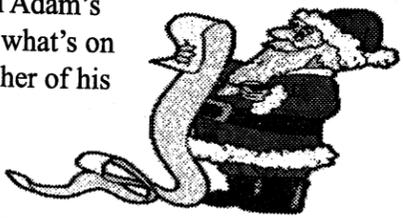


All I Want...

See what's on Adam's Wishlist, and what's on quite a few other of his lists as well.
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The Sting

www.thesting.org

Best of 2007

Check out what YouTube videos Jason Berman considers the best of the year. Maybe you've seen 'em, maybe you haven't, but they're worth a look! Page 8



December 10, 2007

Enjoy the time off!

Volume 62, Issue 6

Copyright infringement at Southern Poly

Stuart Michelson
Copy Editor

On October 18th, 2007, Southern Polytechnic State University's Chief Information Officer Bill Gruszka issued a bulletin to all students, faculty, and staff in which he reminded them of the SPSU Acceptance Use Policy in the face of recent illegal file sharing activity at the University.

Gruszka states that it is unlawful to, "download, share or pass on any copyrighted material including music, books, movies and software without the permission of the author. The only exception to this is for limited use in teaching and scholarship." Gruszka went on to say that even though software or networks such as BitTorrent, Ares, DirectConnect, ProxyShare, GUNet, and Gnutella, which are commonly used by students downloading material, may seem simple enough, but sharing copyrighted material through them is against the law. Further it is also illegal to provide materials for others to download by sharing files using these mediums.

Gruszka made mention of a recent lawsuit in which the Recording Industry Association of America was awarded over \$222,000 for a copyright infringement. He provided the following link for further reading about the law surrounding copyrights <http://www.usg.edu/legal/copyright>. He also encouraged

SPSU network users to refresh their familiarity with SPSU's Acceptance Use Policy at <http://www.spsu.edu/infotech/policies/summary.html>.

According to Gruszka, SPSU had recently received several notices of copyright infringement on its network by the Motion Picture Association of America, Recording Industry Association of America, and the Interactive Digital Software Association. Director of IT Operations Ron Skopitz told The Sting that SPSU receives on average two to three warnings a week reflecting a much higher sense of frequency than even Gruszka's bulletin relayed.

The process by which SPSU is contacted by these industries is as follows according to Skopitz. The record label, movie, and software industries are actively searching for violators and contact the University through the Georgia Board of Regents if a violation is found. SPSU is then notified and legally obligated to investigate the situation to see if the perpetrator can be identified. According to Skopitz, this is very difficult since often the only information they are provided with is a time and an IP address. Skopitz points out that the way SPSU's network is set up makes it possible for as many as 200 users to share a single IP address. Therefore, even by reviewing computer logs, with such limited information, identifying the individual is often

difficult if not impossible given the circumstances.

Even though difficult, SPSU is legally obligated to make a concerted effort to investigate each reported instance of copyright infringement or risk facing a lawsuit. According to Skopitz, roughly only 20% of all illegal file sharing takes place on university campuses, however roughly 80% of all enforcement is concentrated on the university campuses. He says this is because it is a lot easier to go after campuses where the individuals using a network may be easier to identify. Whether or not this is fair to the universities, SPSU, like all others, remains a popular target for copyright infringement suits.

If a violator is identified from the information provided to SPSU in a violation warning, then several things may occur according to the severity of the crime. According to Gruszka, "immediate discontinuation of computing privileges, cooperation with law enforcement agencies on the prosecution of the offenders, and closing down access to the program/site that is being used." Skopitz adds that most likely a warning will be issued to the student, faculty member, or staff responsible, and they will be warned of the consequences.

Since the IP addresses used on campus are owned by the University System of Georgia, and in turn, the State of Georgia, SPSU is obligated to prove that it put forth



Are you familiar with the SPSU Acceptance Use Policy?

Photo courtesy Stuart Michelson/The Sting

a solid effort to investigate each claim of abuse on its network. According to Skopitz, SPSU does not report the names of violators that have been identified operating on its network to the Board of Regents, and so far they have never been asked to. "We do not actively police what people are doing, however, we are legally obligated to respond to inquiries made by the Recording Industry Association of America and the Motion Picture Association of America," said Skopitz when asked about what SPSU is actively doing now about the problem.

Skopitz said that the recent attention surrounding this issue that resulted in the bulletin was not because of one specific major offense that had occurred, but rather was a general warning to the SPSU community to be mindful of the rules on

campus, and the law. Skopitz also outlined another important reason why file sharing, movie downloading, and behavior of the like should be prohibited on campus—bandwidth. According to Skopitz, one central IT issue has brought the downloading problem into a new light, and that is the speed of the Internet on campus. Downloaders can dominate the bandwidth on campus and thus make it very difficult for SPSU's daily activities to run smoothly. For instance, WebCT users and those conducting research on campus are inhibited from doing so when speeds are slow.

Anyone with any concerns or questions about Internet usage policies at SPSU are encouraged to visit the IT webpage at spsu.edu, or call and visit the IT department in the Building H.

IT security competition held

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

On November 10th, the Southern Polytechnic Information Security Association (SPISA) held a security competition between five teams from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of this competition was to evoke interest in the SPISA team which participates in a similar competition on a regional scale.

In this competition, teams competed to secure their individual Windows 2003 Active Directory server, a web server, a database server, and a Windows XP client. They were scored on their ability to do this, as well as how well they followed business etiquette and competition rules.

The competition began by allowing the teams to set-up and
Continued on Page 2



Winning Team Alpha Squad 7: Brent Page, Michael Galyon, and Alex Groden

Photo courtesy Dr. Wang

Capstone solar project

Karen Asay
Editor Emeritus

This semester's Business Capstone class decided to take on Professor Thacker's solar panel project. This project involved installing solar panels on top of the J-building.

The Capstone class had two main goals: discover the project's feasibility and gather support for the project. The main person they are trying to get to support the project is Dr. Rossbacher.

The class started looking into the feasibility of the project by asking facilities how much electricity the J-building used. This information would tell them if the solar panels would create enough electricity to sustain the J-building. Unfortunately, facilities doesn't measure the electrical use of each building, just the campus as a whole, so the class couldn't find

this information.

The class continued by estimating the J-building has 28,000 sq. ft. of roof space, which with the assumed 5 kilowatt per square mile per day of solar energy, would produce an average of \$4,281 worth of energy per month. This energy would save Southern Poly \$51,369 per year on its power bill.

Discovering the feasibility of the project also involved getting a cost estimate for the installation of the solar panels: \$2.5 million. This price divides to be \$9 per watt. Fortunately, businesses get a 30% tax break for installing solar panels, lowering the cost to \$1,751,400.

Finally, the class found it would take Southern Poly 20 years to break even on this project.

The class's second goal was to gather the support from student, alumni, staff, faculty, community,
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Exceptional?

Read why Stuart Michelson is giving the new French President a chance - and read part of his speech. Come on, you know you didn't watch it.
Page 5

Super Mario

Here's your early warning: Don't read this review, just buy this game!!! (Says reviewer Cary Chichester himself!)
Page 6

Holiday Drinks

Spice up your holiday parties with some of Karen Asay's holiday suggestions in her last article. Yum!
Page 7



Capstone Solar Project, Continued from Page 1

businesses, and government. The class set up a petition to collect the signatures of people who support this project. The petition has already been signed by 1500 students, 62 alumni, and recently the class convinced the Mayor of Marietta, Bill Dunaway, to sign it.

The Capstone class had a couple of different methods of gaining support for this project: posting the petition in the Student Center and J-building, doing a presentation in H-200, and creating a mascot, Super Solar Dude. Super Solar Dude and other students in the class have spent time walking around campus educating students about the project and gathering support for it.

At the November 28th presentation, the class was hoping to gain Dr. Rossbacher's official support but she was unable to attend. With Dr. Rossbacher's support, the class can start the process of gathering money for the installation of the solar panel through donations from local businesses and alumni.

Professor Thacker is hoping to continue this project with the spring semester's Capstone class and expects this Capstone class' goals to be continuing to gain student and alumni support but also to gain the support of local businesses and start collecting donations.



Super Solar Dude to the rescue!

Photo courtesy Karen Asay/The Sting

IT Security Competition Held, Continued from Page 1

secure their networks without any active threats. At 2:00 p.m., however, their systems were began to be attacked by a team of security professionals.

There were three teams who were in charge of running the competition. These teams consisted of the following:

- The Red Team: Security professionals who attacked the computer systems

- The White Team: Judges who kept score during the competition

- The Gold Team: Student SPISA members who were in charge of overseeing the competition

The five teams of three members who competed in the compe-

tion consisted of the following in the order in which they were ranked:

- First Place: Alpha Squad Seven; Brent Page, Michael Galyon, Alex Groden

- Second Place: Team NULL, Daniel Perry, Ted Wood, Benjamin V. Yampolsky

- Third Place: Team Ninjas; Sandra Hofmann, Rob Little, Yamin Wu

- Fourth Place: Team Paladin; Ilyas Takci, Jaime Barrios, Andrew Ward

- Fifth Place: Team Warcraft; Xin Lu, Michael Altfield, Min Xia
The Computer Science (CS) Department leant SPISA the equipment for the competition, and the Information Technology (IT)

Department helped set-up the network. Many SPSU Professors helped during the competition such as Ms. Vandeven, Dr. Chih-Cheng Hung, Mr. Walker, Dr. Wang, and Dr. Peltzverger.

This competition drew on many different departments and resources in the CSE Department and was a great success.

The eventual goal is to make this a yearly competition with an associated class (the class was also held this semester.)

If you are interested in having this as a class, or want more information about it, contact Dr. Wang at jwang@spsu.edu. If you are interested in becoming a member of the SPISA team, e-mail team leader Eric John at ejohn@spsu.edu.



The student Gold Team members.

Photo courtesy Dr. Wang

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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.

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

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Deadline for the next issue is Friday, January 11 at 11:00 P.M. Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of The Sting, except through special permission.

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Farewell address

Karen Asay
Editor Emeritus

The Sting has a tradition that graduating staff members write a farewell article in their last issue. Well, here is mine. I'm going to try not to make it too sappy but I can't promise anything. Heck, I'm going to miss you guys. (I'm crying already... just kidding!)

I wasn't really sure what to write in my farewell but I have decided to thank my staff, meaning the staff for the 2006-2007 academic year. This period was my term as Editor-in-Chief. I'll start by saying, I had a great staff; they even got articles to me on time.

Only real problem I had was everybody keep making fun of me for misspelling stuff during meetings, especially my Copy Editor, Twila McConnell. She still picks on me about forgetting the 'L' in public; apparently, I thought SPSU had "pubic" labs.

Everyone on staff was great but there were four members who stood out: Sean Fine, Jon Meek, Jessica McNally, and Twila McConnell.

Sean Fine and Jon Meek were always dependable when it came to writing articles. Every issue these guys wrote two or three articles, which definitely took stress off me. As Editor having staff members you can count on is key and Sean and Jon were definitely that for me.

Jessica McNally was another dependable writer. I am separating her from Sean and Jon because she was my "I'll do it" person. When I

need a writer to cover a CAB event, she was always willing if it didn't interfere with her classes. She also wrote other articles on top of the CAB event ones, like her junkin' column. I think there are issues where she wrote five to seven articles. Thank you very much for all your work, Jessica.

Now, even though Twila McConnell picked on me a lot, was my right-hand woman through out the year. If I really really need something written, she would do it. If I needed her to edit last minute articles, she did it. If I needed someone to go with me to get ice-cream because I was stressing out, she was there for me. I was very lucky to have her as my Copy Editor and I continue to be lucky to have her as a friend. OK, this part got a little sappy but Twila is that awesome; I couldn't help it.

Well, that is it; nice and short. Farewell Southern Poly; I have enjoyed my five and half years here. I am leaving The Sting in good hands. Twila has been and will continue to do an excellent job as Editor-in-Chief and the staff is still growing as new talented people begin writing articles. Hats off and good-bye.



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING A MINOR IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION?

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To be eligible for a Minor in Business Administration, you must complete:

- + **MGNT 3105: Management and Organizational Behavior** (3 hours)
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Totaling to 15 credit hours of Business Entailed Coursework.

Note: Upper level Accounting & Economics courses are acceptable as well.

Junkin' With Jessie

Canton Cash & Carry Surplus Store

Jessica McNally
Staff Writer

Who have you ever known to underbid the Dollar General, Big Lots, Dollar Tree, or your local thrift store? Canton Cash and Carry Surplus Store does, which gives you an unbelievable savings on the following items: household cleaners, health and beauty items, electronics, gifts, knick knacks, and much more.

Basically, the way it works is that the owner, Roy, goes to auctions and bids on merchandise that has been obtained from distressed businesses or other similar scenarios. The savings is then passed on to you, the consumer. Don't be fooled either, Canton CASH and Carry also accepts credit and debit cards.

Along Canton Road, between the Piedmont and Chastain intersections, the store sits in a brick shopping center which also plays host to several other businesses. You can call the store at (770) 794-7455, or use a map tracking site for their address: 3020 Canton Rd. Suite 7, Marietta, Ga 30066.

Either way will get you specific directions to the store's location. What follows, is a brief list of current trends, along with prices.

Attention all student organizations, if you are hosting any events, Canton Cash and Carry is

the store to buy supplies at. You get great deals on bulk discount items such as paper or plastic cups, napkins, paper plates, or even things like restaurant-sized condiments.

For example, 16oz plastic cups by American Value (a Dollar General brand) are only \$0.75 (22 count). That's less than you would pay at the Dollar General. Coca-Cola paper cups are \$0.99 for fifty cups. Hefty 12 ounce Styrofoam bowls are \$3.95 (300 count). That's like a school year's worth of cereal bowls. Napkins by Scott are only \$1.95 for a 400 count package.

Basically, if you are planning to do cookouts, have eating contests, or some other event with food, it may be worth it to check out the store before spending three to four times more at the grocery store.

You can also find some dry bulk groceries in the store for cheap, cheap prices. I just spent \$0.32 on three bags of wrapped, hard candy. Good stuff too, butterscotches and fire balls.

Canton Cash and Carry is offering great deals on cleaning supplies at the moment. Clorox cleaning sprays like Tilex Soap Scum are selling for \$1.49 per one quart-sized bottle. A box of Kleenex (standard, not travel sized) is running for \$0.99.

Purex liquid laundry detergent is only \$1.95 for a 2.5 liter bottle or \$2.19 for a 3.54 liter bottle.

There are also great deals on Tide detergent as well.

Paper towels by EverDry are on sale, two rolls for \$0.89, or a case of thirty for \$13 dollars. Cottonelle toilet paper is only \$1.59 (4 roll count). The store even has Combat pesticides for \$2.95. Mops and brooms are only \$2.95 each. Basically, twenty bucks will get you a case of cleaning supplies that should hold you through one, if not two, school semesters.

Health and beauty products are another must have that the store is showcasing. Feminine hygiene products are severely discounted. Stayfree and Kotex are \$1.95 for a standard sized box (about 18 count). A medium sized package of Always or Tampax pads is \$2.95.

Toothpaste by Crest or Colgate is only \$1.95 for a large tube, or \$1.50 for a standard tube. Eighteen ounce bottles of Dial body wash, or Softsoap are only \$1.95.

A huge selection of ethnic and specialty hair care products are somewhere between \$0.99 or \$1.95.

In the world of medicine, the asking price is \$1.95 for a standard sized bottle of Tylenol (and I mean Tylenol) pain relief pills, cough syrup, or gel caps. Knee or wrist supports are only \$2.95 as well.

These products are good, fresh, and much less than what drugstores or grocery stores are charging.

Electronics are yet another trend that the store is hosting a healthy variety of. An apartment-sized fridge is being featured for \$239. Mini refrigerators are only \$80.

Right now, there is a special sale on televisions. A 50" screen by Samsung is only \$1,200, plus ten percent off. A vacuum cleaner by Bissell is \$75. A printer/scanner by HP is \$98. And \$55 will get you a Sony DVD and VCR player.

A great dorm room accessory is a 5 and 1/2" black and white screen television/radio for only \$15.99. Most of the electronics noted are name-brand labels.

The deals are pretty incredible, so if you are looking for a good buy, forget Best Buy and try Canton Cash and Carry.

Clothing is yet another current feature on the store's shelves. Men's, women's and children's clothing can all be found at drastically reduced prices.

You know how thrift stores offer great deals on polo shirts with logos? Well, the Canton Cash and Carry offers those same great deals on new polo shirts.

Right now, polo's by Hartwell are only \$2. Men's polo shirts by such designers as Tommy Hilfiger or Kenneth Cole are only \$3.95; pants by Kenneth Cole are only \$9.95. Union Bay and Nautica shorts for men are only \$3.95.

That's about half the price you would pay at a discount outlet on sale items.

Women's designer shirts by Liz Claiborne, Calvin Klein, and Jones New York are only \$4.95 each. \$9.95 will get you a nice pair of women's corduroy pants by Polo Ralph Lauren.

It's hard to mention everything, all the little \$0.99 cent and \$1.95 knick knacks, like coaster sets, shot glasses, refrigerator magnets or collectors plates, but they are all there. The kind of stuff that makes great stocking stuffers, gag gifts, or Secret Santa presents.

In addition, there are many other nice gifts currently residing on store shelves. Such examples include full sized Salvador Dali reproductions, already framed, for only \$5.95. Luxury furnishings like candle stands and lamps are between \$7.95 and \$14.95. Wooden game sets are selling for \$4.95.

Although there is no guarantee certain items will be in stock, this is defiantly a good place to check out (especially if you need any everyday items).

As with all my articles, I want to stress that the prices mentioned here are subject to change, and in this case, so is the merchandise. However, one thing is for sure, you will save money on merchandise at the Canton Cash and Carry Surplus Store.

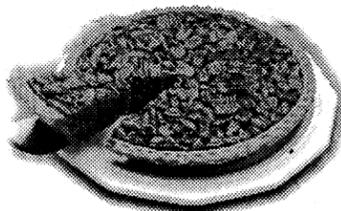
Holiday countdown

Adam Myers
Staff Writer

There is one big problem about writing articles about things that cost money: you have to find ways to pay for said things. Considering this publication's miniscule circulation base, persuading local merchants and restaurateurs to offer their wares at no cost in exchange for a mention in this newspaper is a tough sell.

As much as I would love to be relating to you readers the best places in the area to grab a pint or order a kick-ass breakfast, I have Christmas presents to pay for, and hence I must curtail my epicurean activities at this time of year. Luckily, the upcoming winter break will give me plenty of time to stockpile notes for future articles that few people will actually read. For now though, a hastily-arranged piece somehow relating to the holiday season must suffice.

To a lazy writer, lists are a wonderful thing. They take little time to assemble, allow many topics to be discussed with minimal effort, and can be compiled while taking massive liberties in regards to proper grammar. I am a lazy writer: therefore, here are the lists.



THREE REASONS WHY PECAN PIE IS BETTER THAN PUMPKIN PIE

1. Pumpkin pie filling has the consistency of diarrhea.

2. Canned pumpkin isn't really pumpkin at all; it's butternut squash. And don't kid yourself: who really makes pumpkin pie from scratch?

3. Pumpkin pie's popularity is restricted to the fall season. When was the last time anyone served pumpkin pie in July?



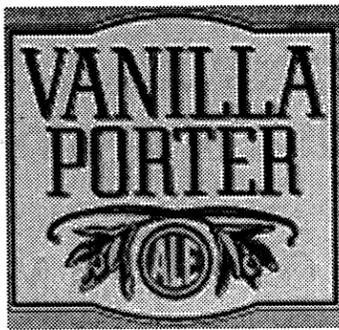
THREE REASONS WHY PUMPKIN PIE IS BETTER THAN PECAN PIE

1. At least pumpkin pie has a good proportion of pumpkin in it; pecan pie is 80% Karo syrup.

2. Just think of all that Karo syrup going into your body. It's like

instant diabetes in a crust.

3. Again, think of all that Karo syrup. The filling is so sticky, it takes three runs in the dishwasher to wash all that goo off of the dishes used to serve it.



SEVEN GREAT WINTER BEERS

1. Breckenridge Vanilla Porter (Denver, CO: 4.7%ABV). It's a dark beer, but don't let that deceive you: inside lies a brew that tastes like (and is as smooth as) a milkshake. Pecan or pumpkin, try this beer with a good slice of pie.

2. Brooklyn Lager (Brooklyn, NY: 5.2%ABV). This lager is not too different than major American beers, but it is made remarkably well. It's great to drink during a long day of college football on New Year's day.

3. Ommegang Three Philosophers Ale (Cooperstown, NY: 9.8%ABV). This Belgian-style quadrupel is blended with lambic, a fruit-flavored wild ale (in this case, cherries). Between the complex flavors of the malt, hops, and cherries, combined with the potent alcohol content, this is a massive brew.

4. Rogue Shakespeare Stout (Newport, OR: 6.0%ABV).

"If I knew what a couplet was, I'd write one for this stout, but my poetic skills are naught, so this space goes without."

(And before you ask, that was a quatrain.)

5. Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale (Chico, CA: 6.8%ABV). An India Pale Ale, nothing about this beer endears it to the holiday season. It is holy water to beer geeks though, and its late-autumn arrival is as close to a Christmas present as a brewery can offer its customers.

6. Sweetwater Festive Ale (Atlanta, GA: 8.6%ABV). The first local brew on this list, Sweetwater's winter seasonal is an extremely malty brew, whose spices of cinnamon and nutmeg surely helps to warm its drinker up.

7. Terrapin Wake-n-Bake Imperial Stout (Athens, GA: 8.1%ABV). Another locally-brewed beer, Wake-n-Bake is a coffee-infused oatmeal stout. Drink it for breakfast; you won't regret it.

SIX TERRIBLE GIFT IDEAS

1. Chia Pets. Unless there's a particular novelty to it (say, a Chia Homer Simpson), a Chia Pet is the lowest of the low.

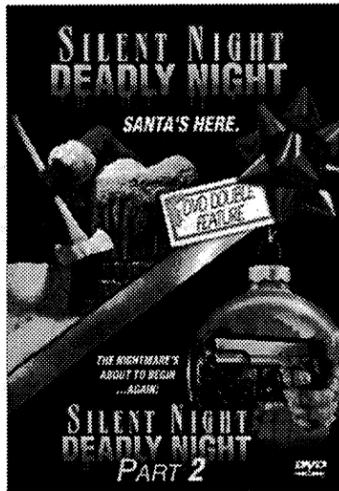
2. Applebee's Gift Cards. There's nothing wrong with giving a friend a free night out at his or her favorite restaurant, but Applebee's is the ultimate in impersonal, assembly-line dining.

3. Money. That's just lazy, and more than a bit sleazy.

4. Holiday-themed clothing. Enjoy seeing that snowman sweater on Christmas morning, because on December 26, that thing is going to the back of the closet, never to see the light of day again.

5. Hickory Farms gift boxes. Beware of all meat and cheese than can go months without refrigeration. I don't know exactly what goes in those boxes, but I doubt it occurs in nature.

6. "As Seen on TV" game systems. Once your 11-year-old nephew learns you spent \$150 on a glorified TI-89 calculator when you could have bought "Rock Band" for the Xbox 360, you had better pray that he wasn't the one who drank that two-liter bottle of Mountain Dew.



TEN THINGS WRONG WITH "GARBAGE DAY" SCENE OF THE CHRISTMAS-THEMED 1987 SLASHER FILM SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT 2

1. Hot girls don't date wise-cracking albino guys named Chip.

2. Strangling a person while simultaneously electrocuting him will electrocute the strangler, too.

3. Electrocutation will stop the heart, but it will not cause a man's eyeballs to explode.

4. A woman's first reaction after witnessing her ex-boyfriend's head explode will not be one of blind rage.

5. A gun will not spontaneously turn onto its holder merely through a cut scene.

6. An old metal trash can would either serve as a more effec-

tive shield against a bullet, or strew much more debris upon impact.

7. Even the most impressionable child will not ride her bike directly into a gun-wielding psychopath. Furthermore, most homicidal maniacs do not have the generosity to spare such children.

8. A car's cabin will not explode in the occurrence of a bullet piercing its radiator and it flying over an embankment. Other parts of the car may burst into flames; just not the backseat.

9. In case of a killing spree, a SWAT team will not set a road block several blocks away and wait for the shooter to walk into it.

10. Sanitation crews will not make pickups on Christmas.

FIVE OTHER AWFUL HOLIDAY MOVIES TO AVOID

1. *Die Hard*. Let's settle this once and for all: just because the film takes place on Christmas doesn't make it a Christmas film, unless your family's yuletide lore includes rogue cops gunning down German terrorists in the bowels of Japanese skyscrapers.

2. *Jingle All the Way*. Believe it or not, it was not too long ago that Hollywood execs thought Arnold Schwarzenegger could portray an average Joe, and America thought Sinbad was funny.

3. *The Holiday*. If you are a man, and you actually watched this movie when it came out last year, I know a blacksmith who is on call for castrations. Clearly, you aren't using your balls enough to deserve them.

4. *I'll Be Home for Christmas*. Again, for any man who watched this 1998 Jonathan Taylor Thomas feature, the blacksmith offer still stands.

5. *Eight Crazy Nights*. Leave it to Adam Sandler to reduce millennia of Hanukkah tradition to an hour and a half of fart jokes.



EIGHT ITEMS ON MY DREAM-ON GIFT LIST

1. A 200% increase in female enrollment at SPSU for the Spring semester.

2. A complete homebrew kit, including a stainless steel brew kettle, a wort chiller, a keg system, and an external temperature control for my family's spare refrigerator to allow for lagering.

3. A kegerator, so I don't have to go out to a bar for draft beer.

4. A wine cellar, for my collection of Belgian ales (and a few bottles of wine, just as a change of pace).

5. A track-ready 2007 Lotus Exige S, painted British Racing Green.

6. An evening on the town with adult film actress Rebecca Linares. (I swear, I didn't know she was a porn star when I first saw her naked pictures on the Internet!)

7. An open tab at the butcher, cheese, and produce sections at Harry's Farmers Market. (I can pass on the \$4 organic soup cans.)

8. Rain. Despite my hatred of Atlanta's annual "Infinite Grayness of Winter," this area definitely could use it. (And stop making fun of Sonny Perdue for praying for rain: it's not like anything else has helped.)

EIGHT PRACTICAL ITEMS ON MY GIFT LIST

1. Pants that don't have holes in them.

2. Sweaters that aren't simultaneously too big for my torso and too short for my arms.

3. Under Armour workout gear. (Even faux Under Armour shirts will do.)

4. A French coffee press, so I can enjoy a cup of coffee at home without having seven cups going stale in the pot.

5. A pasta machine. For making pasta, duh.

6. Repairs for my laptop's DC jack, so I don't have to type with one hand while holding the power cord in place with the other.

7. An in-car adapter for my iPod. I'm so tired of Atlanta radio; I've begun listening to Spanish-language stations as a change of pace.

8. An authentic horseshoe: a Springfield, Illinois specialty consisting of a thick slice of Texas toast, a slab of whatever meat one wants, and a boatload of fries, all smothered with cheddar cheese sauce. (I can never get the cheese just right when I try to make it.)

ONE WISH TO ALL THE STING'S READERS

1. Whatever you celebrate during the holiday season, or even if you don't celebrate anything, I hope you all enjoy the winter break.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Recognizing american exceptionalism

Stuart Michelson
Copy Editor

France has often been berated by popular culture, the media, and the average joe. In the United Kingdom for instance, there is deep anti-French sentiments. So why dislike France? Everyone has their reasons, but particularly since September 11, 2001, Americans have thought little of France, and their lack of support for the War on Terror since actually resulted in a sharp decrease in business for French restaurants in Atlanta shortly after (according to NPR.) The French have adopted the image that they are pansies that surrender at the first sign of hardship, and jokes are passed around about their shameful military record. One joke pokes fun at France's revolutionary history and says that the only wars France has ever won have been against itself.

French President Jacques Chirac (1995-2007) is arguably partly to blame for France's recent reputation. It is no secret that the United States' relations with France have been strained in recent years, leading many to believe that surely the days of Yorktown and Normandy are long past, that the France that America has put itself on the line for again and again throughout history has transformed into a disgruntled and lead nation. It is ironic that Britain, being the colonizer of America has been such a close friend to the United States throughout history when it was from Britain that the bloody struggle for freedom and independence was aimed towards throughout early American history. Tony Blair maintained and facilitated excellent relations with the United States and Britain, even at time when this came at great personal cost inflicted by his own people. Meanwhile, Chirac remained distant and uncooperative.

On June 27 and May 16, 2007, the dynamic of European and American relations took a radical turn. With Gordon Brown replacing Tony Blair in England, and Conservative champion Nicolas Sarkozy taking Chirac's place in France after a heated election, the United States would have the opportunity to forge new friendships and strengthen an old one perhaps lost.

Brown came under fire before his term even began over rumors that he was going to abandon Blair's support of the war, and take a less pro-American foreign policy. Only time will tell whether or not the critics are right, or whether this is just media buzz. However, strong doubt still surrounds Brown. Will he continue to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with America as Blair swore? Sarkozy however has been very clear about his support for America, contrasting very sharply with his predecessor Chirac.

On November 7th, Nicolas Sarkozy made a speech before the United States Congress during his visit to America. Below are some quotations from this historic speech.

"Friendship, first and foremost, means being true to one's friends. Since the United States first appeared on the world scene, the loyalty between the French and American people has never failed. And far from

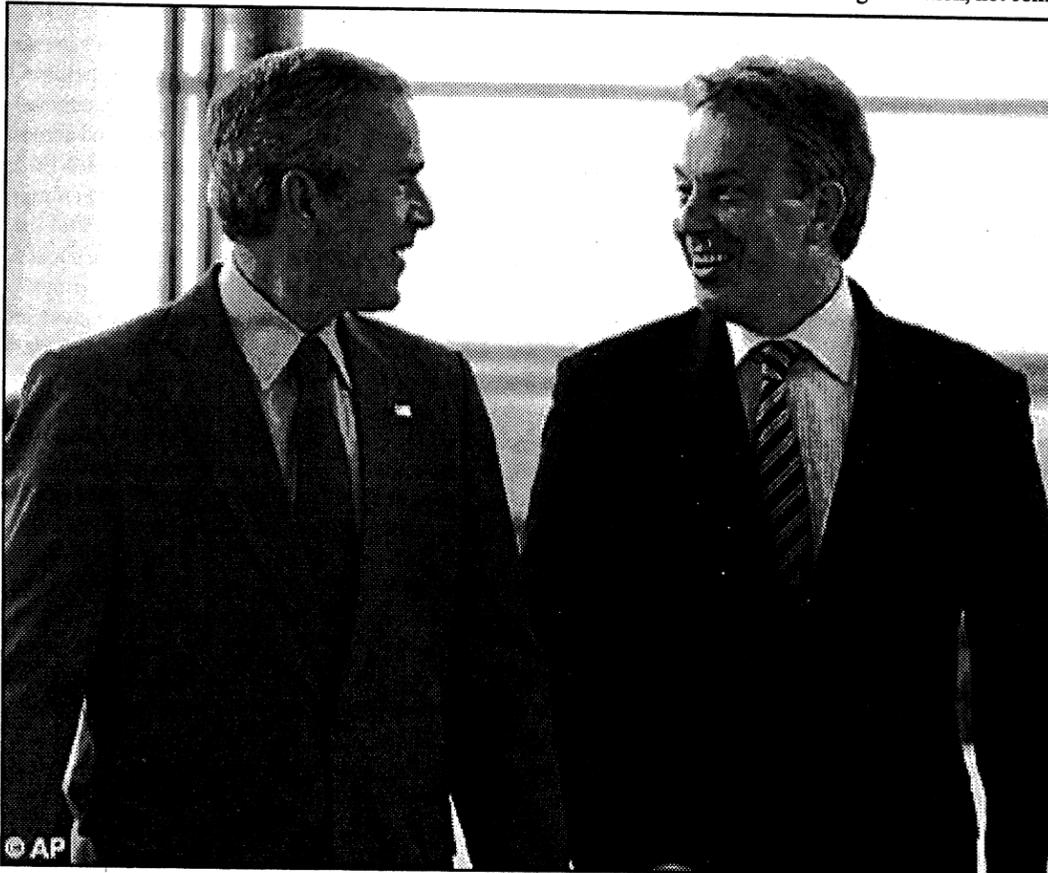
being weakened by the vicissitudes of History, it has never ceased growing stronger.... From the very beginning, the American dream meant putting into practice the dreams of the Old World.... From the very beginning, the American dream meant proving to all mankind that freedom, justice, human rights and democracy were no utopia but were rather the most realistic policy there is and the most likely to improve the fate of each and every person.... America did not tell the millions of men and women who came from every country in the world and who—with their hands, their intelligence and their heart—built the greatest nation in the world: "Come, and everything will be given to you." She said: "Come, and the only limits to what you'll be able to achieve will be your own courage and your own talent." America embodies this extraordinary ability to grant each and every person a second chance....

expect her to be the first to promote fair exchange rates.... I want to be your friend, your ally and your partner.... It is this ambitious France that I have come to present to you today. A France that comes out to meet America to renew the pact of friendship and the alliance that Washington and Lafayette sealed in Yorktown. Together let us be worthy of their example, let us be equal to their ambition, let us be true to their memories! Long live the United States of America! Vive la France! Long live French-American friendship!"

It is unfortunate that there is not room to quote the entire speech, for it is truly spectacular. Sarkozy is clearly man a conviction and passion. He understands America past and present. He understands the concept of American Exceptionalism. He respects what America has done throughout history for France and the world. He says that France and

(particularly during the John Kerry presidential campaign, and the Pelosi congressional race) have been preaching the idea that thanks to the Bush administration, our image in the world has been reduced to dirt. Sarkozy's victory in France, and political stance flies in the face of this idea. His speech shows how American's dedication to justice and freedom has earned the respect and gratitude of the free world.

Democrats are also solidly behind government social programs. They have attempted time and time again to use legislation to turn America into a giant testing ground for socialism. Democrats have confused the concept of freedom and equality in America. America offers every individual the equality of opportunity, not the equality of status. Sarkozy beautifully illustrated the fact that in America, you work hard to live the dream of this great nation, not come



Could Nicolas Sarkozy share the same bond that had held Bush and Blair through thick and thin?

Photo courtesy <http://img.dailymail.co.uk/>

Here, both the humblest and most illustrious citizens alike know that nothing is owed to them and that everything has to be earned. That's what constitutes the moral value of America. America did not teach men the idea of freedom; she taught them how to practice it. And she fought for this freedom whenever she felt it to be threatened somewhere in the world.... America's strength is not only a material strength, it is first and foremost a spiritual and moral strength.... I want to tell you that whenever an American soldier falls somewhere in the world, I think of what the American army did for France. I think of them and I am sad, as one is sad to lose a member of one's family.... Together we must fight against terrorism.... Together we must fight against proliferation.... The prospect of an Iran armed with nuclear weapons is unacceptable.... Together we must help the people of the Middle East find the path of peace and security.... Those who admire the nation that has built the world's greatest economy and has never ceased trying to persuade the world of the advantages of free trade

the world are eternally grateful for America, which he hails as the greatest nation on Earth. This is a major shift from President Chirac who can be quoted as saying to Saddam Hussein, "You are my personal friend. Let me assure you of my esteem, consideration and bond."

When was the last time we saw American politicians speaking of America in such lofty terms? Why don't all of our presidential candidates espouse American Exceptionalism? How can it be that a Frenchman seems to have a better understanding of why America is the greatest nation in the history of our planet better than we do? How can he see that America is the greatest force for good and enfranchisement the world has ever known?

Sarkozy clearly knows his history, and his speech is filled with historical references of how American duty and moral courage stood up and defeated the tyrannical powers of Europe and won the Cold War against the evil state institution of Communism.

The implications of Sarkozy's speech are far reaching. Democrats

here and be given everything for free as if you are somehow deserving. This is capitalism and freedom applied.

Sarkozy is in a unique diplomatic position. With Tony Blair (not just an ally but true personal friend to George Bush) leaving office, and Gordon Brown becoming shrouded in uncertainty, is it possible that Sarkozy is trying to seize this moment to be America's new best friend? Is Nicolas Sarkozy the new Tony Blair for America? Only time will tell, but Sarkozy appears to be a man of his word, and his reforms and change for France are in full swing.

So is France perfect now that Sarkozy has taken charge? No. Has Britain's support and alliance with America fallen to tatters under Brown? No. Is Europe perfect? By no means. There are still many problems with both European nations in respect to their relations with America. Again, only time can tell the ultimate end of the European American dynamic. Blossoming opportunities however could show the world that when free peoples unite, the opportunity for good is immeasurable.

Opinion

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

Clearly, I have nothing to fit this space. So I'll give you my opinion on a few Christmas-related things, but don't worry, you don't really have to read it.

I don't really care for the idea of Christmas. First of all, it's based on pagan rituals which were incorporated into Christianity so that they could make it an easier transition for pagans. The History Channel says Christ was more likely born in the spring, anyway. Therefore, the whole idea of celebrating a birth that probably didn't even take place then bothers me. I don't like lies.

Speaking of, I also don't like Santa Claus. I think it's horrible that parents lie to their children about Santa. When you're 3, what is more important in the whole world to you than Santa Claus? Probably just about nothing. THEN you find out Santa doesn't exist. So then you come to the realization that the most important thing in your life your parents have lied to you about.

In addition, I hate having to have a reason to buy things for people and I hate receiving things from others. Don't get me wrong, I love buying things for people. I'm definitely a random gift-giver. But the stress it causes me to have to buy things for people all at once is simply unnecessary. And all the pressure corporations put on you to impress your friends and family in a time that's not supposed to be about money, but about friendship, is simply sick.

However, there are some things I enjoy. People are in general much nicer than they normally are around Christmas.

I also enjoy food, I'm not going to lie. Going to all the amazing parties and enjoying so much good food is simply fabulous for a girl who can't cook.

Christmas lights are also a reason to be happy. Okay, okay, yes, they are very wasteful, and typically I enjoy trying to save energy, but put your lights on a timer or turn them off before you go to bed. It's simple. No one can deny the joy they got going around looking at Christmas lights as a child (unless, of course, you didn't, in which case, I'm sorry and you should let me take you out sometime). That brings up precious happy memories for me that I quite enjoy amongst all the bad ones. And, of course, I enjoy the joy it brings to other children as well.

And, of course, as a Northern transplant, I enjoy SNOW! Where I grew up, it used to snow almost taller than I was, and I'll never forget how wonderful it was to build snow men and snow houses! This is one of the many reasons I will be returning to the North upon graduation; no worries!

So I guess even in the negativity this rant started out at, the joy of the holidays soon shone through. I hope you enjoy what little joy there is left in the world this holiday season, even if it's just the joy of no homework!

Super Mario Galaxy

Don't bother reading this, just buy the damn game

Cary Chichester
Staff Writer

Developer: Nintendo
Publisher: Nintendo
Platform: Wii
Genre: Platformer
ESRB Rating: Everyone

Why you chose to forgo the warning about reading this article and simply purchasing the game is baffling. Maybe your mastery of the English language is quite limited, or maybe you're a rebel who chooses to defy everything they're told, or maybe, just maybe, you actually don't know how awesome this game is. With the Super Mario series being arguably the greatest video game franchise of all time, and virtually being the mascot of video gaming in general, the Italian plumber has got some really big shoes to fill. While Super Mario Sunshine was a really fun game, it didn't revolutionize video game design the way Super Mario 64 and Super Mario Bros. did; but with Nintendo's new Wii system void of the legendary platformer, players were waiting for their favorite plumber to return, and hopefully teach them new lessons in how a great game is made. Super Mario Galaxy has arrived, and it is just as innovative and fun as we all hoped it would be.

In this new age of gaming where realism and serious storylines prevail, it was interesting to see how Mario's style would change with his latest game. I was thankful however, to see that the core of this game is the same as all Mario games, which is a combination of running, jumping, and collecting coins. While the heart of this game is the same, Nintendo has gone to great lengths to make this game a true next-gen title, so that Mario won't succumb to obscurity like the other video game icons of the 80's.

While Mario games have never been driven by their story, Nintendo does make a slightly larger attempt this time at making a decent tale. The opening of the game isn't lengthy, but it's the players' first opportunity to see the high production value this title has to offer. The game starts with Mario being invited by Princess Peach to a festival at the Mushroom Castle.

As soon as Mario arrives, Bowser shows up and summons a UFO to rip the Mushroom Castle from the earth, taking the princess with him in the process. Mario wants to give chase and rescue the princess, but a plumber's ability to navigate space is surprisingly limited. He then accepts the help of Rosalina, a mysterious character who presides over the universe and watches over the Lumas, creatures that look like stars. Rosalina and the Lumas help Mario travel to many different galaxies in pursuit of the princess who can't stop getting kidnapped. While the only relevant storyline is the opening cinematic and the game's ending, there is a storybook that contains the tale of Rosalina's history that players will slowly unlock chapters to as they progress through the game. It is entirely the players' option on whether or not to read the storybook, so those that just care about having fun won't have to bother with it.

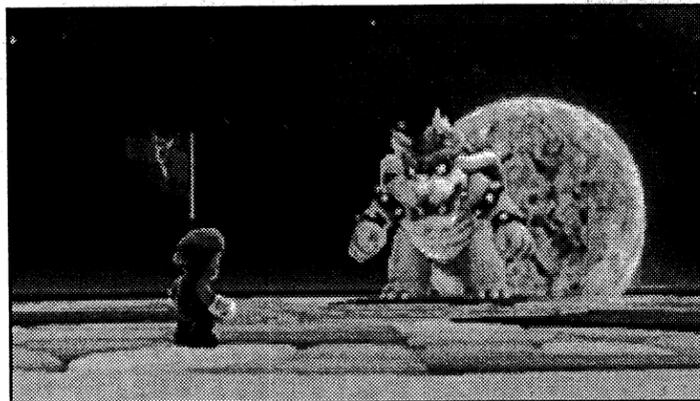
Those that said the Wii doesn't have the graphics capability to compete with the 360 or PS3 may have to retract a few statements with the release of Mario Galaxy. Simply put, it looks amazing. This is undoubtedly the best looking game currently out for the Wii, and definitely showcases the system's graphic potential. Not only is it beautiful from a hardware perspective, but from a design one as well. The levels are extremely varied and their design will constantly amaze the players. Many thought that the game would mostly involve levels where Mario is in space, but that is certainly not the case. Like classic Mario games, you have desert levels, underwater levels, haunted levels, Bowser dungeon levels, and a whole lot more.

The levels are not only varied in their design, but also in how Mario interacts with them. Space levels will involve Mario using a planet's gravity to make a full round-trip in only one jump, while underwater levels will involve Mario riding on a turtle shell and racing penguins. Often times, Mario will have to resort to power-ups to get through a level. Permanent power-ups like bee or boo Mario will either have him turning into a bee and flying around, or turning into a ghost and traveling

through objects. Other power-ups will only affect Mario for a short time like ice and fire Mario which will either have him ice-skating on water or launching fireballs. These power-ups aren't just scattered around, so you won't be able to turn into ice Mario in a fire-level. This causes the power-ups to be a key factor in the design of a level, meaning that you'll have to play each level significantly differently. Some of the levels don't even involve traditional platforming and give Mario some cool new ways to play with the Wii-mote. Such levels will let the player ride a manta across the water or roll on top of a ball across an obstacle course. Twisting the Wii-mote left or right will steer the manta and tilting the Wii-mote will control Mario on the ball. It's nice to see that even though this isn't a game that abuses the Wii-mote controls like many other games, it still has levels that make use of the Wii's unique control scheme.

An interesting double-edged sword in the game is the camera. Since many of the levels play around with gravity a little, Mario's concept of up and down have to change often. He will constantly be running up walls and upside-down, and the camera will either do its job flawlessly or make your head hurt. When you are on a small spherical planet, the camera doesn't always stay right behind you and its different angles will often cause the player to twist their head or suffer confusion. There are also instances where obstacles will block Mario and the camera will not rotate itself to give the player a clearer view. Players can use the C-button to reset the camera behind Mario, but this doesn't always work since the camera will sometimes not move at all or move to an even worst angle. While this may sound like the camera is horribly flawed, that is certainly not the case. It usually does a great job of keeping up with the many different viewing angles a game like Mario Galaxy will demand, but every once in a while one of these problems will occur.

Two major additions in Galaxy are star bits and launch stars. Star bits can be acquired by pointing at them with the Wii-mote and used to stun enemies by aiming and



Will you like the fight with Bowser? No, you will LOVE it.

Photo courtesy of Ign.com

pressing B, but you won't want to use up too many since their primary use is to unlock galaxies. If you have a person next to you that feels a little bored, they can pick up a second controller and help you collect star bits and stun enemies. It may not be a fun form of multiplayer, but it's still nice to have that option. The launch stars are stars that propel Mario across space and through the air towards other planets and platforms. It's just a lot fun too constantly see your character be jettisoned across the entire level, and it's also hard not to see a little beauty when Mario is airborne and sees the sun at the edge of the universe, or flies out of a volcano before it violently erupts.

The perfect complement to the fun gameplay is the stellar soundtrack that will caress your ears as you play. This is the first time that a Nintendo game has had a fully orchestrated soundtrack, and when Koji Kondo (Nintendo's main composer behind Mario & Zelda games) was asked why they decided to start now, his reply was "because we wanted players to feel the magnificence of the universe in the game"; and if there's one word to describe the soundtrack, it would be magnificent, although beautiful and amazing are also acceptable answers. The music increases the enjoyment you experience with the levels, whether it's the feeling of grandeur when you first set out to space, or the feeling of triumphant victory when you take down Bowser. In addition to the great new music, the soundtrack also contains remixed version of songs from previous Mario games, so be prepared to be drowned in a sea of nostalgia when tracks you thought you forgot about make a return.

While there are some complaints that Nintendo is making their games easier to appeal to a larger crowd, that doesn't mean that Galaxy will not find its spot with hardcore gamers. While the main quest for 60 stars has a pretty fair amount of difficulty, those that have a high threshold for pain will go on to collect 120 stars. Players will see levels and challenges with a wide array of difficulties that vary from fast and fun to making you wonder if a god exists. In addition to the regular level challenges, there are prankster comets that will often circle around galaxies and give an extra amount of special challenges. These can include completing the level in a short amount of time, beating the boss with a little life, or racing against a shadow version of yourself. Collecting 120 stars is recommended since it will allow players to witness all the fun challenges and unlock a secret in the game, but it is certainly not without moments of frustration and many many deaths.

Mario games have managed to change the way games are made over the years with their innovative level design and focus on fun platforming. Super Mario Galaxy is the next step in the evolution of the franchise and is just as fun today as Super Mario Bros. was all those years ago. Anyone that owns a Wii should not buy this game, they should already own it, and those that have not bought a Wii may finally be convinced to buy one just to play this AAA title. It is the best game for the Wii, and I am not the least bit hesitant in calling it one of the best games of all time. It's creative, it's fun, and most importantly, it's a-Mario! 10/10

10 facts about Mario you may not have known!

Cary Chichester
Staff Writer

In honor of Mario's latest title, Super Mario Galaxy, let's look at some of the plumber's history that's not exactly common knowledge.

Mario's original name was Jumpman and Peach's original name was the Lady, which was changed to Pauline.

A meeting was held to change Jumpman's name to something else. Nintendo's landlord barged into the meeting demanding overdue rent. His name was Mario Segali, and was the inspiration for Jumpman's new name.

A nearby pizza shop named Mario & Luigi's was the inspiration for the name of Mario's brother, and his design was simply changing Mario's overalls to green.

Mario's design was due to hardware limitations. They had to make the character bright to be more visible, so he was given red clothes. In order to distinguish the face, Mario was given a moustache. As for Mario's hat, well the creator isn't good at drawing hair. Although he was supposed to be a carpenter, a colleague stated that Mario looked like a plumber, so that's what he became!

Before Mario's creator de-

signed Donkey Kong, he tried to make a Popeye game, but failed to get the license. He then substituted his own characters with Donkey Kong for Bluto, Peach for Olive Oil, and Mario for Popeye.

Analysts predicted that the Nintendo Entertainment System would just sit on store shelves and nobody would buy it. Apparently, they didn't know about Mario!

The original Super Mario Bros. 2 was never released in the United States because it was deemed too hard for American players. It contained elements such as poison mushrooms that could kill Mario and backwards pipes that

warped Mario back a few levels. Nintendo took a game similar to Super Mario Bros. called Yume Kōjo: Doki Doki Panic, put Mario characters into it, and released it as Super Mario Bros. 2 in the United States.

Mario is one of the most recognizable characters in the world, even more popular than Mickey Mouse!

Shigeru Miyamoto is the creator of Mario, as well as Donkey Kong and The Legend of Zelda, and was the main innovator behind the Nintendo DS and Nintendo Wii. Miyamoto was the first person inducted into the Academy of In-

teractive Arts and Sciences' Hall of Fame, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Game Developers Choice Awards, was knighted as a chevalier in the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and was chosen as one of TIME magazine's 100 most influential people of the year for 2007.

With the mass purchases of NES systems and Super Mario Bros, Mario almost single-handedly revitalized the home video game market after the video game crash of the 80's. It's hard to say what the multi-billion dollar video game industry would be like today if this game had never existed!

Heavenly Sword

Like a Roller Coaster – Wild, Fun, and Short

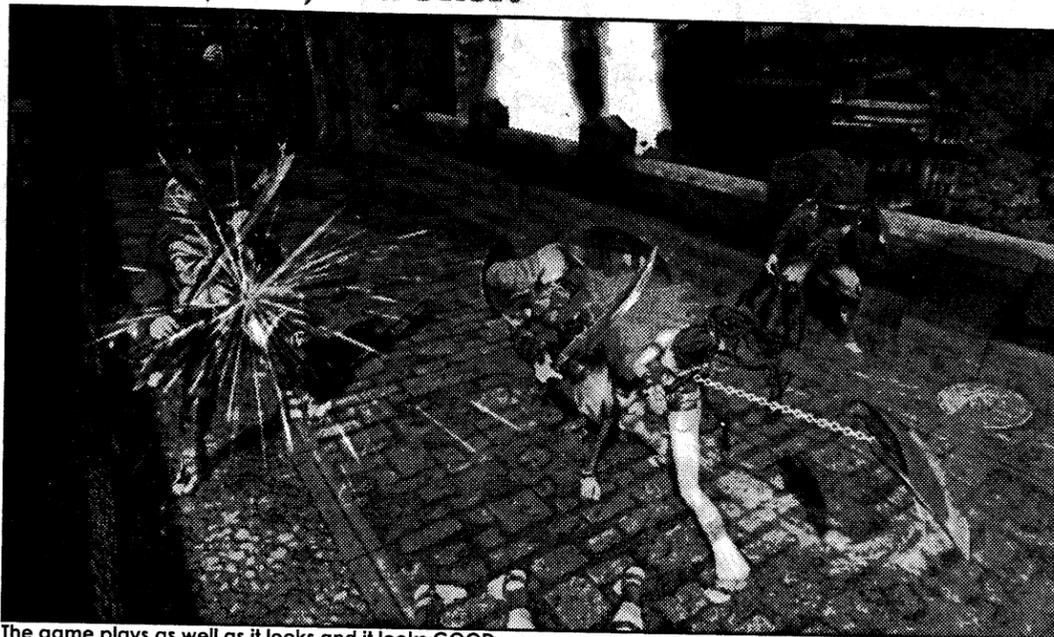
Sean Fine
Senior Staff Writer

System: PS3
Genre: Action

Ever since Heavenly Sword was first announced by developer team Ninja Theory, a lot of gamers have been eager to try out the new game, but when gameplay footage showed some of the game elements were much like, if not exactly the same as previous action game champion God of War, there were some criticisms that it would be the first of a line of God of War clones. Does this hold true?

Story: Players take the role of Nariko, a young woman in a clan of guardians to the Heavenly Sword, a mythical blade of great power that ends up killing the user when it chooses. The main protagonist, Emperor Bohan, wants to take the Heavenly Sword for his own so that he can obtain the status of a God; he wants it so much that he's willing to send his entire army, 1000 to 1 against your clan to obtain it. As the guardian of the sword, Nariko must keep it out of Bohan's hands, but when her father and fellow clansmen are taken by the Emperor, Nariko must master using the Heavenly Sword to bring down the empire.

The story is fairly simple, but if Heavenly Sword is to be praised for one thing, it is its character concepts. While Nariko may just be a battle-hardened female martial artist, her character is so strong, so fierce, and so arrogant that there is a layer of respect for her. The true award for character though has to go to a tie between Bohan and his first General Flying Fox, who are so diabolically joyful in their



The game plays as well as it looks and it looks GOOD

evil natures that they're extremely entertaining. If Heavenly Sword were a film, it would certainly have its fans.

Gameplay: But it's not a film, it's a game. The main bulk of Heavenly Sword comes with fighting while using the Heavenly Sword, which has three stances: speed, power, and range. Each stance has their own combos and advantages, and players can master all three and even combine the stances together by holding down the proper button.

There are a small number of enemy types, but they come at a good pace, easy at first but challenging when the end game comes and each enemy type beyond the initial no-blocker have special ways to dispose of them, using the Heavenly Sword to do so. This part of the game is fun, though eventually gets a little repetitive, but not so much that it makes you want to just press the square button again and again

until it's over.

Some of the real fun comes from the multi-tiered boss fights at the end of chapters, where it takes more than just flailing your sword about to defeat the bosses, how few they are, being only four major bosses and one minor boss. Much like God of War, after dwindling a boss's health enough, players must run up and grab the boss, beginning a mini-game where players have to enter the corresponding button, but this element isn't over used in battle. Other than boss fights and several action instances of Nariko getting from one risky place to another, players aren't subject to mini-games in their combat. Whether that's a con or a pro, I'll leave to you.

There are sections dedicated to Kai, a childhood friend of Nariko's, who uses distance fighting rather than close combat tactics. These levels have a mixed amount of flaws and strengths, the main

of the strengths being that when using Kai's crossbow, players can use the Six Axis motion sensor of the PS3 controller to guide Kai's bolts around in mid air, but it's a bit shaky, as sometimes you'll fidget, going over too far and just missing an enemy by a hair. The main weakness however is Kai's inability to do much else but run away when enemies reach her, but since she's able to hurdle over boxes like a monkey, these parts become slightly less annoying.

In the end, despite a few technical problems with the gameplay and slight repetitiveness with enemies and fight styles, the main drawback that keeps Heavenly Sword from greatness is its length. Even with the replay value of collecting glyphs to unlock new combos and eventually, art work and extras, can easily add up to a five-hour journey, and the Hell Mode unlocked afterwards only adds just another hour or so to the

current journey.

Graphics: Another strong-point of Heavenly Sword is its graphics and attention to detail, the skin of characters and their facial expressions are very realistic, bringing motion capturing in a game to a whole new level. Locals and characters all look lovely and almost look like real places. The only graphical problem that I could really think of is Nariko's hair, red like fire and just as wild, it's constantly going all over the player when it really shouldn't be. It doesn't look necessarily bad, just not as realistic like the rest of the game. Otherwise, the game looks fantastic.

Sound: Musically, the game is like most other martial art-type films with oriental orchestral work with a few memorable works, and exciting thunderous drums in battle. The real prize cake of the matter though is the voice acting. Andy Serkis, famous for playing Gollum in the Lord of the Rings films, does an outstanding performance as the pompous Emperor Bohan, while Steven Berkoff brings new meaning to the phrase 'creepy psychopathic maniac' with his performance in Flying Fox. Just how well every character is portrayed through their voice actors only makes me want more of the game, which is disappointing to say the least.

Overall: In the end, Heavenly is a wild ride full of action, suspense and excellent characters. If it were just the simple story, the slight repetitiveness of some battles, and the lack of close combat fighting while playing as Kai, the game would be one of the great titles of the year, but the excruciatingly short length of the game just turns it from what could be a great purchase into a fun weekend rental. 8/10

Local Alcoholic's Corner

Holiday drinks

Karen Asay
Editor Emeritus

Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is on the way... sorry to those people who don't want to be reminded. Christmas approaching also means classes are almost finished and some of you are starting to plan that end of class party... or graduation party. Here are some holiday drinks to make those parties more festive.

Egg Nog

It would be a sin to have a holiday drink article without mentioning Egg Nog. I can't remember a Christmas without Egg Nog; now, it wasn't spiked Egg Nog until recently.

Making Egg Nog from scratch is a little complicated but here we go. To start, you need eggs, sugar, milk, heavy whipping cream, whiskey, and rum. Next, you separate the egg yolks and put the egg whites in a different bowl. Then, you beat the egg yolks with half the allotted sugar and beat the egg whites... OK, forget this.

Different recipe! Go to Kroger for a half gallon of Egg Nog and then go to the package store for a bottle of rum. Next, pour a shot of rum in a cup and fill the rest of the cup with Egg Nog.

Man, why take the time to make Egg Nog from scratch? It takes too long and the recipe I found said something about "folding" the mixture. How the heck do you fold a liquid? I know "fold" is a cooking term but come on, Mayfield Egg Nog tastes great. Why make it at home where you have the chance of messing it up?

Rudolph: The Red Nose Reindeer

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Had a very shiny nose, And if you ever saw him, You would even say...

OK, OK! I'll stop singing and tell you about this drink.

This drink is pretty easy. You pour two shots of rum and lemon juice in a cup, add a shot of grenadine, and fill the rest of the cup with cranberry juice. Hehe,

if you have too many of these, you might start glowing just like Rudolph.

Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging!

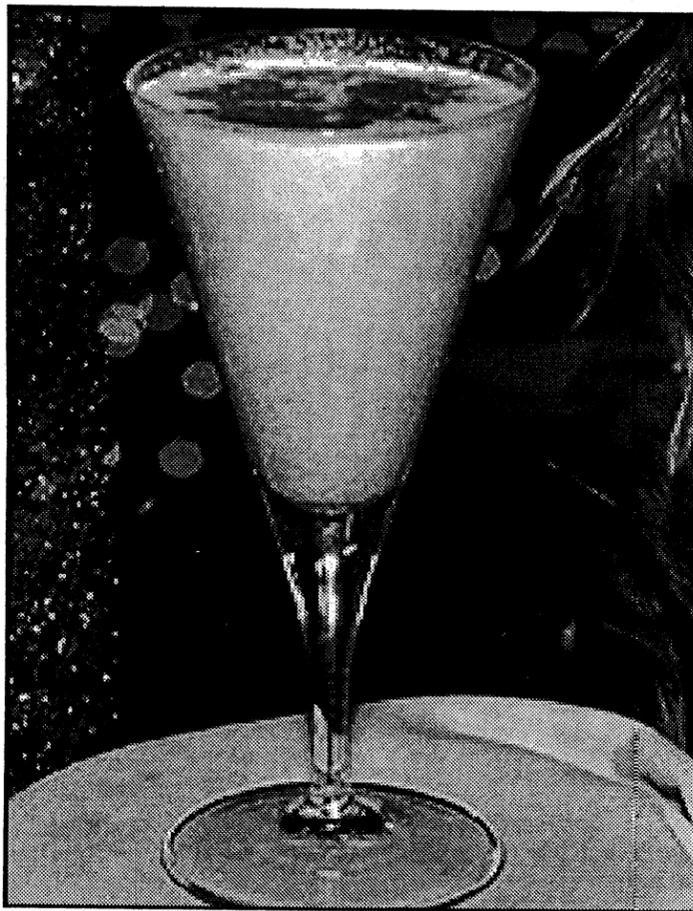
Not only green when summer's here, But also when 'tis cold and...

Sorry! I couldn't resist singing again. Come on it's Christmas; what goes along with Christmas... carols.

So on to how to make a Christmas Tree shooter. Technically, this shooter is supposed to be layered with one third Crème de Menthe, grenadine, and Irish Cream, but it is a pain in the a**. So, you can just pour a shot of each liquor in a glass and drink it. Much easier!

For those who might not know, layering is pouring a liquor in a shot glass in such away that the liquors don't mix.

Well, this is my last drink article because I am graduating. I hope you have enjoyed these articles. Have a great holiday.



Enjoy your eggnog and have a Happy Holiday.

Photo courtesy boston.com



Cute penguin!

Photo courtesy <http://hospitality.tamu.edu/>

The Sting's 10 best videos of 2007

Jason Berman
Staff Writer

- #1. **Best made in Marietta** - "A spy for a spy"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIHohv80GNc>
- #2. **Most inspiring** - "Not Gonna Hold Me Down"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dysJkenZd2w>
- #3. **Most socially relevant** - "Halo 3: Homophobia Evolved"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6alOnuN-wCY>
- #4. **Best compression of an STS course** - "Creation Science 101"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulwiPsgRrOs&feature=user>
- #5. **Best warm and fuzzy** - "Free Hugs in Hollywood"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MONTPHr7V1w>
- #6. **Best spoof of the film "300"** - "The Latino Comedy Project's 300"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7qKD-Ph7ds>
- #7. **Best redubbing over a video game** - "Lara Croft & Prince of Persia"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-3CPAtQiJs>
- #8. **Best Ferris Buhler spoof** - "Brace Yourself"
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sI8Sus_KRrY
- #9. **Best interpretation of "nice guys finish last"** - "Time is Up"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmDttNXrqsM>
- #10. **Best "how to" video** - "How to make synthetic dreads"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihlxsA-ROZE>

****Note:** URLs may not work as written. Just search YouTube.com for movie titles if this happens to you.

Merry Hanukkah & happy new beer!

Jessica McNally
Staff Writer

It is the holiday season, so spin the dreidel, hang the mistletoe and don't drink and drive.

Okay, you get where I'm going with this. In fact, I'm going to make this easy for both of us. What follows is a brief list of things to keep in mind this holiday season:

- Watch what you eat, it's okay to have sweets and cakes, just consume in moderation.

- If you have any allergies make sure you eat foods that won't irritate them. If you don't know what ingredients are in a dish, ask.

- Also, be wary of any cooked foods; make sure any meat you eat has been handled carefully and cooked properly.

- While you are watching what you eat, make sure you don't drink too much either, and if you are drinking alcohol, make sure it's in good company, somewhere you can stay the night. Do stay the night.

- If you hang up any special kind of lights, like Christmas lights, be sure to check your electrical connections for flaws, such as tattered chords or overcrowded wall outlets.

- If you are using a timer be sure to test it before leaving the house/ apartment/ dorm cell.

- Any other electronic devices, like merry door chimes, or singing nutcrackers (okay I made those up, but you never know), should be tested before your potential guests

play with them. Honestly, you don't want your guests to be *shocked*, do you?

- If you are going out of town and leaving your car on campus, let the police know so they can be wary of the vehicle.

- If you have an apartment here, it's good to notify them if it is going to be completely unoccupied over the holidays.

- You should turn everything electrical that you don't need off the night before you leave. Completely unplug heavy electrical equipment like computers, stereos or television sets.

- Also, if you are going on a long trip, go ahead and discard any perishable food items (milk, leftovers) before leaving, you'll thank me for this tip later.

- Shopping, shopping, shopping; it doesn't matter what "it" is, so long as "it" is appropriate for the intended individual.

- Be wary of age ranges on toy packages.

- A little tip for you: when giving a gift, try and give something that doesn't require any extra items to function, like batteries or super glue. A gift should contain everything necessary to operate the product, so if you do give somebody something that needs batteries or super glue, make sure you include those items as well.

Everyone at the Sting wishes you a safe and happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year (whenever it arrives). We'll see you next year!

Merry Christmas

