April Fool’s web prank well-received

By Kristin Noell Contributing Writer

This year, on April Fool’s Day, students on the Tech network who visited the UGA homepage at www.uga.edu were redirected to a spoof page.

However, this year’s joke was far from the first prank to be played on the Tech community; in fact, there is a long history of official April Fool’s jokes, involving an alternation of the Tech homepage every year from 1996 to 2002. Adam Arwood, a Research Scientist for the Office of Information Technology (OIT), has been behind these jokes in the past.

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Arwood was working at OIT part-time back then, and just happened to have the computer authority to manipulate the homepage.

“All we used to have on the Tech homepage was a single picture of Tech Tower,” he said. “Out of boredom one day, I photoshopped out the ‘T’ and then put the image back up. Nobody noticed for like three months that it had been ‘stolen.’”

Eventually, the practical jokes evolved into a yearly occurrence. One year, Arwood and other OIT pranksters made the homepage slowly disappear once a person visited it. Another year, they made the homepage black and white.

The joke they played in 1999, however, is “the one I can never get over.” Arwood said, “It was a play on the first email virus that would go out and eat your computer, a printer, a cam-

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Sunny Khera, a third-year Management major, stands in front of her wall, which is covered with GT basketball paraphernalia, including posters and articles. Friends, well aware of her collection, have helped contribute.

“In high school I went to all the games, because my two best friends were on the high school basketball team. I’m always about school spirit, so as soon as I came, I was like ‘gotta root for the basketball team.’”

A believer from the beginning, Khera was one of the few who had faith in Yellow Jacket basketball, even after they lost last year’s star player Chris Bosh to the NBA.

“Everyone was like, ‘Oh, now we’re not going to be that good,’ and I was just like ‘whatever, they are going to be great!’ Even before the season started I was just so excited, and I just started rooting for them hard-core,” she said.

A third year management major, Khera has gotten a chance to personally get to know more than a few of team members.

“I know B.J. and Ish,” she said, “they are like my friends. They are people I can give a hug to, or call if I need to talk to them. Mario West and Jarrett Jack are in my [human resources] class, and B.J. and Luke are in my finance class.”

Knowing the players gives Khera an even greater reason to be a fan. “Now I am rooting for friends and people that I know. So it’s more special than being just a fan, it’s this love and support for people that I know, and I can wave and they will wave back.”

With her constant presence at all home games, it was inevitable that the team began to notice her ardent support.

“Slowly I got to know them, and they’d tell me, ‘we see you at every game.’ I always say good luck before each game, and they are so sweet.”

The best part about being a be-

See Fan, page 15
I caused panic and did it to be pitched it really negatively, like thing was fine, and then they me,” he said. “I thought every- ed to come out and interview ed my head,” he recalled. Other was not what he had hoped. OIT’s wood said.

“[OIT] was none too pleased...They wanted my head.”

Adam Arrowood
Research Scientist, OIT

began the “press-release era,” as he called it, where the April Fool’s joke came in the form of a bogus press release on the Tech homepage.

“It really became a ‘how well can I write something funny’ as opposed to fooling somebody. I don’t know [if] anyone really believed our stories,” he said.

Despite a lackluster response, Arrowood, who went to Tech as an undergrad, said, “I’ve always looked at the press release thing as a really good chance to dig at UGA.”

In addition, last year there was no joke because of the start of the Iraqi war. Arrowood felt there was too much anxiety and suspense to use the web for any- thing other than real informa- tion. This year, however, the joke was revived—thoughts were a little different. Because the Fi- nal Four brought increased traf- fic to the Tech homepage, ICPA was “expecting a lot more scruti- tony from external people,” and that page was not altered.

Instead, word got around somehow that the UGA site had not been altered—and students quickly passed the link on to friends through IM and word of mouth. Arrowood was not be- hind the UGA joke, and would only say, “The only answer I have is George P. Burdell…I took a vow of secrecy.”

Another positive attribute of the joke is that he does not know whether anyone approved it or not. “I don’t even know who knows who did it,” he said. “A lot of people assumed it was me, and I have to tell everyone it’s not me.”

Although they have plans for crazier stunts than the Drucilla Monitor Virus, the fate of the April Fool’s joke is in the air. Arrowood has since entered into retirement from his prank-pull- ing career.

Still, he said mischievously, “Look for next one year. There might be one, there might not. It all depends on the climate, what’s going on in the world.”

When this year’s joke will not be archived, all though was not be- Fool’s jokes can be found at www.gatech.edu/april-fools.

History of April Fool’s jokes

1996 – heeT aigreoG?
Adam Arrowood, a Research Scientist at OIT, turned to Photoshop and reversed everything on the Tech homepage. “What we really loved was that people called in the Customer Support Center saying, ‘There’s something wrong with your web server, it’s serving everything backwards!’”

1997 – Now you see it, now you don’t
The next year, the team did disappearing images, making the Tech homepage load and unload. “That was kind of funny and people kind of enjoyed that, but not as much as the backwards one,” Arrowood said.

1998 – Don’t matter if you’re black or white
The homepage was changed to appear in black and white instead of color.

“‘We...announced that we’d put a color filter on the network...in order to keep bandwidth, which from a technical standpoint is a totally ridiculous state- ment,” Arrowood commented.

1999 – Drucilla causes mass pandemonium
A play on the Melissa virus, the first email virus that got a lot of press, the 1999 joke caused somewhat of a scandal. The homepage was blurred and a fake pop-up warning alerted users that they had contracted “Drucilla Monitor Virus.” Additional pages of fake advice about dealing with the virus were provided, along with an anti-virus inoculation link. “Installing” the anti-virus disabled the pop-up warning and let the user in on the joke.

2000 – To Hell With Georgia!
After the response from the previous year, 2000’s joke was much more toned down, and took the form of a press release linked from the Tech homepage. In addition, because April Fool’s was on a Saturday that year, the team went for a more “subtle” prank, writing a fake news story that said that Tech was relocating to Athens.

2001 – Georgia Tech... Coyotes?
In 2001, AOL bought Time Warner, which inspired a fake press release saying that AOL was buying Tech as well. The press release introduced possible changes to the Institute, such as the prospect of the beloved Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets becoming the “AOL Time Warner Georgia-Tech.com Coyotes.”

2002 – Ponce’s Gold
Inspired by all the construction around campus, Arrowood introduced the search of Tech’s “Archaeology Department” for the gold of Ponce de Leon, which centered on digging up his namesake street. Unfortu- nately, the joke did not go over well. “It was crickets. Nothing positive, nothing negative. I don’t know if anyone even saw it.”

FOCUS

Tech is going all the way.
To the two suck up jackass who I helped change their flat tire, a simple thank you would be nice at least-----------talk about TBS why does the boy have to be so busy?
We like each other. We like seeing each other. So why don’t we ever
why does the boy have to be so busy?

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tire, a simple thank you would be nice at least-----------talk about TBS why does the boy have to be so busy?
We like each other. We like seeing each other. So why don’t we ever actually see each other?
Two reasons to love the school of manegement here at Tech:
1. Females (duh)
2. The Championship game bound Basketball team!
Great job guys! You made it really close there at the end, Woo Hoo for the B-Ball team!

Thanks Reth, you UCK!!
F UCONN, F the refs, and most of all F the announcers.
So we lose to UCONN or the refs?
That was down right embarrassing,...
Emeka Okafor can SUCKIT...we had an awesome season and next year will be better!

Goodbye Marvin, Robo, CMo, and Dave Nelson.... you will all be missed
We’ll be back UConn, with a vengeance
Here is the difference between a physicist and a chemist
If you add energy to a system, does it become more organized, or
does it become more chaotic?
Conservation of energy versus entropy? Who will win?
Coming back from San Antonio, I thought over a few things....
I prayed for a title, and I expected a fair game.
My prayers didn’t have to be answered, but I at least should have
gotten a fair game!!

UCONN may have been the favorite, and our team wasn’t making
the shots, but let them earn the title via athleticism!
Because at the same time we weren’t making shots, neither were they.
Can we count how many times Okafor should have fouled out?

Go to page 21 for even more slivers
Ryan Johnson posts flyers for his campaign. Candidates had to document all expenses—banners, posters, candy—in a campaign finance report.

Finance

Many of the candidates used their connections to find friends who were willing to host their campaign websites so that they only had to pay for domain forwarding; friends also helped with volunteering for other aspects of their campaign.

However, because of the way the candidates were required to count expenses, some of the costs that were listed on their finance report were not actually incurred by the candidates themselves.

“You have to include all donated items as well in your expense report, as if you spent it,” said candidate Ryan Johnson. “Take all of the copying services and paper. I got all that for free from work…so I didn’t really spend $235; it was actually much less.”

In the end, the money was trivial in comparison to the amount of time and energy the candidates spent on their campaign. "The amount of time spent campaigning is more of a drain," Johnson said. "Every night there are many groups to talk to, many people/groups to email and appointments to set up."

For some of the candidates, though, the time they spent campaigning translated into a heavy opportunity cost. Bernstein, who is currently co-oping, took a week and a half off from work to campaign during the day. In terms of the money he could have earned from his job, he said, "the campaign actually cost me close to $2000."

However, he pointed out, "I can do CS anytime…but how often can I run for SGA president?"

Fire

The fire was not detrimental to their education or other ambitions in the long run, but they will need to make up for lost time.

"I’ll be graduating at the end of summer…so it was kind of an awkward time," Nayak said. "There are a couple of things that fell back by a week…so I need to catch up."

Kangude, who finds himself in a similar situation, said that graduation will make the recovery easier.

"After a couple of days, you’re like, [we’re] just students. [We] don’t have a lot of stuff."

Veer Mahajan

Because of the way the candidates were asked to set up their campaigns, they really had to plan for a lot of things themselves. Mahajan added, "I just want to say thank you to Georgia Tech and the Dean of Students and my advisors and the faculty, the departments, the Housing Office, the Georgia Tech Research Institute, the Red Cross, the city of Atlanta…"

The whole community has been really supportive," Nayak said. "[It] makes it much more easier to deal with.

The Office of the Dean of Students reports that they still need a few more gift certificates and two additional computers. Anybody wishing to donate can bring their gifts to Suite 210 in the Student Services Building.
Manpreet Khera
Sister and roommate

“I would see her sitting there for hours cutting them all out...She digs for these articles.”

According to Manpreet, people who come to visit are “so fascinated with the wall that they also started contributing with AJC articles or whatever they could find to help her collection.”

“Everyone who comes and sees it is amazed; they all just stand with their mouths wide open,” she said.

“Even though [the championship game] was a heartbreaker, we were so proud that we had gotten that far, when all odds were against us,” she said.

And she has full faith in next year: “I think we’re going to go all the way,” she said.

“Everyone said that the team is.”

The Technique
We’re the South’s liveliest college newspaper.
We worked hard to earn that title.

Rare change of heart as profs push back tests, homework for NCAA championship game

At a school where students are used to academic inflexibility, the NCAA championship game was a good enough reason for many professors to give extensions on homework and projects, push back tests, and even cancel class. Some professors, who were basketball fans themselves, didn’t need any prompting. Others needed a little convincing—from pleading students, or from President Clough himself, who encouraged professors in an email to reschedule tests to accommodate students who were returning from San Antonio. A few professors, though, true to Tech spirit, didn’t make any exceptions.

“One [professor] moved a project due date back. I was planning on doing things other than the project on Monday night anyway...and just hoped that he [would] move things back after everyone complained on the due date.”

Simeon Spearman, second-year IAML

“I was in lab on Monday, working on a lab when the writing coordinator came in and [pushed our paper back to Friday]. So I was able to watch the game...I actually went out with [friends] to Jocks and Jills. Since we lost, if the paper had actually been due on Tuesday, I don’t think I would’ve done it.”

Dale Han, third-year EE

“One [professor] moved our Wednesday test to next Friday. Making the national championship is a huge accomplishment for the team; it’s only right that the university as a whole recognizes this accomplishment.”

Chris McGovern, third-year ISyE

“I had a test at noon on Tuesday. I flew into Atlanta at 9 a.m. and had to get to campus, drop all my stuff off, and go take the test...We do get to drop a test grade, and I have a feeling that most of the students in that class will drop that one.”

Ehsan Sarsharzadeh, fourth-year MGT

“My econ test got pushed to Wednesday and my circuits test got pushed to Thursday. I think it’s awesome...[it] shows that no matter how much we say Tech shafts us, the profs do care.”

Marion Tinio, second-year EE

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Steven Hamilton, second-year NRE

“In my CS2200 class, the professor] postponed our homework a couple of days...All my friends’ teachers were doing special things for them due to the Final Four game (like delaying tests and whatnot), so I figure it’s only fair if at least one CS professor does something cool.”

Jeremy Duvall, third-year CS

“My professors were as excited about the game as I was...they didn’t do anything!”

Paul Knight, second-year CE
Winner receives a free student combo at Li’l Dinos

Last week’s winner:
James Sanders

Last week’s Tech Up Close:
Sign on west end of Student Services Building

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu