WRECK WITHOUT HOME

Ramblin’ Reck Club given two years to find a new garage for the historic Model A Ford school mascot

By Coby Lu
Contributing Writer

Due to future renovations, the Athletic Association (AA) has notified the Ramblin’ Reck Club that they will no longer be able to use their current garage on campus to house the Ramblin’ Wreck. The Wreck is currently housed in an undisclosed location on East Campus.

“We are currently in the process of finding a permanent space, but the process is very slow,” said Winfield Tufts, current Wreck driver and fifth year IE major. Most iconic for leading the football team onto the Grant Field at every home game, the Wreck represents one of the two mascots at Tech (the other being Buzz).

In addition to promoting Tech traditions and spirit, the Reck Club is also the caretaker of the Wreck and is in charge of maintaining and preserving the Wreck for the student body. According to the T-Book, a publication released by the Reck Club, “The Ramblin’ Wreck is Georgia Tech’s one-of-a-kind mechanical mascot – a 1930 Ford Model A Sport Coupe that truly embodies the spirit and character of both the Institute and the student body.”

The AA announced late last spring that due to renovations near the Wreck’s current garage the Reck Club would have to move from their current location within two years. However, the Reck Club was not able to use their current garage on campus and a new garage for the historic Model A Ford school mascot.

Dining hall may replace Wingnuts

By Matt Schrichte
Contributing Writer

Wingnuts will close its doors for what may be the last time this Dec. in order to accommodate Tech’s newest dining hall at the North Avenue Apartments. The Quiznos and EastSide Market in the same location will also close so that construction of the new dining hall can begin over winter break. As of now, there are no immediate plans to find alternate space for any of the current retailers. Construction crews are slated to begin operations for fall of 2011.

Talk of a North Avenue Dining Hall has come up for consideration. A plan for the new dining hall is expected to be a 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art dining facility with enough seats to feed roughly 300 students at any given time. Construction of the new dining hall can be specifically designed and constructed.

Roughly two years after its conception, a master plan was created for the North Avenue Apartments Complex (NAA) according to Howard Wertheimer, the director of the Office of Capital Planning and Space Management (CPSM).

“Aftewr we did the master plan and surveyed the students who lived in the North Avenue Apartments, we found out that a third of them subscribed to a meal plan,” Wertheimer said.

It was determined at that time that a new dining hall would need to be specifically designed and constructed. Roughly two years after its conception, a plan for the new dining hall has come up for consideration. The result is expected to be a 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art dining facility with enough seats to feed roughly 300 students at any given time.

Tech is looking into ways to get students the foods they desire during many different times. According to Wertheimer, the new dining hall may have a 24-hour component. Ideas have been proposed looking into expanding BuzzBy’s retail operations into dinner and late night service.

“By the start of spring term we want to have a very robust delivery system,” said Rich Steele, the Director of the Student Center. “We would want to use other retail services on campus: wings from either Jackets or pizza from Pizza Hut.”

Along the lines of dining, students at any given time.
From the files of the GTPD...

**Campus Crime**

By Vijal Narayanan
Assistant News Editor

**Another kind of swine**

On Friday, Sept. 11 an officer responded to a suspicious person report near Beta Theta Pi Fraternity house. While investigating the incident an officer noticed loud music from the house and requested that the noise be turned down. After issuing the warning the officer continued his investigation when another person emerged, yelling loudly and making insults toward the officer. At one point, the person yelled “I smell bacon, oink, oink, oink.” The officer ignored the comments for several minutes before initiating contact with the person and informing him that a report for loud music and screaming would be made.

**Burglary**

GTPD responded to a theft by taking at the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity house on the night of Friday, Sept. 11. Three students reported that their laptops were taken, along with a blue and black Swiss Army backpack, which they believed was used to carry items from the house. In addition, a Personal Response System (PRS) and a TI-83 calculator was also taken from the room.

**Legible Graffiti**

Officers responded to a call about vandalism on the night of Sept. 11. Someone painted graffiti on the west side door of the Woodruff Dining Hall. They also painted the door in the back of Woodruff Residence Hall. The words painted were illegible.
Each Tuesday, elected members of the two houses of the Student Government Association, the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), convene to consider allocation bills and discuss issues facing campus. Here is a summary of those two meetings.

By Vija Narayanan, Assistant News Editor

This edition of Council Clippings covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Sept. 21, 2009.

Women’s Leadership
UHR appropriated $4,000 to the Women’s Leadership Conference to be held on Oct. 23 and 24. The keynote speaker is expected to be Betsy Myers, a former executive director of the Harvard’s Center for Public Leadership. The WLC has been held since 1998. The bill passed in the UHR 40-1-1 and in the GSS 27-1-1.

NOMAS
SGA allocated $997.26 to the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMAS) Design Competition. The organization requested funding in order to cover the transportation, registration and supplies for the event. The bill passed the UHR 36-1-0.

Be the Change Day
UHR also considered a bill requesting funding for a service event known as “Be the Change Day.” The event is a nation-wide service day when volunteers join together to make an impact on the local community. The bill requested to cover fees related to parking and advertising and totaled $222.50. The bill passed UHR 36-4-0 and the GSS 21-5-3.

Paintball Club
The Paintball Club put forward a bill requesting funding from SGA to cover the cost of practices and competition fees. Originally set at $5,000, the UHR trimmed the bill down to $2,000 following a lengthy discussion about the cost and size of the organization. The bill passed UHR 36-4-0 and the GSS 21-5-3.

Counterterrorism officials stressed the investigation was ongoing and that the extent of the plot has yet to be uncovered.

US drops controversial missile plan
The White House dropped plans to implement a missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic. Russia vehemently argued against this decision, claiming that it threatened its national security. Defense Secretary Robert Gates defended the decision and that the system was too expensive and stressed that the US was not abandoning Eastern Europe.

Powerful floods hit the southeast
Torrential rainfall in the southeast US left eight people dead, most from Georgia. Governor Sonny Perdue requested President Obama to declare a state of emergency. Over 12,000 people were left without electricity and 300 people moved to shelters.

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WREK radio facing insurance claims, storage shortages

By Siddarth Gurnani  
Contributing Writer

WREK Radio, the student owned and operated radio station on campus has been facing several problems over the past few months originating from equipment damage due to a burst water pipe last winter.

The organization used to store its equipment in the Alexander Memorial Coliseum when last December, a steam pipe burst and damaged much of the equipment. Since then, the organization has had trouble covering the costs of the damage and has had difficulty finding storage space for archival records and equipment.

As of earlier this week, the organization has not yet received any reimbursement for its insurance claim. WREK has been forced to cover storage costs from out of pocket and has had difficulty replacing broken and destroyed equipment. This has hindered WREK's music selection and operating space, making it difficult for the organization to perform its function effectively.

Despite the difficulties with reimbursement from their insurance and damages incurred after a pipe burst last winter break, WREK radio hosts still continue to air as usual even with broken equipment.

Since the pipe burst over winter break, the facilities department did not discover the mishap for several days. The equipment was subjected to several days of hot water and steam as a result.

The damage affected a large portion of the equipment stored, including reel to reel machines and a digital audio tape (DAT) machine. Multiple other pieces of electronic equipment and music records were destroyed. This has led to a great hindrance of WREK's song selection and playback capabilities. For example, the reel to reel machines were damaged, preventing playback of old recordings of shows and live performances.

Thomas Shanks, a CS graduate student and chief engineer of WREK stated that due to the seepage of steam, facilities decided that the room was unusable. As a result, WREK lost its storage space, and was forced to move the equipment to their office and pay out of pocket to store equipment off campus.

Without being reimbursed for the damages, WREK has been unable to repair or replace new equipment. In addition, the staff has experienced trouble with some of the old records and tapes damaging newer equipment.

Donald Pitts, the manager of Student Publications and Media said that the Department of Insurance Services and Risk Management are moving forward with the insurance claim. WREK is hoping to receive the claim as soon as possible and replace some of the ruined equipment. Currently, it is projected that WREK will receive its claim by the end of this calendar year.

With the money, WREK hopes to invest in converting the affected tapes into a digital format and recovering some of the data. Their biggest concern, however, remains getting a storage space on campus. They are hoping that facilities can provide them with another space on campus to store old equipment and records.

"The Facilities department needs to find us a space at least half the size [of the previous space]," Shanks said.
Metro area flooding has little impact on campus services

By Vivian Fan
News Editor

Although the flooding from the increased amount of rain over the last week severely affected the greater metro Atlanta area, Tech’s campus felt much less of an impact from the weather.

“[There was] nothing significant. We were really very fortunate. There was no major damage,” said Director of Facilities Warren Page.

The storms started from Tuesday, Sept. 15 and stretched until last Wednesday, and provided the worst damage over last weekend. In the state of Georgia overall, the flooding has claimed ten lives and millions of dollars in damage to property and roads across the metro Atlanta area.

Despite some flooding in low-lying areas, Tech’s campus had little damage from the severe weather.

“We didn’t have any incidence of anything you’ll see in the newspapers. We had nothing even resembling that,” Page said.

“There were a few little sporadic roof leaks and window leaks. Nothing major. We were very, very fortunate,” said Area I West Campus Facilities Manager Rodd Hineman.

Of the damage reported, the worst of it was limited to some leaky roofs and walls in buildings across campus.

“What we had was some roof leaks, some places because of the driving where the water came into the windows, there was nothing that accumulated a lot of water, those types of things,” Page said.

The damage that did occur within residence halls and academic buildings were not large enough to warrant much worry from the facilities department, which generally solved all issues through each building coordinator.

“Most of them were very, very general. Most buildings have a building coordinator. Everything that’s any kind of a problem normally comes through them. Every once in a while I’ll get a call, but most of the calls are to the building itself,” Hineman said.

Of the buildings affected by the rains, the Wardlaw Center, located at the south end of Bobby Dodd Stadium, did report some of the more major damage on campus. Even in that case, the damage was still very small.

See “Flooding,” page 6

Come visit us on GE Day, September 28, at the Student Center Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dining

Dents should see a reduction in wait-times at current dining halls once the new hall is opened in the fall of 2011. According to Steele, Britain is currently overcrowded and is serving somewhere around 20,000 meals a week, a figure well over its intended usage.

Students offered a mixed perspective on the proposed changes.

“I see the importance of putting in a dining hall at North Avenue for the future classes of students,” said Ed Miskowski, a fourth-year INTA major. “But at the same time, considering we live right above where the future construction is going to be, it is going to be a major inconvenience, especially considering that we lived through last year’s construction.”

In response, space planning intends to address this student concern in the near future.

“We’re sensitive to the previous work,” said Wertheimer. “We’re trying to come up with an appropriate plan.”

“I like having Wingnuts and Quiznos as a change, because Britain is right there,” said Rohit Bhattia, second-year BIOL. “Now if there are two dining halls, then it’s not really a change, unless (the new one) is a lot better.”

Space planning representatives and others involved directly with the project, like Steele and Wertheimer, don’t expect it to be just another dining hall. With a projected budget of ten million dollars and a construction budget of $75 million, the new dining hall will attempt to emulate and innovate from the successes of recently built dining halls at other universities.

Over the past several years, Tech has been looking at some of the nation’s highest ranked dining halls for ideas.

“We’re going to pull from the best of everything we’ve seen,” Steele said.

In this case they hope to include the newest, most energy and mechanically efficient equipment. In addition due to the limited space, there won’t be much room for a large kitchen. As a result, a large portion of the food will be prepared fresh, directly in front of students.

Wertheimer did note that space planning and the administration recognizes what the loss of Wingnuts and Quiznos represents to many students.

“Students have expressed concern about the service that Wingnuts provides to the student population, and Auxiliary Services and Sodexo are meeting with student groups, and we hope they will be able to fulfill that niche,” Wertheimer said.

The proposed dining hall will be built on the ground floor of the North Avenue Apartments where Wingnuts is currently located.

Flooding

“[Although] I didn’t hit any flooding, there were some ceiling tiles that were wet and didn’t flood. It was not major damage,” Page said.

In addition, the Tech police department reported little or nothing out of the ordinary as a result of the flooding. Specifically, no major traffic accidents or other such reported incidents were the result of the flooding in some areas.

Monday, parking and other services still continued running as normal, although Singer buses did have to traverse to more heavily flooded streets, specifically at North Avenue underneath the Marietta Street Bridge and at the intersection of Ferst Drive and State Street.

There was a discrepancy between student experiences. Co-op and internship students felt more of the effects of the storms much more than students taking classes directly in front of campus, especially those needing to travel off campus to work with issues along I-75/75-85.

“Aside from swimming to classes, it didn’t affect me too much, but my friend who commutes went on an adventure on back roads to try to get to Tech,” said Carrie Hsu, fourth-year MGT major.

AFFECTED COMMUTING STUDENTS Ran into problems such as closed roads and traffic traveling back to Tech late Monday afternoon.

“I co-op and I was worried I’d be stranded, but there was some extra traffic, and I wasn’t stranded, but there were some extra traffic, and cancelling Six Flags definitely affected my weekend plans,” Nordhielm added.

“We have a really comprehensive roof program... when you maintain things it pays off long term,” Hineman said.

“Our management seems very in front of possible things that could happen. We’ve got a good leadership staff,” Hineman said.

While the flooding made no direct impact on a majority of Tech students and campus, it has affected planned programming for this weekend due to the damage.

As a result of the flooding, Tech’s annual Six Flags Night will be canceled due to safety concerns from damage and repairs needed to be made to the rides at the theme park.

[Although] I didn’t hit any problems on the road and I wasn’t stranded, but there was some extra traffic, and cancelling Six Flags definitely affected my weekend plans,” Nordhielm added.
Students protest fountain demolition

From 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, students gathered at the library fountain to protest its demolition. The fountain will be replaced by the steps to accommodate the construction of the Clough Undergraduate Learning Center. Fewer than twenty students were in attendance of the sit-in, including SGA undergraduate vice president Parker Hancock. The sit-in was initiated by students who sent an email through organizations across campus late last week. SGA, the Office of the Dean of Students, and the Office of the President have met with these students to discuss solutions and memorials ideas.

Stingers, SWAT Team respond to standoff

The Atlanta SWAT team and Tech transportation services responded to a standoff at Centennial Place Apartments, located across the street from North Avenue Apartments. The Atlanta police were called to the apartment complex after receiving a 9-11 call from a woman (not the resident) complaining about a burglar. The burglar had entered the apartment by force, smashing a window and the door along the way. Once police arrived inside, they found the burglar, a woman who had previously been in a relationship with the resident. The burglar threatened to shoot police with the gun she claimed to have possessed, and also blow up the complex by turning on the gas. Stinger buses were called to shuttle residents away from the scene. The standoff finally ended when police tear-gassed the complex and the suspect surrendered.

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not provided with an alternate space on campus and they have yet to find another location. However, the AA (including Director of Athletics Dan Radakovich) did offer support in the search process. “The Athletic Association was very open in communicating the time frame...the AA also gave us the names and contacts of who we needed to reach in order to find a new space,” Tufts said. At the time of printing, the AA had not responded to inquiries.

In addition to losing its current parking garage, the Reck Club is also seeking solutions to the problem of the small space provided, in favor of a much larger space. The current space is only large enough to house Wreck and does not have enough space for students to walk around it. “The garage is not that much. We can’t really do repairs underneath the cars in the garage. When we need to do repairs under the car we have to back it out and jack it up,” Tufts said.

The Reck Club is going through the proper channels to attempt to find a different space on campus for the car through alumni connections and the greater Tech administration. Despite the aid of a representative of the administration, members of the Reck Club note the slow process of finding a space. “The biggest problem that we are facing is that things are going very slowly...” We were just told that we that we have only two years, and we need to get this on schedule to find a place to house the Wreck. “We want a space that it deserves to take care of the car and not just a temporary shed for every five to ten years or a storage space or closet,” said Tufts. Although the Wreck has always been housed on campus, this is not the first time that the location of the garage has changed. In 1967, the Reck Club obtained the car after a search to find a car that represented the entire student body at Tech. The car has led the football team onto the field since 1961, and has not been absent from a game since.

The Reck Club is self-sufficient monetarily and does not receive a budget from the administration. The club uses its funds for the maintenance and renovation of the Wreck. The club generates revenue by bringing the Wreck to appearances, and this money helps pay for the cost of housing the car on campus. The Tech administration has proposed some possible locations for a new garage, yet none of these options have come to pass. In addition, the Reck Club has looked into renting space from a vendor outside of campus. “The Ramblin’ Wreck is an icon of Georgia Tech. People take pride in the car. It has always been taken care of by the students and served for the students,” said Tufts.

2010 will mark the Ramblin’ Reck’s 50th year on campus. “We need to have space for it for another 50 years for this car,” said Tufts. “The Ramblin’ Wreck is an icon of the school, and I think it should be high on the priority list...it needs a proper and respectful permanent space for the rest of its time on campus.”

In addition to looking for a new parking garage all together, the Reck is also searching for a larger space that will be able to hold the Wreck and for club members to move around in to maintain it.