

WGHR?

An interesting letter to the Editor. Find out about the history of WGHR and how you can help it - and how it can help you!
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The Sting

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Oktoberfest

Everything you wanted to know about Oktoberfest and more brought to you by new writer Adam Myers.
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October 1, 2007

With more than 3 news articles!

Volume 62, Issue 3

Solar panels find a home on the J building?

Karen Asay
Editor Emeritus

This March, Dr. Rossbacher, the President of Southern Polytechnic, signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). As stated in Twila McConnell's article "A new, green campus in SPSU's future?" by signing this commitment, the university is obligated to "cut down on emissions" and "teach students how to implement environmentally friendly actions within their respected fields." One of the first proposals to cut the university's emissions was Professor Robert Thacker's proposal to install solar panels on the roof of J-building.

Professor Thacker is a long time supporter of alternate energy sources so when he heard Ted Turner bought DT Solar, a solar panel installation company, he started thinking about how SPSU could benefit from solar power. The primary benefit would be a decrease in the university's energy bill, but Professor Thacker sees more opportunities than that in the project.

This solar panel project would

help SPSU fulfill its responsibility according to the ACUPCC. Also, no other university in Georgia is operating a building with solar power so SPSU would probably gain good publicity from the project. Other opportunities Professor Thacker suggested were "becom[ing] a leading educator...for research and education of sustainable clean

J-building's roof by calling DT Solar and getting an estimated cost: \$1.5 million. Realizing the state would not fund this project, Professor Thacker designed a program for raising the money for this project through donations from corporations like the Home Depot and Shaw Industries. The program would have different levels of

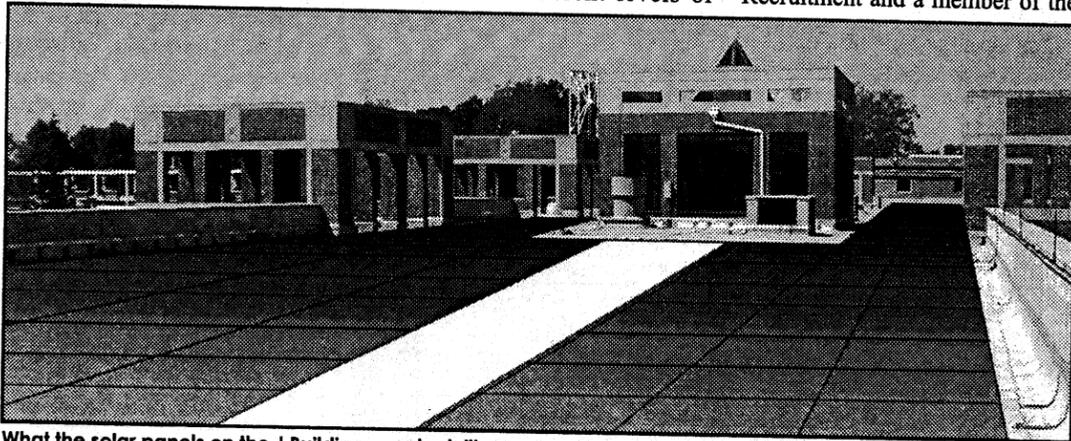
the kiosk would also tell how much power the solar panels were generating.

When Professor Thacker presented this proposal to the president this March, he said she looked interested but the administration has yet to go any farther with the project. Jim Cooper, the Director of Recruitment and a member of the

Engineering Technology building and trying to get private funding for a new Construction building. Mr. Cooper did suggest if Professor Thacker came up with a more detailed business plan and answers to two questions, "How much will the university save on energy?" and "How would the university get the money up front to fund the project?", the administration would be in a better place to make a decision.

To help Professor Thacker with this undertaking, his Business Administration Capstone class has decided to take the solar panel project as their Capstone project. This decision, however, didn't come about from a request from Professor Thacker but was made after hearing his presentation for the project. The presentation was meant as an example of expressing a vision to a client or board, but his students are taking it further.

The class has already come up with a Strategic Plan which includes getting student support for the project. A campus wide petition will eventually be circulated as a way to meet this objective.



What the solar panels on the J Building may look like.

Photo courtesy Professor Thacker

energy solutions" and "offer[ing] more alternative energy courses in business and technology" with an on-campus example.

Professor Thacker started his proposal for solar panels on

donations, like diamond (\$50,000) or alumni/sponsor (\$1,000.) For the donation a company, or person would get a plaque that would be placed on a kiosk in the J-building lobby. Along with all the plaques,

Sustainability Committee, stated he thought the solar panel project was a good idea but funding the project was a major concern. Southern Polytechnic already has a few projects it is undertaking, like a new

ETCMA welcomes Dr. McCool

Stuart Michelson
Copy Editor

Southern Polytechnic State University is pleased to bring Dr. Matthew McCool to the English, Technical Communication and Media Arts Department (ETCMA.) Dr. McCool may be new, but he has been making immediate contributions to the TCOM program this semester. McCool brings his experience from working in various TCOM fields to the classroom to provide students with real world situations and challenges that can help them make practical decisions as interns, Co-Ops, or as future parts of the work force.

Dr. McCool has a background in neuroscience, and spent time as a research assistant in the department of neurology at the Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine. Three years later he attended the University of Illinois to attain a bachelor's and master's degree in literature with an emphasis in philosophy. It was there that he gained valuable research experience in a survey research lab collecting data and statistics and producing written reports. This experience is clearly linked to what many TCOM graduates would like to do after graduation.

Once part of the professional work force, Dr. McCool worked for numerous companies at capacities ranging from information technology, programming, technical writing, and online development. He would later go on to earn a doctoral degree in rhetoric at New Mexico State University with an emphasis on culture.

Currently, besides his involvement at SPSU, Dr. McCool applies his interests in culture and formal reasoning to his publishing endeavors. He is widely published in articles, chapters, and monographs in publications related to the Association for Computing Machinery, and has been published numerous times in "Technical Communication," and the O'Reilly Media. He currently writes a column on computing culture for the IEEE and also writes for the O'Reilly Network, which boasts 11 million visitors each month. A complete list of Dr. McCool's published work can be found under the bios section of the ETCMA faculty website.

"The Strong applied focus that the TCOM program offers really attracted me to it" said Dr. McCool. When asked to give his thoughts about the TCOM program Dr. McCool noted, "One thing that separates the TCOM program is that you can

tell that the faculty really cares about what happens to the students after they graduate." Dr. McCool made it clear in an interview with The Sting that the strongest characteristic of the TCOM program at SPSU is that the curriculum is "very applied." When comparing SPSU's TCOM department to others he had knowledge of, Dr. McCool made mention of how SPSU has a very good focus around information architecture.

Dr. McCool is currently teaching 2 sections of Technical Writing 2010, and 2 sections of Foundations of Technical Communications 2020. "I like the Technical Writing class," said McCool, "it is fun and invigorating, and very lively." Students seem to be happy with Dr. McCool as well and welcome the fresh new face to the department.

Dr. McCool is expected to be taking on some new courses in future semesters.

SPSU is pleased to welcome Dr. McCool and his invaluable experience in industry to the ETCMA department. TCOM students, new and old, are encouraged to meet Dr. McCool and see if perhaps his experience can help them better identify their career path after SPSU. Dr. McCool's office is housed in the J-Building in room 322.

\$38 million building

Karen Asay
Editor Emeritus

Southern Polytechnic has been growing very quickly the last couple years. This fact is great for SPSU but it is causing some problems, like lack of classroom space. SPSU has requested money for a couple new buildings from the state to help with this problem. One of these buildings has been recommended by the Board of Regents (BoR) to be built next year: the Engineering Technology Center.

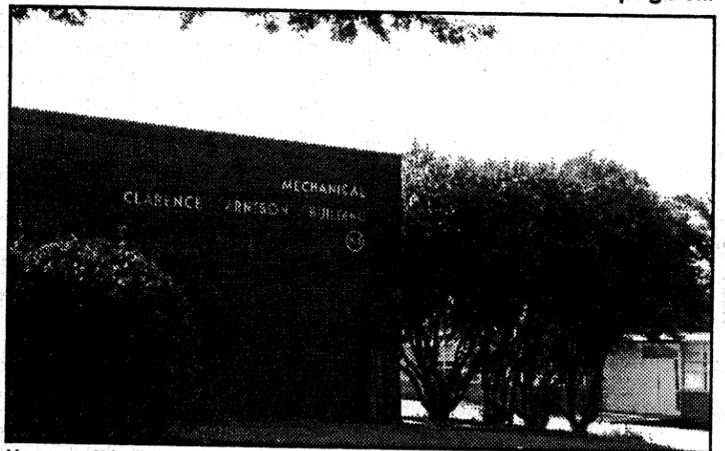
The entire university sys-

tem of Georgia is growing and the need for new buildings on all campuses is increasing.

This summer, the state designed a Facilities Master Plan to set some standards for deciding what buildings they approve.

The basic two goals are to increase capacity and increase the number of students graduating with science and engineering degrees. These goals made SPSU's proposal for a new engineering technology building more appealing because SPSU specializes in science and engineering

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No more K buildings?

Photo courtesy Matt Finn / Sting Archives

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What happened to the

SPSU license plate?

Amber Lawson explains why we've not yet got our own license plate to display all over our highways.

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Day Zero?

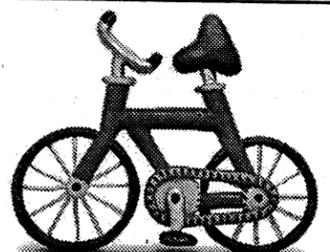
That's right! Marlena Compton covers the Hispanic band that played right here on SPSU's campus. Check it out. It's not what you might think.

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Do you own a bike?

New writer Carolina Daza tells us why we should consider this alternate form of transportation. If you think bikes might be the way to go, see what she says on:

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National Anthem Day

Adam Myers
Staff Writer

On Friday, September 14, the inaugural National Anthem Day ceremony was held at the SPSU Globe.

The morning's festivities began at 9:00 AM with the presentation of the National Colors by a collection of SPSU, Kennesaw State, and Georgia Tech students representing the United States Army and Air Force. After a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, the crowd was led by Dr. Mark Stevens of the School of Arts and Sciences and Reisha Jones from the SPSU Bookstore in the singing of all four stanzas of "The Star-Spangled Banner," accompanied by the SPSU band. The transition into

the anthem's second verse led to some confusion for those gathered in front of the Joe Mack Wilson Student Center, but fortunately there were pamphlets available containing complete lyrics and a brief history of the song.

Upon the completion of the final stanza, a moment of recognition was held for the veterans of the armed forces in attendance. The official songs of each branch of the armed forces were played before the ceremony concluded with a parading of the Colors.

The event, held in conjunction with similar exhibitions at schools of all levels nationwide, was conceived by the Music Educators National Conference to demonstrate the impact of music and music education on the United

States' cultural heritage.

"This was an opportunity to participate in a national event and still honor the veterans of our local community," said Beth Farber, director of the SPSU band. She hopes that National Anthem Day becomes an annual event on campus.

The SPSU band would like to thank Julie Bates of the SPSU cheer-leading squad and Ann Stevens of the Marietta Woman's Club for their help in organizing this event; they also thank the Marietta Woman's Club for donating the American flags that were distributed to the crowd during the ceremony.

The SPSU band always welcomes new student instrumentalists: anyone interested in joining the band can contact Beth Farber at (678) 915-4222.



The colors being presented by KSU's color guard.

Photo courtesy Adam Myers / The Sting

Microsoft at SPSU

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

Thursday, September 20, 2007 we had a visit from representatives of Microsoft. Why? Ironically enough, to come and speak to one of our most underserved majors: Technical Communications!

Recently, Microsoft reorganized all of their writing, editing, print, media, and web publishing professionals into a new core engineering discipline called "Content Publishing."

So what's the big deal?

Traditionally, people who fell under "communications" titles get paid less than engineers. However, now that they've all been combined into Content Publishers, which Microsoft defined as an engineering discipline, they get paid competitively with all of their other engineers.

Our speakers, Dr. Barbara McGuire who is a Senior Content Project Manager and Dr. Suzanne Sowinska who is a Senior Group Manager, told us that out of the 34,307 engineers at Microsoft, Content Publishing was a whopping 1,757 of them. (Of course, Developers claimed the most, a whole 10,696 of them, which is only to be accepted.

The new classification brought power and stature to communicators

in a way that was previously unheard of. Communicators, although traditionally more varied than other concentrations, brought a lot of value to the company by producing content through which Microsoft could connect with their customers.

Although initially frightened by the idea of Web 2.0 (which is the term for our current community based internet - including wikis, blogs, and message boards), our speakers told us Microsoft quickly realized that more content means better content, not necessarily mass chaos. Since launching multiple Web 2.0 projects, Microsoft has focused on ways to make content specific to their customers, especially interna-

tional customers.

In the meet and greet, Dr. Sowinska spoke to us about how the new Vista operating system will be unveiling some competitive programs for Adobe, such as .XPS files to challenge with the current standard of .PDFs. This is a big deal for Technical Communications majors because it may mean they will have to become more adaptable if new standards come into play.

If you're interested in working with Microsoft, regardless of your major, they left us with the following link: www.microsoft.com/college/default.aspx. This URL is your gateway into understanding what it takes to be a Microsoft employee.

The portal page for getting a job at Microsoft.

Photo courtesy www.microsoft.com

The Sting

www.thesting.org

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

ORGANIZATIONS

Articles written by organizations to inform the campus of activities and events are welcome. Articles must be submitted in electronic format (e-mail, disk) by the deadline printed below. All such articles are subject to editing for style, content and size, and are run on a space-available basis.

JOINING *The Sting*

Any student paying Activity Fees is eligible to join *The Sting*, though final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief. We prefer creative students who have passed English 1101. Come to our meetings Friday at 12:00 PM in A252, upstairs in the student center, or call (678) 915-7310. This includes YOU, all you so-called members that never attend. *The Sting*: It's not a job, 'cause a real job pays more.

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue is **Friday, October 12th at 11:59 P.M.** Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of *The Sting*, except through special permission.

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License Plates?

Amber Lawson
Staff Writer

Spring 2007, a plan was announced by the Office of University Advancement to promote the name of Southern Polytechnic in the state of Georgia.

We were going to get our very own license plate so that we could proclaim our school spirit on the highways and byways. A symbol that we at Southern Poly are here, we're near (in Marietta) so get used to it!

It was necessary to sign up 500 alumnae, students, faculty and staff before submitting our application to Georgia's Motor Vehicle Division by July 31, 2007.

The one-time fee was a mere \$25 for manufacturing costs and an additional \$25 when you renewed your tags every year.

Sadly, we did not meet the goal and the plans for an SPSU license plate are on hold.

According to Kit Trench, Director of Development in the Office of University Advancement, they only received 20% of the necessary applications needed to petition Georgia Motor Vehicles.

There were a number of factors that contributed to a low response rate for an SPSU license plate.

First, there was uncertainty about how the license plate would look. The university is in the process of redesigning the SPSU logo which should be unveiled either late Fall 2007 or early Spring 2008.

Also, the short time frame in which to solicit applications combined with a limited awareness of the campaign hampered efforts to reach the goal of 500.

Perhaps, when the university renews its efforts for an SPSU license plate they will be successful. There are plans to try again next year.

\$38 Million Building Con't.

technology and its enrollment is increasing.

The BoR has recommended that the state fund SPSU's Engineering Technology Center but it isn't the last step. Next, the state legislature will vote on whether to put the building into next year's budget. If the proposal is approved by the legislature, the governor will need to sign it. SPSU will find out the official decision around May of next year.

The Engineering Technology Center will be the new home for the Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, and Mechatronics Engineering departments.

If approved, the building's construction will start in July or August of 2008 between the Elk's Lodge and the science building (E-building).

The building will cost \$38 million dollars to build, making it the most expensive building

on campus.

Currently, SPSU is in the process of finding an architecture firm to design the building and a construction firm to build it. SPSU has recently sent out Request for Bids to architecture and construction firms and have already been told by three construction firms that they will be bidding.

A committee is also being formed to decide what the building will contain, like how many offices and classrooms are needed and what labs need to be made.

The new Dean of Engineering Technology and Management, Jeffrey Ray, has organized the committee and says their first meeting was September 27th.

The committee is made up of twelve faculty and staff people:

- Dr. Jeffrey Ray, *Dean of Engineering Technology and Management*
- Dr. Zvi Szafran, *Vice President of*

Academic Affairs

- Patrick McCord, *Vice President of Business and Finance*

- John Mills, *Facilities Director*

- Stephen Hamrick, *Register*

- Thomas Currin, *Engineering Planning Director*

- Dr. Philip Patterson, *Arts and Sciences representative*

- Charles Bachman, *Chair of the ECET department*

- Scott Tippens, *ECET faculty representative*

- John Sweigart, *Chair of the MET department*

- Greg Conrey, *MET faculty representative*

- Glenn Alan, *Mechatronic representative*

After the Engineering Technology Center is built the current ECET building (G-building) will be rehabilitated and used for additional classroom space. The current MET building (K-building) will be tore down to make room for future building.

Letter to the Editor

Why WGHR will always be broken

Dustin Grau
SPSU Alumnus

In the recent edition of *The Sting* (published Monday, August 20, 2007), there was an article titled "Organizations on Campus" which was posted by the new editor-in-chief (http://www.thesting.org/display_article.asp?id=2246). I don't fault the writer personally for the omission, but I was saddened to not see WGHR in the list. Even the National Organizations and the Greek collective received brief lip service or a URL shout-out, but not one mention of SPSU's own campus radio station.

WGHR is perhaps one of the most unique student organizations on the campus of SPSU. First and foremost, it is supposed to be the literal "voice" of SPSU and is brethren to the written word from *The Sting*. It is also the one organization that has tenaciously clung to the hope that it may one day be a normal, functioning entity like everyone else—but usually it just continues to die a slow death only to be brought back again and again. Take a look at the other organizations, their inherent goals, and how they are able to meet those goals:

- The Sting: Their prime purpose is to collect student-submitted stories, edit and arrange them in a pleasing/logical manner, and print/distribute the final product.

- Steel Bridge Team: Build a steel bridge and enter it in competitions to win.

- Concrete Canoe: Same as above, but with a concrete canoe (obviously).

- SPSU Band: Meet, practice, and perform at campus functions.

The list can go on, but it should be clear that by their very nature most organizations have an obvious goal for their members that they are all free to pursue. Barring any unforeseen financial meltdowns or extreme outside influences, they should always be able to succeed in that respect.

So what does this have to do with WGHR? Well, just take a look at all the problems and hindrances

the station has had to endure in recent years (2000 and later):

- The RIAA: WGHR has always complied with music licensing for both the artists and songwriters via yearly fees to ASCAP, SESAC, and other organizations ultimately controlled by the RIAA. In order to stream music over the internet, the radio station elected to pay a flat fee to soundXchange.

However, in recent months the RIAA has entered a bid to raise rates and solicit "back-pay" from webcasters, which has resulted in many independent, internet-only broadcasters giving up due to the massive payments they would be required to make. The RIAA has backed down, but still doesn't know what it wants, and therefore has thrown the future of webcasting into doubt for everyone.

- Local Radio Stations: Between the other local college stations and NPR, the non-commercial frequencies in Atlanta are scarce. Even more so are the commercial frequencies that are gobbled up immediately by Clear Channel and other major broadcasters. There is no room for WGHR on the FM dial in Atlanta.

- FCC: These folks have done everything in their current power to help, but ultimately they have crippled many others besides WGHR. Due to the strict "2nd adjacent" rules they prevented the station from obtaining 100.7 FM (which was too close to Q100's 100.5 FM). Also their slow adoption and lack of support for low-power-FM (LPFM) licensing, it is not possible for WGHR to ever upgrade to the minimum power requirements of a standard broadcasting license. So unless they become friendlier towards the little guy, the FCC remains a major stumbling block for FM broadcasting abilities.

- Money: All other fees aside, the cost of doing internet streaming must always be considered. Because of the finite bandwidth available to the University, it is unfair to host connections to outside listeners from within the campus network. Therefore an outside solution is required, thus the

need for a constant influx of funds from a yearly budget to pay these costs. And as every year that passes where WGHR stands dormant is another year that the SGA and others must question the need to give money to the radio station.

- Apathy: When the current Student Center was built, the idea was to put WGHR in a corner window facing inward to the students—this was to encourage interest in the organization. However, when the station enters "slump" periods, it also becomes a deterrent and an eyesore to those walking past the lonely DJ booth. It becomes a catch-22, as more desolate the station becomes the fewer people want to join, and vice-versa.

However, as painful as it sounds the very simple conclusion here is that the radio station IS and always WILL BE...broken. It will never work 100%. Does that mean that we should give up on it? NO. Should everyone all drop what they're doing and try to save it? NO.

So the question remains: What good does WGHR serve to remain active? The idea is that it should be the ultimate hands-on tool for real-world problem solving! Take another look at the problems faced by the station, and observe how real students put their degrees to use to help save the station during their tenure as general managers and/or chief engineers:

- Kevin Byrd (GM): Using his background in art and design and some help from the architecture department, he used on-campus resources to redesign the entire studio as part of a summer project. The resulting facelift gave the station a boost in popularity, thus defeating the apathy towards it and causing people to walk in and sign up as DJ's immediately.

- Dustin Grau (CE, GM): After seeing the lack of support for modern media (the MP3), and never being able to listen to music in between DJ's shows, there was a need to give the station a means of 24/7 operation. Using knowledge from many of the Computer Science courses, WGHR

received its first batch of homebrew software that allowed music automation whenever the station was dormant between shows. Gone were the days of cart machines and satellite feeds. This put it on par with Georgia Tech's WREK which had a similar digital-music-automation system.

- William Burke (CE, GM): Having completed most of his core IET classes, the answer to retaining DJ's and keeping things running smoothly was to eliminate all unnecessary work, and streamline all processes within the station. This included purchasing special equipment that could be locked down to near-foolproof modes of operation, and guiding staff into more efficient schedules that kept the station looking active.

- Lee Siddall (CE): Using the technical and system management skills from the new Information Technology courses, his idea was to convert the station over to more reliable equipment for staff. The thought was that if equipment could be left un-manned but still remain usable, then less time and money would be required for repair and maintenance, and efforts could instead be focused on running the station and producing better programming.

Though as the saying goes "all good things must come to an end," and every solution above was found to have a flaw—and inevitably the radio station returned to its broken status. Based on the solutions just mentioned, this is what happened as time progressed:

- Architecture: The station renovations were eventually undone as the floors were scuffed up and the bonds of glue permitted pieces of the design to come undone. Also, lack of cleaning between semesters slowly returned it a more un-kept appearance which always had to be resolved. This deterred people from entering.

- CS: Eventually the bugs in the software got the better of the system. The automation system's random feature wasn't very random, and ended up repeating many songs

which annoyed listeners. Occasionally the software would glitch and caused everything to topple down unless someone actually was there to fix the problem. Computers crashed and eventually components required replacing.

- IET: The constant restructuring left the station in a half-complete state for long periods, thus leaving some features completely unusable to the remaining staff. Also this is when the major shakeup with the FCC occurred, and all the planning for on-air broadcasts had to be re-thought to allow online-only broadcasts.

- IT: The equipment was better, and the station was ready to handle new forms of broadcasting, but the technology alone could do nothing. The failure this time did not come from problems with equipment or the engineers, but from members of the radio station staff. The alleged ineptitude of upper management contributed to a lack of enthusiasm from other students. Even a change of management did little to revive the station due to the amount of apathy.

While outcome always seemed rather grim for the radio station, those who actively worked with it have drawn upon it later. Anecdotes from many of those who tried to save WGHR related some of their experiences to recent situations in their post-graduate or real-world workplace, such as: creatively solving a technical need, preparing and presenting a large budget or proposal, or dealing with co-workers as a team leader or manager.

While WGHR may occasionally fade into the background, students must always remember that it's there. Everyone must also accept that it can never be fixed by any one person, and certainly not in a permanent manner. It's the very idea that the station is always broken that allows it to serve as a great learning tool for those that wish to use it. So if you think you have a solution, by all means step up and try your hand at a nearly impossible problem—just don't forget WGHR.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama comes to Emory

Carolina Daza
Staff Writer

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was born the 6th of July of 1935, in Takstwer (Ambo), east of the Tibet with the name of Lhamo Dondhup. When he was five years old, he had already acquired the incarnation character of the XIII Dalai Lama. Traditionally, the Dalai Lama has been the spiritual leader of the Tibet. Currently, Tenzin Gyatso is the XIV Dalai Lama of the Tibet and was simply called by the Tibetans, Kundun "Presence," or Gyalwa Rinpoche "Precious Fighter."

During the invasion of the Tibet by the Chinese Military, the 17th of November of 1950, His Holiness Gyatso was 15 years old and was appointed as the government leader of his country. Due to the Chinese invasion to the Tibet, with 18 years of age, Gyatso had

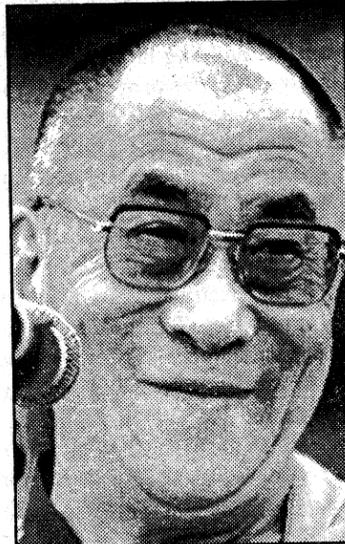
to assume all the chief responsibilities of the Tibetan government. In 1959 he had to exile and since then, he resides in Dharamsala, in the state of Himachal Pradesh, North of India, where he assented the exiled Tibetan Government and rebuilt, together with millions of compatriots, the institutions of the Tibetan state.

His Holiness received the Nobel Peace Prize the 10th of December of 1989, due to his constant resistance to the violence of the struggle for his peoples' freedom. Moreover, he spread throughout the world the Tibetan Conflict and the unjust violations of human rights faced by his country.

The Dalai Lama is a member of the Honor Committee of the International Coordination for a decade of peace and no violence.

His Holiness will be visiting Emory University for three days,

from October 20th to the 22nd, 2007. According to Emory's Newsletter, "His Holiness has accepted Emory's offer of a Presidential Distinguished Professorship, and



His holiness the Dalai Lama.
Photo courtesy www.dalailama.emory.edu

his visit to the university will include his installment in this position and his inaugural lecture."

Moreover, Emory University states that the Dalai Lama's visit will also include his presence and participation in a one-day conference on science and spirituality co-hosted by the Mind & Life Institute with leading scientists and contemplatives from the university and across the country on Saturday, October 20th.

Following this event on October 21st, His Holiness will lead an interfaith summit, which is already sold out, about religion as a source of conflict and a resource for peace building.

For those interested, His Holiness will give a free public talk in downtown Atlanta at Centennial Olympic Park on Monday afternoon, October 22nd.

His Holiness Dalai Lama

states, "I deeply value my close association with Emory University and have always appreciated Emory University's leading role in developing innovative programs that draw on the strengths of Tibetan and western civilization for mutual enrichment of our two traditions."

Having His Holiness the Dalai Lama visiting a University in the City of Atlanta, in the state of Georgia is a remarkable event. This visit is the only stop in the southern of the United States of "His Holiness' 2007 Tour." The visit follows another historic event taking place in Washington D.C. where the U.S. Congress presents His Holiness with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor.

Please visit the website: www.dalailama.emory.edu and check out details about his visit.

Career and Counseling Center: October Events

Beverages and snacks served at all CCC events.

Grand prize, a Nintendo Wii, awarded at end of semester. The more skillshops/events you attend, the greater your chance to win!

SKILLSHOP / ORIENTATION / EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Relationship Violence Month	October		
Men and Anger: Controlling the Volcano Within!	Oct. 2	7:30 pm	Community Center
Career Expo. (School of Architecture, CET, and Construction)	Oct. 3	3:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Ballroom
Co-op Orientation	Oct. 9	3:00 pm	Ballroom
What Major Is Best For Me?	Oct. 9	5:30 pm	Room 215
Women: Angry Feminist or Expressive Female? Where Do You Fit In?	Oct. 9	7:30 pm	Community Center
National Depression Screening Day	Oct. 10	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Student Center Lobby
Relationship Violence Week:	Oct. 14 - 20		
- Information On Relationship Violence	Oct. 15	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Student Center Lobby
- Breaking The Cycle Of Violence In Relationships	Oct. 16	7:30 pm	Community Center
- Information On Relationship Violence	Oct. 17	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Student Center Lobby
Internship Orientation	Oct. 17	3:00 pm	Room 215
Resumes For Todays Job Market	Oct. 17	5:00 pm	Room 215
Managing Stress In Our Lives	Oct. 24	7:30 pm	Community Center
Interviewing Skills That Work (Co-Sponsored by NSBE)	Oct. 25	12:00 pm	Ballroom
Weekend Career Series:	Oct. 27	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Room 215
- Resumes	Oct. 27	10:00 am	Room 215
- Interviewing	Oct. 27	11:00 am	Room 215
- Job Search	Oct. 27	12:00 pm	Room 215
- Salary Negotiations	Oct. 27	1:00 pm	Room 215
Dress 4 Success	Oct. 29	5:00 pm	Ballroom
Resume Critique Day	Oct. 30	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Student Center Lobby
Oct-Sober-Fest: Teaching Responsible Drinking Behaviors	Oct. 31	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Student Center Lobby
How To Work A Career Fair	Oct. 31	12:00 pm	Room 215

(Information provided by Jeff Hughes.)

CSE welcomes back its students

Professor Morrison
CS Undergraduate Coordinator

The School of Computing and Engineering at Southern Polytechnic State University recently held two receptions to welcome its incoming students and to welcome back its returning students.

Undergraduate students majoring in Computer Science, Information Technology, and Software Engineering were invited to attend a gathering at noon on Thursday, August 30th on the 3rd floor of the Atrium Building. Snacks, cake and drinks were available and students had the opportunity to participate in a "Get to Know Your Faculty and Staff Trivia Game" which enabled them

to learn many interesting facts about those that teach them and support the school. For instance, did you know we have a faculty member that has acted in a play with the professional actor Samuel L. Jackson? We also have a faculty member that was one of the first to publish a paper describing a link between folic acid deficiency and problems in pregnancy (kind of different for a computing professor, huh?). We also have at least one faculty member who can swear in 4 languages! There were four students with 20 correct answers and 2 students with 19 correct answers. All six received prizes for their efforts. Congratulations go to:

Steven Alcorn (IT major)
David Crichlow (CS major)

Jason Garcia (CS major)
Hamilton Hord (IT)
Kevin Olivier (CS major)
Matt Polis (SWE major)

The graduate students of the school were invited to a reception on Thursday, October 13th in the early evening to accommodate their evening class schedule. The event was well attended by both students and faculty and everyone enjoyed a free dinner of pizza and drinks.

It was a great way to start the year and get to know other students as well as faculty and staff. Look for future events in the CSE school like colloquia (invited talks on topics of interest), receptions for graduating students, and informal gatherings.



Graduate students enjoying their reception on October 13th.

Photo courtesy Paula Stadnicki

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Why not ride bikes?

Carolina Daza
Staff Writer

It takes little energy to make a small difference for a Greener World. Everyday more four-wheel vehicles are on the streets of Marietta, Atlanta and around the whole nation. Sadly, we are also seeing an increase in cars on our campus and it won't stop unless we, as a community, take the lead to change this tendency.

Pollution is a concern that should alarm us. Initiatives to use the Cobb Community Transit bus service, car-pooling or biking should be a number one priority. Why not bikes? It should be logical that in a relatively small and rapid growing city like Marietta,

and most importantly in a college campus, we should work on environmentally friendly urban planning and a better sustainable public transportation system.

However, I personally believe that for the meantime our best alternative is biking to move around quicker and easier. Bicycles improve our health, our environment, and indeed, it will inspire future generations to continue seeking other alternative ways to stop pollution. SPSU students, faculty and staff should work on projects that could be led by the Student Government Association and the Faculty Senate, in collaboration with the Student Activities Office to launch initiatives focused on bettering the quality of the air that surrounds

us, through the use of collective transportation.

On-campus bike renting services, promoting cycling groups, discounts on books, competitions and events attract cyclists to the use of affordable, safe, enjoyable and easy biking. Just think about it, taking your SPSU Hornet Card to the Student Center for a weekly rent of a bike, a helmet, and a lock. A bicycle is a two-wheel vehicle that brings great benefits to our physical and psychological health. Bikes do not contaminate, does not increase traffic or makes sounds. On-campus cycling will bring great progress of social and personal conditions in our student-led environment.

However, after much research I found out about the "Ef-

fective Cycling Course" offered sometime in Fall 2001. According to the syllabus, the EC Course was a dynamic class where participants practiced their classroom skills on the roadway. Moreover, it is a nationally certified course, taught by instructors trained by the League of American Bicyclists. The course was focused on safe ways of biking on roadways and in traffic. We should offer this course to all the university community, including family, alumni, friends and relatives. The Atlanta Bicycle Campaign states that it is "the largest bicycle advocacy group dedicated to making your ride better." Please check the website, www.atlantabike.org, for online cycling tips, socials, campaigns and group

cycling events.

Moving out of the United States to Latin America we find two countries, Colombia and Brazil that are well known for the use of bicycles. Bogotá, the capital city of Colombia, has more than 75 miles of bike paths on the city's roadways, on which roughly 2.2 million people use, one-third of the city's population. On the other hand, it is Rio de Janeiro that has 62 miles of roadways exclusively for bikes and has another 93 miles planned to follow.

How many miles of biking paths do we have on our campus or around Marietta? We can start by just imagining how different our campus will look if more two-wheel vehicles were moving around.



bicycles in Amsterdam, where they ride more frequently.

Photo courtesy www.ski-epic.com

The Middle: Hypocrisy and arrogance

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

Nobody's perfect. I'm going to start off with this premise that hopefully we can all agree on. Not one person alive is perfect. Furthermore, no human being has ever been perfect save one – Jesus Christ. However, for the sake of this article, if you don't believe in the perfectness of Jesus, then you don't have to. But, I wanted to state where I'm coming from, and my basic premise.

Hypocrite. It's a word that's just as commonly thrown around and abused as the word love, or blank-aphobe. Anyone who doesn't agree with the lifestyle of homosexuality is a homophobe. A professor once referenced a person who thinks that people in the U.S. should learn American English as a Xenophobe. I've even referenced militant atheists (Atheists who hate religion and look down on those associated with it) as diaphobic. While I believe my use of the word is more correct, they're all wrong in one specific issue. People who call someone some sort of phobic are making a judgment of that person's true feelings of the issue. Using myself as an example, by my calling someone who hates religion a diaphobe, I'm assuming that they are exaggerating

their inexplicable and illogical fear of deities. This comes from the flawed idea that I felt they were scared of religion. I assumed that I knew that person's true feelings and that they were suppressing their fear. Was this exactly what I was thinking? Not quite, but that's what my using of the term phobic was implying. To call someone a something-aphobic is quite arrogant unless they themselves acknowledge their own phobic nature. So, what does that have to do with hypocrites? A lot.

The definition of hypocrite is someone who does something in contradiction to their stated beliefs or opinions. This is too broad of a definition in my opinion, because since we're not perfect, we will at some point contradict what we believe. I may believe that it's wrong to hurt girls, but I will end up hurting a girl (not physically) at some point in my life, does this make me a hypocrite? Officially, yes, but it's not what I believe. I'm sure we can all agree that our beliefs are much more noble than our actual actions can ever be.

I would love to believe that I could be perfect as God is perfect. But, I can't be. I know that if I never sin, my life would be tremendously better, however, I will sin. It's not something I'm proud of, nor is it something I can

ever erase. Yes, I willingly do actions that are against God's wishes, but that's not what I want to do. Paul put it best in his letter to Romans 7:15: "For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do everything I hate."

Imagine if you will, you're in a relationship with someone that you really do love, and you keep willingly doing actions that hurt the one you love. You don't actually want to hurt the one you love, and you actually do want to grow closer to them, but you keep screwing up. Does it make you a hypocrite when you say, "I love you"? And then don't say the right thing at another time and hurt the one you love? If you say, "I want to get an A in Math." But then you sleep through your alarm and miss class, causing you to lose perfect attendance and therefore your A, are you also being a hypocrite? I would argue no because your heart is in the right place. It's the heart that counts. To me, a hypocrite is anyone willing to hold someone to a standard they themselves are unwilling to commit to.

Is someone who tells people not to have sex before they're married while sleeping with his girlfriend the same as someone who claims to be a Christian and has slept with his girlfriend once? The first person is

holding other people to a standard that he is not willing to keep himself, while the second believes that there is a high standard, but has fallen short of it. To call them both hypocrites would be to say they are the same. One is unwilling to keep, whereas the second is trying to keep to a perfect standard but falling short. Yet, both can be considered hypocrites, and those who don't believe in saving themselves call them both hypocrites with no specific distinction.

So what happens when people call both of them hypocrites? The entire system of beliefs is labeled hypocritical, and all members of this belief are labeled hypocrites. It leads to a gross prejudice of the group. And what ends up happening is that by judging the heart or the intentions of the two aforementioned individuals, we set ourselves up as an authority of a specific group. And if we're not in a position to be a judge, it's pure arrogance. We put ourselves above the person we're judging with no real reason to. "You're bad according to what you believe and I'm going to wag that above your head." What's worse is when we leave arrogance for hypocrisy. Not only are we going to damn an entire group for the actions of a few, but we're going to call them bad, and

condemn them for actions that we ourselves do and have no problem with. "When you state in your beliefs it's wrong because it's forcing your beliefs down my throat, however, I can state my beliefs because it's truth."

It seems that when people fall short of their stated beliefs we jump quickly to condemn the person and the belief system instead of the action. But many times we can't condemn the action because we personally believe that there's no problem with the action, but we feel as if we have to speak out against the person or the beliefs system. Whether it be from a position of arrogance because of our high standards, or a position of arrogance because someone with high standards isn't meeting them.

The major problem I have with the Christian church today is that we're so quick to hate the individual instead of what the true problem is, their action. On the other side non-Christian's condemn the beliefs when the person falls short, because a lot of times the non-Christian doesn't have a problem with what the person did.

Taking this to a broader view, I believe these two sides sum up where we as humans fall consistently. We either condemn the person or the belief structure. We rarely condemn the action itself.

Response to readers...

Stuart Michelson
Copy Editor

It has come to many reader's attention as well as my own that there have been several photo caption edits (or even additions as the case has been) on several of my articles in recent months. Since I have been confronted by no less than 22 individuals (verbal and otherwise) about the most recent incident in which my challenging of faulty scientific evidence being used to promote the idea of man-made climate change was equated to my supposed lack of empathy for arctic wildlife. I started to keep count as I was amazed that so many people noticed. Some were inquiring as to whether or not I authored the caption, because if I did I had "discredited myself" and that it was "in bad taste" since it seemed to contradict the message of my article. More popularly though, were those who were inquiring as to who was responsible for defacing my article. I use the word "deface" because 3 of the 22 individuals used this term. Unfortunately, the rather unnecessary caption in this most recent case detracted from the article as a whole and added nothing to it. It was clearly unappreciated (and I am not speaking for myself as much as for the readers that actually took the time to write me or speak to me about it.)

This is not however the first time readers have found seemingly out of place captions with photos in articles I have written. For instance, one a few months ago implied that I was calling Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi a "heathen" simply because I disagreed with her foreign policy decisions. I only received a few comments about that, and so I brushed it off as something that would hopefully not occur again. Especially since I, in that case, had submitted my own

caption for the attached photo. But the apparent uproar this latest instance has caused I think overall hurts The Sting and its credibility. Therefore I want to address here it in a brief statement.

Journalism by nature should strive to be as fair as possible. I understand that everyone has their bias. I do not mean to say that my messages or thoughts are the only ones that should be conveyed on any given topic. On the contrary, I encourage and welcome discourse privately or in print in promotion or disagreement with the things I write. If the party / parties responsible for the caption edits desired for their clearly alternate viewpoints to be heard, I would have encouraged them to do so in a professional and investigative manner in the form of their own article. There is no need to use my work as a pedestal for a negative message about the very topic that work addresses. I contend that it is unprofessional and a sign of poor journalism because the author of the caption is not signing their name to the content of the caption, rather it is by default deferred to the article's author—me.

So what? I felt this needed to be printed for several reasons. First and foremost, to clear up the misconception that I was responsible for the captions in question- I was most assuredly not. Second, this seemed to be important enough that 22 readers expressed concern. I want their concerns to be validated. Third, readers requested a statement with my thoughts. And finally, I am not asking for an apology or for caption's author to come forward. However, I hope that this statement will also ensure that such caption edits will not occur in the future. Again, I welcome and desire for all viewpoints to be printed in The Sting, just not on top of one another and authorlessly.

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To the privileged few...

Merius Atangcho
Contributing Writer

Most reasonable persons would agree with the idea that with freedom comes responsibility. It is to these same persons that I now make the case that with privilege comes the greatest responsibility. Privilege is a special right, not a right granted by birth alone. Privilege comes as a result of the circumstances into which one is born. Therefore, a person born into affluence is privileged, and, as such, bears a much greater, if not the greatest, responsibility towards others because that person has the means to effect change.

I meet with some resistance when I attempt to argue this point with friends because it seems hard for them to accept that they are privileged. Many appear to have the need to feel as if they struggled in some way. Whether or not one has struggled is besides the point. Everyone goes through hardship, some more than others, but that hasn't much bearing on whether or not one is privileged.

I would simply ask anyone to evaluate the resources at their disposal and it shouldn't be too difficult to determine that one is privileged, if being in an industrialized society didn't already give

it away.

Taking SPSU as an example, it isn't difficult to establish that the overwhelming majority of students at this school are privileged, whether or not they would like to admit it.

We are in the richest nation on earth. We are attending university. Most of us have adequate resources, including school supplies and reliable means of transportation, to complete our studies. We can even afford excess, which adds to the general enjoyment, tolerance, or convenience of our academic experience. Even the very fact that I can take the time to ponder issues such as these and write about them shows that I am privileged. The only change is the degree to which one is privileged, but we all are privileged.

There are certain rights that should be afforded to all simply by virtue of being born, but because of the present world order they are privileges afforded to a few. It is for this reason that with privilege comes the greatest responsibility: we the privileged have the ability and duty to struggle for a more equitable balance.

Education is one such example of a right that is at the moment a privilege. Everyone should have

the right to education, both from parents and society at large. Yet that right is, and continues to be, stripped away because of concentration of wealth and power, and, as a result, education becomes a privilege.

While we could wait for wealthy, powerful individuals or groups to care enough, the educated elite can provide a real avenue for change.

Perhaps another reason I have met with some resistance is because of the strongly felt burden of responsibility that comes with accepting that one is privileged.

I would remind those individuals that most, if not all, of what we have now come to regard as rights have been the result of personal sacrifice and group activism. If one truly holds those rights dear and appreciates the sacrifices made by others on our behalf, then that responsibility should be assumed with pride and as a legacy, honoring the efforts of prior generations.

More depressing and frustrating to witness than the flaws in any system and their consequences are those who have the means to speak and act stand by in silence, either out of fear, ignorance or despair.

A simple remedy for those in despair would be to review history.

Fear is simply cowardice. There are people around the world in far worse and dangerous conditions unimaginable to us (the privileged) struggling for basic human rights at the cost of their lives.

Yet in the U.S., the freest country in the world—free in the sense that one's life isn't in real danger if one dissents—fear, usually of personal (reputation) and financial ruin, leads to conformism and inaction.

Basically, a price is put on humanity and it's decided that humanity isn't even worth the payment. It's simply cowardly and depraved.

As for the ignorant, get an education, not training for obedience. Power structures must be justified, so are always, first, illegitimate. We live in a (world) society where challenging authority is discouraged, and this is taught from early on. Compliance is selected for, and those who fail to comply rarely make it into the more privileged circles.

I think all of us as students can appreciate this fact because we almost certainly wouldn't be in university otherwise.

It is also no secret that universities are increasingly tailoring students to meet corporate re-

quirements, a big part of which is obedience. Add to that intense propaganda (also from corporations), aimed generally at the privileged few whose compliance, passivity, or resources are critical because they actually could effect change, and one ends up with a system in part built to pacify or blind the masses.

The only remedy is to see through, or rip through, the veil of propaganda, which can be accomplished by constantly and critically looking for answers and never settling for sound bites or the like. It can be accomplished by getting an education.

With freedom comes responsibility, yet freedom itself is a privilege. Hence the struggle for freedom for all is a continuous one everywhere.

Education is the path to freedom. All matters must be critically assessed, especially institutions of power.

We, the educated elite are, or can be, instrumental in the struggle for justice, but we must first educate ourselves. Our very survival is at stake.

To despair is to lose faith in humanity. To despair is to lose oneself. My faith is in humanity and in our incredible capacity for good.

Humanity is my faith.

Clearing the air of global (warming) misunderstanding

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

As much as I hate to argue against a fellow staff member in print, I simply can't stand by and let Stuart's article "Clearing the air about everything green" go unchallenged.

And I hate to argue against his article for the following reason: I agree with his main point. We should recycle and care for the environment because it's the responsible thing to do. However, there are so many points within the article I find flawed that I can't help but say something.

Man-Made Global Warming?

It is true that the Earth naturally has cycles of warm and cold periods. There was a period in human history called "The Little Ice Age" in which crops failed and winters lasted extraordinarily long for years. However, is it not possible that the huge hole in the ozone layer due to human invention has anything to do with it? Seems to me that if more UV rays are hitting earth directly, this is going to have a serious impact on the state of the earth—Or, if not a serious impact, at least some. You can't simply ignore it or say it's not there. We're likely to never get that ozone back. That, in and of itself, is a man-made issue.

Reduction in Carbon Emissions?

Stuart says: "If CO2 emissions are responsible for global warming, then how can 2006 be hotter than 2005 and yet 2006 had a reduction in CO2 emissions? Someone call Al Gore, it will take some

creative propaganda to explain this one." I don't need to call Al Gore, watch "An Inconvenient Truth," or pull out some creative propaganda for this one.

Okay, so we've reduced our carbon emissions and energy dependency. I'd certainly hope so. But you have to consider that a decline in 5%—at the MOST—over a year is what? How many carbon emissions do you think we're producing compared to how many we wouldn't be producing if we weren't here? I'm not saying "kill all humans," but you have to compare it based against if there were no carbon emissions to begin with.

Another way of looking at it: That's a 5% reduction in our OUTPUT of CO emissions—not a 5% reduction in emissions in the ATMOSPHERE. Therefore, it's still getting worse. We're still putting out 95% of emissions we put out last year, adding more emissions to

the atmosphere.

In addition, simply because you reduce a little bit doesn't mean that things are going to get better instantly. That's like saying gradually over time you get your diet up to 200,000 calories (when a daily recommended diet is 2,000.) So you reduce your amount of calories to 190,000 for a year (a 5% decrease.) The likelihood is that you're really not fixing much. You might not even lose any weight. You're still consuming 188,000 calories more than you should!

A Cold Front?

Stuart pulls out the famous: "it's called global warming but it was a record cold year last year." This is unfortunately a mistake of naming. "Global warming" should really be called "global climate change."

When the ice caps melt (which you simply can't argue they're not

—if you want to, e-mail me, and I'll show you plenty of evidence that they are) they are dumping multitudes of cold, fresh water into the oceans. Oceans are very complex. Oceans are the reason it snows in Maine in the winter and is sunny all year round in California.

So when a ton of cold, fresh water is dumped into the ocean currents from the arctic, it interferes greatly with the warm water coming mostly from the equator. In the most simplistic of terms, since there is so much more cold water in the ocean, the warm water from the equator takes much less time to cool off on its path back up to the U.S., which will in turn cause cooler temperatures for us over all.

While it's unlikely that all this will cause us to go into another ice age because the earth as a whole still is warming, it will cause temperatures overall to be a little cooler in the States and around other parts

of the world.

Guilt Complex?

And you know what, I don't really agree much with Hollywood. But maybe you should feel a little bit guilty about driving your wasteful SUV—and not because some bird is going to choke on your exhaust, but simply because you don't need it. Maybe you feel more "safe," but if everyone drove small cars, there would be no need to be "safe" from SUVs. And when it's just you driving around in there 99% of the time with room enough for six, maybe you should consider why you're really driving an SUV. And then, when it costs you \$50 to put gas in your tank after getting a measly 14 miles to the gallon, maybe you'll realize your vehicle is completely wasteful.

And when you bring home 15 plastic bags from Wal-Mart, consider that those bags might never decompose because they're a man-made polymer that nothing sees as food. And then multiply that by how many plastic bags you think people take home from Wal-Mart each day and maybe you should feel a little guilty for not bringing your own bags to the store, even if it only saves 15 bags from being dumped in the earth a week.

You can't simply ignore all the affects humans have had on the Earth because you don't want to feel bad. But you can take responsibility and work to change it.

And even if that's not your motivation, consider this:

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." - Genesis 2-15



Plastic doesn't rot or decompose in landfills.

Photo courtesy www.wakegov.com

Wood of wonders

Carolina Daza
Staff Writer

CITYSCAPE is the name given to Arne Quinze's new creation. CITYSCAPE is a beautiful gigantic sculpture of tangled wood that will be situated for one year on downtown Brussels, Belgium. More exactly, the sculpture will stand for one year in the Prowinko building site at the heart of Brussels's luxury district, on the Avenue De La Toison D'OR, between la Porte de Namur and la Porte Louise.

Arne Quinze is a Belgian artist, founder and artistic director of the prestigious design company "Quinze and Milan." The company is also a stage that attracts the work of designers and architects to open their path in the realization of their ideas. Previous to CITYSCAPE, he worked with other wooden installations like UCHRONIA, TIMEGATE, GALACTIC TRANSPORTER, and DESIGN POST COLOGNE. UCHRONIA was built and burned down last September of 2006 in Death Valley, Nevada. It was built in a joint project with Jaga and was burned down as the closing ceremony of the festival the "Burning Man." UCHRONIA was designed and built to represent a futuristic message, full of unsolved mysteries and the combination of all human races and emotions.

But now, Quinze states, "CITYSCAPE reflects a moment frozen in time, an instant. This in-

stallation open to all who wish to discover it, finds its meaning in the dynamic generated through interaction with its environment, the pattern of sunlight touching it, the coming and going curious passers by."

CITYSCAPE is a joint project operation with car brand MINI. The wooden structure is a mean of expression that causes sudden reactions and emotions to anyone. Due to its impotence and unique design,

it's almost impossible to ignore it. It has a size of 131.23 feet long, 82.02 feet wide and 59.05 feet high. Moreover, according to Quinze, it's a unique fashion of communication, a place of mediation, peace and interaction. Not only its location has significance but the use of its environmental surroundings. From a different perspective, more than a sculpture, it is a visual delight. It's a vision of the growing international

influence that the capital of Europe is living. CITYSCAPE will be open to the public from September 14, 2007 onwards.

It makes me wonder of the incredible talents we find here at SPSU in unique places like the Architecture building, Engineering labs, and many more spots that gather students' talents and creativity. SPSU students and faculty spend countless hours, creating, designing and building.

Arne Quinze is an example to follow, the combination of environment, urban planning, and human emotions create uncountable pleasures in life. Let's all work with our true talents and surroundings. SPSU has given us all the tools let's use them and share them to all. Our President stated in the Fall 2006 Convocation, "Imagination, Innovation, Application," our university's seal. SPSU is a formula for success in your future."



Preliminary model of CITYSCAPE.

Photo courtesy www. www.cityscape.be

Bullies?

Amber Lawson
Staff Writer

Who would have thought that at this stage in the game there would still be bullies in our midst? Not I, but that fact was proven to be true after an experience I had in one of my classes. You won't believe it, but trust me, its true.

I have one particular class that meets once a week for four hours in a computer lab. I arrive to class on time and take a seat. I need to leave the room for a moment and when I come back there's a girl in my seat. Keep in mind that I left my book bag and other personal items at this particular seat.

I calmly tell the chick that she's in my seat, clearly my things are here and I was sitting here first.

As soon as these words leave my mouth I can't really believe that I'm having this conversation. I'm thinking, I am 20 something, right? I am in college, right? We're both grownups, right? We're both supposed to be mature adults, right? Nope, not right.

Clearly, I have entered an alternate universe where up is down, left is right and people are immature and rude. If this is where the story ended then perhaps I wouldn't have even written this piece but the story continues.

I continue to converse with the girl about seat ownership and in a loud voice heard throughout the classroom she tells me, "I am

sitting here now. You can sit somewhere else. I'm working here."

Again, I'm thinking that this is not real. This must be an episode of *Boiling Point*, right? Nope.

Of course, at this point I can't leave it alone. I've got to get the teacher involved. It's not really about the seat anymore it's about the principle of the thing. This girl stole my seat!

I ask the professor to come over and mediate. Nothing doing. He asks her to move and she gets louder.

Wow! I really can't believe this scenario. I'm not angry just in shock and disbelief. I've got two options at this juncture: either physically remove her from the seat (not really a practical option) or go sit somewhere else. I sit somewhere else.

In her final statement to me as the teacher asked me to sit at another computer sums up this entire experience.

"Tattletale," she hisses as I move my things.

All I can do is laugh, internally of course, because I don't want to provoke the crazy girl who stole my seat.



Plugged in at the Coffeehouse

Dia Zero and Estarla

Marlena Compton
Staff Writer

The search for music at SPSU generally reveals nothing but disappointment. Aside from an undersupported and underfunded radio station and the SPSU band, I generally don't see very much going on at our school musically. The concert sponsored by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers on Monday, September 17 was a refreshing and welcomed surprise. Even better than having a decent rock concert on campus, it was refreshing to see Latino music that had NOTHING to do with the popular North American perception of Latino music (i.e. mariachi, polka or salsa). These bands were straight up rock and roll, and they had the chords, the piercings and the screaming girls in the audience to prove it.

Opening band, Estarla, played some very nice and quite

thrashy tunes which suited their modern haircuts and onstage image. Their set included a cover of Blink 182's song, "Damage." If the rest of their songs were covers, I didn't notice, I was too busy enjoying the music. Although I didn't time any of their songs, I got the feeling some of them were a bit longer than the traditional 3:30 radio-ready song, but they were not overly-repetitive.

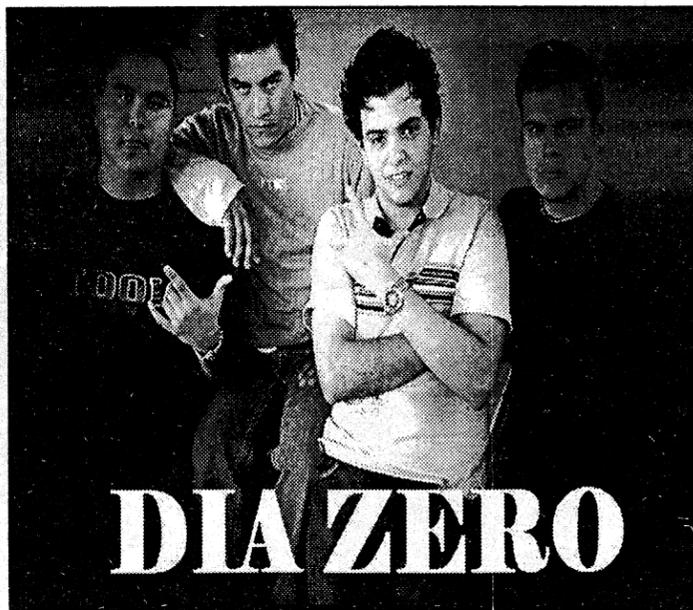
Headlining band, Dia Zero, seemed to specialize more in performing covers, but the covers were obviously crowd favorites judging by the number of people at the show. Included in these were the Guns n' Roses epic, "November Rain" and awe-

some Heros del Silencio favorite "Entre Dos Tierras" which I really enjoyed. The animated lead singer was obviously very into the music, but my favorite performer of the night was the Dia Zero guitarist. He knows his way around the guitar and is not afraid to show it.

The concert took place in the Coffeehouse and drew a great crowd, especially for a Monday. If this is any indication of our collective campus appetite for live music, other student groups ought to sit up and take notice. It doesn't take the greatest band ever to draw a crowd here, just an interesting bunch of musicians who know how to play covers and

can play them in tune. I'm hoping to see more advertisements around campus for this type of event. At the very least, the Hispanic Engineer's were talking about having another concert next year. I'll definitely plan to be there if they do.

Dia Zero and Estarla will be performing at Tony's Bar and Grill (2590 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Duluth, GA) on October 6.



These dudes were at our school.

Photo courtesy www.myspace.com

Retrospective of Legacy of Kain: Part Deux

Sean Fine
Senior Staff Writer

Systems: PS1, PS2, XB, PC
Genre: Action-Puzzle Adventure

Both Blood Omen and Soul Reaver were games that were ahead of their time, yet the cliff hanger that Soul Reaver left gamers at practically screamed sequel. Not to mention hardcore Kain fans who longed to play as the vampiric author of the end of the world. Fortunately, Crystal Dynamics announced not one but two games that would be released fairly close to each other. One game continued the saga that Soul Reaver left off, while the other promised players a advanced experience of playing as Kain.

Two years after Soul Reaver's release, its sequel, Soul Reaver 2 was released in 2001. Upon exiting the time portal in hopes to pursue Kain, Raziel instead finds himself in the presence of Moebius the Time-Streamer, who admits to pulling the wraith warrior from the time stream if only to inform him of the urgency of how Kain must be killed and that Raziel is the only one who can do it. From there, Raziel embarks on his journey of the Nosgoth of yester-generation, to continue his hunt for Kain as well as his hunt for his past identity.

Where Raziel had to learn all his physical moves in the first Soul Reaver, Raziel remembers all his abilities, allowing a heavy amount of exploration from the get-go. However, there were still special areas Raziel could only access through the power of the Elemental Reavers. Within the Nosgoth's younger realm, there existed numerous temples forged and crafted by vampires, revealed to masters and the creators of the fabled reaver. These temples each are dedicated to a different element, ranging from darkness to light, and wind to fire. Each elemental power were used to solve puzzles, just as famous for difficulty and satisfaction as previous incarnations of the series.

The combat in Soul Reaver 2 added a lock on system and an increased emphasis on the use of the Soul Reaver. With enemies whose difficulty only increased as the game progressed, fights were satisfying, especially against some of the larger foes later on. If there was a problem with the game's combat, it was the surprising lack of any form of boss battles. Sure, there were some enemies that were pretty tough, but none of them had the puzzle-solving that the previous Soul Reaver had, but

despite that minor complaint, Soul Reaver 2 was an excellent sequel to an already grand series.

As the plot developed in Soul Reaver 2, Raziel confronted Kaziel several times, only to be met with more questions of why so many power figures, including Moebius and Raziel's reviver Elder God. In one confrontation, Kain reveals that everything that has happened has been set by Moebius' in order to benefit his desires, including the death of Kain. The only thing capable of breaking the chains of history was in fact the presence of two Soul Reavers.

In order to establish himself as a being of free will, Raziel spares Kain and decides to choose his own journey to find out what his true purpose is. This leads Raziel across the history of Nosgoth in order to meet Janos Audron, the last of the original vampire race. Janos reveals that the Reaver was made for Raziel and for him alone, but before the wraith is able to grasp the blade, Sarafan zealots, led by a still-living Raziel, charge Janos' tower and tear the heart of darkness from Janos' chest, while Raziel is teleported away. In hopes to revive the legendary vampire, Raziel sieges the Sarafan stronghold, only to find the Reaver stolen by the zealots earlier and from there, Raziel single-handedly kills all the Sarafan lieutenants who would end up becoming Kain's vampiric generals, including himself.

After the final struck is blow, Raziel discovers one shocking realization as the Reaver blade itself turns on the wraith and starts draining his soul. It was the truth that the Reaver blade that was imbued with a powerful soul that could tear through any foe with ease, and that soul was Raziel himself. At the last moment, Kain appears and saves Raziel from his wretched fate, creating a paradox in history that shook the foundations of the world itself, where Kain sees the possibility of an even worse enemy, the Hylden. In a state of desperate panic, Kain tries to warn Raziel what the course of his actions might bring, but the warnings fall to nothing as Raziel fades into the spectral realm with only his wraith blade to accompany him. "History abhors a paradox."

The next year and six years following it's prequel, the sequel to Blood Omen, aptly named Blood Omen 2, was released for the Playstation 2, Xbox, Gamecube, and PC, but the game wasn't something gamers were quite expecting. In previews, the thought of Kain's suave vampire form in 3D as he

traveled Nosgoth was sheer blissful. Additionally, the knowledge of Kain's powers such as mist form, and assassinating unsuspecting guards made the game sound ever sweeter. The end result was a little surprising to fans of the series.

Set four hundred years after the events in Blood Omen, Kain has roused an army to take over Nosgoth and establish his empire. After one battle, Kain is fatally wounded and wakes up two hundred years later, where the Sarafan have developed glyph magic to combat Kain and his vampiric army. All that remains is a underground resistance battling the Sarafan and their commander, along with the traitorous vampires that swore fealty to the Sarafan Lord and now protect him.

The gameplay is Blood Omen 2 differs incredibly from the original title and borrows the 'learn abilities by defeating bosses' gimmick that began in Soul Reaver. However, players were given great limitations. Where the only limitation in Soul Reavers were minor such as needed a full health to use the Reaver or needing a portal to escape the spectral realm, Blood Omen 2's abilities required conditions such as needing to be in a fog area in order to use Kain's mist ability and some abilities didn't feel like a grand upgrade, such as jump which allowed you to... well, jump farther. Some abilities weren't usable until the right amount of Rage was acquired, which required players to block against enemies in order to build their Rage. Blood Omen 2 also required players to scavenge a variety of weapons from enemies, but their weapons seemed to be poorly made and broke after extended use.

The story of Blood Omen 2 is revealed to be a history that was made from the time paradox caused in Soul Reaver 2, bringing up a new mysterious force known as the hylden, a former race of demonic creatures that once waged a endless war against the original vampiric race, but the vampires rose triumphantly over them. Before their banishment, the hylden placed a curse of blood lust on the vampires, forcing them to feed on the blood of humans. While the story itself revealed an important piece to the mysterious puzzle the previous games have constructed, there were many details that fans were confused about, the highest of which was the return of Vorador, the great vampire who had been executed in the original game. While he had made a cameo in Soul Reaver 2, it was easily explained since Raziel was propelled back in time to before the events occurred.

Most Kain fans did not take kindly to Blood Omen 2's limited gameplay and plot-hole red-dened story, and some of them even shunned the game from the series, considering it to be the black sheep of the series. Regardless, it was a mildly unsuccessful game within a grand one, so it must be mentioned.

The final game in the Legacy of Kain series (to this point) is Defiance, which came out in 2003 almost unexpectedly. It would be this last game, this last chance to conclude



You think Obi-wan and Anakin was epic, you should have seen this fight.
Photo courtesy of gamecritics.com

a story and satisfy fans and gamers alike around the globe, and it went out with a bang.

After the events of Soul Reaver 2, Kain and Raziel are separated by the course of 500 hundred years as Raziel was forced to recover from his soul-threatening experience with the Reaver from the last game. Both souls, Kain and Raziel, continue their traversing journey over Nosgoth in order to uncover the destiny that fate has written out for them and stop both ever-reviving Moebius and Elder God, who both seem to be so obsessed with the death of Kain.

From the get go, players found hardly any limit to their combat and abilities. Using a more action based system for battle, gamers could quickly move across the field and fight the various enemies, be they vampire hunters, Sarafan guards, or demons. Combat felt fluid and despite a few camera angle problems, it was a fun experience. To top it all off, the game allowed the abilities to play as both Raziel and Kain. While Kain didn't have all of his abilities from Blood Omen, he still had a wide array of elemental moves that he accessed as the game progressed, as well as his ability to mist through enemies and previous impassable bar gates. As for Raziel, being drained by the Soul Reaver forced the wraith warrior to go through temples once more but this time, the different abilities of the Reaver gave tactics to combat and the sword abilities of both characters could be switched on the fly. But what about the story? The game mechanics itself were good, but without a truly epic story that connected everything, the final game would've been nearly worthless.

In the final chapter, Raziel and Kain discover they are the champions of two opposing sides, Kain being the champion of the vampires, while Raziel represented the hylden. It was foretold that the hylden champion would kill the vampiric champion and thus, fulfill the Hylden prophecy. Additionally, Raziel found Janos' body, not aged a bit, because the heart of darkness, Janos' own heart, still beats. Furthermore, the necromancer tells the wraith warrior that the heart was used to in fact make Kain the vampire he is today. When the two finally confront each other, Raziel fights and kills Kain, tearing the heart of darkness from the vampire's chest. Yet even after Raziel revives the long

dead vampire, Janos takes Raziel to a vampiric citadel where Raziel finds the Elder God has taken root. After managing to sever his spiritual link to the temple, Raziel was able to purify the Reaver, giving the power to see without lies. Yet when Raziel meets Janos again, the catastrophic moment of the pillars' collapse occurs and Janos becomes possessed by hylden spirits and easily disposes of Raziel, who is then trapped by the Elder.

Finally, when all hope seemed lost and no light to vanquish the evil that had begun to consume the land, there was a voice, Kain's voice when he awoke to find himself not dead, but simply unconscious for a time. Even if the heart of darkness gave him life, Kain was the Psion of Balance and immune to the petty rewritings of history. Going to the same vampiric citadel, Kain found and murdered Moebius, whose soul was stabbed by Raziel's purified Soul Reaver and Moebius, for the first time saw the Elder God and recoiled in horror of the creature he had been serving. Even with the purified Reaver though, Raziel could not hurt the Elder God. There was only one last hope that this nightmare be put to an end forever.

Raziel, using Moebius' corpse, returned to the material realm one last time, if only to throw himself onto Kain's own Blood Reaver, sacrificing himself so that the blade would be whole once more. It was then that Kain saw the Elder God for the first time and despite the Elder God's warnings of damnation, Kain sliced through the spawn of Cthulu with ease, forcing it to retreat in terror of the truly immortal vampire. After the defeat of the Elder God, Kain looks Nosgoth and looks back on everything that has happened to this point of the twists and turns and of his best lieutenant Raziel. "Most ironic of all, was the last gift that Raziel had given me. More powerful than the sword that now held his soul, more acute even than the vision that his sacrifice had accorded me. The first, bitter taste of that terrible illusion: hope."

There are still a few plot holes to be filled and some fans that sincerely crave another title in the series (myself included, but whether or not that day will come, we can always look back and know that with all the vampires in games today, it truly began with one.



With the power of "next" generation technology, cutscenes evolved from simple talk to full blown actions.
Photo courtesy of IGN.com

DJ Max Portable 2

Jasmine King
Staff Writer

In case you didn't notice last semester (or you just weren't paying attention), I have a weakness for obscure PSP games. Through my gaming travels, I stumbled across a nice little online rhythm game called DJ Max, and its PSP counterpart, DJ Max Portable. I reviewed DMP a while back, and consider it to be one of the best games on the PSP. The sequel, aptly named DJ Max Portable 2, came out earlier this year, and it's better than its predecessor.

If you've played any of Konami's Beatmania games, then you know what DMP2 is all about. It's a fast-paced (or slow paced, depending on your skill level) DJing simulation (actually, I'd imagine that actual DJing is a bit more complicated than pressing buttons in a sequence, but I'm not complaining), complete with crazy songs and even crazier play modes.

You can play a simple set of songs with either four, five, six, or eight buttons, or you can take on the "Xtreme Challenges" to unlock even more songs and interface skins.

Once you've played a song in a set, it becomes available in the Free Style area, where you can button-mash to your heart's

content with no extra conditions to meet.

As a rhythm game fiend, I love this game to death. Unfortunately, like the first DMP, the learning curve for the higher levels is fairly steep. You might be able to pull off a Max Combo on a four-button song, but the same song with five or six buttons will give you trouble.

(On a slightly unrelated note, if you fail a song, the game tells you not to give up rather than screaming "YOU NEED MORE PRACTICE" like it did in DMP1. I just found that amusing.)

Also, the unlock list is excruciatingly long. Between different note skins, songs, and avatars, I'll probably be playing this game for a while. Luckily, there are multiple ways to unlock almost everything, so if you're a skilled player, it won't take as long.

For a PSP game, DMP2 is

amazing. For a game in general, DMP2 is phenomenal.

Have a PSP, but bored with the poor selection of games that make it to the States? Hop on the nearest computer and order DMP2, which usually runs anywhere between \$30-50.



You have to wonder what the true appeal is...
Photo courtesy of ncsxshop.com

Think you know how to defend against hackers?

Southern Polytechnic Information Security Association (SPISA) announces a new Network Security / Hack Prevention Contest.

Teams will be given machines that have to be secured and defended against a team of professional security penetration testers. If interested please email spisaadmin@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 3 @ 11:00 am

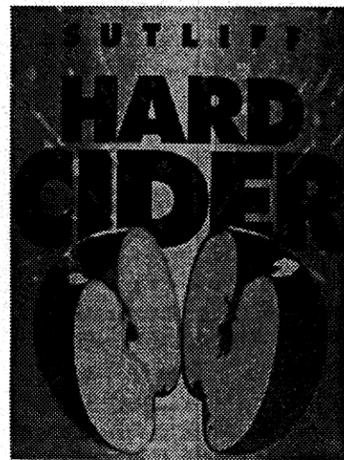
Local alcoholic's corner

Fall suggestions

Karen Asay
Editor Emeritus

Fall is here with its mild temperature and its cooling breezes, which make those frozen summer drink not so appealing.

So, what are some good fall drinks? Well, going with the fall theme, cider drinks and sour apple martinis come to mind along with coffee drinks to warm your bones on those cold fall nights.



Cider Drinks

Let's start with cider drinks. As you have probably guessed the main ingredient is apple cider. Apple cider is a good seasonal drink before you add the liquor so afterwards you know it'll be great.

Now, you can add a few liquors to the apple cider but I mainly suggest only two. One, a shot of vodka is an excellent

idea if you are looking for a good stiff drink or want to get drunk without drinking something horrible.

Two, cinnamon schnapps add a spice flavor to the apple cider that complements the cider's natural taste.

This drink isn't one you can find at a restaurant but apple cider is pretty easy to find this time of year. Kroger, Walmart, and Publix are selling it and I'm pretty sure you could find apple cider at Harry's Farmers Market.

I don't really have any advice on the cinnamon schnapps but when it comes to the vodka, stay away from the Mr. Boston.

Sour Apple Martini

Sour apple martini...this one is more for the ladies.

Guys, you will probably get picked on if you order this around your friends; however, making a lady this drink might win you a few points.

OK, on to making this point winning drink. You need one shot of citrus vodka and a half shot of Sour Apple Pucker (go figure...), orange liqueur, and lemon juice.

This drink is normally served in a martini glass but if you are at a college party, a martini glass probably isn't a good idea so use a rocks glass.

Lastly, the drink is garnished with a cherry. Anyone like

cherries? Hehe.

Sour apple martinis are a little sweet so getting really drunk off them will probably make you sick.

Suggestion, drink one or two of them and switch to something less sweet.

Anyway, once you're drunk, taste won't be a big factor anymore. Also, avoid Mr.



Boston vodka.

Coffee Drinks

For those cold fall nights, a hot drink probably sounds pretty good. Well, coffee drinks are an awesome way to warm your bones and relax your spirit.

There are many different coffee drinks but it is normally standard to have one shot of alcohol per cup of coffee. This means when you have two liquors, you pour half a shot of each in the drink.

Let's start with an easy one, Irish coffee. Irish coffee has Irish whiskey and Bailey's in it.

So, recap. Since Irish coffee has Irish whiskey and Bailey's in it, you need to pour half a shot of Irish whiskey and half a shot of Bailey's into your cup of coffee. Easy, no?

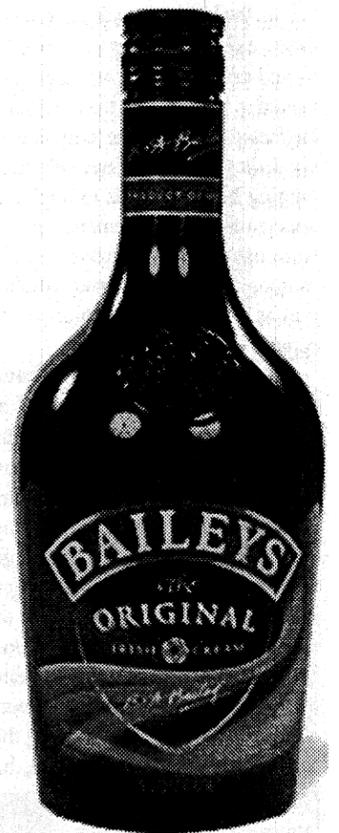
Next, Keoki coffee is a coffee drink with Kahlua and brandy. Come on. You know that sounds good.

Last for this article is Night in Florida because as it gets colder, more and more of us are going to wish we were in Florida.

This coffee recipe calls for Kahlua, hazelnut liqueur, triple sec, and Bailey's.

For this drink, I might break the one shot rule and do a half shot of each ingredient.

You know it's going to taste good so why not make it a little stronger?



So that ends this edition's drink advice. Hope you enjoy these drinks but be safe about it. Wear a condom...



His feet are guided by his stomach, and today it leads him off to somewhere in Bavaria. Join him in his thrilling debut as...

The gastropod takes on Oktoberfest

Adam Myers
Staff Writer

It's the end of September, and that means one thing: Oktoberfest is here! [But wait a moment you say - Wouldn't Oktoberfest happen in October?]

Therein lies the first fallacy about Oktoberfest. The original celebration of all things beer related in Munich Germany, falls almost entirely in the month of September, ending on the first Sunday in October. The festival originally commemorated the marriage of the future King Ludwig I of Bavaria with the princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen, who were wed on October 12, 1810. While to this day the festival grounds are known as the Theresienwiese (or simply Weis'n for those in the know), the city leaders soon decided that September offered more favorable weather, and Oktoberfest refers more to its consummation than its commencement.

The word "Oktoberfest" conjures up certain vivid imageries. Roast chickens and oxtails, heaping helpings of käsespätzle, sausages of every kind, all garnished with sauerkraut; oom-pah bands clad in lederhosen, dancing to a polka beat; and of course, voluptuous dirndl-wearing fräuleins serving golden brews in massive glass mugs (coincidentally, which is known in German as a mass). While the picture might be accurate, don't try ordering a St. Pauli Girl on the Weis'n: only the six breweries incorporated in the city of Munich - Augustiner, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Löwenbräu, Paulaner, and Spaten - are allowed to serve beer at the Munich Oktoberfest. Furthermore, the grandiose beer tents most commonly associated with the festival did not appear until the 1890s, when the breweries of Munich saw an opportunity to expose their products to a far greater audience than could be reached within their beer halls. Today, approximately six million liters a year are consumed during Oktoberfest - that's one mass for every guest in attendance.

In all honesty, Oktoberfest is much like a Bavarian state fair. With over six million visitors a year, it is the world's largest. The Weis'n also hosts an agricultural show, a parade, trade kiosks, and a large array of amusements and rides and until 1950, horse races were a major attraction on the grounds. The festival is attended by both young and old, which has led to authorities making changes in recent years to create a more family-friendly atmosphere. Beginning in 2005, only traditional German music can be played in the beer tents during daytime hours. After 6:00 PM, pop and dance music are allowed to be played over loudspeaker systems. [What? You thought that I meant restrictions on selling alcohol? Come on, this is Germany we're talking about.]

Want to take in the festivities, but can't make it to Munich this year? Don't sweat it: although Munich's Oktoberfest is the by far the most famous, cities throughout Germany have festivals celebrating their beer

and their culture as summer turns to fall. Generically, an event such as this is known as a Volksfest. The most popular in the northern part of the country is the Freimarkt in Bremen, where four million people come at the end of October. Stuttgart's Cannstatter Volkfest attracts over three million visitors each year, while Hannover's own Oktoberfest attracts more than a million. [What about somewhere in the Western Hemisphere?] Look no further than the city of Blumenau in southern Brazil: founded by German immigrants, this town's Oktoberfest tallies an attendance of over 600,000.

process was determined, yeast was also accommodated. In addition, the Reinheitsgebot prohibited brewing the summer months. Until advances in brewing technology were introduced in the late 1800s, the heat of the European summer attracted unwanted bacteria that would spoil the beer during the fermentation process. Hence, a stronger, more full-bodied brew would be brewed during the month of March (Märzen) to keep in the caves over the summer, and the famous Oktoberfestbier was born.

An Oktoberfestbier has an amber-to-copper color, and pours

Smoked or not, an Oktoberfestbier's full flavor and slightly increased alcohol content (typically 5.5-6% alcohol by volume) makes it an ideal drink on mild autumn afternoons - say, while tailgating before or after a football game, which segues into the following rant...

Light? That Ain't Right

While at the Recreation and Wellness Center recently in my umpteenth attempt to stick with a workout program and get in shape, I collected several pamphlets that were on display. Among these was a flyer

Coke may emulate the taste of Coca-Cola with none of its 150 calories, Bud Light emulates little of what flavor Budweiser has in the first place but retains 110 of its 145 calories.

As most typical beers, from Bass to Beck's to Blue Moon and beyond, contain between 150 to 170 calories, all that is lost for about forty or fifty calories just isn't worth it. Beer is a social beverage: enjoy the company of friends with a good beer, and less will become more. One can be satisfied after drinking two regular beers with the same result as drinking three light beers, and with a particularly strong or heavy brew, only one might be enough.

And It Never Rains in Southern California, Either

In addition to the start of football season and Oktoberfest, this September marks the return of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, in my opinion (and only my opinion, judging by my search of SPSU's Facebook statistics) the funniest show on television and in the top three of all time for shows primarily set in a bar. With a new season of carbon-copy sitcoms making their runs on the airwaves, Sunny provides a much-needed change of pace from the tired formulas of network programming.

There is a distinct dearth of good comedy shows on network TV in the present day. A lot of the problem is based on the reluctance of network executives to take a chance on programs that do not meet certain guidelines. To ABC, CBS, or Fox, a comedic series must have a bankable star as its lead, have a stable of likeable recurring characters, and have episodes that reinforce some good moral principle through them. The result is that a third-degree retread like *Two and a Half Men* continues to air every week, while gems such as *Arrested Development* now exist only in DVD box sets because corporate types have no idea how to market them.

Luckily, *Sunny* airs on cable, where the unstructured and irreverent thrives. The series' appeal is due to the distinct un-likenability of its characters, whose vanity and self-absorption leads to comparisons with *Seinfeld*. But the *Seinfeld* gang managed to be successful people in spite of their flaws; for the proprietors of Paddy's Irish Pub, the spectacular failures that their scheming gets themselves into provides a delightful sense of comeuppance to the viewer. When plans such as "banging" friends' partners and family members to settle a score or developing a crack addiction to earn welfare benefits go hilariously wrong, the humor and satisfaction lies in the fact that the cast is getting exactly what they deserve.

The third season of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* airs Thursdays at 10:00 PM on the FX network; seasons one and two are currently available on DVD. I recommend it to anyone with a strong taste for dark comedy. With that last detail, I tip my glass to you. Until next time, I wish for all of you to eat well, drink well, and live well...Pros!



It's Beer! Hooray Beer!

Photo courtesy Adam Myers / The Sting

[I can't go to Brazil, either.] Kitchener, Ontario: 700,000? [Still too far.] Cincinnati, Ohio: 500,000? [No.] Alright, alright! How about Helen, Georgia? This village approximately 90 miles northeast of Atlanta is known as a Bavarian-style weekend retreat from the city; naturally, it has become known as the home of probably the largest Oktoberfest celebration in the Southeast. In the over-the-top American interpretation of all things foreign, Helen Oktoberfest continues all the way into November, giving you plenty of time to get your übermensch on.

Oktoberfest - The Beer, Not the Fest

Beer is a very particular subject to Bavarians. The first food purity law in the world, the Reinheitsgebot, was put into law there in 1516. The law defined beer consisting only of water, barley, and hops; later provisions added wheat to the list of ingredients, and once the science of the fermenting

with a lightly-tan head. Its taste begins of caramel with a mild hop spiciness gives way to a toasty coffee-like bitterness on the back of the tongue, and finishes with the lingering flavor of fresh bread. Of the classic brews of Munich, Paulaner and Spaten in particular are known as benchmarks of the style, and are widely available around the world, including here in Georgia. Still, many breweries, both within Germany and worldwide, produce beers in the Oktoberfest/Märzen style. The Aying brewery outside of Munich and the Victory Brewing Co. in Pennsylvania are known for their robust examples. Commercial German breweries like Beck's and Warsteiner produce milder versions of Oktoberfestbier, as do prominent American craft breweries like Samuel Adams, Left Hand, and Flying Dog. The Schlenkerla brewery in the Bavarian city of Bamberg is famous for its Rauchbier Märzen, which is prepared with smoked barley malt and goes perfectly with barbecued meats.

titled "Super Healthy Super Tailgate Foods," offering tips and advice on eating right while gathering with friends over a big game. While agree with many of the items on the list (whet your appetite before arriving, offer low-fat snacks and vegetables, and so on), I must take exception to the last bullet, which reads:

"If you're drinking alcohol, pick light beer, wine, or a wine spritzer (half wine, half fizzy water)."

Wine I understand, but light beer? Wine spritzers? If one is worried about the caloric content of what he or she is drinking, light beer and wine cocktails would actually serve the opposite effect. Light-bodied, fizzy drinks only make the drinker want more, because there's so little there in the form of flavor and fullness. One doesn't stop with just one beer; it takes three or four to be satisfied. Furthermore, light beer is not like diet cola: there is no magic formula that takes away all the calories of the drink and keeps the flavor. While Diet

The Vent

Have something to say? E-mail stingeditor@gmail.com and get your comment published anonymously in The Sting!

Police Officers are not above the law!
Just because they enforce it doesn't mean they can break the rules that they ticket us for!

For example: Running Red Lights,
Speeding, Tailing, Rolling Stop Signs...

I have seen a Police Officer break the previously stated laws on at least one occasion each, why do they consider themselves better than us? They are citizens too!

How does housing always manage to put the people with the loudest bass on the third floor?!

Why do SPSU's billboards always seem to be nothing about SPSU?

What are "life's unlockables?"

And what do those random engineering symbols mean?

Do you want to attract people to this school... or drive them away?

Fire alarms... stop setting them off!

Why do professors have every assignment on the same day?

Once upon a time...

The STING -- Your Student Press and its History; pub. date August 21, 2002.

Zachary Jones
Former Editor

Where do we come from? We at the STING have a strong sense of tradition. Even when it seems as if we are broken, we continue on. The press at this school will never die forever. We as a student body are too opinionated to let the paper die. We don't take any shit. Moreover, we feel an obligation to the student body to inform.

Hence, let me describe a brief history of the STING. Perhaps it may inspire you to join, or at least admire the efforts of the STING.

The STING has been around as long as the school. For your information, the STING is an acronym (in fact, one that isn't relevant anymore) meaning Southern Technical Institute News Gazette. We still hold true to that name, though we know that the school no longer calls itself by that name (STI).

The story that I can describe begins with the early 90's (perhaps late 80's). The STING has never been a student organization that sits on its butt and waits for something to happen. Consider please the staff of the early 90's that started a STING tradition of Consensus Editorials. Consensus Editorials were often the method that the members of the STING use to promote change on campus. Perhaps at times they ended up being only humorous, however many times they reflected the true feelings of many students on campus. (For this reason, we publish the "Best of Past Consensus Editorials".) Moreover, though at times STING members were also SGA members, the STING never feared to check, monitor, criticize, and praise its school government. Today, the STING follows in such tradition and does not fear the threats of its

Student Government to cut funding or to enforce regulation of its print. Many students have found such an attitude refreshing and have joined the STING because of such.

During the mid-1990's the STING was powerful on campus. The people who ran the STING were often the people that ran the Student Center (workers at the Info Desk, etc) and, hence, were very recognized around campus. The content of the paper was, to a large degree, substantially humorous. All picture captions were farces, and the general tone of the paper was quite funny. Students, to a large degree, read the paper to see where the staff would push the limit next. In 1996, the paper was so popular that the staff lobbied with the Atlanta Olympic Board to become the "Official Dilbert Newspaper of the Atlanta 1996 Olympics." (By the way, we, to this day, publish Dilbert comic strips, following tradition.)

The late 1990's provided a bit of trouble for the STING, however. In 1998, only a few issues were published all year long. In 1999, the STING practically died, due to the fact that it had no Editor. Hence, SGA voted to cut budget to the STING completely since it was practically non-functioning. Derrick Davis, then SGA President, decided against such a decision, however, and chose instead to cut the budget and put the paper completely online, with himself as Editor.

The paper, despite the valiant effort of Pres. Davis, floundered. The online version was established with the Information Technology Department on campus, but was updated only once or twice. (Here's where I came into the picture.) In late 1999/early 2000, I visited the STING site, only to be extremely

disappointed that it was the same site that I had visited nearly 6 months earlier. Hence, I called Barry Birkhead, STING advisor, and asked him what I could do to help the STING. He told me, "Well, they don't have an Editor. You want to be the STING Editor?" I accepted, even though I was inexperienced. Along with the help of Ann Bartone, Dan Henry, and many of the other original members of the modern STING, I reorganized the STING to produce a paper every two weeks online from Summer 2000 until early 2002.

In June 2001, the STING finally made its return to a paper edition (supported by its regular online edition). Paper editions have followed monthly (except during Summer semester with limited coverage) up until this day.

In January 2002, I appointed Rich Meritt, a senior staff photographer, as Editor-in-Chief. His term as editor lasted only one semester, yet he continued many of the traditions established by myself.

In April 2002, Rich appointed as Editor, the current Editor-in-Chief/Princess, Mercedes. She has changed many of the policies I had established, and hence brought a new focus to the STING. Advertisement was emphasized as never before, and revenue increased for the STING. Though she has fought many times with the current SGA, she has stuck to her values and principles and the STING staff has flourished because of it. We as a staff admire her as Editor and enjoy working under her.

As Fall semester starts, look for your STING staff to cause the changes you look for on campus. If ever you have a problem, please do not fail to approach your student press, as it continues to fight for its readers.

Career Expo 2007

Wednesday, October 3, 2007
3:00pm to 6:30pm
Student Center Ballroom

Meet with employers looking for Intern, Co-Op and Full-time candidates in the fields of:
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