

## Feature

Were you ever curious about the origins of The Rock or the rules for painting it? Just wanted to see a picture of The Rock before there was paint on it? Well here's your chance to find out all of that and maybe even (but probably not) more!  
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# The Sting

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## Entertainment

Do you use Facebook, LiveJournal, or Hot or Not? Maybe even all three? Learn all about how they got started in The Histories that Matter! **Page 10**



October 5, 2005

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Volume 60, Issue 3

# First university Convocation at SPSU

**Dave Bachtel**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

On Thursday, September 15, 2005 at noon in the Student Center Theatre, the first Fall Convocation was held at SPSU. Dr. Lisa Rossbacher addressed the student body as well as students, faculty, and staff of the University.

### State of University

Dr. Rossbacher noted that SPSU would be starting this academic year with an increase in operating budget for the first time in 4 years. Rossbacher humorously acknowledged the ongoing campus maintenance situation. She tipped her hat to IT's VoIP implementation and noted that SPSU has not experienced any recent breaches of security as have occurred at 4 other institutions in the University System.

According to Dr. Rossbacher, the FY2007 budget has already been submitted to the governor. 221 million dollars were requested by the Regents for a list of major capital construction projects. The Regents will allocate design funds for projects 9 through 17 and Southern Polytechnic's Math and Engineering building is number 19 on the list.

### Retention and Student Success Efforts

Addressing student retention and success efforts, Dr. Rossbacher cited statistics from a retention task force led by Dr. Bob Harbort over the summer of 2005.

"We have some preliminary results that indicate that the strongest predictor for likelihood of freshman retention ... is scoring well on the first part of the Math Assessment Test. ... The earlier a student enrolls in Math class here at Southern Polytechnic, the more likely they are to be retained, to progress, and to graduate."

She also noted that the information becomes especially useful when used during the advising process.

A new class offering was also unveiled by Dr. Rossbacher during the Convocation ceremony. SPSU 1001 - A Hitchhiker's Guide to SPSU is a free one hour online course designed to give students an introduction to the University and help students understand how to thrive academically.

### New Mission Statement

A new mission statement for the University was introduced and a draft was printed on the back of the Convocation program. Dr.

Rossbacher described the end of a moratorium on changes to campus mission statements as being one of the reasons for the new mission statement.

"The adjustment in the mission statement will better describe what we do, the breadth and depth of our academic programs, and our dual commitment to technology and engineering, and the way in which we are expanding into disciplines

which are traditionally considered liberal arts, but which have a unique Southern Polytechnic flavor, as well as our continuing commitment to professional programs."

Rossbacher also noted that the new statement has already been reviewed by the faculty senate. A new vision statement will be shared with the University community shortly while welcoming comments on either of the changes.

### Teacher of the Year

Dr. Zvi Szafran presented the 2005-2006 "Teacher of the Year" award to Dr. Nancy Reichert of the Humanities and Technical Communication department. "It's an honor to win," Dr. Reichert told The Sting. "We have lots of great faculty here." Dr. Reichert teaches composition and literature classes as well as heading up the honors program at SPSU.



Dave Bachtel/The Sting

Professor Lance Crimm played the piano for faculty, staff, students, and guests at this year's Convocation.

# SPSU remembers the victims of Hurricane Katrina

**Cristina Wilson**  
*Staff Writer*

Students, teachers, and administration of Southern Polytechnic State University gathered in the Student Center Ballroom on Friday, September 16 for the State and National Day of Remembrance of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. September 16th was designated by President Bush as well as Governor Perdue to be a day of collective respect for those involved in the devastating natural disaster. Southern Polytechnic joined together to hear not only words of consolation for those affected, but also what our University is doing to help those in need.

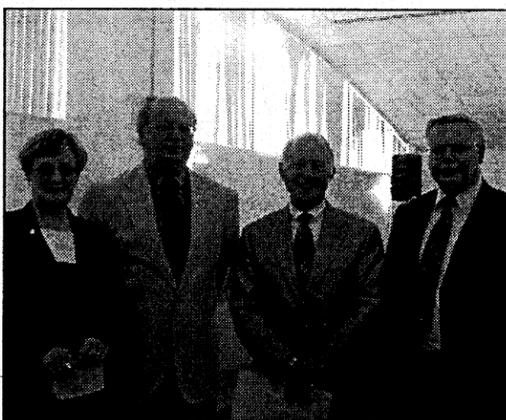
Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher, President of Southern Polytechnic State University, gave a brief overview of the efforts of the campus to help with the Gulf Coast region. Some of these efforts include monetary donations, such as the \$2000 the Honors program has given to the Red Cross, and the \$2500 the Student Government Association has given to the Salvation Army. Other efforts include clothing

and food drives from on campus organizations such as the Campus Bookstore and ABL Food Management. The Campus Bookstore held a clothing drive, giving a discount for each item the student brought in. ABL Food Management, whose headquarters are based in Baton Rouge, held a food and clothing drive as well as hosted a New Orleans-style lunch with all proceeds going to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Southern Polytechnic has also reached out on a personal level to its own students, both past and present. Dr. Rossbacher stated that "staff in our Student Enrollment Services area, led by Dr. Ron Koger, have been in the process of contacting our students whose families are in the gulf coast, and our alumni who live in the area affected by Hurricane Katrina."

The university has received "particularly impressive responses"

from alumni, as well as from a Senior Vice Chancellor of the Board of Regents who stated that he "hadn't heard of any campus going to the point of contacting alumni."



Cristina Wilson/The Sting

Dr. Rossbacher, Dr. Szafran, Mayor Dunaway, and Dr. Bennett all spoke a day of prayer.

Dr. Rossbacher spoke with this member of the Board of Regents, and relayed to those present at the Prayer and Remembrance Program his appreciation of Southern Polytechnic, saying that "this is the kind of practice we want all of our campuses to be doing."

William B. Dunaway, Mayor of the City of Marietta, also spoke at the program, stating that "once again Southern Poly has proven what a wonderful partner it is in Marietta and Cobb County, and what a wonderful addition the faculty, staff, and students are to our community." Mayor Dunaway referenced the famous line from Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," drawing connections to Hurricane Katrina bringing out both the best and worst of the people in our two differing communities.

Dunaway insists that there "can be a silver lining to this terrible, dark cloud", by learning from the disadvantages of others, we can improve our own system of response to natural disasters, as well as the way communities are built and maintained.

Dr. Richard A Bennett, Associate Professor for the Social and International Studies department,

spoke of the good that comes from tragedy. Dr. Bennett spoke of several ways that people can respond to tragedy: anger, depression, and cynicism being a few, but he also spoke of the opportunities and possibilities that can follow. He insists that this tragedy "gives [New Orleans] a chance to refocus their political, economical, social, and even spiritual priorities."

Dr. Zvi Szafran, Vice President for Academic Affairs and coordinator of this event, gave words of encouragement to those who attended. Dr. Szafran referenced four rivers of Hades, which, according to Greek Mythology, one must cross in entering the underworld. He stated that the four rivers stand for sadness, lamentation, anger, and forgetfulness. When asked whether or not we will chose to forget the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Szafran suggests that we choose to remember. For a list of all volunteer efforts Southern Polytechnic has completed, as well as those being planned, please follow the link listed on the university homepage.

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**Does Where's Waldo have a deeper meaning?**  
Sting newcomer Eric John explores an insightful new theory which explains that maybe we aren't searching for Waldo at all. Maybe we are searching for ourselves.  
**Page 6**

**What could be better than beer and computer games?**  
Nothing, that's what! Check out a review of a sweet new business that just opened up not far away from SPSU.  
**Page 8**

**Gamma Phi Beta!**  
Gamma Phi Beta sent us an article explaining all about their history. They'd also like to welcome their new members. (There's a picture of eleven girls on this page, what more do you want?)  
**Page 11**

**A brand new feature!**  
The Sting has issues of the paper from as old as 1966. Take a peek at what we found lurking in one of these old issues. You won't be disappointed!  
**Last page**

# Everything you ever wanted to know about The Rock

**Cristina Wilson**  
Staff Writer

At a school lacking in both tradition and student involvement, The Rock brings both in an unconventional way. For students at Southern Poly, The Rock is more than just a piece of university property that is free to be defaced without punishment; it's a symbol of much needed school spirit. The Rock has served almost as a mascot for SPSU - appearing in our university seal and providing a tangible area of unity amongst students. After September 11th, a candlelight vigil was held at The Rock, and a live oak (the United State's National tree) was planted.

Founded when the land for Southern Poly was first scouted, The Rock soon became the center of all the first-constructed academic buildings on campus. Some people think that The Rock is only the tip of a much larger rock hidden beneath the surface of campus, rumored to possibly be compared to Stone Mountain. Others sternly believe that the rock is only the size of a large stone, built up through time with layer upon layer of fraternity-colored paint. In actuality, the rock that you see on your way to the library, the math and science buildings, or the student center is exactly the rock you get.

According to Barry Birckhead, Dean of Students, The Rock was indeed sandblasted approximately 18 years ago, after a competition amongst students turned ugly, causing extensive damage

to areas surrounding The Rock, including \$500 of damage to an academic building. However, Birckhead does consent that The Rock probably had never been cleaned before that time, and it is likely that many decades of paint were removed.

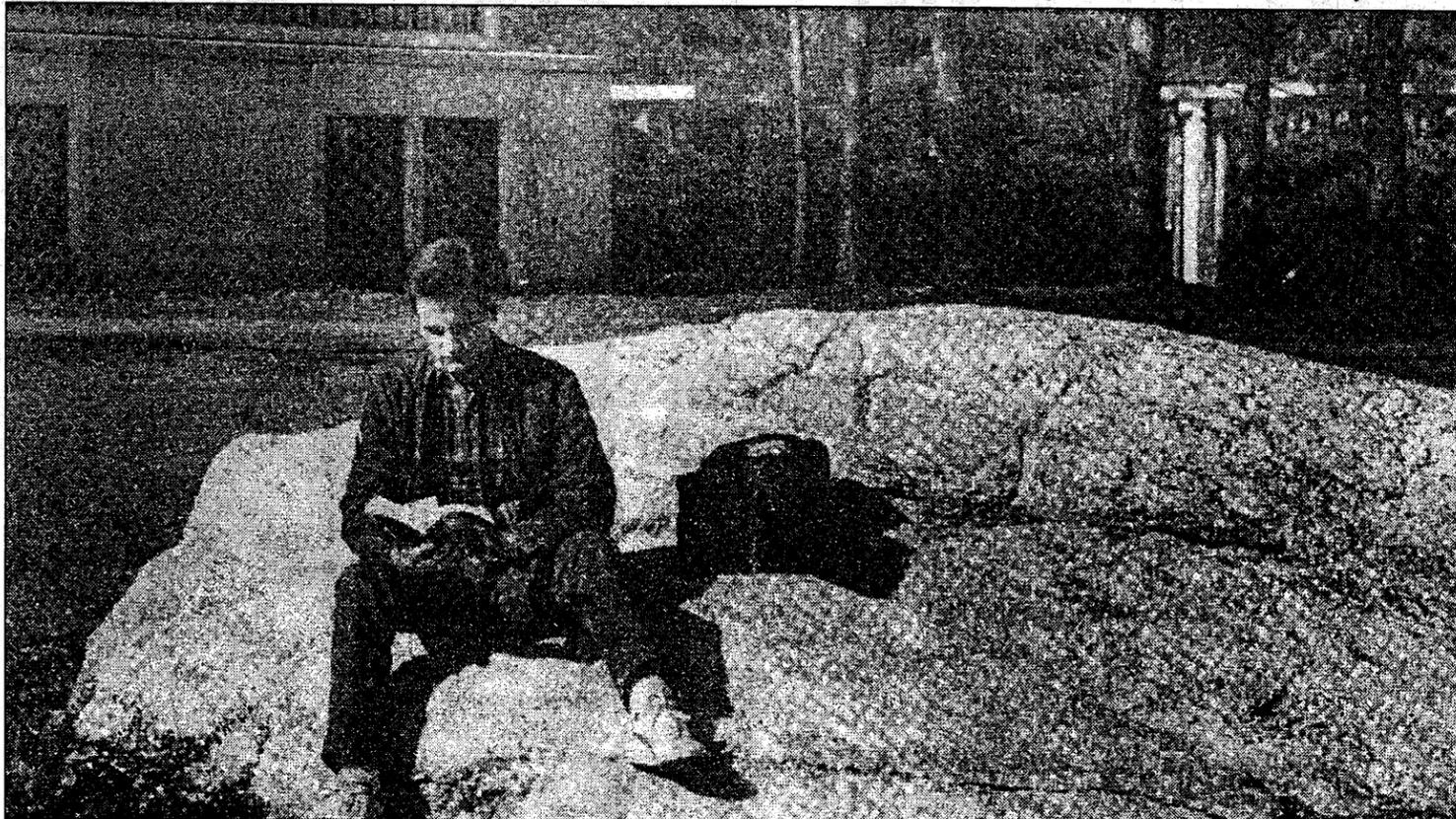
Years ago, before it was

one fateful evening in the mid-80s, students became violent while trying to capture The Rock. After receiving reports of between 150-200 students fighting, throwing eggs and paint at each other, and damaging surrounding areas, administration decided that The Rock was to become 'off-limits'. South-

in article 12 of their constitution. These rules are very general, and are more of an outline of what is appropriate behavior. Such rules include:

- Only The Rock is to be painted
- The entire rock must be painted
- No other substance than paint is

However, even though the rules stated above strictly apply to greek organizations, Barry Birckhead asks that any non-greek student or organization also follow these guidelines. Painting The Rock is a privilege that is given to students by the administration of Southern Poly, and therefore any deviation



This is a really old picture of The Rock after it was sandblasted back to its original form. It's a pretty crazy sight to see.

Tami Chappell/Marietta Daily Journal 1987

simply just painted, students made a tradition out of 'capturing' The Rock. To capture The Rock, a student or representative of an organization must touch The Rock, or be within a 3 foot radius at all times. If left unguarded, The Rock was free for the taking. It was an honor to capture The Rock! Not only would your organization get visibility to students and visitors to campus, but morale was boosted amongst the possessing group. On

ern Poly gave The Rock a face-lift by stripping all the paint, placing gravel and stepping stones, and posting a plaque honoring the lost tradition of capturing. However, after a few years of boring blank rock, Southern Poly administration decided to hand back the rights of the rock to the students; with a few added rules.

As of today, the rules of The Rock are outlined by the Inter-greek Council, and can be found

allowed on The Rock

- No bashing other organizations
- No profanity or slurs
- No guarding The Rock
- No camping on The Rock
- An organization must be finished painting before you can paint

According to Sean Thomas, Assistant Director of Student Activities, any student or student organization is allowed to paint The Rock - this activity is not limited to fraternities and sororities.

from the afore-mentioned guidelines may result in discipline action taken by the university.

Some students enjoy taking an active role in painting The Rock, while others prefer to enjoy the endless flashing colors standing out amongst the green grass and sycamores. However, to all students The Rock represents the invaluable gift of school spirit.

## A new class being offered at SPSU

### A Hitchhiker's Guide to SPSU

**Syl Turner**  
Layout Manager

A new course entitled "SPSU 1001 - A Hitchhiker's Guide to SPSU" is being offered for the fall semester, with classes beginning the week of October 3. The course will focus on helping students succeed at SPSU. The course will meet 2 hours a week for 7 weeks and count as 1 credit hour at no extra cost.

The course is designed to help students with basic academic issues. "Many students can use a little help with such issues as study skills, time management, how to take tests, how to access help, and so on," says Dr. Szafran, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

The course will cover the following topics:

- Identifying personal strengths and weaknesses

- Avoiding academic problems
- Managing your time
- Understanding and coping with professors
- Taking charge of your learning
- Self-awareness and Interpersonal communication
- Making career choices
- Resources at SPSU
- How to succeed

The course will count towards students GPA, whether positively or negatively. Tests and assignments will be decided by the teachers. The professors who volunteered to teach the course are Crimm, Harbort, McDonald, and Singleton.

The response to the program has been positive so far. "Some 50 students have responded that they are interested in the course," Dr. Szafran said. As of the afternoon of September 29, 28 students were enrolled.

## Dear Susan

### What is Early Warning System?

**Susan Ristau**  
Licensed SPSU Counselor

Dear Susan:

I keep hearing the term "Early Warning System" around campus. What exactly is this? My roommate got a letter recently, but I didn't want to be nosey and ask about it. Do you know?

- Confused Carla

Dear CC:

Early Warning System has just been implemented by the new Vice President of Academic Affairs (V.P.A.A.) as a way to assist all first year students in their classes. Professors are instructed to take note of those students who are not fully engaged in their courses. A letter is then sent by the V.P.A.A. asking the student to visit the Career & Counseling Center for assistance. There are also classes being formed called "Hitchhikers Guide to SPSU"

(SPSU 1001) that are designed to help first year students be more successful academically. These courses are free of charge and meet twice a week at various times of the day. There is even an online class. Study skills, time management, goal setting, stress reduction, and where to find help on campus are some of the topics covered. I hope this clears up the mystery for you, Carla. SPSU faculty and staff really do care about our students!

Don't be a douche.  
Join The Sting!

## Here to help - An interview with VPAA Dr. Szafran

**CJ Shrader**  
Editor-in-Chief

"I've got the best job in the world," says the new VPAA Dr. Zvi Szafran. He enjoys his job because he gets to work with both, as he describes it, "good administrative colleagues" and a "wonderful faculty."

Szafran began his time as the Vice President of Academic Affairs on July 1, replacing interim VPAA David Hornbeck. Currently, besides learning the intricacies of his new position, he spends a lot of time meeting Deans, committees, administrators, and students and trying to find the best way to make everyone work together smoothly and efficiently.

"So far, I'm really enjoying it," says Szafran.

One of Szafran's major goals as VPAA is to make sure students are engaged in their education.

Szafran says, "I think students do best when they seize hold of their education and become masters of their own fate."

Szafran believes that Southern Polytechnic State University needs a strong welcome week to make students, particularly freshmen, more engaged. Szafran also believes a few changes need to be made to existing bureaucratic policies which may stand in students' ways, as well a system of outcomes assessment to tell if students are remaining engaged.

"I think that we need to have a campus culture of our helping our students move from where they are to where they need to be and to accomplish success," says Szafran.

To help students accomplish success, Szafran would like to see the current system for withdrawal from classes change. Currently, the only way to withdraw is if a student manually withdraws from a class, either from the SPSU website or an advisor. If a student simply stops going to a class, they will end up failing the class.

Szafran would rather automatically withdraw the student if she or he has not been attending class for an extended period of time before the withdrawal date.

Szafran says, "You failed to do the paperwork, we'll do it for you. And by the way, here's a bill for \$20 because we did it."

If this system were in place,

a student would get a W on their transcript instead of the usual F for failing a course.

Another policy is that if a student has not paid her or his fees,

should they need one to pay tuition and other fees.

"I don't find that it's terribly helpful to tell people that 'You have a problem' and 'Good luck,'" says Szafran. "I'd rather tell them that 'There's a problem' and 'Here's how we can help solve it.'"

To be able to tell if a facility or course is doing what it is supposed to be doing, Szafran and the administration have laid out a plan of outcomes assessment for both academic and administrative departments.

"What we've tried to do is to identify 15 outcomes that, as a university, we want to see accomplished," says Szafran.

Some examples of these 15 outcomes are that students will have an opportunity to showcase their successes, and that students will be treated with respect by members of the faculty and administration.

Szafran has some long-term

goals for the future as well.

"I'd like to see us forming a real learning community with intellectual, social, athletic, and cultural activities. Give students a nice range of activities to participate in and be enriched by."

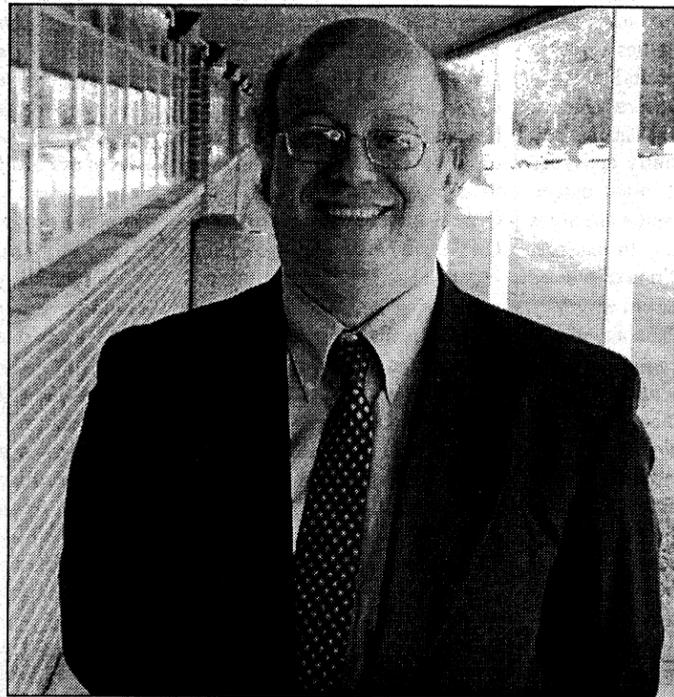
To reach this goal, Szafran would like to add additional programs and redesign existing majors to make them more contemporary. He would also like to see the addition of more liberal arts courses.

The idea of redesigning existing courses is not new to Szafran. He successfully implemented a similar program during his six years at his previous position as VPAA of New England College in New Hampshire. Szafran also spent six years as Dean of Science and Engineering at Merrimack College.

Szafran has a Bachelor's of Science in chemistry and a Ph.D. in Physical Inorganic Chemistry. To become more involved with the students and faculty, he hopes to teach a general chemistry course in the spring.

Szafran stresses that he, and the administration, are always available if any student needs help for any reason.

"I think our students have got great opportunities," says Szafran, "I want them to grab them with both hands. Get involved, grapple with the institution. Don't just sit back and let it happen to you."



CJ Shrader/The Sting

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## Overweight pandemic

Naimah Shaw  
Staff Writer

You would think that with widening waistlines and plus-sized clothing, people would start taking notice and try to stop the overweight pandemic rapidly spreading across the country. I walked into Kohl's this weekend, looking for size 4 pants and was shocked at being unable to find any. When I inquired about this, I was blankly told by the overweight sales person that they don't usually carry those sizes. So has our society begun to condone bulging stomachs, with Michelin tires and fat-lined arteries? I hate to think so but that is questionable. However, the thing is: can people really help becoming obese or is it beyond their control? The fact is obesity is not just a simple condition of eating too much. It is now recognized that obesity is a serious chronic disease, but many people are ignorant in that perspective. Obesity is factorized by three things: genes, environment, and behavior.

Some individuals have a genetic tendency to gain weight and store fat. When your cause of obesity is genetic you can't lose weight even when you increase your physical activity and stick to a low calorie diet for many months. Because of this many genetically obese people undergo unbearable peer pressure and resort to anorexia and bulimia in valiant efforts to reduce their body size. As a result a majority of genetically obese people become sick and depressed.

On the other hand, not everyone with this tendency will become obese, only the people without genetic predisposition do become obese. At the present, organizations like the American Obesity Association are conducting research on cases of genetic obesity to have a better understanding of the complexities of it.

A healthy environment is important for all individuals to prevent and treat obesity and maintain weight loss. An environment that promotes healthy weight is one that encourages consumption of nutritious foods in reasonable portions and regular physical activity. People may make decisions based on their environment or community. For example, a person may choose not to walk to the store or to work because of a lack of sidewalks. Because of this influence, it

is important to create good environments especially in schools and public settings. In respect of this knowledge there is now a law that prohibits schools from putting soft drink machines on their campus, as sodas contain an excess of sugar and are a main factor in environmental obesity. Families can also prevent environmental obesity by ensuring that their refrigerator contains only healthy snacks and by encouraging family activities that require physical involvement. However, environmental obesity is controllable and easy to manage, all it requires is willpower and the knowledge of right from wrong.

Behavior is also a significant cause of obesity. Simple things like parking closer to a store because of the laziness of not wanting to walk a little contribute to behavior obesity. Behavior obesity is most times a feature of indolence. It includes buying fast food because of being too lazy to prepare something healthy, or snacking on the wrong types of food because they taste better than healthier choices. Here at SPSU, one of THE most common things that people do includes using the elevator instead of using the stairs! That never ceases to amaze me because as crude as this may sound, its people who need the exercise of walking up the stairs that prefer to stand and wait behind the elevator door.

In reference to my previous statement, it's also noteworthy to mention that, many times, you see these people returning from lunch with huge cups of soda from different fast food restaurants. Behavior obesity can also be a side of environmental obesity, for example people will not act in the way they do if their environment promotes healthy choices.

Another aspect of behavior obesity is emotional obesity, many times adults and children will turn to eating as a way to forget their poignant problems. All in all it can be said that behavior obesity is manageable and easy to remedy once a tab is kept on calorie intake and physical activity.

As stated before, obesity is a serious condition and is mainly a cause of genetic inheritance, environmental setting, and behavioral disposition. Obesity can be helped in many cases and at present many studies are being carried out in a search for a cure to stop the universal pandemic of obesity.



The sad part is, this guy is married.

## Why does parking here suck?

Korey Kolberg  
Staff Writer

I have come to the conclusion that no matter where I am at, the parking will always suck and it would seem that SPSU is no different. Every time I go somewhere, I am forced to walk half the campus to get to my car. When I return to the school I always drive down to see if by some chance a space has opened up. Every time I check, and every time anger fills me as I am forced to drive all the way up to the gym. Once there I am forced to hunt for a spot that hasn't been taken by commuters that are too dumb to park in their own lots. Half the time I cannot even drive my car through the lanes because of idiots that do not know how to park their vehicles between the lines and out of the road. The spots are big enough for most cars and trucks, especially if you don't leave your tail gate down like a moron.

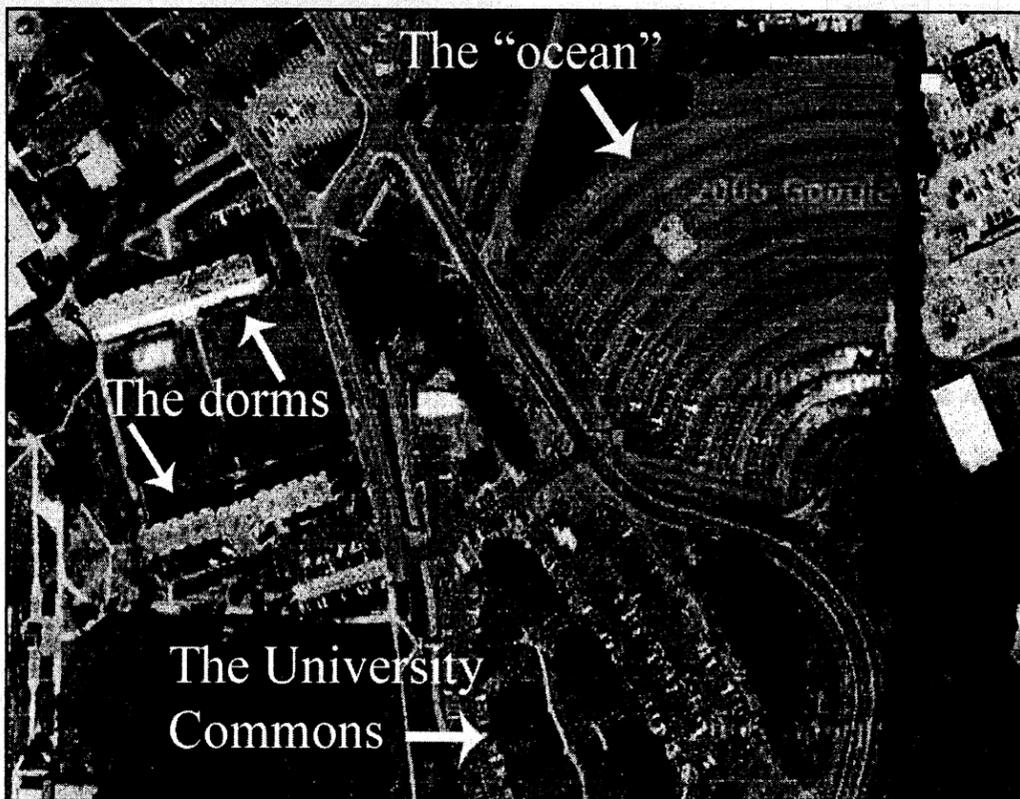
Every day it seems I have to face this. Every time I leave and

return to the school, the same cars sit in the same spots as when I left. Why do the people that never leave the school get to park right by the dorms? They never leave; never have to worry about carrying stuff in the rain or the like. The spots by the dorms should be for those of us that actually use our cars, and the spaces by the Wellness Center used for people who never drive. It only makes sense to do that. Instead of a lot of us having to walk the entire campus to get to our cars (that we drive at least three times a week), the spots by the dorm could be used by everyone. So you spot squatters would have to actually walk for once. It would only be once a week when you go home. This would also make it easier to unload items out of a car, for the fifteen minute spots are always full also.

The dorm parking spots would not be so much of a problem if the school had built enough spaces near the dorms. I know that it is unreasonable to have a huge parking lot right there, but

at least have enough for an entire floor, or even 3/4s of a floor. As it stands now, I doubt if half a hall could park there. Why aren't we allowed to park in the areas by the apartments, their lot is never over half full most of the time? Even a little corner of it would be of help. Also, what about the areas by the post office, cannot those too be used for students instead of just visitors? Do the visitors really need to use the post office, the one for students?

I am glad to learn, if it is true, that the school does only sell enough permits as there are spots on campus. It is not that the walking is bad, just that it makes it a true pain to carry stuff, especially if it is raining. Once I would like to drive through the dorms parking lot and see spots open. I am not saying that I should always have a spot there. I am saying that the spots should be routed out to all the students in the dorm with cars, not used by people that only go home on weekends.



Many new students don't know that, where the University Courtyard is now, there used to be a large parking lot that students call "the ocean." Sadly, they paved a parking lot to put up paradise. Courtesy of Google Maps

## WebCT? More like WebSuck-T

Naimah Shaw  
Staff Writer

During the past year, I have been subject to use this piece of technology that I hope will eventually become superb.

I have never been able to smoothly use this website due to the fact that the procedures involved in using it changes constantly from semester to semester. Every time this happens, the professors who use it try to make up excuses, telling us that this is so because they're trying to make it better, they're trying to improve it. Sure....

This semester its use is frustrating, unsafe and not user friendly. In order to sign into it, we have to remember a set of numbers, called our student ID numbers. This string of 9 numbers is preceded by a set of zeroes making it very frustrating to

type in every time. Why couldn't it just remain the way it was when we, the user had the ability to determine our username and password?

Not only is this method cumbersome, but its also unsafe because for those of us who are using this site as part of our class, every time we post a discussion or reply to a discussion, our student ID number is boldly placed in brackets next to our names. If there is some justifiable explanation to that, it would be good to know!

This semester in particular, using it was extremely frustrating since professors were required to synchronize their systems every time to ensure that all students were on it. Even though some students were duly registered and had already paid their tuition, it took weeks before they could log into WebCT. This was in no part a stu-

dent or professor error and when I talk about this issue, I do it from the perspective that it has cost too much time in some of my classes.

In a few of them, day after day, class after class, week after week, we would spend meaningful time trying to assess why some students could not log in and participate in online discussions. Not only was this a waste of time, but it created a back log for students, we were required to hand in hard copies of our work, to ensure it was done on time, and then further required to post this upon our ability to log in. That was excess work and should have been avoidable.

I hope that if I have to use this again next semester, its use would be safer and generally have less problems.

## Letter to the editor Information desk...OR...???

Anonymous  
SPSU Student

Quite recently, I made my way to the Student Center and was utterly annoyed and dismayed at the sight that greeted me. No, I'm not talking about the yellow tape marked "caution," nor am I talking about the fact that I had to take a "detour" to get to where I was going. What got me pissed off, in every meaning of the term, was what I saw happening at the Information Desk.

The Information Desk is supposed to serve as a place where people go to when they have questions; it certainly is not supposed to be an area designed to host a jack-ass parade but this is exactly

what I saw. I saw the extremely lousy keeper of the desk, whose name I prefer not to mention and sitting on top of the information desk were his dear pals. Yes, this "information desk of SPSU" had people propped up on it, discussing the most irrelevant topics. The topic of the conversation was a series of "Yo Mama Jokes." These were being hurled out, loud enough for everyone traversing the student center to hear. What a pretty site that makes for anyone trying to find out something, and what a perfect image it portrays of SPSU.

Not only were these people sitting up there, but surrounding the information desk were the highly decorative droppings of

empty Doritos packages. I am not assuming that these are the very people who threw them there. I know this for a fact because I saw them ravaging the contents of the package of what later became the marveled rugs on the floor.

It was quite obvious that this presented a problem to those students who use the Student Center to study or to engage in meaningful activities. As I sat there in stunned silence as to what I was seeing, I noticed countless number of students get up and leave within a few minutes of their arrival. The reason is obvious. I hope that whoever is responsible reads this and does something to eliminate this horrendous problem.

## Letter to the editor Professors or students?

Anonymous  
SPSU Student

Thankfully, this is my last lap of my undergraduate career here at SPSU and there is something that greatly bothers me. This semester, with the rigors of senior year, it seems to stand out more clearly than it ever has. I have a professor who is a student also and, while in a technologically driven world, I appreciate the fact that we are constantly learning and the best among us are those who are students trying to learn the latest breakthroughs, etc. However, I'm not quite sure that studying for a Ph.D. program falls under this category and quite frankly it is extremely disturbing to have a professor who cannot give of himself the way he should be because his career as a student is evidently more important to him than his career as a professor. Maybe all the latter one is worth is a paycheck.

As a student, it is bothersome to have to hand in weekly assignments without getting them back. Next week midterms begin and as of now, this particular professor has NOT given back a single assignment grade. Sure, that poses a problem because we do not know where we stand in the class going into midterms, neither are we aware

of how this professor grades and the things he looks for in out writing. However, we DO hear at every class meeting how hard it is to teach 5 classes and take 12 hours of Doctoral Classes. Sorry Mr. Professor, I have no pity for you -- try working part time and taking 21 hours of undergraduate work!

I wish SPSU would ensure that their professors can really give

from his worth.

On this note, it would certainly help if SPSU can hire more professors so that no one professor has to go about bragging to students that no matter what you do, you'll have to take his classes, because "[he's] the only one who teaches it!" This gives professors unnecessary authority, especially when they're already power-drunk.

Make the lives of potential SPSU students happier by creating a conducive environment

"This professor finds it amusing to inform us time and time again that his classes are not easy and many people do not survive them."

of their time and can commit to students when they hire them. Another issue with this professor: He seems to enjoy intimidating students and making them feel as though he's oh, so much better than them. "A good teacher is supposed to leave a wonderful influence and serve as an impact on young lives"- this does not ring true. This professor finds it amusing to inform us time and time again that his classes are not easy and many people do not survive them. How sad, I wished he would focus more on student success than the apparent pleasure he gets on students failure. It's pretty darn sad because if he didn't have these problems, he would be an asset to students. He is extremely knowledgeable in the areas that he teaches but these issues detract

for them. It is my sincere hope that whoever is responsible can work to alleviate this problem.

*Editor's note: There has been some controversy over The Sting's policy of printing anonymous letters. Let me say that I cringe to print them, but understand that it is, at times, necessary for a student or students to need to remain anonymous.*

*These letters represent the truthful opinion of a student or students (though of course not necessarily those of The Sting). If an organization or professor feels the need to respond with their own take on the subject, and I hope they will, The Sting more than welcomes what they might have to say as well.*

## Board of Regents at SPSU

Rultz Raymond  
Staff Writer

As we all know, the Board of Regents is a committee responsible for approving accreditation to state colleges and universities. Without its approval, the validity of our degrees would be challenged.

Well, the "board" will be making a journey to Southern Polytechnic State University sometime between this and next month. While the purpose of the visit is still unknown, we are sure that it, one way or another, affects our campus.

Tentative subjects being discussed include fee increases, staff/school proposals, and student activity participation. Maybe the state has come to realize that the inflation in the cost of education is causing a decrement in enrollment based on the unavailability of funds for continuing education or the rising cost of gas and how it affects those students who must commute every day. Maybe there are new ideas to improve the foundations of SPSU's learning environment to build solid foundations for students who show poor academic progress or for professors to widen their

doors to allow more flexible office hours (Not too wide because they have lives too). Maybe there aren't enough students participating in school-funded events from our own CAB (Campus Activities Board) such as the rock-climbing and the gladiator-styled wrestling that we had last semester in front of the J-Building or students not engaging in anything else but Halo or Guild Wars.

Whatever is discussed, I hope that it makes SPSU a better place to be.

The  
Sting  
www.thesting.org

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*The Sting* welcomes letters praising or criticizing editorial policies or opinions. Letters should be typed or neatly printed, double spaced and should not exceed 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. 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, October 20 at 5:00 P.M.** Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of *The Sting*, except through special permission.

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### PRICE

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## Where's Waldo? - A spiritual journey, Part I

Eric John  
Staff Writer

I'm sure many of us can remember the Where's Waldo? books from childhood. The series filled with large, detailed pictures featuring a man hidden somewhere in the scenes. His name was Waldo, obviously, and the entire goal was to find him among the colorful and intricate pictures. He wore a red and white striped shirt and matching hat, blue jean pants, and a pair of glasses. He always wore a backpack, and he traveled on foot with a cane. The objective in these pictures was to locate Waldo: A simple task, but maybe not so simple an idea. Quite possibly, the message given to us here is actually a set of guidelines to live a more fulfilled life by.

Now one might ask "How can this be difficult? All I have to do is scan a page and look for some guy in glasses!" To them, the journey to finding Waldo is a straight path of unwavering clarity, yet they have forgotten to look at the scenes of life that surround the items which lead to Waldo. To others, finding Waldo is more complicated than simply spotting him on a piece of paper. These readers see a crowd of people next to Waldo's carelessly discarded hat, and the crowd draws their attention to a man playing a fiddle in beggar's clothes gets a few coins dropped at his feet.

To these Waldo seeker, Waldo has brought them along for a journey into a world we never get a clear glimpse of from our limited viewpoint. These readers gain a new look at life, like those who have felt the difference between driving down a road and looking at the road from a mountain. You who have seen the cause and effect world caught in a snapshot around this Waldo fellow. To these resourceful readers, I present you with a new theory. Perhaps Waldo is not only a physical person, but he could be a presentation of an enlightening, meditative and spiritual state. Venture with me as I

delve into the idea of this 'Spiritual Waldo', which I shall refer to as the 'Spiraldo' from this point onward.

To begin, I would like to cite the helpful and intriguing note that Waldo leaves behind for all his would-be followers. He says "Hi, Friends! My name is Waldo. I'm just setting off on a world-wide hike. You can come too. All you have to do is find me, wherever I go."

Let's break down his open

only dream of. But what does he search for while traveling? He does not tell us he is after something, so one could conclude that Waldo makes this trip for something beyond material possessions.

Immediately after he announces his trip, he asks you, his friend, to join him. His only request is that you follow him. Doing so means that when we follow him, we have placed our trust, safety, and

at which the Spiraldo connects to us, and then we travel the world, seeing what it can and making observation, taking nothing but knowledge and an appreciation for life. What the Spiraldo asks for us to do is to trust in the guidance of its wisdom, and trust it as you follow it across the vastness of this shifting world as a friend would trust another friend as they embark upon a quest.

So what is it that the Spiraldo asks for us to do here? It requests that we follow after the physical representation of the Spiraldo, or in other words, Waldo. That's why the title is Where's Waldo? and not The Spiraldo and You. "Well then what does this mean about the Spiraldo?" one might wonder. To them, I pose this: what if the Spiraldo could possibly be a state of mental clarity, one only reached by focusing your mind on the surrounding world and looking for it from outside your own self? Perhaps by locating Waldo, you bring yourself closer into harmony with the Spiraldo,

because you have spent time outside of your own limited world and have instead focused your mind upon the Spiraldo and where it has been. You must remember that the Spiraldo is a conglomerate of your spiritual journey and also what you have yet to learn. The scenes of the world we see in the book show hundreds of people interacting, where from our vantage point we see the future, past, and present of each person there.

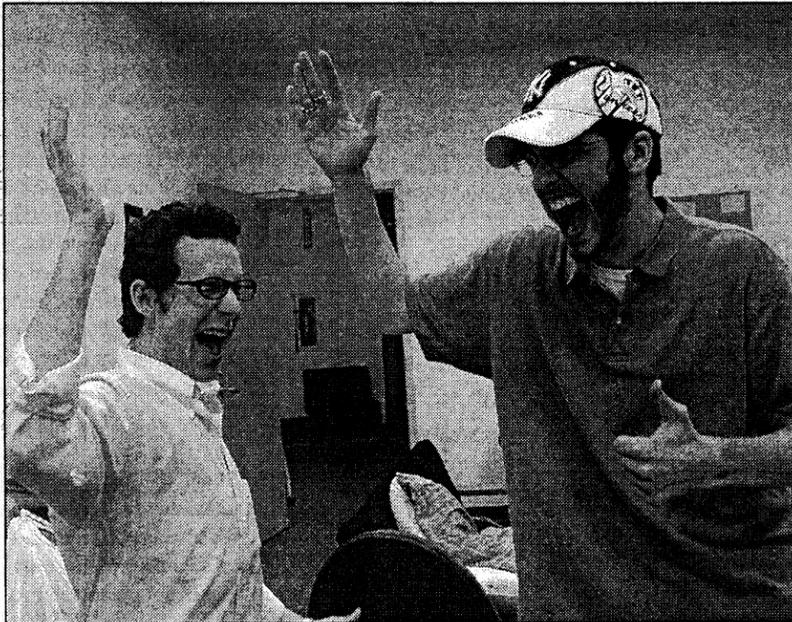
This leads to point to an idea that our own enlightenment comes not from internal thoughts, but the mix of us interacting with our environment. When we look for Waldo in a picture, it reveals new truths about our own mind. The systematic

reader will start a search pattern, carefully scrutinizing every inch of the picture, dividing the image up into a negotiable grid and follow a pattern until Waldo is found. Another mind might look at the page, and just start picking areas that look like potential Waldo-hiding areas until, lo and behold, Waldo is revealed unto them.

Some also forget about the 'Waldo' search and instead turn to looking at the scene as a whole. They just see the ebb and flow of people and emotions and ideas on the pages, and by their careful attention to detail and interest in the ideas presented, they come across Waldo in due time. According to this pattern, the reader sees all of life, inspects it, and gains as much as possible from it, and even after finding Waldo in that scene, they press on until they know the entire scene, and have learned from every action and event. They see the humor, the good and bad karma, and they also see how the strangest of events from one angle becomes a beautiful joke from another.

From these different approaches, each person gets something different from the scene. However, each person also learns more about themselves and they have focused their mind on finding Waldo, while the Spiraldo inside us has already placed new meaning in our soul. The Spiraldo gives us a goal to achieve, that being trying to find Waldo, and we (the passionate learner) must push forward into the unknown, learning and living while only trusting the Spiraldo not to lead us astray. Whether we are able to give in and trust the Spiraldo also tells us a great deal about ourselves, which is just more spiritual learning, as we probe the depths of our mind and soul as we follow after Waldo.

Remember this, my friends of Waldo, There are many mysteries that have yet to be discovered in our journey towards spiritual enlightenment, and Waldo is always a step ahead and waiting for you. Until the next edition...



Finding Waldo ROCKS!!!

Archived Photo/The Sting

invitation for a moment, so that we can further assess what Waldo is trying to teach us. First off, he calls us his friends. A friend, by definition, is a person whom one knows, likes, and trusts. Such a broad and open statement, calling any and all who comes across his note a friend of his. Obviously he would see us all as friends, for any person could have come across this note. What can this tell us? It indicated that he does not judge nor condemn, but he welcomes all with open arms to join him on an extravagant adventure. What adventure? Why, his hike across the world, of course!

This Waldo has set off to trek across the world, something many

very lives in the hand of this Waldo fellow. Doing so would mean that we would treat Waldo as a friend. Our choice to become a friend of Waldo's and joining him on his journey is the first step we must make towards understanding the Spiraldo. Perhaps what we see here of the Spiraldo, the transient spirit of Waldo that incorporates our own mind and spirit into its collective being, is revealing of the universal yet personal relationship that we develop with Waldo. Each of us will search in different way, perhaps even with friends, but eventually it all comes down to whether we individually choose to look and follow after Waldo or not. That's the point

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**Congratulations to Nick Simichih!**  
Winner of the Horny the Hornet coloring contest!  
You won \$100!



## NetherWorld haunted house - it's scary shit

Tony Perez  
Staff Writer

In the day, it's an antique market with a variety of shops selling furniture, lamps, sofas, and even Egyptian art. At night, however, the very site of bargains and sales becomes a gateway to the underworld. It is a place of evil, alternate dimensions, escapees from an insane asylum, and other "things" that just can not be described. It is the NetherWorld haunted house.

There are not one, not two, but three dimensions of creatures and other weird effects. The first

house is called Abomination. Here, you enter a dark foggy maze of webs, vines, moss, and dark corners where creatures may jump out or grotesque hands may reach out at any time. Monsters are everywhere, above you, on the floor and many are so big, you see only a part of them—the part that eats. But you need not be afraid of them, you know where they are. It's the innocent picture of a woman hanging on the wall that you need to be afraid of. Why? Let's just say, "It's not an ordinary picture".

Sudden loud noises are constantly going off; what they

are—it's probably best you didn't know. So do you head on, or go back. The choice is not that easy. The place is many moving walls, fake doors and mirrors. You turn around and you do not see where you came from; you move forward, there is a fake door. Only after feeling around the other possible exits do you find the way to the next chamber; of course it's the darkest one. I rate this dimension 3 out of 4 screams.

Next, you enter The Terror of Tiki Island. This land of evil is filled with savages and headhunters. Upon entering, you are given a pair of 3D glasses.

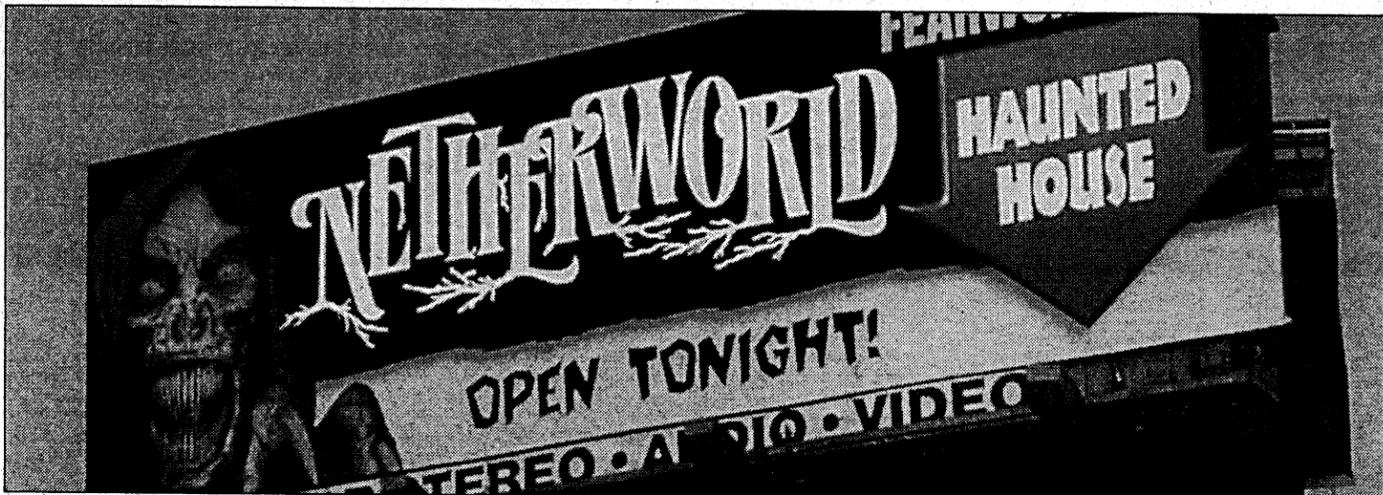
As with Abomination, you must walk through mazes of enchanted forests, vines, and other island creatures. Because of the 3D effect, snakes and spiders seem to be suspended right in front of you. You must walk past them to continue. Even with the 3D effects, it was not as intense as Abomination and the tour was much shorter. I rate this 1 out of 4 screams.

The last one is called The Slaughterhouse and is run by escapees from a maximum security insane asylum. You will not be prepared for what awaits you. This dimension had the

longest line of victims; because of its nature, they can let only four or six in at a time. A word of caution: Dress comfortably and wear cargo pants so you can secure your cell phones and cameras—otherwise you will lose them. You will not be walking all the way through this one. You will have to crawl through tunnels and squeeze through tight spaces—in pitch black. If you can not fit comfortably in coach seating on AirTran, I would not recommend entering this zone. In the lit areas, you see a bathroom with blood splattered everywhere and torture chambers with racks and chains holding corpses. This was the most intense of the three. I rate this house 4 out of 4 screams.

In all three houses, there were real actors hiding and jumping out—not puppet technology like you find in other places; it's not Monster Plantation at Six Flags. There were even several people in costume walking around the entrances of the houses; so as you wait, be alert. They have nasty habit of sneaking up close behind you and playing tricks.

Netherworld is open every night this month from 7-11pm except Friday and Saturday when they are open 'til midnight.



Even the billboard sends shivers down my spine!

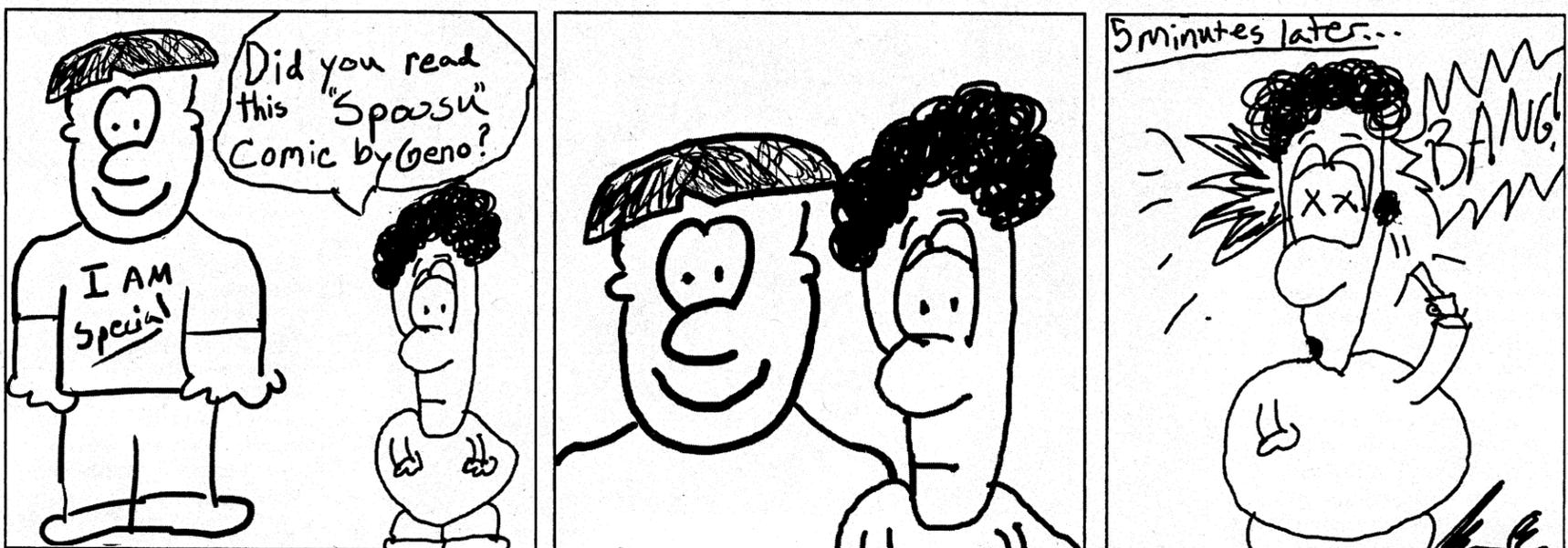
Tony Perez/The Sting

## Spoosu "Are you Horny?" written and drawn by: geno

As much fun as you can have at a technical school.



## Crappy Comic #3 - By Syl Turner



## Battle and Brew: the review

Syl Turner  
Layout Manager

Take two of the best things in the world, video games and beer, and put them in one place. That place is called Battle and Brew!

Battle and Brew is a new computer gaming bar that opened up at the corner of Powers Ferry and the 120 Loop (South Marietta Parkway). With 20 computers, 4 X-boxes, a Sega Genesis/CD/Saturn, 2 TVs at the bar, 2 huge wide-screen TVs, Battle and Brew is a video game and beer lover's dream come true.

The computers are very nice, all sporting GeForce 6800 video cards (actually, there is one machine with a 7800), and come with over 20 games to choose from. Most of the games

are first-person shooters, like Counter-Strike Source and Unreal Tournament 2004, but there are copies of World of Warcraft and Guild Wars for the role-playing kids.

There are plenty of options available on X-box, as well. Action titles, like Halo 2 to sports, like Madden 2006, to highly detailed, mechanized warrior games, like the overly complex Steel Battalion (complete with its three feet wide cockpit simulator controller), are readily available. You can even play classic games, like Night Trap on Sega CD. There's a game for anyone at Battle and Brew!

What about the "Brew" portion? On draft, they have Miller Lite, Sweetwater 420, Heineken, Bass Ale and Stella Artois. There's a wide variety of bottled beers, too. If beer's

not your thing, they also have a selection of wine.

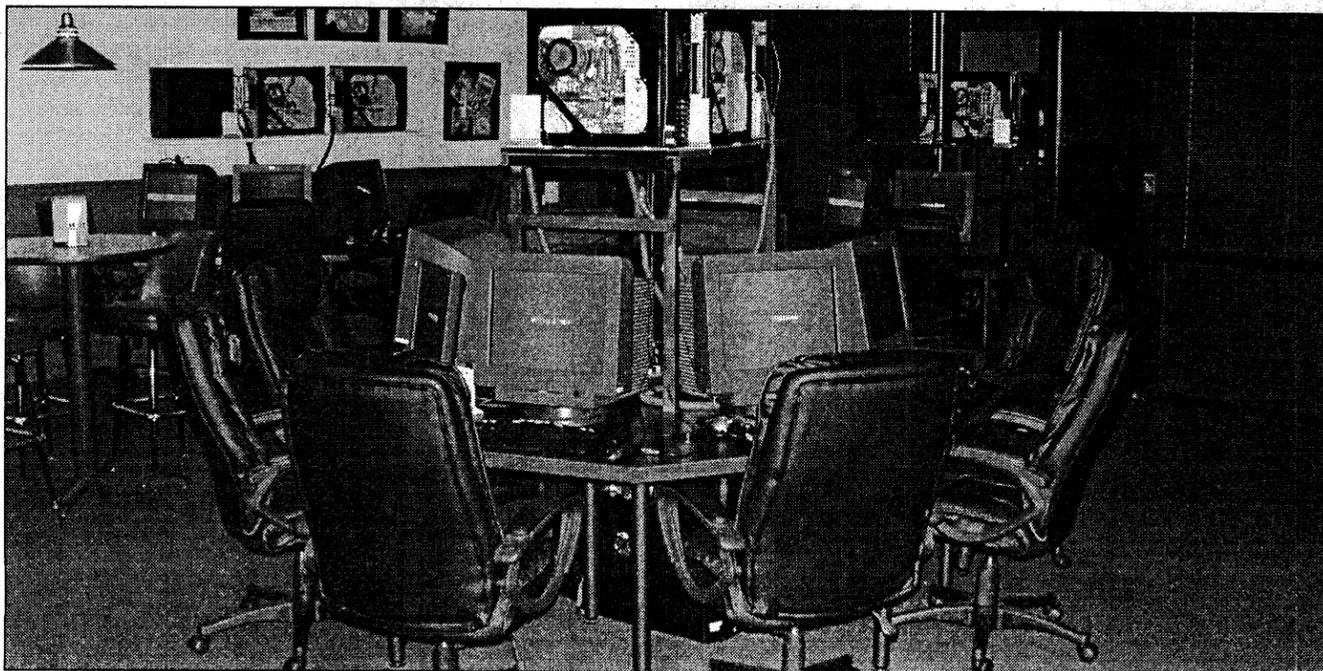
What's that? You don't like beer or wine!? Well, you're in luck. They also have plenty of soda and food to choose from! It's your typical bar food, like chicken wings, fries, and mozzarella sticks. However, they do have two AWESOME food items: Pizza Poppers and Jalapeño Poppers. Imagine deep frying a Jalapeño, wrapping it in a pretzel, then deep frying it again. It's freaking delicious!

The pricing is a pretty good deal. For PC games, it's \$6 per hour, or \$25 for 5 hours or \$50 for 12 hours. The hours are logged based on how long you've been logged into your personal account, so you don't have to play for 12 hours at one time. You can also play all day for \$20 on

Mondays - Thursdays and \$25 on Friday and Saturday. For Xbox, it's \$5/hour. They have plenty of specials, too! If you refer a friend, you get an extra hour of gaming. You also get an hour of gaming for free when you sign up!

The beer is a little expensive, however. A pitcher of Miller Lite is \$9, and the other beers on draft are \$12. For beers in bottles, the price is from \$2.75-\$5.75. This may sound expensive at first, but they have some really good beers available. Plus, you're playing video games! How cool is that?

Battle and Brew is a great place to go if you love video games and beer. It's a great, laid back environment. Bring a few of your friends, grab a pitcher and play!



Battle and Brew: The greatest thing to happen to LAN gamers since caffeinated mints.

C.J. Shrader/The Sting

H4X0RZ K0RN3R

MD5

## Wrap-Up

Dave Bachtel  
Senior Staff Writer

Last issue, the challenge was given: "Find the MD5 hash with as many repeating consecutive characters as possible." The competition was fierce and the results are in.

The longest hash submitted before the deadline goes to Joshua Pettett for the seeds of 'c(=)A' and 'iJ 1~M', both yielding 11 consecutive hex characters. The longest winning entry from an SPSU student (and the \$50) goes to Chris Colyar, for the entry of 'sWhEM%-EbA[n]:a"gPBj&', which yielded a hash containing 10 consecutive characters.

Honorable mention goes to Aaron Killen who submitted the seed 'wgiym2' after the deadline for 10 consecutive characters. Josh also submitted 'IL8:hg' as a hash seed with an incredible resultant length of 12 characters after the deadline.

Originally, Josh started by recursively seeding the previously obtained hash into the next hash attempt (ex: md5(md5(md5(...etc... seed))))), but had to port his program from PERL to C overnight after Chris started catching up with a smaller seed length (which would determine the winner in the event of a tie) and 250k hashes/second. In the end, Josh ran his program on seven computers in parallel with a combined CPU speed of 4.6 GHz to achieve his results.

So congratulations to Josh, Chris (who won the \$50), and the other people who took a shot at the challenge. Stay tuned...

## In the Middle with Christiaan Funkhouser

# The pickle jar of DOOM and other silly topics

Christiaan Funkhouser  
Staff Writer

Well, guys, I have a lot of school work to do, and projects that must be done. So, I'm going to take a break and only have two articles. I have two assignments for all of you readers and believe me, it'll be easier than my fellow writer's contest (Hacker's Corner).

This involves a free CD of your choice compliments of "The Christiaan Show" on WGHR Saturdays from 5:00-7:00pm.

Somewhere by this article is a picture of a jar of pickles. There aren't just any pickles. Not only did I get a lifetime supply of Pickles at Wal-Mart for \$2.97 plus tax. They are also edible by both Jews and Gentiles. Many people would not have the open-mindedness to buy a lifetime supply of pickles for both Jews and Gentiles... While I am an Evil Racist Homophobic Christian War Mongerer I am not an Evil Racist Homophobic Anti-Semitic Christian War Mongerer. Once again, those are what I've been called, not what I am.

Anyway, there is a picture of a jar of pickles. I want a caption for it. If it's funny, and clean, I'll publish it and you'll get the CD. If it's funny, but not clean, I won't publish it, but you'll win the CD, however, the clean one will

trump the dirty one any time.

All people are welcome to participate. Please e-mail all submissions by the next Sting due date, which should be the 6th, to mr.funkhouser@gmail.com

Secondly in regards to pickles, be on the lookout around campus for the aforementioned Jar of Pickles for

instant prizes. If you see the Jar of Pickles around campus, write down the date, time, and location of the citing. Either let me know if you see me around campus, OR e-mail me at the aforementioned e-mail for an instant prize.

The second thing I'd like your help with...

I'm writing an article on Guys 1101. Just basic things. Things that girls should know, but don't know.

I am not a girl, but I would like to write an article based on the input of girls. I have a couple things, but I would like more. Things such as, "Hey! This is simple about girls; I don't understand how you could miss

it." Likes and dis-likes. What girls are looking for in a guy without being superficial.

Example, "Girls like to hint at things in subliminal ways because..." "Girls often go after the most superficial guys because..." "What a girl really looks for in a relationship is..." "I like to laugh around people..." "Most importantly, "Girls go to the bathroom in groups of 10 because..."

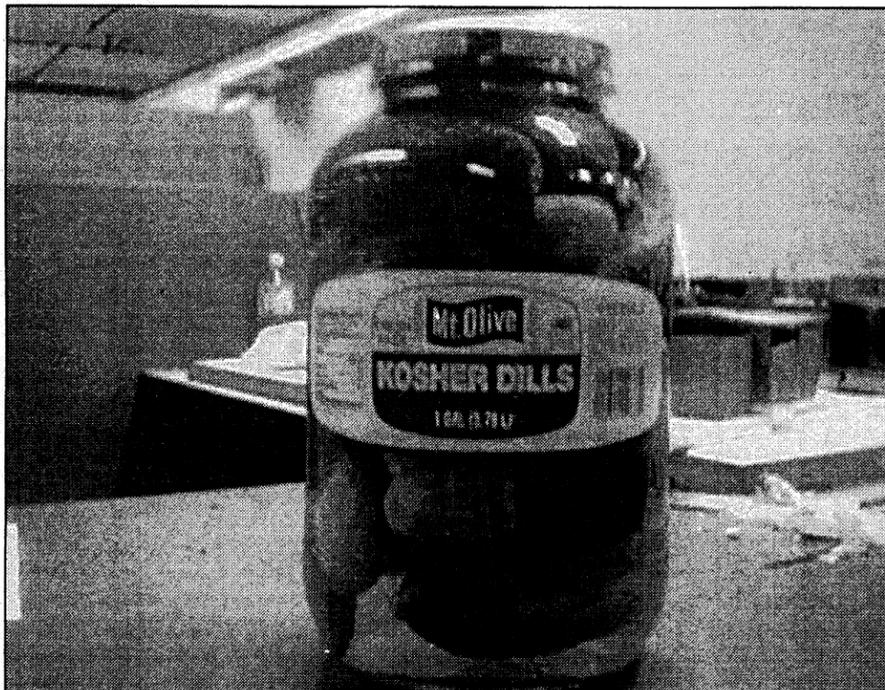
I am not interested in a Cosmo type article about guys or girls. As a guy, girls aren't a complete mystery, but aren't predictable, or consistent. Girls are like Hobbits, you can learn everything about their ways in a day; but even in a lifetime, you could never understand them.

If anyone wants to help me with that that would be a super awesome favor. Like I said, I have some submissions; I just would like a broader view. Also, if there are any questions that run along that same vain about guys feel free to submit those as well.

If you'd like compensation for your help with the article, I'd be more than happy to provide you with a CD of your choice compliments of "The Christiaan Show" on WGHR Saturdays from 5:00 - 7:00pm.

Thanks everyone, remember... More "The Middle" next time.

In the middle of this journey between death and life...



[Insert your mildly humorous caption here...]

Christiaan Funkhouser/The Sting

## Help Christiaan!!! (Sting special poo edition)

**Christiaan Funkhouser**  
Staff Writer

I was e-mailed this, by a concerned individual.

"Dear Christiaan, I have a hard time talking to girls, do you have any ideas, or suggestions? What about some pick-up lines that could help me break the ice. - Tommy Dandlemoffin"

At first, I didn't think this individual could go to Southern Polytechnic State University. However, I took a walk around campus and realized, there are more than 10 girls on campus. Since the addition of Georgia Highlands there are now 11 girls on campus. With this new insight in mind I rushed to the Internet. I then realized that as a pick-up line connoisseur I have all the answers.

Mr. Dandlemoffin I have the answer to your problem - become gay. However if becoming gay isn't in your plans for the next part of your life, I present to you a number of pickup lines that have helped break the ice, get hugs, or have girls throw themselves at me at an alarming rate. They are in no particular order, not all the pickup lines are my own original, nor would I want to take ownership of them. I either heard them from friends, girls, or got them off the internet at random locations. However, some of them

are original.

The classic SPSU one is getting old, "So, do you, uh, live on campus... Really? In the dorms or the apartments?"

- Did you know they changed the alphabet? They put U and I together.

- Can I borrow that quarter, 'cause my mom told me to call home when I fell in love

- What's wrong? You're looking a little sad and gloomy. You need some vitamin me.

- What's that in your eye? Oh... it's a sparkle.

- Can I see that label? I just wanted to know if you were made

in heaven.

- Do you like raisins? How about a date?

- So... How am I doin'?

- I miss my teddy bear... Would you sleep with me?

- Can I flirt with you?

- Do you have a map? I just got lost in your eyes.

- Are you religious? Good, cause I'm here to answer your prayers.

- Are you religious? No? OK, Good, we won't have to worry about Purgatory.

- Baby, you look so sweet you're giving me a cavity.

- Is it me or am I gorgeous?

- I'd even marry your dog just to

be related to you.

- Can I borrow a quarter? ["What for?"] I want to call my mom and tell her I just met the girl of my dreams.

- I'm placing you under citizen's arrest... for stealing my heart.

- Excuse me, but you have a beep on your nose. What? (Reach up and gently squeeze her nose) BEEP!

- Hi, the voices in my head told me to come over and talk to you.

- If you were a booger I'd pick you first.

- There's this movie I wanted to see and my mom said I couldn't go by myself....

- This is a test of the emergency pick up line service. Beeeeeeeeeep. If you had been any less beautiful, you would have just heard a bad pick up line.

- My love for you is like diarrhea, I just can't hold it in

- Have you been eating beans and rice lately?

- For what sort of person are you looking? Wait- don't tell me: medium height, blue eyes, etc...

- I can see you. [Uh, yeah.] Great! Then how about tomorrow.

- Beww BEWWW Beww (What?) That is the sound of the am-

balance coming to pick me up because when I saw you my heart stopped!

- You know what you and corn have in common? (No) Absolutely nothing! (laugh hysterically at yourself.)

- It's not my fault I fell in love. You are the one that tripped me.

- Um, you have really beautiful....uh....eyes, yea. You are pretty. What I mean is... You have a nice forehead. (Messing Up) Do you believe in when I walk by.... (To yourself) Oh Man, STUPID STUPID STUPID!

- Ever tried to poop into a toilet when there's someone sitting there with you? (nudge with elbow)

- You got purty teeth.

- Hello? What's wrong with you, \*knock on her head\* You're hot and you haven't hit on me yet.

- If I followed you home, would you keep me?

- "Pinch me." "Why?" "You're so fine I must be dreaming."

- I was plunging the toilet yesterday, and I looked into the water and I saw your face!!

- Your eyes are bluer then the water in my toilet.

- Your eyes aren't as brown as the water in my toilet.

Good luck Tommy, may they serve you as well as they have me.

If all of those don't work, cut out the side picture and give it to her as a card. Let her know you care, and you read The Sting.



This might be the grossest picture we've ever printed...

Photo courtesy of RateMyPoo.com

## Music suggestions etc.

**Sera Turgut**  
Staff Writer

Coming from a girl who listens to every type of music, as often as she possibly can, and blows every penny she has on CDs in order to own the actual hard copy...Music Suggestions Etc.

### Random Upcoming CD Releases:

#### September 27:

Sean Paul - The Trinity  
H.I.M. - Dark Light  
Ill Nino - One Nation Underground

System Of A Down - Hypnotize  
Smile Empty Soul - Anxiety

#### October 4:

Franz Ferdinand - You Could Have It So Much Better... With Franz Ferdinand

Nickelback - All The Right Reasons

Limp Bizkit - The Unquestionable Truth

#### October 11:

Sevendust - Next  
Story of the Year - In the Wake of Determination

#### November 1:

P.O.D. - Testify

#### November 8:

Muse - Stars On Fire

#### November 15:

Shakira - Oral Fixation 2

#### November 29:

Madonna - Confessions On A Dancefloor

#### January 24:

The Strokes - First Impressions Of Earth

### CD Pick: All Types

Rock - *Bleed the Dream*

The lead singer's voice reminded me of The Ataris. They are classified as rock/screamo/acoustic and they're worth checking out. [www.purevolume.com/bleedthedream](http://www.purevolume.com/bleedthedream)

Pop - *The Veronicas*

I would say this group would appeal to girls and not guys, but they have good voices and their music is catchy, so if you're a girl and you like pop/rock then this might be for you. [www.theveronicas.com](http://www.theveronicas.com)

Rap - *Mike Jones*

You've probably heard of him, but if you haven't and you like rap/hip-hop then I suggest you listen to him. [www.purevolume.com/mikejones](http://www.purevolume.com/mikejones)

R&B/hip-hop/soul - *Avant*

He has a really nice voice and he kind of reminds me of R. Kelly. Check it out.

[www.purevolume.com/avant](http://www.purevolume.com/avant)

Hip-Hop - *Common*

Most people have probably seen him at one point or another. His music is just real smooth and easy to listen to. [www.purevolume.com/common](http://www.purevolume.com/common)

*Ready to try something different? Here are some things you'd probably never find on your own:*

Mor Ve Otesi

This is a group I discovered in Turkey and after all the times I've been to Turkey they've had trouble nailing the rock genre...I felt like they could never quite get it...but this time they've done it. This group is the perfect intro to Turkish Rock. It personally reminds me of Jimmy Eat World, but with a Turkish spin of course. Some of the songs have some Turkish instrumentation such as the Turkish guitar and violins. All around, it is a great album. Check it out!

Another great Turkish band: *Manga*. If you like Linkin Park you'll like this group.

## Facebook? I didn't even know her!

**Twila McConnell**  
Staff Writer

"Hey, I talked to you on Facebook." What a scary phrase, especially when you can't distinguish his face from the other forty guys you "talked" to on Facebook.

SPSU finally got on Facebook.com this summer after enough demand was shown - and it's easy to see why Facebook is so popular. The internet has given us so many ways to communicate with the rest of the world, why not make it easier to keep in touch with your old buddies from high school and meet people with similar interests on your campus?

With your SPSU e-mail address you get a free account. Now you're ready to expose yourself to the whole campus and universities all over the world. Stick up a picture of yourself to let others know what you look like, fill in your contact information including address, AIM screen name, and cell phone number (if you want), list what high school you went to, your interests, political views, favorite movies, books, and quotes, what classes you're taking, and even who you're dating. Now you're ready to be found.

Facebook has a lot of features that make it an ideal system to keep track of your friends.

You are notified to accept or reject the people that add you, so you don't have to let that tag-along kid from high school that would

never shut up have all your personal information. And although Facebook defaults so that anyone from your school can view your profile, you can even set it so that no one but the people you approve can view it. You can message people directly through the Facebook website without ever giving out your e-mail address, or if you just have a quick note, paste it up on their 'wall' - much like the once popular 'chatterboxes.' Any friend requests, messages, or writing on your wall will trigger an auto-notify message that is sent directly to your SPSU e-mail to let you know what's happening with your Facebook account.

Another interesting Facebook feature is the ability to plan parties. You can invite people and have them accept, reject, or maybe the invitation and then have an up-to-date list of those attending that everyone can see. You can also make groups based on whatever your interest, Common Interest, Fraternity/Sorority, Sports, or Organizations, and connect with other people from SPSU who are interested in the same thing.

They've even recently created a separate version of Facebook for high school students, so now your younger siblings can be a part of the fun.

It's obvious Facebook has a lot of advantages for those internet addicts here at SPSU, or maybe just those pathetic male upper classmen looking for the incoming Freshman girls.

The Sting is pretty alright...

The histories that matter

Teen girl activities: Facebook, LiveJournal, and Hot or Not

CJ Shrader  
Editor-in-Chief

Despite the fact that I am not a teen girl, I have to admit that I do have accounts on all of these sites: Facebook, LiveJournal, and Hot or Not. I know that many other students of Southern Polytechnic State University have accounts as well, so I thought it'd be interesting to delve a little deeper into these sites' histories. You'll see that they were most made by people just like you or me. Only much more intelligent.

Facebook

The Facebook (or now, just Facebook) is a, well, online facebook. There is another great article regarding Facebook in this issue, so I won't delve much into what it actually is, only its history.

The history behind Facebook is a simple one. It was created by a Harvard student named Mark Zuckerberg in February of 2004. The intent was to put a place on the internet for Harvard students to network with each other. He created it just for the fun of it; it was no class project or work assignment or anything.

In the first three weeks, over 6,000 Harvard students joined Facebook. Although the project was originally meant to be "by and for Harvard students," according to Chris Hughes, Facebook spokesperson, Zuckerberg decided it would be silly to not open it up to other schools.

Now, Facebook is a part of over 800 schools with more than 3.7 million users. Just think, it was started only less than 2 years ago, and now it has grown so huge that Mark Zuckerberg and another Harvard student, the Chief Technical Officer, decided to leave Harvard just to run Facebook. They are now located in Palo Alto, California.

Today, Facebook also has a High School version with 100,000 users, that must, to be honest, be so full of teenage girls who like "Shopping, being different, and tanning" that it's like a day at the mall on Monday after 4:00 PM. Just like LiveJournal.

LiveJournal

LiveJournal is a pretty simple site, originally intended to help a group of friends keep in contact while in college. When you sign up for a free account, you get an online "journal" where you can post anything you like. You then add friends, which are other LiveJournal users and presumably someone you actually know in real life, but not necessarily. They read your journal, you read theirs, everyone comments and has a good time.

LiveJournal was created by Brad Fitzpatrick. According to Krissy Teegerstrom, a LiveJournal employee, "He transformed a database-driven method he'd been using to update his own journal since 1998 into a Web-based application that his friends could also use."

But of course, there is more to it than just this. The beginnings of LiveJournal are in another website called Freevote.com, also created by Fitzpatrick. At this site, anyone could create a topic to vote on and people could vote on it.

"Freevote.com became so popular that I registered it as a business," says Fitzpatrick. But the site eventually became too stressful for Fitzpatrick and he sold the business behind it. The proceeds of that sale went on to finance what eventually became LiveJournal. Today, Freevote.com redirects you to blogging.com, which I suppose is an attempt at competition towards LiveJournal.

Around this time, Fitzpatrick added a text box to his website where he could type anything. This was the original LiveJournal post.

Later, LiveJournal was the method that Fitzpatrick and his friends would use to keep in con-



tact while away at college. However, LiveJournal was difficult to maintain at this time because it was on each friend's own server and not in one individual place.

To combat this problem, it was on April 15, 1999 that Fitzpatrick registered LiveJournal as a domain name and let all his friends use his own server. In May, Fitzpatrick opened registration to LiveJournal to the public.

When 1000 people had joined LiveJournal, Fitzpatrick knew he wouldn't be able to continue maintaining it on his one server. He asked for donations from LiveJournal users, and they came in. Fitzpatrick was able to buy two new servers, and also learned that LiveJournal could be a real business.

Features like the "Friends" page came from Fitzpatrick's own friends asking for additional features. Before then, if you wanted to check what all of your friends had written, you had to check each of their journals individually. Now you can just check your Friends page and see all of your friends' most recent posts.

The ability to leave comments on LiveJournals is an interesting tale, retold here by Fitzpatrick: "When a roommate posted something dumb, I ran from a college class to the computer lab, added comments functionality,

replied sarcastically, then ran back to class. Suddenly, everyone could leave comments."

More recently, LiveJournal was purchased by Six Apart, manufacturers of blogging software. Even so, LiveJournal has not changed much after the purchase. It is still a place where anyone, for free, can post their thoughts for their friends and anyone else to see.

The LiveJournal website has many interesting statistics posted, if you are curious. I'll just talk

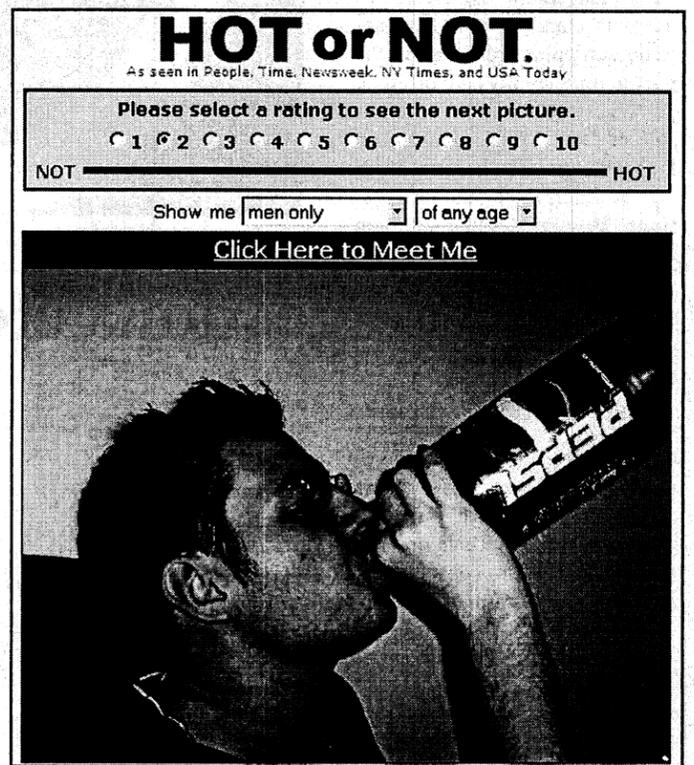
the website and it kills me a little inside every day. I think I'm going to stop eating.

Hot or Not was created by James Hong and Jim Young in October of 2000. The idea for Hot or Not came from a night of drinking and a conversation between Young and Hong's brother, Tony. Young mentioned that a girl was a perfect 10.

"Ever hang out with your friends drinking and come up with a totally crazy idea based on something someone said?" says Hong, "Well, that's exactly what happened."

And that's pretty much all it took for Hot or Not to begin its existence. Young built the website in a few days, originally called amihotornot.com, and both creators e-mailed their friends telling them about the site.

"Within an hour, we started getting submissions to the site from people we didn't know!" says Hong. Their friends had e-mailed



All screenshots by CJ Shrader. Clearly.

about a few of the more interesting ones. LiveJournal has nearly 8.5 million accounts, 2.5 million of which are considered "active." LiveJournal has a 67.4% female population (Go figure), which is just a tad better than Southern Polytechnic's. The majority of users of LiveJournal are between the ages of 16 and 20, although there are users as old as 55 (And possibly older!).

Georgia is the 13th most popular state that LiveJournal is used in. I believe that is the highest Georgia has ever been on in a list of American states, excluding lists of most teen-pregnancies, high-school dropouts, and traffic.

Hot or Not

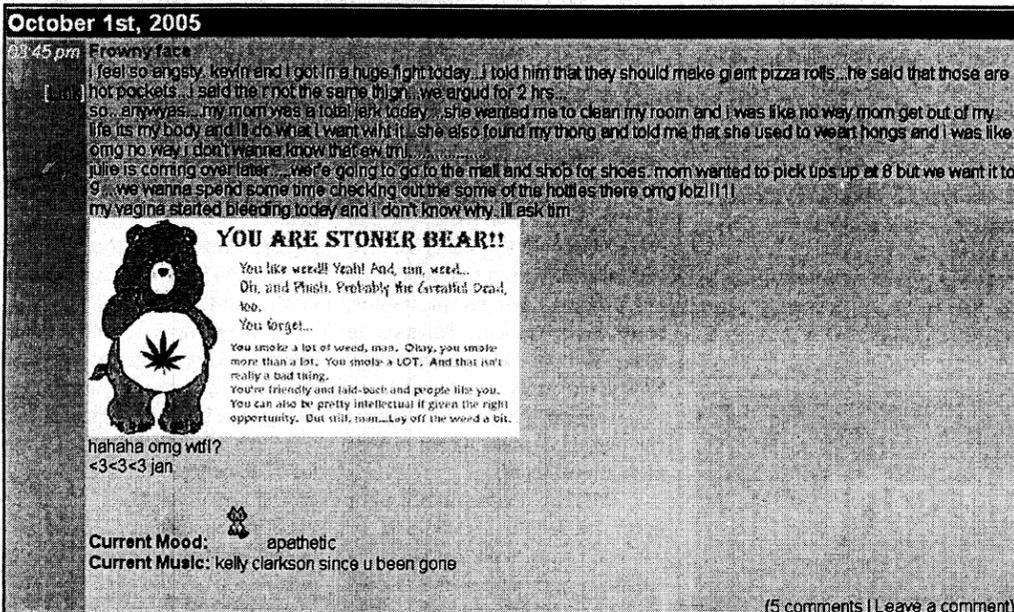
Hot or Not is a site where you post your picture, and then you are rated whether you are hot (or not). The premise is simple, and it's the best way to take you down a peg by seeing what others really think you look like. For example, I'm a 5.6 (out of 10) on

other friends, and so on.

It's easy to see how it spread from there. The website name changed to just plain ol' hotornot.com. Eventually, it added a "Meet Me" service for meeting creepy strangers using the internet. It's free to post your picture on Hot or Not and the Meet Me service, but costs money to actually communicate with anyone using Meet Me.

Hot or Not today has had over 2 billion votes on it, ruining people's self-image a little piece at a time.

Resplendent! I love a good history as much as the next person. Have something you'd like to see in the Histories that Matter? E-mail it my way at rshrader@spsu.edu. Or, of course, you could always send me a note on Facebook or post in my LiveJournal. My username is cjshrader for both of those. I'm not very discrete.



(5 comments | Leave a comment)

## Gamma Phi Beta - How it all began

**Gamma Phi Beta**  
*SPSU Sorority*

Gamma Phi Beta has been Southern Polytechnic's longest running women's organization since 1980. During 1978, there was a small group of girls at Southern Polytechnic State University who wanted to be active in Greek life. But at that time, there were not any women's fraternities. They took the only alternative available to them at that time--they became little sisters to a fraternity.

For a while they were satisfied with being little sisters, but as time passed, they became discontented because the little sisterhood had no say in how things were done in the fraternity. The girls decided to form their own society. This was a huge step for this school since there had never been a women's Greek organization at Southern Tech.

The girls decided to call their organization a local sorority

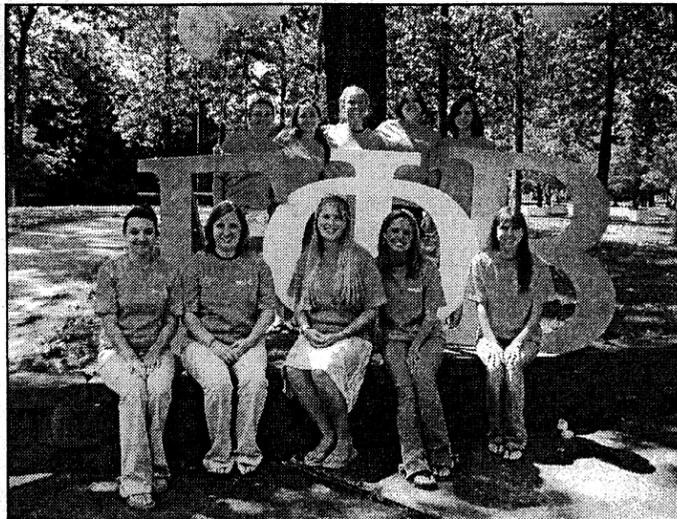
and gave it the name of Alpha Xi Alpha. They asked Pat Franklin, a professor on campus, to be their advisor. The girls set up their own constitution and bylaws and the first women's fraternity at Southern Tech was founded.

A year went by and the girls had everything running smoothly. They had made a name for themselves on campus by participating in school activities and were always seen having a good time together. But these girls wanted more: they wanted to be at an international level.

In 1979, the women petitioned to several different women's fraternities. These groups came to Southern Tech to look at Alpha Xi Alpha and to give Alpha Xi Alpha a chance to review them. The girls expressed an interest in one group called "Gamma Phi Beta" and were invited to come down to Florida State University to visit with an existing chapter. After they came back to Georgia, the girls decided

that Gamma Phi Beta offered everything that they were looking for in an international sorority.

Before the summer of 2004 Gamma Phi Beta was at 9 members. By the summer of 2004, one of the



Courtesy Gamma Phi Beta  
**Gamma Phi Beta is so nice. They always send us articles and even hi-res pictures. A sort of care package for The Sting. Maybe you'd like to see your own organization here? Send articles to [stingeditor@gmail.com](mailto:stingeditor@gmail.com).**

After one year of colonization, Alpha Xi Alpha was chartered as the "Delta Omicron" chapter of Gamma Phi Beta, on January 26, 1980.

The Delta Omicron chapter of Gamma Phi Beta since then has had its ups and downs with membership. In the Spring of 2003 there was some talk about having to shut down the chapter due to a loss in members. Just because the chapter was small wasn't a reason that Gamma Phi Beta Headquarters could shut down the chapter, it had to be voted on by the nine existing members. It was a close call at first due to miscommunication. Then there was a revote after some actives chose to go alumni. The remaining 7 women had a struggle in front of them to run a sorority by themselves but they remembered the sorority was started with only 4 women in Syracuse, NY. It wasn't going to end at SPSU.

sisters went to the military, one had graduated, another went study abroad, and 3 more went alumni... leaving 3 sisters. Could those three hold it together, recruit, and still hold their heads high and say, "I'm a Gamma Phi!"? It was hard, but in the fall of 2004 Gamma Phi Beta raised their numbers to 5. And the next spring, 7.

The three girls believed in everything they stood for: Love, Labor, Learning, Loyalty, Laughter, and Sisterhood. In one year, look where they were! But that isn't the end. The Delta Omicron Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta had a record number for new members this semester. The chapter is now at a wonderful 18 women and going strong for many more years!

Many things were learned and many sisters added...anything can be overcome if you believe in what you stand for.

## What's happening with the Internal Affairs Committee?

**Naimah Shaw**  
*Staff Writer*

During the past month, the Internal Affairs Committee has approved 2 new organizations on campus. The first is a Cycling Club. As stated within their constitution, their primary purpose is "to promote student involvement, promote the sport of cycling and to promote healthy living and exercise. This club will provide opportunities for those who have never ridden a chance to try and will also give them an opportunity to test their abilities against those of their peers in collegiate races." Evidently those who have created this club are very passionate and dedicated towards what they love: cycling. They already have a web-site! This can be found at [spsucycling.tripod.com](http://spsucycling.tripod.com). Check it out if you have time and if this sounds like something you would like to pursue.

The second organization is the MBA Student Association (MBASA). This organization serves to bridge a gap between faculty and students. As indicated to me by its founders, there is an overwhelming amount of things that need to be sorted out within the program and they hope to start the process of doing so, at least before they graduate. It is stated in their constitution that "The Committee will facilitate policy reform and establishes, promotes, and allocates financial resources for programs and services that enrich the academic, cultural, social, and professional experiences of the MBA student community." In general, it is their main aim to address the needs and concerns of students enrolled within this program. Feel free to contact them if you would like to voice your opinion about something.

Other than having approved these organizations, there has not been a lot of other jazz going on within our committee. So until next time...that's all folks!

### Gamma Phi Beta welcomes its new members!

Gamma Phi Beta, the largest women's organization at SPSU... besides architecture!

Gamma Phi Beta had a wonderful recruitment for the fall! With 11 new members, Gamma Phi Beta is at 18 women in its sorority! Congratulations to:

Kayla Andrews	Katie Davidson	Shawna Gentry
Kelly Gray	Katie Kujala	Amanda Lefebure
Kira Melville	Amanda Mireles	Laura Rossi
Rachel Smith	Lorrie Stanford	

Formal recruitment is over, but if you are still interested in Gamma Phi Beta, please check out <http://gammaphibeta.8m.tripod.com> and send us an email!

We are also taking donated clothes for Hurricane Katrina victims, please look for drop off places around school.

## Upcoming events around campus

Everyone always asks us to do this, so you best be reading it.

### October 6th

INTERFACE Lecture Series presents "Planning and Preparing for the Next Influenza Pandemic" by Martin Meltzer. Noon in the Student Center Ballroom.

Cultural Series sponsors "Moonlight and Magnolias" at the Alliance Theatre. Tickets went on sale September 19th.

### October 11th

SGA Meeting at noon in the Library Rotunda. All students are welcome to attend.

University Roundtable lecture series. Held monthly, these lectures provide information about different academic departments at SPSU. RSVP at the student center Info Desk. Lunch will be provided.

### October 12th

Come out to the Student Center Rec Room and play for FREE! Sponsored by Campus Activities Board.

Cultural Series sponsors Movie Series - "Primer" will be shown at noon and 8pm in the Student Center Theater.

### October 13th

SPSU Career and Counseling sponsors "Extreme Makeover: Creating a Marketable Resume" at 12pm and 5pm in the Student Center, room 215.

CAB sponsors "Joe and Lefty" spray can art at noon.

### October 17th

SPSU Career and Counseling sponsors "The Amazing Race: Navigating The Job Search!" at 12pm and 5pm in the Student Center, room 215.

RSVP begins for a Wine Tasting class that will be held in the Student Center Ballroom on November 7th at 6pm. An Instructor from the Atlanta Wine School will be providing information.

### October 21st

CAB presents Poker Night! Texas hold 'em style. 8pm in the Community Center.

### October 24-28

Greek Week at SPSU!

### October 25th

American Red Cross will hold its second Blood Drive in the Student Center Ballroom from 11am-4pm. Refreshments will be provided.

CAB presents a lecture on "Sex Signals". No time or location has been given yet, please look for future advertising.

SGA meeting at noon in the Library Rotunda. All students are welcome.

### October 26th

Cultural Series sponsors Movie Series - "Crash" will be shown at noon and 8pm in the Student Center Theater.

SPSU Career and Counseling sponsors "Survivor: Conquering a Career Fair" at 12pm in the Student Center Ballroom.

### October 27th

SPSU Career and Counseling sponsors "King of the Hill: Mastering Your First Interview" at noon and 5pm in the Student Center, room 215.

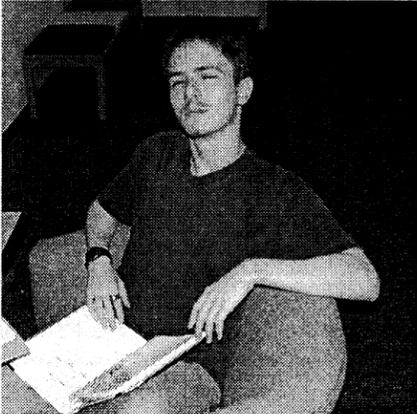
## Money for College

The army is currently offering sizeable bonuses of up to \$20,000. In addition to the cash bonuses, you may qualify for up to \$70,000 for college through the Montgomery GI Bill and Army College Fund. Or you could pay back up to \$65,000 or qualifying student loans through the Army's Loan Repayment Program. To find out more, call:

**(770) 436-0560**

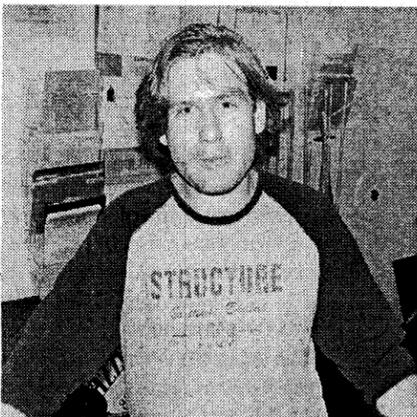
## Student question

# What would the student question be if you were in charge of the student question?

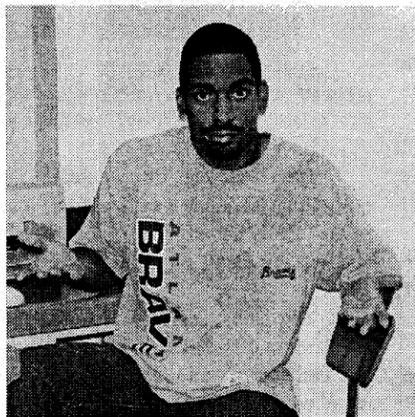


“Why is there a student question?”  
- James Montgomery

“How many people actually eat in the cafeteria?”  
- Carrieann MacArthur

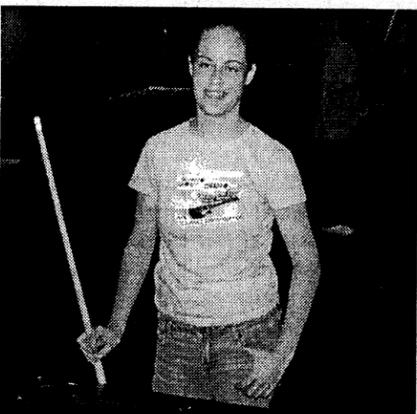
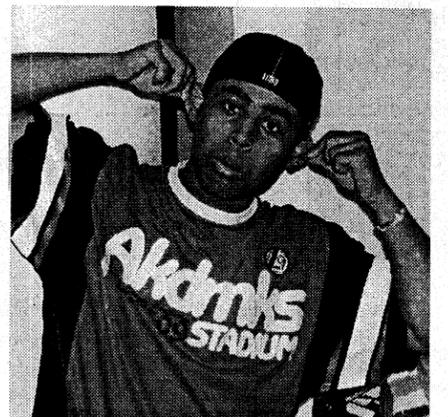


“What’s more important in this country, freedom or security?”  
- Andrew Block



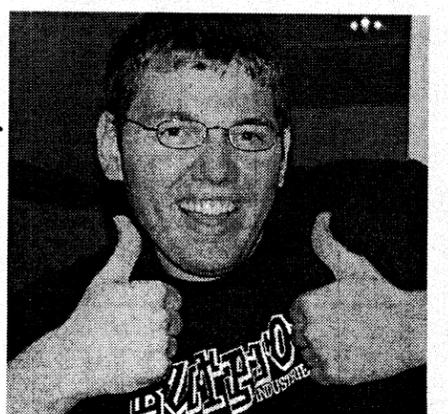
“If the president of Kennesaw State University started at the same time as Rossbacher, why is it that Kennesaw State has nearly 20,000 students and we just have 4,000?”  
- Odysseus Ward

“Why are you here? Don’t you have class?”  
- Sean Olatayo



“How do you feel that you could improve the school?”  
- Stephanie Becker

“What would the student question be if you were in charge of...oh.”  
- CJ Shrader  
The guy in charge of the student question



All pictures taken by CJ Shrader. Except for the picture of CJ Shrader, which is very concealed to have in the student question. That was taken by Jessica Carter.

## From The Sting archives...

A new feature where we reprint articles from very old issues of The Sting!

### The story behind the bell tower

**Ed Hardy**  
Published: September 26, 1988

When the Library addition was designed several years ago, included as part of it was a bell tower, or carillon. Almost a year after the Library addition opened, the carillon had its bell installed and began chiming the hours. Samuel J. Baker, Assistant to President Cheshier, was interviewed on this subject.

“The bell tower was designed by the architects who did the building: Sizemore and Floyd,” he said. “Specifically the architect was Mike Sizemore. They designed the Library and, in fact, have designed the new Student Center which is go-

ing under construction next year.” As for the way the carillon looks, Mr. Baker said, “I’m not real thrilled about the design of the tower itself, but we hired an architect and we relied on the architect’s design. The architect’s point was that we are a technological college; we are not an Ivy League college and he wanted to make a statement with the tower that he felt was consistent with our mission. And that’s why it looks the way it looks.”

When asked why a clock wasn’t included in the design, Mr. Baker said, “Mr. Sizemore designed that tower, and nobody was going to change Mr. Sizemore’s idea about what that tower ought to look like.

And basically, we just had to rely on the architect, and the clock was not a part of the architect’s concept for the tower. We would not have been opposed to a clock, but since we hired the architects to do the design, we felt like we ought to rely on their judgment and their opinions.”

When asked where the money for the carillon came from, he said, “It just came from the building project itself. It seems to me it was about four million for the whole project.” And he went on to say that the money was state funds.

Talking about the medley of songs the carillon plays, Mr. Baker said, “They’ve got about 12 types over there. There’s a variety of

music over there. There’s patriotic music, there’s Christmas music. We turned the tapes over to the Library, and we’ve let them make the decision about when they were going to play music and what they were going to play. I don’t know why he’s [Dr. John Pattillo, Director of the Library] chosen to play it at 15 minutes of the hour.

“There are no immediate plans to add more bells to the tower. I wouldn’t be surprised that over the next 20 years something like that doesn’t happen, but there are no immediate plans to do that. Most colleges try, once they start with the basic bells, try to add bells over the years until they get a complete

carillon.

“The objective for the bells,” he concluded, “was to try and get a more collegiate atmosphere on campus. When you talk about image, one of the problems that Southern Tech has always had has been creating or having the image of a legitimate college. And that was one of the President’s concerns. One of the reasons he wanted the bells was he felt like that having the bells would add a touch of collegiality to the campus. And it’s been interesting to me that everybody has not viewed it [the carillon] that way.”