Supreme Court Correspondent
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Note that unlike the previous template, there is an extra line between the staff title and the body copy for an email address. Addresses can be nique, technique, or gt ac counts. The bar and spacing below is automatic.

Captions are 2 or 3 lines. Align the top of this text block's window shade even with the bottom of the photo—spacing is automatic. By Name[/space][/space].

Entertainment
Pop culture you need to stay sane at Tech

By Hillary Lipko
Entertainment Editor

Many colleges have assigned reading for incoming students—either for the sake of it or for an English class. Fortunately, Tech requires no such reading.

However, there are a few aspects of pop culture that are practically required for understanding jokes and conversation references. You can probably get by without knowing all of them, but it doesn’t hurt to get familiar with the ones you don’t know and brush up on the ones you may already hold dear to your heart.

After all, most of these pieces of popular culture are light-hearted, even ridiculous, so they’re the perfect remedy for the infamous stress which plagues most Tech students. So, for your convenience and amusement, the Tech is bringing you a guide by no means complete, guide to pop culture icons for Tech students.

Entertainment abounds on, around Tech campus

By Hillary Lipko
Entertainment Editor

[Editor’s Note: This article has been expanded, with modifications, from the October 1 issue.]

As the entertainment editor, it seems only fitting that I make my opinion known about something related to work so that I won’t go days on a daily basis. I’d like to introduce here for the moment and confess that a very large part of what convinced me to come to Tech had to do with the great music scene here in Atlanta. Even if you’ve been really into seeing bands and discovering new types of music, living in Atlanta, Georgia will increase your opportunities to do so.

There are several places within a reasonable distance of campus where you can go to get your fix. Whether you’re into live concerts like me or art films, visual art or something else entirely, there is someplace that caters to your interests. However, it may come to a surprise to some that you don’t even have to leave campus to get an occasional movie or music fix. There are all sorts of cool events that go on all the time. Take, for example, Live Lunch. You’ve probably seen the signs advertising it in the Student Center, but you’ve probably never checked it out, right? Okay, I didn’t check it out until about halfway through my second semester at Tech, either. My excuse probably is the same as yours: I hadn’t visited the Student Center in a while. On Wednesday, though, my 11 a.m. class was cancelled and instead of hiking back to my dorm, I decided to check out the Music Listening Room in the student center. I’d forgotten about Live Lunch; I was just looking for a place to relax for an hour before I had to head off to another class.

While I relaxed in the MLK’s rather cozy environment, a local musician treated me to the few others present to a pleasant acoustic performance.

There are a plethora of other regular entertainment events on campus as well. Movies are shown in the Student Center almost regularly, and since most of the movies are already available for purchase, there is still a chance to see them in the library. Many Tech students purchased their copies online.

Potter book evokes mixed feelings

By Hillary Lipko
Entertainment Editor

After much anticipation, children and adults of every imaginable age packed bookstores around the world on the evening of July 15. The wait for the sixth installment of the Harry Potter series was almost over. Starring at midnight in each time zone, copies of Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince started flying off bookshelves and into the hands of millions of eager readers. Ships were so backed up from Amazon.com and other vendors criss-crossed the globe, many scheduled for delivery on its July 16 release date. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince is now available at Barnes & Noble at GT a couple of months before Half Blood Prince’s release, expecting that, like all the other books & Noble stories, it would have a midnight release. Much to my chagrin, it closed at the regular time, and I, along with a handful of other Potter fans, stood outside the door of the bookstore at a couple minutes to 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning.

Other students picked up their copies from the post office, where a sizable number of copies had been delivered in specially printed boxed from Amazon.com. Post office employees at Tech were even kind enough to note in the package receipt notifications that the parcel was the Harry Potter book.

So, books in hand, Potter fans all over the world curled up on floors, couches, chairs and beds with the new volume and digested every word. After reading Half Blood Prince, it’s almost hard to believe that this is still supposed to be a children’s series. The themes in this installment are so serious, yet still have a universal sort of appeal that transcends age. Many found it difficult to finish the book, not because of the writing style or boring content, but because they were so affected emotionally. I personally liked the book, though it took a little longer for the story to really get moving than in the previous books. It is much more serious and much darker than any of the others, leaning heavily on the themes of treachery and death. Half Blood Primor does have its light-hearted moments as new Parsleys are ignited between some of the characters. Some aren’t sure they liked the book because they were so upset by the events that transpired within its pages. A few readers have claimed Half Blood Prince as their new favorite in the series, but most still hold Prisoner of Azkaban or Order of the Phoenix above the rest.

Probably, more of the people who were at the midnight parties and who waited at the doors of bookstores on a Saturday morning have finished the book at least once by now. But for those who haven’t gotten to it yet, run, don’t walk, to the nearest library, bookstore or friend who already has it, and give it a read. Despite the serious tone, it’s still a wonderful literary escape.
Two Bits Man imparts pearls of wisdom upon new students

On your first night at Tech, beat someone up, or become somebody’s bitch. Oh, wait, that’s what they say about prison, but Tech and prison aren’t all that different. Either way, you’re stuck for five to 10, and you’re not gonna want to eat the food.

If you’re reading this issue of Two Bits, I’m guessing that you’re either a freshman who made a grave error in choosing Tech over your senior year of high school, or you’re one of Tech’s old farts who’s still serving their sentence. So either way, I’m here to help you make the best of this coming year.

Whenever I come back in fall, I like to walk around campus and watch the smiling faces of the incoming freshmen and take their pictures—hey, I am on Student Publications photo stuff, not just some pervert with a camera.

Ya know when you go to Six Flags and go on the Georgia Cyclone they take your picture right as you go down the steepest part of the ride, and everyone has that bug-eyed look as they realize that the roller coaster is, in fact, going almost straight down? Well, I’ve figured out that if I take my pictures of the incoming freshmen the week of midterms, I get exactly the same expression. If you compare them to the FASET pictures, they’re kind of like those “don’t use drugs” pictures they showed us in high school.

The first thing you’ve probably noticed is that all of the Student Center ATMs are missing. I’m not sure that really had a point in telling you that, but while you’re at Tech, that’s just the sort of thing you need to get used to: random inconveniences for no readily apparent reason.

It’s sort of like Kafka’s The Trial is part of the Human Resources manual here. I’d be convinced it was out of malice, but they’re not that organized. One day, it’s the ATMs, the next it’s your dignity, and somewhere in between you get to visit the bursar.

Up until now, I’ve been way too cynical, and you’re probably thinking about that party school that was your second choice, but fear not. Tech has parties too. Granted, as a freshman, you’ll be expected to supply the gigantic switch, but I’m sure they’re still fun.

If you’re not already trying desperately to transfer to that party school, you’re probably asking yourself, “Self, how can I find a date at Tech?” Well, if you’re a guy, the exact same way you did in high school: Google. If you’re a girl, just sit still for a few minutes. For those of you who think outside of the box and just don’t want to go with tradition, Freshman Experience has many fun-filled events for you to meet equally timid members of the opposite sex, and if that doesn’t work out, just go to a LAN party, also known as the window box for the wallflowers of life.

Now, ladies of Tech, let me start by saying that my phone number is [deleted]. Please form an orderly line; there’s plenty of Two Bits Man to go around. But seriously, I would be remiss if I didn’t address those who put the co-ed, so to say, on you. Young ladies out there, please don’t crush our soul: the professors already do that just fine.

As an older student I feel obligated to share some wisdom of the ages with you. At some point, you will be approached by a random stranger who will want to tell you about their health problems and ask you for money. While there are many ways to deter panhandlers, I believe that it is of the utmost importance that you are polite. After all, anyone who is de-layered enough to shake down college students for money has much bigger issues. If they persist, a simple, “No thank you. I don’t wish to see your colostomy bag,” should suffice.

Although as a freshman it may be tempting to eat pizza seven nights a week, remember that Weight Watchers exists for a reason. The Two Bits speaks from experience on this one, because as a freshman, he ate at least eight kilobytes.

Likewise, when you give up pizza, remember that you can only replace sleep with Diet Coke to a certain extent. Sometimes you may actually want to stop peeing and remain unconscious for more than 30 minutes. Treasure these moments of sleep, because by the end of your Tech career, you’ll have pretty much forgotten them.

I’m sure there are a few of you out there that categorically refuse to be jaded by all this world weary cynicism, I applaud you for your positive outlook on life. I regret to inform you, however, that Santa Claus does not in fact exist, and neither does the Tooth Fairy. That was your mom all along.

So this is the Two Bits Man, and until next time, remember: avoid the rush. Give in to existential angst now.
Warped Tour brings bands, fans together

By Jennifer Allen
Contributing Writer

Sunburn, blisters, raw skin bruises, posers, drunk and some good old-fashioned moshing...welcome to the past, present and future of Warped Tour.

No longer is Warped Tour just about the punk scene, but about getting as much music to kids as possible.

When the tour hit Atlanta on August 3, there were nine stages that were set up in pairs that alternated bands, so when one band went off the other stage had a band that was just starting.

While the Ernie Ball Stage and Hurley Stage were places that featured up-and-coming bands like Mae and Motion City Soundtrack, the two main stages, Bishop Stage and Mike Stage, were where the big hitters like My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, the Offspring and Dropkick Murphys came and shared their music.

The crowds were moderate sizes with the exception of two performances: My Chemical Romance and Dropkick Murphys.

My Chemical Romance had an extra 10 minutes to play because they were voted the band that the crowd wanted to see. The crowd was one of the biggest that had come to Bishop Stage, but they were not the rowdy crowd that was expected.

Instead, there was a mixture of all types—from posers, to punks, to groupies, to preps they all were there for the music. It was all in all a good show but it looks like fame has gotten the better of them, seeing as the lead singer, Gerard Way, has better highlights and a better haircut than I do.

The last band to play that night was the one that people had been talking about the whole day—the Dropkick Murphys. This crowd was the type that Warped Tour was created for: kids who idolized the Murphys for what they stand for and for their lyrics, not what they look like.

There were mosh pits breaking out everywhere and crowd surfers who were coming over the front in droves so that for 30 minutes straight the security guards had to stand by to catch people. You could see the legs of fans that followed the band by the banner that was raised during the first song and flew until the band left the stage.

The Dropkick Murphys were the first band to show their respect for their fans by having fans sing a song and then bringing half the front row on stage.

The respect for fans is not just something that the Dropkick Murphys embody. "We have always been fans of Warped Tour. If you have one of these concert packages it’s like a groupie magnet. I have a girlfriend this tour, so it’s weird...she is totally a spectator sport for me," he said.

Story of the Year was one of dozens of bands to play at this summer’s Warped Tour. The touring concert festival brings together bands and fans of all types in celebration of what they all love most: music.

"The quote does not have to extend all the way to the top of the photo, but it should be at least two lines long, sometimes three. The header style can also be used without a title, offering a little more size."

The pulled quote style can also be used for news, sports sections, etc. with the exception of two perfor-
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mations: My Chemical Romance and Dropkick Murphys.

But sometimes the fans are not there for the just the music. Beaus from Saosin talked about the downs-and-ups of being on such a big stage as Warped Tour. "If you have one of these passes, it’s like a groupie magnet. I have a girlfriend this tour, so it’s weird...she is totally a spectator sport for me," he said.

And as night fell Warped Tour 2005 came to an end here in Atlanta. But the feelings were still running high as the kids walked to their cars. They were singing their favorite songs from the bands that they had just seen. Warped Tour had for a few hours brought different genres of music to one place where kids could just listen to music. It makes you wonder what music will be coming to Atlanta with the Warped Tour next year.
Music Midtown changes for better, worse

Heightened ticket prices, country stage are among the festival’s new adjustments

By Hillary Lipko
Entertainment Editor

[Editor’s Note: This article has been reprinted, with modifications, from the June 17 issue.]

Over the past 12 years, Music Midtown has become a sort of early summer staple in the lives of Atlanta area residents. People travel from as far as Ohio, possibly even further, just to enjoy the scores of bands that the festival has to offer. For the past six years, Music Midtown has taken up a three-day residence in the area around the Civic Center and what used to be Sci-Tech, just as the weather began to show flares of summer heat.

Until this year, Music Midtown was held at the beginning of May, but because of scheduling changes, the festival was moved this year to take place June 10-12. It may have seemed like a good idea at the time, but it turns out that the weekend on which Music Midtown fell this year was the same weekend that the Vibe Music Fest and the Bonnaroovia Music and Arts Festival were taking place. Undoubtedly, some festival-goers may have opted for one of the other events over Music Midtown, a choice that some never had to make before this year.

Another change affecting those attending Music Midtown this year was a sharp increase in the price of tickets. Last year, the price of a ticket for all three days of the festival cost a mere $45. This year, anyone wanting to get through the gates had to shell out $50 more. While $75 is still a comparatively good deal for a three-day concert festival featuring so many big-name acts, such a spike in price was an unfortunate downside considering that as recently as 2002 a weekend pass to the festival only set attendees back $45.

The increase in ticket price might not be such an issue had the weekend’s lineup been up to par with what it has been in the past. While this year’s festival featured some big names and legends such as the Counting Crows, Joan Jett and Def Leppard, the selection of acts outside of the giant left something to be desired overall.

Even some of the currently popular big names like Michael Tolcher and the Killers gave less-than-stellar performances that did little to inspire excitement in the crowd beyond the 10th row.

In the past, when preparing schedules of bands I wanted to see over the course of Music Midtown, I had trouble mapping out which bands I wanted to see most because there were so many that were worth seeing, often in the same time slots. I also was seeing a band in nearly every time slot.

This year, not only did I not have to make any big decisions, but I had huge chunks of time where I wandered around, not really engaged in any of the performances. Not to mention, a very large portion of the audience that I saw failed to impress me.

It was fortunate that the torrential downpour that occurred Saturday night was during the Black-Eyed Pea’s performance. I might not have stuck around otherwise. One of the few bands that truly impressed me were the Peas making through a cold, blowing rain an almost rewarding experience.

Their high-energy show was enough to keep the crowd energized, even through the heavy rain. Also, the Black-Eyed Peas’ live performance is what shows that, unlike many other popular hip-hop groups today, they are not all flash and hype—they have real musical talent.

Another band that did not disappoint was The Pixies and Cambria. The punk rock quartet gathered a relatively small crowd compared to some of the other acts of the weekend, but they made the best use possible of the audience they had.

The crowd was fully engaged in the show, dancing and moshing and crowd surfing. It was the most energy I had seen in a crowd the whole weekend.

Several rock legends were scheduled to play over the weekend, including Joan Jett, Tom Perry, the Pixies and Def Leppard. I missed Joan Jett’s performance, but those who saw it had nothing but good things to say. Apparently she has not lost any of her energy, talent or good looks over the years.

I was, however, so fortunate as to get to see Def Leppard. Their performance drew a crowd of die-hard fans who have followed the band since they burst onto the scene in the ‘80s, the children of those fans and many astute music fans of ages in between who learned to love their music on their own, if a little late in time.

Personally, I belong to the latter group, so I felt very lucky to see a band that I had long thought I was 10 years too late to ever see perform live. With all of those high-expectations and my relatively dismal opinion of many of the other bands at Music Midtown, disappointment and letdown over Def Leppard’s performance almost seems imminent.

However, this one band that got it right. In fact, the only complaints I have are about the giant man who purposefully stood in front of me, obstructing my entire view of the stage, and the woman near the front who kept exposing herself to the band.

Overall, Music Midtown was a mixed bag this year. Any event that attracts an average of 300,000 attendees is great for people watching, if nothing else. So even if there was an occasional holl in the bands worth seeing, watching festival attendees were nearly just as entertaining. Even the weather was a mixed bag. Friday night saw brief, light rain showers; all of Saturday was plagued with downpours; but Sunday was warm and sunny.

Despite the decrease in the quality of entertainment, the increase in ticket price and the generally poor weather, Music Midtown is still one of the best bangs for your buck as far as concert festivals go.

And with the addition of a country music stage and added with the city securing the area around the Civic Center for the festival until 2008, Music Midtown is not likely to see significant adverse effects stemming from my biggest complaints about this year’s festival.

And despite what I didn’t like about this year’s Music Midtown, it doesn’t mean that next year doesn’t have the potential to be better. Of course, I still expect it to rain, because along with big crowds, festival poles and three days of music, rain also seems to be a Music Midtown tradition.

Inside Music Midtown: Local band Honestly poised to break big

Up a brilliant live performance to rival some of the biggest names at the festival. Despite the rain that persisted through the set, fans and curious observers crowded around the stage to sing, dance and watch.

The band performed a short set consisting mostly of material from their new album, which is filled with songs that would be at home on any radio station.

The first two tracks of Ghost of a Brilliant Past are probably the catchiest on the entire EP, which is good in that it draws you into the rest of the album, but bad in that the pace of the album declines after only the second song.

Because they’re on tour, Honestly won’t be playing another show in the Atlanta area for awhile. But keep an eye on their website at www.honestlyband.com for updates on their next gig in the area.

You’ll want to check this band out. They’re one of the most highly lauded independent bands in the industry and are poised to break big—and soon.

You’ll want to be able to say that you saw them before they were radio’s it-boys.

Quite possibly one of the greatest hidden gems of any concert festival is the locals stage. While often a locals stage is booked with bands that are completely unlistenable, the organizers of Music Midtown did a wonderful job booking some of the best that the Atlanta area has to offer in the way of unsigned bands.

One of the bands that graced Midtown this year was Peachtree City’s own Honestly. Touring in support of their new EP, Ghosts of a Brilliant Past, Honestly offered up a brilliant live performance to rival some of the biggest names at the festival. Despite the rain that persisted through the set, fans and curious observers crowded around the stage to sing, dance and watch.

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To Do from page 3
certain element of fun seeing it on a big screen.
Occasionally, art and foreign films are screened as well. Last year Buzz Studios, a student filmmaking organization, premiered its first feature-length film, John’s Blender.
Quite possibly some of the most exciting events that happen on campus, however, are those that only happen once a year or once in your entire time at Tech.
Annual events such as Sting Break bring big-name bands to Tech. Last year, Fuel headlined the Sting Break concert...This year’s Sting Break brought Ludacris to Alexander Memorial Coliseum.”

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Guide from page 3

Red vs. Blue
Another online animation, Red vs. Blue is an ongoing series of animated shorts made in the Halo video game engine.
A sitcom of sorts, RvB focuses upon the members of Red Army and Blue Army, who often question the purpose of the supposed war they are fighting, accidentally blow things up and say things that are both insightful and sometimes pretty stupid—but quotable nonetheless.
Whether you’re into Halo or not, RvB has that special brand of humor that seems to appeal to Tech students.
Combine that with just the right amount of suspense at the end of each episode, and you’ll have an addiction in no time. Not the only one you’ll get from being here, that’s for sure.

Halo
Contrary to popular belief, not everyone at Tech likes to play video games. But everyone knows Halo. It serves as a sort of centerpiece of social interaction for many students, whether they’re playing it with their new roommates or with old friends, or just sitting on the couch watching everyone else go at each other with submachine guns.
Of course, Xbox Live gives the game an entirely new dimension, allowing you to hook up with your friends from home and deal them a dose of ownership in addition to your roommates. Blowing each other apart in Halo is truly a way to bring people together.

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