By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

The Auburn game this weekend marked the revival of one of Tech’s long-standing traditions: tearing down the goalposts. No one is quite sure how the college tradition of tearing down goalposts at victorious football games began. However, according to Abbie Terpening, President of the Ramblin’ Reck Club, “BYU claims they were the first to start the tradition in 1942.”

Despite its unknown beginnings, Tech students have managed to make the tradition their own. For those students who may not have been around long enough to see some posts go down, here’s everything you need to know about goalpost tumbling.

First, the fans rush the field. “Rushing the field is all about the students and alumni sitting closest to the field,” said John Rafferty, a Tech alum who was in the Swarm for six years. “If there’s enough of them going at once, they’re really hard to stop. If only 10 go, then they’ll be escorted back to their seats.”

The Athletic Association usually guards heavily against students tearing the field—and considering that a goalpost costs $5,000 to replace, it’s understandable.

But when emotions run high enough, and the fans’ enthusiasm is strong, there’s not much anyone can do to stop it. Many fans this weekend noticed the who, what, when and where of Tech’s goalpost-tearing traditions

### The who, what, when and where of Tech’s goalpost-tearing traditions


**November 1, 1991**: Continuing with their winning streak, Tech beats Wake Forest 42-7 in Winston-Salem, after scoring three touchdowns six minutes into the game and taking the lead early. After the last touchdown of the game, Tech fans throw citrus fruit into the endzone to celebrate our going to the Citrus Bowl.

**November 3, 1990**: Tech beats No. 1-ranked Virginia 41-38 in Charlottesville, making possible its first ACC championship. Students tear down the goalposts at Wake, but they do succeed in bending them a little.

**November 17, 1990**: Continuing with their winning streak, Tech beats Wake Forest 42-7 in Winston-Salem, after scoring three touchdowns six minutes into the game and taking the lead early. After the last touchdown of the game, Tech fans throw citrus fruit into the endzone to celebrate our going to the Citrus Bowl.

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### October 17, 1998: 41-38, part two.

On homecoming, Tech overcomes a 17-point deficit to beat a ranked Virginia team. Both goalposts are torn down, and one is thrown in the Campanile fountain while the other is taken to the President’s house as usual.

**September 6, 2003**: Tech beats Auburn 17-3, pulling off the upset no one had predicted.
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TECHNIQUE
Career fair brings back familiar anxieties for many students

Undergrads consider grad school as another option; Lockheed-Martin and NASA remain most popular companies

By Grace Nam
Contributing Writer

The Coliseum was swarming with smartly-clad Tech students fishing for jobs and internships at the somewhat intimidating but insightful Career Fair Sept. 8 and 9.

Bus loads of career-seeking students in black suits and leather shoes embarked on the journey toward life after Tech, and masses of students were looking at co-op and internship opportunities as well.

The late morning scene at the entrance to the Coliseum was unusual. Students looked ready to take on the world with a resume in hand and a full business suit. Girls were spitting out gum and popping in a breath mint while guys were straightening out their ties and tucking in their shirts.

“You get regular jitters for an interview, and presenting your best image is always a challenge,” said Michael Turbe, a fourth year Aerospace Engineering major. He was one of the 3,000 people that showed up in hopeful spirits at the nation’s largest student-organized college career fair.

“I’m going to look at four main companies,” said Turbe. “I did some research on the companies and their projects.”

Now, most of the students that are job searching conveniently submit resumes online. However, human contact will never be overlooked by astute Techies.

“You can read about the company on the web sites about what they do, but if you really want to know if they’ll work with what your interests are, then you can ask them about it,” said Turbe.

“One of the big benefits of the career fair is that you get to give them your resume and talk to them right away. It’s not like on the internet where you just post your resume like everyone else. You can make a personal impression. And they can eyeball things on your resume and ask you about that.”

With the economy in its current slump, students are feeling the heat as they compete to get the attention of the big commercial companies.

“The line at the booth for NASA/Kennedy Space Center company was almost never moving, and Lockheed-Martin was another favorite. I’m going to look at four main companies,” said Turbe. “I did some research on the companies and their projects.”

“[The] job market in general is [in a slump]. I thought I could get a job, but then once I realized it would be really hard, I hadn’t taken the GRE and I hadn’t applied anywhere.”

Josh Alexander
Mechanical engineering alum

It was hard not to notice all the students dressed in business suits and skirts walking across campus this week.

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Graduate school might be the next best alternative to a real job and a road that many students will be considering. “If I don’t get grad school paid for, I can still do graduate co-op, so I’d study one semester and work another,” said Turbe.

Job searching is a difficult and worrisome chore, but we can definitely depend on the annual career fair to help the ball get rolling.

“The hard part is getting the interview,” said Alexander. “I want to make them remember me, I want them to write on the back of my resume that this guy was great.”

It is not that students here are not qualified; most employees have a high opinion of Tech students. Geoff Kane, a recruiter from Fujiilm, said, “[Tech students are] very good. I have been very impressed.”

“We hire for various positions: mechanical, chemical and electrical but primarily engineers. However, the company has definitely affected the recruitment. Last year at this time we had numerous position openings in double digits, and right now, we have three openings,” said Kane.

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**FOCUS**

**Faces At Georgia Tech**

**VOICE director Peck strives to promote violence awareness**

By Haining Yiu  
Contributing Writer

In a roomy office looking over the CRC construction sits Andy Peck, a fresh-faced young man who hopes to spark new awareness on campus as Tech’s first Violence Prevention Coordinator of VOICE.

VOICE, a recent campus-wide initiative housed by the Wellness Center, is a collaboration with many other offices and organizations on campus and in the community aimed at ending sexual violence.

Having worked in Atlanta for roughly five and a half years on issues ranging from social justice to poverty to homelessness, Peck has a great range of experiences in social issues under his belt.

He became involved in the area of sexual violence as an intern at Men Stopping Violence, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending men’s violence against women.

The internship included his participation in a 24-week program for abusive men. “These men were either identified as people who were abusive or had wanted to change their own behavior,” said Peck.

Being a participant in the program gave Andy a firsthand look at the root of what leads men to violence.

“When I chose to do the internship, it was mostly out of personal interest,” said Peck. “I didn’t think I would do that kind of work professionally. Towards the end of the internship, I applied for a job at the rape crisis center. [It was my] first time doing this work for a living.”

For Peck, coming to Georgia Tech was “a really good opportunity to be a part of an ‘exciting chance to participate in a 24-week program for abusive men. ‘These men were either identified as people who were abusive or had wanted to change their own behavior,’ said Peck.

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For Peck, coming to Georgia Tech was “a really good opportunity to be a part of an ‘exciting chance to build a new program. It is the first time a position like this has existed at Tech.”

Also, he added, the “kind of things proposed for this program fit the skills I had developed while working for non-profit organizations.”

“Until now, there is a lack of attention to social issues. Also, Tech is a predominantly male campus.” This creates an extra need for awareness.

Education and awareness are Peck’s two biggest objectives, and to achieve these, Peck works closely with the Sexual Assault Task Force, a group composed of staff, student representatives and members of the community. The members of SATF are given information and skills particular to each group’s responsibilities and needs.

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Unfortunately, only five percent of all rapes are ever reported to the police, with Tech tallying 30 reported incidents between the years 1993 and 2001.

Also, only 46 percent of women whose assault met the definition of completed rape thought of themselves as rape victims. “There are a variety of reasons” for such statistics, said Peck.

“With most people it is a basic lack of understanding about what violence is,” he said. “A lot of dating behavior that’s violent is often seen as normal, and to give it that name gives it a certain seriousness that the person is not ready to handle.”

“My assumption at this point is that certainly most men on this campus aren’t sexually violent, but there are a significant number of men who are, based on figures,” he said. “In addition, there are probably a larger number of men who use corrosive behavior towards women.”

According to Peck, Tech lacks a lot of information specific to what happens on campus. To fill that need, surveys and focus groups have been proposed. The format of these is seeking approval from the Instructional Review Board.

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For those who are unfamiliar about what exactly VOICE stands for, Peck elaborated. “It is not an acronym. We chose the name because of its positive connotation — people speaking up, finding their voices.”

“It is a little misleading…that they wrote a good proposal, and there was a clear need,” said Peck, not necessarily because sexual violence on campus is a problem here. “I think because it is a technical institute,” Peck explains, “there is a lack of attention to social issues. Also, Tech is a predominantly male campus.” This creates an extra need for awareness.

Statistically, an average of 35 out of every 1000 women are raped each academic year at institutions of higher education. That equates to about 150 acts of rape committed each year against female Tech students.

Unfortunately, only five percent of all rapes are ever reported to the police, with Tech tallying 30 reported incidents between the years 1993 and 2001.

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Andy Peck is the Violence Prevention Coordinator of VOICE, a campus-wide initiative to educate students about sexual violence. He wants to expand the program to encompass Psych1000 and HPS1040 classes.
FOCUS

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**Goalpost from page 11**

year, there policemen stood in two concentric circles, with arms locked, around the goalposts closest to the Tech section, preventing students from tearing them down. So Tech fans tore up the hedges instead.

After the goalposts have been dragged down, they are taken to the President’s house on 10th Street and put on the lawn so the students can continue the celebration. Hacksaws and blowtorches are procured, and the post is cut up into pieces.

Some dedicated fans sit on their section of the goalpost for hours in order to claim their rightful piece. President Clough has also been known to order pizza and autograph students’ pieces of the goalposts, and students often write the final score on their piece as well.

“President Clough has also been known to order pizza and autograph students’ pieces of the goalposts.”

There are also variations of this tradition: when Tech beat Virginia on homecoming in November of 1999, the goalposts from both end-zones were taken down. One was taken to the Kessler Campanile, and the other to the President’s house.

Pieces of old goalposts can be found around campus as well. One of the most notable locations is in Junior’s, where an approximately six-foot tall piece of the goalpost from the 1993 Citrus Bowl game is mounted on the wall opposite the serving counter.

The crossbar from that same goalpost is mounted at the front corner of the main room of the Coach building, where the band rehearses. Larger pieces get taken to fraternity houses, and the Athletic Association has also taken pieces and made them into commemorative plaques.

**Peck from page 15**

provide student leadership for this initiative.” There are a number of goals in the original proposal on which these students will be given a “say about the best way to accomplish them and to provide feedback.”

Students will go through a training process with retreats beginning next semester. “It is an ongoing process,” Peck said.

“It’s been a struggle, because it’s a new program, and most students and staff have a full plate already,” said Peck.

“People at Tech work hard. To ask them to do something different is difficult. I hope to make this a priority for students in the future, but it will take time.”

He hopes to start working with and reaching incoming students by visiting Psych1000 and HPS1040 classes.

“What I would really encourage people to do,” he said, “is to be willing to take a look at this issue, and to see that it is in their interest to do so.”

“Everyone is connected in some way; all of us probably know someone who has been a victim, and someone has perpetrated violence,” Peck concluded.

“They might not see it, or even realize it was violence, but we can all make a difference if we decide to get involved, even if just to learn about it.”

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