

# St. Patty's Day

Looking for leprechauns? A bloody wonderful Irish film? Or just a bit of Irish "spirits"? Everything you wanted to know and more on **Page 9**



March 1, 2007

# The Sting

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We take the news out of newspaper

# Homecoming...?

So you missed the Homecoming dance, huh? Well, the wonderful Jessica was there and covered it and that should've been reason enough to go! **Page 12**



Volume 61, Issue 8

## Sigma Pi car bash fundraiser

**Nish Patel & Ryan Wright**  
*Sigma Pi Fraternity*

**SMASH!!! THUD!!! CRASH!!!** These were the sounds that were heard in front of the Student Center, and across the SPSU campus, on the afternoon of February 26th, as sledgehammer heads made contact with sheet-metal doors. Students, family, and friends were invited to come participate in the Safe Spring Break campaign sponsored by the brothers of the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of the Sigma Pi Fraternity and the Student Government Association. Greek Advisor Kasey Helton and Rec. Center Faculty member Kelly Judge provided food, drinks, goody bags, t-shirts and beach chairs to lounge on while the boys of Sigma Pi provided a 2000 Dodge Neon for students to freely relieve some Mid-term stress upon. Five dollars bought you thirty seconds do as much damage as humanly possible with a variety of weapons.

There was a variety of people who attended to take a shot or two at the car along with Sigma Pi, such as the Greek advisor, Kasey Helton, the Dean of Students, Berry Burkhead, several members of the S.A.B. office, Rec. Center's Kelly

Judge, workers from the Facilities Department, and students of various backgrounds and cultures from a vast number of local schools.

After hours of bashing, the once decent, drivable Neon appeared to be a left-over of a major traffic accident. Using the battered cruiser as a toy, members of the Marietta Fire Department donated their time to demonstrate how the "Jaws of Life" would be implemented in a serious, real-life auto accident. They brought all of the cool gadgets out and ripped the car to pieces. Forty five minutes was all that was needed to pop and rip off all the doors one by one, cut off the trunk lid, remove what was left of the engine's hood, transform the Neon into a convertible, and bend the vehicle's frame almost in half. The Fire Department offered to flip the car over using their air-bag system, but we thought it might be difficult to roll while on its back. We happily declined.

The brothers of Sigma Pi sponsored the car bash as a fundraiser for the Sam Spady Foundation. Sigma Pi works closely with the foundation on a national level to help educate students and faculty on the dangers of alcohol abuse. Many participants of the event received

Sam Spady wallet-cards to remind them, and their peers, the visible signs of alcohol poisoning, what to do in such an occurrence, and who to call for help. The brothers of Sigma Pi feel that the more students are educated about the dangers of alcohol abuse, the less likely other students will lose their lives to such

dangers, just as Samantha Spady did herself.

Sigma Pi had a goal of raising \$200 to donate to the Foundation. After cost consideration for the event, Sigma Pi was only a few dollars shy of achieving their set amount. The event turned out to be a huge hit and great success. Con-

gratulations and appreciations from students and faculty continue to pour in. The brothers of Sigma Pi are now under the heavy consideration of making this an annual event in conjunction with the school. This event required a great deal of time, effort, man-hours, and patience, but it was worth it.



Sigma Pi Fraternity on their bashed car.

Photo courtesy Sigma Pi

## Coffee house moving

**Laren Asay**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Last fall, the Community Center Coffee House opened. The coffee house sells Starbucks coffee, Chick-a sandwiches, and an assortment of different food. Unfortunately, the coffee house isn't selling enough to cover its expenses, so Robert Whitaker, is purposing moving the coffee house to the J-building.

The coffee house moving to the J-building has not been officially decided yet, but it is being strongly considered. Mr. Whitaker is talking to students, faculty, and staff to see which location would better service the populous. In the Community Center, the coffee house is out of the main traffic flow of campus, but if moved to the J-building, it could be put in one of the major traffic areas. Mr. Whitaker is hoping the heavier traffic flow will help increase the coffee house's profits. Right now, the coffee house isn't making enough money to cover its cost.

If the coffee house is moved, its new location will be the first

floor lobby of J-building. The move would probably not occur until after the semester is over, because the construction would disturb classes. One major part of the construction would be putting proper electricity and water lines in the area.

Some people are wondering what would happen to the Community Center if the coffee house

moved. During the 2005-2006 school year, the Community Center was rarely opened, but after the coffee house was put in the building it has been open consistently. Mr. Whitaker said that if the coffee house is moved, he has some plans for keeping the Community Center

**Continued on Page 2**



The Community Center is where the coffee house presently resides.

Matt Finn/The Sting

## Chili Cook-off

**Cristina Wilson**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

Carrying on with SPSU tradition, the Tony Tilman's Chili Cook-off was a success for the Social and Community Building Committee (SCBC). An annual event since 1997, this fund-raiser was named in honor of the former dean of electrical engineering technology.

This year, the event was coordinated by Leigh Ann Soublis, Assistant Director for the Student Center, and Dr. Ron Koger, VP for Student and Enrollment Services. A panel of judges was given the task of determining which chili, out of 19 entries and three soups, deserved the title of "winner". Cha Cha chili took home the prize of a neon cactus and gift certificate.

Attending the judge table this year was Carolina Daza, SGA President; Sharon Hodge, staff council representative; Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, SPSU President; Dr. Alan Gabrielli, Dean of Arts and Sciences; and Joel Fowler, Faculty Moderator. They gave each entry a point value based on creativity of name, appearance, texture, and taste.

Chili contenders made the job of judging hard this year with names like "Party Girl's Chili", "The Great White Hope Chili", "Smack Your Mama Chili", and "Never a Winner Chili". Entries ranged from thin, brothy soups with lots of beans, to meaty stews. No two options looked alike, although Judge Carolina Daza found herself in need of the water pitcher soon after starting. Water and saltine crackers were available for free.

Cost to attend the cook-off was free, but donations of three dollars got each spectator five Styrofoam bowls in order to test their favorites. Additional bowls were a dollar each. The Social and Community Building Committee raised \$150 during this event, with the help of a bake sale offering homemade cornbread, cakes, and treats.

The SCBC sponsors activities each semester which are designed to "build a sense of community among SPSU employees". Information about this group can be found at their website, [www.spsu.edu/scbc/](http://www.spsu.edu/scbc/). Other events scheduled for this semester are a day at the spa, and the annual employee picnic.

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### Think of Getting you Ph.D.?

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### The coffee house is what?!

Find out what Jon Meek thinks should be done with this short-lived SPSU artifact.  
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### Thinking you wanna see Ricci chained up...?

Read Lucy Laments's review of this controversial film before it comes out and before you make your final decision.  
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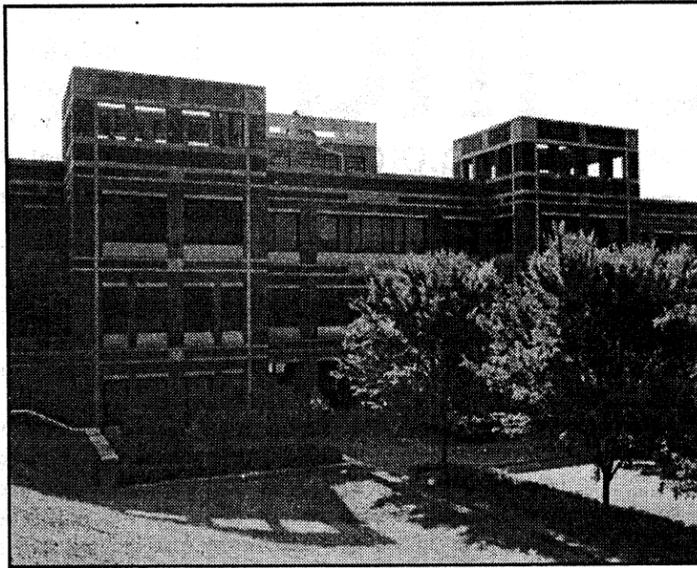


**Coffee house**

Continued from Front Page

opened during the day. He also mentioned that the vending service company has offered to put vending machines in the Community Center, if the coffee house is moved.

Some people are hoping for the move. One such staff member stated that the coffee house was too far away. Other people aren't so happy about the move. Kasey Helton stated that the coffee house wasn't given a chance to succeed. She also said, "The J-building is a great place for a coffee house. The Community Center is a great place for a coffee house. Think, wouldn't every building be a great place for a coffee house."



The coffee house's possible new home.

Matt Finn/The Sting

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# NIGHT

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## A Workaround for SPSU POP E-mail Access

Dan Perry  
Contributing Writer

With the advent of the new Mipoint e-mail system, student POP e-mail users are unable to use their favorite e-mail clients to get SPSU mail. Instead of just being able to open one e-mail client for all their different e-mail accounts; now students must open a web browser and access a separate webmail site for those occasional announcements from professors.

In this article, we will examine a simple workaround to the problem of getting POP access to SPSU e-mail by forwarding the mail to a 3rd party e-mail provider and downloading messages from here.

The first step is to get signed up with an e-mail provider that allows POP access. Many free e-mail companies provide this service, including the widely popular Gmail ([www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com)).

The next step is to enable forwarding in SPSU Webmail. To accomplish this, go to <http://webmail.spsu.edu> and log in. Click the Options link at the upper-right. In the Options dialog that pops up, click the Forwarding link in the menu on the left. Check "yes" next to Forward Messages, and enter your POP-friendly e-mail address in the Forwarding Address section.

Make sure the "Keep a copy of each forwarded message in your Inbox" box is unchecked, as that 48MB of space will fill up quickly otherwise. Next, just click Apply, at upper left, and Close, at upper right. Then sign out of webmail for the last time.

Most e-mail providers enable POP access by default. If this is true, skip this step. For Gmail, you must enable it. To do this, once logged into Gmail, click the

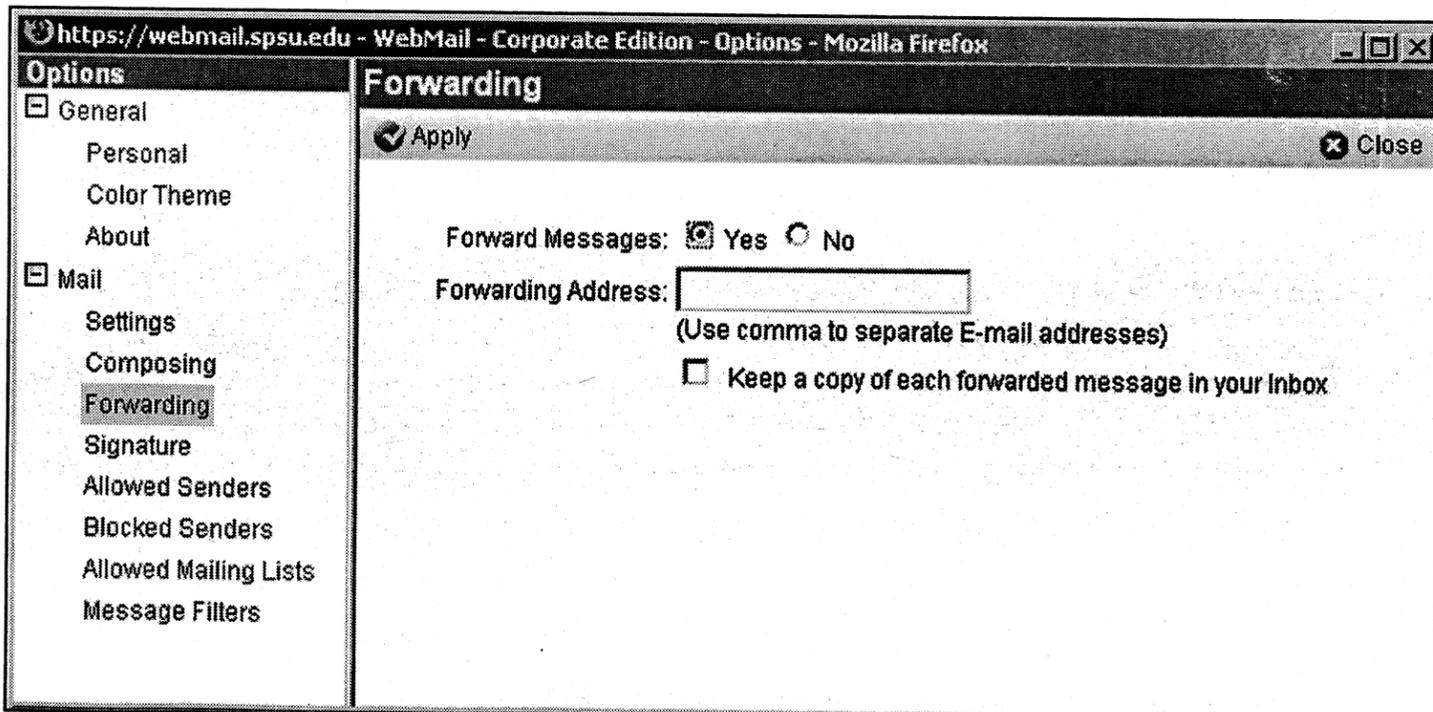
Settings link at upper right. Near the top of the Settings page is a tab labeled Forwarding and POP; click this. Under the POP Download section, check the box for Enable POP only for all mail that arrives from now on, and click the Save Changes button. The "Configuration instructions" link at the bottom of the page contains information on getting various e-mail clients set up for Gmail beyond the scope of

this article.

Finally, create an e-mail account in your e-mail client with the SMTP settings from your 3rd party e-mail provider and with the "from" (or "reply to") address of your SPSU account. This way, e-mails sent from your SPSU e-mail address under your e-mail client will show up to your recipient as having come from the SPSU address.

I have implemented this

solution with great success using Gmail, and the only caveat I can see is that some e-mail providers which do not perform SMTP authorization may not allow the relaying of e-mails as a measure to stop the proliferation of spam. To put it in lay terms, if you see a lot of your outgoing e-mails bouncing, switch your forwarding to a Gmail account.



This is the Option window for Forwarding.

Photo courtesy webmail.spsu.edu

# SPSU an Ally during Advanced degree Journey

Eric Ravanello  
Staff Writer

Despite the large and ever-increasing percentage of students receiving advanced degrees, many still struggle to find support and encouragement in setting and achieving such a goal. It is especially difficult for a student with no family history of advanced education to have personal experiences and perspectives on the process or the insight into the benefits of completing such a program. Some students do not have the backing to help feed their hunger to accomplish more, especially those who lack a family history in higher education.

Obtaining a Ph.D. may not be associated with positive benefits because those benefits are not always tangible. According to many sources, the degree typically does not provide a pay increase exceeding its equivalent in the investment to achieve it. A master's degree tends to balance itself out better over time as the financial benefits exceed the time, energy, and cost invested. While many student motivations are derived from getting out what they put in, including wealth, there are others who find motivation within themselves to go above and beyond the "socially required" and find personal fulfillment in the endeavor and achievement.

Dr. Philip E. Patterson, department chair and Assistant Professor in Southern Polytechnic State University's (SPSU) Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Department, is a member of the African American community and a recent recipient of a Ph.D. in Science Education from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Patterson completed the doctoral program in 2006 after six years of intensive study. He attributes much of his success to the sup-

port he received from friends, family, and co-workers. Dr. Patterson further credits SPSU President, Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher, for her nomination of him to receive The Faculty Development in Georgia (FDIG) Fellowship for Doctoral Studies. "There needs to be more support for students, especially traditional students because it is more difficult as you get older," exclaimed Dr. Patterson. The FDIG provided Dr. Patterson with the financial support needed to pursue a doctorate degree.

"A lack of financial support for students aspiring to earn doctoral degrees is but one major obstacle to completing doctoral studies," suggest Dr. Patterson. He also suggested that "providing additional support in the form of fellowships, grants, and other forms of financial assistance is crucial in encouraging more students to consider doctoral studies."

Dr. Rossbacher hosts an annual "doctoral luncheon" for Ph.D. recipients and colleagues currently working towards one. Dr. Rossbacher describes the luncheon as "an effort to encourage these colleagues, to make sure they are not alone in their efforts, and to demonstrate the University's support of their work." These luncheons, over time, developed a pattern that has become standard. They begin with introductions to make sure everyone has met with everyone else. Current doctorate holders then pass around a copy of their dissertation for viewing while explaining the process of completing the degree and providing encouragement to the others. Then, everyone gives an update on their progress, special successes, challenges, and plans for the upcoming year. "The sharing of experiences helps create a community and ensures that everyone working in a doctoral program has a network of colleagues on campus who are facing similar issues,"

explains Rossbacher.

Dr. Jeffery Orr--Advising, Testing, Tutoring, and International Center (ATTIC) Director at SPSU--also has great things to say about his Ph.D. experiences and the contributions of Dr. Rossbacher. Dr. Orr received a Ph.D. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) through the Department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of Georgia. "Dr. Rossbacher fosters an environment of encouragement and support for Southern Polytechnic State University faculty and staff who pursue advanced degrees," explains Dr. Orr. "I particularly benefited from the annual luncheon Dr. Rossbacher sponsors for all SPSU employees who worked toward their doctorate degrees."

Both Dr. Patterson and Dr. Orr participated in programs that aided them financially during their Ph.D. journey. "Many students do not have the ability to defer employment for the number of years required to earn the degree, and some may not choose the additional challenge of working full-time and studying part-time," acknowledges Dr. Orr. Dr. Patterson notes the Faculty Development in Georgia program (FDIG) and Dr. Orr cites the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) as two programs that make it financially feasible for these working individuals to receive their degrees.

The FDIG is a program for faculty members in Georgia who would like to pursue an advanced degree, but lack the time and financial means necessary to do so. The program upholds a strict criterion for applicants and requires a cogent nomination from the president of the applicant's institution. Once accepted, faculty members are free from responsibilities on campus and must attend school full-time, but continue to receive their salaries.

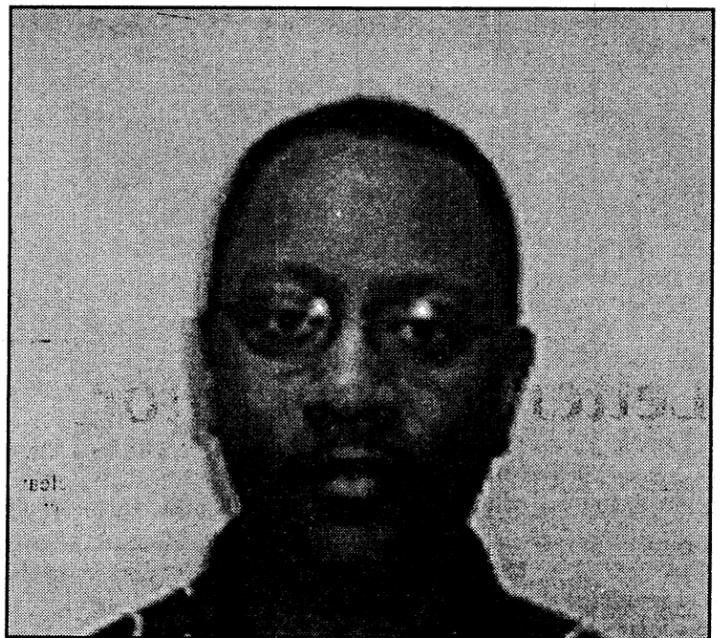
There is a provision for at least a year's teaching following their leave. Dr. Patterson's participation in this program was largely attributed to Dr. Rossbacher's nomination. "It was a great experience and very rewarding," exclaimed Dr. Patterson. "I am greatly appreciative of the FDIG and Dr. Rossbacher's support."

The TAP program evolved from the Tuition Remission Program, which is sponsored by the University System of Georgia (USG). Initially, employees in the USG would enroll in their courses and pay tuition and fees. Following the course, a refund for tuition would be issued as long as an "A" or "B" was received. After its evolution into TAP, initial payment and reimbursement was no longer necessary; a student still had to earn a "B" or better to remain in the program.

SPSU currently has about 12 faculty and staff who are working towards their doctorates. Since the "doctoral luncheons" began,

nine faculty and staff have received Ph.D.s. In addition to Dr. Patterson and Dr. Orr are Dr. Wilson C. Barnes, Dr. Curtis J. Sartor, Dr. William J. Carpenter, and Dr. Manu Sobti of the Architecture department, Dr. Charles I. Azebeokhai of the Human Resources department, Dr. Thomas J. Fallon of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology department, and Dr. Michael Hughes of the Humanities and Technical Communication department.

The important thing to note is that support can come in a number of forms. In this case, it is a luncheon, but anybody with an interest in an advanced degree should seek motivation and support in any form because in the end, it is an individual decision that will generate individual rewards. "I'm happy if the members of the University community who are currently working on doctorates find the luncheon helpful," stated Rossbacher, "but ultimately, they are the ones who do the work."



Dr. Philip E. Patterson

Photo courtesy www.spsu.edu

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## Letter to the Editor

# Values Require Recognition of Facts -Not God

**James Robinson**  
Contributing Writer

Messrs. Stuart Michelson and Christiaan Funkhouser are mistaken in their attempts to explain wealth and the American political system of individual rights as benefits conferred on us by God. God is not the source of these values because God does not exist. Wealth and rights, like all rational values, are explained by reference to facts and not to God.

First, no one has provided evidence for God's existence. God is not evident to the senses, nor can his existence be inferred from what is provided by sense perception. When one asserts God's existence, or appeals to him as an explanation while failing to meet the standards of evidence, one is being arbitrary, i.e. one is accepting beliefs based on a whim.

Second, the characteristics ascribed to God contradict the primary facts we do know about reality. The universe or existence is the total of every thing that exists. The notion that God created it implies that before the creation there was nothing. This

is a contradictory idea because there is something rather than nothing. We are certain that existence exists.

Furthermore, in order for something to exist it must have an identity or nature and thereby exist in a particular way. Everything is (and must be) something. A is A. A is not Non-A. No existing thing can fail to be limited. This means that there are no entities with unspecific attributes or, for that matter, infinite attributes. (Infinity, remember, means larger than any quantity specified and thereby standing for no specific quantity.) Only things that are finite in their attributes and actions can exist. Thus, God's omniscience and omnipotence is excluded from reality. This, also, excludes miracles which mean that a thing acts in contradiction to its nature or identity at the behest of divine intervention which somehow suspends the law of nature, i.e. A is non-A for God, sometimes. As an example, consider the "talking bush" or the "water turned into wine" bit.

Wealth is the goods that result when man mixes his thought-guided labor with the resources found in the universe. Goods

and the services man performs while using those goods require thought and effort geared to the goal of man's survival in the universe and of living an ever-improving life. It is an act of injustice to give God credit for wealth's existence while snubbing the actual producers and traders of wealth. God does not grind, but humans do.

The founders of America put into practice the theory of rights propounded by philosopher John Locke. Locke wrote about self-ownership and the possible means by which reason operates in the late 1600's. Yet, even Locke professed a belief in Christian theology. Both Locke and the founders tacked the superfluous and erroneous notion of God onto a theory about man's nature and needs. The theory of rights at the time was sound in a very rough way, but it was vulnerable to debasement and misinterpretation. The theory of rights was not completely validated until the 20th century philosopher Ayn Rand wrote about rights and showed how rights were derived from a morality of intelligent self-interest based on man's biological nature.

The facts that rights, as moral principles applied to human interactions, recognize are the following: 1.) Each individual owns his life and earned possessions. 2.) It is right or moral for the individual to take the kind of actions needed to maintain and promote his own life—actions like thinking, production, and voluntary trade. 3.) Physical force (including fraud) from others or the government hampers the individual from promoting his self-interest and the initiation of force should be banned. This implies that the retaliatory use of force is to be governed by reference to objective laws and that the government's role is to protect the individual's freedom of action by means of law courts, police, and the military.

America was founded at the height of the Age of Enlightenment. The reigning ideas of the period included a respect for the individual's reason and liberty. It was a time that saw achievements in science and technology in addition to the philosophical achievement that rights represented. The Industrial Revolution was launched during that time. God is insufficient to

explain this era. God can, however, explain the Medieval era (the Dark Ages of Western Civilization) which lasted between 300CE and 1300CE. In that era, human progress was at a virtual standstill and men lived a life of meager subsistence. Men were too concerned about the after-life to improve the life they lived on Earth. The prevailing ideas of the Dark Ages included hostility to reason and the view that it is a moral ideal to sacrifice one's life to others or to God. Before men could make the achievements of the Enlightenment a reality, men had to revolt from the Dark Age's stifling culture of dependence on God.

To learn more about the primary facts of reality (Existence and Identity), the efficacy of reason, individual rights and their basis in an ethics of intelligent self-interest, I recommend studying the philosophy of Objectivism at <http://www.aynrand.org/>. To learn more about wealth and the processes that create it, I recommend studying George Reisman's "Capitalism: A Treatise on Economics" at <http://www.capitalism.net/index.html>.

## Letter to the Editor

**Jason L. Berman**  
Contributing Writer

I am moved to write to you on the subject of the 2006 election, and what message it conveys to our country's leadership. Above all, the message from veterans and voters alike is a desire for an earnest reevaluation of our policy in Iraq.

We have learned few lessons since the occupation began. While our brave men and women in uniform have performed admirably, the Bush policy in Iraq is misguided. It has become obvious that you cannot create democracy at the point of a gun. Over 1.5 million Iraqi refugees that have been forced to flee their homes are evidence to that fact.

The debacle of the current foreign policy in Iraq has created a civil war and is spreading unrest throughout the Middle East, putting the security of the region in grave danger.

The continued military build-up in Iraq is clearly a barrier to peace. To the point, the insistence of the Bush Administration that we build a de facto military base in Iraqi territory, under the guise of establishing democracy, is transparent to every nation in the region.

Rhetoric can no longer sway the resolve of the American people to end this occupation. We are not a nation of conquerors.

Many have argued, rather persuasively, that the Administration's deceit to Congress and to the American people, perpe-

trated to establish a military base of operations in the Gulf, is clear grounds for impeachment. This ulterior motive is clear to our allies, who have already completed withdrawal or begun to withdraw from the Coalition.

Moreover, the President continues to claim his objective is stability in Iraq, even as the territory has systematically collapsed into civil war, as the result of our military operations there.

And at what cost to the rest of us? We are on the brink of global destruction, not by one whom was one of the many despots in the Persian Gulf, but from the submersion of our low-lying coastal cities.

It is a overly diplomatic to call the crisis global warming. It is, on a human level, better called global flooding. It is too easy for someone to muse, on a cold February day in the north, that global warming might make their lives a little more comfortable...that it may be a good thing for the states with harsh winters.

Well, let me tell you what this issue is really all about. I myself have gone through the utter hell of seeing my home and all its contents destroyed by sewerage-infected floodwaters.

After Ivan passed over Georgia, the reek of raw effluent was all that remained on the bare frame and floorboards of my house, and all my neighbors were made homeless overnight. And then came Katrina. It was like the end of the world. I can tell you from my own personal ex-

perience, that there is no greater threat to national security.

It is virtually unheard of in the scientific community to find consensus. Yet on the issue of global warming caused by greenhouse gases, there is universal consensus--on a level never before seen in history.

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## Operation: Build Morale

Stuart Michelson  
Staff Writer

Imagine that you are a football player and you have trained for years to make it to the Super Bowl and now your team has finally made it. With great excitement you head up to the field only to be greeted by mostly empty stands, and those people that are in the stands are throwing rocks at you and spitting on you. It does not sound much like a game anyone would want to play, does it? Well, politicians and music artists create that very environment for America's brave soldiers every day. I am not going to debate the justification of the war in Iraq in this article, but I am going to expose a tragic flaw in the liberals of this country who continually attempt to subvert our soldiers, particularly through music.

Music reflects the attitudes and culture of the time in which it is written. I do not think that the average American realizes just how much damage they can do to our troops with harsh rhetoric that embodies itself in modern music. It is truly a sad state of affairs when the soldiers have a more positive outlook on their mission than the politicians that are attempting to de-fund them. I am going to use World War II as a point of comparison in this article to expose just how sick and tactless some musicians are today.

Anyone who conducts an extensive study of the music of the Second World War will find that is generally about building up our troops and pushing the war effort. Further, this music was not produced by the government as propaganda, people just truly felt that it was important and wrote it. This is exact opposite of what we can observe today. I would like to share some lyrics from popular songs of the 30's and 40's that reflected the public's attitude about the war effort.

Glenn Miller was one of the most prominent musicians of the day, and within in his music the following can be found, "Over There, send the word that the yanks are comin' so prepare, say a prayer, send the word to beware, we're coming over and we won't come back till it's over Over There." "When we have lit the torch of Liberty, and the man can proudly say 'I'm Free!' we'll be dancing the Victory Polka." "We are gonna take a hike through Hitler's Reich and change that 'heil' to wacha' know joe!" Paul Baron's Orchestra wrote words I think are still applicable today, "Up and at 'em Yanks! With planes and ships and tanks, let's do the job for all it's worth and wipe the axis from the earth." Carson Robison sang, "Remember Pearl Harbor when you sight down the barrel of your gun." The examples of pro-American sentiment of the period are numberless...

In World War II, a great deal was asked of not just the regular combat soldier, but of the general public as well. There were supply shortages and labor shortages that had to be made up by female workers. Not to mention the hardships of having so many loved ones away from home. Yet, even amongst all

of that hardship, Kay Kyser wrote "Praise the Lord, and Pass the Ammunition," and Spike Jones made a parody of Nazi Leaders equating their talk to the noise of flatulence. Contrast such an attitude with modern America. It is hard to believe we are comparing the same country, let alone the same country in less than 100 years. Today, nothing is asked of the ordinary American. He does not have to give up his gasoline or food. He is never asked to buy a war bond, not that he would be likely to do so anyway. Yet, even among all of this ease, warped individuals in bands like "Anti-Flag" write "You've Got to Die for the Government" among other heinous titles.

One might be inclined to argue that I cannot fairly compare the situation in World War II to the one in Iraq because the wars are about different things and "Iraq is unjustified blah blah blah <insert usual liberal talking point here>" I invite you to spare me the liberal party line and realize for a moment that WMD's aside, America is facing the same threat today as it was in World War II—Radical Fascism. There is little difference in the despicable actions of our Islamic fascist foes and the Nazi fascist foes of our past. Both are racist, both seek to destroy democracy wherever it exist and to use violence as a method to meet their ends. Don't believe me? Just read and compare Hitler's speeches to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's. We are fighting the same war that our grandparents fought.

The bitter liberal musicians that pervade America's popular culture today are constantly making excuses for themselves to justify what I would call nothing less than hate speech. I have heard bands make statements similar to, "Conservatives who blindly follow the president are just angry about my expression because it disagrees with their viewpoint, they are simply trying to repress any opposition." Hillary Clinton said she was tired of Conservatives painting anyone who disagrees with the Bush administration as un-patriotic. What they fail to realize is that Conservatives often are not disagreeing with their right to protest or hold an opposing view, that is what America is all about and what the soldier's continue to fight for, but rather Conservatives are opposed to the manner in which these protests are displayed. In this case, the rhetoric of the music is anything but respectful and is often littered with profanity (which the use of in my mind is directly proportional to one's intelligence.)

Another excuse I constantly hear to justify such obnoxious music is that, "Dissent is the highest form of patriotism." What a dumb statement. I wonder how the scales would be turned if they were in control and people showed dissent towards their policy? Further, if that statement is true, there are more respectful ways to show your petition to our government's policies besides attempts at indoctrination of America's youth with hateful music that often preaches foul disgusting politics appealing only to uneducated lunatics like those wrote the

lyrics to begin with. After sampling much of it, I am convinced that the music is less about dissent, and more about hate for our President. This is not surprising to me since most liberals are also more apt to be politically motivated by hate than reason when it comes to discussing the war on terror. The entire quote, "Dissent is the highest form of patriotism" is often misused anyway as liberals attribute it to Thomas Jefferson, while a little internet research shows that the term is barely a few years old and was coined by historian Howard Zinn to justify his opposition to the war. The quote is just plain stupid because what about groups that preach the downfall of our government, such as terror organizations within the United States? Does their dissent mean that their ideology is patriotic? What foolishness to think that it is...

A third excuse I have heard is that "I support the Troops but not the mission." This statement rivals the one in the previous paragraph in terms of stupidity. If you do not support their mission you do not support them. You cannot halfway support them because what is the alternative to victory in their mission? Failure! So I'll clarify that argument for the liberal musicians so they can now say, "I support the Troops in failure." Too many liberals are invested in defeat. Defeatism is their entire agenda. Just look at what has to happen for liberal concerns to turn out voters - The war must go poorly or be lost, the economy must decline, global warming must threaten to kill us all, and the list goes on. I am still waiting to see the Democrat's "New Direction," besides more taxes of course.

I do not wish to imply that all modern musicians are evil masters of propaganda, because there are many good talented people out there who write good music about America or just leave the politics out of their art all together. However the sad truth is we live in a media culture where NBC News Military Analyst William Arkin can call our troops mercenaries among other things, while the rest of the media thrives and feeds on bad news. Yes, the world has a slew of problems, but here is a thought for liberals—not all of them are America's fault, and I wish today's music would show the support that saw the Greatest Generation through World War II. Wars are lost on the home front long before the battlefield, and can you imagine how much more support our troops would have received in World War II if we had the military advantage we have today? We are in a war in which it is nearly impossible to be defeated militarily, and yet the media would have us believe that all is lost. My message is simple, support the troops completely or just have the stomach to admit you do not. I encourage everyone, even those who disagree with the war, to stop supporting musicians that embolden our enemies and tear our brave troops down. I simply do not understand this culture in which it has become "cool" to bash your own country.

## Coffee house moving

Jon Meek  
Staff Writer

When I heard the news that the coffee house might possibly be moving, at first I didn't give it much thought. I mean why should I care...it is just a coffee house, isn't? It shouldn't matter where they put it. After thinking this, it occurred to me that many organizations such as Housing and SGA use the coffee house for meetings and other events. As well, some starting organizations use the coffee house for meetings as well. If we move the coffee house from its current location, then where will these groups meet?

Now some will argue that these groups will find other places to meet. That idea is only partial true. The start-up groups use the coffee house as a way to recruit people because of its location (more or less it is in the middle of the on-housing campus) and it is a pretty accessible place (usually just asking if you could use the facility works with them). We all complain about nothing being done on the campus, but the coffee house has played a big role in changing that by allowing Poker Nights and Guitar Hero Nights. Where will these events occur? What will

these startup organizations do? Should the coffee house be moved, then the biggest advantages of the building might be lost. It could cause to the building to go back into being locked up all the time as it was before.

Putting aside the value of the coffee house as place to meet, there's the consideration of the people who work there. I would estimate that about ten to twelve people work at the coffee house. It wouldn't make any business sense to move the location of the coffee house from a very appealing place (the current location) to inside one of the buildings here at the school (possibly the J-building). To me, it would seem that you want to attract customers and I seriously doubt that any free space in the buildings here on campus will be as appealing as its current locations. It is almost asking to kill business for the coffee house and possibly leave the people who work there out of a job.

While it seems insignificant to move the coffee house, the fact remains that it has a potential negative impact upon the community it serves. This Coffee house does not only serve coffee, but it serves as a place for a community to come together.

## Illegitimate until proven legitimate

Merius Atangcho  
Contributing Writer

In a previous article, I concluded that since in times of war the public, who should be of primary concern, bears the brunt of the suffering, and yet is only considered collateral damage. It then follows that, in making the decision to wage war, the leaders should be collateral and the people primary. More broadly, this truism holds that since it is the safety and integrity of the public that is at stake, given that government is representative of its citizenry, it follows naturally that the leaders be subordinate to the wishes of those who grant them power, namely the public. Most people would agree with this idea, yet there is a tendency towards the opposite. That is, people subordinate themselves to power, even when not obliged to do so. (Mind you, no one should be obliged to submit to power.) This tendency can be observed in the U.S., where the fear of being blacklisted, openly rebuked, or financially ruined adequately subdues dissent—an issue of much concern, but not the focus of this article.

One may wonder how power, in the sense of authority, becomes established. Humans are social beings. One could argue that power arises naturally in social interactions. I exclude cases in which power is assumed by coercion or deception. In any social setting, groups tend to gather behind personalities who they deem fit for or have proven

themselves worthy of leadership. While this behavior is not inherently wrong, or an absolute necessity, the situation quickly deteriorates when the group subordinates itself or is subordinated. Abuses of power may seem inevitable, but it is the responsibility of those who give authority to remain actively involved in ensuring that no abuses occur or go unpunished. It should be obvious why this responsibility cannot be left to those given authority. Citizens must be active participants in the maintenance of interdependence, never allowing for dependence.

I agree that power is, first, illegitimate and then must prove to be legitimate. An argument could be made for parenthood being an exception, but the legitimacy of power even in this instance is not absolute. Other than the authority of a parent over a child, there are few, if any, forms of power that can be exempted from this rule. (I formerly excluded authority established by force or deception because it should be obvious that they have no legitimacy whatsoever.)

The power clause has serious implications for all of us because legitimacy must come from those who concede authority. Without the knowledge or the acknowledgment of the power clause and its implications, followed by conscious efforts to hold all forms of authority to this standard, it must remain, as Lord Acton observed, that "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

## The Middle: A Secret Message?

Christiaan Funkhouser  
Senior Staff Writer

In times of discrimination and injustice, society gives victims two choices. To best example this, we'll use the civil rights era as an example. Three main people fought against the hypocrisy of America saying, "all men created equal" while persecuting people because of their skin color.

Because of his background, Malcolm X was a proponent of equality "by any means necessary." Including violence. On the opposite side of the spectrum was Booker T. Washington. While I agree with his belief to become the best person you can, he concentrated too much on that, and became a pacifist. But there was another civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, who practiced non-violent resistance. Each of those movements had different ways to deal with the problem of discrimination. All three of which had different ideas on how the problem could be solved.

Malcom, much like my fellow writer, had a very bleak view. He believed there would not be an end to racism, so rights had to be taken, because those in power would never give them. Booker T. was willing to accept being a second class citizen so long as he wasn't being persecuted.

Martin Luther King, unlike how Mr. Antangcho wanted to present it, had an optimistic view. He believed that racism could be eradicated, but that it was a choice, and something we had to pursue. He wanted a colorless society, and unlike Merius, instead

of condemning and giving up on that idea, he chose a third way. A way that society doesn't give people. His idea took brilliance, and sought to show the hypocrisy of white society, by having them come to that realization themselves. How better to convince someone of something than to have them come to the realization themselves.

With that in mind, I present to you the possible inspiration of MLK—but more accurately the original non-violent resistant revolutionary—Jesus. "But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. (Matthew 5:39-40) ESV"

Jesus' words in Matthew are used a lot of times to justify the pacification of Christians, or as some would prefer to say, the pacification of Christians. But maybe a deeper look into what Jesus could of meant based on the Jewish culture could offer some insight. For the majority of my life, when I was taught about this, I was taught to not resist, and that by not responding one would question what they were doing and eventually stop. I'm not saying this is wrong, but what if there's more to it then that?

What does a secret message have to do with slapping people and giving them your clothes? We must understand the culture, to understand the message, which sets the stage for the idea behind this. In regards to slapping, the right hand was considered

the clean, or honorable hand, and the left hand was seen as a dirty hand, mainly because it's what was used to wipe oneself after certain restroom activities. When someone was above you, and they wanted to disrespect you, then they would back-hand slap you with their left hand. If someone was your equal, they would make a fist and punch you.

So, if you're with someone, get a friend and go back-hand slap them with your left hand. Now, have them turn their cheek to expose the other one. Can you slap them again? Not really, which only leaves you the option to punch them. To the crowd hearing Jesus say this, they would see this as revolutionary! Instead of fighting back, or being walked all over, Jesus presented a third way to fight back that identified the wrong idea that one person, or people group, can be superior to another. By turning the other cheek, it identified that there was indeed a problem, but it also addressed it by asserting the equality of people. The person doing the slapping had two choices: either drop it or punch the victim, which would grant said victim equality with the person doing the punching.

The second thing that's talked about is if sued for your tunic, giving your cloak as well. To the Jewish person hearing that back then this had significance because you wore a cloak over your tunic and those were the only two pieces of clothing you wore. If someone sued you for the clothes off you back, you had no other possessions of any value and

they had refused to take your tunic as a down payment for the debt you were planning on paying back. The other thing is that, if a person during this time had the money to sue you during the double taxation imposed by the Roman government, they obviously weren't hurting money wise and obviously didn't need what they were suing for.

Instead of not paying, or just giving them what they wanted, Jesus had a third option. Not only should you give them what they want but offer them more, not in a vindictive "FINE TAKE THIS TOO" way, but in an "obviously you need this more than I do" way. The idea is close to what is normally taught about this passage. The beauty is that once again this third way identified and addressed the problem at hand. It identified the person suing as the greedy, selfish, jerk that they are, and therefore exposed the evil at hand. It also addressed it, by offering the plaintiff what he wanted and more. It gave the plaintiff the chance to see what he was doing was wrong. It asks, "When is enough, enough?"

There are more instances of secret messages in what's called, the Sermon on the Mount, and lots more interpretations available which can easily be found in many books and on web pages. Authors like Brain McLaren and Rob Bell really focus on the Jewish aspect of Jesus' message as well as the culture. Brian McLaren even has a book called The Secret Message of Jesus. (A book which is not totally related to the topic here)

The idea of having a third way

can really influence things. How many of you readers actually have been slapped and not deserved it or been sued for the shirt off your back? Not many, I would guess. But how many of you have been with someone that clearly thought they were superior to you in some way? How many of you have been persecuted by someone who was unmerciful?

What are you to do when put in that situation? How do you assert your equality without losing what you have to fight for? How can you get someone to see that they're being unmerciful? What Jesus was advocating was not what to do in a specific instance, he was trying to get people to think outside the box.

Think about your reaction before you react, and take a lesson from Jesus.

- 1) Identify the problem.
- 2) Address the problem in a respectful way, that causes your opponent to question what they're doing.
- 3) Make sure the way you address the problem gives them the opportunity to back off and make it right on their own.

So, when you find yourself being marginalized and oppressed, may you see that there is another way. May you use your God-given abilities to your advantage and not resort to violence or do nothing against injustice. May you see that there is a more effective way and that the way of the world isn't the best way. May you see this secret message of Jesus as more than just nice words and good advice, but may you see it as a way of life.

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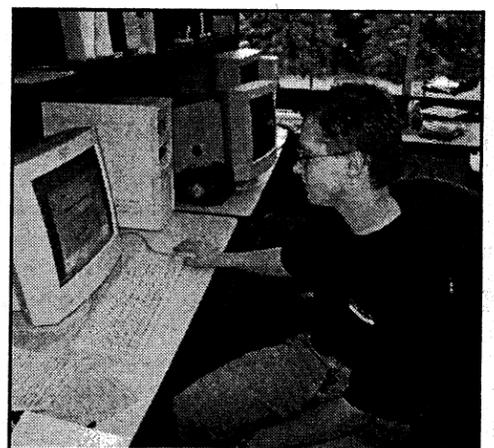
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## Congratulations

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The Sting Staff



## Science vs. Religion

Merius Atangcho  
Contributing Writer

The title is misleading because it implies that there is a conflict between science and religion, which there isn't. The issues that do arise between these two fields are basically due to certain scientists interfering with certain religious believers and their beliefs, and vice versa, or a mutual feeling of being threatened by the "other side." Core religious beliefs fall outside the realm of scientific exploration, while science is fundamentally distinct from religion. The idea, now fact, that there could even be a serious discussion about whether creationism should be taught to children, either eliminating or in addition to evolutionism, as well as the notion that science will become, or is, a religion (scientism) is just utter silliness and folly.

Religion proceeds by faith. One must believe in the doctrine as the inspired word of some deity, who understands nature perfectly, because the universe is, after all, its creation, and passed on an abridged form of its understanding to its faithful subjects. Interestingly, while seeking to understand nature is not proscribed, conclusions are rejected if they in any way conflict with the doctrine. Those conclusions are unquestionably false; the doctrine is unquestionably true. Hence, the doctrine is the ultimate and universal authority and truth on all matters scientific. Scrutinizing the doctrine is in principle prohibited, except to gain a better understanding of its divine wisdom or, if evidenced, to uncover forgery.

The scientific method is an efficient and effective mode by which the sciences are studied and advanced

continuously. Based on observations, one comes up with natural laws or patterns generalizing the observations. Hypotheses are formulated which possibly explain the underlying processes that give rise to those laws or patterns, and experiments can be set up to test predictions drawn from those hypotheses. If a prediction can be verified empirically, the respective hypothesis is supported; otherwise, the hypothesis is falsified. By this method, faith is a fleeting luxury, and doctrines (paradigms) are revised or eliminated if proven to be false, in which case a "paradigm shift" occurs. Resistance to such a shift leads to the merciless alienation of the obstinate individuals, who are then further discredited for their dogmatic beliefs.

Creationism is pseudoscience. Conclusions aren't arrived at by the scientific method, but are tailored to correspond to the biblical worldview. Overwhelming evidence to the contrary is ignored because it conflicts with Old Testament accounts. Good science is used to discredit bad science, but science remains unacceptable if it contradicts the bible. For example, when scientists make baseless claims or fake results, or when their hypotheses are proven incorrect. The former brings into question the integrity of the scientist, not the efficacy of science, which is only limited by human error and ability. The latter is unfortunate, but is quite all right by scientific standards because that's how knowledge is advanced. If new revelations contradict previous findings, which invalidate doctrinal ideas, they are used to support creationism; however, if those new revelations also challenge the six-day version of creation, science as a whole is denigrated.

Furthermore, where science hasn't sufficiently advanced, creationism lurks, taunting it impatiently, and settles comfortably with a god of the gaps, at least until answers are provided, in which case it's back to outright denial and reliance on pseudoscientists to uphold the creationist worldview.

Evolution by natural selection, as proposed by Darwin, which necessitates the existence of inheritable traits, sits at the foundation of the life sciences. Darwin speculated on traits being inherited because he was unfamiliar with the advances in genetics that would've provided a basis for inheritance. The basic idea behind evolution is that, given enough time, natural selection, acting on inheritable traits, will lead to the development of new species. Advances in geology in Darwin's time strongly suggested that the earth was extremely old, so there would've been enough time for that original life form to evolve into all the species that once existed and still exist. From this common ancestry, the human species arose along with the closely related (in the evolutionary sense) apes. Overwhelming evidence in fossil record analysis, comparative anatomy, and, significantly, molecular biology has led to scientists adopting evolution as the paradigm for explaining the great diversity of life, and as evidence continues to accumulate, the paradigm is further supported and, if necessary, revised. Darwin didn't get it completely right and there were holes in his theory, which aren't unexpected, but scientists do not hesitate to discard, revise, or elaborate on aspects of Darwin's theory, while praising Darwin's pioneering efforts.

The existence of a deity can neither be supported nor falsified by science, and, as such, science is agnostic. Atheism and theism (or deism) are belief systems that cannot be verified by science. However, statistically, one could argue for atheism by stating that a theist (or deist), say, a Christian, is an atheist to the myriads of other deities that have been worshipped throughout human history by various groups, so the probability that the god of Jesus is the one true deity is one over, doubtlessly, a huge number, and so is highly improbable. Of course, theists or deists are probably amongst a huge proportion of persons throughout human history that have believed in deities, so they're also vindicated because if so many believed in deities throughout history up to the present, then theists or deists are not necessarily wrong to believe. (So many persons can't be all wrong, right?)

One must note that both arguments still say nothing about (the accuracy of) any of the beliefs. Furthermore, science cannot determine morality, and so is amoral. Science can point out baseless moral guidelines by evaluating the knowledge present in them, if any, or the consequences of them. Social Darwinism is one such case to which Darwin was vehemently opposed: scientifically, because he realized human evolution was too complicated to fit into such a narrow, racist ideology and merited further study; morally, because he (rightly) believed social Darwinism to be abhorrent. While one cannot scientifically determine the ill of social Darwinism, one can be helped along by science, were the conscience to fail. Unfortunately, the depraved ideology bears his name,

casting a dark shadow over his great work. Curiously, it appears Darwin believed in male superiority, which is unfortunate.

Science and religion are fundamentally disparate: theism or deism contrasts with agnosticism, faith with evidence, and morality with amorality. Conflicts arise when one attempts to interfere, unjustly, with the core principles of the other. There cannot even be a debate about creationism being a science—it just simply cannot be. Creationism does not proceed by the scientific method, and so has no place in science textbooks and shouldn't be taught in science courses. Those seeking to indoctrinate (seriously, it's a matter of faith, not evidence!) children with the biblical (creationist) cosmology should do so at home, or lobby for a course on religion, where creationism can be taught, to be offered in schools. If all major religions are taught in schools, it might promote tolerance by increasing understanding, which would be a very positive development.

As for evolution, I would urge everyone to read about it in any credible biology textbook. It is quite interesting, as it reveals the wonder of nature, leaving the reader fully aware of the science being in its infancy, yet curious and hopeful of prospective advancements. Moreover, it humbles humanity, which would most certainly be a positive development. We (all forms of life) are all in this world together and should strive for harmony, not the present tyranny imposed by humanity on itself and other species, stemming from arrogance in our perceived role as the most important ethnicity or species. All life is precious.

## Taboo Topics

Merius Atangcho  
Contributing Writer

Assuming for a moment that wars can actually be decisively won or lost, the question of whether the Allied or Axis Powers won WWII still remains a difficult, yet interesting, question to answer. U.S. citizens may not have won very much, as Europe and Japan were rebuilt with U.S. taxpayers' dollars, maintaining the old power structures, but with the U.S. as the new supreme imperial power. While Hitler and his cronies may have lost, Germany certainly did not lose, as it grew to be the largest economy in the EU. The Treaty of Versailles, ending WWI, left Germany humiliated and crippled, and WWII set it back on track to wealth and power. Japan commands the second largest economy in the world, so whether it actually lost is debatable. The Jews certainly did not win, putting aside the creation of the state of Israel. The controversy over the SS St. Louis, carrying Jewish refugees, that was turned away on presidential (Roosevelt) order, serving perhaps as a microcosm for the neglect on the part of the Allied Powers, begs the question of how successful the war aim was in preventing the Jewish Holocaust, if at all that was an aim. Many and more in depth cases can be put forward to show that the answer

to the question is not a simple 'A' or 'B', much like the answer to the question of whether one should support the troops or not.

If asked if I support my brother, no one would find it outrageous if I retorted, 'In what?' In, say, an act of murder, it does not seem likely my answer would be yes, and in eating a pie the question would probably just sound foolish. However, when applied to the troops, it appears so outlandish that one is either drawn into the camp of patriot and true American or unpatriotic and anti-American, regardless of what those troops may be engaged in. This notion that one is either with us or against us is ridiculous at best, yet it succeeds, quite similar to a dictatorship, only here without the need for violent oppression, and has the "opposition" party bumbling to find a way out of Iraq, assuming it's what it really wants—it might have just been a voting platform, which gained them control, if only barely, of Congress.

So what is a Democrat and what is a Republican? Yet another question that barely has a straightforward answer. Democrats are said to be liberal and Republicans conservative, yet both respond greatly, albeit in a slightly different fashion, to business interests. The clearest distinction may lie in the voting base: pro-choice and gay rights advocates will tend

towards the Democrats; pro-life and Christian value (including the "science") advocates will tend towards Republicans. The list isn't exhaustive and can be adjusted, but the differences appear very much along those lines not pertinent to the real issues. A "two"-party representative democracy—truly the best liberty money can buy!

Leaving aside the wishful thinking that the U.S. was founded on Christian values (I have reviewed this elsewhere), what about it being founded on the idea of freedom or liberty? Well, sure. This same question posed for the practice of it can be argued either way for obvious reasons. So while the founders can be praised for their intellect, their integrity remains in question. But then, isn't that what religion is supposed to do, take hold of and nurture integrity?

Religion has some awkward features to it. The most striking is the level of accommodation given to it. Most other beliefs can be questioned and criticized, but just in this respect religious belief is already one very contentious topic. Claiming no religion or belief in a deity can raise some eyebrows and elicit harsh questioning and comments, but claiming one is virtually exempted from that same interrogation and vilification, except if one happens to claim the

wrong one—at this time, a case in point would be Islam, but that's another issue. After many discussions on matters of religion, some rather heated, I have come to treat it like most other topics, abiding by the rule that if one doesn't want one's opinions, beliefs, etc. questioned or criticized, keep them tucked away.

Another awkward feature of religion is its role in sex education. Perhaps there are other reasons, but it seems religion is a good determinant in establishing why children are prevented by parents from receiving sex education. It's surprising that consent forms need to be signed by parents and that beyond that there are no measures in place to guarantee that a child whose parents do not consent actually does at some point receive this education. Here's an issue that seems to go better with science. As biological beings, sex is a natural part of our lives. Simple, is it not? Need I say more? Heaven-and-hell notions complicate the matter beyond the reasonable. As usual, parents can always embellish the subject and present it to their children after school, so no fuss necessary.

Heaven, the conventional type, seems such a cheap excuse for death to give to children, or anyone. And one mustn't forget that a heaven implies a hell, so now one must explain that rather hugely devastating fine

print. Here again science can play a role. As biological beings, death is a natural part of our lives. Admittedly, this isn't very satisfying. However, drawing upon more science, when we die, our bodies become the grass, and the antelope eat the grass, and so we are all connected in the great circle of life—well, not so much scientific as it is animation, perhaps even Buddhist. Anyhow, a state of unconsciousness might be an unsettling thought, but it really should be nothing to fear. Everyone can appreciate the seemingly peaceful state of an embryo as it further develops into a fetus, then to a newborn baby. All this is preceded by atoms forming molecules that, in turn, form cells that have the characteristics of life. So when we die, we return to that unconscious, peaceful state (as with the embryo) and then slowly transform into that which life depends on; in other words, we become the basic elements necessary for life. We are one with the universe and live for ever. Returning to animation, the idea that the stars are our ancestors watching over us may have some truth to it. Ultimately, the dread associated with death should be replaced with something more wholesome, and, in doing so, the justification for death as a natural part of life could take on the much more real and fulfilling quality that in death we sustain life.

## Who was St. Patrick?

Karen Asay  
Editor-in-Chief

We celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing green, drinking beer, and putting up pictures of leprechauns, pots of gold, and four-leaf clovers. But what does that have to do with Saint Patrick? Answer, nothing really. Most of these costumes just represent Ireland, like green, or Irish mythology, like leprechauns. So who was Saint Patrick?

Saint Patrick was a Christian missionary and is regarded as the patron saint of Ireland. Patrick's first visit to Ireland was an unwelcomed trip when he was sixteen. He was captured during an Irish raid of Britain and was brought to Ireland as a slave. He remained in Ireland for six years as a herdsman, until he escaped. When he finally returned home, he entered the Church as a deacon and a bishop.

Saint Patrick returned to Ireland as a missionary working in both north and west part of Ireland. His missionary work was a great success and he is largely attributed with the foundation of Irish Christianity. Because of the way canonization, act of admitting a deceased person into the canon of saints, worked back then, Saint Patrick was never formally made a saint by a Pope. St. Patrick's Day is the day believed to be Saint Patrick's death day.

So St. Patrick's Day is the celebration of Saint Patrick's death, which isn't as morbid as it first appears since you have to die to become a saint. Now, the celebration behind St. Patrick's Day is kind of interesting considering we celebrate by drinking and putting up pictures of Irish folk tale creatures on a "Christian" holiday. But whatever!

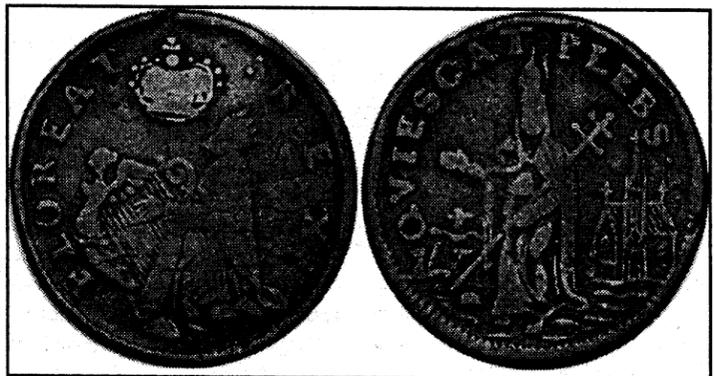


Photo courtesy coinfacts.com

Coins of St. Patrick... I wonder if they were once used to buy a beer...

## Irish beer in action

Karen Asay  
Editor-in-Chief

Some friends and I decided to relax after a week full of midterms and have a beer or four. Why would you care that my friends and I were relaxing? Because we were taste testing Irish beers so you could make the best choice for your St. Patrick's Day party. That's right, St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner and even though everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day, not all beer is. So on to the review of Smithwicks, Harp, and, of course, Guinness.



I'm going to start with my favorite of the evening, Smithwicks. Smithwicks is an Irish ale brewed by the Guinness Brewing Company. This beer was just enjoyable. It had a good flavor and the after taste isn't bad and doesn't last long. My friends agreed, except one complaint about the last gulp. I highly recommend this beer for all your drinking needs.



Next, let's talk about Harp. Harp is a lager brewed, again, by the Guinness Brewing Company. This beer is OK. It tastes good but it isn't memorable, as one of my friends pointed out. I enjoyed the beer but I don't see myself buying it again. Besides being unmemorable, my only other complaint is that the after taste lasts a long time. You basically have to drink something else to get the taste out of your mouth, and I, personally, hate that.



Finally, Guinness. Guinness is a stout beer brewed by, you guessed it, Guinness Brewing Company. Go figure! This beer is what you probably thought of as soon as you read Irish beer. I taste tested Guinness Draught and I didn't care for it. It wasn't so bad that I spit it out and used mouth wash to get the taste out of my mouth, but it wasn't good. You can get Guinness: Extra Stout, which might be better. OK, for the taste, Guinness is a thick beer and its taste lingers in your mouth.

So the summary: I think Smithwicks is the best of the beers I tasted. Sorry, Guinness lovers. There are other Irish beers but Smithwicks, Harp, and Guinness Draught you can find at Kroger for \$8.00 to \$10.00 for a six pack. Enjoy your St. Patty's Day and drink up... only if your 21 or older... right.

## A little Irish folklore for thought

Karen Asay  
Editor-in-Chief

Since we are about to all be Irish for a day, let's learn a little about their folklore. Most people have heard about Leprechauns, but do you know about Banshees or Merrows. Let's put on our green hats and explore the wonderful world of Irish mythological creatures.

Leprechauns. When you think of this mythological creature, you probably picture a little man in a green coat, a beard, and a pot of gold. Well, some of that is from the original concept but mostly the Irish think of the present day image of a leprechaun as a collection of stereotypes about Irish people. If you think about it, this thought makes sense. The original look of the leprechaun was as old man with red coats who was normally depicted holding a shoe. A shoe? Yes, leprechauns were believed to be shoemakers or cobblers by trade. Leprechauns were also believed to be rich, so the pot of gold isn't too farfetched. They were believed to have many buried treasures, and humans could never find one without a leprechaun showing them its location.

Stories about leprechauns aren't normal folk tales, with kings and heroes, but are short tales normally about a leprechaun outwitting a human. These tales usually emphasize the leprechaun's cunning and their wealth. Tales also stated that for a person to catch a leprechaun, a person had to keep his/her eyes fixed on it or the leprechaun would vanish. Even though tales tell of leprechauns out-

smarting humans, leprechauns are also depicted as harmless creatures that preferred to be left in solitude. They are also depicted as being well spoken if a person starts a conversation with one.

Leprechauns were a creature that people looked for and wanted to see, but the next creature was feared. The Banshees were female spirits who were seen as omens of death. They were either pictured as women in white or grey dresses with long, fair hair, or dressed in a green, red, or black dress with a grey cloak. The Banshee's scream, if heard for three consecutive nights, was a sign that a family member was going to die. Their scream was described as a mournful sound that resembled the melancholy sound of the wind. Today, Banshees are presented as evil and are normally foes in video games and movies, but Banshees were not

thought of as evil in old Ireland.

Now to our last creature: the Merrow. These creatures are the equivalent to the mermaids and mermen of American culture. They are pictured with human bodies from the waist up and a fish body from the waist down. The females are beautiful creatures with soft white webs between their fingers, but the males are ugly, which is why the females sought human men. Female-Merrows also wear a cap or cape, which allowed them to return to the sea. It was believed that if a man hid the cap or cape so she couldn't find it, she would willingly stay with the humans. However, if she ever found it, she would return to the sea forever, leaving her entire family behind.

Now you know a little more about Irish folklore, so you can tell wondrous tales as you drink St. Patrick's Day away.



Photo courtesy wpcitart.com

It might be stereotypical, but they don't seem to mind.

## The Best Irish Movie

Karen Asay  
Editor-in-Chief

What better way to get into the St. Patty's Day spirit than to watch a movie about some Irish people, and I have the perfect movie for you, *Boondock Saints*. Actually, this movie is awesome no matter what time of year it is.

*Boondock Saints* is about two Irish brothers who get "chosen" by God to get rid of the criminals in Boston. The movie starts on St. Patty's Day... crazy. The brothers, Conner and Murphy, are at their favorite bar, enjoying St. Patty's Day, when some Russian Mafia members try kicking them out of the bar. Well, as you probably guessed, this starts a fight and some mafia guys get beat up. After the mafia guys get out of the hospital, they try and kill

Murphy in revenge. They don't succeed and end up dead themselves. The next night the brothers dream that God gives them a divine order to rid Boston of "evil". From there on out, the brothers start killing mafia members and the cops are struggling to figure out what is going on.

The movie is definitely a drama, but a masculine drama with a lot of guns, gangsters, and stuff. The movie does have some comic relief, like a serial crusher theory for a murder. What? Yeah, just watch the movie. *Boondock Saints* also has so many great quotes.

The story also isn't always in sequential order, adding to its charm. While the main detective explains what happened at the crime scene, the actual scene is played out, switching back and forth.

Now for my little girlie rant; guys, you might want to skip this paragraph. The brothers are really, really hot. I, personally, can't decide which one looks better. They aren't overly built but they aren't scrawny either. Also, both have gorgeous eyes. Definitely was nice watching them for more than an hour. OK, that is the end of the girlie rant.

The boring stuff. *Boondock Saints* came out in 1999 and was written and directed by Troy Duffy. The movie is considered a cult classic and has a very strong following. The actors who played the brothers are Sean Patrick Flanery and Norman Reedus.

*Boondock Saints* is an awesome movie. What could be better than two Irish guys killing off a bunch of mafia thugs?



Photo courtesy eicrtanner.com

## DJ Max Portable

Jasmine King  
Staff Writer

If you're like me, the disappointment that Konami calls the US release of *Beatmania* left you in a music game void. If not, then you probably just moved on to *Guitar Hero*. Not that *Guitar Hero* is bad, in fact, quite the contrary.

Anyway, I digress. As a music game junkie, I was immensely happy when *Beatmania* was released over here... but then I actually played it, and the lack of songs that didn't suck made me want to cry. For a while, I satisfied myself by playing old mixes of *DDR* over and over, but I still wanted something new and exciting.

Enter a nifty little online game called *DJ Max*. It's pretty much the same style as *Beatmania*—the player acts as the DJ and presses buttons that correspond to different notes and sounds in the song—but it was made by Korean company Pentavision. I was content with this for a while until my computer stopped cooperating with it and gave up.

Luckily, Pentavision released a PSP version called *DJ Max Portable*. It's an import game, but it's still worth buying. The game includes more than 50 songs that run the gamut from hip-hop to trance to rock and nearly everything in between. There are three basic modes: 4-key, 6-key, and 8-key. The learning curve is surprisingly steep, so much so that I find it hard to move

on to 6-key, even though I can do most 4-key songs pretty easily and played harder songs on the online version with little problems. However, the game is still loads of fun and can keep you busy for hours.

If this sounds like fun to you, then you're about to jump for joy: *DJ Max Portable 2* is set to be released on March 30. Again, it's an import, but I've seen a partial songlist, and it's even better than the first one.

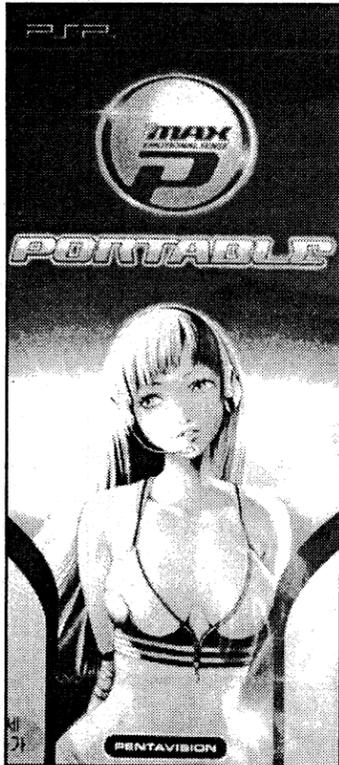


Photo courtesy vfoma.exblog.jp  
With a chick this hot on the cover, its release should do well! (At least at SPSU...)

## Party with Lightcast

Stuart Michelson  
Staff Writer

How cool would all of your party friends consider you if you had your own disco room in your basement? Or a massive and expensive lighting system expressly for the most intense parties? Sure, these things would be great, but they simply are not available at a cost the average person can afford, especially if that average person is a college student. Lightcast is one company's answer to a market in which party lights come packaged with a high price. Farm Fresh ([www.farmfreshstuff.com](http://www.farmfreshstuff.com)) produced Lightcast in 2006, and it truly delivers on every promise its advertising makes.

Operating Lightcast is very simple, and yet still provides a great variety of usability. Lightcast is a seven inch wide circle that is mountable to the wall, ceiling, or can be used with its foldable stand. Simply plug your favorite music output into Lightcast (iPod, computer, stereo, even your own instrument) and as soon as the music begins, Lightcast works its magic. An intricate stream of colors and shapes erupt from Lightcast's 33 alternating LED lights that are amplified by a parabolic projection. You can adjust Lightcast to focus its stream of light to be centered around bass, or just the general beat of the music. Lightcast comes with interchangeable projection lens's. The magnifier

allows for more intense lights and flashing, while the mirror provides a softer and less focused stream of alternating colors. The sensitivity knob allows users to control how much Lightcast will react to your musical input. A remote control gives users the power to change the light colors as well as offering four different modes including smooth and pulse.

Lightcast truly does allow users to see their music and experience it in a whole new way, and lives up the manufacturer's label as "The Ultimate Visual Experience." But how much does this wonderful device cost? Lightcast is sold at prices ranging from \$20 to \$40. Purchasing online allows for cheaper rates, however Lightcast can be found at The Discovery Store and Sharper Image.

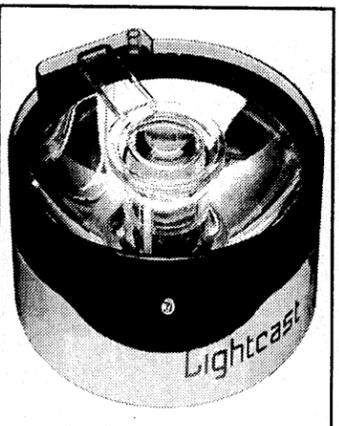


Photo courtesy gizmodo.com  
With this nifty device, you can turn your room into a disco party!

## Moaning, music, & movie magic

Lucy Lament  
Contributing Writer

Recently I received passes to go see the premier of a movie called *Black Snake Moan* and attend a question and answer session with the writer/director afterwards. When I saw the poster, which has a picture of Christina Ricci with a chain around her waist and Samuel L. Jackson holding the other end, and read a description, I was sure I wasn't going to like this movie. But hey, it was free, and I didn't have anything else planned, so why not?

The movie started out with introducing us to Rae (Christina Ricci) and Ronnie (Justin Timberlake). Ronnie is getting ready to ship out for the military and we will soon learn that Rae is addicted to sex and it's well known around town. Then we are introduced to Lazarus (Samuel L. Jackson), a former blues singer who is now in turmoil as his wife leaves him. Ronnie leaves and Rae sets out to find sex where she can, running into a friend at a party, the friend being upset that she wasn't finding it with him, leaves her beaten and half naked on the road near Lazarus' house. And that's how they meet.

Lazarus' decides that he's going to help her and he takes her in. Upon waking, she proceeds to attempt having Lazarus. Not to be led down the path of evil, and to keep Rae from leaving to find men or to say Lazarus was the one to beat her — since she doesn't remember — he chains her to the radiator in his house. You go on to learn how

they both became the people they are, and how, by leaning on each other and the blues, they find a way to heal. Samuel L. Jackson does a wonderful job singing the blues in this movie.

This movie deals with sexual abuse issues, anxiety issues, race issues, and many others in a way that you would understand if you had ever dealt with any of it. Not all serious and not all sad, there are many laughs in the film as well. All in all, I would highly recommend this movie to anyone who can get the chance to see it.

Craig Brewer pulled from his own experiences for some of this movie. In the Q & A, Brewer stated that he himself had panic attacks while trying to break in to the film business with his first movie, *Hustle and Flow*, and that he was comforted in the same way Rae comforts Ronnie. He did also offer some advice for future film makers. When he was trying to break in, he was talking to his dad about how to get in. His dad said that Brewer had been trying so hard to get in that he'd quit trying to get good. So Brewer's advice was to get good first.

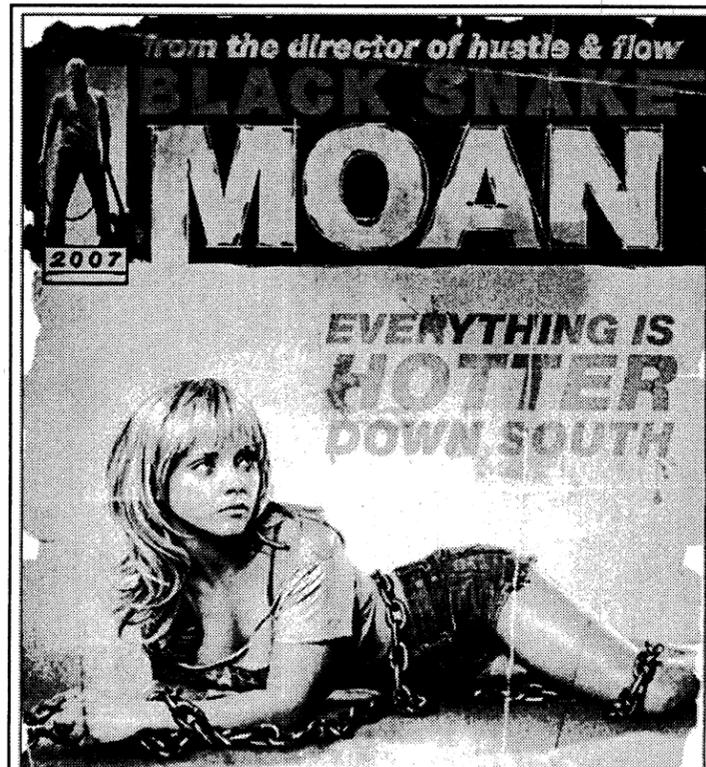


Photo courtesy sneakpeek.com.tripod.com  
Even Samuel L. Jackson is hotter down south....

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## Gankutsuou: The Count of Monte Cristo

### Bonjour madam & monsieur

Sean Fine  
Staff Writer

Genre: Sci-fi Drama

There is a wise saying when it comes to writing stories: all stories have all ready been told, but good story tellers just find different ways to present those stories. There are many who are familiar with the tale of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, but GONZO has made an anime series that retells this captivating tale of love, betrayal, and revenge in a unique and beautiful way.

**Story:** On a trip to the city of Luna, a majestic city upon the moon, Albert De Morcerf, the son of a famous general on earth, meets a mysterious man who calls himself the Count of Monte Cristo. Upon saving the young aristocrat, the Count eventually comes to Albert's hometown, where a series of events occurs that both changes the world Albert sees and grew up in, and then completely devastates it.

One of *Gankutsuou's* greatest strengths in its storyline is its characters. Each of the characters have a great deal of depth and importance to the series, ranging from the naive Albert to the enigmatic Count to the honorable Maximilian to the wicked Heloise Villefort. There is heavy attention to the development of each character and most audience members will find characters that they'll absolutely love as well as

character that they'll completely despise for their motives and actions.

The story itself is a very enticing tale about the Count and his plan to achieve the satisfaction of revenge and, by the end of series, one may have mixed feelings about the story. It's a tale that will make you want to talk about it with other people who've seen the series. It's very deep and very enjoyable.

However, there is a flaw to this great story. It's not really a original story. Like I said before, this tale is based heavily upon the popular novel, using names and nearly all the plot devices from the novel. Despite the heavy borrowing, the creators were good about presenting the story in a original way.

**Animation:** Another major advantage that *Gankutsuou* has over animes is its creative take on coloring. Rather than using color palettes, GONZO has implemented photoshop texture patterns for the characters' clothing and even their hair. I know that's very hard to understand, but once you look at the anime in action, you'll say that the animation is mystic and trippy in its style, but that's what makes the anime so beautiful.

Characters themselves look excellent and their animations are very detailed and much more lively than in other animes. By that, I

mean certain animations won't be used over and over again and there are plenty of animations that just breathe life and personality into the characters.

**Sound:** The opening theme to the anime is a soft melody that pretty much sums up what the entire series is about: love, betrayal, and revenge. Yet it does so in a way that doesn't appear very vengeful, giving it a good sound. The ending theme on the other hand is a wild blur of twisting colors and synthboards, yet it combines to form a perfect melody. Personally, I found myself singing the opening theme more than the much faster paced ending theme for some reason. Probably because of how mesmerizing the opening theme is.

Now, to break some news, this anime hasn't quite made it to the United States yet, at least not in English form. The Japanese cast for the show all play their characters and sounds the way they look like they should sound: such as the Count having a tone of pride and arrogance behind his powerful demeanor while the greedy Danglar's father has a voice that brims with selfishness and lust for money. I very much love the cast for the Japanese version of the anime and if any past history with Geneon says anything (*Cowboy Bebop*, *Paranoia Agent*, etc.), than the English dubbing of this series

shall be just as good.

**Overall:** Throughout the 26 enticing episodes, the series goes from sunny to dark to morbid and every minute of the series should keep anime fans amazed at the brilliant art in motion while the story will keep them entertained at the same time. Whether or not you have

read *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Gankutsuou* is an anime that any otaku should at least sample.

**Warning:** This are some sexual themes and partial nudity in several scenes, so be sure little Timmy is either A) mature enough or B) tucked-in away from the scary naked peoples.



Photo courtesy ffworld.org  
With coloring that resembles that of water color paintings, you know some serious work was placed into the animation.

## The Number 23

Twila McConnell  
Editor-in-Training

Since we've got the posters in every distribution stand, I kinda wanted to know if *The Number 23* was a movie even worth supporting. So I went. On opening night. And...

This movie is completely awesome. I wasn't sure Jim Carrey could pull off the role, but I was not disappointed.

The movie starts off with you looking into Walter Sparrow's (Jim Carrey) seemingly mundane life as a dog catcher. You start noticing the number 23 right away, although it doesn't particularly mean anything at this moment.

Walter's just about to get off work and celebrate his birthday when a call comes in for a catch in a trashy Chinese restaurant. He argues but goes to catch the dog anyway. Here the hand of fate deals him a bad card. He gets lead into a cemetery and he eventually loses the dog, after much mishap, making him very late to pick up his wife from where she works in town.

When he eventually gets

there, she has wandered into a book store. She hands him a red book with the title *The Number 23* and insists that he read it.

This kick starts his downhill spiral into questioning who he really is.

I was impressed with this movie because I genuinely didn't know what was going on. For someone who figured out the end of *Saw*, this is impressive. They set you up so even the unobvious but seemingly correct answer isn't right so that you could never guess what is really going on.

The movie is very well acted. As said before, Jim Carrey does a wonderful job with this role and Virginia Madsen, who I previous thought of as a bit flaky, did a wonderful job supporting him in this role. Most impressively, the movie only leaves me with one question about plot integrity.

If you're looking for an intricate mystery/drama, this is most certainly the movie for you. If you're wanting to oggle a tattooed Jim Carrey, it will succeed in that arena as well.

## The Cheap Bastard's Guide to Being Cheap

### Make your money work harder!

Dan Pelch  
Staff Writer

Being a cheap bastard doesn't mean you have to get the cheapest thing on the shelf. God knows I eat far more filet mignons than I do beef chuck. Being a cheap bastard just means you watch what your money does for you; you have a tight grip on your wallet, but aren't afraid to open it. We spend when we have to, and we always maximize the buying power of our dollar. Therefore, with that said, this article will examine how you can make your money work harder for you.

First thing one should note is that you should always look ahead. Buying now for a need tomorrow is usually a cheaper way to buy. For example, I know I'm taking Chemistry II and Linear Algebra next semester. I'm now going to look for these books. Since we're midway through the semester, not many people are looking to buy textbooks. This lowers the demand for textbooks, which drops their selling price. Airline tickets would also be a good example of why to buy early. As the seats fill up on the airplane, the price goes up. I always book my Thanksgiving tickets to Portland, Oregon on the 1st day the airline offers them (they only book seats so many days in advance). You can call any airline and they can tell you what day they will start booking a flight.

Shopping for price is so easy in today's world. Not too long ago,

you'd have to call around or actually walk from store to store to find the best deal. Today, thanks to the internet, you don't have to get off your seat. For quick price comparison's, check out Froogle.com, it's one of Google's many off shoots. You simply type what you're looking for and you'll see a list of vendors selling the item and their price. Be sure to see their shipping cost though, as some of the vendors discount their selling price and inflate their shipping cost. Jellyfish.com is another interesting site. You can search for items and they will show you the price of the item from several different online vendors. If you click on one of the links, and buy the item, you will actually get some money from Jellyfish. Apparently, Jellyfish gets a percentage of any sales that originate from their site. They then give you half of that percentage, which, with some of their partners, is as much as 30% of the purchase price.

Finally, and this is an important one, improve your credit score. Do you know that you can lower your mortgage by *hundreds* of dollars

every month, just by increasing your credit score by 41 points? That's about how many points would be deducted from your score if you applied for credit in ten places. It's not a big percent of your overall credit score, but it can save you a ton of cash. Here's what I did to raise my credit score by 160 points in 8 months. I cheated. I hired a woman, Pam Wheeler, from My Credit Matters to help me clean up my credit history. She was very professional, affordable (\$250), and friendly. If you want to give your credit score a quick shot of adrenaline, e-mail her at [getoutofdebt@msn.com](mailto:getoutofdebt@msn.com).

Maximizing the buying power of your dollar usually requires work and forethought on your part. It is not, however, hard work or intellectually challenging. Last time I shopped for a big-ticket item, I saved over \$200 and it took me just 15 minutes to find the deal online. The way I see it, it was like making \$800 an hour; well worth the time if you ask me. So the moral of this story is don't buy on impulse and keep your credit score in check.



Ah, a truism we all know very, very well!

Photo courtesy johnnyburrito.com

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## Jen Kober

### The Fat Lady Sings

Sean Fine  
Staff Writer

"Ever been interested in a big woman?" Kober said, on the evening of Monday the 19th in the Student Center. "I don't see why you shouldn't be; everything feels like a titty." Comedians have constantly blessed us common folk with the joy of laughter by mocking our bleak little world and thusly, making it seem a little brighter if only for an hour. Jen Kober, a fat (and proud of it) woman, came to SPSU at the beginning of Homecoming Week in order to fulfill that very purpose. She's worked with multiple famous comedians, including the infamous Carlos Mencia, and has been in specials on TBS, Comedy Central, and so on.

After the minor inconvenience of finding stickers with only half an audience, the fat lady came out calling the much thinner lady who introduced her, a "Skinny B." Unfortunately, due to policies, the second word can't be said. Sorry gents.

The issues that Kober talked about included: her dieting and how it says that she could only have one cup of salad, so she makes what she calls a "salad nugget;" Hurricane Katrina and how it gave her the idea

to wear a safety vest so when the other skinny people are drowning, she'll just float away and how the damage it caused forced Walmart to close early; she even gave her idea for a Broadway production, or at least what she thought the Vagina Monologue should have been. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the fat lady did indeed sing.

But the majority of the comedy came from the audience, which built up vastly over the course of the show. Kober picked out people who responded to her acts and quite simply embarrassed them. One popular instance was a week-old couple whose first date had the woman paying for the meal, but then again the man of the two did cook steak a few days later and he was an Architecture Major, if that says anything about money handling.

While the act only lasted a hour, many laughs were made and quite a few people were chosen out of the audience for embarrassment. And even though the final act wasn't her singing, she did give some good advice: "If you're doing drugs and you're watching Star Wars, it's usually a good indication to put the joint down if you can understand everything that's coming out of Chewbacca's mouth." True words. True words.

## Homecoming Dance

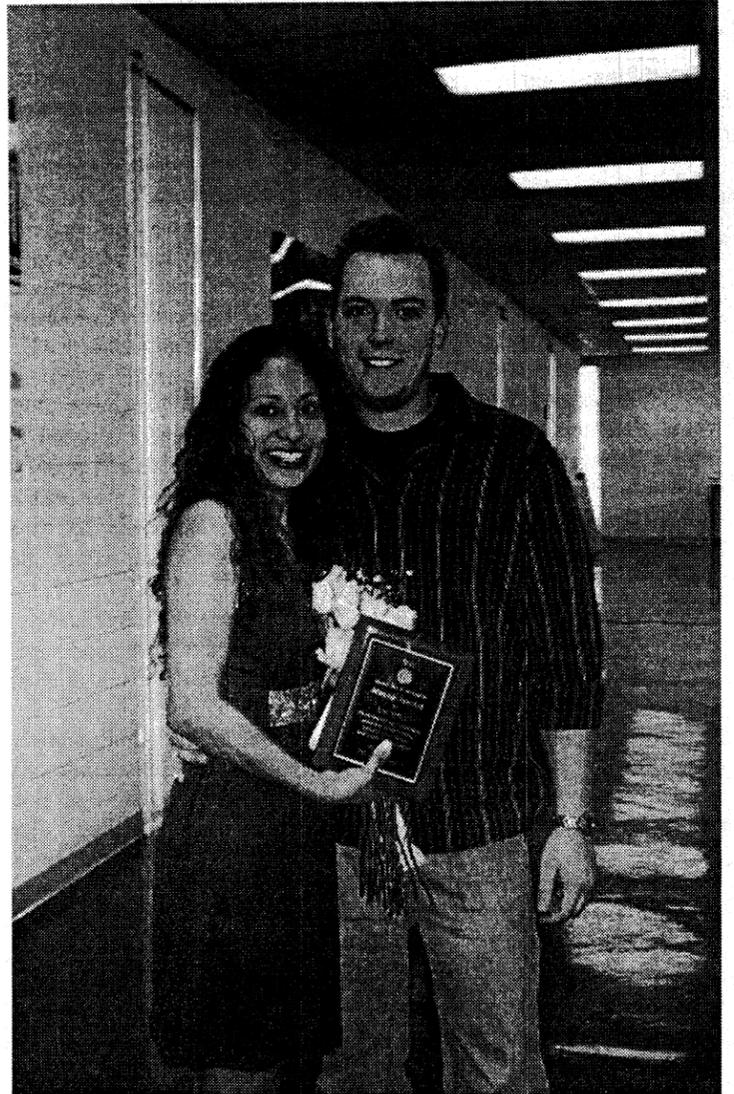
Jessica McNally  
Staff Writer

The Southern Poly homecoming dance on Friday, February the 23rd was a blast! ... for all twenty people who were there. Throughout the night, students danced to a mix of hip hop and remixed music. It was super. There was also punch and chips. Semi formal for this dance included a jean skirt and leggings. The following is a list of some of the highlights during the night:

- Catch
- The Hokey Pokey
- The Funky Chicken
- Hip Hop line dancing in ball gowns

There was no crowning moment for Mr. and Mrs. SPSU, but considering I have a twenty percent chance of being correct, I'm going to say William and Megan are our new homecoming King and Queen. It may take a while to figure out which William (I don't have a last name). Megan should be easy; she is in the Electrical Engineering program. If there are two Megan's in the engineering program I will be surprised.

Despite valiant efforts to keep the party going, it was over by 11:30pm. Maybe it was because the punch wasn't spiked. The good news is it only took five minutes to clean up.



Maryely Sanchez was this years Ms. SPSU.

Photo courtesy www.facebook.com

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needs instrumentalists for  
ALL instruments

## Organization Budgets

# NEED

to be turned in to

SGA

by Friday

# MARCH 2!!!

## Event Calender for SPSU

### March

Monday, Mar. 5

- First day of Spring Break

Monday, Mar. 12

- SGA campaigning starts

Tuesday, Mar. 13

- SGA meeting in the Rotunda - Noon - SGA

- Time Management in SC Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center

- Concert Series in the Community Center - 5:00 pm - CAB

Wednesday, Mar. 14

- Test taking Strategies in SC Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center

Monday, Mar. 19

- Dan Ahdoot (Comedian) in Community Center - 8:00 pm -CAB

Thursday, Mar. 22

- Capture the Flag - TBA - CAB

Monday, Mar. 26

- Conducting an Effective Job Search in SC Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center

Tuesday, Mar. 27

- Working a Career Fair in SC Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center

- Interviewing Skills that Work in SC Rm 215 - 5:00 pm - Career Center

Wednesday, Mar. 28

- Resume's for Today's Job Market in SC Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center

- Salary Negotiation in SC Rm 215 - 5:00 pm - Career Center

- Casino Night in SC Ballroom - TBA - CAB

Thursday, Mar. 29

- Networking 101 in Rm 215 - Noon - Career Center

Friday, Mar. 30

- Poker Night in Community Center - 8:00 pm - CAB