



Highway accident damages Ramblin' Wreck

By Craig Tabita
News Editor



By Matt Emerick / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Ramblin' Wreck carries cheerleaders onto the field before last year's football game against Samford, as it has done for every home game since 1961. A serious accident may put that streak in jeopardy.

While being towed en route to a scheduled appearance at a wedding in Savannah, the Ramblin' Wreck was involved in a highway accident on Friday, June 22 that totaled the Ford Expedition and trailer that were pulling it and left the Wreck itself seriously damaged.

It all happened as driver John Bird, a fourth year Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering major, was driving on Interstate 75 in Monroe County about 60 miles south of Atlanta with his younger brother Matt. "Something in the trailer failed, and the trailer pulled us off the road going 70 miles an hour. We went perpendicular to the lanes of traffic, and we

crashed into a ditch on the side of the road," Bird said.

"There wasn't any fishtailing or anything like that. The trailer just snapped and made a 90 degree turn, and I just said 'Matt, hold on' and we hit the ditch. The whole thing lasted about 2 seconds." Bird said.

"I'm pretty positive we can do [all of the repairs] ourselves."

John Bird
Ramblin' Wreck driver

He stated that he and his brother got whiplash, and his brother bruised his leg, but that otherwise both are fine. While the damage to the Wreck was

considerable, it also could have been a lot worse.

"The left side is smashed up pretty good and the roof is torn up. Those are the main issues right now, but the motor is fine and all the wheels are fine," Bird said.

See **Wreck**, page 2

Computer breach puts data at risk

By Craig Tabita
News Editor

A computer breach discovered by Tech June 1 may have exposed personal data belonging to 23,000 current and former students. The affected students were all notified via e-mail June 14.

According to Matt Nagel, a media relations specialist with Institute Communications and Public Affairs, the computer contained names, addresses, GT ID numbers, and birth dates.

"The information was on a file on that computer that was breached, but there is no way of knowing whether for sure that file had been accessed," Nagel said. The Institute decided to inform students as a safeguard, he said.

"We're erring on the side of caution. Whenever there's information that is compromised you want students to be aware of it so that they can keep an eye out for things," Nagel said.

Nagel could not reveal any details pertaining to what was meant by a "breach", citing the ongoing investigation into the incident.

Tech found that the computer contained this personal data on June 5, four days after they discovered the breach.

The personal information is protected under the Family Education and Rights Protection Act (FERPA), a federal statute enacted in 1974 which is designed to ensure privacy of directory information.

The act requires educational institutions to give students advance notice if they intend to disclose their personal information, as well as a chance to request that their information remain undisclosed. It also requires that students be notified once per year of their rights under the act.

Nagel said that the students whose data were contained in the file took mandatory

See **Breach**, page 3

RoboCup attracts best of the robotics, AI worlds

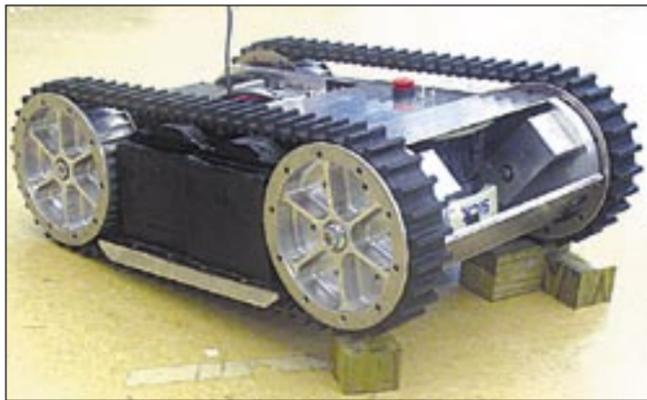
By Craig Tabita
News Editor

If you've ever wanted to see robots play soccer, you'll get the chance next week as RoboCup, the international robotics competition and symposium, comes to Tech. Most events will be held in the CRC, and Tech students can use their Buzzcards to get in free.

Robots built by teams from 33 countries will participate in the event, which has the ultimate goal of being able to field a soccer team in 2050 that can beat the world's best human players.

Since 1997, RoboCup has been an annual conference and competition centered around developing robotics and the field of artificial intelligence, using the soccer tournaments and other competitions as an impetus for greater research in the field. Tech was chosen in April of 2006 to be this year's host, making it the first time since 2001 (Seattle) and only the second time ever that RoboCup will be located in the United States.

"It's a little bit like the Olympics. A group puts a proposal up and they compete with other proposers, and the board of trustees of RoboCup decides a few years in advance where it's going to be. I've been involved in RoboCup for about 10 years now and I wanted to bring it here to show off Tech to the rest of the robotics world, so we put in a bid a few years ago to have



By Craig Tabita / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A robot built by a group of Tech graduate students for RoboCup's Rescue league displays its ability to climb over debris.

it here," said Tucker Balch, an associate professor in the College of Computing and general chair of this year's RoboCup.

Beginning on July 2 and lasting through July 10, the first events are junior competitions for elementary and high school students, with the senior competitions beginning in the middle of the week. It all caps off with the RoboCup Symposium, a robotics research conference, on July 9-10.

The competitions themselves fall into several leagues. The soccer league consists of four-legged, humanoid, middle size and small size divisions, as well as a soccer simulation and a junior league. In each league, teams develop a team of autonomous soccer playing robots, meaning they not only move on their own but form strategy on their own. All of these competitions will be held

in the fourth and fifth floors of the CRC, which will otherwise be closed during RoboCup.

In the rescue league, which will also be located in the CRC, teams develop a robot which explores a disaster site and identifies the locations of victims, creating a map for rescuers and giving them enough information to go in and perform rescues.

Other leagues include RoboCup@Home, where teams develop autonomous robots with applications to everyday life, and the Nanogram league, which is a microscopic-scale robotics agility competition. These will be located in the Tech Square Research Building.

Additionally, there are soccer, rescue and dance competitions in the junior league. The junior soccer matches will be held in the

See **RoboCup**, page 3

Top floors of CRC to be closed

The fourth and fifth floors of the CRC will be closed through July 10 while they are used for RoboCup events. Basketball, badminton, GIT FIT classes, volleyball, and other regularly scheduled activities have been moved to alternate locations. For more information, visit www.crc.gatech.edu

Research ethics course offered

The school of Public Policy has created an intensive two-day course designed for graduate students who need to satisfy federal ethics requirements in order to qualify for certain grants. It will be offered in August under PST 8000: Responsible Conduct of Research as a one credit pass/fail course to students from any graduate department.

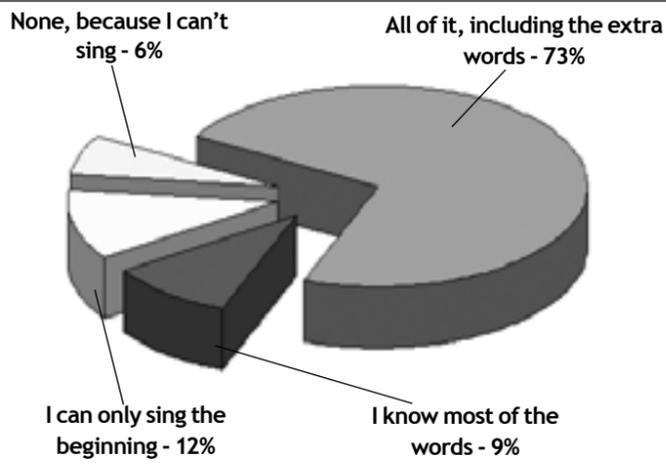
Study: tsunami was unforeseeable

A study led by a Tech professor reveals that a tsunami that devastated the Indonesian island of Java last summer came as a complete surprise to those on the shore, even after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, giving the victims insufficient warning to seek shelter.

The team was led by Hermann Fritz, an assistant professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. It relied on interviews with survivors as well as evidence and debris left behind.

TechniqueOnline Voice your opinion!
Last issue's question received 95 responses.

How much of the "Ramblin' Wreck" song can you sing?



By Kenny Baskett / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:

How often do you listen to internet radio?

Tell us at www.nique.net



From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime

Criminal Trespass

6/20/2007 8:55:00 hrs.

Location: Boggs Physics parking lot

Incident: Report of a shattered window on a '02 blue BMW 530i

6/20/2007 12:30:00 hrs.

Location: 845 Marietta Street (OIT)

Incident: Report of a shattered window on a '05 black Suzuki Forenza

6/20/2007 20:30:00 hrs.

Location: 800 block, Fowler Street

Incident: Report of a broken windshield on a '01 white Nissan Altima

Larceny-Theft

6/21/2007 17:30:00 hrs.

Location: Barnes & Noble bookstore

Incident: Report of shoplifting

6/26/2007 5:50:00 hrs.

Location: Burge Apartments parking lot

Incident: Report that a black '92 BMW 531i was entered and items were taken

6/26/2007 9:00:00 hrs.

Location: Guggenheim Building

Incident: Report of a stolen Dell desktop computer.

6/26/2007 21:00:00 hrs.

Location: Cherry Emerson Building

Incident: Report of stolen Dell computers

Traffic Violation

6/21/2007 13:45:00 hrs.

Location: North Avenue @ Williams Street

Incident: Offender arrested for driving on suspended license and improper left turn, was released on copy of charges

6/24/2007 2:42:00 hrs.

Location: Ferst Drive @ State Street

Incident: Offender arrested for failure to stop at stop sign, driving while license is suspended and no insurance, was transported and released to the Fulton County Jail.

Information

6/25/2007 21:30:00 hrs.

Location: Hanson Residence Hall

Incident: Report of threatening phone calls

Wreck from page 1

According to Bird he and some former drivers dating back to 1994 are going to try to repair as much of the vehicles themselves as they can.

"We've taken it to body shops and we've had very ridiculous estimates as far as cost, time and that sort of thing, and we don't want to pay a ton of money and not have it ready [for the first fall football home game]. We all know the Wreck inside and out because we've dealt with it so much. [For that reason,] we're going to do the work ourselves. That's what the goal is right now," Bird said.

"I'm pretty positive we can do it all ourselves. The things we can't do are some things like painting, but we can find replacement parts and then send out the parts to be painted for reassembly," Bird said.

The vehicle, Tech's official Ramblin' Wreck since 1961, is a 1930 Ford Model A Sports Coupe owned by the Ramblin' Reck Club, a student organization of which Bird is a member and this year's elected driver. The Ford Expedition that Bird was driving, along with the trailer used to pull the Wreck, were owned by the Alumni Association. They frequently allow the Ramblin' Reck Club to borrow them to use while the Wreck makes appearances.

"We say it belongs to the student

body because basically any student that makes it into the Ramblin' Reck Club has the opportunity to possibly drive it at some point and be a part of it. It's always been strongly supported by student government and the dean of Students, and that's always the first line of assistance for the Ramblin'

"We had some continuity mistakes with our insurance... for the most part we're not getting any help from the insurance."

John Bird
Ramblin' Wreck driver

Wreck, and then you deal with the Athletic Association or the Alumni Association," Bird said.

The Ramblin' Reck Club makes great efforts to protect the honor of the vehicle and initially was not going to reveal that the Wreck had been damaged.

Only when it became clear that insurance would not cover the damage, and that donations would be required to repair the vehicle, did the Club decide it needed to go to

the public with the information and ask for help.

"Monday morning was when I found out the insurance was not going to help, and it broke to the public Monday night," Bird said.

In going to the public, the club has still set some limits. In fact, Bird had a very heated exchange with a local television news station who insisted that Bird provide them with photographs of the wreckage.

"We said we're not showing any pictures of the damaged Wreck. I am supposed to protect the Wreck physically as well as its mystique. The spirit of the Wreck is not to be used like a piece of meat for the media. They got really angry, called me 10-12 more times, went up the chain of command to their head producer, who basically bitched me out, and I said we're not dealing with your station anymore," Bird said.

The station eventually apologized and ran the story without pictures.

The Wreck's insurance won't cover the damage because it was not being driven at the time, and the Alumni Association's insurance on the Ford Expedition doesn't extend to the Wreck it was towing.

"We had some continuity mistakes with our insurance. It's a very complex issue with the insurance and we're still dealing with it, but for the most part we're not getting any help from the insurance," Bird said.

The cost of the damage is still yet to be determined, but one thing is for sure: it's going to be a very high amount.

"We haven't really assessed all the damage because you have to take the car apart to see all the damage,

"The car belongs to the student body, first and foremost, and we're going to work really hard to have it fixed in time for the first game."

Anu Parvatiyar
Undergraduate student body president

but it could range anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000, and the Sports Coupe is such a rare body type that they don't make reproductions of it," Bird said.

"We either have to find a Model A Sports Coupe to steal parts from, or we have to find a junker or somebody that has a bunch of spare parts laying around."

Fortunately, thousands of dollars in donations have already been made since the news broke, but Bird said much more is still needed.

Donations should be made to the Georgia Tech Foundation and earmarked specifically for the Ramblin' Wreck.

"It's amazing the support that we've gotten from alumni and old drivers. It really is a testament to what the Wreck symbolizes for Tech," said Anu Parvatiyar, undergraduate student body president.

"The car belongs to the student body first and foremost, and we're going to work really hard to have it fixed in time for the first game," Parvatiyar said.

Bird began earlier this year documenting the history of the vehicle, searching through old publications and contacting former drivers.

He said that there have been instances of damage to the vehicle in the past, but that the extent of the damage this time far surpasses any of them.

In 1968 the vehicle struck a telephone pole as it swerved to avoid a drunk student during a pep rally before a football game.

The Wreck survived a scare in 1990 when, on the way to the Citrus Bowl during football's national championship season, the trailer's ball hitch popped off. The trailer was then being towed by the chains rather than by the hitch, and had the driver not pulled over right away an accident like this could have crashed the Wreck at perhaps the worst possible time.

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Photo courtesy of Stefan Posey, RoboJackets

RoboJackets member Roman Shtylman, a third-year CS major, tests one of his team's soccer-playing robots. The RoboJackets will compete in the small-size class in the 2007 RoboCup competitions.

RoboCup from page 1

CRC, while the junior rescue and dance competitions will be held in the Student Center.

Tech will be represented by a number of entries in the competitions. One of them is a team of five robots developed by the RoboJackets, a student organization, for the small size soccer league. The RoboJackets regularly compete in other robotics competitions but were only able this spring to secure the funding needed to put together an entry for this year's RoboCup.

As a result of getting a late start and thus not being able to demonstrate a working team in the spring, they will have to pass the qualifying round where the team will have to score against stationary defenders before they are able to compete against other teams.

"We're pretty optimistic. As a first year team there are other teams that start out with more funding that we do and they only produce three robots that barely move, so we're quite happy with the results we've gotten as a first year team," said Roman Shtylman, a third year CS major.

Another Tech entry will be in the rescue league, where a group of approximately 15 current and former graduate students developed a tank-like rescue robot designed to use infrared scanning and a series

of cameras to help an operator find victims in a building during an emergency.

"This is a huge competition, and I'm thrilled that I'm going to have a chance to enter a robot, especially one that I had a large hand in building and designing," said Ben Axelrod, who graduated in May with a master's degree in computer science but has stayed around to continue to work on the robot.

"We're very grateful to the students for letting us use the CRC."

Tucker Balch
RoboCup general chair, CS assistant professor

To take advantage of the robotics community's temporary presence in Atlanta, the Robotics: Science and Systems conference was also scheduled to coincide with RoboCup. It took place from June 27 through July 29 at the Fox Theatre, with workshops on July 30 taking place in the Klaus Building.

Balch said the event will bring in total about 1,700 participants to campus, about 1,000 of whom will be staying in on-campus housing. West campus dorms will be used to

house senior league participants, and east campus dorms will be used for those in the junior league.

"I would suggest that the best time to go would be late in the week, Thursday or Friday, because the robots get better and better as the teams work on them and improve them, and it's going to be less crowded than on the weekend when the finals are going to be," Balch said.

Of course, with all the activity and the increased visitor presence, the cost will be will be some temporary inconveniences for students and others on campus.

"Ferst Drive, from the Student Center to the West Campus dorms, is going to be a bad place to drive, so try to avoid that. The Student Center's going to be jammed with high school students also, so maybe eat lunch somewhere else," Balch said.

"We're very grateful to the students for letting us use the CRC. I'm a Tech undergrad and Ph.D, and the whole reason we're doing this is to show off Tech," Balch said.

"Usually it's at a big convention center or something, and I really wanted to get people on our campus. I want people to know how great Georgia Tech is and to think about coming here," Balch said.

More information about the event, including a complete schedule of all of the competitions and selected videos of the robots in action, is available at the RoboCup 2007 web site, www.robocup-us.org

Breach from page 1

courses in the College of Computing between 2005 and 2007. Each Tech undergraduate is required to take at least one computing course, depending to their curriculum, which explains why so many students have been put at risk.

"Immediate steps have been taken to isolate the impacted file, and additional technical and administrative safeguards are under way," the Institute's letter to affected students states.

This is the second time in 2007 that the Institute has faced a security

compromise that put personal data at risk. In February, 3,000 current and former employees, primarily within the School of Electrical Engineering, were notified that a massive breach had exposed information including their social security numbers.

"We're erring on the side of caution...you want students to be aware of it so that they can keep an eye out for things."

Matt Nagel
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

A much more serious incident occurred in 2003, when the Ferst Center for the Arts announced one of their systems was accessed by an unauthorized intruder, and that information about approximately 57,000

customers of the theatre may have been released. About two-thirds of those customers had active credit cards on file.

ROBOCUP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, July 3

10:00 a.m.

RoboCup opening ceremony, CRC

11:00 a.m.

VIP reception, H2O Café, CRC

July 3-July 6

Preliminary competitions, various locations

Friday, July 6

7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Junior rescue and dance finals, Student Center
Junior soccer finals, CRC

Saturday, July 7

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Senior soccer and rescue finals, CRC
Nanogram and simulation finals, TSRB

Sunday, July 8

9:00 a.m.

RoboCup@Space demonstrations, CRC

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Senior soccer and rescue finals, CRC
Simulation and nanogram finals, TSRB

4:30 p.m.

Closing ceremony, CRC

Monday, July 9

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

RoboCup Symposium, Fox Theater
Evening,
Symposium poster session, TSRB

Tuesday, July 10

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

RoboCup Symposium, Fox Theater

Corrections

Last issue's Letter to the Editor, "Firearm bans unsafe," was incorrectly edited to read, "we have seen statistics of what happens when gun control is not implemented." The word "not" should not have appeared in this sentence.

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