We at the *Nique can’t seem to get enough of reality shows these days. Luckily, there’s no shortage of Tech students who’ve had their day. A fourth-year Civil Engineering major, was recently a contestant on the new ESPN sports reality show, *I’d Do Anything*. The show, hosted by George Gray (who has previously hosted shows like *Junk Yard Wars* and *The Weakest Link*) features three contestants competing head-to-head in four sports-related challenges.

In the ultimate act of altruism, the winner gets nothing for himself—but he or she does enable a family member or friend to have their ultimate sports fantasy fulfilled. Horwath competed to win a chance for his younger sister Carolyn, a senior majoring in Experimental Physics. The next challenge involved curling, the Winter Olympic sport in which competitors try to push a stone weight over ice onto a bullseye. The twist, however, was that Horwath and his competitors were the weights. Instead of using stones, we used our bodies,” he said. “We’d have to run down this carpet, jump and slide across the ice.” A stone was placed where the contestant’s head ended up, and the next competitor tried to knock the stone out in order to get their head closer to the bulls eye. The “Pain” part of the event came with the cold. Toward the end of the event, the carpet was taken off the ice, and a new coat of water was added to the sliding surface. After multiple rounds, all three contestants were soaking wet and very cold. You couldn’t feel your feet, you couldn’t feel (anything)...it was unbelievable,” Horwath said.

Despite the cold, Horwath won that event. “I don’t know what that says about me,” he laughed.

**CHALLENGE #2: ICE, ICE BABY**

The next challenge was between interviews and events,” he said. “There wasn’t a lot of downtime in Vegas, you’re thinking, boxing, maybe,” said Horwath, who was a wrestler in high school. Instead, they arrived at the Stardust Hotel to find out that they would be featured in a world championship exhibition for...ballroom dancing. “I looked up and (in this huge sign) on the Las Vegas Strip: ESPN’s *I’d Do Anything* World Championship Ballroom Dancing—David, Rich and Rob,” he said.

The three were given an hour with an instructor to learn how to dance the tango and salsa. “Anybody that knows me knows I can’t dance,” Horwath said. Despite the cold, Horwath won that event. “I don’t know what that says about me,” he laughed.

**CHALLENGE #3: A GIANTIC BARNEY**

Next stop: Las Vegas. When he arrived, Horwath couldn’t help but speculate about the challenge. “We pull into Las Vegas, you’re thinking, boxing, maybe,” said Horwath, who was a wrestler in high school. Instead, they arrived at the Stardust Hotel to find out that they would be featured in a world championship exhibition for...ballroom dancing. “I looked up and (in this huge sign) on the Las Vegas Strip: ESPN’s *I’d Do Anything* World Championship Ballroom Dancing—David, Rich and Rob,” he said.

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Marc Holcomb is one of two men on the Georgia Tech Color Guard. Though he sometimes receives flak for doing what is popularly viewed as a “feminine” activity, Holcomb says guard is hardly girly.

He is out there on the field during the football game, giving the best performance he can. He always gets the right amount of spin and rarely drops; he even catches his own tosses.

No, we’re not talking about Reggie Ball. This is Marc Holcomb, a senior Film/Video major at Georgia State and one of only two men on the Georgia Tech Color Guard.

At a school that is predominantly male, being in the minority can draw attention, and sometimes even ridicule. The two men are sometimes openly insulted, particularly at football games.

“The other day at the Virginia Tech/Georgia Tech game,” Holcomb said, “I walked out with my flags, getting ready to go out on the field, and somebody screamed ‘flag boy’ from above my head.”

Holcomb tries to take it in stride. “I turned around and waved, because I am a ‘flag boy.’ I spin flag; I’m a boy.”

Holcomb first started guard in the fall of 1998 as a sophomore in high school. After two years, he took a break to do other things within the band program. He returned in the spring of 2004 when he joined Tech’s winter guard.

This is Holcomb’s second season on Tech’s guard, though his first fall season. The fall season differs from the winter one in that the fall guard’s primary performances are at football games, adding a visual element to the band’s performance, while the winter guard performs at indoor competition in front of judges.

However, he didn’t find out that he could be part of Tech’s guard until his third year of college.

As a Georgia State student, “I didn’t know that I had the opportunity to be in the Georgia Tech band until last year,” he said. According to Holcomb, since his time on Tech’s color guard, he hasn’t experienced too much discrimination for being a guy.

“That was actually my first comment,” he said, “and it didn’t bother me, and I don’t really care.”

Holcomb and his fellow members know that guard is hardly a feminine activity, after all.

“You come out and spin guard, do a band camp, and you’ll see it’s not a girly thing,” he said. “You get injuries. You have as many injuries doing this as playing football, playing baseball.”

“You get people that knock their teeth out; you get people [who] break their thumbs, break their wrists, break their ankles [and] smash their noses in. It’s definitely not a girly activity,” he said.

Holcomb said he participates in guard because he enjoys its artistic quality and the fact that it requires different skills than playing in the band—which he also did during high school.

“It’s not more difficult; it’s not less difficult; it’s just a different kind of difficulty,” he said. “It’s just more interesting to me. I like doing flag work because it’s more intricate and more artistic.”

Being on color guard also requires a fair amount of dancing skill, which is perhaps why so many people call it a feminine activity.

Although one might expect otherwise, the color guard’s 1:16 male-to-female ratio (32 women and two men, not including the instructor), a far cry from Tech’s normal 7:3, does not keep Holcomb and the other male participant together all the time.

“We actually don’t talk that much,” he said. “He does weapon and I don’t, so we don’t spend a whole lot of time on the same parts of the field.”

“We do have a common bond that we are the only guys on the guard,” Holcomb said, “but it’s not something that’s so completely unifying that we spend all of our time together.”

Therefore, it is not surprising

Marc Holcomb is one of two men on the Georgia Tech Color Guard. Though he sometimes receives flak for doing what is popularly viewed as a “feminine” activity, Holcomb says guard is hardly girly.
that being very much in the minority is not difficult for Holcomb, who said there is "no problem with the ladies."

So what is it like being around so many females for so long?

"It’s a lot of estrogen, but it’s a lot of fun," he said.

And there are perks. "You get a lot of insight that makes your other guy friends jealous," Holcomb said.

"They’ll come to you like, 'I don’t understand why my girlfriend does this' and I know the answer because I’ve been around girls, just girls, for so long...so girls will talk around me and I learn these inside things that a lot of guys don’t get to hear."

Certain elements of women’s conversations have ceased to bother him as well.

"You learn not to flinch when you hear the word 'tampon' or other things about that sort of thing," he joked.

If anything, Holcomb seems to enjoy spending his time being surrounded by women, and guard is a far from feminine pastime for him.

In fact, he said he may continue for himself.

"I might as well try for something I don’t see myself doing that’s going to be feasible when I’m in the workforce," he said. "I don’t know yet."

__FOR THE CHALLENGE, EACH CONTESTANT WOULD BE TAKEN OUT OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IN A GIANT BLIMP. TWO 40 FT. CARGO NETS, EACH WITH SIX TENNIS BALLS ATTACHED, WOULD BE SUSPENDED FROM ITS UNDERSIDE.

The contestants had to climb down one net, collecting the balls along the way, make his way over to the second net, and climb back up to the blimp, collecting as many additional balls as possible—all from 800 ft. in the air. Scoring was determined in part by the number of balls recovered and the contestant’s time.

"The first couple steps were the hardest...looking down and all you see is water," said Horwath, who had to go first. He got through the course with no major problems, collecting all 12 balls. However, his foot got stuck in the net near the end of the course, and with strong winds twisting the nets, the situation turned dangerous.

Horwath couldn’t get his foot out of the net, and the crew, trying to help him, tightened the tension in his harness, cutting off his circulation. In addition, Horwath was on the verge of exhaustion. "I climbed a couple more feet and collapsed; I had nothing left," he recalled.

"But I had to do it," Horwath said. "I’ve done this for my sister, Horwath’s family and friends went up to ESPNZone in Buckhead to watch. Everybody loved it," he said. "I still get made fun of for a couple of things, but I figured that was part of the territory."

Though his motivation for applying was for his sister, Horwath’s perspectives have changed a little.

"I don’t see myself doing that for anybody else," though he said, "being on ESPN...was pretty exciting."

And now, Holcomb is thinking about taking the next step.

"I’m actually thinking about applying for Fear Factor," he said, laughing. "I figure I’ve done this; I might as well try for something for myself."

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**Tech Up Close**

**CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE ON CAMPUS THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN?**

Email focus@technique.gatech.edu for a chance to win a free student combo at Lil’ Dinos.

Last week’s Tech Up Close: Fish in the fountain at GT Hotel and Conference Center

Last week’s winner: Trey Clark

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**THIS WEEK’S PHOTO:**

By Julia Burch / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
On Election Day, the nation was divided over the president of the U.S.—but there was another race on Nov. 2 in which everyone at Tech agreed on the candidate.

Two weeks ago, Dan Richard, a third-year Industrial Engineering major, won the “primary” when representatives from Old Spice came to recruit students to be their next “Red Zone Body Wash President.”

Winning the primary meant that Richard was in the running for a trip to Hawaii against 17 other universities around the nation for the title of Old Spice Red Zone President.

“The best part about this entire election was... not winning the trip to Hawaii, but just feeling loved by everyone that voted for me.”

Dan Richard
Third-year IE major

Quantum from page 11

Using matter to store information and light to transfer it, the setup, which took Kuzmich and Matsukevich a year to construct, looks like an elaborate arrangement of mirrors and lenses. It uses a laser beam and clouds of rubidium atoms to inscribe a "quantum bit" on the clouds (see box for details).

"The light emitted from one cloud is polarized vertically, and the light from the other cloud is polarized horizontally," Matsukevich said. "When both clouds contribute to the photon emission, the polarization of the emitted photon depends on the overall states of two clouds."

Matsukevich said that it was necessary to divide the atomic system into two clouds to measure one bit of quantum information more effectively. "For a classical computer... just 1 and 0, that's like two states," he said. "For a quantum computer, a system can be either in one state, in the other state, or in both states simultaneously—the logical equivalent of "yes," "no," and "maybe."

"It is much more difficult to encode the bit of quantum information in just one cloud," Matsukevich said. But because a quantum computing system can make use of three states to represent information, physicists have theorized that a quantum computer could solve certain problems, such as code breaking, much faster and more efficiently than a conventional computer.

Another advantage of this technology is the construction of quantum communications systems. Unlike current networks, which are widely available. The College Republicans’ recent comments about Tech’s Pride Alliance were absolutely horrible. To call the Pride Alliance a “sex club” is an attempt to slander a group that exists to provide a haven for those who are gay.

The best part about this entire election was... not winning the trip to Hawaii, but just feeling loved by everyone that voted for me.”

Dan Richard
Third-year IE major

Catching up with... Dan Richard
First he won at Tech; now he’s won it all, beating out men from 17 other universities around the nation for the title of Old Spice Red Zone President.

See Red Zone, page 15
Red Zone from page 14

such a small community...whenever something like this happens, the entire county knows about it."

Richard's sister Andrea, who attends Georgia Southern, also sent a flurry of emails and IMs around her college.

And, of course, Richard drew on his loyal base of "fans" here at Tech; friends were leaving away messages that read, "Vote for Dan!", posting to message boards and forwarding his emails.

The six degrees worked its magic, and many students who had no idea who Richard were good-naturedly voting for him anyway.

The fact that it was an online vote may have also given him an edge.

"My friend Adam pointed out that we go to the school who rigged the Time Magazine Man of the Century online so that the winner was George P. Burtles," Richard said. "What did Old Spice think was George P. Burtles?"

Richard also took advantage of his "presidency" by asking TeamWorks Media, the PR group for Old Spice, to help when it came to getting people to vote for him as "Red Zone President" this past Tuesday.

So he took action, and many IMs later, Richard took the lead. According to the website, results would not be announced until Friday. Richard, however, received a call early in the afternoon the next day from TeamWorks Media, the PR group for Old Spice.

"They heard that I tried out originally by playing my harmonica and singing a song, so they...said, 'We have our entire team in here on speaker phone. We want you to sing and play the same audition song you did way back at the beginning."

He did, and then they told him the good news—he had won. "I started jumping up and down," he said. "I was all by myself [in my room], but...I think the people down the hall heard me, and I was just yelling."

"The trip to Hawaii is planned for sometime in February. It is a five-day, four-night package for two, and, as planned, Richard is taking his sister. A spa package and golf package are also included. Richard doesn't know how to play golf, but, he says, that won't stop him. "I get the chance to play golf in Hawaii, and not many men can say that," he said.

Richard also took advantage of his "presidency" by asking TeamWorks Media if they can get him on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, his favorite show.

"They said they'll look into it," he said. "It just really felt awesome that day."

Regarding the commercials, Richard is pretty happy with the way they turned out. "Maybe it's just self-consciousness, but I kind of think I look really nerdy," he laughed. "Maybe I represented Tech well."

The Q&A, on the other hand, was a different story. Richard provided original answers to a set of questions Red Zone representatives had sent him.

After looking over Richard's answers and making some modifications, they sent him back a final copy for his approval.

"My responses were a little doctored up with some very, very cheesy Red Zone plugs," Richard laughed. "For instance, it'll say something like, 'How'd you win, Dan? And my answer was, 'I got the word out and my answer was, 'I got the word out like crazy,' but their answer was something like, 'I couldn't have done it without Red Zone Body Wash!' I read it and thought, what the crap? When did I ever say that?"

In the end, though, Richard can't help but be a little cheesy as well.

"The best part about this entire election was honestly, not winning the trip to Hawaii, but just feeling loved by everybody that voted for me," he said. "It just really felt awesome that day."

What are YOU thankful for?
Email focus@technique.gatech.edu if you have a Tech-related Thanksgiving story to share.

Dan Richard, a third-year IE major, showed he could rally a crowd at the Miami game, an ability that helped when it came to getting people to vote for him as "Red Zone President" this past Tuesday.