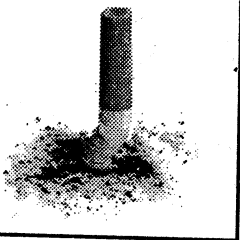


Rated R

Heard about how having cigarettes in movies might cause an instant 'R' rating? See how Cary Chichester feel about this ruling on Page 5



The Sting

www.thesting.org

Who was Jesus?

Stuart Michelson explores what the Bible tells us about Jesus and why we can trust the Bible as a reliable source. Page 7



October 22, 2007

For your viewing pleasure.

Volume 62, Issue 4

New parking regulations, heftier fines

Stuart Michelson
Copy Editor

In early October, a bulletin was issued by the Southern Polytechnic State University Police department detailing some changes that will be occurring with parking regulations on campus.

Most noticeably, the new regulations include an increase in the fines for parking violators as well as enhanced enforcement techniques. The new regulations come amidst a wave of road construction on campus running from September 5th to November 26th, which has resulted in several road closings around campus.

Gary D. Chasteen, the Chief of the SPSU Police Department, stated in the bulletin, "In the last couple of years, we have experienced record numbers of parking violators. As an example, we have already issued more than 2,000 parking tickets this semester, and we continue to find high numbers of vehicles parked in violation of the regulations. Please help us by parking in a proper space within our assigned zone. We will begin stepped up parking enforcement with imposition of higher fines this week."

The new fines Chasteen is referring to can be located on SPSU's website at www.spsu.edu/pandp/990_0.html and include significant fine increases.

Chasteen's figures about

parking tickets are startling and break down as follows. Using 2,000 as a flat figure, seven weeks into the semester, that divides into roughly 285 tickets a week, and 41 a day. Students are cautioned to be mind-

ful of the fine increases as well as the frequency of the violations

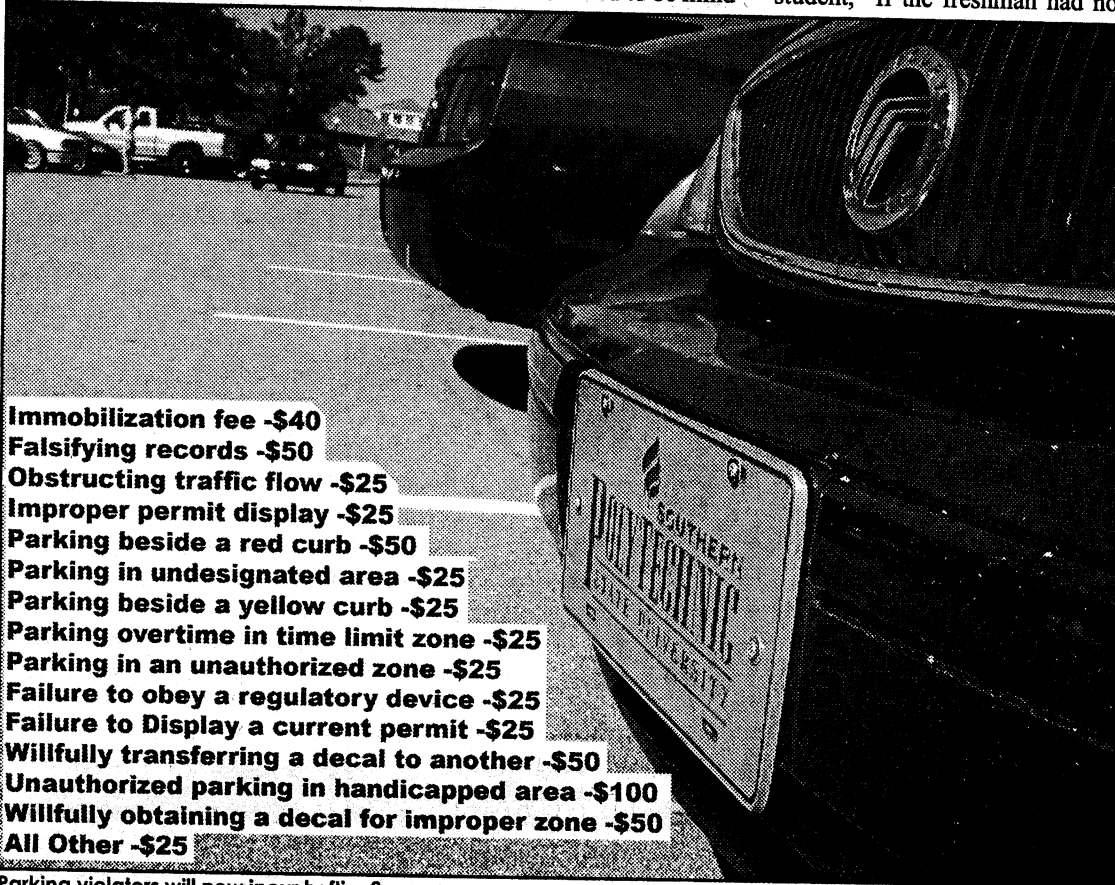
Some students blame the freshman for the parking fine increase. According to one resident student, "If the freshman had not

been parking all over the place this would not have happened." This student was referencing the wave of freshman parking violations at the beginning this semester which led to a tire deflating spree in the Commons parking lots.

Another student commented that, "They should wait to increase the fines until after all the road construction around campus is complete."

Students are encouraged to remember that parking fines incurred are payable at the business office. Continued violations by the same offender can result in parking privilege suspensions. There is an appeals process for students who feel that have been ticketed wrongfully. Student appeals are submitted to the Parking Services and heard before a Student Judiciary cabinet. Appeal forms are available in the Parking Services office or from the Student Government Association's office.

Students should be mindful that they are not to be in possession of more than one parking permit, and should they need to borrow a vehicle because of repairs etc, they should obtain a temporary parking permit that is appropriate for their parking privileges.



- Immobilization fee -\$40
- Falsifying records -\$50
- Obstructing traffic flow -\$25
- Improper permit display -\$25
- Parking beside a red curb -\$50
- Parking in undesignated area -\$25
- Parking beside a yellow curb -\$25
- Parking overtime in time limit zone -\$25
- Parking in an unauthorized zone -\$25
- Failure to obey a regulatory device -\$25
- Failure to Display a current permit -\$25
- Willfully transferring a decal to another -\$50
- Unauthorized parking in handicapped area -\$100
- Willfully obtaining a decal for improper zone -\$50
- All Other -\$25

Parking violators will now incur heftier fines.

Photo courtesy Stuart Michelson/The Sting

FBD to start project

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

met Marcella.

Just like any other 11 year old girl she loves playing outdoors, writing stories, using her imagination and being a girl scout. However, Marcella is wheel-chair bound due to Muscular Dystrophy.

On Tuesday, October 9th at 3:30 p.m. roughly forty students and faculty members gathered in the Architecture building to meet Marcella and view designs that Architecture students have been working on in order to make her backyard more accessible for her freedom by Design (FBD) organized this event.

Marcella had no trouble sampling hours of her designs and discussing designs with students, asking questions of the architectural drawings. Seeing how enthusiastic she is really showed you just how much she deserved a backyard that she could play in like most children are able to.

A total of 11 designs were

submitted to Marcella and her mother for their approval. The following students all submitted designs:

- Jake Begaund
- D.J. Bryant
- Nghi Duong
- Bridget Ellgass
- Andrew Haney
- Jennie Marucci
- Terrance Mays
- Chris McConnell
- Mandy Palasik
- Camille Sherrod
- David Wang

Eventually different pieces of several designs were chosen. FBD is currently drawing up the master design and figuring out the build schedule.

FBD, which is a program brought to SPSU by our AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students) chapter, is sponsoring Marcella. According to the flyer handed out, FBD is a "community service organization that seeks to help make a difference in the lives

FBD continued on Page 3

Natl. Depression Screening Day

Adam Myers
Staff Writer

On Wednesday October 10, the Career and Counseling Center hosted SPSU's Depression Screening Day program in the Student Center. Offered to students were free tests designed to identify depressive symptoms in the test-taker, as well as several brochures containing information on depression and suicide prevention among college students.

The program, held in conjunction just one of many events held at 12,000 facilities nationwide, was developed by Screening for Mental Health, a non-profit organization which seeks to inform the public about mental health disorders through programs held in venues such as schools, hospitals, and the workplace. In 2006, the number of screenings during NDSD approached 600,000. The Career and Counseling Center took part in the event to increase awareness among SPSU students of both the signs of major depression and the

services the center provides.

Studies done by the National Mental Health Association indicates that 10 percent of college students have been treated for depression. However, it is believed that for every person who seeks treatment, another person ignores the symptoms; as such, realistic estimates on the percentage of students living with major depression put that number at over 20 percent. Depression is often triggered by stressful life changes, a fact that places young adults adjusting to college life especially at risk. Fortunately, signs of depression are easy to notice.

"Depression screenings are an attempt to increase awareness and educate students about the services that are available to students, which may prevent some of the more serious effects of depression such as suicide," said Jamal Murray, a counselor at the Career and Counseling Center.

Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among people aged 15-24, accounting for 12.9% of all deaths for that age group, according

to the Center for Disease Control. Men are four times more likely to commit suicide than women, but women are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide. Among the 15-24 age group, one out of 100 to 200 suicide attempts are successful.

Murray also urges those with depressive symptoms and their friends to seek help before turning to more dangerous ways to cope, such as drug and alcohol abuse. "It is important to prevent the more serious symptoms from occurring," he said.

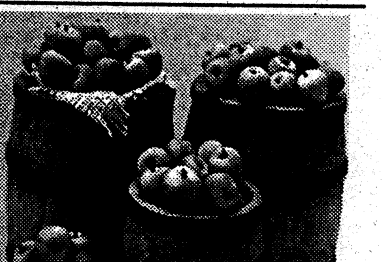
The Career and Counseling Center offers several services for those affected directly or indirectly by depression, including extensive literature on the subject and one-on-one counseling. The center also maintains contact with other community resources to refer non-students. If you or someone you know is struggling with depression, the Career and Counseling Center is located in Suite 243 at the Student Center; its phone number is (678)915-7391.

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What pedestrians?
Korey Kolberg comes back to attempt to give you Georgia drivers a lesson in road etiquette. Pay attention, or get your car bricked. Page 4

100 day of water
Have you heard about the drastic circumstances surrounding the drought in Georgia? If not, read Twila McConnell's article and learn more about this frightening prospect. Page 3

What's the Gastropod doing now?
Have a hankering for some fall festivities? Join Adam Myers as he travels North Georgia in pursuit of the perfect apple. Page 9



CSE awarded sizeable grant

Stuart Michelson
Copy Editor

Dr. Andy Wang, Chair and professor of the department of Information Technology, Dr. Chih-Cheng Hung, and Professor Patrick Bobbie of the Computer Science department were recently awarded a \$113,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The grant incorporates research experience from Armstrong Atlantic State University, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, Georgia Tech, and Kennesaw State University, and seeks to expose and implement new ways to familiarize undergraduate students with computing and the career options available for computing students.

It is believed that this grant will help to enhance the number of graduates from SPSU with computing degrees.

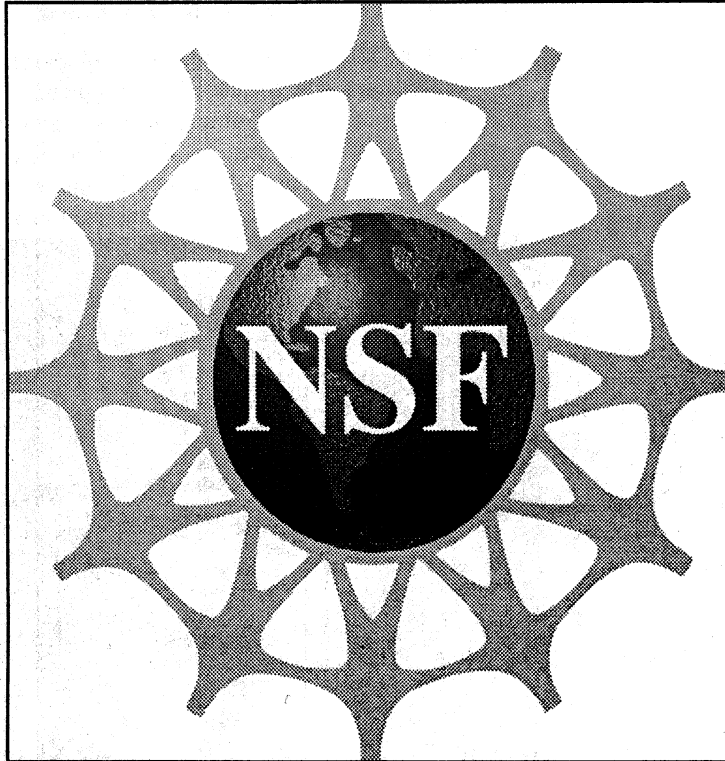
Located in Arlington Virginia, The National Science Foundation has an annual budget just under 6 billion dollars, and is responsible for funding around 20% of all federally supported non-medical research at universities and colleges

in the United States. Grants are commonly awarded for research in the areas of mathematics, computer science, and economics, and social science.

Students are encouraged to visit www.nsf.gov for more information about The National Science Foundation and to learn about current projects being funded, browse publications, and to access research statistics.

The National Science Foundation also offers scholarships.

The National Science Foundation also offers scholarships.



Visit www.nsf.gov.

Photo courtesy www.es.usc.edu

Information security colloquia

Eric John
Web Manager

As many might have noticed by the fliers, SPSU has been host to a series of lectures centered on information security and the associated careers. These presentations have been brought to campus as a joint effort by the School of Computing and Software Engineering, the Business Administration Department, the Department of Defense, and the National Security Agency.

So far two have occurred, but still more are coming as the year progresses.

These colloquia have been presented by professionals within the security field who are willing to spend their time giving students a quick glimpse of the rapidly changing field of information security.

The first of the series, entitled "Computer Forensics in the Corpo-

rate Environment," was presented by Scott Vincent on September 26th. In his presentation, following a short disclaimer, he gave students a quick glimpse of his career in computer forensics and how he attained his job.

He currently works for Lockheed Martin Marietta doing forensic work. His presentation mainly focused on what forensics helps with and how corporate differs from law enforcement. With many examples of how forensic information has helped with preserving critical information and also correctly enforcing the law, Mr. Vincent did an excellent job of conveying the difficulty of forensics along with the growing need.

You can find Mr. Vincent's PowerPoint slides at <http://cse.spsu.edu/colloquia>.

The second colloquium on October 9th featured two presenta-

tions. The two major topics were code auditing and firewalls.

The first presentation was by John Lampe, who currently works for Tenable Network Security, which some might know as the producers of the Nessus tool. For his lecture, he covered a wide variety of coding issues, such as unsecure code and using open-source tools to check code for vulnerabilities. As more and more issues are found where web developers and programmers fail to take safety precautions with their code, code auditing is becoming a requirement for updating older code as well as a standard for modern programming. In Mr. Lampe's examples, with only a few modifications to the user side, a person with malicious intent can take over a computer that is not properly implementing code.

In the second part of the second lecture, another presenter gave a quick rundown of firewalls, and how their policies and implementation can protect against multiple types of attacks, and can also prevent even a compromised system from being a greater threat to the network. Along with the usual implementation schemes and firewall types, additional points were made to tie in business practices with the topics, applying the overall

information to a business setting and trying to bridge the gap between business divisions.

A third colloquium is planned for November 7th, 2007. Those with interests in any business that deals with technology should plan to attend, and attend early. With the first two presentations, the rooms were packed and additional seating had to be brought in from neighboring rooms. Hopefully with the turnout so high for these, the next presentation will have a bigger room, perhaps even the H building's lecture hall.



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is a sponsor of the IS colloquia.

Photo courtesy <http://cse.spsu.edu>

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ORGANIZATIONS

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

JOINING *The Sting*

Any student paying Activity Fees is eligible to join *The Sting*, though final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief. We prefer creative students who have passed English 1101. Come to our meetings Friday at 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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GALEO President Jerry Gonzales speaks at SPSU

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

On September 25th SHPE hosted speaker Jerry Gonzales, President of Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) for Hispanic Heritage Month. Mr. Gonzales spoke about the SB 529 bill, which he described as the "most comprehensive anti-immigration legislation." This might have been one of the most controversial talks to be hosted on campus; police officers showed up before the talk began.

Mr. Gonzales started the

presentation with a documentary titled Fighting 529 by Garrett DeHart. Although this documentary was called a "propaganda film" by State Senator Chip Rogers, Mr. Gonzales said it brought a "human perspective" to the SB 529 bill which was passed as of April 18, 2006.

This video can be viewed on the GALEO website: www.GALEO.org/fighting592.php.

Mr. Gonzales wanted to make clear that GALEO does not support illegal immigration. Instead, he states that it is best to answer the question: "How can the

U.S. position itself to ... benefit our economic development...?" Because, he says, "It's in our best interest to do that."

Mr. Gonzales argues that the following principals should ground legislature:

- ensure homeland security
- meet the economies development needs
- respect and live up to our moral values

Mr. Gonzales also points out that the current legislature doesn't protect the separation of power because it forces state police to enforce federal laws. He argues that there is no way to enforce these laws without discriminating. He cites examples where U.S. citizens have been arrested and detained simply because they "look illegal."

Mr. Gonzales argues that the issue of immigration has been broken since 1986 when Ronald Reagan signed the amnesty bill. He points out that since then the number of visas decreased while our economy was growing. The conflict of interest is clear, and the economy won. He argues that this is the most important social issue we face, and that it won't be resolved until 2010.

"College students are an important part" of this effort, Mr. Gonzales points out, continuing with "we need your support, your voices" for movement forward.

FBD to start project, continued from page 1

of the disabled in their community by utilizing their design skills." FBD is sponsoring Marcella's project and has been raising money to fund it.

FBD needs help to make this

project a success for Marcella and her family. Tax free donations of goods, services, or financial contributions are being accepted. Find out how you can help by e-mailing FBDSPSU@gmail.com.



Marcella surrounded by everyone who attended the event.

Photo courtesy Bridget Elgass/FBD Public Relations Representative

Drying up Georgia

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

As you should know if you've lived in Georgia for any extended period of time, Georgia is in a drought. It seems like it always has been - at least since I've lived here, which would be roughly 11 years.

But after this summer, it may have gone to a point of no return.

If you've not seen pictures of Lake Lanier (the reservoir from which our tap water comes) then you should type it into Google. Just looking at the pictures of Lake Lanier, you know something is wrong.

This issue came to the forefront for me when I learned that Stone Mountain and Coca-Cola wanted to make a winter wonderland of snow. Considering we've had water usage restrictions for at least three years, me and many people were outraged.

It was then that I discovered we didn't have long left.

What will follow is information on what the state is trying to do with our 100 or so days left of water.

First, Gov. Sonny Perdue asked the Army Corps of Engineers to stop draining the reservoirs on Wednesday. Currently, they are sending water downstream into Florida to protect an endangered species of mussel. Already Florida was complain that Georgia wasn't sending enough water downward.

The Army Corps of Engineers denied the Governor and said they would be breaking state and federal regulations which require them to send the water downstream.

Therefore, Gov. Perdue is threatening to sue the Army Corps of Engineers.

Most environmentalists think that the state should have been better prepared because the signs were obvious. They blame this condition not only on the extended drought, but also the large influx of people Georgia has experienced within the last 20 years. They say the Army Corps shouldn't be blamed, due to their obligations which should've been factored into a solution a while ago.

More than a quarter of the Southeast is in "exceptional" drought - a condition which is believed to occur only every 50 years or so.

Gov. Perdue has called on Georgians to take shorter showers. The state asked restaurants to serve water only per request. Almost all outdoor watering is banned in the northern half of the state.

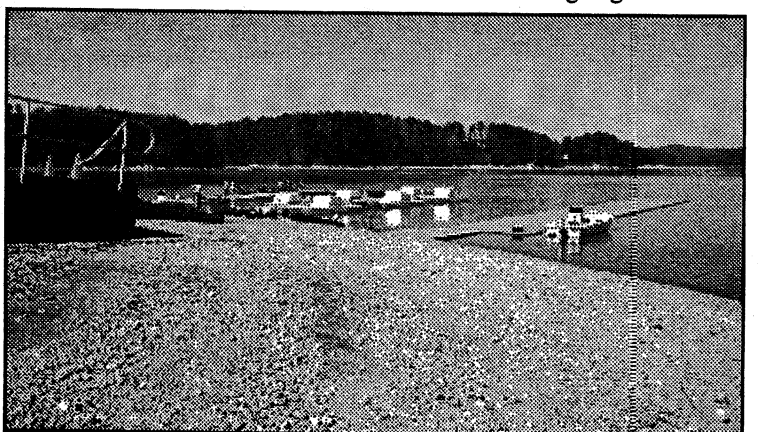
One might think we could just buy water from another state, but the drought extends into all states near to us: Tennessee, Alabama, pieces of N. Carolina and S. Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia.

If you want more information, here are some website that might help you out:

www.ajc.com - Probably the best place to look for new updates as this is our newspaper.

www.conservewatergeorgia.net - Ideas for what you can do to conserve water. It will also tell you if watering is allowed in your area or not and what your drought level is.

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov> - Lots of statistics and real-time data so you can know what's going on ASAP.



Water was 12 feet below full pool when this photo was taken.

Photo courtesy gresearchnews.gatech.edu.



The GALEO logo to draw your attention to this article.

Photo courtesy www.galeo.org.

Campus bookstore supports African economy

Karen Asay
Editor Emeritus

At the beginning of the semester, Southern Poly's bookstore started selling a new brand of t-shirts, edun LIVE, which debuted with a shirt saying, "How do you live?". These new t-shirts are made out of 100% African cotton that is grown and manufactured in sub-Saharan Africa.

Priscilla Valesquez, the bookstore manager, says the t-shirts are selling well.

The edun LIVE shirts are light and soft, and along with the

"How do you live?" design, there is also a "Southern Polytechnic" design and a breast cancer awareness design.

Southern Poly's bookstore isn't the only college bookstore selling edun LIVE shirts; all Barnes & Noble College Bookstores are stocking the edun LIVE shirts.

What is significant about edun LIVE? According to their website, www.edun-live.com, edun LIVE's mission is "to drive sustainable employment in sub-Saharan Africa through high-volume sales of blank t-shirts."

To achieve this mission, all

edun LIVE shirts are made from cotton grown and manufactured in sub-Saharan Africa.

Edun LIVE also makes sure all workers from farmers to factory workers are given fair wages for their contributions and all factories are held to "high environmental and social standards."

Edun LIVE has sold over one million t-shirts since its creation in spring 2005.

On the edun LIVE website, the edun LIVE team emphasizes buying these shirts "is not charity; [It] is informed, ethical and responsible trading."



Look for this logo on new Southern Poly shirts.

Photo courtesy www.edun-live.com.

Pedestrians: LOOK for them!

Korey Kolberg
Senior Staff Writer

It has come to my attention (after coming close to being hit multiple times) that people at this school do not seem to understand how crosswalks work. If you see someone crossing the road, especially in a designated area, you DO NOT accelerate towards them.

In order for me to make it from the bus stop to the school, I have to cross the 120 Loop a few times a week. To do this, I basically have two options: cross in front of the student center (where there is a crosswalk) or play Frogger and cross anywhere. Like anyone with common sense, I opt to use the crosswalk. Lately though, that option is only safer if no one is making a left out of the school.

I wait for "safe to walk" signal and then hurry across. Apparently my two second window is too long for drivers though. Instead of at least waiting for me to make it half way across the road, they slam their foot on the gas and turn towards me.

I know this may come to a shock to most of you (knowing that Georgia seemly hands out driver's license to anyone of age), but PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE RIGHT AWAY!

You may think that I am joking, but try it yourself. Try crossing any road, not just the one in front of the school, on a regular basis. The few nice drivers wait a moment or

two, before turning so I can at least make it out of the two lanes they would turn into.

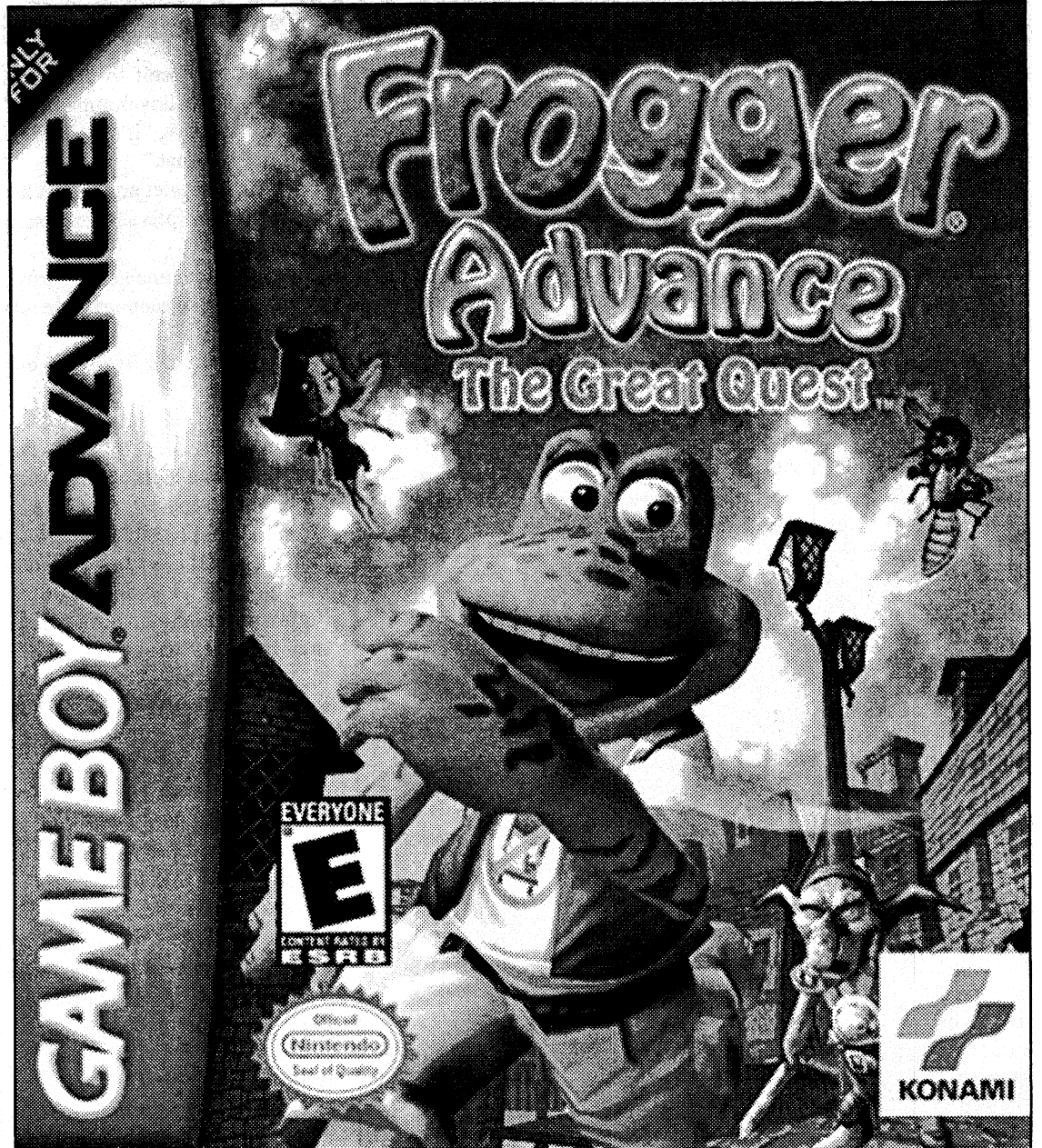
I know that is too much to ask from most drivers. What I do ask is if you cannot wait, please turn into the outer most lane and not the innermost lane (the one I am still in). Do that instead of driving directly towards me.

Luckily one day, the driver noticed me and stopped accelerating when he would hit me with the center of his car. Hell, I would count him as one of the nice people. Not like the JACKASSES that do not pay any attention to me. For all of you jackasses (and yes that is what you are, male or female), I may take the advise one of my friends gave me.

"Carry bricks in your backpack," he said, "and let them hit it. That way they will learn to be patient when they get their car totaled."

I know that lights are short and you have little time to turn, but remember...I have around half the time you do. And just to let you know, I am conciseness of cars around me. I do not stand in the middle of the road or take my sweet time crossing. I try to get across as quickly as possible so people can turn (because I hate slow people crossing too).

Please give people a second or two at least. Please do not live up to Georgia's well-earned stereotype: be a good driver and don't run over me.



This is Korey's life every other day of the week.

Photo courtesy www.vgmuseum.com.

The subtle difference

Eric John
Web Manager

This one goes out to the one I love. This one goes out to the one I've left behind.

The One I Love by REM

Christianity and Christians are different. One is the religion and faith, the other is the self-proclaimed followers of the religious doctrine. 'Christians' as we know them now are generally not what the term originally meant, nor are they always the most sterling examples of Christianity.

Why? Because as humans we are imperfect (note that I am included in "we"), and imperfect beings can never accomplish the mind-set, the heart, and the acts that being a Christian requires unless being acted upon by God.

Now granted, this is what Christians themselves are claiming to have. But should the people it's describing truly be able to use the term? Is not using this adjective on yourself not only high praise but pride in a way?

I feel it should be bestowed upon those who act in accordance with the faith, and that would definitely change who has that descriptor and who doesn't, hopefully for the better. In other words, you shouldn't be able to call yourself one, but other people could describe you as one.

Obviously I am using the "good" connotation of Christian, not the common one. But this does not implicate that all Christians are not firm believers of the facts of Christianity. There are differences, and these

can and do change over time. I hope more often that they embrace what they claim and truly act upon it.

By now you're probably wondering why this matters. What matters is understanding the heart of the distinction. Not that anyone should be judged as 'unbelieving,' but understand that the practitioners might not be the best example of a practice.

When a doctor is charged with malpractice, do you assume that all medicine is lies just because one person

failed to use it appropriately? No. Do we ban guns because one person uses them for murder? No. When someone disrupts society with some sick act, do we blame the video-games that he, like countless other non-violent people, played? No. It might be difficult to overcome, more so the closer to home it hits, but the idea still holds true.

The problem you have is with the person, not the practice. I emphasize this because I myself oftentimes fail to act appropriately. But if your problem is with my actions, don't apply it to all males, or all computer nerds, or all Christians. That would be making a gross generalization that is almost always incorrect. (I'm sure

someone could call me out on that if I used an absolute. So I won't.)

The point I am attempting to make is that we fail. And for Christians, it's even more problematic. We fail in two respects.

One, we fail because there's such a forgiveness in our faith that we often exploit it for our own personal gain instead of what we should be doing. We act in a way that might not be noticeably wrong by normal standards, but if the person is claiming to

And two, oftentimes it comes down to love. Yeah, came out of nowhere, huh? We say we love, we talk about love, but most often we don't practice love! And be it works-based or not, if you don't practice love, there probably isn't love there.

This idea of love is often coupled with our spiritual heart. As with our human heart, without it, the body fails to function, and we die. Without love, we are die spiritually.

This means that the attitudes

of the heart are critical to our belief. When people fail and are sorry, but try for perfection, that's correct. It shows a heart of desire, one willing to try even after failure. When they fail, but don't strive towards perfection and just accept it as their

'fate,' they are horribly misguided. This heart doesn't grasp the gift it was given, and cannot share that love.

I condemn no one with this, for I am guilty of everything I have said. I fail to love every day, but I hope that it is visible in my actions that I am trying to love, to reciprocate the fraction of love that has been given to me.

Christianity is often described as a relationship, and love is a key component. So when I fail to love, I am failing a tenant I claim to believe.

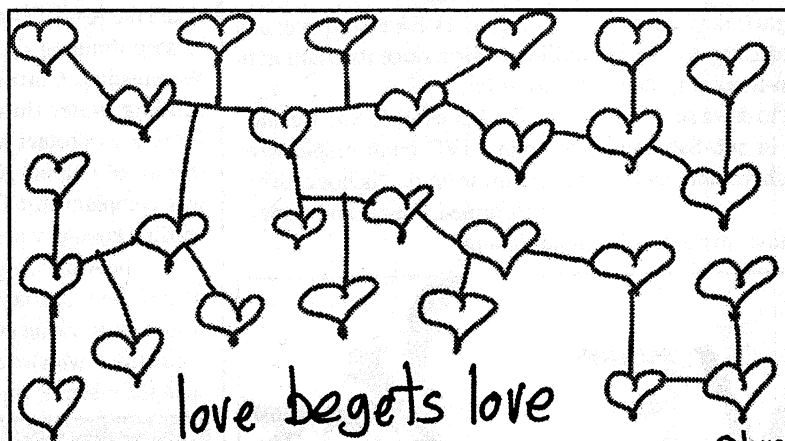
I display this as an apology and as a caution to others: Love others and you love yourself. Where might you have heard that one before?

This brings me to the song lyrics I started with. I think I have left behind many who I should have loved instead. And this goes out to those I have wronged, this goes out to those I will eventually fail, and this goes out to those who I don't want to follow in my footsteps. I meant this as my own personal testament. But I also use it for an example. I, occasionally labeled as Christian, often fail to uphold the faith as prescribed by God. This makes me a hypocrite, and you can ignore my words arbitrarily now if you have not already done so.

However, as I am trying, I would hope that you see the deeper meaning to the faith, in that we are forgiven our mistakes as you forgive a child attempting to read. He won't be perfect the first time, or the second, but eventually, with encouragement and perseverance, he can read anything he so desires.

I hope you can see the difference, and that maybe next time you are offended by someone, you don't blame the system or the family or the culture, but you blame the person, and understand their position. If that means calling the action out, do so with love, and you have nothing to fear. As individuals, I see this as a common problem. But I ask that if you read this, keep it in mind the next time people fail you.

Love.



Love and you shall be loved.

Photo courtesy www.gapingvoid.com.

be "like Christ," then there is much to be desired of their actions. If you say you want to be avenged, then by all societal standards there is no problem if the law is followed.

However, as Christians, we are instead taught to turn the other cheek, and not actively seek vengeance, but instead know that God will provide for us. And that doesn't mean we ask for God to have our revenge, but we hope that God will help them to change just as He has us.

Just another Friday night...

Allison Feldman
Staff Writer

When I was in high school, my group of about 6 friends and I called ourselves the Friday Night Crew. For two years we would get together every Friday night and just hang out. We would go to football games, dinners, ice skating, even just running around Target. We lived for Fridays; it was the main reason we would endure the week.

For our Senior Year, we all made t-shirts to show off our Seniority around school. Most seniors in our school would do the same thing during the fall-wearing these shirts every Friday so they could also wear them to the football game that night. We wanted to show off the bond of our Crew, and continued to wear our shirts on Fridays well past the fall. We knew our time together was coming to a close, and we were all preparing to go to different colleges, so we made the most of the time we had.

About a week after we graduated, 5 of us went to Helen Georgia for a week just to celebrate. Most people went to Florida, or something similar, but we all knew we would have a blast in a place most people wouldn't consider a good vacation spot. It turned out to be one of the best weeks of my life. Towards the end of the week, we made

a vow to continue our Friday Nights even once we started college. One of my friends in the Crew would be just down the highway from me at Kennesaw, another not far away at Georgia State. We were confident we could make it happen.

But it really hasn't yet. There've been a couple Friday Night Crew meet-ups since college started, but they've all been back in my hometown of Lawrenceville, about 45 minutes from here. It doesn't help that, being an Architecture major, I'm in Studio until at least 6 on Fridays, and there's no way I'm driving in rush hour traffic on a Friday night in Atlanta. Point being, it's not easy for me to make these get-togethers that are held back home.

So I'm stuck on campus for Friday nights, generally. I'm not the kind of person that goes out to parties, drinks, or the like either. I know that's what a lot of people like to do on Friday nights, but that's just not my thing. A lot of the girls on my hall also tend to leave as soon as they can on Friday nights, to visit family and whatnot. So I'm left here with very few friends, and nothing to do.

Looking at the calendar that was already in my room when I moved into the residence hall, there's very few events listed for Friday nights. There are soccer

games and Poker Nights listed, but again that's not my kind of thing. So what is there to do on Friday nights on campus?

So far it seems like nothing. The Friday night of my first week at Southern Poly was very rainy, so nobody wanted to go out. A few of my friends and I stayed in, watched *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and were generally hyper and taking lots of random photos. That was about the most exciting Friday night I've had here. Which isn't exactly saying much.

Thankfully, since it's October, Fright Nights are being held at Six Flags every weekend. Personally, I'm a roller coaster enthusiast/freak/whatever you want to call me. I'll do anything to ride a roller coaster. Going to ride roller coasters at night with a bunch of friends after a stressful day of Studio, and I basically don't have to pay a cent since I have a season pass and parking pass? I'm there, no questions asked. I already have at least 2 trips planned for this month. But, once October is over, the park is closed for the winter, and I'm stuck on campus again for Friday nights.

Don't get me wrong, I can always find something to do, but it gets pretty boring when it's the same thing week after week. Say, CAB... you know you want to help out, right? Please?

Rated 'R' for cigarettes ... but doesn't "cigarettes" begin with a 'C'?

Cary Chichester
Staff Writer

So, ever see an anti-cigarette commercial? If you've kept the T.V. on for more than fifteen minutes then it's a pretty good bet that you have. We've gone from being bombarded with cigarette ads to being bombarded with anti-cigarette ads.

We definitely got the message, but people still think that we're blissfully unaware of the dangers of these products. We all had health class in high school, saw the pictures of people with artificial voice boxes, and heard the word lung cancer uttered about a thousand times; but it wasn't enough.

They stopped most advertising, and people are being restricted from smoking in more and more areas; but even with these restrictions, I actually thought enough had been done, and people would be left alone to make their own decisions about smoking. It seems however that the term, "No smoking in theaters" may end up meaning more than one thing.

Disney recently announced that all of its films would be free of cigarettes, which while worth noting, probably won't make much of a difference. They also plan on adding anti-smoking public service announcements in theatres and on DVD.

This was done in response to Congress pleading for Hollywood to limit cigarette usage due to the effect it has on the youth. Disney's sister studios, Touchstone and Miramax, are also being pressured into eliminating cigarette usage from their youth-oriented films.

The MPAA even announced that it will use cigarettes as a factor for determining movie ratings,

while harsher critics are pushing for an instant "R" rating for any movie that contains cigarette usage in a non-historical context.

Now, whether or not people agree with Disney's decisions, we should still respect the fact that they can do whatever they want to their own movies. The real problem is how the decision on whether or not to display smoking may affect other movies.

We've had plenty of family films that have contained smoking in the past (like *Casablanca* and *101 Dalmatians*), and I'm sure that current smokers will say that it was not those films that encouraged them to start. Now directors will have to worry if one of their main characters will result in their family film becoming an R-rated movie, which unless the children get permission from their parents, will be barred from viewing.

We've yet to see just how far the MPAA is going to push their new rating factor, but if this new behavior on rating movies differently doesn't end soon, then it seems bound to grow larger.

Future controversial issues may easily sway their decision on how to rate a movie, even if it is okay by today's standards. While this decision hasn't ruined any moves yet, nobody wants to wait until it does, or let it set a precedent for the ease of changing the MPAA's rating system.

Hopefully the smoking controversy will die down in years to come and people will accept the fact that, whatever the drug is, kids will always want it and get their hands on it and there is no control over that; or kids will watch *Pinocchio* and think that smoking turns them into an ass. Unfortunately, the latter scenario seems a lot more likely to occur.



Just another Friday night on campus....

Photo courtesy Allison Feldman/The Sting

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 10 @ 11:00



We don't care what sick acts you intend to do with that puppy, just don't smoke.

Photo courtesy wikipedia.com

The Middle: Top 28 list

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

Well, it's happened. Yet again, there are entirely too many things that I want to write about that all kinda connect together, but don't really have anything to do with each other. Well that and I don't want to write about the truth of what everyone else writes about.

Yes, I could write an article about global warming, like everyone else, and list the eleven problems with Al Gore's movie that a English court said had to be taught to students before the film could be shown.

I also thought about talking about socialized healthcare, which would further raise our taxes, and create long waiting lines at the doctors, and the complete idiocy of letting policy makers in the government who can't run the government efficiently run our health care system.

However, I'm not going to do that. Instead I'm going to give you guys a top 26 list.

The top eleven movies that are not part of an epic series. (This means, no *Starwars*, *Lord of the Rings*, OR *Matrixes*. No movies with sequels.) My list isn't the same as yours and I'm sorry. Also, I'm not going to give away the plots, so you'll have to deal with my lack luster reasons why.

1. *500* – Action. Quite possibly the best movie ever made. It epitomizes everything it means to be a real man and I don't mean the beefy guys the girls went to see. Kind Leonidas really did love his wife, and he died fighting for what he believed in.

2. *Montey Python and the Holy Grail* – Comedy. This has to be the funniest movie ever created. So many quotable lines, it never grows old.

3. *Transformers* – Action. The best movie adaption of a cartoon. Period. Amazingly funny, action packed, there was nothing wrong with it. At all.

4. *The Number 23* – Suspense. Aside from the cussing and the random sex scenes. This movie was amazing. It had enough twists and turns to keep a mystery guy like me on the edge of his seat and throw me for loops. The ending was one

of the best endings I've ever seen for a movie.

5. *The Princess Bride* – Comedy, such a brilliant movie, so many lines to quote, and it continues to be funny after so many years.

6. *Unbreakable* – Suspense, my favorite director wove such a brilliant tale with plenty of twists. I love his movies, and this was his best. (Tied with this movie is *V for Vendetta*, purely for the storyline, acting, and cinematography.)

7. *The Passion of the Christ* – Historical rendition. Never before has a movie changed my life like this one. I've seen it twice when it first came out. It's too powerful and literally, emotionally and physically, draining to watch another time.

8. *Enemy Mine* – Sci-fi, this movie kept throwing random things at you that drew you in. If you've never been able to experience this movie, it's such a cool look at humans, and our views on other people who aren't like us.

9. *The Pursuit of Happiness* – Drama. First, Will Smith is an amazing actor. Secondly, this story is entirely too inspirational. It shows America the way it is. If anyone works hard, pushes through, and gives it their all, not relying on other people to give them things, we may not get everything we want, but we will have all we need.

10. *Jesus Christ Superstar* – Musical. My absolute favorite musical, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Believe it or not, it's shaped my theology on a couple of issues, and its presented in a way that both Christians and non-Christians can appreciate it.

11. *The Phantom of the Opera* – Musical. My second favorite musical also written by Andrew Lloyd Webber. If you have seen it, you know why it's amazing. If you haven't: Go. See. It.

My top six favorite TV shows.

1. *Babylon 5* – Such an epic story line, all five seasons were like one epic movie. Unlike *Star Trek* it wasn't episodic, it had a story line that was entirely thought through. Things from episode 1 tied into to episode 15 in season 4.

2. *Battle Star Gallactica* – Aside from the sex, which isn't

a lot. If you don't like the storyline watch it purely for the acting and the cinematography. I watched the miniseries and, based on that, bought all the seasons available.

3. *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. Has a better comedy been made? With aspects all people can enjoy, it wasn't the typical black comedy from the 90's. It was an equal opportunity basher. The thing I loved about it was that it took REAL issues, and dealt with it in real ways without getting nasty or dirty in any way.

4. *hack//SIGN* – Just like *Babylon 5* it was an epic storyline. Twists and turns, the entire series flowed very well, and is enjoyable to watch over and over.

5. *Garfield and Friends* – Much like *The Fresh Prince*, it had humor everyone could enjoy, and I still laugh out loud.

6. *Arrested Development* – You have to watch this show from episode 1, and it gets funnier. You get to see the quirks of the people grow and manifest themselves.

My top two favorite bands. (Both bands are nearly equal in ranking for they are nearly equal in every category of awesomeness.)

1. Five Iron Frenzy – Ska. While they're no longer around, they have a rich history of CD's with lyrics that will make you thing doubly and music one can just enjoy. I absolutely suggest *The End is Near*.

2. VNV Nation – Industrial German Techno. I know I will have friends who will correct me on the classification, but I can't say enough good things about them. Like FIF, they have lyrics that will make you think and music you can dance to. They threw the best concert I've ever been to. His voice is amazing, and if you can only get one CD, I would suggest *Judgement*.

My top favorite Director of all time – M. Night Shyamalan.

The absolute best president the United States has ever had – Ronald Reagan. From being a monumental factor in the destruction of the Soviet Union, and giving our economy the boost it needed to last until Clinton destroyed it. Ronald Reagan is and was a true conservative leader. If only republicans

could act a smidge bit like him.

The absolute worst president the United States has ever had – Jimmy Carter. I don't need to even write about how he totally screwed up the United States. The only good thing he did was pave the way for Ronald Reagan to have a 49 state landslide victory. But, instead of writing about how bad he was, I'll use two words: Jimmy Carter.

Apple or Microsoft – Microsoft.

Xbox 360 or PS3 – Xbox 360.

Best Porn Website – www.xxxchurch.com. Go there. It's amazing. Before you send me evil messages about how bad of a Christian I am, go to the website.

Best Bible Translation – English Standard Version. Using all the different translation techniques and strengths, it has a unparalleled accuracy both literally and con-

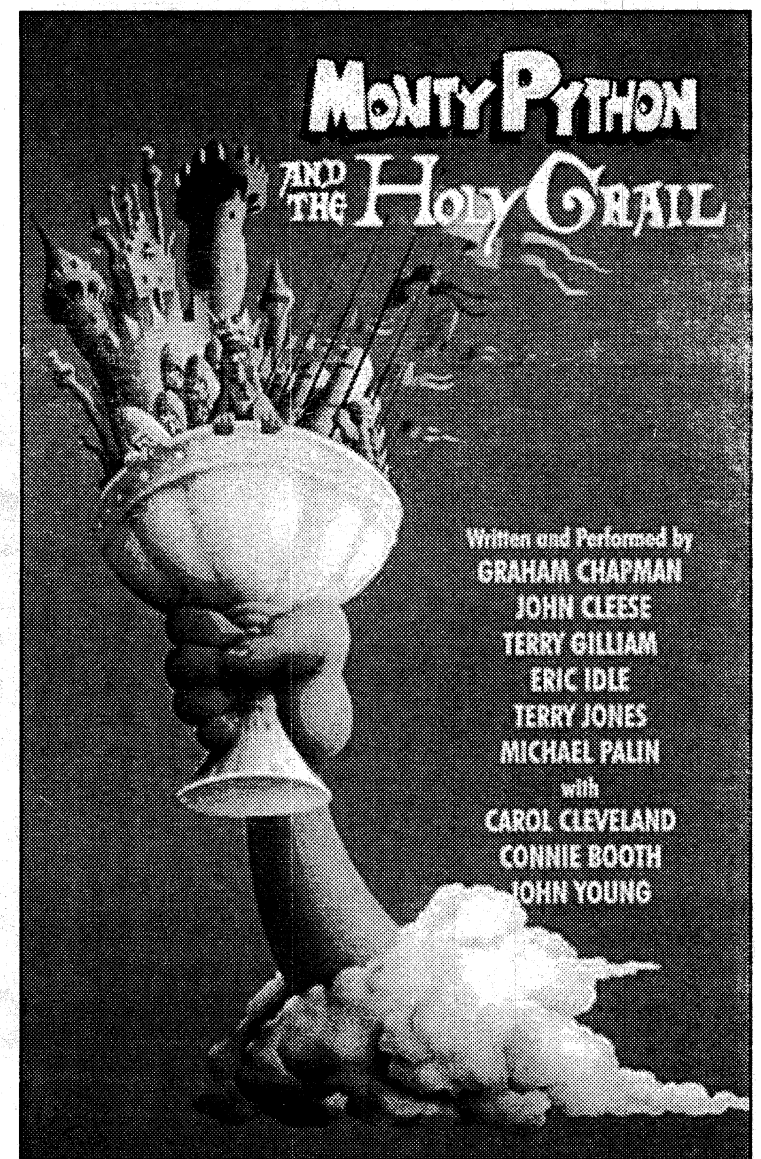
textually. It's also good for going to church, because it used all the different strategies so you can follow along almost any reading from almost any translation.

Best Ethnic/Religious people group – Jewish people. (Stay tuned for an article about their awesomeness.)

Best Country in the world – The United States of America. Granted we're not perfect, but we're pretty close to it. Show me one country that in 232 years can become a super power second to none. *Team America: World Police* had an awesome satire of how awesome us, U. S. Americans are!

Have an awesome day guys. I hope you enjoyed my lists. If you agree or disagree, let me know and I'll do my best to let you guys know what you guys thought.

In the middle of this journey.



Arguably one of the best movies of all time.

Photo courtesy www.soundtrackcollector.com.

THINKING OUT LOUD

411: Thinking Out Loud will be a web-based forum in which people will discuss the subject of Theory of Knowledge. The main question is "How do you know?"

Interest Meeting
Thursday, November 1 @ 8:00 PM
A215 in the Student Center.

Will introduce Theory of Knowledge, related activities, vote on whether or not the organization should be established.

Contact Eugene at outloudforum@yahoo.com or ThinkingOutLoud.FreeForums.org for more information.

Who is Jesus Christ really?

Stuart Michelson
Copy Editor

Who is Jesus Christ? Why does it matter what your answer is to that seemingly simple question? Why does the life and work of Jesus baffle so many? How can we know what the Bible teaches about Him is true?

Christ, and what mankind's view should be of Him, has been for centuries the source of much discourse and debate. With so many contradictory ideas about Christ floating about in our age, it may seem that the easiest thing to do is to just not worry about it. Some groups even feel threatened by the idea of a Savior that they are accountable to, and therefore reject Jesus completely. It is interesting to note that while many criticize Christians, they do not often have negative things to say about Jesus Himself. Perhaps the most popular view of Jesus is that he was simply a good person who taught moral things, but certainly He was not God on earth. I however testify with surety that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of the living God, and that in Him dwelt all the fullness of God's being, and that He was sent to earth as the Redeemer for the sins of His chosen people, and that He did so by being made man, and yet remained fully God, two natures in one person forever, and that it is He that will come again to earth in perfect glory to judge the world on the last day in which every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

Perhaps my view has many shaking their heads in disbelief or even anger at such a proposition. The question is not whether or not I am validated in saying that, rather it is one of why I believe that. It really is a simple answer. I believe it because that is what the Word of God teaches in the Bible. But this of course begs the same question, only about the Bible, how do I know it is true?

The Scripture is the primary source of a Christian's belief system. It is there that all the proclaimed truths of Christianity find their foundation. No wonder so many have such a vested interest in seeing the Bible overthrown as being truthful. To understand the answer to the question of why the Bible is true we must first ask another more basic question—How do we know anything is true? This is an epistemological question (epistemology being derived from the Greek words "episteme" and "logos," meaning essentially—the science of reason or knowledge). Epistemology is a philosophy primarily focused on knowledge and how we acquire it.

To test if something is true we observe it, and examine historical and scientific evidence related to it. For example, we can observe archaeological findings to validate Biblical claims. The ruins of the ancient city of Jericho have been found in accordance with the Biblical account, and chariot wheels and debris have been found at the bottom of the Red Sea substantiating the claims of the Bible regarding Moses and the parting of that sea. King

Hezekiah's tunnel is another such example. In the Biblical Book of II Chronicles, God instructs King Hezekiah to construct a massive tunnel to bring water into the besieged city of Jerusalem to preserve the people from the Assyrian armies of Sennacherib. This tunnel has not only been found but is visited by many annually. The story of Sennacherib leads directly into a second historical proof for Scripture.

Sennacherib was a real person and the Bible is not the only book that speaks about him. Historians have long examined Sennacherib's own journals in which his account of the battle against King Hezekiah and Jerusalem is in alignment with the Bible's. Also, other historians (Jewish and gentile) have recorded details as eyewitnesses of this event as well as countless others that occur in the Bible ranging from large

daughter are all accounted for in manuscripts apart from the Bible. Egyptian texts refer to Joseph as a "ruler from the foreign lands," and there are even drawings of what many argue are of Joseph's inauguration given their location and the specifics of the event they are depicting being in such close alignment with the Biblical record. There are also countless examples of historical figures and places from the Roman era found to be exactly as described in the Bible.

Examples of the historical accuracy of the Bible are innumerable, but just from the examples I have given there is proof that the Bible passes the historical observation test hands down. What about scientific observation? I will be brief on this topic since I have examined the scientific evidence of the Bible in depth on several occasions in previous

through the nature around them. Hebrews 11:3 states, "By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear." To believe in evolution and in any view of the universe's origin apart from Scripture, one must believe that something can come out of nothing (this argument is commonly referenced in Latin "Ex nihilo, nihil fit.") God alone is self-existent, immutable, and eternal—not the universe.

Further, atheists must account for the claims used to substantiate their evolutionary assertions. For instance, I am still waiting for an evolutionist to show me an example of DNA spontaneously changing, or an example (I only need one!) of a "beneficial mutation" as my biology textbook calls it (they offer tons of non-beneficial mutations as ex-

do you feel guilty for doing things "wrong?" How can you determine right from wrong? What if you are wrong, what then?

So what? Well all of this so far has been gravitating towards one point. If the claims of the Bible are proven to be accurate historically and scientifically, why are they not also valid for explaining who Jesus Christ is? The Bible teaches us clearly and asserts over and over again that Jesus is Lord. There are numberless prophecies in the Bible about the life of Jesus Christ, all of which have come to pass. The track record for the Bible's accuracy is 100%, why then should we not believe the promises it has for the future?

In the book of I Corinthians 1:17-18 Paul tells us, "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not in wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made void. For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God." Paul is telling us here that the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his redeeming work on the cross is utter foolishness to those who are destined for eternal destruction. Hence we see man's interpretations of Jesus in the form of musicals such "Jesus Christ Superstar," and irreverent made for TV movies at Easter.

But that is not who Christ really is. The Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD marked an important date in the Christian's stand for the reality of who Jesus Christ is. In accordance to Scripture they declared Christ to be, "verus homus, verus Deus," meaning "truly man, truly God." Jesus Christ exists in these two natures in perfect unity as the Bible teaches.

The Jesus of the Bible calls us saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Christ preached a message of peace, which called for an acknowledgement of sin, and the need to follow Him alone. Romans 5:17 says, "For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ," and Roman 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The word "Christ" means, "Anointed One," and appropriately so, as it is He that fulfills God's redemptive plan for humanity. His chosen people partake in this redemption through His Holy Spirit given to us which strengthens a Christian's faith and unites them eternally to Christ. In the future, this same Jesus Christ will come again to make all Christians in perfect holiness and judge the world with perfect justice, making all things new, at which time He will take His people to Heaven to worship in eternal glory, and cast the reprobate into eternal desolation, emptiness, damnation, and separation from His goodness. That is who Jesus Christ is, and these are the messages of the Bible, and they are true.



Piece of an ancient Egyptian tomb illustration believed to be a depiction of Joseph's royal installation due to its parallels with the Biblical account.

Photo courtesy William Morrow and Co. and Scribd.com

battles to the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans in 70 AD.

There was a time when many historians did not believe that the "Hittite" people of the Bible were even real. They were passed off as mere fantasy written into the early books, however archaeologists have uncovered numerous Hittite cities and evidences of their writing and culture—all in accordance with the Biblical record. Egyptologists alone have much to offer in the defense of the Biblical record. Hieroglyphics have been very insightful to this end because much of the Bible's story takes place in Egypt at different points throughout history. Events such as the ten plagues, The Exodus, the rule of Joseph (who according to the Bible was placed as a ruler directly under Pharaoh), and Solomon's marriage to the Pharaoh's

articles I have written. This is where we cannot help but enter into the metaphysical realm (metaphysics being the study of the origin of the universe and nature of reality.)

The simple truth is that the geology all around our planet points to intelligent design.

If you have an object, the natural implication is that the object came from somewhere. An apple's existence implies the existence of a tree that produced it; a car's existence suggests that there is a factory somewhere that makes cars. Why is the universe different? The existence of our universe implies and points to a designer, and that designer is none of than the God of the Bible. We know this because the Bible tells us so on the first page, as well the book of Romans which teaches us that all men can observe God's work

amples, such as a two headed turtles which ironically enough results from the loss of protein structure in the DNA, not the gain which is required to prove Darwin's claims.) If the evidence was so clear on spontaneous DNA changes and it is scientifically proven, show me one example, and show me proof of "natural selection" propagating it.

So therefore for the evolutionist/atheist I have some questions: First, how can "chance" create anything? The word "chance" is used often as if it had some creative power in and of itself (ie: "The universe was created by chance.") Really? Chance in and of itself has no power to create or influence anything. Second, how do you know you are right? How did you arrive at that conclusion? What sources do you cite to back up your belief? Why

Junkin' with Jessie

Tuesday Morning

Jessica McNally
Staff Writer

So what do you do when you want to impress your in-laws but don't have a lot of cash? The answer is as easy as Tuesday Morning, and with the approaching holiday season, it's an answer you may want to pay attention to.

Since 1974, the nation-wide chain has been providing customers with top quality merchandise at 50% to 80% off from the original retail price in department stores. In addition, the store will have special sales on the already discounted merchandise.

Anything you can think of pretty much has a good chance of appearing on the shelves: furniture, clothing, kitchenware, electronics, bathroom towels and linens, toys, pictures, pillows, and much much more.

To find the closest location to you (there are several in the Marietta area), simply go to www.tuesdaymorning.com and enter in your zip code under the store locator option. For me, it is the location at Shallowford Crossing, where Shallowford road and Trickum road intersect. What follows is a brief description of some of the items found and their prices.

Of course the more money something is to begin with, the greater the savings when that item is discounted. Such is always the case with furniture. Tuesday Morning has a pretty healthy selection of lamps and tables of different makes and sizes.

For instance, a table lamp by Stiffel originally sold for \$200; the asking price at Tuesday Morning is \$50. A mini styled crystal lamp is selling for \$40.00 (originally \$139), and a modern style floor lamp (originally \$260) is selling for \$100. There is just as much variety in the selection of tables. A wine cabinet (think of pimping your bachelor pad) that originally cost \$675 is now selling for \$199. Very James Bond. A nice hard wood chess table is selling for \$500 (originally \$1500), perfect for the hard-core nerd with cash. A good solid wood end table is priced at \$129, with a \$350 price tag still hanging from the side. These are great investment pieces to grow on.

Now about those gifts for the rich, "already has everything you can think of" in-laws, or other wealthy relations. There are some great gifts in the \$5 to \$20 price ranges in everything from kitchenware, electronics, scrapbook kits (frames, stationary), toys, and even for the pampered pet.

In the kitchenware section, you can find a variety of accessories and everyday utensils. Seriously, the store hosts more knives (be it culterly) than the Army-Navy surplus store. Wine lovers gift sets (bottle openers, wine charms, journals, ect.) are somewhere between \$5 and \$10. Designer coffee mugs are about three dollars each.

Sometimes you can find some cool marketing gimmicks at great

prices, like a Cinderella toaster for \$20 (originally \$40). I also spotted some oversized Pez dispensers.

Remember the Atari gaming system? Okay, remember hearing of the Atari gaming system that existed several generations ago? It can be yours for the bargain price of \$12 (that's the consol, two controllers, and a dozen games).

This is definitely one of Santa's secret shops. Good, quality toys make appearances on Tuesday Morning shelves. Toys like Leap Frog, K-ynex, Legos, Fischer Price, Playskool, TY plushes, Barbie, hot action figures, Parker Brother board games, and even telescopes. These toys are the kinds that NEVER go on sale in the major toy department stores, and when they do, the selection isn't much to brag about. This is the best of the best in toy bargain hunting.

To give you an idea, I found a TY plush and a fun pull-tab book for a young child. The combined total of these items was \$4.09. Originally, the plush was \$10 and the book was \$14. This is going to make an awesome Secret Santa package for this Christmas. Collector Barbies are selling for somewhere between \$15 and \$70 each (originally \$30 to over \$100). A telescope by Meade is on sale for \$30 (originally \$60), wow!

Now, thinking of that all-important significant other, or best friend, or maybe you get along great with your siblings. Well, keep some of these items in mind for birthdays or Christmas presents: a portable television/flashlight combo by Jeep is only \$20 (originally \$50), 3 piece photo frame sets for \$10 (originally \$20). There are a countless number of photo frames, tools, stationary, trinket boxes, and other electronic and clothing accessories to be found in this price range.

Now, for the special wedding gift or birthday present, consider these options: a Mickey Mouse toaster for \$30 (originally \$60), or a portable color photo printer by Lexmark for \$50 (originally \$120), or a set of 500 thread count sheets by Oasis for \$60 (originally \$152), or a smart microwave by Westinghouse for \$60 (originally \$200).

Remember, what is mentioned here barely scratches the surface of the store's overall inventory. There is an aisle of endless pillows, shelves of baskets, luggage and other travel casings, not to mention a whole sub-section of pre-framed artwork severely discounted.

As always, please keep in mind that the prices quoted here are subject to change, and have been quoted by an outside source (that would be me.) Just like any other bargain store, I would caution you to keep an open mind when browsing through the selection and be surprised by what may appear in doing so. Having a specific person in mind is okay and entirely different from having a specific item in mind.

What I think you'll enjoy most about the Tuesday Morning experience is the feeling of accessibility to luxury.

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Local alcoholic's corner

Party/Halloween drinks

Karen Asay
Editor Emeritus

The holiday season is right around the corner. Hell, Kroger and Walmart are already selling Christmas stuff. Well, the holiday season marks the beginning of the party season.

First, you have Halloween, then end of the semester (maybe graduation) party, and lastly Christmas and New Year's parties. So I will be giving you some party drink ideas (punch and Jager Bombs) and end with a Halloween drink for the coming holiday.

Punch

What is better than spiked punch for a party? OK, OK! Girls probably are at the top of the list for most SPSU students but the likelihood of a SPSU student

"drinking" a girl is a little low.

Moving on, spiked punch is easy. You get a big bowl and pour a liter of Sprite and fruit punch and as much vodka as you think reasonable in to it.

Suggestions! Like always, I advise getting something better than Mr. Boston vodka. You will thank me in the morning, if you follow this advice. The hangover isn't going to be as bad as with Mr. Boston.

Also, instead of using ice to keep the punch cold, use sherbert. The sherbert will add flavor to the punch as it melts while the ice will just dilute the punch.

Jager Bomb

Jager Bombs have to be my favorite drink and are great for parties... not so much for your body, though.

The recipe is simple; pour a shot of Jager and a can of Red Bull in a cup. Walla, it's done. This is an awesome drink because you get drunk but you don't get tired.

I don't have any suggestions for improving this drink but there are some variations with the same concept.

One, you can change out the Jager for vodka.

Two, you can swap the Red Bull out for any other energy drink.

Three, you can put three shots of vodka and a Monster energy drink in a funnel and then funnel the drink. OK, number three probably isn't the best idea but it was fun.

Zombie

Now for the Halloween drink! A zombie is a little more complicated than any of the drinks I have suggested but I have confidence in you.

OK, start with a shot of light rum, and follow with a half shot of Crème de Almond, 151 proof rum, and Triple Sec. After the liquor add a shot and a half of orange juice and sour mix. See, you got it.

If you happen to not want to make this drink yourself, TGI Friday's and Dave & Buster's have pretty good ones. Friday's zombies are blue because they use Blue Curacao instead of Triple Sec.

Enjoy the holiday season and be safe...

Trick or Treat!!



Guys, you might have better luck with the drinks than the ladies...

Photo courtesy static.flickr.com

His feet are guided by his stomach, and today it leads him to the heart of Georgia apple country in search of the perfect fruit. For the Gastropod...

Happiness is in the *Pomme* of your hand

Adam Myers
Staff Writer

Certain memories from my childhood stand out more vividly than others. A lot of them stem from the signs of the Illinois fall: the excitement of county fairs, the changing of leaves to vibrant hues of gold and red, the indescribable taste of freshly-harvested sweet corn, and biting into a juicy apple from one of the nearby orchards for the first time of the season.

In the present day in Georgia though, fairs appear as week-long celebrations of the Confederate flag and back hair, foliage transforms from green to depressing grey in a heartbeat, and corn on the cob is inexplicably misunderstood by locals. Luckily, reliving one of those cherished experiences is possible with a short drive up State Route 515, an area stretching from Ellijay to Blue Ridge which is home to a number of orchards and apple vendors.

I have a few gripes with the grocery industry, especially in major metropolitan areas like here in Atlanta. Among them are the lack of locally-grown produce on store shelves and the desire for homogeneity among fruits and vegetables. The state of the apple in produce departments illustrates these points. On American shelves, the Red Delicious is king. Because of its easily-identifiable shape and ruby skin, it is the apple one is most likely to find in grocery stores.

But the attractive skin becomes a tough peel when it comes time to eat, giving way to bland, mushy pulp on the inside. To make matters worse, most of the apples for sale at the nearest Kroger or Publix were picked months ago at an industrial orchard somewhere in Washington; the ones that weren't probably were harvested even earlier in a Southern Hemisphere nation such as Chile or New Zealand.

Why then are people willing to purchase fruit grown across the country or halfway around the world and having spent months in storage, when fresh locally-grown examples are readily available?

With that in mind, I recently set off to Gilmer County to stock up on the fruit and see what else those agricultural entrepreneurs had to offer. My first stop: Hillcrest Orchards at the eastern end of Highway 52, probably the furthest vendor in the area from Marietta, but the closest when coming from my family's home in Cumming, as I did.

Out of the several establishments lining Highway 52 to the east of Ellijay, Hillcrest is probably the most popular, thanks to its reputation as a family-friendly attraction. In addition to the orchard and market, Hillcrest also offers hayrides, playgrounds, a petting zoo, and a replica moonshine still for the grown-ups. (I don't care how old you are, but

one never tires of chasing a baby goat around a barn.)

What I was more interested in though, was the opportunity to mix and match among the up to twenty varieties of apples picked at the facility. Alas, there was only one that caught my eye.

Emerging like Godzilla from the Land of the Rising Sun like an unholy spawn of the Fuji and Granny Smith, the Mutsu is an absolute menace of a fruit. Of massive girth, pristine yellow-green skin, crisp pulp with just the right amount of starchiness, sweet

House a stone's throw away, to the R&A Orchard on the outskirts of East Ellijay.

Somehow, every place I visited was lacking a genuine caramel apple. Dejected, I headed to the last possible place to look, which happens to be the first place I would have looked if I had begun my journey in Marietta: Panorama Orchards on Route 515.

Unlike the other markets I had visited so far, the actual Panorama orchard is far from its retail location. Its primary asset is its location adjacent to the 515

his lengthy resume. Well, sort of. The racing star signed an endorsement deal with confectioner R.M. Palmer Company to develop and endorse his own brand of chocolate bar.

Who is R.M. Palmer, you ask? They're the guys who make the generic-looking chocolate pumpkins and such that the cheapos who refuse to buy miniature Snickers bars hand out to trick-or-treaters at Halloween.

The company is looking to cash in on the popularity of Earnhardt as they seek to make an

attempted to reckon the name's history to the daughter of an unpopular president who had been out of office for over twenty years when the treat was unveiled, even today consumers associate the product with the former Sultan of Swat. When Reggie Jackson boasted that someone would name a candy bar after him a half-century later, Curtiss stepped up to the plate and created the Reggie! Bar.

That's how a company names a candy bar after someone; Palmer (and Dale Earnhardt Jr.) must not have read the memo.

And Now, Drink Recommendations

Despite my professed love for all the world's fermentables, my taste in apple cider runs along the same wavelength as a nineteenth-century temperance advocate: unfiltered and free of alcohol. My palette seems to have no taste for overly sweet libations.

Still, there are a couple of brands of hard cider that receive my seal of approval. The first is Woodchuck 802 Dark & Dry Cider from Vermont, which offers a more complex flavor and less up-front sweetness than the company's other offerings. The second is K Draft Cider from England, a potent beverage (6.9% ABV) created by fermenting a higher percentage of sugars from the unfermented cider than other commercial brands.

Meanwhile, one of the more curious autumn traditions of the brewing industry is the pumpkin ale, beer which utilizes a percentage of the iconic gourd in the mashing process. Even more surprising is that this trend has caught on with major commercial beer companies and small craft brewers alike.

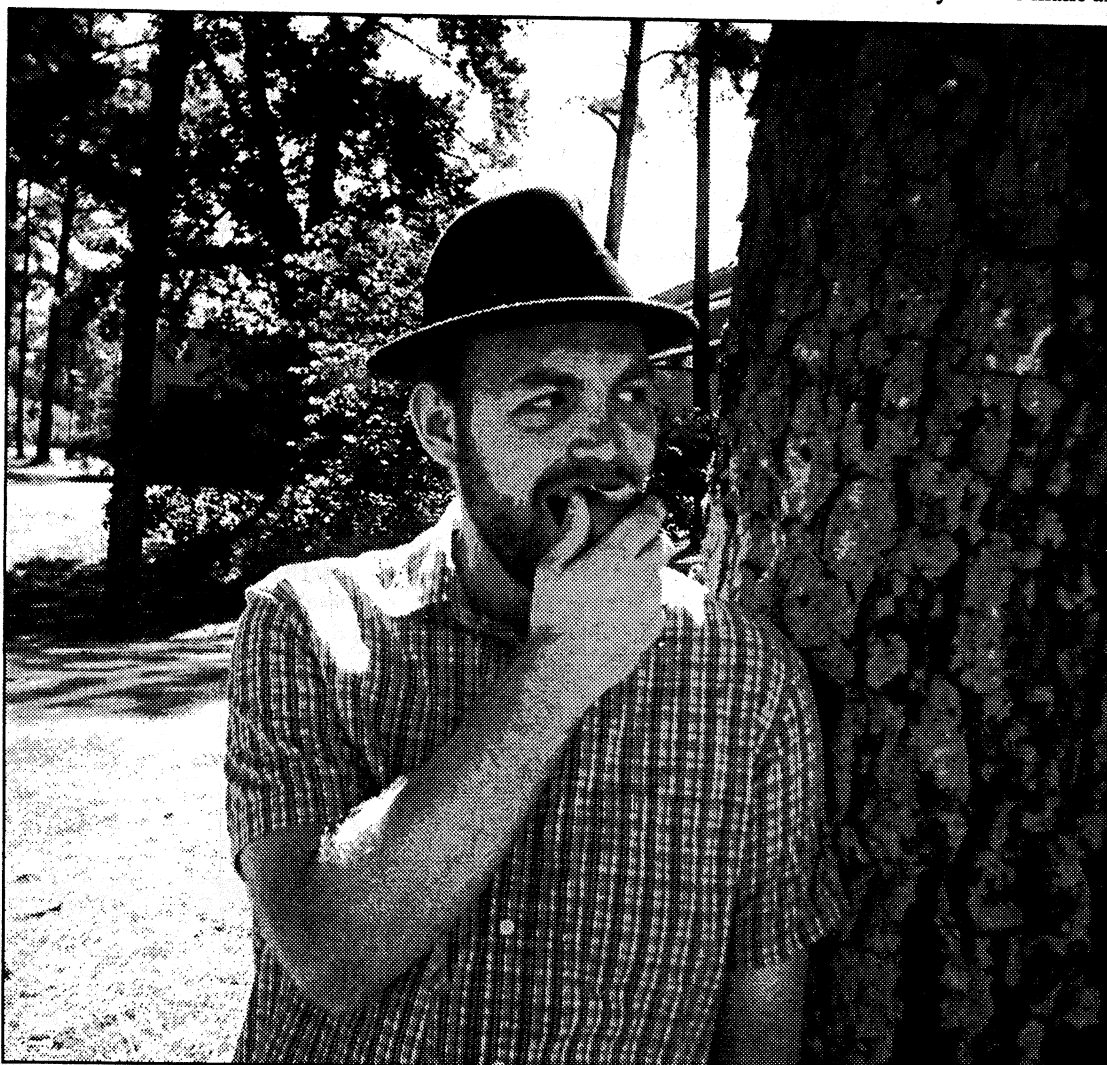
I decided to pit the two against each other, tasting side-by-side Harvest Moon Pumpkin Ale from Coors and Pumpkinhead from Shipyard Brewing Company in Maine.

The result? Harvest Moon was better. Pumpkinhead's flavor and body were thin and seemed artificial, while Harvest Moon's pumpkin and spices were clear to the taste, yet not at all overwhelming.

This is not the first time I've been pleasantly surprised by Coors' Blue Moon line; between it and Killian's Irish Red (a very respectable brew itself), I am perplexed at how the majority of the company's sales can come from Coors Light, a beer best compared to Perrier: fizzy water with an odd aftertaste that sells for \$3 a bottle at most restaurants.

With that last redundant barb at light beers, I tip my glass to you. Until next time, I wish for all of you to eat well, drink well, and live well...

How'dya like dem apples?



Immediately after finishing this apple, the Gastropod fell into a deep sleep. The local charming prince was not amused.

Photo courtesy Adam Myers/The Sting

and tart with a perfect balance between the two, and so juicy one needs a towel after eating it, the Mutsu is the perfect fruit.

So perfect, that they were in short supply. I took what I could get, completed my peck with an array of Jonagolds and Pink Ladies, and made my way to the rest of the market.

Between there and the checkout, I also picked up some apple cider doughnuts and Georgia mountain bread (picture a cinnamon roll in loaf form, with apples in the dough), but there was still one thing that I wanted that Hillcrest failed to deliver: the tooth-cringing symbol of Americana known as the caramel apple.

While Hillcrest offered apple slices drizzled with caramel sauce, such a confection is no match for a juicy apple engulfed by caramel and served on a stick.

And so the hunt began, from the B.J. Apple House across the street (home of an impressive corn maze), to the Mack Aaron Apple

expressway.

In between the wagonloads of pumpkins and the quilts in the backroom lie all sorts of down-home culinary delights; it was next to the ice cream and homemade fudge where I found possibly the last three caramel apples in Gilmer County. Showing no regard to those who might find themselves in the same predicament, I purchased all three and headed home with my gooey bronze bounty.

Now, if you're not like me and don't want to spend the gas money to make a trip upstate for some fruit, Georgia apples are readily available at area farmers' markets. These apples typically come from Mercier Orchards in Blue Ridge. Since Mercier is the lone player in that area and operates at a far more industrial level than the Ellijay orchards, I decided to give them a pass.

Lowlights in Marketing History (NASCAR Edition)

Dale Earnhardt Jr. recently added, "candy bar namesake" to

impression in the candy bar market. Of course, when the product is launched in January, consumers will immediately recognize the name on the peanut butter and caramel-flavored bar: Big Mo. OK, maybe not.

The official explanation for the bar's name, which seems to have no connection to its star endorser, derives from Earnhardt's hometown of Mooresville, North Carolina, which was known to him and his friends as the "Dirty Mo."

To recap, Palmer's deal with Dale Jr. to use a marketable personality to bolster its company's chances of capturing a share of a competitive market has resulted in a bar whose name stems from a mutilation of an inside joke. Great way to spread the word, guys.

When the Curtiss Candy Company sought to capitalize on the popularity of baseball in the 1920s, it named its flagship bar after the most popular player of the time.

That bar was the Baby Ruth, and as much as its creators have

BioShock

Rewrite you genetic code

Sean Fine
Senior Staff Writer

Genre: FPS/RPG

Want a good scare for the time of Halloween? BioShock is the game that many fans of the System Shock series have been waiting eagerly for, for a good long while too.

With many previews, the build up for the first person shooting role player has grown big and immense. No doubt that at this point, many who have had interest in the game have bought and even beaten the game several times.

But did 2K games outdo themselves or was Bioshock better off in its watery depths alone?

Story: At the beginning of the game, Jack is a man who just happened to be on the wrong plane that crashed down at the wrong place at the wrong time.

With no sights of survivors from the burning wreckage that was once the plane, Jack flees to a nearby lighthouse, which happens house a transport system leading to the underwater city of Rapture, a city built many years ago by a man with a dream, Andrew Ryan.

Andrew's intro to Rapture video tells you that he wanted to escape the confines of morality, religion, and government, and build a city based on inventions and commerce, even to go as far as to produce a form of... drug, one could say, that can take a person's genes and change them to allow that person to do a number of things from lighting a flame by the snap of one's fingers to summoning bees from one's hands.

However, as soon as you reach your stopping point, you find the city in a state of silent chaos with signs of vandalism around every corner, as one shadowed figure guts a man right before your eyes before noticing you, screeches and flees.

The city of Rapture is a magnificently horrifying place, filled all sort of nooks and crannies and hidden treasures, most of which are guarded with humans who have altered their genes so much that they have gone mentally unstable and only care about acquiring more of adam, a key resource needed to get more genetic upgrades.

If Bioshock gets at least one thing right, then it's the atmosphere; not many can surprise you so much after you get a item and you turn around to see a crazed psychopath standing there before he swings his wrench at your head.

But there's more to Rapture than just creepy halls and the screeching insane residents of the underwater city. The city has history, which is told through the appearance of ghosts and recording diaries of the people of Rapture, giving the city an elaborate and very interesting history as

well as the reason certain things, such as the haunting Little Sisters and their guardian Big Daddies, exist.

The story that takes place in your own perspective, while very interesting, isn't exactly the most groundbreaking series in terms of story. Not to say that BioShock's story isn't good, it's still a very intriguing tale of a fallen utopia.

Gameplay: As stated earlier, BioShock is a first person shooter game that has you face off against an assortment of psychotic 'splicers' ranging from your typical melee-happy wrench jockeys to teleporting, fireball-wielding religious fanatics obsessed in their own insanity, and all of these enemies provide a good bit of challenge, especially as you reach the harder parts of the game and their attacks and health become larger and stronger.

All of these enemies, though, pale in comparison to the might of the Big Daddy, super armored freaks of nature with only one goal on their mind, to protect the little sisters, children who carry large amounts of adam, but so long as you don't bother them, they don't bother you.

However, in order to become stronger to face the difficulties that lie ahead in the game, you must obtain adam, thusly you must fight the Big Daddies, which are the worst enemy you can think of times ten, so it's near impossible to defeat a Big Daddy without dying once.

But this leads us to one of the game's major faults - when you die, you instantly revive at

the closet reviv-o-chamber, where everything is exactly the same as when you died. This just takes away a large amount of challenge from the game and the incentive to stay alive is practically evaporated.

In short, the AI in the game is strong and provides a good run for your money, but with practically no penalty for dying besides a little walking, the challenge that the AI brings with it is significantly decreased.

However, what makes BioShock much more than a the large cesspool of first person shooters out on the market (besides setting up a excellent atmosphere) is making a unique system of weapons and how one can use those weapons.

One of the main feature weapons are plasmids, genetic alterations that allow you to shoot lightning, enrage a enemy so that he'll fight his unsuspecting allies, and freeze your enemies where they stand.

There are many types of plasmids and most of them can do something that affects the surrounding environment, such as shooting a bolt of lightning into a puddle of water, shock everyone standing in it.

You can also combine the use of Plasmids for lethal damage; for instance, setting a person on fire and then following that person as they run to a pool of water to put out the flames, only to have you shock the water after they're in it.

2K games have added a large variety of uses for your plasmids. The only problem with

plasmids is that, while still cool and neat to use in battle, some of them just seemed tacked on, such as the cyclone trap plasmid or the bee hive plasmid; they just aren't that... useful. Regardless, the plasmids in the game do take what is already a neat idea and make a ton of situations that you can use to your advantage.

One other feature that makes BioShock so full of replay value is the amount of customization.

Using money and adam, players can find and purchase upgrades to their weapons, their plasmids, as well as to their own physical bodies. These physical changes to your body can make you better with certain weapons, give you a short electric forcefield, as well as increase the amount of health healed when eating or using a first aid kit.

If you wanted, one could take the upgrades to try and make a character that is a super wrenchman, and the surprising thing is that it can work, extremely well even. With the customization, everyone can make their ideal super man with all the plasmids and weapon upgrades. In short, the customization is one of BioShock's strongest points.

Graphics: Rapture is a city underwater and because of that, there's... well... a lot of water. Fortunately, the water as well as everything else is the city looks good and with sharp graphics that give detail to every little thing in the game.

The game's design has an excellent futuristic-50s feel to the game with statues of gold and

beautiful architecture that gives a feeling of nostalgia, especially since most of the place is trashed to hell.

The characters though, except for a few major characters, don't look much different from the insane psychopaths that you're constantly fighting. Whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, I'll leave to you.

Sound: The main soundtrack includes a number of popular songs from yester-generation, such as "Papa loves Mambo" as well as its own soundtrack with orchestral violins that gives an excellent atmosphere within the game. Even if most of the time, you won't really be listening to music, it's nice to hear some melodies now and again.

Lastly, the game has a splendid cast of voice acting, including several revered actors, and the cast makes authentic 50s speech of various nationalities, including German and Japanese, not only sounding like their foreign parts, but acting like what a German or a Japanese would've acted at the time. It's excellent.

Overall: For the most part, BioShock is an excellent piece of work, with splendid graphics, decent story (especially for a first person shooter), as well as some neat gameplay mechanics.

However, the die-without-penalty methods of reviving take what would've been a perfect game and greatly dips the difficulty, making it actually less fun, though not by terribly much.

8.5/10



The Big Daddy - He weighs a ton and he has a little girl.

Photo courtesy steamreview.org.

A retroview on the Shenmue series

It's the most expensive game ever made, so why haven't you played it?

Cary Chichester
Staff Writer

Developer: Sega-AM2

Publisher: Sega

Platform: Dreamcast, Xbox

Genre: Action-RPG/Adventure

ESRB Rating: Teen

"And thus the saga, begins..."

These words spoken during the game's opening marked the beginning of Sega's most epic undertaking. It took seven years and over twenty million dollars for just the first game to be released, but playing this game makes it all too clear that this was both time and money well spent. Not only was it graphically revolutionary, but it contained a level of interactivity never before seen in games. It somehow managed to snag the 16th place in IGN's reader's choice for top 100 video games of all time. So for those who haven't already beaten this game about four times, you may be wondering what makes this game good; a better question however might be what doesn't?

Shenmue is primarily a story of vengeance, the story of a young Japanese Jujitsu student named Ryo Hazuki who searches for information on a man named Lan Di, the killer of his father. Unfortunately for Ryo, Lan Di isn't a convenience shop employee that works on the corner so that Ryo can call him out for a fight; he's actually one of the four leaders of an illegal Chinese crime syndicate known as the Chi You Men. It seems impossible for Ryo to find the whereabouts of such a person, but he tries nonetheless.

The game is primarily divided into four different areas of gameplay: FREE Quest, FREE battle, QTE, and mini-games. The term FREE was created by the director Yu Suzuki, and stands for Full Reactive Eyes Entertainment. This is meant to describe the game's graphics and immense interactive elements. Virtually everything you can see can be interacted with. You can enter every store, pick up pamphlets, order food, collect toys from vending machines, and certainly much more.

Hope you like to talk in games, because you'll certainly be doing a lot of it in Shenmue. Every character in Shenmue is fully-voiced so that talking to anybody is an enjoyable experience. In the FREE Quest mode, you'll be able to explore your neighborhood in Japan, and man is there a lot to explore. Like most people in the real world, people won't be able to help you however, so many will say that they are busy or to ask someone else. It's still a lot more realistic than other games where you talk to a strange townsman in hopes of getting information, only to have them talk to you about their day.

You wake up each morning in your room and are given a daily allowance of 500 yen (about 5 bucks), because this isn't a game where coins and gold drop out of your enemies. You can spend your money on a plethora of items, including toys, food, arcade games, martial art scrolls, and a lot more random stuff.

The quest mode definitely gives you a lot to do. You can open drawers, cupboards, and whatever else you feel like you can get your hands on. You can enter stores and restaurants to get a fresh meal or some groceries for home. You can even buy some milk and fish to feed to a stray kitten. Quest mode makes the game feel like one big adventure game, but it has much more to limit it to one genre.

In the FREE Battle portion of the game, you'll be, um, battling. You encounter less than friendly characters in your search for an infamous crime syndicate, and a little persuasion is often necessary to make them talk. While this part does play like a fighting game, you won't be shooting fireballs or performing other crazy actions, you'll instead be performing real fighting techniques. The fighting system is based on Virtua Fighter, so you'll be armed with a set of punches, kicks, and grapples that are based on actual martial arts.

You do not have the ability to block, so your only chance for not getting yourself killed is to either

learn to parry or be relentless in your attacks (I often chose the latter).

The ability to learn new moves from characters in the game, as well as buy martial arts scrolls, increase the amount of moves you can perform and adds a sort of leveling-up feature to fighting. Fighting might be slow-paced, but it's fun; you'll end up wishing that there were more people to fight, but it is not until the end of the game that you are able to fight a horde of bad guys as often as you want.

One of the coolest and most innovative features in the game are the QTE (Quick Time Events). When this happens, a button will appear in the middle of the screen for about two seconds and the player must press that button before it disappears. These happen during certain cutscenes and successful completion of QTE will usually result in the completion of the scene.

If you fail, you will either be forced to replay the cutscene, or the game's storyline may slightly change to accommodate for your failure.

When taking down a Chinese crime syndicate becomes too much to bare, you can wind down with a couple of fun mini-games. The local arcade offers old Sega titles such as Hang-On and Space Harrier, as well as original games like a boxing match that plays like a QTE. You also get to do a little racing with motorcycles or the forklift you use at your job, as well as play a game of darts and billiards at the local bars. You can usually get some cool stuff from playing these games, so there's actually an added incentive to have fun.

While Shenmue was certainly a lot of fun, it wasn't the end of the series. While many questions were answered, and bad guys beaten up, you realize that your true adventure is only just beginning. Your true quest begins in Shenmue II.

Shenmue II kept most of the same gameplay mechanics, so those that played the first could pick up and play it with ease. For those that didn't, however, the Xbox version



Performing real martial arts gave you a large list of interesting techniques from different fighting styles.

Photo courtesy ign.com.

came packaged with the Shenmue movie so that new players could be filled in on the story before jumping in on the sequel.

The graphical difference between the original game and the sequel was noticeable from the start of the game. While you could have a few people on screen in Shenmue, about six, Shenmue II managed to pack in more than four times that amount. This definitely made me feel the difference between a bustling city like Hong Kong and my small town back in Japan.

Since Hong Kong in Shenmue II is enormous when compared to your small town, you'll probably have a hard time finding things at first, even with a map. Luckily, in addition to asking for directions, people offer to let you follow them while they show you the way. You could also put different marks on your map to help you remember where stuff is.

Since you're still on your own, you'll need to get a place to stay and another part-time job, but luckily the options are more varied. If you manage to get your hands on the Dreamcast version, then everything you had in the first game will be transferred over; so if you get bored of your collectible toys, you can always pawn them.

The QTE is also more fun in the sequel. Some of the scenes involving QTE are more action-packed than the previous game, and some are very unique, making them a lot of fun. They have also incorporated move techniques into the QTE. In the previous game, you were limited to just pressing one button; now, however, you might end up seeing a combination of buttons which will allow you to execute more complex maneuvers.

Of course, while you're enjoying all the improvements made in the sequel, you're still waiting to find and kill Lan Di. The story this time around is just as good, if not better, than the previous game. You start by looking for a martial arts master who you were told would help you, and this master isn't ready to just help anybody. You must be patient, and prove yourself by per-

forming chores around the dojo and finding other martial arts masters around Hong Kong who can teach you about the four Wude, which are lessons in martial arts and life.

The lessons you learn are JIE (never show off your skills thoughtlessly), GON (practice every day without fail), DAN (be brave and stay calm to make the right decision), and YI (never hesitate to do what is right).

Since Ryo is still young, and living on his own for the first time, these lessons have more of an impact on him than just making him into a better fighter; it makes the story a combination of Ryo's thirst for vengeance, and his journey to becoming a man.

The ending of the game was very mysterious, and showed that there's a lot more going on in this story than just revenge against one man. The game constantly alludes to an ancient prophecy, but its significance isn't revealed until the end, and even that left players with more questions than answers.

While Shenmue II was made six years ago, and players are still anxiously awaiting their opportunity to finish the story, there is no current development on Shenmue III. Development started on both Shenmue III and Shenmue Online (an MMORPG based on the Shenmue universe), but many difficulties, mostly financial, caused both projects to be cancelled. The director stated that the series will continue eventually, but we'll have to wait until then.

The adventure experienced in Shenmue is definitely an unforgettable one. You slowly get sucked into Ryo's world and feel the same pain he does when hours of uncovering secrets amounts to more questions being asked. Fans will wait patiently for these questions to be answered, but those who have not yet experienced this franchise are missing out on one of the best action-adventure games of all time. This game deserves to be played by all fans of adventure games, action-RPG's, martial arts, or vengeance stories, which is just about everyone that plays video games.



Shenmue's QTE cutscenes are responsible for the gameplay mechanics of Resident Evil 4, Kingdom Hearts II, and God of War.

Photo courtesy IGN.com.

The Vent

Have something to say?
E-mail stingeditor@gmail.com to have it published anonymously.

I hate having to take Technical Writing when I'm NEVER going to use it in CS development.

Why are there so many head hunters for sales positions at career fairs??? I'm going to college so I can avoid a job in sales.

Nice going on the new issue of the STING. With a little more effort you can set a new record for grammatical errors per page. Good luck! It's not like you're representing an institute of higher learning or anything...

I can't believe Colbert is running for president!
Hallelujah!

Once upon a time...

20 fun things to do on Halloween;
original pub. date Oct. 30, 2003.

Former Sting Staff
Staff members from 2003

1. Give away something other than candy. (Toothpicks, golf balls, bags of sand, etc.)

2. Wait behind the door until some people come. When they get near the door, jump out, wearing a costume, and holding a bag, and yell, "Trick or Treat!" Look at them, scratch your head, and act confused.

3. Fill a briefcase with marbles and crackers. Write on it, "Top Secret" in big letters. When trick-or-treaters come, look around suspiciously, say, "It's about time you got here," give them the briefcase, and quickly shut the door.

4. Get about 30 people to wait in your living room. When trick-or-treaters come to the door, say, "Come in." When they do, have everyone yell, "Surprise!!!" Act like it's a surprise party. 5. Get everyone who comes to the door to come in and see if they can figure out what's wrong with your dishwasher. Insist that it makes an unnatural "whirring" sound.

6. After you give them candy, hand the trick-or-treaters a bill.

7. Open the door dressed as a giant fish. Immediately collapse, and don't move or say anything until the trick-or-treaters go away.

8. When you answer the door, hold up one candybar, throw it out into the street, and yell, "Crawl for it!"

9. When you answer the door, look at the trick-or-treaters, act shocked and scared, and start screaming your head off. Slam the door and run around the house, screaming until they go away.

10. Insist that the trick-or-treaters each do ten push-ups before you give them any candy.

11. Hand out menus to the trick-or-treaters and let them order their candy. Keep asking if anyone wants to see the wine list.

12. Get a catapult. Sit on your porch and catapult pumpkins at anyone who comes within 50 yards of your house.

13. When people come to the door, jump out a nearby window, crashing through the glass, and run as far away from your house as you can.

14. Answer the door dressed as a pilgrim. Stare at the trick-or-treaters for a moment, pretend to be confused, and start flipping through a calendar.

15. Instead of candy, give away colored eggs. If anyone protests, explain that the eggs are the only thing you had left over from Easter.

16. Answer the door dressed as a dentist. Angrily give the trick-or-treaters a two-hour lecture on tooth decay.

17. Answer the door with a mouthful of M & M's and several half-eaten candy bars in your hands. Act surprised, and close the door. Open it again in a few seconds, and insist that you don't have any candy.

18. Hand out cigarettes and bottles of aspirin.

19. Put a crown on a pumpkin and put the pumpkin on a throne on your porch. Insist that all of the trick-or-treaters bow before the pumpkin.

20. Dress up like a bunny rabbit. Yell and curse from the moment you open the door, and angrily throw the candy at the trick-or-treaters. Slam the door when you're finished.

Consensus editorial Have a safe Halloween

Jessica McNally
Staff Writer

The entire staff at The Sting would like everybody to have a safe and happy Halloween this year.

Keep in mind what kind of weather there is going to be if you go out anywhere special; a.k.a.: if you're barely dressed (like Fred or Willma Flintstone) bring an overcoat. Be sure to pack an umbrella if it looks like rain, pneumonia only excuses you from some classes.

In addition, we at The Sting have compiled a little checklist of other security issues for your consideration:

· If your going to a party that requires some form of automated vehicle assistance (car, boat, scooter, ect.) make sure you have a designated driver

· Don't drink too much alcohol (Yes, there is such a thing, and the hospital bill for pumping a stomach is nothing to laugh at.)

· If you are sleeping over at a house party, be sure you can stay until early afternoon the following day (enough time for all the alcohol in your system to be processed)

· Make sure you eat plenty of food at least thirty minutes before consuming any liquor (please note beer is excused here)

· Drink water (at least a little, your body will thank you for this in the morning)

· Don't let a stranger hand you an open drink (beer included); either you make your own drink, or watch a friend show you how to make a drink you would like to try

· You may take candy from strangers, as long as it is sealed in an airtight container

· If you go Trick-or-Treating, be thoughtful of the appropriate hours for doing so (10:00pm is usually the absolute latest cutoff

in suburbia)

· If you go out to a large club or party, don't go alone, bring a buddy

· Even if you stay on campus, don't roam around alone late at night (there may be sicko-vampire-wannabes frolicking about)

There are probably a few more things to consider, but the information above is a good start for your Halloween evening preparations.

Please don't be a jackass about your costume, real swords are cute as wall displays, but not at parties.

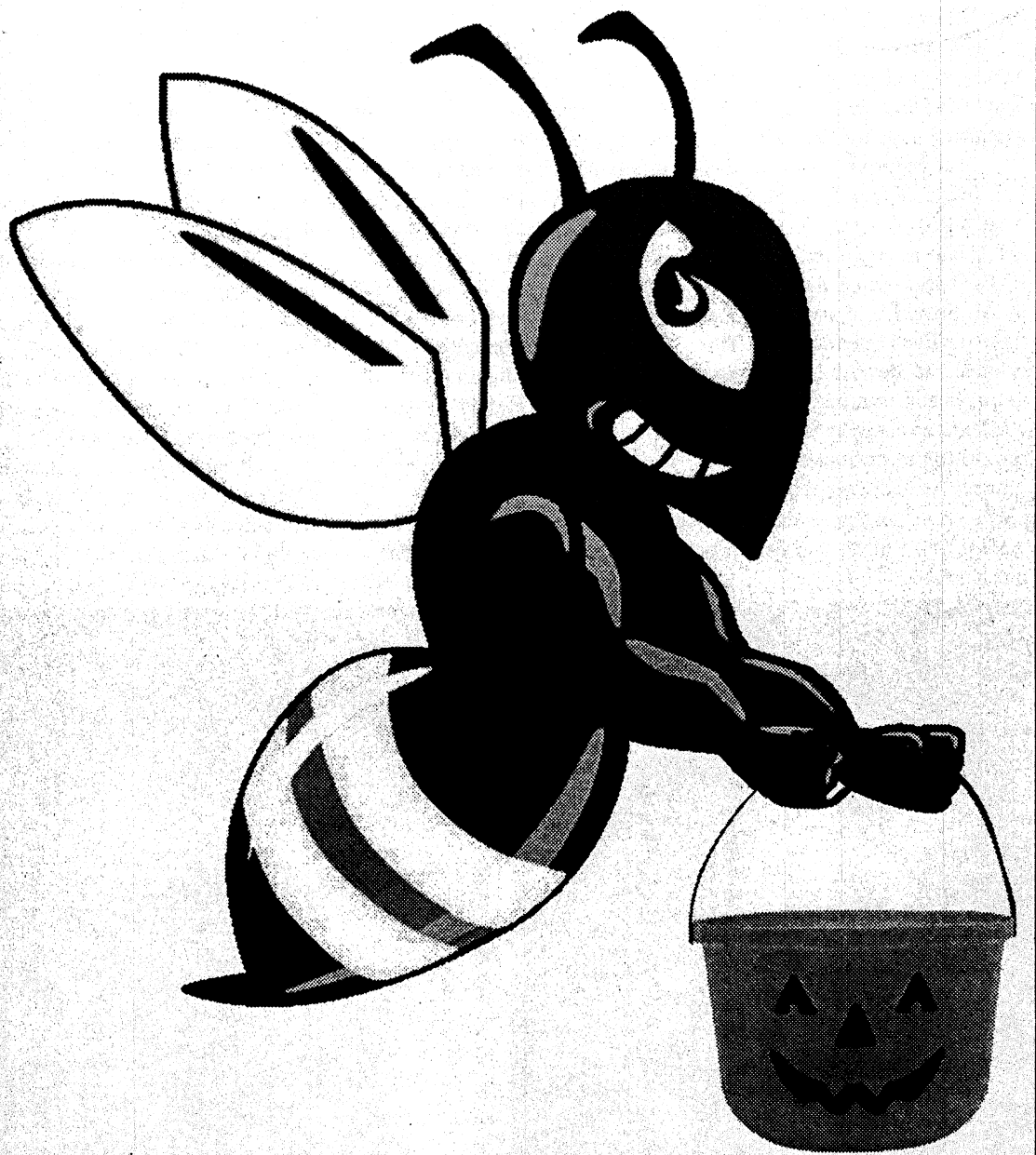
Also please make sure you're covered, Halloween is not an excuse to act like a stripper.

Once again, have a safe and happy Halloween!

Sincerely,

The Sting

Trick or Treat!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN