CAMPUS LIFE

Technique • Friday, September 8, 2000

M&M's, not just a candy
Mentoring program helps underclassmen make sense of their major. **Page 21**

Traveling
Take a break and go to a Italy and Copenhagen. Hey, it's better than school. **Page 25**

Fall football fever sweeps through campus for season

By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Cheerleaders are just one part of the festivities that fill campus prior to a home game. Other activities include the marching band, parties, and general good cheer.

By Kim Holton and Jody Shaw
Campus Life Staff

Are you feeling kind of dizzy? Is your heart pounding? Can you smell the popcorn popping and the hamburgers grilling? Are you seeing white and gold everywhere you look? Sit down quickly, because it looks like you have East Campus football fever!

Now don't worry; football fever is a common illness here at Georgia Tech. Students seem to suffer from it each and every Saturday when their beloved Yellow Jackets take the field at Bobby Dodd. The treatment is simple and even enjoyable; one simply needs to join in on the game day festivities.

Before the football game, one has several options from which to choose. One can round up a large group of people together and tailgate at Peter's parking deck or in the quad behind Glenn and Cloudman dorms. While tailgating also occurs at various West Campus locations, most find that nothing beats the atmosphere on East Campus.

"Tailgating is an amazing experience," said Chris Verges. "Hanging out with your friends pre-game is awesome."

> "Tailgating is an amazing experience. Hanging out with your friends pre-game is awesome."
>
> **Chris Verges**
> Comp. E. Student

Following the tailgating session, one can head to the corner of Techwood and Bobby Dodd for Yellow Jacket Alley. In the past, this event was held on Brittain Drive, but due to sewer renovations the tradition has been moved to a new location this year.

The team bus drops off Coach George O'Leary and the football players at the Baptist Student Union on Techwood, and from there, they precede down the street to sounds of the Jacket marching band.

The varsity cheerleading squad, Buzz, and the Ramblin' Wreck Club help lead the cheers and pump up the players as they head towards the locker room and ultimately to victory. The event, which many regard as a great spirit builder, is held two and a half hours before every home game.

After Yellow Jacket Alley, fans can wait outside the stadium until gates open while continuing the

*See **Football**, page 22*

Suicides problem among college students, find help

By Angela Swilley
Campus Life Staff

Many people know that more males actually commit suicide, while more females attempt suicide. However, many people may not know how serious of an issue suicide is. In the United States, seventy-five people kill themselves every day. At Georgia Tech, there are an average of two suicides each year.

According to Tech Counseling Center Psychologist Rome Lester, in the past decade, suicides among young Americans have increased, making it the second leading cause of death in college students after automobile accidents. In addition, although the majority of groups that commit suicide are the divorced, Caucasian males, and the elderly, college students are more likely to commit suicide than their non-college peers are.

The fact that suicides are more frequent among college students and that it has such a lasting effect on those who knew the person makes suicide an issue that colleges across the nation need to address. Lester states that despite extensive research, "there is not one significant profile that has emerged" to identify a person more likely to commit suicide. Lester claims that it is impossible to determine why a "person, a college student, in the prime of his or her life" would chose to terminate it. Therefore, it is more useful to identify factors that may make someone more vulnerable to suicide.

*See **Suicide**, page 27*

Peace Corps coming to campus, inspires service

By Julia Barke
Travel Correspondent

When John F. Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in 1960, he envisioned three goals. The first was that volunteers would promote world peace by providing a requested service to developing countries, the second that they would act as cultural emissaries in a time when our national image was suffering, and the third that they would bring their experiences back to help improve lives and awareness at home.

The Peace Corps is probably more favorably looked on by foreign countries than any other U.S. Government organization. In contrast to our usual image as pushy and interfering, Peace Corps volunteers only enter communities to render specific services requested by the host country - services like health education, small business and agricultural development, and a wide range of others. AIDS education is becoming more and more important, particularly in Africa, where the disease now kills ten times more people every year than does war.

Donna Gessell, who now teaches English at North Georgia State College and University in Dahlonega, was a community development volunteer in Fiji from 1979 to 1982. She had a number of inspirations for going - a cousin was in the Peace Corps in the 1960s and a Mi-

*See **Peace**, page 24*

FACES

Faces at Georgia Tech

- Profile on Bert Reeves -

By Julia Trapold
Assistant Campus Life Editor

While everyone on campus may not recognize his name, everyone has seen Bert Reeves before. He has been our mascot for the past three years, although most people did not know who was inside the bee suit. "The identity of Buzz is kept secret to maintain the integrity of the character. We want people to look at Buzz as Buzz, not Bert," he said.

Bert came to Tech in 1995 from Kennesaw, Georgia. Now in his sixth year, he will graduate in December with a degree in Management.

During his first year at Tech, Bert pledged Phi Gamma Delta, which he said has been "a very important part of my college experience." He also was a member of Greek Life, which is a Christian organization for members of the Greek community.

"My faith in God is a big part of my life," Bert said. "I've always tried to show that to people in the work I do on campus. I am using the gifts and talents God gave me to have a positive influence on people."

At the end of his second year, Bert decided to try out for the position of Buzz, and the next year he began performing as our mascot. "My personality is kind of a lot like Buzz – spastic, enthusiastic, and energetic," he said. "I always thought I'd make a good Buzz."

His first year as Buzz Bert mainly worked at volleyball and women's basketball games. The next year he was the "head" Buzz and assigned appearances and took care of administrative work, as well as performing at football and men's basketball games. He also traveled with President Clough around the southeast for alumni fund-raising events. Bert said, "It was great that I got to build an acquaintanceship with Dr. Clough."

Photo provided by Bert Reeves

Bert Reeves was Buzz for three years, but his identity as the man behind the Buzz mask was kept secret so fans could let Buzz have his own life.

During his tenure as Buzz, Bert appeared in *Sports Illustrated* and *ESPN Magazine*. He also made many appearances around Atlanta, including stops at local children's hospitals. "It was very special to get to make people smile," he said. "The thing I got most out of being Buzz was the rare, unique opportunity to represent Georgia Tech in a way that very few students get to do."

Last year Bert worked with the Georgia Tech Foundation to establish an endowment scholarship for

*See **Faces**, page 20*

FACES

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Buzz. He presented the idea to several reunion classes, and the fiftieth reunion class accepted his proposal and decided to sponsor Buzz.

The scholarship works by giving the interest, usually 5 percent, of the alumni's donations to the designated organization. Because the donations of the fiftieth reunion class totaled over $450,000, Buzz gets approximately $20,000 each year. The money is used for expenses and is also given to the students who portray Buzz.

"The scholarship is a legacy that I am proud to have left to the Buzz program," Bert said.

Another side of Bert is his involvement with the Interfraternity Council, which he has been involved in for the past three years. "Three years ago I saw the need and opportunity for improvement in the Greek system," he said. "So I interviewed for IFC rush chair and got the position."

Bert regulated rush during the beginning of his fourth year. His job was to enforce rush rules, which basically prohibit the use of alcohol. "I received a lot of opposition because I was trying to enforce rules that people like to break," he said.

> "My personality is kind of a lot like Buzz – spastic, enthusiastic, and energetic"
>
> **Bert Reeves**

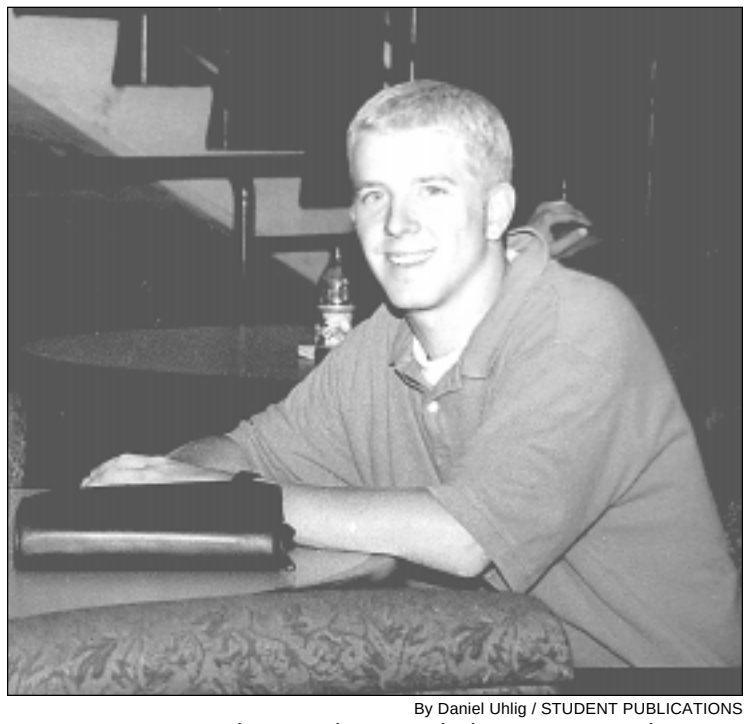
In the fall of 1998, Bert switched positions to the semester conversion chair and helped convert the bylaws of the Greek system from quarters to semesters.

Finally, in the spring of his fourth year, Bert was elected IFC president. The tenure of his presidency can be summed up by the new Georgia Tech alcohol policy, since the majority of his term was dedicated to it.

"We initiated, developed, implemented, and regulated a new Georgia Tech alcohol policy," said Bert. "The new policy changed the social scene, but it is effectively answering the alcohol issue at Tech."

Though he is no longer involved in IFC, his work as president has not left the council. "The new IFC exec members are continuing with the same vision we had," Bert said. "It is awesome to see it continue. It's rewarding to know you've done something that is being taken seriously."

After graduating, Bert plans on working in commercial real estate or consulting. Eventually he would like to start a political career so that he may serve the community through elected office.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Bert Reeves was more than just a happy-go-lucky mascot. He is also active in his fraternity and church, and eventually plans to run for public office.

Democles. I know who he is now.

Mentoring program prospers, helps women network

Women in Engineering program pairs underclassmen with upperclassmen to help improve retention, encourage women students, provide networking opportunities, social events, and academic success across campus

By Becca Cutri-Kohart
Hear me roar

It's no secret that the ratio on campus demonstrates the greater number of men than women studying here. As a result of this inequity, some women need more opportunities to socialize with their peers. The M&M program is one step that has been taken to provide women students with some of the networking resources that men on campus already have.

Specifically, the M&M program pairs underclassmen "mentees" with upperclassmen "mentors" in their major. The purpose of creating mentoring relationships for women is to enhance their Georgia Tech academic experience and improve the retention in their field. According to the program director, Dr. Mimi Philabos, "well informed students stay in their major."

> " ...well informed students stay in their major."
>
> **Dr. Mimi Philabos**
> Women in Engineering

The M&M program is administered through Women in Engineering, and was founded by its director Dr. Philabos. The reasons for M&M's creation, according to Dr. Philabos, is that she "felt women need networking."

She stressed that the networking women are getting through M&M is available, unofficially, to most men on campus simply because of their large numbers compared to the women. However, the M&M program is not exclusive, and if there are men who feel they are in need of an organized mentorship program, they are welcome to participate as well.

All students in the program (upper- and under- classmen) are broken down into teams by their major, with an experienced mentor as their team leader. Then each mentee is assigned to one mentor (though one mentor may have several mentees).

The mentor/mentee relationship requires that they contact each other at least once a week. Additionally, the students may have meetings with their team leader, faculty in their department, and organized academic advisement sessions.

Other benefits of participating in the program include a varied group of seminars, such as resume writing, self-esteem, managing money, public speaking and making the most of your career.

Social activities, including visiting a zoo, dinner parties, and going to the Norman Rockwell exhibit, help the women meet each other.

All these programs are sponsored by industry, primarily Arvin Meritor. Dr. Philabos suggests that industry is willing to sponsor activities like this because they are now seeing the profit of hiring women engineers, both for their creativity and their ability to represent the diverse customer base that most industries have.

The 2000-2001 mentors and mentees are currently being selected. The program is looking for upperclasswomen to serve as mentors who are successful in academics, involved on campus, flexible in dealing with different personalities, and, said Dr. Philabos, "confident in sharing their experiences." Any underclasswoman (or man) can apply as a mentee. Though participation is voluntary, Dr. Philabos said that "if they choose to join, they will benefit from the experience." Specific boundaries will keep the mentor/mentee relationship within reason, with a friendly, but also business-like, atmosphere. A special bonus for this year is the program, which in the past was limited only to engineering students, is now open to everyone on campus.

Dr. Philabos said this helps lighten the experience, and keep its participants "in touch with reality" of many disciplines.

Applications are due on September 11, and the kickoff meeting will be held September 18. Applications are a simple statement of your major, GPA, race, background and interests, to help in the matching process and statistical follow-ups.

By Carter Green / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Philabos, the Director of Women in Engineering, meets with a student at an M&M social event. The mentoring relationships established by M&M help women succeed academically and form a network of campus friends.

Something about a sword hanging over his head by a hair

Campus briefs

Want to help Enhancing Undergrad Learning?

The student members of the Joint Commission on Enhancing Undergraduate Learning (JCEUL) are seeking student ambassadors. The commission will be composed of student, faculty and administrative members and will be addressing topics including midterm grade reports, TA training, and faculty teaching evaluation.

JCEUL is looking for ambassadors to communicate and discuss this message with faculty members across campus. To volunteer, contact David Moeller, vp@sga.gatech.edu.

ATO Hawaiian Beach Party

The ATO house has covered their lawn in sand for a weekend-long beach party. Bands will highlight the events both Friday and Saturday night.

Burdell's Birthday Bash

This revived Tech tradition will celebrate the infamous elusive student's "birthday" on Friday, September 15, 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Campanile. The festivities, sponsored by President's Council, will include the marching band, Buzz, birthday cake, cheerleaders, and a contest on George P. Burdell stories.

Football

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pre-game partying on Bobby Dodd, or return to the many tailgating locations around campus.

Shortly before kickoff, the Yellow Jacket faithful pack the stands at Historic Grant Field.

Once inside the Stadium, football fever reaches its dramatic climax, and as far as the eye can see, there is an ocean of white and gold.

The football game itself is filled with many exciting Tech traditions. Fans and students engage in signing the classic cheers and songs, most of which include references to Tech destroying U[sic]GA in a gridiron battle. Among these favorites are "Ramblin' Wreck," and "Up with the White and Gold."

Between the third and fourth quarters, the Marching Yellow Jacket Band performs the crowd favorite "You Said It All," during which the members of the student body bop up and down creating a wave to Tech pride.

Throughout the battle, Buzz continues pumping up the fans by running and bodysurfing through the crowd. He also performs push-ups after the Jackets score. The number of lifts he does always corresponds to the number of points that the team has put on the board.

> "Looking around at the fans who are so into the game is like nothing I have ever been a part of."
>
> **Amy Kruse**
> ChemE Sophomore

In the words of Amy Kruse, second year chemical engineering major, "Being in the stadium is beyond words. Looking around at the fans who are so into the game is like nothing I have ever been a part of before."

Following the Jackets victory, band and fraternity parties are the usually the order of events. Postgame partiers often engage in such revelry until the wee hours of Sunday morning.

According to Nadia Mahmod, a freshman, "The bands rock and I love dancing the night away."

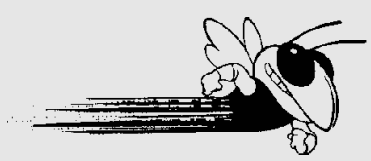
With Saturday's game against the national champion Florida State University "Criminoles," the football atmosphere promises to be as exciting as ever when a capacity crowd floods Bobby Dodd.

The pre-game events on East Campus create a spirited environment for the football team and a good time for all those involved.

when (in) macon whoppie watch out for green armies

Karen says the odds are against Chris Young killing me for those pictures. 15 to 1 are the current odds. Care to place a bet?

Buzz Around the Campus



Question of the week

"What's your favorite flavor of ice cream and why?"

Feature and Photos by Alisa Hawkins

Olivier Deigni
AE Junior

"I would be butter pecan because c'est si bon!"

Genay Jones
Chem Senior

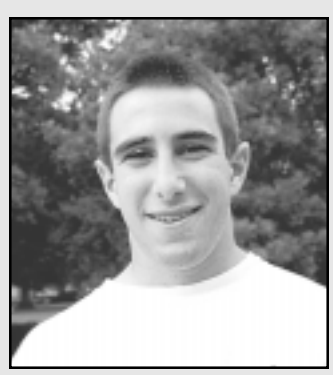
"Rocky road. Because its different. Like Dodge."

Lindsay Eggler
ISyE Senior

"Chocolate. Enough said."

Mark Bowler
Arch Junior

"Rocky road. A little rough in some parts, but good overall."

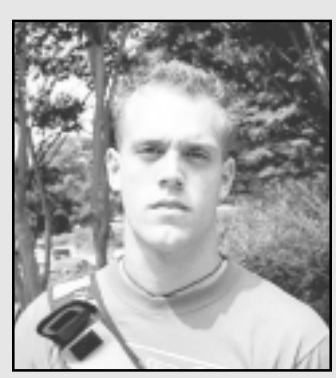


Ben Nathan
Chem Freshman

"Vanilla. Simple, basic, loved by most."

Nitika Raj
CS Freshman

"Coffee. It's my favorite. My teddy bear is also named coffee"



Tom Moran
ID Sophomore

"Chocolate, because its smooth and rich."

Jordan Drewitt
AE Junior

"Ice cream sandwich, its a classic"

Join Campus Life Staff.

If you come write for me, I'll love you forever. Not Sarah & Christina type love. But still good enough. Be a roving reporter. Be Lois Lane. Have fun!

Meetings: 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 'Nique office.

E-mail: campus.life@technique.gatech.edu

Now Adam Adam Toner Democles-ed Sharky. Does that make Adam the Greek god of wine? I think not.

Peace

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cronesian friend who told stories of the couple who worked in his community. She says that volunteers going into the service usually expect it to change them, but one can never know exactly how. "The experience taught me the value of community. Nowhere in my life had I found that kind of community," said Gessell.

But she didn't find it just in her post in Fiji. There is strong support for returning volunteers, both in career and educational advancement, and in social groups for returnees. Many fulfill Kennedy's vision by continuing community service back in the States. The return Peace Corps movement helps many ease the adjustment of coming home. Gessell says of the reverse culture shock, "You tell yourself, this is just two years of my life, and I can do anything for two years...but you're coming back for the rest of your life."

Becoming integrated into the local community is one of the primary challenges volunteers face. Although the three-month training period is spent with other volunteers from their host country or region, depending on the assignment, many people live fairly isolated from other volunteers. What does this mean for safety? Peace Corps is not a military organization, and they do not send their volunteers into obviously dangerous situations, such as war zones. Much of their training focuses on cultural education, so that volunteers do not inadvertently offend by word or gesture. This includes learning about cultural expectations relating to gender. Almost two-thirds of volunteers are women. Special training is given to single women living in rural situations.

Although education is important to Peace Corps volunteers, or PCVs (92% have at least a bachelors degree), secondary experiences can also make a big difference. If you planted a garden every year as a child, or you've volunteered in your community, or had any experience as a teacher or tutor, your activities could point towards what kind of work you'd be doing. The training PCVs receive is also intensive. It includes language and cultural education as well as professional training.

The most important skills volunteers can have are flexibility and an ability to learn as they go. They may never use some skills they've learned in college, or be pushed to their limits. "The level of development is so different from place to place," says Gessell. "They could be put in a position that would take them several years to get to in the US, or could be working far below their expectations. A person's got to be able to adapt."

This adaptability serves volunteers well when they return stateside. PCVs have an overwhelmingly positive image among later employers. Among the assets they boast are organization, leadership, cross-cultural knowledge, resourcefulness, multiple languages, and overseas experience. The Peace Corps Office of Returned Volunteer Services provides career, educational and other assistance. In addition, returned volunteers receive certain advantages when applying for government jobs.

> "The experience taught me the value of community. Nowhere in my life had I found that kind of community"
>
> **Donna Gessell**
> Peace Corps Volunteer

Victoria Sturdivant is a graduate student of International Affairs at Georgia Tech, and a former health education volunteer in Ghana. She served from 1997 to 1999, after receiving her BA in Political Science from Agnes Scott College. Among her projects was the establishment of a village-based water and sanitation system. Her secondary projects, however, ranged from the planting of a five-acre sunflower farm to the setting up of a beekeeping operation for the village. She didn't know anything about farming when she began, but she knew how to write the proposals that got government funds to help start the projects. Her advice: be a diplomat, be flexible, be a community leader. "Don't be too focused on one specific goal, or develop tunnel vision," said Sturdivant

If you are interested in learning more about the Peace Corps, recruiters will be on campus at the career fair next Tuesday.

Dance party during deadline? Not for me!!!!

Have you gotten the student travel bug yet?

Add a little taste of Italy to your life

By Julia Barke
Travel Correspondent

While Italy's great cities, Rome, Florence, Venice, and Naples, can keep the dutiful sightseer busy for weeks, hundreds of coastal villages simply beg one to come and do nothing.

Marino del Cantone, a recommendation of the venerable Rick Steves [see "Book reviews for travelers" in the August 25, 2000 issue of the *Technique*] is a perfect example. Located on the Amalfi Coast, it is reached by taking the regional train from Naples to its last stop, then taking the blue SITA bus to its most distant stop at the end of the Sorrento Peninsula.

The beaches there are rocky, but the sea is that shade of crystalline blue that one usually sees only in *National Geographic*. To either side of the town, one can hike, swim, or boat down the coast to even more secluded beaches and underwater caves. Bring your snorkel and mask for a clear look at fish swimming fifty feet below.

The "town" of Marino del Cantone stretches along the beach about the length of a football field. The "catch of the day" at the restaurants is actually caught that day.

The Pensione La Certosa is a family-run operation. Alfonso, the owner's son, speaks English well and is very helpful, directing one to nice beaches, great food, and the daily boat trips to nearby Capri and Amalfi. Party animals should check out the evening trip to posh Capri.

The Ristorante Baia Nerano, run by Alfonso's brother, is by itself enough reason to visit Marino del Cantone. The fish selection consists of whatever was caught that day, but the fried calamari and shrimp platter is the true treat. Fish and shrimp are served with heads and eyes intact, so expect to face up to your dinner, literally, before eating it.

The islands along the coast each have their own stories. Three of them are reputed to be the location of the sirens of Homer's *Odyssey*, and others are or have been owned by such notables as Rudolph Nureyev and Pablo Picasso. Marina del Cantone is of course not your only option.

The truly adventurous should try this trick: take a regional train (one that stops at every town) from one of Italy's big coastal cities. Get off at a pretty-looking little town. This experience of Italy is about as authentic as it gets.

By Julia Barke / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The beach at Positano (taken on a boat trip from Marino Del Cantone) is one of the many sites that can be experienced if you travel to Italy

Danish city that never seems to sleep

By Julia Barke
Travel Correspondent

Copenhagen is a fast-paced, laid-back, big city with a small-town feel. The longest pedestrian thoroughfare in the world draws visitors into the center of town, where they find museums, parks, canals, chic shops, outdoor cafes, and a shockingly beautiful population of tall, blonde could-be-supermodels.

The city seems never to sleep, with its throbbing discotheques spewing cheerful party animals onto the streets all night long. Nevertheless, it's tourist-friendly. Everyone under the age of 40 speaks English, the city is easily traversed by foot or bike, and there is a never-ending supply of things to do. Watch your wallet, however, because the kroner add up quickly here.

Tivoli is a must-see site. This fairly compact family amusement park is quite a treat. The rides are not exactly the Georgia Cyclone, but they are lots of fun. There are flowers, fountains, and restaurants galore. The best time to go is at night, when the park is illuminated by more than 110,000 incandescent lamps. There are fireworks every Wednesday and Saturday.

Another site is Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, which is funded by the Carlsberg beer empire. This fabulous collection includes everything from ancient to impressionist art, with an impressive sculpture collection. The gorgeous building alone is worth a visit.

For a cultural experience, visit the National Museum of Cultural History. The museum houses archaeological treasures from the world over (mostly Scandinavian, of course). Get your Viking-ship fix while learning some Danish history.

Copenhagen's nightlife is varied, plentiful, and, well, durable. Travelers can dance the night away at "In" on Vestergade in the heart of the main shopping district (it closes, I think, at 10 a.m., but I only lasted till six). The Norrebro district is packed with cafes and clubs. Nightlife seekers will find everything from Irish pubs to 60s era jazz clubs and European techno houses.

There's no end to the excitement in Copenhagen.

By Julia Barke / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Nyhaun, in Copenhagen, Denmark dates back to the 12th century when Copenhagen was founded as a "Haven" is a popular tourist destination.

Do you want horoscopes in the CL section? I do I do! :) Let me know if you want horoscopes: campus.life@technique.gatech.edu

By Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Matt traveled to South Africa in the last installments of the "Real World." His diplomatic abilities help reunite David with the rest of the group.

'Real World' migrates to South Africa

Jamie Schulz
Get your yum-yums here?

Since last week and this week's episodes were a two-part series (they finally got the big trip-thing that the last few seasons have received), we decided to combine your fine update. So here it is:

The Yukon gets a flat, and David tries to fix it, to no avail. So he calls a wrecker and the rest of the crew is ticked, since the wrecker is to tow off the SUV and fix the flat.

They fix it, and David's miffed because they went outside his best interest. But then a big box comes in the mail, and it turns out that they're all going to South Africa. Anyone care to guess as to who's got issues with the trip?

If you said Melissa, give yourself a pat on the back. David says that this trip will allow him to do a lot of growing. We shall see.

But the rest of the time they're having fun falling off cliffs and going on safari witnessing lots of monkey and wildebeest lovin'. Tasty.

But then a big box comes in the mail, and it turns out that they're all going to South Africa

Speaking of lovin', it seems that Jamie and Melissa had a little bit of bonding on the trip, as witnessed during the little outing the crew took to Victoria Falls.

Matt tries to reunite David with the rest of the crew. It works, and David seems to work out any issues he had with the group. And he, Julie, Matt, and Jamie all bungee jumped. So the crew visits a village and Julie brought some stuff to share with the kids in the village.

However, she didn't bring enough for everyone, and there was fighting amongst the kids; their "human greed" upset Julie. At least she had good intentions.

So we're all up to date. Next week Jamie produces the show. Seems that general consensus (read: Melissa) has it that the show sucked. Until then, faithful readers.

This is the sixth in a long series of articles following Tech's very own Matt "Supafly" Smith's adventures in N'awlins (and Beyond) in MTV's The Real World.

One of my roommates is like Dr. Claw. One is like Judge Judy. One finds lost children on the internet. I'm a guru (I like being compared to Buddha. Must be my sandles)

Suicide

from page 19

A major factor is clinical depression, which is said to be the major cause of suicide. However, Lester notes that depression is more of a red flag, stating that, "not everyone who is depressed will commit suicide."

Other contributing factors are loss of a loved one, alcohol and drug abuse, serious illness, stress, and family history of suicide because coping is modeled after our families, not because suicidal tendencies are inherited. To identify if someone you know is considering suicide, Lester suggests paying attention to the verbal and behavioral clues. Verbal signs may include statements such as, "Everyone will be better off without me," or "I wish I were dead."

> "...people who committed suicide had communicated their intent prior to the fatal attempt."
>
> **Rome Lester**
> GTCS Psychologist

Lester lists as behavioral clues, "withdrawal from family or friends, an extreme mood change, giving away possessions, lack of interest in appearance, not getting out of bed in the morning, grades dropping, not attending class, [and] becoming very secretive." She adds that, "A large percentage of people who committed suicide had communicated their intent prior to the fatal attempt. So pay attention to verbal and behavioral signs."

To help a friend who might be considering suicide, Lester recommend that you listen without judgement, ask evaluative questions, be affirmative and supportive, act specifically, encourage the person to talk with family and/or a counselor, do not debate the value of life, do not promise secrecy, and seek help.

Resources for Tech students include the Georgia Tech Counseling Center and the Link Counseling Center. The GTCC is located on the second floor of the Student Affairs Building.

The GTCC staff includes 11 licensed counselors from various disciplines, including a psychiatrist if medication therapy is required. GTCC also functions as a training site for students working on advanced degrees in the field of counseling. The Tech Counseling Center provides short-term individual, couple, or group counseling. Emergency appointments are available daily at lunchtime. GTCC also maintains a 24-hour Emergency Consultation Line with a counselor on call. To make an appointment, call (404)-894-2575.

The Link Counseling center concentrates on helping people whose lives have been impacted by suicide. They have two Atlanta locations and offer individual or group counseling and a support group, Survivors of Suicide (S.O.S.), at Sandy Springs (404-256-9797) and Cobb County (404-973-6068).

Common Myths about Suicide

Myth 1: People who talk about suicide will not do it.
Fact: The majority of the people who take their own lives had communicated their intent, with some kind of clue or warning, within three months of the fatal attempt. Do not ignore suicide threats.

Myth 2: A person who attempts suicide and fails is safe from future attempts.
Fact: Four out of five people who kill themselves have made previous attempts. Twelve percent of those who attempt suicide will do so again and succeed within two years. "Once a person crosses that invisible boundary between contemplation and action," states Lester, "it somehow becomes easier to make repeat attempts."

Myth 3: Most people commit suicide during the Winter months when weather is dark and dreary.
Fact: Most suicides occur during the Spring, peaking in April. It is 120% above the average for the rest of the year. Although the suicide rate is slightly higher during the holiday season, it is highest in the Spring.

Myth 4: Talking with someone about suicide will cause the person to do it.
Fact: Talking with someone about suicide is generally positive and can often be a relief because it breaks their isolation with the idea and is often seen as a statement of caring.

Sarah's editorial is spoken like someone who's job depends on it.

Campus briefs

Organizations Involvement Fair next week

On September 12 - 15 on the Skiles walkway from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day, Presidents' Council is sponsoring a Student Involvement Fair. The fair will feature a broad range of organizations across campus from athletic groups, honor societies, clubs, technical societies, to special interest groups, with different types of orgainizations featured each day.

2000 Career Fair coming soon

The 2000 Career Fair will be held September 11 and 12 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Alexander Memorial Coliseum. Hundreds of employers will attend to meet students and arrange for potential interviews and employment opportunities. Students seeking co-ops, internships, and full time employment should bring multiple copies of their resume for submission. For more information, e-mail cfair@prism.gatech.edu.

Do you have a George P. Burdell story?

Presidents' Council is seeking story tellers with creative, plausible or true stories about their encounters with George P. Burdell. If you would like to participate, contact Karen Feigh at feigh@resnet.gatech.edu.

Trotline at Beta

Come on out to Beta Theta Pi at 10 p.m., Friday, September 8, for a fun, laid back time. The party will feature the infamous Trotline band!

Join Campus Life Staff

Do you want a life? Campus Life can find you one. By being on writing staff, you have the opportunity to interact with all the fun, the socialization, the amusement, the politics and the adventures that happen on campus. After you do that, just write an article, and BONUS, see your name in print, in black and white, preserved forever and ever.

Campus life staff meets on Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in the Technique office. See you there!

Ms. Shaft's Crystal Ball

Aries (March 21 - April 19) You will be inspired to skinny dip in the SAC pool. Remember, spontaneity improves the quality of your life.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) This is a bad month for you, you will experience the Shaft repeatedly, especially from a professor of physics. But don't worry, there is hope of getting out on the horizon.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Lecture halls are a tedious place to be, but you must tolerate it for further advancement. Hope of lots of money in signing bonuses and job offers are in your future.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Politics are for you. You decide to take on the entire Undergraduate House of Representatives and the stars indicate you may win, especially if you try to catch those flies with honey instead of vinegar.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) Defying the ratio may come sooner than you think. You will meet the man or woman of your dreams at a sporting event.

Virgo (August 23 - Sept. 22) You may experience an altered state of consciousness after the football game. Don't ask us how, but the stars indicate you will experience a real revelation during this event.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) You will be unlucky in love, scorned by a multitude of lovers, you will retire into a month of solitude and study. Your grades may dramatically improve.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) You will be inspired to join the 'Nique. Follow this instinct, it is good and pure and wonderful. The 'Nique will lead you to the end of the rainbow where all your hopes and dreams come true.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Your mastermind abilities betray you. You can't be in charge of everything (only 99% of everything). Until then, quit a few leadership positions and meditate on an isolated mountain-top for the remainder of the month.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Sleep deprivation isn't always a bad thing. The stars indicate you will have luck in late night studying, so long as you don't get distracted by e-mail and ICQ and other electronic evils.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Confusion will dominate your month. Difficult job-related decisions occur. The stars suggest that you should consult a wiser councilor before accepting any employment offers.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) The best part of your personality will shine. Your associates will view you as a guru of all that is knowing. Make sure to encourage your friends to succeed in all their endeavors to fight the shaft.

These horoscopes are entirely fictional and are for entertainment purposes only. If you are stupid enough to make decisions based on these horoscopes, you will experience the Shaft grow exponentially in size until you are worthy of transferring to U[sic]GA.

Jen's pants look like a disco ball.