ENTERTAINMENT

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BACK TO NORMAL

Grad school applications seem to be down from last year. Could this reflect an improving job market? **Page 9**

EAT YOUR VEGETABLES

Two Bits Man explores the rift between college students and healthy eating. **Page 17**

Sneakers from all walks of life visit Atlanta

By Erin Gatlin
Contributing Writer

If you're a typical college student, chances are that you own at least one pair of sneakers. They may be that ratty old pair of Nikes you just can't throw out. Perhaps they're sleek designer-wear, or that pair of Converses you just couldn't stop doodling on in the middle of Calc I.

The fact is, the sneaker is more than just a shoe, it's become a cultural icon, and this past weekend, an exhibition that reveled in this phenomenon visited Atlanta.

In the heart of Little Five Points, at More Dusty than Digital Records, the Sneaker Pimps traveling exhibit began Friday night and continued through Sunday.

Large numbers of visitors came in to see the exhibit, many attracted from the sidewalk simply by the spectacle they saw in the window.

The fake brick and graffiti décor, and even the DJ, loud as he was, were overpowered by the mass of shoes filling the space—shoes covered in glitter and sequins, painted shoes, shoes hanging from the ceiling, shoes converted into radios.

Zach Smith, who created one of the art pieces in the show, spoke to the *Technique* about his work, *Untitled Shoe Sculpture*.

"Brady [the local coordinator for the show] asked me to do something with a shoe, so I did. I asked if a sculpture was okay, because I've always wanted to try that," he said.

Smith normally paints, but his sneaker piece is a white sculpted form containing a shoe and created using concrete, wood, plaster, wire and paint.

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>
> **Zach Smith**
> Artist

Some of the art in the show was purely aesthetic, such as a shoe with grass and flower cutouts.

Others had more political statements to make, such as a shiny all-black shoe with handcuffs through the laces and "is it cause i'm black" written down the side.

Another shoe, which had a mini-television placed inside, was playing footage of workers making footwear, with the title "Who are you stepping on?"

Not all the contents of the exhibit were art pieces; collectible shoes were also on display, such as sneakers signed by celebrities like Jay Z. and Marc Ecko (of Ecko Clothing Company).

The show's founder, Peter Fahey, cited one of the collector's item shoes as a favorite—a Nike created in conjunction with the music group N.E.R.D. of which only 1,000 pairs were ever produced.

By Chinhoon Shin/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sneaker Pimps takes its collection of shoes-turned-art on the road, stopping in cities all over the country. The exhibit pays tribute to sneaker culture, displaying rare, autographed and unique footwear.

The show also featured other items related to sneakers—painting of shoes, decorated shoeboxes and a few Nike jackets were prominently displayed.

Fahey claims his show has been "very successful" since its beginnings two years ago, drawing crowds "depending on the size of the sneaker culture in the city" where it is hosted at the time.

He's put on around 35 exhibits, with support from "all kinds of artists [and] all shoe companies" such as Nike, Adidas , Puma and others.

Asked what inspired him to create such a unique show as Sneaker Pimps, Fahey said that he was "inspired by urban youth culture" to put it together.

Looking at what he has pulled together, it's easy to see how the sneaker can epitomize a culture, and how an art exhibit can make you see that culture (and your footwear) in a whole new way.

Embark on lucid vacation to *Garden State*

By Evan Zasoski
Senior Staff Writer

I saw *Garden State,* the debut opus as a writer-director-star Zach Braff, the other day. So, I've got that going for me, which is nice. Seriously, this is a really good movie and needs to be on everyone's required viewing list. Like, go. Now. The freaking newspaper can wait.

The short synopsis of the story is that it's about Braff, whose character has been on a cornucopia of behavioral modifiers since he was nine, going off his meds and finally coming to terms with life and with his psychiatrist dad after his mother's untimely drowning in the tub.

Back and forth between gut-busting and heart wrenching, Braff's story is about a man finally learning to feel again after having spent his entire adult life—and most of his childhood—under the influence of everything from Paxil to lithium.

While on his vacation from medication, Braff's character, Andrew Largeman, befriends Natalie Portman's Sam—an adorable, epileptic, pathological liar in a pink hoodie.

Sam lives in a house crisscrossed by hamster tubes, inhabited by a small pack of dogs and, notably, her adopted brother, Titembay, a criminal investigation major at Rutgers on a quest to solve the case of which hound has been peeing on his Gamecube.

Being back in town for the first time in nine years, Largeman—'Large' to most—reacquaints himself with many of his old high school friends, a couple of grave-robbing grave-diggers, the millionaire-but-bored-to-tears-by-success inventor of silent velcro, and a quasi-Oedipal, Klingon speaking knight who works at Medieval Times.

The eclectic cast of characters is one of the factors that really makes this movie work, because, frankly, you haven't seen comedy until you've seen a tragically hip mom try to make peace between her son and the knight

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Photo courtesy Fox Searchlight Pictures

Andrew Largeman (Braff) returns to his hometown in the Garden State for the first time in 9 years and experiences life without antidepressants for the first time in this unique comedic drama.

Indulge in Festivities of Soul

The weekend of Sept. 4, Turner Field hosts the Southeast's largest festival for soul, hip-hop and R&B. Performers at Atlanta's first annual Soulfest include Big Boi and friends, LL Cool J, Outkast and Chaka Khan. Tickets cost $41 for a one day pass and $54 for the whole weekend.

Fox presents *Dreamcoat*

The Fox Theater is running *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at 8 p.m. every night through Sunday. These will be the last performances of the 2004 summer season. The performance features music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. Tickets run $28 to $50.

It's fun to stay at the YMCA

That's right, your favorite seventies disco extravaganza is coming to town. This Friday at 8 p.m. at the Mable House Amphitheater the Village People will be rocking your socks clean off. You know you can't resist such classics as "In the Navy" and "Macho Man." Tickets run $15 to $40.

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in, quite literally, shining armor with with whom he went to high school and she hooked up last night.

Then there's Largeman's father, played by Ian Holm. He's a psychiatrist who firmly believes in the principle of medicating oneself happy and is the primary reason why Andrew's medicine cabinet looks like a forest of little orange trees.

Holm, as always, turns in a command performance. Though, given that he is the principal player in a major story arc, he receives relatively little screen time, which is a shame.

If I were to make a list of things that I didn't particularly like about the film, it would be a pretty short one. However, in the interest of fairness, I'll give it the old college try.

Firstly, the film can be a tad ham-handed at times, and there are a couple of lines in it that'll take you right out of the movie if you let them. But, I've got to cop to the fact that I'm reaching here in the interest of a fair review.

Unless you have a pathological aversion to the maudlin or are just completely incapable of suspending disbelief for even a second, you really should be in for a treat.

All things considered, *Garden State* really is one of those movies that everyone just needs to go out and see. It's shot beautifully.

It's back and forth between hilarious and poignant and somehow pulls off both. And to top it all off, Natalie Portman is adorable.

So this weekend, when it's a choice between banal blockbusters, sad prequels and artless pairings of once-great movie monsters, pick D and check out *Garden State* instead.

Live in Atlanta

Echo Lounge (551 Flat Shoals Rd.)
(404) 681-3600
www.echostatic.com/echolounge
8/27 United States, Brass Knuckle Surfer
8/28 The Painkillers, Rocket 350
8/31 Burning Brides, The Explosion

Cotton Club (152 Luckie St.)
(404) 688-1193
www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.html
8/30 Phantom Planet, The Damnwells, The Like
8/31 Further Seems Forever, Brandtson, The Kicks

The Earl (488 Flat Shoals Ave.)
(404) 522-3950
www.badearl.com
8/27 Blackberry Smoke, The Hellhounds
8/28 The Close, The Liverhearts
8/29 dunch with David W. Reed Wroth
8/30 Atlanta Underground Film Festival presents: Machine vs. Man
9/1 Sinsei

Variety Playhouse (1099 Euclid Ave.)
(404) 521-1786
www.variety-playhouse.com
8/29 Twelve Girls Band

The Masquerade (695 North Ave.)
(404) 577-2007
www.masq.com
8/31 Stretch Armstrong, Haste the Day, Martyr A.D., Glasseater, The Distance
9/1 Dimmu Borgir, Bleeding Through, Atreyu, Everytime I Die

Star Bar (437 Moreland Ave.)
(404) 681-9018
www.starbar.net
8/27 The Helgas, Catfight, The Plastics
8/28 DJ Co-Co G and DJ Sars
8/30 15 minutes of fame karaoke
8/31 Funk Disco with D.J. Romeo Cologne

CJ's Landing (Buckhead Ave.)
(404) 237-7657
www.cjslanding.com
8/27 Fish Tank
8/28 Whose Confused
9/1 Open Mic Night

Smith's Olde Bar (1580 Piedmont Ave.)
(404) 875-1522
www.smithsoldebar.com
8/27 Hamell on Trial
8/28 Prescription Trio
8/29 Midnight Blues Benefit Show with Taylor Hollingsworth
8/31 Line Of Sight, Paper Street, Push

Chimp, Shrimp And Friends

Original Comic Strip

by Mark Parsons: gtg546q@mail.gatech.edu

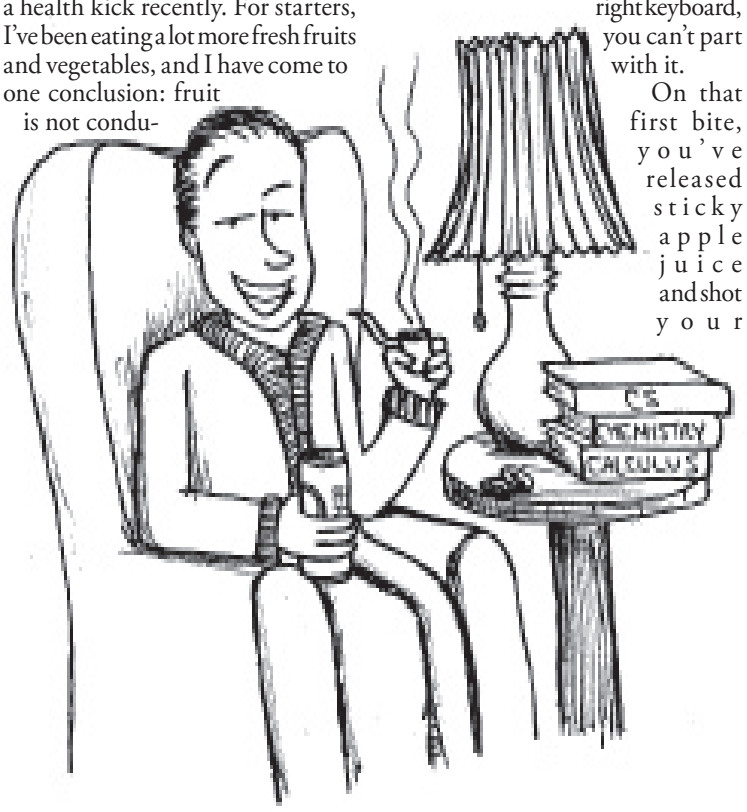
TWO BITS

Eating healthfully the Two Bits Man way: a guide to fruits, vegetables and slacking off

So, the Two Bits Man has been at Tech long enough to fall into the college lifestyle of eating badly and consuming too much caffeine. This is horrible, because some day I'm gonna grow up and not get the spectacular health care that we get as Tech students.

After all, that's the great thing about college. When eating Papa John's five days a weeks demands angioplasty, it's just a two-hour wait away.

So, that being said, I've been on a health kick recently. For starters, I've been eating a lot more fresh fruits and vegetables, and I have come to one conclusion: fruit is not conducive to the geek lifestyle.



Eating fruit requires more commitment than marriage, or joining the military. Sure, you can have a marriage annulled after five minutes, or you can go AWOL from the Army. After all, those only cause legal problems.

On the other hand, bite into an apple, you're stuck. If you touch the keyboard with your apple-eating hand, you've ruined the keyboard's perfect feel, and as any geek will tell you, once you have found that right keyboard, you can't part with it.

On that first bite, you've released sticky apple juice and shot your typing to hell.

Since I'm right handed, I always eat fruit with my left hand, so I can keep my right hand unsticky for using my keyboard and mouse, but alas, no! Gone is the left shift key! Gone are the two most common vowels in the English alphabet!

In fact, as I am sitting here, eating an apple while I type, I accidentally left the "f" out of shift the first time I typed it.

So, there you have it folks. Computers are the real reason that college students eat badly.

Sure, some of you are saying, "Well, duh! Put down the apple to type," but God forbid you do that. It gets goo all over your desk, and then the North American ant population has descended upon your office, and your boss will want to know what you did.

Not to mention, biting into an apple starts the death clock of tastiness. In a matter of minutes, the apple is brown and destroyed.

Geeks can't bear to be without their computers for the whopping ten minutes required to eat an apple. I know. This destroys me emotionally every time I eat an apple in my office.

At this point, it seems obvious that I must devote the remainder of my life to building a robotic apple holder that is controlled by thought alone.

Sure, direct neural interfaces could be put to other computing uses, but I really think that the world would be better with the thought controlled robotic apple holder.

After all, I can't go having ten minutes of office productivity taken to eat something healthy. That completely destroys my image of being stuck to my computer. Dammit, I need my image. After all, the Two Bits Man can't go getting soft on geekiness.

If I start taking breaks from my computer to eat healthfully, everything'll go downhill. Next thing you know, I'll be typing with one of those funky ergonomic keyboards and listening to Yanni while I check my email.

> "Geeks can't bear to be without their computers for the whopping ten minutes required to eat an apple."

The next change I've decided to make is to seriously reduce my caffeine. It occurred to me that I'd become a slave to diet drinks. In the average day at the office, I had been going through about four a day.

Not that there's anything wrong with getting little sleep and peeing a lot if that's your thing, but it occurred to me that I don't want to be a slave to caffeine, so Coca-Cola and PepsiCo will just have to deal with the layoffs since I've stopped buying their products.

I actually decided to lower the caffeine during the break, so now that school has begun again, I am slowly learning how to deal with this decaf way of life.

At least now, I can use overwhelming tiredness as an excuse for being a slacker. Second week of school, and I've already skipped my first class.

It's an 8 a.m. class, and my excuse is that I'm healthier. Back in the days of high caffeine, my only excuse for not showing to class was being lazy, but dammit, I'm gonna live longer, and if that requires not going to class, then that's just a risk I'm gonna have to take.

Let's review. If you stop using your computer, then you can eat healthy fruits and vegetables. Feel free to reference this article the next time you have a Java program due and you don't use your computer. You can tell the professor that noted academic, Two Bits Man, is keeping you healthier.

Likewise, the next time you skip an 8 a.m. class where attendance is taken, again, remember that cutting caffeine will make you live longer. If you take the Two Bits approach, you're guaranteed to live a long and stress-free life.

If that doesn't work, you can always transfer to a liberal arts school. I hear that everyone in the arts practices the Two Bits technique. Until I stop using my own computer, this is the Two Bits Man wishing you graduation in less than 10 years and a long life.