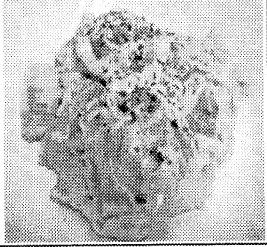


Good Food

Want to get some bang for your buck in the food department? Check out our Good Eats series, reviewing various restaurants
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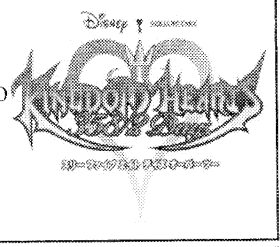


The Sting

www.thesting.org

Kingdom Hearts

After a long wait, the DS Kingdom Hearts game has come out. Does it live up to the franchise's name?



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What a Horrible Night to have a Curse

Volume 64, Issue 3

COLLABORATE.SPSU.EDU: THE NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) has many things that are cooking on the stove. In the last issue, the topic was the new e-mail system Zimbra and the many features that it has. For this issue, DoIT has another fabulous tool that will make communication between students and faculty much easier. This tool is called Collaborate.

So what is Collaborate? Collaborate is a suite powered by Jive SBS that uses Wiki documents, message board activities, and blogs to spread information and to facilitate group work, according to Chris Corriere, Collaborate Specialist in DoIT. The main idea of the suite was to use it for group work, clubs, recreational activities and to spread information. This main idea was put into action for the First Year Experience (FYE) for the incoming freshmen with the cooperation and support of Dr. Mark Nunes of the ETCMA Department.

Collaborate has many features that will be helpful to students and faculty alike. The Wiki documents let users keep track of



Sample of the new Application!

different versions by seeing any changes that were made over multiple versions and who is making contributions to the documents. For those who like to sleep in late and do not want to meet early on campus for a project, the message board can minimize or eliminate the need to meet on campus. While on the topic of projects, Collaborate is a great asset to project management, as your group members can post milestones to reach and assign tasks. Polls can be taken on anything that suites your needs. Finally, outside of Wiki documents, you can upload distribute files on Collaborate. One of the

biggest issues people had in the past with communicating with each other on projects was sharing files. "People wanted an easy way to share files and information without collecting addresses and sending e-mail," says Corriere. Now, with the Collaborate suite, distributing and sharing files is now much easier. If uploaded in a public space, a user only needs to log into the system and search for the document to find it.

Corriere states that using Collaborate is a three-part process. Step one is to use the forms to discuss and brainstorm about the topic at hand. Step two is to

create and upload the documents in the Wiki format. Step three is to blog about the experience, as in what you did and what can be done differently. In working on an assignment on Collaborate, you can work on your post in a draft mode. The professor of your class can be designated as an approver or an editor. Once this is done only your group and the professor can see that post in draft mode until it is actually published, reducing the opportunity for academic dishonesty.

With a suite that is loaded with functionality and is ready to make your life easier, is Collaborate getting the attention it is intended to receive? Corriere says yes. Due to the Zimbra migration, in which the documentation is only on Collaborate, and the FYE involvement, in which freshmen are engaged in various topics of discussion on the suite, there has been increased traffic on Collaborate. Adding to the increase in users and traffic is instructors using the suite for their classes. People are realizing that Collaborate "does work," as this is the feedback that is being received from users. Campus members that have been using the web applica-

tion say they like it a lot and would like to see more students using the system, says Corriere.

What about student organizations? Can they get in on the act? Absolutely! A student organization can get a space on Collaborate and utilize all of its functionality. The only two organizations that are on Collaborate currently are FSAE and your newspaper, The Sting. Student organizations can get a space by calling the IT Help Desk and within minutes can get in on the action as well. Once you are there, if you are not sure how to navigate the space, a video will be coming soon on how to use the suite. The faculty have had training classes on using this extraordinary tool.

And finally, for those students who have nothing else to do once the day is over and spend too much time on Facebook, consider this quote from Corriere: "WWW could stand for World Wide Waste of time. Thanks to software like Collaborate, the time between class and going to sleep can be used productively instead of goofing off on Facebook or YouTube."

CAREER FAIR

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

This past Wednesday, October 21, the Career and Counseling Center hosted a Career Fair called the Fall Expo in the Student Center Ballroom. The event started at 3pm and lasted till 6pm. There were many people that came to the event in their suits and ties for the men, and pant suits and dresses for the women. Many people had their folders, portfolios and resumes in tow. If you were not there, you missed out on networking and getting to know what opportunities were available. There may be some lucky ones that will get hired from this event.

Construction Management, Information Technology and Computer Science were the majors that most of the companies that came out were looking for. There were some companies there looking for Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Civil

Engineering and Mechanical Engineering majors. Big names such as Marietta Power, Norfolk Southern, Turner Broadcasting, CH2M Hill, and many others came out to network with current students and alumni that took part in the event.

I arrived at the event just as the event was getting started. Before 3:30pm, the ballroom was packed. The room was buzzing with students and alumni talking to company representatives. People were moving around collecting materials and passing out resumes. When people left the ballroom, they were asked to fill out a survey by Career and Counseling Center staff and volunteers. The ballroom remained very active for as long as I could stay and observe.

The Career and Counseling Center did a great job on getting the word out and letting people know what was taking place. The efforts of all of the staff involved clearly showed by the mass turnout of professionally

dressed students and the companies that came looking to meet the professional, ready-to-work students of Southern Polytechnic. We should all commend them for their efforts in putting the event together. If you missed this event, be sure to catch upcoming career fairs! You may just end up getting hired.



Image credited to: humanities.umd.edu

Zipride!

Melanie Allen
Staff Writer

If you are a teacher or student who wants to save gas money by carpooling, an international student who wants to carpool or provide carpool, or a student group on campus who wants to have an easy way to set up carpool for trips, there is a web service now available to make the process easier called Zipride! Access this website at the URL www.spsu.zipride.com. All you need is an SPSU email address to register.

There are many features in place to make this a safe and convenient way

to find people to carpool. Using this service allows you to ensure that you will be getting a ride from a fellow SPSU student. User profiles allow you to know a little about the people before you meet for the first time. There is a point system for people who use the service often and a 1-5 "car" rating based on user impressions on courteousness, cleanliness, promptness, and feeling of safety. You can create interest groups or groups based on campus groups. Why drive alone again? Zipride has only been offered to SPSU very recently, so join up soon to get the ball rolling on what looks like a fantastic service.

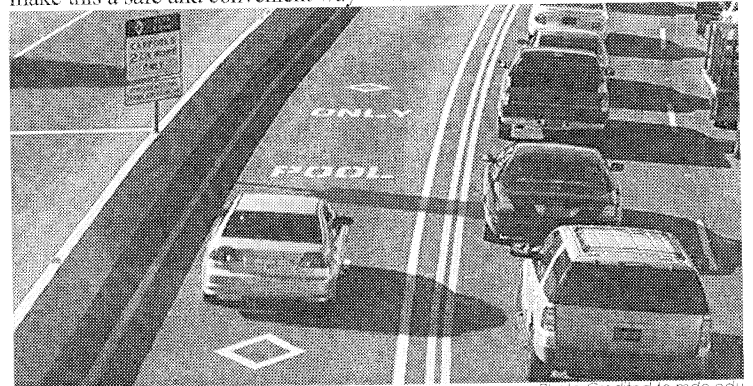


Photo Credited to mdc.edu

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We're Online...Again

The Sting is changing ships. Moving from theSting.org to a more communitive version, Collaborate. Look above for details about this new system.

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Historical Context

This issue, Adam Myers has decided to talk about Liberalism in well... a relation to history. Check out his article.

Page 3

Normal Series

The Tenstone papers continues its Normal Series with part three. Check it out in this issue

Page 2

Cognitive Biases

Starting another, and much more bite-sized, series, Melanie Allen has begins her new writing segment

Page 3

Good Eats

Dave Spivak
Senior Staff Writer

This is the first edition of what I hope to continue as a monthly food column, a guide for all those who want to know how to keep themselves well fed during their stay at Southern Polytechnic. This will cover many things from money saving secrets I've picked up, some simple recipes virtually anyone will be able to make, and the best places to eat near the school as well as which places you should avoid. I believe that I should start with a review of the school's new food service provider, Chartwell's.

I've had two meals at the Student Center cafeteria since they took over, and I have to say I'm pleasantly surprised. For the first time since I became a student at this university, the food is actually good. That is to say it's very tolerable. It still has that industrial, USDA issue quality to a lot of it, but some of the items there are actually quite tasty. Chartwell's seems to have done away with the business plan of ABL and Carlyle's, which was to charge for "all you can eat" and then make "all you can eat" as small a quantity as possible. The burgers were passable, the fries were crisp, the salad from the salad bar was fresh and delicious on both occasions, and I encountered something I never thought I would at SPSU: a good slice of pizza. Actually one of the best I've ever had. (I do concede Carlyle's pizza was far less capable of stopping a bullet than the pepperoni cheese hardtack ABL used to serve, so in that sense you couldn't even use it as body armor.)

The food at Chartwell's is now so good, in fact, that I would pay the \$6.25 to eat there nights when I have a late class. Only I'm not paying \$6.25, I'm paying \$8.14! Really? Who do these people think they are? I'm impressed by the leap in quality, but this is completely dwarfed by the absolutely ludicrous leap in price. Chartwell's has fixed the problem we've had with the last two food service companies and replaced it with an entirely new one. This food is better, but it's like saying that a root canal is better than death by firing squad.

A lot of the food was better, but a lot of it was still terrible. The chicken patty was dry, the meatball sub was flavorless and the bread it was on mostly inedible, the broccoli was overcooked to the point of being lightly browned, I can only assume that the toxic sludge looking stuff was sausage gravy, and one item was so horribly unrecognizable that I actually had to ask what it was. It turned out to be eggs.

In addition, I should mention the terrible indignity that I suffered at the end of both of my meals. In previous years, other companies employed a dishwasher that would take your trays through a window leading to the kitchen and rinse them off into the trash. Now, that window remains closed, and diners are required to scrape their own dishes into humorously mislabeled trashcans and deposit them into stinking filth encrusted plastic tubs themselves. These tubs and uncovered

trashcans are covered with speckles of old food putrefying and attracting flies in the same space people are eating in. You have to look at them, you have to smell them, and worst of all touch them with your hands. This is deplorable and you could never get away with it at any other restaurant.

For a final verdict I give Chartwell's 2/10 stars due to the complete absence of service and the quality of food combined with the laughably high price. If it were anyplace other than one where many students are regrettably forced to eat, I would have paid, looked at the food, turned around, demanded my money back, and left without touching a thing. I've done my review; I'm never eating there again.

Now, to completely change gears, we go from possibly the worst eating establishment within ten miles of the campus to possibly one of the finest restaurants in the Country. I'm referring to the Marietta Diner. The sleek, shimmering stainless steel and neon exterior may convince you that this is only your typical 50's throwback, and you'd be dead wrong.

The Marietta Diner's menu contains over 500 items from around the world. You have your typical diner fare; egg salad sandwiches, Reubens, burgers, shakes, fries. However, you'll also find gourmet Italian, French, and even Greek cuisine. Every dish they serve approaches its absolute perfection. I can't think of a dish I've eaten at the Marietta Diner that wasn't the finest example of that dish I've ever had. To top it all off, the Diner serves their entire menu 24 hours a day. You can get simply marvelous fettuccini alfredo, your friend can get a roast crown of lamb served with rice pilaf, and your other friend can get an omelete all at three in the morning.

They're a tiny bit pricey; plates can exceed thirty dollars on a few exceptionally rare occasions but generally remain between ten and fifteen. However, this price buys you a ludicrously vast portion of surely some of the finest food you've ever eaten. Entrées come with a soup and salad, and at dinner even a complimentary square of spanakopita or spinach pie. (Hound them, demand your spinach pie or buy it as an appetizer if you have to.) On a number of occasions, I've received so much food prior to my meal that I had to ask for a box and take the entire entrée home untouched, simply because I was too full. On the last occasion, I split an appetizer with a friend. I had ordered a panini, but I was unable to take even a taste of the sandwich itself before leaving. The ticket wound up being sixty dollars for the three of us, but my \$20 part paid for three of the finest meals I've had in a long time and a snack. That's how big the panini was. If I can only make one recommendation, however, try the Caribbean Monte Cristo. It's a wrap with turkey, ham, swiss and cheddar cheese that's battered and deep-fried. That will run you less than \$10.

While there, you simply must ogle the cake case by the front register. These are consistently some

of the most beautifully crafted confections I've ever seen. There's also numerous pies and somewhere in the neighborhood of ten varieties of cheesecake available as well. This is really where the Marietta Diner shoots itself in the foot. The portions of food served are so mind-bogglingly huge that none of the customers have any chance of still having room to try any of these marvelous deserts. Just admit you

can't finish it and get your box early, because really the only reason it could be acceptable to destroy cakes so beautiful is to taste them.

I give the Marietta Diner 9/10 stars, when I say that I have never had the honor (or stupendous amount of money) to eat at a restaurant I would rate 10/10. It is simply one of the best restaurants in the United States, and we are inconceivably fortunate to live and go to

school so close to it. To get to the Marietta Diner from the school, go to the newly constructed Main Entrance and continue straight through the light. Make a right turn at the dead-end, and you will soon notice you're in the back of the Marietta Diner's parking lot. It's on Hwy 41, but taking this route you won't even have to contend with that road. It's less than a quarter of a mile away.



Happy Belated Halloween from The Sting to SPSU. Yes, We're aware of the typo here

Comic drawn by: Louis Alderman

Kingdom Hearts: 358/2 Days or as I call it, 358/2 ways to eat ice cream

Louis Alderman
Staff Writer

Welcome to the wonderful world of Disney and Square-Enix. Kingdom Hearts: 358/2 is the fourth story in the Kingdom Hearts saga and the first of the series on the Nintendo DS. The previous games main character is Sora, a youth who searches for his companions and to unravel the mystery and plots surrounding Kingdom Hearts and the villainous Heartless.

358/2 is a prequel to Kingdom Hearts 2 and focuses on a character that appeared only in its opening segments, Roxas. We meet Roxas in 358/2 just as he awakens to what he really is, a special Nobody, or the intelligent remains of a strong person who was slain by a Heartless.

A mysterious group of Nobodies known as Organization XIII invites Roxas into its ranks, making him the 13th member. This seems to fit with what we know of Roxas's past in Kingdom Hearts 2, but a secret story is told in 358/2 about the Organization's unique and diverse members.

The Gameplay is fun, fast and simplified from the familiar PS2 controls. The DS has just a few less buttons than a PS2 controller, so the camera functions, lock-on functions, and shortcut were assigned to the shoulder buttons, though you could use the touch-screen to manually control the camera.

As it is on the DS, I was originally hoping there would be more touch-screen functionality, but the combat glues you to the top screen and any careless use of the touch-screen could prove disastrous. 358/2 also did away with the usual free-roaming experience of the Story Mode of previous games. Instead of wandering around and triggering events, we have the new Mission System that allows you to pick your challenges for each 'day'.

Between each mission you purchase items and upgrades, learn a little about the story, and eat some ice cream. Sea-Salt ice cream to be exact. If you want to hate anything about this game, hate the fact that Roxas and friends can consume massive amounts of ice cream every day for nearly a year and not get cavities.

There is something sweeter than frozen treats in 358/2. As you progress in the story, you unlock special challenges for missions you have already completed and can revisit them for more rewards. It doesn't stop there as each mission becomes a new playground in the Mission Mode. This is where the replay value of this game comes from.

The Story Mode can last you almost 40 hours on its own, but with the right friends you can have limitless multiplayer time. That's right, this is the first time multiplayer has been seen in the Kingdom Hearts games.

While powering through missions with a roster that exceeds just the Organization's members, don't deny yourself the guilty pleasure of hurling a fireball or keyblade at another player. The multiplayer is ultimately a competition to earn the most points and earn extra rewards.

One thing a follower of the KH series will notice is the music selection. As Kingdom Hearts leads us into the worlds of Disney, players of the previous games might have a bit of nostalgia as you are greeted by the familiar themes of each world. That's not just nostalgia in 358/2, much of the musical soundtrack from Kingdom Hearts 2 is used again for familiar locations.

While not quite the graphic buffet the PS2 games were, 358/2 is still impressive for a DS title. They even managed to squeeze a few movie scenes into the smaller space of a DS game. Like the music, many of the worlds you visit have similar, if not identical layouts from the previous games.

Kingdom Hearts: 358/2 Days is an entertaining DS title, and a solid multiplayer game for the system. For gamers already deep within the Kingdom Hearts saga, 358/2 can help bide the time till the day that mysterious Kingdom Hearts 3 might be released.