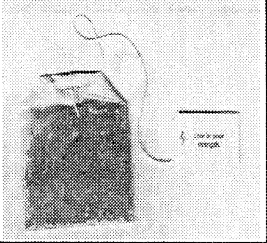


Teabags

Wait. What? What's this about Teabags? Looks like Adam's gotten himself talking about a the term and problems that go with it. **Page 4**



The Sting

www.thesting.org

Street Fighter 4

Are you ready for this? We finally have our own Street Fighter 4 review. Check it out on...



Page 7

May 2nd, 2009

Just in time for Finals...?

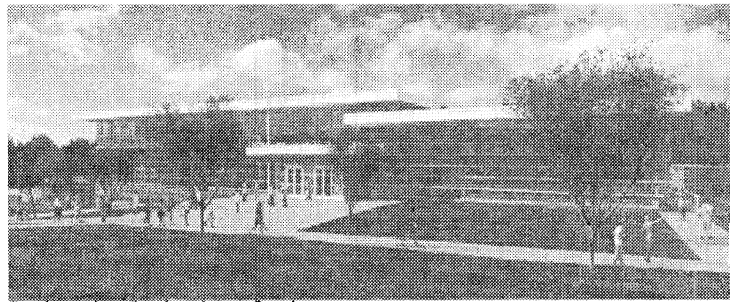
Volume 63, Issue 4

Town Hall Meeting

Melanie Allen
Staff Writer

On March 31, SPSU held a Town Hall meeting with the purpose of addressing the questions and concerns of the student, faculty, and staff population. An incredible amount of information was available at the event, including floor plans, rendered images of the completed building projects, project completion dates, and so on. Topics covered were new infrastructure plans, engineering technology center, architecture studio, parking deck, student housing, dining hall, pedestrian walkway, and special interest housing. In this issue of The Sting, you will find articles that cover the highlights of the event.

projects are aiming to meet the silver and gold standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) initiative, a nationally recognized third-party program that recognizes building and landscape designs that are efficient and sustainable.



Engineering Technology Center

2010 (ETC)

Architects from Cooper Carry shared their plans for the new studio annex and Engineering Technology Center (ETC).

The new studio annex sits down hill from the current first year studio, and will house the second year architecture students. First and

Photo provided by Town Hall Meeting

Confusing Tuition

David Sluder
Free Lance Writer

On April 14th, the University System of Georgia (USG) released a document detailing their surprising decision to suspend the Fixed-for-Four program for new freshmen. Other decisions were made regarding the cost of tuition, all resulting in an increase for students. Many of the decisions were university-specific, so here's the summary of SPSU's changes: continue paying the \$100 institutional fee first paid in Spring 2009, set per-credit-hour rate to \$146 for all students not Fixed-for-Four, and raise tuition cap from twelve hours to fifteen.

You're lucky if you started your college career between Fall 2006 and now since you're on the Fixed-for-Four program and won't feel any of these changes. Your tuition will not change for twelve consecutive semesters from your date of entry. If you graduate in four years, you have nothing to worry about! If you take longer, however, the first semester of your fifth year is going to leave your wallet hurting! So what does it mean to the one-half to one-third of students who are not on that program?

If you entered school prior to 2006, like me, your tuition is going

up. This semester, Spring 2009, I paid \$130 per credit hour, capped at twelve credit hours, and then I dished out about \$465 for some fees. For fifteen hours of classes, this totaled \$2,025. Come Fall 2009, my per-credit-hour rate is being raised to what was the rate for Fall 2008 Fixed-for-Four students: \$146. Couple this with the tuition being capped at fifteen hours instead of twelve, and taking fifteen or more hours of classes will cost you \$2,190. Add the fees and you get \$2,655. That means that all students not on Fixed-for-Four will be paying an extra \$630 per semester for fifteen hours. If you just want to take twelve hours, you will be paying \$192 more per semester. Looking at what comes out of your pocket, in Fall 2009 you will be paying between 9.5% and 31% more (12 hours and 15 hours, respectively) than Fall 2008.

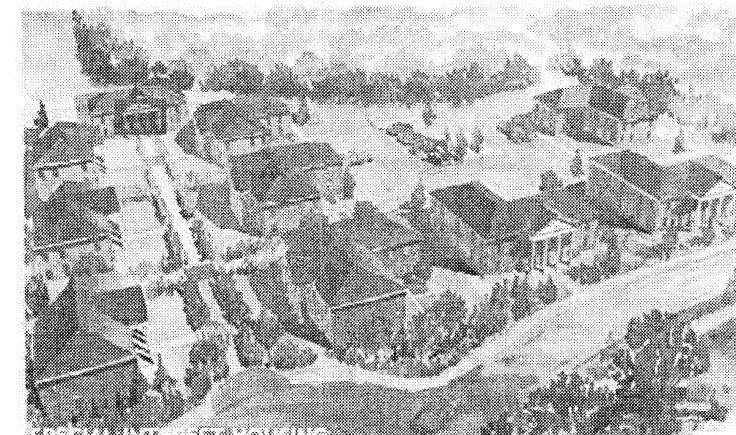
Pretty alarming, right? So now you have two options: either pay more and graduate quicker or pay less and stay in longer. It turns out that graduating quicker, in the long run, is actually cheaper than taking the minimum each semester and paying less for tuition. This also takes into account the fact that you are able and willing to take 15+ hours of classes and have the ambition to do well in them. Overloading yourself, while cheaper financially, could end up costing you down the road (How's that for a cliché?).

Let me bring up one subtle point that confused the hell out of me when I was researching this article - the notion of what is "full-time." This is pretty important since things like insurance, scholarships, athletics, and financial aid have ramifications for those who are full-time (as well as part-time, which is a derivation of full-time). I talked to a few high-level administrators and I got referred to something even more authoritative - the University System of Georgia. Here's a quote from their 2009-2010 Tuition Frequently Asked Questions document that should clear things up: "For purposes of financial aid, insurance, [and] athletics, USG undergraduate students are considered full-time if they are enrolled in at least 12 credit hours in any semester and are considered part time if enrolled in 6 or fewer credit hours in any semester. The fact that students will be charged tuition for up to 15 credit hours has no effect on full-time student classification for the purposes of financial aid, insurance or athletics."

Continued on Next Page

second year students take classes from the Design Foundations program, before being accepted into the professional program. This building will facilitate communication between these students and allow the N building to be dedicated to students in the professional program.

The building is 14,500 sq ft. There are six studios with sixteen desks each, six faculty offices, a 286 seat Auditorium, and an infor-

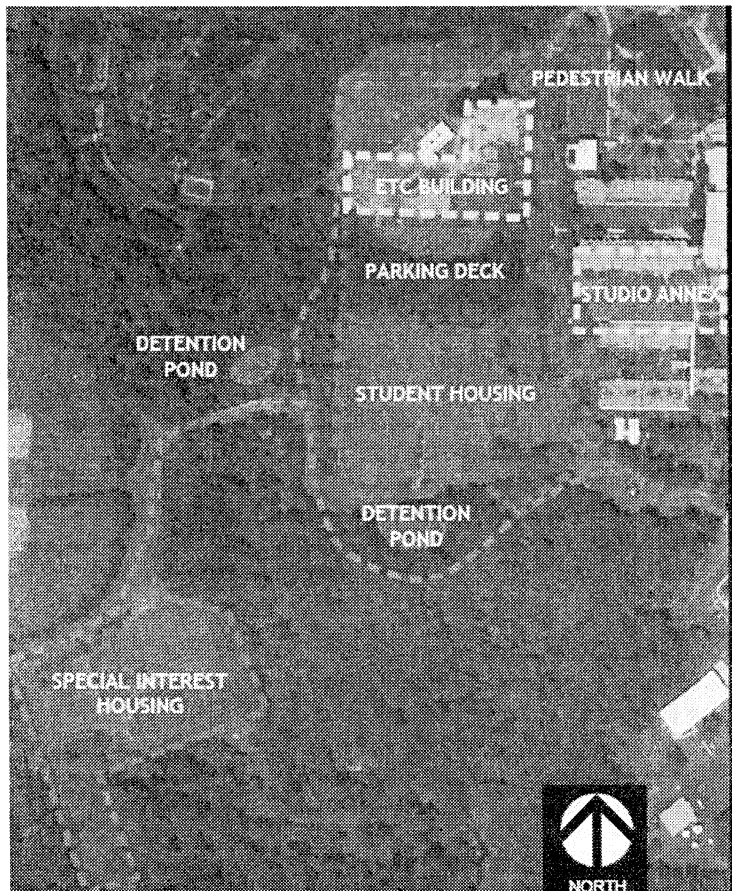


Watercolor of Special Interest Housing

Photo provided by Town Hall Meeting

mal outdoor studio.

The ETC building will house classes from the Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Telecommunications Engineering Technology, and Mechatronics Engineering programs. Students will gain thirty-six new laboratories, a machine shop, welding shop, and automotive shop.



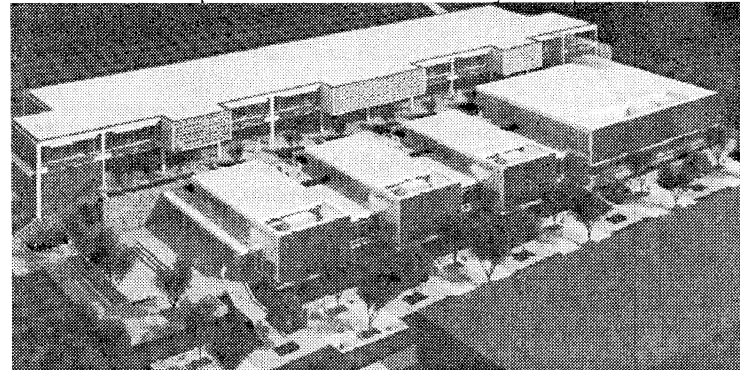
Location of the new projects

Photo provided by Town Hall Meeting

Over the next couple of years, students can anticipate a more functional, lively, eco-friendly, and beautiful campus. All of the

New Studio Annex and ETC Building

• Estimated Completion Dates: July 2010 (Studio) October



Studio Annex

Photo provided by Town Hall Meeting

Section	Page
News	1
Organization	2
Opinion	3
Entertainment	7
The Back Page	8

Christiaan's Farewell	For years, he's written opinions for us to read and now, he's made his last few this issue. Check them out, why don't you?	Page 3
------------------------------	--	---------------

Transportation Problems	The Tenstone Papers has another addition to their roster. What could it be about this time? Check it out.	Page 5
--------------------------------	---	---------------

Battle of the Bands	Did you miss the Battle of the Bands? Don't worry, Melanie should have you caught up and then some.	Page 7
----------------------------	---	---------------

Hope it's not Capcom's blood	We have a Capcom theme going in the entertainment section this issue. Come check out our Street Fighter 4 and Resident Evil 5 reviews	Page 7-8
-------------------------------------	---	-----------------

Confusing Tuition Cont.

David Sluder
Free Lance Writer

The bottom line, though, is that going to college is going to cost more money. Higher cost means that more students are going to be seeking financial aid. So what does Gary Bush, Director of Financial Aid, feel about all of this? He's not worried. He told me the HOPE Scholarship still covers all of tuition, Pell grant maximums are going up, as well as subsidized and unsubsidized loan maximums. There is plenty of financial aid to go around, as long as you qualify for it. From my own personal experience, however, beware that there

are loan limits so don't go too crazy.



Image provided by Photobucket.com

In closing, let me share a conversation I had with Steve Hamrick, Registrar. I asked him what, if any, the silver lining to all this was. He said, "Without

these measures being taken, the university would have to cut programs, cut faculty, cut numbers of hours offered, and cut staff. You get to keep a well rounded and useful education. Yes, you are paying more of the full share of the cost of that education, but the product you will be getting is not going to be compromised by budget cuts. Your earning potential will remain at the same high level it is currently." Good answer.

Julian Joseph Memorial

Sean Fine
Editor-In-Chief

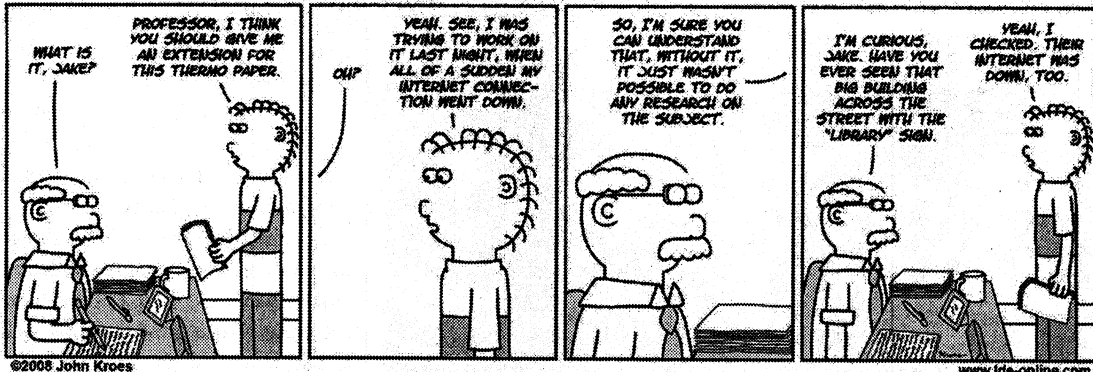
This issue of the Sting is dedicated to Julian Joseph, a software engineer major student, who died due to heart complications during the month of April. Julian affected the Software Engineering community on campus, aiding the Game Lab as a worker and in creating open play in the game lab. Julian also used to be a writer for this very newspaper.

He was also friend to all avid game fans, having really enjoyed video games, especially



fighting games. Julian will truly be missed. A Memorial was held on Friday, April 17th and on April 18th. Currently, the Game Lab is hosting a Memorial for Julian from May 1st until May 8th, taking donations for a scholarship in Julian's name.

Last Ditch Effort



Cannabis vs. Cancer

David Sluder
Free Lance Writer

A lot of stereotypes pop into mind when someone mentions P-O-T. It's such a dirty word that I feel the need to spell it out rather than just come out and say it. DARE, Partnership for a Drug Free America, and other organizations and individuals have been rather successful in attaching a stigma to the plant/chemical/drug - not to mention the fact that it's illegal. The reasons behind all of this are varied. Some call it a gateway drug, others say it impairs your judgment, and people who have tried it say it makes you extremely lazy. I'm not here to argue my position on the matter though. I'm writing this article to introduce you, the reader, to some rather important information regarding cannabis, the drug, so that the next time someone asks you whether it should be illegal or not, you can make an informed decision.

The argument for medical marijuana has oft been made by citing that its ingestion prevents nausea, vomiting, pain, and stimulates appetite. I'd say those are all good reasons to

legalize it for medical use, but let me belabor the point by introducing you to Manuel Guzman.

Manuel is a researcher from Madrid, Spain who experiments with marijuana. His experiments have yielded some pretty impressive results, much more so than your "high school buddy's" experiments with marijuana (and by high school buddy, I mean you). He has found that not only do cannabinoids do the above, they actually inhibit growth of cancerous cells.

Now while I am no biologist, let me try to explain what exactly happens. Cancer cells grow out of control because a little switch inside them that tells them to die off is never flipped. It's supposed to die off; it's all part of the game of life. However, cancer cells are hard-wired to stay on and reproduce like bunnies. THC (that's right, the chemical that gets you high) helps to flip that switch so they quit reproducing and eventually die.

Cancer cells also send out signals to the body to promote angiogenesis. This causes the body to build new blood vessels, guiding more nutrients to the cancerous cells. THC (yep, the

stuff that'll plant you in jail if you've got some on you) actually turns these signals off.

"Yippee!" "Woo Hoo!" "Hip Hip Hooray" Let's not get carried away yet, good friends. This study was completed almost six years ago and, I'm not sure about you, but I don't remember hearing a damn thing about it. Why might that be? I have seen plenty of articles linking cancer to this and that. It has been a media topic for a good while now, but how come this study never came up? The answer to that is probably the same reason why no one cared to report on a study with similar results back in 1974. What is that reason exactly? You're in college - use those critical thinking skills!

So google Manuel Guzman, do some research, and then form a good opinion on what you think of medical marijuana. Then do something about it! In closing let me leave everyone with a quote by Thomas Jefferson, "If people let government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny."

The
Sting
www.thesting.org

Sean Fine, Editor-in-Chief

Jon Meek, Web Manager

David Allen Spivak, Copy Editor

Christiaan Funkhouser
Jasmine King
Twila McConnell
Kevin Baker

Jessica McNally
Jason Berman
Melanie Allen

The Sting is published semiweekly for the students, faculty and staff of Southern Polytechnic State University. The Sting is an official publication of the students of Southern Polytechnic State University. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editor or of the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of students, faculty or staff at Southern Polytechnic State University or the University System of Georgia. All material in The Sting is property of Southern Polytechnic State University and cannot be reproduced in any manner without the express written consent of The Sting. No advertisement in The Sting represents an endorsement of Southern Polytechnic State University or The Sting, and neither The Sting nor Southern Polytechnic State University is liable for any claims for products or services made in advertisements herein.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The local advertising rate of The Sting is \$4 per column inch on paper; advertisements online are determined by frequency. Advertisements for service and professional organizations on campus are free, but a run-date is not guaranteed on paper. To guarantee one, ad rates are one half the local advertisement rate. The Sting does not offer classified advertising. Advertisements must be submitted by the deadline printed below. To reserve space or for more information, contact The Sting at stingadvertising@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

ORGANIZATIONS

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

JOINING The Sting

Any student paying Activity Fees is eligible to join The Sting, though final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief. We prefer creative students who have passed English 1101. Come to our meetings Friday at 12:30 PM in A252, upstairs in the student center, or call (678) 915-7310. This includes YOU, all you so-called members that never attend. The Sting: It's not a job, 'cause a real job pays more.

DEADLINE

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to The Sting are \$1,000,000 per semester or \$5,000,000 an academic year. All subscriptions start with the first issue of the succeeding semester. Checks for subscriptions should be made payable to The Sting. Please subscribe. Somebody. Please?

PRICE

The Sting offers to every student, faculty, staff member, alumni, and official visitor of Southern Polytechnic State University copies of each issue numbering up to 0.25% of the print run for the respective issue. Every copy above 0.25% is to be purchased according to a price set by The Sting. Taking more copies of an issue than 0.25% of the print run of a particular issue is THEFT and a criminal offense.

What I Wish I Would Have Known as a Freshman

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

This is my farewell address to you guys. As of the publication of this article, I should be graduating. I've been at Southern Polytechnic State University for six years. I've switched my major from our amazing Architecture Department; to the major I was much better suited at: International Studies, Political Science Concentration. Throughout these years, I've learned a lot that I wish to pass on to you guys.

The first and most important thing I learned was that as much as people blame the Financial Aid department for all of their money woes, it's not their fault. They have a very tough job, making sure you have your money when you need it, that they have to have some kind of alternative for you if you don't, and that they have to know all the answers to all your questions. However, most people who are angry at them or talk bad about them leave out the key part of the Financial Aid department's job – You. You have to take initiative. It's up to you to KNOW when you have to turn in and fill out your FAFSA. You cannot simply fill it out and expect to get your money from the federal government the next day, and then blame the financial aid department when it doesn't happen.

Unlike many people, I've never had a problem with Financial Aid; every time I've been I've been helped, they've gone beyond the call of duty and have been more

than friendly and worked hard to help me whenever I need it. I am so appreciative of our Financial Aid department for that. One of the big issues that helped separate me from the other people who have problems is that I turned things in early, I'd fill out the FAFSA when the time came, months before I needed it. At the end of the semester, I'd check in and make sure I didn't need to do anything (this was until I learned how things worked and were able to complete everything at first) and then a couple months BEFORE the semester started (during the summer if it was fall) I'd drop in, and check to make sure everything was alright. We were able to correct any problems BEFORE they become problems.

I had a problem every year due to some kind of mistake on my record that I had to clarify every year. If I hadn't have gone in early, and done things on time, I wouldn't have been able to go to school in many cases. It's because I was proactive in my approach to financial aid that I was able to let them do their jobs. It's absurd for people to think that with a school of over 4,000, their specific problem (that they caused and could have been fixed had they done anything about it) can get pushed to the front of the line. The Financial Aid department has procedures and ways to do things like any bureaucracy and it's best to give them the time to do it.

So, whenever you get an e-mail from the, and I quote, "F" in

Aid" department, read it. If you have any questions, ask them, they are more than willing to be out there, and help you. Don't wait until the last minute. A couple weeks before the semester starts is NOT the best time to start thinking about financial aid, think about it before the semester ends, and check up on it just to make sure they don't need anything from you. Make sure you're part of the solution, not the main factor in your financial aid problems.

The second thing I wish I would have known as a freshman is that you cannot rely on the computers at school. One of the best investments you can make in your college career is a laptop, with the Microsoft Office suite on it. DO NOT rely on the school computers. DO NOT rely on school printers. Have your own. Now that they've imposed the pay for print, you end up saving money having your own printer, you can have the peace of mind that you've printed it up yourself without having to rush to find a computer that actually works ten minutes before its due, 40% of them cannot turn on, another 20% have some kind of software problem or aren't connected to the network or something that prevents you from turning in your work on time. USE the computer labs as last resorts for basic paper writing.

Unlike the Financial Aid department, the workers in the computer labs, save a small percentage of them, are college students who don't really care about your prob-

lems, or ensuring the actual running of the computers. Most of the time, you can find them playing around with something on their personal computers while a line forms and they cleverly ignore you (that's if they don't have their headphones on, oblivious to the fact they're supposed to be working for you).

Having your own computer, and printer is the best way to ensure the grade on your paper that's due at a certain time isn't left up to the work ethic of a bunch of CS or IT students who haven't taken a shower in weeks, and who would rather be raiding an Allied village than providing decent customer service or maintaining the lab YOU are supposed to be paying for.

I also wish I would have known about the BCM's parking lot sooner. For a small fee of \$35 a semester (100% of the proceeds going to summer missions) you can get your own specific parking spot outside the reach of those pesky parking police. Regardless of your religious beliefs, we should all be able to agree that building orphanages and feeding the poor is a very noble cause, and should be promoted. Since the BCM is not governed by SPSU, your parking fees that are tacked onto your tuition (a form of theft in my opinion) will not apply, and you aren't allowed to park on BCM grounds unless you have paid. However, the tax deductible donation to the BCM's Mission fund will guarantee you a parking spot, you can use in case all the parking lots are full one day.

Speaking of Christians, for you Christian organizations – stay away from Jesus Language like "Come fellowship with us." Christians have enough of a stigma as weird people, and it doesn't help when we don't use regular language. I'm personally happy to see a lot more Christian organizations than when I first started, and hope that SPSU continues to be a place where people of all creeds can meet up and discuss their beliefs.

Lastly, I want to encourage all of you to know why you believe what you do, and stand for it. Don't suck up to professors: they've been doing it a while, and can identify with it. Any professor, worth their pay, or their degree, should have no problem with you disagreeing with them and should encourage you to not only question your beliefs, but also, during appropriate times, question theirs. There are three professors I've had, that have been on the exact opposite of the political spectrum as I am on, and I've respectfully disagreed with them in class, and with one professor, I actually wrote my final term paper justifying pretty much the exact opposite of what she'd been teaching. Her criticisms of my paper, helped me to better my arguments and write a much better paper than I initially would have. In the end, the professors will respect you for knowing why you believe what you do, and for not sucking up.

Have a great day and rest of your school career, and may God bless you.

THE TENSTONE PAPERS

PURE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS CANNOT EXIST IN PRACTICE

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

As of recently, there has been so much talk about whether or not the United States is becoming more socialist. One of the reasons for this talk of socialism was Obama's comment of "spreading the wealth." Later on, the talk has been continued by Republicans and other dissidents of the economic stimulus package that has been championed by President Obama and passed by the Democratic Congress. The talk continues to persist with the mortgage plan from the Administration came out, which was highly controversial, given the many media outbursts in reference to it. However, the question we need to ask ourselves is do pure economic systems truly exist?

Let us first introduce some definitions of the two economic systems in question. Capitalism, according to the definition on Wikipedia, is "an economic system in which wealth, and the means of producing wealth, are privately owned and controlled rather than commonly, publicly, or state-owned and controlled." Now let us introduce the definition of socialism, also from Wikipedia: "a broad set of economic theories of social organization advocating public or state ownership and administration of the means of

production and distribution of goods, and a society characterized by equality for all individuals, with a fair or egalitarian method of compensation."

Given these definitions, I believe that there is no such thing as a pure economic system in practice. I do not believe that pure capitalism and pure socialism can exist in the world- either in the past, present, or future. However, before addressing that particular statement, let us look back at those definitions. In the definition of capitalism, it says "the means of producing wealth, are privately owned..." This particular part of the definition is my prime reason why pure capitalism cannot exist in society.

To understand this, let us consider that in order for someone to be wealthy, one typically is educated. Let us introduce a boy named Joe. Joe has good parents that are big on education but do not have great amounts of money to send him to private school. They send him to public school from elementary through high school. He graduates in the top ten of his high school class. He attends undergraduate and gets his degree. He then continues to graduate school and gets his masters and then his Ph.D. Finally, he lands a job that pays six figures. Within ten years, he works his way up the corporate ladder and finds

himself on the Board of Directors of a major company. He is now 42 years old and he is worth more than \$10 million.

While this is an extreme example of how someone can go to public school and become a very powerful person (and it is possible- it is what one makes out of going to public school), Joe built his wealth through education- public education, that is. However, the way that he built his wealth contradicts the definition of capitalism, as the definition says that the means of producing wealth are privately owned and controlled. However, public schools are not privately owned and controlled – they are controlled by the State.

Obama's comment of "spreading the wealth," which was the primary driver of the conversation, is technically nothing new. Republicans and other dissidents have no standing to complain about the comments. The United States have been "spreading the wealth" ever since the advent of Income Taxes via the Constitution back in 1913. (Income Taxes started before 1913 but the Sixteenth Amendment solidified this form of taxation.) In crudest terms, the income taxes paid by the population of America are used to pay for the government to operate and to deliver services to all Americans, such as public

schools, public roads, etc. That very idea is a socialistic element- yet all of us, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, whatever party one is affiliated with- reap the benefits of it.

As for the companies and financial markets, we can see how the injustices that were done back in the 1800s with the railroad monopoly and John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil monopoly makes it necessary to have regulatory laws such as the Sherman Antitrust Act and entities such as the Securities and Exchange Commission. However, having regulation like we do now and back when the first actions were taken to protect consumers from monopolistic companies and frenzied investors is clearly not in-line with pure capitalism.

However, we must note that pure socialism is not possible either. While pure socialism could work, in theory, like pure capitalism, it cannot work in practice. Perhaps the largest problem with pure socialism can be seen these three ways- that it constricts people who are more outgoing and more capable to being on the same playing field as those who are less capable or not willing to exert the energies necessary to be successful; that it also forces those who are successful and those who have more wealth to subsidize those who have less wealth, re-

gardless of what the reason is; that everyone has control over all the resources, which includes one's personal belongings, whether its tangible or intangible. Simply put, pure socialism means uniformity across the board.

Pure socialism also does not allow for free markets and enterprise to occur. Since pure socialism advocates public or state ownership and administration, companies that may exist in a pure socialistic atmosphere are subject to the administration of the company by the public. That translates to the profits of the company being owned by the public since the public owns and administers the company. This goes together with what was mentioned before- that pure socialism advocates uniformity and essentially prohibits differentials in socioeconomic classes of people.

However, I believe the real problem in why we cannot have pure economic systems in reality is because of human nature. Human beings are naturally going to be competitive. Humans also are very protective of their own personal assets that are of value- whether it be monetary or sentimental value. Pure socialism essentially suppresses the competitive nature of human beings as it advocates everyone to be on the same playing field, even if you are more talented than the brother or

Here's the Deal: Teabagging Edition

Adam Myers
Senior Staff Writer

This past April 15 was Tax Day: the same day it is every year. But this year, the day took on extra meaning, as conservative and libertarian activists gathered in cities across the nation in a series of "Tea Party" protests. Now, while I must commend these individuals for taking part in these right-wing pissing contests heroic demonstrations against government excess, I can't help but notice confusion and be confused over the details of these protests, and I'm sure that many of you feel the same way. Therefore, I am going to take a closer look at these issues so I can tell you what the deal is. Now, where to begin...

To the participants of these protests who take offense to the jokes made over the moniker assumed by the protesters, "Teabaggers," here's the deal: You folks were the ones who came up with the term in the first place. Even if you weren't aware of the popular connotation of the word "teabag," a simple Google search should have provided enough of a fact check for you to realize that embracing that name as a rallying cry would open the door for pejoratives.

To the Birthers, a movement that questions the legitimacy of Barack Obama's citizenship which had a sizable presence at the tea parties, here's the deal: In the English language, a noun can be used as an adjective by itself before the main noun that it modifies, or it can appear in its genitive form after the main noun by adding the subordinating "of." Therefore, a "Certificate of Live Birth," as is issued in the state of Hawaii, can be altered to be called a "Live Birth Certificate." Considering that the conservative Media Research Center verified the authenticity of Obama's birth certificate nearly a year ago during the presidential campaign, it's probably a good idea to put this conspiracy by semantics a rest.

To Texas governor Rick Perry, who voiced support for his state's secession from the Union at a tea party in Austin, here's the deal: I understand that this is a little before your time, but about 150 years ago, a group of states thought they had the right to secede in reaction to the election of a President whom they feared would use the federal government to unjustly meddle in their affairs. There was a long and bloody civil war fought on this notion. Long story short, the outcome of that war was that those states didn't have that right; neither do you, Rick.

To the protesters calling for the abolition of the Federal Reserve in the wake of the current financial crisis, here's the deal: I'm not going to completely dismiss the notion of returning to the gold standard or some other value-backed monetary system, although it should be noted that the Federal Reserve's inability to print money due to the rigidity of the gold standard in place at the time led to the bank failures that exacerbated the Great Depression. Where I have a serious problem over the viability of decentralized banking is

the fact that a strong regulatory apparatus would have to be in place to ensure that no one is printing money backed by gold that body doesn't have. Because the types who call for a return to the gold standard are generally also the types who oppose any type of government regulation in finance, I have serious doubts that such a system could properly be executed.

To the protesters who brought their children to the tea parties with signs bearing anti-spending slogans in hand, here's the deal: Don't use your kids as propaganda tools about issues they have no grasp of. That really goes for anyone, regardless of the cause. I'd say you're depriving them a day to learn at school, but I realize that most of the kids holding

If your aim is to not have to pay any taxes at all, you might love it in Somalia. You'll be forced to enter a life of piracy (which in these modern times lacks the romance of eye patches, tri-corner hats, or cockatiels) because the lack of any form of government or stable economy gives you no other options, but at least you won't have the man keeping you down!

If you're more of a flat tax supporter, you may want to know that there are exactly zero industrialized nations with working representative governments who implement such a system. You know who does have a flat tax? Russia—whose post-Soviet experiment in capitalism and democracy has been made into a mockery by the alliance of corporate

mean business, here's the deal: Your try at populist rage over rampant government spending doesn't mean jack squat. I'm cutting libertarians a break because I know they spoke up during the Bush Administration about government spending to anyone who would listen to them. Anyone who supported that administration's ability to turn a federal surplus into a record deficit in eight years' time, however, has very little room to talk. The fact is that neither George W. Bush nor that conservative demigod, Ronald Reagan, could come close to balancing a budget during their times in office. Yet, conservatives wait until they lack any political influence whatsoever (like in 1994, and the present day) to decide that they demand the fiscal

sister sitting next to you. Socialism also suppresses the protective nature by completely removing the idea of having any personal assets, as the personally held assets are against the principles advocated by socialism.

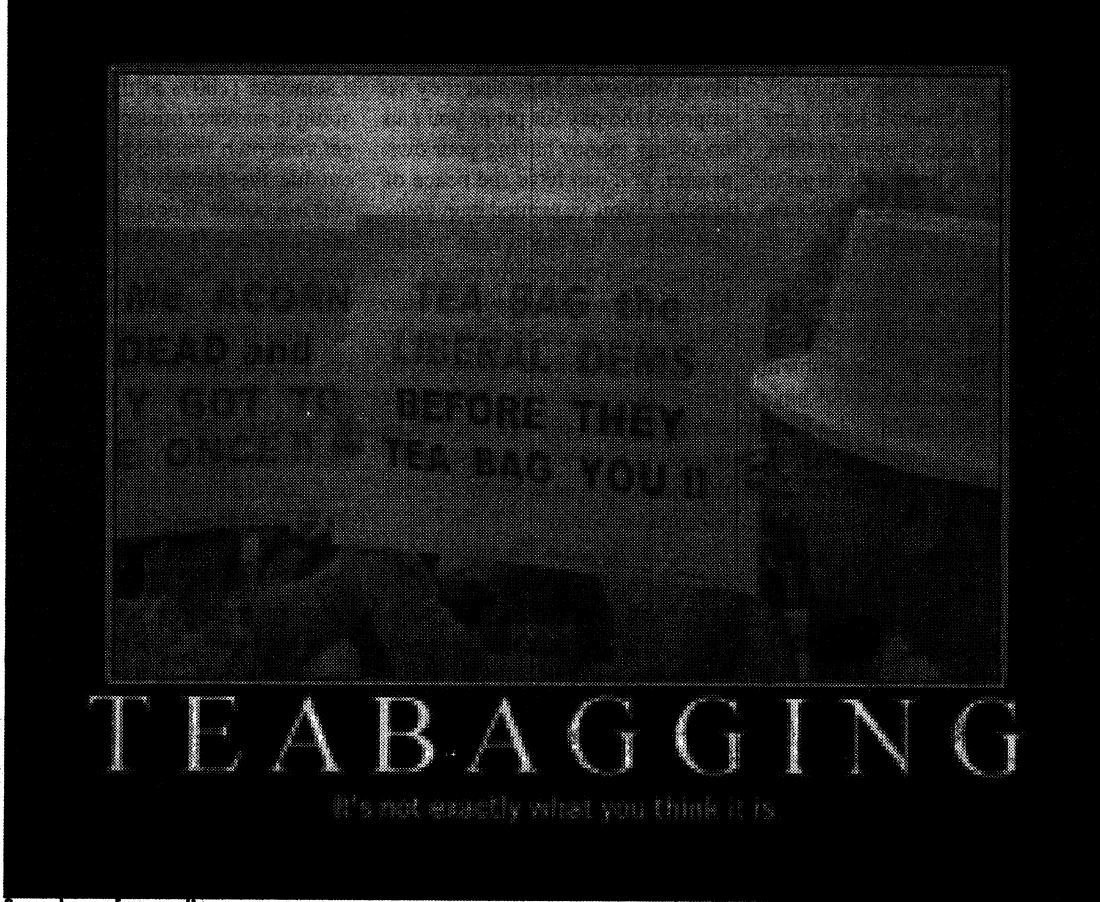
Continued on Next Page

Pure Economics Continued from Page 3

Pure capitalism capitalizes on the competitiveness of human nature. On the other hand, pure capitalism endorses unfair competition as those who have the best talent, the best education, the best methods, what have you, are the ones that will ultimately have the most control and influence, the most money, etc. Those who do not have the best education, or have talents (as everyone has) but do not know how to exercise them, or have some other type of handicap will be at the short end of the stick and will typically be relegated to a substandard set of people. This is where the differentiation between the people begins and the divisiveness and inequality occurs; this is where regulatory systems come in to protect those who are less fortunate from potential abuse from those who are in control.

In any case, we can continue to debate this particular issue. However, due to human nature, which consequently leads to the inability to put any of these pure economic systems into practice, the argument that says America is becoming socialist is bogus. This country has a mixture of capitalistic and socialistic values. That is the only way that America can be a quasi-free market (since free market would intrinsically mean no regulation) yet prevent abuses of the system. Those who continue to contend that America is moving towards socialism are also the ones who use the byproducts of 'socialist' elements by using public roads and schools— and these same people are just as double-sided and hypocritical as the words that come out their mouth. If it is such an issue of having socialist elements in a predominately capitalistic society, how about these people build and pave their own roads, build their own schools and do everything without public assistance— and see how far they get.

We live in a country that is united for the common good of all who live here. If America was purely capitalist, we would be a divided house of cards that is bound to fall. By the fact that Americans look out for each other, we are both capitalist and socialist in theory and practice. A mixture of both is how America has continued to be a stable and livable country that we all have come to love.



See above for caption.

signs are home-schooled, and this is extra credit for them.

To the many protesters who evoked the original Boston Tea Party's message of "No Taxation without Representation," here's the deal: The colonists' main gripe against the British wasn't the "no taxation" part, but the "without representation" part. Rule of law in the British Empire in the late 1700s was established by a Parliament which the American colonies were not allowed to send a representative to, as well as by a chief executive who assumed his powers by birth, governed by divine right, and essentially answered to no one. Unless you live in the District of Columbia, which still does not have an official representative to Congress, you are democratically represented both in the legislature and in the executive branch. You might not like the ideological positions or party affiliations of the members of those bodies, but so long as you voted or could vote in the previous elections, your voice was heard along with everyone else's. More people in your state or district may have had a different opinion than yours, but that's how democracy works.

On the taxation front, now, I can bring up several different points.

robber barons and a tyrannical puppet master that dominate every nook and cranny of economy and government. Then there are the various former Eastern Bloc nations with a flat tax, whose economic growth in the past two decades has come mostly from the pipeline that sends billions of Western European money to those countries in exchange for millions of illegal immigrants. Sound promising?

No one likes to pay taxes. No one likes to pay their power bill, either. But if you don't pay your power bill, your appliances don't work, and if you don't pay your taxes, your government doesn't work. The taxation issue has only three outcomes: to cut them without reducing spending, while borrowing money from foreign nations to make up the gap (what we did under the Bush years); to cut them and have the proverbial government small enough to be drowned in a bathtub (and too small to do anything else); or to maintain a balance between taxing and spending requires a give and take on both sides of the fence, an act that doesn't lend itself well to catchphrases.

Finally, to the majority of conservatives who attended these tea parties to show the government they

responsibility their own figureheads couldn't manage from the people on the other side of the partisan divide who are now in charge.

Besides the obvious double standard in the anti-tax and spend message, the duplicity of the various other right-wing calling cards at the tea parties would be amusing if not for how troubling they were. First of all, anyone with an understanding of political understanding and a grasp of 20th century history should know that it is impossible for President Obama to be a communist, a socialist, and a fascist all at the same time, but this seems to be what the teabaggers see him as. Likewise, it is also impossible for Obama to simultaneously show disregard towards Israel while masterminding the international Zionist conspiracy. I fully respect the tea party protesters' First Amendment rights to free assembly, but the lack of any cohesive message to come out of these events allows me to feel no remorse in exercising my First Amendment right to free speech to lampoon them thoroughly.

The Tenstone Papers Solving Atlanta's transportation problems

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

This article will be no holds barred.

Atlanta, Georgia- one of the most sprawling cities in America today. Atlanta is clearly a magnet for business and people, as both have dramatically increased since the 1996 Summer Olympics. Atlanta ranks third among American cities in the most Fortune 500 companies within its metropolitan area. The Globalization and World Cities Study Group ranks Atlanta as a beta world city. The Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Gainesville GA-AL Combined Statistical Area (CSA) has more than 5.7 million people as of 2008, according to the U.S. Census estimated data.

With 5.7 million people living in the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Gainesville CSA, everyone knows how bad Atlanta's traffic is, whether you live in the city or any side of it. Numerous articles from *Forbes* and other magazines and websites rank Atlanta at the top or near the top of the country's worst commutes. Other articles say that new companies are bypassing Atlanta because of the traffic jams and underdeveloped mass transit systems. The *AJC* ran an article about Phoenix, Arizona's new mass transit system, and how Atlanta is in 'envy.' Other cities, such as Charlotte and Dallas, are moving forward with their mass

transit systems, while Atlanta is being left in the dust. Finally, as of recently, the Obama administration listed Atlanta as the spot of a high speed rail transit hub, with lines coming from Charlotte and Jacksonville. However, the same article also said that the State of Georgia is well behind states such as North Carolina in planning for these high speed rail lines.

Even with all of that, the thing that strikes me as ridiculously absurd is the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) planning to put tolls on the HOV lanes on a 14 mile stretch of I-85 from the Perimeter at Spaghetti Junction up through Gwinnett County. The HOV lane will be called High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. This is in the midst of the lack of action with the federal funds that are to be used to create the high speed rail line from Atlanta to Lovejoy (and possibly Macon).

Do anyone smell a rat? Do anyone see the backwards logic with this situation? This new tolling system would make the current HOV a lane that is managed by congestion pricing. At peak travel times, in order to use the lane, the price to use the lane will increase as traffic increases to discourage people from using the lane. It "guarantees" a free lane of traffic. People carrying three or more people in the car would be able to use the lane for free. Other people wanting to use

the lane will have to pay for it.

This is a ridiculous proposal, as it will only compound the traffic congestion on the I-85 corridor. The people who currently ride the HOV lane with two people, which there are many, are not necessarily likely to pay a fee to use the lane. That only puts more traffic in the general purpose lanes, which will only result in longer traffic jams for everyone else. Secondly, I consider tolls on a highway as double taxation. People in the State of Georgia are already paying for the maintenance of the highways, as well as adding additional capacity and other upgrades. By having tolls on the HOV lane, the people are effectively being taxed twice for something that they should only be taxed once.

We must realize that solving Atlanta's traffic issue is paramount to the quality of life, attractiveness of the city for businesses and people alike, and regional, national, and international standing of the city. What part of that do state politicians NOT understand? Do we need to spell it out for them—that if the economic engine of Georgia, being Atlanta, starts losing corporate business because of the politicians in the Gold Dome being victims of inertia, then all of Georgia will go down with the city? They are doing the Atlanta region and the entire state a disservice by continuing to subscribe to the 'Car is King' culture.

These incompetent, dimwitted leaders continue to believe that widening of highways and instituting tolls on existing lanes will somehow magically take cars off the road. If mass transit is not developed to be easier, cheaper, and more convenient than driving, we will continue to choke on traffic- all because politicians at the Gold Dome are not ready and/or not willing to commit to providing the taxpayers with transportation options. The only viable solution to the traffic issue is to expand and strengthen the current rail system that is controlled by MARTA.

The amazingly underfunded mass transit system, MARTA, relies on sales tax revenue from the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County to pay for operations and capital expenditures. However, with the current economy, MARTA can barely even function. Notably, people from Gwinnett, Clayton, Cobb, Douglas, Henry, Coweta, and other metro counties drive themselves to a MARTA station and use the system, then have the audacity to complain about the service. As the largest mass transit system in the United States with no state funding, it is painfully obvious that MARTA service cannot be expanded to outlying areas or take people to more places where they need to go because of how they are funded. However, none of the transit

solutions that the Gold Dome is providing include anything about funding MARTA or working with anything mass transit. The primary focus is STILL on highways and grossly ludicrous, irresponsible proposals such as HOT lanes.

We must start embracing alternate forms of transportation. It is time that the people of the Atlanta region have options. They need options on how to get to places they need and want to go. Given the gas crisis of 2008, Atlanta was adversely affected by the irrational pandemonium that ensued as a result of geopolitical uncertainty and natural disasters. However, if mass transit was readily available and able to take people places in a convenient, cheap and efficient manner, the region would have been better insulated and capable of dealing with the calamity much better than it did. Do the Georgia politicians see it? Apparently not, since they keep farting around with federal money and playing footsie games with each other while not moving anything forward. However, they will start seeing it when North Carolina, Virginia, and other states start chopping away at Georgia's dominant position in the South. By the time our inept politicians realize it, it will be too late.

The Middle Why liberalism is wrong

Christian Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

We live in a world that is held to basic rules of logic that is complimented by emotion and rewards innovation... unless you're a liberal. Now, I use the little 'l' term for liberal, which is how Reagan used the term, and not the big "L" in political science. I've previously written about the difference before if you're curious. In short, what we typically hear as conservative, is a big 'L' Liberal, whereas normally what we hear as liberal is the little 'l' liberal. So, from here on out, when the term liberal is used it's the little l form. I'd also like to clarify that I'm speaking generally. I'm speaking mainly about the core philosophy that is liberalism, not specifically of individuals. Many good, honest, and sincere people are liberals, and I firmly believe that they have all the right intentions for their support of many of these policies and they sincerely mean no harm to anyone. However, sincerity not a substitution for the truth and these individuals are the exception - not the rule.

Liberalism is hand in hand with communism or socialism, both systems which have been tried, and are being tried and failing miserably - see the former Soviet Union and North Korea. Liberalism is based on the misguided idea that we can and should have equality of outcome, as opposed to in-equality of outcome. This idea is fatally flawed in one major respect. In order to have an equality of outcome where everyone has to

give the exact same amount of effort, and everyone has to have the interests of the other as the main issue. This is why communism (in the early church, not Marxist-Stalinism), and small-scale communes of people with like minds can work.

The first settlers tried this in their attempt to escape from England, and through their failures, we get the holiday of Thanksgiving. The original reason for thanksgiving was not, thanking the Indians for sharing their food, but rather, to celebrate the bounty the settlers had BECAUSE they gave up the false promises of communism, and embraced Capitalism. First-hand accounts from the diary of William Bradford show this to be the case.

Liberalism isn't based on facts, logic, or experience. If it were, and if it were held to standards of history, and reason it would fail - which is why Liberalism is based mainly on Emotion. Liberalism is the emotional abandonment of all logic, reason, and historical evidence. Anyone with access to any history book should be able to see that, every time communism (Marxist-Leninism) has been tried or liberals are in control it's failed to bring forth any sort of prosperity and has only hurt those it's intending to help. Soviet Russia, Communist China and North Korea left and are leaving millions dead, in poverty, as well as huge inequalities between the rich and poor.

Liberalism uses the language of compassion and plays on the

emotions about injustice and fairness, however, it's only when the language fits their agenda, and when actually examined, there's nothing compassionate, and in fact it only produced unhappiness, and problems. Liberalism is plagued with unintended consequences. It doesn't matter what happens as long as the liberal feels good about it.

If you've read my other article, I posed a situation. Alternative Energies (AE) cost more than the traditional forms, and proponents of AE state that if the government simply taxes the traditional forms then AE will become economically viable. I then asked if anyone saw a problem with it? After all, AE's are great to have, right? It's supposedly better for the environment as well as renewable etc. However, what's the problem with that plan? The only way to make a 20 cent per energy unit (PEU) compete with a 5 cent PEU is to make both 20 cents... Yeah, it makes AEs more competitive, but at the cost of more expensive energy, which the cost WILL be passed on to the consumer. The unintended consequence is higher energy costs, which hurts everyone.

I'm told that it's not fair that there are people who make millions of dollars while I make less than what's considered to be poverty. I'm told that I should be angry when I hear of this, and to make me feel better I should demand that those who are rich have their riches taxed away until they're brought down to my level. Do you all see the despicable evilness of that?

I'm supposed to be happy, because other people are suffering. Instead of trying to, and enabling me to get to the point to where I can make a million dollars, if I want, liberalism seeks to make it to where NO ONE (except their elites) can make a million dollars.

I personally, don't feel like putting in the work necessary to make millions of dollars, I have higher priorities. I'd be content making under \$100,000 so long as I could pay my bills, and live comfortably. However, I know people who want to make five times that amount, and they want to get into the corporate world, work long hours, and climb up the corporate ladder - something to which I have no desire to do. I appreciate and applaud my friends who have those dreams, and want to help them reach their goals. I love the fact they have that opportunity, and just because I know I'm not going to make those amounts of money, it's not my position to tell them they're bad because they do.

However, liberalism isn't concerned with the wellbeing of others. Instead it plays on the selfishness, greed, and laziness of others to feed it's lust for power. It's always telling people they're not good enough, there's no point to try, and penalizing success. However, the masters of deception make it appear as if they're only helping, and making things better. For years, the minorities in our society are consistently told and reminded that they're different. They're told that it's much harder for them, and that only if

they were different it would be easier for them. Minorities are told that they're not good enough to make the grades of the majority and are therefore held to different standards, which the majority of the time is lower.

Though these programs claim to help minorities, instead they are handicapping them. If the requirement to enter a college is a 2.5 with a 1600 on their SAT, it should be that way ALL around not lowered for a minority. By telling a minority that they only need a 2.0 with a 1400 does not help the minority compete with the other students, it instead lowers the standard, and doesn't force the minority to get better and compete. They are ill equipped to compete in the classroom against people held to a higher standard, instead of giving the advantage to the minority, it does the exact OPPOSITE, it gives the advantage to the 'majority'.

An old saying goes, give a man a fish and feed him for a day, but teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime. Liberals condemn the conservatives for wanting to teach the man to fish because the conservative isn't giving. They may even criticize the conservative for believing this way, "I have what I want, now screw you." But in the end what's more compassionate? Giving someone a handout and making it to where they become dependent on you, and cannot separate themselves, and in essence becoming a slave to you, or equipping someone to provide for themselves so they can make their life better than you

The Middle

A conservative Manifesto

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

This is my last political article to appear in the Sting as a student, and I thought I should provide an article that focuses on the positive aspects of my beliefs as a contrast to the mostly negative side I've explained about liberalism. The conservatism I'm speaking of in my article today is the Reagan, supply side economic, constitutional bound and restricted government movement that many people believe in but don't realize it—not the Conservatism that political scientists would reference. I'm seeking to clarify some misconceptions about us. When I use the term conservatives see, as with liberals, there are always exceptions, and not everyone adheres strictly to these ideals.

Conservatism holds at the highest level the individual, and that individual's freedoms, passions, and their ability to exercise them in any way they see fit, so long as it doesn't hurt other individuals. It's very much a modified version of John Locke's harm principle. Conservatism was articulated very well in the founding documents like the Declaration of Independence, "[w]e hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

I'll be using this sentence penned by Thomas Jefferson as the outline of my article. "We hold these truths to be self evident", meaning that what is about to be said is or should be basic common knowledge, it's clearly visible without need for explanation that ALL men are created equally. We were created, and we were created equally but we not all the same, in the sense that everyone is identical, or that we should all conform. We were all created equally; we all have strengths and weaknesses that balance out. And these differences need to be celebrated, not pointed out and focused on. What one person lacks in strength he may make up in intellect, what another may lack in the later two they may make up in a strong work ethic. To conservatives, these differences are to be celebrated; it allows all of humanity to excel in what they do best. It's how they were created, and it would be wrong for us to say, "You're not good because you earn money."

"Endowed by their creator", these things are given to us, instilled within the very makeup of humanity. "With certain unalienable rights", meaning NOTHING should ever question or come against these rights. No one can take these rights, the fact you're entitled to it, away. Even if you live in the most oppressive of regimes, you, by the sheer fact you're a human being, are entitled to these rights: borders, age, race, sex, religion, creed, culture, lifestyle

choice, or political affiliation. It doesn't matter if you agree with me, my politics or my beliefs. You are entitled to these rights, and nothing or no one's opinion can change that.

"And among these rights are", meaning that un-alienable rights are not limited to these.

"Life", to the conservative, is sacred. Life is something that can never be created artificially. This is something all people are entitled to. Life is very special. Whenever it is threatened, it is the duty of the conservative to rise up and protect it. This is why the end of abortion is a huge conservative issue. It is not an issue of reproductive choices or a woman deciding what she can and cannot do with her "own body." Aside from the fact that the child in her stomach has a different set of DNA and other biological facts to discount the emotional justifications: the key issue is that a human being is having their right, given to them by the sheer fact of their existence, stolen from them. To a conservative, it is not merely a choice: it is the murder of an innocent life.

"Liberty" is freedom, freedom to do what you want with not only what you own, but receiving the fruits of your labor. For someone to tell you what to do with your own property, and enforce penalties if you don't listen to them, is the antithesis to liberty. Aside from only property, it's also the freedom to express yourself, whether religiously, through speech, or actions. When conservatives see people having this fundamental right being taken away from them it not only bothers us, but we see it as our duty to help them. This is a fundamental, GOD given right that's being stolen from someone for another person's convenience.

That's what many people do NOT understand about Neo-Conservatives, or conservatives' "eagerness" to go to war against other countries and totalitarians. If conservatives have the ability to help those in need, we are compelled to! Conservatives, view the war in Iraq not as one for oil, but to free human beings from someone who was taking advantage of the citizens he was supposed to be protecting. If one researches what was happening in the Saddam run Iraq, the actual torture chambers, the rape rooms, the mass graves, if that person were a conservative, they would conclude that it was our moral obligation if for no other reason than because we have the means to do so. The fact that, it was in our national security interests is a bonus.

"The pursuit of happiness" is often taken out of context, and is many times interpreted that we should be able to do whatever we want. However, conservatives see this as the fundamental right to use our property (including money) as we wish, and the liberty to take care of own selves in the way we see fit. If I want to, I should be able to work as hard as I can and make

as much money as I want without being penalized, demonized, or have to worry about a mob being outside my house. Or, if I want, I should be able to be content with working enough to make my minimum payments, and live paycheck to paycheck—whichever makes me happy.

This pursuit of happiness is dampened by the government intrusion into my life, and the private sector. When the government places pay restrictions, lends money to businesses, seizes companies, forces companies to take money, taxes me at a higher rate, penalizes me for paying my mortgage on time while rewarding those who don't. When the government bases its budget of providing for providing a welfare state on the backs of a small percentage of hard-working taxpayers, it does so simply because they make more than the government deems appropriate.

Conservatism's nemesis is liberalism (in the modern day sense). One belief tells you, "You can do it!" the other tells you, "You can do it... but only with me." At the heart of conservatism is the belief that the individuals' only hindrance is the individual and the government. The government cannot provide anything, anything the government has is BECAUSE the government was given it by the people, or it has stolen it. Conservatism, unlike liberalism, believes that the government can and should only do what it is directed to by the constitution.

It is not the government's job to insure the common welfare, nor is it the government's responsibility to provide for its citizens. When the government does this, people become dependent on it. When people become dependent on a government, they lose one of the most important things... their individuality. Instead, conservatives seek to elevate everyone. Conservatives have been around for a long time, always espousing the liberties, and these God given rights. Here are some conservatives summing up what we believe in their own words.

"That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it." Declaration of Independence, 1776

"When one starts poor, as most do in the race of life, free society is such that he know he can better his condition... I am not ashamed to confess that 25 years ago I was a hired laborer, mauling rails, at work on a flat boat — just what might happen to any poor man's son." — Abraham Lincoln, 1860

"This country believes in prosperity. It is absurd to suppose that it is envious of those who are already prosperous. The wise and correct course to follow is taxation and all other economic legislation is not

The Middle Cont.

Why Liberalism is still wrong

Christiaan Funkhouser
Senior Staff Writer

ever could. What about the dignity that's lost when you can't even provide for yourself?

However, this doesn't matter to a liberal. Much like a psychologically abusive partner, the liberal beats down the victims self esteem, self worth, and drive to be independent and convinces the victim that they cannot survive without the government, that they're worth nothing apart from it, and they cannot do it themselves. They then perpetuate these lies, with more lies based on a twisted partial truth. "There's no point to try and make yourself better, you'll never make it. Those in power will never let you get up there."

Don't believe me? Look at the black communities. For countless years, black communities have been voting almost exclusively democrat. Blacks are consistently told they're going to be helped by democrats, and what have the policies of the democrats done? Hand in hand with hip-hop culture, the democratic policies designed to "help" the families have done nothing but destroy the family. The Government has taken the place of the provider of the family, rewarding girls both young and old for having children they can't pro-

to destroy those who have already secured success but to create conditions under which everyone will have a better chance to be successful" — Calvin Coolidge, 1925

"If we lose freedom here, there is no place to escape to. This is the last stand on earth. And this idea that government is beholden to the people, that it has no other source of power except to sovereign people, is still the newest and most unique idea in all the long history of man's relation to man... Whether we believe in our capacity for self-government or whether we abandon the America revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capital can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves." Ronald Reagan, 1964.

Thanks for reading my articles throughout the years, and I pray that life finds you well. Remember, we're in the middle of the journey from death to life. I'm planning on continuing a blog which can be found at: mr-funkhouser.xanga.com

I plan on continuing to develop the ideas of life, love, conservatism, and political science-type topics. It's my sincere hope that everyone who has read my articles has gotten something out of it; it's sparked discussion and maybe even caused people to question what they've been told to believe.

I know that my last number of articles have been political in nature, but in these political times have caused me to focus on the more political aspect of my beliefs. I'm planning on going to seminary in the fall, and I would absolutely appreciate any prayers or support.

vide for. The government rewards sperm donors by not having to take responsibility for their children through the ease of abortion, and a lack of need to provide for the family he's abandoning. THIS perpetuates a cycle of destruction and a copying what happened to them. Each generation is promised to be released by this cycle but have become so dependent on the government they cannot break from it.

If by some chance a person is fortunate enough to leave the cycle, and commit the most heinous of all crimes in the black community, become a conservative, they are called all manner of names, are shamed, and impugned by both the black community and liberals. Look at leaders I admire like Clarence Thomas, Condoleezza Rice, and Shelby Steele just to name a few. They're called uncle tom's, ~~and other names that can't be printed.~~ Instead, moral leaders and great role models like hip-hop rappers are promoted by the liberals in order to further perpetuate the cycle of destruction.

However, people in the black community look to liberals as their savior, instead of the one enslaving them. Current there's a voucher program that allows inner city school kids in Washington DC go to the same school that Obama sends his daughters to, however, the program will be ending in a year because of the restrictions put on the program that Obama has signed into law.

For some reason, an unequal distribution of wealth and services is condemned as evil while an equal distribution of poverty and shoddy service is wanted, and touted as most compassionate. Instead of not taking as much of our money, more of it's taken so the government can give a portion of it back. Instead of allowing you to decide what to do with your own money and healthcare, the government will manipulate the markets, and drive up the cost of items, through unneeded restrictions, regulations etc, and then present itself as the savior.

Since the founding of this great nation, we've been a nation that holds Liberty, Freedom, and Justice and it's currently under attack. The United States Government run by liberals, under the guise of fairness and with a false sense of justice is abusing the power we give it through the constitution by politically attacking private citizens, engaging in mass acts of extortion, theft of our property, and the promotion of the murder of innocents through the false beliefs of liberation.

Street Fighter 4 Can you play it? Shoryuken!

Sean Fine
Editor-In-Chief

Fighting games have existed since the dawn of man, if not in a virtual form, then at least in the sense of finding enjoyment by punching each other's light out: Gladiators, Jousting, boxing, and wrestling. Luckily, fighting video games were invented so those luck athletic could take joy in beating other people, but in 1991, Capcom released a game that would change the fighting game genre as a whole, with Street Fighter 2, the first game to allow players to choose from numerous characters each with different abilities and styles and fight each other. Now, Capcom has released Street Fighter 4 after a prolonged delay of a title after Street Fighter 3. Does it stand up to the hype that the series has built itself?

Story: Oh-ho-ho. Story? Story in a Street Fighter game is like raccoons living in the ocean. Something just doesn't work out.

Street Fighter 4's plot takes place between 2 and 3, taking the liberty of bringing back as many (read: nearly all) characters from Street Fighter 2, and putting them in, even though their purpose in the story is completely pointless. What the major plotline seems to follow, includes Bison coming back to life for the n-th time, Ryu still is a boring wanderer who can one-shot someone and still not be satisfied, and probably more importantly, former R&A leader for Bison's Shadaloo Organization, Seth has decided to take command for himself.

Hearing all of this, I was thinking "Huh, hopefully, we'll have something like Street Fighter Alpha's endings that were you know... Endings?" Alas, most of the characters plots are completely and utterly pointless. For instance, Russian bear wrestler and fan-favorite Zangief's story is just he goes into this tournament is to prove that he is truly the greatest to some kids. It almost seems as though if the character isn't related to the villains in ANY way possible, their plot will be stupid and unnecessary, including half of the new characters. This isn't to say that the entire plot is stupid, I'm just saying that the game's presentation of the plot is stupid, but despite that, there are still a few moments of "That's pretty cool" such as the silent battle between Ryu and one old fighter.

Gameplay: In case you've been living under a rock since the 1990s, you might be surprised to find that Street Fighter is a popular series and for good reason too. Even though other fighting game titles have followed the similar formula and in some respects taken their own unique approaches to the fighting game genre, the Street Fighter series has always managed to find something to make it stand out. In Street Fighter 3, this came in the form of the Parry system. In the Street Fighter Alpha series, there

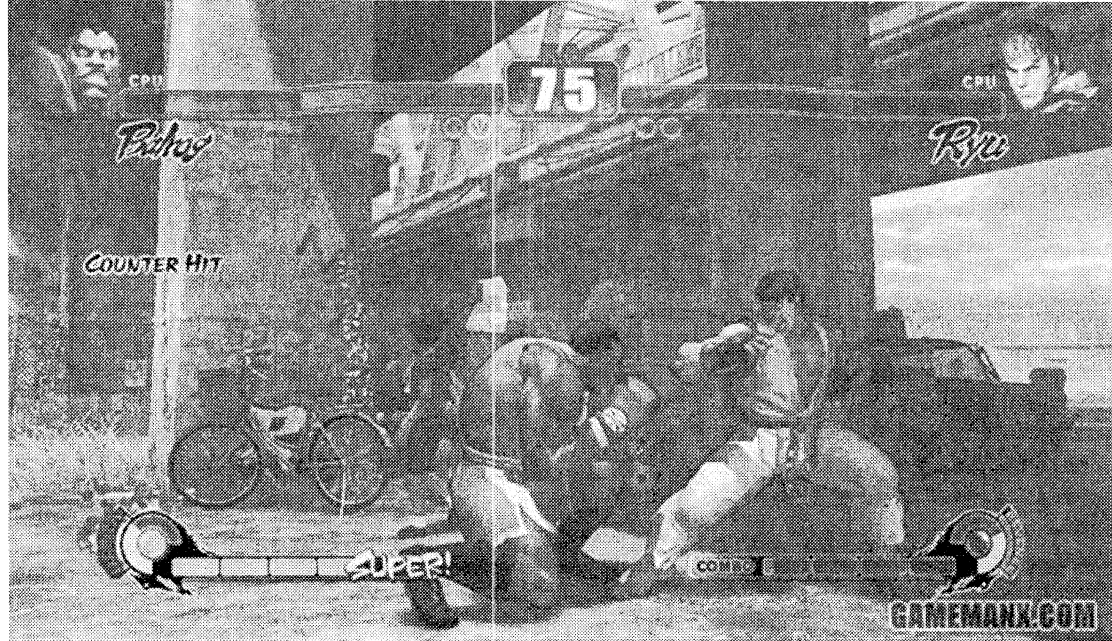
were numerous little tweaks such as air blocking and 'Alpha coun-

tack, and even then, chances are, it's better to use a character's EX

In some cases, the English voices fit their character perfectly while

also includes unique tracks for the separate stages that change according to how close one is to defeat. The game is also notorious for possibly the most catchy boy-band sounding theme in a game about burly men beating each other up. Overall, I think the soundtrack is very good, giving enough of a classic throwback to the old 90s age while still giving cool new themes for both new characters and stages. My only qualm is that character themes only seem to play during the arcade mode during special matches, which is a drag because I'm certain there are fans of Street Fighter 2 that want to hear more of the character themes.

Overall: The game is a lot of fun, providing a lot of competitive play that really separates casual players from more experienced players yet it still remains fun while players continue to train and practice. I'm fairly certain this is a game that will continue to be played, especially if Capcom does what it's known best for and make numerous versions with more characters. While I wish they had some more (read: at least one) characters from Street Fighter 3, the package we got is exceptional and plenty of fun. 9/10



The focus attack and revenge gauge adds a new layer of strategy to fights that could normally seem one-sided
Image provided by: gamemanz.com

ters'. Now, in Street Fighter 4, we have the Focus Attack System.

The Focus Attack System essentially gives players an easy to use parry that is less on timing and more about charging. It's easily done by pressing two medium attack buttons at the same time and the longer one holds it, the stronger level the attack becomes, from a decent blow to chain into other moves, a knock-out blow that makes one's opponent fall to your knees, to a guard breaking blow that will leave one's opponent open for almost anything. In addition, while one is charging a focus attack, they'll be able to absorb one attack (Read: Sort of like a parry) from their opponent, which adds to a character's Revenge meter (more on that later). This isn't to say that focus attacks are an end-all-be-all super move as all characters have armor-breaking moves that can shatter through a character's focus attack, leaving them open for an assault and taking extra damage even.

Personally, I like the focus attack. It adds a level of strategy to matches and leads to some interesting fights. It helps that each character's focus attack animation differs, giving some characters longer range than others and allows even some countering capabilities.

Other changes made include the introduction of a revenge meter in addition to a super meter. The revenge gauge builds up as a character takes damage, giving characters access to a Ultra Combo attack, which one can think of as a powerful means to attack back and even the odds in a fight, so a player usually doesn't always feel like they're in a one-sided fight. It's an interesting concept and all the ultra combos are very flashy, rewarding players for using their ultra attacks wisely.

If there is something I don't like about the Ultra combos and revenge gauge, it's what happened to the Super meter. It builds up the same, dealing damage to the other player, but they're only limited to one use of a character's super at-

moves, which are like boosted versions of character's special moves with special properties, done at the cost of a fraction of one's super meter. Furthermore, it just seems really boring when every character has only one ultra and one super (which one exception with Gen), since this is a series over 20 years old and they have so much material to work with. If not give them more super abilities, then at least make it so that everyone's super move and ultra move are actually different! It's almost painful to see half the characters have a unique special and unique special and the other half their Ultra is just a flashier version of their super, like Ryu's ultra "Mettsu Hadouken" being just a fancier "Shinku Hadouken". It just feels lazy.

Other than those gripes, the game is still fun with a good online connectivity and giving lots of little things to do such as numerous time attacks or survivals with special rules, and even challenge modes to give players a idea of possible combos. Additionally, the game's balance is fairly good with constantly debatable tier lists (if you care about that sort of thing) where all the characters are fairly close in fighting ability. Overall, the game is good, though it's a mistake to walk in thinking it'll be just like previous Street Fighters.

Graphics: I believe at least 90% of fans who first saw the initial teaser trailer were really concerned when they saw that the new Street Fighter was going to be in 3d, but as more videos were released. The art style and graphics have come to be some of the nicest looking characters in a fighting game with a surreal ink effect, like a Japanese water color painting. It really takes cel-shading to a very colorful level with intricate details to each of the characters and allowing some visually stunning camera work during special moves. Lip syncing is obviously meant for the Japanese track, but it works well enough for the English track. Speaking of which...

Sound: Voice acting varies for both Japanese and English.

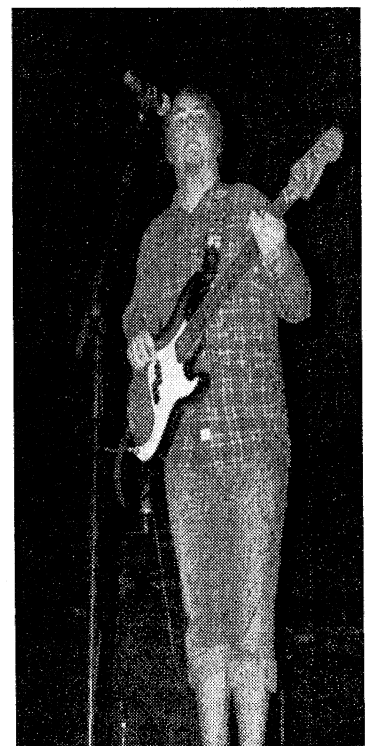
other voices are pretty bad, even for Japanese. Luckily, you can alternate for each character who speaks English and who speaks Japanese, though I'm willing to bet there will be people who change everyone to Japanese because of some belief that the English language is/always will be flawed. Music is also catchy with techno-themed remixes of character themes, while still incorporating nice use of orchestral instruments. The soundtrack

Battle of the Bands

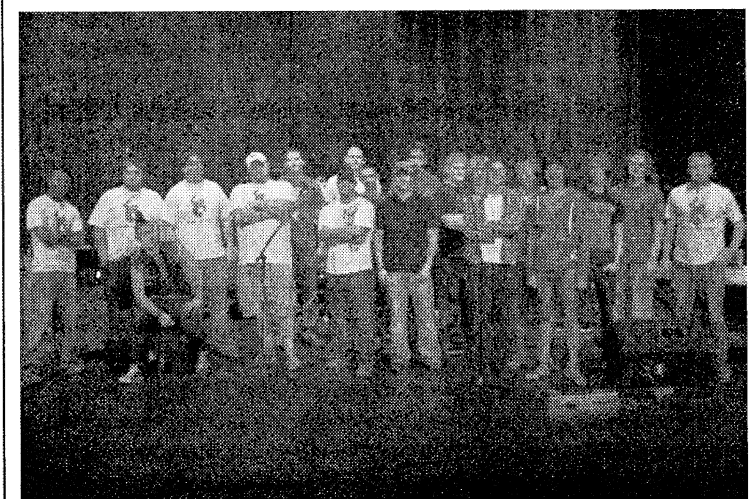
Melanie Allen
Staff Writer

If you were not at the Battle of the Bands 2009, you missed quite a show. Bands made up of members of our own campus community battled for the top spot, in front of a substantial audience by SPSU standards. Between performances, members of the audience took the stage in break-dancing and beat-boxing competitions to show off their skills and win free The Buzz t-shirts. The first place winner, AlwaysAway, won a \$ gift certificate. The second place winner, Circadia, won a \$ gift certificate.

If you are a musician or music enthusiast, make sure you keep an eye out for The Buzz's events. The startlingly popular and active organization currently boasts 171 members, with 86 active and registered on the website. Learn more about The Buzz at buzz.spsu.edu.



Lead Singer of Always Away
Photo provided by Kristina Carlson



The Buzz with the Bands

Photo provided by Kristina Carlson

Resident Evil 5

Zombies just got upgrades

Kevin Baker
Staff Writer

Now I know what you're probably thinking by now: "Kevin, zombies can't be upgraded, they're undead." WRONG! For the first and foremost, the 'zombies' in this game are really just infected citizens with a new strain of the Plagas virus from Resident Evil 4. Resident Evil 5 is in the format of the previous hit Resident Evil 4, over the shoulder third-person action adventure game. I don't call it survival horror anymore because after the first three and Code: Veronica, they changed the format to be more action oriented. This, in my opinion, was a change for the best, but that is another story for another time. The one way to summarize this game is be prepared for what you have played before, but with a twist on it that keeps some originality.

Story: You play as Christopher Redfield (Referred from here on as Chris) who is currently on a mission as part of the Bioterrorism Security Assessment Alliance, or B.S.A.A. Traveling to the Kijuju region of Africa to arrest a Bio-weapons dealer named Ricardo Irving.

The B.S.A.A. has assigned a partner from the Africa division to help you in this mission. Enter Sheva Alomar (Sheva) as the female lead for this game, who is packing as much power in her character as Chris even with all of his history from the previous Resident Evil Games. Once you are equipped with your weapons, you are sent off to deal with this Irving character. You enter a room with a man who's been given a type of parasite orally that turns him into a raging madman out for your blood. Within a few seconds of dispatching this first enemy, the player and characters make the relation between this parasite and the Plaga virus from Resident Evil 4. Quickly enough you realize just how powerful these zombies can be, moving at human speed if not slightly faster.

You'll progress through the plot unlocking files and features through your way that allow a view into the history of Resident Evil. These files range from the actual history to character and bio-weapon profiles. The story takes a major turn in Chapter 5, showing the major involvement of a villain from previous games, as well as the return of an older character from two previous games.

This sets up the final chapter to be the most extreme type of combat I have seen for some time in a video game involving just normal humans. To give you an idea, you fight in a hangar bay and can only damage the final boss long enough to give him an injection. The previous actions result in a quick time scene where you have to press appropriate commands or die instantly. Finally, after you have completed all that you finish the fight inside a volcano!!! Yes you read that correctly, inside a volcano. Even better for you is that Chris can move a boulder simply by lifting and punching it with all his might. Considering he is smuggling

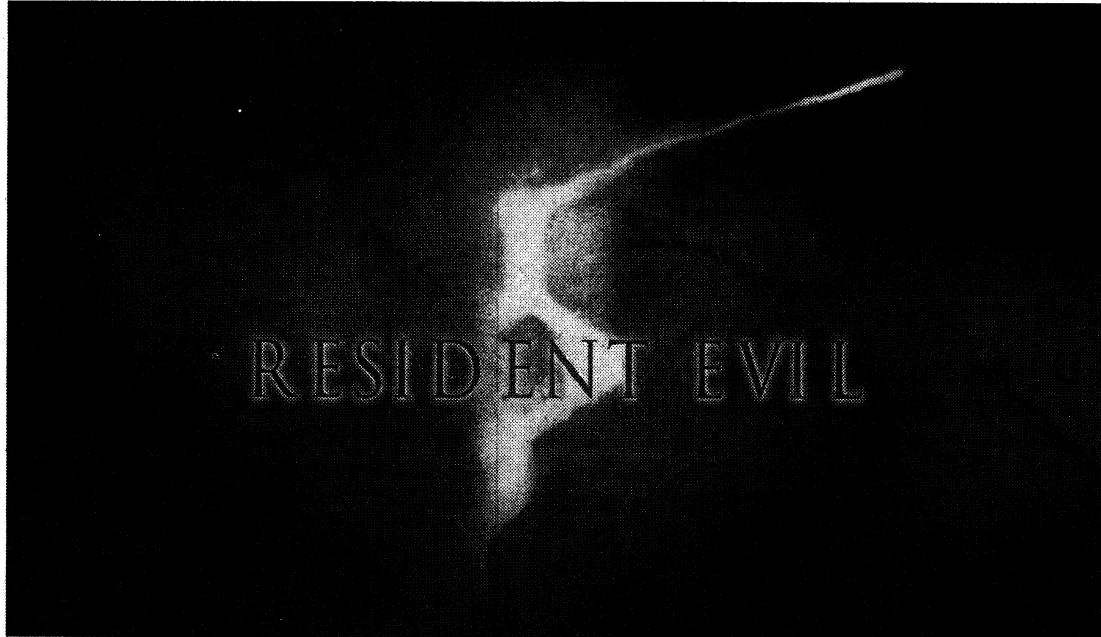


Image provided by: game-server-hosting.net

cantaloupes in his arms, I can see why this is legitimate.

To get back to the main point however, the story is not the greatest in the world, but far from the worst that it could ever be. I enjoyed this game and have played through it multiple times to earn all the achievements. I believe anyone who is a fan of Resident Evil will enjoy this game, for those that aren't but enjoy a good action game will not be disappointed either.

Game-play: The controls are easy to learn, remember, and use. You have the d-pad assigned as quick extremes of your nine slot inventory (Middle top row, Middle of left and right columns, Middle of bottom row).

This allows you to keep weapons or healing items as quick options to equip in a dangerous situation or when you need just that perfect gun for the fight. Your left shoulder buttons control your aiming (L1) and your Knife (L2) respectively. The right shoulder buttons fire or swing when aiming (R1) and allow you to view your map (R2).

The map is a handy tool since you can see where you're supposed to go if you get in a winding corridor or the like, only to be turned around while fighting the enemies. For the most part that previous situation won't occur, but it is good to have. Your left analog stick controls movement, and your right analog stick controls the camera to look around. You can change the controller scheme to fit your play style of the four different types.

The reaction commands from Resident Evil 4 have returned, and I to this day have found myself still discovering different forms of commands to use depending on this situation. For instance when fighting the final boss in his first encounter, you can actually melee him if you stun him first. I did not discover this until I was playing through on Professional (Hardest Difficulty in the game). The enemies grow stronger with each chapter depending on your performance, to a peak number on a scale of 1-10 with each difficulty having a max and minimum number. Different types of enemies begin showing up as you progress, including mutant cockroach/cricket hybrids called Reapers.

The enemies also gain better

weapons, including fully automatic weapons and full body armor, which becomes a pain if you don't have a magnum or shotgun equipped. Luckily, you're provided with cover spots from which to duck and fire from. The A.I. in the game for Sheva is wonderful on any difficulty, having nearly perfect accuracy with any weapon she wields. The bad part is that she delays before pulling switches that require both people to operate and often takes a priority of killing a threat over healing you if needed. This will lead to some frustration, but the accuracy of this A.I. makes up for it. If you don't feel

motion capture suits to provide the best detail and fluid movements for all the scenes. Even some of the scenes that you figure would be fully digital CG creation are done with motion capture. This actually leads to a full motion and realistic movement about the characters during the scenes and game-play portions. The cinematic scenes are some of the best I have seen in a long while, rivaling the Onimusha 3: Demon Siege intro, which looked like a scene out of an actual movie at some points. These graphics bring to life accompanied by a wonderful story, a true work that results in a



What's surprising isn't how many enemies are on screen, but how good it all looks!

Image provided by: Kotaku.com

like playing with the AI, then the game offers both online and offline co-op play. Overall the game play is rather user friendly and won't leave you in frustration over trying to play the game.

Graphics: For a game that is current generation console, the graphics are beautiful. Detail and lighting provide the right atmosphere given whatever time of day the scenarios take place in. Each area shows thought and the right amount of creativity placed into the level in order to tie it into the chapter as well as provide some originality. The monsters are detailed enough to make them all look wonderfully well presented, if not a bit too well at times.

All character and humanoid monster movements were done with full acting and motion capture. The actors were actually placed into the

wonderful game.

Sound: The sound in the game is superb, whether it be the enemies' sounds of anger and madness, to the screeching of Plagas, the ripping of flesh, the clicking of claws, chattering of mandibles. All these sounds for the enemies really immerse you in these environments, the guns equally sounding as their real life counterparts.

The score for the game is well done, and cues in at the right moments of combat or story wise. This lends itself to the movie presentation style. It keeps the players in the moment with the right sounds and music to bring that section to life allowing the action to be experienced properly. I on a personal note was on many occasions enjoying the themes that were playing while I faced the various bosses throughout the game. I would often find myself

pausing just to listen to the themes. Seriously, the sound coupled with the A.I. of the enemies puts you in the front seat of an action game, which is exactly what this game needed to accomplish with the play style it has.

Replay Value: This game offers some of the best replay value I have seen in recent releases for quite some time. The game offers achievements ranging from simply beating the game to upgrading all the weapons, to obtaining all the bonus figurines. The game includes four difficulty settings for playing. All of the difficulties have related achievements, as well as offering unlocks for beating them.

The story mode itself has a chapter select so you can play whichever part of the game you like or wish to improve your skills on. Each gun can be fully upgraded, allowing new guns to be unlocked, as well as to use points gained at the end of each chapter to purchase the infinite ammo option for each gun.

Once you complete the game for the first time, you unlock The Mercenaries mode. This allows you to play either single player or co-op (just like the story mode) which puts the character(s) against a horde of enemies to see how high of a score you can get. It places roughly 150 enemies on each stage with different areas spawning a certain number of the zombies at each zone. There are

boss enemies for each mercenary's stage, and different enemy awards different point values. There are different characters you can unlock by achieving an A ranking on each of the stages.

These characters all have different equipment allowing you to experiment with different characters or team combinations in order to create an efficient way of scoring.

Overall once you complete the story, earn all the achievements, and complete all the mercenaries' stages, you'll find that you have done just about everything. Though that seems like nothing much, it takes quite a while to collect everything for all the achievements. I have completed everything but still find myself playing the mercenaries mode trying to find better strategies and get higher scores.