At the end of a long day filled with classes, the first thing many students do is go back to their dorms, apartments or houses, and log onto the computer. Instead of checking up on Buzzport or T-Square, students take refuge on their Facebook or Twitter accounts. Facebook, the highly addictive social networking site, is used for just about anything—Facebook chat with friends, even if they live right down the hall, relentless poking wars, and random quiz taking.

Twitter is also a social network that lets users send and read messages, or “tweets.” Your “tweets” are uploaded on your profile page, and then delivered to your “followers.” Twitter has gotten so popular, that even the Georgia Tech Police Department has their very own profile.

While both are wildly admired, which one rules cam-

A showdown of social networking

puz? Is it Facebook, or is it Twitter, because it allows users to give a quick status update and then move on with their lives?

Both sites are great social networking devices, but the battle between them must be investigated here on campus.

“I prefer Facebook, because Twitter is nothing but status update…it’s just Facebook without all the other stuff you can do with it. It’s not as well connected and held together like Facebook is. Also, getting and sending bumper stickers is great,” said Chris Mays, a third-year AE.

When asked which would last longer, Facebook or Twitter Mays said, “Facebook…I think the majority of the people would prefer to use it. It’s more consistent.”

Elsewhere on campus, there seems to be more Twitter bashing.

“I prefer Facebook because you can actually talk to people on it. I like Facebook chat, even though it shuts down all the time” said Molly Degenhardt, a first-year undergraduate.

“I think Facebook will stay longer than Twitter, because Twitter just seems like a fad.”

Grevson Jarvis, a fourth-year FTE, also believes Facebook trumps “tweeting.”

“I like Facebook…I don’t know, I feel anti-Twitter. Facebook will last longer, because there seems to be an anti-Twitter sentiment. I don’t think it’s going to catch on as much as [Facebook].”

Some students saw the positives and negatives in both networking websites, such as Andrew Barth, a first-year BME.

“I like Facebook more… I don’t really do much of the status updates, which is what Twitter is— a play-by-play of your life,” said Barth.

He also said that while Twitter is easier to use, Facebook is better for communication purposes. “Facebook is easier to connect with people over Twitter. Twitter is more user name, while Facebook is more ‘actual’ name.”

Others on campus see Facebook as the more fun social networking site.

Christian Doetsch, a second-year CS, said “I prefer Facebook. There are more features to do things. And more applications, like the graffiti wall. And you can poke people. Facebook is better for communication… it has different networks, groups and applications. For the sake of it, Twitter is easier to use. It’s simpler for older people.”

While many students praise Facebook, others argue that Twitter also has something to offer for mass communication and networking.

“I like using Twitter because it is multifunctional,” said Umehani Dalal, 98 EE.

“I follow friends to keep up with their lives and what they are up to which is incredibly useful now that we have graduated and are in different parts of the world.”

One tech student, Seif Eldin Elhage, has a Twitter account as well. He checks it daily to keep up with the latest in the tech world.

He also posted a link to the “Twitter Book.”

Twitter Book

The Twitter Book

Twitter is the latest social networking site to take the world by storm. It allows users to send and receive short messages called “tweets” to their followers. However, the site has also faced criticism for its brevity and lack of substance.

The Twitter Book is a collection of tweets from various users, showcasing the site’s capabilities and limitations. It includes examples of tweets ranging from basic status updates to more creative and thought-provoking content.

The book serves as a resource for understanding Twitter’s impact on society, as well as its potential for personal expression and communication.

Technology has always been at the center of social change, and Twitter is no exception. As it continues to evolve, so too will its role in shaping the way we connect and communicate. The Twitter Book provides valuable insights into this dynamic and ever-changing social network.
Homecoming invites all students to step under Buzz’s ‘Big Top’

By Robert Zbedi
Contributing Writer

In just under one month, Georgia Tech will host its annual Homecoming events for the 90th time. Homecoming week will take place Oct. 11-15 this year; the theme is ‘Buzz Under the Big Top.’

Amid returning alumni, reveling students and the all the season festivities of the Wreck Parade, however, attentive students will notice that there’s something different, something new about the festivities this year. Homecoming may be a well-loved and time-tried tradition, but here on its 90th birthday its caretakers have decided that change is in order.

According to Heather Aquilino, fourth-year INTA and the Chair of the Student Center Homecoming Committee, the unspoken assumption has always been that Homecoming is an exclusively Greek event. Though non-Greek student organizations have been allowed and encouraged to participate in the past, the emphasis always appeared to be on fraternity and sorority competition, leaving the rest of the student body to watch from the sidelines.

Though referred to as the ‘Housing Bracket,’ any group of students that wants to can register as a competing team, whether or not they live in the same hall, the same dorm, or even on the same side of campus.

This year, homecoming week breaks a slow of changes in programming. New competitions include Powderpuff football and cheer leading, a syrup-chugging contest, a day of ‘clown competition,’ and – specially introduced for Housing teams – the ‘Homecoming Spirit Contest,’ an answer to the perennially popular pom-pom display contest.

‘Usually the only people who participate have a house,’ explained Ramu Annamalai, second-year ISyE, Homecoming’s Intra-Fraternity Council Overall Chair. “That just wasn’t fair for the Housing teams.” But, Annamalai said, “We can’t have them putting something up outside the Residence Hall. The RHA would flip!”

The solution is the Homecoming Spirit Contest, one of the week’s first events. Though teams can prepare beforehand, the actual build begins on Sunday night, and will include students decorating any common interior space. Judging starts the next morning, and points will be awarded for creativity, attractiveness, humor, and relation to this year’s over-arching ‘Buzz Under the Big Top’ theme.

In the past two year homecoming has featured the themes ‘Fight, Win, Rock & Roll’ in 2008 and “Buzz and the Knights of Tech Tower” in 2007. Aquilino is particularly excited about this new event, and the possibilities it presents. “I think it’ll be a lot of fun, it’ll really bring the Homecoming spirit into the halls,” said Aquilino.

Even before the real competition kicks off on Sunday, though, Tech’s student body will have the opportunity to sample some of the whimsical ‘Big Top’ innovation the Homecoming team has been working so hard on.

GT Homecoming will begin its ninth decade in true circus fashion, with a full-packed Carnival on Skiles walkway. Occurring alongside the annual Team Buzz event, the Carnival promises fun for all students, team-affiliated or not.

“The Carnival has been something that I’ve wanted to do since we chose the Homecoming theme. To make it the kind of event I wanted it to be, I knew I needed help from the IFC/CPC exec,” said Aquilino. "That much help materialized is, in fact, perhaps the most important change to this year’s homecoming of all.

“In the past, things tended to be very disoriented, very splotchy. There’s been a big push this year to put on a more cohesive effort… we’re all banding together to have a great homecoming,” said Annamalai.

“Chairs never worked together. Until the event we’d never met, had no idea how things worked. Last year, I had no idea that a Med Rock Chair even existed,” said Aquilino.

The new cohesion and communication has enabled the Chairs to create a homecoming of completely unprecedented proportions. As if all the other changes weren’t enough, this year’s Big Top has a last act that promises to top all the others. The brand-new Buzz Bash concert on Friday Oct. 16 is shrouded in secrecy and surrounded by a barely-contained sense of excitement. Aquilino could not reveal details, for “contractual reasons.”

“This is totally new for homecoming,” Carlson said, “nothing of this magnitude has ever happened before.”

That kind of grandiose dreaming – and grandiose achieving – seems to have come naturally to the chairs this year. The basic formula wasn’t hard, in any case; according to Carlson, the real trick was just asking, “What can we do to make this the best Homecoming for everyone?”

It remains to see if this year’s new events could be next future traditions. “Hopefully this year will pay off,” Carlson said, “I really do think we’ve laid the groundwork.”
Marcus Taylor, third-year EE, steps inside Dr. Who’s call box, one of many fantasy props on display during this year’s Dragon*Con.

Alumni from page 11

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Facebook from page 11

of the country/world. I also follow
CNN, WSJ and AJC, etc. to keep
up with the news. And, my guilty
pleasure, I also follow celebrities
like John Mayer and Oprah to see
what they are up to and hear their
thoughts.

Just like Facebook, you can
connect with people with similar
interests, but with Twitter, you can
“follow” your interests and
follow the “tweets” of your favor-
ite businesses and artists.

“You can also follow people
that share interests similar to
yours, like Garyvee, who always
has something insightful to say
about wine. Or you can follow your favorite store to see when
they have sales and specials,”
Dalal said about Twitter.

“There are other advantages to
Twitter that outweigh Facebook.

“I don’t have a data plan on my
phone, so I can’t browse the web
from anywhere and everywhere.
What I like about Twitter is that
you can “tweet” via text messag-
ing and also keep up with other
people’s tweets via text messaging.

So this way as long as I have my
phone I can keep up with every-
one,” said Dalal.

“The other thing I really like
about Twitter is that you can follow
someone without having them
follow you which is what sets Twitter apart from Facebook,”
Dalal said.

All in all, both networking
sites are great for communication
around campus.

However, it seems that at Tech,
Facebook is the preferred Internet
site. Twitter advertises that one
can “share and discover what’s
happening right now, anywhere
in the world.”

Unfortunately, many Tech stu-
dents see Twitter as too simplistic
or just a fad that’s on the verge of
dying out and many feel that it is
not as useful of a tool to stay con-
ected with groups of friends.

While Twitter does have some
perks, such as quick, to the point
status updates, Tech students like
dalal said.

“Even though Facebook is more
complex than Twitter, users agree
that it is a great connection tool,
because it allows a more hands-on
approach, allowing users to create
their own ‘space’ and maintain
network outreach through hun-
dreds of add-ons and applications.

Only time will tell which net-
working tool will reign supreme
over the other.

I also think that Twitter and
Facebook will each have a spot on
campus, as they both have unique
qualities for communication, net-
working and fun.