

FOCUS

Technique • Friday, September 2, 2005

CAN YOU OUTFRAN A BULL?

Tech study abroad student gives a thrilling account of being part of a bull-running fiesta in Pampalona, Spain. Page 15

TRANSPORTER 2

The sequel to the action hit impresses with a flurry of fast-paced, fantastical action sequences. Page 17



Tech student gives keynote speech at United Nations

Sejdefa Dozic addresses United Nations on 10th anniversary of Bosnian Genocide



By Andrew Saulters / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sejdefa Dozic, a second-year at the Institute detailed the experience of growing up in Srebrenica in front of the United Nations.

By Swathy Prithivi
Focus Editor

Sejdefa Dozic is a sophomore majoring in Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech.

Unlike your average student she is a survivor of a hostile takeover of her hometown, Srebrenica which was a U.N. designated "safe area"

in former Yugoslavia by the Bosnian Serb Army.

The massacre of 8,000 Muslim boys and men is considered to be the worst genocide in Europe since World War II.

Over the summer, she addressed a group at the United Nations in New York at the 10th anniversary of the Bosnian Genocide.

"I was very honored that I was chosen to represent my people that day. My speech was very challenging to deliver but I was happy that it was well-received," Dozic said.

Her boss, Marilyn Somers, the Director of the Georgia Tech Living History Program tells the 'Nique her experience of hearing Dozic address the United Nations.

Somers was introduced to Dozic through ArtReach Foundation, a nonprofit organization that had a pilot program in Bosnia working with children in war-ravaged areas to help them deal with their traumas through the use of the expressive arts.

An excellent linguist, she came to the program as a translator and caught the attention of Susan Anderson, the founder and executive director of Foundation who worked along with Somers in making Dozic's study at Tech a reality.

Somers said of the UN experience, "It was very difficult. First of all we were told to arrive at a specific time and date so that we would go in as a group. I was one of only four people that came from Atlanta. The plan was that there were going to be passes at the gate for us.

"Entering the United Nations is like entering a whole different country. It was ninety-five degrees in the shade, they didn't have the passes for us and then we had to go through all the security stuff. So by the time we actually entered the UN we were all wiped out," she said.

The first thing they were asked to do was to look at the exhibits that had been put up which had very graphic photography and artistic interpretation.

"This is commemorating geno-

cide and no matter how you put it, it's not very easy," Somers said. "Sejdefa had a well-prepared speech but she was very anxious about it."

The audience included many Bosnian-Americans who had immigrated to America and were not necessarily a part of the genocide but were somehow affected by it.

"In the midst of all the turmoil there was the wonderful Ambassador

"The Ambassador from Bosnia said to me, 'Look at that young woman. She is the hope, she is the future of our country.'"

Marilyn Somers
GT Director of Living History

from Bosnia to the United Nations, Mirza Kusljagic. He really put her mind at ease and relaxed her," Somers said.

They went through more security and were finally ushered into a large auditorium and seated in the front row as guests of honor.

"There wasn't a whole lot of fuss and feathers," Somers said.

Dozic was introduced as the keynote speaker, with no fanfare. Her speech, which was twenty-three minutes long, was broadcast on CNN and often made use of excellent rhetoric.

"She started her remarks with

"When I was a small child I was like any child. I had my friends and my toys and I lived very happily with my family and I thought that that's the way my life would always be' and then she stopped and said, 'But I was wrong.'"

"She repeated that every time she talked about it, it would be the positives of it and then it would be 'but I was wrong'. And pretty soon we were all mesmerized," Somers said.

She told the horror of being seven years old and having bombs come overhead, the horror of her family for three years desperately trying to protect the children.

Her uncles and her father dug five-foot deep trenches in the backyard and they put the children there at night and covered that up with branches to try to protect them from shrapnel. School was disbanded.

All of the children that had been friends with her who were not Muslim immediately hated her.

"Everybody looked the same and yet there were very carefully drawn lines where this was the enemy and this wasn't for no rhyme or reason," Somers said.

"She talked about seeing the Dutch peace keepers actually giving their equipment and their uniforms to the Serbs that had come in, so that they could put up a false front and arrest the men that were trying to hideout because their goal was to kill as many of the Bosnian Muslims as possible," Somers said.

"The townspeople got together and decided that the men would lead the troops one way so that the women could get away to head to safety. So all the men and boys under a certain

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Looking toward new Vision for Islam and the West

A glance at complexities of integrating traditional Muslim values into modern society

By Uzma Ansari
Contributing Writer

With seemingly endless media coverage over the past few years, Islam has been brought to the forefront of the Western world time and time again.

As a result, the issue of having traditional Islamic values integrated into modern day society has become a complicated one, leaving both non-Muslims and Muslims alike with a sense of confusion.

How do Tech students feel about the issue? The common reactions range from confusion, to fear of sounding uninformed to sheer apathy.

As fourth-year INTA student William Welch said, the issue is "perhaps made more complicated by the fact that I've learned very little about it in school, or in environments in which facts are presented, rather than bombast or apologist."

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, founder of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, recently spoke at Tech for the College of Management's IMPACT Speaker Series.

Although focusing primarily upon the socioeconomic aspect of Islamic assimilation with the west, he also spoke about the cultural factors involved with the issues at hand.

According to Rauf, incorporating

"The...community is now on the cutting edge of evolving something which we have to call an American Islamic identity."

Imam Rauf
American Society for Muslim Advancement

Islam into western culture is dependent upon the identity that American Muslims create for themselves.

"The...community is now on the cutting edge of evolving something which we have to call an American

Islamic identity," Rauf said.

"We are now in a situation analogous to...previous immigrants that came to this country," he said.

But what makes it difficult for Islam to mesh into a society whose history is based upon the mixing of different ideas and cultures?

"Immigrants who came from Europe...when they came, the relationship with their homeland was pretty much cut off."

Thus according to Rauf, the connection that immigrants in today's society have with their respective homelands made much easier via improved communication tools like the Internet serves as a roadblock preventing the evolution of an American Muslim Identity.

The validity of this notion can be argued to great lengths, but it remains an interesting idea nonetheless.

Other than cultural or economic factors, do the basic values underlying Islamic faith play a role in complicating the integration process?

Theoretically they should not, considering the fact that most world religions share basic core values.

Most Muslims at Tech would define Islam as a way of life.

Like most other religions, it is message on how to live righteously based on the principle that all of humanity should respect each other.

Joanna Bayles, fourth-year Chemistry major claims that primarily, most religions share common

"Western media is not clearly as open-minded about Islam as it needs to be."

Waqas Sheikh
President, Pakistani Student Association

values and themes from a moral perspective.

One would assume that these similarities would help facilitate understanding between different religions.

But as Bayles further claims, most people have a general understanding

of the commonality between different faiths, but that "perhaps some of the loudest people in each religion claim otherwise."

They think that their religion is the only 'true' religion."

This may be another impediment towards the integration of Islam into the western world.

Similar to the way in which the KKK distorts fundamental Christian values, certain people representing themselves as spokespeople for Islam distort its teachings in order to justify personal agendas (for example, Osama Bin Laden).

With the media traditionally using fundamentalists as spokespeople for Islam in other nations, certain misrepresentations have been created as a result.

As Waqas Sheikh, President of the Pakistani Students Association states, "Western media is not nearly as open-minded about Islam as it needs to be. It's sad to see implications [and sometimes even obvious statements] regarding certain select groups of Muslims representing the

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age went into the woods to escape. 80,000 of them were massacred over a period of time.”

Somers said, “Sejdefa told us she lost her father, five uncles and 19 male cousins on both sides of the family. They survived with little or no food.”

Dozic also talked about being fortunate to attend Tech, which she called a great American institution and said she was learning a skill with which she could earn money to take back to her people.

She has no intentions of staying here and wants to go back to Sarajevo, Bosnia to help out her family.

By the end of her speech not a sound was heard in spite of the 700 people sitting in the auditorium.

“Sejdefa’s closing remarks were, ‘Today I have come to tell you just a little layers of my story, because I wanted you to hear my story. If I had told you all of the layers, you would have just seen me stand here and cry, and two tears rolled down her cheeks,’ Somers said.

“She picked up her papers and

turned to go down and then people just exploded. They just jumped and they were screaming and crying. They couldn’t stop the applause. It was very dramatic,” she said.

Somers said, “I have known her

“[People] just jumped and they were crying and screaming. They couldn’t stop the applause. It was very dramatic.”

Marilyn Somers
GT Director of Living History

ever since she came to the United States and even before she came. I thought I knew her really well and yet at that moment I didn’t even begin to know the depth of her suffering

that goes into her story.”

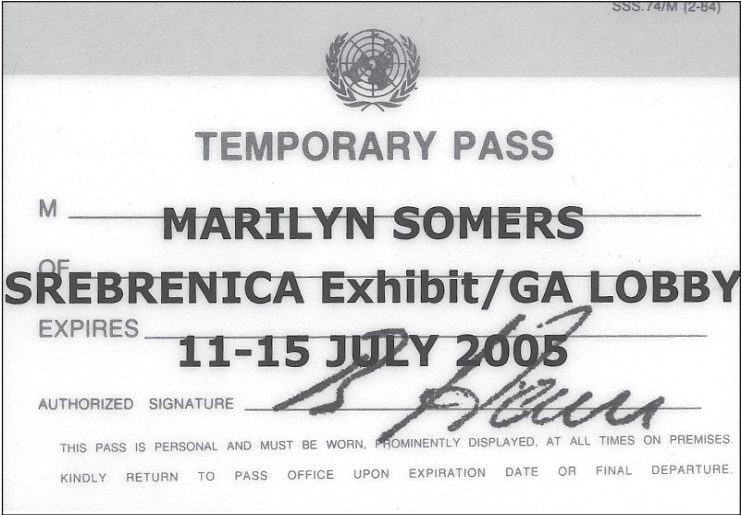
Dozic went back to Sarajevo to visit her mother, grandmother and brother after her U.N. speech but she was not prepared for what she found there. She was a national celebrity.

“The Ambassador from Bosnia said to me, ‘Look at that young woman. She is the hope; she is the future of our country. Someday she or someone like her will be President and that will be the only way there will be peace and forgiveness in my country,’ Somers said.”

That is a lot of responsibility to hang on a pair of shoulders, especially for someone so young.

Dozic, unlike many of the youngsters in Bosnia of her age group, wants to take all of her energy and focus it on positive things and making a difference in the world. She does not have any political intentions but she realizes now that everyone is watching her, and as Somers put it, “she had better make everyone proud of her.”

“I’m sure anyone that would hear



This is U.N. pass given to Marilyn Somers in New York on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Bosnian Genocide.

the story would be proud of her for what she did,” Somers said.

Dozic chose Tech because of its technological focus and for someone whose first language is not English, traces her love of mathematics and sciences because of their similarity in all languages.

“When’s she not under the gun with classes, she’s fun and funny,” Somers said revealing a lighter side of Dozic.

“She is making a lot of personal sacrifices and certainly has a load on her back. But she stands up straight,” Somers said.

Come to our weekly meeting Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in room 137 of the Student Services building and eat free pizza.

The summer of MCATs, chopsticks and caffeine

By Uzma Ansari
Contributing Writer

Summer—a time when most students are able to breathe a breath of fresh air and escape from the confines of the day-to-day Georgia Tech grind.

Some of us had the privilege of studying abroad in exotic locals, while others worked summer jobs or decided to catch up on exciting infomercials while mooching off of parents.

However there were those seemingly unfortunate few, myself included, who stuck around for the summer semester.

While the rest of you were partying on different continents or catching up on sleep, I was one of the few stuck in the library pretending to study while actually facebooking and/or blogging about how I should

be studying.

My summer started off as most summers do, with a trip home to visit my parents...in Las Vegas. Cheesy bright lights, bustling casinos and countless parties galore...unless it's

“There’s nothing like screaming profanities in the air while plummeting 200 feet towards solid concrete.”

where you’re parents live.

In this case, Las Vegas was where I gorged on fattening Momma-food while watching endless episodes of ‘Saved by the Bell’ and dare I say it,

ing about the religion or its adherents...with world events the way they are, it falls more on the shoulders of Muslims to dispel rumors and misunderstandings.

“And those who are moderate within the religion need to speak up and loudly,” Pedicino said.

Perhaps the most important thing for Muslims to do is to remain as open-minded towards others as they want people to be towards them.

Sheikh said, “Muslims generally have not done a great job of explaining the background and philosophy behind a lot of our customs and values.

“If we as a community try to

‘The Newlyweds’.

Needless to say after a week of killing brain cells with television and sleeping more than any human being should be allowed to, returning to Tech was a bit difficult. Especially with everything that lay ahead of me.

But things started off well with a trip to Six Flags. There’s nothing like screaming profanities in the air while plummeting 200 feet towards solid concrete.

For some strange reason, having your heart jump into your throat is much more fun than it sounds. Coupled with the guilty pleasure of watching people in air lifts drop slushies on Yosemite Sam’s head, the park made for an excellent time.

I also tried authentic Korean food for the first time this summer. Mainstream ethnic cuisine in America has a tendency of being Americanized

versions of the real thing.

However in this case I was completely lost as far as understanding the menu, but the experience was wonderful as a result. I had mushroom and tofu soup, which

“Take comfort in the fact that the farther people go, the better stories they come back with.”

was brought out bubbling in a tiny cauldron-like bowl.

I was informed to crack a raw egg into the boiling soup and allow it to cook for a short while...talk about fresh egg drop soup! It was fabulous.

I also managed to absorb the intricacies of handling chopsticks.

Although divine food and interesting outings here and there lit up my bland summer, nothing could help me escape from the MCAT.

All apologies to those who’ve recently taken the exam, as the mere mention of it may continue to strike fear in your hearts.

Studying for this thing was no walk in the park, but the gallons of Starbucks coffee I consumed did make it a bit easier.

At that point if you poked me with a needle, I probably would have bled Java Chip Frappachinos or triple-shot espressos.

Towards the end of the summer, my days consisted of class, work, coffee, and some quality time with Kaplan review material.

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Islam

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vast Muslim community.

Considering the size of the Muslim world, [over one billion people], and the fact that this is an ever-increasing number, this generalization is both ridiculous and dangerous.”

Herein lies the problem: Who can non-Muslims turn to in order to better understand this seemingly confusing faith at Tech?

As INTA Grad student Vince Pedicino states, “At Georgia Tech, a lot of people know that we have Muslim students but know noth-

open up and be more vocal about

“And those who are moderate within the [Islamic] religion need to speak up and loudly”

Vince Pedicino
INTA Graduate student

our religion and ideology, we’ll find there are more ‘outsiders’ will-

ing to listen and understand where we’re coming from than we might imagine,” he said.

Various organizations around campus are taking this approach and are attempting to educate others on Islamic culture and customs.

Last year, the Muslim Students Association hosted a Fast-a-Thon which invited non-Muslims to fast alongside Muslims during the Islamic month of Ramadan.

Other organizations such as the Pakistani Students Association also encourage this kind of education.

Therefore particularly in social settings of college campuses, the integration of Islam into modern day

culture is not solely dependent upon Muslims or non-Muslims.

The issue is not an “us against them” battle, but rather a confusing predicament requiring common understanding and a willingness to learn from each other.

As former Tech student Shaela Rahman said, “[What is] so great about Western society is the encouragement of the freedom in expressing one’s mind and belief.

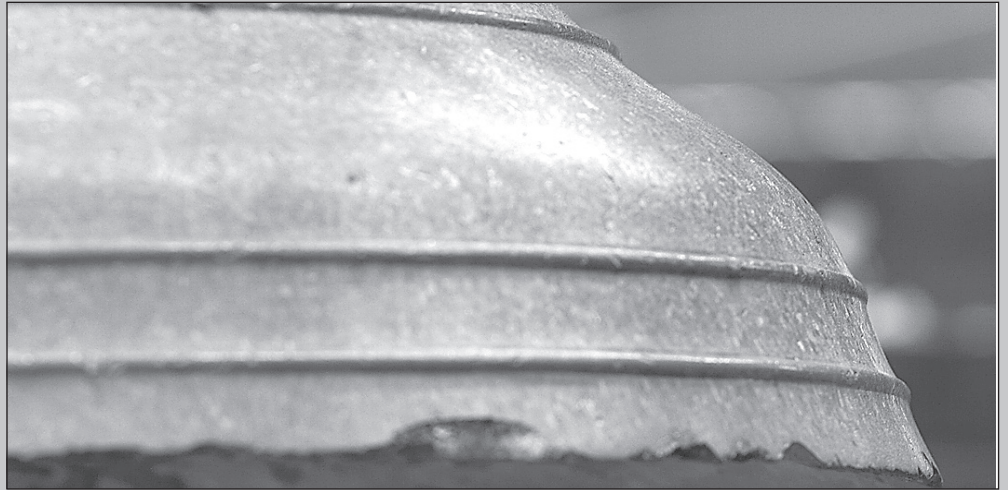
“Being different and not conforming to society, having a difference of opinion, this is what builds character in a person and is what Western society has thrived upon,” Rahman said.

Tech Up Close

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THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN?**

THIS WEEK'S PHOTO:

Email focus@technique.gatech.edu if
you think you know the answer—and
check to see if you won in next week's
issue!



By Ariel Bravy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Wanna write for the *'Nique?*

email.development@nique.net

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By Jon Drews / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Uzma Ansari, a biology senior, studies for the MCAT, which she took in August while eating with chopsticks.

After diligently studying for about a month or so, I was able to put things in perspective and realize that it was only a test.

Lifewould go on, the world would not end, and I would continue to live the dorky yet incredibly badass lifestyle that I had been living.

However it was difficult for other people to understand this. After telling friends that I would be taking the MCAT soon, some would gasp and look at me as if I had Ebola. My mother acted like I was going off to war, making sure I called her regularly and did all prayers daily as she figured I needed all the divine intervention I could get.

The day of the test was insane to say the least. While driving to the MCAT, I somehow managed to get lost with 20 minutes left for the test to begin and also got stopped by a

police officer thanks to my horrifying driving skills.

Anti-climatically, I did manage to make it to the test center in time and do the best I could during the test and slowly transition into the new Fall semester.

Although summer classes, work and MCATs aren't the greatest way to spend one's summer, somehow it still managed to be a memorable experience.

So if you find yourself having to

stay at Tech for a summer or two, do not fear.

Even if you're stuck with difficult classes while your friends are partying all over the globe, take comfort in the fact that the farther people go the better stories they come back with.

And no matter how mundane or stressful you expect your summer to be, force yourself to have fun and create your own stories to tell.

"I would continue to live the dorky yet incredibly badass lifestyle that I had been living"

Running with Bulls in Spain

By Jamal Ashraf
Contributing Writer

While studying abroad with the Oxford program in England, my friend Ben and I decided to take a weekend trip to Pamplona, Spain to attend the world renowned San Fermin festival, otherwise known as Running with the Bulls.

The festival takes place every year from July 7 to 14 with the run starting each morning at 8 a.m. I went into the run knowing only a few of the basic principles.

The participants, consisting of mostly young men and a few brave women, run in front of bulls which are let out of a pen and led through the confusing streets of the city and into the local bull ring.

Half-asleep and ready to pass out, we dragged ourselves off the bus and into the streets of Pamplona. To our amazement, there were thousands of people roaming the streets, like zombies, at 6 o'clock in the morning.

Logic dictated that we follow the crowds; and that's exactly what we did. Technically, there really was no way we could get lost, since we had no idea where we were going in the first place.

Standing in a sea of white-clad Spaniards, we discovered that quite unknowingly, we were already in the middle of the run.

Apparently there is no starting place for the run and everyone just has to be within the cordoned off streets before 7:30 a.m. Convoys of police men flowed into the streets, along with festival workers putting up fences to seal the streets off. Cleaning crews and trucks hit the streets in an effort to rid the ankle-deep trash that was littered about. Thousands of spectators filled the balconies and areas along the streets.

Along the way, we met Americans

from different parts of the country, and learned that one of the most hazardous parts of the run was a dangerous 90 degree turn where the bulls slip and fall towards the opposite end of the turn.

I was pretty calm at this point, not really realizing the significance of the event that was to come. Ben and I split a can of Red Bull to make sure we would be on our feet. The run was drawing closer and people in the streets could be seen stretching their muscles.

I said good luck to all the runners I had met and we went to go find our spot to begin the run. After arguing for a bit, we decided to start at the end of the first street before the first turn. We settled on this mainly so we could see the bulls come out of their pen at the bottom of the street and make their way up towards us.

There was about five minutes until

the first shot would be fired, which let everyone know that the bulls would be let out of the pen. Standing there looking down the street waiting for the shot to be fired I now started to think about the importance of what I was about to do.

The runners started chanting a traditional song; the mood was absolutely terrific.

Seconds remained, and I said a short prayer under my breath, asking for the very least to be alive after the run.

Crowds of people started to walk up the street, away from the pen, and then suddenly the first shot was fired. Everyone picked up their pace and were now jogging. Moments later the second shot was fired and I was waiting around to get an actual glimpse of the bulls that were now

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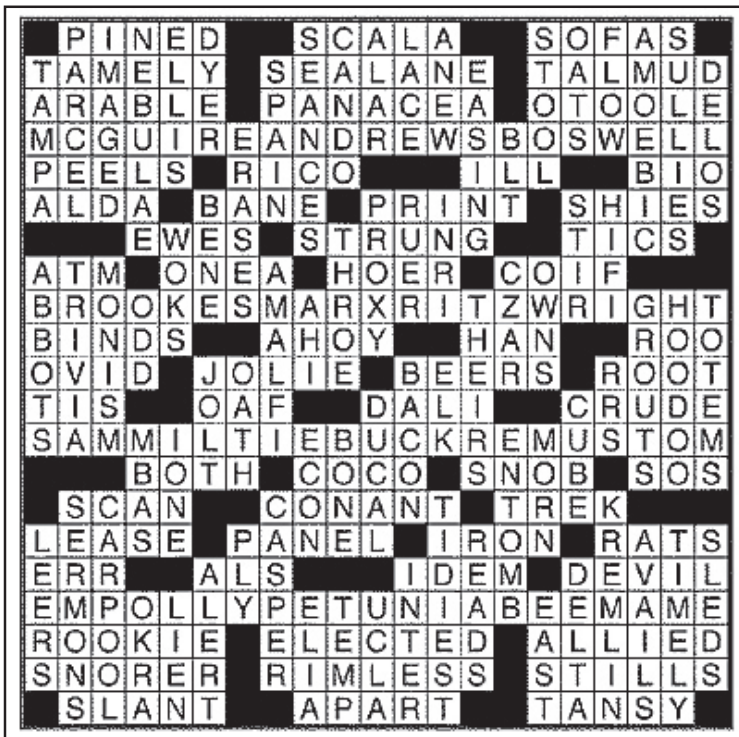


By Jamal Ashraf

People attempt to dodge raging bulls in Pamplona, Spain's most exciting bull-running fiesta honoring a patron saint, San Fermín.

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in the street.

Seeing the rush of people pass me I finally felt the fear that people spoke of, overpower me and I zoned out everyone around me. This was just between the bulls, the cobblestone streets, and me.

Before I knew it, I glimpsed the mammoth creatures everyone was running away from. I stared in disbelief at the massive bulls as they ran along side me.

I couldn't keep up with them and was blocked from running behind them with the heavy police barricade. This is done as the bulls are distracted by those running behind them, and they can turn around wreak havoc.

A horde of people started congregating near the blockade, some jumped the fence and left, and others just started to disperse in every direction. I was totally confused, but assumed it was over.

All of the sudden, hundreds of runners pushed up against the fence, crushing my knees against one of the planks, while a second herd of bulls just rammed through the crowd, creating panic and chaos everywhere.

The street was cordoned off, so where all of these people supposed to go?

Luckily, the gates were lifted, and the bulls and runners ran out. I jumped and started running behind them, no longer scared, but excited.

I made it out alive as the bulls were long gone. Soon, I heard the third shot go off, indicating that the bulls were now in the ring.

Avoiding being trampled, dodging the bulls at the precise moment, and basically evading death itself, all within a few minutes—what an adrenaline trip.

I discovered that bull running and Tech were pretty similar. Even though I survived the run, unscathed and fully intact, I can't say I'd do it again. Atleast for sometime.



By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Phoning home: A displaced Tulane student tries to reach family and friends as he ponders his next destination. Approximately 275 students from Tulane University were hosted by Tech in a major relief effort. Many international students who cannot return home will remain in Atlanta while Tulane is closed.

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