The demolition of the Hightower Textile Engineering building has drawn local heat. The bomb?

By Tyrus Galley

Friday, June 1, 2001

The West Side Diner may offer new services in a new atmosphere.

Was Pearl Harbor the bomb? Read the review of the summer’s biggest film thus far.

By Nair Barday
Senior News Staff

Some traditions die hard. Last Monday, at least three students attempted to steal the “T” facing Tenth Street from the north side of Tech Tower. Apparently, the students tripped an alarm in attempting to remove the “T,” which notified the Georgia Tech Police Department and forced the students to abandon their quest.

“The officers responded to the alarm and found one person,” said Jack Vickery, Chief of Georgia Tech Police. According to the incident report filed, that person was rushing sophomore Kelly Davis, a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

“Following up, there appear to be at least two other people involved,” said Vickery, referring to Beta Theta Pi members James Henderson and David Moller. The two appeared later at the police station and, according to the incident report, “stated they were accomplices in attempting to steal the ‘T’ off of the Tech Tower.”

According to the report, the officers who responded to the incident also “impounded Mr. Henderson’s vehicle, which was running and parked, at the corner of Cherry Street and First Drive.”

“Based on what we know at this time, they were probably going to use the car to take the ‘T’ wherever they were going to take it. But I suspect that when the alarm was activated, they abandoned the effort,” said Vickery. The students actually removed the “T” from its mount atop the tower, but were unable to lower it to the ground and transport it before the authorities arrived.

This attempt is the third in several years that has actually resulted in the apprehension of the “T”-nappers. In 1999, a group of individuals removed the “T” and transported it off-campus and were caught, but since that date GTPD has no suspects in “T”-nappings until this incident.

In fall of 1999, President Clough submitted a letter to the Tech community in the Technik.

“In it he stated, ‘I am notifying the campus community that the building of a new Provost,’ ” said Coons. Paris Prize winner Paul Heffner designed Hightower, which was constructed in 1949. In January, the school held a public hearing regarding Hightower. Professor Robert Craig spoke and emphasized the importance of Heffner’s legacy to Atlanta’s architectural makeup.

“Heffner curtailed his practice and devoted himself almost exclusively to teaching, serving as director of the architecture school from ’36 to ’76. Georgia Tech architecture students at the time believed they would graduate from this school and build modern Atlanta,” said Craig in his testimony. The Hightower listing is on the site of the Undergraduate Learning Center and campus green space.

“The Master Plan is what’s driving this. One of their major goals, as far as this particular property is concerned, is the expansion of campus open space and enhance...

By Mary E D’camp
Senior News Staff

Starting today Georgia Tech has a new Provost.

Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau, former Dean of the College of Engineering, was selected over three other candidates to fill the position. Chameau is a very good candidate. He has not only succeeded Mike Thomas and relish the opportunity to help lead this university into a new century. This university has so much potential for national and international leadership, and I look forward to helping to shape that potential in years to come.”

President G. Wayne Clough selected Chameau over three other final candidates that the search committee recommended. The other candidates included: Elisabeth Pate-Cornell, a chaired professor at Stanford University’s department of Management Science and Engineering; Donald Moore, former Associate Director for Technology in the White House Office of Technology policy in the Clinton administration; and Gary Schuster, Dean of the College of Sciences.

“At the end of it all, the conclusion was that we had four good candidates, and Dr. Chameau was strongly supported by the process. So when it came to me the decision was not a difficult decision,” said Clough.

“He has not only succeeded at other schools but he has done very well here at Georgia Tech in a range of positions. He brought a wealth of background and experience, including being on a school board and he certainly did an excellent job as Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies, which is a very good position. And then he was Dean of Engineering. You could not ask for three better successive appointments for a position to be prepared for this position.”

Dr. Chameau uses this new position to look forward to taking on.

“Although we have made an incredible journey so far, we have only just begun. The path ahead is as...
Obituary

Mollie Newton

Georgia Tech recently lost a member of its community when Mollie Eileen Newton, 21, passed away on Wednesday May 16. Mollie was a senior Economics major who was scheduled to graduate in December of this year. She grew up in Peachtree City, just south of Atlanta, where she graduated from McIntosh High School.

Mollie was returning from her job at the State Capitol when her car flipped over in a one car accident on Georgia Highway 74 in Tyrone. Mollie was active on-campus in a variety of organizations. She served as a convassain for the Georgia Tech rowing team. Mollie was active in the Tech athletic program in other capacities as well, serving as a member of a Solid Gold, the athletic recruiting program, and as a bat girl for the Tech baseball team.

Mollie also worked for the Housing department as a Peer Leader in the Freshman experience program and as an active member of the Christian Campus Fellowship. At home Mollie was a member of Providence United Methodist Church. While there Mollie enjoyed singing and performing missionary work. She went on a number of church trips to Appalachia to build homes and facilities for the underprivileged.

Mollie was survived by her sisters Katie Newton of Peachtree City and Elizabeth Warfield of Birmingham, Alabama; her parents Mike and Katherine Newton; and her paternal grandparents Billy and Vortie Newton of Dothan, Alabama.

In lieu of flowers, the family hopes to prop- erly honor the memory of members of the Tech community who passed away with obituaries.

Technique Online

Voice Your Opinion!

If you visit the Technique website at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique, you will notice a few changes the entire website has been redesigned with you, the reader in mind. The site is, in our opinion, more user-friendly and visually attractive.

We want reading the Technique to be an interactive experience, so each week we will conduct a news related online poll and run the results in the next issue. This week’s topic is the theft of the ‘T’. What do you think is a suitable punishment? Expulsion? Suspension? Nothing at all? Let us know!

Is stealing the ‘T’ tradition or trespassing? What is a proper punishment?

Portch from page 1

“History will judge Chancellor Portch very well. He made major changes to substantially improve the quality of education.”
G. Wayne Clough
President

Portch in the University System. He launched GALILEO, the online statewide electronic library system of the USG and secured funding to speed capital construction projects at a number of state institutions.

Portch also appointed 23 presidents, including Tech’s President Clough, who was Portch’s first ap- pointment.

Academically, Portch raised the average SAT scores of entering freshmen to 1021, which exceeds the national average, while lowering the number of students who need remedial classes and toughening admission standards to require Georgia high school students to take more core classes like math and science. He increased funding for research initiatives and helped land both Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia in the top twenty public universities in the nation according to U. S. News and World Report.

Despite these accomplishments, Portch has been criticized by some for trying to do too much too fast. “People in the Chancellor’s po- sition are always a little bit controv- ersial because they have to make decisions that affect 34 institutions that have different dimensions, dis-

T he Technique hopes to prop- erly honor the memory of members of the Tech community who passed away with obituaries.

APC

from page 1

ment of the landscape character of the campus itself. It will be a place where people can get together and talk,” said Ronald LeRoy, Facilities Project Manager.

“The board of regents is very strict in how they deal with this process. Nothing has been in the dark—we realize [Hightower] is a unique building in itself, but we do have several examples of that style on campus,” says LeRoy.

Despite the observed diligence in the bureaucratic steps, APC Director Coons accuses the school of

It was published in legal documents — it was published in the newspa- per. Now we’re sitting here in the middle of May and now all of a sudden there is concern—it’s a lit- tle strange. We didn’t have to have a meeting. It is probably too late to save Hightower according to LeRoy.

“The Governor” is the final say. So once he makes that statement and signs the paperwork, it’s a done deal. We did have that open period. It was published in legal documents — it was published in the newspaper. Now we’re sitting here in the middle of May and now all of a sudden there is concern—it’s a little strange. We didn’t have to have a public hearing, but we did. We are not in an adversarial rule, we just take and execute the plan.”

Simplifying going through the motions and not truly considering the im- portance of Hightower. “If [Tech] wants to live in a vac- uum, this is exactly the sort of ac-

F NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
for almost 10 years. I have worked primarily with the College of Engineering. This position will allow me to get involved with many other programs and to expand my horizons,” said Dr. Chameau.

According to Chameau, one of his main goals going into this job is to make the Institute the best that it can be for students, faculty, staff, and everyone that is a part of the Tech community. He is focused on Tech’s future and reputation both at home and abroad.

“This is an exciting time for Georgia Tech. It has changed dramatically over the past 20 years, and I think that it will be changing dramatically over the next few years as well. We have truly outstanding students, and I am looking forward to having the chance to interact with a broad spectrum of students,” Chameau said.

Clough expressed his confidence in Chameau’s ability to develop new programs, work with students, and balance the issues of teaching and research that students sometimes see in conflict with one another. “You have someone who brings a level of administrative experience that is rare. From the student point of view, I think Dr. Chameau was always known as a great teacher—a person who had serious concerns about students,” said Clough.

“Although it is not obvious sometimes to some of our undergraduate students, he is working a series of major initiatives to improve the undergraduate learning experience at Tech and Engineering.”

Dr. Chameau sees the quality of all programs here at Tech increasing dramatically over the next few years, as well as the education experience becoming as good as it can be. “Georgia Tech has intelligent and outstanding students and faculty members that come up with wonderful ideas for new programs. I will constantly strive to promote that kind of environment and help to support it, to find resources and ideas that will help new programs happen,” Chameau said.

Chameau obtained his undergraduate mechanical engineering degree from L’Ecole Nationale Superieure des Arts et Metiers and an undergraduate economics degree from La Sorbonne in Paris. He then attended Stanford University to receive his graduate degree in civil engineering and completed his Master’s and Ph.D. degrees in 1977 and 1980, respectively. He came to Tech from Purdue University in 1991 as Director of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

As Dean of the College of Engineering he has led educational and research programs in nine engineering fields, all of which have gained national recognition. He has also helped to make Georgia Tech a worldwide leader in sustainability, among many other accomplishments. Dr. Chameau has been an important part of the Tech community for nearly a decade, and he will continue to foster a challenging and creative environment as Tech’s new Provost.

**Campus Architecture**

**Hightower Building.**

The Atlanta Preservation Center named the Hightower building as one of the ten most endangered historic buildings. According to Tech architecture professor Robert Craig and others, Hightower, which dates back to 1949, is one of the finest examples of early modern period architecture in the south.

| Vote online at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique | Techweek | Friday, June 1, 2001 | 3 |
OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, June 1, 2001

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion
‘T’ punishment

Stealing the “T” off Tech Tower has been a tradition at Tech for over thirty years. Since 1996, issues concerning student welfare, Institute liability and rising financial costs, have caused administration to tighten disciplinary action on those committing theft of the “T.”

In deciding on an appropriate disciplinary action, motive is of prime importance. Stealing the “T” is neither a malicious nor vindictive crime, and is instead prompted by a love for Tech and Tech tradition. By turning the offenders over to the Dean of Students versus prosecution under criminal law, Tech has recognized the uniqueness of the crime.

To expel a student for committing a crime that has long been heralded as one of the greatest feats at Tech is not only hypocritical, but overly harsh.

Punishment, such as suspension for one semester, should be salient enough to prevent theft of the “T,” but not so destructive as to ruin a student’s academic career. The case before the Dean’s Office should be utilized to emphasize their commitment to punishing “T” thieves by developing and implementing a standardized disciplinary action plan for all offenders. These regulations should be applied equitably to prevent discrimination and double standards.

Diner change

During the bookstore relocation polls, students requested a dinner space that would provide alternatives to typical dining hall or Student Center foods. With discussions underway for altering West Side Diner into a coffee shop, it is appropriate that Auxiliary Services take these student requests into consideration. A restaurant on East Campus would provide entering freshmen, who usually do not have transportation, an additional place to eat. The restaurant should be open during normal dining hours, and possibly even 24 hours to accommodate the haphazard schedules of students. West Campus, which has more eating alternatives for resident students, would benefit more from a coffee shop or student hangout. These alternatives would not be in direct competition with Dining Services as entering students in the Freshmen Experience program have already purchased their mandatory meal tickets upon enrolling at Tech and would instead better meet student needs for variety.

Increase in tuition unfair

I was quite shocked when I picked up the Technique the other day and found out about the tuition increase. I, being an out-of-state student, took this news very personally. President Clough said in the article that “our financial resources have not increased commensurately, placing stress on the quality of our educational programs.”

I found that statement to be ironic being that the Campaign for Georgia Tech has raised over 0.7 billion dollars, well over the average amount required. In addition, Tech has continued to soar up the college ranks, while remaining in the top ten of all the engineering disciplines.

So where is the stress on our quality? How does increasing out-of-state tuition significantly help the institution? If anything, I feel that this increase in tuition hurts the individual student more than it helps our school. $500 added per semester may not seem much to administration, but for me, it makes a difference in the amount of hours I have to work during the school year, taking away from my studies.

Based on the figures I’ve seen by the Campaign, I am convinced that we are well off in our funds. Funding for the vast majority of the programs at Tech has exceeded the revised goal. I was a bit dismayed to see that the overwhelming leader in receiving funds from the Campaign was the Athletic department. How are we striving for increased quality of education if most of our money is going towards sports? Don’t get me wrong—I am a big fan of sports—but I never put sports before school.

Correct me if I’m wrong, but aren’t ticket sales, TV-network deals, and sponsors enough to run the Athletic department alone? I don’t disagree with our school trying to get more resources; however, I don’t believe it should be at the expense of out-of-state students. It is almost as if the out-of-state students are being penalized. Raising the tuition at such a high rate solely for out-of-state students hurts people like me who just barely have enough money to get by. I know that I’m already getting a good bargain, but let’s strive to keep Georgia Tech unique. It’s simply unfair to raise tuition for unnecessary reasons.

If absolutely nothing can be done to avoid this increase, I want a guarantee that these funds will not excessively go towards student organizations, programs, and scholarships.

Vonel Lamour
gte135@gatech.edu

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of The Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

Editorial Board:

Matthew Bryan, Editor-in-Chief
Jody Shaw, News Editor
Julia Trapol, Opinions Editor
Emily Lavander, Campus Life Editor
Sara Cames, Entertainment Editor
Robert Cunningham, Sports Editor
Daniel Uhlig, Photography Editor
Jamie Schul, Advertising Manager
Matt Flagg, Online Editor
Jennifer LaLatte, Managing Editor

Quote of the week:

“Alone I’m alone! I’m a lonely, insignificant speck on a has-been planet orbited by a cold, indifferent sun!” -Homer Simpson
Stealing the 'T': Tradition or Trespassing?

I bet most Tech students have thought about stealing the 'T.' I do not believe that every Tech student has concieved a 'T'-snatching plan during the wee hours of the morning in his or her dorm room, but I do feel that many Tech students have at least considered what they would do if an opportunity to violate the finest tradition ever presented itself.

As a student, the idea of stealing the 'T' appeals to me, even though I know the risks involved, because it is tradition. Why do I feel this way? The act is ingrained in the Tech culture. I have read stories and depictions of stealing the 'T' and I will also be subject to Institute penalties up to and including expulsion. This letter came shortly after a young woman died after a fall from atop Alexander Memorial Coliseum in March. The circumstances surrounding this incident as the catalyst for his concern about students scaling Tech Tower while attempting to steal the 'T.'

With energy in short supply the state of California has experienced high energy prices and rolling blackouts. Experts speculate that the deregulation of the power industry in California, which resulted in lower prices from increased competition, created a demand increase that coupled with the warming climate and increased consumption has left the state short on electricity. On Saturday I started reading The Grapes of Wrath and quickly found ironic the Joad’s dreams of California. The Joad family, struck by drought, war and bad farming conditions and a depression, was forced to leave their home in Oklahoma to travel to California. I guess it’s consumption growth has left the state short on electricity. I must believe that members of the administration can do a better job of protecting the state of California has experienced resource nightmare.

Today we look to California as a case study in the system of supply and demand will only shift the problem from one party to another. New power plants would immediately increase the system’s capacity. These new plants coupled with a nationwide grid could help expand the energy market the way international trade has helped expand the global economy in different economic sectors all over the world. A larger system would help eliminate excess prices and lower prices for consumers. But these are short term solutions protecting students, if that is their intent. By expelling the three offenders, the administration takes the possible punishment that can come from committing the illegal and potentially deadly act. I do not think they will.

The 'T' is as much of a danger to the student body as it is to Tech. The administration could count on the three offenders to keep this tradition. By expelling the three offenders the administration could force students to consider the repercussions that come from committing the illegal and potentially deadly act. I do not think they will. The three students—and any other cohorts that may come out of the woodwork—will not be in the habit of expunging their actions. They may be suspended for a semester, which is a severe punishment, but it is not expungement, which is what Joad’s explic-

On Saturday I started reading The Grapes of Wrath and quickly found ironic the Joad’s dreams of California. The Joad family, struck by drought, war and bad farming conditions and a depression, was forced to leave their home in Oklahoma to travel to California. I guess it’s consumption growth has left the state short on electricity. I must believe that members of the administration can do a better job of protecting the state of California has experienced resource nightmare.

Today we look to California as a case study in the system of supply and demand will only shift the problem from one party to another. New power plants would immediately increase the system’s capacity. These new plants coupled with a nationwide grid could help expand the energy market the way international trade has helped expand the global economy in different economic sectors all over the world. A larger system would help eliminate excess prices and lower prices for consumers. But these are short term solutions protecting students, if that is their intent. By expelling the three offenders, the administration takes the possible punishment that can come from committing the illegal and potentially deadly act. I do not think they will.

The 'T' is as much of a danger to the student body as it is to Tech. The administration could count on the three offenders to keep this tradition. By expelling the three offenders the administration could force students to consider the repercussions that come from committing the illegal and potentially deadly act. I do not think they will. The three students—and any other cohorts that may come out of the woodwork—will not be in the habit of expunging their actions. They may be suspended for a semester, which is a severe punishment, but it is not expungement, which is what Joad’s explic-
Are you bored?
Check out Campus Brief for an update on what's happening around campus. Take your professor to lunch or catch Traffic at the Student Center Theatre. Page 8

Summer Intramurals
Do you miss the old days when kickball was cool? Don't miss your last chance to sign up for summer intramural sports like sand volleyball and softball. Page 8

West Side Diner considers change

Auxiliary Services and Georgia Tech Dining Hall Services begin initial discussions concerning conversion of West Side Diner into more appealing space for students

By Josh Boudwell
He knows $\pi$ on too

When most Tech students return in the fall, they may discover that a familiar landmark has disappeared. Since its opening in January 1998, West Side Diner has provided late-night meals and a common meeting ground for Tech students. However, last semester Auxiliary Services and Georgia Tech Dining Hall Services began discussions that considered changing the diner into a coffee shop.

Several months ago, SGA conducted a survey to investigate the poor patronage of the West Side Diner. Throughout spring semester the diner averaged only one hundred customers a night. SGA interviewed approximately three thousand people and found that in general, they did not feel comfortable hanging out at the diner. The metallic furniture and uncomfortable chairs provided an atmosphere that discouraged most people.

After evaluating the study, Auxiliary Services and Georgia Tech Dining Services began looking at how to convert the space into something more appealing to students. Barbara Wilson, Communication and Student Relations Coordinator of Auxiliary Services, said “this [level of patronage] is not helping the student Services, said “this [level of patronage] is not helping the student

Darci Tice, in charge of marketing for Georgia Tech Dining Services and Sodexo Marriott Services, envisioned a warm friendly atmosphere where “students can come and decompress.” She wants to create a place with plenty of comfortable lounge chairs so that people “have a place to go when they leave their rooms.”

The menu for the new coffee shop will be very similar to the Cyber Cafe in the Tech bookstore. In addition to serving a wide assortment of coffee drinks, cold sandwiches and wraps will also be served.

But Georgia Tech Dining Services is planning on keeping West Side Diner’s most popular dishes. The ice cream and milkshakes will most likely stay on the menu. Darci Tice was not concerned with the West Side Diner conversion.

Buzz Around the Campus

Question of the week

“Why are you here this summer?”

Eray Usgoren
M.S. AE

“It was a random choice”

Melda Ormecci
M.S. SYF

“To get my degree.”

Tony Hernandez
EE Senior

“Why not.”

Zach Krauss
ChE Sophomore

“Because my car broke down.”

Feature and Photos by Scott King

Campus Life

Fuel cell fantasy a reality at Georgia Tech

Benjamin A. Small
Professional Geek

“These new technologies are the solution to our electricity shortages and energy cost increases.”

Professor Jack Winnick of the School of Chemical Engineering is striving to make this planet a better place. No really—he’s involved with a project that will help us save the environment as well as produce electricity more efficiently. The amazing prospect is because of one little chemical device—the fuel cell. (Perhaps certain presidential figureheads ought to pay attention.)

And what are fuel cells, you ask? I’m glad you asked. Fuel cells are perhaps the most promising development for alternative power. If you live in California, you’re probably having dreams about them.

Most current power plants burn a fossil fuel (like coal), and the heat produces steam, which is used to turn a turbine and generate electricity. Inevitably, a certain amount of power is lost in this system, since the chemical energy is transformed into thermal energy, which produces mechanical energy and finally electrical energy. Additionally, burning large amounts of anything tends to have some rather undesirable side effects (soot in the air, acid rains, Greenpeace getting on your case, etc.).

Fuel cells, on the other hand, take in fuel and air in one end, do some fancy electrochemistry in the middle and leave only harmless water at the other end. (You remember reaction potentials from freshman chemistry, right?) No pollution, no moving parts, and great efficiency, since they convert chemical potential directly into usable electricity.

So why haven’t we switched entirely to fuel cell power yet? First, they are substantially more expensive to build than a coal power plant, even though they are much cheaper to operate. As fuel costs continue to rise and fuel cell technology develops, we will start to see more people making that initial investment. Helping this process is Professor Winnick and the Georgia Tech Center for Innovative Fuel Cell and Battery Technologies. He explained to us some of the specifics of modern fuel cell technology. A proton exchange fuel cell (PEFC) is a sort of membrane sandwich and generally runs near room temperature. Encased between two thin sheets of platinum-containing electrode, there is a proton exchange membrane, made of a Teflon-like electrolytic polymer and surrounded by some nifty chemicals. One of these is the fuel itself, which could be hydrogen or even an alcohol. On one side of the polymer membrane, electrons are stripped off of hydrogen. On the other, the hydrogen, which is now missing its electrons, combines with oxygen in the air to create water. We get to keep those electrons, which gain about 0.8 volts of electrical potential, so 150 individual cells can be tied together to produce 120 V. Vast arrays of fuel cells could produce substantial quantities of power. Although the platinum electrodes keep PEFCs too expensive for large-scale power plants, smaller units are already in mass production for powering homes and vehicles.

Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC) operate at higher temperatures (~1000 °C) but can use a variety of fuels; electricity can be generated from natural gas, diesel fuel, kerosene, gasoline, and even coal. They use the same sort of proton and electron exchange as PEFCs, but since the electrodes can be made from cheaper metals (like copper), the cost of SOFC is low enough to make them applicable for larger megawatt-range power plants. Moreover, waste heat from the reaction can be used to generate even more electricity from a turbine.
Fuel Cells

just like traditional plants, which makes SOFCs insanely efficient alternatives to coal power. Sounds great, doesn’t it? Feel like running outside and shouting “it’s a great time to be alive”? Don’t leave just yet—it gets better. Professor Winnick and his research group are developing techniques to make fuel cells even more efficient, he is “very big on any energy-producing device being environmentally benign.” Much of the research is devoted to recovering waste materials and reusing them, making fuel cells a “sustainable technology.” Hopefully, the group’s work will be able to convince large utility corporations to adopt fuel cells as a financially efficient source of electricity. They have constructed systems for recovering chlorine from waste hydrochloric acid (a common product in many industrial processes like microelectronic fabrication) and for using hydrogen sulfide (that foul-smelling product of petrol refinement) as a reactant for fuel cells. Winnick believes in breaking down every potential barrier to the introduction of fuelcells into the market. We couldn’t agree more since, to the best of our knowledge, electricity is good and smog is bad. The only hindrance that remains is educating corporate and government entities so that they realize fuel cells are the best economic solution.

Diner

about possible competition between the West Side’s coffee shop and Cyber Cafe. She noted that the new shop will have similar hours to the old diner. Since the new shop will be open mainly at night, it would not compete with the Cyber Cafe which is open during the day. However, Darci Tice is not opposed to competition. She is thinking of using Seattle’s Best Coffee brand coffee to provide some variety from the Starbucks brand. Tice also pointed out that students who want to eat at a diner could go to the new City Cafe that opened a block away, although she denied that this was a reason for switching West Side Diner to a coffee shop.

This change is not certain. Auxiliary Services and Georgia Tech Dining Services are just beginning the change. They are currently assembling a group of administrators, Sodexo Marriott representatives and students to oversee the change.

Technique columnists looking for research topics

Are you doing research on campus? Do you think you can handle our abusive interrogations? Our contestants are decided in a weekly full-contact Parcheesi tournament. For more information, contact Benjamin Small at bas@isentrope.org or Joe Gezo at mojoe@ups.physics.gatech.edu. Heck, if you’re an undergraduate looking for any kind of research opportunity, let us know.

Suggestions for future fate of West Side Diner

This Monday, June 4, is the mandatory intramurals captains meeting. The meeting will be held from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Tennenbaum Auditorium. Summer sports will be all outside including softball, kickball, and sand volleyball. Contact Dan Hazlett at dan.hazlett@sac.gatech.edu or 404-894-5437 or you can visit www.campusrecreation.gatech.edu for more information.

Mandatory intramurals sports captains meeting

Student Center Theater presents film “Traffic”

Student Center Theater presents Traffic on Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9 from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. Cost is $2 with Georgia Tech ID and $3 without. Contact Renee Villa at sc26@prism.gatech.edu or 404-894-2805 for more information.

Junior’s Grill hosts “Take a Professor to Lunch Day”

Take a professor to lunch on Thursday, June 14 at Junior’s. Only $6 for student and faculty/staff pair. Lunch is from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Contact Renee Villa at sc26@prism.gatech.edu or 404-894-2805 for more information.

Send us your brief; keep campus informed: campus.life@technique.gatech.edu

A planet doesn’t explode itself,” said dryly
Pearl Harbor delivers war and romance but not history

By Joseph J. Jong 
Professionally critical

MPAA Rating: PG-13
Starring: Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett, and Kate Beckinsale
Director: Michael Bay
Studio: Touchstone
Runtime: 183 minutes
Rating: ★★★★☆

Epic usually either succeed beyond one’s imagination (a la Braveheart) or just flat out fail miserably (a la Costner’s Waterworld and The Postman). Pearl Harbor is an epic, but it does neither. The movie has its share of moments, but it also bogged down by its fair share of flaws and inconsistencies. The Michael Bay and Jerry Bruckheimer partnership is known for producing action-packed, explosion-filled summer blockbusters and not award-winning, critically acclaimed Castle Rock-like movies. Randall Wallace, the screenwriter, has con- fused, much to the chagrin of his- tory buffs, that he developed the plot line before doing his historical research. Hence the movie takes cer- tain liberties with history to fit the Hollywood movie mold. Knowing this going into the movie, the his- torical inconsistencies or other flaws did not detract from the enjoyment in a manner that typically accom- panies action movies. The problem that Pearl Harbor cannot overcome is not its histori- cal inaccuracies, but the inconsis- tency of its storytelling. The biggest flaw with Pearl Harbor is its inabil- ity to decide if it is a love story or a war epic. Hence, the movie doesn’t flow quite as smoothly as it could. Pearl Harbor starts out with the love side backdropped against the backdrop of World War II. We are intro- duced to our two male leads Rafe McCawley and Danny Walker, played by Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett respectively, as two young kids growing up together on a farm somewhere. The story moves forward to 1941 where Rafe and Danny are pilots for the US Army, essentially the predecessors of Maverick and Goose of Top Gun fame. Cue the entrance of the female lead Evelyn Johnson, a Navy nurse, played by Kate Beck- insale. In typical Hollywood fash- ion, with two male leads and one female lead, a love triangle ensues. Setting up the whole love trian- gle takes up about a third of the movie. Hence in typical Bay & Bruckheimer fashion, we suddenly shift gears to become an epic war movie. The bombing of Pearl Har- bor begins, and big explosions fill the screen. This whole sequence can’t compare to Saving Private Ryan’s intense introduction, but it isn’t too shabby either. Perhaps the biggest gripe might be that the horror and emotional impact of the bombing isn’t conveyed as fully as the thrill and action of this big explosion se- quence.

The aftermath of the bombing sees Rafe and Danny being selected for a “top secret” mission, or as Rafe describes it in the movie, “the kind that gets you a medal, but the medal gets sent to your relatives”. The training for the mission is very typical of any other action movie, and the resolution is somewhat sur- prising but totally acceptable. Take a quick guess how the love triangle is resolved. On one hand, we have Ben Affleck, an es- tablished $20 million superstar, and on the other, we have Josh Hart- nett, a relatively unknown except to horror aficionados, who do you think gets the girl at the end of the movie? Affleck’s performance was decent, as he can play the suave hero very well since it is familiar territory for him. Hartnett’s performance was not all that convincing as the bumbling hero with a country accent (which pretty much disappears completely when he switches to suave hero mode). Jon Voight as President Roosevelt delivers war and romance but not history

The biggest flaw with Pearl Harbor is its inability to decide if it is a love story or a war epic.

Blues Traveler’s Bridge stands up

By Alan Back

Edition with a machete

Band: Blues Traveler
Album: Bridge
Label: A&M
Rating: ★★★★☆

The last offering from Blues Traveler, Straight On Till Morning, was four years and one bassist ago. Founding member Bobby Sheehan died of a drug overdose in 1999, leaving his three bandmates wondering whether they still had a future together. They were right to think long and hard about this; the jam- band scene they helped to launch in the early 1990s has changed greatly. Three of its cornerstone—Plush, the Spin Doctors, the Dave Matthews Band—have either closed up shop or moved away from the alternative music arena they rode to stardom.

This crew chose the latter option, releasing new bluesy single “Run-around” (Unthinkable to longtime fans, R.E.M. is back on the shelves with their sixth studio album, came to the studio, with plenty of overdubs. For the new album, we played togeth- er; John Popper sounds unusu- ally mellow and puts his har- monica into the back seat. (Unthinkable to longtime fans, but here you are.) The first single, “Girl Inside My Head,” follows this up and is sure to leave you asking, “Are these the same people who did ‘Back in the Day’?” The second, “Run-around”? Of course not. Bridge trades the band’s earlier approach for a chance to refine its songs.

Things get a little soggy and off balance at times, especially dur- ing the last third of the disc, but when it all comes together, the five-man lineup delivers on its promises and even recalls the original group’s work. “You Think I’m Foolish?” and “Travelers and Thieves,” respectively, and are two of the best cuts of this latest bunch. Chan and drummer Brendan Hill leave lots of fingerprints all over these. Frustration and sadness at Sheehan’s death bubble to the surface on several cuts, with “Pretty Angry” being the best exam- ple. This one feels very much like a rehearsal, with everybody playing a few licks to warm up before Wilson starts in with a quiet piano line and nicely sets the example for everyone else to follow. It’s good enough by it- self, but with the upbeat “The Way” immediately following, it becomes even more effective. This is a fine way of getting past the problems that have plagued them in recent years. It’s not what die-hard followers are expecting—not by a long- shot—but even the most grizz- led veterans can change their style. And if they do it well, they deserve credit for it.

Blues Traveler’s Bridge stands up

By Alan Back

Edition with a machete

Band: Blues Traveler
Album: Bridge
Label: A&M
Rating: ★★★★☆

The last offering from Blues Traveler, Straight On Till Morning, was four years and one bassist ago. Founding member Bobby Sheehan died of a drug overdose in 1999, leaving his three bandmates wondering whether they still had a future together.

They were right to think long and hard about this; the jam- band scene they helped to launch in the early 1990s has changed greatly. Three of its cornerstone—Plush, the Spin Doctors, the Dave Matthews Band—have either closed up shop or moved away from the alternative music arena they rode to stardom.

This crew chose the latter option, releasing new bluesy single “Run-around” (Unthinkable to longtime fans, R.E.M. is back on the shelves with their sixth studio album, came to the studio, with plenty of overdubs. For the new album, we played togeth- er; John Popper sounds unusu- ally mellow and puts his har- monica into the back seat. (Unthinkable to longtime fans, but here you are.) The first single, “Girl Inside My Head,” follows this up and is sure to leave you asking, “Are these the same people who did ‘Back in the Day’?” The second, “Run-around”? Of course not. Bridge trades the band’s earlier approach for a chance to refine its songs.

Things get a little soggy and off balance at times, especially dur- ing the last third of the disc, but when it all comes together, the five-man lineup delivers on its promises and even recalls the original group’s work. “You Think I’m Foolish?” and “Travelers and Thieves,” respectively, and are two of the best cuts of this latest bunch. Chan and drummer Brendan Hill leave lots of fingerprints all over these. Frustration and sadness at Sheehan’s death bubble to the surface on several cuts, with “Pretty Angry” being the best exam- ple. This one feels very much like a rehearsal, with everybody playing a few licks to warm up before Wilson starts in with a quiet piano line and nicely sets the example for everyone else to follow. It’s good enough by it- self, but with the upbeat “The Way” immediately following, it becomes even more effective. This is a fine way of getting past the problems that have plagued them in recent years. It’s not what die-hard followers are expecting—not by a long- shot—but even the most grizz- led veterans can change their style. And if they do it well, they deserve credit for it.

Blues Traveler’s Bridge stands up

By Alan Back

Edition with a machete

Band: Blues Traveler
Album: Bridge
Label: A&M
Rating: ★★★★☆

The last offering from Blues Traveler, Straight On Till Morning, was four years and one bassist ago. Founding member Bobby Sheehan died of a drug overdose in 1999, leaving his three bandmates wondering whether they still had a future together.

They were right to think long and hard about this; the jam- band scene they helped to launch in the early 1990s has changed greatly. Three of its cornerstone—Plush, the Spin Doctors, the Dave Matthews Band—have either closed up shop or moved away from the alternative music arena they rode to stardom.

This crew chose the latter option, releasing new bluesy single “Run-around” (Unthinkable to longtime fans, R.E.M. is back on the shelves with their sixth studio album, came to the studio, with plenty of overdubs. For the new album, we played togeth- er; John Popper sounds unusu- ally mellow and puts his har- monica into the back seat. (Unthinkable to longtime fans, but here you are.) The first single, “Girl Inside My Head,” follows this up and is sure to leave you asking, “Are these the same people who did ‘Back in the Day’?” The second, “Run-around”? Of course not. Bridge trades the band’s earlier approach for a chance to refine its songs.

Things get a little soggy and off balance at times, especially dur- ing the last third of the disc, but when it all comes together, the five-man lineup delivers on its promises and even recalls the original group’s work. “You Think I’m Foolish?” and “Travelers and Thieves,” respectively, and are two of the best cuts of this latest bunch. Chan and drummer Brendan Hill leave lots of fingerprints all over these. Frustration and sadness at Sheehan’s death bubble to the surface on several cuts, with “Pretty Angry” being the best exam- ple. This one feels very much like a rehearsal, with everybody playing a few licks to warm up before Wilson starts in with a quiet piano line and nicely sets the example for everyone else to follow. It’s good enough by it- self, but with the upbeat “The Way” immediately following, it becomes even more effective. This is a fine way of getting past the problems that have plagued them in recent years. It’s not what die-hard followers are expecting—not by a long- shot—but even the most grizz- led veterans can change their style. And if they do it well, they deserve credit for it.

Blues Traveler’s Bridge stands up

By Alan Back

Edition with a machete

Band: Blues Traveler
Album: Bridge
Label: A&M
Rating: ★★★★☆

The last offering from Blues Traveler, Straight On Till Morning, was four years and one bassist ago. Founding member Bobby Sheehan died of a drug overdose in 1999, leaving his three bandmates wondering whether they still had a future together.

They were right to think long and hard about this; the jam- band scene they helped to launch in the early 1990s has changed greatly. Three of its cornerstone—Plush, the Spin Doctors, the Dave Matthews Band—have either closed up shop or moved away from the alternative music arena they rode to stardom.

This crew chose the latter option, releasing new bluesy single “Run-around” (Unthinkable to longtime fans, R.E.M. is back on the shelves with their sixth studio album, came to the studio, with plenty of overdubs. For the new album, we played togeth- er; John Popper sounds unusu-
Moulin Rouge is too much scenery, not enough plot

By Jenny Sum

Reveal

MPAA Rating: PG-13
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor, and John Leguizamo
Director: Baz Luhrman
Studio: Fox
Runtime: 126 minutes
Rating: ★★★

Director Baz Luhrman brings to mainstream audiences Moulin Rouge, a musical period piece set in the Montmartre district of Paris in 1900. Among the riffraff of lowlife talent, Satine (Nicole Kidman), a courtesan and star of the Moulin Rouge, and Christian (Ewan McGregor) meet under literally tons of glitter confetti. Kidman and McGregor are the ones who make the movie worthwhile, along with Jim Broadbent who plays the owner of the Moulin Rouge, and John Leguizamo who plays Toulouse-Latrec.

The plot is a stunningly conventional one. One could spend the whole movie wondering if Luhrman will throw a twist into the plot, but the movie never deviates from its cookie cutter story. Penniless writer Christian identifies Satine as the one woman he will throw a twist into the plot, she mistakes him for a wealthy duke, and the two fall in love.

Kidman plays the role of Satine with an enthusiastic silliness, contrasting with her earlier work in Eyes Wide Shut and The Portrait of a Lady. McGregor plays the poor and talented yet charming writer of the production for which the two are rehearsing. Of course, the real Duke of Monroth (Richard Roxburgh) is seeking out the beautiful Satine by becoming the benefactor of the production. Renburg plays an unconvincing villain, due to lax character development.

The colors and backdrop of the movie, while very detailed and unique, are eventually overwhelming. The nauseating collage of images make you feel as though you were on a ride at Disney, trying to take in as much as your eyes will allow. Luhrman destroys the film with jaunty camera work and fast-cutting camera angles. His freeze frames and jolting close-ups make caricatures out of the entire cast.

The ultimate eyecandy of the film is the surrealism of the sets. They truly make the viewer believe that this is a set for a grand musical. However, this movie musical simply cannot compare to any classic musicals. But who can fault the movie for lacking a Rodgers and Hammerstein to save it. Advice to Luhrman: Get out of Hollywood and head for Broadway.

Exciter really excites, especially Depeche Mode fans

By Jon Kaye

Obviously enjoy techno

Band: Depeche Mode
Album: Exciter
Label: Reprise
Rating: ★★★★★

Having not released an album since 1997, Depeche Mode returns from obscurity with their latest release, Exciter.

Characteristic of Depeche Mode’s unmistakable sound, Exciter features the elements of Euro-dance music, yet presents them in a way that the mainstream listener can appreciate. Marked with intense, repetitive, electronic rhythms, this album draws the listener into a synthetic world of technological beauty while at the same time grounding him with rich, powerful lyrics.

Exciter begins with a slight departure from Depeche Mode’s usual style; “Dream On,” the album’s first top-forty single, shows a surprising acoustic guitar presence. Depeche Mode’s skillful acoustic guitar blends with Dave Gahan’s distinct voice to provide an ethereal quality on the strong opening track.

Played with the same confidence as the first track, the rest of the album confirms Depeche Mode’s skill. As compared to the band’s better-known work, one will note that “Exciter” is uncharacteristically mellow. While clearly maintaining elements of the style that made them famous, Depeche Mode branches out on this release.

Simply put, “Exciter” definitely deserves a spin. Having sold albums since 1981, the band’s musical prowess has only grown with age. This long-awaited release will not disappoint.

Boys are trouble. I miss you, old roomies!!
Sports Briefs

McElroy appointed Associate AD

Last Tuesday Athletic Director David Braine named Mary McElroy as the new associate Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator. McElroy has served three years with the Tech Athletic Administration. Her previous experience includes three years with the Naval Academy AA as the Senior Woman Administrator and Assistant Athletic Director for NCAA Compliance. Tech also appointed Jennifer Condaras to the position of Director of Compliance.

All ACC teams announced

Georgia Tech had four players make the recently announced All ACC baseball team. Jason Basil makes his third straight appearance on the team, joined by teammates Brain Prince and Richard Lewis making their second appearance. Junior pitcher Steve Kelly made the team for the first time in his career. Of the four Tech players on the All ACC team, Prince was the only player to receive first-team honors.

Tech swim coach named as U.S. coach at Maccabiah Games

Georgia Tech head swimming and diving coach Seth Baron was named as the U.S. coach for the United States Maccabiah Swim Team at the 16th World Maccabiah Games in Israel, July 16-26, 2001. The team will be one of 26 United States sports teams competing in the games. The Maccabiah Games is the four-largest international Olypic style event in the world.

Baseball from page 16

nner of the plate to the warning track, just inside the right field foul line. Basil added a single to bring Teixeira home. Prince was hit by a pitch to load the bases, but Friedman struck out Victor Menocal to end the inning.

Seth continued the trend of two-out scoring in the seventh, adding five runs to bring the score to the final of 3-5. Tony Burchett drove in two runs on a bloop double that curved down the right field line. After Tech intentionally walked Keppinger, Doc Brooks punished the move by blasting a three-run homer, his 16th of the year.

The Bulldogs went on to win the regional, and will face Florida State in the super regional in Athens this weekend. The winner of that series will advance to Omaha, Nebraska to compete in the College World Series.

Tech concludes its season at 41-20. Although they were eliminated from the tournament, in the first round this season marks the 16th time in the past 17 seasons that Tech has been invited to the NCAA Tournament.

I think the best proof of intelligent life on other worlds is that they haven't actually tried to contact us! -Calvin
Georgia eliminates 'Tech from NCAA Baseball Tournament

By Ken D'Aire

The baseball season finally ended last Saturday, when the Jackets finished the season on a four game slide to end their chances for the NCAA Championship. They lost the first of those two games in the ACC Tourney in Fort Mill, SC. Tech started the tournament with a number four seed, and was in position for another ACC Championship by beating Duke in their first game, and Florida State (seeded #1) in the loser’s bracket last Saturday at Foley Field. Tech met the Bulldogs after dropping their first game to Coastal Carolina 5-3 and a Georgia loss to Georgia Southern.

In their game with the Jackets Adam Swan led Georgia to victory, going 5-for-5 at the plate with a grand slam and five RBIs.

Rob Moravek (3-4) earned the win, while Jody Friedman picked up his second save of the season. Moravek gave up five runs on 10 hits in 6.2 innings, while Friedman allowed one hit and no runs over the final 2.1 innings. Tech starter Steve Kelly (7-5) was the losing pitcher. Kelly pitched 5.2 innings, and gave up eight earned runs.

Both teams pecked at the score through the early innings, going into the sixth inning with a 3-1 Georgia lead.

Tech then added another run, bringing the score to 3-2. Jason Bisil and Brian Prince both singled to reach base. Basil then took advantage of a Moravek wild pitch to reach third, and was able to score on a passed ball.

The Bulldogs came to life in the bottom of the sixth, scoring five runs to boost the score to 8-2. All five runs came after two outs with the bases empty. Kelly walked Neufeld on four pitches to start the rally, and then gave up a right field single to Coffie. Neufeld then scored on Jeff Keppinger’s infield single. After Doc Brooks walked to load the bases, Swan sailed a 1-2 pitch over the left-center field wall. It was Swan’s sixth home run of the season.

Tech’s biggest rally came in the top of the seventh, when they scored three runs after two outs to cut the lead to 8-5. After the first two batters were retired, six Tech batters reached base safely. Lewis started the scoring by bringing Boggs home on an RBI single. Mark Teneira nearly blew the game open at this point with an RBI double, ripping a fastball from the low-outside cor-

"I thought he stepped it on. Brian Prince thought he stepped it on. Jason Perry thought he stepped it on. Those are the breaks of the game."

Danny Hall
Head Baseball Coach

In their game with the Jackets Adam Swan led Georgia to victory, going 5-for-5 at the plate with a grand slam and five RBIs.

Rob Moravek (3-4) earned the win, while Jody Friedman picked up his second save of the season. Moravek gave up five runs on 10 hits in 6.2 innings, while Friedman allowed one hit and no runs over the final 2.1 innings. Tech starter Steve Kelly (7-5) was the losing pitcher. Kelly pitched 5.2 innings, and gave up eight earned runs.

Both teams pecked at the score through the early innings, going into the sixth inning with a 3-1 Georgia lead.

Tech then added another run, bringing the score to 3-2. Jason Bisil and Brian Prince both singled to reach base. Basil then took advantage of a Moravek wild pitch to reach third, and was able to score on a passed ball.

The Bulldogs came to life in the bottom of the sixth, scoring five runs to boost the score to 8-2. All five runs came after two outs with the bases empty. Kelly walked Neufeld on four pitches to start the rally, and then gave up a right field single to Coffie. Neufeld then scored on Jeff Keppinger’s infield single. After Doc Brooks walked to load the bases, Swan sailed a 1-2 pitch over the left-center field wall. It was Swan’s sixth home run of the season.

Tech’s biggest rally came in the top of the seventh, when they scored three runs after two outs to cut the lead to 8-5. After the first two batters were retired, six Tech batters reached base safely. Lewis started the scoring by bringing Boggs home on an RBI single. Mark Teneira nearly blew the game open at this point with an RBI double, ripping a fastball from the low-outside corner.

"I thought he stepped it on. Brian Prince thought he stepped it on. Jason Perry thought he stepped it on. Those are the breaks of the game."

Danny Hall
Head Baseball Coach

In their game with the Jackets Adam Swan led Georgia to victory, going 5-for-5 at the plate with a grand slam and five RBIs.

Rob Moravek (3-4) earned the win, while Jody Friedman picked up his second save of the season. Moravek gave up five runs on 10 hits in 6.2 innings, while Friedman allowed one hit and no runs over the final 2.1 innings. Tech starter Steve Kelly (7-5) was the losing pitcher. Kelly pitched 5.2 innings, and gave up eight earned runs.
Headlining artists on 99X stage run from lackluster to dynamite

By Karen Whitlatch
Campus Life Staff

Music Midtown on Saturday was a mixture of the many personalities that make up the Atlanta music scene. The evening sets at the Budweiser/99X Stage were the Wallflowers, Train, and the Marvelous 3. While all three can be classified as alternative rock, they cover the spectrum from classic alternative (Wallflowers) to the newer morphing of alternative with more pop elements (Train). The performance by the Wallflowers was a note presentation of their albums, without any personality. Jakob Dylan seemed to be concentrating more on acting cool than pleasing the crowd. His repeated questions of “How are you, Atlanta?” fell on the deaf ears of a crowd that was more into getting drunk than listening to the music. The main exodus for the concessions immediately following the last note of the band’s last song was just further evidence that Dylan had failed to make any real connection with the audience.

Fortunately, Train followed up with an incredible set. Stoller Patrick Monahan was the very antithesis of Dylan; he was charismatic and able to pass his enthusiasm along to the crowd. By the end of this show, they were fully into the music, singing along with whatever parts of the songs they knew. Many people were crowd-surfing, and the general mood was one of enjoyment. Industrial and Systems Engineering seniors Cornelia Herring, long and Marshall Leslie commented that “Train was very cool” and even better than they had expected.

The Wallflowers got Saturday night off to a slow start, but Train and the Marvelous 3 picked up the slack.

By Olivia Roller

The Indigo Girls take their turn in the spotlight during Saturday night’s Turner South show, held in the Civic Center auditorium. Also pictured: hosts Koody Keely from 293 (blond, at left), Shawn Colvin, Josh Joplin, Ann Wilson.

Indigo Girls/Shawn Colvin/Ann Wilson/Josh Joplin/Darius Rucker (5/5, 8 p.m.—Turner South Stage)

With throw rugs laid down everywhere and a semicircle of chairs arranged around a large table, the stage in the Civic Center auditorium looked very much like an after coffeehouse. The only clues that someone was different were the cameras hanging from overhead booths and the banks of spotlights set up across the back.

The two-hour live taping for Turner South found each of the five acts employing a different approach to dealing with the others. About the only thing they had in common was a degree of mutual respect that kept them from passing their enthusiasm along to the audience.

The newcomer of the bunch, Joplin, fought back a case of the jitters and occasionally gave in to them, tumbling during the introductions to some of his songs. However, he held his own admirably and even earned nods of approval from Colvin and the others with “I’ve Changed.” Wilson took advantage of her time on the microphone to punch notes toward the balcony and prove that age had done little to slow her down since the heyday of Heart.

Quiet introspection and open melodies were the norm when Colvin took charge and used the Grammy-winning single “Sunny Came Home” as the centerpiece of her selections. Amy Ray and Emily Saliers switched from guitar to mandolin and banjo to provide a more intricate counterpart, and they played their hometown-hero status for all it was worth—that is to say, quite a bit.

The night only went flat when Rucker started singing; the solo songs he tumbled out were just as sappy and cloying as the Hootie hit “Let Her Cry,” if not more so. Fortunately, the lull was cut short by energetic finales from the other performers, especially the sing-along that began when the Indigo Girls launched into “Galileo” at the end of the night. Four out of five ain’t bad for a show like this. (Alan Back)
Blues Traveler (5/4, 10:10 p.m.—Unite Georgia/Z93 Stage)

Point (Jennifer Hinkel)
Blues Traveler opened with improvisation that led into a cover of “The Devil Went Down to Georgia.” After playing some of their new songs, the crowd discovered that one highlight of the performance was not onstage. Instead, they became rather amused at someone who had a festival pole fashioned with a top that was really a bong. However, the Z93 stage was one of the most exciting ones as far as lighting and sound, and although it featured some bands with less name recognition than those on the 99X stage, it was continually crowded. In terms of crossing generations, Blues Traveler drew one of the most diverse crowds at the festival.

Counterpoint (Alan Back)
The isolated puffs of marijuana smoke that rose from the crowd on Friday night didn’t seem a bit out of place when Blues Traveler went on to close out the first day of Music Midtown. After all, these are the guys who practically kicked-started the jam scene in the late ’80s. Going on to the strains of the theme from “Mision: Impossible,” they jumped right into “The Devil Went Down to Georgia.” The Kinchla brothers (Chan on guitar, Tad on bass) and harmonica man John Popper took turns standing in front of the violin-playing hero and had great fun doing so.

Ben Wilson mined the treble register of his keyboard for every last bit of value and helped breathe new life into the band’s older material. He and drummer Brendan Hill teamed up to give the uptempo “Fe-licia” a Latin vibe and make the crowd really groove. Popper, meanwhile, took the opportunity to play more subdued, sparing harp lines instead of blowing everybody away with a barrage of notes. He did likewise on new songs such as “Back in the Day,” giving a hint of what to expect on the new album “Get Out the Map” (see review, this issue). The faces in the crowd may have changed, but Blues Traveler still has plenty of tricks up its collective sleeve.

If you’re on campus, join the ‘Nique!
(Student Services Building, Room 137)
If you’re off campus, read the ‘Nique!
(www.nique.net)

Josh Joplin Group (5/5, 2:55 p.m.—Budweiser/99X Stage)

People who were used to seeing Josh Joplin perform in various iterations of his dress-shirts and glasses outfit got a surprise when he walked onstage in a jacket, shades, and buckled cap. This performance, his band’s first on the 99X main stage after several stints on the Locals Only bill, would prove unusual in other aspects as well. Bad mixing nearly did in the five-piece lineup, the low end was cranked up enough to nearly cause an earthquake. Sincere, forthright lyrics (“Gravity,” “Here I Am”) and solid keyboard/guitar crunch (“Camera One,” “Undone”) had a hard time coexisting without getting into a tug-of-war. However, they began to sort themselves out after a few songs and were soon delivering the same punch as on the updated version of 1999’s “Useful Music.”

The death of Joey Ramone inspired Joplin to overhaul his “Phil Ochs,” his homage to the 1960s protest singer. To say that the resulting punk tribute was strange would be putting it mildly. “Fifty fans can’t be wrong, or can they?” he sang, while guitarist Deb Davis and drummer Eric Taylor slammed away behind him, and the crowd didn’t know what to make of it. They didn’t know what to do for pieces such as “I’ve Changed”—listen with their whole ears and brains. Time will tell if the band can make them do the same for every song played from a big stage. (Alan Back)

Indigo Girls (5/6, 5:15 p.m.—Budweiser/99X Stage)

Point (Jennifer Hinkel)
Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, Atlanta’s own Indigo Girls, proved to be one of the weekend’s most popular acts. Although their set did not last long, they mixed well-known songs with just the right amount of new material. Their set opened with “Solitary’s “Closer to Fine” and continued with classics such as “Chick-enman” and one by local songwriter Gerard McHugh, “Thin Line.” They also included “Galileo” and “Vir-gina Woolf” in the set.

Offstage activities drew attention not only from the crowd but also the performers, as a lune fan towards the back of the teeming crowd scaled a light pole that stood nearly 80 feet high in order to catch a better view. He drew cheers from surrounding fans and a shoutout from Ray and Saliers.

Counterpoint (Alan Back)
It’s very strange to see a huge stage, with a tower of speakers at either end, populated by only two women with acoustic guitars. Any act like this needs to have a lot of self-confidence in order not to seem completely out of place—and a dedicated fan base doesn’t hurt either. The Indigo Girls showed off their grasp of both during their Sunday afternoon set.

The show turned into a sing-along as soon as Emily Saliers and Amy Ray launched into the first bars of their opener, “Closer to Fine.” Audience participation was practically mandatory during the duo’s best-known songs, including “Shame on You,” “Kid Fears,” and the perennial favorite “Galileo.” Newer songs, mostly from their 1999 album “Come On New Social,” also fared well with the die-hards.

Playing slow stuff at a festival like Music Midtown is a dicey prospect at best, and the crowd’s collective mind started to wander when Saliers and Ray shifted to low gear. One fellow, who clearly had a good buzz working, provided further distraction by climbing a parking lot lamppost to get a bird’s-eye view of the set for a while. But when the performers picked up the pace, as on the bubbly “Get Our the Map,” they easily demonstrated that they could turn heads back toward the stage whenever they wanted.

Georgia Sea Island Singers (5/6, 2:30 p.m.—Turner South Stage)

Some acts strut and sweat during their time slot at Music Midtown. Others, like the Sea Island Singers, do more with less and end up reaching a few lessons in the process. Seven-member extended family gave their audience a glimpse of how slaves lived and worked off the Atlantic coast before the Civil War. Nothing fancy here: just a line of singers with tambourines, wood blocks, and a lot of ground to cover in an hour.

Frankie Sullivan Quimby acted as bandleader and teacher, weaving commentary on slave customs and culture through the songs and dances. Blues, spirituals, hymns, work songs—even the roots of R&B—grew from the plantations and took on a life of their own thanks to the Gullah language spoken on the Sea Islands. What developed on that stage was a history lesson of the sort that isn’t taught in class. (Alan Back)

By Kristi Odom / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

By Rob Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

By Alan Back / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

By Kristi Odom / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

By Rob Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

By Jennifer Hinkel

By Karen Whitlatch

By Alan Back

By Rob Hill

By Kristi Odom

By Jennifer Hinkel

By Alan Back

By Rob Hill

By Jennifer Hinkel

By Alan Back

By Rob Hill