Gas shortage affects commuters

By Vijai Narayanan Contributing Writer

Patrick Traynor, assistant professor in Computer Science, recently published research suggesting that text-message systems may be ineffective during emergencies.

Traynor said that cellular networks are not designed to deliver large scale messages, and that they are not a very reliable method of doing so. He stated that cell phone systems make it extremely difficult to target users in a specific location. He also said that there is no way to authenticate the source of messages, making them easy to replicate by others.

“There is a lot of misconception about what cell phones can and cannot do,” Traynor said. Currently, cell phone networks are point-to-point systems, meaning the message has to be delivered independently to each recipient. “You can compare this to a situation where I give a lecture independently to every one of my students instead of a whole group,” Traynor said.

He stated that this makes the communication of large-scale messages difficult to deliver effectively. The delivery of multiple warning messages may flood the cell phone networks and make it difficult for people to call in an emergency.

According to Traynor, this problem is currently being researched. New mass messaging technology would allow the broadcast of messages to a large number of cell phones, instead of delivering them point-to-point. This type of capability would solve the problems presented by mass notification systems.

“Instead of giving my lectures individually to each student, this would allow me to broadcast my lectures to a number of students, as I do in my classes,” Traynor said.

Also highlighted was the lack of authentication for cell phone messages, making them subject to fraud. "Any non-technical person, with the right tools, will be able to go in and copy emergency messages and send them out to a large audience. If students believe that the systems are prone to abuse, then they won’t trust them anymore,” Traynor said.

He had several suggestions for alternative procedures that universities could perform to secure themselves in case of an emergency and circumvent the challenges posed by cell phone alert systems.

“Universities must be sure to diversify their communication networks, and to design systems that are resilient against abuse,” Traynor said. "Any system that is vulnerable to fraud will not be trusted by the public. As such, the systems are prone to distrust."

As the demand for gasoline climbs globally, the gas pumps are inflicting more damage than ever to the wallets of Tech students who commute to campus.

Gas prices are rising, and gas stations are experiencing major shortages, forcing commuting students to search around for gas stations that have fuel for their pumps. Gas prices at some of the pumps in the United States began to surpass the $4 per gallon mark in May 2008. According to the Financial Post, economists predict that gas prices will double in North America by 2012. This means that gas prices may be over $7 per gallon in four years.

As more and more people in large emerging countries such as China and India begin using cars, the global demand for oil will continue to rise. According to the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, 2020 will see global oil usage rise 60 percent, and by 2025, the number of cars in the world will have grown to about 1.25 billion from the current 700 million.

Not surprisingly, there are numerous complaints regarding the gas shortage and gas prices from Tech students who have to drive to campus daily. Michael Nahm, fourth-year EE major, is one Tech student who lives off-campus and commutes regularly.

“My gas light went on, and it’s really frustrating because I cannot find any gas station that actually has gas. I just hope I can find one before I stop in the middle of the road,” Nahm said.

Continuing gas shortages and rising gas prices are forcing some Tech students to alter their driving habits.

“I live across the street from campus, so I walk to work anyway. Since I drive less than the average commuter, gas prices affect me less acutely, but the shortage certainly has me thinking about driving more efficiently,” said Joshua Symonds, PHTS graduate student.

BP on North Ave. still sells regular grade gas, but the Chevron on 10th Street took down their displays after running out of fuel.
On Sept. 26, the police were called to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Tech Square about a suspicious person shoplifting books.

When the police arrived at the store, the officer observed a black male stuffing books into his waistband.

The store employee identified the man as the person in question, and the suspect then admitted to stealing books.

The man removed the books, valued in total at $91.95, from his waistband and was placed under arrest.

The books removed from the suspect possession included three copies of *Shack*, a copy of *Approval Addiction* and one copy of *Secret to True Happiness*.

The books recovered from the suspect were returned to Barnes and Noble Bookstore. The police then searched the suspect and transported him to the Fulton County Jail.

A police officer was dispatched to Woodruff Residence Hall regarding a possible use of false identification and underage drinking.

The community advisor (CA) told police and other Housing staff that he observed a student carrying a case of beer into his room. The CA asked if the student was 21 and was handed what later turned out to be a fake ID. The CA checked his hall roster and noted that all of the floor residents were under 21.

When the police arrived, Housing staff members were then allowed by the student to enter the room to search for alcohol. The search revealed three bottles of alcohol and 30 cans of beer.

The student present denied that the alcohol was his and said that it belonged to his roommates. The student was told that he must pour out all of the alcohol in the sink while the staff watched and take all empty containers to the trash. The other student observed earlier was then called on his cellphone and confessed about the fake ID, and was told to meet with Housing staff the next morning to turn in the fake ID. The police remained outside the room throughout the incident and no items were confiscated by police.
Sustainability

There was one bill on the agenda of old business that was presented and debated on in this week’s session. The bill was a Joint Allocation bill to the student organization, Students Organizing for Sustainability. The purpose of the bill was for the funding of two separate events. The first event was a film screening of the documentary “FLOW: The Love of Water.” The second event is a guest speaker from Southface Energy Institute. The bill was postponed last week and was moved through a conference committee. The bill was passed in the UHR this week by a vote of 33-6-1.

New Business

The first bill is a Joint Allocation to Honor Advisory Council. The bill would provide funding to two students chosen to represent Tech at the National Conference on Ethics in America.

The second bill is a Joint Allocation to SGA to purchase a 52” LCD TV for the SGA office to displaying advertisements for SGA events and meetings.

Another new bill is a Joint Allocation bill for the Clemson Game Georgia Tech Smart Tailgate at Georgia Tech. The event is a collaboration between Clemson and Georgia Tech to help promote a safe, non-alcoholic event where students can celebrate the game.

Next, there is a Joint Allocation bill to the Georgia Tech Golf Club, which is requesting funding for tournament fees for the Second Conference Golf Tournament in North Carolina.

The last bill is a Joint Allocation to the Georgia Tech Wrestling Club. This bill would provide funding for new uniforms and equipment to be used this year.

Stingerette still coping with an influx of new riders

Despite the new Stingerette operating hours announced earlier this semester to help make the on-demand shuttle service more useful to students, some have found the service to be unreliable and difficult to use in the last month, especially around the first three weeks of the semester.

Reports of long wait times for the Stingerette and absent dispatchers has frustrated those students who use the service to get safely across campus after dark.

“They rarely pick up their phones,” said Shazia Mohammad, fourth-year CHBE major. “I tried for two hours straight around 1:30 a.m., one night and no one picked up.” Other students, including Mohammad, recalled previous semesters with less-than-stellar service and schedule consistently prompt difficulty reaching the Stingerette dispatcher, as well as the wait times for rides,” said Williamson.

“The increase in demand is the principal cause of people having difficulty reaching the Stingerette dispatcher, as well as the wait times for rides,” Williamson said.

Williamson described that from around the beginning of August to mid-September, the Stingerette has taken 5,825 call requests and transported 2,592 riders around campus.

These numbers represent a 42 percent increase in call requests and a 32 percent increase in riders utilizing the Stingerette service. This increase in demand for the service has put increased strain on the current ability of the dispatchers and drivers to coordinate and schedule consistently prompt and efficient service according to Williamson.

Current data from Parking and Transportation shows that the Stingerette staff is able to respond to about 50 percent of all calls for service within five minutes, and about 80 percent of all call requests within ten to eleven minutes. At times the number of calls exceeds the supply capacity. This is the cause of many of the backups, delays and unanswered calls that many students have experienced.

Fortunately, the service has been getting better and more reliable as of late, despite the increasingly heavy demand.

“The Stingerette was not working for the first three weeks of

Breaking the Bubble

A lot of things went on outside the bubble of Tech in the past week. Here are a few important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

China conducts first ever space walk

China successfully launched its flight crew for its first space walk. Zhai Zhigang became the first Chinese person to walk in space. The space walk was the highlight of the 68-hour mission, reported Sky News. This mission marked China’s third manned mission in space.

The purpose of this recent flight, which launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China’s northwestern region of Inner Mongolia last Thursday, centered around performing a 13 minute space walk to retrieve a rack on the outside of the orbital module.

The space walk also served as a training exercise for future missions in hopes of developing a space station. The flight returned back to Earth successfully Sunday afternoon.

China has become the third country, after Russia and the United States, to launch a manned spacecraft, with its first manned flight in 2003, according to the Associated Press.

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New housing option to promote community learning

By Kaitlin Goodrich
Staff Writer

Housing is currently gearing up preparations for a Living Learn-
ing Communities (LLCs) initiative that will bring in its first group of residents in Fall 2009. The LLCs will consist of students living together that have a similar interest in a specific topic that will be selected by a faculty member. The faculty member will be in charge of creating programming related to the topic of their LLC and acting as a mentor to the stu-
dents.

“Faculty will plan diverse programming for the students... Opportunities to interact with the faculty will range from informal weekly coffee hours to biweekly programmatic events that possibly include finding speakers or taking students on outings related to their subject,” said Dana Hartley, director of undergraduate studies and co-chair of LLC task force.

“There really are no specific re-

quirements for what programs will entail, only that both students and faculty stay involved and are actively planning, programming, and placing (pun intended) for their LLC.”

This initiative was started in response to a study that was com-
misioned by Tech this past year on issues specifically relating to the sophomore experience. One of the major finds of the study was that many Tech students felt a disconnect between themselves and the faculty.

The task force conducting the study decided that students would benefit from a chance to interact with faculty on a purely non-acade-

mic level.

The LLCs were then proposed as a way to promote more informal interactions with faculty, as well as a way for students to be more engaged with learning sub-
jects they might otherwise never explore in their normal course of study.

“Tech does a really good job of teaching students a certain field, but sometimes the world view it gives us is limited. These learning communities will give students a wider scope of knowledge they will need when they graduate,” said Jimmy Williams, second-year BME major and student representa-
tive on the task force.

The format of the LLCs’ pro-

gramming will be based on the current structure of other, similar living communities, such as the International House. Activities will include weekly coffee hours with the professor and biweekly programs. In addition, each LLC will have required retreats before the semester begins and celebratory dinner at the end of each semester, to further increase the interaction of the participants.

Logistics of the actual LLCs are still in the process of being worked out. The plan is for each LLC to have between 50 and 100 students and live in a location with good central meeting places.

“We’re not sure yet exactly where the LLCs will be located, but we do not think that all of them will be in one building... We want to offer them in both apart-

ments and more traditional housing, in order to appeal to a wider range of students,” said Dan Mor-

rison, director of residential life in Housing and co-chair of the LLC task force.

The actual topics of the learn-

ing communities are still to be determined. Faculty are currently submitting proposals for LLC top-

cics and programming.

In November, a review board will select the best proposals put forth by the faculty for LLCs and let students know what topics are offered. The students will also be informed of who the faculty spon-
sors will be for each topic of interest. At that time, students can begin to think about applying for Fall 2009.

In the interim, the LLC task force is encouraging students to recommend any professors they hope will participate in the pro-
gram.

“While we are developing the idea of these living learning communities, we really want to get student input, so that we can be sure what we are doing will really achieve what we hope to achieve in improving upperclassman experience,” Hartley said.

Messages

from page 1

tion systems for the event of an

emergency,” he said. “Campuses

must be sure to utilize e-mail, cam-
pus TV and other forms of media to communicate with stu-
dents and faculty. There is noth-
ing a university like Tech can do to fix the problems with existing cell phone technology.”

Andy Altizer, director of Emer-

gency Preparedness, outlined sev-

eral of the things Tech is doing in

emergency preparedness:

1. Georgia Tech’s GTENS (Georgia

Tech Emergency Notification

System) has a dedicated server

set apart from the campus net-

work. This will allow the system
to work if the campus network

is down.

2. Siren Warning System, email.  And, we also can use the

uses text, phone message and

cell phone technology.”

3. Tech does a really good job of teaching students a certain field, but sometimes the world view it gives us is limited. These learning communities will give students a wider scope of knowledge they will need when they graduate,” said Jimmy Williams, second-year BME major and student representa-
tive on the task force.

4. “Tech does a really good job of teaching students a certain field, but sometimes the world view it gives us is limited. These learning communities will give students a wider scope of knowledge they will need when they graduate,” said Jimmy Williams, second-year BME major and student representa-
tive on the task force.

5. “Our system is more than text

In addition, Altizer and his de-

partment are planning numerous

additions to GTENS. Starting in

November, the department plans on creating an emergency hotline, which students and faculty could call during a crisis situation to get help.

“We expect everyone to keep an eye on the situation during an emergency, and not totally rely on emergency alerts for information during these fast developing situa-
tions. Emergency notification will continue to be a priority at Tech,” Altizer said. “We have a staff member that has emergency notification as a major job responsi-
bility. We have an emergency notification working group that meets monthly, another emergen-

cy preparedness committee that meets monthly and we even meet semi-annually with the Atlantic

Coast Conference committee to discuss emergency notification and other relevant topics.”

Dwelling Studies

Hugh Crawford and Ron Broglio will discuss dwelling studies as a set of discipline and pedagogical practices around growing cultural issues such as home and food. Dwelling studies examines how we engage with the earth so as to fashion a world and worldview. As a methodology, dwelling studies uses phenomenology to examine a variety of ecologies and economies of human comportment in order to further living well. The presentation will introduce the audience to this field of study and provide examples of scholarship and student work at Georgia Tech.

By Kaitlin Goodrich
Staff Writer

TUESDAY TALKS

Dwelling Studies

Hugh Crawford and Ron Broglio will discuss dwelling studies as a set of discipline and pedagogical practices around growing cultural issues such as home and food. Dwelling studies examines how we engage with the earth so as to fashion a world and worldview. As a methodology, dwelling studies uses phenomenology to examine a variety of ecologies and economies of human comportment in order to further living well. The presentation will introduce the audience to this field of study and provide examples of scholarship and student work at Georgia Tech.

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Hugh Crawford, Ph.D.
Professor
School of Literature, Communication, and Culture
Ivan Allen College
Georgia Institute of Technology

Tuesday Talks is a series of lectures sponsored by the Georgia Tech Library featuring research presented by Georgia Tech Faculty for the rest of us... Questions? email: pgroup@library.gatech.edu

Georgia Tech Library and Information Center

Hugh Crawford, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
School of Literature, Communication, and Culture
Ivan Allen College
Georgia Institute of Technology

Tuesday, October 7, 2008
2:30 to 3:30 pm
Neely Lobby

Library and Information Center

Neely Lobby
**Stingerette** from page 3

school, but it started back up at the beginning of last week,” Mohamad said. “They even pick up the phone now!”

Given that there have been changes with the Stingerette operation hours, combined with the increased awareness toward possible criminal activity, more students have chosen to use the Stingerette.

“Meeting the needs of this type of growth in demand is a daily challenge for our staff, and I would ask that riders be patient during this adjustment period,” Williamson said. Additionally, many students have experienced problems with long, inconsistent wait times for the Stinger buses, especially at the beginning of the semester.

According to Williamson there are many factors that are beyond the control of Parking. The beginning of the fall semester is harder for our staff, and students have chosen to use the limited number of buses. “We are aware of the issue,” Williamson said. He advised that simply hiring more buses would clog the system more.

The current on-time performance of the bus service is at around 70 percent. “This is not where we want to be. We want something around 80 percent,” Williamson said.

Parking is looking into the problem of over-capacity, which occurs when a bus is unable to stop to pick up new riders because it is too full. The current contract with First Transit Company, which operates Tech’s bus services, ends in a year, and Parking is looking into getting larger buses.

There are other options that Parking is hoping to implement to help riders use the bus services more easily and efficiently, such as having more NextBus interactive maps like the one at the Student Center information desk, as well as possibly having text messaging services to find bus locations and stop times.

**Printing** from page 1

“With Pharos, this will no longer be a problem.” OIT is currently working on a mobile printing system, which would allow students to print from their laptops anywhere on campus. Also, Pharos is being expanded beyond the library and student center to the colleges and departments. The College of Architecture and the School of Civil Engineering have already agreed to adopt the new system.

For students who do not need their printouts urgently, Central Printing is still available free of charge. Printing to Central Printing is unlimited, provided that the materials are of an academic nature. The print jobs are released in the Printing and Copying Services Building and transported to the library three times a day.

“Of course, Central Printing should not be used for mass copying or printing material that is unrelated to coursework,” said Scott Perkins, manager of Printing and Copying Services. “All students pay the Tech fee, so we try to be as cost-effective as possible.”

OIT has recently come under fire for not consulting SGA and the student body before making the transition from GT Print to Pharos. However, this miscommunication was only the result of an oversight, the student government is now fully committed to partnering with OIT and bringing student input into future developments.

“We look forward to working with OIT and we’ll make sure that students have a voice in any future decisions,” said Robert McEntyre, Vice President of Campus Affairs.

**Gas** from page 1

“I try not to idle and make lighter use of the brake and gas pedals. I’ve also tried to accomplish more errands in the same trip.”

Some students maintain that their driving habits have not been significantly affected by the gas issue. “My driving habits have been only slightly affected. Until we reach the point that there is absolutely zero gas in Atlanta, I will keep going out to eat and driving around campus,” said Garrett Gresham, third-year ME major.

The main reason behind the shortage of gas was due to large power outages at the Gulf Coast refineries and storage facilities, reported BusinessWeek.

“Crude oil refineries on the Gulf Coast, which provide the majority of the oil supply to the southeast region, underwent major disruptions in production due to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike last month. The two hurricanes forced oil companies to close down the pipelines.”

The pipelines were ready to transport oil to the southeast, but the lack of electricity prevented the oil companies from transporting the oil from both existing reserves to the refineries and storage locations in the southeast.

While many of the refineries are up and running again now after the storms have passed, not all of them are getting enough oil to return to full capacity.

According to Sterling Skinner Jr., director of Instructional Laboratories at the School of Mechanical Engineering, the rising gas prices can be explained by inflation. Considering gas prices as adjusted for inflation, the actual cost of gas is not significantly different from that of 70 years ago said Skinner.

“The real problem is that our dollar just isn’t worth much on the world market anymore, so everything that is traded globally is more expensive for us. That goes for steel, copper, wheat, rice, and bananas, as well as crude oil,” Skinner said.

He said the US dollar’s value has depreciated due to the prevalent debt of the American economy, which inevitably drove up the gas prices.

“I think that the gas prices are still very cheap. Just think about the energy needed to move 3500lbs chunk of steel a distance of 20 miles. Wouldn’t you expect to pay more than $4.50 for such a chore? Our cars do that quietly and effortlessly with air conditioning and the radio playing and with leather seats... and we still complain,” Skinner said.

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Nick, can we please do something about the lines at Six Flags. Miserable.

I <3 Andrew GT HERO VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT!!!

TokyoS on the 1st! Bohying never died!

Hey, what’s going on at Under the Couch on Thursdays at 8?

Did happy couple break up?

BEAVERD MAN WITH A COWBOY HAT, YOU SHAVED (somewhat)?

Sleepover at PKP? Just when you thought the Sketchy couldn’t get (somewhat)!

BEARDED MAN WITH A COWBOY HAT, YOU SHAVED

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**An educational experience that goes beyond the classroom**
As Tech continues to expand each fall semester, Parking and Transportation has proven unable to effectively adapt to the Institute’s growing needs and changing circumstances. More than ever before, this semester students have been disappointed by the unreliability and ineffectiveness of the Stinger, Tech Trolley and Stingerette services. Currently, students tell frustrated stories of late and overcrowded Stingers, trolleys that do not stop—even when there is room, unanswered pickup requests and estimated wait times that seem to be wild guesses more than sound calculations.

Unlike other transportation systems, including many at other universities, Tech’s Stingers and trolleys do not operate on a timetable. For students, the absence of a strict time schedule turns what should be an expected routine into guesswork. For drivers, it makes adhering to route times a more flexible option. In the end, a lack of emphasis on punctuality hurts the system. While expensive GPS systems were installed to provide estimates of the wait times between Stinger and trolley stops, they have failed to adhere to a predictable schedule on which students can effectively rely.

This is of particular concern when the vast majority of students require campus transportation between the 55 and five of the hour, when they are rushing to get from class to class or trying to return home. There should be an emphasis on routes during these times—for example, by reducing the Stinger route cycle from the established “six or seven” minutes to exactly every three minutes—which could then be adjusted during times of lower usage.

Clearly, Parking and Transportation has had to deal with problems of construction and traffic around the Tech area, but these are entirely predictable factors that can be taken into account in advance in order to optimize the system and ensure its promptness and reliability. Further, with increased enrollment and extended Stingerette hours, the rapid rise in demand should come as no surprise. Adequate prior preparation would have prevented the current shortcomings.

When Stingers are only on time about 70 percent of the time, new ideas and solutions should be explored. Other universities, for instance, hire students as drivers. Doing so creates much-needed student employment opportunities, and a more flexible market devoid of unions allows stricter standards to be enforced.

At an institution renowned for innovation and excellence in engineering, there is no reason why the transportation system that thousands of students rely on should be so frustratingly ineffective.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.
I’m one of those kids who lived in the same house all his life before college. My parents settled down in South Atlanta shortly before I was born, perhaps because they loved the sound of planes landing and taking off from the world’s busiest airport, or maybe it was the dysfunctional Clayton County school system.

I make it sound a lot worse than it really was. I had a great, happy childhood and was perfectly content living there, but as I started applying to colleges, my view of the universe began to expand. I realized the good ol’ clichés of my familiar bubble I called home.

College has given me the opportunity to experience more in the past three years than I could have ever imagined. Of course there’s the typical “going to college” stuff: I met a bunch of awesome friends, learned how to live on my own, figured out a way to balance partying with studying (still working on that, actually) and got involved in really cool things that I genuinely am passionate about.

But for me, the “x-factor” of my college experience has been international travel through study abroad programs. I went on my first study abroad the summer after my freshman year, hopping on a plane to Asia literally a day after my last final. Throughout the summer, I studied the political economy of East Asia, traveling through multiple countries with classes in unconventional places like a plastics factory, a bus or a boat.

While I gained valuable information in class, my best memories are of wandering through different locales sampling the local cuisine, bargaining for a trinket or two and soaking in different cultures that are so strikingly dissimilar to American culture.

I live for those chaotic, packed streets where I can feel the city living and breathing all around me. I also live for the quieter sanctuary of ancient temples and breathtaking scenery that makes me marvel at how diverse our world truly is.

When I got home after almost two and a half months, I couldn’t help but think to myself, “I’ve got to do this again.”

And so I did. This past summer I decided to blow all my co-op money on a three-month study abroad program based in France, and much like my Asia experience, it was worth every penny. Over the course of the summer I visited 15 different countries, pretty adequately covering most of Western Europe and a chunk of Central and Eastern Europe.

The experience was completely different—in fact, I can’t even compare the two because it’s like comparing a croissant to a pineapple. They share few commonalities except that they are both tasty. The architecture pretty much everywhere in Europe caused me to utter more than my fair share of “ohs” and “ahs” as I hopped from country to country.

After getting back from my three-month adventure in Europe, it did indeed feel like this again.

“I live for those chaotic, packed streets where I can feel the city living and breathing all around me.”

Jonathan Saethang
Development Editor

Worldwide travels create yearning for more

OUR VIEWS

Free flu shots

There is no excuse for students to get a flu this fall. Health Services is offering the vaccine at various locations around campus, including the North Avenue Apartments and the Student Center. Best of all, the flu shots are free and convenient. They are paid for by the student health fee, and same-day appointments can be made through the new online appointment system.

Printing restrictions

Students have complained about the changes made to CT Print, which were made without consulting SGA or the student body. Rollover is no longer allowed, and students who had gotten used to accumulating 100 pages a year will miss the extra benefit. Being required to log in and swipe BuzzCards has also added another hassle to students printing on the go.

Vandalized Buzzes

Continued vandalism of the Buzz Around Town statuary has proven frustrating. Some of the 25 statues celebrating Tech have been vandalized and ties ripped off, which were going to be auctioned to benefit the Tech organization. This shows a lack of respect for public property and school spirit.

“Vandalized Buzzes Continued vandalism of the Buzz Around Town statuary has proven frustrating. Some of the 25 statues celebrating Tech have been vandalized and ties ripped off, which were going to be auctioned to benefit the Tech organization. This shows a lack of respect for public property and school spirit.”

Ben Johnson
Third-year AE

BUZZ Around the Campus

How safe do you feel on campus?

Dianna Earles
Third-year BIOL

“Very safe...because I’m a ninja.”

Adam Weiss
Fourth-year AE and INTA

“I feel safer inside North Avenue than the rest of campus.”

Ben Johnson
Third-year AE

“I feel very safe, but I’m made.”

Grace Liang
Fifth-year IE

“How do [feel safe]—in certain areas.”

Photo by Blake Israel

OPINIONS

“Out-of-state tuition not fair”

Letters to the Editor

With the coming budget deficit this year, everyone is preparing for increased tuition and complaining about higher costs.

After reading the Technique’s reported tuition for in-state and out-of-state ($4,496 and $22,220 respectively), it has become apparent that the majority of students are unaffected by tuition raises.

According to the College Board, the averages of in-state and out-of-state tuitions are $6,185 and $16,640, a ratio of about 2.7 to 1. Tech sports a staggering 4.9 to 1 ratio of tuition. That translates to about 40% of the students paying 75% of the tuition.

The simple solution would be to just “go somewhere else.” Unfortunately for me, the only top-ranked engineering school located in my state (Pennsylvania) is Carnegie-Mellon, a private school with no in-state tuition discounts.

Since I am an ME [major], I am not eligible for academic common market. So why is the only solution for me to get a quality engineering education to pay out the nose for it? I do not argue that in-state students should pay less, since it is their tax dollars and their parents’ tax dollars that fund the Georgia education system. But why such a wide disparity? Other Georgia schools like UGA (ratio of 3.7:1) and Georgia State (4:1) don’t require nonresidents to foot as much of the bill.

To make matters worse, soon I will have paid Georgia state taxes for more than a year and could even have my car registered in Georgia, and yet I will not be eligible for in-state tuition [while] a person who lived...

“I feel safer inside North Avenue than the rest of campus.”

Third-year AE

“Out-of-state tuition not fair”

With the coming budget deficit this year, everyone is preparing for increased tuition and complaining about higher costs.

After reading the Technique’s reported tuition for in-state and out-of-state ($4,496 and $22,220 respectively), it has become apparent that the majority of students are unaffected by tuition raises.

According to the College Board, the averages of in-state and out-of-state tuitions are $6,185 and $16,640, a ratio of about 2.7 to 1. Tech sports a staggering 4.9 to 1 ratio of tuition. That translates to about 40% of the students paying 75% of the tuition.

The simple solution would be to just “go somewhere else.” Unfortunately for me, the only top-ranked engineering school located in my state (Pennsylvania) is Carnegie-Mellon, a private school with no in-state tuition discounts.

“I am not eligible for academic common market. So why is the only solution for me to get a quality engineering education to pay out the nose for it? I do not argue that in-state students should pay less, since it is their tax dollars and their parents’ tax dollars that fund the Georgia education system. But why such a wide disparity? Other Georgia schools like UGA (ratio of 3.7:1) and Georgia State (4:1) don’t require nonresidents to foot as much of the bill.

To make matters worse, soon I will have paid Georgia state taxes for more than a year and could even have my car registered in Georgia, and yet I will not be eligible for in-state tuition [while] a person who lived...

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Finding what makes you ‘exceptional’ key to success

Those of you as addicted to National Public Radio as I am have doubtless heard the News from Lake Wobegon, a segment of long-running radio series A Prairie Home Companion. The segment describes life in a fictional town (Lake Wobegon, pronounced woe-be-gone), where “all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking and all the children are above average.”

Thanks to this famous quote, this fictional Minnesota town has loosed its name to a well-studied psychological occurrence: the better-than-average (Lake Wobegon) effect. In essence, it claims that a significant majority of people say they are above average in a wide variety of categories like driving skills, writing skills and leadership. That, of course, is a mathematical impossibility.

This failure to accurately appraise ourselves is a common trait of American society, which almost universally teaches children to feel like they are “above average” from a young age. This is particularly prevalent in athletics, where even at a young age. This is particularly prevalent in athletics, where even at a young age. This is particularly prevalent in athletics, where even at a young age. This is particularly prevalent in athletics, where even at a young age. This is particularly prevalent in athletics, where even at a young age. This is particularly prevalent in athletics, where even at a young age.

In my mind, I define “exceptional” in a somewhat different way: an exceptional person, product, company or group is one that is at least a little bit better on average in an interesting combination of ways. The word exceptional, after all, comes from the same root as exception, something that is, for whatever reason, omitted from a group. Would it not be preferable to exclude yourself from a group entirely and have people evaluate you on a unique scale, rather than finding yourself mired down in the morass of competition?

With it being well established that people are rather awful at evaluating themselves, however, the best way to identify and accentuate what you are exceptional at remains an unsolved problem. I, unfortunately, have not solved it either (or I’d have a job by now), but I do have two thoughts on how to go about it.

First, you cannot be exceptional if you are not focusing on the things that truly matter to you. A person can easily become adequate at a subject they don’t care about, and in some disciplines perhaps that will even get them a modicum of success. But people, clients and customers can tell when a person is—and is not—truly passionate about something, and it affects the ability to be exceptional in that field.

The second is that if you are trying to stand out, it might be best to pick an area that everyone else isn’t trying to stand out in at the same time. One should try to be ahead of the curve, not following it—all of the people who decided they could be exceptional real estate agents a few years ago would vouch for that.

In the end, though, the most important thing you can do is to just keep the exceptional question in mind.

Letters from page 7

here for one year before coming to Tech will be eligible for it. Never mind that I have already paid almost five times what they have for three years now, I am simply ineligible for in-state tuition for no reason other than I am a full-time student. Even budget-wise it doesn’t make sense to keep the tuition gap so wide. If Tech were to increase in-state tuition to the national average, an increase of $1,689, it would result in more than $13.3 million to the school. When faced with a minimum budget deficit of $17 million, that’s nothing to laugh at. Tech should re-examine its tuition rates and considering cutting the out-of-state students a little slack.

Chris Radomile Fourth-year ME

Cigarette addiction

I am writing in response to the opinion piece on smokers (On-campus smokers prove frustrating, Sept. 26). Although I am not a smoker myself, I know several smokers who struggle with quitting. Contrary to popular belief, most smokers are aware of the risks. Do not think that they don’t see the facts. Looking attractive or cool has nothing to do with it [and] after a while, it becomes a serious problem.

What people don’t know about is the nicotine addiction itself; otherwise they would understand that it physically hurts when my friends don’t get their fix. Most non-smokers live under the impression that it’s simply mind over matter, but how does one reconcile this when your mind is the one with the problem?

Have some sympathy, you only have to deal with the smell for a few scant seconds before the smell goes away and you can get back to your fresh air. Second-hand smoke won’t kill you in those brief moments that you pass by them, holding your breath. Maybe the author should have done more research before writing this misinformed editorial.

Patrick Bradshaw Fourth-year IAML

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Gun rights play role in election

By Yameen Huq
Contributing Writer

As election day nears, many Tech students will analyze the candidates’ stances on key issues in an attempt to choose the best person for the presidency. For some, this means looking at the presidential candidates’ policies regarding gun rights. Security issues—whether on a person’s individual level or on a national level—affect Americans directly. Those for gun control believe that reducing the supply of guns is necessary to fight crime and keep guns away from criminals. Those against gun control argue that it is ineffective and gives an advantage to lawbreakers who obtain guns through illegal channels over law-abiding citizens. Ultimately, both candidates have the safety of the people as their top concern, but differ in their way of implementing it. One side sees equality under police and government as the answer, the other emphasizes the individual’s right to bear arms.

Democratic Party candidate Barack Obama has been moderate on the issue of gun control, when compared to some other Democrats who tend to lean towards the extreme end of the gun control spectrum. Obama supports the Second Amendment and the decision of the Supreme Court to defend gun rights from the national government. However, he has strongly supported the rights of local and state governments to determine how

Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off

By Anastasia Marchenkova
Contributing Writer

Hispanic Business magazine has named Tech as the number one program for Hispanic Engineering graduate programs. The diversity of the Institute is undergoing massive growth in the size and quality of Hispanic education, and Hispanics are by far the fastest growing ethnic class at Tech. National Hispanic Heritage Month began on September 15th and will last for 31 days. Seven countries, including Mexico, Chile, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica have their independence days within this one-month period. Columbus Day also falls within this time period.

This celebration began as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 and was expanded into a full month observance in 1988. The term “Hispanic” is actually an ethnic term which encompasses people of many different races and origins and does not refer to one specific race; it refers to all Spanish-speaking areas of the world.

This year, Tech welcomes 126 new Hispanic freshmen to campus, in addition to the 888 that made up the Tech Hispanic population in the fall of 2007. At Tech, there are many different Latino organizations. One of the largest is the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), an on campus organization that helps Hispanics network within the job industry and provides a career forum to develop business skills. The SHPE chapter at Tech has about 110 members as of fall 2008. Jonathan Duarte, a fourth-year IE major, president of the SHPE Tech chapter for ’08-’09, says “[SHPE] is a little bit different. We are one of the strongest chapters [in the nation], due to the sheer number of members and support of the companies.” Companies, including GE, HP, Xerox, Delta, Lockheed Martin and many others, frequently run informational sessions on skills such as building resumes and interviewing.

“The idea of [SHPE] is not to make us feel better about ourselves but to collaborate,” Duarte said. In addition to more formal career fairs and company recruiting events, the companies interact with SHPE students in an informal setup to

Band prepares for Thanksgiving Day Parade

By Sarah Boling
Contributing Writer

With over 400 registered student organizations and numerous programs such as study abroad, work abroad, co-op and more, students at Tech are afforded opportunities here that they will likely never experience. The 365 members of the Yellow Jacket Marching Band are about to add another very memorable experience to their repertoire.

Next month, the band will be travelling to New York City to march in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade as one of only two college bands invited. It is the first time ever that the Yellow Jacket Marching Band has been invited to perform in this prestigious event.

“Every year, Macy’s accepts applications for the Parade. Applicants must submit a video, CD, photos, and a letter,” said Chris Moore, director of athletic bands. “Applications must be submitted two years in advance, so we planned ahead in hopes of performing for our 100th year anniversary.”

This year indeed marks 100 years since the original 14-member Georgia Tech band was formed by Robert “Biddy” Bidez, a textile major from Mobile, AL. The band’s hope is to continue their centennial by marching in the Thanksgiving Parade, as it is now a reality, and as Tech students know, all too well, reality almost always induces some level of stress.

“We’re currently over $100,000 short of our fundraising goal, which means we’re about two-thirds of the way there,” Moore said. Seeming optimistic, he added, “We deeply appreciate all of the fans and alumni who have shown their support by donating.”

Donating money is easy, and all of the necessary information can be found by going to www.gatech.edu and clicking the “March to Manhattan” link at the top right of the page. The funds will cover the cost of transportation, hotel and food expenses. The band directors anticipate this performance being one of many high-profile opportunities to share their music programs with the Tech community. In addition to accepting donations, the Yellow Jacket Marching Band is raising money through paid performances.

“We do a lot of outside performances with corporations. They pay us to play at their special events. The drum line has also played with Keith Urban three times, as well as with Kenny Chesney and Sugarland,” Moore said. “Additionally, we will be putting on a Homecoming concert called Surrounded Sound at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24, in the First Center.”

While logistics are undeniably important, the band must also, of course, be both musically and technically ready to march on national television. Since they will be playing familiar songs such as Tech’s fight song and some selections from the program show, additional practices are not necessary.

“The band meets as a class, so we’re mostly just incorporating our preparation for the Thanksgiving Parade into that practice time,” Moore said. “One additional practice that we will be having is on October 5th. They’re closing off West Peachtree Street so that we can get a feel for what marching down a city street will actually be like. Macy’s requires us to submit a video of what our exact routine looks like, so we’ll tape that rehearsal and send it in.”

For those who, thus far in life, have not religiously watched the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade every year, this is definitely the year to start. Like every float in the parade, the band will march along the parade route and then

The Yellow Jacket Marching Band will perform in Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. They are now fundraising to finance the trip.
Guns from page 9
much gun control is desirable. For example, in his home state of Illi- nois, he endorsed a gun ban that made it illegal for people to carry concealed weapons in public. This was particularly important for Illi- nois because the state, including the city of Chicago, is already hotbeds of crime and violence.

He qualified this ban by allowing retired police officers the right to carry concealed weapons. At the same time, he also sup- ported regulations in the weapons industry, encouraging "common- sense regulation" on gun licensing such as background checks as well as limiting gun purchases to one gun per month. The latter belief was put into practice with a bill he cosponsored in Illinois to limit gun purchases.

Keeping in line with progressive values, Obama has emphasized that uplifting the economy and changing society is the treatment America needs to reduce crime, as opposed to the temporary han- dage he believes gun rights give. He believes in punishing the gun dealers who provide weapons on the street, letting them fall into the hands of the youth. He has criticized the president for not re- newing the assault weapons ban, a previously "hot-butter" issue from the 2004 presidential election.

While in the Senate, Obama has continued to fight against the gun society, voting no on the pro- hibition of lawsuits against gun manufacturers. His ultimate be- lief on gun control is that stopping the illegal street sale of guns is the best way to reduce crime.

McCain has taken the oppos- ing view, standing behind the Second Amendment as the right to defend oneself. Despite being a war hero, he admits to not own- ing a gun but defends the rights of other individuals to do so. He sees nothing wrong with law-abiding citizens who own guns, but advo- cates strong prosecution against those who abuse guns illegally. Throughout his career, he has always emphasized punish- ing the criminals rather than the means by which they break the law. Over the years, gun rights advocates have voiced the opinion that people kill people, not guns. However, McCain's policies on high powered assault weapons laws have been slightly less consistent. McCain has spoken against as- sault weapons and cheap guns, and he also voted against the as- sault weapons ban that Bush did not renew.

"I oppose any law requiring registration of, or restricting the manufacture of...firearms or ammunition to law- abiding citizens."

Bob Barr
Libertarian Candidate for President

He has supported the requir- ing of safety locks and the Youth Violence Prevention Act, which restricted guns from children. To qualify that, McCain has previ- ously voted "yes" on allowing guns sold without trigger locks. Staying true to his conservative roots, McCain has emphasized the rule of law focusing on penal- ties for gun violations even if the transgressors who have broken the law. McCain in emphasizes change in society as a better way to alleviate crime than armed citizenry.

Differing from Obama's social approach, he has taken a moral values-oriented approach, stating that violent web sites and media are also a major cause of violent crime in the United States. McCain has also emphasized the importance of self-defense and liberty, but agrees with Obama that changing the status quo is a must.

Third-party candidates have their own stances on gun rights. Libertarian presidential candi- date Bob Barr, during his tenure in Congress, supported banning lawsuits against gun manufactur- ers and attempted to decrease the gun waiting period from three days to one.

They oppose any law requiring registration of, or restricting the ownership, manufacture or trans- fer sale of firearms or ammunition to law-abiding citizens," said Barr on his campaign website.

Constitution Party candidate Chuck Baldwin is a member of Gun Owners of America and the National Rifle Association while at the same time stating that buy- ing guns protects liberty.

Green Party candidate Cynthia McKinney has taken an opposing view, going against decreasing the gun waiting period and encourag- ing lawsuits against gun manu- facturers for misuse. McKinney's views are in line with Obama's while Baldwin and Barr have taken a more conservative stance than McCain.

Although Tech's campus is a weapon free zone, students may be interested in gun rights be- cause of the nature of our urban environment, especially in light of the student massacres throughout other campuses such as Virginia Tech.

Whether students see guns as the answer or the problem could potentially determine who they vote for the next president: Obama, who holds guns owners and believes the right to bear arms and the right to self-defense, or one of the third- party candidates.

Why is it when I'm walking, all these girls seem to always get in my way so I actually have to look in the eye to see where they're going? I'm normally a really friendly guy but for some reason I have this need to be an asshole to everyone I see. So what does it mean if a girl consistently speaks to you at least 3 times a day on facebook? hey if a girl throws herself at me, sorry dude but I got to throw myself back at her. She's not going for you. Hey Makeup Girl, WHY SO SERIOUS? ISYE 3770- I'm going to dominate you! i can't wait for APOPA bowling on friday! Strengthening National Defenses (Chavez and Iran) without fear of our overstretched military, Failing Education System, Millions with- out Healthcare, And you're voting for fourth to dead last graduate at the naval academy and a mayor of a 9,000 populated town? cs quote of the week: this is like myspace No Money for Social Security, Gas prices, Poor Relief to Natural Disasters, Outsourcing of Jobs and Companies, and you're seri- ously considering voting for a MILF and a family who made mil- lions off the sale of America's Beer, Budweiser? Hispanic NCS Induction Ceremony September 29, 2008 STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM! Come to NCS Induction Ceremony on September 29, 2008! NCS Induction Ceremony Sept 29! lol at berinhout To the girl watching Girls next door in the NAA gym, my names Jon and i was like to meet you. I cant believe you watch a show like that! LOL! T-Book is coming... -next week. Freshmen, be on the lookout for your FREE copy! shut up about gen chem... seriously the class is for retards and you freshmen suck i kissed a boy and i liked it wwwowo
play, standing stationary, in front of Macy’s for one minute and 15 seconds. Moore hopes to use this time in the spotlight, as well as the trip as a whole, to get Tech noticed. “We’re going to try to get on Good Morning America and any other televised show that we can, to let people know that Georgia Tech is in town,” Moore said. “This is going to be a fun trip, but we’re also on a mission to promote Tech.”

The band will be leaving campus on Sunday, November 23rd, and will start driving back immediately after the parade on Thursday. “We’re taking buses because flying 400 people, including staff, to New York is not realistic from a financial standpoint,” Moore said. Band members may see a show together on Broadway one night and will have some time Monday through Wednesday for sightseeing, but it is clear that these are secondary to the goal of getting Tech’s name out as much as possible.

“We are excited to be going, honored to have been chosen and hope to represent Georgia Tech and the city of Atlanta,” Moore said.

Hispanic

allow students a chance to talk with the company representatives in a less stressful environment. SHPE is not only a professional organization, it is a way to meet students and other people, as well as help the community. “It is a way to make friends of the same path or background,” Duarte said.

The support within the organization also extends to companies offering scholarships to students excelling in engineering. SHPE has two directors of recruiting for the organization, who are in charge of organizing events such as “Latino Welcome Week” to recruit new Tech Hispanics into the organization as well as tutoring inner-city Atlanta students in math and science.

But what makes Tech the number one graduate program for engineering? According to Patricio Vela, an assistant professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the faculty advisor for SHPE, it’s the fact that Georgia has a vested interest in making Tech the leading university in the state and that Tech has a positive impact on the local economy and global research. The state support for education, which includes scholarships, allows more students than ever to choose Tech as the place for their undergraduate and graduate education.

“The value of the PhD is undervalued in general,” Vela said. Tech holds access to research facilities that many other schools do not have, like the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). Duarte said that when at local and state career fairs, “it is great to see how people react when you say you go to Tech.”

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The diversity at Tech is evident from the statistics gathered. “Tech allows you to understand different cultural perspectives,” Vela said, through the interaction between all the various people on campus. As globalization is happening, “companies place a lot of emphasis on diversity,” Duarte emphasizes, and “the ability to interact with different cultures and perspectives is a skill that recruiters seek.”

To students like Duarte, National Hispanic Heritage Month is “a way to remember our culture and our roots.” Other student organizations, such as the Spanish Speaking Organization (SSO), Hispanic Recruitment Team (HRT), the Lambda Theta Alpha Latin sorority, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), and the Lambda Upsilon Lambda fraternity, work with SHPE and each other in a council to bring together their goals and spread them to the Tech community and outside areas. SGA also supports SHPE and other Latino organizations by providing funds for travel expenses to places such as business conferences and out of town career fairs.

“A lot of us have blended with the American culture, but it’s good to remember where we came from,” Duarte said.

Tango dancing is an integral part of the Argentinian lifestyle. National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates this and other traditions and elements of Hispanic culture.

The marching band performs in the library fountain as part of their pre-game activities before last year’s football home opener against Samford. They will be performing in New York City for this year’s Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

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Choke
director Gregg discusses first film, future

By Philip Tharp
Senior Staff Writer

Sex and addiction were featured in the new, raunchy comedy Choke. The film director gives the opportunity to participate in a round-table interview in Boston with director Clark Gregg to discuss his adaptation of Chuck Palahniuk’s cult novel.

Q: What was your favorite scene to shoot?
A: Absolutely. It was really stressful to get there, but the days when I had those actors of that caliber acting the script making those scenes work, even in a kind of a steamy and disease-ridden mental asylum, it was as much fun as you can imagine. To them when you actually see people kind of laughing at a dirty joke that I was afraid was going to be one of those dirty jokes that I tend to like that can clear a room—you know when people are laughing and they’re not leaving the theater—it’s a pretty great feeling.

Q: I thought that you did a really good job filming it to make it create a personal connection with Victor and the audience. I was wondering, what was your exact approach in terms of filming and angle shots?
A: I had a lot of approaches, and most of them were taken away from me in a 25-day shoot. The ten shots that we tried to get a scene in almost always became three. I joked with the DP, “When this is done, I’m going to go home and try to figure out how to get from the couch to the refrigerator in less shots.” The other side to that is that it forces you to focus on only what’s important. When they’re peeling things out of your budget all the time it makes you just keep carving down to what—as you probably know as writers—it starts to feel kind of good, cutting things, because what gets there starts to be more and more kind of like a diamond, if you’re lucky. This was a lot like that. I thought we realized pretty early on what that was doing and was not acting a comedy. It was funny as hell, but he was never trying to be. He was doing something really raw and. And so I think we knew that the connection would come from letting that weird relationship that he has with the camera take place.

Q: Are you writing anything right now?
A: I started writing something new, which is really kind of fun. And actually worth a listen once you start to get a scene in almost always became three. I joked with the DP, “When this is done, I’m going to go home and try to figure out how to get from the couch to the refrigerator in less shots.” The other side to that is that it forces you to focus on only what’s important. When they’re peeling things out of your budget all the time it makes you just keep carving down to what—as you probably know as writers—it starts to be more and more kind of like a diamond, if you’re lucky. This was a lot like that. I thought we realized pretty early on what that was doing and was not acting a comedy. It was funny as hell, but he was never trying to be. He was doing something really raw and. And so I think we knew that the connection would come from letting that weird relationship that he has with the camera take place.

Q: Following this experience, would you want to direct again?
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Bertram Pincus is a fine dentist but quite a horrible person. He is a jerk. Though not one to care for opinions about him, he actually revels in the thorny pole he shoves between his personal relationships.

"Ghost Town" is the mad story of this sad little doctor and the unfortunate events leading to both the living and the dead and their intruding upon his solitude.

"Ghost Town" ironically opens with a soon-to-be ghost Frank Herity (Greg Kinnear) moving down the streets of Manhattan. Of course, Frank promptly dies, introducing the process by which ghosts that visit Pincus after his death intrude upon his solitude.

The acting in the film is excellent. Each cast member fits their characters and accomplishes their roles admirably.

They hardly ever bother Pincus except to be a thin excuse to provide hilarity in an otherwise normal situation.

Gervais shines in mediocre Ghost Town

The acting in the film is excellent. Each cast member fits their characters and accomplishes their roles admirably.

Missing laughter completely, say, like an Altman-esque ensemble piece that I think everybody has to write at some point. Then I got sucked into the world of kind of finishing and re-editing and prepping the movie for release.

Q: How did you film this movie in 25 days?

A: I don't know. I don't know how we did it. I had a brilliant DP, Tim Moore, who had shot both David Gordon Greene's movies and Pineapple Express. He knew how to do it. Because they come to you and say you got an hour left, and you say, "This is a five page scene, dude." And he would curse and scream and so would I. And we'd shoot two or three shots that were incredibly complicated, and I just crossed my fingers.

And then I got in the editing room, and it turned out he had found a way to do it. The other main reason is because I had actors that were that good. And we rehearsed a little, so when we got there, they knew what they were doing. They shouldn't have been put through that, but if you knew that you were going to be doing the same scene. They met that night in the attic room and rehearsed it once and went down there and shot that, because that's how good those actors are. And with anyone else, I don't know how I would have done it.

Q: What's next for you?

A: Well, it's the sitcom "The New Adventures of Old Christine" – we're 6 episodes into the new season, so I will happily go back to that next Wednesday. We're on a hiatus this week. I'll go back there and have the funniest job in the history of the planet acting with Julia Louis-Dreyfus. Wait for a call from Nick Fury and write another twisted script and hope someone will let me make that one too.

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Rockwell steals the show in Gregg’s racy *Choke*

**RELEASE DATE:** Oct. 3, 2008  
**DIRECTOR:** Clark Gregg  
**GENRE:** Comedy/Drama  
**RATING:** R for sexual content, nudity and language  
**STARRING:** Sam Rockwell, Angelica Houston, Brad Henke and Kelly Macdonald

**O UR TAKE:** E  E  E  E  E  

By Philip Tharp  
Senior Staff Writer

Despite the fact that it will undoubtedly raise comparisons to David Fincher’s adaptation of author Chuck Palahniuk’s previous novel *Fight Club*, Clark Gregg’s film adaptation of *Choke* firmly holds its own and manages to be a fairly faithful adaptation of the darkly humorous novel.

The screenplay, also written by Gregg, was a labor of love, as he developed it over a period of six years beginning in 2001. The effort shows on screen, as the audience is able to easily connect with the main character, Victor, despite his sardonic attitude and despicable habits.

Surprisingly, Gregg was also able to tastefully film the movie in a way that preserved the explicitness of the novel but also allowed him to achieve an R-rating, which is quite a feat, considering how easily the adaptation could have been utilized with the dreaded NC-17.

The score for the film adds an innovative dimension to the dark tone set by the dialogue and screenplay, and it perfectly reveals the essence of black comedy that would otherwise remain hidden under the veil of bleak subject matter and depressing events.

The supplemental song selection (with which Gregg had a large amount of input), especially the concluding song by Radionic, complements the scenes for which it is used.

Friends Victor (Rockwell) and Denny (Henke) ride the bus home after a long day of colonial interpretation.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the novel (which you should go out and read immediately), the plot of *Choke* follows Victor Mancini (Sam Rockwell, perfectly cast and spot on), who dropped out of medical school after two years.

His mother, Ida (Anjelica Houston, somewhat forced and unconvincing) is sick, and to pay for the hospital bills, Victor works as a historic citizen of a faux-colonial village with his friend Denny (Brad Henke, kind of bland).

To make ends meet, Victor also spends his time pretending to choke at high-end restaurants, hoping that the person who saves him will provide him with greeting cards filled with money in the following months.

Victor believes that he offers these people with a priceless service: they become pseudo-heroes and gain a sense of importance, all while providing Victor’s aliases, and hence, Victor, with an alternative source of income.

Victor is also a sex addict. Stuck on his fourth step, he attends weekly sex addiction meetings with little success, as he ignores the rules and advice given to him.

He continues to have repeated sex with other members of the group and random women of all backgrounds, in the process showing little regard for other people and painting himself as an obnoxious jerk.

The crux of the story focuses on Victor’s inability to deal with his mother’s worsening condition and the corresponding relationship that forms between Victor and his mother’s doctor, Paige Marshall (Kelly Macdonald, cute and effective).

Rockwell and Macdonald have good chemistry, which gives the audience the opportunity to form a stronger connection to the trials that the characters encounter throughout the movie.

The main reasons for the movie’s effectiveness lie in the excellent score and music selection, the unique yet faithful screenplay and the wonderful performance given by Sam Rockwell.

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After watching the movie, it is hard to imagine any actor other than Rockwell in the role of Victor, as his portrayal of the distasteful sex addict seems emotionally subdued yet compassionately inspired.

A small appearance by Gregg as Lord High Charlie adds a more lighthearted comedic aspect to the film and works well as a break from some of the darker scenes.

The most significant drawback to *Choke* is the short running time, which works to detract from the audience’s connection to the characters. Consequently, it adds a sense of unwanted disjointedness to the progression of the film.

Palahniuk’s book definitely provided additional material that could have been utilized in the movie, and in doing so, the adaptation would have achieved a much more cohesive story.

Furthermore, because of the diminished running time, the concluding “twist” felt somewhat rushed and much of the potential impact was lost.

However, the fact that *Choke* was independently financed with a miniscule budget and was shot in only 25 days helps to explain this slight shortcoming.

In *Choke*, Gregg succinctly created a darkly comedic movie that manages to both evoke the viewers’ sympathies for an unsympathetic character and expose them to the unappealing world of sex addiction.

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**E-mail your questions to:**

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Ah, it's that time of year again. By my watch the leaves should be changing colors and temperatures should be retreating from the mid-80s, but sadly this is not the case in Bizarro World. What we have now are hurricanes in Canada and gas shortages in Atlanta. We've also reached that unfortunate time in the semester when we as students are not only faced with midterms but also those awkward play-dates known as group projects. As though trying to deal with individual problems was not enough, our professors have gradually decided to provide us with important lessons in both forced collaboration and unwelcome depression. What follows is a breakdown of your typical “team player” and the battle cries you will be exposed to as you desperately pray for the end of the semester.

The Reluctant Leader: “I'll send out an email later, I guess.” The Reluctant Leader is the Shakespearian tragedy of group members. The moment the professor announced the group project months ago, his sweat glands kicked into overdrive: he knew that there was a 99% chance that he'd be leader by default, leading to misery, anguish and the loss of countless hours of sleep. The Reluctant Leader’s downfall comes as he timidly announces to the group that he’ll maybe, sort of, perhaps send out an email, and before he knows it, he’s just sort of, perhaps send out an email, and before he knows it, he’s just sort of... wait, why am I still writing this? It’s that time of year again.

The Human Slug: “What did I miss?” The name “Human Slug” is misleading since he's neither a gastropod nor vulnerable to salt. In fact, the Human Slug thrives in salt-rich environments of potato chips and moves so slowly that one might assume that he is indeed some sort of giga-anomoeba. While “slug-like” can be used to describe him, one should note that even slugs sometimes move. The Human Slug arrives late (if at all) to every group meeting, and oftentimes the work “produced” by him can be substituted for the insane rantings of the criminally insane. Don’t be surprised if the Human Slug is late to the presentation; in fact, go ahead and plan that he won’t be there.

Mr. Invisible: “…” Mr. Invisible will never be at any class or meeting, yet somehow manages to get through every aspect of the group project. His unrelenting ability to make enemies with everyone in the group is rivaled only by his desire to be the leader. Johnny Law loves nothing more than to micromanage every aspect of the group, including the order of names on the final presentation (his name first followed by the rest in alphabetical order). His quest to do things his way never subsides, and he will fight kicking and screaming until the very end when he inadvertently sets the Powderkeg off, often resulting in a verbal thrashing, a humiliating Johnny Law and muffled laughs from the rest of the group. The Overachiever: “So I was thinking we could...” The Overachiever is the bane of any group project. Sure his intentions may be good, but nobody cares whether or not the five-minute PowerPoint presentation about goats has a 45 second movie clip of famous goats in cinema that is completely unrelated to the actual project. He will masterfully show his skills at video editing on his iBook and proudly describe himself as a member of the Church of Steve Jobs.

In reality, nobody really cares; they just want to get done early to watch how House handles his most bizarre medical mystery ever. At some point along the way, Johnny Law will have a throw-down with this chronic time-waster; hilarity is guaranteed to ensue. The Saint: “I'll still work on it when I get home.” The Saint is nothing short of a miracle. The Saint will always finish ahead of schedule and volunteer to pick up the slack that other group members inevitably leave. Whether you like it or not, come Monday, these champs will remind you why you drink on the weekends.

Johnny Law will reprimand your slides because you used bold Times New Roman font instead of Impact like he clearly stated (what were you thinking?), and the Powderkeg will come to your meeting with eviction notice in hand. It’s nice to know there are always people you can count on.
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COMICS

Piled Higher & Deeper by Jorge Cham

Non Sequitur by Wiley

Crossword Solution from Page 17

| SPIES | SADE | ANTE | RPM | OTOOLE | TREK | SOAR | ORES | DONNEWCOMBE | STUDIO | ONE | ELI | MULLET | GUITAR | TAT | SLAM | PEENS | RACE | EJECT | SERIF | ANI | LEGEND | Ogee | ANDSOON | ABATED | ADHERE | TUNS | ACAD | EVEN |
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WELL, THIS ANSWERS OUR QUESTION ON JUST HOW STUPID THEY THINK WE ARE...
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I got an Albanian make over. Now no one can tell I'm bald and chinless.
The hat even makes me look taller. I think this will help my career.
Take a minute to drink this in. I just found my new VP of finance!

Wally is the new VP of finance
I moved all of our cash to a secret offshore bank.
But I forgot to write down the account number, or the password, or the name of the country.
And...I'm not entirely sure it was a bank.
First day, not so good.

A corporate raider has offered to buy our company for nine dollars.
We should ask for more. He's a tough negotiator.
Now it's only eight dollars?
And I want you to do something in your hat.

A corporate raider bought the company and sold off all the assets.
Well, he can sell our assets but we still have our brains and our spirits!
And the brains go to MutuBui the Impaler. Our next auction is—ha—ha—ha—ha—ha—ha!

They gave me a chance...it was either this or watch political debates.
There is an ugly rumor that I sold your brains to cannibals and your spirits to demons.
Did you? You seem a bit unclear on the whole bu—wa—ha—ha—ha concept.

Vijay the venture capitalist
We're going into the solar panel business.
Cha-ching! Cha-ching!
Pretend you didn't see that when I negotiate my equity.
The game's first goal came courtesy of Zaske, who scored 6-25 into the period to give Tech an early lead. About two minutes later, Fritz notched his first goal of the season, and 28 seconds after that, Park rebounded a behind-the-net shot off the goalie's pads and in for the score.

Center Brian O’Connor scored a few minutes later to make the lead 4-0, the score at the break remained that way. The second period featured several penalties, tech and UNC-Charlotte combined for 15 in the second period alone. On two occasions, the 9ers had three men in the penalty box.

Senior Tom Porter, a left winger, scored the only goal of the period during a 4-on-4, so the teams headed into the intermission with the Jackets up 5-0. UNC-Charlotte began mounting attacks again, but Lucas repeatedly shut them down. Tech's defense continued to score; Park secured his second straight two-goal game when he scored immediately after a face-off 1:54 into the period. Senior winger Dan Sweeney added two goals in a three-minute span to expand the lead to 8-0.

Shortly after a brief scuffle between a UNC-Charlotte player and Tech freshman Ross Cooper, which led to both being ejected, UNC-Charlotte scored on a power play with 4:53 to go. Tech’s Porter put in his second goal with just over three minutes left, and the game ended with a final score of 9-1.

“Who's a good team, but… you can't back down from physical stuff, because other teams will pick up on that, and they'll play a physical game. We've got to be able to dish it right back. And I'm proud of the way our guys do it; they do it in a clean manner, and that's the key,” McSparren said.

Eight of the team’s 15 goals came courtesy of freshmen, including four from Park, and Fritz notched four assists over the weekend to emerge as the team leader in points.

“We're throwing them right into the action, and they're definitely stepping up and performing, so we're very encouraged by that,” Baker said.

“It's a good core for the future, as far as the team is looking for the next three or four years,” said Stapleton.

One of the major concerns was team chemistry on the ice, but the general sentiment was that this was quickly becoming a non-issue.

“We've got a lot of new line combinations, a lot of new players, but I definitely think we came together a little bit more [Saturday night] than we did [Friday night].… I think as long as we keep getting to know each other, we'll get a lot better,” Baker said.

Hockey from page 24

distance. The goal was the last of the period, so Tech took a 3-0 lead into the break.

In the second period, the momentum repeatedly shifted. Tech maintained pressure on Vanderbilt’s defense by constantly attacking early on, but after a few minutes Vanderbilt started to pick up their own offense, and they scored 7:10 into the period. Vanderbilt continued to attack fiercely afterwards, but Tech sophomore goalie Maxx Lucas made several saves to preserve the 3-1 lead.

“We played down a bit at times due to our inexperience, but later in the game, our stamina helped us to come back and close out the game. We have a lot of team speed, and we were able to keep that up throughout the entire game,” said Day.

Vanderbilt would score once more, but that goal was sandwiched between scores by Tech freshman Zachary Berry and sophomore Derek von Zweck. The final score was 6-2 in favor of the Yellow Jackets.

Day pointed out the team’s control of the game, main-}

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Softball from page 24

ment at the plate,” Coach Perkins said.

The second game was a pitching duel. Senior Tiffany Johnson was the starting pitcher for the Jackets, while Sophomore pitcher Emily Schreck pitched the remainder of the game while giving up few runs.

“Tiffany [Johnson] really came out throwing hard, she did a great job. Jessica Coan came out on her first day and was striking people out left and right. Schreck did a good job of closing us out,” Haller said.

“The freshmen all did great. Every one of them had a shining moment today. I feel really confident for the spring that they’re going to make a big impact for us,” Haller said.

The Jackets swept the double header over Georgia State, winning 10-4 and 8-4. The Jackets were able to put together a pitching duel. Senior Tiffany Johnson was the starting pitcher for the second game, while Sophomore pitcher Emily Schreck pitched the remainder of the game while giving up few runs.

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The softball team will continue their schedule with a double header against Jacksonville State. Then, they will play the following weekend against Young Harris and Georgia Perimeter. The year will conclude the team’s play at Glenn Field. Next year, the team will play at a brand new stadium.

“We’re just excited to be playing. It’s nice to be playing on this field but we’re more excited about playing at a new stadium next spring,” Coach Perkins said.

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VOLLEYBALL
Georgia Tech 0, Virginia Tech 3
The Volleyball team beat the preseason ACC favorite two weeks ago when they topped Clemson, but they lost to Virginia Tech the following weekend. The Jackets are led by senior libero Michelle Kandell with 208 digs, senior middle hitter Callie Miller with 131 kills and senior outside hitter Talsa Kellogg with 129 kills. The Jackets hope to follow up on their success this weekend when they play Miami and Florida State at home.

SWIMMING AND DIVING
The Jackets’ swimming and diving team kicked off the season with wins at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. Both men and women competed against FAU, while the women also defeated Florida Gulf Coast at the same meet. The Jackets will compete against Clemson this weekend in South Carolina and Florida State next weekend.

CROSS COUNTRY
Third/Fourth Tennessee Invitational
Tech’s men’s cross country team has had mixed results in tournaments this year. The Jackets placed third at the Tennessee Invitational, while they finished seventeenth at the Roy Griak Invitational this past weekend. Likewise, the women finished fourth at Tennessee, but fourteenth at the Roy Griak Invitational.

GOLF
Seventh Golfweek Preview Invitational
The No. 15 Yellow Jackets participated in the Golfweek Preview Invitational this past weekend. Tech finished seventh in the event and senior Cameron Tringale and junior Chesson Hadley finished in the top 20. The Jackets will participate in the Brickyard Intercollegiate in Macon, Georgia on October 11.
Since the turn of the century, the Jackets are one of three ACC teams to lose to Duke and have the unfortunate tag of being the first conference team to lose to Duke this century. Other than 2003, the Jackets have not lost to Duke since the 1994 season. Several current Jackets have experience against Duke. Senior defensive tackles Vance Walker and Darryl Richard have played against them each of the past two years, and sophomore defensive end Derrick Morgan and senior corner back Jahi Word-Daniels also played against them last year. Offensively, sophomore B-Back Jonathan Dwyer had 23 yards on 10 carries, red shirt sophomore wide receiver Correy Earls had 86 yards receiving and a touchdown and red shirt sophomore wide receiver Demariyus Thomas had 46 yards and a fumble recovery for a touchdown.

The Jackets will get a little help from Head Coach Paul Johnson’s old team as they will have had a chance to see how Duke defended Navy’s triple option earlier this season. The Jackets have started their year with at least three wins in their first four games for the third time in the last four years and look to win four out of their first five for the first time since their Coastal Division winning season in 2006.
The scrimmage allowed freshman on the team to get some early game experience. Greg Stathis, who passed away the players, coaches and fans start of the Vanderbilt game, in Tech hockey. Prior to the start of a new season, the 9-1 on Saturday. day and beat UNC-Charlotte gan on a high note, as the team cord of 11-17. This season be - finished last season with a re- Hockey Association (ACHA), ber of the American Collegiate sion III hockey and is a mem - The team, which plays Divi-ision III hockey and is a mem- ber of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), finished last season with a re- cord of 11-17. This season be-gan on a high note, as the team defeated Vanderbilt 6-2 on Fri-day and beat UNC-Charlotte 9-1 on Saturday. More than marking the start of a new season, the games represented a new era in Tech hockey. Prior to the start of the Vanderbilt game, the players, coaches and fans observed a moment of silence in honor of former head coach Greg Stathis, who passed away in March. A beloved figure in the Tech hockey community, Stathis had led the team since the 1991-92 season. "It was a very emotional first period [in the Vanderbilt game] for our team. This was the first time in 17 years that Tech hockey had played without Coach Stathis, so it was an emotional game for all of us," said Assistant Coach Kenny "Sarge" Day. This season, the promising potential of the new players, combined with the experience and skill of the team’s 11 seniors, has led to a pre-season ACHA-No. 10 ranking in the region. "Believe me, [Coach Stathis] would love to have this team," said Head Coach Brian McS-parron. "He wouldn’t be get- ting any sleep. He’d be talking about hockey 24/7." Although Stathis’ influence on the team remains strong even after his death, the team has moved on under McS-parron, determined to honor Stathis’ memory by continu-ing to improve the program off the ice and by performing well on the ice. "The transition had been pretty seamless, and that’s what we were looking for in the new coach—someone who would make a very smooth transition. Coach McSparron has known [Stathis] for the past twenty years, and even played under him and coached with him, so it’s been very smooth," said se-nior forward Drew Baker. "Even though he’s gone, we’re going to make sure this program keeps on going strong," McSparron said. This year’s first game saw Tech take on the Vanderbilt Commodores last Friday night. The teams last met in the final game of last season, which saw Tech pull out a 3-2 win. Big hits were common from the start, and three penalties were called during the first 1:02 of the game. As players from both teams fought for the puck in front of the Van- derbilt goal, freshman winger Ben Garnett pulled the puck out and scored 10:12 into the period to give Tech a 1-0 lead. Shortly afterward, Park provided the highlight of the game when he scored Tech’s next two goals in a span of seven seconds. The first came 11:00 into the period, when he stole the puck and quickly scored. After the ensuing face-off at center ice, Park launched a slap shot into the net from a Hockey wins first two of season

By Nishant Prasad
Contributing Writer

Tech’s ice hockey team opened the 2008-09 season this past weekend with wins over their first two opponents by a combined score of 25-3. The team, which plays Division III hockey and is a member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), finished last season with a record of 11-17. This season began on a high note, as the team defeated Vanderbilt 6-2 on Friday and beat UNC-Charlotte 9-1 on Saturday.

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By Randy Darnowsky
Staff Writer

The softball team is engaged in multiple scrimmage games throughout the fall. The games provide experience for the new freshmen players as well as extra practice for all players. "I think we’re getting a lot of good experience for the freshmen. It’s their first taste of Division I softball," said Head Coach Sharon Perkins.

"[The purpose of fall games is] to get freshmen experience at this kind of level and to bring our team together as a whole so we can get ready for the spring," said senior first baseman Whitney Haller.

"I think the point of the fall games is just for us to get experience. We have six coming in, so it’s a bunch of us and to get us acclimated to the college experience. To get us competitive and for us to get experience," said freshman outfielder Jessica Sinclair.

For the fall scrimmages, some of the rules are relaxed. For instance, players may take multiple participations, and the home team may bat an extra inning even though they are winning the game.

Last weekend, the team hosted Georgia State on Saturday and North Georgia on Sunday. The first game against Georgia State featured stand-out offensive hits from both teams. Junior infielder Jenni-fer Yee hit two home-runs to boost the team’s score. Haller hit a home-run ball over the left-field fence and a multi-RBI hit to highlight the day.

"I think we did a pretty good job at making adjustments. We would go from a fast pitcher to a slow pitcher, and I think they did a pretty good job of making an adjust-

By Jarrett Skov / Student Publications

Goaltender Maxx Lucas stops a puck at Saturday’s game against UNC-Charlotte. The Jackets held their opponents to only three goals for the weekend. Offensively the Jackets scored 15 goals over the whole weekend. The Jackets hope to live up to high expectations this season.

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