

## Organization

Ever wondered what our dance team was up to? Well, here's everything you could possibly want to know, all in one convenient article! **Page 7**



# The Sting

www.thesting.org

## Thanksgiving!

The Histories that Matter this issue covers everything you wanted to know about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the date of Thanksgiving! **Page 6**



November 21, 2005

Are we even trying anymore?

Volume 60, Issue 5

# A new way of calculating GPA

## The new policy should help increase many students' GPAs at SPSU

**Cristina Wilson**  
Staff Writer

Southern Polytechnic State University has recently approved a new policy that will increase the Grade Point Average (GPA) of most students on campus. On November 3, 2005 Steve Hamrick, Registrar, sent a mass e-mail to all students informing them of the change in GPA calculation. In calculating a student's GPA, the institution will now only recognize the most recent attempt at a class.

For example, if a freshman student takes Math 1113 (Precalculus) and receives a grade of F, and upon completion of repeating that course receives a grade of A, the most recent grade (A) will replace any previous attempts. So the A replaces the F in that student's GPA. For many students, this change in calculation has greatly increased their institutional GPA.

However, in the process of the computer switching over so many courses, many students have noticed a few bugs in the system. Syl Turner, a senior Computer Science major, noticed on his transcript that a course he repeated was counting twice. The most recent attempt was not replacing the previous one.

Registrar Steve Hamrick admits that they have encountered a few problems in the switch-over, but the bug doesn't seem to apply to any particular group of students or classes. Hamrick suggests that each student review his or her own

transcript to ensure no mistakes have been made. For the student example above, the grade of F in Math 1113 should have the letter E (for exclude) next to it, and the grade of A in the repeated course should have the let-

ter I (for include) next to it. Even though the student voluntarily repeated this course, in calculating their GPA, the university now only recognizes the last STS course that student completed, even if the second grade was lower than

GPA of 3.0 throughout college. It provides tuition and book funds. If a student was borderline with a 2.95 and this new change of calculation pushed him over the 3.0 requirement for HOPE, this student still does not

dependent and the university as a whole. He believes that a student who has repeated a course and passed has proven that he or she obtained the knowledge required by the professor, no matter how many times they completed the course. Hamrick states that a student should not be punished for a poor grade once they have proved that they can achieve a higher score.

Many students and faculty are concerned that the new calculation of GPA will have a negative effect on the credibility of SPSU. Hamrick says that the ability to repeat courses and improve a student's GPA will not only encourage more students to try again, it will also provide a more qualified student to the work force. The admissions office is currently working on contacting previous students at SPSU who may have dropped their classes for one reason or another to notify them of this new policy. Hamrick hopes that SPSU will see an increase of students as a result of the new calculation of GPA.

New policies have also been implemented with regards to withdrawing from a class. A student who misses the withdrawal date can contact his or her teacher and set up a new date, providing the student with more time to determine whether or not they would like to stay in a class. This new policy, coupled with the new calculation of GPA, should also lower the number of W's (for Withdrawals) that our institution sees.

| Spring 2004                          |        |                  |                                |               |              |                |                     |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Major:                               |        | Computer Science |                                |               |              |                |                     |
| Academic Standing:                   |        | Good Standing 1  |                                |               |              |                |                     |
| Additional Standing:                 |        | Dean's List      |                                |               |              |                |                     |
| Subject                              | Course | Level            | Title                          | Grade         | Credit Hours | Quality Points | Start and End Dates |
| CS                                   | 1002   | US               | Intro to Computing Disciplines | A             | 2.000        | 8.00           |                     |
| IT                                   | 4223   | US               | Web Development                | A             | 3.000        | 12.00          |                     |
| MATH                                 | 2253   | US               | Calculus I                     | B             | 4.000        | 12.00          |                     |
| MATH                                 | 2345   | US               | Discrete Mathematics           | B             | 3.000        | 9.00           |                     |
| TCOM                                 | 2010   | US               | Technical Writing              | A             | 3.000        | 12.00          |                     |
| Term Totals (Undergraduate-Semester) |        |                  |                                |               |              |                |                     |
|                                      |        |                  |                                | Attempt Hours | Passed Hours | Earned Hours   | GPA Hours           |
| Current Term:                        |        |                  |                                | 15.000        | 15.000       | 15.000         | 15.000              |
| Cumulative:                          |        |                  |                                | 70.000        | 62.000       | 62.000         | 62.000              |
|                                      |        |                  |                                |               |              | Quality Points | GPA                 |
| Current Term:                        |        |                  |                                |               |              | 53.00          | 3.53                |
| Cumulative:                          |        |                  |                                |               |              | 207.00         | 3.33                |

Screenshot

If a student retakes a class, an I is placed next to the new grade to signify that it is the grade being included. The old grade gets an E for exclude.

ter I (for include) next to it.

Other problems encountered with the change in calculation stem from atypical classes. STS 2400, Science, Technology, & Society, is a class that is required by the university. A variety of subjects is offered for this class, such as Vietnam Era, Human Technology, and Space Travel, but each class is still labeled as STS 2400. Students may have repeated this course for their own enjoyment or knowledge, but whatever the reason, the student has paid for the course and has completed the

the first.

The only repeated courses that this new change in calculation does not cover are those which were failed due to academic dishonesty. If a student fails a class due to academic dishonesty, and repeats the course making a passing grade, both grades will be calculated in their GPA.

Many students have been confused as to the change of GPA and it's correlation with HOPE. The HOPE scholarship is offered to those students who maintain a

receive HOPE. HOPE calculates a student's GPA for every course he or she has attempted throughout their college career. HOPE also includes grades that have been transferred from another school. Therefore, the student's HOPE GPA will be different from their institutional GPA.

SPSU is not the first school to implement this "grade forgiveness" policy. Larger schools such as GA Tech and MIT are also using this system. Hamrick states that the faculty decided to make this change in calculation to benefit both the stu-

enjoying friendship and refreshments provided by the Campus Activities Board.

Southern Polytechnic's Cheerleading Squad, consisting of twelve females and two males, opened the rally with enthusiastic cries of motivation. They gave out dozens of neon green shirts with "THE NEST" printed on the back to team members and students who stopped by for the event. Students walking to and from classes were stopped by the Cheerleading Squad, who encouraged everyone to join in the festivities. The group continued to cheer throughout the rally, performing a rousing routine to "Up all night, sleep all day." The

Cheerleading Squad is enjoying its second year at SPSU, and plans to perform at least at every home game.

Joining SPSU's Cheerleading Squad was the Hornet's Dance Team, beginning their third year at SPSU. The girls impressed the crowd with an energetic hip hop/jazz routine, and accompanied the cheerleaders in applauding the members of the men and women's basketball teams. This year, the team has found new leadership with Coach Nancy Jacobs, and they have already proven their talent with the awards won this past summer. The Hornet's Dance Team will perform during all home games, and have

been intensely practicing many short routines to coincide with music from the band.

The Southern Polytechnic Band, led by Director Beth Farber, is steadily growing in numbers, and in 3 short years has almost tripled in size. The Band consists of woodwinds, brass, percussion, and guitar, but all instruments are welcome in the Pep Band. The Pep Band performs at all Basketball Home games and other related functions on campus. Many members of the Pep Band also participate in the Jazz Band and Concert Band.

At the Pep Rally, the Band played many short songs to excite the crowd, including "You Really

Got Me" and concluded the event with "Twist and Shout" while students were leaving the area. The Band stayed on after the Pep Rally was over and continued playing for the students and faculty still lingering around the Globe.

Both the Women's and Men's Basketball Teams were introduced to outstanding applause by their new coaches, Coach Teymer, and Coach Jones, respectively. This year looks very promising for each team, and the university as a whole plans to be there to support all of its athletes. A complete schedule for both the men's and women's teams can be found at the Basketball Webpage through www.spsu.edu.

# Pep rally held to celebrate upcoming basketball season

**Cristina Wilson**  
Staff Writer

School spirit can occasionally be hard to come by at Southern Polytechnic State University, but basketball season is the time of year when students and staff combine forces to create a powerful support system. Last week's Pep Rally in front of the Student Center gave a palpable sense of fraternity to the athletes preparing for the upcoming season. Cheerleaders, Dancers, and Band members joined around the globe at noon on Tuesday, November 1st with a crowd of students, faculty, and administration to meet the new coaches and teams while

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### The mobile classroom!

It's been around for a while, but do you know what it's used for? Did you even know it existed? **Page 2**



### Crappy comic

Everyone loves Crappy comic. Read the fifth in this long line of high class comicstry! If you hurry, you might also get to see the super-rare Even crappier comic. You didn't even think it could get worse, did you? **Back page**

### The mysteries of Spiraldo are complete

Finally, read the thrilling conclusion to Eric John's three part series on how Where's Waldo can change your life forever. **Page 4**

# The Sting

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CJ Shrader, Editor-in-Chief  
Doug Lacher, Web Manager  
Syl Turner, Layout Manager

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Dave Bachtel          | Twila McConnell |
| Christiaan Funkhouser | Rultz Raymond   |
| Eric John             | Nainah Shaw     |
| Julian Joseph         | CJ Siffert      |
| Julia Kofron          | Sera Turgut     |
| Korey Kolberg         | Cristina Wilson |

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#### ORGANIZATIONS

Articles written by organizations to inform the campus of activities and events are welcome. Articles must be submitted in electronic format (e-mail, disk) by the deadline printed below. 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.

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Deadline for the next issue is **Thursday, December 1 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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## The mobile classroom

CJ Shrader  
Editor-in-Chief

The so-called "mobile classroom." We've all seen it. It sits out in the same lot all day, occasionally switching positions or turning around, but always in the same lot. I always wondered if the mobile classroom was ever used and, if so, what it was used for. So I set out to find any information I could on the mobile classroom.

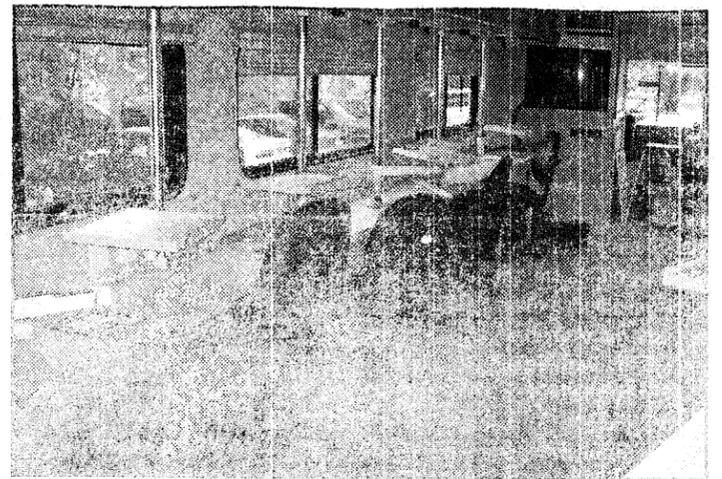
The mobile classroom was purchased in 1996 by the Center for Instructional Technology. Though this number has not been confirmed, Dawn Ramsey, Dean of Extended University, believes that the mobile classroom cost upwards of \$600,000. Most of the funds for the mobile classroom came from grants.

When originally purchased, the mobile classroom had 10 workstations with Apple computers at them. These computers were removable, and any lab equipment could be put in their place. The purpose of the classroom was to do labs and demonstrations for classes meeting in alternate locations that would need specialized equipment. It was also meant to be used for demos at various high schools.

Briefly, the mobile classroom was used as an extra classroom for Continuing Education.

However, the mobile classroom wasn't getting much use in its earlier days so, in 1998, it was adopted by Extended University.

"The first couple of years we had it we used it fairly frequently



The mobile classroom is fully equipped to handle most any lab

to do computer training," says Dean Ramsey.

Extended University took the mobile classroom all over Georgia, and even took it as far as Alabama and South Carolina, for computer training at various company sites.

In late 1999 or early 2000, Extended University put PC's instead of Apples on the mobile classroom, since most businesses weren't using Apples. In late 2003 laptops were purchased and are now used on the mobile classroom.

Many students have wondered why the mobile classroom isn't used to transport students to events off campus. The reasoning is simple, and that is that the mobile classroom can't hold more than two people (a driver and a passenger) while in motion.

Lately, Dean Ramsey has considered other uses for the mobile classroom.

"Most recently we've been

talking about ways we can use it to recruit students," says Dean Ramsey, "Taking it to companies and doing orientations in it at particular company sites or even in communities."

The mobile classroom has already been taken to various corporations and high schools in an attempt to boost recruitment. For the past two or three years, it's even been set up at the Government Technology Conference and showcased. Ramsey believes its use as a marketing tool will grow in the future.

"It's a conversation piece. When it pulls up, you know SPSU is there, and people are always curious to then see what's inside," says Dean Ramsey.

Of course, Dean Ramsey is also always open to other ideas on how to use the mobile classroom.



Photos by CJ Shrader / The Sting

## Getting to know SGA's new VP

A.L. Johnson  
Staff Writer

Southern Polytechnic State University lost one of its most important assets on October 25, 2005 as Vice President Christina Diamond of the Student Government Association (SGA) resigned. Christina has moved on to other things in her life and she felt that with her schedule, it was most important to focus on her purpose for being here at SPSU: her education. Sometimes being a leader means knowing when to step down and Christina has shown yet again her great leadership skills by stepping to the side and allowing someone else to take her impressive place.

Charles (CJ) Lakes was appointed and voted into Christina's position on the same day as her resignation. I sat down with CJ to get his perspective on his new position.

AL: Congratulations! So

what are your goals as the new VP?

CJ: Well this semester is almost over so I'm going to take this time to learn my position so I can do my best next semester.

AL: What are some specific changes that you would like to see happen on SGA and throughout campus?

CJ: I would like to restructure SGA because some people don't know their roles. I'd like to get everyone involved and better connected. Also, I'd like to make sure that all organizations are active through the Liaison program.

AL: What are three things that you feel the student body should know about SGA?

CJ: They should know who is on the executive board and who is on what committee. All organizations should know who to approach about their issues, how, and what documents to bring. Finally, all students should know that even though

we are on SGA, we are still students and approachable, and the decisions we make affect us also.

AL: With Marvin Broaddus (current SGA president) graduating in the spring, who do you think would be a good replacement? Are you thinking about the job?

CJ: I don't know because so many others are capable and qualify, but there are other issues, like scheduling, and they may not be able to dedicate the time. As far as nominating myself, I can't really say that I'm more qualified but I do meet the requirements.

AL: What's your favorite quote?

CJ: "I was never taught, I learned from stupid people."

CJ went on to say that he is a hands-on kind of guy rather than a theory buff, and that's one of the reasons he chose SPSU. As a freshman Software Engineering major, I think it's safe to say he will get plenty of hands on experience!

Letter to the editor

## Response to Sororities are lame

Collaboration  
New Sorority Members

To be fair, I was going to start this off respectfully, but after reviewing your article again, Twila, I've decided that respect is only warranted where it is first given. So, let me jump right in and get started.

First of all, whatever we put on our doors is our business, not yours. If it's such an eye sore, don't look. That's why God gave us eyelids. Our decorations are in no way infringing on you. They are on our doors, plain and simple. We have every right to put them there. The posters and butterflies are our sororities' ways of welcoming us into our sisterhoods, and our way of letting the world know how proud we are of our organizations. We are sorry that you have no concept of pride.

Second, there are many things that we could have said about your door, Twila. I could have easily complained about your sign which says "We aren't antisocial, we just don't give a shit." I mean, after all, if you want to get technical,

your door has vulgar language on it, which could be considered offensive, not to mention the fact that it tells us what kind of person is behind the door. We could have complained about the mass of cobwebs and spiders you put on your door, but we didn't. Why would we? It's your door; you can do what you want with it. Wow, what a concept.

As to the Alpha Xi Delta Loves Gamma Phi Beta signs, that's one organization telling the other that it cares. It's our attempt to extend the hand of friendship between two groups, and trying to get to know others better. But, I guess the person with the antisocial sign wouldn't grasp that either.

What really is most disturbing to us about your article is the fact that, if you had a problem with us, why not come directly to us? We are literally a few steps away from you. Were you afraid to approach us, or was it simply that you realized that you didn't actually have anything of substance to "complain" about? "My neighbors have cutesy door decorations,

waahhh!"

So, why did we write this instead of coming to you? Because you didn't show us that courtesy to begin with. So, Twila, while we are our working hard on our philanthropy projects and growing closer to our sisters, we hope you enjoy sitting alone behind your closed door, listening to your emo music.

Oh, and as a side note, if you are going to be a "reporter" you need to get your facts straight, as all good reporters do. Alpha Xi Delta has not marked on any TKE car windows. Since you are paying such close reporter-like attention, get your sororities straight. That was Gamma Phi Beta. We thought that being a reporter meant actually working to uncover the facts, but you could've surely fooled us. We wish you would do something more worthwhile than clutter the newspaper with silly antisocial articles. We feel like we are back in high school. Alpha Xi Delta and Gamma Phi Beta love you Twila!

## What leadership really means

Naimah Shaw  
Staff Writer

Peter Drucker said, "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." Anyone who has taken any sort of management course would have heard of this man. I stumbled across this quote and after pondering over it a long time, and sending it out to some of my "leader" buddies, I decided to write about it.

As a member of quite a few prominent organizations on campus, it often gnaws away at my nerves when the very persons charged with leadership positions do not do the right things. Sure, every single one of us will have personal interests which will arouse conflicts when making different decisions but the question should always be, "will this only benefit me or will it really benefit my organization and ultimately the school at large?"

Too often, our student-leaders

forget to ask this question and get carried away in the wave of power bestowed upon them with that title "President of -----." What is even more annoying is that some of these poor decisions are made within the presence of our esteemed "faculty advisors" who sit back and see them made and go off knowing it might not be the best decision but choose not to question it. So there is a hapless repetitive cycle of two-fold mediocrity: our advisors who don't advise the way they ought to and our presidents (of various organizations) who care more about their personal interests than that of the organization and school.

Another quote that struck a nerve was this one by Robert Half, "Delegating work works, provided the one delegating works, too." After having explained how I felt in the first paragraph, I feel it fit to go on and say that this quote could not have been truer. Most students given the title of president here at SPSU find it nice to note this on

their resume but hardly give any of their time. Rather, in order to get things done, they simply call up the members and delegate out tasks.

That's all good and well, because you're supposed to delegate out responsibilities but like Robert Half said, it only works when the person delegating is working also! You can't sit on your laurels and simply make phone calls and expect people to constantly do your work for you. I'd honestly like to know what some of our "Presidents" do because quite frankly from the looks of it, the answer is nothing.

They have their Vice-Presidents and Secretaries bearing the brunt of the work while they sit back, relax and enjoy adding it to their resume. I say this not as an assumption but because I have heard this verbatim from the mouths of some of our "presidents" on campus. Sure, co-curricular activities look good on our resumes but let there be some other compelling reason for doing what you do!

## I was ripped off!

Naimah Shaw  
Staff Writer

I recently signed up for classes for Spring 2006. One of the classes, which is a "Major Requirement" for the BSIT degree program, is only being offered online. Obviously, I need it to graduate, so despite the fact that I do not like online classes, I had to sign up for it.

That's not why I feel ripped off, not because a major degree requirement is only being offered online. I feel ripped off because I now have to pay an additional \$360 next semester simply because of

this class. This charge falls under the category of "Distance Learning-Undergrad".

I think that whole scenario is appalling, now not only do I have to worry about buying books and paying \$1500+ in tuition but there is that extra \$360.

What is annoying to me is that this was not my choice but SPSU provided me with NO OTHER OPTION. It's not as though there was an on-campus section for this class but I opted to do it online. There was no choice! It wasn't MY choice to do it online; that was the only option given to me- so why should I

pay more for something that would have otherwise not incurred this expense??

So now in addition to the "Health, Activities, Recreation and Athletic FEES"- all of which I pay for but have no idea why, I now have to pay \$360 for "Distance Learning."

I hope someone can respond to this article so that I can at least know why I'm paying this extra money...nothing logical would justify it in my mind but hey, it'd be nice to know anyway!

## Why television sucks

Syl Turner  
Layout Manager

The recent cancellation of the brilliant, original, hilarious show Arrested Development got me thinking... why does television suck? Arrested Development was a ray of sunshine in the dark void of TV. They've won countless awards, including 6 Emmys. How could such a great show get cut off so easily?

Only 4 million viewers tuned in last Monday. Arrested Development appears to have a large, loyal fan base. However, the ratings have been extremely low. Why aren't the fans watching their favorite show? Nobody knows when it's on! Fox's marketing for the show was just plain awful. I'm a huge fan of the show and I didn't realize that the third season was coming on until I saw a commercial... the day before! I didn't realize that they were showing two episodes last week until I saw a commercial... the day before! As a fan, and a viewer of Fox, I SHOULD KNOW THESE THINGS!!! Since Fox didn't know how to market the show, they decided it'd be best to just cut it off.

Let's take a look at a couple of original comedies over at NBC for a moment. My Name is Earl is the most popular new comedy of the season. That's all due to

Perhaps NBC has faith in original programming after all...

A side note, while looking up the ratings for this article, I saw ads on nearly every website for My Name is Earl and The Office. What is that called? Oh yeah, that's right... MARKETING!!! Fox should take a few pointers from NBC on that one...

So we have two original comedies on one network with decent ratings and one original comedy on another, in its third season, with crappy ratings. Is it the show's fault that an audience doesn't know when it's on? That's the way Fox sees it.

I guess I haven't answered my own question yet: Why does television suck? I came to this answer: Networks fear innovation.

Innovation-phobia is the reason why shows like Yes, Dear have been picked up for a sixth season. Sticking with conventional sitcom standards have worked for years, so why bother changing it? Sitcoms need laugh tracks and simple plots. Comedy audiences are too stupid to follow a story to a comedy that spans multiple episodes. At least, that's what I hear when shows like Arrested Development get cancelled.

I'm proud of NBC for the first time in years. They've produced two great shows and haven't cancelled them, or worse, thrown a laugh track on them yet. After



This really is one of the funniest shows on television, and we're losing it because people aren't watching it. So get to it and watch it!

marketing. I saw millions of commercials, print ads, and annoying pop-ups for the show. I don't even watch NBC and I knew the premise of the show and what time it comes on. All that advertising peaked my interest in the show, as well.

The Office is another show on NBC, now in its second season. The first season, which was only six episodes long, averaged 5 million viewers a week. The second season's ratings have been better, with 8 million, but not great compared to My Name is Earl (averaging 13 million a week). So what has NBC done to The Office for pulling in weak numbers? They bought more episodes! They originally had 6 episodes scheduled, but now they have 16 for the season! That's a pretty significant jump!

reshaping the same premise for a sitcom, "a bunch of people who are friends," all the way back to Cheers, it's good to see some refreshing comedy on TV.

I feel that shows like My Name is Earl and The Office are going to gain even more of an audience, causing sitcoms to rise again. Rumors on the Web say that other networks have expressed interest in picking up Arrested Development. I certainly hope that's true. If that happens, perhaps the new network will know how to market the show and make it a huge success.

I just can't wait to see the look on Fox's face when they say, "I've made a huge mistake."

## Where's Spiraldo? A spiritual journey - part three

Eric John  
Staff Writer

Salutations my Spiraldo brethren! I bring you to our wrap-up, where I add a few more thoughts to your journey with Waldo, and then leave you to your own devices to finish your journey. If this is your first look into the spirituality of Where's Waldo, you might wish to read the two parts before this one, which can be found online at [www.thesting.org](http://www.thesting.org). So shall we jump right in then?

As we covered last time, we took a look at how Waldo just left his travelling gear in various spots along his journey. Now, to the average person, losing all of your travelling possessions would be quite a painful ordeal. Just think of how angry you would (or have) become if an airline company lost all your luggage when you arrived in a new country where you knew nobody.

But look at our friend Waldo, who is a picture of pure calm serenity. Now, last time I talked of the usefulness of this tactic, but now I have another idea for you eager learners. Perhaps this gradual losing of objects is like the shedding of old and useless skin, revealing below it a new layer, a new life.

In the first images of Waldo we see, we find him almost weighted down by his possessions. Yet, when we see him at the end, freed

of them, he seems just as pleased. Perhaps he is even more pleased, now that he was rid himself of these useless possessions, and lives his life by whatever is given him. Becoming an adventurer off on an adventure. Much like he told us he was going to do in the beginning. Think of those objects as merely confining his life, holding him back, keeping him tethered to the world of material possessions. However, once he shed his skin of

posefully lose not just their belongings, but the necessities of life? Because they are learning to love not by what they possess, but by what the world gives them. Like a nomadic traveler, he has learned to live off what is around him, trusting that he will not be led incorrectly. Well, one would imagine to do that would be foolish at best, and suicide elsewhere. Yet here we see Waldo is just as fit and healthy as he was at the beginning, sporting

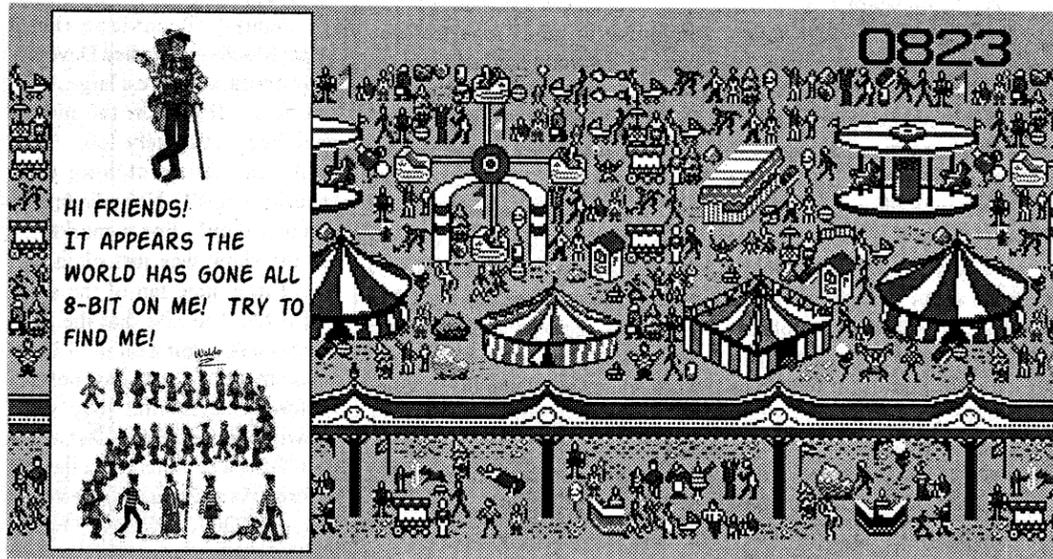
money, or possessions, or places, or anything of that sort and just live life for the purpose of living and learning. So now, we find that Waldo has removed his dependency upon owned objects and also has learned to survive off his reliance upon the world. Yet somehow in that seemingly uncertain, temporal state, he has achieved some Zen of mind and body. He has connected fully to the Spiraldo, and exists not just as man, but as soul and

other friends, other followers of Waldo. These people are ones you can look to for help when you are lost in strange areas, or just don't know where to go next. They are actively seeking Waldo wherever he goes.

In the scenes we find these people, often youthful people, searching for Waldo right along with us, and usually they are on the right path. Finding one of them is an encouragement to you, because it means that Waldo must be close, or that you know you are not alone in your search.

The other interesting characteristic about these followers is you slowly notice that they are looking more and more like Waldo. Dressing with the same hat, similar colors, but still retaining their own individuality. So these followers are perhaps just developing in the Spiraldo, and find themselves drawn towards being more like Waldo, the physical embodiment. It's like the idea of trying to achieve perfection. If you see success, you attempt to mimic it in hopes that it is successful for you.

Well my friends, so concludes my three part series on Waldo. Now it is up to you to venture forward and seek after Waldo. I hope you come to know the Spiraldo deeply and you join your own experiences with the collective soul of the Spiraldo. Keep on looking.



necessities, he was at the mercy of the Spiraldo to lead him and he was free of the material world.

What would cause someone to want this, you might wonder. Why would someone try to pur-

just as happy a demeanor as before. Now he's living off whatever life gives him and he is still happy and, more importantly, still living. Isn't that something we all wish we could do? To not worry about

spirit too.

There is another thing I have left to show you about Spiraldo before I close. Past Waldo, you find something else everywhere you travel with our friend. You find

## Jarhead Review

Korey Kolberg  
Staff Writer

This movie is based upon the former Marine Anthony Swofford's book about his pre-Desert Storm experiences. Sam Mendes, director of American Beauty and Road to Perdition, is the director of this new movie.

At first glance this movie appears to be one of two things, either the typical war movie or your run of the mill anti-war film. However, it is not really either. It is more of the drama type, focusing on the psychological troubles of one soldier named Swofford, who is played by Jake Gyllenhaal.

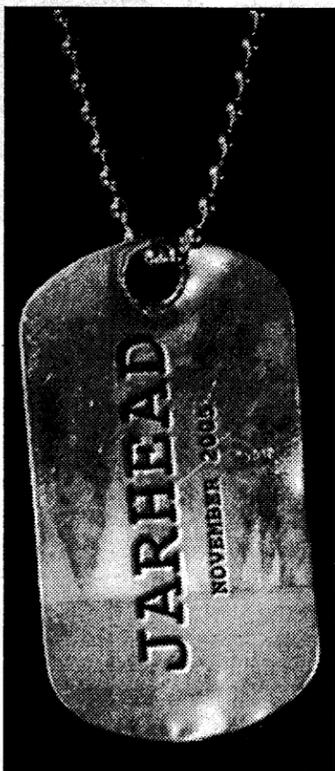
The movie takes us through boot camp, where he meets up with his Staff Sergeant Sykes. Jamie Foxx gives a grand portrayal of Sykes. Many people can see things reminiscent of Full Metal Jacket, the good parts anyway, in Swofford's boot camp days.

As the movie progresses, you get to see into the workings of these soldiers' minds as they struggle with the job they have been given. One begins to see some of the pain that they must go through while overseas. Is my wife/girlfriend being loyal? How is my child? Add these thoughts to the troubles of this modern war, and it is no wonder the soldiers in the movie go a little crazy.

These troubles are what makes this more of a drama than war, mainly because of the lack of the latter. They were trained

to do a certain job, to kill, but find themselves unable to do so. Instead they must help with the burning oil fields and look upon the destruction left behind as air power shows its true might.

If you are expecting a pure war or anti-war film this is not for you. However, if you want to see how one group of soldiers handled being at war, mixed with a little real world comedy, this movie would be great for you.



Courtesy of sorenz.dk  
Who names their kid "Jarhead?" mean COME ON!

## High-fives: The truth

Eric John  
Staff Writer

As I walk across campus, trudging from class to mind-numbing class, I often rarely bother to look up and see the people I'm passing by on my lonely campus trek. But then, out from nowhere, I hear some shout my name. The voice echoes across the empty walkway, and my mind is broken from its boring recollections of homework and tests yet to come.

What replaces that void? Why, not only have I been recognized, but here comes this person, charging across the path, with one arm outstretched, their hand driving forward with a purpose. This, my friends, is the beginnings of a high five. Quickly I react, springing my limp arm into a readied position, bracing for the impact. And then it occurs. The high five. Perhaps man's best form of greeting.

What is it that makes this simple action so amazing, you might ask? Well, consider the alternatives. You could go for the boring head-nod, where you acknowledge the other person's existence, and then go on with your life. Or maybe you prefer the quick one-liner, where you manage to say one thing before you pass by, and if it's a question, you'll never get an answer.

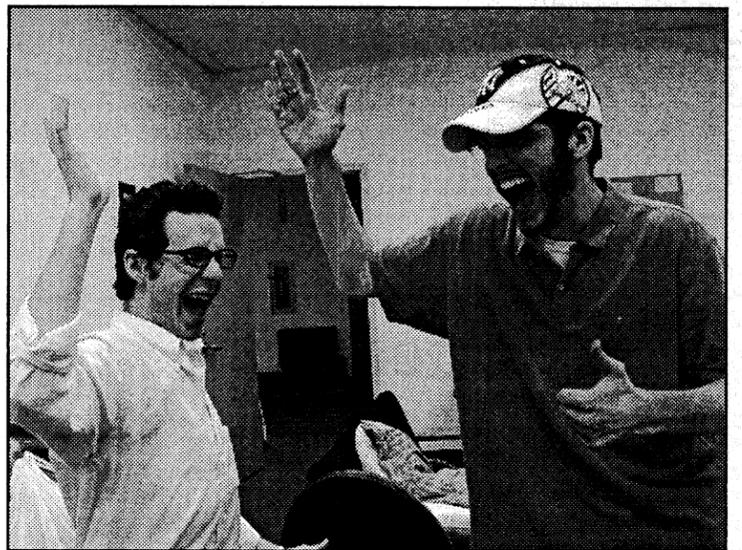
But now look at the high five. The high five adds a new aspect to the boring pass-by. A quick high

five tells the other person "Dude, you rock. You rock enough that I moved my arm to greet you, even if we're both headed off to suffer in classes. That's how cool you are." No nod can accomplish that, or a measly "hello," but the high five does all that, and more.

Take a moment to think about what the high five does for you. First, it breaks you from your boredom, the controlling domination

energy, one that will carry you on into the next class. Third, it leaves you feeling good. The high five is like a dose of energy and happiness that's not regulated by the FDA. And with three reasons, how could you ever NOT want to high five someone?

So what's the moral of this story? High five your friends, and remind them that you care. Because who knows, perhaps you might be



From The Sting Archives

Giving high-fives ROCKS!!!!

of a full day of classes, which you know even if they might be good classes, you'd much rather be sleeping or eating free food. The high five snaps you out of that mindset, and reminds you that you're still alive. Second, the high five, and the friend (or someone you know), has given you a refreshing burst of

wandering across campus, drowning in your misery, and one of your friends might just happen across you and give you a high five. Remember, high fives are like the gift that keeps on giving, it never gets stale or moldy, and it matches every outfit. So please, spread the high five.

## Japan randomness

Sera Turgut  
Staff Writer

**Want double eyelids? Yes, you heard me correctly.**

"This water-solvent "glue" allows you to create the effect that you have them. Extremely popular in Japan." *Price: \$3.50*

**Miniature samurai sword? Of course!**

A "dos" sword measuring at 13 inches. "The spring loaded action returns the blade back to its normal position and comes with a wonderful case decorated with a dragon for you to display." *Price: \$5.00*



**Do you like to see cute little animals in place of your fast-food burger and fries? Mmmm!**

"...Nyanko Burger, a fun Burger King parody... Each food item is lovingly prepared your way..." *Price: \$25.00*



**Do your knee-high socks seem to fall down continuously? Ever tried glue? No, seriously...**

Japanese girls are always wearing those knee-high, lose socks... how do they keep them up? With this special glue! Just dab some on your calf and you'll be free to do everything without your socks ever falling down! *Price: \$2.50*

**You mean now I can clean my ears while I'm traveling too?! Sweet!**

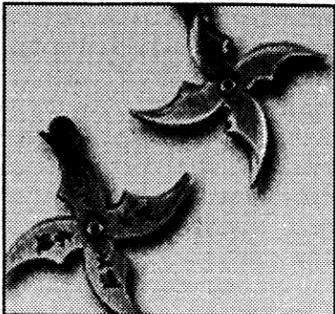
Why is it better than what we use? Because each is individually vacuum sealed in order to preserve its moistened tips. Perfect for when you're on vacation! *Price: \$3.00*



**Ninja "Shuriken" on the tip of your cell phone? You know, just in**

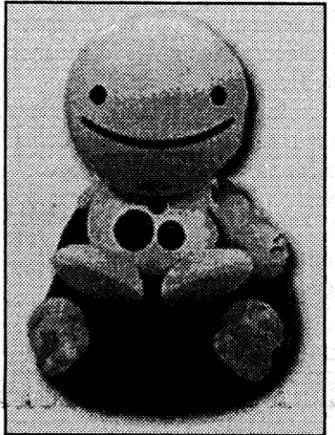
**case you need to become a deadly assassin on short notice.**

This is exactly what you think it is. A cell phone chain accessory that has a shuriken attached to it. How convenient! *Price: \$5.00*



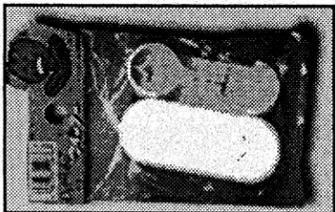
**I actually have one of these. I call it my "Prozac Baby." Yes, it has no purpose.**

This is a toy that sits on your desk or wherever and when it soaks up the sun via its solar-power strip it begins to sway its head from side to side. It can even hold your business cards, if you like. Comes in different colors. *Price: \$16.00*



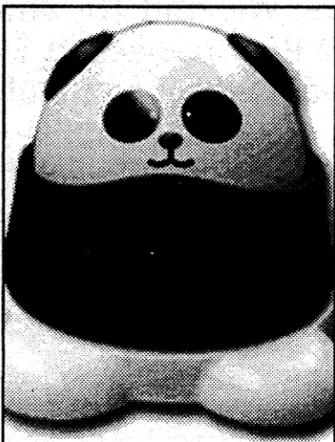
**A wiener cutter? What exactly does it do?? It cuts wieners...**

Apparently, Japan is known for their perfectly cut mini-wieners. I had no idea, but now you too can have your very own wiener cutter! Now that's perfection! *Price: \$2.50*



**A stapler without staples? How?**

It creates a paper stitch that can hold up to 4 pieces of paper together by using the paper itself to hold everything together. Yes, there are normal looking ones too, but a panda is so much cooler. *Price: \$16.00*



## Lunch room battles

Korey Kolberg  
Staff Writer

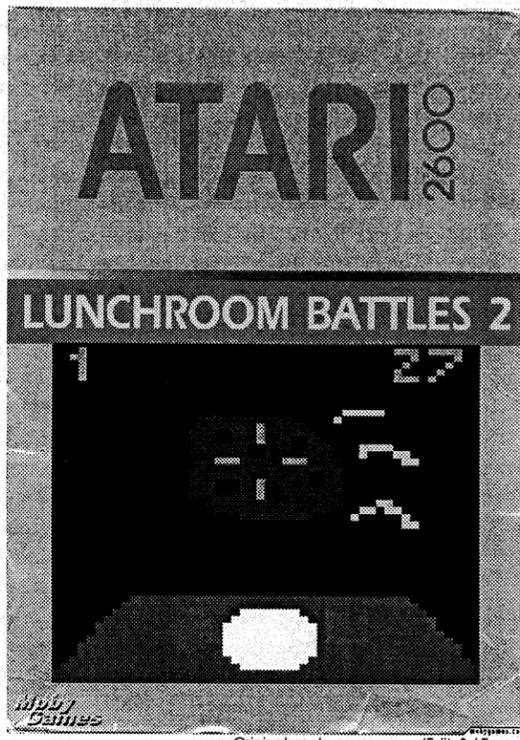
Here is an ancient fact of life, "When there is a highly desired commodity that is in short supply, great strives oftentimes ensue as different parties struggle to attain a portion of the inadequate quantity of so said item of desire." What does this mean? Well, let me weave a little tale to explain it more clearly....

The day was going normal; the lunch room was as it always was. Conversations and joking filled the air with a soft hum. Everything was going fine, until it happened. Someone threw their cookie across the table as they got up to leave. All six people watched as it seemed to move in slow motion, ever moving closer towards the center mark on the table.

Now let me explain what this mark means. It is the "free-game" or "free for all" marker. In this realm everything was fair game and no one had a claim to what landed there. Only the quickness of mind and swiftness of hand ruled here. Many a debate have been dealing with the specific rules of the mark, but today all that went to the waste

side as talk turned into real world action.

Time came to a stop, and eyes locked around the table. Evil glares moved and shifted as everyone studied their rivals. With each glance, new alliances were made and old ones broken.



Original: mobygames.com/Edit: Syl Turner  
"Now with more action! Only from Atari™!"

The time of action was drawing near, and everyone understood this. Two of the group formed a planned as their eyes met. One would make a rush for the cookie as the other protected the flanks.

The time flow snapped back

into flow, and the motion exploded at the table. With a battle cry on his lips, the noble fool dived forward. However, within moments his war cry became a scream of pain and shock as mashed potatoes splattered into his face and sides. The poor idiot had believed his friend would cover his rush forward. Everyone stared in disbelief at what had just conspired, everyone but one. He took this moment and grabbed the prize.

His friend stared up at him with a look of shock and innocence, asking why. Laughing, he ate the cookie and walked away from the table. As he left the lunch room he basked in his glory and the cheering that followed him. He was all that was man, and they knew it. He had outsmarted his foes and won the day....

See doesn't that make more sense now? No? How about this? "Just because you want something doesn't mean that no one else wants

it. You must be the best to get what you want, especially if it is rare." Fine, still don't understand, then just enjoy the fact you got to read a tale about people fighting over a cookie.

## As I Walk this Afternoon...

Sarah El-Helw  
Contributed

As I walk out the Southern Poly library,  
I see people who are filled with joy and merry,  
And I am truly filled with thoughts and feel,

The scare and fear of which school fills people with sometimes for real,  
As I walk the beautiful Poly campus,  
I take looks around that in which memories lasts,  
It is a fall afternoon,

And it is a scene that I might miss soon....  
Now, as I walk,  
I suddenly decide to stop all the talk,  
And I start to look at the fall,

The fall of all the leaves that were at once on trees tall....

Why indeed, does my supposed last semester have to be in the fall?!  
Does it signify the beginning of my failure,  
Or is it my first step to standing tall?  
Is it my first step to extreme pressure,  
Which one day leads to success?

As I walk this campus this afternoon,  
I hope that I take a break from walking it soon,  
And that I go become a success and return,  
Return, to the place in which I did my first college learn,

And pay back the place I began, the place that helped me begin my success.

## 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:

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Think you can do better than crappy comic?  
**The Sting needs comic artists too!**

## The Histories that Matter

## Thanksgiving - All about the Parade and the date

CJ Shrader  
Editor-in-Chief

I'll admit it. I almost copped out and just did a history of Thanksgiving. Pilgrims, Indians, and all that crap. But you guys deserve better, and so I have done better. As such, I present you with the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and of the very date of Thanksgiving.

**Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is an annual tradition in Manhattan. In case you don't already know, Macy's, a large department store, puts on a parade with floats, bands, and large animal-shaped balloons which runs from the American Museum of Natural History, through Broadway and Times Square, to the Macy's at Herald Square. The whole trip is approximately 2.5 miles.

The first Parade was held in 1924. This first parade had floats, bands, and even live animals from the Central Park Zoo. The parade did so well that Macy's decided to make it an annual event.

In 1927, the animals were replaced with the balloons that we now associate with the Parade. The first balloon was Felix the Cat, and it was filled with air.

Don't ask me how it floated, because I haven't been able to piece that together yet.

In 1928, helium balloons became the standard for the Parade. During this time, at the end of the Parade, they would release all of the large balloons into the sky. The first time they did this, the balloons popped high above New York's skyline. The following year, safety valves were installed so that the balloons could float for much longer periods of time in the sky. If a person found the balloons after they had deflated, you could win a prize by returning it to Macy's.

For the Disney fans, 1934 saw the first Mickey Mouse balloon.

The only time the Parade did not run was from 1942 to 1944 (During World War II), where the rubber and helium for the balloons were needed for the war effort.

The Parade returned in 1945, of course, and it was in that same year that it was first televised. It was also during this year that the Parade began to take the same route that it takes today.

The massive balloons have had surprisingly few mishaps during their existence in the parade. In 1957, the cap of Popeye's balloon was filled with water due to rain, which spilled all over

onlookers as the balloon ended up tipping over. In 1958, there was a helium shortage which forced all the balloons to be filled with air and then suspended by cranes (Lame!). Finally, in 1997, strong winds forced the Cat in the Hat into a light post. Debris from this crash put one spectator in a coma for a month.

Since 1945, the Parade has remained mostly the same. New characters, like Garfield, Superman, Snoopy, and Kermit the Frog have joined the ranks of balloons, as well as old favorites like Underdog and Bullwinkle T. Moose.

**The date of Thanksgiving**

We all know how Thanksgiving got started. Sometime in 1621, American pilgrims gave thanks for a bountiful harvest, and had a large feast to commemorate the occasion. But what if they didn't have a bountiful harvest? Did they give thanks then?

No, they did not. Thanksgiving was not always an annual tradition. In the beginning, it happened only when there was reason to give thanks. It wasn't until the mid-17th century that it became an annual tradition (And sometimes later in some colonies), and even though it did happen annually, the exact date for Thanksgiving was rarely the

same and could even change from colony to colony.

Later, Congress and even Presidents would declare specific days for Thanksgiving. George Washington declared one in December of 1777, when he was still just a general. The Continental Congress declared them from 1777 to 1781, all happening in December. President Madison declared two days of Thanksgiving in 1815, yet neither occurred in autumn.

As you can see, Thanksgiving certainly was around for a long time but it wasn't until President Abraham Lincoln that it began to have some organization behind it. Thanks to prodding from a series of editorials written by a woman named Sarah Josepha Hale (See, newspapers can make a difference), President Lincoln declared that people should "set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

In case you didn't understand that, that set Thanksgiving as the last Thursday of November.

But wait, that's not the official date it is now. What happened?

Well, in 1939 President

Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving would be the next to last Thursday instead of the last. He was attempting, since the country was dealing with the Great Depression, to give retailers more time to sell items before Christmas. He hoped increased spending would help bring the USA out of the Depression.

However, this new date was not mandatory, and only roughly half of the states went along with this recommendation. Most of the others stuck with Thanksgiving as the last Thursday in November. Finally, a few lazy states just took both weeks as government holidays.

In 1941, Congress came to a compromise which placed Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November, which was sometimes the last Thursday of the month and sometimes only the next to last.

And there you have it. I hope you found all this interesting and entertaining, as I always do. If you ever have something you'd like to see in the Histories that Matter (Perhaps Christmas or otherwise holiday-season related?), send it my way at [rshrader@spsu.edu](mailto:rshrader@spsu.edu) and I'll do my very best to answer it.

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## SPSU's Hornet's Dance Team

**Cristina Wilson**  
Staff Writer

Beginning its third year at Southern Polytechnic State University, the Hornet's Dance Team is diligently preparing for the current Basketball season. This year, the team consists of 12 females and 1 male athlete, performing over 20 various routines for the crowd. The Hornet's Dance Team performed at a few games last year, but this year they have become a professional squad, led by a new instructor, Coach Nancy Jacobs.

Coach Nancy has an extensive background in coaching and judging, and is currently the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) Georgia Chair for Baton Twirling, Dance, and Cheerleading. Cheerleading Coach Julie Bates asked Coach Nancy to participate with SPSU's Dance Team in hopes that the addition of another professional coach would help increase the numbers of the group, and facilitate their growth in popularity at the games. Both Coach Bates and Coach Nancy are Georgia High School Cheerleading Officials, along with Assistant Coach of the Dance Team, Stacy Ewing.

The Hornet's Dance Team has significantly grown in both size and popularity at SPSU, now performing for every home game as well as many other functions both on and off campus. They are sharing the performances at home games with the SPSU Cheerleaders,

and have almost all of their routines set up to accompany the band.

The team is working on two programs for the half time show which they will be alternating with the Cheerleading squad. Coach Julie also states that the two groups

campus being funded by the Student Government Association, they do not have nearly the amount of money they will need for all supplies this season. Over the summer, the members worked at a very large Cheerleading Competition, and the



Cristina Wilson / The Sting

Although the dance team currently only performs at home games, they hope to travel to other schools in the future.

are planning routines to perform together during half-time shows. Although they are not traveling to away games at this time, Coach Nancy says that they are hoping to prepare a team that will travel to competitions and represent SPSU on a broader level. She has also been asked to bring a few teams to an Atlanta Hawks pre-game show at Phipps Arena sometime in February.

Even though the Dance Team is an athletic team on the SPSU

money that they earned was mutually donated to the general fund. The Dance Team is currently discussing other fund raisers such as a car wash and holiday gift ideas. Any student not participating in the fund-raising activities is expected to pay out of pocket for any outfits or supplies that are needed to perform.

The Dance Team is actively preparing for all performances with practices on Monday and Wednesday nights from 9-10:45pm. They also offer an extra practice on

Thursday night from 7:30-9pm for those members who are interested. The team is constantly looking for new members, and they have tryouts open to all students once a week. Any student looking to audition will learn a short routine, and then will be asked to perform for the coaches. Coach Nancy insists that no prior knowledge or experience with dance is necessary to perform with the team, and they require only hard work ethic, commitment, and a good attitude.

Both the Dance Team and Cheerleading Squad are working together to eventually become separate competing sports. Coach Nancy owns her own gym, "Georgia Baton, Dance, and Cheer Academy" based out of Sports-A-Rama on Johnson's Ferry Road, and teaches many groups in the elite level of competing. The Dance Team and Cheerleading Squad plan on building teams that will travel to various competitions and therefore spread the name of Southern Polytechnic State University. The addition of these athletic sports on campus may serve as an attraction to students who are considering attending SPSU in the future.

The Dance Team consists of: Maryely Sanchez, Noreen Obanya, Brooke Jackson, Valerie Thomas, Judith Atem, Chris Williams, Amanda Mireles, Chisom Ohiagu, Taylor, McMichael, Shelly Jones, Tunya Whitaker, and Natara Thomas.

## Internal Affairs ramblings

**Naimah Shaw**  
Staff Writer

Since the last time I gave you an update, there has been, yes, another student organization on campus: It's called the SPSU Boulderling Club and if you look around campus, you will see their posters encouraging you to attend their meetings. So I encourage all of you interested in this sort of activity to join this organization, and any other organization on campus that suits your interests. You are, after all, paying some activity fees, so try to make the best use it. Most of these organizations have exceptionally good intentions but without people to work with, and actually do things with, these plans cannot be manifested. Let's all try to improve our campus life and start having some real "organizations" on our campus!

Just so that you are aware that we actually read the constitutions presented to us and ascertain whether they will benefit the entire student body or not before actually approving them, I find it noteworthy to also let you know that 2 organizations were NOT approved. They are the "Young Entrepreneurs of Georgia" and "The Society of Japanese Animation Appreciation".

The first one was disapproved based on their initial membership fee of \$250 and also because they explicitly stated that they will not be controlled by any state, local or national organization. That being the case, they don't classify as being eligible to be a student organization if the SGA has no say in what they do.

The latter organization was disapproved based on the fact that we already have a "Japanese Friendship Association" on campus. It'd be nice if they can merge and be friends while appreciating their art at the same time.

On another note, we are currently in the process of amending the current Student Government Association Constitution, and as of now, I do not have anything more than a draft that needs approval from the council. As such, I'll provide those amendments in my next update so look out for that, as we try to fill some of the loopholes present within our current constitution.

## Organization profile: Phi Beta Sigma

**A.L. Johnson**  
Staff Writer

There are many organizations on campus and sometimes it's very easy to not notice the ones that really help give SPSU its good name. At the forefront of these organizations is Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. The Sigmas were started on January 9, 1914 at Howard University by the three "illustrious" founders A. Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Morris, and Charles I. Brown. Phi Beta Sigma has since stood for brotherhood, scholarship and service.

According to the fraternity's official website, Sigmas strive to be "a part of the general community rather than apart from the general community." I spoke with Perry Mattis about what it's like being a Sigma. He says, "To thine own self be true. Understand who you are because that is who you will be with or without the fraternity." When asked, he said there was no typical Sigma. Each one is unique. What sets the group apart as a whole is that they pay homage to their founders, respect their letters, and adore their sorors, Zeta Phi Beta.

According to Perry, it is possible to be in a room full of Sigmas and never know it, because they are not about bringing attention to themselves, but rather to the community around them. Sigmas are movers and shakers but never disrespect one. "When you disrespect a Sigma, you stand a chance

of disrespecting your dad, your uncle, your nephew, a cousin or a brother. We are an inclusive 'we' not an exclusive 'I'."

Some of their goals as a chapter on campus are to increase the awareness of Black Greek lettered organizations and their importance. They let people know why they were formed and about their existence.

One of the pet peeves of the organization is that students on campus often complain about there not being enough activities or events on or near campus. Keeping that in mind, Perry reminds us that this is not Georgia Tech, Georgia State or the Atlanta University Center and that as a student here, you are to remember your first purpose which is to learn. That being said, the Sigmas throw many events that are open to the entire school and that are on campus. When they ask the no-shows where they were, the excuse is always feeble.

Just recently they held "Blu-Spadell" which was a relaxing event for all ladies on campus. They created a very peaceful en-

vironment using scented candles, meditation music and soft voices. A Sigma greeted each lady at the door, secured her belongings and offered water. Another spoke in very soft tones as they asked about the goings-on of that particular day, and began to give hand and back massages. As simple as this twenty minute process was, all of the ladies left feeling relaxed and composed.

Sadly, only about fifteen women showed up.

Another event with a much better turnout occurred last month at the 5th Annual Blu-B-Que. Between 250 and 300 people turned out for almost five hours of good food, good music, and great camaraderie. There was literally dancing in the streets as

students from Kennesaw, Tech, and State joined in the festivities.

Many people are turned off by the fact that Sigmas are a national Black fraternity. They shouldn't be. The Sigmas refer to themselves as "culturally infused" and they embrace many kinds of people. I posed the following question to Perry: "On this campus, one would have to be blind not to see the racial divide. What do you do, specifi-

cally, to make sure that non-Blacks are aware that they are welcome to everything you do?"

Perry responded: "Besides putting 'Open to All' on bulletins, we pass out flyers to everyone that passes by. We approach others by letting them know that what we sponsor aren't just community events, but SPSU events. We attempt to build a rapport with everyone we meet so they will feel more comfortable in attending our various functions. We make our events major-specific and relatable on a human level."

Be on the look out for upcoming events with Phi Beta Sigma. In the spring they plan to have the following events:

- Miss Blu and White Phi Beta Sigma Pageant
- Male / Female Auction
- Gospel Expo
- Sigma Speed Dating
- Bowling Night
- Step Show

With all those activities in the works no one can say there's nothing to do here. Even if you've never been to a Sigma event, try it out. It will be a most enlightening and unforgettable experience and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. promises there will be more to come!

Do you want to be a Sigma? They are looking for intelligent young males that will be dedicated to Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service. For more information, contact Perry Mattis on Facebook. com



# The Sting

So much space,  
so little content.

From the Sting archives...

# More changes in store for semester conversion

**Bryan Garmon**

*Published: October 23, 1997*

On October 14th, the Student Government Association sponsored a town hall meeting in the student center that dealt with the change over from the quarter system to the semester system. It was held both at noon and at seven that evening to try and accommodate the majority of the student's schedules.

The town hall meeting was held to answer student questions about what was involved in the conversion. Dr. Daniel Papp, SPSU's president, moderated the event. In his opening remarks, he assured everyone that the administration wants a "seamless conversion process" and is doing everything that it can to make that happen. Dr. Papp further explained that one of the main reasons for the change is the quality of education that is allows [sic] students to receive. Instead of having ten weeks to learn class material, students will now have fifteen. This means that students will be able to go into greater depth with the subject areas that they are studying, providing the students with a better education. Dr. Papp then turned the meeting over to Dr. Edward Vizzini, Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences.

Dr. Vizzini was there to intro-

duce students to the information packets that were found on each person's seat as they arrived at the meeting. Dr. Vizzini stressed that the most important issue for students is the decision on what catalog to graduate under. Many students were unaware that they had a choice in which catalog to graduate from and so this issue was the focus of Dr. Vizzini's presentation.

The degree programs have been broken into two blocks, or sections, that represent the class requirements for the semester system. The first block represents two-thirds of the student's requirements to graduate. The second block represents the remaining one-third of core classes. This meeting focused on the core requirements.

Effective immediately, students can no longer be self-advised. In order to be registered, students must sit down with their advisor and come up with a plan that fits their decision to graduate under the quarter or the semester system.

Under the current quarter system, the core curricula was divided into three areas. This changes with the semester system with the addition of two more categories.

Area A will be nine hours of Essential Skills. These include English 1101 and Math 1111. It is important

to note that if you are majoring in the following, you are now required to have Precalculus: Computer Science, Construction, Engineering, Industrial Distribution, Manufacturing, Math, Physics, and Surveying and Mapping. Any other degrees on campus start with College Algebra. It is very important to check with your advisor on this issue because each major differs.

Area B will be four hours and will consist of Institutional Options. Area B is specific to the universities and for SPSU it includes Speech 2400 and Science, Technology, and Society (STS 2400).

Area C is six hours of Humanities and Fine Arts. In area C students will find classes like English 2120 and Arts 2002 and Spanish 1002.

Area D involves eleven hours. Area D is the Science, Mathematics, and Technology section. It is important to note that a change to semesters allows students to satisfy their core requirements by choosing from all the courses offered in section D. For example, a student could take Chemistry I and II to meet the requirements, or they could take Chemistry I and Biology I. This allows the students more freedom to meet their requirements for the core classes. This issue gets complicated when your major requires that you

have certain sequences of classes so it is vital to talk with your advisor about specific needs.

Finally, Area E consists of twelve hours of Social Sciences.

There are three key sequences that can cause problems for students. If you can not finish the following sequences by Fall of 1998, it has been advised not to even begin them. Those sequences are Math 109, 11, and 112; Math 253 and 254; Physics 201, 202, and 203; or Physics 221, 222, and 223. The reason for this is that the classes are being combined into two courses and not three and students risk retaking material if they can not finish these sequences in time.

Dr. Vizzini stressed the importance of talking with your advisor on these issues as soon as possible. He then turned the microphone over to Kent Hill, the director of the Information Technology department.

Kent Hill introduced a new program that he has written that will allow students to help weight the decision of which catalog to choose from. Students will sign on to the campus computers like they normally would to register and will be presented with an option to check which catalog is best for them. The student will then type in their social security number and the system will

search their transcripts and print out a page with the results. The printed page will be formatted into four columns. The first column will list the six areas (A-E) and their required number of hours. In the second column students will see the classes required from each area. The third column contains the actual check marks that the computer has made to show you which areas you have met the requirements for. This information is explained in more detail in the fourth column with a list of which classes satisfy that requirement. Any additional courses are printed out at the bottom of the page in case of special situations that the computer does not take into account.

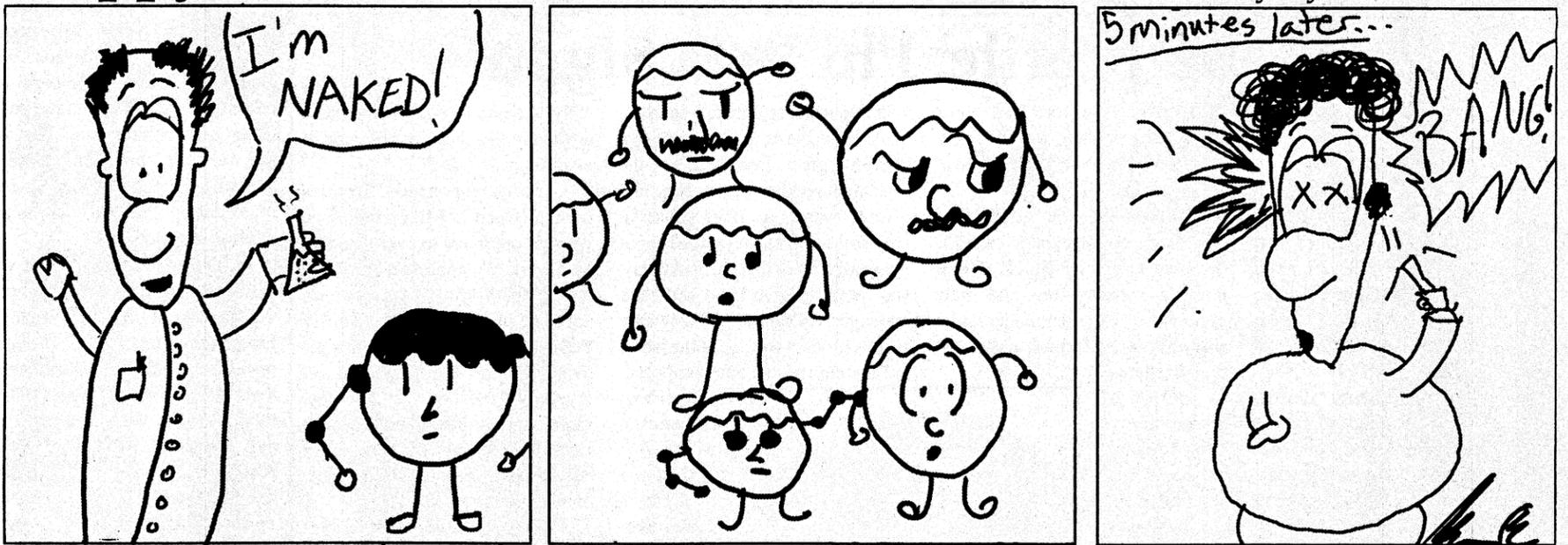
The program should be available by the time you read this and it is an invaluable resource to take with you and when you talk to your advisor.

The meeting then turned to BANNER. All of the universities in the Georgia are required to be running BANNER for registration and Oracle for their database needs. The new system for registering is scheduled to go live in January and should provide students with a more graphical, web based way of registering for classes.

The meeting was called to an end after a short question and answer session.

## Crappy comic #5

by Syl Turner



## Even crappier comic

by Korey Kolberg

