Dude, where’s my hamburger and talent?

By Jessica Luz

Contributing Writer

This summer, movie executives have brought us action-packed flicks starring Brad Pitt, Orlando Bloom, Tobey Maguire...and the Asian guy from American Pie and that Indian guy from Van Wilder! The two unassuming stars were in Atlanta recently and sat down with the Nique.

In addition to successful marketing campaign, previews and posters for Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle basically say what the viewers are probably already thinking.

Harold (John Cho) was the “NHL guy” on American Pie, and yes, Kumar (Kal Penn) was Van Wilder’s goofy right hand man, Taj Mahal, Badassabad, in the raunchy teen flick National Lampoon’s Van Wilder.

In homage to American Pie and Van Wilder, and Cho and Penn’s newfound fame, Eddie Kaye Thomas and Ryan Reynolds both make cameo appearances in the film.

The plot in White Castle’s simple and predictable. I mean, they give the title away in the title alone.

Kumar is simple and predictable. I mean, they give the title away in the title alone.

After Harold suffers through a long week at his mundane job at an insurance company, and after Kumar screws up any chance of getting into medical school, both roommates decide that a burger from White Castle is just what they need to lift their spirits.

“The Bill and Ted meets Thelma and Louise and then they had some really weird children,” said Cho.

I will admit, however, that some parts in the movie were funny (and that I was definitely craving a hamburger when the credits began to roll).

Although Cho and Penn’s dead-on interpretation of their pot-smoking characters was entertaining, it’s hard to pass up the wide array of Mediterranean dishes allows adventurous friends to dine with their more cautious counterparts.

Appetizers range from your boring old french fries, to a more interesting mix of ground beef-filled pita bread with hummus dip. Cedars’ Mezze Platter seems to be the best deal, offering a generous sampling of hummus, falafel, tabouleh and babaganoush for $7.50.

The pizza selections are of the normal fare, with the only standout being Ray’s Gyro, composed of feta cheese, onion, olives and gyro meat. The four-cheese pizza is also delicious, on a thin, moist crust. At $2.95 a slice, it’s a good incentive to order a whole large pie priced at $14.95.

For those who desire a few more carbs in their diet, the traditional Sicilian-style pizza is also available. Baking with the simple Italian theme, it is hard to pass up the massive stromboli. The crust was near perfection, with gooey cheese entrenched throughout.

The wide array of Mediterranean dishes affords ample experimentation for the average Tech student. At $7.95, the Kafka pita sandwich is a great deal. Pickles, hummus, lettuce, tomatoes and seasoned ground beef fill a warm pita wrapped in tinfoil. On the side is a generous portion of Mediterranean salad, with crisp, fresh vegetables—a hard-to-find commodity on campus. Rouging out the meal is a side of thinly sliced, lightly fried potatoes.

In addition, vegetarians need not fear: Ray’s serves many salads, sandwiches and platters all to your liking.

By Christopher Goodbye / Studio / Public Affairs

Ray’s New York Pizza and Cedars Mediterranean is the newest restaurant to open in Technology Square. The delicious variety of pita sandwiches and kabobs brings a new flair to the area.

By Art Seavey

Developmental Editor

One of the largest retail spaces in Tech Square has long sat empty, with students savoring the words on the sign naming its future resident.

However, Ray’s New York Pizza and Cedars Mediterranean moved into the empty space this summer, joining the gamut of culinary offerings. The combination of simple pizza with more exotic Mediterranean dishes allows adventurous friends to dine with their more cautious counterparts.

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The Technique’s Entertainment section is all about fun. It provides readers entertainment in the form of witty columns, a crossword, Dave Barry and assorted comics. It also exposes readers to many other forms of fun, whether on Tech campus, in theaters or in music stores. Also look forward to celebrity interviews and restaurant reviews. For more information, email its editor, Hillary Lipko, at entertainment@technique.gatech.edu.

Echo Lounge (551 Flat Shoals Rd.)
(404) 681-5600
www.ecchostatic.com/ececholounge
8/20 Emerasine/ml, Girls on Film
8/21 Ming & FS w/MC Napoleon
8/26 Atlanta Underground Film Festival
Kickoff Party
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8/28 Dave Matthews Cover Band
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(404) 688-1193
www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.html
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8/24 Finch w/Recover, Counterfeit
8/25 Blindside w/Me Without You
The Earl (488 Flat Shoals Ave.)
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www.badearl.com
8/20 The Features, Second Shift, The Specs
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8/22 Dutch w/guitar and monkeyzuma
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Have a random thought? comment? criticism? witticism? rambling? flame?

Submit a sliver at nique.net/sliver

Step though cultural Vortex to L5P

By Brendan Ward
Contributing Writer

Atlanta has a wealth of cultural neighborhoods and styles. Even so, with the entrenched camps of country and rap, those in between may feel left out. Hipsters and punks rejoice! You have a home, and it is Little Five Points. Nestled in between Inman Park and Virginia Highland, a short drive up North Avenue, Little Five Points is the (albeit smaller) Greenwich Village of Atlanta and a very happening place.

A refuge for the cool and pseudo-artsy, Little Five provides that counter-culture in a city that seems to be devoid of it. Punks proudly display their pink hair and safety-pin jewelry without fear of persecution. “Hate Free Zone” signs often plaster the shop windows. Hippies roll their own cigarettes and play hucky-sack in a cannabis-induced daze.

The three blocks that make up the center of Little Five Points are more eclectic and original than any other place in Atlanta. Only here is it possible to get tattooed and pierced, go next door and buy a water pipe (don’t say bong inside a head shop or you’ll be kicked out), and then go across the street to buy an authentic five-foot African tribal mask…if that is the kind of thing you’re into.

The trendy clothing stores that line the streets offer up $30 vintage T-shirts to eager buyers. All pump the fastest, most current musical entertainment, and watching hippies and punks jam, to the beat of your own drum, is a treat.

Among the shops book local bands that perform regularly. Just down the road, the intimate atmosphere of Variety Playhouse hosts performances. Even if you just grab a slice of pizza, or need a quick gag gift, make sure to consider this borough first. Many of the bars book local bands that perform regularly. Just down the road, the intimate atmosphere of Variety Playhouse hosts a wide range of events. If you want to leave music out of it, some shops feature regular spoken word performances.

Little Five Points is a must-visit for college students of every persuasion. Even if you just grab a slice of pizza, or need a quick gag gift, make sure to consider this borough first. The enticing options and friendly people could easily trap you as a regular patron.
Character was impressive, the rest of the characters fall flat and are disappointing. "We tried to play them very real because such wild, nest happens around them," said Cho.

Ethan Embry (Empire Records, Can’t Hardly Wait) and his talents are completely wasted in the movie and the love story involving Harold and his neighbor is a little too farfetched, even for this reviewer, who loves chick fliks and cheesy romance movies.

At the interview, both stars expressed that they didn’t mind playing stereotypical pot-smoking twenty-some-things and were really just thrilled that the roles didn’t go to the newest two white Hollywood “It Boys” of the week.

They folded questions with ease and certainly don’t seem to take themselves—or the movie—very seriously.

When asked about the possibility of a sequel, Penn divulged that he and Cho both signed a three-picture deal. With the movie’s end, it seems likely that the supposed next movie will take place in Amsterdam.

How perfect is that? What better place for two weed-hungry friends to visit? In can only hope that the supposed sequel is half as long as the first and twice as good.

If you haven’t visited White Castle yet and are in the low-brow mood, Harold and Kumar may be worth checking out. Just try not to end up in jail along the way. As this movie shows though, the trip is all of the fun.
**INTRODUCTION**

Everyone loves the movies. After a hectic week of work, nothing is better than chilling with your friends and a tub of hear, attack inducing popcorn. With all of the theaters in town, it is likely that the patron of concessions will find something suitable to taste. The question is where do you start? Well, we here at the ‘Quag did all of the legwork for you. Please see our profiles and decide for your self.

**AMC Parkway Pointe**

3101 Cobb Parkway Suite 201
Atlanta, GA 30329
770-957-0078

This is definitely one of the newer theaters in the bunch. Although not too far down the road driving up Interstate 75 is a death wish during summer. Comfortable stadium seating is the big draw. An additional bonus is the Borders Bookstore located right next door, making it very easy to kill time before the start of a movie.

**Landmark Midtown Art Cinema**

931 Monroe Drive
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 295-0424

The closest movie theater to Tech also offers the best selection of foreign and independent films. With the recently opened adjacent Brewster’s this theater is one-stop shopping for entertainment. Although small and quaint, the flavor of the Midtown district shines through. Amenities such as a full espresso bar and gourmet candies complement the art deco design. The close distance and comfortable atmosphere, combined with the chance to broaden your intellectual horizons make this theater a movie powerhouse.

**AMC Buckhead Backlot Cinema & Cafe**

3340 Peachtree Rd. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-463-0812

Looking for the perfect date movie theater? Buckhead Backlot, nestled in Atlanta’s premiere party district is the most unique theater in the city. Most of the usual row seats are taken out of each theater and replaced with tables and comfortable chairs. This is the only place where you sit back, relax, order from a full, reasonable menu and catch a flick while your food makes its way to your table.

**Regal Cinemas Hollywood 24**

3265 NE Expressway Rd.
Chamblee, GA 30341
770-816-5737

This is a must-see experience along Interstate 85, with a huge, bright purple neon building declaring its presence to the neighbors. Aside from the big 1,000 seat architectural design, this really is a super-theater. Blessed with state of the art facilities and 24 screens, it has risen to the top of movie theaters around Atlanta. Perhaps the theater’s only flaw is that there aren’t many places around it to kill time or go grab a bite. Driving out and then coming back can be somewhat of a pain because of its monstrous parking lot and access road location. As this is a suburban theater, the weekend clientele might make you feel like you are back in high school. Don’t wear the wrong color.

**AMC Phipps Plaza**

3500 Peachtree Rd. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-816-4262

This is a movie theater popular with students without cars, since it is also within walking distance of the Lenox or Buckhead MARTA stations. The movie theaters are located on the top floor, within the Monarch Court. There’s nothing royal about this area, Philips just couldn’t stand using the drab-laden colonial look. Food court. Make sure to visit the box office first, which is actually located a level below. Expect to find the usual viewing choices here, nothing out of the ordinary. Extensive shopping is also available but only for those with fatter wallets than most.

**United Artist Tara**

2245 Cheekwood Bridge Rd. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30324
(404) 634-6288

This is considered one of the “art” theaters around town. Looking for the latest David Lynch movie or the latest foreign movie with an unpronounceable name? You’ll find it here. Not the newest theater in town, but no one really watches the movies shown at Tara for their awesome special effects or the ultra realistic audio. It is a quaint place that has it’s own unique charm, and definitely a place worth checking out.

**AMC Southlake**

7065 Mount Zion Circle
Monroe, GA 30260
404-816-4204

The farthest movie theater on the list, it is located a good 25 minutes south of campus, but it is well worth the drive. A behemoth of a movie theater, this place has four major screens that can handle even the biggest of movie releases. As far as movie theater facilities go, they don’t get any better than this. If another big blockbuster like Lord of the Rings comes around, catch it here, as it will likely play on multiple screens.

**Lefont Plaza Theater**

1449 Peachtree De Leon
Atlanta, GA
(404) 875-4560

This one is a drive up Ponce de Leon. The main screen has the most character out of any theater in the area. Although, the two smaller screens, which are actually converted old balconies, may make the student center theater seem authentic. If you are into catching the classic midnight Rocky Horror Picture Show this is the only place in town to do it. The 24-hour Majestic Diner is right next door, a perfect cap to a movie-going night.
Summer Fun “On the Bricks”

By Jennifer Lee

On the Bricks, Atlanta’s popular summer concert series at Centennial Olympic Park, has evolved quite a bit since 1998, when it was sponsored by Fox 5. Since summer 2000, top 40 station Star 94 has been the media sponsor for the series, bringing with it more mainstream acts, this year Hole and V103 also join Star 94 as media sponsors. Entrance into the park, which used to be free, became $3 last year and increased to $5 this year.

But the pool of bands and artists that On the Bricks manages to put together every summer is still capable of drawing a crowd. This summer, On the Bricks boasted acts such as Train, Gavin DeGraw, Fuel, Everclear, Kanye West, Collective Soul and Live—though to me, it seems like there’s been less buzz than usual. Maybe Atlantans are starting to take On the Bricks for granted; maybe the rising ticket prices have discouraged people from going; or maybe I just haven’t been listening to the radio (and its relentless publicizing of the concert series) enough. Whatever the case, a friend and I decided to check out Friday, August 6th’s show, which featured rock-bluegrass group Blues Traveler and rap group Cypress Hill as the main acts, with Latin rock group de Sol, and Southern hip-hop duo Rehab playing earlier that night.

The setting of Centennial Olympic Park is that the concert-going crowd is already divided into two sections: one nearer to the stage, for the more dedicated fans, and a section further back, for the blanket-equipped groups who would rather listen to the music sitting down or for the disinterested few who are just looking for something cheap to do on a Friday night.

So you can take your pick: we decided to go for the back section, especially considering that Blues Traveler, who took the stage when we arrived around 9 p.m., is the kind of band you go to hear for their music, not because you want to check out the cute band members.

Blues Traveler showed an understanding of their mixed audience by playing a short-but-sweet set consisting mostly of songs from their 1994 hit album Four. Frontman John Popper’s harmonica playing was as deft as ever, and the band as a whole delivered a thoroughly musical and enjoyable performance, flowing from one song to the next without much audience chat in between.

The fact that Blues Traveler wasn’t the final act also probably helped avoid the boredom I felt when they headlined at On the Bricks two summers ago. This time, Popper tended to break off into long harmonica solos that all seemed to sound alike after awhile. This year, jam time was split fairly evenly between Popper’s harmonica and guitarist Chan Kinchla, which helped keep their set interesting.

Cypress Hill took the stage a good thirty minutes after Blues Traveler left, presumably because their stage setup—complete with a giant golden Buddha scrawling a marijuana leaf and a skull whose eyesockets glowed red—took a while to get ready. Despite the dope-influenced lyrics, Cypress Hill’s solid rhythm and great stage presence engaged the crowd, who shouted back song lyrics at the encouragement of frontman B-Real. These songs into their set they performed the one song I was familiar with, “Insane in the Brain,” so audience cheers.

The 30-minute set by Blues Traveler and the few songs we caught by Cypress Hill were definitely enough to justify the $5 we spent for tickets, especially when you combined the music with the beautiful weather—a cool, summery night that was in stark contrast from past weeks’ hair-curling humidity.

If the weather keeps up, then it may well be worth checking out today’s On the Bricks, the last show of the summer, which features Atlanta-based Honestly, punk rock group Derby, the punk-influenced psychedelic Furs and ’70s pop band Blondie as the headliner. Music begins at 6 p.m. and goes until 11; more info can be found at www.onthebricks.com.
“Good times” had by all at Bonnaroo music fest

By Michael Hamilton
Contributing Writer

Two years ago, an idea reminiscent of the Woodstock Music & Arts Festival of ’69 turned into the Bonnaroo Music Festival. Located in Manchester, Tennessee, the event has surprisingly consistently sold out without any help from traditional advertising. The wide range of featured independent artists is solely supported by fans’ love for great live music.

Bonnaroo translates to “good times” in Cajun, and the festival definitely lives up to the phrase. By bringing together such artists as the Dead, Dave Matthews & Friends, Bob Dylan and Trey Anastasio, Bonnaroo has become the ultimate festival for the avid music fan.

RollingStone has called Bonnaroo “the American rock festival to end all festivals.” Once I found out about the June 11-13 festival, there was simply no turning back.

The live music began Friday at noon, featuring an amazing collection of performers. I quickly came to realize Ani DiFranco is perhaps the most talented female acoustic guitarist.

Dave Matthews & Friends took the stage in the early evening, after my first full day of sweating in 95-degree weather. With the help of virtuoso Tim Reynolds and Phish’s Trey Anastasio, Dave rocked out for two amazing sets and an encore.

Midnight sets each night from bands such as Primus, Ween, Vida Blue, Praxis, Cut Chemist and DJ Danger Mouse provided the nightcrawlers with some amazing new music, and buckets of rain. My Morning Jacket rocked my socks off as the weather turned sour. I have never seen a band emanate rock and roll so completely as this group of musicians.

Everybody had to make sacrifices considering there were six stages, but when The Dead took the stage, not a person was missing.

“The torrential rain brought the hardcore mud, and concertgoers’ missing flip-flops could be found all over the venue.”

With Gov’t Mule’s Warren Haynes filling in for Jerry Garcia, The Dead played through classics, covers and some beautiful jams that exemplified the absolute ear candy of Bonnaroo.

Sunday brought amazing shows from bands such as the Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra, The Bad Plus, Dave, Guster and David Byrne.

T r e y
A n a s t a s i o, of Phish fame, finished out the night; he first directed some original orchestra compositions, and then continued to play with his band for two more sets and an encore of tremendous proportions.

Bob Dylan, Los Lonely Boys, Calexico, The North Mississippi All-Stars, Patti Smith, The String Cheese Incident, Yo La Tengo, Los Lobos, Galactic, Beth Orton, Taj Mahal, Leftover Salmon and Doc Watson were just some of the bands that also performed at this year’s Bonnaroo.

As with any amazing journey, the good comes with the not-so-good. A six-hour wait in a snail-paced line before entering the grounds turned into a six-hour mobile party.

Showers were a commodity at $5 a pop, but not one person I talked to felt the need to bathe during the whole weekend (those damned hippies). The torrential rain brought the hardcore mud, and concertgoers missing flip-flops could be found all over the venue.

The storm destroyed our campsite, leaving things soaked, but this was Bonnaroo, and I was determined to have a good time.

With the music blasting for over 16 hours a day, I took some time for my eyes to recuperate and made my way to the heart of the festival, which appropriately was called Centeroo.

The Brooer’s Fest presented beers from a dozen national breweries such as Flying Dog, Sierra Nevada and Dale’s Pale Ale. Centeroo also showcased artistic talent of many mediums from ceramics to oils to $350 hand-blown glass “tobacco” pipes.

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The Sonic Stage featured acoustic sets by many of the bands. XM radio broadcasted these performances live.

A music-sharing village provided everyone who wanted a free burned CD with authorized live and unreleased tracks from many artists at the festival. Also for our entertainment pleasures were a huge fountain, random giant bobble-head figures, a playground, a 24-hour movie tent, a comedy tent (with big acts like the Upright Citizens Brigade) and the most diverse and tasty selection of food I have ever seen at a festival.

These fun extras made Centeroo a great place to hang when not watching a band.

A complete schedule of the artists and activities featured at this year’s event can be found on www.bonnaroo.com, along with photos and set lists from the festival.

Make sure to get your ticket early for Bonnaroo 2005, because this amazing event is sure to sell out for years to come.
Local Restaurants

When you're tired of the dining halls, Atlanta offers a plethora of alternatives.

### $5 or Less

- **Tin Drum Asi Cafe** - Asian fusion; we're addicted to the spring rolls. Phone (404) 881-1368
- **5th Street Ribs in Blues** - Only place you can buy beer with a BuzzCard. Phone (404) 249-8808
- **Ray's New York Pizza | Cedar's Mediterranean** - Good pizza, lunch buffet. Phone (404) 888-9911
- **St Charles Deli** - Deli sandwiches and chips. Phone (404) 249-7733
- **Moo's Southwest Grill** - Walk-up burrito and tacos. Phone (404) 881-8535
- **Volcano Tea Room** - Smoothies, hot chocolate and bubble tea. Phone (404) 762-9990
- **Arby's** - At the intersection of North Avenue and 4th. Phone (404) 881-8535
- **Marble slab Creamery** - Good ice cream, but nowhere to sit. Phone (404) 762-9990

### $10 or Less

- **Varsity** - Fast food; famous “Naked Dogs” and “rings”. Phone (404) 881-1706
- **Rocky Mountain Pizza** - Good pizza, cheap beer, trivia nights. Phone (404) 876-8600
- **Junior's Grill** - On campus, great chicken fingers, friendly service. Phone (404) 894-1267
- **Jaqbo** - Fresh-baked bread, near Hemisfair. Phone (404) 873-1272
- **Quino's** - Across from Smith Dorm in S3U Village. Phone (404) 762-0077
- **Checkers** - Yummy milkshakes and french fries. Phone (404) 892-7717
- **Wing Nut Restaurant** - Tons of varieties of wings and chicken fingers. Phone (404) 762-9990

### $10 - $20

- **Great Western Burrito** - Cheap Mexican. Phone (404) 603-9011
- **Fast food** - Taco Bell, Arby’s, KFC, Subway, Wendy’s, Chick-fil-a, McDonald’s. Phone (404) 876-7026
- **Einstein Bros. Bagels** - Now with a low-carb menu! Phone (404) 367-4403
- **Picadilly Cafe** - For when your grandparents visit. Phone (404) 352-0674
- **Figo Pasta** - Design your own pasta dish. Phone (404) 351-3700
- **Taqueria del Sol** - Inventive Mexican fare, but prepared for a wait. Phone (404) 352-5891
- **Meltin Pot** - Upscale fondue. Phone (404) 351-1881
- **Hong Li** - Chinese; Japanese sushi, bar. Phone (404) 352-4684
- **Waffle House** - Breakfast food and more; 24 hours. Phone (404) 351-0172
- **West Egg Cafe** - Specializes in breakfast, comfortable atmosphere. Phone (404) 872-3973
- **Gilman’s on Green** - Sports bar and pub. Phone (404) 355-2554

### $20 - $30

- **Poncey Highlands** - Arty establishment. Phone (404) 872-3333
- **El Azteca** - Mexican. Phone (404) 887-6040
- **Majestic Diner** - 24-hour diner. Phone (404) 875-0276
- **La Fonda Latina** - A break from normal Mexican; try the paella for two. Phone (404) 607-0665
- **Krispy Kreme** - Great for late-night munchies. Phone (404) 876-7307
- **Doc Chey’s** - Asian noodle house. Phone (404) 888-0777

### $30+

- **Midtown** - Cajun-inspired menu, newspaper theme. Phone (404) 897-3500
- **Einstein’s** - Great desserts. Phone (404) 876-7925
- **Bridgetown Grill** - Caribbean food, laid-back island service. Phone (404) 873-5361
- **Vortex Bar and Grill** - Great hamburgers, interesting waiters. Phone (404) 873-1667
- **The Flying Biscuit II** - Breakfast all day. Phone (404) 874-8887
- **Jocks and Jills Sports Bar** - Standard sports bar atmosphere. Phone (404) 873-5405
- **Noodle** - Asian cuisine, good date location. Phone (404) 685-3050
- **Barazano** - Italian. Phone (404) 879-9962
- **Jake's** - The best ice cream in town. Phone (404) 685-3101
- **Aloha Asian Cuisine & Sushi** - Unassuming exterior, good sushi. Phone (404) 810-9128

### Up Peachtree

- **Benihana** - Japanese, prepared in front of you. Phone (404) 522-9629
- **Mick’s** - American cuisine. Phone (404) 875-6425
- **Huie’s** - Great biegnets, coffee, po’boys. Phone (404) 873-2037
- **Cafe Intermezzo** - European atmosphere, coffee, desserts. Phone (404) 355-0411
- **TGIF Friday’s** - Standard fare. Phone (404) 350-0199
- **Wolfgang Puck Express** - Packaged version of famous chef’s creations. Phone (404) 815-1500
- **Mama Fu’s Noodle House** - Good food in a trendy atmosphere. Phone (404) 360-5443

### Buckhead

- **Cheesecake Factory** - Good selection, great cheesecake (duh). Phone (404) 816-2555
- **Atlanta Fish Market** - Voted best seafood in Atlanta. Phone (404) 262-3165
- **Maggiano’s** - Family-style upscale Italian. Phone (404) 816-9650
- **IHOP** - Late-night diner. Phone (404) 264-0647
- **ESPN Zone** - American, Sports bar. Phone (404) 682-3776

### East Atlanta

- **Roman Lily Cafe** - Creative dishes. Phone (404) 653-1155
- **The Heaping Bowl** - Whole meals served in a bowl. Phone (404) 523-8030
- **The Flying Biscuit** - Breakfast all day. Phone (404) 687-8888

### Online

- **www.campusfood.com**
- **www.zifty.com**
A word to all you freshmen: presenting the only sensei and mentor that you will ever need

So, here we are. Allow me to welcome you, one and all, to your first year at the Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the finest, most rigorous, backbreaking, soul-crushing, oh-God-I-need-a-drink institutions on the face of the planet. In short, suck to be you.

You can expect to spend the next four (read: six to eight) years of your life slaving away at thankless, endless, straitlaced work which will, without fail and despite your best efforts to the contrary, spill over into your weekends, holidays and family funerals time and time again. Best of luck to you.

Sad, those are the breaks, and, I, your faithful Two Bits Man and the closest approximation to a friend any of you little snots have at the moment, have compiled a brief list of answers to the questions we both know you're going to have about your stay.

1) No, your bed is not, strictly speaking, touching the ceiling. It was a figment of your fevered, desperate imagination. I'm not saying that there aren't any girls at Tech. I'm just saying that given their low number and the fact that they like gnomes, enchanted weapons and power-leveling are the height of chic. (Tip: generally speaking, girls don't give a rat's ass about how big the dragon was that your dark knight slew mightily on your other day.)

2) No, that wasn't a girl you just saw. It was a ghost, oh-so-gingerly, into bed without suffering any serious cuts or bruises from the ceiling. Looks like your plus-sized models are crap out of luck.

3) You don't have a car. This, quite frankly, sucks on levels that have known no such thing before. It's okay. MARTA's just down the street, and Little Five Points is just a short, six-hour round trip walk down North Avenue. Just make sure to bring ten or so bucks in quarters, and the upstairs dining area, which offers an inviting look at the restaurant's clean, sophisticated decor with a hint of hip. The wait staff is friendly and prompt; hopefully, the level of service can be maintained when operating at their full capacity. Despite the more upscale feel, Ray's seems to understand Tech students—televisions still offer an inviting look at the restaurant's clean, sophisticated decor with a hint of hip. The wait staff is friendly and prompt; hopefully, the level of service can be maintained when operating at their full capacity. 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Despite the more upscale feel, Ray's seems to understand Tech students—televisions still offer an inviting look at the restaurant's clean, sophisticated decor with a hint of hip. The wait staff is friendly and prompt; hopeful...
When I got into journalism, I expected to do many things. None of them involved standing on a colleague’s groin. But recently I learned that I might be called upon to do exactly that. I learned this in Fright School, which is known formally as Hostile Environment Training. This is a course, taught by corporate security consultants, that teaches you what to do if you find yourself in a situation involving dangerous elements such as terrorists, kidnappers, robbers, rioters, or fans of the Oakland Raiders.

I didn’t think I needed this training, because I’ve lived for the past 20 years in a hostile environment, namely, Miami, where virtually everybody, including nuns, is packing heat. But along with many other journalists, I was ordered by my company to attend Fright School because this summer I’m going to the Olympics and both political conventions.

I’m writing this column before leaving for those events, and I sincerely hope that, by the time summer’s over, we’ll all be hearing large sighs of relief from knowing that nothing had happened, and nobody had to actually stand on anybody’s groin.

But just in case you ever find yourself in a hostile situation or, God forbid, a Raiders home game, today I’m going to pass along the lessons I learned in Fright School, as recorded in my notes.

My first note says “cargo pants,” because that’s what the instructor was wearing. He was a muscular, military-looking British guy who was quite cheerful, considering that he ended roughly every fourth sentence with: “And if THAT happens, you’re going to die.” The instructor began by reviewing the various kinds of hostile situations we, as journalists, might encounter. The three main points I got from that were:

1. A lot of things can happen.
2. All of these things can kill you.
3. So DON’T PANIC.

Among the specific threats we discussed were “dirty bombs,” germ warfare, mines, and booby traps. Because we took only the truncated one-day version of the course, the instructor couldn’t go deeply into these threats, other than to note that they are all fatal. (He also pointed out that his company had the world’s foremost authority on booby traps, and he does a presentation that’s quite entertaining.)

The most sensible way to avoid these threats, according to the instructor, is to remain alert, use common sense, be inconspicuous, and avoid dangerous areas, such as the planet Earth. He also recommended that we carry the following items at all times: water, food, protective eyewear, protective headgear, an “escape hood” for gas attacks, a whistle, a person alarm and a first-aid kit.

He didn’t say how you could look inconspicuous while carrying all these items: Maybe you could put them in your cargo pants and just pretend to have enormous thighs.

Here are a couple of other survival tips from the instructor that I wrote down:

• “If you’re going to use an escape rope, try to get some knots in it.”
• “Try to anticipate any strikes or blows.”

Also, if you’re going to get shot, the farther you are from the shooter, the better. I learned that valuable tip during the first-aid section of our training. The instructor began this section by noting that some people are reluctant to attempt first aid. “But,” he said, “if your colleague is dying, and you don’t do anything, he’s going to die, isn’t he? And he’s not going to thank you, is he?”

To which sports columnist Tom Powers replied: “He’s not going to complain, either.” In first-aid training, we learned about the Trimodal Death Distribution, with the three Modes of Death being: Instant, Late and Delayed. The instructor said: “We’re interested in the delayed dies.”

I missed a lot of what he said next, because he was showing graphic slides of injuries, and one of them, entitled “Impaled Object,” required me to put my head between my knees for several minutes. But I definitely recall hearing the instructor say, several times, that if your colleague is bleeding profusely from the femoral artery, you should stop it by standing on his groin. This may be solid advice, but before I follow it, I intend to confer with the colleague.

ME: Do you mind if I stand on your groin?
COLLEAGUE: Thanks, but I’d rather bleed to death.
ME (relieved): OK, then!

But we’re talking worst-case scenarios, here. As I said, I’m hoping that nobody needs any of this training, and that we all have a peaceful, hostility-free, and fun summer. Maybe I’ll even see you at the conventions or Olympics! Assuming there are eye holes in my escape hood.
**NON SEQUITUR by Wiley**

If engineers believe that the
existing collection of
wiring-in-walls engineering
might make it easier
that university in next...

**DILBERT® by Scott Adams**

I called this meeting
so I could tell you
the division's goals
for next year.

That's a good idea
because we're all
so dumb that we
couldn't possibly
read this in
E-mail.

Coal one:
I can't
improve
community
too
cation.

**PRODUCT DESIGNER**

Function means
Nothing. Design
is everything.

Quality is yester-
day's news. Money
is focus on
the emotional impact
of the product.

But it still needs
quality, right?

**PRODUCT DESIGNER**

Good design is
Essential to your
success.

That's why I
employ only the
best artists
and design
professionals.

Who are all
the cousins
against?

**PRODUCT DESIGNER**

I bring you the
future of product
design for consumer
electronics.

Dear natural's
perfect shape.
Your customers
will learn an
emotional bond.

Do you think your
ego influenced the
design process?

**PRODUCT DESIGNER**

The new product
is selling like
crazy... thanks to
its great
design.

It's so attractive
that I still high,
look its minor
flaws in function
ality.

For example, it
attracts the user of
sex crimes whenever
company comes over.

And its
cute.

**CATHERINE: EVEL DIRECTOR
OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

How do I tell people
that there won't be
any annual raises?

**PRODUCT DESIGNER**

Catherine: Evil Director
of Human Resources

How do I tell people
that there won't be
any annual raises?

Is someone trying
to raise the topic?
Guide the conversa-
tion away.

For example: It
attracts the users of
sex crimes whenever
company comes over.

And its
cute.

**CATHERINE: EVEL DIRECTOR
OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

How do I tell people
that there won't be
any annual raises?

It's something
that I've been
waiting for.

Do you think
we'll ever
colonize
mars?