Blowing to a retro tune, new whistle debuts

By Smitha Prasad

As Tech students came back from their week-long semester break to start summer term, some of them noticed a small but distinct difference on campus—the whistle.

The high-pitched, single-toned sound that could be heard as far as the Varsity is gone, and its replacement is quite different from what the students are accustomed to.

“I thought it was a train at first,” said Ethan Torre, fourth-year Electrical Engineering major, “but someone told me it had been changed out.”

Harold Cash, superintendent of the Tech Power Plant, became concerned after he had to use his last remaining spare part to repair the clock in the industrial steam whistle that occurred during a fall 2002 football game.

“We didn’t have any spare parts left, and we also go through periods when people ‘borrow’ the whistle,” Cash said, adding that there wouldn’t have been much of a problem had it happened to the current one.

After stopping by the Alumni House and seeing the actual whistle used during the 1900s on display, Cash had the idea to model a new whistle based on this original one.

Having pitched the idea to Dennis Brown, manager of the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), Brown was especially interested in taking on this project.

“It was a great opportunity for this department to build something that was more visual for the Institute,” Brown said. “I’ve been here 25 years, and I’ve been hearing the whistle for a while. I just thought it was a great idea.”

The Machine Shop took about four months to research the Alumni House whistle, which involved photographing, measuring and drawing it.

Because the whistle’s bell was missing, the team researched photographs and patterns of similar whistles from the early 1900s, to produce an authentic design in AutoCAD.

The actual assembly of the whistle took a week, including chemical treatment in the Machine Shop’s Cobb Country facility. The final cost of the new whistle was $7,000 but because the design was completed in AutoCAD, producing replicas will cost even less.

During summer term, a good number of students on or around campus spent their time working or doing research—as opposed to taking classes—which makes it harder for them to be on campus at five minutes till the hour to notice the change.

“Right after it went, I went for a walk, and there was a new one,” Zipperer said.

“It sounds like it’s choking to death on a bird’s nest.”

Bill Tice

CS graduate student

Students use computing to “Cut Out Hunger”

By Joshua Cnene

Grocery stores may not know it, but the right coupons combined with the right sales can mean savings of 50 percent or more on the final bill. The trick, of course, is coordinating the two.

“Whereas before [Nelson] could only manage and update one region at a time, she can now manage dozens of regions in a fraction of the original time,” Blinder said. “The new design has enabled [Nelson] to get more done and afforded more conveniences and an improved interaction experience to the end-users.”

According to Nelson, the new system has reduced data entry times from 15 hours a week for one city to five hours for ten. And the web site has thrived as a result.

Statistically, the site now averages about 9,000 visitors a day seeking deals for 23 states. The estimated savings for those using the Cut Out Hunger site is $200 a month per family for a total of $24 million each year, according to Nelson.

“It was...motivating to know that the system I was designing might help put food on some family’s table.”

Karl Zipperer

CS graduate

BASEBALL CLINIC SEASON

After a resounding defeat of Maryland, Tech Baseball advances in the ACC tournament. Page 16

FOCUS

Technique • Friday, May 28, 2004

DAY AFTER TOMORROW

Where will you be: The Day After Tomorow? Find out how this summer thick stacks up against other disaster blockbusters. Page 9

“Creating using AutoCAD, the newly installed Tech steam whistle has drawn mixed reviews from students. The whistle’s design was derived from an old model kept in the Alumni House.”

~Elaine Presnell

STUDENT PUBLICATION

“Grocery stores may not know it, but the right coupons combined with the right sales can mean savings of 50 percent or more on the final bill. The trick, of course, is coordinating the two. The steps to create the system mirror the typical flow of a software project: requirement gathering, system/architecture design, implementation, testing, it rapid development, etc to his senior design students in August 2003. “We push our students to find a project that is interesting technically but also has real world impact,” Stasko said.

Senior design projects—requirement gathering for all computer science majors—generally consume 750-1,000 working hours over the course of the semester. Some students choose a project for a student organization while others may select a project for an off-campus client.

“Project...[look][ed] interesting and matched my interest [in databases] in computer science,” said Blinder, who designed the end-user interface.

However, the team also cites humanization reasons for their interest in the project.

“It was a lot more motivating to know the system I was designing might help put food on some family’s table than...writing a new system for an insurance firm would have been,” Zipperer said.

It took the team the entire semester to redesign the web site, since they started essentially from scratch.

“Before we could begin to build the system, we spent a lot of time defining and redfining the requirements,” Zipperer said. “We were probably halfway through the semester before we had a totally clear idea of what the system was going to do.”

According to Blinder, constructing the system itself then proceeded rapidly.

“The steps to create the system mirror the typical flow of a software project: requirement gathering, system/architecture design, implementation, testing, it rapid development, etc.”

Cobb County facility. The final cost of the new whistle was $7,000 but because the design was completed in AutoCAD, producing replicas will cost even less.

During summer term, a good number of students on or around campus spent their time working or doing research—as opposed to taking classes—which makes it harder for them to be on campus at five minutes till the hour to notice the change.

“Whereas before [Nelson] could only manage and update one region at a time, she can now manage dozens of regions in a fraction of the original time,” Blinder said. “The new design has enabled [Nelson] to get more done and afforded more conveniences and an improved interaction experience to the end-users.”

According to Nelson, the new system has reduced data entry times from 15 hours a week for one city to five hours for ten. And the web site has thrived as a result.

Statistically, the site now averages about 9,000 visitors a day seeking deals for 23 states. The estimated savings for those using the Cut Out Hunger site is $200 a month per family for a total $24 million each year, according to Nelson.

It has appeared on Good Morning America promoting the program, which, she said, has prompted inter-
Winner receives a free student combo from Li’l Dinos

Tech Up Close

Last week’s winner:
Will Welch

Last week’s Tech Up Close:
BuzzCard Reader

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

Website from page 8

est in a book and more TV and radio spots.
But the best part, she said, has been “The personal reward of seeing so much food donated to charity, hearing so many stories of people being helped financially, and seeing the joy that people experience when they become givers.”

“In the end, the project was also a beneficial experience for the Georgia Tech team.”

“(It) allowed me to experience what is involved in designing and building a system for use in the real world,” Zipperer said. “...Actually getting everything set up to function reliably under realistic conditions proved to be quite challenging.”

Blinder added that including this project in his portfolio helped him find a job following graduation.

Nelson had only praise for the team. “I am extremely grateful to Georgia Tech...They have literally made my vision and dream come true, and their contribution will help millions of people over time,” she said.

“I’ll never stop telling people about what they’ve done for me and can hardly talk about it without crying. Let’s just say I am Georgia Tech’s biggest fan.”

Stephanie Nelson
Founder, Cut Out Hunger

Whistle from page 8

heard the whistle and noticed the change. “I think it’s more interesting than the old one,” Trewihan said, “It’s got more personality.”

So far, though, the general consensus isn’t quite apocalyptic. “After four years, the old whistle for me became synonymous with Georgia Tech,” said Hamza Ahmed, a recent Aerospace Engineering graduate.

“The new one is too different, and much like a train whistle, which confused me at first. It just doesn’t seem to fit. Though I suppose for incoming freshmen, the new one is okay,” Ahmed said.

Others are more outspoken in their protests against the change. “I recently heard the new whistle for the first time and I thought it was a truck downshifting on the Connector—it’s not nearly as cool,” said Bill Tice, a Computer Science graduate student. “It sounds like it’s choking to death on a bird nest.”

He also added that he didn’t know why the whistle needed to be changed, a common sentiment among quite a few students.

The old whistle was a traditional, hourly cornerstone of the Georgia Tech campus. It was something that the Tech community had accepted as part of their daily ritual from the day they joined the Institute.

Though the Tech community is very open to embracing older aspects of the tradition that have reemerged, for upperclassmen, the new whistle may take some getting used to.

“It was classic the way it was,” Tice said. “You can’t hear [the new whistle] at all from far away...although it’s more symbolic, it is how a lot of people wake up for their next class.”

Sliver Box

www.nique.net/sliver

Go Tech! #100 on the list of the 100 most unwired (read: wireless net access) colleges!
Of course, UGA is #64... now that’s embarrassing...
DON’T BE HATIN’
girls at agnes scott need to stay at agnes scott. they’re taking all the good guys here! ( or maybe the good guys just want more desperate girls...)
if it give it up yo. it ain’t gonna happen
In Atlantic City they’ve got silicon titties.
Huh. I made an A in HPS. And it wasn’t that hard. At least when Beaver taught.
i think i just saw some girl break a guys heart at the fountain outside the library
it was terrible. I gotta go call my boyfriend now and tell him i love him
To “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
And I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
 thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and i was wrong, I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope you enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope you enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope you enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope you enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope you enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope you enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope you enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...
to “girl” who likes to use ****, the girl I asked out was playing hard to get and its been a great 3 weeks together
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
thank you, hampton inn for allowing me to puke in the parking lot when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope YOU enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40
and I was wrong. I hope you enjoy being lonely with your cats when you are 40...