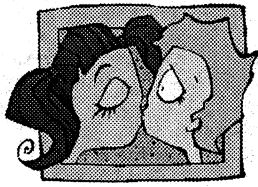
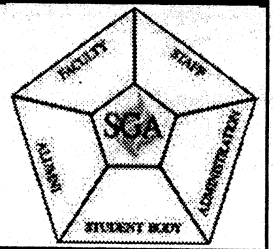


Are you one of the lucky guys at SPSU that actually has a girlfriend? Twila has some advice about where to take her.
Page 8



Read what Cristina thinks about SGA's POS... I mean SOP. Easy mistake to make.



Page 6

September 6, 2005

Jay likes chicken.

Volume 61, Issue 2

Carlyle takes over food services

Karen Asay
Editor-in-Chief

Southern Polytechnic has a new food service company: Carlyle's Corporate Catering. ABL Inc., the former food service, served SPSU for the last five years. A lot of students who eat in the cafeteria are happy to see ABL go and have high hopes that Carlyle's is an improvement.

Carlyle's is a company based out of Atlanta and has been in business for 31 years. They serve on other campuses in Georgia, like Georgia Tech, Emory, Georgia State, and Shorter College. Even though they have served on other campuses, SPSU is a new challenge to them because this is the first time they are in charge of all the food services on a campus. They have a 5500 square foot commissary six miles from campus. This commissary is where all the catering food will be made and then brought to campus. The on campus kitchen will only make the food for the Community Center coffee house, the Student Center grill, and the cafeteria. Carlyle's makes both catering and cafeteria food fresh everyday and all their food is

homemade.

When SPSU opened bidding for the food service contract, only two companies made bids: ABL Inc. and Carlyle's Corporate Catering. A committee was put together of faculty, staff, and students to compare and make a recommendation to Patrick McCord on which company was better. The committee's part was to determine if the companies could provide the service SPSU needs and compare the quality and taste of the food each company produced. Both companies made presentations about their services, gave samples of their food, and in Carlyle's case, set up an on site visit for committee members at one of the campuses they are already at. After all this was finished, the committee concluded that both Carlyle and ABL could provide the services needed but that Carlyle's had better tasting and quality food. The committee's decision then went to Patrick McCord who reviewed the financial packets for each company. Carlyle's, again, beat out ABL with a cheaper financial packet. Robert Whitaker stated that Carlyle's was the "best solution for Southern Poly" both in price and quality.

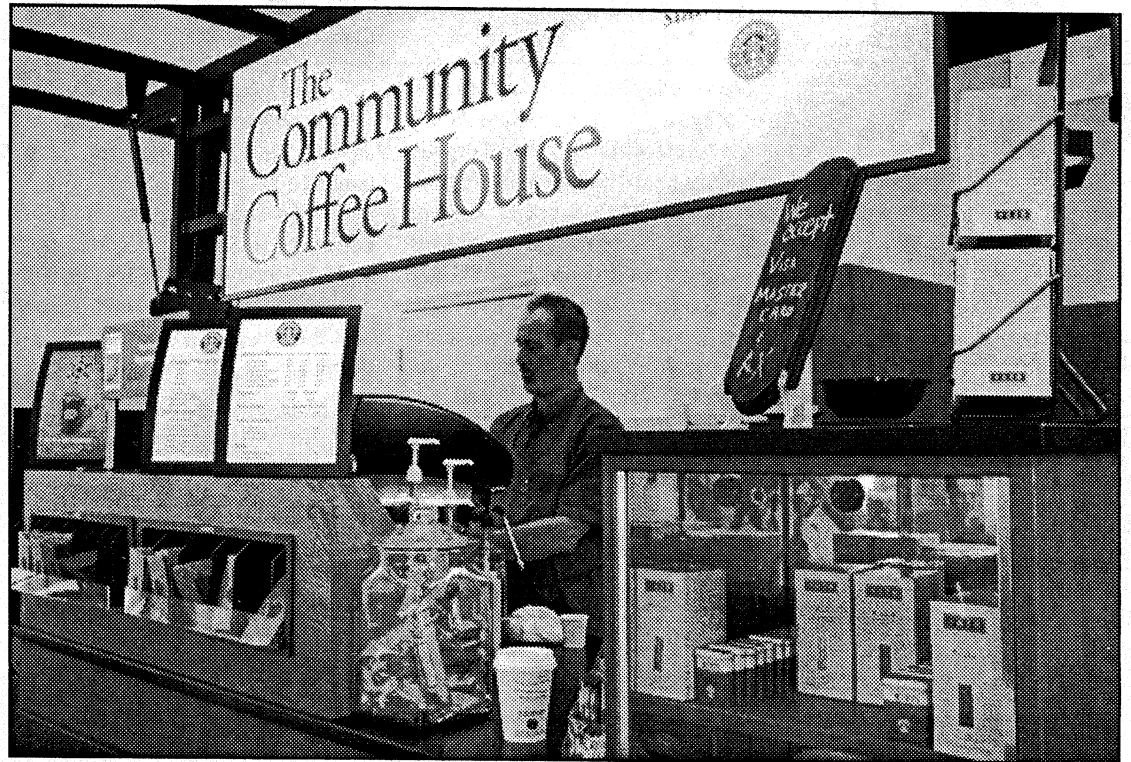
One of the new additions

Carlyle's brought to campus is Starbucks coffee in the Community Center. The Community Center coffee house serves the regular Starbucks coffee, mochas, frappuccinos, etc, but they also have the teas. They are planning to gradually add Starbucks treats to

the menu, but at this point the only foods served are salads and sandwiches. Right now, an employee from Carlyle's is running the coffee house, but starting September 4th, Carolina Daza, the Student Government President, will be taking over as manager. The Community

Center will be open from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm and after August 28th, they open again at 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

In the Student Center, Carlyle's has changed the looks of both the cafeteria and the Student Center grill. The grill changed from a
Continued on Page 2



The new Starbucks located in the Community Center.

Matt Finn/The Sting

New student activities director

Twila McConnell
Copy Editor

As you may or may not know, Sean Thomas, our past Student Activities Director, has left us for Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Atlanta. SCAD accepted him to fill their opening as the Director of Student Life where his career will be more varied and where he will have a direct hand in more events on their campus.

Kasey Helton has come onto the scene well qualified for her new position on SPSU's campus. Prior to her acceptance as part of the SPSU community, Ms. Helton worked for Georgia Tech as the Associate Program Director at their Student Center. She has worked there for the past five years but is thoroughly enthusiastic about her new place on campus as it is a promotion for her and she feels that she can do more here on our campus than at Georgia Tech's. Prior to Georgia Tech she worked as Assistant Director of LEAD Scholars at the University of Central Florida and as the Co-Director

of TeamVOLS for the University of Tennessee. She received a BA in Religion and in Human Services from Carson-Newman College in 1997 and an MS in Educational Leadership/College Student Personnel from the University of Tennessee in 1999.

Ms. Helton was chosen over the other candidates not only due to how good she looked on paper, but also her degree of professionalism and how well her interview went due mostly to her excellent answers

and personality.

Here at SPSU Ms. Helton will be an adviser over the Campus Activities Board (CAB) and the InterGreek Council (IGC) as well as everywhere else you used to find Sean. She plans to first see what condition student life on the campus is in before making concrete initiatives. She knows she would like to help the student organizations to be the best they can be with marketing strategies and guidance

Continued on Page 2



Kasey Helton working away.

Matt Finn/The Sting

Search continues for new counselor

Cristina Wilson
Senior Staff Writer

The Career and Counseling Center has been actively searching for a new applicant to fill the vacated position of Counselor Susan Ristau since her resignation last spring semester. So far the position is still open, although the Director of the Career and Counseling Center, Phyllis Weatherly, believes that the search may be nearing its end.

The Center has been holding interviews for the past two weeks and upon receiving approval from the Human Resources Department, Weatherly states that an offer has been made to one of the applicants. Although there is no guarantee the acceptance from this potential employee, Weatherly seems optimistic that the search for a new counselor may soon be completed.

Assuming that the offer will go through during the next few days, Southern Polytechnic may be welcoming a new member of the

staff by mid-September.

The Career and Counseling Center offers personal, academic, and career counseling as well as coordinating opportunities for co-ops, internships, career fairs, information on metro Atlanta companies, and a Job Database that is reserved for SPSU students.

During the absence of Ristau, Jeff Hughes, Counselor/Outreach Coordinator, has been handling many of the counseling issues on campus. Jill Forest and Bridgette McDonald will continue to offer career counseling services, although Forest is licensed to help in the personal counseling area as well.

Students who are interested in any sort of counseling, whether it be personal or academic, should stop by the Career and Counseling Center located in the Student Center A-243. Appointments to speak with any member of this highly qualified staff can be made by dialing extension 7391 from any phone on campus.

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Organization	10

Photographer Showcase!
The Sting recently got two new photographers, Matt Finn and Steven Fyffe. The back page has some examples of their work.

Page 12

Event Calendar
Find out going on on-campus. This is a listing of events running from September 6th to October 4th. Don't miss out!

Page 10

FFVII: Dirge of Cerberus
It is Final Fantasy VII how can you not read this article. Sean will tell you all about it and advice you on whether it is worth your time.

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Carlyle's

Continued from Front Page

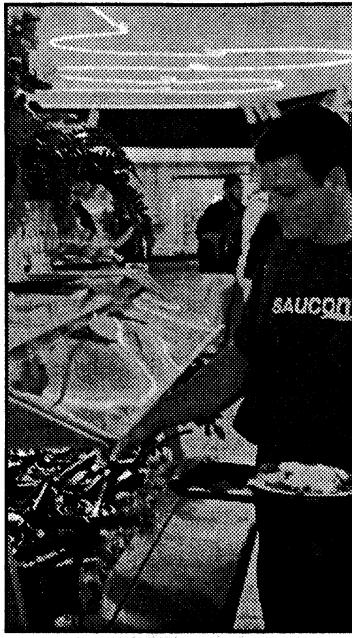
sports theme to a pop music theme. The cafeteria didn't get a wallpaper transformation but the salad bar was moved and the buffet line has been cleaned up. The hours of operation for the grill are Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and they serve the basic grill food including burgers, chicken fingers, fries, etc. The cafeteria still has some gaps in their operating hours. Monday through Friday, they are open from 7:30 am to 9:00 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, and 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm, and on weekends from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

The snack bar that was located in the J-building will not be

opening this semester. Instead of reopening the snack bar, Southern Poly is considering adding additional vending machines that sell sandwiches and other quick, filling food. If the J-building snack bar is reopened, it will probably have to be renovated so it meets Cobb County Health Department regulations.

To students who are looking for a job, Carlyle's is looking to staff the Community Center with students. They have already hired seven students but they are looking for more.

The Community Center will be having a grand opening on September 12 at 7:00 pm. Live bands, G'Vegas and Crumbling Arches, will be playing.



Cafeteria Salad Bar Matt Finn/The Sting

Activities director

Continued from Front Page

with public relations, but needs to fully understand what work they are already doing in order to help them succeed.

When asked what she liked about SPSU, the small community really pleased her. Ms. Helton likes how the staff and faculty are all

working together and how efficient our system is because there is less bureaucracy for the student organizations to go through than previous campuses she's worked for. She feels the students she is working with are excited about SPSU and the programs they're involved with and she in turn is excited about the potential for strong leaders on our campus.

Ms. Helton plans to start working on leadership development as well as a woman's leadership conference.

She concludes that the best activities are student generated and student motivated and she is very eager to help students do the best they can with every event on campus.

Housing update

Karen Asay

Editor-in-Chief

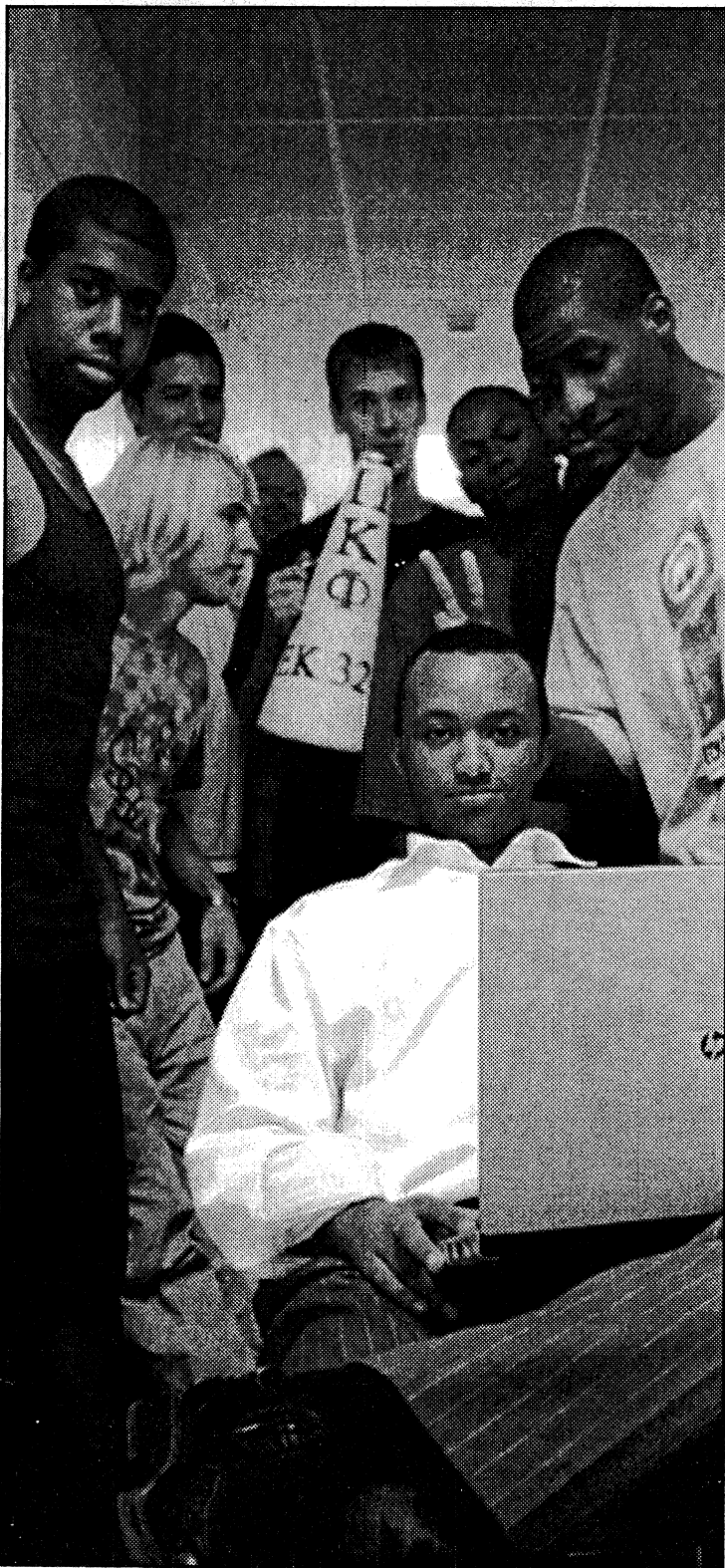
For the first time since the Courtyard, Southern Poly's new apartments, were built, on-campus housing is almost full.

One reason housing is so full is that not all the students living on campus are enrolled at Southern Poly. Students from other colleges, like Kennesaw, Georgia Highlands, and Chattahoochee Tech, are also living here. Why have students from these schools decided to live at SPSU? Since Georgia Highlands has a satellite campus here at SPSU, students attending classes here have decided that it is more convenient to live at SPSU. Chattahoochee Tech has no on-campus housing and SPSU is only a few miles down South Cobb Drive. Kennesaw students are coming to SPSU housing because housing at Kennesaw State is full.

Another reason for the increase in people on campus is that all freshmen have to live on campus, except if they are 21 or older or are living with a guardian. The decision to require freshmen students to live on-campus was made because research has shown that retention is higher for students that live on-campus. Housing is also trying to set freshmen up for success by group them by majors and by having more resident assistants in Howell Dormitory (freshmen dorm) to help the freshmen out.

Students, who are thinking about moving on campus, are advised to apply soon. There is a waiting list already for female applicants and there are only a few beds left open for male applicants.

Last year, housing was only around 85 percent full, but as of now, housing is around 95 percent full. Also, there is a 15 percent increase in the number of women living on campus.



Meet Henok Tekle (guy on the computer) and his neighbors in Howell Dorm.

Matt Finn/The Sting

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www.thesting.org

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

ORGANIZATIONS

Articles written by organizations to inform the campus of activities and events are welcome. Articles must be submitted in electronic format (e-mail, disk) by the deadline printed below. 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, September 21 at 11:00 P.M.** Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of *The Sting*, except through special permission.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

PRICE

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

Career Connection Myspace: job hazard?

Bridgette McDoanld
Career Coordinator

It was not so long ago that the "buzz" around the college campus in which I worked some years ago was the internet. There was much excitement about what this online tool would do to make life easier for career services professionals and the way that students would search for jobs.

Today the "buzz" is surrounding the use of social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, LiveJournal, and Friendster just to name a few. Social networking sites allow people to post profiles of themselves and other materials such as pictures and blogs online. The prevalence of this activity is astounding and the practice of doing so has become a cultural phenomenon in a short period of time. MySpace is currently the most popular networking domain among the general public, even more so than Facebook. One reason is that Myspace is open to everyone over the age of 14, while Facebook restricts users to those with a valid e-mail account that ends in ".edu." Users are encouraged to log in and create a profile to share information, photos, and interests with their friends.

The reality is that it's not just friends who view these profiles. Recent information about how often employers were viewing these online sites in the candidate screening process prompted the National Association of Colleges and Employers to conduct a "quick poll" on the practice of "Googling" candidates or reviewing their profiles on social networking sites (such as Facebook or Myspace) and more than one-quarter of organizations reported that they have done so at some point.

How do you prevent social networking sites from having a negative impact on your job search? First, know what is out there. Spend time to actively investigate what information is available about you online. One way is to use a search engine such as Google to look up your name to find out what information is attached to you. Perhaps there may be information posted by others of which you are unaware.

Second, determine if you should revise the content listed in your profile. It is important that you post responsibly and think about possible future consequence of the information shared on networking web sites. Rumors that offers for interviews and positions are being pulled because of information posted on these networking sites have begun to circulate.

An example of how information posted could damage your job search is that if an employer decided that you and another candidate are finalist for a position and you both have equal attributes for the position, but the information posted on your Facebook page leaves a bad impression, the employer could decide to eliminate you from consideration.

Social networking sites are likely here to stay. Whether they have a positive or negative impact on your job search is up to you. It is very important that you remain educated on how to utilize social networking sites to become a valuable tool not only in social connections but also in connecting with employers. For additional information and resources about this topic please call or come by the Career and Counseling Center located in the Student Center, Suite 243.

Parking Tickets Read and prevent losing money

Kevin Moss
SGA Chief Judge

Parking tickets from campus police may seem to be a nuisance designed to upset you or gain revenue for the school, but the true reason is to regulate—through negative reinforcement—the organization of our lots for the benefit of all students and faculty.

All parking lots and parallel spaces on campus are labeled at the entrances to each section describing what demographic is allowed to park there. For example, the large lot in front of the Wellness Center is reserved for commuter students and residents, split by a median. Though some lots may seem "perfectly positioned" in regards to your classroom building, they are not always open to your specific parking decal designation.

If you receive a parking ticket and feel there is enough reason for clemency (dismissal or reduction for your ticket), you have the opportunity to appeal. Appeal forms are located on the Student Government Association (SGA) office door in the Student Center and in the Campus Police station. In order for your appeal to be heard or read by the SGA Judiciary Cabinet, it must be filled out accordingly to the terms written on the appeal form. Some appeals have been dismissed without a hearing for improper completion, resulting in the full amount fined being owed to the Business Office.

No matter how far you travel to this college, or how late you are to class, it is monetarily beneficial for you to take the extra one minute of walking time to park in the reserved lot designated for your decal.

Here are some helpful tips on SPSU parking:

1. Buy your correct decal PRIOR to the semester starting, don't wait for the deadline to approach...you'll miss it.

2. Learn the lots...too many students ignore the little signs at

each entrance to the lots and end up having to pay \$30 or more.

3. Double check and triple check your appeal form for completion...it may result in an expensive waste of time. You have to appeal within 10 school days of the date on the ticket.

4. Respect the rules...our police officers are AUTHENTIC. Trying to beat the system by not getting a decal is almost impossible; your car's information is recorded by the officers and placed in the computer system when your car is seen decal-less. They can (and do) tow.

5. Note the Judiciary Cabinet hearing schedule each semester if you are appealing and make sure to be present if you elect to do so.

6. Proof-read your appeal...the Judges are students like you and we have a sense of humor and no remorse when it comes to juvenile justifications and pointless excuses in each written appeal. Be honest and factual, not emotional and harsh.

Here's how the appeal process works:

1. The ticket is turned in to the SGA office or the Campus Police office with a completed appeal form.

2. The forms are consolidated and reviewed at the next Cabinet meeting.

3. After each appeal is read individually (or spoken for in defense by the accused student) the Judges of the Cabinet recommend a judgment and it is voted on by a show of hands.

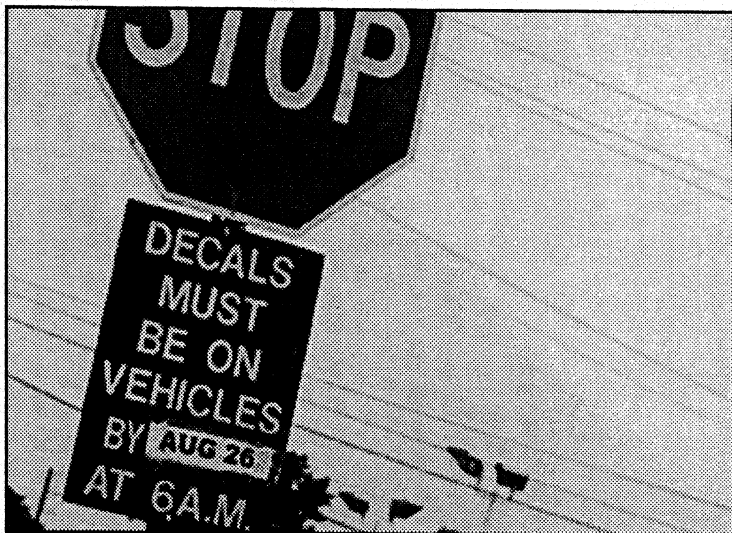
4. The Chief Judge copies the terms of the judgment on the bottom of the appeal form and signs it, making the results official.

5. The head secretary of the Campus Police office compiles the results after each meeting and makes a contact list for the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge emails (or calls if email doesn't work) the students to notify them of either an acceptance of the appeal, reduction of fines, or complete rejection of the appeal.

6. The student(s) who owe fines after the appeal has been processed must pay the fine to the Business Office by the end of the semester in order to receive transcripts and schedule for classes.

The Judiciary Cabinet meets every-other Tuesday at Noon in the SGA Office in the Joe Mack Wilson Student Center starting August 29th, 2006 for the Fall Semester.

For contact information, please visit the SGA's new web site at sga.spsu.edu (a link is available on the SPSU home page). Drive, park, and ride safe on and off campus. And remember, designate a driver...it saves lives.



Matt Finn/The Sting

Pay attention to all signs about parking. You will get less tickets.

On-Campus Interviews

Questions? Contact the Career and Counseling Center in room 243 in Student Center or call 678-915-7391

Date and Time	Company	Event	Majors	Location
Sept. 13, 2006 Noon - 1pm	INROADS	Information Session	All Majors	Student Center Room 216
Sept. 14, 2006 11am - 2pm	Teach Georgia	Information Table	All Majors	Student Center Lobby
Sept. 26, 2006 Noon - 1pm	Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Lunch & Learn RSVP Required	All Majors	Student Center Dogwood Room
Oct. 3, 2006 5pm - 7pm	Lafarge North America	Information Session	CNST, IET, BUS. ADMIN	Bldg. H Room 323
Oct. 4, 2006 9am - 4pm	Lafarge North America	On-Campus Interview	CNST, IET, BUS. ADMIN.	Student Center Room 243
Oct. 5, 2006 9am - 4pm	Enterprise Rent-A-Car	On-Campus Interview	All Majors	Student Center Room 243
Oct. 17, 2006 9am - 4pm	Shaw Industries	On-Campus Interview	ATET, IET, MET, BUS. ADMIN.	Student Center Room 243
Oct. 19, 2006 9am - 4pm	Western Summit Constructors	On-Campus Interview	CET, CNST, SURVEYING	Student Center Room 243

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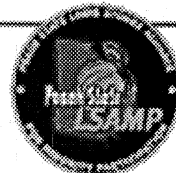
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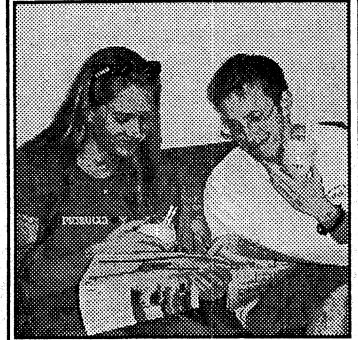
Tutoring Schedule for Fall 2006				
Time Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9 a.m. — 10 a.m.				
ATTIC Rm J210	English Math	English Math Physics Computer Science	English Math	English Math Physics Computer Science
BCP Dept Rm E183		Chemistry		Chemistry
10 a.m. — 11 a.m.				
ATTIC Rm J210	English Math Biology Chemistry	English Math Physics Computer Science	English Math Biology Chemistry	English Math Physics Computer Science
BCP Dept Rm E183		Chemistry		Chemistry
11 a.m. — 12 noon				
ATTIC Rm J210	English Math Biology Chemistry	English Math Physics Computer Science	English Math Biology Chemistry	English Math Physics Computer Science
12 noon — 1 p.m.				
ATTIC Rm J210	English Biology Chemistry	English Math Physics	English Math Biology Chemistry	English Math Computer Science
1 p.m. — 2 p.m.				
ATTIC Rm J210	English Math	English Math	English Math	English Math
BCP Dept Rm E183	Physics		Physics	
2 p.m. — 4 p.m.				
Math Dept Rm D125	Math	Math	Math	Math
BCP Dept Rm E170	Physics		Physics	
5 p.m. — 8 p.m.				
ATTIC Rm J210		English Math Biology Chemistry	English Math	
Math Dept Rm D125		Math	Math	

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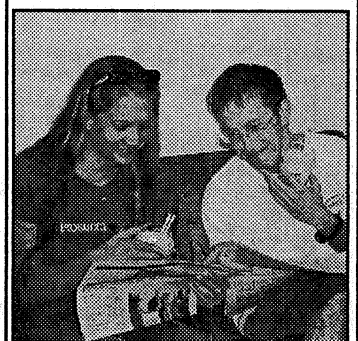
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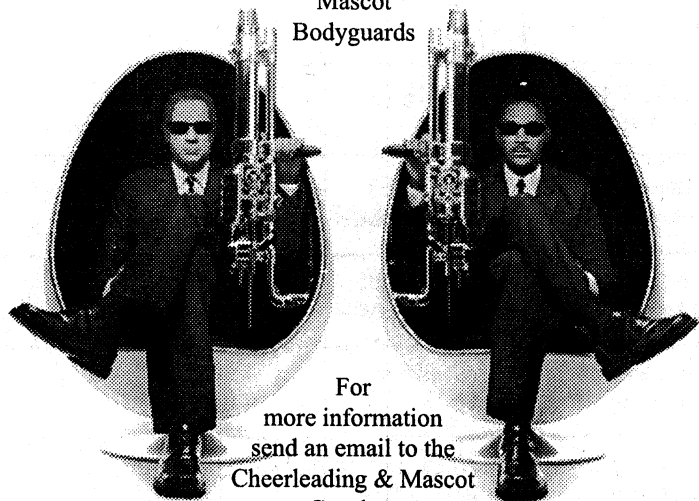
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JUDGE
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Judiciary
Cabinet

Deadline for applications is
Thursday, September 14th

PLAYER PROFILE

JOSEPH BILLICK



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Height	6'2"
Weight	205lb.
Bat / Throw	Right/ Right
Position	Catcher/1st Base
Hometown	Atlanta, GA (Dunwoody)
Class	Junior
Birthday	May 30th
Favorite Food	Sandwiches
Favorite Color	Blue
Relationship Status	Single
Hobbies	Anything on the water (i.e. fishing, wakeboarding, etc.)

WHO IS THIS GUY?

Joseph Billick is a new addition to the Southern Poly Hornet baseball team. He is a recent transfer student from UGA and a Business Management major. If you would like to know more about Joe, which I know many of you ladies out there do, this is your chance. Don't forget to come watch him play this spring, and say hi if you see him around campus because he has the potential to make some big bucks. You are going to want him to remember you, trust me!

INTERVIEW

What is your favorite baseball team?

"My favorite teams are the Red Sox and the Braves."

What major league baseball player do you most look up to?
 "I got a chance to work out with Michael Barrett, the catcher from the cubs, during spring training. He was an awesome guy, really outgoing, and he really knew how to take control of a team. I really liked his approach to the game."

What players did you watch growing up that helped shape you into the type of player you are today?

"I really admire Pudge [Ivan] Rodriguez's knowledge of the game. He calls one of the best games I have ever seen, and he

seems so passionate about the game. I love to see big league guys that still have the passion to win after 160 games."

What team would you most like to draft you?

"It doesn't matter who I got drafted to as long as I got the opportunity to play at the next level."

What caliber player would you consider yourself and how will you contribute to the Hornets?

"I am definitely not a 5 tool player; I am no speed demon. I would say I have a lot of power and a great arm. I strive on being one of the best defensive catchers around. I love the challenge of calling a game and thinking about every pitch I call. I have been around some great baseball minds and I have soaked up a lot of information."

What part of your game are you currently striving to be better at?
 "Hitting is something every one strives to be better at. I have really focused the past year on being able to hit the ball out of the park any where, be it pull side or back side."

Of your strengths, which do you think will be most beneficial to our team as it stands right now?
 "Coach griffin told me that

the team was stacked with speed so I told him that's good cause I wont bring any of that to the table. He wanted more power in the line up. I told him I'll help in that department. Coming from the SEC I have faced a lot of great players and been around some of the best coaches. I have learned a lot about the game; I think that I am a very smart player, as well as, a defensive specialist, I love controlling the running game and keeping the game tempo fast when we're on the field."

What is one of your most memorable baseball experiences?
 "I got to catch against the braves in their first spring training game. It was pretty awesome when guys like Chipper [Jones] and Andruw [Jones] say "what's up" before they embarrassed some of our pitchers."

Keep checking The Sting sports page for more player profiles. E-mail eravanel@spsu.edu for player profile requests from basketball, baseball, soccer, or cheerleading.

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www.battleandbrew.com

In the middle

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

THIS IS AMAZING

Ok guys, if you don't do this, you'll have bad luck with your love life for 10 Billion years! I know, it happened to me! Trust me. Do this, and something will pop out of the paper confirming that you are married to the one you love instantaneously!

97% of people who see this don't love Jesus. If you don't cut this article out and post it on your roommate's door with a note attached to this as "I love sex." And then sub put "Jesus is teh sex" you're one of the 95% of people who love Jesus but are ashamed. Because 98% of people don't even know who Jesus is, if you repost his as, "the answer" then everyone who isn't a Christian will become one. Besides, if you don't. You're not a real Christian and Hell-Fire Awaits you tonight when you die pre-maturely.

FILL THIS OUT or else you'll be hated by all your friends on MySpace!!!

Who is the 4th person on your top friends? _____

Who is the 23rd person on your top friends? _____

Why do you want to marry the third person on your Top friends? _____

When was the last time you ate chicken with a lama? _____

If you answered anything that could remotely say I don't know, or anything negative, you have just cursed yourself with never having any friends for the rest of your life. If you're straight and the 3rd person on your top friends is of the same sex, not only are you gay but you're also Homophobic.

Now, if you don't have a heart, pass this message on, if you do, cut this article out and give it to a police officer when he gives you a ticket with a not attached, "If you don't have a heart pass this message on, if you do cut this article and give it to a police officer when he gives you a ticket with a note attached," If you do there's a young turtle in Japan that Children International will give food stamps to for each time this is reposted under the name of, "Turtle in Japan." If you don't you're a heartless jerk who hates Orphans in the African Congo.

Go up to your friends and tell them this with as many words that describe you. "I'm a..."

Single: A slut

Happy: depressed.

Sad: Ecstatic

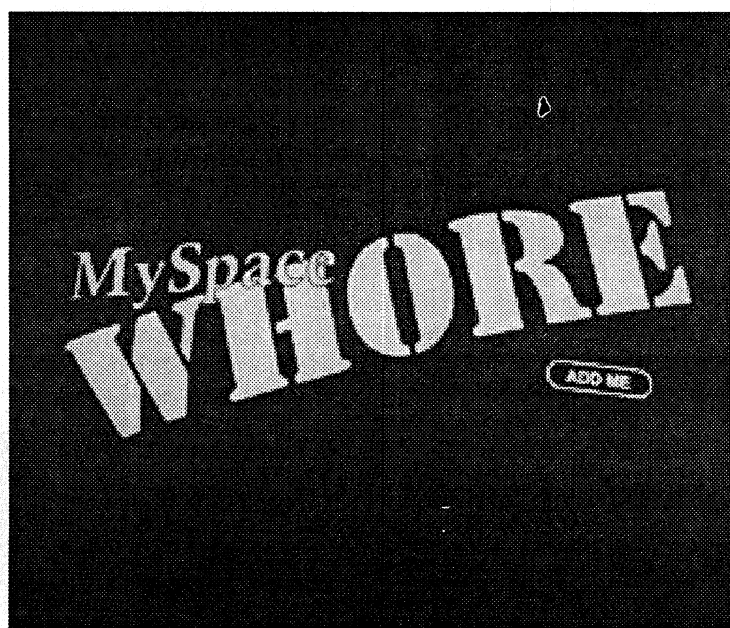
Loved: A homosexual

In School: a jerk.

Remember! If you don't leave a copy of The Sting in the

doctors office by your house by the time you get done reading this you are not only going to hell, but all your family will die horrible deaths, while eating antelope in piranha invested waters trying to pass a test. I know this will happen because Jim McManahandnotreal didn't repost it and cannibals came to his house and ate his gold fish while sacrificing his wife and children to the terd god. If you do post it all of your wildest dreams will come true and Tina will come get some ham, and Elvis will come back from the grave and cast out all the demons from your wombats pet hamster... and your colon.

Come on guys. Please, enough worthless bulletins that waste space, no one cares about, and bumps important bulletins away so no one gets to read them. This is a friendly reminder from, The Middle with Christiaan Funkhouser.



We all know a MySpace Whore.

Photo courtesy www.kinkclothing.com

Voting is important

Jonathan L. Meek
Staff Writer

Yes, it is getting to close to everyone's favorite time of year...fall, where everyone steps out in the morning in shorts to realize it is too cold to wear shorts. Also, this fall, we have elections for all state executive positions and some state congressional positions. Now, some might be asking: Why vote? It just a popularity contest and it doesn't make a difference who is elected anyway.

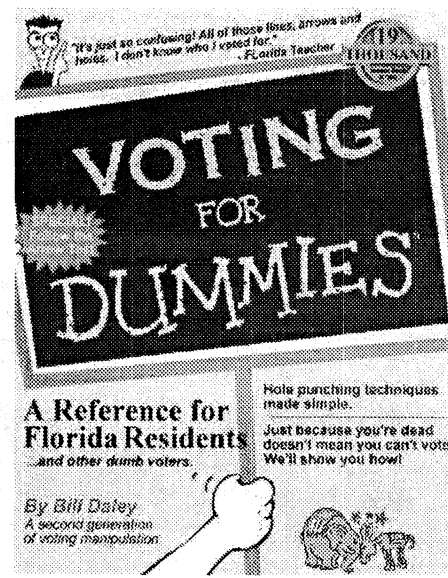
Actually, it makes a big difference if you vote or not because your vote could be the vote that determines which person ends up in office. Our system of voting is based on a majority vote. In other words, if there were only 100 people in Georgia, then the person with 51 votes wins the election. Elections have been known to have been just as close. Just recently, Incumbent Cynthia McKinney lost by about 12,000 votes in her runoff election against Hank Johnson.

To put that in perspective, the city of Marietta is made up of about 60,000 people. In other words, McKinney lost by a vote margin that was one-fifth of Marietta's population. Considering that the 4th district includes parts of DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Rockdale Counties, McKinney did not lose by a large margin. One vote can and will always make a difference in politics. Also, it is your way of changing the system that we criticize when we pay taxes or when cannot get information from a govern-

ment agency.

Hopefully, the next question that comes to mind is how to register to vote because if you are like me, you are new to Cobb County. Well, if you go to www.cobbelections.org/register.html, there you can find information about where to register to vote, what ID you need in order to vote, and what information you need in order to register to vote. If you have trouble accessing the web site, you can call the Cobb County Board of Election directly at (770) 528-2581. The closest place from SPSU to register is the Cobb Center Library located at 266 Roswell St., Marietta, GA. There hours are: Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm and Friday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

A quick reminder: the final day to register to vote in the general elections is October 10th. Please register to vote so other people can respect your opinion of the government.



Don't be a dummy, VOTE

Photo courtesy www.cs.uccs.edu

SGA's new POS

Christina Wilson
Senior Staff Writer

So I'll preface this highly opinionated article by saying that the title I chose was purely out of comedy. I don't really think that SGA's release of the new "Standard Operating Procedures" is a complete POS... just parts.

Just to inform those who may be confused, the "Standard Operating Procedures", which SGA has dubbed SOP, is an article separate from their constitution but treated in pretty much the same way. It is a list of the procedures that organizations on campus must take in order to become a recognized group, receive funds, and apply for an office in the student center. This article also states that SGA will be conducting room inspections and will require updates in the form of hard-copy and electronic records for all organizations.

To start out with, I must admit that I agree with the reasoning behind the SOP. Many organizations on campus are inactive - they don't hold regular meetings, they have less than 4 members, and for some of these groups the only existing part even

remotely related to their initial dream is their title.

If you don't believe me, think about how many groups could have possibly come before the SGA within the past 10 years, and think of how many still exist. For example, what happened to the Knights of the Realm - Chess Club?

There needs to be a set of standards that allows SGA to weed out the groups that are less active than others, and therein lies the main reasoning behind the SOP. It's true, some groups just don't deserve funding to sit in an account all year long unused. That money could go towards the prospective new Biology Club. Think about it.

However, a little known fact that I heard from a current member of SGA who was on the counsel last year is that each member on SGA is responsible for a list of student organizations. This person acts as a liaison for their group, and checks on them for updates, as well as reporting to SGA. What is the need for an SOP to determine who is active and who is not, when there should be a person on their staff who's job it is to check on these things?

To me, the SOP makes it sound like this person doesn't have the time to check on The Sting to determine if we are active. To me, the SOP makes it sound like the members of the SGA are lazy. I do not believe this to be true, I'm just stating how the SOP makes me feel. And that's sad.

So let's continue with a few other things that confuse me about the new SOP. First of all, as much as I appreciated receiving no less than six messages from my "Everyone at SPSU" group on Facebook, concerning Jarrett "Duke J" Bell's commencement of "Operation See-Thru", I really feel that SGA has not done their part of reaching out to inform all students of their new SOP. And in case you didn't know about it until it was time for your stipends to come out, sorry to inform you that your accounts are all now frozen.

I received an email this week about the new SOP, and apparently it is listed on their office door, but is that really enough notice? And is freezing our funds an appropriate way of making sure they receive our updated rosters? How about getting the liaison to contact every group on his list?

Oh wait...

Next, why is the Internal Affairs committee making a list of what organizations on campus must do to receive funding? Isn't there a subdivision of SGA titled "Budget and Finance"? Imagine how the guys down at Budget and Finance must feel about the SOP. I bet they feel as if someone is taking away their dream. That's how I felt when I found out I may not get my stipend at the end of this week.

I think I can combine "receiving an office in the student center" and "room inspections" into one: How is the Student Government Association in charge of the Student Center? Don't we have a Director of the Student Center? Isn't her name Leigh Ann? Is she a real person, or did I dream her up?

Although it is stated in the SOP that room audits will be conducted monthly with the Assistant Director of the Student Center, this does little to relieve my worries. Many members of the SGA are significant parts of other organizations on campus that are on a waiting list for a room in the student center. Is it fair that this person (who is already

disgruntled due to having no office of their own) should be allowed to determine whether or not I get to keep mine?

Another question is why does the SGA need a new copy of our constitution, and letter from our advisor, when both of these documents were required at the time an organization becomes recognized in the first place? The SGA should already have these documents! How can a letter from an advisor be updated? It has been rumored that during the switch from last year's SGA to the current counsel these documents were all lost. I choose not to believe this rumor, due to the sole fact that anyone who asks me to make up for their own incompetence is bound to get a fist in his face.

In closing, I suppose that the need for an SOP is understandable. Certain groups need funds and an office in the Student Center... some do not. However, I feel that in some ways, this SOP is purely a means of someone trying to hold their authority over my head. I feel that I should not have to do the work that someone else is getting paid to do. I feel that parts of this SOP are purely a POS.

A mocking proposal

Eric John
IT Manager

In all honesty, most of you will believe that this is a pointless article. You probably think that I am just going to start spouting off random stuff that makes about as much sense as the rest of my articles. Perhaps you think that all I ever do is just pick a random object and see how much of an article I can come up with based off it. Well, as I see it, why stop a good thing?

Today's important message is about the spork. The spork, if some of you are unfamiliar with the world's most ingenious invention, is the strange fusion between a spoon and a fork. The spork is, for all descriptive purposes, a spoon with three or four tiny tines at the end. (A tine is the "pokey bit" on the fork, in case you wondered.) According to Wikipedia, which is either amazingly accurate or someone made up more than I did, the spork was first used in the late 1800's, and there is even a patent on the design. Also, there is another similar utensil called the splade, which is the combination of all three utensils.

History aside, the reason for the article is about the naming of the spork. Recently, I had a conversation with someone over why it was called the spork and not a foon. Even Wikipedia mentions this "foon" as something people use to talk about the spork. The word spork is the combination of spoon and fork, just as foon is. Now, what makes me discredit this fool foon notion

is that foon is the combination of the softer emphasis. The "f" in fork is not the strongest part of the word, and the "-oon" is not the strongest part of spoon. To me, to accurately describe a utensil that has such versatility and use, why give it a name less commanding of glory than it could have? "Spork" is obviously the stronger sounding word, and has such a grand history of providing the best silverware conversion known to fast-food-consuming man.

This article is a general plea to please keep the world from being divided over this almost-trivial disagreement. However, I ask that you also make the right decision, and call the hybrid portmanteau by its properly given name: The Spork.

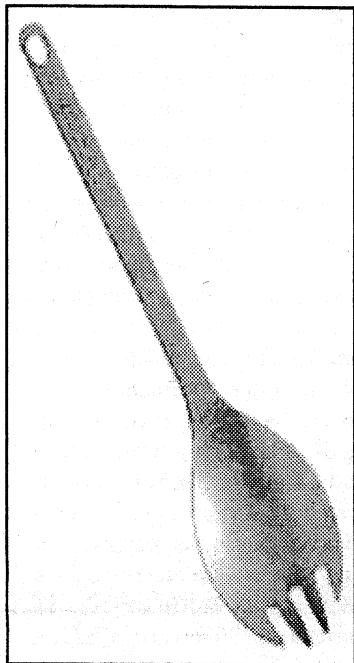


Photo courtesy www.promountainparts.com
This is a spork.

What is there to do in Cobb County? Battle & Brew

Karen Asay
Editor-in-Chief

This place is a gamer's paradise. There are loads of games you can play for PCs, Play Station 2, Xbox, Xbox 360, and GameCube. The best part though is that they serve BEER...and wine...along with soda, for those under age. In addition, they also sell food. The only down side is that you have to pay to play...and drink.

When you walk in, you will feel like you are waking into a bar. The lights are very dim, there is low rock/alternative music playing, and most people are doing their own thing. Also, when you walk in, the bar and a few tables are right in front of you. Across from the bar is where the PCs are set up, and this section takes up more than half of the space in Battle & Brew. The PCs are nicely set up in circles of around six and half-circles of around four. The PC towers are cool and add to the light because they have windows with LCD lights in them. Every "play" station also has a headset so you don't have to hear a dozen different gun blasts, dialogues, etc coming from the different games. Unfortunately, you still have to listen to the guy playing WoW (World of Warcraft) screaming at the monitor because he just died. (This didn't happen when I was there but the potential is still there.)

Now, to the part of Battle & Brew enjoyed the most, the TVs and gaming consoles. There are three regular sized TVs, with one that seems to have Guitar

Hero setup all the time. There are also two big screen TVs in their own semi-private section behind the smaller TVs. This is the section the group I went with stayed most of the time. There is nothing like killing a whole bunch of zombies or wrecking cars (It was the point of the game. I am a good driver...) on a big screen.

OK. Now lets talk about their game selection; endless is the word that comes to my mind. They have a nice list of titles for the PC, Xbox, and Xbox 360 but the list for the PS2 and GameCube are a bit short. The PC game list is the biggest with titles like Doom 3, Half-Life 1 & 2, Counter-Strike, WoW, Starcraft, Age of Empires III, and Need for Speed Underground. For a complete list of all their games, you can go to their website www.battleandbrew.com.

On to the beer and food. They have both draft and bottled beer and they are decently priced. Their food selection consists of

fried food and grill food, like chicken fingers, mozzarella, and fries. I have not tasted any of their food except the fries and they were good.

Now for the necessary but boring details. Battle and Brew is located on Powers Ferry. From Southern Poly turn right on to the 120 loop, at Powers Ferry turn right again and Battle and Brew is located in the first strip mall on the left. They are open from 4:00 pm to 2:00 am Mondays through Fridays, noon to 2:00 am Saturdays, and closed on Sundays. Their website is www.battleandbrew.com and you can find their list of games, dates of tournaments, and daily specials. The basic pricing is \$6.00 per hour for PC play, \$5.00 per hour for regular TV console, and \$7.00 per hour for big screen TV console.

This place is a lot of fun. Get a group of friends together and split the cost.



Photo courtesy www.battleandbrew.com
A gamer's paradise...booze and gaming

Ico: a simple but unique tale about a young boy

Sean Fine
Staff Writer

Game System: PS2
Genre: Puzzle-Adventure

Having been one of the earliest PS2 titles, these days few people of the next generation of gaming really care about old titles of the early 2000 era. Regardless, for those who are aware of this rare title, Ico is considered one of the best games for the PS2... and it shows. What is it, though, that makes it such a respected rare gem in the world of current generation systems?

Story: The story for Ico is a simple but unique tale. You control a young boy with horns, aptly named Ico, who is brought to an old, decaying temple against his will for a sacrifice. Luckily, Ico breaks free from his confinement but is trapped in the vast temple. He meets an engaged, angelic princess named Yorda shortly after his escape but as soon as she's freed from her own prison, shadow monsters appear to try taking her away. As Ico, it is your duty to protect Yorda from these shadow monsters and lead her throughout the castle so you may both escape.

One of the greatest elements of the story is its subtlety. There isn't much actual talking between the few characters. The real story

telling is told through the visuals of both the environment and the actions between Ico and Yorda. As you continue through the game, you begin to realize the feelings Yorda might have for her small savior. During the ending cut scene of the game, one may get a feeling of sadness and then joy. I won't spoil what happens, but it ends up being a satisfying ending.

Gameplay: For an early PS2 title, Ico has a more unique style of game play than even most current generation games and even some of the next generation titles. As soon as you find Yorda, you'll be leading her through the vast castle, braving through death-defying jumps and complex puzzles. Ico will climb chains, swing across ropes and, as the game booklet says, Ico will literally climb all over the castle in order to get through, but that's not the challenging part.

You see, Yorda isn't as nimble as the young Ico and relies on you to guide her through the castle. Sure, this does count as a game-long escort mission, which is so dreadfully despised by audiences, but it's not as bad as it sounds.

Shadows will appear frequently and it'll be up to Ico to fend off the creatures from grabbing Yorda and taking her to their dark realm. Fortunately, you have no

health to worry about while fighting the shadows. The only way you can die in combat is if Yorda is captured and even then, the game is forgiving, resetting from either a previous save or a checkpoint.

Combat isn't too complex. You just swing your stick (yes, your weapon for most of the game is a stick) at the shadows, and yet, somehow, the shadows present enough challenge as they shove you to the ground and go for Yorda. Regardless, Ico is not an action-oriented game. It's a game for the intellectual to test your mind on the puzzles of the castle, and by the end of the game, one can feel a sense of accomplishment. However, each puzzle only has one way to complete it and because of that replay value is low, but talk to few fans and they may say, it's not the puzzles that they replay the game for.

Graphics: Other than the sweet, romantic story, fans of the game replay the game for its incredible beauty. Even compared to most games today, the game's environment is a gorgeous living piece of art. By journeying throughout the outer walls of the castle, the world is brimming with life. Birds perch on the ground, pecking for worms in the grass-coated ground and fly off as you come near them, the trees sway slightly in the wind, and the

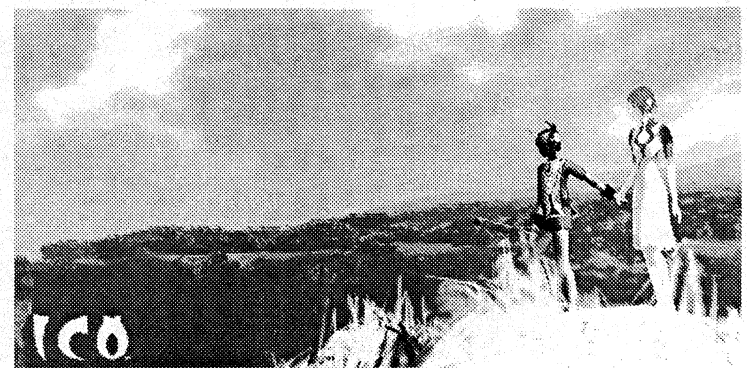
sun glistens across the water and aging ruins of the castle to brings a sense of wonder to players.

Sound: Music in Ico is practically non-existent. The only chance for music is either in important cut scenes, during fights with the shadows (and it's more like haunting wind than music), and the ending cut scene. Still, the music works with the game's beautiful subtlety and each moment there is music, it feels right with the emotion.

While the game does lack in music variety, the sounds of the world around you are all but limited. Your steps will echo throughout the corridors of the massive dungeon, while animals chirp and beat their wings against the faint whisper of the wind. It's almost satisfying to just stand upon the

edge of a cliff and let yourself be embraced in the aura of the sounds of life around you. In the sound department, Ico is almost as beautiful as it is visually.

Fun Factor: Is Ico a fun game? If you love doing geographical puzzles, then yes. Ico is very fun. It's almost like what a game of Indiana Jones should be like; more focused on surviving the traps and figuring how to get around huge ledges than the combat. If you want the game for pure fighting though, it is best you that look elsewhere. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to find copies of Ico. So if you're an intellectual and want to try an old, but rare treat, Ico is a good pick up; especially considering that it might be cheaper than most new games to come out. I give it an 8.5/10.



A scene for Ico

Photo courtesy cimg.163.com

Places in Marietta: Cheap Dates

Twila McConnell
Copy Editor

Okay, so maybe this article is a bit insensitive because your likelihood of having a date here at SPSU is incredibly low, but if you are one of the lucky fifteen guys and you're new to the Marietta area, then here's some cheap date ideas so you can save a few bucks for ramen and, hopefully, condoms.

Where: Atlanta's Botanical Gardens

What: A huge flower garden that is both outdoors and under glass. Some of their collections include a beautiful Japanese Garden, a Hydrangea collection containing more than 160 types of Hydrangeas from all over the world, a romantic rose garden, and a Tropical Rotunda housing plants from Central America, Africa, Southern Mexico, Asia, Madagascar, and various other tropical locations all over the world. For events and some amazing graphics go to www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org. You can also call 404-876-5859 for more information.

Price: Regular adult admission is \$12.00 but student admission is only \$7.00. On Tuesdays you even get an additional \$2.00 off! Cheaper than a movie and much more impressive.

How to Get There: If you're leaving SPSU's campus take a right on South Marietta Parkway. Merge onto I-75 South on the right. Take the 16th Street exit, #250, and take the ramp towards 14th Street and 10th Street. Head straight onto Techwood Drive NW. Turn left onto 14th Street NW and follow until you reach Piedmont Avenue NE. Take a Left onto Piedmont and in moments you'll be there! The physical address is 1345 Piedmont Ave. NE Atlanta, Ga 30309.

Where: Picture Show at Merchant's Exchange

What: Dollar theater – it has the best dollar theater prices around so if you missed a movie the first time around, you want to see it again, or didn't feel like spending \$7.50 for it, this place is perfect for you! It's also the cleanest one I've ever been in and still has the typical pricey snack bar. Just in case your date thinks you're cheap, you can buy her a pack of \$3.00 SnoCaps. You can find what movies are playing and there times online at your favorite site such as Yahoo.com or AccessAtlanta.com or you can call 770-977-2977.

Price: On Tuesday's it's only \$0.50 all day long! All other days matinees are a \$1.00 and after 5:00 pm it's a \$1.75.

How to Get There: If you're leaving SPSU's campus take a right on South Marietta Parkway. Get off on the Marietta/Roswell exit and then take a right onto Roswell Road. Head down Roswell Road fifteen minutes, twenty if there's a lot of traffic, and it will be on your left in a shopping center called Merchant's Exchange which also contains a L.A. Fitness and a Hancock Fabrics. There physical address is 4400 Upper Roswell Rd. Marietta, Ga 30062.

Where: East Cobb Park

What: A very nice park complete with creek, trees, benches, play ground, picnic areas, and even a rather nice bathroom. Okay, stick with me here. What's more romantic than a picnic lunch – especially if the guy prepares it? Figure out her favorite quick-fix foods, grab a blanket, and head out to the park... your thoughtfulness is guaranteed to impress her. You can even have a romp on the play ground to unleash that inner kid. They often have events like concerts and ice cream socials. For info you can

click on www.eastcobbpark.org. Just remember, you can't be there after 10:00 pm! The cops do patrol that area and will kick you out.

Price: Free! ...minus the cost of food if you plan a picnic.

How to Get There: If you're leaving SPSU's campus take a right on South Marietta Parkway. Get off on the Marietta/Roswell exit and then take a right onto Roswell Road. Drive roughly seven minutes and the park will be right there on your right. There physical address is 3322 Roswell Rd. Marietta, Ga 30062.

Where: Marietta Square

What: For those of you that haven't been to the square, it's a park surrounded on all sides by different shops. It's a great place to kill a few hours window shopping at places like Eddie's Trick Shop and Tiffany's Tea Room. There's also assorted cheap places to eat like Marietta Pizza Company and Sweet Treats, which I highly recommend. They blend their own ice cream on the spot and have a multitude of different candies. Often times the Square has an event going on such as a craft fair or having a local Orchestra play, which is always free and can be very romantic. You can find a list of events here: www.mariettasquare.com.

Price: Free! ...minus cost of optional food or novelty items.

How to Get There: If you're leaving SPSU's Campus take a left on South Marietta Parkway. South Marietta Parkway will intersect with North Marietta Parkway at a light and a CVS Pharmacy where you will take a right. Continue to Whitlock and take a right at that intersection. You are at the Square! (The trick is finding parking...)

Where: AMF Bowling Center, Marietta Lanes



Photo courtesy atlantabotanicalgarden.org

One of the beautiful pathways in Atlanta's Botanical Gardens

What: Bowling, of course! What a great double date idea, or a great way to introduce her to your friends in a fun, outgoing atmosphere. This is the closest one to SPSU, so you should have no trouble finding it! Although a bit run down, bowling is bowling and if you play your cards right her eyes will be on you, not the atmosphere of the place.

Price: Usually you can bowl all night for only \$14.00 a person, which includes shoes, and they close at 2:00 am on Fridays and Saturdays. Click on www.amf.com/mariettalanes or call 770-427-4696 for more information.

How to Get There: If you're leaving SPSU's Campus take a right on South Marietta Parkway. Take an immediate left on Cobb Parkway SE also known as Highway 41 and you're almost there! It's exact address is 565 Cobb Parkway SE Marietta, Ga 30060 and is located in a shopping center on your left.

Where: Dave & Buster's

What: I think of it as an adult Chuck E. Cheese. It's a huge game house and restaurant with all kinds of ticket games including assorted video game simulators, billiards,

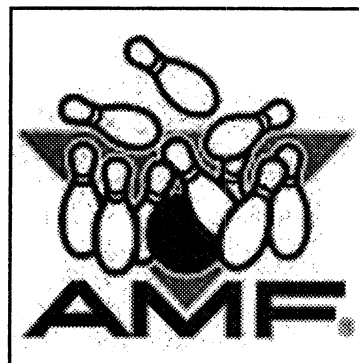


Photo courtesy www.amf.com

Bowling!!

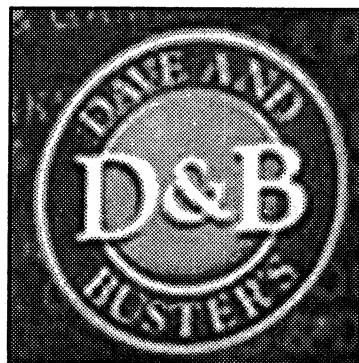


Photo courtesy www.daveandbusters.com

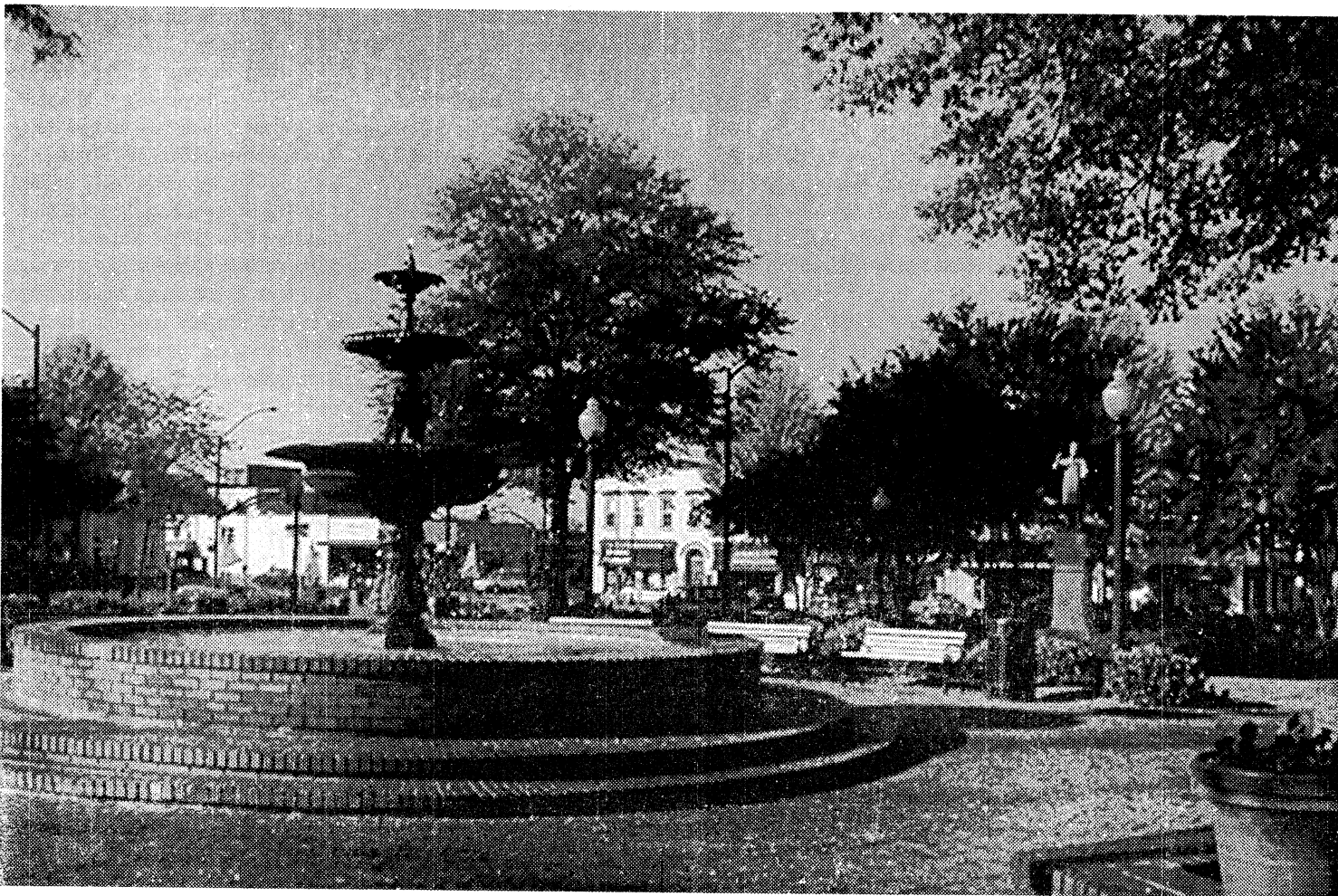
Dave and Buster's, join the fun.

and video/interactive games. Most girls that go to this campus have an interest in games and this is a great way to share your interest with her. Of course they have a prize shop where you can turn your winning tickets in for multiple items including stuffed animals – which is a sure way to make you're girl happy and leave her with a positive memory of the date.

Price: The price ranges depending on how many tokens you get and if you want to eat there. The website (www.daveandbusters.com) can give you more detailed information or you can call 770-951-5554. This has the most potential to turn into a rather expensive date, thusly listed last.

How to Get There: If you're leaving SPSU's Campus take a right on South Marietta Parkway. Immediately take a right onto Cobb Parkway SE also known as Highway 41. Continue until you reach Delk Road then take a left. Then take a left onto Franklin Road SE; then another left onto Northwest Parkway SE; then another left onto D and B Drive SE and you're there! The physical address is 2215 D & B Drive SE Marietta, Ga 30067.

If you lack a car you can always use Atlanta's supposed public transit system: Marta. For info go to www.marta.com. Usually the only problem is getting to a Marta station...



The fountain in the middle of Marietta Square Park.

Photo courtesy www.city-data.com

Dirge of Cerberus

Sean Fine
Staff Writer

Game System: PS2
Genre: Third Person Shooter

Ah, Final Fantasy. How long has it been? ...Actually, not that long. If memory serves you, they just recently released Final Fantasy XI: Treasures of... What was it? Aht Urgan or something like that?

Square, you really need to put more thought into your names instead of just throwing words at the fridge to decide your next big title. And just a few months before that, you released the much anticipated movie-sequel to Final Fantasy VII, Advent Children. Now you have ANOTHER sequel to that particular series? Dirge of Cerberus, you say? Once again, Square, stop with the throwing words at the fridge.

Yes, another year, another 3 Final Fantasy related items already released? Not to mention, Final Fantasy 12 later this year, but that's the future; we can wait for the future, so lets look at Dirge of Cerberus now.

Ever since the Tokyo Game Show of 2005, fans of Final Fantasy 7 have been eager for a chance to play through the world that established the series' popularity back in the 90s. However, this game takes the style and story of Final Fantasy and turns it into... a third person shooter?

That's right. Changing from the typical, turn based Final Fantasy mechanics from the days of yore, Dirge of Cerberus has decided to be different. Gamers aren't strangers to side stories of games having a new style of play all together, but new things do not always mean a good game. Take Mortal Kombat - anyone remember Mythologies? It didn't do so well. But fear not,

loyal Final Fantasy 7 fans, Dirge of Cerberus is amazing.

Let's break it down.

Story: A year following the events in Advent Children (which adds up to 3 years following FF7), Vincent is in the village of Kalm after receiving a cell phone message from Reeve, a friend of the party in the original. During a celebration in Kalm, however, the village is suddenly attacked by a mysterious army and Vincent jumps into action, both saving the villagers and working his marksmanship on the invaders, while eventually meeting up with Reeve and his own World Relief Organization (WRO) to combat this force.

But what is this army? Where did they come from? Why are they attacking? As you progress along with Reeve, visiting locales such as the city of Edge (from Advent Children) and Nibelheim, you slowly discover the facts behind this army and its elite squad of super soldiers, known as the Tsviets. All the while, players will learn about their demonic hero and why he is the way he is, as well as his relation with Lucrecia, a side character barely seen in the original.

The story progresses nicely to put it simply, though people who have never looked into Vincent's past may be confused about cut scenes concerning the gunman's history, since they occur at random moments. Not to mention, his past isn't shown from beginning to end. Vincent's past works more like... beginning to middle to a little before to just before the end to the beginning again to a little after the middle and THEN the end. Still, if you know your Final Fantasy 7, then the cut scenes are interesting, especially near the end.

I did find two main gripes about the story though. One - the



The whole gang. Who's your favorite character?

Photo courtesy squarecn.com

cut scenes can be painfully long. Not as long as Xenosaga was, but it is still about 15 minutes long in between levels. Annoying? Most definitely. Two - I used to see Lucrecia as a mysterious woman with a sort of soft aura about her. All butterflies and gumdrops, so to say. She's still a nice woman, nicer than most other women on this planet, but she seems more... well... whiny and overdramatic to me now. I won't say what happens, but my respect for Lucrecia has gone down from playing this game.

Other than that, it's a good and nicely thought out story, especially for a shooter game. Is it as deep and complex as any other Final Fantasy game? Not a chance. Is it a bad story? Not at all.

Gameplay: As said, Dirge of Cerberus differs from other Final Fantasy by acting more like an action-oriented shooter game rather than a turn based game. How does this fare? It works pretty well as far as shooters go. Vincent can double jump, slash up enemies with his claw, transform into a devil version of himself, and most importantly, he can shoot; he can shoot REALLY well. There are three types of aiming for players to choose from. Automatic (which I presume automatically picks a target to shoot), semi-automatic (where you simply just aim in the general direction of the enemy), and manual (it's all you with a little cursor to help). Is this bad? Yes, but only if you crave a challenge in combat. The assistance when using automatic targeting, or even semi-automatic target, takes the challenge (and sometimes the fun) out of blasting through dozens of soldiers. On the other hand, there are segments and boss battles that can be near impossible when just using the manual targeting setting, but if you want some difficulty in your game, I recommend you stick with manual control.

Speaking of soldiers, let's talk about them. These fearless killing machines will throw a lot of firepower at you. Granted, there aren't too many enemy types, but they can put up quite a fire. It's not

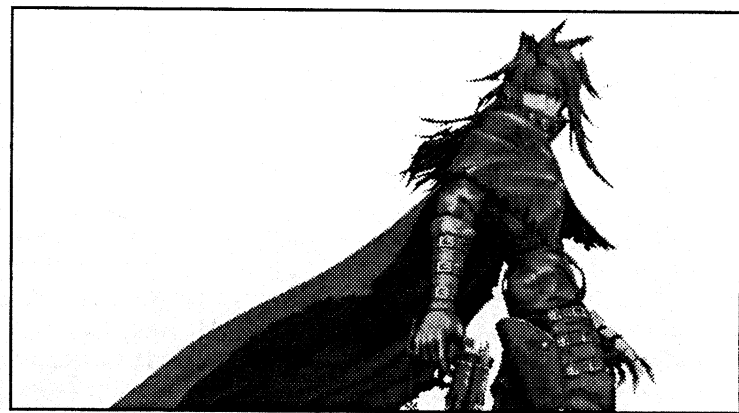


Photo courtesy img.forumfr.com

The main character, Vincent...

a game where you can run into the center of an enemy force and expect to win without a dire blow to your health. However, these soldiers aren't the brightest. They might put up a decent fight, but when they're constantly shooting behind a post that bullets don't go through and standing near explosive barrels, it's almost like they're asking to get killed. But regardless of their moments of stupidity you can and probably will die at least once or so to the sheer enormity of the attacking force.

One of the best features of the game is the customization you can do to your gun. You start off with Vincent's basic gun but within the first level, you'll find new barrels to attach to your gun, affecting stats such as the fire power, the range of the bullets, and the firing rate of your gun. It is a lot of fun to experiment with all the items you'll acquire and change your pistol into a full fledged rifle and even a full automatic machine gun. In between levels, you can pay to upgrade your parts to your guns, both improving them in certain areas and sometimes weakening them in others. This part of the game is what really drew me in while I was playing it.

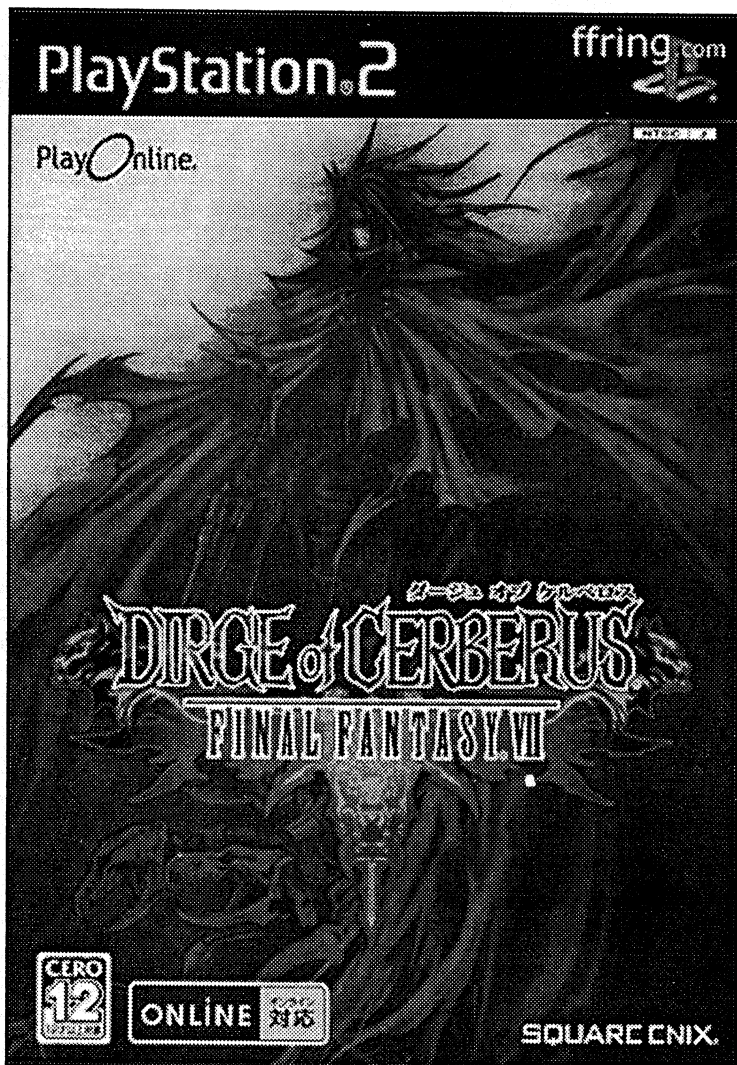
Graphics: In usual Square fashion, the graphics are beautiful... in their own gothic way. They certainly share many similarities to the popular Advent Children's graphics, which is good, considering the long cut scenes. Unfortunately, it seems that Square has forgotten to take the time to change the lip synching in the cut scenes

so it's very awkward to see the characters say one thing and then their lips go off saying something completely different. Other than that one problem, the graphics are very nice and the designs for the characters are creative, especially with the Tsviets and the remade models of Yuffie and Reeve.

Sound: Voice acting is fairly well. Not perfect, but good. The famous Steve Blum once again provides a surprisingly dark and moody tone that Vincent become popular for, and Yuffie's cheerful voice is always pleasing to hear (to my ears, anyway - don't know about you Japanophiles). The voices also bring players into the combat experience as enemy soldiers shout out orders while rushing into the area to get into position to take you out.

Musically, there aren't as many memorable tunes as the original but the music does its part in keeping you un-bored, which is always a good thing.

Fun Factor: Ultimately, is Dirge of Cerberus for everyone? Alas, it is not. Players who are strangers to Final Fantasy 7 or even Final Fantasy in general will probably be confused by some elements in the story. Still, the game is fun, even if it can be easy on semi-automatic (and beyond) targeting. If you're a fan of gothic-styled games or good gun customization or even just Final Fantasy, then there will be quite a treat when you play this game. Despite its flaws, I give Dirge of Cerberus a 7.5/10



Buy this game!!!

Photo courtesy britishgaming.co.uk

New with the SGA

Cristina Wilson
Senior Staff Writer

SGA meetings occur every other Tuesday in the Library Rotunda. All students are invited to attend to witness first-hand the inner workings of the Student Government at SPSU.

Tuesday, August 29:

- The Internal Affairs Committee (IA) has recently passed an article of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that lists requirements for all organizations on campus.

- IA Committee announces that all student organization funds have been frozen until an updated roster is provided.

- An amendment to the SGA constitution (5.10) was passed allowing any member of the SGA to resign their position through a written letter, but that member will not be allowed back in if their position

has been replaced.

- By-laws were changed allowing parliamentarians and the Sergeant at Arms to receive stipends. Also, tardiness and absences to SGA meetings will receive a punishment based on the loss of a percentage of their stipend, rather than a whole dollar amount.

- Projects developing in the Public Relations department include publications released once a semester and open-forum talks based on various topics occurring monthly in the Community Center.

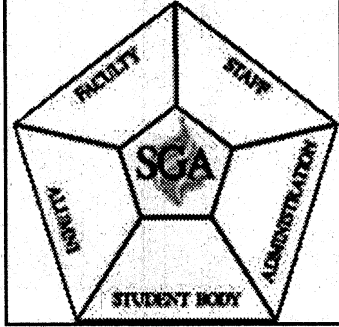


Photo courtesy sga.spsu.edu

Letter from the SGA President SPSU Community,

Welcome Back! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. The fall semester started wonderful, sunny, and full of new smiles. Also, it started very active, with a big group of freshmen students who increased our enrollment, and many student organizations sponsoring recreational activities. Carlyle's Corporate Food Service and Starbucks' Coffee are new additions to our campus.

The new Student Government Association (SGA) started working during the summer and continues to be very dedicated to creating projects, making changes to better our campus, and getting across to all the students, faculty and staff. My name is Carolina Daza and I am the SGA President. I come from Colombia, and I am a sophomore majoring in International Studies.

I arrived to SPSU one year ago and since then I've had a wonderful experience that has made me love this community even more. This is a small and unique school. The SGA wants to offer you all a more positive and more enjoyable environment for all of us to excel in our academic responsibilities and prepare for our future lives.

SPSU has many student organizations where strong friendships are made, leadership skills are learned and developed, and where a difference can be made in the community. We are small but very diverse. International students account for about a 16% of the enrollment.

I would like to encourage you all to go out and get involve. Among all the organizations, there is something for you. If you are an international student, ISA is the right place for you; if you're studying engineering, NSBE, SHPE, ASCE, ASME, GEAR, GSPE, IIE, are some of the organizations for you; if you enjoy journalism, communication, or news, The Sting, our newspaper, is waiting for you; if you are studying architecture, then

AIAS or NOMA is for you; if you enjoy radio stations, we have our own, WGHR; if you love organizing campus-wide activities, CAB is the perfect place, and we have a new, very enthusiastic, and dedicated director, Ms. Kasey Helton; if you love playing sports, dancing, or working out, please visit the Recreational and Wellness Center or join the Dance Team; if you like Greek Communities, we have a variety; and lastly but not least, the SGA would love to have you.

Our meetings are open to all the SPSU community. They take place on Tuesdays at noon in the Library Rotunda. We are the perfect place for your ideas, concerns, and questions to be heard and worked out.

There is no excuse not to be involved or make many friends. If you want to start an organization, SGA is opened to help you out and offer any information about SPSU.

Among all of our new projects, we have a new website! Please visit <http://sga.spsu.edu/news.html> and learn about who we are, where we are, and what we do.

We want to invite you all to one of our very exceptional Tuesday meetings on October 3rd at noon, to meet and interact with SPSU President Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher and listen to the SPSU and SGA Strategic Plan for 2006-2007.

This is our school and time flies fast. When you least expected, you'll be in your graduation gown and I am sure you'll remember your freshmen year, professors, tests, experiences, and friends; please make it unforgettable.

I am very grateful for all the support I had during the SGA elections. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to do my best as the SGA President.

Wish you all the best and enjoy the semester!
Sincerely,
Carolina Daza

Event Calender for SPSU

September

Wednesday, Sept. 6

- Movie of the Month between the Dorms (Tokyo Drift) - 8:30 pm - CAB

Thursday, Sept. 7

- Internship Orientation in Ballroom- Noon & 5:00 pm - Career Center
- Think Fast Game Show in SC Theatre - 8:00 pm - CAB

Saturday, Sept 9

- For all the red necks, bow season starts

Tuesday, Sept 12

- Co-op Orientation in Ballroom - Noon & 5:00 pm - Career Center
- SGA meeting in the Rotunda - Noon - SGA
- Concert (G'Vages & Crumbling Arches) in Community Center - 7:00 pm - CAB

Wednesday, Sept 13

- How to use Career Lane? in SC Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center

Thursday, Sept 14

- Resume for Today's Job Market in SC Rm 216 - Noon - Career Center
- Recycle Percussion in SC Theatre - 8:00 pm - CAB

Monday, Sept 18

- Is this the right major for me? in SC Rm 215 - 5:00 pm - Career Center

Tuesday, Sept 19

- Study Skills and Test taking Strategies in SC Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center

Wednesday, Sept 20

- Mock Interview (RSVP) in SC Rm 243 - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm - Career Center

Thursday, Sept 21

- Time Management Techniques in SC Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center
- Fall Party (Toga/ Foam/ Video Dance) between Dorms - TBA - CAB
- Deadline for the Sept. 28th issue of The Sting - 11:00 pm - The Sting

Friday, Sept 22

- International Dance in Ballroom - TBA - ISA
- Poker Night at Community Center - 8:00 pm - CAB

Monday, Sept. 25

- Starts Senior Career Week - Career Center
- Resume for Today's Job Market in SC Ballroom - 5:00 pm - Career Center

Tuesday, Sept. 26

- SGA meeting in the Rotunda - Noon - SGA
- Interviewing Skills that Work in Ballroom- 5:00 pm - Career Center

Wednesday, Sept. 27

- Conducting an Effective Job Search in Ballroom - 5:00 pm - Career Center

Thursday, Sept. 28

- How to Negotiate the Salary you want in Ballroom - 5:00 pm - Career Center

October

Monday, Oct 2

- How to use Career Lane? in SC Rm 215 - 3:00 pm - Career Center

Tuesday, Oct 3

- Resume Critique Day in SC Lobby - 4:00 to 6:00 pm - Career Center
- Forum with SGA & Uni. President in TBA - TBA - SGA
- Movie of the Month between the dorms (TBA) - TBA - CAB

Wednesday, Oct 4

- Working a Career Fair in Ballroom - Noon - Career Center

SGA's Standard Operating Procedures

This document of Standard Operating Procedures, mandated by the Internal Affairs Committee (IAC) and upon approval of the Student Government Association (SGA) of Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU), establishes policies affecting all recognized organizations on campus at SPSU. The protocol outlined in this document, with power granted by the constitution of the SGA, is to be strictly enforced by the IAC. No exceptions will be made. All SPSU student organizations will be held responsible for knowing all information presented in this document.

Article I. Requirements for becoming an officially recognized organization on campus SPSU by the SGA.

1.1 Potential organization must submit the following to the Internal Affairs Chair for review by the IAC.

a. A Constitution and/or By-laws of potential organization, with the organization's desired official name on the document. The constitution must state the purpose of the organization. The Constitution must be original and authentic. Each constitution received by the IAC will be reviewed against other organization's constitutions on file. If the organization requesting approval for recognition by the SGA council is found to have plagiarized an existing constitution, that prospective organization will be denied approval and all documents will be returned to the unofficial group.

b. A roster of all members, including the Executive Board. The roster must include each member's name, address, email and phone number, as well as officer title, if applicable.

c. There is no minimum number of students necessary to become an officially recognized organization; 1 person can be an organization. However, eligibility of receiving funds from SGA and an office in the Student Center will be discussed in Articles II and III.

d. A budget for the organiza-

tion, including organization dues, if applicable. If the organization wishes to receive funds from the SGA, they must submit a budget request detailing an approximation of what the funds will be used for.

1.2 If approved, the IAC will propose recognizing that organization at the next general body SGA meeting. If not approved, the IAC will return materials to the potential organization with a synopsis of what must be changed in order to resubmit.

Article II. Requirements to be eligible to receive funds from the SGA.

2.1 Must be an officially recognized organization by the SGA.

2.2 Definitions

a. Starter Budget Funds: Funds awarded by the SGA to an organization for use throughout the next fiscal year.

b. Additional Funds: Funds requested by an organization outside of their starter budget funds in order to host or participate in an event, or to buy additional needed supplies. Additional Funds requests should be submitted to the Budget & Finance Chair for review by the Budget & Finance Committee (BFC)

2.3 An organization must have a minimum of 4 members at any given time in order to receive funds from the SGA. If membership falls below 4 members, starter budget funds will be frozen and no additional funds may be requested.

2.4 In order to receive additional funds outside of the starter budget funds, and organization should show proof of attempt at fund raising. Organizations that do not fund raise or do not plan to fund raise have little chance of receiving additional funds.

2.4.1 The only exception to fund raising is if an organization is a nationally recognized organization that has a Not-For-Profit Clause. Any organizations that are unable to fund-raise for their own benefit need to show proof of community service projects that have

taken place either on or off campus SPSU.

Article III. Requirements to be eligible to receive an office in the Student Center.

3.1 Must be an officially recognized organization by the SGA.

3.2 An organization who desires to have an office located in the Student Center must have a minimum of 4 members in order to be eligible.

3.3 Organizations who meet the minimum membership requirement should see the Assistant Director of the Student Center (ADSC) to have their organization put on the waiting list for an office.

3.4 Organizations must agree to abide by the guidelines as described in Article V.

Article IV. Organization Status and Updates.

4.1 At the beginning of Fall and Spring Semesters, all organization funds will be frozen until that organization submits to the IAC a current and up-to-date roster of all organization members. The roster must include each member's name, address, email and phone number, as well as officer title, if applicable.

4.2 In addition to an updated roster at the beginning of each semester, a member of the executive board of each organization must submit a current status of their organization at the beginning of each full month of classes during each semester. IE: For Fall semester, status updates will be required in September, October and November. For Spring Semester, status updates will be required in February, March and April.

4.3 Status updates will include if membership has increased or decreased. It will also include if any executive board members have changed (ie, if a member resigns, and a new officer is selected.) Each organization has 5 business days from the beginning of each month that updates are required to submit status updates to the IAC. After 5

business days, funds will be frozen until that organization submits their update.

4.4 Status updates may be submitted to the IAC in writing at the SGA office, or by email to the Internal Affairs Chair.

Article V. Room Audits and Inspections

5.1 Room Audits will be conducted in the Fall and Spring Semesters.

5.2 Organizations with an office must adhere to the guidelines outlined in Article IV. Organizations with an office must submit their status update for the month of September within 5 business days, as described in Article IV. If that organization has not submitted their update on time, they have a 5 business day grace period to get their update submitted. If that organization still fails to submit their update by the end of the grace period, they will lose their office effective immediately, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

5.3 Membership numbers for eligibility for an office: if an organization has at least the minimum 4 members required to be eligible for an office, at the beginning of each semester when audits are conducted, they will not be audited based on membership again until the next semester. In other words, if an organization drops from 4 members to 3 or less during the semester, they will not lose their office based on membership requirements during that current semester. However, if by the time the next semester audits come around, if that organization has not brought their membership back to the minimum of 4 members, they will lose their office effective immediately once office audits have been conducted.

5.4 If an organization loses their office, they will only be eligible to get an office back by following the procedures as described in Article 3, including being placed back on the waiting list by the ADSC.

5.5 Room inspections will be conducted by a member of the

IAC and the ADSC within the first week of each month, throughout the entire year. Inspections will be conducted in order to check for fire hazards, and safety & health issues. If the room is not up-to-par, the IAC will submit a letter to that organization with a friendly reminder to please get their office within standards prior to the next month's inspection. An office inspection can be failed based on 3 things: Excessive messiness, Safety Issues, or Health Issues. If an organization fails 3 consecutive monthly inspections, they will lose their office effective immediately, **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This policy includes summer months; health and fire hazards don't take a vacation, and must be addressed immediately.

5.6 Organizations will also lose their room effectively immediately if that organization is no longer officially recognized by the SGA.

Article VI: Electronic Records

6.1 All organizations on campus must submit electronic records to IA. These records include the organization's constitution, roster list, and the letter from the Advisor. All budget requests must be electronic and sent to the B&F chair as well as the IA chair.

6.2 The format of the documents shall be in PDF or DOC (Microsoft Word format.) No other formats are acceptable.

6.3 The electronic copy of the constitution shall be named the following: Organization Name - Constitution - Date.doc

6.4 The electronic copy of the roster list shall be named the following: Organization Name - Member List - Date.doc

6.5 The electronic copy of the letter from the organization's Advisor shall be named the following: Organization Name - Advisor Letter - Date.doc

6.6 All changes to the constitution, roster list, or Advisors shall be submitted as hard copies and electronic copies to IA.

An eventful first two weeks of school

Twila McConnell
Copy Editor

The first two weeks of school are always an active and eventful time for the SPSU community. Between Rush Week for the Greeks and the multitude of welcome back events, your head may be spinning with all that happened. Here's a recap of the first two weeks of school.

Campus Activities Board (CAB) entertained all of us move-in weekend with Mission Impossible III on a big screen between the dorms Saturday night. Sunday, they fed us with entertainment by live bands in front of the Courtyard.

As the first week of school progressed CAB started with a Welcome Back party full of inflatable fun including an inflatable obstacle course, battle ring, and other fun activities. They also hosted a poker night which, if you missed it the first time around, will

become a monthly event. Another activity CAB hosted was the annual sky diving simulation event called Extreme Air, which gives you the feeling of falling as you're levitated by a giant fan.

The Greeks on campus were busy throwing events for the new Rushers on campus. Sigma Pi brought in a gargantuan screen between the dorms and entertained newbies and current members alike with video games all night long. Pi Kappa Phi had their traditional pig roast. Kappa Sigma hosted a paintball war at their Fraternity house and Tau Kappa Epsilon threw a milk chugging contest. Sigma Nu had the most interesting event with their traditional foam water slide and a female pudding wrestling match.

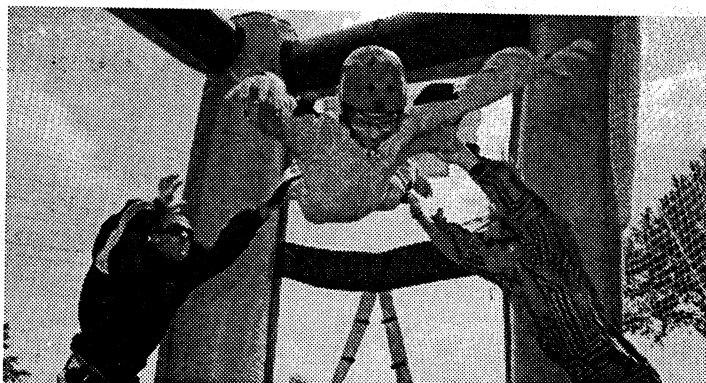
All the Greeks had been hanging out and cooking in front of the Student Center at lunch for the first two weeks of school as well

as playing sports and cooking out most nights.

The varied offices on campus have also been doing a multitude of events. The Career and Counseling Center had an open house and started their workshop series. The ATTIC, which deals with advising, tutoring, testing and disabilities, and international students, also had an open house. The senior administrators also joined in the fun and had

lunch with the students in the new and improved Carlyle cafeteria.

It has been a crazy, hectic and fun two weeks here at SPSU. If you haven't already joined in the fun, put down your architecture sketches for two minutes, whip out any of the assorted lists of events here in the paper or check out some posters on your hall, and mark one on your calendar. You won't be disappointed!



Extreme Air

Steven Fyffe/The Sting

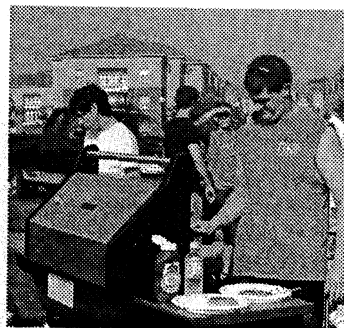


Photo courtesy Pi Kappa Phi
Grilling between the dorms

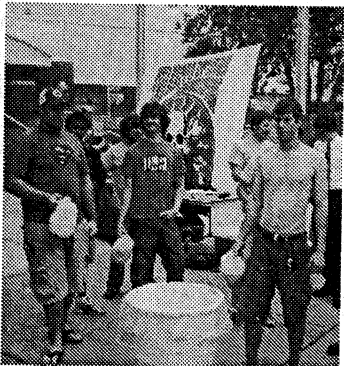
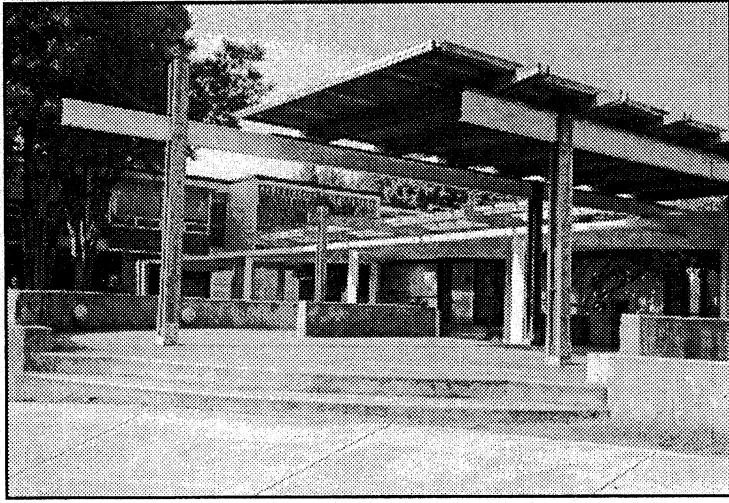


Photo courtesy IKE
Milk Chugging Contest

Photographer Showcase

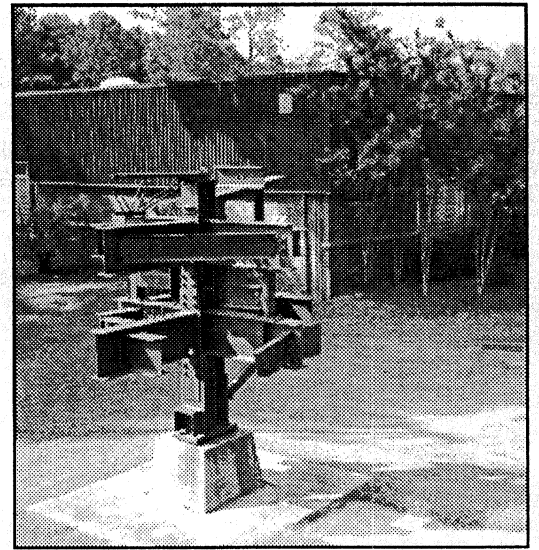
Matt Finn



The sitting area in front of the Continuing Education building.



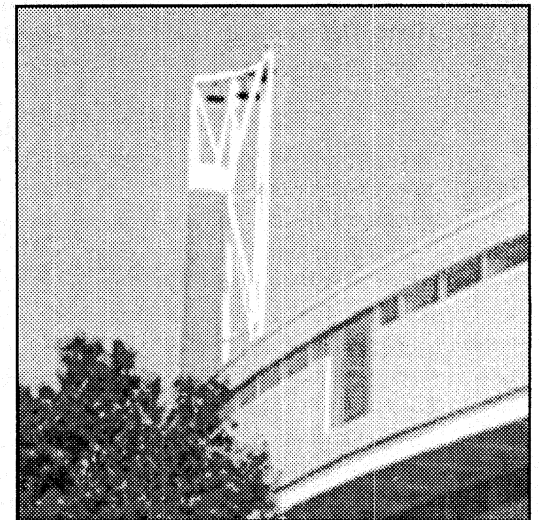
Architecture Building



Civil Engineering Building

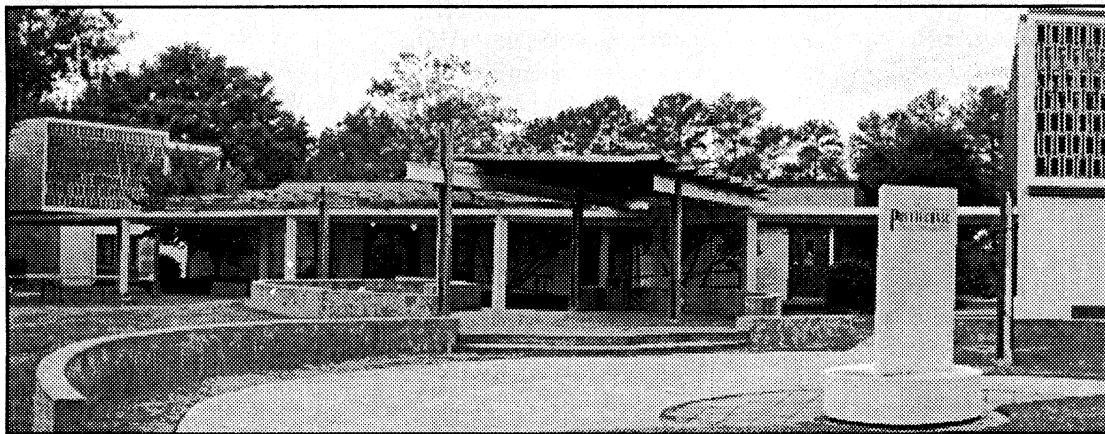


The Administration Building

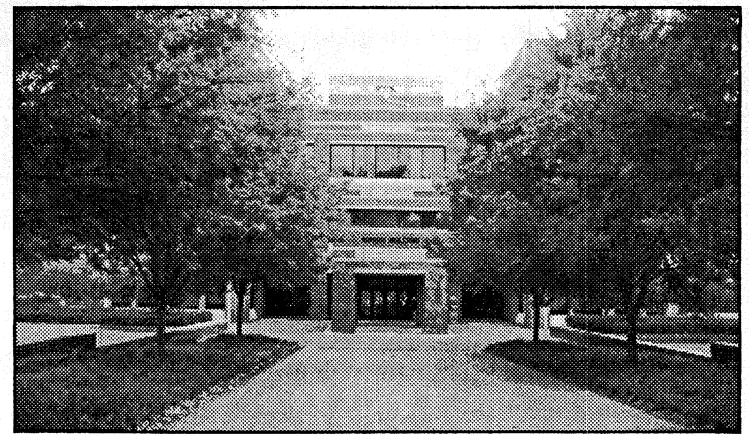


Bell Tower

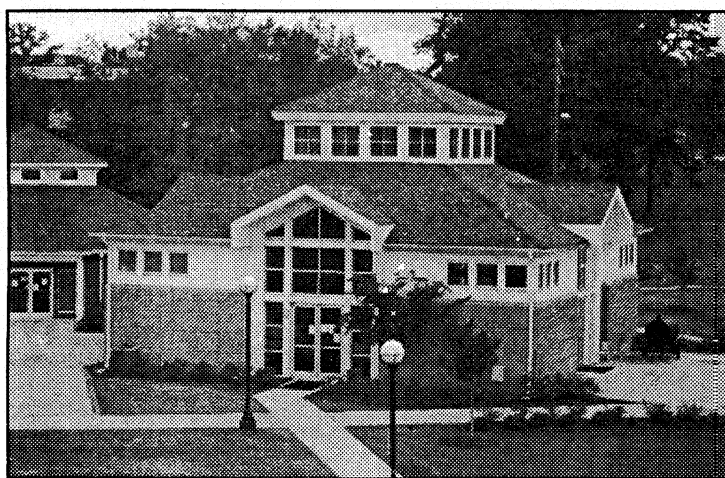
Steven Fyffe



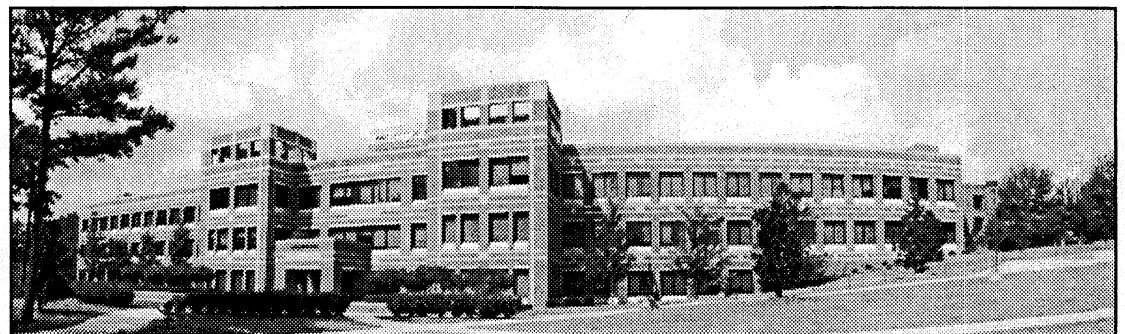
The sitting area in front of the Continuing Education building.



Atrium Building coming from the K-buildings



Community Center



The Atrium Building (top) and the Courtyard (bottom)



Buildings Around Southern Poly