McMath departs

Robert McMath speaks at a Co-op Honors Banquet on Wednesday, April 6. McMath is leaving to head the Honors College at Arkansas.

By Darshini Nanavati
Contributing Writer

Robert McMath, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs, will be leaving Tech this summer to help start the Honors College at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville as Dean on Aug. 1.

When he transfers to the University of Arkansas, McMath will work on beginning a new, unified Honors College. Currently, there is no actual Honors College at the school, but there is an Honors Program which has individual courses with selective admission for all majors. “I would like to create an Honors Program that will benefit the entire student body. That will be my main challenge at the University of Arkansas,” he said. He sees the Honors College as “an opportunity to use the same skill of developing programs to improve undergraduate education in a more focused way.” McMath will work on developing scholarships for the Honors College, expanding study abroad and developing new honors courses. He will also make certain that classes bring faculty of different colleges together to teach a specific theme. “Overall, I will work with different groups on a common goal and will encourage students, faculty and others to join the program,” he said.

McMath values his experience at Tech. He believes that his greatest contribution came “from teaching, history and helping students with their own career plans and goals.” He gives credit to his colleagues on the progress they have made in undergraduate studies and enjoys working with students.

See McMath, page 3

Barbell Club faces eviction

Michael Kim, president of the Barbell Club, said, “Initially, we were told that we would have to give up only about half the space for the locker facilities. Now, however, we are informed that we will have to surrender all of our space.”

In order to provide justification for the move, the administration conducted a survey to investigate the needs of the volleyball team for locker and related space. The survey was part of the planning process performed by a committee that studied those needs, documented in a report attached to the aforementioned letter.

“The beginning nobody knew exactly how much space was necessary,” Thompson said, “and that was...”

See Barbell, page 2

TKE receives hazing penalties

TKE was placed on suspension-in-abeyance for the summer and on social probation for the fall semester. Any events held by TKE in the summer must first gain the approval of the Office of Greek Affairs.

By Nikhil Joshi
News Editor

The Office of Greek Affairs has placed the local chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity (TKE) on suspension-in-abeyance until early August, in addition to issuing several other penalties.

Due to the suspension, TKE must approve any event or activity it holds through the office. The decision was handed to TKE March 28 after a five-month hazing investigation regarding a photo the office received from an anonymous source, showing several pledges dancing in their underwear at an initiation event.

According to Buck Cooke, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Greek Affairs, the part of the initiation process for TKE pledges. During the event, the pledges performed several dance routines, as was the tradition. One of these routines, Cooke said, involved a “song and dance of a suggestive nature.” Although the pledges were not required to strip, they were, according to Cooke, a “warrant expectation to undo the previous year's dance.”

Alcohol was also present at the event, which, although not forced upon the pledges, raised more concerns.

“Hazing is a broad term; what we look out for are things that are endangering. We also deal with smaller issues, but place more importance on those which endanger students’ well-being.” During the course of the investigation, the office also found several other fraternity events classified as hazing, some of which were unrelated to pledging. Cooke said that these events were not always en...
TKE from page 1
dangering, but they could have lead to endangerment in the future. One of these activities, “treeing,” involved duct-taping a brother to a tree in honor of a new girlfriend or engagement. Afterward, brothers could poor food on him.

We do not necessarily think that this would always have been a harmful activity,” Cooke said, “but it could get out of hand if unregulated.”

Another such finding related to dinner interviews in which pledges memorized facts about fraternity lore. Since the interviews were conducted in front of a large group, rather than a one-on-one basis, Cooke said, this may have been intimidating. After assessing their findings, the office issued a number of penalties to TKE in addition to placing the fraternity on suspension-held-in-abeyance.

TKE is on social probation for the fall semester of 2005; no social events can be held by the fraternity during this semester. The restriction will be lifted after the semester only if TKE can raise its average GPA to the Tech all-male average undergraduate GPA. If the fraternity is found to have any more incidents of hazing in the next ten years, it will be placed on suspension for a minimum of five years.

The fraternity was only allowed one brotherhood event in the spring semester and was not allowed to hold a spring rush. Brett Cupta, current president of TKE, and Jay Gardner, who was president just before the investigation began, said that the investigation and the penalties were fair.

“The investigation gives TKE an opportunity to work on our program, and to change; they are very fair,” Gardner said.

“We were a little surprised that a lot of things that we did not realize were hazing actually can be considered as hazing, but we think that the investigation was fair and helpful,” he added.

Cupta said that many events are being formally changed to cover a broader definition of hazing. “We do believe that pledge events are beingPressure—just pressured in the right way,”

For example, TKE Dinner Theatre will be purely voluntary, and will involve brothers as well as pledges,” Cupta said.

Barbell from page 1

“why a planning committee was asked to do a study of these needs. The committee surveyed the locker room of the women’s basketball team. They looked at the exact amount of space they had for specific purposes as one benchmark in their study.”

Kim was expecting more justifi- cation. “When asked the reason for this change in space requirement,” he said, “the administration told us that this was a result of a survey, which had not been performed earlier.”

The committee’s conclusion, as documented in the administration’s report, was that the volleyball team required 3698 square feet out of the 4357 square feet currently occupied by the Barbell Club.

In addition, the report stated that the remaining space would be inadequate for the club to continue its activities.

In an effort to combat eviction, the club launched a “Save the Barbell Club” campaign last semester. The response generated by this campaign coupled with efforts by the SCA played a large role in bringing both sides to the meeting table. A primary concern addressed at these discussions was the issue of how much space would be required by the volleyball team.

As a part of their campaign, club representatives intend to garner as much public support as possible.

“We have had 1/4 of all the students come down and do a story for the eleven o’clock news,” Kim said. “We also had the AFC come down and told them the situation. Moreover, we have been in contact with some alumni. We will keep fighting,” Kim said.

From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime

Electronic thief

On May 20, an officer responded to a complaint at the Westside market. The officer was told that a person had requested money from an ATM, but that person was shorted $100 by the faulty machine.

Power outage

On May 20, a truck driver snagged a low power line on Bobby Dodd Way. As a result of this, two electric poles collapsed. There was also a power outage in the area due to the fallen power lines. No injuries were reported.

Front-end damage

On May 20, a car owner reported a gash on the front bumper of his vehicle. The vehicle was a black 2004 model Ford Mustang.

Memory loss

On May 20, an apparent student was reported acting very strangely in the College of Computing. It was also reported that person was possibly influenced by illegal substances. He had previously been issued a criminal trespass warning and been escorted from the Van Leer Building.

This week’s campus crime informa- tion contributed by Kenneth Basket

The offender later said that he was only attempting to register for classes. He was issued another trespass warn- ing. He was also advised by the police not to return to campus. When of- fered a ride to his residence, he could not remember his address.

The roof is not on fire

On May 22, two police officers re- sponded to a report of a fire alarm at the Structural Lab. After checking the second floor, the police found no fire. The officers then attempted to reset the alarm. It would not reset, so they decided to silence it.

This week’s question:

Tell us at www.nique.net

Last issue’s question received 237 responses.

This week’s question:

www.nique.net

Tuition is getting ridiculous -51%

Tuition is getting to it -24%

It’s necessary, so no problem -14%

Don’t care -11%

Used to it -24%

It's necessary, so no problem -14%

Don’t care -11%

Tuition is getting ridiculous -51%
McMath leaves behind great contributions

By Kimberly Rieck
Opinion Editor Emeritus

This article was originally published on March 21, 2005. It details the career of Robert McMath at Tech. With McMath’s departure, this feature provides a look back at many of his accomplishments.

While an undergraduate student at North Texas State University, Robert McMath became “hooked” on history after becoming involved with an undergraduate research project. McMath went on to receive his Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1972. After graduation, McMath decided to accept a teaching position at Georgia Tech. Tech had a school of social sciences that McMath said offered a wide variety of undergraduate history courses even though it did not offer degrees. McMath enjoyed his position because it was not the typical job post-doctoral position for a history professor.

“I liked the students, and working with students from a wide variety of backgrounds and not just from my own field. I really enjoyed getting to meet faculty from the different fields,” said McMath. “It was a more open environment to be a professor in other places where you get stuck in your own little department.”

McMath’s research and teaching interests have dealt with American political movements, particularly populism as a movement in the United States and Europe, the history of the new south and the history of technology. McMath has written numerous articles on American history and the history of the American South and authored or co-authored seven books. His books include a history textbook: The American People: A History, co-authored with Arthur S. Link and American Populism: A Social History, his most recent book.

A journal article that McMath wrote on the origins of Georgia Tech with retired professor Jim Witten led to the most comprehensive history book ever written on the school. After the article was published, Dr. Joseph Peti called McMath to his office and told him that the school needed a scholarly history of Georgia Tech to be written for the Institute’s centennial (in 1985). McMath was reluctant at first because of his other research and teaching commitments. Also, McMath said, it can be difficult for professors to be objective when writing about their own university, so the writing could be viewed as a “puff piece.”

After consulting other colleagues in the department, McMath and four other professors, including Ronald Bayor, went back to Peti and told him that they would write the book on a few conditions, which they did not think Peti would agree to. The conditions were: a decrease in the team’s teaching and research commitments, full editorial control over the project, funding and complete access to the school’s records.

Instead of the “no” the team was expecting, Peti said, “when can you start?”

The project was unique in that it involved professors with overlapping interests in the history of technology, the south, education and urbanization.

In just two short years, the team had completed the research and writing and Engineering the New South: Georgia Tech, 1885-1985 was published in 1985. Further along in his time at Tech, McMath was chosen to be one of two associate deans to help organize the Ivan Allen College during its formation.

After a couple of years, McMath went on to become Chair of the School of History, Technology and Society. In 1996, he traveled to Italy as a Fulbright Lecturer. In Italy, McMath learned that President Clough had created the position of Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs.

One of McMath’s close colleagues, Charles Lintz, vice provost for Research and dean of Undergraduate Studies, said, “I have known Bob McMath for over thirty years. He is an outstanding scholar, a great administrative team player, and a wonderful friend. I will miss him.”

McMath said, “I am sad about leaving people. There are so many good friends colleagues here. I’ll miss them.”

“I’ve had the chance of a lifetime [at Tech] to make a difference for a group,” he added.

McMath from page 1

“I have had a great experience in my 35 years teaching and researching history,” he said. “The students were what kept me here at Georgia Tech.”

He admires the strong desire for education in Tech students and feels that the students elsewhere will not be the same as those he leaves.

“One of the aspects I enjoyed the most in my career at Tech was the opportunity of being able to work with students and help make a difference for them,” he said.

As vice provost for Undergraduate Studies at Tech, McMath had two major responsibilities—overseeing academic support offices that report to the provost and improving the undergraduate department.

In overseeing the academic support offices, he made sure that all of the offices, including admission, registration and co-op, have sufficient resources. In the undergraduate department, McMath worked to help find opportunities to improve undergraduate education for faculty and students.

Recently, he has been working on the planning effort for the opening of the Undergraduate Learning Center. The ULC will house several classrooms, academic offices, tutoring assistance, advisement offices and science laboratories for freshmen.

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McMath said, “I am sad about leaving people. There are so many good friends colleagues here. I’ll miss them.”

“I’ve had the chance of a lifetime [at Tech] to make a difference for a group,” he added.
A Hazy Line

The Office of Greek Affairs’ decision to suspend Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) for hazing violations related to “suggestive dancing” is an unfortunate event but certainly comes at the end of a fair process. The suspension was the conclusion of a five-month investigation in which the fraternity was certainly given a fair trial. Because the issue of hazing is well, lazy to say the least, the Office of Greek Affairs goes to great lengths to keep students safe during Greek events, not punish students for minor infractions and constantly nag the community.

While some traditions may not prove immediately harmful to those involved, the Office of Greek Affairs’ goal is to prevent potentially dangerous situations from happening. The punishment TKE received, no summer rush and fall social probation, seems suitable considering the violation.

While not being so harsh as to damage the chapter’s future, the actions taken against TKE will deter similar events from occurring in the Greek community that could prove to be emotionally or physically damaging hazing incidences. However, the fact that Tech has always been a safe place to foster friendship, sisterhood, and brotherhood and continues to be so, should not be lost in this event. Tech students have rarely crossed the line where it comes to hazing, and an event like this simply ensures that more dangerous activities do not come about.

Missing McMmath

After 33 years of service spending enriching the Tech community, Robert McMmath is leaving Tech to serve as Dean of the Honors College at the University of Arkansas. He leaves behind colleagues and students alike who will miss his presence around campus. During his time at Tech, McMmath served as a history professor, an associate dean of the Ivan Allen College, Chair of the School of History, Technology and Society and, most recently, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs.

McMath is an important part of Tech’s history, not only as serving as an influential leader, but also by co-authoring Engineering the New South: Georgia Tech, 1885-1985, to celebrate Tech’s centennial anniversary (one of seven books he has authored or co-authored). His decision is especially disheartening at a time when Tech is considering starting an honors program of its own.

While McMmath will be sorely missed here, we wish him well in his new home at the University of Arkansas. There is no doubt that he will continue to be an inspiration to all of those who surround him.

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Staff Editors

Daily Bruin (UCLA)

(U/WIRE) The Recording Industry Association of America knows the RIAA has been fairly harmless to the ground and wants you running scared.

On May 26, an additional 91 college students were sued for illegal file-sharing.

The RIAA saysShar is in the middle of anemic legal battle similar to other forms of stealing — i.e., downloading or sharing a song is the equivalent of stealing a candy bar from a store. On some levels the RIAA might —hear —correct —sharing —music —without —consent —is —illegal, —and —record companies have the right to seek reasonable punishments. Burh t, the RIAA uses power in power to sue individuals as a weapon meant to strike fear in people via the threat of tre- mendous — and unreasonable — penalties.

In fact, the recording industry shares the blame for the current state of affairs. It is unfortunate (one could almost say criminal) that it has resorted to targeting colleges for lawsuits. Students from 51 colleges have been the recipients of RIAA lawsuits since April.

The studio of the RIAA ripped customers of all ages with inexpensive CDs and ignored the consumer potential of the Internet. The industry essentially waited for the release of Apple’s iTunes Music Store in April 2003 before it finally belatedly recognized the surge in popularity of illegally sharing music online.

More generally, the RIAA’s response to file sharing has been to use laws to make music more affordable or accessible. Instead, the RIAA spent its energy and money lobbying for extreme punishments for those who share their files. It’s time to look at the compensation of stealing.
Housing complaints keep building

Well, it’s now summer time. If you are living on campus this summer, odds are you had to move a few weeks ago. Those who have experienced this may be able to relate. I have been experiencing this for the past several years, and I have had to move seven times. This seems a bit excessive to me. I’m not sure exactly what set of priorities housing entrenches whenever they formulate the logistics for housing all of us, but keeping someone in the same room for an extended period of time is not very high on the list. Can we give a couple of EIL students on this? I am not sure what they would do with us, but they would have a hard time making the situation any worse than it is currently.

However, moving isn’t the only thing that has me a little irritated at housing. No, the experience that took the cake happened at fall Center Street apartments. I was woken up by some grumpy contractor telling me that he was “here to change the carpet.” I beg your pardon? No, I’m sorry that’s not right. We haven’t been told anything about having our carpet changed.

I desperately wished this was some sort of mistake, but it wasn’t. It was final exam week and Tech housing wanted to change the carpet in our apartment while we were living there. This couldn’t be right. Barring some malicious joke, there was really no way anyone from housing maintenance could have been cruel enough to seriously suggest such a thing. After several emails with officials pleading for mercy, the best we could do was get the carpet changed early. 

For all the urgency to get our carpet changed, you would figure there was some biological hazard incurred by the carpet we had. No, there was nothing even wrong with our carpet. There were very few stains, no unusual smells and no toxic mold growing in the corner. The answer we got from housing on why it needed be changed was “it was supposed to be changed two years ago.”

It was supposed to be changed two years ago, why is it being changed now instead of when it was supposed to be two years ago? At any rate, the day finally came. For 24 straight hours we cooperated with housing in a colossal shuffling of furniture within our apartment so they could change our carpet. Afterward, despite the horrible glue fumes, we were offered no other place to stay. We had no choice but to open up all the windows and just wait until the smell cleared. Oh well, at least I would have clean carpet until I graduated— or not. It turns out that starting this summer, Center Street was closing for the first time in practically forever and we would have to move. The news of Center Street closing for the summer made the timing of the carpet change that much more infuriating. Why pur people through the colossal inconvenience of changing their carpet while they are living there if the whole apartment complex is going to be closed for maintenance in another 4 months? What sort of clowns are running this circus? Does anyone think about these things in advance?

Two things are very obvious—the planning was hap hazard at best and there was little to no regard for the people residing in these apartments. The overall lack of compe tence in handling that whole situation is just inexcusable.

A few months later in time for me to sign up for fall housing, I’ll be on campus for the summer and the fall, so I would prefer to have the same room for both terms. By some fluke (most likely my own), I chose a room for the fall that isn’t going to be open this summer. By the time I catch my mistake, fall housing deadlines are already closed and I was stuck.

After much begging and pleading in person and an email I was basically told “tough luck.” So after moving three weeks ago, I’ll be moving again in less than three months. I honestly think I’d rather have a root canal without anesthesia. Doctor, where is my chair?"
Tech students win at Microsoft Imagine Cup

By Joshua Nunez
Online Editor

If you’re a Computer Science major at Tech, one of the first things you’ll learn is that Microsoft is bad and open-source distribution software is good. But two graduate students from the College of Computing would beg to differ: not only are they passionate about Microsoft technology, they demonstrated their passion by taking first place in the region at the Microsoft Imagine Cup Software Design Invitational last month.

Peter Pesti and John Gibby, first and second-year master’s students in Computer Science respectively, developed and submitted a mobile location-based application called mcGraffiti. This program allows users to send text messages at any point on a global map covered by Microsoft’s Terra Server, creating virtual “hot spots” that can be accessed and read by other users.

“Originally, the purpose was just to have a fun thing for people to use with their PDA,” Gibby said. “People will read other people’s graffiti and communicate. You might read something that somebody left two years ago, and you sort of feel like you know that person a little bit.”

Later, Gibby said, they realized it could have other uses, including keeping maintenance records for refineries and electrical companies or providing disaster assistance.

“You can use the hot spots in various geographic regions to... note what needs to be done, what kind of needs people have, what kind of services need to be delivered to certain places,” he said. “So the product is actually a framework for a lot of information sharing applications that are geographically based.”

Microsoft Corp.’s U.S. National Imagine Cup Software Design Invitational is one of nine annual invitationalis that call on students to develop advances in global technology using Microsoft software. The Software Design Invitational focuses on technologies that dissolve the boundaries between peoples throughout the use of Microsoft’s .NET Framework and various web services.

The Software Design Invitational is separated into two rounds: the regional finals in the morning and the national finals in the afternoon. Teams from all over the country, including an all-expenses-paid trip to Redmond, Wash., home of Microsoft headquarters, for the competition. The national winners will attend the world finals in Yokohama, Japan, in July.

Now in its third year, the Imagine Cup also includes invitations in algorithms, information technology, office design, rendering, short film, photography, and web development. Gibby and Pesti decided to enter the competition early last semester when Peter Pettus heard about the Imagine Cup through a mailing list. The two were enrolled in a special topics class called Advanced Internet Application Development and saw an opportunity to make use of the material.

“The product is actually a framework for a lot of information sharing applications that are geographically based.”

John Gibby
Master’s Student, College of Computing

The team also had to figure out how to integrate GPS technology as well as images from Microsoft’s Terra Server, which provides satellite imagery of much of the globe.

“...the product is actually a framework for a lot of information sharing applications that are geographically based.”

John Gibby
Master’s Student, College of Computing

The team also had to figure out how to integrate GPS technology as well as images from Microsoft’s Terra Server, which provides satellite imagery of much of the globe.

The entire project took three months, with the team working right up to the start of the competition. Although they eventually won the project, Gibby and Pesti wish that they had had more time to implement additional features.

“There are functionality enhancements that we could add, like searching through the database for keywords, categorizing the hot spots in terms of restaurant or places to go hiking or whatever,” Gibby said. “People could do a search or locate different kinds of graffiti through a number of hotspot types.”

However, Pesti pointed out, they had a smaller team and a later start. Whereas most teams in the competition comprised three to four people working six to eight months in advance, the Tech team had only two people, who started in February.

“Our project was the one which provided the most results with the least effort,” he said. “Also...we were the only team in the finals which gave the judges a real live demo system that they could mess around with, that they could try to break.”

And for their accomplishments, they took first place in the Rocky Mountain regional (the team was grouped into another region to even out the distribution of teams in each region) and won a $1000 prize as well as qualifying for the national awards.

New degree option promotes undergraduate research

By Saumya Dave
Chambersburg Writer

As part of the Quality Improvement Plan (QEP), the Undergraduate Research Committee approved a proposal on March 10 to enable undergraduate students to earn a special degree with a research emphasis, similar to a co-op degree.

As the research Plan contained two parts, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) and the Research Option, both currently awaiting approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. UROP was developed to provide the opportunity for undergraduate research at Georgia Tech. The Undergraduate Research Advisory Group (URAG) was in charge of overseeing all the processes of the UROP and the Research Option.

Dr. Lohman, member of the URAC, said that the UROP still requires a qualified individual to occupy the position of the Undergraduate Research Director for the summer. The UROP is in charge of informing incoming students about the UROP.

“The UROP is attempting to include a Spring Research Symposium, an outlet in which students can showcase their research...”

Dr. Bruckman
Chair, UROP

Georgia Tech’s research opportunities during orientation.

Professor Bruckman is the chair of the UROP, and was able to provide detailed information on the committee’s aims. “The UROP is attempting to include a Spring Research Symposium, an outlet in which students can showcase their research, within the agendas of different academic units. Currently, only the College of Computing holds this type of event in the spring.”

The creation of the UROP, the Research Option was created as a medium for in-depth research for undergraduates. Although the approval for the UROP is not finalized, the Plan will not come until December, students can prepare for it by starting research for undergraduate research and signing up for the Research Option when their specific school approves of it. A general overview of the process is constructed and approved; it is up to each academic unit whether to participate in the plan and make individual requirements. The College of Computing is the only academic unit that has currently approved the general outline.

“The outline is composed of requirements that the students have to fulfill in order to incorporate the Research Option into their undergraduate career. First, the student must complete nine hours of supervised research, preferably over a period of at least two terms. Arwo-hourclass, “Writing an Undergraduate Thesis”, is mandatory. During the course, the student must develop a thesis that accurately portrays the results of the research. The thesis must be approved and graded by two faculty members and will be published in the Georgia Tech Library. Students may also have to present their thesis at a UROP symposium. According to Dr. Leigh Bottomley, current administrator of the President’s Undergraduate Award, the Research Option was already approved by the Senate and Undergraduate Committee and is now contingent upon the approval by individual majors at Tech. “It is also up to the specific majors to approve the Research Option and incorporate their own subjects of...”
Cup from page 7

finals round that afternoon.

Furthermore, with graduation looming, the two have considered marketing their product to Micro-
soft.

“There are a couple of things to try. One is to try to sort of promote it with the Terra Server guys,” Pesti
said. “With Microsoft and Google in heated competition over internet searching and satellite mapping, Pesti
said that they might be able to offer Microsoft an edge. “[Microsoft] has Terra Server, but the web interface is
pretty cumbersome, so that might be

Research from page 7

research.”

The Research Option transcends the current opportunities for stu-
dents who are pursuing undergradu-
ate research.

Dr. McMath, Vice Provost of the Quality Enhancement Plan, said that the “very few students are provided
with the in-depth opportunity to work with a professor and have it appear on their transcript.”

Having an accomplishment directly on a students’ transcript is beneficial for students who are going
straight into the workforce or who are seeking to attend graduate school.

Several students had encouraging responses when asked to consider the Research Option.

Shivani Patel, a second-year Biology major, says that she would pursue the program. “It sounds

a point of entry for us to say, ‘Okay, we have something similar to what Google has. Do you want to take it?
Do you want to improve it?’”

Pesti also said that the judges recommended that the two talk with the MapPoint web service
administrators. MapPoint is a pro-

grammable Microsoft web service that allows businesses to integrate location-based services into software
applications.

For more information about the Imagine Cup and the Software Design Invitational go to imagine.chesapeake.
net or www.microsoft.com/press-
pass/events/imaginecup.

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

Tech Up Close

THIS WEEK’S PHOTO:

Email focus@technique.gatech.edu if you think you know the
answer; check to see if you won in the next issue.

Answer to previous Tech Up Close:

Student Center Commons stained glass window

Correct submissions:

None

By Jon Drees / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
**Entertainment**

**Guide stays faithful to spirit of Adams**

By Andrew Guyton

Contributing Writer

The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy is everywhere. Google will tell you The Answer To Life, The Universe, and Everything; you might even see someone celebrating Towel Day (May 25). The whimsical yet amazing world and comedic wizardry of Douglas Adams has finally come to the silver screen, after a lengthy wait and a lot of hard work.

The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy tells a story of an ordinary man, Arthur Dent, (Martin Freeman) whose house is about to be demolished to make way for a bypass. Not only that, it so happens that Earth is also about to be demolished for a similar reason. Arthur is rescued by his good friend Ford Prefect (Mos Def) just before Earth is destroyed—and soon finds himself on a ship in a Vogon constructor fleet.

"Imagine for a second that dolphins are more intelligent than humans and have been trying to warn us of Earth’s impending destruction... now turn it into a musical."

It turns out that Arthur’s friend Ford is not from Guildford after all (which would explain the accent), but from a planet somewhere in the vicinity of Betelgeuse. Ford is also a writer for the Guide, giving it prominence in the series. This launches an adventure that is very random, or perhaps simply very improbable.

However, the screenplay (co-written by Adams) manages to take many interesting and funny elements and combine them into an enjoyable work. Die-hard fans will find many elements that satisfy, and newcomers to Adams’ style won’t be left in the cold. Similarly, the visual effects team creates stunning environments (think Earth II) without letting the visual effects become the story, as in some big-budget movies we can probably think of.

The ‘aliens’ are also masterfully

**Dave Matthews Band takes new stance in familiar territory**

By Matt Dulin

(U-WIRE) — Once you hit the title track of Dave Matthews Band’s Stand Up, you know it’s going to be one good album. Shortly after you hear Dave wax romantically over a “Dreamgirl” and then recollect the good old days in “Old Dirt Hill,” it hits you, and here’s the kicker: it only gets better.

Even “AmeriBaby,” the single released for radio, improves with the “American Baby In”-tro, laying the song in a wartime context.

Yes, the band ventures into familiar territory, dabbling in politics, spirituality and sex, among other themes, but Matthews manages to keep a fresh perspective to match the band’s fresh sound.

While Everyday and Busted Stuff were shaky and inconsistent in a quest for a different sound, Stand Up is confident, even boisterous. If fans’ faith was shaken with the uninspired electric riffs of “Did It,” they are redeemed by DMB’s latest jams. The album takes the strongest parts of their last two efforts and makes the next logical leap. The band doesn’t sound like it did 10 years ago, for sure, and never will. If anything, it sounds better — more finely tuned, more cohesive, more collaborative. Fans who take Stand Up to be one more faltering step are gravely mistaken.

In producing Stand Up, Mark Batson (who has worked with 50 Cent and Eminem) encouraged each band member to explore his own strengths, even if it means picking up a different instrument. You’ll hear piano pieces from Matthews or electric guitar from bassist Stefan Lessard.

In a one-on-one session with Batson, violinist Boyd Tinsley plucked the notes that would

**Episode III puts Vader in his place**

By Sam Tanzer

The Stanford Daily (Stanford)

(U-WIRE) — For anyone who’s spent the last 10 years in a sensory deprivation chamber, we’ll provide a little background.

28 years ago, George Lucas released a movie called Star Wars. The movie was filled with unforgettable symbols—the lightsaber, the Jedi and the blaring Darth Vader quickly became part of a brand new cultural iconography. The franchise gave Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Alec Guinness career-defining roles. It provided an utterly seductive opposition between good and evil. It collapsed the distinction between nerd and anti-nerd by creating a science fiction world so irresistible that it’s impossible not to buy into it.

John Williams’ score is irrevocably imprinted on the minds of a generation. So when George Lucas announced that he was making three more Star Wars movies, the world quivered collectively in anticipation.

Unfortunately, there was a slight problem with the prequels—they weren’t very good. From the impossibly hard-to-follow plot of Attack of the Clones to the tiresome dialogue and cartoonish action, the first two movies were nothing if not a letdown.

Fortunately, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith is better than the first two. Unfortunately, it’s nowhere near the level of The Empire Strikes Back, which, incidentally, Lucas did not direct.

The film opens by zooming in from an idyllic ship and planet-scape to a fast-paced battle scene that features Anakin (Hayden Christensen) and Obi-Wan (Ewan McGregor) taking on the whirling robotic General Grievous.

And then comes about 45 minutes of ass-bad dialogue that saps the world of almost every imaginable popular culture reference. If fans’ faith was shaken by a weak prequel trilogy, this movie is likely to start the process all over again.

**Just Imagine**

A pair of CS grad students entered the regional competition of Microsoft Imagine Cup and won. Page 7

**Oh-So-Sweet**

Women’s tennis has reached the NCAA Sweet 16 tournament after winning the ACC championship. Page 16

**Masq hosts Dishwalla, others**

No, it’s not a new way to clean your plates and forks. Rock band Dishwalla, who gave us songs like “Counting Blue Cars” and “Somewhere in the Middle” will be hitting up the Heaven portion of the Masquerade with “special guests” on Wednesday, June 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets cost $10.

**Laughter to ring at Symphony Hall**

Thursday, June 9, everyone’s favorite “All-American” stand-up comic Margaret Cho will be performing at Symphony Hall Atlanta. Cho’s unique brand of comedy has garnered her much acclaim. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets cost $29.50 for the cheap seats or $45 for a spot a little closer to the front.

**Atlanta has new music festival**

Just when you thought there wasn’t room for another summer concert festival, along comes VIBE Musicfest. The inaugural festival will feature nighttime performances by Lauryn Hill, Mary J. Blige, Ludacris, 112 and many others. By day, VIBE Musicfest is a sort of expo weekend, including celebrity panelists, fashion shows and seminars held by the likes of Magic Johnson and Rev. Al Sharpton. The festival takes place during the weekend of June 10-12, with expo events taking place at the Georgia World Congress Center and concerts at the Georgia Dome.

**Don’t worry, you didn’t miss it**

Everyone’s favorite summer concert festival, Music Midtown, experienced a date change from years past, instead of taking place during what is usually the weekend after spring finals, the festival is now scheduled for the weekend of June 10-12. Some performers of note include Coheed and Cambria, the Black-Eyed Peas, Interpol and the White Stripes, but $75 will get you admission for the whole weekend and a choice of over 100 performers of almost every imaginable popular genre.
Hike

from page 9

costumed, thanks to the Jim Hen-
son creature shop. We can thank
them for the Vogons being what
they are today. The music is also
well-done and compliments the
lovable quirkiness of the film; they
ever remastered the theme from the
original BBC series.

The opener was a bit of a surprise
for me, but it was well-made; it also
demonstrates how random the movie
is. Imagine for a second that dolphins
are more intelligent than humans
and have been trying to warn us of
Earth’s impending destruction.

Okay, now turn it into a musical.
It doesn’t get much more random
than that, kids. That serves as an
excellent starting point into what is a
very complex series. I was laughing,
grinning and happy throughout
the movie.

The film’s ending left the story
open for the adaptation of the other
books in Adams’ five-book trilogy,
but given the difficulties that occurred
with making just this one, I don’t see
it happening. However, if a sequel
were to be made, I would be more
than delighted.

Don’t panic when you read a
flurry of negative reviews about
The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy,
and see it for yourself. It’s more
popular and informative than the
Encyclopedia Galactica. It’s got more
practical advice than your parents
ever gave you.

If somebody makes a plush Mar-
vin, the manic-depressed robot, one
will reside on my desk. He’ll find it
absolutely horrible there. Be sure
to get a copy of the DVD when it
comes out, and always know where
your towel is.

DMB

from page 9

become “American Baby.”
Barson’s approach was likely a
big part of Stand Up’s success. The
result is a fresh, engaging sound
that will lure listeners deeper into
the album.

Many songs lean heavily on
percussion, which Carter Beauford
delivers expertly, eradicating any
doubt in the band’s ability
to jam. Leroi Moore’s saxophone is a
bit understated, but he gets his own
solo to close up “American Baby.”

Stand Up is full of the hallmarks
of a genuine DMB product: longer
songs, head-boppin’ jams, lyrical
blending and good music.

Verdict: Just in case you were
worrying, Stand Up is evidence the
Dave Matthews Band still knows
how to rock.

Vader

from page 9

momentum right out of the movie
like some sort of momentum-suck-
ing insect.

When we finally do get moving
again, the payoff is well worth it.
Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid) makes
a visually stunning transformation
from Chancellor to Emperor, the Jedi
temple faces an imperial onslaught,
and Mace Windu (Samuel L. Jack-
son) gets his biggest role yet.

Look for some spectacular action
scenes with Yoda. There’s nothing
cooler than a little green guy with a
lightsaber. The film’s final sequences
are as pulse-raising as any in the
series, given that Lucas intersplices
Yoda’s climactic battle that takes
place in the Senate chamber itself
(symbolism, anyone?) with the
obligatory showdown between
Anakin and Obi-Wan.

But at its best, the action is too heavily reliant on glittering
special effects—taking down AT-
AT’s with tow cables in The Empire
Strikes Back is more compelling,
than anything the prequels have
to offer.

But what holds Episode III back
from greatness is the script. The
dialogue is rife with trite love vows,
absurd absolutes and too-explicit
ideological extremities.

All in all, Revenge of the Sith is
pretty mediocre, but that doesn’t
mean I didn’t enjoy the hell out
of it. And it doesn’t mean I don’t
welcome the excuse to re-watch the
original trilogy.

But as the Star Wars saga comes
to end, the most lasting effect of
Episode III may be merely to con-
firm the status of the originals as
cinematically untouchable.
Baseball from page 16

"I guess you could say it was sweet revenge ... to beat [Virginia] for the championship, that's a feather in our cap."

Danny Hall Baseball head coach

Tennis from page 16

"The girls played well, and it was a convincing win..."

Bryan Shelton
Tennis head coach

Softball from page 16

"... we weren't hitting when it became crunch time."

Eehren Earleywine Softball head coach

**SPORTS**

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**Write for the Technique**

Come to our next meeting Tuesday, June 7 @ 7 p.m. in room 137 of the Student Services building and eat free pizza.
Baseball captures ACC Tourney crown

By Michael Clarke
Senior Staff Writer

Tech baseball won the ACC regular season championship and the tournament title. They are now preparing for the NCAA Regionals that start today.

The ACC regular season title came down to the final weekend of play. The Jackets needed at least one win and a Miami loss to guarantee the title. Tech lost the first two games at North Carolina by one run each. The Jackets came alive beating North Carolina 8-1 in the series finale to clinch their second consecutive ACC Regular Season title. The team was predicted by the conference coaches to finish third in the conference at the start of the season.

For the second time in three years, Tech has captured the ACC Tournament Championship and earned the automatic spot in this weekend’s NCAA Regional.

“I think the ACC regular season you are playing everybody and the team that plays the most consistent from beginning to end wins,” Head Coach Danny Hall said. “That says a lot about our club’s consistency.”

In the ACC Tournament, when Tech was struggling, they kept battling and won those games.”

Danny Hall
Baseball head coach

Tech baseball scored a 5-0 win over Maryland and a record of 11-4 in the conference, earning the team’s first ACC title.

“All the hard work and sacrifice of our players is really stepping up big.”

Tech refused to give up and came roaring back putting six runs on the board in the bottom of the fifth. Tech trailed by one going into the bottom of the ninth. A throwing error brought the tying run and Wes Hodges hit a sacrifice fly to drive in the winning run. In Tech’s second game, Florida State scored a run in the sixth and three in the seventh to take a 4-0 lead. Tech responded with five runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning to advance to the championship game of their bracket.

“You don’t want to get behind the way [we] did. To our team’s credit they kept battling and won those games.”

Women’s tennis reaches first Sweet 16; run ends with difficult loss to Texas

By Michael Clarke
Senior Staff Writer

Tech’s women’s tennis team ended the season as the No. 6 team in the nation after advancing to the school’s first ever Sweet 16. The team ended the year with winning the ACC regular season and the ACC Tournament. The Tournament win was the school’s first conference championship in tennis. The Jackets captured the ACC regular season title after tying Miami with a 9-1 record in the league, but held the tiebreaker after defeating the Hurricanes earlier in the season. The team clinched the title with a 5-2 victory over North Carolina.

“It seemed like every time our backs are against the wall, we are finding the answers out there on the court,” Head Coach Bryan Shelton said as reported by ramblinwreck.com. “After losing yesterday playing Florida and knowing that we had to come in here and win today to get that title, we really stepped up big.”

Tech followed up by winning the ACC Tournament. Tech knocked off Florida State 4-1 to reach the semifinals where they defeated North Carolina 4-2. Junior Lyndsay Shosho clinched each of the matches for the Jackets.

Softball falls to UGA

By Michael Clarke
Senior Staff Writer

Tech’s ACC regular season on May 6 with a win over Maryland and a record of 11-4 in the conference, earning the team’s first ACC title. The team was predicted by the conference coaches to finish third in the conference at the start of the season.

The team rounded off the year by ending the season with a record of 21-4. The ACC regular season title was the school’s first since 2002. The team concluded their season with a record of 4-2. Junior Lyndsay Shosho was among three players named as first team All-ACC selections for Tech.

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