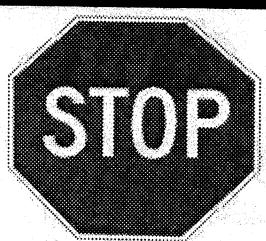


Entertainment

Lucy Lament's common sense tips on how to drive. Good read for those that don't know what the stop sign is for.

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March 2, 2006

The Sting

www.thesting.org

We take the news out of newspaper

Organization

The TKEs take to the road to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis. See them run.

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Volume 60, Issue 9

SGA elections coming soon

Interested students can apply for the Student Government Association from March 13th to March 24th

Cristina Wilson
Staff Writer

Planning is underway for new elections of the Student Government Association, and all students are welcome to apply for open positions.

The Student Government Association (SGA) consists of 10 council members, 1 president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer, 2 parliamentarians, 2 sergeants of arms, and a chief judge. Each of these positions is open for elections, with the exception of chief judge, who is chosen by the SGA president, and the student body will vote for the most capable candidates.

To serve on the SGA board, students must apply and be elected through a popular vote. At least one year of service in SGA is required to run for president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer.

The current president of SGA is Marvin Broaddus, who has served in this capacity for the past two years. Many members of SGA

are soon graduating, and it is possible that some may not meet the strict requirements implemented this year.

According to Shyam Nana, SGA council member and Elections Chair, applications will be available March 13th, and are due by March 24th. Applicants will be campaigning during March 27-April 7, and are allowed to post fliers and announcements over campus.

Applications can be obtained in the SGA office, which is located to the right of the information desk in the student center. They can also be turned in to the SGA office once completed.

SGA is responsible for "providing a systematic process of open communication among students, faculty, and administration." This includes sub-committees within the organization such as Budget and Finance, Elections, Internal Affairs, Judiciary, and Public Relations.

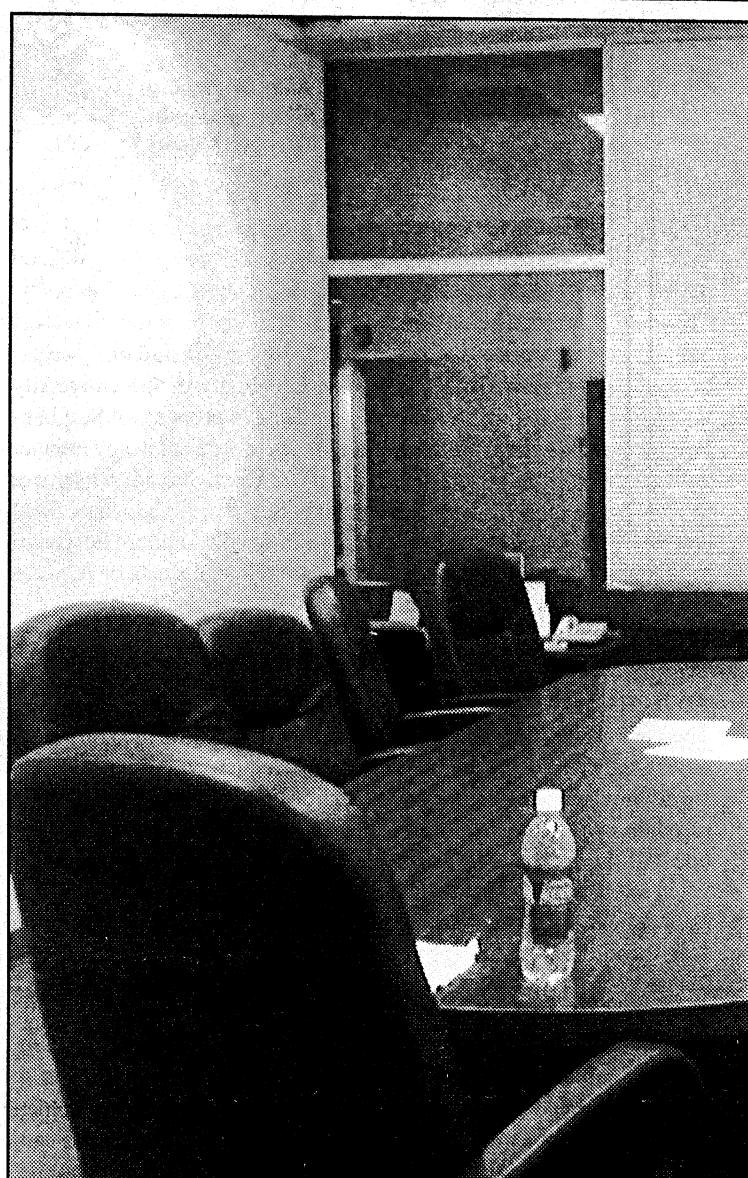
If elected, a council member will be expected to participate in two of these committees, along

with providing a liaison for several other student organizations on campus. SGA members are also expected to attend meetings that are once every two weeks.

This year, requirements for applicants are changing. In the past, a GPA of 2.0 was required for council members, parliamentarians, and sergeant of arms, but the constitution is under review, and the minimum GPA may be changed to 2.5. Also, the GPA required for executive members will increase from 2.5 to 3.0.

Shyam Nana states that the increase in GPA requirements is to ensure a more formal Student Government Association. He insists that SPSU is merely following in the footsteps of other schools that have strict requirements for their student leaders.

An inauguration date is tentatively set for April 27th at noon to swear in the newly elected members of SGA, and to distribute awards to the previous year's members. All students and faculty are welcome to attend this event.



Cristina Wilson / The Sting

In the near future, these chairs will be filled with a brand new staff of elected Student Government Association officials.

Homecoming week comes and goes at SPSU

Karen Asay
Editor-in-Training

Even though Southern Polytechnic does not have a football team, it still celebrates homecoming. On February 18th, the men's and women's basketball teams played their homecoming games. A homecoming committee, organized last semester,



Photo courtesy Jamaal Stewart

Rella Stresing won homecoming queen for the second year in a row this year. Christian Nwokeyi was voted the homecoming king.

planned many events to celebrate these games throughout the week before, February 13-17, and ended with a homecoming dance.

Monday, February 13th, were the pep rallies. The pep rally for the basketball teams was held in the Student Center at noon. It started off with the cheerleading squad doing a cheer, after which the cheerleaders and the dance team introduced the teams.

The coaching staff and players for the women's basketball team were introduced first. People present were told each player's number, position, major, year in school, where she was from, and her interests. Then, the men's team was introduced in the

same fashion. After the introduction, the dance team performed their latest dance. A contest was held next, where a person tried to throw a small basketball into a megaphone. Before playing, the person had to pick a player to represent so when this person won both him/her and the player won a small basketball. The basketballs could be traded in at Chik-Fil-A for a free sandwich. The rally ended with another cheer by the cheerleaders.

Later on Monday at 5:30 pm another pep rally was held for the baseball team. This pep rally was very similar to the one held at noon, except the dance team and cheerleaders introduced the coaching staff and the players for the baseball team. The baseball players were not introduced in as much detail as the basketball players but their names, majors, and positions were still told. Another difference was that there were two contests held instead of just one. The first contest was the same as the earlier one but

the second one was for the baseball players. To win the new contest, the player had to spin around a megaphone three times and then throw the ball into another megaphone about ten feet away. The head coach won the contest.

Tuesday, the baseball team played two games which started at 1:00 pm and the men's basketball team played a game at 7:30 pm. The baseball team played Milligan College and won both home games with scores of 5-2 and 11-0. The men's basketball team also won their game Tuesday, with a score of 92-62. Freshman player, Kessler, was one of the high scorers during the game, scoring 11 points and also making six rebounds.

Wednesday through Friday there were a few small events. Wednesday, "Dukes of Hazard" was shown in the community center at 8:00 pm. Thursday's event was to have your picture taken with the Hornet but this event was cancelled. Friday was green and white day and

there was a poker tournament held at 7:30 pm.

The main events happened Saturday. Both the men's and women's team played Lee College. At 2:00 pm, the women's basketball team played. They lost the game 46-60 but fans say they did a really good job. The high scorers for the women during these games were Jenkins with 15 points and Brandon with nine points. The men's team played next and won with a score of 88-80.

The high scorers this game were Holes with 31 points and Richardson with 21 points. During these games, the result for homecoming king and queen were announced. Rella Stresing was Southern Polytechnic's homecoming queen and Christian Nwokeyi was homecoming king.

Later Saturday was the "Belle of the Ball" Homecoming Dance. The dance started at 9:00 pm and lasted until 12:00 am in the Student Center Ballroom. The dance was semi-formal to formal dress.

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USA Constitution

The age old question, "Why has the USA constitution lasted so long. Is it just that good? Or is the USA government lazy? Christiaan Funkhouser has the answer for you.

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The Decemberists

Looking for a new favorite band? Twila tells us all about the unique tones from The Decemberist!

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Hemingway's

Bored and can't find anything to do on campus? Well here is a fun place off campus. Find out what about this cool place!

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Battle & Brew Coupons

Do you like to play LAN games? Do you like to drink? Check out Battle and Brew. Coupons inside!

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The Sting

www.thesting.org

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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, March 23 at 5:00 P.M. This is the April Fool's edition, so no serious articles will be printed. Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of *The Sting*, except through special permission.

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International forum focuses on Latin America

Twila McConnell
Copy Editor

Many of you know about SPSU's 2006 International Forum titled "Latin America: Challenges for a New Century" due to all the extra credit that was floating around for listening to the two fifty-minute speeches. However hopefully you went to listen not just to get your name on a piece of paper for a few extra points because Latin America is clearly going to become a focal point of world politics in upcoming years.

The first speech was titled "The Architecture of Drug Trafficking in Colombia: Cartels or Networks?" and was given by Dr. Michael Kenney who is an assistant professor of public policy at Pennsylvania State University. He has extensive credentials including research fellowships with the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University, the Center for International Studies at the University of Southern California, several published articles in magazines such as the Wall Street Journal and the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, and is currently publishing a study with the Pennsylvania State University Press titled *From Pablo to Osama: Trafficking and Terrorist Networks, Government Bureaucracies, and Competitive Adaptation*. In his speech he discussed issues such as Plan Colombia – the United States' counter drug effort – and how it is coming to an end, as well as the differences between drug cartels and networks and why it's been so difficult to eradicate the drug trafficking in Colombia. Considering that 90% of cocaine in the U.S. drug market passes through Colombia, it is necessary to limit the drug market in Colombia in order to limit the drug in the U.S.

He concentrated on the fact that the U.S. had a fundamental misunderstanding of how Colombia's drug trade functioned. The U.S. was under the assumption that there were huge cartels in which there were a few people running the whole operation. However, by taking out the "Kingpins" the U.S. ultimately created more complicated problems as the networking between Colombian drug traders grew infinitely more complex. They worked around every new plan the U.S. began to implement by breaking the drug process down into more and more little steps towards the final product.

Another tactic he discussed was their ability to go back to old methods of shipping the drug into the U.S. instead of becoming more and more sophisticated. This way the government is constantly at a loss as to the next way they'll ship the drugs in. Colombia's ability to adapt to every tactic the U.S. comes up with, paired with the United States' misunderstanding

of the Colombian drug market keeps cocaine prices in the U.S. stable, betraying how useless the entire situation has been. Supply reduction through eradicating cocoa crops and drug labs gives immediate results but in the long run Dr. Kenney leaves us pondering on a better solution.

The second talk was given by Dr. Jennifer McCoy, titled: "Hugo Chavez – Despot, Destabilizer, or Democratizer?" Dr. McCoy had first hand experience with Hugo Chavez as the director of the Carter Center's Americas Program and is also an associate professor of political science at Georgia State University. She represented the Carter Center alongside OAS and UNDP on the International Tripartite Working Group on Venezuela project. She has directed multiple election monitoring projects for the Carter Center as well as having participated in election delegations. Her latest book, written with David Myers, was titled *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela* and was published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. Her focus was on Hugo Chavez and what he means to the Venezuelan people. In the U.S. he's known as the thorn in Bush Jr.'s side with his confrontational remarks, friendship with Fidel Castro, and the fact that he seems to be trying to bring authoritarianism to Venezuela. He also openly supports Aver Morales, the elected 'leftist' president of Bolivia. However in Venezuela he's seen by the majority of the people as giving them democracy, providing them with elections and the ability to choose their constitution.

Dr. McCoy invites us to question what democracy means; is it merely your point of view? She explains that Venezuela went from a 25% poverty rating to a 65% poverty rating in merely two

decades. With a slide like that she says, it's not just poor people having more children. The middle class is also sliding into poverty. So when Hugo Chavez started a military coup to overthrow the government, he literally gained his thirty seconds of fame when he got up in front of the people of Venezuela and asked them to lay down their arms against their corrupt government, for now.

After he was released from prison on the next president's pardon, he decided to do things the legal way and ran for president. Even though he won by a substantial amount, unrest began to set in. Chavez set up schools Dr. McCoy says are incredibly similar to those here in Georgia where children can get meals at school and spend more than half a day there, integrating music and art programs. He also set up a new television news network.

However, people are skeptical of his motives with these new programs so they asked for a recall. This is where the Carter Center stepped in to mediate. They were pretty sure a recall would settle nothing but it was the only thing that the supporters of Hugo Chavez and those who wanted to see him out of power could agree on. It turned out that Chavez won by 59%. Currently there is an overlying tranquility in Venezuela, but deep tension lies underneath. Venezuela is in a key position for a revolution because of the money they make in oil. Dr. McCoy suggests we begin to pay more attention to this developing area or they may strike up a partnership with China.

So hopefully you had the opportunity to experience these wonderfully informative talks on Latin America and kept an open mind. I guarantee you'll hear more about them in the forthcoming years.



The other America.

Image Courtesy www.mongabay.org

Letter to the Editor

A response to *Homeland insecurity*

Lorann Malone

Contributed

In response to Homeland insecurity, I am not certain where to begin. Amid the seemingly endless contradictions and ineffectual heritage information, several of your statements disturbed me deeply.

First, you began a serious paper with Britney Spears lyrics; that was a mistake. Already, I can't take you seriously. I feel so sorry for you that you had to come to a free country and live under little oppression but you couldn't handle that. It was stated, "I... did not hear the rest of that hated voice." You reluctantly heard a welcome to America, home of the brave, and you hated it. How dare you, hating this beautiful country come over and all of a sudden it's, "why can't we just be Americans?" Take pride in where you are from and if people reject you, why should you care

what they think? For a country you so hate, you sure do care a lot about what we think, stating, "I feel like a soldier on the forefront of hate everyday of my life, not for hurting anyone, but for being unique." Why do you need the approval of a country? Numerous people have come to this country and faced the same problems. "Your" people have gotten along just fine so far, why speak up now?

Secondly, I want to bring up the absolute slander of our soldiers. My ENTIRE family is military and so are the majority of my friends. How dare you compare my family, defending a country, to suicide bombers and hijackers? Yes, we do reward our soldiers for defending those who couldn't defend themselves, for nobly fighting the cause of justice. Ask them; ask our soldiers if killing someone was on their list of things to accomplish in life. I guarantee they will say no

(Except for the few crazy people). They are in no way similar to murderers and I can't believe you would compare them to such. And you know Hollywood would stop portraying "your" people as suicide bombers and hijackers if they stopped doing it in real life.

They are the true murderers; killing without thinking except to get a point across. Is there not another way to express yourselves other than strapping a bomb on or hijacking a plane? Don't get me wrong, I am aware of what life over there is like and I have pity. I am also aware that not every Muslim fits in this category because I have known so many great ones.

Still, what is the point? Our people have the desire to do well and defend the USA from its oppressors; this is a noble cause. It shows that our soldiers have characteristics of those deemed honorable. Even those who don't agree with

the war know our soldiers deserve our respect.

Lastly, you stated, "...are these stories (honor killings) really as bad as having 15 year old girls drop out of school because they're pregnant?" I'm sorry but last time I checked you can get back on track and on with life after having a child but you can't come back from the dead. How many times have honor killings happened in this country as compared to, let's say, an Islamic country? I think you need to be reminded what country you are talking about: AMERICA!

I love how you condemn killing a Muslim, especially out of hate, but

I can kill another American and that's okay?

You say that honor killings and the death penalty are wrong and then you say they are meant to be examples. Well, which is it? Do you mean you are condoning honor killings because they make

great examples? Again remember what country you are talking about. We are all free through the power of choice and accountability. I do not think I should die because I did something wrong, like, how dare I not be perfect! I also want you to remember that you are not the first "people" to be discriminated against. Need I remind you of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor, or the African Americans after slavery ended? You act like this is a new concept. I mean deal with it.

I hope for all of our sakes that the future is removed of hate and ignorance and replaced with love and knowledge. Obviously killing a Muslim because we hate them is wrong; we need to kill them out of love because we can't stand to see them on a path of destruction. As you said, "not because it's going to change anything, it doesn't make them committed any less or better but makes them an example."

The Middle

Fascism, religious porn, and radical Islamics

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

In the last issue of The Sting, lots of controversy surrounded an article written by one of my fellow writers, Naimah Shaw. In her article available on www.thesting.org she equates United States Soldiers to terrorists. For a complete response to her article please check out the forums at forum.thesting.org. In this edition of "The Middle" I want to look at the problem I have with the Muslims that are good people, the Muslims that are as peaceful as Jews or Christians in respect to how they respect other religions, etc. That problem is one of a lack of outrage.

Naimah claims to be one of those aforementioned Muslims, and I have no real valid reason to doubt she is the perfect illustration of the problem that Islam is facing. In her article she mentions that she believes certain aspects of Muslim law that are enforced in the Middle East are wrong. However, after

stating she believes it is wrong, she continues to justify and excuse the actions. Saying something is wrong and then excusing why it happens creates an oxymoron.

To excuse someone releases them from all responsibility. If someone gives an excuse for showing up late for class, they are trying to get out of the fact they were late and put the responsibility on something else – whether or not the excuse is valid or not. Rush Limbaugh on his February 21st show stated that the radical Islamic fundamentalists (RIF) are really more along the line of fascists. And in a lot of ways the RIF actions match those of fascists. Rush said that the RIF's have really lost a religious look at things and have adopted more of an ideological Islam which aligns more with a fascist idea than an actual religion. Rush has a point, Nazi fascism is a basic belief that one group of people is superior to other people and should be the dominant group of people and that it should be achieved at the extermination of all other groups. Statements that all infidels (non-Muslims) must be killed and that Jews must be driven to the sea are just a few of the many justifications of calling RIF fascists which I will continue to do for the rest of the article.

As I see it, there are two camps in Islam – Muslims and fascists. The debate can go on and on about whether or not Islam is a good peaceful re-

ligion, that's not what I'm going to debate in this article. The Muslim fascists have hijacked the Muslim religion and, instead of denouncing it, the Muslims are supporting it by not denouncing it. I want to use Christianity as an example for a moment. There is a group of people who claim to be Christians that run a series of "Godhates" websites. www.godhatesfags.com and www.godhatesamerica.com are just two of the many. "The #1 Christian Porn Site" www.xxxchurch.com interviewed one of the many lawyers for the God hates people. XXXChurch is an online church that deals with the topic of pornography with very unconventional methods such as movements like "Save the Kittens" and "Nuns Against Porn" and the outrageous to some Christian circles "Jesus Loves Porn Stars." The full show and interview are available through I-Tunes and the website on Episode 16.

Some of the things that were said are outrageous such as when speaking about Jesus clearing the temple as is written about in Matthew 21, that Jesus turned over the table because they were making Christian paraphernalia "and sitting around running their mouths about 'God loves everyone' bla bla bla 'You can live like the devil' 'Oh, Judge not lest ye be judged.' 'love thy neighbor'. She just so happened to forget that Jesus said three of the four things. John 3:16, Luke 6:37, and Mark 12:31. "No of course Jesus doesn't love porn stars." But in 2nd Peter 3:9 Peter says that, 'He does not want any to be destroyed, but wants all to turn away from their sins'.

"America has turned the country to the fags, they're coming home in body bags... when this nation... [started] teaching this generation over in Iraq and Afghanistan that it is ok to be gay... God is

punishing America and his weapon of choice is the IED (Improvised Explosive Device, the number one killer of our soldiers) and the Whirlwind (Katrina)." "That's our message to this generation, You're going to Hell, and there's nothing you can do about it." "Thank God for Katrina, Thank God for dead soldiers. Thank God for IED's." "Stay away from... Christmas it's taking you to Hell Dummy." "We went over to... and four soldiers were having a memorial service... [and we got to picket] and that was a good time, that was good stuff."

People like Shirley make Christianity look bad because of her ignorance and unjust representation of Christianity both to Christians and non-Christians. I will be the first one to say that not only is she wrong, but I find it very hard to believe that she is a Christian. I'm not going to sit here and make excuses about how it's just what that church believes or whatever. I'm going to write and bring it to your attention that what she is saying is nothing like what Christians and especially mainstream Christians believe. As a Christian, I find it offensive that she's perverting my religion (for lack of a better term). I find it extremely offensive that she's using the Bible to justify her hateful ignorance and I'm going to try and prove that she's wrong, and doesn't speak for me. While she tries to use my religion, and use my bible to say something, I'm going to show where she's taking it out of context, and where God, or the Bible, says different. When people bomb abortion clinics in the name of God (The Christian God), you don't see Christians ignoring it, justifying it, and then excusing it. We say it's wrong, it doesn't matter if we agree with the place the terrorism was incited.

I present the question, if someone was out and about doing

things in your name, saying, "Bill thinks that you're an idiot!" or "Sara told me to key your car" or "James told me he hates (insert minority slur here)." What if someone was slandering you or libeling you? Would you say, "Oh well, that's just what they do" or "Well, they may be saying that about me in my name, but, other people are saying other things about the same thing so, it's fine. You need to understand why they are saying these things about me, which, by the way, I don't like."

It's kind of hard to explain, but I hope my point got across. When lies are being said about something you know about, or are a part of you, you need to defend it. If you don't speak out against it people are going to assume it's true! Especially if there's a misconception already.

Being a part of a forum, lots of things get said, and a lot of things that are said aren't true. If someone says something about me that's not true, or there is a misconception about something I believe, I defend myself. Homosexuality is one of those huge issues no one seems to understand. People assume that because I'm a Christian I hate homosexuals. This can't be farther from the truth, and when people accuse and assume these things, I go to correct them immediately. Just because I believe that what they're doing is wrong doesn't mean I hate them. The overused colloquialism is, "Love the sinner, hate the sin." But it's so true. Love the homosexual just not the lifestyle.

What I would do if I were Naimah, instead of excusing and justifying the actions of terrorists, I would come out and try to clear the name of a religion that was hijacked by fascists. That is, if the fascists really aren't just exposing the truth about the religion.

Hey, criticizing Islamic slavery of Christian blacks...



...IS

ETHNOCENTRIC

www.protestwarrior.com

Photo courtesy www.protestwarrior.com

When did the Sting become a web forum?

Our constitution compared to other constitutions

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

On September 17th, 1787 a piece of paper was signed that would forever change the world. It was a revolutionary idea which has influenced the entire western culture and is the foundation of all laws in the United States of America. One could even argue that the American constitution is America. But why has the Constitution lasted so long and what differentiates it from other countries? To answer the aforementioned question one must not only study the American constitution, but also other country's constitutions. I looked up numerous constitutions. I'm going to be looking at the different constitutions taking in account the age of the document and the main points and differences that I see as compared to the American constitution.

The second oldest constitution was that of Poland. On May 3rd, 1971 the Polish people created a constitution. Their constitution established a state religion. However, they promoted tolerance between other religions. This is exemplified by the first article in the Polish constitution entitled, The Dominant Religion. "The dominant national religion is and shall be the sacred Roman Catholic faith with all laws. Passage from the dominant religion to any other confession is forbidden under penalties of apostasy. Inasmuch as the same holy faith bids us love our neighbors, we owe to all persons, of whatever persuasion, peace in their faith and the protection of the government, and therefore we guarantee freedom to all rites and religions in the Polish lands, in accordance with the laws of the land." The Polish constitution allowed Lords and Ladies to remain in their position. The Polish constitution really just established a social contract: the peasants and serfs would work and the aristocracy would help the peasants in their

struggles in daily life.

The French Constitution, which was adapted into law in October 4th, 1958, established a national language, official song, and motto. This constitution, while establishing a parliamentary system of government, really had a laundry list of things that the individual officers could do. I also noticed very little separation of powers, especially between the Prime Minister and the President of France.

The Chinese constitution was adopted December 4th, 1982 is the newest of the constitutions I looked at and established the communistic government we now know. The preamble of the Chinese constitution is a history and timeline of China and its movement from a feudal to a Marxist society. It seemed to be more of a propaganda piece. The opening line of the Preamble states, "China is one of the countries with the longest histories in the world. The people of all nationalities in China have jointly created a splendid culture and have a glorious revolutionary tradition." The constitution is written like a business' bylaws with all the major laws added into it as well as anti-discrimination laws.

Lastly Japan's constitution was adopted November 7th, 1946, approximately a year and three months after Japan's formal surrender. The Japanese preamble reminds me more of a surrendering country than an actual preamble with comments such as, "We, the Japanese people... resolve that never again shall we be visited with the horrors of war through the action of government... We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time and have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world..." Interesting parts of the Japanese constitution is that there are no requirements in the constitution to become a citizen, a bill of rights is built into the constitution, and, while keeping an emperor, the

Japanese constitution severely limits the power of that position.

What differentiates the United States' constitution from that of other countries is the way it was written. Our preamble, unlike other countries' preambles, set out the goals of the continental congress. It implies the dream of the framers to create a union that was equal and fair to all, a peaceful and just society – but more than that, a free society, not just for them, but for their children.

The US Constitution was written at a place in time coming out of a period when the US, which had been unified during the war for independence, was starting to look like Europe – a conglomeration of nations. In the more distant past, the US had broken free of the ties which kept them tied down to England as colonies. The US constitution was written by people who had been under the tyrannical rule of England, a parliamentary-monarchy. It was written by people who had fought in a war to free the country. It was written by the best America, if not the world, had to offer. The US constitution was not written as a set of rules at which to run the nation on. The US constitution was written to form a revolutionary government which intellectuals had only dreamed of in the past. Rush Limbaugh likes to call the United States and the Constitution "The Great American Experiment." Rightfully labeling the US, the framers of the constitution were doing something never before preceded.

Some came from Virginia where it was illegal to be a Baptist. Some came from rich backgrounds, some were great public speakers, others were better writers and while some were directly from England and others' were born in America they all had one thing in common. They wanted to make sure the freedom they fought for, that many people had died for, was not wasted away. It's this diverse background of people that was able to create

this document that "form[ed] a more perfect union."

The constitution set forth to take the aspects they liked of parliamentary government, as well as other governmental systems, and perfect it. They decided on a representative democracy or a democratic republic. This was a democratic republic that would later have a bill of rights to prevent the government from establishing a Church of America and forcing government (and eventually citizens) to adhere to a certain faith. It was a republic that saw the problems with aristocracy and did away with it.

The American constitution has the ability to grow with the times. The founders knew that America, being originally formed by immigrants, should respect the culture of immigrants and not force them to adhere to American culture. Knowing things would change, they did not place mottos,

official languages, and songs in the constitution. Unlike the classic parliamentary system there are strong checks and balances to prevent people from abusing their position. Instead of writing in restrictions and limitations on what branches could not do, and should do, they wrote a job description of what the branches responsibilities were.

The United States constitution was designed not to be a set of rules, but of guidelines. Guidelines that gave the maximum amount of freedoms to the people and the government while protecting the sanctity of that freedom if ever someone were to try to abuse it. The reason why our constitution has been around the longest and for the most part unmodified – amendments rarely create something, they mainly clarify – is due to it's absolute freedom with protection from abuses of that freedom.

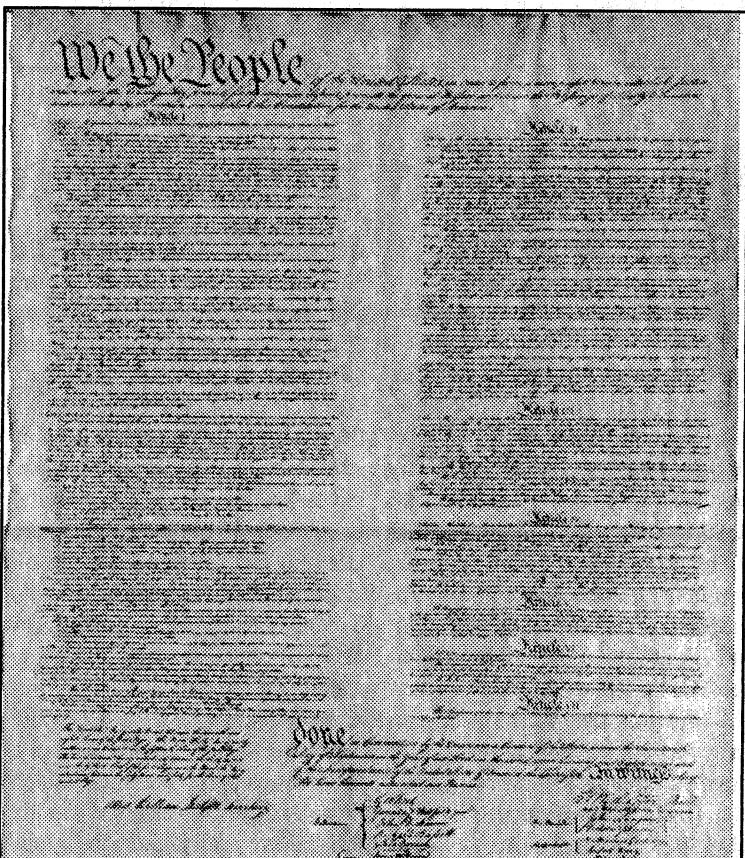


Photo courtesy www.lincolnstore.com

The Muslim reaction to cartoons by the Danish

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

In September of 2005 Jyllands-Posten, a Danish newspaper published numerous cartoon caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed. These caricatures offended many Muslims on many levels. First, because the Prophet Mohammed is never supposed to be represented in any form, especially not in picture or statue. Muslims believe that to do so would take the risk of worshiping the image, and not Allah. Secondly, the caricatures portrayed the prophet as a terrorist. These comics and the reaction to them has sparked a debate on if free speech is a right or a privilege to which we have a responsibility.

I think everyone can agree that it's not good to write or draw things for the sole purpose of offending. But where do we, as a society, draw the line? No country has completely free speech. There are always restrictions in some way,

whether those restrictions penalize those who yell "Fire" in a crowded place, for saying things that might incite others to violence, protect others against libel and defamation, or if those restrictions prevent obscenities on the air waves. According to the February 11th edition of The Economist it is illegal in seven European countries to say that, "Hitler did not murder millions of Jews."

"The fewer constraints that are placed on free speech the better. Limits designed to protect people (from libel and murder...) are easier to justify than those that aim to... control thinking (such as laws on... obscenity and Holocaust-Denial)." The writer continues that to try and control thinking through laws does nothing but create martyrs when people are penalized instead of letting themselves be shown as the fools they are.

Why the uproar over cartoons that were legally printed? Because as French President Jacques Chirac

said, "one of the foundations of the republic" is freedom of expression with "respect and moderation." Britain's Foreign Secretary, Jack Shaw labeled the cartoons "insensitive," and "unnecessary." Even President Bush backhandedly added to the criticism of the publications when he said that the world governments need to be "respectful."

What may have prompted reactions such as this? The Muslim reaction to the cartoons. 10 killings, most of which happened when rioters started attacking military bases. Numerous embassies were attacked and burned. A Roman Catholic priest, who was from Italy and had nothing to do with the publication of the cartoons, was shot by someone who yelled "Allah is great," and later claimed to have been provoked by the Mohammed cartoons. Was the prime minister trying to prevent having another riot by Muslims?

But why are Britain and America not standing up for the

Danish government and instead slapping their hand so to speak? Thanks to the American media and liberal democrats everywhere, the freeing of over 80 million Muslims in Afghanistan and Iraq is seen as the country's "rampaging in to the Muslim heartland" and occupying the lands. Also, Osama bin Laden and other enemies of the West are exploiting the notion that the war on terror is the same as a War on Islam.

Some, as the writer in The Economist believe that Bush and Blair are simply trying to make it up to the Islamic people by admonishing the Danish people, as well as the other nations that printed the cartoons because they could.

However, the freedom of expression, which includes being able to draw caricatures of Mohammed is one of the pillars of American and Western Society. It is something that many men and women have given their lives to be able to give us. It is something that we are over in Iraq and Afghanistan giving the inhabi-

ants. Restricting peoples' rights so as to minimize people being offended is no different than people being penalized because they aren't politically correct. Someone will always be offended and if people are not able to exercise their rights of free expression and freedom of the press and of religion relations and hatred between those who are offended and those who are being restricted will only get worse.

Like it or not, something will always be offensive to someone and it won't be long until restriction turns into censorship. The freedom of the press is something that is ingrained into the Constitution. I think it's interesting how people are so eager to restrict the freedom of the press but rabidly defend the "rights" of porn shops to have the "right" to advertise adult novelties on billboards along the highway. What's real freedom of the press and freedom of speech? Advertising or expression of ideas?

Lucy Lament's Hints

Lucy Lament
Staff Writer

I'm back with more things that drive me mad. If you see something you disagree with, want to add to, or have a new hint list suggestion, please e-mail me at Lucylament@gmail.com.

This month's article is on drivers. Driving is something we take for granted and just kind of do, but it can kill you and can kill others, so be safe. As always my first hint every month and on every subject is to use common sense. That'd be the end of my article if common sense were actually common.

1. Be visible. If it's raining, foggy, or getting dark, turn your headlights on. Maybe you can see in front of you, but what if the person behind you has less visibility than you do? If you have your tail lights on, that will help.

2. Use turn signals. No one knows if you are turning except you. We are not mind readers of our fellow drivers. If you are at a light and turning left, use your turn signal, it lets the people doing the same on the other side know that they too can go when it's clear.

3. Do not congregate in the center of the road. Don't park

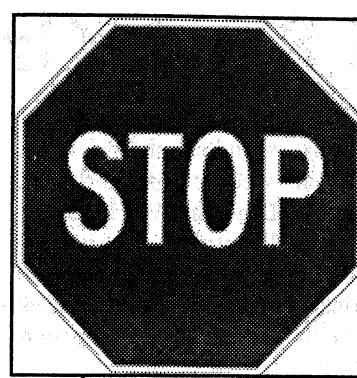
your car in the center of the road to pick up a friend, talk to a friend or drop people/things off. This kind of ties into my last article where the pedestrians were doing it. Hitting you because you are randomly stopped in the middle of the road over the top of a hill or just around a curve would not be fun for any of us, so please keep this from happening.

4. Stop at stop signs. Even on campus there can be people coming. Just the other day I was nearly side-swiped because someone didn't want to stop at the stop sign near the student center steps. There could also be pedestrians in the crosswalk, or waiting to cross, and remember they do have the right away.

5. Know your vehicle. I know that there is a learning curve for a new vehicle, but after a week of driving it every day you should be able to locate and use the following; gas pedal, brake pedal, gear shift, and turn signals. You should also familiarize yourself with the radio, heating and air system, and any other controls that will be used while driving.

6. Know what signals mean and follow them. There are no left turns onto 41 from the 120 loop. So don't hold up the people wanting to go straight when you can see the signs well before the light. And just like the songs that most five-year-olds know, "Green means go, yellow means slow, and red means stop, stop, stop." (Quote from a Barney Song)

7. See the yellow and white lines painted on the roads? Know what they mean? Follow them! Once again I was almost hit because someone did not want to



stay on their side of the yellow line in the lot near the student center steps. I know you learn what the lines, dots, and stripes mean when you get your learner's permit, and I think with some of the behavior of drivers on campus a lot of you need to revisit it. Just because you are on a campus does not mean you can not get hurt. In fact, I would say people are so reckless on campus because they feel 'safe' here. If you were to have an accident here, it might even cause more damage than a fender bender off of campus.

8. Obey the speed limit. If you hit someone, the faster you are going the worse the damage. From experience I know that only going 15 mph can cause \$6000+ damage and that is just to one car.

9. Know where you are supposed to park and stick with it. I know a lot of people who are told they would get a ticket for parking somewhere just state that it will be okay because the Judiciary board will just write it off. Well, the board is not allowing as many to pass by them as they did in the past, so I'd be careful if I were you!

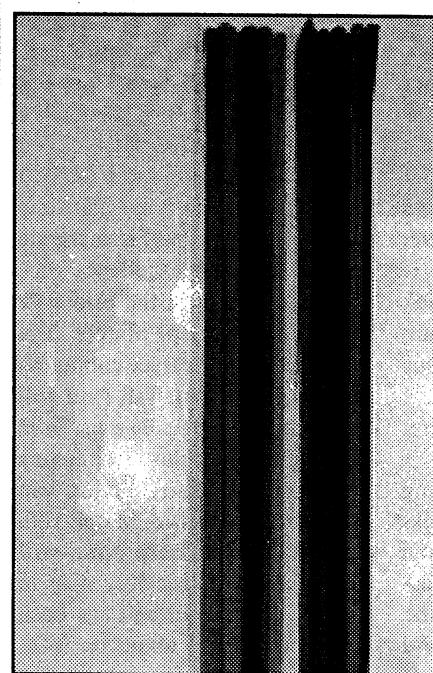
10. Last but not least, hang up the phone. If you can not do the above without wrecking then hang up. No phone call is more important than arriving to your destination safely.

Well that is all until next time, so drive safely! The next installment has not been decided yet, please feel free to e-mail me if you have any suggestions, questions, thoughts or comments!

Writing Contest Results

Question Asked

Write a paragraph or two explaining what this piece of art means and why it should be considered art?



Winner!!! W. Stuart Michelson

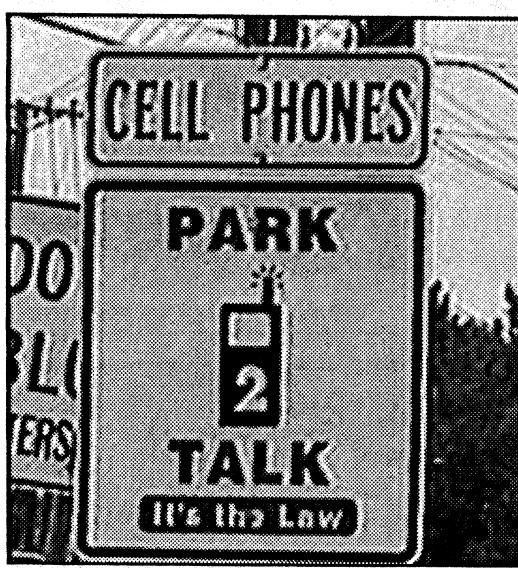
Morris Louis' painting "Number 1-81" at first glance might seem to be something you would expect to see at a preschool art exhibition, while I hold that it is open to deeper interpretation. This painting is a plea for justice for the common resident college student.

The first thing that came to my mind when I saw this painting was "shower curtain." Today (as I'm sure it was back in Louis' day), shower curtains inside of dorms are traditionally disgustingly colorful sheets of mold and green fuzzies akin to a culture plate from the biology lab.

I know what everyone is thinking, "oh that's the most absurd thing I have ever heard, I am skipping ahead to the Crappy Comic." But those of you who are still reading, just go with this. Imagine a pole spanning across the top of the lines of color, and the lines of color are the curtain hanging down and shoved to one side.

The problem of culture plate style shower curtains is not exclusive to one or two residence areas, rather it is a widespread problem that one could blame for the moral decadence and social health decline we see in modern America. I have a friend at another university that ironically enough this past weekend was expressing his feelings to me about how gross the curtains are in his dorm. I cannot help but think that "Curtain Color" (or CC) was on Louis' mind at the time of the painting. €

Sadly, Louis would not live to see CC eradicated in his lifetime, as I have seen online that he died in 1962. I think his legacy speaks loudly through the artistic nature of the painting, a sole voice crying out for an end to the madness and fear surrounding CC that pervades college campuses.



The Decemberists – Picaresque

Twila McConnell
Copy Editor

You might have heard "Eli, The Barrow Boy" if you were driving through Maine this past summer.. Or I did anyway. And the band that did that amazing song was The Decemberists. Classified among bands like Belle & Sebastian, Matthew Sweet, and Of Montreal, they are actually one of the most unique bands on the market these days.

Their lyrics are meaningful, story-like, and well planned out, as well as usually humorous, and are complimented by deep harmonies. I'm going to admit the singer's voice might grate on your nerves for a song or two but pretty soon you'll be completely absorbed in the melodies The Decemberists present.

Their latest album, *Picaresque*, is probably their most defined, experimental album yet. Every song varies enough to keep

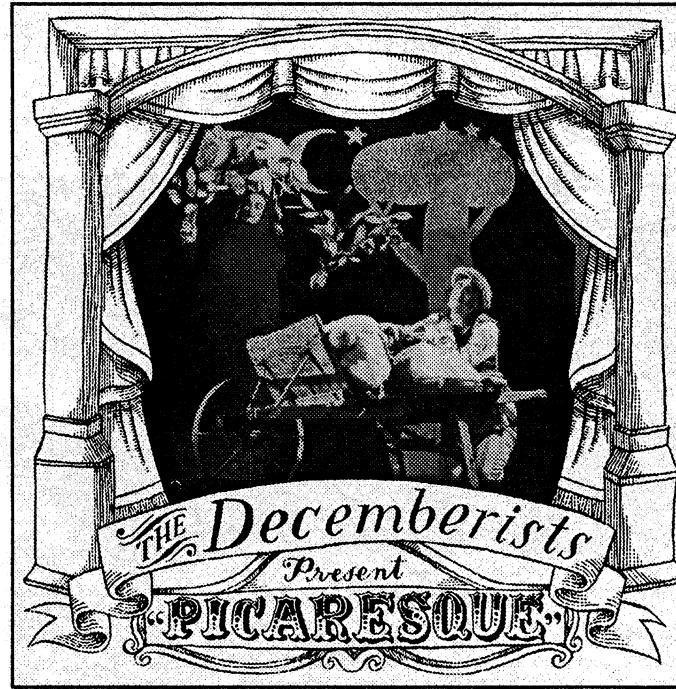
you listening over and over again.

This band from the U.S. uses a variety of instruments including upright bass and the accordion to create their unique sound. You might even have heard of their more popular song '16 Military Wives' which lyrically criticizes the U.S. in humorous rhyme. For a while it was available 'on demand' which is where I was introduced to this band.

Yet even in their humor, they have a really serious, romantic side. The song "Engine Driver" is a romantic tale of lost love. Even with his odd voice, it's heart wrenching to hear lines like "And I am a writer, writer of fictions/I am the heart that you call home/And I've written pages upon pages/Trying to rid you from my bones" overlaid with ethereal female background vocals. Mostly these songs are filled with a youthful, upbeat pop/rock sound that's undeniably likeable. The lyr-

ics are easy enough to understand so you'll be singing along in no time. Their current label is Kill

Rock Stars. How sweet is that? Their official website is: www.decemberists.com.



Money for College

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

(770) 436-0560

What is there to do in Marietta?

Hemingway's Tropical Bar & Grill

Karen Asay
Editor-in-Training

One of the biggest complaints I hear around campus is that there is nothing to do. Yes, we are not the typical campus with frat parties every weekend or loads of student activities going on every day, but there are places to go, activities to do, and interesting people to meet. However, since Southern Poly is a small campus, we have to look a little harder and maybe venture off campus. One such off campus place is Hemingway's Tropical Bar & Grill, located in Marietta Square.

Hemingway's has something going on every day of the week. Mondays and Tuesdays domestic bottled beer is only \$1.50. Wednesday is Trivia Night where the prizes for first, second, and third place are \$35, \$25, and \$15 off your tab. Also, Miller Lite bottles are only \$2.50 on Wednesday. On Thursday, during the spring, summer, and fall, a small band or solo act will be playing on the patio. Thursdays are also open for private parties, which I will give you more information about later in this article. Fridays and Saturdays are the main nights, with some of the best live bands playing. The line up for Friday and Saturday are later in the article. On Sunday, during the summer, a solo or duet will be playing on Hemingway's patio. There are lunch and dinner specials everyday, too.

Hemingway's is near the corner of West Park Rd and South Park Rd in Marietta Square. Hemingway's is a fair sized place.

The dancing area is a little small but people always find space. Also, the indoor stage is small but the music is great and a small stage leaves more room to dance and hang out. The dance floor and stage is on the first floor and in the basement there are pool tables and restrooms. It took me a second to find the restroom my first time there. Lastly, the staff is energetic and the service is excellent.

Okay, here is the Friday & Saturday line up for March. The weekend after this issue comes out (March 3rd & 4th), Tall Paul will be playing. He is a solo artist from Knoxville, TN, who does covers of groups like James Taylor, Van Morrison, and Rehab. March 10th & 11th, Seven Sharp Nine will be playing, who recently opened for Collective Soul and has been frequently talked about on 99X. They are an alternative band that plays original songs and covers of bands like Matchbox 20, Ramones, Beastie Boys, and Stone Temple Pilots. The staff and owner of Hemingway's couldn't say enough about these guys.

March 17th & 18th, Poor Otis will hit the stage. This classic rock band does covers of Cheap Trick and Pink Floyd and is known to have a sense of humor. For example, Elvis might show up and sing.

March 24th & 25th, Misconduct, another classic rock band only a little harder than Poor Otis, will be playing. They do covers of Rolling Stones and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

March 31st & April 1st, Blankety Blank closes out the con-

certs for March. They are a hard alternative and classic rock band, who does covers of Pearl Jam, Grateful Dead, and Van Halen.

Well, entertainment is wonderful but don't forget the food and drinks. Drinks are cheaply priced, with the shooter lemon drop, purple hooter, and kamikazes being \$3.00 everyday. Hemingway's has great burgers and wings and they have a general assortment of meal choices. Most of their food is less than \$10.00. Of course, Hemingway's has seafood dishes as well to go along with their tropical theme. If you go to Hemingway's for food, don't forget your Southern Poly student ID because the owner of Hemingway's is giving all SPSU

students a deal – a FREE appetizer with the purchase of two meals.

For those of you that are interested in information about having a private party at Hemingway's on Thursday, here are the basics. The owner will not charge for the use of his place but you will have to provide your own DJ/music and pay for what you drink and/or eat. The two conditions to this are that you don't complain about the owner and four or five friends hanging out in back and you respect his property. Pretty reasonable, if you ask me. Organizations on campus that want to throw off campus events might want to keep Hemingway's in mind.

Now for the little details.

Hemingway's is open at 11:30 am everyday for lunch. The kitchen closes at 10:00 pm Monday through Saturday and at 7:00 pm on Sunday, but after these times, appetizers will still be served. Hemingway's closes at 3:00 am Monday through Saturday and Sunday at 12:00 am. As I said earlier, Hemingway's is on Marietta Square. If you would like to look up directions their exact address is 29 West Park Square, Marietta, GA 30060.

Well, that is it. Come check Hemingway's out. It is close to campus, doesn't have a cover charge, we get a deal on food, and there is great music.

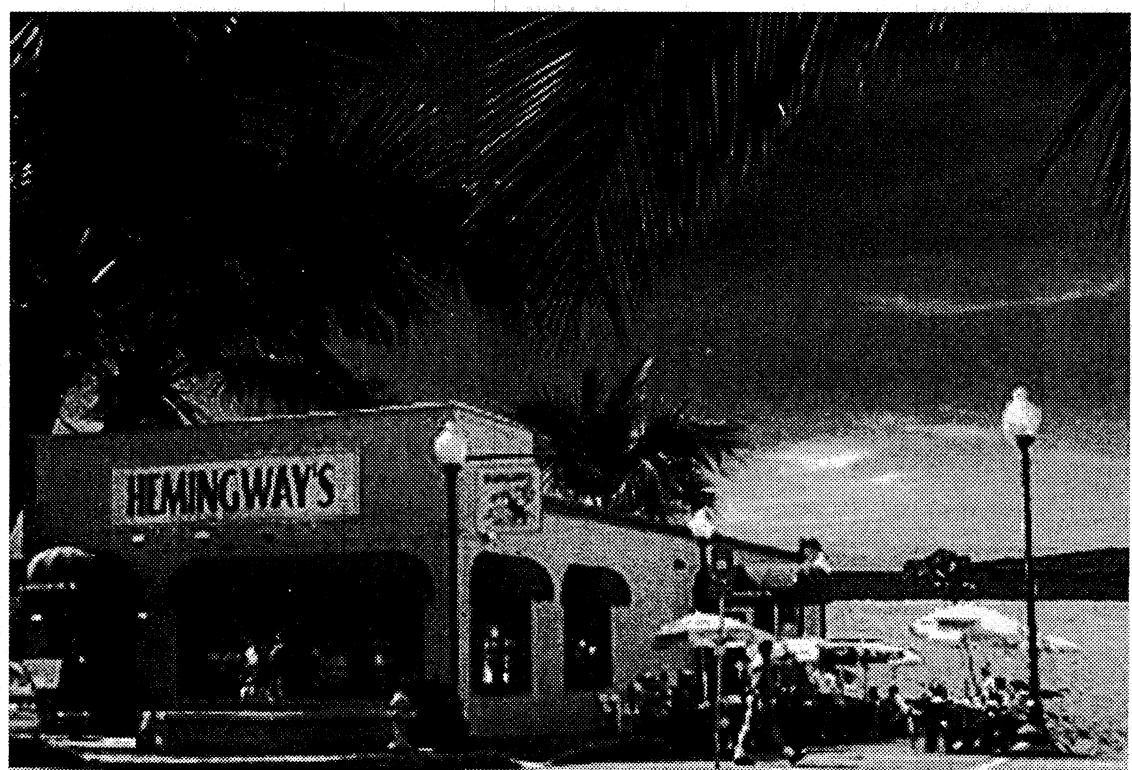


Photo courtesy www.hemingwaysmarietta.com

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ORGANIZATION

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Forensic team

Korey Kolberg
Staff Writer

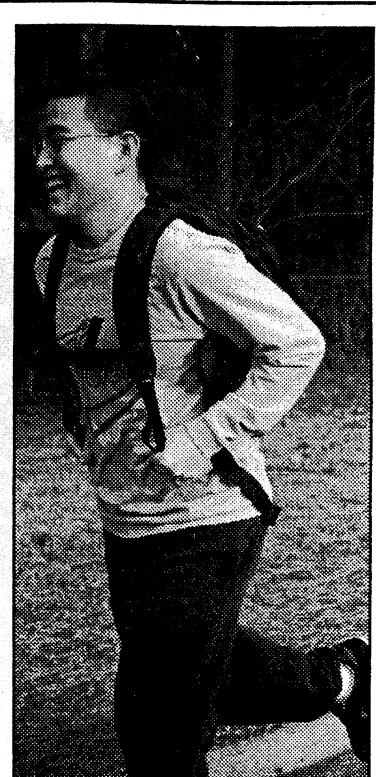
While most people are beginning to prepare for spring break, the Forensic Team starts to enter crunch time. The team only has a week until their first tournament at University of West Florida (UWF). The team will leave for UWF on Friday, March 3. This competition sparks off a series of events for the speech team. The weekend right after UWF, the team will compete at Berry. You would think the team would get some time to rest, but after giving up part of their spring break, they are off again to compete one last time this semester.

These three tournaments will hopefully give much needed experience to the still young team. In order to be eligible to compete at these tournaments, each member must compete in at least two prepared events. A prepared event simply means that the member had to write his or her speech or memorize something like a short story. A few people will also get to compete in unprepared events, which are speeches prepared in only a minute or two.

I know what you're thinking right now. What could possibly be worse than having to listen to boring speeches all day? Well, you might be surprised if you got to sit in on a few of these events. Duos and After Dinner Speeches often get the judges and audience rolling with laughter, as these two events tend to be more humorous. If nothing else, these tournaments are great opportunities to learn. With so many people giving speeches about new discoveries or cutting edge technology, you're sure to pick up some interesting facts.



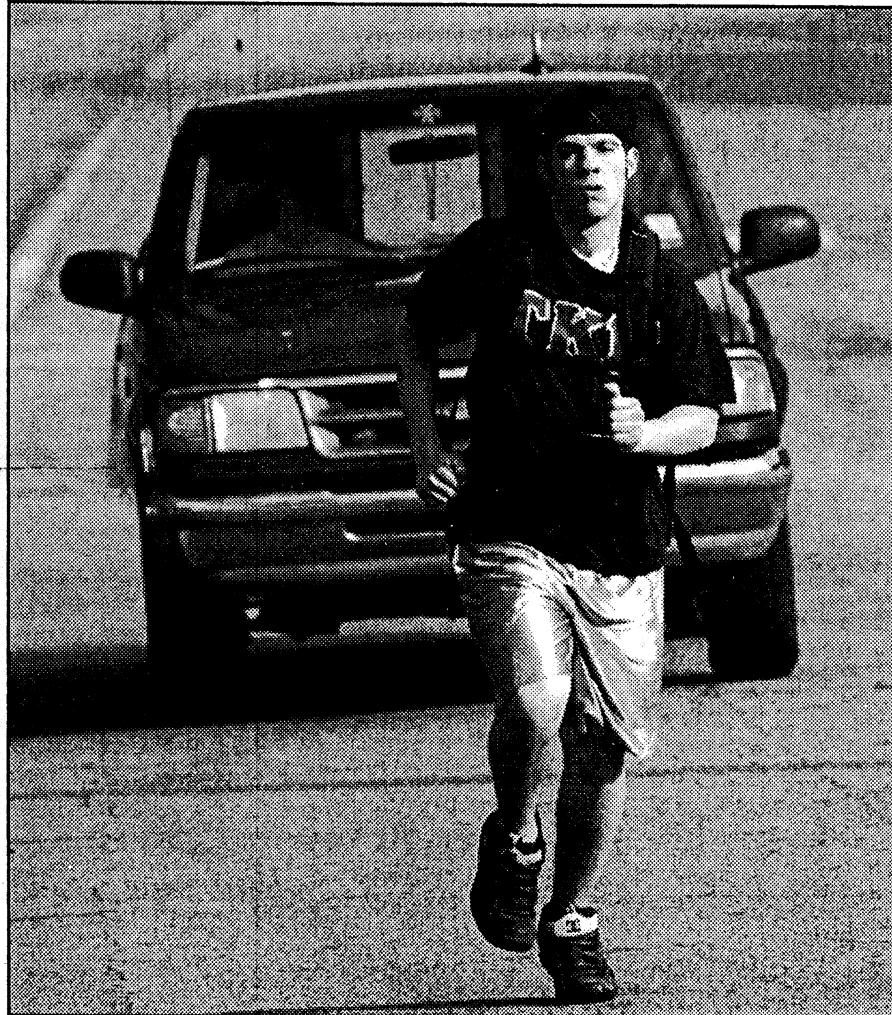
Anthony Aksentis / Tau Kappa Epsilon



Anthony Aksentis / Tau Kappa Epsilon

I'm not seeing a lot of running here.

Tau Kappa Epsilon annual "Run for Breath"



Anthony Aksentis / Tau Kappa Epsilon

Matt Lawler and Anthony Aksentis
Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity

If you were at SPSU's last Saturday orientation, then you must have seen some crazy guys running around campus ringing a big TKE bell. This is one of Tau Kappa Epsilon's best examples of charity.

In 1980 our brother, Tommy Crummley, in Tau Kappa Epsilon Xi-Chi chapter at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, GA, succumbed to the horrible disease of Cystic Fibrosis. This disease causes several debilitating affects upon the respiratory system of the human body, limiting motor skill and nervous functions and ultimately leading to death. The disease mainly affects humans at an early age. Tommy Crummley was only 19 when he succumbed to this disease's horrible and ultimate outcome.

Every year TKE sponsors a "Run For Breath" Charity Event in memory of our fallen brother. We usually run from Reinhardt College to SPSU with the game ball the day of our basketball game with Reinhardt. This year we decided to run laps around the campus during Saturday's orientation. After each lap the runner would pass on the ball to another waiting runner and ring the giant TKE bell.

Leading up to the run we take donations to be donated to Cystic Fibrosis research and treatment for every mile we run. If you would like to make a donation, it would be most appreciated by those who have been afflicted by this terrible disease, family and friends alike. E-mail Chris Brown at spsustu@hotmail.com. We appreciate your consideration, and your donation will not go unnoticed.



Collegiate Order of the Arrow! A New BSA Program for College-Age Brothers

By: W. Stuart Michelson: wmichels@spsu.edu

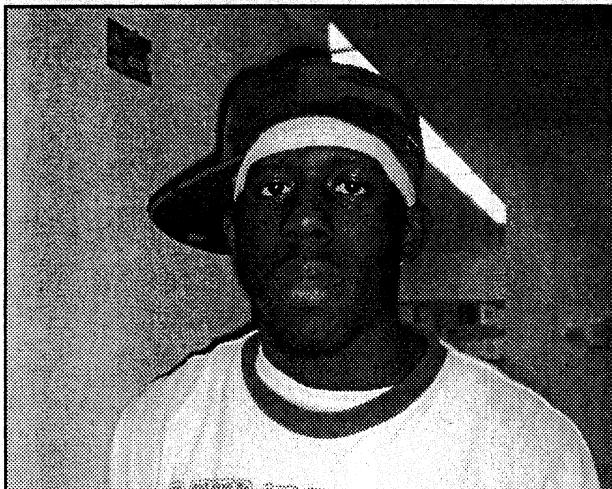
The Order of the Arrow is Boy Scouting's National Honor Society. It was founded in 1915 upon the lofty principles of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Since that time, the organization has grown in size and is made up of Scouts from across the United States.

In 2003, a group of students at Georgia Tech came up with the idea of forming an Order of the Arrow group on their campus so that they could remain active in the organization while in school. The program they started has been highly successful and is built around three types of activities: Service to your campus, service to your community, and service to Scouting. In addition they participate in traditional scouting activities such as camping. Simply put, this revolutionary program keeps Scouts in Scouting through college. If you are a scout, the journey you started long ago does not have to end with college!

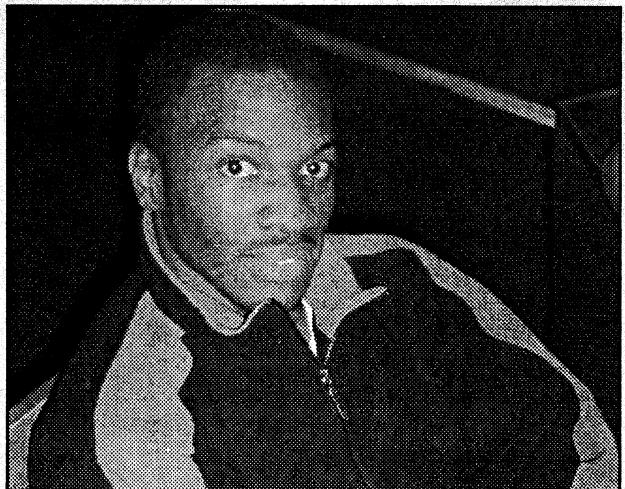
Seeing the success of the group at Georgia Tech, I have felt motivated to lead an effort to establish the program here at Southern Polytechnic. If you are a member of the Order of the Arrow, whether you have been active or not, please contact me so you can learn more about this great opportunity. You do not have to be a member of the Order of the Arrow to join this organization. All parties are welcome, whether a scout or not. You can read more about the Collegiate OA program at www.collegiateoa.org.

Student Question

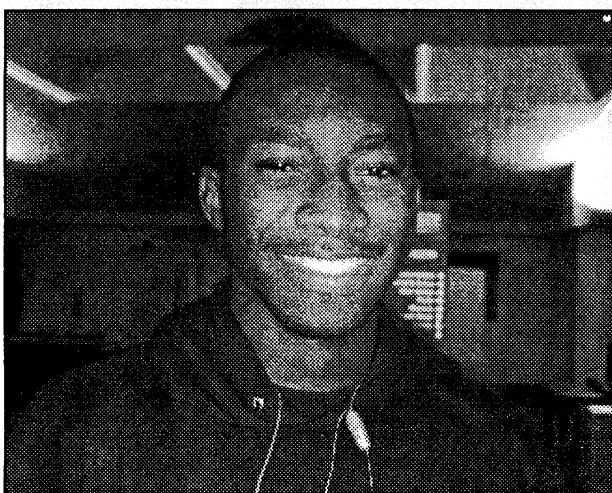
What wouldn't you do for a million dollars?



"Anything gay!"
Charles "CJ" Lakes



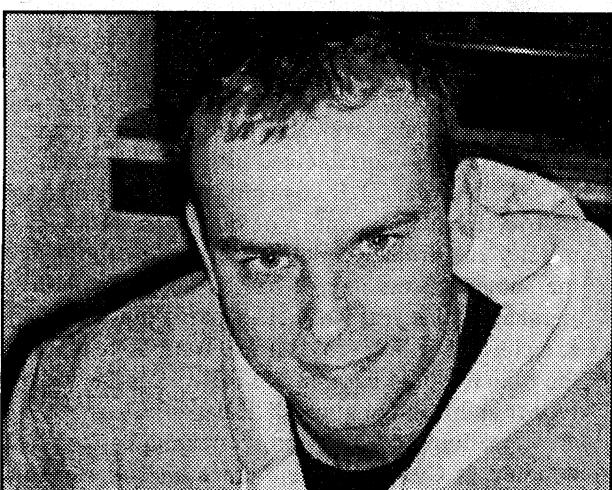
"Nothing crazy like cutting off my arm."
Kapel Joseph



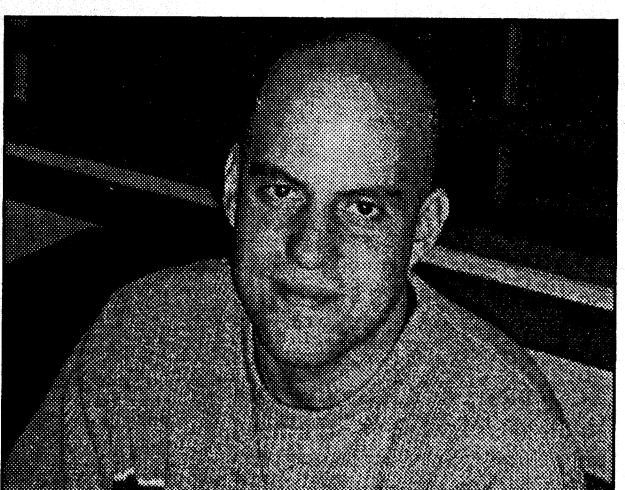
"Jump off a plane."
Boma Dikio



"I wouldn't betray my friends or family."
Jason Candler



"Ain't nothing I wouldn't do unless it's heights."
Mike Lee



"Anything besides hurt others or myself."
Stephen B. Davies

All photos credit Karen Asay / The Sting

From The Sting archives...

Major raid shuts down the rock

David G. Hirschler

Published: November 13, 1986

[Note: All grammar and spelling mistakes are left intact for historical accuracy.]

During the late evening hours of Oct 21, an unusually large group of bandits converged upon the Rock, which was occupied by the Sigma Nu fraternity, and proceeded to conduct what has since become known as the biggest Rock Raid in Southern Tech history. This raid resulted in considerable damage to the new Academic Building, and has forced the Dean of Students to declare the Rock off limits to any group for the next two quarters.

Since this action could have serious repercussions towards the long-standing tradition of the Rock, the STING has attempted to piece together what actually happened on that fateful evening: A small group of students living in

the residence halls, composed of members from several different fraternities, decided to raid the Rock in retaliation against the Sigma Nu's, who are suspected by other Greeks of raiding the Rock many times themselves. As the original group of raiders spread word of their plans throughout the dorms, many independent students caught wind of the upcoming raid and decided to exploit the opportunity to "get some Greeks" (this large group of independents was allegedly composed of several members of Southern Tech's Baseball Team).

And so began the Great Rock Raid of 1986. The Rock's defenders, approximately 8 Sigma Nu pledges, were hopelessly outnumbered by an estimated 40 bandits and are believed to have lost the *first battle*. Yes, the STING has discovered that there was not ONE raid, but TWO! During halftime, both sides regrouped and increased their numbers. When the second

raid occurred (at approximately 2 a.m.), an estimated 45 bandits faced a larger group of about 16 Sigma Nu defenders. This time, both sides were well prepared.

During their attempt to even the score, an unknown number of Sigma Nu's stationed themselves at the top of the Southern stairwell of the new Academic Building, perhaps to bombard their assailants from above. However, the bandits trapped the Sigma Nu's in the stairwell and there ensued a heated exchange of eggs and paint bombs, (which were obviously originally intended to strike the Rock), as the Sigma Nu's fought to escape. It was at this point that the Academic Building became an innocent casualty of the battle since the aim of both groups was atrocious. During or soon after this battle, the Southern Tech Police squad is believed to have arrived in full riot gear, with sirens blaring and blue lights flashing. This sudden display of

might incited a panicky retreat by the bandits, who absentmindedly forgot to clean up their mess. This play-by-play reproduction of events was created from an examination of the evidence and from eye-witness accounts.

Many students and faculty probably appreciate Dean Smith's response to the situation- complaints are continually received by the Dean's office concerning loud music, clouds of smoke, and eggs splattered against the sidewalks and buildings. Some people even feel that the tradition of sleeping at the Rock makes the area look like a "hobo town". Up till now, however, school officials lived with these complaints in view of the Rock's tradition which dates back to Southern Tech's early years. The Rock has long been a place to meet with friends, or study outside while enjoying the sunshine. Student organizations have made the tradition unique by "capturing" the Rock and

painting it their respective colors.

In order to keep this practice orderly, the Student Government Association has even drawn up a set of "Rock Rules". According to these rules, anyone using violence while at the Rock may be fined up to \$500. But since no particular group or individual can be blamed for this incident, the Dean of Students found himself between "the Rock and a hard place", and so forced the Sigma Nu's to leave the Rock and declared it off limits.

The cost of cleaning up the mess at the new building has been estimated at \$300, and the school will have to pick up the tab. It's a shame that some students feel they must vandalize and destroy property every time a student group captures the Rock. This should not be a part of the Rock's tradition, and until this attitude changes, the Rock will assuredly remain off limits to everyone, perhaps forever.