

Forgotten film

Have you ever seen *The Sting*? If not, check out why you're missing out on a great movie. **Page 18**

Football wrap-up

Atlanta football, both college and professional, is over for the year. Check out all the final facts. **Page 27**

A Guy Thing provides laughs, but lacks romance

By Joseph Jeong
Contributing Writer

Title: *A Guy Thing*
Starring: Jason Lee, Julia Stiles, Selma Blair, James Brolin
Director: Chris Koch
Rating: PG-13
Score: 2.5 out of 5 stars

A Guy Thing appropriately starts with a cliché wedding joke. That joke sets the tone for the rest of the movie. Like a cliché joke, it's not terrible but it never really reaches greatness, either.

A Guy Thing is a straightforward romantic comedy that starts with the protagonist, Paul (played by the charismatic Jason Lee), about to walk down the aisle with Miss Nice-but-not-Right, Karen (Selma Blair), in a week. Not surprisingly, he meets Miss Right, Becky (Julia Stiles), at his bachelor's party.

Large quantities of alcohol and a pretty lady can only lead to one possible outcome in Hollywood—well, not really, but close enough. Paul freaks out over his "infidelity" and decides against following the one cliché that this movie doesn't use—honesty is the best policy.

To make Paul's life slightly more complicated, Becky turns out to be Karen's cousin. So while he tries to hide his bachelor's party hijinks from Karen, he struggles with his growing attraction to Becky, a carefree soul that seems to be a complete antithesis to his very conformist existence.

Besides our three main characters, even the rest of the supporting cast is familiar. The best friend with good intentions but not always good results, the uptight brother, in-laws that don't quite match, neighbors that are little more than props to set up specific comedic devices—the usual suspects in a romantic comedy.

With such a predictable cast, the movie can't help but be predictable as well. That, however, is not the biggest reason why it doesn't quite

Screen chemistry is absolutely critical for [a romantic comedy] to succeed...unfortunately, that is where this movie falls slightly short.

work. Romantic comedies aren't like thrillers or suspense movies. Plot twists aren't required and being predictable is not a bad thing at all. However, screen chemistry is absolutely critical for it to succeed.

Unfortunately, that is where this movie falls slightly short, not from the lack of chemistry, but the lack of screen time between the leads.

Jason Lee turns in a competent performance, playing the charming loser to a tee. Julia Stiles is also very

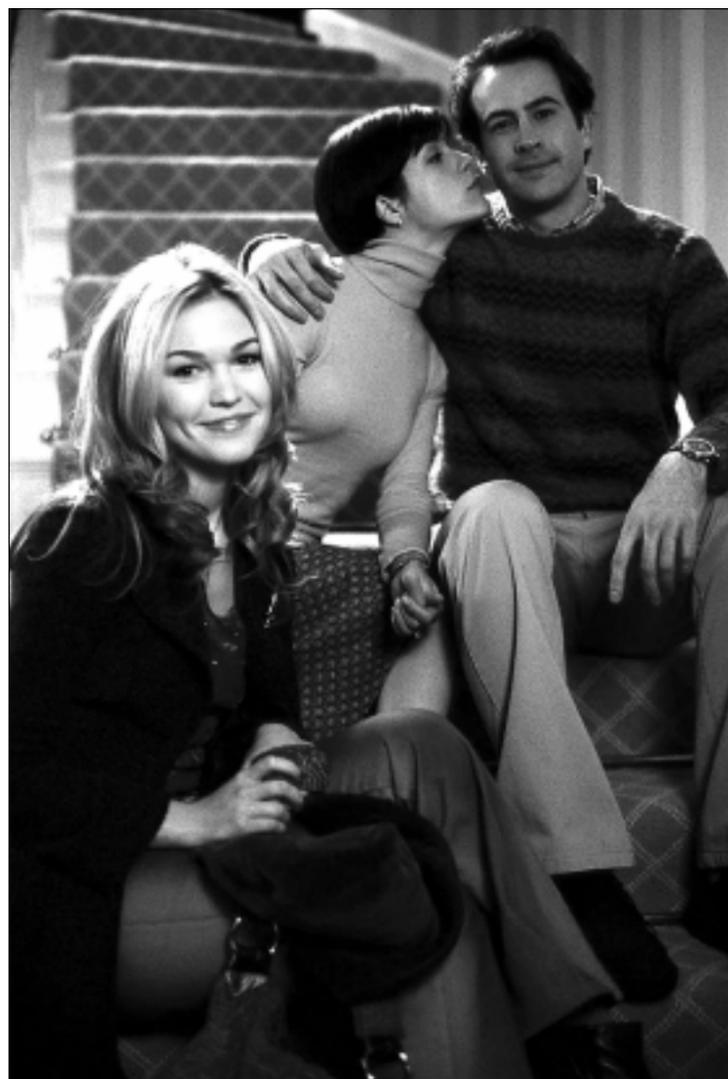
endearing as the beautiful, carefree spirit that unlocks the heart of our hero.

Despite turning in good individual performances, one is left wondering why the leads even get together in the end. Instead of focusing on the chemistry between the two leads, the movie tries to pull in a few more cheap laughs by concentrating on comedic situations that arise as a result of Paul's deception.

In the whole movie, there is only one scene where Paul and Becky have significant screen time together. While this might work in a romantic comedy like *Sleepless in Seattle* where the whole movie builds up to the climax at the end, it doesn't work in this movie where the whole point is that the groom figures out he's marrying the wrong girl because he realizes he's falling for the right girl.

Paul and Becky both come across as very likable characters, but the question that is really not addressed is why they even like each other that much. Where the movie ultimately fails is that it spends too much time on comedic sub-plots and not developing the main love story between Paul and Becky, wasting a decent performance by the cast.

There are definitely worse romantic comedies out there, but *A Guy Thing* is definitely nothing special. Unless you absolutely have to watch a romantic comedy this weekend or if you're a huge Jason Lee fan, you won't be missing much by giving this a pass.



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(From left) Julia Stiles, Selma Blair, and Jason Lee star in *A Guy Thing*, a romantic comedy in which Lee's character is torn between two women.

Xactika: Probability gone wild



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

While playing Xactika at Java Monkey in Decatur, Agnes Scott student Christy Boulrier (middle) attempts to take a trick while Tech student Jon Kaye (right) contemplates his next move. Rhiannon O'Connor (left) looks on.

By Jon Kaye
Staff Writer

Game: Xactika
Manufacturer: Set Enterprises
Genre: Card (Trick taking)
Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

While the *Technique* typically features music and movies, we occasionally receive other entertaining objects for review. Such is the case with *Xactika*, a new card game from the makers of *Set*. This trick-taking game blends the strategy of

Spades with highly visual suit structure based on geometric solids.

A game of *Xactika* sounds like the nervous breakdown of a group of geometry teachers. People lead hands with calls like "three sphere ten" or "two star nine." Of course, all of the shapes are solids, so if you play with an Applied Mathematics Ph.D. Student, the lead becomes "two Bucky Ball nine."

The leads do have their significance, though. There are twelve suits in the game: one cube, two cubes, and three cubes, the same for cones,

spheres and stars. Each card in turn has all four shapes on it, so the person leading the hand chooses which suit to use.

An example card might have one star, two cones, one cube and three spheres with the numerical value seven. The person leading this hand could lead with one-star-seven, two-cone-seven, etc. The other players would have to follow with a one-star or two-cone card. The highest card in the lead suit wins.

See *Game*, page 19

Cafe Central focuses on women's issues in a new way

By Joshua Cuneo
Staff Writer

One of the long-term benefits of the September 11 attacks may be a notable increase in the integrity of television programming, thanks to the efforts of people such as Conn Patrick Jackson.

Jackson, a Harvard Business School graduate, heard a demand for more positive entertainment following the attacks and moved to Atlanta to initiate a new program called *Café Central*, a daytime talk show that deals primarily with women's issues. Set in a quiet café atmosphere, the show will blend humor with real-life experiences.

"[The show] celebrates the woman that you already are," said Jackson. Unlike other popular daytime talk shows such as *Montel* or *Dr. Phil*, the objective of *Café Central* is not to resolve the social and emotional issues that today's women face but rather to provide a forum where women can share their experiences with a large audience and laugh about it throughout.

"We really struggle to focus on the laughter as the cure...as therapy, almost," said Molly

Steiger, a Tech graduate and Marketing Director for the show.

"It doesn't delve as deeply as *Oprah* does... If they take away a bit of information, we love that, because we want it to be intellectually entertaining, but our focus really is just to give you something good for an hour, so you walk away feeling better."

The show is still in its pre-production stages, with the first filming set for next month. Jackson and Steiger have spent the recent months consulting a variety of women's and by-invitation focus groups to gather the suggestions, criticism, and insight of the show's potential audience, namely women (and some men) 18 and older.

"The idea of the focus groups was just a natural progression, but it's something that we knew we [had to do]," said Steiger. "Overall, we hear the same things... There were common threads that ran through all of them." The groups each spent an hour or more discussing aspects of the show such as overall presentation and attitude, the personality of the host, and the opening sequence.

See *Television*, page 18

A forgotten film revisited: *The Sting* **Television**

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© Universal Pictures

Robert Redford (left) and Paul Newman (right) starred in the Oscar-winning film *The Sting* in 1973. The film won seven Academy Awards.

By Derek Haynes
Managing Editor

Title: *The Sting* (1973)
Starring: Robert Redford, Paul Newman, Robert Shaw
Director: George Roy Hill
Length: 129 minutes
Rating: PG

Think of combining the complex personality of Dennis Rodman

of his friend. He looks to Henry Gondorff, a conman who was a major player on the big-con scene but has been laying low after a scam went bad. Gondorff agrees to help Hooker take down one of the most lethal businessmen of the 30s, Doyle Lonnegan (Robert Shaw).

The scam pulled off by Gondorff and Redford is complex; so complex that I wouldn't recommend a large dinner beforehand. Luckily, the screen magnetism the two displayed in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* keeps the movie from unraveling. The beauty of the film is that the evil Lonnegan isn't the only one caught off guard; the viewer is usually just as surprised.

The plot that director George Roy Hill weaves with the film is amazingly smooth even with all the complexities; as with a real con a lot of things have to go perfect for the scheme to work. Even after many viewings, there don't seem to be any holes in the story. Hill is also admired for his work in the film because *The Sting* didn't just ride the coattails of *Butch Cassidy*; it defined a new type of film.

The Sting has arguably the best poker scene recorded on film with Gondorff and Lonnegan trying to out-cheat the other with thousands of dollars on the line. The scene, set in a train car, is one of the few scenes that doesn't showcase the expert set design that won the Oscar for Best Art Direction-Set Decoration, choosing instead to focus on the energy created by Shaw and Newman.

with the silky-smooth finish of B.J. Elder and the result is *The Sting*, a twisting classic that doesn't miss a note.

The Sting, which garnered seven Oscars in 1973 including Best Picture, single-handedly launched the popular Caper genre (think *The Usual Suspects*). The backdrop is Chicago in the 1930s; the plot is the big con. Johnny Hooker (Robert Redford) is looking for payback after the death

"The community support is vital to us adhering to our core mission of 'Serving your life... heart, mind, and soul,'" said Jackson.

Jackson personally ran each focus group while Steiger took notes, and the production team is working hard, Steiger promised, to incorporate the groups' suggestions into the show.

Jackson, Steiger, and the rest of Jackson's production team—composed of talented minds from Disney, CNN, and other prestigious cable institutions—have also embarked on a talent search for the right host.

Specifically, the show will have two hosts, one male and one female, with Jackson as the male host until the market decides otherwise. Given that the show deals with women's issues, both Jackson's team and the target community have demanded that the female host meet more stringent requirements.

"We really want this woman to be the center of the show. We want her to have a presence. We're looking for a classy type of look. Intellectual, but on your level still, real. Somebody you look up to but you still want to tell everything about your life to. A warm personality but someone that doesn't get pushed around," said Steiger.

The focus groups also debated the appropriate level of attraction and age of the female host (Jackson is currently looking for someone in her thirties or older), although her race or ethnicity was considered unimportant.

Sense of humor is another essential quality, since Jackson wants to engage in witty banter with his co-host throughout the show. Jackson's team has been looking far and wide for the right host, flying in women from as far as Los Angeles.

After filming the pilot episode on December 14, Jackson will present the taping before studios around Atlanta. If he negotiates a contract with one of them, he will move the show's location from the restaurant downtown he used for taping to a professional sound stage, where he can start filming more regularly and push for national syndication of the show.

Between the enthusiastic reaction of *Café Central's* target audience and the show's aim to fill a niche that no other talk show currently does, the future of the show looks optimistic. Jackson hopes that the show will achieve the same recognition for Atlanta that *Oprah* has for Chicago.

"I literally came to Atlanta with a dream, stood on the highest rooftop and announced my vision for more positive TV that 'intellectually entertains,' and the response has been unbelievable," said Jackson. "This show is being developed from the voices of the community."

This article was originally scheduled to run in November 2002, so there may be some time discrepancies and out-of-date information.

For more information on the show, check out the show's web site at www.cafecentraltv.com.



Live List

The Earl (488 Flat Shoals Ave.)
(404) 522-3950

www.badearl.com

- 1/17 The Young Antiques/Shamgod/The Talk
- 1/18 SUICIDE/The White Lights
- 1/22 Knife in the Water/Western Keys
- 1/23 ODK/United
- 1/24 PH Balance/Basement/DJ I-Lash
- 1/25 Twittering Machine

Tabernacle (152 Luckie St.)
(404) 659-9022

www.atlantaconcerts.com/tabernacle.asp

- 1/24 moe.
- 1/25 moe.
- 1/27 The Pretenders

CJ's Landing (Buckhead Ave.)
(404) 237-7657

www.cjslanding.com

- 1/17 Brian Wiltsey
- 1/18 Brian Wiltsey
- 1/23 Brian Graye
- 1/24 Gravity/Randall Kirsch
- 1/25 Gareth Hornsby

Smith's Olde Bar (1580 Piedmont Ave.)
(404) 875-1522

www.smithsoldebar.com

- 1/17 Big Sky/Dezerey's Hammer/Saddlesong
- 1/18 Bishop Don/Y.O.U./Dyllan Young
- 1/19 Dave Alvin & the Guilty Men
- 1/20 Beanpole/Suburban Love Junkies
- 1/22 Pageant/Copeland/Robert Barnes Band
- 1/23 Jerry Joseph/Bain Mattox
- 1/25 The Drexlers/Pet Rocks
- 1/27 Spiraling/The Lackies

Echo Lounge (551 Flat Shoals Rd.)
(404) 681-3600

www.echostatic.com/echolounge

- 1/17 DJ Spooky/Djinji Brown
- 1/18 The Countdown Quartet
- 1/22 Crybaby/Break Heart Beat
- 1/23 Alabama Boys Choir/The Close
- 1/24 The Hiss/The Woggles/Washdown

Star Bar (437 Moreland Ave.)
(404) 681-9018

www.starbar.net

- 1/17 Johnny Knox and hi-test/The Nadas
- 1/18 Gargantua/Ceiling Fan
- 1/22 Hazzard County Girls/Boss
- 1/23 Duwayne
- 1/24 Pop Rocket/The Nowhere Squares

Variety Playhouse (1099 Euclid Ave.)
(404) 521-1786

www.variety-playhouse.com

- 1/18 Leftover Salmon
- 1/25 Richard Bicknell

Cotton Club (152 Luckie St.)
(404) 688-1193

www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp

- 1/19 Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra
- 1/23 Trap
- 1/25 Dr. Dan
- 1/26 Perpetual Groove

Masquerade (695 North Ave.)
(404) 577-2007

www.masq.com

- 1/18 Andrew W.K.
- 1/19 Kings Killed/This August Night

Technique Crossword: Pomp: 0, Circumstance: 1

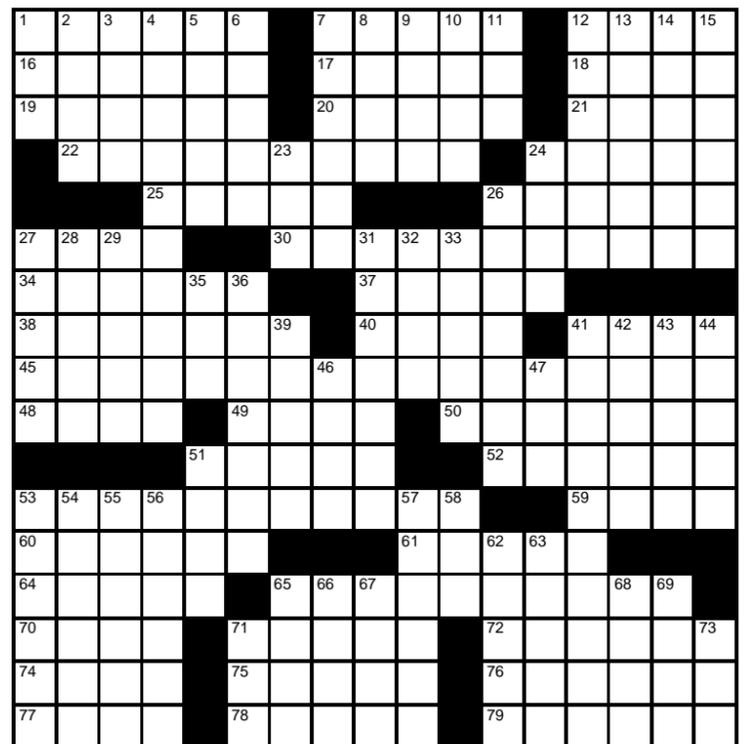
By Joey Katzen
Staff Writer

Across

1. Hare inducement
7. Summa's subordinate
12. Scottish hats
16. Operatic form
17. Nazi craft
18. Blind strip
19. Sheriff's assistant
20. Chasidic leader
21. Zeus' partner
22. 4th-year's ailment, elsewhere
24. He has said, to Brutus
25. If twice, it's a revolution (arcade game)
26. Calm
27. Scarborough Fair spice
30. Quarrel
34. Breakfast Club actor Estevez
37. Felt a throbbing pain
38. Used Kazaa, some suggest
40. Pennsylvania college: _____ Mar
41. Rowers
45. Umpire remark
48. Miami's 2002 outcome
49. Reject
50. Fills with oxygen
51. Red Badge of Courage penner Stephen
52. Illustrate
53. Attends the phantom's ball
59. Tennis do-overs
60. Loves, to Pierre
61. Back fin
64. Star in Cygnus
65. Time of walking across the stage
70. "I am miserable"
71. Courtroom excuse
72. Insignificant
74. Chinese restaurant candy
75. Musical medley
76. Keep caged
77. Devours
78. Swimming competitions
79. Permed or dyed

Down

1. Engineering tool
2. War god
3. Due to be plucked
4. Repetitious verses



5. Sponge pores
6. Christmas berry
7. Toni Collette film: _____'s Wedding
8. Aid and _____
9. Chinese desert
10. Snatches
11. Consumed
12. Team Buzz giveaway
13. British actor Sayle
14. Dolphins Dan
15. Island borough
23. Victor Radio acquirer
24. Not living
26. Odorous
27. Flower leaf
28. Acid of life
29. Jeer
31. Forbade the mention of
32. Taupe
33. Drinking horns
35. O.J. Judge
36. Works of art (fr.)
39. Depressing
41. Clergy office

42. Fasten again
43. Construct a skyscraper
44. Germany and Berlin sectors, once
46. Sicilian mount
47. Exist
51. Sidewalk edge
53. Puccini opus, with Butterfly
54. Flyer Earheart
55. Voiced sound
56. Crusades
57. Circular currents
58. French coin
62. Hotel prices, by the night usually
63. Short amount of time
65. Choral group
66. Break
67. Edge on
68. Iridescent stone
69. Derby win margin
71. _____ & Hammer
73. Atlanta entrepreneur Turner

Solutions on page 21

Game

from page 17

Xactika is for 2-10 players. For review, I played in groups of two and four, even including the Applied Mathematics Ph.D. Student, and the game was fun both ways. Nonetheless, it was far more enjoyable in the groups of four. Larger groups are preferable because the game involves competitive bidding

to disadvantage your opponents. Additional players complicate bidding to add intrigue to the game.

All in all, *Xactika* is a great diversion. It is simple to learn, yet requires enough strategy to keep the interest of those who want a more complex card game. This one is a must have for any card fanatic.

Crossword Solutions

C	A	R	R	O	T		M	A	G	N	A		T	A	M	S
A	R	I	O	S	O		U	B	O	A	T		S	L	A	T
D	E	P	U	T	Y		R	E	B	B	E		H	E	R	A
	S	E	N	I	O	R	I	T	I	S		D	I	X	I	T
		D	A	N	C	E					S	E	R	E	N	E
S	A	G	E			A	L	T	E	R	C	A	T	I	O	N
E	M	I	L	I	O		A	C	H	E	D					
P	I	R	A	T	E	D		B	R	Y	N		C	R	E	W
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M	A	S	Q	U	E	R	A	D	E	S			L	E	T	S
A	M	O	U	R	S			D	O	R	S	A				
D	E	N	E	B		G	R	A	D	U	A	T	I	O	N	
A	L	A	S		A	L	I	B	I		T	I	N	P	O	T
M	I	N	T		R	E	V	U	E		E	N	C	A	S	E
E	A	T	S		M	E	E	T	S		S	T	Y	L	E	D

Thai food served up with atmosphere

By Julia Trapold
Entertainment Editor

Name: Jitlada Thai Restaurant
Address: 2329 Cheshire Bridge
Phone: (404) 728-9040
Price: \$ - \$\$
Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

On an evening out with the girls to see a movie at Tara Cinema, we arrived early and were starving. Luckily for us, there were three restaurants in the plaza next door: a French restaurant, a Thai restaurant and an Ethiopian restaurant. We chose the Thai restaurant.

After we walked in, we felt a little underdressed in our jeans and sweaters. The restaurant is extravagantly decorated with various Asian decor. It seemed very fancy to us, considering the places we normally dine at. But no one seemed to mind our attire, and we were seated quickly.

The menu consisted of your basic Thai and Asian specialties: various curry chicken, noodle, and rice dishes. I ordered the Pad See-U (a noodle dish), and my friend ordered Panang curry chicken.

Our food arrived within ten minutes, and one of the entrees was served in a dish that looked like a banana tree leaf, which we thought was pretty cool.

The food was delicious—it definitely satisfied my odd craving for noodles. They used wide flat noodles, which were different from the standard skinny rice noodles I am used to. But they were equally tasty.



By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Above is one of the dishes served at Jitlada. Located on Cheshire Bridge Road, they serve various rice, noodle, curry and vegetarian dishes.

My friend enjoyed her curry chicken, and she said it wasn't too spicy.

Overall, I enjoyed the restaurant. The decorations were great—I would like to have some of them for my house. The food was very filling and also affordable.

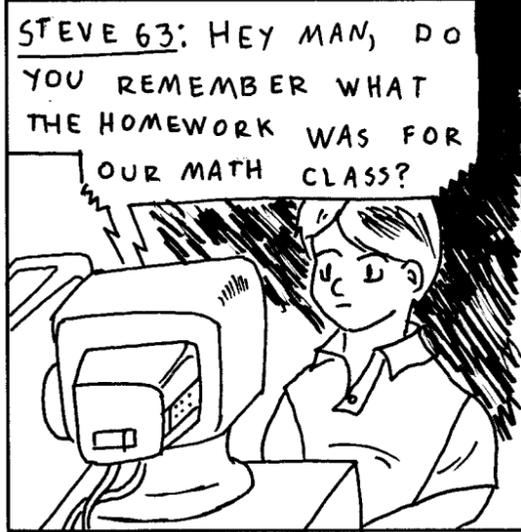
My only complaint is that the restaurant seemed to be short on waiters and waitresses. We were not offered refills on our drinks until we

were finished eating, and we had to flag someone down to get our check. But when we were dealing with our waitress, she was very friendly.

Despite my small complaint, I would definitely recommend this restaurant to anyone who likes Thai food. It's a little far from Tech's campus, but if you're out shopping at Lenox or going to a movie at Tara, stop by for a bite to eat.

Original Comic FrEsmHMen

FrEsmHMen by Billy Aslaner (THANKS TO MATT DOWN THE HALL FOR HELPING ME OUT)



sliver box

www.nique.net/sliver

Not even a week goes by and she already is back with the guy she was going out with before me...shenanigans I tells ya

Crap 3 points from a B in calc 2. Looks like I go through another round of hell for a B known as a final

Argh. UGA students scouting the neighborhood for AJC subscriptions.

Wow 3.71 GPA and I am on academic suspension, gotta love this stupid school

Wow, lots of hype surrounding UGA's bowl game and not a damned thing about Georgia sucky ass Tech

Cyberbuzz's website may give power to the students, but I think it's powered by gerbils. Why do some pages take forever to load, others simply fail?

That Be a s tly Ro o t has such a cute butt, I'd do him anytime.

Thanks for my Cookies :)

Wow, the Atlanta Vicks won a playoff game...I'm cold

Girlfriend dumped me for a Star wars guy. It's like she dumped me for a Georgia Tech student muuhahahaha

wow, calc 3 is way easier than calc 2

Say uh yeah when I said, "we would be having dinner," I meant we would be having sex. When I said, "and a movie," I meant that I would be taping it

Braves had a good run, all good things must come to an end...especially when you trade your best pitcher for a minor league catcher

can you get a medical redshirt for c league intramurals?

