



RoboJackets compete at RoboCup 2011

By Henry Duong
Staff Writer

During the second week of July, Tech's robotics team, the RoboJackets, represented Tech in the 2011 RoboCup world event, held in Istanbul, Turkey. The RoboJackets performed well and advanced to the playoff rounds for the first time.

RoboCup is an annual robotics competition that hosts teams from all over the world to compete against each other in a soccer competition where the players are robots.

The stated goal of the event is to eventually feature "a team of fully autonomous humanoid robot soccer players that can win a soccer game, complying with the official rules of FIFA, against the winner of the most recent World Cup."

The event is broken down into several leagues. These include the humanoid league, which features humanoid robots with individual vision, and the small-size league, which uses five robots that feature overhead vision and whose diameters are less than 18 cm. The small size league is the one in which the RoboJackets participate.

"One of the nice things about the small size league is that because you have the overhead vision system, you can worry more about doing more planning and passing. So this league turns out to be one of the fastest leagues, compared to the humanoid leagues," said Alex Cunningham, team manager and software lead of the RoboCup team and an ECE PhD candidate.

The RoboJackets were one of two teams that represented the United States at the event in Istanbul. The other U.S. team at the event was a joint team comprised of students from Harvard and MIT.

"[Harvard's and MIT's] robots were a little broken this year, and they left early. Their team is one year older than ours, but it took them a couple of years to make their robots literally not catch on fire. The teams that have their robots carefully tuned and everything planned precisely tend to do the

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NCAA punishes Tech for violations

'09 ACC football title vacated, other penalties assessed



Photo courtesy of the GTAA

Institute President G.P. "Bud" Peterson and Athletic Director Dan Radakovich present Tech's response to the NCAA's findings on July 14. Tech was cited for major NCAA violations for the third time in history and the first since 2005.

By Alex Sohani and Nishant Prasad
Sports Editor / News Editor

A 20-month NCAA investigation into Tech's athletic program culminated last week on Thursday, July 14, when the NCAA announced that Tech had committed major violations related to its football and men's basketball programs. As a result of the infractions, the NCAA fined Tech \$100,000, forced the football team to vacate its victory in the 2009 Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) title game, imposed various men's basketball recruiting restrictions and put the Institute's athletic program on four years of probation.

This incident marks the third time Tech has been cited for major NCAA violations and the first time since 2005.

"This is not a good day for Georgia

Tech. It is not a proud day for me... This institution should not be placed in a position where its integrity is challenged," said Athletic Director Dan Radakovich.

The NCAA's primary reason for citing Tech for major violations was that they felt that the Institute had deliberately tried to impede the investigation. This led to charges of failing to cooperate with the NCAA investigation and failing to meet the conditions of NCAA membership in what the report by the NCAA Committee on Infractions called a "cautionary tale" for other schools under investigation.

"Tech officials disobeyed direct instructions from the enforcement staff... These actions impeded the enforcement staff's investigation and hindered the committee in getting to the truth in this case," said Dennis Thomas, chair of the

NCAA Committee on Infractions.

Both Radakovich and Institute President G.P. "Bud" Peterson were adamant that Tech had never intended to obstruct the NCAA inquiry.

"At no time prior to or since the 20-month investigation do I believe that anyone at Georgia Tech did anything or took any actions with the deliberate intent to either hinder or impede this investigation," Peterson said.

The football infractions stemmed from an incident in late 2009 when then-Tech wide receiver Demaryius Thomas reportedly received clothing and other items that were perceived to be impermissible benefits. Another football player, safety Morgan Burnett, allegedly accepted benefits but denied

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USG Chancellor Huckaby visits Tech, meets leaders



Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing

Chancellor Hank Huckaby talks with Institute President G.P. "Bud" Peterson while visiting Tech on July 19. Huckaby was appointed to the post in May.

By Maddie Cook
Staff Writer

Chancellor Hank Huckaby, the newly selected leader of the University System of Georgia (USG), visited the Tech campus this past Tuesday, July 19, to begin a series of tours at the campuses of USG universities.

"It was a pleasure to be the first institution in the [USG] to host [Huckaby]," said Institute President G. P. "Bud" Peterson.

Huckaby toured the campus in a day-long visit along with other leaders of campus. Huckaby met with the President's cabinet, research directors, student leaders and many others. Huckaby also took tours of the new Clough Commons and the Biotechnology campus.

"The Chancellor was able to see firsthand the quality of... Tech students, faculty and staff as well as view a few of our world-class facilities," Pe-

terson said.

Huckaby has a long history in public service for the state of Georgia. His professional experiences include a stint as Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration at the University of Georgia from 2000-06.

He also worked alongside then-Governor Zell Miller to help create and establish the HOPE scholarship in 1993. Huckaby served as director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget at the time.

During his visit, Huckaby sat down with student leaders: Undergraduate Student Body President Elle Creel, Executive Vice President Austen Edwards, Graduate Student Body President James Black and Graduate Executive Vice President Mihir Pathak, along with Peterson.

During this meeting, Huckaby spoke of his goals and plans regarding the recent increases in tuition fees and changes made to HOPE last

spring. Regarding the changes and budget cuts made to the HOPE program, Huckaby reflected on his experience and work with the changes.

"I was very much involved in the plan that they passed... I know numerous options were considered... I think the bill that came out was probably the best it was going to get," Huckaby said.

Huckaby believes the revisions made to HOPE will be enough to ensure the stability of the program in the short term.

"The economy continues to improve and we can look toward greater funding for the state that will alleviate tuition increase. Keep your fingers crossed, the economy is gradually improving. At least it's headed in the right direction," Huckaby said.

One detail of the HOPE alterations that will most likely change is the percentage of

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TECHNIQUE

The South's Liveliest College Newspaper

Founded in 1911, the *Technique* is the student newspaper of the Georgia Institute of Technology, and is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. The *Technique* publishes on Fridays weekly during the fall and spring and biweekly during the summer.

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From the files of the GTPD... Campus Crime

By Zheng Zheng
Opinions Editor

One too many

On Thursday, July 14, a police officer stopped a driver on Fourteenth St. and State St. after observing the suspect weaving in the right lane and hitting the curb. When the officer approached the vehicle and began speaking to the driver, the officer noticed that the suspect's eyes were "glassy and red." The officer asked if the driver had consumed any alcohol earlier in the night, and the suspect said he had and had "two or three... vodka and tonic[s]." The officer then administered a field sobriety test and concluded that the suspect's ability to operate a vehicle

was impaired. The suspect was issued a DUI charge and a charge of failing to maintain lane.

Flight of the living dead

On Saturday, July 16, a police officer was dispatched to investigate a report of possible theft at the North Ave. Apartments parking deck. The officer saw two men running between two cars.

When the two suspects noticed the police, they hid behind a truck. The officer drew a weapon and ordered the two suspects to show their two hands and to come towards him. Instead, the suspects ran away toward the in-

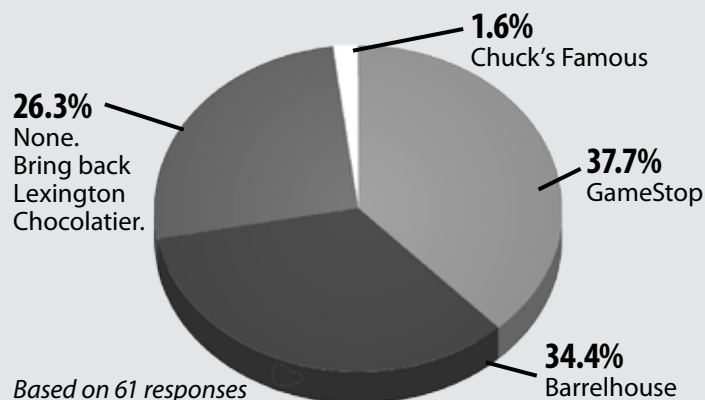
tersection of North Ave. and Williams St. Other officers began to respond to a call to intercept the subjects.

Eventually, the two suspects headed to a loading dock and hid in a dumpster. The officers told the suspects to exit the dumpster and surrender. After the two were arrested, the officers began to search the dumpster for weapons. A loaded pistol and a screwdriver were found. Both suspects denied being in possession of the pistol at first, but eventually admitted to it when one of them was found with a .380 ACP full metal jacket round that matched the pistol.

When the two suspects were being escorted in a vehicle to the station, one of the suspects explained the weapon was being carried for protection as the suspect recently "came back from the dead" and pointed to a recent gunshot wound.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Which new Tech Square store do you like best?



Next issue's question:

How do you feel about Tech's NCAA violations?

Tell us at nique.net

TECHNIQUE

THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

SUMMER SCHEDULE

TECHNIQUE IN NEWSSTANDS:

FRIDAY, JUNE 3
FRIDAY, JUNE 24
FRIDAY, JULY 8
FRIDAY, JULY 22

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TECHNIQUE THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

STAFF MEETINGS
FREE PIZZA!

7 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 14
TUESDAY, JUNE 28
TUESDAY, JULY 12

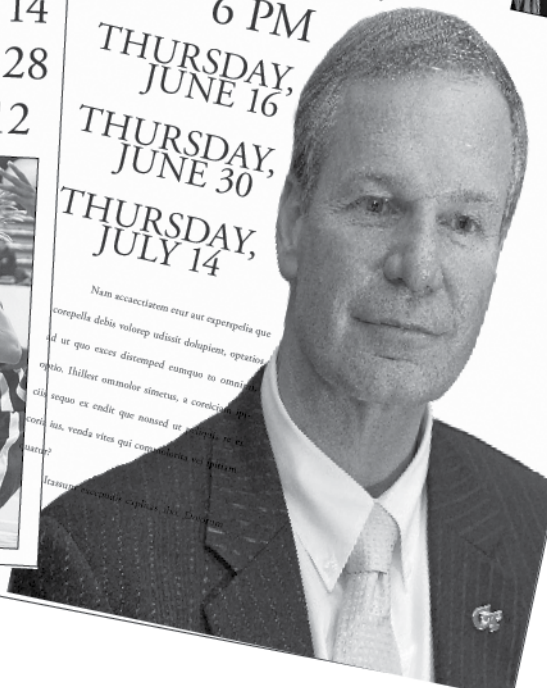


TECHNIQUE THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

PHOTO MEETINGS
FREE PIZZA!

6 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 16
THURSDAY, JUNE 30
THURSDAY, JULY 14



RoboCup from page 1

best,” Cunningham said.

Aside from fielding a RoboCup team, the RoboJackets support many other robotics-related activities. The other two collegiate robotics teams are a team for the IGVC event, which deals with navigation and mapping, and a team that competes in the Battle-Bots competition.

The RoboJackets also host a kickoff event for the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), an international competition for high school students, in Jan. each year at the Ferst Center.

Earlier this year, the RoboJackets moved their shop from the old Tin Building to the Student Competition Center on 14th Street.

The additional space allowed for an indoor miniature soccer field to test their robots, but at the same time, their new off-campus location has made recruiting more of a challenge.

Still, membership in the club has proven rewarding for many. Because of practical and technical skills that team members learn in the process of designing and build-



Photo courtesy of the RoboJackets

RoboJackets team members Hunter Scott, Ben Johnson and Alex Cunningham work to prepare their RoboCup robot for a match.

ing robots for competition, former members of the RoboJackets have gone off to work for entities such as Caterpillar Inc. and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"[I initially joined because] I wanted to get some hands on experience that you don't get in the classrooms. Robotics is one of the few areas where there are a lot of mechanical problems, a lot of hardware testing and also a lot

of software testing in the development cycle," said Stefan Posey, president of the RoboJackets and a sixth-year AE major.

For Posey, the process of designing and building a robot tends to be a very valuable experience.

"Seeing your robot finally work the way it's supposed to and seeing your design coming together and performing is very rewarding," Posey said.

90 [percent] to 50, but it may get to 86 or 84," Peterson said.

Huckaby mentioned that the Board of Regents plans to further investigate other ways of creating HOPE funds besides the lottery.

"There's some talk and consideration [of] the lottery expanding the scale [and] scope of what they call gaming...From my understanding, this would make a lot more money," Huckaby said.

Black voiced concern over the specific ways in which the HOPE changes will affect graduate students. Specific changes and increases made to the special institution fees apply differently to undergraduate and graduate students.

"We would really like to see

[special institution fees] get rolled into graduate tuition and see that fee for graduate students come down," Black said.

Huckaby noted that this situation is complicated, but it is an issue that deserves attention. He also welcomed the help of graduate students in creating a solution.

In discussing the new engineering programs at UGA and Georgia Southern, Huckaby stated that Tech will still maintain its engineering and science reputation within Georgia.

"Tech is a premier institution. As far as I'm concerned, my office and the Board of Regents will work to maintain and sustain that. It's too critical to the state," Huckaby said.

NCAA from page 1

any wrongdoing.

When the NCAA informed then-Compliance Director Paul Parker that there were investigating allegations of impermissible benefits in early Nov. 2009, the NCAA indicated that only Peterson and Radakovich were permitted to know that Burnett was going to be interviewed.

Radakovich chose to inform Head Coach Paul Johnson of the situation, and Johnson, who was unaware that the information was classified, discussed it with Burnett prior to Burnett's interview with the NCAA.

On Nov. 16, 2009, two days before he was set to be interviewed, Burnett met with Radakovich, Johnson and Parker. Two days later, on Nov. 18, Burnett denied any wrongdoing when speaking with NCAA investigators.

The NCAA deemed the decision to inform Burnett about the interview to be a failure to protect the integrity of the investigation, as it caused Burnett's interview to be "tainted," according to the infractions committee's report.

Thomas was interviewed on Nov. 19, 2009. He told an NCAA investigator that he and Burnett had gone to the home of Thomas's cousin, where they met with former Tech quarterback Calvin Booker, who reportedly was tied to an Atlanta sports agency, and the cousin's roommate. While there, Thomas received various clothing items that had a total value of \$312.

Thomas initially told NCAA investigators that his cousin's roommate had provided the clothing, but in a Nov. 24 interview with Tech general counsel Randy Nordin, Thomas said it was his cousin who provided the clothing.

It was based on this information that Peterson—acting on the advice of Nordin and Radakovich—made the decision to allow

Thomas and Burnett to continue to play despite repeated indications from the NCAA that each player's eligibility was in question.

"The information...was steadfast that this clothing came from a relative, which is a permissible benefit. That's the direction... which I passed on to President Peterson, and the decision was made to allow these young men to participate," Radakovich said.

The NCAA presented formal allegations on Dec. 21, 2010. Included in the allegations were charges related to a non-scholastic basketball tournament held on campus in 2009 and 2010, in which a then-graduate assistant evaluated potential recruits who were participating.

At a nine-hour hearing on April 15, 2011, key figures from Tech defended their case before the NCAA Committee on Infractions. Here, Peterson admitted that Tech had made mistakes during the investigation.

Notably, Peterson said Tech should have sought outside legal counsel instead of relying on Nordin, who had little experience in NCAA-related matters and whom the NCAA perceived to have obstructed the investigation at times.

Tech's representatives at the hearing argued that the infractions should be considered secondary violations, but the NCAA determined that the violations in both sports were major in nature. Three months later, on July 14, the punishments were handed down.

Along with the probation period and the \$100,000 fine, Tech was stripped of all football wins from Nov. 24, 2009, to the end of that season, so Tech's 2009 ACC title has been vacated. Aside from probation, no long-term penalties were assessed to the football team.

The men's basketball team will be limited to 10 official visits for recruits over the next two seasons and self-imposed other recruiting restrictions.

Huckaby from page 1

tuition covered for those students who are not Zell Miller scholars.

For the 2011-12 academic year, this figure was originally set at 90 percent of the previous year's tuition, which was \$3,535 per semester for 2010-11 for students not on Fixed for Four. With the tuition increase for the coming year taken into account, 87.4 percent of the new \$3,641 per-semester tuition for these students will be covered by HOPE.

That 90 percent figure is subject to change in future years, but Peterson indicated that it should not decrease substantially from the original figure.

"I don't think you'll have to worry about it [fluctuating] from

making friday lectures more interesting

technique

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OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Violations present key lessons

Tech must learn and improve from NCAA penalties

Without question, the Institute deserves its share of blame for the penalties handed down by the NCAA last week. The Tech officials directly involved in the situation should have been more cautious and aware of the guidelines, especially given that Tech was still subject to repeat offender status following major NCAA violations in 2005. Athletic Director Dan Radakovich is experienced enough to know that when there is even somewhat plausible evidence of a player being ineligible, the player needs to be pulled from the games. The players should be aware of the implications of their actions, but at the same time, the onus is on Tech's athletic department to properly educate them in such matters.

However, despite the fact that the NCAA held legitimate claims on certain issues, many of their allegations were based on conclusions drawn from inferences, rather than hard information. Also, though the NCAA insisted that

they had no intention to set Tech as an example, it was plainly stated that this was to be a “cautionary tale” for other colleges. The penalties, the purpose of which were to punish the Institute and its sports programs, affect the players from the 2009 team more directly in reality. The NCAA unjustifiably damaged the legacy and the pride of dozens of players on the 2009 team who were not directly involved in the scandals in question.

Given that the penalties from the investigation were largely due to Tech's poor response to the inspections, it is necessary in the future for Tech to proactively seek external assistance if available staff appears unprepared. While indications are that mistakes by Tech's inexperienced general counsel were at the root of the trouble, Radakovich and other administrators must take responsibility and back up their vows that Tech will enact measures to ensure that any future situations are handled properly.

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

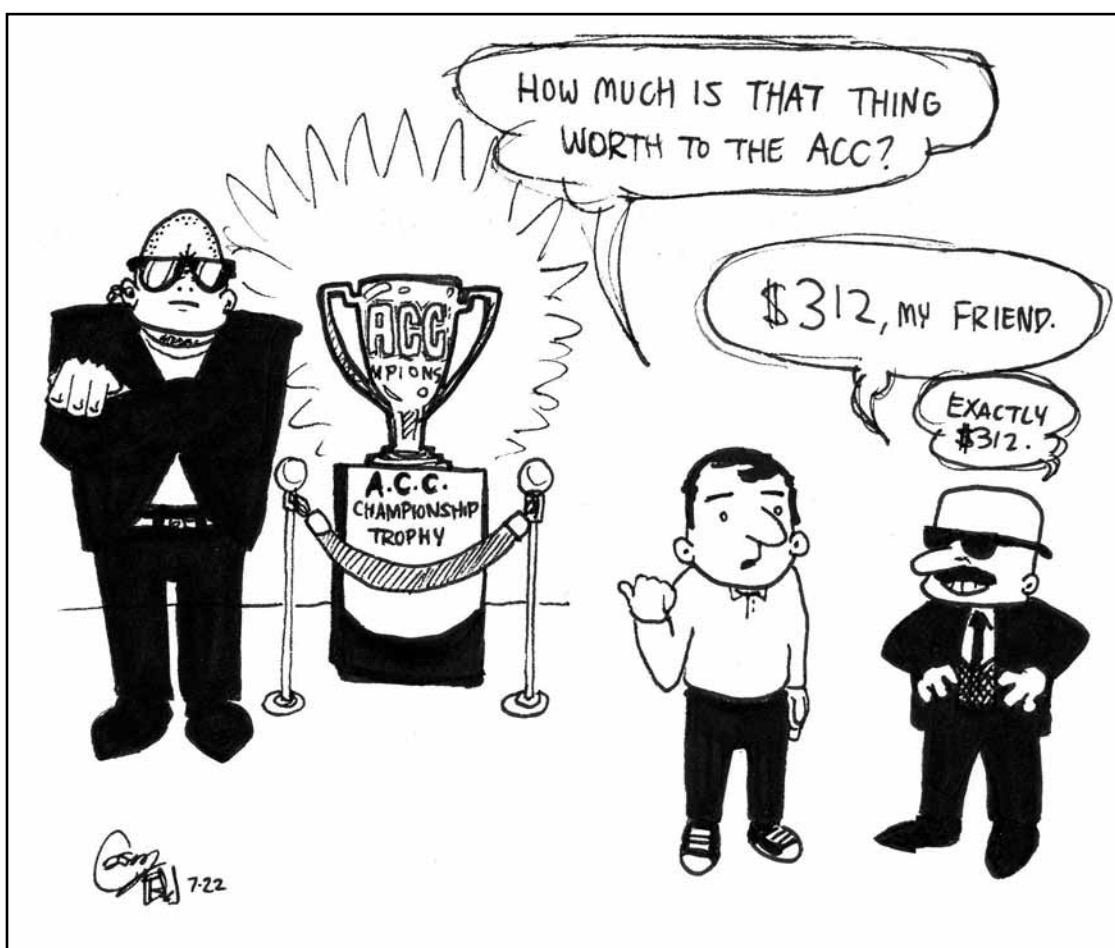
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EDITORIAL CARTOON BY CASEY TISDEL



Google+ establishes new social media standards

By John Davis
The Crimson White

(UWire) — Facebook and I have fallen into a “married with children” type relationship. We’ve been at it for so long and invested so much time into one another that, despite any real flaws, we’re pretty much content.

Privacy concerns aside, Facebook performs all the necessary functions I could ever want, and even some useful ones that I didn’t know I would use until they were presented to me.

It’s a cloud of its own, where all my pictures and even my thoughts are saved. All my friends are on Facebook, as is most of my extended family — for better or worse.

Still, in Internet years, Facebook continues to grow longer in the tooth with each passing year, and I suppose it was inevitable that at some point a legitimate challenger would appear in the guise of colorful letters and a slick, minimalist interface. Just as Xanga and LiveJournal gave way to MySpace, and MySpace eventually gave way to Facebook, it’s time for social media to reach its logical conclusion: Google+.

At first glance, it’s easy to brush off Google+ as nothing but a Facebook clone with an impressive brand name. After all, there is a “Friends” list of sorts, though those people are listed as “in your circles.” The stream looks very familiar, and you can share thoughts and videos and pictures and anything else your heart desires. So why switch?

A friend put it into perspective best: “In...the space of a day, Google+ has made me feel like one of those ape people at the beginning of 2001: A Space Odyssey. If Google+ is fire and civilization, everything I have been using feels like hitting rocks with other rocks.”

That’s a pretty powerful thought considering the ubiquity of Facebook.

There are a few key features that separate Google+ from Facebook and even Twitter, for that matter. Chief among them is the concept of “circles.”

Essentially, it works the same way your social circles work in real life: when you befriend someone, you place them into a circle, or a type of category.

So if you have inside jokes with your college friends that your high school friends won’t get, simply specify that your post be only seen by your “College Friends” circle. Alternatively, if you’re the type of person who likes to get drunk and swear a lot on Facebook, Google+ can make sure your parents never see it.

Another key feature specific to the mobile app (an app that is Android-only at the moment) is the Huddle. The Huddle is basically a text message chat room: choose a circle, send a message and everyone in the circle gets the message. When one person replies, every-

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letters@nike.net

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one gets that message as well, negating the need to relay one person’s text to five other people.

Google+ is, for all intents and purposes, the perfect combination of Facebook and Twitter.

It takes the Twitter route when it comes to making connections, i.e. you can add a person to a circle without that person doing the same.

Thus, you can create a circle for news outlets and comedians, and much like a Twitter list, you can filter your Stream to show only posts from a specific circle. But whereas Twitter only allows for 140 characters, Google+ lets you share as much as you’d like and even edit a post after it’s already been posted.

Beyond all the cute new features, beyond the Sparks and Hangouts, beyond the appeal of the new and exciting, there is one crucial piece of information, one critical little tidbit that should send social media sites running and users flocking to Google+: Google already makes money.

Yes, I know Facebook technically does too, but hear me out. In the beginning, Facebook didn’t make money. There was no business plan, and outside of advertising dollars, there was no revenue. Even today, Facebook has a theoretical value (though they’re filing for an IPO in the near future).

And in the beginning, Facebook had a clean interface devoid of clutter from applications. To help bring in money, Facebook created things like the Marketplace and allowed for all those little games that live off micro transactions—all things that took away from the Facebook experience should you choose not to participate in Farmville.

With Google+, there is no incentive to be anything other than just another Google application. When you sign up for Google+, there’s even a button you can click to opt out of having your information shared with non-Google websites (which should be an option feature, but we can’t all be perfect).

The scary part is Google+ hasn’t actually gone live yet. There are only a handful of us signed up, though check Facebook for friends soliciting invitations. Join me because Google+ is like Facebook, but it’s not Facebook.

Grade inflations discredit earned merits

An A and a 4.0 GPA mean less today than they did 50 years ago. Many students, high in hubris and low in modesty, wear their high GPAs on their sleeves proudly, while many of their As were given rather than earned.

The relative percentage of As given out has been on the rise in college classrooms for decades. One recent study puts the total percentage of the As throughout the U.S. university system at 43 percent, making it the most doled-out letter of the grading alphabet.

Half a century ago, grades were distributed on a fairer, more centrally balanced scale. As made up 15 percent of grades, while Bs and Cs each accounted for 35 percent of the pie, respectively.

As current students, it would be convenient to conclude that we're smarter than past graduates. Unfortunately, that's no more than wishful thinking according to the study and in-class evidence.

Everyone has sat in at least one class when a professor has asked a question based on prerequisite material, expecting the entire class to recite the answer as easily as the Pledge of Allegiance, only to find a crowded room of furrowed brows and uncomfortable silence.

This is a byproduct of grade inflation and the fact that we as students are spending less



"Not only are they cheapening the Tech degree, they're cheapening the meaning of a high GPA at Tech."

Matt Schrichte
Advertising Manager

and less time studying and completing assignments.

The whole situation is a bit of a Catch-22. Students' (and their parents') wallets are fortunate for the curve, especially with the HOPE Scholarship creating a sort of artificial grading floor that many students can't go under. Surely, it and similar scholarships have had some hand in the recent inflation rates.

The intellectual integrity of Tech and other four-year institutions is in a precarious state and suffering. Students are used to the higher grades, even if they aren't always earned. And teachers are getting used to giving students the grades they want, not the ones they deserve.

I know of multiple students who have broken down into tears in front of teachers for a letter grade adjustment, convincing professors that there is some family emergency or medical crisis when there isn't—and then gloating about it afterwards with glar-

ing smiles as if they pulled off some sort of magic trick.

These professors and students are doing a disservice to the part of the student body who accept what they have earned, As or Fs. Not only are they cheapening the Tech degree, they're cheapening the meaning of a high GPA at Tech.

It's hard to blame the professors either. They have huge incentives to pad their students' grades. Good reviews can in turn lead to faster promotions and better pay.

The authors of the study call the overall effect of higher grades "consumer-based," by which professors allot higher grades to improve their students' customer experiences. The effect is clearly more prevalent at private universities, but is also present in public institutions like Tech.

But while paying to go to school does make students consumers, grades aren't and shouldn't be a negotiation. They are a measurement of not

only knowledge, but student character. Even a bad grade says something about a student.

A real grade shows the true character of its earner. An inflated one, like most things filled with hot air, will either pop or deflate given enough time in the real world.

Interestingly enough, the inflation effect is severely restricted or even nonexistent at non-selective public schools (those with rejection rates of about 15 percent or less and GPAs at or below 2.8) and community colleges.

It's hard to imagine the trend reversing, or even slowing down, as long as it persists at other schools.

It seems that Tech, a school traditionally known for its challenging grading curves, is only following the paths of its peer institutions in an effort to recruit the best students. All students should get second opportunities, but not free passes.

As the study shows, Tech is hardly the worst inflation offender. And not all of its academic shifts have been for the worse. After all, drown-proofing no longer exists. So while we can't hold our grades (after adjusted for inflation) over their heads, at least we don't have to worry about getting an F in Drown-proofing, or what Tech students used to call "Drowning 101."

Bittersweet sensations follow *Potter* finale

After seven earlier films and novels reaching back over a decade, the *Harry Potter* saga came to a solid and satisfying conclusion this month in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*.

As the series closes, however, I can't help but find a little discouragement in the fact that there will be no more *Harry Potter*.

True, there's Pottermore, if you're into that sort of thing. I feel that deep down, there has always been a part of me either waiting for the next of the Rowling novels or the next film experience since the first days of third grade. This feeling, however, is now being silenced forever.

The final movie conjures up enough awe and solemnity to serve as an appropriate finale, and has a stark contrast to the innocence within the first novel, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, read all those magical years ago.

As I was watching the final film, I couldn't help but feel a sense of melancholy achievement: a bittersweet goodbye to a large part of my childhood.

Harry, Hermione and Ron are grown up now, and Harry has even grown the facial stubble required of all epic heroes. The time has come for him to face Lord Voldemort in a final showdown, not unlike a final duel from Luke Skywalker and his dastardly father Darth Vader.



"There has always been a part of me either waiting for the next of the Rowling novels or the next film experience..."

Will Folsom
Photo Editor

The conflict within *Part 2* is staged in a series of special effects sequences containing power and conviction that would surely make the early Pixar go absolutely bonkers.

Despite my deep longing to do so, I refuse to reveal a single crucial detail about the story itself, lest I offend the potential legions of Potter fans that are reading this article.

Besides, as far as you know, innocent moviegoer, the film may be completely different. Maybe in a bizarre twist Harry dies by Hagrid's hand, Voldemort is triumphant and evil reigns for eternity.

Don't let my long-winded rose-colored pretenses throw you off. I have had plenty of other childhood franchises that could make me go weak in the knees during a powerful conclusion.

Anything pertaining to *Zelda*, *Half Life*, *Toy Story* or even *Star Wars* has potential to set my heart ablaze with passionate nostalgia, and make my eyes start fiercely pouring with large, gushing tears.

I feel that these and other stories have personally affected my growing up, and that honestly my life would not be the same without them.

Perhaps this is why I analyze the ending of *Harry Potter* so deeply. Of the franchises that have had the most profound effects, I feel that it is the longest running and perhaps most deeply inspiring.

But let's be honest here, you'll miss the *Harry Potter* franchise, too.

Whether or not your pastor, overly protective parents or elementary school principal would let you read the *Harry Potter* books is none of my concern; as long as you were born on this side of the Milky Way, chances are you've been hearing about *Harry Potter* for quite some time now.

You've been touched by some element of the novels; you've heard that the author used to be homeless; you've seen pictures of Emma Watson you probably shouldn't have. Whatever the case may be, our society has had an obsession

with the franchise. And hopefully, you were allowed to read them. Even if you didn't read the novels, hopefully it was up to your own personal preference, and you stood firmly against the novels for good reason.

As for those who read the novels with such fervor as me, let this humble opinions essay be a jaded reminder to you that a certain flame has been extinguished. We can no longer look forward to more from "The Boy Who Lived" and his posse.

We must forevermore reread the broken-spined remnants from a time long ago, and will never be able to forget what actually comes at the end of book six, despite all our efforts. The series will never be new to us again, and Harry will never feel as magical as he did on the first read through.

As we move forward into a potentially less magical age, one without Hogwarts or Space Shuttles, remember the time you spent invested in *Harry Potter* fondly.

Let it not be a wasted time; everyone could stand to learn a few things from the series, and the good versus evil debate is one that is older than the solar system itself and will likely never be solved.

As J.K. Rowling herself said, "It does not do well to dwell upon dreams for so long that we fail to realize them as we live."

BUZZ Around Campus

What did you think of the Women's World Cup?



Abhishek Shroff
Second-year CS

"The games have heart and are fun to watch."



Nicholas Robson
Third-year CmpE

"It doesn't matter to me."



Rob Agocs
Second-year ME

"Everyone's a winner, it doesn't really matter."



Courtney Gibbs
Second-year INTA

"I didn't know what teams to watch."

Photos by Will Folsom / Student Publications

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT⁻ or ⁻NOT**Campanile waterpark**

After years of dutifully performing the functions of a sundial, the Campanile fountain has finally started running once again. Students can now frolic in watery delight after long stressful weeks of test and projects. The stream of life across the middle of campus, gives the campus a much more lively appearance, not to mention a new attraction for eating lunch or taking naps.

**Library reforms**

It would seem perfectly counter-intuitive for the reconstruction the Library West Commons to take place during the end of the summer semester when finals and projects are due. Students not only have to walk into the library and be reminded by the empty land where the computers used to be, but also have to forcibly relocated to the constricting East Commons for work.

**Buzz Lightyear**

Alumna Sandra Magnus proudly served as a mission specialist on the final launch of the Space Shuttle Atlantis on July 8. Magnus' involvement in this historic event is symbolic of Tech's long-standing influence within NASA programs. Indeed, this is far from Tech's last involvement as the Institute will continue to be involved in the push toward the final frontier.

**Tough break**

Tennis standouts Kevin King and Guillermo Gomez both fell in the first round of the Atlanta Tennis Championships this past weekend. While Gomez fell in straight sets, King won the first set and was actually serving up 5-4 in the second set for the win. However, a break by opponent Nicolas Massu propelled him to win the next two sets and prevent the upset by King.

Tech students should actively seek participation in government roles

I have spent the past two months in Washington, D.C., feeling like something was missing from the city. I only realized what was missing when I told one of my co-workers about an energy bar my friends and I use for hiking, which is so effective that we call it "Lembas bread." She stared back at me, blankly, not getting the reference.

D.C. suffers from an acute lack of nerds. That's not to say that we don't exist in Washington. I virtually rounded up as many people from Tech as I could find to figure out why we had collectively come here.

Some of us came to pursue an interest in politics, while others found straight engineering jobs. All of us, engineers and engineers-at-heart, wanted to get right to the center of organizations which weigh in on the policies that affect us all.

"I was able to not only see members of Congress in action, but I was able to talk to them and question them on issues like the debt ceiling, legislative strategy, the political party system and more," said Hunter Hammond, a Hill intern and third-year MGT major.

Ronnie Foreman, a second-year AE major, wanted an experience with the media industry.

"I'm interning with CNN, largely studying the intersection between science and journalism and the extent to which news coverage impacts what people care about and ultimately how they vote," Foreman said.

It's time for Washington and other centers of government to get more people like Foreman, Hammond and the rest of the students



"Our world is defined by science and technology — it only makes sense that our leaders have solid backgrounds in those fields."

Mike Donohue

Columnist

from Tech spending the summer in D.C. who want to jump into the thick of the policy arena. Our world is defined by science and technology—thus it only makes sense that our leaders have solid backgrounds in those fields and be able to think in the ways that only Tech can make them think.

Amira Choueiki, a fifth-year EIA major, shares the sentiment.

"Working in D.C. at a think tank, my boss told me that he was sick of people that came to D.C. and didn't know how to problem solve—with today's problems we need people that aren't afraid of the technical world and working with those people collaboratively," Choueiki said.

Thankfully, the Institute has begun enacting programs that will give Tech students the tools and inspiration necessary for them to begin entering this crazy world of politics and policy. The Office of Government and Community Relations' new scholarship funding otherwise unpaid internships is the perfect first step.

Now it's up to other offices and schools at Tech to follow their lead. The Ivan Allen College should actively encourage both its students and students from the other colleges to spend a summer in D.C. and provide them with the connections and resources to suc-

ceed. The administration should make sure its vision of being the definitive technological research university of the 21st century includes a diverse stable of alumni in governments across the nation who understand the work that the Institute does.

Most importantly, it's time for more of the student body to passionately strive to become leaders in government. Those who are interested in that path need to take the excitement stoked during our summers abroad and translate them into the beginnings of real political action. They need to make sure the efforts they begin this Aug. last throughout the year and beyond by building robust organizations and initiatives.

"Tech makes us unafraid," Choueiki said about Tech students' place in D.C. "We're excited by the complex issues we face today, we're used to working with different types of people, we know how to get our hands dirty and we know how to work hard."

As we return to Atlanta for the fall, those of us interested in policy and politics have a chance to help awesome people do awesome things through sound policy and passionate advocacy. Immediately and confidently, we have no choice but to seize that chance and begin changing the world.



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Gamestop in Tech Square? AND it's going to take Buzzcard? Bye bye, Buzzcard money.

Do you think its possible to do a real barrel roll?

I was never this annoying

haha I just saw a black Scottish man

Where is Uniclyce dude?

LONG LIVE SKILES...

This girl needs to get off me... I know at Tech it unheard of but trust me

MAC MILLER RADIO ON PANDORA

Mr.Saxabeat... where are you?

I just got addicted to Reddit

Remember when campus actually was campus...I still remember Food or Sex?

yea that is hard

unless she is ugly

but maybe the ass is worth it?

*crosses arms and really thinks

TECH REC IS AWESOME!

I think everyone is more excited about Gamestop than the new pub

Reporter: GTRI has yet to discover a cure for TBS... They have yet to gain any leads.

Random person: OHHH so that's what they are working on! woody's has been taken over by the national puppetry festival and faset,

i never thought i would miss teach for america

105 freaking degrees.... I sat thru traffic with no A/C and my class is over by the time i get there

What would you do for a Klondike bar?

Dining Options my ass.

dear sliver editor, please print this...because you're awesome :D

it's not my trick. it's my illusion.

...and I call forks, "food rakes."

Students respond to end of shuttle program

By Gaines Halstead
Focus Editor

On Friday, July 8, the Space Shuttle Atlantis made the final ascent from space not only for itself, but also for NASA's 30-year-old shuttle program as it concluded STS-135, the Shuttle program's final mission.

Following a successful landing at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., NASA will be terminating the employment of some 8,000 Shuttle-related workers, many of whom are Tech alumni.

With no replacement human-operated program in sight for NASA and the concept of manned flight on hiatus, this cancellation has and will affect many current alumni while also affecting an even greater majority of future alums with hopes of pursuing careers in the aerospace industry at the same time.

"My entire life I've imagined working first-hand on the shuttle program as an astronaut. While I knew the end of the Shuttle would be inevitable, I never guessed NASA would not have some sort of manned space program waiting to replace it," said Taylor Green, a third-year ME major.

While many are saddened by the Shuttle's departure, some see its cancellation as a greater economic improvement to areas outside of the publicly funded sector.

"I fully support NASA in all its endeavours, but I am glad to see that the large amount of money being used by the space program is going to be used to help out in different sectors of the nation, especially considering the current state of the economy," said Taylor Davis, a fourth-year CM major.

"I think that the end of government-led exploration will definitely impact the job market for certain fields of engineering as a



Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing

The Space Shuttle Atlantis lifts off from Kennedy Space Station during the launch of STS-135, the final mission of NASA's 30-year shuttle program. This flight will be NASA's last manned operation until future manned spaceflight programs make further progress.

whole, but at the same time, this will also open the door for private companies to expand into the sector with the end result helping to create more jobs," said Kellian Morrissey, a first-year MGT major.

Stuart Donnan, Tech alumnus, EE '09 and a current NASA employee, describes the end more as a beginning.

"When the Bush administra-

tion canceled the Shuttle program, it was in order to free up resources for a new wave of space exploration. The U.S. space program is in the middle of a great change at the moment, and it is an exciting time...but [it] can be confusing to people who just see the Space Shuttle being retired with no concrete system to take its place," Donnan said.

Donnan stated that if he were currently a Tech student, he would be excited for the new possibilities in the still-vast area of space exploration.

"The space program hasn't been canceled. It has been re-born," Donnan said. "The challenges before us will require the engineering talent of Tech to succeed. If I were student today

I would be very excited about the prospect of being involved with the next generation of space exploration. If you are passionate about human spaceflight, I would encourage you to write your congressmen. NASA's vision is guided by Congress, and by making your opinion known to those who shape space policy you can actually make a difference."

Campus farmer's market blossoms at Tech once again



Photo by Basheer Tome / Student Publications

Two shoppers talk to a vendor at a campus farmer's market about the various selections of bread. Many of the tables set up within the market specialized in particular goods found on store shelves.

By Lauren Townsend
Contributing Writer

With the growing backlash against highly processed foods, eating locally-grown, organic food is becoming an ever-increasing health trend among much of the American society.

However, as a college student, eating healthy and well-balanced meals can be a challenge. For many, it can be a difficult task to find organic, fresh produce at a relatively cheap price without leaving the metropolitan Atlanta area.

Yet Tech and the Atlanta community have come together to offer a solution to this conundrum plaguing Tech students by bringing a farmer's market indoors to the convenient location of the Student Center.

The farmer's market is held in the Student Center Commons every summer and remains a big hit among students who enjoy fresh foods.

"I've been coming to the farm-

er's market every summer for the past two years," said Lisa Dudkrow, a third-year ME major. "I love the diverse selection and the new things that people bring every year. All of the produce is always fresh and really good. I think my favorite thing at this year's farmer's market would have to be the honey stand."

Vendor Melanie Garr brought a large variety of honey from a family member's farm to sell at this year's market.

"My sister and I have been attending the farmers market for the past two years. I really enjoy working this market because it's fun to meet all of the diverse students and the business is usually good," Garr said.

The honey at Garr's stand included a diverse range of flavors from lavender to wild berry.

"We keep the hives near different plants to get the different flavors of honey," Garr said.

Aside from honey, the market

See **Market**, page 8



Photo by Basheer Tome / Student Publications

With small tables offered by merchants, shoppers have the opportunity to talk with vendors on a personal level, allowing the potential buyers to understand how and where the produce was grown.

Market from page 7

also contained stands selling various produce, jelly and assorted baked goods. The table with baked goods was part of a business opened relatively recently by Allison Macedo, CM '10.

"I graduated in Dec., and after I graduated some of my sorority sisters, and I decided to start a business," Macedo said. "We started the business in Jan., and we have been working hard ever since. We don't have a store or any facility yet, but we are continuing to grow and expand."

At the market, Macedo was selling sweet bread and cinnamon rolls.

"We started the business selling things that are fairly basic to make so more people could get involved. All of our profits go to sending a different person to do humanitarian work. I'm very excited about the potential for our business because I've always wanted to help people and I think this is a very significant way to reach

that goal," Macedo said.

Next to Macedo's stand was a produce table run by merchant Coco Collins. As was the case with many others at the market, Collins' produce was grown in the confines of her very own garden at her house.

"Now here we have some day lilies and blueberries. Everything I'm selling today was freshly picked from my private garden. I have been attending the Tech farmer's market for two years. I really like to come because usually business is good, and I think it's good to offer fresh produce to college students," Collins said.

Besides selling produce, Collins also provided several recipes and samples as well.

"I will definitely come back next year," said Aaren Masando, a second-year BIOL major. "I loved looking through all of the fresh foods that were brought in, and the merchants were extremely nice and helpful. I thought it was a great event, and in such a covenant location too."

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 25

Summer Camp: Explorers IV (Story telling with scratch and robots)
[Across campus, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.]

JULY 26

Tech band & percussion ensemble performance
[West Architecture Building, terrace facing Clough Center, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.]

JULY 27

Flicks on 5th - Source Code
[Tech Square 9 p.m.]

JULY 28

The Left Heart Tug of War: Engineering and Medicine Join Forces lecture [U.A. Whitaker Room 1103 12 p.m.]

JULY 29

Public Policy Luncheon Series [Cox Enterprises Corporate Headquarters, 6205 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd., NE, Atlanta 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.]

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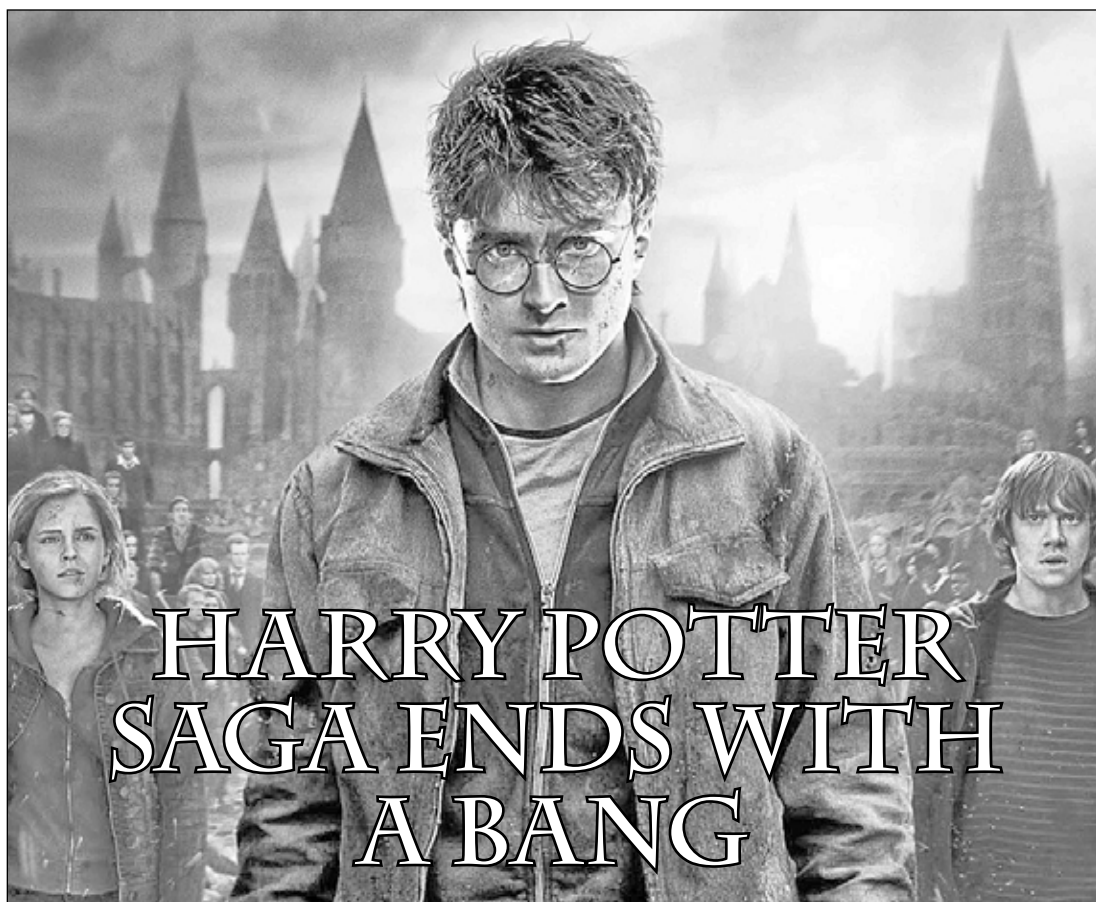


Image courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

FILM

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II

GENRE: Adventure Fantasy
STARRING: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson & Rupert Grint
DIRECTOR: David Yates
RATING: PG-13
RELEASE DATE: July 15, 2011

OUR TAKE: <<<<<

By Brian Edmonds
Contributing Writer

Wizardry is not for the faint of heart. This becomes evident in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*, the final chapter of this generation's most popular series. While triumph almost certainly awaits Harry, even audiences familiar with the plot are not relieved of suspense and emotional attachment until the last spell has been cast. The result is a wildly entertaining and captivating 130 minutes.

Remaining mostly faithful to the book's storyline, the film

pairs satisfying payoff moments with stinging deaths of dear characters. No one is safe in this Hogwarts epic.

Director David Yates effectively casts dark shadows and terror over the wizardry world. While the spectacular special effects alone could have dominated the film, Yates allows the core characters, Harry, Ron and Hermione, to carry the plot. When the final showdown between good and evil does commence, *Hallows* does not hold back, treating audiences to vivid and fantastic displays of computer-generated magic. The fact that all the characters, minor and major alike, hold special places in our hearts makes the explosions and spells feel as real and deadly as technology allows.

Harry and the gang rarely smile, and why should they? A hauntingly sinister Lord Voldemort, played by Ralph Fiennes, slithers and sneers his way across the screen, upping the ante of evil at every turn. He is a fitting foil for the pure-of-heart Harry, portrayed yet again by Daniel Radcliffe. Radcliffe trades in the

boyish charm present in some of the earlier films for a clenched jaw and pair of white knuckles reminiscent of Clint Eastwood.

Perhaps the most appetizing moments of the film come not during violent clashing of good and evil, but in the satisfying recreation of J.K. Rowling's beautifully weaved plot. Audiences may clap at the demise of truly loathed villains, but seeing cherished minor characters rise to the occasion offers the biggest payoffs.

The first half of the movie is paced like a shot of wand-waving adrenaline, as the trio seems to sprint from scene to scene. When they do reach Hogwarts, they are no longer its students, but its defenders.

The climactic battle that ensues avoids over-dramatizing the death and destruction, a refreshing touch from the filmmakers who are presented with ample opportunity to do just so.

Finally, one must comment on the nicely wrapped epilogue to the series. It seems a bit corny at first, yet it remains a fitting conclusion to the beloved series.

Balkans impress with self-titled debut

MUSIC

Balkans
Balkans

LABEL: Double Phantom Records

GENRE: Indie Rock

TRACK PICKS: "Edita V," "Dressed in Black" and "Black Swan"

OUR TAKE: <<<<<

By Matt Cohen
Contributing Writer

In recent years, indie music has been experiencing a growing evolutionary shift toward some electronic utopia. The more simplistic guitar tones are being temporarily pushed aside by many artists to further the electronic pursuit. Loop pedals, delay, synthesizers and the numerous capabilities of digital signal processing are making a rise. Despite this growing trend, the band Balkans bypassed the electronically embellished frenzy for a more direct electric approach with their self-titled debut release.

Balkans, a local Atlanta band comprised of members currently attending Tech and Georgia State, combines elements of punk and garage rock to create driving, hook-filled indie music. The area of music that they have delved into with their first album is not entirely original; it has been attempted many times and has seen successes and failures. What gives the Balkans album any significance is the way that the band takes a known structure and skillfully remolds it into an entirely new creation. The result is a strong album from a young group, an album that excels musically and even overshadows many recent major releases.

Balkans could not stand alone with the individual pieces. The components do their part but can only fully excel as a whole. The swift, clanky electric guitars, the tight drums and the persistent

bass would not have nearly as much of an overall effect without the strained vocals from Frankie Broyles. The vocals mesh well with the intricate instrumentation and truly provide the album with its crucial, distinctive element.

The album's opening track, "Edita V," begins with a frantic, slightly discordant guitar part that, stylistically, is common throughout the album. As the band pushes through the song's verse and towards the chorus, which contains one of the strongest hooks of the album, Broyles' piercing yell, reminiscent of the resounding wail of the Walkmen's Hamilton Leithauser, adds melodic texture to the track.

"Dressed In Black" and "Black Swan," two of the album's catchier tracks, take more simplistic structural approaches with playful drumbeats, tuneful guitar riffs and melodic vocal runs. "Troubled and Done" features an Interpol-esque guitar run and a great interplay between the bass and guitar parts, with yet another soaring vocal part from Broyles.

One noteworthy characteristic of the album is the plethora of tempos presented and mastered by the band throughout the album. From "Flowers Everywhere," an angsty, harmonious mid-tempo track, the band accelerates into "Let You Have It," an exciting, thrash-filled punk number, then decelerates to a light walking pace with "Georganne." The changes in tempos throughout the album are effortless and highly effective, adding one of the more intricate elements to the overall delivery.

With their self-titled debut release, Balkans have created one of the more fun, exciting and simply enjoyable albums of the first half of 2011. With great production quality, loads of hooks and a powerfully distinct and eccentric voice to elevate the melodies, Balkans have drawn major attention to themselves and have pulled people in with an eagerness to witness what more the band can materialize.

Fox hosts critically acclaimed *Fiddler on the Roof*

SHOWS

Fiddler on the Roof

LOCATION: Fox Theatre

DATE: July 19, 2011

OUR TAKE: <<<<<

By Chris Ernst
Senior Staff Writer

The Fabulous Fox hosts *Fiddler on the Roof* for a week as it passes through Atlanta. The acclaimed show has a strong cast and a great venue. On the corner of Peachtree and Ponce, the Fox adds just a little more timelessness and magic to the show.

Tom Alan Robbins wonderfully plays Tevye with a great

supporting cast. With only a few opening night glitches, the show is off to a strong standing ovation start, due in part to Dave FM's Jimmy Baron's cameo as Russian Number Two.

With subject matter about the war between Tradition, with a capital T, and contemporary fashion, the backdrops were oddly cubist. They popped out from the background and clashed with the main sets, which were richly detailed and luscious to look at.

Without a doubt, the backdrops were distracting and did not match the rest of the production. Given that this is a musical after all, the cartoonish effect may have been intended; however, it was very distracting.

At the Fox, the sound system is provided by the touring production, which became obvious when the sound came in and out during the show.

Being the first night of the show in Atlanta, the technical difficulties of performing in such an old venue may not have been fully figured out yet. Hopefully, these opening night hiccups can be smoothed out quickly because the singing and one-liners are a great part of the show no one should miss.

All of the actors were fantastic. Especially charismatic is the lead, Tom Alan Robbins, who is a Broadway veteran with all kinds of experience at his disposal. He originated the role of Pumbaa in

The Lion King and was in the original cast of *Once Upon a Mattress* with Carol Burnett.

Robbins' performance was charming and conflicted between the love of his daughters and his faith. His torment moved the audience into spontaneous applause several times.

While the backdrops are kind of weird and confusing, the rest of the production was great. The lead actor was fantastic and the rest of the cast shined. The Russian dancing was only matched by the Jewish dancing.

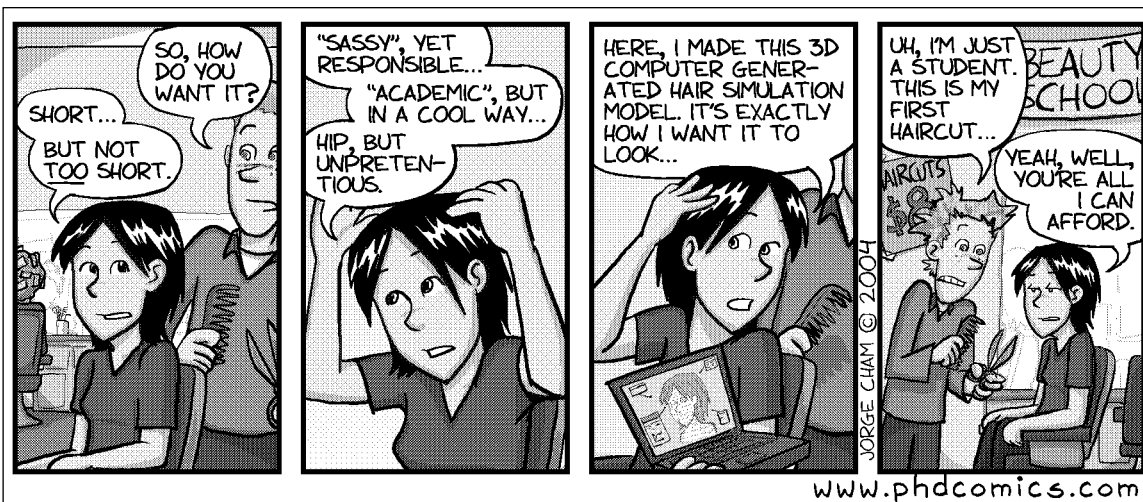
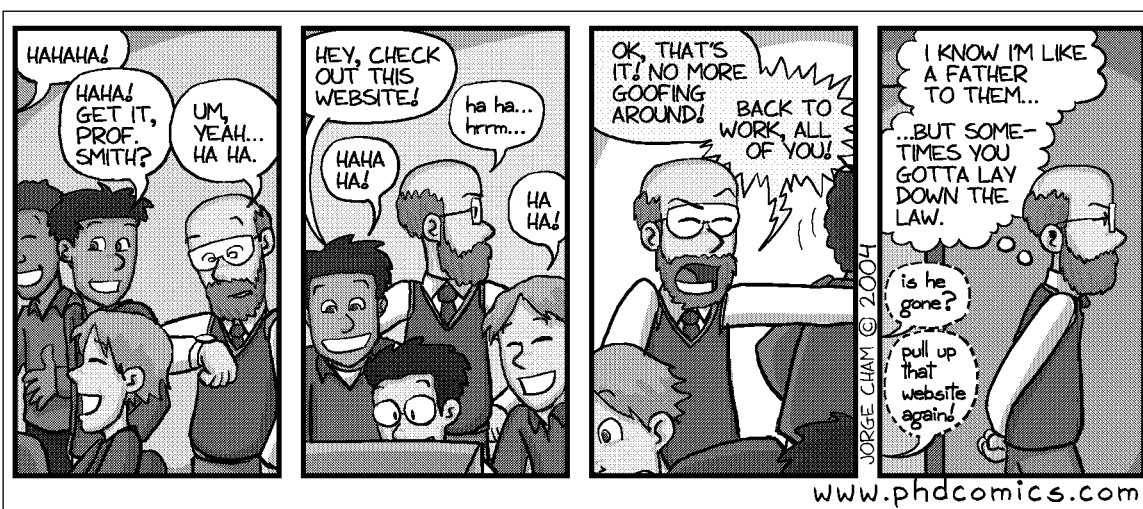
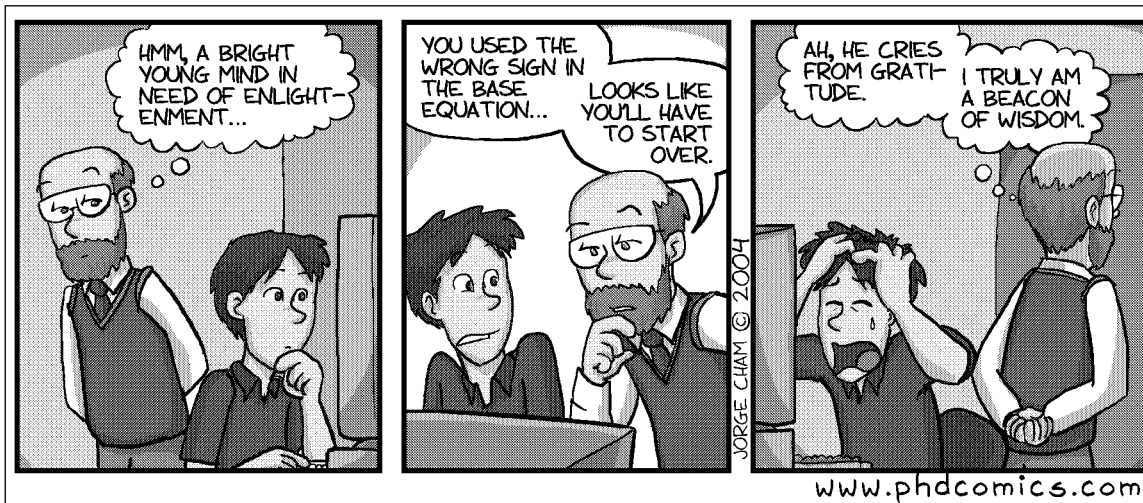
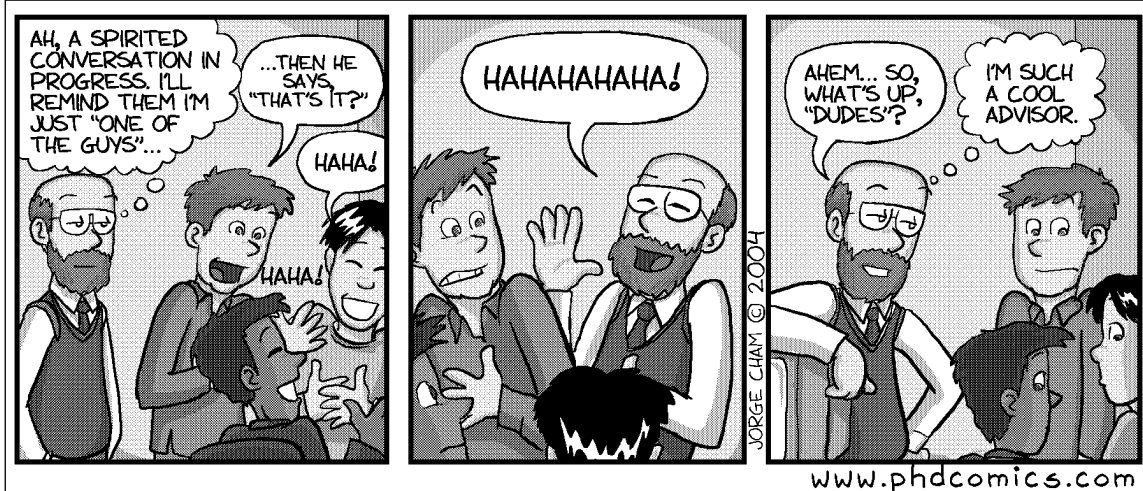
The cast was absolutely amazing and the popular songs were all here, including "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" and "If I Were a Rich Man." Even with a few au-



Image courtesy of Hale Centre Theatre in Utah

ral misfires, the show succeeded for over two hours. You can't go wrong with a timeless production in a timeless theater.

PILED HIGHER & DEEPER BY JORGE CHAM



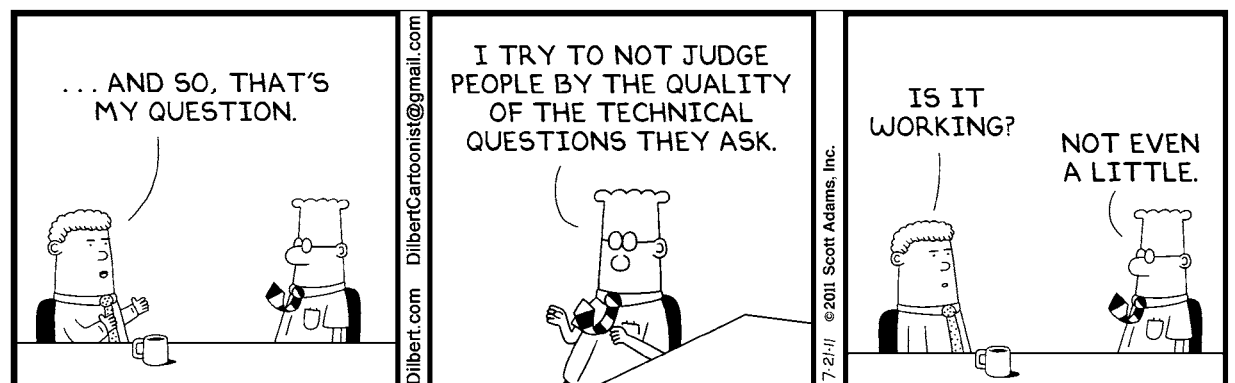
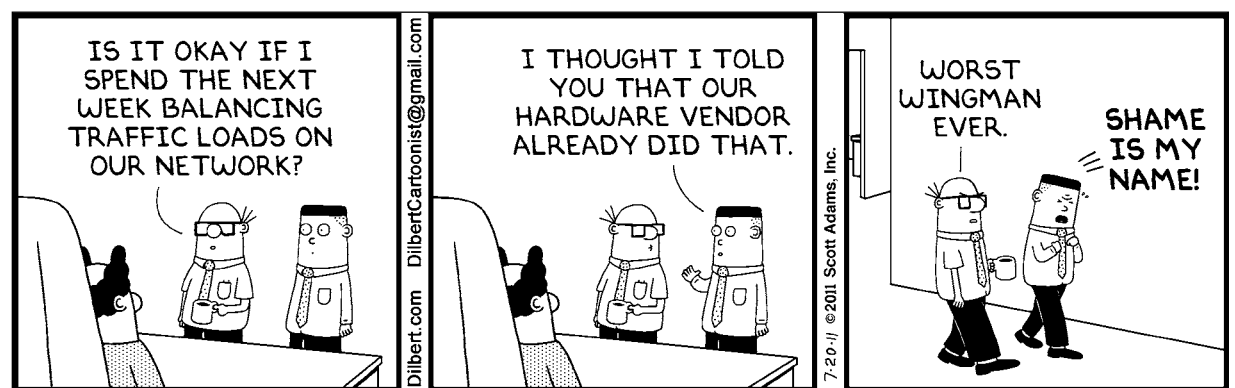
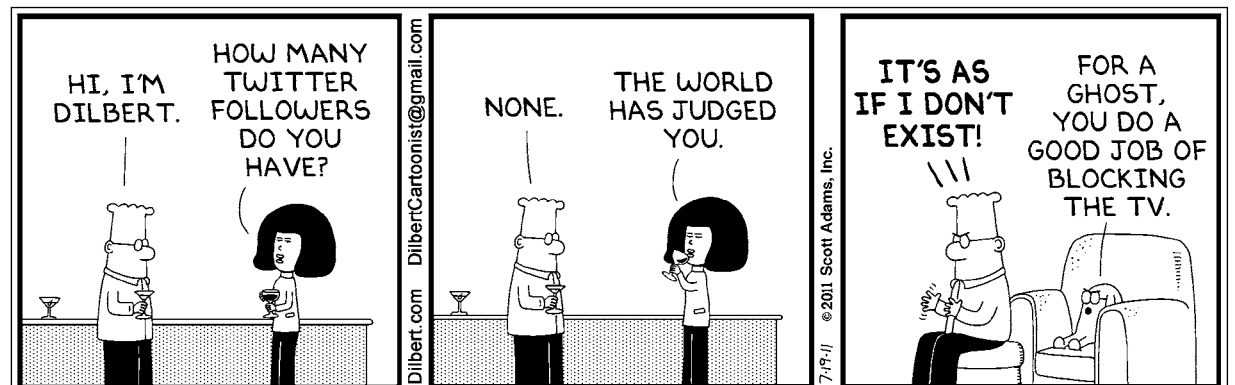
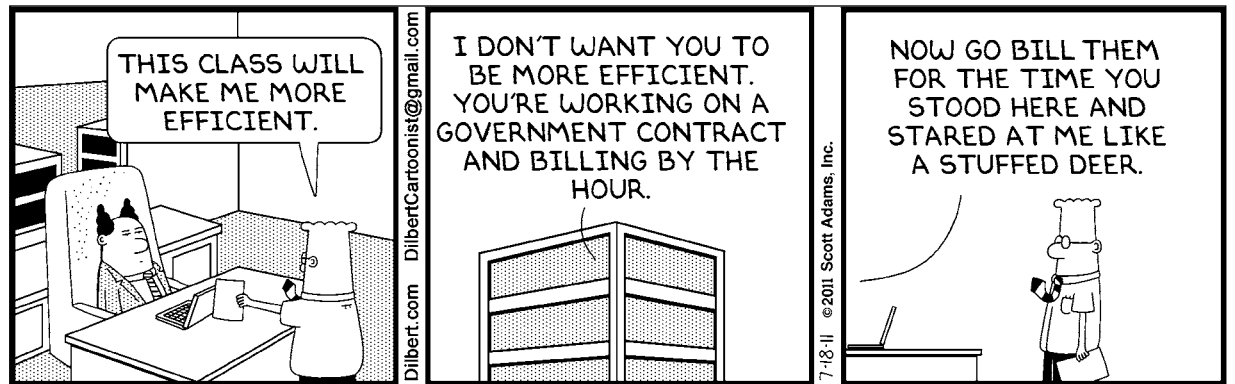
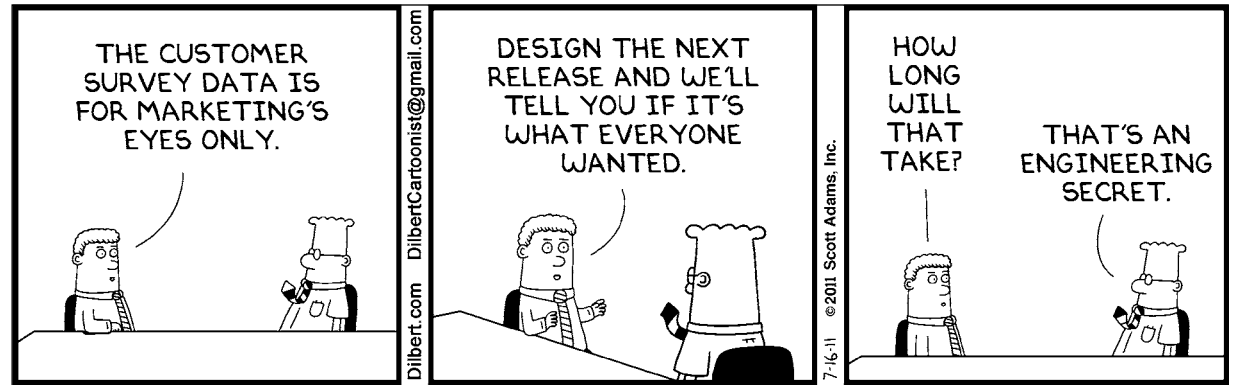
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SPORTS
*shorts*Tech A-back Jones
nominated for AFCA
Good Works Team

Senior A-back Roddy Jones has been nominated for the 2011 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team along with 21 others. The award is given to college football athletes who volunteer and contribute regularly to their community.

In order to qualify for the award, the players must be actively exhibiting commitment to working with charitable organizations, while staying in good academic standing.

Jones has been a three-year starter for the Jackets at A-back, leading the ACC with an average of 7.5 yards a carry. Jones also returns the second-most starts in the ACC with 39 career starts.

While not being a leader on the field, Jones acts as the president of the Georgia Tech Student-Athlete Advisory Board. Jones also volunteers at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta along with activities such as the Special Olympics of Georgia, the KIPP Strive Academy, The Heat Track Club, the Michael Isenhour Toy Drive and the BlazeSports Charity Wheelchair Basketball game.

Among all of the nominees, 22 will be selected to the 2011 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team in late Sept.

GCAA names White
to All-America
Scholar list

Tech golf standout James White has been named an All-America Scholar by the Golf Coaches Association of America. White joins the company of 137 other players in Division I golf.

In order to qualify, White had to participate in two years at the college level, while having at least a 3.2 GPA, participating in 70 percent of the team's competitive rounds and holding a stroke average under 76.0.

While working toward a degree in management, White has had one of the most successful individual seasons in school history. The junior earned ACC Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors after leading the Jackets to their third consecutive ACC title.

White finished the season ranked as one of the top 10 players in the country. He became the 13th Tech golfer to be named a GCAA All-America Scholar, along with several current PGA golfers.

Men's Tennis signs
No. 30 overall
recruit in 2011 class

Head Coach Kenny Thorne announced that Vikram Hundal of Chattahoochee High School signed a letter of intent to play for the Jackets on July 11.

Hundal, the No. 30 overall recruit for the 2011 class, posted a 35-15 record since July 2010. He reached the round of 16 at the USTA National Open in May and the quarterfinals at the USTA National Spring Championship.

Hundal posted a 9-4 against other five-star tennis players in the last year. In his four years at Chattahoochee, Hundal lost only three matches and led his team to the AAAA quarterfinals in 2011.

Veteran D-line optimistic for 2011
Linemen return for second year as starters in 3-4 system

Photo by Tim Nowack / Student Publications

Jason Peters looks to sack Virginia's Marc Verica during Tech's homecoming game in 2010. Peters had a successful 2010 season, posting 52 tackles and 1.5 sacks on the year. The starting defensive line finished the season with 117 total tackles.

By Alex Mitchell
Senior Staff Writer

Last season, the Tech football team decided to switch to an entirely new defensive scheme and hired a new staff of coaches in hopes of not repeating 2009's defensive woes. Statistically, the move to the 3-4 defense seemed to backfire in 2010, resulting in Tech opponents scoring more points per game and averaging over 11 yards more in each contest.

The defense should be better and more experienced in the 3-4 system this year as it will be the second full season under defensive coordinator Al Groh. As the 2010 season progressed, improvement could be seen on the defensive side of the ball. The 2010 defense's best performance came in the bowl game against Air Force, which only scored 14 points. However, Tech's defense only returns five starters and has to replace the entire secondary.

There is still some room for optimism though, as Tech has three huge returning players from last year's squad that collectively weigh in at over 800 lbs. Tech returns its entire defensive line from a season ago and the unit enters 2011 with some lofty expectations.

"One of our goals on the defensive line [this season], is to be the best in the ACC and one of the top 10 [defen-

sive lines] in the nation," said redshirt senior defensive end Jason Peters.

Peters may be on to something, as the defensive line this season boasts two starting seniors in Peters and nose tackle Logan Walls.

"When Logan wins, we win... He controls both A gap and B gap. It is such an important spot because if a team can run the ball in either of those two gaps then we will have a lot of problems. He is extremely disruptive," Peters said.

Walls and Peters flourished in year one of the 3-4 system and combined for 25 more tackles in 2010 than they did the previous season. That was even in a defense that was completely new to both players, after being recruited to play in the 4-3 system.

The two seniors learned the 3-4 quickly and now are charged with the task of leading by example this season as they are projected to be Tech's only senior starters on the defensive side of the ball.

"I take the responsibility [for the defense] this year because at this point, I feel like it is now or never. It is the most important season to me because I have put five years into [the program] now. I feel as though I am in a good position to help other guys learn and lead the team... I want to find a way to make people bet-

ter," Peters said.

It is not only Peters and Walls that will make this year's defensive line a strong asset. Junior defensive end Izaan Cross will start the season on the opposite side of Peters in the fall, and has the potential to be the best player on the entire defense. Cross recorded 6.5 tackles for loss and broke up four passes last season.

"Izaan is one of the best athletes that we have as far as strength, size and all around competitiveness. He is going to beat you on the first play and he is going to beat you on the last play...He plays the type of defense that coach Groh wants us to play: hard-nosed defense," Peters said.

As good as Peters, Walls and Cross have been in their Tech careers, they might actually have to watch their backs this season as Tech also has a surplus of talented defensive linemen who could compete for playing time.

The biggest backup on the team is six-foot-seven, 333-pound redshirt junior defensive tackle T.J. Barnes. Barnes will step in for Walls on some running downs and will be a staple in Tech's goal line and short-yardage units.

A pair of redshirt sophomore rush ends will backup Peters and Cross this season. Both Euclid Cummings and Emmanuel Dieke are home-

grown players and are built in the same mold as Cross. Both will need to gain some weight to be successful in 3-4 defense, but they figure to provide some support in passing downs.

Peters said he does not worry about a younger player taking some of his snaps, and instead he looks forward to having solid players available to play behind him.

"Emmanuel is one of the most athletic and physically built players on our team. He is learning how to make plays on a college level and he is going to be a huge contributor to this team along with Euclid. We know that we are going to need people to rotate in, so it is not going to be a situation where [Logan or I are] going to have to go the entire game," Peters said.

At the end of the day, the Tech defensive line has all the tools to succeed: seniors that have years of experience, a budding superstar to go along with them and a handful of talented backups who can be inserted at any time for a mismatch.

As with any position, injuries and player development will have a lot of impact on the way the line plays this year. Even if they do not reach their goal of being the best line in the ACC, Peters, Walls, Cross and company will cause plenty of problems for opponents.