a Glance**

Promove  
227 Cobb Parkway South  
Hours:  
Monday-Thursday: 9:00a.m.-7:00p.m.  
Friday: 10:30a.m.-5:00p.m.  
Saturday: 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m.  
Phone: 770-218-1086  
Sales and Operations Manager:  
Mickey Flynn  
Property Specialist who helped me:  
Casey Smallwood



interested in the four-bed, four-bath set-up and are thinking about the University Commons. Those two-bed, two-bath, 790 square foot apartments are going up to an astonishing \$515 a month per person, or \$1030 a month for the apartment as a whole. For those of you that have never been apartment hunting, these prices are worse than highway robbery in the 1970's. Granted, both the University Courtyard and Commons come pre-furnished, but with the amount of money for rent that each one requires, any industrious SPSU student can find low-cost furniture to fill a barren apart-

Courtyard and Commons) has been set upon SPSU students, and they are anxiously awaiting your call or visit. Located at 227 Cobb Parkway South (they're on Highway 41, right next to Sonic and across the street from Blockbuster), the service is very simple to use. You'll sit down with a Promove agent, tell him/her your prerequisites for an apartment (pricing, location, amenities, size, amount of rooms) and wait for about 5-10 minutes as a search is run. The agent then returns with a stack of information cards that contain high-resolution pictures of properties and all vital information about those prop-

apartment. I ventured to this place with my roommate and spoke to Mr. Casey Smallwood and Mr. Mickey Flynn and explained my situation and that of all the students looking for housing at SPSU. My roommate and I specifically requested that no complex be more than ten miles away from the campus, and after a search Mr. Smallwood presented us with 140 results that were all in our location and price range.

The only downside to this is it is highly unlikely that you will find any four-bedroom apartments, and even more unlikely that you will find any three-bed, three-bath apart-

## Farewell to SPSU

Heather Giroux  
Senior staff writer

I had no idea, but apparently I've been at this school for two and a half years. I can't really believe it myself. I still feel like I just transferred to this school. It's been an interesting time. I finally got involved in some extracurricular activities here and that really helped in my living-on-campus-morale. I encourage everyone to join at least one club or organization while they're here.

My hat goes off to Dr. Soiset, the only teacher to ever convince me that learning history was interesting. I thoroughly enjoyed all the classes I took from him. I also greatly appreciated Professor Hahn's speech class. Not to mention all of his help with starting up the new SPSU Band.

Now for the worst of times...housing sucks! I absolutely hate living on campus. I used to actually like it a lot: convenience, closeness, not needing to have a roommate when signing up for a lease. Nowadays, housing is hell! They keep changing all of the rules, you have to pay a service charge to use your credit card now, they treat you like children... I feel like I could write a whole book on how horrible the situation has now become. I'm sure that most of you know how bad it is, so I won't go on about that anymore.

I think that about sums it up. I hope you all have good times while you're still here. Go out and join something; there's too much apathy on this campus. Finally, throw some parties sometime. There's definitely not enough drinking on this campus!

Ask Susan

## Pestering parents probing

Susan Ristau  
SPSU licensed counselor

Dear Susan,

How do I get my parents off my back about grades and how do I stop them from asking me all the time when I'm going to graduate? Signed: Frustrated Fiona

Dear Fiona,

This is a common problem I hear from students so you're not alone. Sometimes it's tough to get parents to realize you are now an independent, young adult, especially when mom & dad are still paying your way. Most of the time parents just want to connect with you and are afraid of losing that bond they have forged for

so many years. Try calling them on a regular basis to head off their frequent calls. Have some positive news to tell and let them know your classes are going well and you are making progress. Leave out the part about going to parties, staying up all night and the fact you are surviving on ramen noodles. That news will just worry them. Assure your parents that you will get in touch with them immediately if you need them and remind them that they raised you to be an intelligent, responsible, capable adult. You can also tell them about the new Career & Counseling Center's Parent Connection e-mail newsletter. It is filled with valuable information that parents will enjoy and it might

just cut down on the number of phone calls you receive from them. Have your parents visit this link: [http://www.spsu.edu/center/Parent\\_Connection.html](http://www.spsu.edu/center/Parent_Connection.html) to sign up for *The Parent Connection* newsletter. And hang in there, Fiona, you WILL graduate in your own time!

*Free counseling is available in the Career & Counseling Center located on the 2nd floor of the Student Center Monday through Friday, normal business hours. After hours emergency on-call is also available for crises. Take advantage of the opportunity to talk about your problems with Susan Ristau, a Georgia Licensed Professional Counselor.*

# The world needs more “user-friendly” people

Naimah Shaw  
Staff writer

In times of accelerated change and intense competition, with the new technological era upon us and with new advances everyday, a highland of trust and openness is essential within an organization. We constantly hear about Microsoft, Linux and Unix. They are each competing for the top notch quality and a grade that is appealing and satisfactory to the consumers.

Since most everyone reading this would be a part of the “Southern Polytechnic State University,” I take for granted that you’re all interested to some extent with IT or at least familiar with the controversy surrounding “user-friendly” software. It should be noted that while we make an ardent effort to obtain the most user-friendly software to support our technological needs, we also need to reconstruct our own attitudes and personal disposition to create a more user-friendly environment to support each other’s psychological needs.

It is certainly amusing that while we sincerely try to obtain the most conducive user-interface for

our computers which contain volatile software that is not within our capacity to change, we never choose to reexamine our own selves and persona which are the virtual circuit boards whose switches we are in control of and whose functionality we can instantaneously alter.

The foremost thing in my mind right now is the place I work and surprisingly I wouldn’t change my squeaking mouse or my computer that sounds as though a truck is running through it; but rather if I had to alter anything, the core changes would be in the demeanor of the personnel resources. I certainly do not think we need engineers probing into us and doing some reprogramming although I wish some of my co-workers and superiors would see this as a viable option. On an early eight-o-clock morning when I would rather be tucked under my covers, there’s some compelling and consuming force that drags me out of bed and into work, only to be met with people even grumpier than myself. My forced, bright and cheery, “Hey, how are you?” often goes unnoticed or at the very most it’s met

with snobbish responses which causes my effervescent mood to fade faster than a pair of jeans in Clorox.

As if that’s not bad enough, I then have to meet with the sales personnel, and man, I’m always left wondering, “When last did they brush.” It’s sad that I can’t even concentrate on what they’re saying because I’m too busy concentrating on not passing out. It would be a pleasant surprise if one day my work mates were ecstatic about being there or if they got a sudden burst of adrenaline and energy flow. It would be an even greater accomplishment if they came to the stark realization that it really isn’t that time-consuming to change that permanent line fixated across the lower section of their faces into a curved one. That would be good news unless of course a slit of those tightly pursed lips would create an unpleasant aroma or result in indigestion of my morning breakfast.

The part that etches away at and unravels every fiber of my nerve is the fact that this mundane attitude is the same approach used to deal with outsiders. As a public facility that is supposed to lend sup-

port and service to the public, it is appalling to note that many times I sit within my cubicle and hear the constant ringing of the telephone. This unfortunately does not merit an answer but the caller on the other end if subject to the much hated voice of the recording which proclaims, “Currently we are dealing with other patrons, please try your call later.” In reality, while the disgruntled caller becomes further agitated, the person responsible for answering the phone may just be catching up on the latest gossip.

This is definitely not the environment you would want to be stuck in. This is one that causes frustration and cynicism where you are faced with the same dilemmas every day until it eventually and habitually becomes nothing more than a mere repetitive cycle of haplessness. Monthly meetings which seek to eliminate and eradicate these ludicrous, lousy behaviors and which serve as constant reminders of the interpersonal courtesy and common etiquette that should be exhibited among employees and the public result is nothing more than relatively meaningless statements hung on the wall. That’s quite unlike what

we really need. The by-products of these insightful meetings and initial rigorous training should be optimistic people who encourage and motivate you along the way.

I personally feel that my workplace would be a better one if the behaviors and attitudes of the other employees were in sync with their outward appearances and the physical appearance of the environment. Sure enough, the cozy, soft sofas, central AC, well lighted rooms with exquisite wall paintings and lush green potted plants are no compromise for the unpleasant smirks and frowns or the forever tired persons whose glances are capable of freezing raw meat. After all, they are still the ones we need to function with everyday.

While the battle continues for the most “user-friendly” software environment, it would be quite reassuring if the same rang true for “user-friendly” personality environments which were open to critique as well. So come on guys, smile a little more, be a bit more pleasant...on the flip side, if anything I’ve written about describes you, then as they say, “if the cap fits- wear it!”

## An entertaining read

# Science is not a religion. Take that, Tom Cruise!

Ross Cutts  
NASA correspondent

Greetings, and welcome to latest column of an entertaining read. A few years back the Cobb County school system made headlines. Sadly, these headlines more or less exposed to the rest of the world just how far behind Georgia and, in particular, Cobb County is in education. Cobb County made the decision that all biology textbooks had to be branded with stickers that stated “*This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered.*” If this wasn’t enough they went on to not only allow but encourage the teaching of intelligent design as an equal explanation to evolution and biology. Many of the insane actions chosen by Cobb Country were based upon the assumption that science is not fundamentally different than religion. So I have decided (dear Sting reader) to devote an entire column to explore, in-depth, the question — Are science and religion fundamentally different?

Everyone must believe in something, no matter who you are or what your background is. It is impossible for you to believe in nothing. People try to view science and religion as two completely incompatible things, almost liken to oil and water, where the boundaries between the two are dynamic and unpredictable. Is this agnostic viewpoint sustainable? Are science and religion really that different? In order to answer these questions we must look at two primary differences in religion and science. The first examines the similarities and differ-

ences, and the second explores the key that faith plays both in religion and science.

All religions, from Atheism to Zionism, have the same basic element, meaning. Meaning in the sense that religions give explanation to the unanswerable. For example, when we are young, we question why we have days and nights. Some may state that it’s the planets rotation, or a sun god that keeps getting lost in the sky. The validity of the belief is meaningless just as long as it fills the void and gives meaning to the unknown. Then it is fundamentally a religion.

At first glance one could argue the same thing about science, as science too gives meaning to the unknown. But upon closer scrutiny one finds that science has a built in self correcting step that all other religions lack. This self correcting step lies in the scientific method; yup this is the same scientific method that every science class spends the first week and a half reviewing.

Step 1. Observe some aspect of the universe.

Step 2. Invent a tentative description, called a hypothesis, which is consistent with what you have observed.

Step 3. Use the hypothesis to make predictions.

Step 4. Test those predictions by experiments or further observations and modify the hypothesis in the light of your results.

Step 5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until there are no discrepancies between theory and experiment and/or observation.”

Step one through step three are fundamentally the same processes that a religion relies on, however step four and five make science unique in that it’s “self correcting”.

Now this understanding clearly shows why something like creationism clearly cannot and should not be classified as a science. But how else are religion and science different? Is the only thing that separates the two the fact that science has this golden rule? And what about this golden rule is it really so golden?

History is composed of a never ending string of events, each event being shaped by the prior event. Science too is always changing, where the discoveries and ideas of one scientist directly shapes the discoveries and ideas of the proceeding scientist. So if a different scientist made a fundamentally different explanation for the atom that still completely and correctly explained all data, then his discovery would pass the scientific method and would still be in use today. In short, what I am saying is that there are many ways science could have evolved, while accurately fitting the mold. Just as there are many ways a writer can write a book, there are as many ways a scientist could explain the way the environment works. So perhaps it’s better to look at science as being a more accurate and consistent religion that is always seeking for the most accurate meaning. But now we are once again under the impression that science and religion are still fundamentally the same, so I must dig deeper.

The real fundamental difference between religion and science arises when you look at the fact that when one learns a substantial amount about a particular field of science they become a scientist. However, one can learn everything about a religion, and never become a member of that religion. This is where the fundamental difference between science and religion lie; it’s

a difference of faith. In science, it does take a certain amount of faith when it comes to the general public accepting complicated scientific axioms, hypotheses and theories. I openly admit that I too have to accept some aspects of science on faith, simply because I can not see atoms and, I can’t see electrons. I must simply trust that there are others who do understand the chemistry and physics of electricity. However, this faith in science is totally and fundamentally different from the faith in religion. Having faith is not required in science, if one desires and has the interest, intelligence, and time; they too can understand how any aspect of science works. Religion, however, requires faith in the fact that many of the primary beliefs and points of religion revolve around some sort of invisible, unverifiable, and many times incomprehensible entity.

It is easy to see how it would appear that because science does not require faith it would be able to coexist. For a long time this idea worked, but as time goes on science, with its golden rules, continues to ask and answer more and more questions. It is inevitable that sooner or later the basic questions of religions would not only be asked by science, but answered by science. This has and is currently happening, and is creating fundamental problems, because the line between religion and science is continuing to not only shrink, but bleed.

In conclusion we can see that while science was only answering questions that did not directly contradict the fundamental beliefs of religions, one could easily separate and believe in both. However, now that science is encroaching upon the “unanswerable” questions people are being forced to either

make a choice or live a life of contradiction. Science is a “belief” per se, but it’s a belief that is ever self-correcting and expanding, which no longer conveniently fits with any other “faith” based beliefs.

Congratulations to Sean Kirby, Cameron Law, and Chris Head for correctly answering last papers challenge. I would like to thank all of those who attempted this challenge and I hope you look forward to the future challenges. Also please send any thoughts or comments about this article to [a.entertaining.read@gmail.com](mailto:a.entertaining.read@gmail.com); if you present interesting points or counterpoints I will publish them in the next column.

Without further ado, the answers to last month’s questions are as follows

The claim: On the Moon, there is only one light source, the sun. Therefore, anything in a shadow should be completely dark.

Solution: The moon reflects a tremendous amount of light (which we have all witnessed while a full moon). This reflected light is scattered in all directions including the objects in the shadows.

The claim: There are cross hairs on pictures taken on the Moon that appear to be behind objects, rather than in front of them, where they should be. Which implies that the photos were tampered with.

The cross hairs are small cuts in the glass. If you notice, only the bright white objects make the cross hairs disappear. This is because the bright reflective light bleeds over the very small cut marks making them seem to disappear. This would work even if the lines were printed on.

Histories that matter

# Ring your own Sharpie adventure

CJ Shrader  
Editor-in-Chief

Happy graduation to those that are leaving this esteemed campus! I hope your life is successful and you'll find jobs and maybe, just maybe, you'll stop by and read *The Sting* from time to time at [www.thesting.org](http://www.thesting.org). If not, screw you.

Before I get into my histories, I need to clarify some issues from the April Fool's edition of my article.

A) A ducks quack **does** echo, just like any other noise would.

B) There is no "15 minute rule." To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing that officially states that you can leave a class with no repercussions. If someone knows differently, feel free to tell me. I'm asking for hard proof here, though, not that you just heard it from somewhere.

C) Pop Rocks and soda won't hurt you in any way, shape, or form. Really. It won't.

I'm sorry I had to lie to you, my loyal readers, but it was for the greater good of hilarity.

Back to business. This issue, I'm going to cover a few random topics that I just couldn't squeeze into a single topic. We'll hit the good ol' "Ring Around the Rosie" song (It's not what you think), the history of the Sharpie, and, my personal favorite, the history of choose your own adventure books.

### Ring Around the Rosie

No. You're wrong and you don't know where it comes from. But let's start with some backstory for those who don't know of this little children's ditty. The lyrics go a little something like this:

"Ring around the rosie,  
A pocket full of posies,  
Ashes, ashes,  
We all fall down!"

A little macabre, isn't it? The common belief is that this little song dates back to the Bubonic Plague in Europe during the 1300's. The ring around the rosie is meant to represent the welts that the Plague would leave all over the infected's body. The posies are about how the superstitious people of the time believed that carrying posies with them would keep them from catching the plague. The final two lines, supposedly, are about people dying from the Plague.

However, there is no real proof that this is what the poem is about. The first recorded instance of this

poem is from 1881, over five hundred years after the Plague hit Europe. This version, printed in Kate Greenaway's *Mother Goose*, went a little differently.

"Ring-a-ring o' roses,  
A pocket full of posies,  
Hush! hush! hush! hush!  
We're all tumbled down"

Naturally, this sounds a bit more like a bunch of kids getting tired after picking some flowers and taking a nap. Nothing to do with the Plague, as the other version would have you believe.

(Special thanks to [www.wordorgins.org](http://www.wordorgins.org) for much of this information.)

### Sharpie

Like all awesome histories about markers, this one starts with rather humble beginnings. It all began with Frederick W. Redington and William H. Sanford, Jr. in 1857, who founded Sanford Manufacturing Company in Worcester, Massachusetts. Sanford Manufacturing Company made mainly ink and glue.

In 1979 (Advancement must have come pretty slow), a new tip and four new colors were introduced for the Sharpie marker to make the Extra Fine Point Marker.

That wasn't enough for Sanford Ink Company, though. They decided to up the limit in 1989 by making the Sharpie Ultra Fine Point marker. This sucka' wasn't just extra fine...it was *ultra* fine.

Today, Sharpie has 24 different colors and many different styles. Rest assured that when you need to know which beer is yours at the next keg party, Sharpie will be there to save the day.

(All of this information came from [www.sharpie.com](http://www.sharpie.com). Can't believe the Sharpie part is finished already? Well, come on, what did you expect from a part about a marker? Honestly.)

### Choose Your Own Adventure Books

There are three popular theories behind the origins of Choose Your Own Adventure books. One



Sharpies: Marking all over shit since 1961

Eventually, the company headquarters was relocated to Chicago, then to Bellwood Illinois. By 1947, the company was named the Sanford Ink Company.

In 1964, the Sanford Ink Company began to focus on the "emerging marker business" and produce the Sharpie brand of markers. Sharpies were always famous because they could write on any form of surface, be it wood, paper, glass, plastic, or pregnant women's stomachs.

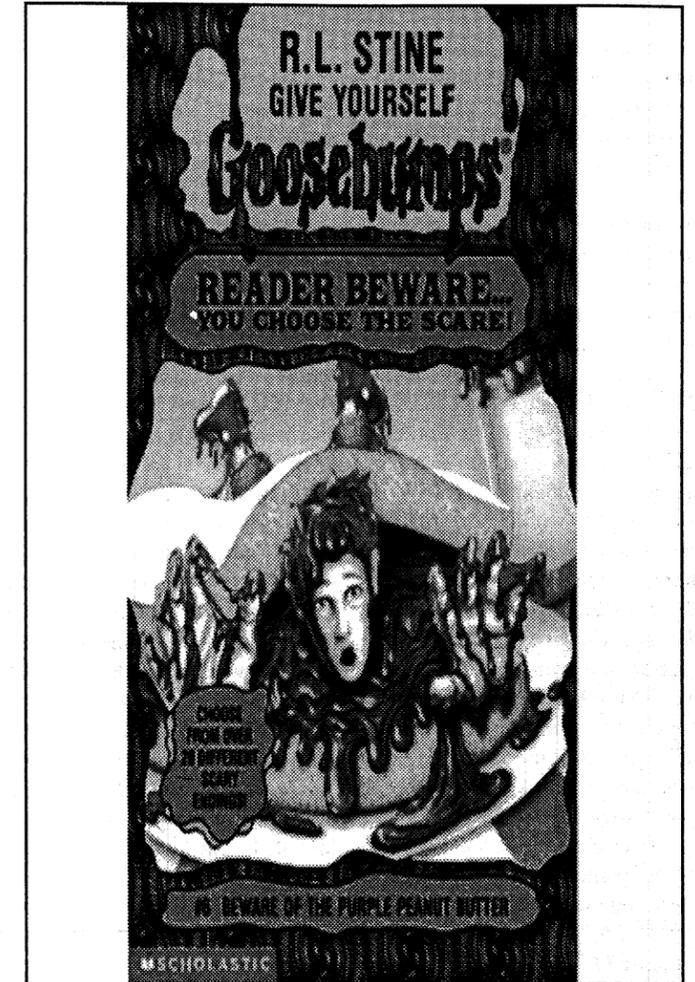
states that it goes back to the ancient times of Troy where a series of Ad Libs were found in the ruins of the ancient city.

Another theory says that Choose Your Own Adventure Books (Hereon known as CYOABs) originated in China with the folding fortune tellers that we all grew to love in grade school.

The third and most interesting theory centers around a man named Tydestro the Storyteller. He told stories. Tydestro was a member of Charlemagne's army battling the Saxons in 778.

Tydestro would spend a lot of his free time writing stories about the wars and would describe many various outcomes that could occur. In time, he had thirteen books written with over four hundred possible outcomes.

What was originally supposed to be a two hour stop for Charlemagne in the camp which Tydestro resided in turned into a three day rest as Tydestro entertained Charlemagne with his amorphous tales of empirical victories (Did you like that word? Amor-



To live, go to pg. 4. To die, go to pg. 5. To use the hovercraft, turn to pg. 6.

phous? Pretty sexy, huh?). Tydestro was made Charlemagne's official storyteller and entertainer.

To make a long story short, these CYOABs were quickly adopted by the nobility, though the common people weren't actually able to get their hands on the CYOABs for another five hundred years.

After these humble beginnings, the CYOAB stayed relatively low-key over the next few centuries. It wasn't until 1884 that Alfred Binet, the French Commissioner of Education, came up with a system of learning that used choose your own adventure games. This system, after being tested in a few schools, proved to be fairly efficient in aiding students' learning.

I can see it now. The question comes up with "Did France ever win a war?" and the students answer yes or no. If yes, they flip to page 21 and are told that the French revolution doesn't count. If no, they flip to page 86 and are told that they will receive a cookie...if they survive the rest of the terrifying pages of the textbook!

Ok, so it probably didn't work out exactly like that. But it didn't matter, because teachers hated the method so it never was implemented.

However, a lot of the students from these schools went on to write their own CYOABs. It was at this time that the concept of CYOABs finally came to America, where it festered silently until the time was right for it to burst in a gigantic spray of possibilities from the chest of the United States.

Like so many great things - mullets, the death of disco, Michael Jackson, the birth of me, Jesus - it took the 1980's to bring CYOABs into the mainstream at last. Sales

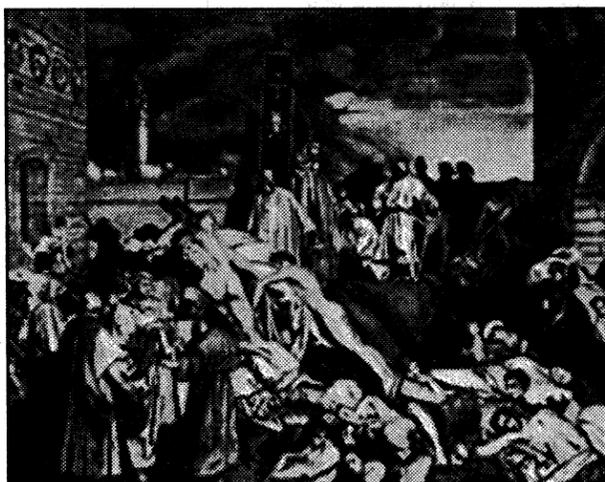
boomed. Over 3000 books were made, and even choose your own adventure movies were released in special theatres for a time.

Yet, like so many other great things - Dungeons and Dragons, Magic: the Gathering, Satanism - fundamental Christian groups began to label CYOABs as satanic in nature. Their message must have gotten around over time (Or people just got tired of CYOABs), because there sure aren't many CYOABs left around today. Personally, it seems to me that there are less than there were when we were kids.

But then again, I don't read them anymore. If you still read them, continue on to page 45. If not, go to page 56.

(The facts in this history come heavily from [myadventuregame.com](http://myadventuregame.com). Special thanks to them for knowing all this)

Wasn't that interesting to the max? Well, I thought it was. Have something you'd like to see in The Histories that Matter? Just drop me an e-mail at [rshrader@spsu.edu](mailto:rshrader@spsu.edu). I'll cover anything you could possibly come up with, or at least try my best. If I can't figure it out, feel free to give me one punch in the stomach. On the house.



Insert hilarious caption about the plague here...

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# Best of the Midwest

Heather Giroux  
Beermaster

While most kids were going south for our wintry timed Spring Break, my friends and I decided to embrace the cold and head toward the Midwest. There just so happens to be two American treasures out there that we just couldn't miss: the original Budweiser Brewery and the Miller Brewery.

Our first stop was Budweiser in St. Louis, MO. It was a gigantic

compound all dedicated to those tasty suds. There was also a stable for those big Clydesdale horses. The tour lasted about 40 minutes and was very informative. They really want you to understand that they're the only brewery to use the beechwood aging process.

The best way to learn something is firsthand and that we did at the end of the tour. Everyone was allowed two samples of any beer on tap. They had about six different beers to choose from. I chose to try

out the new Budweiser Select and Bear Knuckle.

I was very pleased with my selection of Budweiser Select. I'm not a huge fan of domestics in general, but this was a great one to try. It had the clean, crisp taste that Bud is always bragging about, but I was really impressed that there was no aftertaste. Absolutely none at all! Budweiser is also their low carb, less calorie beer and yet it still holds 4.2% alcohol. Why not have a beer or two that tastes good and is "good for you?"

My second beer of choice, Bear Knuckle, had a pleasant chocolate taste to it. Unfortunately, it is only being tested in select areas right now. You can get it at a few bars around St. Louis, but otherwise you'll just have to take my word for it about how good it was.

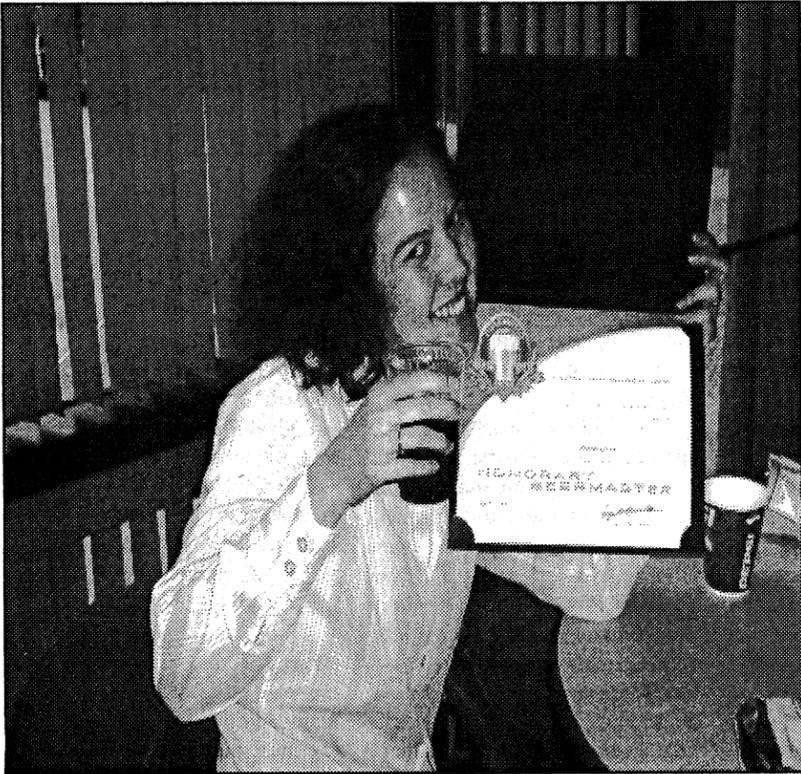
The best part about the Budweiser Brewery was my earning the title of Beermaster. Myself and two other visitors were chosen to taste different glasses of Bud. The first glass had a nice, clean taste like a Budweiser should. The second glass, however, tasted awful...much like Natty Light. We were later told that the second glass was supposed to

simulate how a beer past its prime would taste. Since I'm such a good beer reviewer, I noticed the difference right away and swiftly picked up a new glass of cold beer to get the bad taste out of my mouth. So now, ladies and gentlemen, I can say with pride that I am a beermaster. My articles have gained so much credibility!

The Miller Brewery had a little something left to be desired after visiting Budweiser. Their tour was not as spectacular, but still quite informative. The beer there was definitely not as good either. They did have a three beer limit instead of two though, which was nice. I tried out Miller Light, Weinhard's Amber Light, and a Polish import that I honestly can't recall.

Miller Light isn't my favorite beer. Actually, I don't enjoy light beers in general; I feel like it tastes too watery. Anyway...none of the beers I tried were very good I have to say. The Weinhard was the best by far. It's from a microbrew in Wisconsin that the Miller Brewing Company has taken under its wing. It had a nice amber color and a bit of a fruity taste to it. Honestly, that's the best thing I have to say about that brewery.

Obviously I enjoyed my time at Budweiser much more. You should take a page out of my book and learn a little about beer for your next Spring Break. You might even become a beermaster just like I did. Until next time...cheers!



Another line to add to my resume!

# LEGO Star Wars review

Syl Turner  
Staff writer

Let's face it. Since the prequels came out, Star Wars video games have gone downhill. There have been a few good ones here and there (I liked *Racer* and *Knights of the Old Republic*), but most have been of mediocre to crap quality. Believe it or not, *LEGO Star Wars* is a great Star Wars game.

This game combines two of the coolest things in the world: Star Wars and LEGOs. Nearly everything inside the game is made out of LEGOs; from tables to spaceships to the characters themselves. You can even use The Force to take a pile of LEGOs and make a table.

The game follows the prequel trilogy, including Episode III. Caution: there are a few spoilers while playing (**SPOILER:** Anakin becomes... DARTH VADER!).

There are two different modes: Story and Free Play. In the story mode, you play through the prequels and just complete the levels with the characters they give you. You can collect LEGO "studs" through the levels to unlock LEGO kits. You can die as many times as you want, just losing a few studs, like in *Sonic the Hedgehog*, but you never completely die. During the levels, you will meet different characters, and get to play as them. You can swap from being Anakin, to Obi-Wan, to R2-D2, to C-3PO all in a few seconds just to complete a puzzle. You can even chop off C-3PO's arm! Each character has a unique ability.

All the Jedis can use The Force, C-3PO and R2-D2 can unlock certain doors, Jar-Jar can jump extra high, and Padme can use a grapple hook. There are plenty of characters to play with.

In free play, you get to select a main character you want to use and try and unlock as much stuff as you can. You get to swap between characters at any point in the level. Sometimes, you'll be required to jump to a platform really high with Jar-Jar, then switch to R2-D2 to use his newly discovered jetpacks and float for a while to grab some studs.

The gameplay is very simplistic. The story mode is extremely easy to beat, but unlocking stuff can be a real challenge.

Multiplayer is a blast! A person can grab a controller and just start playing beside you. There are some puzzles where you need one person to use The Force to lift something while the other person is standing on it.

The game's graphics are pretty impressive, too. Everything looks like the LEGOs in real life. Nothing really looks bad in the game. There are a few cool little touches, like a motion blur on lightsabers and slight reflections on LEGO pieces. I played the game on PC, and I ran it with the graphics all the way up on my two year old computer. The game ran real smooth.

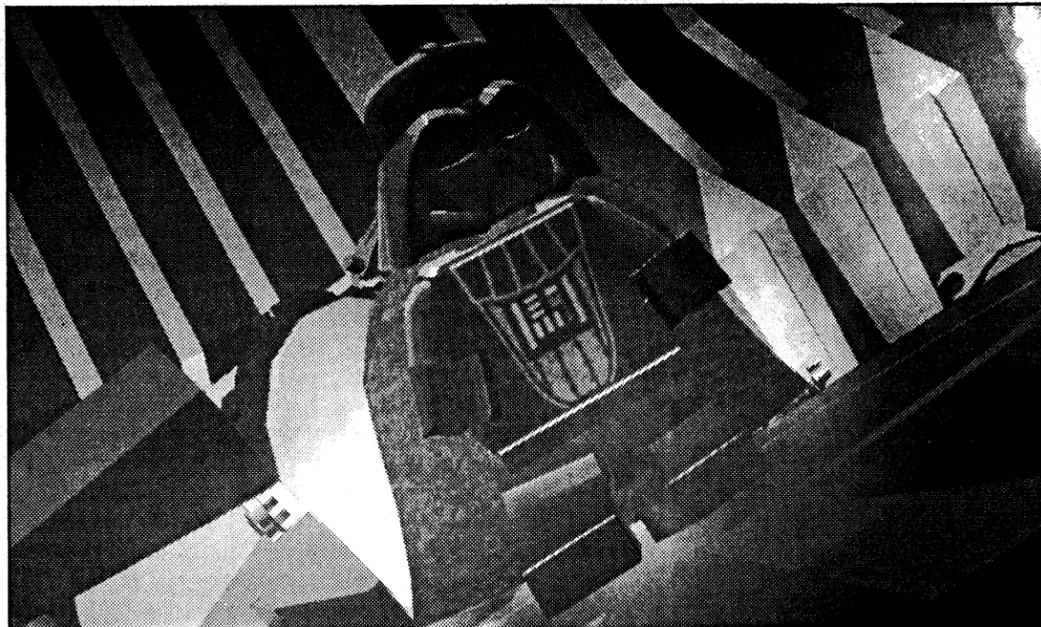
The sound is also good. Music and sound effects from the mov-

ies give an epic feel to a silly looking game.

If you're playing on the PC, I would recommend you get a game controller. The keyboard is very difficult to use for this game. Of course, on PS2 and X-Box, that's not a problem.

This game is a must for fans of Star Wars and fans of LEGOs. It's amazing that a Star Wars game is good these days, let alone one filled with LEGOs. If you're still skeptical, then give it a rent. I bet you'll love it.

**The Good:** Star Wars + LEGOs  
**The Bad:** Keyboard controls on PC  
**Final Verdict:** Play this game.  
**Grade:** A  
*Available on PC, PS2 and X-Box.*



Anakin becomes LEGO Vader at the end of Episode III! Ha! I ruined the movie for you!

# Word search

## Computer Words

D K M P G R  
H C U R T E  
E I L O P P  
R L T C H L  
A C I E A A  
W Y M S R C  
T K E S D E  
F R D I W L  
O O I N A A  
S W A G R T  
F T Y S E I  
I E R E R G  
L N O L E I  
E C M E T D  
D V E C N I  
D E M T I N  
E S L G R P  
S U F E P U  
A O O O T T  
B M R U U E  
A T M T C L  
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A N T U U R  
D R P T M E  
P E A E E H  
K T S V R P  
E N T I I I  
Y I E T C R  
B R X C H E  
O E T A C P  
A N C R R L  
R N O E A E  
D A M T E H  
Y C M N S G  
P S A I M R  
O A N O C A  
C V D D M P  
C E R Y X H  
M O N O C I  
M E S O L C

C D R O M  
C L I C K  
C L O S E  
C O M M A N D  
C O P Y  
C U T  
D A T A B A S E  
D E L E T E  
D I G I T A L  
F I L E  
F O R M A T  
G R A P H I C  
H A R D W A R E  
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I C O N  
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R E P L A C E  
S A V E  
S C A N N E R  
S E A R C H  
S E L E C T  
S O F T W A R E  
T E X T

## Last time I gave blood...

Syl Turner  
Staff writer

Every two months, I'll donate a pint of my blood. I'm Type O negative, so my blood is in high demand. I've never had any problems giving blood in the past. However, last time I gave blood was a little... weird.

My friend Cristina usually donates blood with me. I got to the Red Cross center about a minute before her. After reading through the instructional material, a volunteer asked me to go with him to the back.

Before giving blood, you must go through the rigorous "pre-donation blood challenge." They will check your blood pressure, take your temperature, and test the iron in your blood. The last part is the personal history quiz. You always answer "yes" to the first question ("Are you in good health today?") and "no" to every other one. The questions then move on to some pretty detailed scenarios. "Have you ever had sex with a person of the same sex?" "Have you ever had sex with a person of the opposite sex who's had sex with a person of the same sex who had sex for drugs or money?" I like to respond with "I sure hope not!" but the Red Cross volunteers never really enjoy that joke.

After the pre-donation blood challenge, the volunteer asked, "Do you have any extra time today?"

"Um... yeah, I've got plenty of time," I said.

"Do you have, like, 26 minutes?"

"Yeah, I've... um... I've got 26 minutes."

"You want to donate platelets? Save a few lives and help a burn victim?" He asked. I glanced out the door and looked at the guy covered with blankets donating platelets.

"Um... give blood and platelets?" I asked him. He nodded. "So... I can give both?"

"Yeah... I mean, I think so."

"Um... sure, I guess I'll give it a try."

"Okay, go out there and tell your friend that you'll be a little longer while I go grab this paper for you to sign about platelets."

I went out to tell Cristina the confusing news.

"You're done already?" Cristina asked me.

"No, I haven't started. It looks like I'm giving platelets now, too?" I said.

"What? Are you giving blood and platelets?"

"Um... I think so? He said it would only take 26 minutes."

"I thought it takes, like 2 hours."

"Yeah, I thought so, too..."

I went back to the little room and read over the sheet of paper the volunteer gave me about platelet donations. One of the points on the sheet said that the process would take 30-100 minutes. Then the volunteer asked "Are you ner-

vous about our experiment?"

"No, I feel fine." I lied. What did he mean by "experiment?"

The volunteer hooked me up to the platelet machine. There are TVs set up where you can watch movies or the news while giving platelets. The guy I glanced at earlier was watching *Radio*, starring *Snow Dog's* Cuba Gooding Jr. It took about 5 minutes for the volunteer to hook up the machine. This was new to me, since normally my blood just goes into a bag. The needle was pretty big and had like three tubes coming out of it. After the machine started going, I felt fine. It was just like giving blood.

After a few minutes, one of the tubes connected to the needle started jumping around. I suddenly became really cold. My lips began to tingle. The volunteer came by and asked, "You doing all right?"

"I'm doing... fine," I said.

"Are you sure? You cold or anything? Your lips start tingling?"

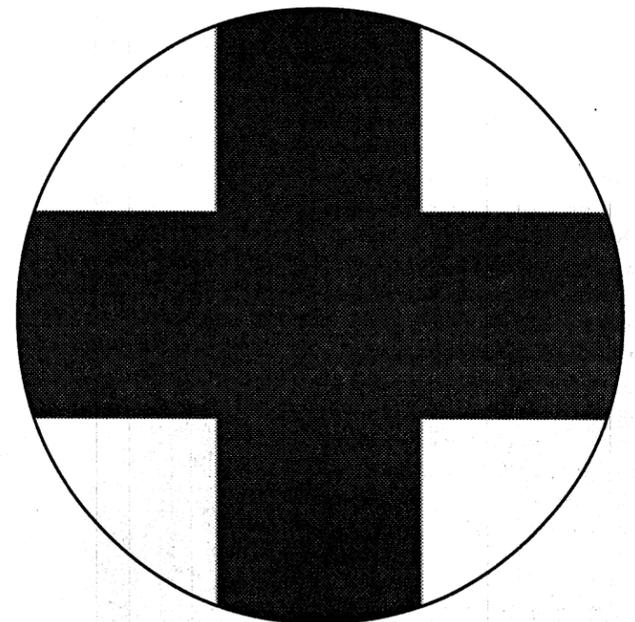
"Yeah, that just started happening."

"Here," he came over to me with a bottle of Tums and dumped 4 tablets in my hand. "Take these."

"All of them?"

"Yeah, sure." I took all 4 Tums at once, and the tingling eventually went away. The volunteer then put a blanket on me.

After a few minutes, Cristina came out of the privacy room and gave me a thumbs down. "I can't give blood today," she said and



If we could afford color, this cross would be red

frowned. "I don't have enough iron. I told the lady 'but I ate a cheeseburger yesterday!' but realized that, oh yeah, that was McDonald's."

I looked at the machine hooked up to the guy next to me. The dials on that machine were moving a lot quicker and the fluid running through it was yellow. Mine was blood red. I still was unsure of what I was donating. I felt really light-headed the whole time, especially when the machine would pump more blood back into my arm. After about 20 minutes, my machine played a little jingle (which sounded like I

received 1000 points in *King's Quest I*) and I was done. I even finished before the guy next to me. The volunteer came by and asked me, "Ah, not bad, huh?"

"Nah, it wasn't bad at all." I lied. I felt really... crappy.

"I think that was pretty good, considering I didn't know what the hell I was doing."

I was completely out of it for the rest of the day.

I can't find any information about donating both whole blood and platelets anywhere. Perhaps I was an experiment, but I'm guessing I just had a crazy volunteer.

## Ryan Reynolds Horror: Amityville Horror Review

Remy Lebeaux  
Staff writer

I've long believed that Ryan Reynolds, he of *Two Guys, a Girl, and a Pizza Place* fame was com-

posed of pure evil. Why? Because look at how freakin' long that name is! No one that stars in a TV show with a title that long can be anything but a being of pure darkness, and when the show got re-dubbed

(and eventually cancelled) to *Two Guys and a Girl*, Reynold's reputation for evil became concrete.

Okay, so maybe "reputation for evil" is too strong a phrase, but the fact still remains he was the most

annoying newcomer to the *Blade* franchise and is now starring as George Lutz in the remake of the 1974 giggle-fest: *The Amityville Horror*. For those of you that may not know, this movie is based on the true story (read: someone actually wrote it) of vicious murders said to have supernatural origins that took place in a small town. The laughs keep coming as a new family moves into the pleasantly painted house and experiences the same slow-maddening, haunting images, and curdled cheese that caused the destruction of the

last family.

Although George Lutz (a curiously bearded Ryan Reynolds) starts out as a loving father, who is taking care of kids his wife had from a previous marriage (she lost her husband in a method that's not explained during the movie) he slowly is transformed into a raving lunatic on the scale of infamous raving lunatics such as Bill O'Reilly. When it becomes blatantly obvious to Kathy Lutz (I.E. after a demon has lunch with the Lutz family) that something is terribly wrong with the house, she realizes a Man of the Cloth must be reached for assistance.

*The Amityville Horror* is another remade horror movie that serves to be startling rather than actually scary or unsettling. For example, when George sneaks silently into the basement to light the furnace and he turns around and faces the camera, you KNOW something is going to happen. It does. However, it's nothing more than a sudden loud piano strike caused by a cat tripping over a banjo or some other such nonsense.

That's not to say this movie doesn't get under your skin a bit at some points. Despite all the criticism I've heaped on him here, Reynolds does a decent job of playing the "model new husband" and slowly transforming into the psychotic malcontent that's a whiz with an axe. The supporting cast is all

fairly convincing, even if they do seem a bit bored with themselves at times when the director isn't informing them to look "really really scared."

If you're like me, then you're probably going to go into this movie hoping to be scared, but skeptical that the movie will live up to the task. Well, it sort of doesn't. While you may feel a couple of genuine jumps from being startled by chunks of food in Reynold's beard, you will more than likely find yourself anxiously awaiting the next big scary moment in the hopes that it will actually unsettle you. And in all fairness, you will probably be unsettled by a couple of scenes, just not the last scene in the movie, which felt like something the director tacked on at the last second on the way to Starbucks.



One guy, a girl and a haunted pizza place

### Boxo Conclusions

#### What's Good:

Some decent startles, decent acting, it makes you feel better about your own house

#### What's Bad:

Reynold's beard, very few actual frightening scenes, pacing feels a little fast.

#### The Verdict:

3.5 Reynolds out of 5.

# Deorbit the Space Shuttle: Stem Cell Rescue

CJ Shrader  
Editor-in-Chief

*Deorbit the Space Shuttle* is a book by new author Neil Mavis. Mavis is an ECET graduate of Southern Polytechnic State University from back in the days when the school was called Southern Tech.

The story follows Scott Brossfield, a veritable genius in his own right. Scott is an expert in many fields, including RFID technology, hang gliding, and secret government projects. Using knowledge from one such project, he constructs an engine that is one of the most efficient ever created and could put the



gas companies out of business if they ever even learned about it. Using this engine, he actually builds a rocket pack with enough lift and energy to keep him flying for hours.

But that's not what this story is about.

This story circles around the space shuttle Atlantis, which was recently damaged while in orbit and isn't able to leave orbit on its own. Upon Atlantis is not only Scott's ex-fiancé, but also a potential cure for the cancer which is killing his own mother.

Although NASA tries many rescue attempts, it eventually falls on Scott's hands to save Atlantis and his mother in the same process.

Portions of this book do ask for a bit of suspension of disbelief on the part of the reader (mostly the portions involving the rocket pack), but every time I was reading and asked myself "Is that even possible?" or "There's no way he could do that..." there was always a plausible explanation right afterwards in the text which made it make sense to me. Neil Mavis, the author, surely did a lot of research on the way space shuttles operate and that mastery really shows within the novel.

The most negative portion of this book is that I felt, at times, it got too political. While reading through this novel, you'll read all about the characters' views on RFID tags, medical marijuana, the PATRIOT act, and privacy. At times I felt like I was reading a pamphlet against one of the above more than a novel about a damaged space shuttle and the man who could save it.

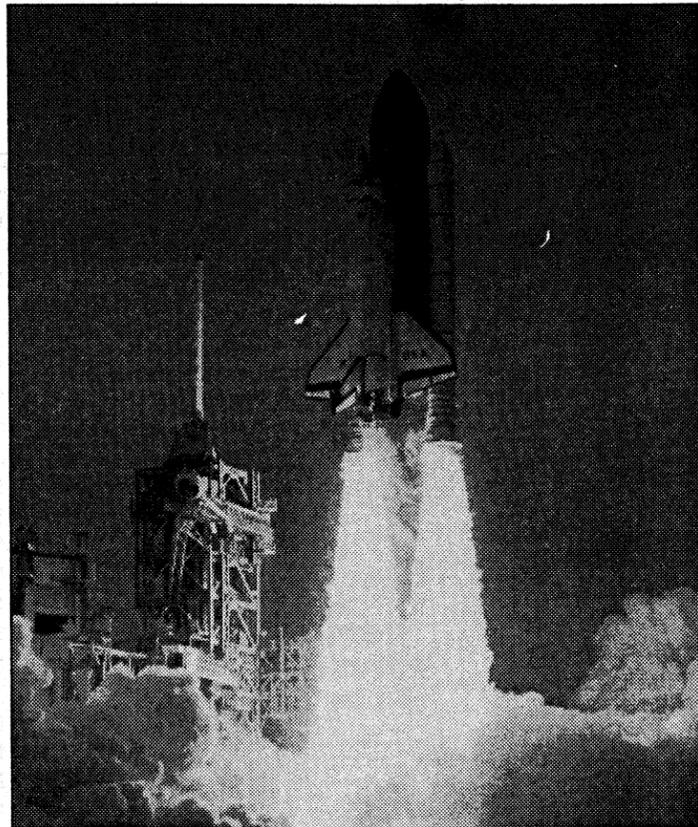
However, the book does have an interesting storyline unlike anything I had ever read before. Complicated NASA protocols and procedures are explained in a believable and easy-to-grasp manner that even I, a person with little to no interest in space shuttles, was easily able to understand what was happening. The novel is full of action and is certainly an entertaining read.

Even better, like a fine wine, you can try out this book before you buy it. The author has released the first seven chapters online at [www.deorbit.com](http://www.deorbit.com). You can even purchase the novel from there, if you enjoy it. However, the official release is meant to be in June so that Neil Mavis can update the book with some recent Supreme Court de-

isions as well as the recent decision by NASA to scrap the Hubble telescope.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in

NASA, space shuttles, space travel, rocket packs, or even government conspiracies and secret projects. This novel generally has a little something for everyone.



There's got to be a joke here somewhere

# Confessions of a Serial Egg Donor

CJ Shrader  
Editor-in-Chief

*Confessions of a Serial Egg Donor* follows a young Swedish woman named Julia Derek throughout nearly a decade in her life. It starts out with her attending journalism school in Washington DC, and follows her life as she becomes interested in acting and the fast paced life of Los Angeles.

This story could be interesting enough in itself, but the true plot lies with when Julia discovers that she can make \$2,500 by donating her eggs to couples who are infertile and need the egg to have a child. This is the start of Julia's life as a serial egg donor. The novel takes us through her life as an egg donor, from the beginning of easy money to the end where Julia realizes that donating her eggs may cost her more than she ever thought.

*Confessions* is written in the

first person, which I found a little distracting at first but quickly fell in love with. You practically know everything that Julia is thinking as she is thinking it which is really important for this type of story. Her wit and unique outlook on everything that happens makes the book very enjoyable.

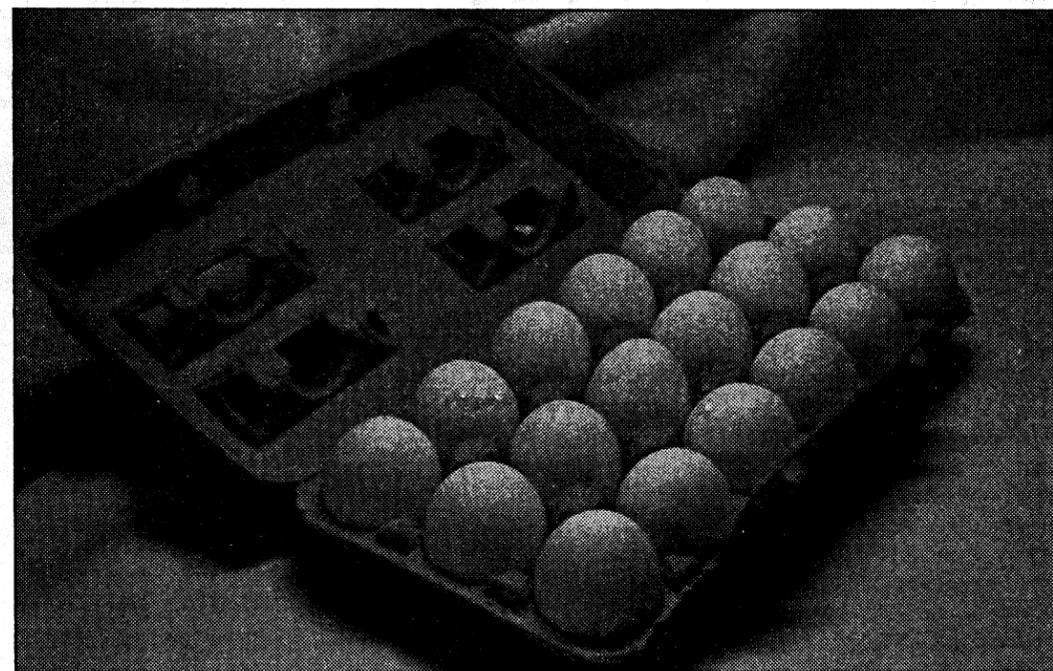
This book is really an amazing inside look at what it takes for a woman to become an egg donor. The process is no where close to sperm donation, which can almost be taken as a mini-vacation to the land of free porn. Reading this book, you'll learn about the shots and hormones an egg donor must take, the surgery it takes to donate the egg, and the amount of emotional strain it can put on a woman.

I think my biggest complaint with this novel is the ending. It just seemed to end very abruptly. Yet, after thinking about it, I couldn't come up with any other way the

book could end. If you read it, you'll probably come to the same conclusion.

*Confessions* is written by, interestingly enough, a woman named Julia Derek and is supposedly based on a true story. Whether these events actually happened to the author or to someone else the author knew, I'm not sure, but the character of Julia Derek is terribly believable and someone whom you will be knowledgeable about by the end of the novel.

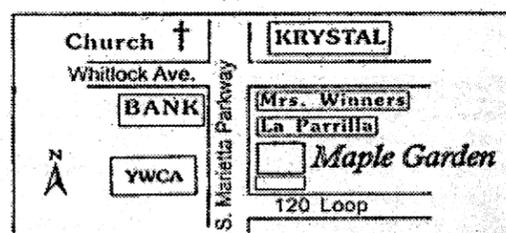
This story is an interesting, very entertaining read that I think most anyone could find enjoyable. While reading, it'll take you through such a range of emotion; all the way from laughing to nearly wanting to cry. If you're interested in grabbing a copy, it can be ordered from Amazon.com or you can also find a copy at <http://www.adrenalinebooks.com/>.



That's \$60,000 worth of eggs right there.

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Meet your new Student Government Association!

<b>President</b> (See side panel)	<b>Council Members</b>	
<b>Vice President</b> Marvin Broaddus	Charles Lakes Shyam Nana Omar Ahmed Risti Aprilla CJ Shiflett	Amanda Brookshire Sean Olatayo Naimah Shaw Marcell Williams Kirk Morris
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Christina Diamond		

For the first time in 20 years, the position of President will not be filled at the time of the official inauguration. The vacant position will be given the same treatment that a vacant council member position would be given. This means that any eligible student will be given the opportunity to submit an application to next year's SGA student body. A vote will be taken by the Council and the new President will be appointed from the list of qualified applicants. Applicants for SGA President must have at least a 2.5 GPA and have served at least 1 year on SGA to be considered qualified. These qualifications are the same as the ones upheld during the elections process.

This decision was reached on April 12th in a closed meeting of the current SGA.

SGA  
2005 -  
2006  
budget

Naimah Shaw  
Staff writer

It's that time of the year again where those we charge with making careful and constructive decisions about the allocation of funds sit down and come up with a carefully planned projection about how this money will be implemented and managed during the next academic year 2005-2006.

Within a budget there are two major types of costs: direct and indirect. Direct costs refer to those expenses that can be attributed to a specific project, activity or organization while indirect costs refer to those which are necessary to the general operation of the institution and the conduct of its activities.

Most of you might be wondering how money is actually allotted to an organization. During my talk with the Dean of Students, Mr. Barry Birkhead, he explained that all that is necessary is for the respective committee/ organization to submit a written petition to the Student Government stating why they need the funds. The reasons submitted are then looked over by the Student Government; if they decide that it is worthwhile to allot the funds, they do. Often times, they may not, reasons being that they cannot submit to everyone's petition for lack of funds or they may reject it because they do not see the necessity of the activity. What usually arises from such a situation is a compromise, where you are given a portion of the money you had originally petitioned for. But hey, something is better than nothing! During the course of the semester if something important arises for an organization and they need additional funding that had not been covered for in the budget, they can petition to receive the additional money. This money is taken from the SGA- Student Development Fund. On the other hand, it is important to note that if the money in your budget has not been used up at the end of the semester—guess what? YOU LOSE IT! That funding then goes into a Special Projects Account where it is used for different activities on campus.

Organization	Previous budget	New budget
AATCC	N/A	\$450
ACI	N/A	\$0
ACM	\$1000	\$1000
Aerial Robotics Team	\$5000	\$4000
AIAS	\$3000	\$1500
AITP	N/A	\$500
Alpha Phi Alpha	\$1000	\$500
Alpha Xi Delta	N/A	\$550
Amateur Radio Club	\$1500	\$500
Ambassadors	\$2,350	\$1500
ASCEGO	\$5000	\$2500
AUV	N/A	\$2500
AWIAASA	N/A	\$750
CAB	\$40000	\$44000
CaribSA	\$2000	\$750
CCGA	N/A	\$500
CFA	N/A	\$500
Cheerleaders	N/A	\$3500
Concrete Canoe	N/A	\$2500
Cultural Series	\$8,500	\$6000
Delta Mu Delta	N/A	\$450
Forensics	\$450	\$450
FSAE	N/A	\$4000
Gamma Phi Beta	\$1000	\$600
GEAR	\$3000	\$2000
GSPE	N/A	\$1250
ICE	N/A	\$450
IEEE	\$5000	\$3000
IGC	N/A	\$1000
IIE	\$2560	\$1750
ISA	\$4500	\$3000
ITE	N/A	\$450
JFA	\$2000	\$500
Kappa Sigma	N/A	\$450
Knights of the Realm	\$1000	\$450
MAA	N/A	\$450
Men's Lacrosse	N/A	\$650
MOSTT	N/A	\$500
MSA	N/A	\$500
NAHB	N/A	\$450
NOMA	\$2500	\$1750
NSBE	\$8000	\$4000
Phi Alpha Delta	N/A	\$500
Phi Psi	N/A	\$500
Pi Kappa Phi	N/A	\$600
Rock Climbing	\$450	\$450
Roundtable	N/A	\$3500
SAFE	\$450	\$500
SAMSOG	N/A	\$450
SASA	\$4000	\$1500
SGA-CWSE	\$32000	\$20000
SGA-FE	\$2000	\$2000
SGA-GO	\$20000	\$21100
SGA - Judiciary	\$2000	\$2500
SGA-SD	\$51,400	\$50000
SHPE	\$1500	\$1000
Sigma Nu	N/A	\$600
Sigma Pi	\$450	\$600
SME	N/A	\$1000
SMV	N/A	\$3000
Soccer Club	\$4000	\$1000
Sparkling Emeralds	\$1000	\$1000
SPSU BAND	N/A	\$9000
START	N/A	\$500
Steel Bridge	\$5000	\$4500
Student Center	\$105,053.30	\$109,000
Tau Kappa Epsilon	\$790	\$600
The Sting	\$16,164	\$12,500:(
TSA	N/A	\$450
Ultimate Frisbee Club	\$2500	\$1000
WGHR	\$9000	\$7500
Women's Lacrosse	N/A	\$650
Zeta Phi Beta	N/A	\$450
<b>Total budget:</b>	<b>\$369,917.30</b>	<b>\$360,050</b>

AITP attends  
National Collegiate  
Conference

Contributing writer  
Association of IT Professionals

The 2005 AITP (aitp.org) National Collegiate Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel on April 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by the AITP Student Chapter of Chattahoochee Technical College, SPSU's AITP Student Chapter had four students representing Southern Poly, which were among the over 800 attendees from across the nation during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. SPSU was well represented by Student Chapter President Amanda Benson, Ryan Campbell, Heather Nash and Jared Oliver.

Sponsors and speakers included Microsoft, Robert Half Technology, Wal-Mart's Information System's Division, and the Institute for the Certification of Computing Professionals (ICCP), were among the big 'guns' of the conference. Seminars were mostly geared toward the instructors, as the students were heavily involved in a variety of competitions including PC Troubleshooting; Database Design; Web, Java, C++, Visual.net and COBOL Programming; and Network Design during two days of intense competition.

The competitions started with a weeding-out process for the top 25 individuals/teams from each area of competition via a 100-question

written exam. SPSU's Ryan Campbell survived the examination process, reaching the finals of the PC Troubleshooting division with a score of 72 (top average was 75). Heather Nash and Jared Oliver also did well in the PC Troubleshooting exam, though neither reached the minimum cutoff score of 62. Ryan did well in the finals, but discovered an actual motherboard failure that prevented him from booting the computer, which was a requirement for the competition.

Saturday was the final day of the National Collegiate Conference, comprising mostly of LAN parties and the dreaded ICCP Certification Exams. SPSU's Ryan Campbell achieved his ACP certification by completing the core skills exam and the Systems Security specialty exam. The Institute for the Certification of Computing Professionals (ICCP - iccp.org) is the standard for many national and international computing societies, including AITP and ACM. Tests consist of an exam of 110 questions completed in 90 minutes. Certification requires a core exam (basic skills) and a specialty exam/programming language exam be passed.

Southern Polytechnic's AITP Student Chapter is gearing up for the 2005 Regional Conference, which will be held in Birmingham, Alabama.

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(Just joking. *The Sting* is going to continue to bring you everything it has in the past, and even more, regardless of budget cuts.)

# Cruzn' TKE - Tau Kappa Epsilon's annual car show



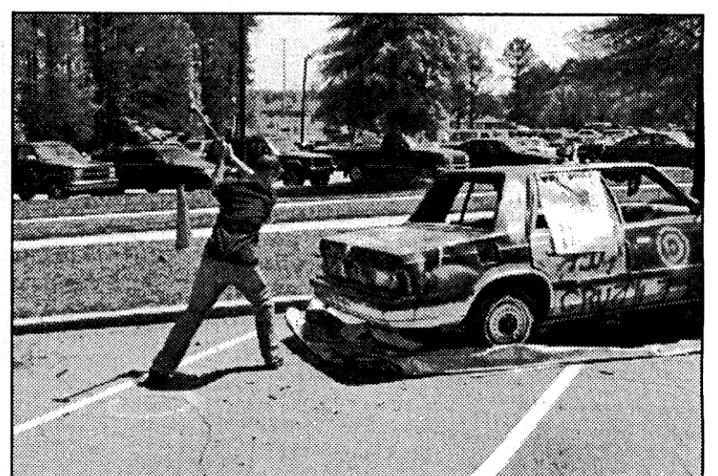
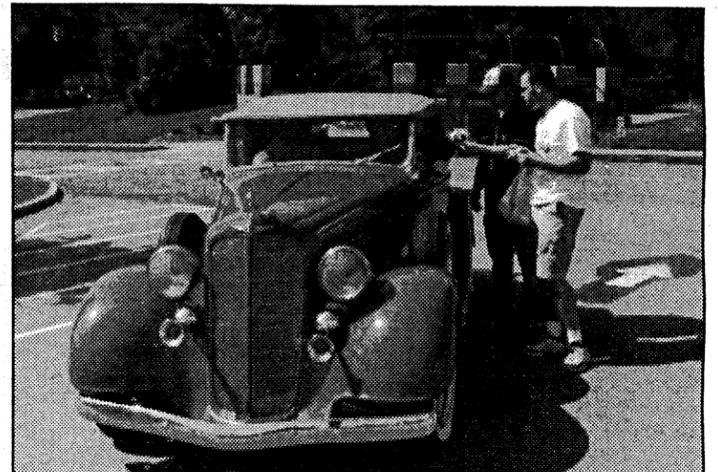
**Tau Kappa Epsilon**  
*SPSU Fraternity*

Teke was back this year with another amazing car show on the Southern Polytechnic campus. For those of you who do not know, Cruzn' Teke is an annual car show held by the Xi-Chi chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at the SPSU campus to benefit Alzheimer's research and treatment. For the Tekes, Alzheimer's is a very special charity because former president Ronald Reagan, who was a Teke, succumbed to Alzheimer's in 2004. Teke considers it a tremendous honor and privilege to be able to donate to the Nancy Reagan Foundation for Alzheimer's research and treatment. This year was the third year for Cruzn' Teke, and over the past 3 years Xi-Chi has raised thousands of dollars for the philanthropy.

Every year, Xi-Chi plans the car show to coincide with the student orientation for Fall semester. It is a great way to show off school spirit and get to know the incoming freshmen. The car show attracts a lot of attention to the Southern Polytechnic campus and how much fun the campus really can be. TKE considers it an awesome opportunity to help the incoming freshmen with campus information and welcoming them to the school. This year's car show once again had an amazing turnout of awesome vehicles, including a boat (a boat at a car show, who could have known that would be possible). The event took place all day during the orientation, and was a positive influence toward freshmen pursuing a college career at SPSU.

TKE would like to thank everyone for coming out to the car show. Special thanks to Kappa Sigma, Gamma Phi Beta, and Sigma Nu for showing up with their support for this event. We would also like to recognize our sponsors, Allspeed Performance, Mac Tools, NAPA, and Butler Tire for sponsoring the event.

TKE is proud of the event and the amazing turnout we had. We look forward to raising more money for Alzheimer's next year, and we hope to see you all there. TEKESRAZEHHELL!!



## TKE's "Run for breath"

**Jon Higley**  
*Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity*

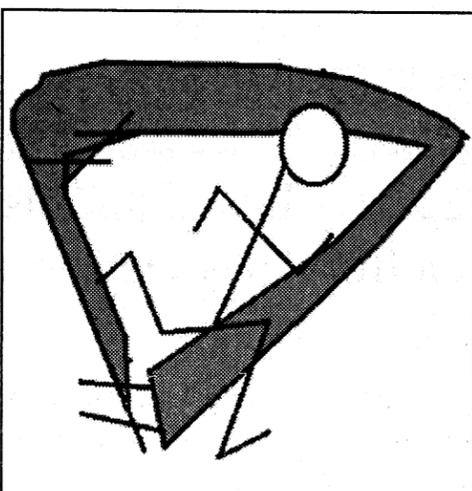
On Saturday, February 19, 2005, Tau Kappa Epsilon Xi-Chi chapter held its annual Run For Breath to benefit Cystic Fibrosis research and treatment on its home campus of Southern Polytechnic State University.

The chapter ran laps around the school during a new student orientation, also being held that day, and collected donations from sponsors up to the event and from people witnessing the run on same day.

Xi-Chi chapter has been an adamant supporter of this charity while it was the fraternity's national charity, and since 1980 when one of its own members, Tommy Crummley, Xi-Chi member 166, passed away of this disease June 12, 1980. Tommy Crummley initiated in the Fall, 1979 quarter at SPSU and has been the only member to pass away during his undergraduate career at the campus. The year after his

passing, 1981, Xi-Chi ran its very first Run For Breath, a 72 mile run from North Georgia Military College to the SPSU campus to carry the game ball for the basketball game where North Georgia and SPSU competed. Along the way Xi-Chi chapter gathered donations for every mile ran to be donated to Cystic Fibrosis research and treatment. Over the years, Xi-Chi chapter has raised thousands of dollars in support of the charity.

Many years ago Cystic Fibrosis was the national philanthropy of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity (it is now Alzheimer's disease), but Xi-Chi still realizes the serious need to eradicate this horrible gene defect. To this day and on into the future Tau Kappa Epsilon Xi-Chi chapter is and will be a supporter of this charity. If you would like more information about Cystic Fibrosis please go to their website - [www.cff.org](http://www.cff.org).



## TKEs serving overseas

**Tau Kappa Epsilon**  
*SPSU Fraternity*

There are many fraternity men proudly serving and protecting our country at home and abroad. Several Tekes from SPSU are currently serving in the United States Military; we salute our own.

Frater David S. Foy, Xi Chi Chapter #97  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer, HMM-268 (MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 268)

Frater Andrew Hammac, Xi Chi Chapter #475  
M1A1 Abrams Tank Crewman, U.S. Marine Corps

Frater Lyn Whitlock, Xi Chi Chapter #440  
SPC. Whitlock, L.T., Bravo Company, 1/108 Armor

Frater Alijah Wood, Xi Chi Chapter #467  
SPC. Wood, Alijah, Bravo Company, 1/108 Armor

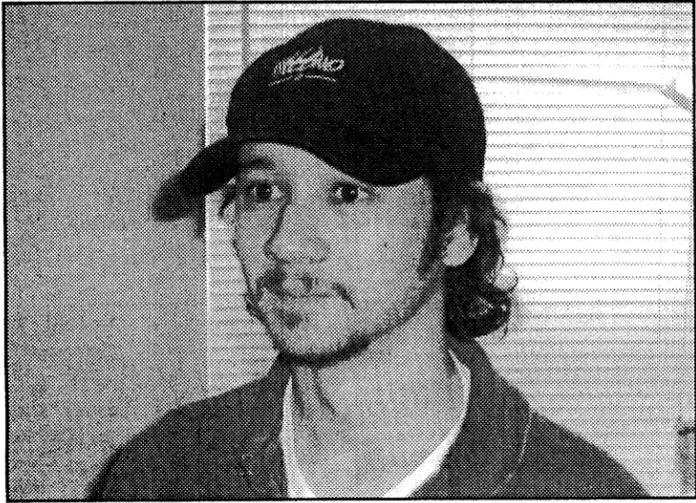
Frater Doolittle Adcock, Xi Chi Chapter #437

There is a website for Tekes serving and that have served in the military. Check it out: <http://www.ryic.com/dev/tkemil/>

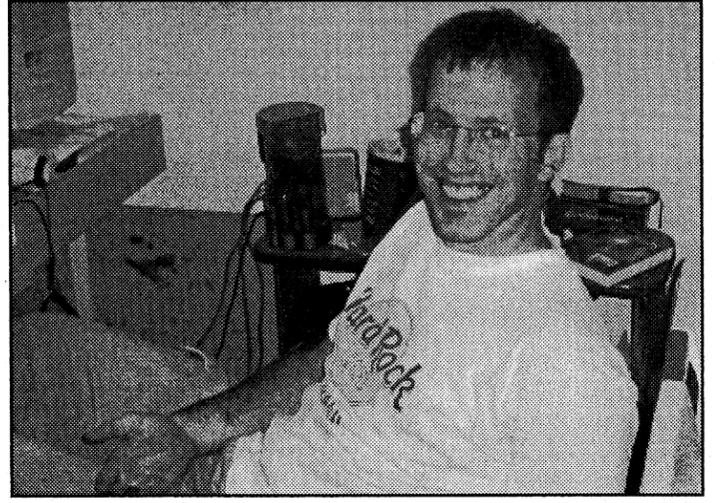
### Student question

# What was the last thing in your mouth?

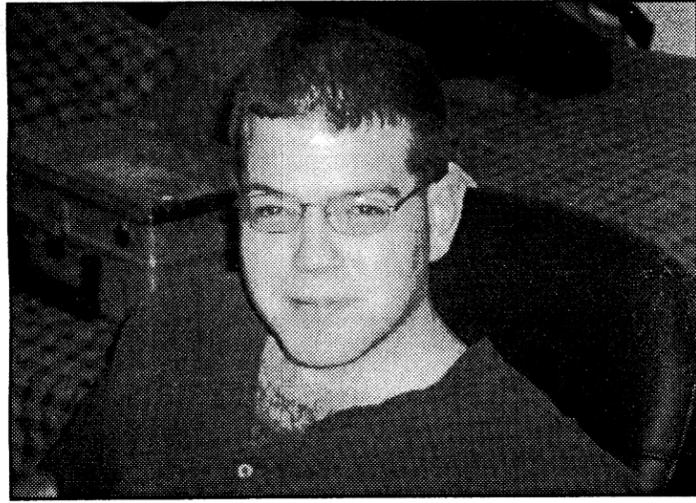
We asked six students a stupid question, and then were shocked to find out that we got stupid answers! Maybe **you** will be asked our next student question?



*"A&W Root Beer Barrel"*  
**Aaron Killen**



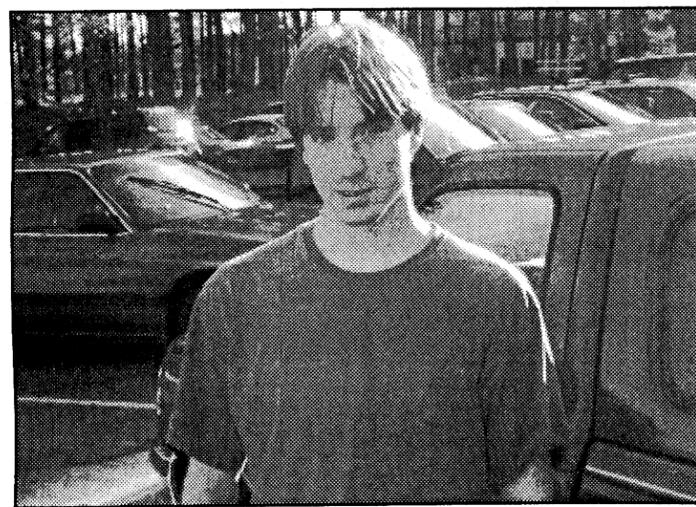
*"Dr. Pepper"*  
**Dave Bachtel**



*"Guinness"*  
**Adam Rudd**



*"Rubber band handle for pencils"*  
**Joshua Mckenzie**



*"Pen"*  
**Kenny Patillo**



*"My clarinet"*  
**Lexy Cooper-Anderson**

### Consensus editorial

## Our thoughts on *The Sting* theft and the new budget

**Sting staff**  
*We're standing right behind you*

#### The theft

As many people already knew, the April Fools edition of *The Sting* was stolen shortly after they were placed on the newsstands (Page 2 for a news article regarding this topic). *The Sting* did a reprint of the issue and there are some still available if you'd like a copy. You can just stop by *The Sting* office Fridays at 1:00 PM to pick one up, or ask a writer to grab you one.

Of course, you could also always read it online at [www.thesting.org](http://www.thesting.org). Just click the "Archives" link. We here at *The Sting* think the issue was

pretty darn funny.

We also believe that whoever stole the issues of *The Sting* did a very childish and immature act. Let's take a moment to speak directly to whoever took the issues. Printing of *The Sting* comes mainly from the Student Activity fund, which every student on campus contributes to. When you stole from *The Sting*, you stole from every single student of Southern Polytechnic State University.

Also, what you stole was the hard work and dedication of a few writers who decided that even though the pay was lousy and the work hard, they would come and write for *The Sting* mainly because they like to write

and enjoy getting information to the populous of the campus. You, whoever stole *The Sting*, nearly took all that work from them (And yes, even the April Fools edition is a lot of work). Luckily, we were able to reprint quickly and still get out issues. So if you took them because you disagreed with some article, that's too bad. They are still out there, and people still read them online.

If anything, you've made the issue even more popular. We constantly have people asking us what happened to the issue and if we have any more, and we have happily obliged.

Don't think that we've dropped

the topic. We are working diligently to find out who took them, and are closer than ever.

We at least hope you had the consideration to recycle them and didn't just dump them or burn them and contribute to pollution.

Now that that little heart to heart is over, if you, the readers, have any information on the missing *Stings* please don't hesitate to e-mail us at [stingeditor@gmail.com](mailto:stingeditor@gmail.com) or contact the SPSU Campus Police. Any information helps.

#### Budget blues

Naturally, *The Sting* isn't very happy about the cut to our budget from the SGA. Though, looking over all the

budgets (Page 10), we suspect that most everyone except the SPSU Band is unhappy with the recent budget announcement.

We don't blame the SGA. They obviously had a lot of new organizations this year and only so much money to go around. Still, a cut of nearly \$4000 is significant as we are currently right on budget this semester.

However, *The Sting* is still excited to bring you some new changes and upgrades come next semester. Look for them in the Freshman issue of *The Sting* when students are returning from summer break. It promises to be resplendent!