

MEET THE FIRST LADY

VAL PETERSON, WIFE OF TECH PRESIDENT G.P. "BUD" PETERSON



Photo by Weili Huang / Student Publications

By Aaron Parkman
Staff Writer

An energetic Val Peterson welcomed me into the presidential residence this Monday, smiling exuberantly as we both enjoyed the well-decorated walls of the foyer. New to Tech, but an experienced hostess, the first lady quickly made me feel at home by offering me the most comfortable chair in her living room. Soon after we sat down, she was ready to answer my questions.

I learned that a typical week for Mrs. Peterson includes being out of the house five nights a week, usually at a campus event or somewhere else promoting the interests of Tech. "I adore fundraising," said Mrs. Peterson, who has not only served as first lady at Tech but also at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Along with the president, she is responsible for representing Tech at numerous events, including advisory board meetings, fundraisers and banquets. For their anniversary, they will be attending three Tech events. "The most challenging thing has been learning everyone's names," Mrs. Peterson said.

Dr. and Mrs. Peterson were married 35 years ago, May 19th, after meeting at Kansas State University. Mrs. Peterson was pursuing a degree in Spanish and home economics, and Dr. Peterson was pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering.

In addition to being first lady, Mrs. Peterson has taught 12 years of Spanish and 24 years of aerobics. "I like sports that I can participate in," Mrs. Peterson said.

Dr. and Mrs. Peterson lived in College Station, Texas for 19 years, during which time they attended graduate school and worked at Texas A&M, had their fourth child, and were foster parents to nine.

According to a profile of Mrs. Peterson from the Boulder Daily Camera, most of their foster children came to them from abuse or neglect. Despite these circumstances, and despite having four biological chil-

dren, Dr. and Mrs. Peterson took the children in with welcoming arms. Mrs. Peterson treated all her children the same, whether they were biological or foster.

Dr. and Mrs. Peterson's experience with foster care led to a partnership between the Boulder County Department of Social Services and the Boulder campus.

While at CU, she helped to establish a scholarship called the Guardian Program, which is for foster children who have aged out of the foster care system. "They are like a family to one another," Mrs. Peterson said.

Mrs. Peterson is also a skilled seamstress, and she makes a lot of what she wears, including the quilted jacket that she wore for our interview. Sewing is just one of her many hobbies, which include hiking, yoga and taking walks around the city.

She is an expert at forming relationships with people, and it is also something she loves. "I've found that my strength is being Bud's eyes and ears around campus. I love making connections! If people will educate me about what they're doing at Tech, I can get the word out about it," Mrs. Peterson said.

Looking toward the future, she has high hopes for Tech but is approaching the job humbly. "For the first few months, we're going to have to learn and listen to what truly is Tech [In the future] I see Tech being broadened, but without losing our focus on what we are," Mrs. Peterson said.

Mrs. Peterson would like to see Tech grow in a variety of ways. She pointed out that Tech was formerly a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) but does not currently hold that membership. The AAU is a 62-member association of research universities, which accounts for 58 percent of American universities' research grants and 74 percent of American Nobel Prize winners, according to the AAU web site.

"I see Tech being broadened, but without losing our focus on what we are."

FUN FACTS ABOUT VAL PETERSON

Dr. and Mrs. Peterson were married 35 years ago, May 19th, after meeting at Kansas State University. The two have four children and nine foster children.

Prior to coming to Tech Mrs. Peterson, a fluent Spanish speaker, was a teacher and taught Spanish for 12 years and aerobics for 24 years.

As an avid seamstress Mrs. Peterson makes some of her own clothes, including the dress she wore to campus after Dr. Peterson was confirmed as Tech's president.

Sting Break planning unveiled

By Tamara Johnson
Contributing Writer

For many years the Student Center Programs Council has worked to boost the morale of the student population during the school year, helping coordinate big events such as Homecoming and Fall Festival. One of the Council's most notable events is the annual Sting Break concert held at the end of the spring semester. Artists that have headlined this huge Tech occasion within the past few years include big names Ludacris, T.I. and OK GO.

On Friday, April 17, the Council will be showcasing the talents of rock band Of A Revolution (O.A.R.) with opening acts by Augustana and Parachute.

How well known are these bands around campus? To take a couple of random students for an example, Jane Hua, third-year MGT, said she had no idea who O.A.R. was but that she was "pretty excited" about Augustana; Chris Cantrell, third-year BCHM, said he knows O.A.R. and was excited about having them on campus.

According to Courtney Telfare, second-year IE and the concerts chair for this year's Sting Break, with the cost of the bands this year, funds would come up short without ticket sales. "If we want a big name artist we need the funds for that," Telfare said.

"This is not the first time that we have ticketed Sting Break, and some of our most successful shows have been those that were ticketed. We are still getting a good deal. O.A.R. will be performing at Clemson the day after our concert without Augustana, and the ticket cost there will be \$25," Telfare said.

Telfare stated that the band selection process all begins with the student survey. "We send out a survey of several popular artists to all students. We do this ... so that we receive a wide variety of opinions. All of our actions are based on the initial votes of the students," Telfare said.

Telfare went on to explain that they rank artists based on the number of votes they get as well as based on the number of first-choice votes that they receive. For this year the top picks by students included Weezer, the Goo Goo Dolls and Third Eye Blind, and it was in this order that the concert committee contacted the artists.

The task to choose a band is never as simple as a number of votes, and from reasons such as lack of money or scheduling conflicts the com-

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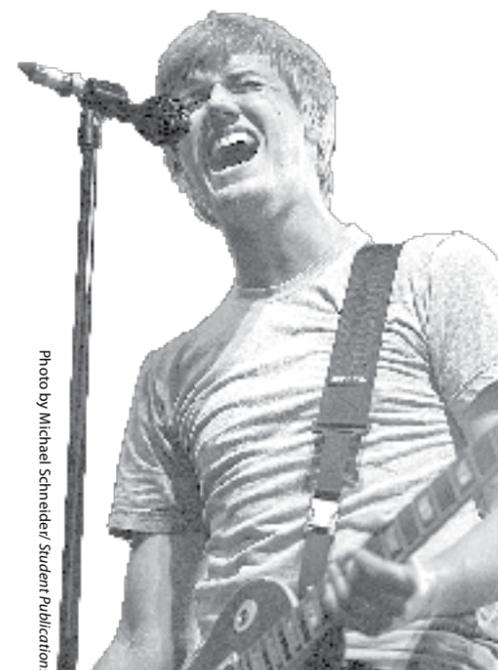


Photo by Michael Schneider / Student Publications

Lecture Crashers legacy continues with mayhem

By Sarah Boling
Contributing Writer

If you go to class during the Campus MovieFest filming period, there's a good chance that you've seen the Lecture Crashers. They "crash" lectures by running into classrooms and performing various silly acts to surprise and entertain the professors and students. The Lecture Crashers are indeed becoming a tradition on Tech's campus.

The crashes began with Evan Wimpey ME '08 and Ed Bolian PUBP '08 three years ago. They created "Lecture Crashers" as a short film for Tech's Campus MovieFest and enjoyed it so much that they used the idea again for the next two years.

When Wimpey and Bolian graduated last year, they didn't want the lecture crashes to leave with them. That's where Zach Luna, second-year PHYS, Zack Taylor, first-year PHYS, and Bert Nash, first-year MGT, come in.

"Evan Wimpey and Ed Bolian went to North Gwinnett High School with Bert and I. I ran cross country with Evan and swam with Ed. I was actually in the "Lecture Crashers 3" video as an extra, so when they graduated, they knew that I was here and that I had the same type of spirit in me, so they asked if I would like to continue the legacy," Luna said.

Luna teamed up with co-crasher Taylor and cameraman/video editor Nash to create the new lecture crashers. Wimpey and Bolian contributed to the video as well, even participating in some of the crashes.

All of the filming took place on Thursday, Jan. 15th, and after a late night of editing for Nash, the entire movie was completed in a 24-hour time period. Unfor-



Photo by Jarrett Skov/ Student Publications

From left to right: Lecture crashers Bert Nash, Zach Luna and Zack Taylor pose for a picture in a Howey classroom. They received disciplinary action for going against Tech's Code of Conduct.

tunately for the crashers, though, the ordeal was far from over.

"About two weeks after we made the video, we each got emails about it. We all had to go in and start the OSI [Office of Student Integrity] process, meeting with Sarah Graham [Tech's Judicial Coordinator] individually. A month after that, she contacted us and gave us our punishments," Luna said.

Although they said that they had been assured by Wimpey and Bolian that there would be no disciplinary repercussions, Luna, Taylor and Nash had been prepared to deal with a minor reprimand. They had all read the Student Code of Conduct and re-

alized that interrupting classes on tape could mean trouble.

"Obviously there was the potential for us to get in trouble. We had read the Code of Conduct, and it just didn't seem likely that this would result in disciplinary probation. After our first meeting with Sarah Graham, we were under the impression that we were going to get a slap on the wrist," Taylor said.

Dean of Students John Stein emphasized that in taking disciplinary action against the lecture crashers, the school is in no way condemning Campus MovieFest or even trying to eliminate lecture crashing for good.

"There is a way to still poten-

tially do this. In advance, ask permission of the faculty member. Those who don't agree, you have to abide by that. Otherwise you're in violation, but some may [agree]. The interesting thing about this is that the reaction of faculty varies with this," Stein said.

Lecture crashers, by their very definition, go against Tech's Code of Conduct. The Code holds any student accused of committing "disorderly conduct including, but not limited to ... obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration or other Institute activities, including its public service functions or other authorized activities" subject to conduct procedures.

Clearly, the OSI has the right to put current students who "crash" a faculty member's class through the Student Code of Conduct procedures.

"We hold them responsible for the violation of the Code of Conduct, and then we appropriately offer a sanction for it. It may be a warning for some students, or it may be probation. It really would depend on if there's any previous history that the student has been involved in," Stein said.

Luna, Taylor and Nash were surprised when they found out what kind of disciplinary action OSI chose to take against them.

"The punishment that OSI gave us was to write an apology letter [to one of the professors whose lecture was crashed], 35 hours of community service to do before the end of school, and one year of disciplinary probation," Luna said.

"All of us have clean records. It's something that's very out of character for us. We were all told that more than likely it would be a disciplinary warning, and then we found out that we were given disciplinary probation for an entire year," Luna said.

"It felt very 'guilty until proven innocent' rather than 'innocent until proven guilty,'" Nash said.

All three students were upset with being given probation rather than just a warning, but they chose not to appeal because OSI reserves the right to increase the punishment in such a case, and none of them wanted to risk suspension.

"It's pretty rough because I'm hoping to be applying to grad school during the beginning of the spring semester next year, and so the year of disciplinary proba-

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Homecoming Logo Design Contest 2009

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sliver

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housing can suck it
I feel like a BA everytime I use cardio equipment for more than the "30 minute limit."
Oh, and I wish ppl would stop walking around the locker rooms half naked.
I'm not gonna lie, Star Wars and Lord of the Rings movie marathons get me pretty excited.
to the ece6500 complainer, whats to regret about a class called fourier technology and signal analysis...
oh rearry? dumb fobs...
I'm taking my finals in a Snuggie. You can't stop me.
p.s. go make me a sandwich
to the girl sitting alone in the middle of CS1371, you have the loveliest smile that I have ever seen.
hi
The Nique got my hopes up, I really was looking forward to a monorail...
Is Nader running for student body president?
I've been parking illegally on campus for 3 months without getting a ticket. HA!
I've got an InVenture invention: It's a program that allows student to write random crap that goes into the school paper, pretty good huh?
A drunk driver is very dangerous. Everyone knows that. But so is a drunk backseat driver if he's persuasive
I don't like pinatas because the pinata promotes violence against flamboyant animals
A power nap is when you sleep on someone who's weaker than you.
Game, set, match : Tennis :: Set, match, run : arson.
duarte...your sea shells crack me up
Dicks...you rock my socks off!
When your phone gets rained on, ran over, and then thrown away at the CRC...that's karma
KRISPY KREME!...HOMELESS MAN!...TACO BELL...
TURN RIGHT NOW!

Festival of Colors brings ethnic flavor

By Chris Russell
Staff Writer

Students walking by the Burger Bowl this past Sunday were greeted by a surprising sight: a crowd of almost 100 people covered from head to toe in every color imaginable, running and laughing underneath clouds of shockingly bright colors. The cause for this optical explosion was the India Club at Tech, which was celebrating the Indian holiday of Holi.

Holi is an annual festival celebrated in India and countries with a large Indian population at the beginning of the spring. Participants take part in a war of colors, throwing colored powder and water at everyone around them. At this particular event, friends and members of Tech's Indian community—as well as a few curious passers-by—flung handfuls of brightly colored powders and water at each other and into the air to the beat of modern Indian pop music.

"It's something people look forward to every year, almost like Christmas," said Tarun Aurora, third-year BME and vice president of marketing for the India Club. According to Aurora, however, festivities in America don't hold a candle to those in India.

"What we did was nothing compared to what they do in India People over there will literally just line the streets and on your way to work or to the barber, you'll just get splashed with color," Aurora said.

That's not to say, however, that American celebrations involve any less of a colorful mess. Aurora recalls last year's festival, for example, when the colored powder was so concentrated it soaked into

participants' skin and stubbornly resisted being washed away.

The tradition of Holi originates from the Hindu story of Holika, a demoness who was burnt to death on top of a pyre through the efforts of the god Brahma and the hero Prahlada, a follower of the god Vishnu.

Also, in order to commemorate Holi, the India Club will be putting on its annual Holi Show on Saturday, April 18th at the Georgia World Congress Center. The Holi Show is India Club's main event of the year. "It's our largest event; every year we see anywhere from 1,700 to 2,000 people. It's a cultural showcase: we have all these dance teams and different kinds of special acts," Aurora said. The show will feature 13 different dance teams from universities and schools in the Atlanta area, and will be hosted by comedian Dan Nainan. This year, the show's title is "Rang Barse," which means "Color Rain," a continuation of the tradition of giving the annual show a color-based name.

The Holi show is by no means only open to college students, however. "India Club has been around since 1979, but the Holi Show started around 15 years ago [and is] something the Atlanta Indian community expects It's a family and college oriented show that caters to the entire Indian community," said Vijay Palvia, fourth-year BIO and one of the India Club's current co-presidents.

Aurora also stresses that the show is open to everyone who is interested. "What we're trying to do is branch it out to anybody and everybody. The entire student

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Photo by Blake Israel/ Student Publications

Members of the Tech community participate in the annual Festival of Colors by throwing colored powder and water at each other.

Have Immigration Questions?
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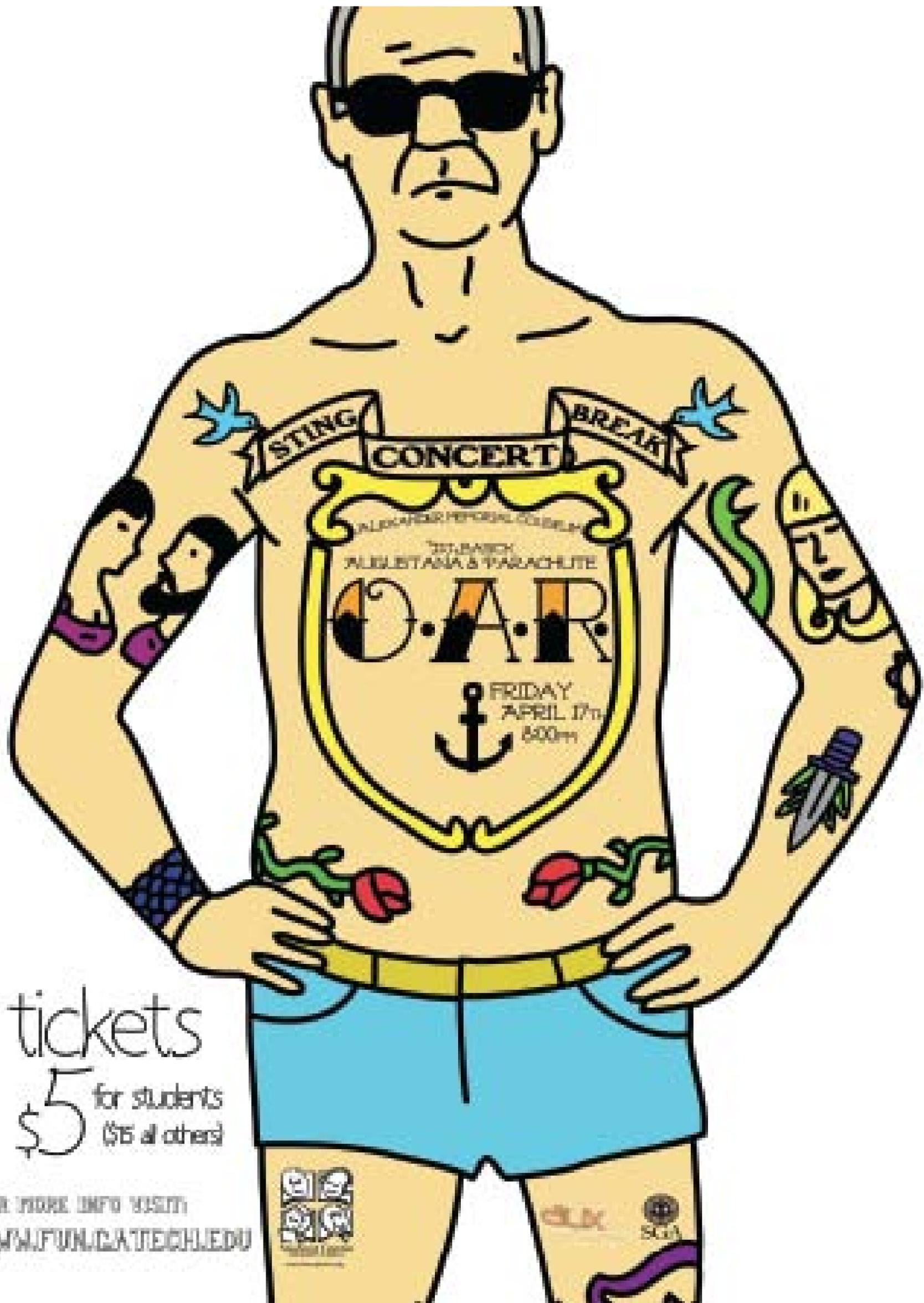
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MLK



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tion will not yet be up," Luna said. He is afraid that being under disciplinary probation will reflect poorly on him and cast him in an unfair light.

In fact, the probation will stay on each student's record for five years after they graduate from Tech. That means that Taylor and Nash, both freshmen, will be dealing with this for another eight years (assuming they graduate on time).

The students hope that, in spite of their negative experience in dealing with the consequences, the lecture crashers will find an appropriate way to establish themselves as a long-standing part of Tech's traditions.

"It's something that's starting to be associated with Tech, and I'd love to see it continue throughout the years," Nash said.

"I think that lecture crashers do well to embody the spirit of Tech," Luna said.

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community is invited, as well as everyone else in Atlanta who hears about it," Aurora said.

Holi activities are not, however, the only events the India Club hosts during the year. According to Palvia, India Club also hosts a mixer for Indian students at the start of every year, in addition to several other religious festivals and non-religious events held throughout the year. Recent examples include the annual fall festival of Navratri, which the India Club celebrates with a traditional Gurba dance in the Student Center ballroom, and a seminar for students interested in doing consulting after college given by a handful of consulting firms.

The India Club also acts as a, in Aurora's words, "home away from home" for Tech's Indian population. "Because the majority of them are international students, they don't go home but maybe once or twice a year. What



Photo by Blake Israel/ Student Publications

A Tech student smears colored powder across another student's cheek. The festival is known as Holi and is open to all students.

we try to do is cater to every need of theirs and make it as close to home as we can," Aurora said.

In addition to helping international students get by on campus, the India Club also helps get students to campus. "[The India Club's] year starts at the beginning of the summer. Since

we have so many Indian international students coming here, we had this transportation service called ICAT—India Club Airport Transportation. This summer, we picked up over 250 international students from the airport and dropped them off at Tech locations," Aurora said.

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mittee had to move down the list to find both the top-ranked and most available artists for this year's concert.

"We got in contact with O.A.R... and as they were under the same label as O.A.R. we were able to get both Parachute and Augustana in the deal," Telfare said.

The time between receiving the survey and the beginning of advertisements for the bands is upwards of one month, which can seem like a long time for students. Telfare explained that the long selection process of the bands is primarily because "you can't announce a band without forming a contract with them, and even with the contract there are contract negotiations. [After the choosing of the band] the contract process can be from one week to one month, and only when that is done can we make fliers with the bands' name on them."

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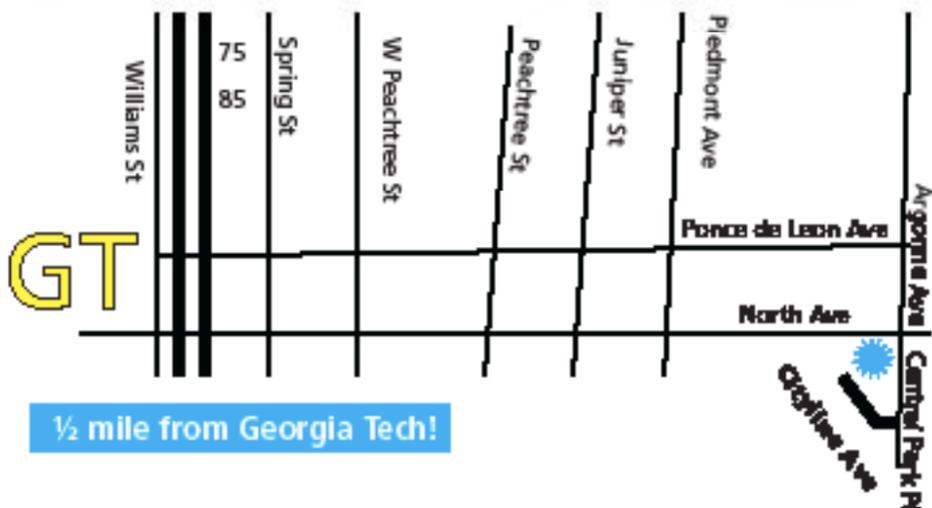
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