

No More Heroes

It's nothing like any other Wii game out there - so join Jasmine King as she reviews this hot release!
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March 24th, 2008

The Sting

www.thesting.org

Still recovering from Spring Break.

Lent & Beer?

Adam Myers explains why fish suddenly shows up on menus and how to break your fast.
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Volume 62, Issue 8

E-Week welcomes Jack Dozier

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

Engineering Week (or E-Week) is held annually in February, this year from the 17th to the 23rd. Its purpose is to draw attention to SPSU's engineering disciplines and the great work happening within them.

For this year's luncheon, held on February 19th, SPSU was honored to have Jack Dozier, P.E., Executive Director at the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, speak on Georgia's water future.

Jack Dozier has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Duke University. Mr. Dozier serves as an Advisor on water issues to the Georgia Municipal Association and Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.

In addition, he serves on the State-wide Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee as well as the Department of Natural Resources Drought Management Task Force.

Dr. Rossbacher began the luncheon by speaking about the history of Southern Poly, and analogizing E-Week to a birthday party for SPSU. Professor Lance Crimm lead the invocation. Dean Jeff Ray from the School of Engineering Technology and Management recognized our competition teams. Dr. Zvi Szafran, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Jack Dozier.

Mr. Dozier informed us of how Georgia never really had a comprehensive water plan. Making the situation more difficult is the fact that the state has been divided into regions with little regard to

river basins (the typical delineating lines) because political lines and state laws must be considered.

In addition, there is a large amount of population growth in Georgia with little to no planning.

Mr. Dozier recommends citizens "stay informed" and "keep an eye on what's going on." He says that citizens should really go to council meetings because the legislature being proposed will really shape the future of Georgia.

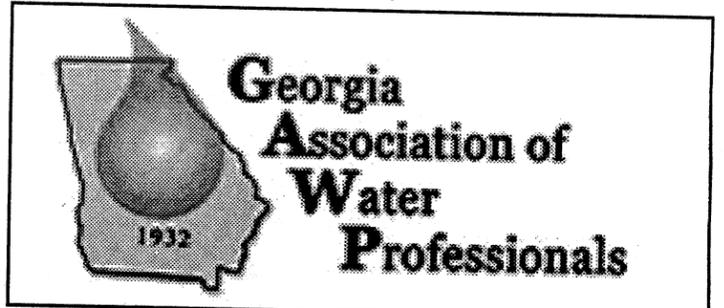
He seems somewhat disappointed by the situation, stating that drought issues were known about now for seven years. Mr. Dozier also said that while Governor Perdue was praying for rain, he was praying it didn't rain so that people would have to change their behavior. He encourages citizens not to water and use drought-toler-

ant landscaping, as well as to do little things like stop leaving the water running while brushing your teeth. He is trying to look at the situation as an "H2Oportunity" to expose and educate people to the water industry.

In addition to having Mr. Dozier speak, E-Week also featured a reception on February 20th for

female engineering students which was hosted by the Technical Women of Georgia Power.

Lockheed Martin also provided a case study on February 20th which gave engineering students the opportunity to work in teams to create a solution to a problem involving an F-16 Missile Warning System.



E-Week's speaker, Jack Dozier, is the Executive Director for this organization.

Photo courtesy gawponline.org

Student to be President of AIAS

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

At this year's national AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students) convention in Milwaukee, SPSU Architecture student JW Blanchard was elected 2008/2009 AIAS President.

JW Blanchard was currently serving as quad director for the South and was asked by people across the country to run for the position of President. He will move to Washington DC July 1st after he graduates this year to serve a 13 month term, and then will continue to serve for another 14 months as Past President.

What will this mean for SPSU? "The last national president from Georgia was in 1980/81 from Georgia Tech," says Blanchard. "For basically 13 months everybody I talk to is going to ask me where I went to school." He continues to say that this means that he gets to tell them about SPSU and what the architecture program is like there. "Within our organization," Blanchard says, "SPSU is looked at as one of the stronger chapters."

Blanchard encourages students to get involved in campus organizations. He admits that he never saw himself as AIAS president - he wasn't even actively involved until his third year of school. But he quickly learned that "There is something about serving other people, or helping other people, which empowers you to do better at what you do."

When he was a freshman, his GPA was below a C average, but getting involved has turned him around. He's quick to claim he's not a great student - "not really better than anyone else," he says. "I feel that I've learned more from ... being involved with my classmates in events both inside the school and

outside the school."

Since becoming involved with AIAS, Blanchard has served as Chapter President for the 2006-2007 school year where he raised the number of chapter members from 45 to 130. The SGA approved budget of \$925 went to

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The new face of AIAS.

Photo courtesy JW Blanchard.

Lady Hornets "Think Pink"

Adam Myers
Staff Writer

On February 9, the green and gold colors of Southern Polytechnic athletics were replaced with a lighter shade of pink.

In addition to being homecoming and alumni weekend on the SPSU campus, that Saturday afternoon saw the Southern Poly Lady Hornets basketball squad take on the Lady Hawks of Shorter College in an SSAC match that had much greater implications in the basketball world.

It was "Think Pink" day at the SPSU Gymnasium, and the coaching staffs of both teams were dressed for the occasion on the sidelines in support of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's breast cancer awareness initiative. Southern Poly players could also be found on the bench sporting commemorative warm-up shirts, wristbands, ribbons, and socks of matching trim - all in pink.

The same t-shirts and wristbands worn by the Lady Hornets were available to spectators of the game, with all proceeds going to the Kay Yow/WBCA Breast Cancer Fund. In addition, tickets for 50/50 and prize charity raffles were sold at the gate, while all fans dressed in pink gained free admission with a \$2 donation. The SPSU

cheerleaders got in on the charity game by giving hugs to anyone offering a \$1 donation.

SPSU is one of over 900 colleges and universities representing all levels of NCAA and NAIA women's basketball participating in the event, a charitable effort lasting from February 8 to February 17. 2008 marks the second year of the "Think Pink" initiative, but the first after the establishment of the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund. Yow, long-time coach of the North Carolina State women's basketball program, was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987; after battling the cancer's return in late 2006, she led N.C. State to a Sweet 16 appearance in the 2007 NCAA Tournament. The fund is a WBCA partnership with the V Foundation for Cancer Research, a charity in tribute to former N.C. State men's basketball coach Jim Valvano, who died of cancer in 1993.

Estimates by the American Cancer Society state that 178,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed among women in 2007. With an estimated 40,460 deaths in 2007 due to breast cancer, it is the second leading cause of death in women. In addition, estimates show that over 2,000 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed last year among men.

"People need to know about

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Politics
Hear what Adam, Stuart, and Christiaan are saying about politics now.
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Parking Madness
Parking isn't getting any better, and now Sean Fine is fed up - see how those who live on-campus feel about the parking situation.
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Sports
Jessica McNally covers some of the recent games. If you missed 'em, you can read all about 'em on
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Want to study abroad?

Twila McConnell
Editor-in-Chief

This year, Dr. Nuhfer-Halten is sending students to Madrid during the summer. This program is open to anyone interested. For four weeks you study in Madrid for only \$3595. Included in the price is airfare, housing, 3 meals a day, and health insurance. Rooms are private, and include a private shower and toilet.

In addition, you will spend three days in Paris!

What about tuition? HOPE will cover the program.

Your obligations while in Spain are to take two courses and to speak Spanish for the whole month of July. Dr. Nuhfer-Halten is adamant about this point because she wants students to get the most out of this experience and this is the best way to learn the language.

Some of the courses offered in Madrid are: Elementary Spanish, Spanish Art, Intermediate Spanish, Conversation, Culture and Civilization, History of Spain, Hispanic Short Stories, Introduction to Literature, and El Teatro de Garcia Lorca.

Why study in Madrid? "Madrid is the political, legal, and economic center of the country, and one of the leading capitals in Europe. The city, with its many leisure activities, museums, and monuments, provides a great setting from which to learn the language and culture of Spain," says the program's literature.

In addition, last year in the same program, students saw a bull fight, went to Barcelona and tanned on the beach, saw flamenco dancing, went to a ballet, went to the town of Avila and Toledo, and several museums. So don't think you'll be studying for four weeks! To learn more about the adventures of last years students, you can visit the class blog at spsumadrid07.blogspot.com.

Dr. Nuhfer-Halten wishes to ease the fears of some first-time travelers by emphasizing how safe the area is and how comfortable, clean, and modern the housing is. She says this is a "wonderful program for a first-timer" and that it is "an event that changes you life."

In addition, Dr. Nuhfer-Halten has used this program before and is familiar with the faculty and Directors, who are from the University of South Florida and Auburn University. Dr. Nuhfer-Halten will actually

be teaching classes while you are studying there and will a familiar face for you to turn to.

Andy Mengwasser, who went to Valencia with SPSU in 2006, said it best: "There is really nothing that I can tell you that will prepare you for what you are about to do. Visiting Spain is an amazing, life-changing experience.

"But no book you can read or advice I can give you can really prepare you for it. At best you might get a Mickey-Mouse, Disney World, Epcot Center, "It's a small world" sort-of idea of what Spain is. That all dissolves as soon as you get there."

For more information about the program from the host, visit: www.foreignstudy.com. In addition, you can contact Dr. Nuhfer-Halten herself with any questions or concerns that you may have at bnuhferh@spsu.edu.



SPSU students on the 2007 Madrid trip.

Photo courtesy spsumadrid07.blogspot.com

Poker Night

David Spivak
Staff Writer

On Friday, February 29, CAB hosted a Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament in the Student Center.

No one knows if it was a lack of interest, the relatively small amount of advertising, or the poor planning that led CAB to host the tournament on the first Friday of

Spring Break (when most students were already on their way to whichever sunny locale they had chosen for their nine-day-long benders), but only six people showed up.

The event started at 8:00 PM, and sometime before 11:00 Theo Edwards walked home with an iPod worth an estimated \$200. Two friends of mine were able to make a prior engagement at 9:00.

One guy discovered that he's a quick learner, outlasting more than half his opponents despite the fact that he had learned the game only minutes before.

All students are encouraged to attend campus functions and events. You can have a lot of fun, win fabulous prizes, and meet some new people.

Also, whether you attend or not, you've already paid for all of them.

Student to be President of AIAS - Con't. from page 1

\$7,000 – which they have already exhausted. AIAS also sent over 20 people to the Fall Quad Conference in Charlotte South Carolina.

What is the life of a President like? During his 13 months as President, Blanchard will travel across the country to meet with and support all the AIAS chapters. He will meet with chair members in four board meetings, support members concerns and questions, and he will serve and network with four national, professional organizations: the AIA – American Institute of Architects, the NAAB – National Architectural Accrediting Board,

the NCARB – National Council of Architecture Registration Board, and the ACSA – American Colligate Schools of Architecture.

Blanchard encourages anyone to join AIAS; it is open to any college student of any degree. He points out that architects rarely build building simply for other architects – the buildings must exist for lawyers, doctors, office works, educators, IT professionals, and anyone that uses a building. Blanchard explains: "We can only view how someone uses a space. It would help us immensely if we could understand how you best use

a space. And the beginning of that starts in college."

AIAS is a student run, non-profit organization that advocates for architecture students. Nationally, there are 67,000 chapter members, with over \$1 million in assets. In addition, SPSU's AIAS chapter has a public service initiative called Freedom by Design, which empowers students to make a difference in disadvantaged people's lives through design. Currently, Freedom by Design is redesigning parts of a house for a girl in the community named Marcella with Muscular Dystrophy.

Lady Hornets "Think Pink" - Con't. from page 1

the information that is out there [about breast cancer]," said Laphelia Doss, SPSU assistant coach who helped in organizing the event. "Men especially need to know that it can happen to them, too."

Since the 2008 "Think Pink" initiative was ongoing at deadline, overall contribution figures were

unavailable at press time; however, donations amounting to over \$530 have been raised at SPSU thus far. "For being the first time [participating in "Think Pink"], I believe it went well," said Doss. "Every bit counts."

While the Lady Hornets' charitable efforts proved to be successful, the game on the court

proved to a different story. After SPSU jumped to a 23-16 lead a halftime and extended that lead to double-digits deep into the second period, Shorter staged a comeback in the final minutes to defeat the Lady Hornets, 64-58. Senior forward Aneta Bruzgul led all Hornets in scoring with 12 points.

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Hornets vs. Senators

A 50/50 victory

Jessica McNally
Senior Staff Writer

On Thursday Feb. 21st, the Southern Polytechnic University women's and men's basketball teams played a home game against the Auburn University women's and men's basketball teams respectively.

It was a rainy night outside, inside however, the gym played host to many of the teams supporters of fellow students, parents, SPSU faculty and staff, as well as general fans.

The Lady Hornets (SPSU) defeated the Lady Senators (Auburn) with a score of 60-51. During the first period, the game was tied at 6-6 with 17 minutes on the clock when Auburn took the lead. Auburn held about a five point lead until the last few minutes, when they jumped ahead about 10 points, ending the first half at 19-28 (Auburn).

The second period of the women's basketball game began with Auburn still ahead, at 23-33; then SPSU started to catch up so that by seven minutes into the game, Auburn only had a seven point lead.

At 10 minutes into the second period, Auburn still had the lead and held it until SPSU tied with only four minutes and thirty seconds remaining; the score was 49-49.

In the last few minutes of the game, the Lady Hornets jumped ahead, defeating the Lady Senators by nine points, with a final score of 60-51.

The SPSU men's basketball team lost against the Auburn men's basketball team by five points, with a final score of 72-67 (Auburn).

The teams were neck and neck during the first half of the first period, until the Hornet's pulled ahead four points. The Senators caught up but did not take the lead, closing the first period with a 29-31 (SPSU) score.

As soon as the second period started, Auburn started to pull ahead; however SPSU came back and held a four point lead at 14 minutes into the game, with a score of 44-40 (SPSU), followed by a score of 44-49 (SPSU) at ten minutes into the period. The Hornets held the lead by five points at seven minutes into the game, with a score of 55-50.

It was in the last few minutes of the game that the Senators came back, with a 64-64 tie and only a minute and a half remaining. The game ended with Auburn defeating SPSU by five points, closing the period at 72-67 (Auburn).

For those of you unaware, admission into any of the Southern Polytechnic State University games is free for SPSU students. Simply show the ticket person your student I.D. and viola! You're in. Free of charge. It's great entertainment, all proceeds from the food sales help the teams, and you get to watch many of your fellow students whom you have classes with demonstrate their amazing athletic talents.

Parking madness

Can you find a space?

Sean Fine
Senior Staff Writer

If you're a commuter, a visitor, or a student who drives around a lot, you might have noticed the extreme lack of parking in the front parking space. Truth be told, commuters and visitors actually get a crap ton of parking space. Granted, it's farther from the student center and in the far back of the school, but here's the thing: if the front parking is taken up, then where are the dorm students who are supposed to have that parking to themselves supposed to go?

I speak mainly of February 5, 2008. What in the crap was happening that day? I leave in the morning to meet with some family only to come back and find that all of the dorm parking is taken up by A) Other dorm students who simply haven't moved their cars, B) Commuter Students who aren't even aware of the parking around back of the campus, C) visitors for some 5th grader event that was going on in the student center, or D) business cars who frankly don't seem to care where they park. On top of all this, there's all the construction work going on in the parking, so we have even fewer spaces than usual anyway. What in the hell? Where am I supposed to park?

All right, fine. In my logic of thinking, since this is some

event where a large influx of visitors are coming in and there's no dorm parking, I have to at least get a break where it comes to parking, right?

I search over fifteen minutes for a legal dorm parking space, but I can't find it. It's ludicrous and stupid planning for all sides.

All right, fine. Since I can't park in my legal space, I guess I'll have to make due and temporarily park in a commuter spot. Is it allowed? Probably not, but come on. What else am I supposed to do? Wait in my car until someone un-parks and opens a space? Chances are, that space would've been taken up by one of the commuters or visitors anyway, so what's the point of doing that? The parking police have to cut me some slack, right? There's nothing else I can do. In fact, several other people have already made compromises and parked on the grass and even in areas labeled 'No Parking.'

Long story short, I go back to my car in that commuter parking space later that night, and find what? A ticket. This is ludicrous. If commuters can park in my spot, why can't I park in theirs?

I hope that whoever is in charge of parking reads this and seriously thinks about the situation when this sort of parking chaos happens and looks at it from the viewpoint of those looking for a spot!

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Hornets lose neck-n-neck

Jessica McNally
Senior Staff Writer

On Thursday evening Feb. 7, SPSU's men's basketball team, The Runnin' Hornets, lost to Berry College's Vikings by one point. In the last second of the game, the Hornets scored three points, closing the victory gap to 72-73.

Throughout the game, the teams battled neck and neck; at no point during the game did either team have more than a five point lead on the other team. Both teams displayed good sportsmanship towards each other.

During the last half of the game, SPSU lead 55 to 50 for a couple minutes, before Berry pulled ahead.

In the last three minutes of

the game, Berry had a lead of four points, 70-66. SPSU came back in the last minute of the game, 69 to Berry's 70.

A foul was called in the

last nine seconds of the game. Berry pulled ahead an extra two points.

In the last second of the game, SPSU scored three points.

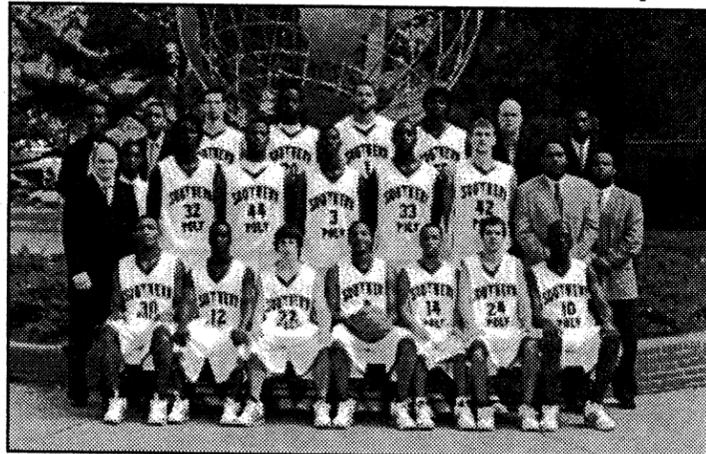
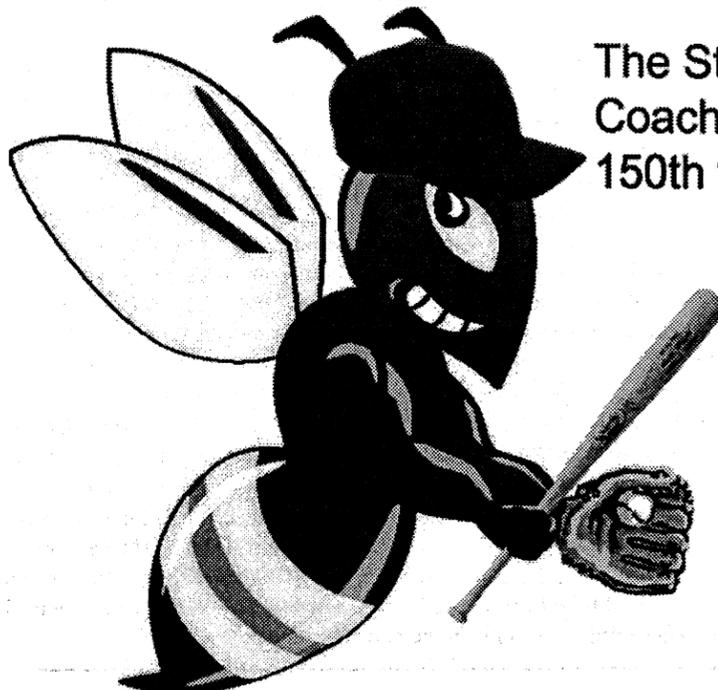


Photo courtesy www.spsu.edu.

Our men's basketball team.



The Sting congratulates Coach Griffin on his 150th win! Go Hornets!

Hillary's pot-kettle assault

Adam Myers
Staff Writer

As the 2008 presidential election continues unabated at an agonizing pace, the battle for the Democratic nomination remains in doubt. Hillary Clinton fancies herself as on the comeback trail, but she needs a lot of help. The question is how far she might go to find it.

Upon her victories in the March 4 primaries in Rhode Island, Ohio, and Texas, the media at large was quick to declare the New York senator back in the race, despite still trailing chief rival for the nomination, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois. The momentum of these wins was later dampened by Obama triumphs in the caucuses also held in Texas that day, plus the March 8 caucuses in Wyoming and March 11 primary in Mississippi. The good news for supporters of the former First Lady is that according to her strategists, those losses don't count. The bad news is that time and the delegate count beg to differ.

At press time, estimates by CNN indicate that Obama leads Clinton by 139 total delegates, 1618-1479; 2025 delegates are needed to win the Democratic nomination. While the gap between the two is very close, the number of delegates up for grabs in the remaining state primaries is smaller than the actual number of delegates still unassigned, thanks to the existence of "superdelegates" made up of prominent Democrat officials. To be exact, only 566 of the 951 remaining delegates are pledged to the results of the upcoming primaries in eight states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Since all Democratic primaries distribute delegates proportionately from the results of the popular vote, Clinton must win the remaining states with an average of 61.7% of the overall vote to pull even with Obama with pledged delegates. Compare this number with the latest Rasmussen opinion polls for the Pennsylvania primary to be held on April 22, which indicates Clinton is still the favorite over Obama but still commands only 51% of Democratic voters.

The numbers also reveal that even Obama landslides in the remaining primaries will not propel him over the nomination threshold with pledged delegates alone (Obama would need an average of 71.9% of the remaining popular vote to capture the 407 delegates he needs). In any scenario, the Democratic nomination will not be decided until the national convention in August. This puts Hillary Clinton in a very difficult position as to what approach she and her advisors want to take for the remainder of her campaign. At this point, she is a long shot to capture the nomination, but the race is too close for her to simply concede defeat. The Clinton camp really has two options: do they use the remaining four-and-a-half months to prepare Obama for the tough questions that Republicans are going to pose him on the road to the November election, or maneuver to steal the nomination by arranging back-room deals with the undeclared superdelegates and/or attacking Obama thoroughly enough to make him unelectable?

As anyone who followed the buildup to the Ohio and Texas primaries already knows, the Clinton campaign has clearly chosen the latter, unveiling a "kitchen sink" strategy that bombarded Obama on all fronts. With Clinton winning late-deciding voters in those states by a 2-1 margin, the kitchen sink was a smashing success...but in the long run, the strategy can only lead to a Democratic defeat.

The major problem with the kitchen sink strategy is that every attack the Clinton campaign makes on Obama can be turned back upon the accuser with little effort, often in an even worse way. Clinton expects voters to accept what she tells them about her rival without considering the fact she herself can be considered guilty of the very same faults. In essence, the pot is calling the kettle black. Consider the following charges...

The "3:00 AM" ad.

The now-infamous television spot aired days before the Texas primary implied that Obama was ill-prepared to make crucial decisions on foreign policy crises. While the Illinois senator is green on national security issues, for her to make it a paramount issue and place herself as the most qualified candidate makes no sense at all considering the greater competition waiting. If security is going to make or break the general election, John McCain is going to win that battle regardless of who his opponent is.

The Vice-Presidential Offer.

Clinton extended an invitation to Obama after the March 4 primaries to unite on the Democratic ticket...as long as her name was on the top of the ballot. Considering that Obama leads Clinton in both the delegate count and the number of states won, he quickly disregarded her request.

If the election were an episode of Deal or No Deal, Obama would have the \$10, \$200,000, \$300,000, and \$1,000,000 briefcases still in play, and Clinton would be the banker sending him a \$156,000 offer. The low-ball offer was an insult to Obama in the hope he be dumb enough to be convinced that he quit while he was ahead. The insult was not directed only towards him, but for those watching at home. Obama is no idiot; he knows that he can receive an even bigger prize even if he stumbles a bit along the rest of the way.

NAFTA.

The Clinton campaign also criticized Obama for a leaked memo from the Canadian government which stated that his position against the North American Free Trade Agreement was only political posturing, and not meant to be taken seriously. Of course, in persuading Ohio voters that her opponent was secretly in favor of a trade policy blamed for the loss of thousands of jobs in that state, Hillary neglected to mention the fact that she championed NAFTA publicly on many occasions during her husband's term in the White House.

Tony Rezko.

Obama has also been under fire for his association with prominent Illinois

Democrat fundraiser Rezko, who has been indicted on federal fraud and extortion charges. Most of the controversy stems from a 2005 land deal where Obama and Rezko's wife were sold adjoining properties in Chicago, with Obama paying below asking price for his parcel. He then bought a section of Mrs. Rezko's property at over property value before Mrs. Rezko sold the rest of her property for a sizable profit.

Does the Obama-Rezko connection warrant mentioning? Yes, although it appears that Obama made no financial gain on Mrs. Rezko's deal. However, considering the Clinton family's involvement in the Whitewater affair, Hillary is probably the last person to make fuss over a shady real estate transaction. Pushing the Rezko issue would only open old wounds.

Geraldine Ferraro's comments.

Ferraro, the first woman to appear on a major-party presidential ticket and Clinton advisor, was quoted in the Torrance, California Daily Breeze as saying "...if Obama was a white man... (or) a woman... he would not be in this position," further commenting that "the country is caught up in the concept" of seeing a black man run for President. The former New York congresswoman's remarks are completely without merit from a number of perspectives.

First of all, Obama is not like Carol Moseley Braun and Al Sharpton in 2004, whose candidacies failed to gain support even in the black community; nor is he like Jesse Jackson in 1988, who managed to steal states with sizable black voter bases as white voters were divided between no less than four other credible candidates. It takes a whole lot more than just the black vote to make even a respectable showing in the snow-white states of the Plains and Rockies, let alone to win them with the landslide margins Obama has.

Second of all, Ferraro herself, an obscure three-term representative, would never have been considered as Walter Mondale's running mate in 1984 had she not have lacked a Y chromosome and the Democrats not been so desperate to stave off irrelevance in the fact of a certain defeat at the hands of Reagan. Her political career effectively ended with her ticket's landslide defeat, so there obviously wasn't much behind her nomination other than her gender.

Third of all, look at the demographics of Hillary Clinton's supporters, which consist almost exclusively of women over 35 and blue-collar Democrats nostalgic for the Bill Clinton years. If she wasn't a woman, or if she wasn't the wife of a former President, would she in the race right now? Would the public be as accepting of a corporate lawyer with only seven years' experience as an elected official, if not for the fact that some Democratic voters are caught up with the concept of having another Clinton in the White House?

Only her states really count.

Clinton has been very vocal in her assertion that the states she has won thus far are the ones that are necessary to win in November. Again, though,

recent history tells a different story.

Out of the eleven states where Clinton has won more pledged delegates, five were won by Democrats in both the 2000 and 2004 elections, five were won by Republicans in both elections, and one (New Mexico) shifted from Democratic in 2000 to Republican in 2004. On the other hand, out of the twenty-five states where Obama has won more pledged delegates, nine voted Democratic in both 2000 and 2004, fifteen voted Republican both times, and one (Iowa) voted Democratic in 2000 but Republican in 2004.

Now, compare the individual states won by each candidate. Out of states Clinton has won that aren't Democratic locks in November, Arizona will vote for favorite son McCain; New Mexico will swing blue if Bill Richardson plays a prominent role in the general campaign; Arkansas will only be carried if Clinton is on the Democratic ticket and Mike Huckabee isn't on the GOP's; Oklahoma and Tennessee aren't likely to favor Democrats; and Ohio is a coin flip. Illinois might be the only sure-bet state that Obama has won, but non-lock states include the entirety of the upper Mississippi Valley (Illinois excepting, always a key swing territory); Nebraska, whose electoral vote distribution could result in a vote or two going to Democrats even if Republicans win the state overall; and a belt of southern states stretching from Louisiana to Virginia, any of whom could be in a position to be stolen on election day by Obama if McCain does not choose a southern evangelical as his running mate, and Obama then capitalizes by courting this disenchanted voter base with his campaign's unique revival meeting atmosphere.

If 2000 and 2004 are any indicators, presidential elections are not won by carrying a party's strongholds and hoping for a big state to swing the right way to make up the difference. Al Gore could have won the presidency without Florida had he not taken his home state of Tennessee for granted; John Kerry could have won the presidency without Ohio with Colorado and any two of Iowa, Nevada, or New Mexico. So, while Hillary Clinton has been winning more big states and Barack Obama more small states, those small states are much more important in determining the president than the big states that are more or less a sure thing. One thing is for sure: Obama is in a much better position to pick up those small states than Clinton.

Finally, there's one massive roadblock on the campaign trail that Hillary is the one prone to: the fate of former New York governor Eliot Spitzer. Spitzer announced his resignation March 12 after being implicated as a patron of a high-end prostitution ring; it is alleged by federal investigators that he had spent up to \$80,000 on escort services over his tenures as New York attorney general and then governor.

Hillary Clinton has stood by her husband through several bouts of infidelity; however, there's a huge difference between a politician having a fling with an intern and a politician spending thousands of dollars on hookers, thereby funding the sort of criminal enterprises whom fighting had been a major piece in that politician's platform. Spitzer will no doubt be facing federal charges in the aftermath of this scandal, and Clinton will be facing a lot of pressure in the near future on how she would handle the Spitzer scandal, both because of his position as a political ally and because of she and her husband's personal history. Quite frankly, it will be hard for her to separate herself from the Spitzer scandal if it emerges as a hot topic during the upcoming months.

Through the various charges laid upon Barack Obama by Hillary Clinton's campaign, the latter is trying to convince the public that the former is unfit for the presidency. Using the same criteria, one can conclude that is Clinton who is unfit for office. So, if America does buy into the notion that Obama is not cut from the presidential cloth, then Clinton is disqualified as well, and the result is a McCain presidency. Likewise, should Clinton emerge from the Democratic National Convention in Denver as the presidential nominee, it will come at the expense of the millions of Obama supporters who became interested in his politics because of his honesty, integrity, and belief in the ideals of representative government. A Clinton nomination on the backs of party insiders would be spitting on the face of these voters, and they will not shift their allegiance to her.

Republicans are salivating at that notion: in spite of the GOP seeing massive infighting between several competing ideologies over control of the party and having a presidential nominee who represents none of them, they may still be the party of national unity come November. Hillary Clinton should not give up on her presidential ambitions, but those can't come at the cost of her party.



Some attractive candidates...

Photo courtesy <http://skeptico.blogspot.com>

Hope and change?

Stuart Michelson
Copy Editor

I believe in hope and change. That's why I am discussing Barack Hussein Obama, and yes I dare to use his middle name. I believe as Reagan did, that America is the last great hope for mankind, and I believe that the change America needs is to return to its Christian foundation if it to survive.

In the face of Hillary Clinton's seemingly inevitable Democratic nomination for President, we saw Barack Hussein Obama (yes I dare use it twice) rise to a position of prominence and now stand with a very strong chance of getting that nomination for himself. But who is this guy? Who is this Senator who has declared himself the superstar of 2008? Who is this person who can stand up and say nothing for an hour and yet have a full stadium of empty-headed Democrats fainting in his presence? Could 'black Jesus' be real? Several issues ago, many of you joined me on a journey to expose Hillary Clinton for the anti-American power-driven hyper-socialist that she is, and I now invite you to journey with me to take a fresh look at Obama the anti-American power-driven radical-socialist, and self-proclaimed divisive racist.

You might already note that the tone of this article is rather harsh, and it is intended to be so. I am sick and tired of sitting back and watching the media ignore the news and paint good for nothing criminal politicians as saints. Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Therefore, at least at The Sting, we will not ignore the intellectual and moral bankruptcy of those lunatics on the American Left who would see our great nation turned into a giant testing ground for radical socialism, and destroy the very fabric of our republic and replace it with a poverty stricken, weaker, more immoral version of itself that only has the memories of good men like George Washington and Ronald Reagan and the prosperity of thought and freedom that their very presence once fostered in the greatest land God gave man. These are the stakes, and it is for this reason that the battle lines are drawn so clearly politically. Everyone must choose whether they will vote for freedom and prosperity, or higher taxes that only fund more government interventionism.

So since Obama does not speak for himself often, preferring vague and contradictory generalities and buzzwords to excite the weak minded, we are left largely to examine his associations, those he calls mentors, friends, and seeks spiritual guidance from. This is the good place to start when examining who Barack Hussein Obama (woops there's three times) is. Even more telling is his reaction to these associations, which have only recently (double, triple, and four times shame on the media for their selective coverage) come to light.

He may not know how to speak for himself, but he certainly writes for himself. In his book "Dreams of my Father," Obama says of his white mother, "I found a solace in nursing a pervasive sense of grievance and animosity against my mother's race," and, "I ceased to advertise my mother's race at the age of 12 or 13, when I began to suspect that by doing so I was ingratiating myself to whites." He also says of whites in general, which is frightfully akin to the statements of his pastor which we'll deal with in a moment, "That hate hadn't gone away... white people - some cruel, some ignorant, sometimes a single face, sometimes just a faceless image

just one of many examples of how the modern Civil Rights movement is marred and set back by radical extremists. Obama has tried to distance himself in the debates from any association with Farrakhan, even though Farrakhan has openly endorsed Obama's campaign.

Who could be more inflammatory than Farrakhan? How about the man who bestowed a lifetime achievement "Trumpeter Award" on him for "truly epitomizing greatness"—Rev. Jeremiah Wright Jr. Wright was the minister of Trinity United Church of Christ (a contradiction of terms given what they stand for) until February of this year. Wright believes in black separatism and members

ing short of hate and disdain for all things American. Its ironic that Obama had so much condemnation for Don Imus' racist comment, and said he would not appear on his show because of it... That, and he will still appear in church however under the preaching and ranting of an anti-American pig who spreads un-education and hate like the plague that it is.

So are strong ties to racists and bigots (lets not leave out the Black Panthers who are linked off of Obama's website) enough to show us what Obama brings to the table on his platform of change? No. We would leave out Obama's ties to domestic terrorists and enemies of the state. Meet William

striking number of these types of relationships, and does not account for the statements in his book, or the un-cited quotes he borrowed from Malcolm X word for word in some of his speeches, or why someone like Farrakhan would think enough of Obama to endorse him. How could Obama be a member of a church that is so anti-American and run for the highest office in America?

Obama has already said that he will bomb our allies in Pakistan, surrender in Iraq, and enter into appeasement style negotiations with our enemies. He has demonstrated through these statements that he knows nothing about the role of Commander and Chief, and reinforces his lack of understanding of the Constitution by accusing George Bush of "exceeding his Presidential authority" by adjusting troop levels in Iraq. He said the Surge was destined for failure. What qualifications can this Senator who has accomplished nothing of note boast?

They say Obama stands for change. I'll tell you what that change is since he won't. Higher taxes, a drained economy, higher grocery prices, a weaker military, surrender in Iraq, weak borders, POW's with the same rights as Americans, a destroyed medical system, nonsensical global warming legislation, wage controls, leveling mechanisms, restriction of freedom of expression, no domestic drilling and thus higher gas prices, social programs, special interest group domination, and best of all—racism. Many will call me a racist for writing this article, but they are probably the same types that would defend some of the horrific statements quoted above by men who have proven themselves to be part of the problem, and have intentionally heated the level of hate to boiling point in this country. If you think I have been unfair to Obama, then read my criticism of Hillary Clinton, and yes, even John McCain in past articles. Truth be told, some of my favorite politicians are black—Condeleezza Rice, Clarence Thomas, Alan Keyes, and Herman Cain.

I call on Obama to explain his associations with these controversial individuals, who have through word and deed proven their disloyalty to this great country. In the meantime, all you Obama supporters are in a real bind, so I offer this advice. Admit you were wrong to blindly follow a man you can now see as anything but change, but rather more of the same, a representation of all the average American hates about Washington—corruption. Not that it matters much anyway, the Democratic Party has allowed a bitter division over race to rip their structure to shreds this year anyway. Good luck rebuilding your party. Meanwhile, Conservatives stand poised to make a historic move to reclaim Congress and the Republicans are to see John McCain all the way to the White House. United we stand, divided you fall in 2008.



Photo courtesy Cox and Farkum political cartoonists.

Could this be the future of foreign policy?

of a system claiming power over our lives." And in his book the "Audacity of Hope," Obama says, "There was something about him that made me wary. A little too sure of himself, maybe. And white." There are many more such statements, but of particular note is how Obama refers to those who gravitated towards white people instead of blacks in his college as "half-breeds," which is very similar to the well known racist and Anti-Semitic Reverend Louis Farrakhan, who once said that white men just haven't evolved as far as the black men yet, and that is why they are inferior—which brings us to our first association, Louis Farrakhan.

Louis Farrakhan is the acting head of the Nation of Islam and the living manifestation of Elijah Muhammed. He is well known for his statements about how whites and Jews are inferior species, and represent all that is unrighteous. He also believes that he was taken up in a UFO and told by Elijah Muhammed that the President was going to wage a war against Libya, which Farrakhan interpreted as a war against the black people of America. So he met with our enemies in Libya to warn them. He has encouraged preaching hate to children at a young age (in reference to suicide bombing) and is

of his church pledge themselves to a black values system. From his pulpit, Wright has accused the government (who he defines as "rich white people") of inventing the HIV virus as a means of genocide against people of color. He also adds, "God Bless America...No, No, No, God Damn America, that's in the Bible for killing innocent people, God Damn America for treating our citizens as less than human. God Damn America for as long as she acts like she is God and she is supreme." He also refers to the USA as "the KKK-A." He blames America for the events of 9/11 and calls his own government a state sponsor of terror. Barrack Hussein Obama has been a member of Wright's church for decades and contributed large sums of money to the "ministry" there (if it can be so called.) Wright married Obama and his wife (who recently admitted that she has never been proud of the country that has given her a job with three figures and more opportunity than the majority on this planet), and he also baptized Obama's children. Obama will not break his ties to Wright who serves on his campaign, and has been a spiritual advisor for him in times of need. He will not leave or condemn Trinity United Church of Christ for their divisive bigotry and racism, and stances that are noth-

Ayers, a man Obama calls a friend and is reportedly on "friendly terms" with, a man whose donations have been gladly accepted by Obama. Ayers was a member of the violent radical leftist group "The Weather Underground," and with the help of his fellows successfully detonated bombs at the United States Capital (twice in 1970), The Pentagon (1972), The Department of State (1975), several banks, police departments, state and federal courthouses, and the state prison administrative offices. As recently as 2001, Ayers admits that, "I don't regret setting bombs; I feel we didn't do enough." Obama again distances himself from this controversial connection, but remains "friendly." But with so many connections, is not his credibility wearing a little thin?

I am not even going to get into Obama's controversial relationship with the convicted extortionist Tony Rezko. Critics are accusing the Right and those who are pointing out Barrack Hussein Obama's inconvenient relationships as placing guilt by association, and that just because his pastor says this, or his contributor says that, doesn't mean that he adheres to the things that they believe. I say that an outlook like that is ignorant and foolish because it cannot account for the irony of the

The Middle

Liberals, Conservatives, liberals, conservatives, and Neo-Conservatives

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

Liberals and Conservatives. liberals and conservatives. What's the deal, and where do these titles come from? More specifically, what does this have to do with us nowadays? Well, I figure the best thing I can do before I launch into my conservative manifesto is to first explain the difference in terms. So, take this article as an explanation of the four terms.

In the beginning, well actually from the 1400's to the 1700's there was a time period of Mercantilism, where countries believed the state was supreme and it was all about being a protectionist state. They believed in a zero-sum game. The best way for country A to prosper was to hurt country B.

By Protectionist, I mean they did not believe in free trade, and they believed in being self sufficient in everything. This called for the colonization of many areas so that a state can acquire all the materials it needs, as well as the cheap labor. Eventually, this idea burned out, and gave way to Neo-Mercantilism, which still held on to it's protectionist methods, but allowed for a number of free trade aspects.

So, where as before a country would hold on to a failing industry (like Ethanol production or alternative energies like solar and wind power) and subsidize it at the expense of their economy, they would instead bring in more reliable energy (like oil) and place import taxes on it.

Well, this failed system gave birth into the most amazing advance in political theory that has allowed us to be here, in this, the greatest country in existence (as you can tell, I'm completely un-biased).

Adam Smith wrote, "The Wealth of Nations" in which he outlined and put on paper what many had already been thinking - the theory of Liberalism. It states that the government's only responsibility is to defend the borders, create infrastructure for trade and to mediate disputes. Liberals, not to be confused with liberals, believe that the least amount of government involvement into economics was best (sounds a lot like Libertarians eh?) Liberalism believes that people, if given the chance to, can excel.

While that is an amazing theory, Liberalism separates from Libertarians (and Ron Paul) in that they believed in free trade. Every country should produce what they can the best and easiest, and subsequently we'd all have the lowest prices and the best products.

We do this all the time in the U.S. California and Florida make the best orange juice. If New York tried to get into the orange juice industry it would be silly... right? Well, along

the same idea if the U.S. isn't efficient at manufacturing jobs, we shouldn't be trying to hold on to that, when we can make more money and give ourselves a better living situation focusing on the service industry. However, it's not the government's responsibility to do this.

However, this near perfect economic system relies on the free market, and near no government involvement. This political theory would be known in economics as supply side economics.

Now, John Stewart Mill helped to usher in modern day liberalism. He argued that, it doesn't matter if everyone has the same access to education, if only the rich can afford it, the poor can never become educated, and therefore never become rich. Where as Liberals believed the theory of teaching

more, I may go to the movies, rent a movie, buy a CD. If I have a lot of extra money one month, I may buy an MP3 player, game system, game etc.

However, if I don't have extra money (after bills and essentials) I'm not going to go to the movies, I'm not going to buy that CD. Higher taxes means my cost of living is going to go up, which means, I won't have extra money to spend on non-essential things, and will help the economy and the government will get more tax revenues.

Keynesian economics believes it's the government's responsibility to help out with the economy, it believes that the free market will not be fair to people, so it's the government's responsibility to guide the market in the best interests of the people.

The idea of the Stimulus Package is a great example. The

in the basis for the democratic party, and their idea of the government being compassionate, because of this, liberals now a days speak of the extremists in the democratic party. Comprised of socialists bordering on Lenin-Stalinists principles of government control an overseeing of public affairs while completely enforcing a morality of non-morality. Government mandated fairness, tolerance, and acceptance are key social factors of liberals.

Ronald Reagan helped define conservatism. (Note the differences in the capital or non-capital letters. The capitalized words are the official political science terms).

Reagan's definitions are what many call conservatism today, however, technically, conservatism is Neo-Conservatism - radio talk show hosts like Rush

the government works less, in economics and socially when the government upholds the morals and values of its people.

There is a clear and stark difference between mandating morals and upholding morals. Mandating means that laws are made where people are forced to follow morals, whereas upholding them would be that laws are put in place that reflect the morals.

Currently the laws in the U.S. tend to reflect the morals, with the exception of the court mandated laws, like homosexual marriage in Massachusetts. The legislature is supposed to decide reflect the will of the people, and no law was made, it was forced by the judicial system.

While the morals of the land are supposed to be reflected in the laws, minorities of the specific moral standard of the people, so long as they do not give up their rights (like murderers), are to be treated equally, NOT given special privileges.

When a law is proposed that goes against the morals of the people, or even of the Communitarian Liberal morals, we hold to the current laws, which unless they foster injustice we hold to. As an example, the current rule of law is that abortion is a legal right. A Liberal would say, it's not the government's responsibility to be involved with whatever she does with her body, so it's not that she has a right, it's that no one has the right to say she can't.

A liberal would say, "It's her body, and the government's responsibility to make sure that EVERYONE must acknowledge that she can do that."

A Communitarian Liberal would say that the justification is wrong, the 4th amendment does not speak of abortion: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The whole idea that abortion is a right guaranteed by the constitution from these lines is preposterous, regardless of precedent, because the constitution circumvents precedent. According to the 9th and 14th amendment.

The Communitarian Liberal would rather try to change the hearts and minds of the people through promoting policies and let the people choose to against them, instead of forcing them to follow the policies and not give them a choice to reject it.

There are huge differences between Conservatives, conservatives (or Communitarian Liberals, or Neo-Conservatives), Liberals, and liberals.



An interesting illustration of the free market.

Photo courtesy www.wmnet.org.uk

a man to fish instead of giving him a fish, reformed Liberals like J.S. Mill, believed that it was the government's job to teach a man to fish, and provide a way for him to get a pole etc... It wasn't well-fare where the government takes the fish from people who have it to give it to people not willing to fish.

As well as the social blight that reformed Liberals caused on Liberalism that the democrats (liberals) have embraced, they also embrace another child of reformed Liberalism, Keynesian economics.

Liberals believe that lower tax rates will cause people to spend more. When I have extra money, I spend it. I go out to eat

Federal Government is passed a bill that they would borrow money they don't have, and they would give it to people and the people would take this government hand out and spend it, thus boosting the economy.

The problem with this, as every other government involvement in the private sector a Liberal would argue is that first, it's NOT the government's money to give out in the first place.

Secondly, if giving a person \$500 will help the economy a lot, than giving a person \$5,000 will REALLY help.

Thirdly, by not giving the benefits to everyone it's only a form of wealth distribution.

J.S. Mills helped ushered

Limbaugh reference this when they say, "conservative." This is different from neo-conservatives, but I'm not about to go into the differences.

Neo-Conservatism, or Communitarian Liberals believe heavily in the economic factors of Liberalism, but believe the mindset that humans are pre-supposed to evil, and the government has to protect those who cannot protect themselves. On the domestic front, Neo-Conservatives believe the government has the responsibility to protect innocent life, whether it be abused women, the sales clerk at gun point, or un-born life. Communitarian Liberals believe that the government works best when

Guilty Gear XX: Accent Core

Or: A remake of a remake of a remake

Sean Fine
Senior Staff Writer

Genre: Fighting
Platform: PS2

If *Guilty Gear* wasn't such a popular game, I probably would've reviewed it as a sleeper hit, because well, it's a really good game. However, it fills me with hope that it is so popular, because it keeps getting sequels... at least, they're sequels in the sense that *Street Fighter 2* had many 'sequels': Turbo, The new challengers, etc. The most recent addition to the *Guilty Gear* library is *Accent Core*. Is this *Guilty Gear* worth your money? Or are you better with your previous copies?

Story: For the most part, fighter games don't have much of a story other than 'Everyone is called for a tournament and there's a twist super boss at the end of it.' *Guilty Gear* avoids the tournament idea, and in previous incarnations had a full out story mode for each character, but sadly *Accent Core* has no story mode other than comments characters make about each other at the end of fights. So if you want to get *Accent Core* for the story, then you're either A) going to be very disappointed or B) have a very low standard for a story. Simply put, *Accent Core* wasn't made to continue any story

Gameplay: If anything *Accent Core* was made to redefine what make *Guilty Gear X2* so great and make it better by adding new moves for each character, balancing characters, and adding a new technique altogether, the Dust Strike ability. By spending 25% of one's

tension gauge, they can perform moves that are faster, more powerful, or they can catch opponents of guard and even implement status effects, depending on the character. It adds a new layer of strategy for veterans of the series.

Changes made to the characters make a major improvement to each character's ability to combo and while the average player will scratch the surface of what each character can do, veteran gamers will combine the bests of each character to bring out the best combos of each character.

Another thing that makes *Accent Core* worth the investment is the inclusion of the previously Japan-only Holy-Order Sol, who brings with him a new Charge System which allows Holy-Order Sol to power up all his attacks by dropping his defenses for a short period, adding new advantages and disadvantages to players.

Overall, *Accent Core* takes that players loved about previous iterations of the *Guilty Gear* series and adds more layers of techniques, moves, and systems to work with, as well as a new character for American audiences. If you loved the original *Guilty Gear X2*, then you'll probably love *Accent Core*. However, this is from a perspective from jumping from the first *X2* to the latest version. If you're going from say, *Slash* or *Judgment* to *Accent Core*, then you might be less impressed or overall more unsatisfied.

Graphics: For the most part, the sprites remain the same except a few updated animations, but there are both new and updated backgrounds that look stunning and

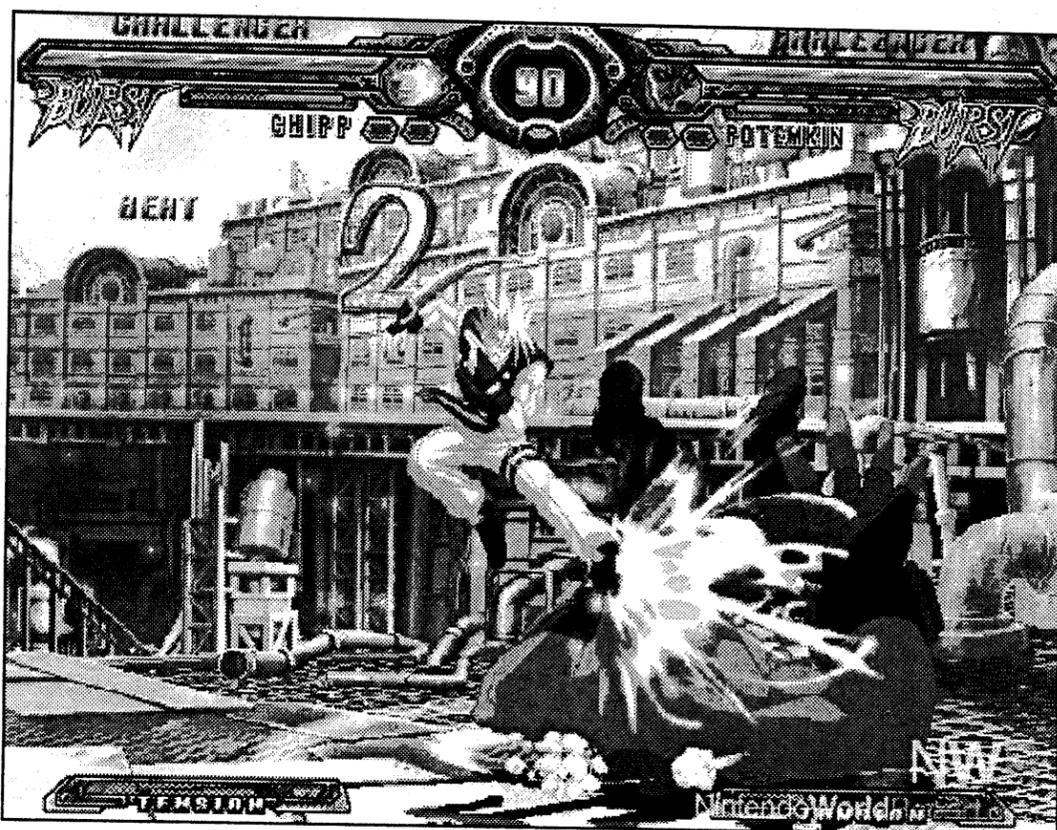


Photo courtesy nintendo-world.com

Characters have been balanced so a small guy like Chipp to take down the giant like Potemkin.

certain graphics (such as Zappa's soul meter) look a lot better. Even though the graphics for the game haven't improved dramatically, *Guilty Gear* still remains top of the line in terms of 2D fighting graphics with high resolution sprites, each with enough expressions to give personality to each character. Simply put, you'll be blown away at how action packed each fight is. You may even say that the game is more DBZ-like than DBZ in terms of action.

Sounds: Despite having top of the line 2D sprite graphics, *Guilty Gear* has the most hardcore soundtrack in a fighting game with

heavy metal rock combined with a full orchestra of instruments and with a song for each character, plus several unique battle songs, you'll find a song you'll love, even if you don't like the game itself.

As far as soundeffects go, the characters use their original Japanese tracks so understanding them is impossible unless you're fluent in Japanese, and the sounds that pop up when attacks up range from epic and clasy to bizarre and weird. It really draws you in to the characters and makes you like them more.

Overall: *Accent Core* is the most advanced and balanced *Guilty*

Gear to date, though that's not to say that some characters fair a lot better than others (Effing Ax!). In terms of the original *Guilty Gear X2*, you get a lot of material to work with in exchange for losing a few broken characters (i.e. Justice, etc). However, if you have *Judgment* or *Slash*, then you might not want to invest in *Accent Core*, unless you really want the Dust Strike system and Holy-Order Sol. Otherwise, it's a great addition to the *Guilty Gear* Series, though I wish there were a story mode to make the game fully worth it, but 30 bucks for a indepth fighter game isn't bad at all. 8/10

No More Heros

Jasmine King
Staff Writer

So picture this. The Wii comes out, and Suda51 (yes, the *Killer7* guy) decides that it's time that it should take a break from all of the cutesy, adorable Mario games that Nintendo is so notorious for. One problem: it's been done before, and BADLY, since no one can seem to make the Wii controls work smoothly with anything but said cutesy games up until this point. So what does Suda do? He gets hit by a bolt of brilliance and creates a hack-and-slash called *No More Heroes*.

No More Heroes is everything you DON'T think of when discussing the Wii. It's sexy, edgy, violent, and immensely witty, and it does it all effortlessly. From the moment you put the disc in and hear the neat little neo-retro (that's really the only way to describe it) sound from the Wii menu, the action begins and doesn't end. The story starts simply enough: Travis Touchdown, nerdy bachelor with quite possibly the coolest name ever, lives on his own in the town of Santa Destroy, California (again, coolest name ever). He wins a beam katana (read: lightsaber) in an internet auction and decides to become an assassin. Unfortunately, this also drafts him into the United

Assassins Association, which means that he has to kill or be killed in order to reach the top and earn the privilege of sleeping with Silvia Cristel, the mysterious pair of boobs—I mean woman—who is responsible for this whole mess.

The gameplay is also simple: you press A, you move the Wiimote, you keep pressing A, sometimes you press B if you really want to be awesome, you sometimes remember to press the directional buttons to dodge (this really comes in handy later in the game), and occasionally you get to press Z. With this knowledge, you do menial tasks to raise money until someone refers you to the assassination office where you kill people for even more money until you get enough to fight the next boss. (Hey, it's a business.) This sounds like it would get VERY old by the time you got to the second or third boss, but it actually adds to the deceptively simple feel of the game. I mean, after an hour or so of wailing on the A button to fight a difficult boss, you'll probably start feeling it in your arms and cursing the control scheme, but at the same time, it's still lots of fun.

What I really like about this game is how it goes back to the old days of gaming while being new and innovative at the same time. As I

said, after a quick rundown (narrated by Travis, with all of his attitude and style) of how things came to be, you're thrust into the game with a sort of "go forth and kill!" mindset. The tutorial, if you choose to play through it, is kind of long, but the controls are pretty easy to learn; the hardest part is remembering that, unlike most other games, swinging the Wiimote does nothing and it's all about pressing the buttons. Also, while there's a bit of story involved with some of the bosses, the main thing is that they're there to kill you, so naturally, you have to kill them first. (Sidenote: At one point they try to justify why there are masses of the same exact person coming after you in each level by calling them "cloned humans." I think that's kind of funny.)

If *Devil May Cry* had an equally stylish and awesome younger cousin, *No More Heroes* would be it. Personally, I'm hoping for a sequel (but unlike *DMC*, I'm hoping it won't suck incredibly hard and then come back with an awesomely difficult prequel before realizing that the difficulties got messed up and releasing a "special edition" of itself).

Oh, and by the way, if you do decide to give this game a try, GET ALL OF THE SWORDS. You'll thank me once you do.



No More Heroes.

Photo courtesy Wikipedia.org.

Monks, goats, and shamrocks

A story of beer, Lent, and St. Patrick's Day

Adam Myers
Staff Writer

Fast food restaurants are doing their annual blitz of fish sandwich promotions. For observant Catholics, this means that the forty days of Lent is upon us. For everyone else, it means that the food industry is trying to shove a surplus of cod down our throats.

(This ignorance of religious tradition manifested itself in a quite humorous fashion on a Friday in March five years ago, in the cafeteria at Forsyth Central High School in Cumming, Georgia. Upon being served basket of fish filets and breadcrumbs posing as popcorn shrimp, I commented, "I guess it's Lent now, isn't it?" The white-haired, likely Southern Baptist lunch lady confusingly replied, "That's not lint, that's seafood.")

Simply put, Lent is a time of fasting and abstinence in remembrance of the forty days Jesus Christ endured temptation from Satan in the wilderness; the observation concludes with the feast day of Easter, which marks Christ's resurrection. In modern times, the dietary restrictions are typically limited to eating a single meal during the week (plus two small ones as needed) and abstaining from meat on Fridays. For some reason, fish is exempted from the guidelines of the fast; Thomas Aquinas wrote that eating fish made one less susceptible to giving in to lust than other animal sources.

Today's observers only have to substitute their Big Mac for a Filet O'Fish on their Friday lunch break; in the 1600s, the followers of the monastic order of St. Francis of Paula at a cloister located in present-day Munich were required to subsist on only bread and water for the entire forty days. As would be expected, the friars quickly tired of such a restrictive diet. Upon the conclusion of another Lenten fast, one of the monks struck an idea of pure genius: since beer consists of roughly the same ingredients as bread, why not prepare a hearty brew to help make the order through the next time around? The monks could find no Scriptural evidence to refute this idea, so that's exactly what they did. The result was a rich, malty beer which they dubbed *Salvator*, or Latin for "savior."

While the order faded away at about the time of the French Revolution, the *Paulaner* brewery has been continuous operation ever since, and *Salvator* remains one of their most popular beers. It belongs to a family of beers known as bocks, which in Germany were traditionally brewed both for religious feasts and to mark the passing of winter into spring. While many variations exist (and will be explained in greater detail later in this article), bocks are typically bottom-fermented lagers with a much greater degree of maltiness and alcohol content than other German beers, even Oktoberfest beers, and minimal hop characteristics. The word bock means "goat" in German, and one of the theories behind

the style's name is that it shares the goat's qualities of strength and tenacity.

Salvator is one of a subcategory called doppelbocks. As the name implies, a doppelbock is brewed at roughly twice the strength of a normal bock. Owing to their beginnings as fast maintainers, such beers are often described as "liquid bread" or "a meal in itself." In the days of the monastic order that established the *Paulaner* brewery, all beer fermented spontaneously; that is, whatever yeasts that were in the air settled in the unfermented wort as it chilled from its boil, and went to town on what sugars they could find. Brewers now know the role of yeast in the beermaking process, and what was once a low-alcohol drink with lots of residual sugars is now a copper-hued to brown beverage packing a punch of around 6-9% ABV and just enough sugar left behind to provide a sweetness that is neither faint nor cloying.

While *Salvator* is accepted as the original doppelbock, and has left such a legacy that similar beers in both Germany and the United States are often given a name with the suffix "-ator," the current torchbearer of the style is *Ayinger Celebrator* from the brewery in Aying, some fifteen miles southeast of Munich. Not only is it a superlative brew, but each bottle comes adorned with a goat figurine hanging from its neck; I know of no other beer on the planet which offers its consumer a prize equivalent with that at the bottom of a box of breakfast cereal or Cracker Jacks. Other great examples are Germany's *Weihenstephaner Korbinian* and *Tucher Bajuator*; *Samuel Adams Double Bock* and *Victory St. Victorious* from the United States; and *Moretti La Rossa* from Italy.

Other varieties of bocks do exist. Maibocks are lighter-colored and hoppier than its counterparts, and are traditionally drunk during the month of May: although not a typical bock (as it is fermented with an ale yeast), *Rogue Dead Guy Ale* is the most widely available maibock in metro Atlanta stores. Weizenbocks are brewed with a large percentage of malted wheat in the mash, and the fruity, spicy, and breadly qualities of other wheat beers are even more accentuated in beers of the style: *Schneider Aventinus* is undoubtedly the best beer of its kind, and quite possibly the best beer of any kind, period. Finally, there are beers that are just plain bocks. German immigrants to Texas in the mid-1800s established the bock as a local specialty, but today *Shiner Bock* is the sole remaining example of Texas bock beer. *Shiner Bock* is somewhat lower in alcohol than the average bock: for an example more fitting to bocks brewed elsewhere in the world, try the *Hofbrau Bock* available at the *Trader Joes* chain of grocery stores.

It's St. Paddy's Day!

People of all races will find

ways to become Irish in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. However, unlike Columbus Day, Cinco de Mayo, or Casimir Pulaski Day (only in Illinois), St. Patrick's Day is not solely an excuse for mass inebriation under the guise of ethnic pride: it celebrates as an obligatory feast day within the Catholic Church in Ireland. According to church calendars, St. Patrick's Day cannot be held on its traditional March 17 date in 2008, due to that day occurring within the Holy Week before Easter. As a result, St. Patrick's Day is officially to be celebrated on March 15 this year. To Irish Catholics, this is a big deal, but for restaurateurs and bar owners throughout the world, it means one thing: two St. Patrick's Days this year!

With this rare occasion in mind (Easter has not come this early since 1940, and St. Paddy's was then moved way back to April!), it is my duty to give you the lowdown on all the drinks you will encounter on St. Patrick's Days.

Irish Dry Stout: The quintessential St. Patrick's Day beer, the Irish stout traces its origins to the dark ales brewed with roasted malts, known as porters that were popular among Londoners dating back to the 1700s. Arthur Guinness established a brewery in Dublin in 1759, and soon became known for his porters exported to the English market. When Guinness released a more robust version of its porter, the word "stout" appeared on its label to emphasize its potency. Other brewers took Guinness' lead, and eventually the stout became a style all its own.

However, the product known today as *Guinness Draught* can be traced only to the 1950s. Draft beer in British and Irish pubs was cask-conditioned, meaning that the beer relied on living yeasts inside the tapped container to provide carbonation by converting sugars into alcohol and carbon dioxide. After World War II, the major breweries of the British Isles became concerned that their beers could not compete with the keg beers recently introduced from America and continental Europe, which had a longer shelf life and could be produced in much larger quantities. Guinness and other brewers began to look for ways to produce keg beers that offered the more subtle carbonation found in cask ale. The solution was to pressurize the keg with a mixture of carbon dioxide and nitrogen, which gave beer a smoother texture and a distinct frothy, white head.

In addition to Guinness, the two other big names in Irish stout are *Murphy's* and *Beamish*, competing breweries out of the Irish city of Cork. Despite urban legends comparing stout to tar or motor oil, these dry stouts are much less heavy than their black color suggests: a standard pint contains only around 125 calories and 4% ABV. In response to Irish stout's resurgent popularity in American bars as an alternative to light lagers, Anheuser-Busch has recently

launched a competitor in the market known as *Bare Knuckle Stout*, which is slowly making its way to the Atlanta area.

Irish Red Ale: Red ales are descendants of the bitter, which used paler malts and more hops than porters, hence the name. Compared to the India pale ales and other "hop bombs" that evolved from it, bitters are much milder and well-balanced than the name suggests. Irish red ale has much in common with bitter; the main difference is that a small proportion of roasted malt is added to the mash, which gives the beer its ruby hues.

Some brewers utilize the same nitrogenation found in Irish dry stouts: *Murphy's* does this for its *Irish Red*, as does *Caffrey's Irish Ale*. Guinness produces a red ale known as *Smithwick's* for the American market, though it is not nitrogenated. American craft brewers make red ales, such as *Harpoon Hibernian Ale* and *Samuel Adams Irish Red*; despite this, the most popular American beer of the style is Coors' *Killian's Irish Red*, which is actually a lager. The *Killian's* recipe, though, dates back to the brewery of an Irishman, George Killian Lett, which was founded in 1864. Lett's brewery was bought out by the French Pelforth brand in 1956, and Coors then bought the rights to the *Killian's* name in North America in 1981. Pelforth still makes *Killian's* in Europe in its original ale formulation.

Harp Lager: The third brand in the Guinness portfolio; *Harp Lager* has origins similar to Guinness Draught. British brewers were worried that the pale lagers reaching England from across the North Sea (Belgium's *Stella Artois*, the Netherlands' *Heineken*, etc.) would cut into their market share. Therefore, Harp was launched in 1960 as a joint venture between many of the major brewing companies in Britain and Ireland, including Guinness, Scottish and Newcastle, and Bass. The push worked, as by the end of the 1960s Harp was the best-selling lager in the United Kingdom. Today, the beer (and all of Guinness brands) is wholly owned by Diageo, the largest drinks holding company in the world.

Irish Cream: I'm not a fan of spirits in general: I find the alcohol in hard liquor too harsh and mixed drinks and cordials too sickeningly sweet. Much like the baby bear's porridge to Goldilocks, Irish cream to me is just right. An emulsion of cream and whiskey, the alcohol content alone is enough to keep the cream from spoiling. While Irish cream will curdle when mixed with an acid, it will not block your digestive tract. *Bailey's* was the first Irish cream on the market, and remains the world's most popular brand. Personally, I like *St. Brendan's*.

I hope you enjoyed this article on Lenten observances and their history of great beer. With that, I tip my glass to you, and wish you to eat well, drink well, and live well...*Stainte, und prost!*

