

FOCUS

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BASEBALL SWEEP AWAY

Tech finished its season in the NCAA Super Regionals with a pair of tough losses to Tennessee on the Jackets' home turf. Page 16

WAS MUSIC MIDTOWN WORTH IT?

Ticket prices increased from \$45 to \$75 in one year. Was the drastic rate hike justified? Read about Black-Eyed Peas, Def Leppard and more. Page 9



Screen comes to our green with Flicks on Fifth



By Wei Liao / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

An impressive turnout arrived for the inaugural Flicks on Fifth. Students, faculty and staff gather at Tech Square to enjoy a free showing of the hit movie *Hitch* on Wed., June 15.

By Joshua Cuneo
Online Editor

The Student Center Programs Council (SCPC) is heading outside this summer. In a unique twist, this semester's SCPC offering of films will be projected on a large outdoor screen in the middle of Technology Square instead of inside of the Student Center Theater.

Titling the event Flicks on Fifth, the SCPC hopes to begin a summertime trend that mirrors Piedmont Park's Screen on the Green.

Flicks on Fifth will feature a series of pop culture films broadcast every week through July 27. The program

began with a viewing of *Hitch* this past Wednesday and will continue with *Robots* next week. The movies will be projected on a screen in the Centergy courtyard, and free popcorn will be provided.

"We have students here over the summer, so we want to provide things for them to do after classes and at night...just fun things for students to take part in," said Kasey Helton, Associate Program Director of the SCPC.

The SCPC worked to choose films with broad appeal instead of aiming for the niche market that Piedmont Park does with its Turner Classic Movies. The selection in-

cludes horror, comedy and action, as well as some fan favorites such as *Office Space*.

The SCPC also chose Technology Square as the ideal spot for an outdoor theater, which they hope will draw in not only Tech students but members of the nearby Midtown community as well. In addition, Helton pointed out, the surrounding retail provides sources of food and other conveniences for the moviegoers.

In fact, the construction of Technology Square is what enabled the SCPC to initiate their outdoor film program in the first place. According to Helton, it was difficult to find a suitable location elsewhere

on campus.

"About three years ago, we started doing outdoor movies, but we really didn't have a great location for it," she said. "We showed [them in] the free speech area...and we ran up the screen from the flagpoles, and it wasn't ideal."

But Technology Square provided the right combination of location and resources, and the event promised to generate more exposure of the Square and more business for the restaurants and retail stores.

"The mixture of the need over there to create some business and to create some traffic at night, and also our need to continue to provide high quality programming really kind of met," Helton said.

But the venture was far too expensive for the SCPC to afford out of pocket, so Helton and Rich Steele, Student Center Director, had to get the funding from higher-level administrators.

"Somewhere up the line, someone decided this is worthwhile, and it's going to be to the betterment of campus and...Technology Square and the community, so they decided this is something we can get behind," Helton said.

The effort also required the support of Auxiliary Services and the Technology Square retailers, most of whom applauded the idea in the hopes of generating more nighttime business.

The Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center worked to make sure its guests would not be disturbed by the event. Some businesses are

even providing additional resources, such as power for the projector and a backup movie room in the Technology Square Research Building in case of rain.

Helton hopes to draw a large enough audience each week that the event could be a recurring theme in future years.

"We want this to be the kind of thing that every summer, they're like, 'Are you going to do it again?'" Helton said. "So we want to create a buzz and be a thing that students can be excited about."

In fact, students began expressing that excitement earlier this week as the premiere date for *Hitch* neared.

"Flicks on Fifth has been a dream of mine ever since I knew there was a Fifth Street," said Stephen Chin, a fourth-year Biomedical Engineering major. "I am planning on going

"I am planning on going because it combines my two favorite things in the world...movies and Fifth Street."

Stephen Chin
Fourth year, BME

because it combines my two favorite things in the world...movies and Fifth Street."

"I think it is a wonderful idea because they are playing great movies like *Hitch*

and it is free, which definitely fits into a typical college student's budget," said Andrea Para, a third-year Biomedical Engineering major who attended Wednesday night's show with several friends.

In addition to the cost and the films, Helton also pointed out the

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Pondering life after Tech: Does reality bite?

By Alexandra Pajak
Contributing Writer

So you've got the diploma. You've cashed the checks from the relatives and bought a whole new wardrobe and DVD collection. The memories of procrastination, friendship and occasional romance fire quickly and freshly in your brain. Now what?

The jeans and hoodie combination doesn't make the boss as happy as the similarly garbed professors and TAs of your intro courses. Suddenly everyone around you is (or appears) at least ten years older than you with kids and a trust fund, and they all drink coffee.

What's a new college graduate to do? Many appear to agree that the first year out of college is a time of unique personal transition. Katie Donovan, a Chemical Engineering graduate in 2003, said the job search process proves

challenging.

"It takes guts to put yourself out there and keep applying," she said in an interview. Donovan, who is still searching for the perfect opportunity to officially start her engineering career, worked as a waitress for two years.

She has recently decided to move to Palo Alto, California as her husband, also a Tech graduate, was offered a position there.

Donovan says that working as a waitress has allowed her to meet new types of people, as well as effective ways of communicating

with them.

"Tech really is a unique community, but sometimes we forget that when we're here. There are a lot of people out there who are a lot different than we are...not better or worse,

but different...communication skills are not what most engineers are known for. But I have learned how to deal with lots of different people, with lots of different backgrounds and personalities," she said.



By Wei Liao / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Steven Sjostedt, an EAS graduate student, chose to work in Britain after graduation this fall. As he demonstrates, post-graduation life may involve long hours staring at computer screens.

Job experts have also argued that professional and personal success requires intangible skills in addition to a college degree. A positive attitude and the ability to manage your time are highly useful tools in

reaching personal success, according to corporate training specialist Jim Pawlak in the *Detroit News* in May 2005. A working knowledge of Microsoft Office and sufficient typing skills never hurt, either, Pawlak said.

Some students at Tech begin pursuing the first steps of their career path immediately after graduation. Josh Lannu, a 2005 graduate in Biomedical Engineering, plans to enter an MD/Ph.D. program and start his own biomedical company. He is currently completing his applications for several schools.

Lannu believes Tech prepared him well for the workforce.

"The biomedical engineering department here has been great by presenting several real world type problems that I could face in industry," he said.

"Overall I feel it has been a good prep since the majority of the time we were left to our own devices to solve problems," Lannu said.

Lannu also gave his impression

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community atmosphere that would be promoted by the event.

"I don't think we celebrate summer enough on campus, and I think this will be a great time for us as a Georgia Tech population to all get together," Helton said. "It's summer, it's fun, it's light... It's more about an atmosphere than actually what you're watching, but luckily, we're going to have [both] an atmosphere and great movies."

Some students agreed.

"It's nice to be outside on summer evenings, and it's free," said Ashley

Durham, a fifth-year Computer Science major.

"I think Flicks on Fifth is a great idea for bringing students out [to] enjoy the summer weather and also seeing a great film for free," said Matthew Crowley, a fourth-year Electrical Engineering major.

"I think that it's going to be a lot of fun. Come out. Hang out. Get there early. Bring a picnic or go into one of the restaurants and order something and sit down on the lawn and watch the movie. You don't have to drive to it. It's right there. You don't have to fight for a place to park. So I think it'll be just a great time," Helton said.

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of the so-called "real world."

"The 'real world' is just a term I believe for life after college but we live in it every day in various degrees even while in college," he said.

"Balancing finances, working out schedules, meeting deadlines are all part of the realities one faces outside of school... Graduating signifies the completion of one phase of life and the beginning of something new."

There's nothing like learning most everyone your age has similar experiences as you, even the experiences that require more struggle and

more determination.

The critically-acclaimed book *Quarterlife Crisis: The Unique Challenges of Life in Your Twenties*, by Alexandra Robbins and Abby Wilner is a popular source to consult regarding the transition. The Tony-award winning musical *Avenue Q* poses similar questions on young adulthood, from finding a fulfilling job to dating the right person.

Not all Tech students take a job that is directly related to their major. Chris Wiczorek graduated in 2005 with a Masters in mechanical engineering and will attend law school at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Like Lannu, Wiczorek praises Tech for its preparation of students for adult life.

"If there is only one thing that I think a Tech education bestows upon its graduates it's the virtue of perseverance. Some of my friends chose their colleges for the experience, whereas Tech provided an education," he said.

Wiczorek does suggest that some changes to Tech's curriculum could be beneficial to graduates.

"I know this is a subject of academic debate, but I think Tech should make more of an effort in some of the laboratory classes to put theory into practice as opposed to thinking that the student will learn the practical applications via extracurricular activities or osmosis," he said.

Financially, graduates from technical schools may have an upper hand over graduates from liberal arts colleges.

CareerBuilder, a popular search engine and career advice website, asserts that students with engineering degrees have stronger financial prospects after graduation.

According to the site, chemical engineers earn an average of \$52,819 per year and computer engineers \$51,572 per year.

These figures contrast the average starting salary of liberal arts majors, who tend to make near \$30,152 per year immediately following graduation.

Students who attend law school or graduate degrees in their fields generally earn more money yearly than those with just bachelor degrees.

Other things that'll probably come in handy: a positive attitude, and the confidence to ask questions and take advice.

TechUpClose

THIS WEEK'S PHOTO:

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

Email focus@technique.gatech.edu if you think you know the answer.

Answer to previous Tech Up Close:
Campanile Fountain Spout

First five correct submissions:
Shruthi Panicker, Jenn Arsenault, Megan Smith, Aaron Fowler and Jennifer Grover



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS