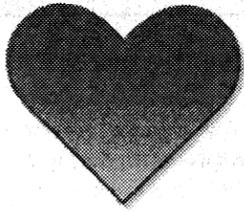


Valentine's Day

An entire three pages has been dedicated to this special day! Read tips, histories, opinions, and even a Crappy Comic based on this holiday. Page 6



The Sting

www.thesting.org

Entertainment

Curious to know what improvements are in the future for Yahoo Mail and how they might compare with Gmail? Find out here! Page 4



February 13, 2006

We take the news out of newspaper

Volume 60, Issue 8

Chemistry major may be coming to SPSU

Early plans have been made to offer Chemistry as a major at SPSU

Cristina Wilson
Staff Writer

Rumors are floating about the addition of a Chemistry major to SPSU. Jack Duff, Professor of Chemistry, is one of many faculty who are eagerly awaiting this new curriculum.

As for now, ideas for a new chemistry major are in the planning stage. First, a proposal for a new major will be sent to the Board of Regents. This proposal must include an estimate of future enrollment, student demand for this particular major, industry demand for students skilled in this subject, and the terms of actual need for a major that sister schools may already offer.

For example, both Kennesaw State and Georgia Tech offer a chemistry degree that is accredited

by the American Chemical Society. Since these schools are located near SPSU, the proposal will have to justify a need to provide the same degree.

Dr. Alan Gabrielli, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, has attempted to start conversation with Kennesaw State about combining a curriculum that would tie in Science and Mathematics with an Education degree.

According to Professor Jack Duff, Kennesaw State has made no attempt to work with SPSU in this aspect.

To provide a curriculum that is unique, SPSU can add specific tracts, or concentrations, within the Chemistry degree. For example, offering a Chemistry degree with

a Biochemistry, or Technology tract will allow a student to receive the general Chemistry education, while focusing on classes that may be geared toward their area of interest.

Once a Chemistry major has been approved, plans for a Chemistry minor will soon follow. Students who are majoring in

Duff, addition of a Chemistry major will not happen any sooner than two years. He is guessing that the entire process will take approximately two to five years, but it could also never happen if the Board of Regents decides to turn it down.

Once proposal for the new major has been approved by the Board of Regents, curriculum for the major must be determined. Classes such as inorganic, physical, and advanced organic chemistry, along with quantitative and instrumental analysis will be offered. To meet this demand, the Chemistry department will be forced to hire at least two new professors. Dr. Gabrielli, as well as Dr. Zvi Szafran, Vice President for Academic Affairs,

are both qualified to teach chemistry classes, but each can only handle one class, not including the required lab.

Professor Duff expects many future students to be attracted to SPSU due to a variety of science degrees. The surrounding industries are having a greater need for Chemistry majors, and students who leave school with only a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry are more apt to find employment directly related to their interests than a student with the same degree in Biology. Employment opportunities for Chemistry majors include quality control and research and development.

With the addition of more science majors, in the distant future SPSU may be able to offer Education majors with concentrations in Math and Sciences.

"The surrounding industries are having a greater need for Chemistry majors."

Biology are already taking at least 5 semesters of required Chemistry. With only a few additional courses, they will be able to have an advantage over other students by obtaining the Biology major with a Chemistry minor.

According to Professor Jack

Annual Tony Tilmans Chili Cook-off a success

Cristina Wilson
Staff Writer

The Tony Tilmans Annual Chili Cook-off launched at noon on Wednesday, February 1st to a crowd of students, faculty, staff, and alumni members. The Social and Community Building Committee, a group of faculty members, sponsors this event as an annual fund raiser in memory of Tony Tilmans, a former Dean of SPSU.

The Social and Community Building Committee (SCBC) is headed by Dawn Ramsey, Dean of Extended University. Dr. Julie Newell, Associate Professor of Social and International Studies Program, states that the SCBC is an organization designed to try to build communication, cooperation, and collaboration among faculty



Cristina Wilson / The Sting

The judges this year were (From left to right) Dr. Mark Stevens, Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, and Sharon Perry.

and staff," something that can "only be a good thing for the students."

In the past, funds from these sorts of events have gone to various community projects, such as Park Street Elementary School.

This year, the SCBC held the annual chili cook-off in conjunction with a bake sale. Dr. Newell manned the bake sale table, which was covered with deserts and bakery items varying from cookies and home-made toffee to northern and southern corn bread. Items were only \$.50 a piece, a fair price for college students.

Dr. Ron Koger headed the chili table, where five chili bowls could be purchased for \$3.00. Additional bowls were \$1.00 a piece.

All SPSU faculty, staff, and alumni were welcome to enter chili and soup recipes for the cook-off, although only chili was judged for a first place prize of \$25 to Barnes and Noble. The judging panel consisted of Dr. Mark Stevens, Professor of Humanities and Technical Communication, Brandon McLain, Coordinator



Cristina Wilson / The Sting

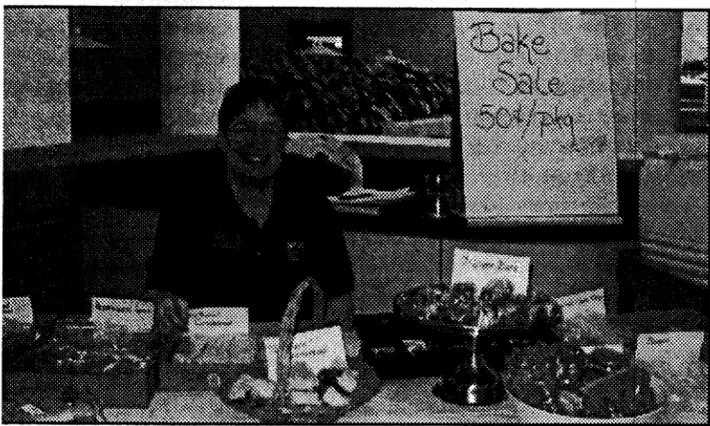
The winner, Betty Wooton, Secretary of Recruitment, took home a cactus lamp and a \$25 gift certificate.

of Intramural Programs, Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher, President of Southern Polytechnic State University, and Sharon Perry, Alumni Association President.

The judges gauged each competitor on creativity, appearance, texture, and taste. Fifteen assorted competitors from differing areas of SPSU entered: Anne's Famous Frontier Chowder, Chili de Mexicano, You Made Me Do It, Gerre's Veggie Chili, Bovarian Goulash, Fred's Almost Famous All-American Chili,

Bueno e Caluroso Chili, Poppy Hal's Dump Soup, Too Busy Chili, Chili's and Spice and Everything Nice, Taco Soup, Misplaced Texan, Fire in the Gut Chili, and Southern Living Brunswick Stew.

The first place prize, a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble, a neon lamp of a cactus, and the pride of "Tony Tilmans Annual Chili Cook-off Winner" went to Betty Wooton, Secretary of Recruitment, for her recipe Fire in the Gut Chili.



Cristina Wilson / The Sting

The bake sale, manned here by Julie Newell, a Social and International Studies Associate Professor, is a new addition to the annual Chili Cook-off.

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Facebook party getting out of hand?

SPSU Counselor Susan Ristau tackles just this topic in her column, Dear Susan. Page 3

Are you funky?

Eric John reveals the facts behind a shocking new philosophy: Funkoanalysis. Page 5



The Sting's second contest!

Want pseudo-celebrity status*? Check out our writing contest! If you win, we'll print your entry and you may get a gift card! Page 5
*Pseudo-celebrity status not guaranteed. See contest rules for more details.

What is love?

Christiaan Funkhouser has an in-depth look at what exactly love is and how to define it.



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The Sting

www.thesting.org

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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.

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue is **Thursday, February 23 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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Homeland insecurity

Naimah Shaw
Staff Writer

At the tender age of just 20, I am not a girl, not yet a woman. I am a child of different cultures, two languages and a belief that has carved a niche and created many controversies in today's society. My roots are intertwined within the tumultuous waves along the Atlantic Ocean; it links the distant world of my ancestors, the place I call home and the land in which I live. I have the same respect and display the same loyalty to them all for I understand that I could never be the person I am today if I was not a part of the varied traditions and cultures that painted and designed the canvas of my life. I am a foreigner, a bird without a wing, stranded in a land I often feel I do not belong in.

I remember the day as vividly as if it was just yesterday, the voice of the air-hostess drowned out by my fears of what was to come. She announced, "ladies and gentlemen, you have arrived at the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport...." I, consciously or unconsciously, did not hear the rest of that hated voice at the end of the intercom. I vacationed around the United States a few times a year ever since I was just a child but I still could not draw myself to picking up and moving away from the place I call home. The months and days of preparation, packing, and the good-byes could not have prepared me for the range of emotions that pervaded my mind.

"So, where are you from?" is a question that is as familiar to me as the crowing of roosters at 6 am, Monday through Sunday in little Guyana, hidden away between the mighty Atlanta Ocean, and walls of jasper on the Brazilian border. It's as familiar to me as the roar of the waves of the Atlantic, the adhan (call to prayer) of the mosque opposite my home, the cows mooing on the dam, the big trucks with sugar cane workers at 5 am.

The Indian Ocean carries my parents' roots, but here in America I am not Indian, I'm not from the Middle-East or North-Africa—though constantly a misconstrued image. I am Guyanese, according to tradition you belong to the mother soil to which you were born and raised. Guyana, it was the country in which I was born, the country whose values and environment I have ingrained within my fiber. When I tell people I am from South America, they look at me as if I'm crazy and ask, "Where are you originally from?" I always smile and give the same answer again.

Here in America, I have been given opportunities that would not have been available to me in a third world country: those of freedom and diversity. My appreciation for this came from my religious beliefs: Islam. "It is a belief in one God and in humanity's ultimate purpose of worshipping their Creator." Islam has helped to shape my identity for the past 20 years. Recently, people have used it to define who I am. The same way that coming to SPSU which lacks a social life does not define my social life is the same way that belonging to a religion helps to shape who you are but does not ultimately define you.

Today I am tagged a "Muslim American." What does it mean? Why aren't there Christian Americans and Jewish Americans? Why are we distinctly singled out for who we are? Why can't we simply be Americans? We are given, on a daily basis, the harshest reality check of what it feels like to be treated as a foreigner in your own country, the harshest check of the lie manifested when we're told we have "religious freedom." It's almost like you have the freedom to do what you want but you have to be willing to pay the consequences and the penalties for simply being you, for begging to differ, for living out the true meaning of "religious freedom." These consequences we pay without any interjection of our leaders who profess about freedom in their country. There were many lives lost in 911, but how many more jobs were lost after 911 because of ignorance? Because of religious intolerance? Because of arrogance? How many women in Islam felt the need to don their Islamic attire for fear of discrimination in this country? How many men shaved their beards off and changed their names after 911? It is appalling yet no one speaks about it.

Today, there is an American journalist being held prisoner in Iraq and it's all over the news. It is indeed a sad situation and I agree that it is wrong but at the same time, why is it that the number of Muslims harassed is never brought forward. There are times we go into restaurants and people sneer at us, the very rude ones often ask, "why don't you go back to your country?" I have friends who often say "Dude, this is my country." You go to the airport and you're searched a little more than the others, you go in the library and the old white woman who suffers from a phobia of Muslims pretends to be busy and walks away and tells the black lady to serve you. Yes, this is all true. These are all issues that have been related to me from friends and relatives. People expect us to all have thick accents. They expect that we're all dumb from lack of understanding English. One day you should try it out, pretend to not know English very well and see the reaction you get from people. You're exploited for this.

As a Muslim girl, dressed in Islamic attire, I feel like a soldier on the forefront of hate every day of my life, not for hurting anyone, but for being unique—for being me in a country that challenges my own basic beliefs and takes my freedom from me as easily as it says it's given it.

But the question remains, what does it really mean to be a Muslim American? According to Samuel Huntington's Clash of Civilizations Theory, "a Muslim American is an oxymoron, defying the parameters of logic, like having the moon and sun appear in the sky simultaneously."

Our perception of the Muslims in America is not that of the doctors working their hearts and souls off in the hospitals to save lives. It's not that of the engineers who help to maintain the architecture of our roadways and rail-roads in this country, it's not that of scientists and pharmacists who do research and help to create new drugs to save lives. It's not our computer scientists, accountants or lawyers, not

our Muslim-American educators, "not the UN volunteer traveling with an American delegation to Rwanda, Iraq and Ethiopia, delivering basic human necessities such as food and medicine in fulfillment of her dream to annihilate misery and injustice from the face of this earth," as Saleh Mubarak of "Islamic Horizons" puts it.

America's perception of these people who are badly stereo-typed is what Hollywood makes us to be, they identify us with people hijacking planes and being suicide bombers. But is that really as bad as giving your men and women guns and sending them off from their families, then giving them a medal for shooting someone if they come out alive and successful? After instilling all our lives that murder is a crime, you give them the weapons and the training, pay them and then give them medals for committing those things you once spoke out against? Does this achieve anything other than sorrow, grief and loss of loved ones? Ahh, war...it's a strange and funny thing. It shows us how much we are willing to give up our principles to achieve worldly desires. It speaks out about the core of our characters. It's 911 everyday in the battle field guys.

Our newspapers make a big deal about horror killings where fathers kill their daughters for committing adultery; but are those stories really as bad as having 15 year old girls drop out of school because they're pregnant? Is it really as bad as having a society whose repetitive cycle of adultery has become commonplace and socially acceptable? I firmly believe that this (honor killings) is wrong, but if people learn that wrong choices have severe consequences, morals can be firmly upheld. I see honor killings as being equivalent to the death sentence. Thus, if honor killings are wrong, then the death row is just as wrong. Maybe in those countries, adultery is a crime. Everyone has different laws and rules by which they abide. Why do you sentence someone to the death penalty? Not because it's going to change anything, it doesn't make the crime they committed any less or better but it makes them an example. Likewise, honor killings, believe are meant to be examples.

My point here is that as long as the perception of Muslim American is based on the stereotypes and the isolated cases portrayed by our media, then the rate of anti-Muslim hate crimes, violence, and discrimination will continue to rise in this country. Ever noticed how when an incident occurs in the Muslim world that fits the image the media has given us...you have re-runs of it all day and all night, on every news channel in every newspaper in every city town and state? But when Christian Americans and Jewish Americans and the "other" Americans commit crimes, which outnumber those committed by Muslims, the media is fascinated. That doesn't make such a good story...oh freedom, equality and justice...where did you go? Where have you turned to?

Yusuf Islam, previously Yusuf Stevens says, "Let us remove ignorance and hate with the opposite knowledge and love."

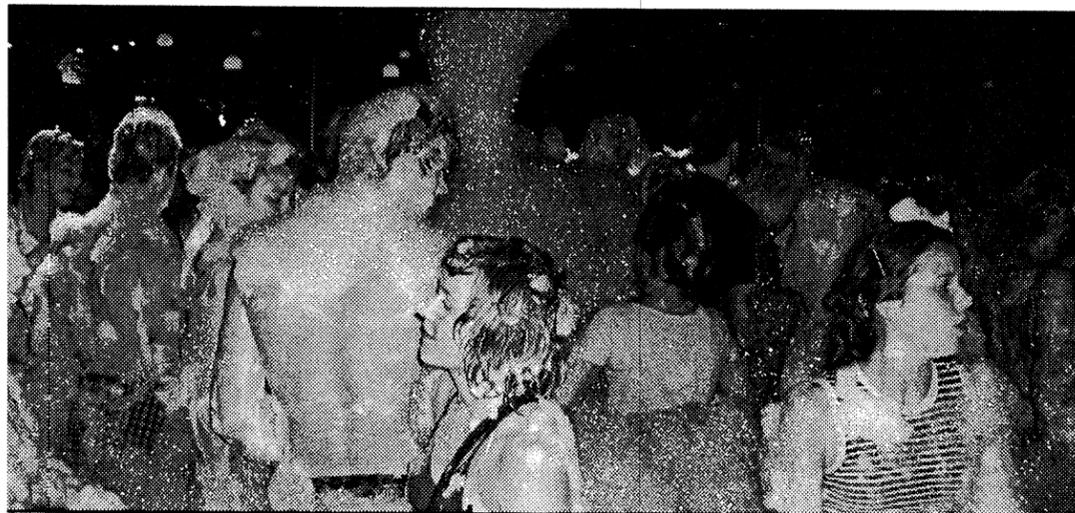
Dear Susan Facebook parties gone wild

Susan Ristau
Licensed SPSU Counselor

Dear Susan,
My roommate just told me at a party got out of hand here at PSU recently because it was mentioned on Facebook. How the heck do you predict something like this? Should I stop using Facebook? Signed Scared in the Commons

Dear SitC,
I did hear about this and have to say that sometimes we all have to learn by error. What we need to keep in mind is that ANYONE can read postings in Facebook as well as many other blogs like xanga, blogspot, and myspace. Just remember that it's unwise to give specifics when planning a party or talking about yourself. Don't give out your contact information or too much personal information because you simply do not know who is

reading it. I think we are lulled into a sense of false security by thinking "hey, it's just college students like me reading this stuff" and that just isn't true, as some well-intentioned SPSU students found out recently. I'm sure glad no one was hurt. It's a shame we can't be trusting, but hey, not everyone out there is healthy - that's why counselors exist. So, don't be scared, just be cautious!
Susan Ristau, LPC, Career & Counseling Center, ext. 7391, Student Center



Warning: Placing your party on Facebook may turn it into a foam party without your consent.

Internal Affairs happenings

Aimah Shaw
Staff Writer

This semester we have not yet been able to do a lot (so far). However, we have received quite a few requests from organizations for re-activation.

I believe there is a lot of misunderstanding about the status of your organization. Not having a budget for a fiscal year is not representative of whether you're active or not. Some organizations fail to get a budget because they do not request one; this does NOT mean that you are listed as inactive on campus. To know whether you're active or not, please contact Jessica Carter in the Student Center office.

OK...so here's what is new. When submitting a constitution

for a new organization, it is now required that you submit a sheet with at least 7 members who are interested in joining the organization. Please ensure that it is signed and dated by these students. Also, they MUST be students of this campus and your constitution cannot be one you picked up from another school's website.

I was asked by a fraternity if they can submit the constitution of another school. The answer is NO. The reason is that while they may just be different student chapters of the same fraternity/organization and it is generally assumed that they would have the same goals, every campus has different dynamics and our campus is significantly smaller than that of Georgia State or Georgia Tech. You cannot submit a document indicating that you would

have 10 official/executive positions, when the harsh reality is that here at Southern Poly, your entire organization might not even have that many total members.

Other than that, I don't think there is anything else I need to update you on. If anyone is reading this who belongs to an organization other than the STING, please e-mail me an updated constitution of your organization. My address is nshaw@spsu.edu

OH! Faculty advisors: it would be nice if you can play a more active role in the organizations you choose to "advise." I have e-mailed quite a few of you asking for information about organizations that list you as their advisor and alas, the response was the same that I got from the students: NONE! Yeah, that's right, sad isn't it?

REGENTS' TESTING INFORMATION

Dear Students: The next Regents' Tests will be given according to the schedule below. If you plan to take the Regents' test this semester, please choose one of the sessions on the schedule. You do not need to sign up for the regular test.

International Students: Apply for the test in the ATTIC prior to the test.

The online test version is limited to the first 48 students who sign up in the ATTIC. Students who take the online version may also take the written version; a successful test on either or both will count as passing the test. Contact Jon Lindsay (7903; jlindsay@spsu.edu) to sign up by Feb 28.

When you come to the test, bring the following: (1) photo ID (2) #2 pencils (3) optional dictionary.

To prepare for the Regents' Test you may wish to visit the Regents' web site (www.gsu.edu/rtp) to review examples of Regents' exams. The campus bookstore also has Regents' test preparation books available.

Review eligibility and exemption criteria at the SPSU Registrar's web page (www.spsu.edu/registrar/RegentsLetterrevisedoct04forweb.pdf) or The ATTIC web page (www.spsu.edu/attic/Regt_Tst.html).

Testing Schedule

Date	Time	Place
Mar 13	10:00AM - 2:00 PM	M100
Mar 14*	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	H200
Mar 14	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	H200
Mar 15	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	H200

Students may also take the online version of the test:

Mar 13	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	J214
Mar 16	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	J214

Students taking the online version must sign up with the ATTIC (limited to 48 students) by Feb 28.

Students taking Regents' Reading/Writing classes can take their Regents' test(s) in their respective classes.

* International Students ONLY; apply in the ATTIC

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(770) 436-0560

Yahoo! Mail strikes back at Gmail with Beta

Dave Bachtel
Senior Staff Writer

Yahoo has released a new version of its popular web based e-mail system. According to a press release issued by Yahoo last year, the system has been in beta since September of 2005. Since Yahoo serves as my primary e-mail account I applied to the beta program shortly after it was announced last September. My invitation to test the new system arrived after a six month wait on February 1st of this year.

First Impressions

First off, let me start out by saying that the new beta interface is nothing at all like the old Yahoo Mail. It's significantly different – in both good and bad ways. It is designed to feel like a more 'traditional' e-mail software suite that would reside locally on your computer than a web-based e-mail reader. If you've had the opportunity (or hassle) to utilize Microsoft Outlook Web Access (which provides a web-based Outlook environment to remote corporate users), the resemblance is striking.

New Functionality

Drag-and-drop functionality for messages has been added which makes sorting through a lot of e-mails and placing them in appropriate folders a much simpler task. When a new message is opened or composed, it is displayed in a new 'tab' at the top of the screen, allow-

ing multiple e-mails to be written and read simultaneously.

People who subscribe to mailing lists will appreciate the 'Next' and 'Previous' functionality in conjunction with the ability to quickly preview a message in the lower viewing pane before opening, discarding, moving, or deleting it and going on to the next message. New folders for storing messages can be created and renamed on the fly. It's easy to forget you're working inside a web browser because it really does feel like a desktop application.

Under the Hood

The single most incredible feature of the new Yahoo Mail interface is the cross browser compatibility. The fancy AJAX tricks used to pull data from the server without refreshing the entire page work equally well in both FireFox and Internet Explorer.

The single biggest headache seems to be that the new system feels a LOT slower when doing certain things. I have the old system set to display 200 messages from a folder at a time, conveniently allowing me to search what was on the screen by using my in-browser search functionality. In the new system only about 50 message subjects at one time so there is a small delay when scrolling to the bottom of a folder with a lot of messages.

When opening a message my processor usage spikes to 100% for about a second which is unac-

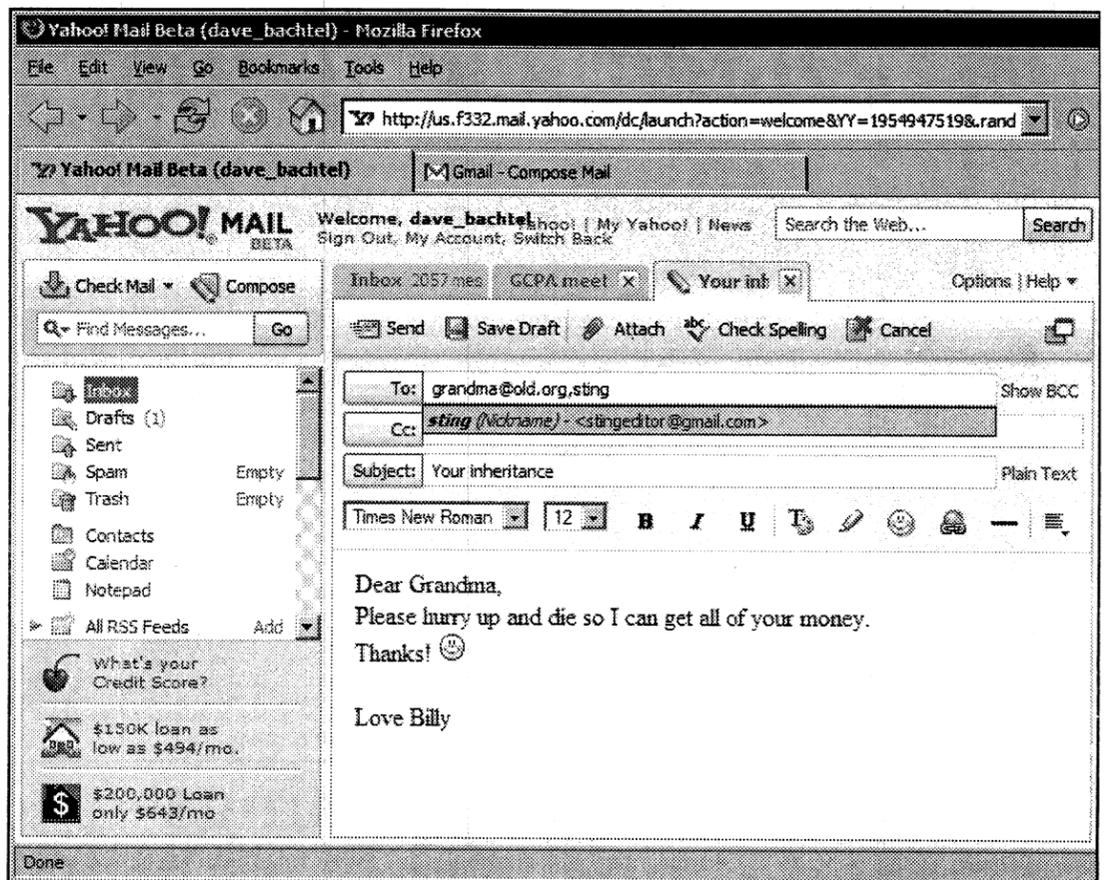
ceptable while using other processor intensive applications in the background. Another annoyance is that each file must be completely uploaded before the next one can be attached (manually). The old interface allowed for multiple file uploads to take place at once.

Conclusion

Overall, I think many users will appreciate the new interface although my feelings are still mixed. If Yahoo's goal was to compete directly with Gmail I don't think that they've managed to pull it off. I do not believe the changes will be enough to attract Gmail users back to Yahoo Mail,

especially with the significant difference in speed between the two services.

I will be using the new interface to send this article to my editor but that's probably the last time for a while. Until something can be done about the performance issues, I need the speed.



Oh Dave you're just so witty. There's really no joke I can make to follow that.

Screenshot / The Sting

Club review: Masquerade

Karen Asay
Senior Staff Writer

You only have to be 18 to visit Hell on Thursdays. Yeah, I said, "Hell." The main club area at the Masquerade is named Hell and this club is 18 and up on Thursdays. You can also go to Purgatory if you prefer.

Masquerade is normally a concert venue but on Thursdays they open their doors as the dance club. The two areas, Hell and Purgatory, are two different parts of the club. When you enter the club, if you take the door on your right, you will enter Hell and hear DJ Cazlo spinning 80's and 90's alternative dance mixes. On the other hand, if you turn left, Purgatory will welcome you with sounds from DJ Colby, who will be mixing up funk and "bootyshake" beats from the 90's to modern.

Sort of obvious, from the music Masquerade plays, this

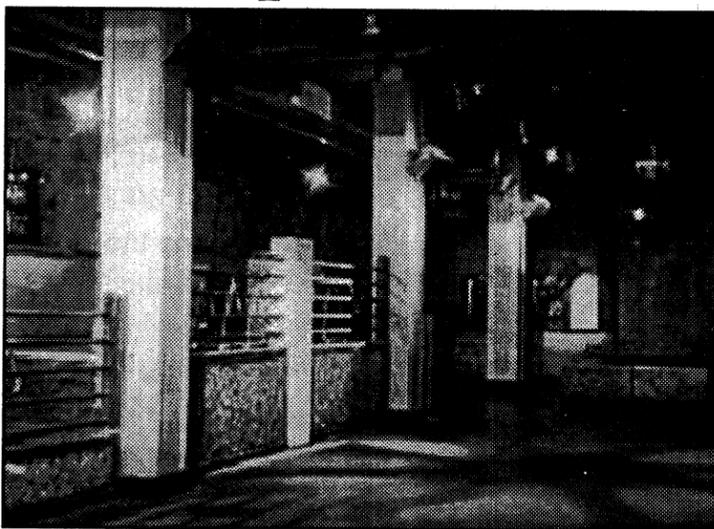


Photo courtesy www.masq.com

This is Hell, where I imagine some gross people reside.

club has a unique environment. The crowd varies in race, dress style, sexual orientation, etc. This is not a club for sheltered little Suzy to go to, but the variety is part of what makes this place fun. It is true that you have to be comfortable with your sexuality because

it is likely you will be hit on by someone of the same sex at least once during the night. Because of this fact, if you are homophobic just save yourself the trouble and pick a different club.

Now for the necessary details. The Masquerade is open on Thursdays from 10:00 pm to 3:00 am and admission is \$3.00. It is located at 695 North Ave., Atlanta, GA, which you can get to by taking exit 249D and turning left. The Masquerade is just a couple of miles down on the right. Parking is usually free but, just in case, bring an extra \$5.00. You may need it.

The Masquerade is really fun and considering it is \$3, it is also really cheap. Come and enjoy the experience.

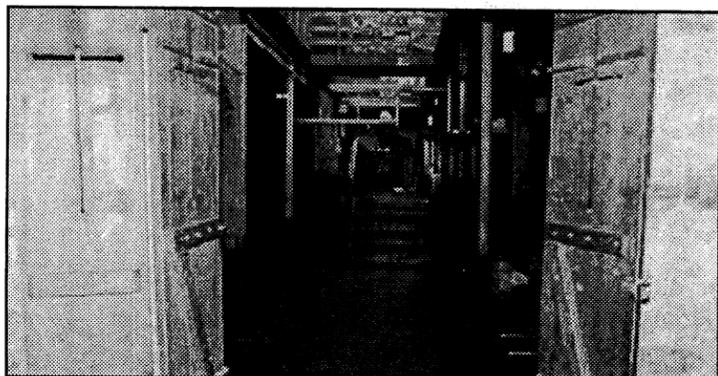


Photo courtesy www.masq.com

This is Purgatory, where I imagine some even grosser people reside.

Comedy Cobb

Rultz Raymond
Staff Writer

Looking for a good time? Great laughs? A laugh-till-you-can't spot?

Well, make your reservations for Comedy Cobb. Located on 585 Cobb Parkway, Comedy Cobb is a great way to take it easy and relax.

There's a variety of activities within Comedy Cobb. There is the TellTale Theater, which is a professional for-children theater company that promotes imagination education through original plays and workshops. This allows children of all ages to get experience at art and drama through interactive performances, after school programs, acting

classes and summer camp. This is great for little brothers, sisters and maybe even cousins.

There is also a Comedy Improv Nights section that is held every Saturday at 8:00 P.M. where many local actors come, with a reservation, and put on a show of their choice. In order to experience this delight (Comedy Improv) there is an introductory price of \$16.00 for adults and \$13 for students with an I.D. For the Comedy Improv for Families every 1st Saturday at 5:30 p.m., there is a cost of \$12 for adults and \$6 for children (through December) and \$15 for adults, \$13 for students, and \$6 for children (after December).

Comedy Cobb is right across the street from Southern Polytechnic State University near Marietta Bowling Lanes. From the Comedy Cobb website: "You will see a U-Haul then Marietta Bowling Lanes, then Easy Rental Furniture. The driveway at the south end of Easy Rental is 585 Cobb Parkway S., the Artisan Resource Center. The ARC is a two story 1940s blue gray building behind Easy Rental. In the middle of the building is the main entrance. We are at the end of that hallway on the right, suite C-1."



Photo courtesy www.comedycobb.com

That is one whacky bunch of characters.

The Funkoanalysis philosophy

Eric John
Funky Web Manager

I am sure you remember my articles talking about Where's Waldo as the spirituality guide, and so to continue, I have had the pleasure of getting a chance to interview Frank

themselves that they have accepted and embraced.

What does this Funk level do for a person? What does it mean?

It's not about what it does for you, but what you do for yourself. The funk is the essence of you.

politicians, and Michael Moore.

Wait, how is Michael Moore a group of people?

Look at him. All that can't be one person. He may smell funky, and have a lot of hair, but he is not funky.

A review of Sev'n 9

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

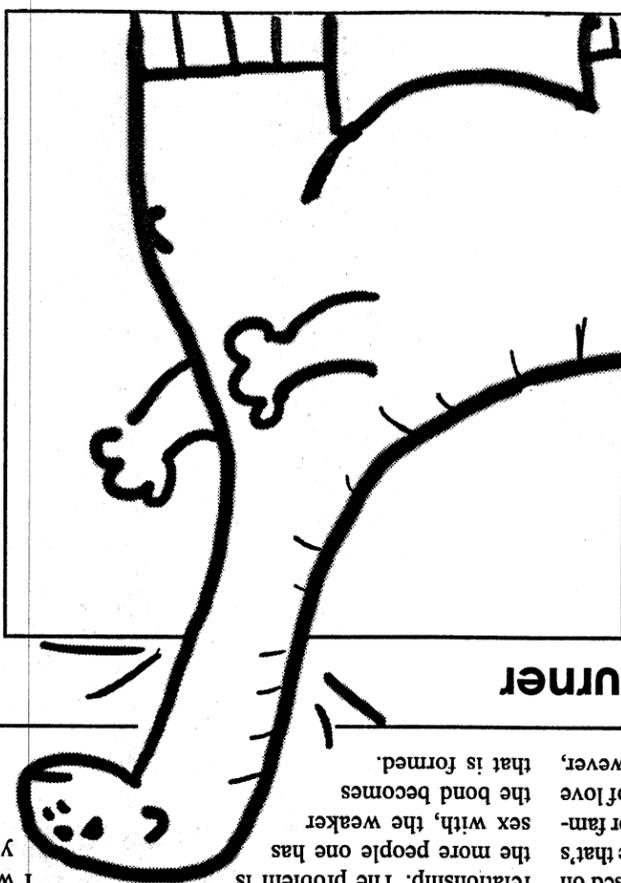
January 20th at 8:45 pm in Marietta. Me, Jeremiah a friend and frequent guest on my radio show, and my sister walked into Sidelines located off of Roswell Road. We quickly scanned the room. Pre-drunk people laughing, smoke was filling the room, it was dark and smelled of

What do they sound like, well, take a screamo singer, a solo hip-hop artist, rock guitarist, bassist and drummer. Mix them up together with influences from Ozzy, hardcore rap, and Pink Floyd. You get Sev'n 9. As C-Wiz told me, "We are a bunch of guys that no one would ever put together to make a band."

I, personally, have been sick of bands that always sound the



So, how do you judge or explain all then how does one has funk?



Crappy Comic #6 - by Syl Turner

the other person. It's being inconvenienced and not caring about it. It's about sacrificing, it's about being able to hold the other person in your arms when there is no chance of getting sex, when they're not able to cuddle, it's about getting a thrill from holding hands, it's about giving of everything you have with respect for the other person.

Bear with me I've ever seen. romantic thing you all the most I want to share with to the whole purpose of the season, hopeless romantic, and in a tribute I've mentioned that I'm a pregnancy, etc.

important whether or not you be as the various STD's, the chance of lieve your virginity is a gift for your future husband or wife. But this invisible bond brings two people together closer - strengthening the relationship. The problem is the more people one has sex with, the weaker the bond becomes that is formed.

then a lot of times it tends to be an areos type of love. Areas is a sexual type of love. Areas is what you'd have for your girlfriend, boyfriend, husband or wife. It's an attraction based on looks and feelings. It's a love that's stronger than that of friends or families. It's the strongest type of love that humans can give. However,

There are some people I'm patient with, I'm not arrogant to and I don't keep record of wrongs, does this mean I love them? Well, yes and no. The amazing thing about the Greek language is that they realized this, which is why they have three different words for it. There's agape, philio, and areos.

Stuck in the Middle with Christiaan: Love...

Christiaan Funkhouser
Opinions Expert

Around Valentines Day the word love is abused – heavily. But what does the word love mean? The dictionary classifies the word love as a verb. If we add the definitions of love and verbs together love is “a word used to show that an action is taking place. To indicate the existence of a state or condition.”

Love is something that has to have an action behind it. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful – love does not keep a record of wrongs. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” That selection is found in the 13th chapter of Corinthians.

I am a hopeless romantic and honestly, I think that love is a very strong word and it is abused. I think we can all agree that when we feel that we love someone, we give them a lot more leeway than we normally would a regular friend or a random stranger. We don't want to be arrogant or jealous of them. We don't want to be irritable or resentful to them and we don't want to keep a record of everything they do wrong. There are a lot of concessions that we make

because we care about people. One of the reasons that I love the definition of love as found in the Bible is because it's almost verbatim of the definition that hopeless romantics use.

If love is an action, how can we show this? How do we know what love really is?

There are some people I'm patient with, I'm not arrogant to and I don't keep record of wrongs, does this mean I love them? Well, yes and no. The amazing thing about the Greek language is that they realized this, which is why they have three different words for it. There's agape, philo, and areos.

Agape is a “perfect” love. Nothing can affect this love, no matter what is done. It's the type of love that would cause God to endure worse than what was shown in the popular Mel Gibson film *The Passion of the Christ*. Therefore, only God can have this type of love.

Philio is the brotherly love (this is why Philadelphia is called the “City of Brotherly Love,” get it?). This is really a type of caring

it's this type of love that is really abused. Attraction is not, I repeat, is not love yet attraction is part of love but only a very small part. While it's a sexual type of love, it's not a love based on sex.

Another term for sex is “making love.” That term is true in so many ways, and on so many different levels. When you have sex, you are making love. See, I believe that God created sex as a way to bless us. He could have

A lot of people mistake this bond as love. So technically, when you have sex, you're making love. See my point?

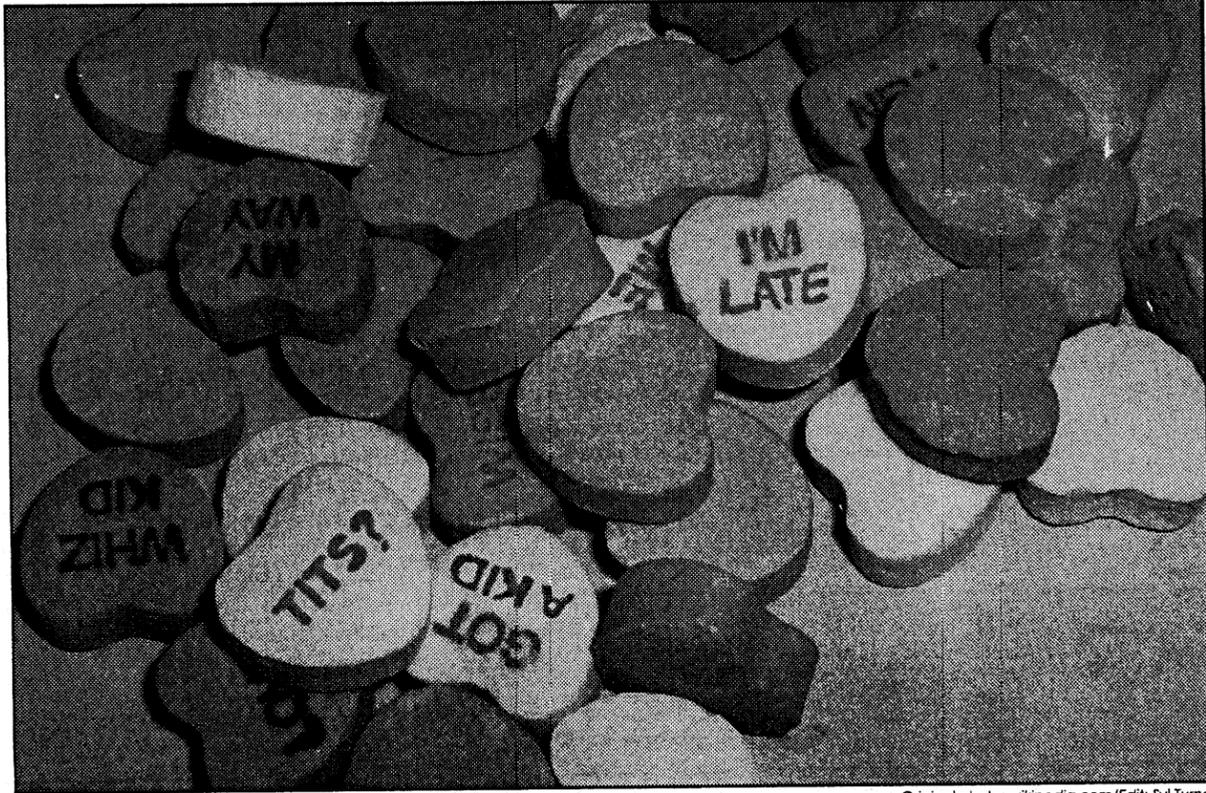
As a hopeless romantic, my goal is to be as romantic as possible to the one that I love. What's more romantic, “Yeah, I've slept with lots of people let's hop into bed,” or “Hey hunny, I love you, and I've had lots of chances to, but I waited because I wanted to give this to you as a wedding present.” But I'm not

throughout the whole story. One time when I was walking through the mall, I saw an older couple, the man in his seventies and his wife were walking through the mall as well, it looked as if they were window shopping. Well, let me take part of that back, the wife looked as if she had had a stroke, part of her face was paralyzed and she was beginning to drool. The husband was pushing her around from shop to shop. I walked into a store, and quickly walked out as an obnoxious couple couldn't keep their hands off each other.

I walked out and looked around trying to decide where to go next, when I saw the older couple again. I looked for a moment and I saw they were looking at one of the finer clothes shops. He leaned over her shoulder and wiped the drool away from her mouth, looked at her, and pointed at a dress, and said, “Hunny, I think you would look amazing in that dress. Maybe one day we'll have to come up here again, and buy it for our anniversary.” She grunted, and he pushed her on.

It didn't really hit me for a moment, but when it did, it was like a punch in the gut.

As a hopeless romantic, did I have it all wrong? What was real love? I propose that the example I just gave is real love. How many couples do you know now that would do what that husband did for their significant other? Love isn't about sex as so many people would say... It's being with that person no matter what. It's giving of yourself, for the other person. It's being inconvenient and not caring about it. It's about sacrificing, it's about being able to hold the other person in your arms when there is no chance of getting sex, when they're not able to cuddle, it's about getting a thrill from holding hands, it's about giving of everything you have with respect for the other person.



Original photo: wikipedia.com/Edit: Syl Turner

about your friends, this is one of the most common types of love. When you hear two people saying “I love you” and they're of the same sex, not holding hands, or making out, there's a good chance it's a philio type of love. Family love can also be lumped into this category. That is, unless you're from Alabama then a lot of times it tends to be an areos type of love.

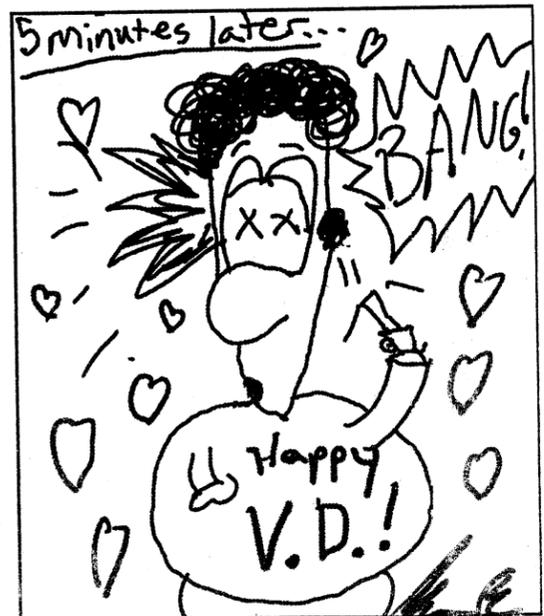
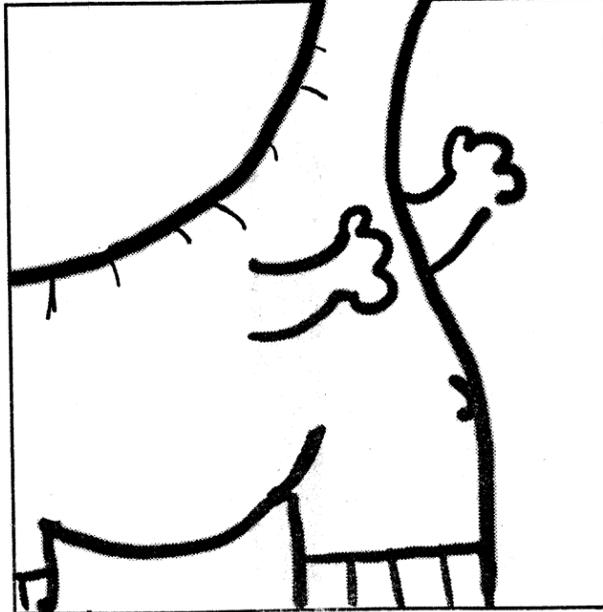
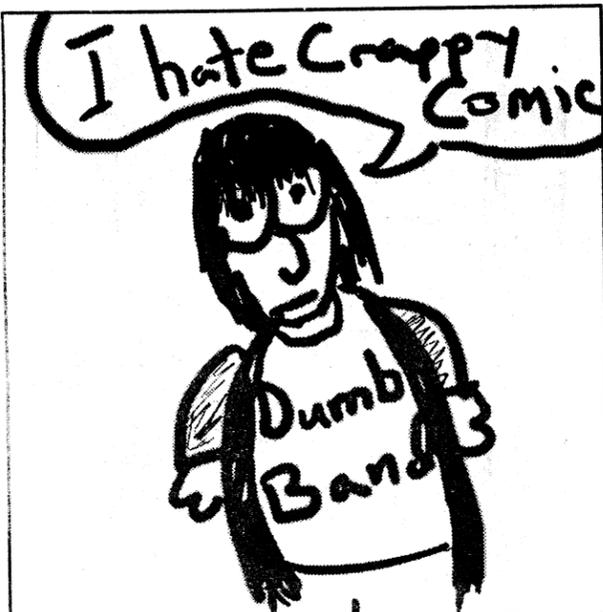
Areos is a sexual type of love. Areos is what you'd have for your girlfriend, boyfriend, husband or wife. It's an attraction based on looks and feelings. It's a love that's stronger than that of friends or families. It's the strongest type of love that humans can give. However,

made it boring, but he didn't. He could have made humanity asexual (requiring no means of intercourse to reproduce). When one has sex with someone there is a bond that's created between the two people. This bond brings the two people together. This is one of the reasons the “first time” is so important whether or not you believe your virginity is a gift for your future husband or wife. But this invisible bond brings two people together closer – strengthening the relationship. The problem is the more people one has sex with, the weaker the bond becomes that is formed.

writing to lecture about why “true love really does wait.” I know that a simple sentence imploring the reader to stop on the basis of thinking about the future instead of the here and now on the basis of being romantic isn't going to convince anyone. Nor would listing all the dangers of having sex such as the various STD's, the chance of pregnancy, etc.

I've mentioned that I'm a hopeless romantic, and in a tribute to the whole purpose of the season, I want to share with you all the most romantic thing I've ever seen. Bear with me

Crappy Comic #6 - by Syl Turner



Love yourself first

Syl Turner
Self-love Expert

Valentine's Day (V.D.) is a strange holiday. Girls usually have a great time with V.D. on their hot dates. Their boyfriends are usually annoyed by V.D. with all the pressure to do everything correctly without hurting their girlfriends. And single folks are usually depressed when it comes to V.D. Here at Southern Poly, everyone knows there are only a few females to share V.D. with. Well, dudes of SPSU, that's not a problem. You just need to learn to love yourself first.

If you can't love yourself, how do you expect ladies to love you? Here are a few ways to help you love yourself.

Get in shape

Don't drink beer every night. Don't eat fast food all the time. Don't fry mini corn dogs when they're perfectly tasty baked. Those habits make you fat and gross. Instead, eat salads every now and then. Exercise a few times a week. Get really big and work those forearms and other muscles out. You'll be loving yourself in no time (and enjoying it!).

Look better

There are plenty of hotties

in Hollywood that were complete uggos before they got the star treatment. Just changing your clothes can help. Get rid of that oversized, mustard-stained t-shirt. Take off those old pants of yours. Use lotions or moisturizers to make it feel really good. When you look great, you feel great.

Change your personality

Chances are your personality sucks. You're probably labeled as "annoying" because you always think you're right. Hey, that's how nerds are, and this school is full of them. How about you change your personality to something people would actually like. It might be tough to realize that sometimes you're wrong. For some of you, it's probably difficult to control the volume of your voice. It's probably difficult to not stare down girls when they walk by, thinking that you've got a shot with them. If you're busy staring down girls that you have no chance with, then you should definitely love yourself first.

That's just a few things you can do to love yourself better. Eat healthy, workout, look nice. If you can't love yourself first, then you can't expect anyone to love you back.

Another year, another V.D.

Dave Bachtel
V.D. Expert

How can one single holiday evoke such a variety of passions in a wide variety of people? For your standard (taken) male it often involves last minute panicking with the end-result being a 10 pm trip to Wal-Mart to pick up a box of chocolate and some flowers. For your standard (taken) female, it often results in unmet expectations (you can spot the cheap stuff from Wal-Mart a mile away - who do they think they're kidding?). This year the task of writing an annual Valentine's Day commentary falls to me.

Often, the single folks are left in a vacuous void somewhere between fake haughtiness and crushing depression during this semi-unimportant commercial holiday. Although it may vary from person to person, this pattern holds to be especially true if it's not the first Valentine's Day's spent alone.

The general impression is that single women tend to take the holiday a lot harder than men. Eating your best friends (Ben & Jerry) is NOT going to make your problems go away

and is NOT going to get you the attention of a significant other or that outlaw biker that just got out of prison who you've had your eye on for some time. Statisticians also tell us that you are NOT going to end up living alone with a million cats (sorry, but there just aren't enough cats to go around). Life's not that bad, so cheer up! There's always Oprah!

All guys (even the single ones) know how the secret flower selling mafia stationed at the side of the road stays in business thanks to those last minute rose buying

trips. So if you don't have a girlfriend, why not make a practice flower buying run? You can give the roses to an old lady next door to your parents whose husband passed away or just save your money and buy some lottery tickets. Chicks dig rich guys right?

Personally (and pathetically) I had to check a calendar to discover what day Valentine's falls on (it turns out it's Feb 14 of EVERY SINGLE YEAR in case you're wondering). Think about it. With so many horrible V.D.'s in life, one more can't hurt right?

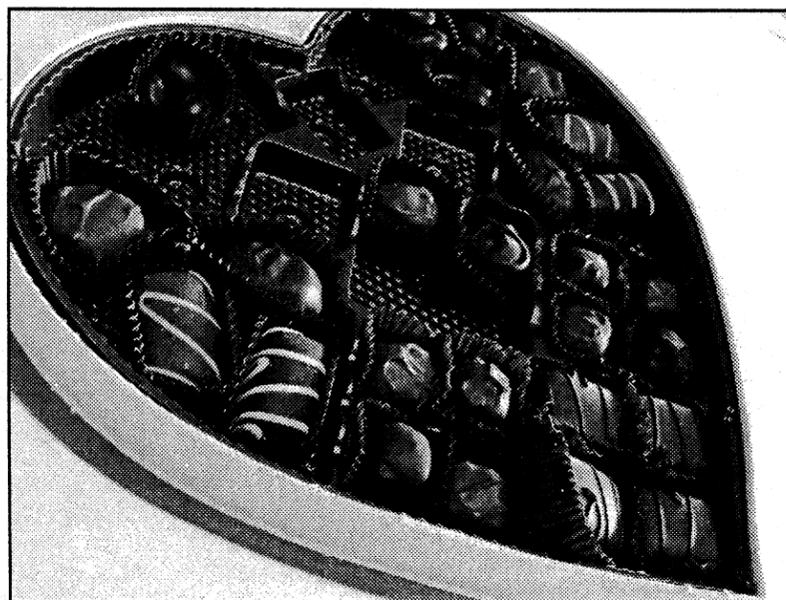
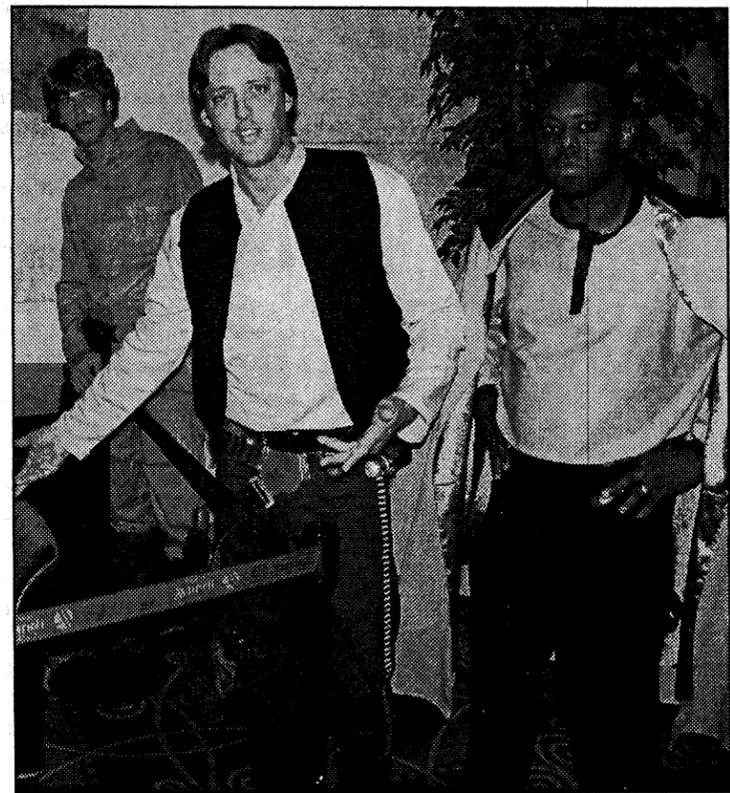


Photo courtesy of marguefile.com

Nothing helps take away the V.D. pain like a heart-shaped box of chocolates!



Syl Turner/The Sting

"If I had to have sex with a guy, it'd either be Jonny Depp or Han Solo."

Need money?
Can you write greater
than or equally as
crappy as us?

JOIN
THE STING!

Jerks.

Another V.D. with your PC

Korey Kolberg
V.G. Expert

So Valentine's Day is coming and you are getting ready for that big date. A hot one I bet she is, and... Who do you think you're kidding, this is SPSU, you've probably taken a few math classes so you know your odds of getting a date here. So what are you going to do to fill all those hours of boredom? You could play some WoW (World of Warcraft), but that costs money, something in short supply for most college students. So what are your other options? How about some Neverwinter Nights, a game based on Dungeons and Dragons 3.0 edition.

So what does this slightly older title have to offer? Well first of all you can get the Platinum Edition for around \$40.00. Think that is still too much, well look at what you get: first you get the entire Neverwinter Nights game (including a few of the expansion packs), and then on top of that, with probably a quick download, the ability to play online. How is this different from other massive online role playing games? Well, first off the servers you get to play on can be created by anyone, and they are free. Yes free!!!

For you all that want to play online games, but are too cheap to pay month by month, this is your game.

While the graphics aren't as good as the next

generation systems, they are pretty good. The storyline too is also fairly long, and if that begins to bore you, just go online (for free game play). Once online, you can experience hundreds of new worlds to explore. Finally, when you get bored of killing monsters and friends online, import your now high-level character back to you offline game and continue the slaughter.

What type of characters does NWN offer? Well you can play as any of the basic Dungeons and Dragons character types such as barbarian, bard, cleric, druid, fighter, monk, paladin, ranger, rogue, sorcerer, and finally wizard. You can also pick from

a list of races and alignments (good, evil, neutral, ...), each with their own upsides and downsides. As you level up your character, you can customize by taking levels from different classes or, if you meet the requirements, take levels in a prestige class. These special classes are more specialized and offer unique enhancements. So, with a little skill and planning, you can create your own unstoppable character.

Remember, if you're bored and looking for a new game to get addicted to, try Neverwinter Nights, who knows, maybe you'll have a chance to get killed by me, wuhahahahaha!!!!

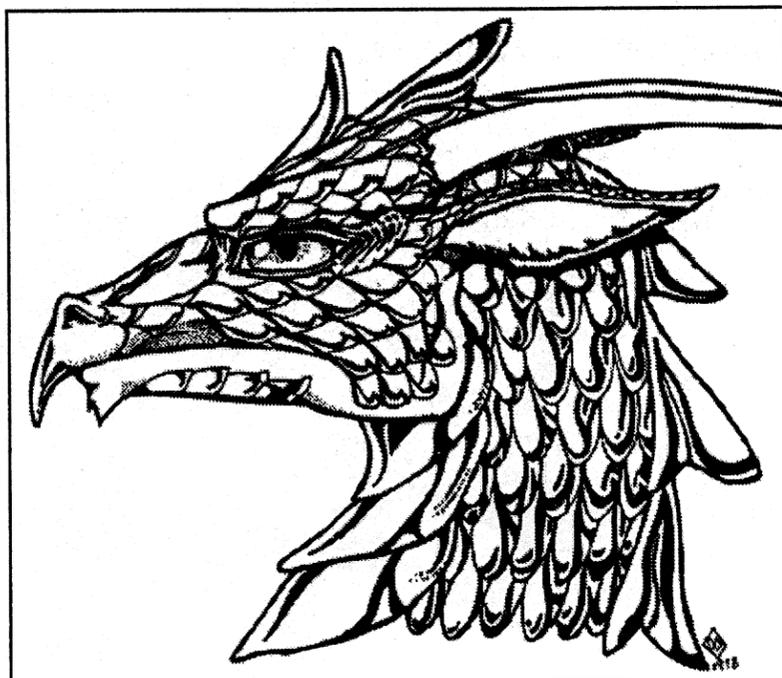


Photo Courtesy of www.dreslough.com

Nothing says Valentine's Day quite like a dragon. That's right... a dragon.

The Histories that Matter

The symbols we associate with Valentine's Day

CJ Shrader
Editor-in-Chief

It's that time of year again. Love is in the air and money is flying out of pockets for a mostly made-up holiday: Valentine's Day. With such a gimmicky holiday, I thought, why not supply a gimmicky article about the histories behind some of the items we so commonly associate with this holiday. Oh, gimmicks are so easy to work with.

Chocolate

For most lady-folk, chocolate is an easy path right into their hearts. I don't know why they worship it so, but it's not really our responsibility to figure that out, is it? We just have to pay for it and it's romantic gold.

As most everyone knows, chocolate comes from a cacao tree (the *Theobroma cacao* tree to be exact). It starts off as an extremely bitter-tasting cacao bean, gets fermented, roasted, and ground up, and then sweetened and molded into the delicious bars or boxes that we are so familiar with.

Chocolate, or at least the cacao bean, has been used for at least 2,600 years. Its earliest use was with the Mayans who made a sort of tea with it. The Aztecs drank it as well in a spicy and bitter drink called xocoatl. Xocoatl was said to taste pretty gross, but it was believed to help a person fight fatigue.

Chocolate made its way to Europe in 1585 where it was still sold as a drink. However, in order to battle the bitter taste, Europeans added sugar, milk, or even vanilla.

The ability to make solid chocolate showed up around 1828, when a Dutchman named Conrad J. van Houten patented a way of removing the alkali (and with it, the bitter taste) from chocolate. He also patented a



Photo in public domain
This is the actual comic that started the "Teddy Bear" fiasco. Some guy is offering Roosevelt and bear and he's all "Sucka' please."

method for separating chocolate into the necessary ingredients to form a solid bar. It was in 1847 that a man named Joseph Fry created the first bit of solid chocolate for eating.

Milk chocolate came along later in 1867 by an enterprising young candle maker who thought to himself, "Chocolate is good. Milk is good. What if we have chocolate with milk in it?"

Although it is not known where the actual word "chocolate" exactly comes from, it is suspected to be from the Nahuatl language that the Aztecs spoke. It is believed that the word comes from the combina-

tion of two other words: xocolli, which means bitter, and atl, which means water. Combined, the word was xocolatl, which I assume is pronounced similar to the word chocolate. Otherwise, your guess is as good as mine.

Teddy Bear

Most people know how the Teddy Bear gets its name, but do you really know the details? Or where stuffed animals in general come from? You do? Well, you probably shouldn't read this part then, and maybe you'd like to write this for me. For the rest of you, read on.

Stuffed animals have been around since the time of Ancient Egypt, where they were used for

religious purposes. Usually, these stuffed animals were made from the actual skin of animals stuffed with straw or beans (and later, more synthetic stuffed animals were made with cotton and other materials).

In medieval Europe, stuffed animals were used to represent Biblical animals in things called mystery plays. I think you get the point. Stuffed animals have been around for a really long time in all shapes and sizes.

Stuffed bears started to be called teddy bears after an adorable little story involving Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. One day, while hunting, Roosevelt's attendants caught and brought him an old, injured bear. Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear, stating it was "unsportsmanlike."

This bear was deemed "Teddy's Bear" and was made out to be a cute small bear in political cartoons. Later, Morris and Rose Michtom, who owned a shop in Brooklyn, displayed two stuffed bears that they claimed they had received written permission from Roosevelt to call "Teddy's Bears."

The rest, as they say, is history.

Cupid

Cupid is an adorable little cherub who is said to shoot arrows of love into the hearts of two people, exploding in a fountain of gore and rainbows. I was asked by one Anna Bentley to

find out if Cupid was an actual Greek or Roman god, or is he just some invention to go along with Valentine's Day. Here, my readers, is the answer (Warning: It's about to get nerdy).

Cupid is, indeed, a Roman god, and a god of erotic love at that. He is the same as the Greek god Eros and is sometimes called Amor. In Roman mythology, Cupid was normally depicted as having two sides. The first, born of Jupiter and Venus, is of a prankster who spreads love everywhere he goes. This is probably the more familiar form to us. The second form is pretty much that of a dude who just wants to have sex all the time.

Some descriptions of cupid have him wielding two kinds of arrows. Gold tipped arrows would inspire love, and lead tipped arrows would inspire hatred.

Cupid has practically always looked the way we think of him now. He is usually a winged boy wielding a bow and arrow and wearing nothing but a quiver. He wasn't quite so chubby in the good ol' days, but he mostly looked the same as now.

That's all for this issue. Whether you're going out or sitting at home all alone, playing your World of Warcraft or whatever you kids are doing these days, I hope you enjoy a happy Valentine's Day and a Merry Christmas. If you have something you'd like to see in the Histories that Matter, send me an e-mail at rshrader@spsu.edu and I'll do the best I can to answer it.



Photo courtesy www.ota.com



Photo courtesy www.wikipedia.org

Penis! We can show this because it's art. And we're pretty i