WREK examines new proposals

By Craig Tabita
Contributing Writer

Tech’s WREK-FM student radio station may see some changes in the future, thanks to suggestions that there may be untapped potential in the station. The discussions with the station staff so far have included Institute President Wayne Clough, William Schaefer, vice president of Student Services, and Alison Graab, undergraduate student body president.

According to Jeremy Varnet, WREK’s general manager and a sixth-year CE student, the proposed changes do not stem from WREK not meeting anyone’s expectations, but instead from others seeing WREK as a valuable coverage ability to benefit the students.

“WREK is a 40,000-watt sta-

By Michael Skinner / Student Photographer

Alex Mackintosh, a STAC alumna who graduated in 1999, hosts the Ramblin’ WREK Report. WREK is looking at possible changes that could bring in more revenue for the station and Tech.

Athletics undergoes certification process

By William Bretherton
Senior Staff Writer

This year, Tech is one of 34 schools going through the NCAA Certification process. The purpose of the certification process is to ensure that the NCAA’s member institutions can demonstrate that they are dedicated to academics and integrity in athletics.

“The spirit of the process is to help improve the quality of the operations being evaluated,” said Jack Lohmann, vice provost for Institutional Development.

The process began in February of this year when the NCAA sent a notice to Tech saying that the program was up for inspection. The process occurs at all institutions on a 10 year interval. The three main components of the process are academic integrity, a review of Tech’s processes and policies and student-athlete equity.

In April, Institute President Wayne Clough asked Lohmann to act as chairman for the Steering Committee, which is made up of about 20 to 25 people. On Sept. 8th, all of the committees met to get organized and get started on creating a self-study report.

From now until May 1, 2007, the school will work on sending out a report to the NCAA on the findings of the self-study based on the three main components of the process.

By the end of the summer, the NCAA will give Tech back a notice to Tech saying that the school will work on sending out a report to the NCAA on the findings of the self-study based on the three main components of the process. The event took place to comply with a federal mandate that says every school of higher learning with a federal mandate that says every school of higher learning must do something to recognize Constitution Day every school of higher learning with a federal mandate that says every school of higher learning must do something to recognize Constitution Day.

By James Stephenson
News Editor

Constitution Day took place Thursday Sept. 21 on Skiles Walkway. Eight posters were set up to allow students to discuss various constitutional issues. The event took place to comply with a federal mandate that says every school of higher learning must do something to recognize Constitution Day.

“We’re going to have to do something every year, though it is not clearly defined what we have to do,” said Barke, an associate professor in Public Policy.

According to Barke, a committee was created that consisted of faculty from a variety of schools.

“It was decided that the event should be something interactive. We wanted to counter the myth that Tech students are unaware of what goes on outside their labs. We wanted to engage them in constitutional issues,” Barke said.

Each poster had a big topic at the top and an information bar for the students to post their opinions.

“We had a lot of thoughtful responses this year, though not as many threads. Last year, there were several topic threads with sometimes eight to 10 post-it notes per thread,” Barke said.

Students from all areas interacted with the display. “My favorite statement of all came from a student last year. The student spent 45 minutes deciding on exactly what to put up on the board and after he had done so, I asked him about it and he said ‘I’m a CS major in my sixth year at Tech and this is the first time anyone has asked me what I thought,’ Barke said.

According to Barke, the event is a federal mandate, but it also good for the students to be asked what they think.

“The big question is what do with the boards of comments. It would be a shame to keep them rolled up in my office and not to share the information,” Barke said.

Constitution Day creates public discourse

See Athletics, page 5

Rugby works out to fund research

The rugby team took part in the Fight Gone Bad Workout this weekend to raise money for prostate cancer research. The event took place on Sunday and Monday. The rugby team donated their personal money as well as solicited donations from others.

Twenty-three members of the rugby team participated in the event. The event raised $2,500 from the nationwide goal of $250,000.

Wachovia building set to implode

Students will be able to watch the Wachovia building implode Saturday at 8 a.m. The building is located on the corner of North Avenue and West Peachtree Street directly across from the Bank of America building.

Various streets and lanes in the area will be closed for the implosion until 10 a.m. that morning.

Tech alum earns genius award

Tech alumna Linda Griffith was named today as one of 25 new MacArthur Fellows, commonly known as the genius awards, for 2006. Griffith won the award for her work in biological engineering. She is currently director of the Biotechnology Process Engineering Center and professor in the Departments of Biological and Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Committee looks at WebCT alternatives

Web Course Tools (WebCT) will cease to be the main course management system operated by the Tech community in the beginning of the 2008 academic year. WebCT Classroom Edition (CE), the program currently used on campus, will no longer be supported by the parent company, Blackboard Inc.

Two new systems that have the potential to replace WebCT, WebCT Vista 4.0, a product of Blackboard Inc., and Sakai, are being tested by a special committee commissioned by Anderson Smith, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs, to assess which product is better for Tech.

According to Jim Foley, committee chair and College of Computing (COC) professor, the committee has been actively considering the matter.

“The committee has been meeting every week since the middle of August to consider differences between Vista and Sakai.

See WebCT, page 5

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See WREK, page 7

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I think it is a bad idea with a complimentary dessert.

I don’t have enough information to form an opinion - 17%

I think it is a good idea - 52%

I won’t be around when it is finished, so I don’t care - 15%

By Kyle Thoroman / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week’s question:

What should Tech use in place of WebCT?

Tell us at www.nique.net

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Racing Stripes make a car go FASTER.

DSP pisses me off

Yesterday was my birthday, if your reading this, Andy has a hangover

Racing Stripes make a car go FASTER.

I don’t have enough information to form an opinion - 17%

Racing Stripes make a car go FASTER.

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I won’t be around when it is finished, so I don’t care - 15%

www.nique.net

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The laughs come with a sting! Thornton and Heder keep you howling.

Jon Heder orbits past his ‘Napoleon Dynamite’ character at last by getting seriously fierce! A hot and rowdy funfest!

BILLY BOB THORNTON JON HEDER

WWW.SCHOOLFORSCOUNDRELS-MOVIE.COM

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See page 5 for more Slivers!
The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) met on Tuesday. Six bills were passed and one bill was postponed until next week. This was the first meeting of the new year for the senate. All newly elected senators were sworn in.

The second bill passed by the UHR on Tuesday was a resolution expressing condolences to the family of Christopher Kautz. The meeting was the first issue meeting of the semester, and, according to Paul Byrne, undergraduate vice president, the new issue meeting provides the SGA with an opportunity to briefly consider whether and how it should act on a variety of issues brought up by its members.

The Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) met on Tuesday. Four bills were passed along with a joint resolution expressing condolences to the friends and family of Christopher Kautz.

The Representatives also opted to table a bill by the Chinese Friendship Association. As representatives from the group failed to meet with the JFC, the UHR followed their graduate brethren in disagreeing with the JFC recommendation and passed the bill with the exception of business card stock and sales tax costs.

The joint resolution was approved by the UHR, and the JFC was recommended to proceed with the bill. The Representatives also opted to table a bill by the Chinese Friendship Association, as representatives from the group failed to meet with the JFC and were not present at the meeting.

Grant Farmer, a fourth-year EAS student, addresses UHR about tax-free textbooks during the first topic-based meeting of the year.

The Undergraduate House of Representatives introduced issue meetings at their meeting on Tuesday. Four bills were passed along with a joint resolution expressing condolences to the friends and family of Christopher Kautz.

The first bill to come before the senate was a resolution expressing condolences to the family of Christopher Kautz. The bill ran into difficulty, as the second bill passed by the UHR on Tuesday was a resolution expressing condolences to the family of Christopher Kautz.

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Welcome to car-sharing from Flexcar—an innovative and inexpensive transportation option that has just arrived in Atlanta! All you pay for is the time you use the car, about $9 an hour (or $63 a day). Gas, insurance, mileage and maintenance are on us. Our vehicles are conveniently parked around campus. Great for a run to the grocery store, to IKEA®, or for a weekend trip out of town. Just find the one you want online. Then reserve, drive and return. Who knew that getting around town could be so easy, affordable… and fun!

Join the transportation revolution. Go to flexcar.com or call 877-FLEXCAR.
WebCT from page 1

In a couple of weeks, we will have a meeting where the focus will be on getting information from the trials,” Foley said.

According to Donna Llewellyn, director of the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), a high-gear pilot testing phase will start in the spring semester of 2007. Transitioning into the new product will carry into the end of the fall semester.

“We’re looking to see not what students can see six months or one year from now, but what the program allows for innovation. The important question is what does it allow us to do that we can’t do now?” Llewellyn said.

The innovative capabilities of the new product are only part of the parcel of reasoning that is behind the drive for change.

The difference between the two programs is that Vista is a Course Management System that only applies to the classroom and Sakai can be used as a digital home and database for any group whether academic (class/research group) or social (any student organization).

While Tech’s contract with WebCT was paid by the Board of Regents (BOR) and a similar method of payment would be used with WebCT Vista if it were chosen, Sakai is an open-source program and has no license fee.

“Vista would be paid for through BOR annually and this gets us the product and support,” Llewellyn said.

Sakai operates on a different method of payment. “We pay $10,000 per year for three years and join what’s called the Sakai community. It is a group of universities who have chosen to pay this to the foundation. That buys you access to code before it is open-release” Llewellyn said.

This allows Tech to learn more about the product and collaborate with other schools in the Sakai community such as Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

“The cost is for the support for the product. It is for having people at Tech who ensure that the database is up, for showing faculty how to use it, for doing all of the kinds of things that we should be doing to support the product,” Llewellyn said.

“We want to make the best possible change,” Foley said. The new system would help to achieve Tech’s long-term strategic objective of excellence in education technology use. The new system would have to be securely accessible to students all around the world.

“We also have students in the Savannah campus of Georgia Tech. People in the Global Learning Center also teach courses all over the world,” Foley said.

While both Vista and Sakai will have the same basic tools as WebCT CE, the system’s permeation in a student’s academics will still depend on the professors. “Right now, a minority of courses use WebCT in an interactive way. There are universities where the course management system is part of the culture. We want to get a system that has the potential to become part of the culture,” Foley said.

According to Llewellyn, the tools would have to prove themselves. “Tech believes in academic freedom for our faculty so we’ll never be in a campus where we mandate that the faculty has to use a tool. My goal is that we have tools available that are so attractive to be using that the faculty wants to use the tools because it facilitates them doing what they want to do,” Llewellyn said.

Athletics from page 1

feedback on the report. Around September or October of next year, the NCAA will have their official visit to campus to certify the findings of the report.

In February 2008, the NCAA will send out their final decision about Tech’s certification status.

“The biggest part of the workload in the whole activity is the preparation of the self-study, but even that is a fairly straightforward process of Tech putting it in writing and demonstrating that it has documentation to support the NCAA that Tech has the proper operating procedures and policies,” Lohmann said.

Within the self-study, the major aspects are progression towards degree, graduation rate, effectiveness of student advisement, eligibility rules, and admissions. The study will focus on how student-athletes are making satisfactory progress towards meaningful degrees, making sure that those students are meeting their eligibility requirements and ensuring that admissions standards are equal for student-athletes in relation to all other Tech students.

This process is not related to the athletic program being put on probation a couple years ago. In 2003, 10 Tech football players were thrown off the team for academic infractions, including players not making progress toward their degree and eligibility infractions regarding student GPA.

Lohmann said the probation should not have a large effect on the current certification.

“That incident should factor very little into this certification process. There are two reasons for this. One of them is that we responded to all of those issues already, and we have put in to place new procedures, processes and people to ensure that we are doing a better job of monitoring student performance to their degrees. We have reported all of that to the NCAA, and they are satisfied,” Lohmann said.
Yearbook Portraits
Portraits will be taken October 2 - 6
Mon., Tues., Fri., 9 am - 5 pm
Wed and Thurs., 9 am - 9 pm

Weezer Cover Band
Friday, Sept. 29th at 7:30 pm
Under the Couch on West Campus
$5 w/ Buzzcard
www. underthecouch.org

Blueprint Meetings
EVERY Thursday at 7 pm
Student Services (Flag) Building
Room 137

Sports Editor Needed

Contact The Blueprint for more information
editor@blueprint.gatech.edu
the family and friends of Christopher Kautz, the graduate student who passed away recently.

The third bill to go before the senate was the Joint Allocation to Georgia Tech Chinese Friendship Association for their National Day and Moon Festival Gala. The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) made several recommendations to modify the bill.

Since the organizational representative was not present to field questions about the bill, the bill was postponed until next week.

The fourth bill to go before the senate was the Joint Allocation to Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club. The organization was asked for $4,600 to replace a repeater on the WREK antenna so they could conduct amateur radio activities. The bill met with JFC policy and passed the senate.

The fifth bill to go before the senate was the Joint Allocation to the Salsa Club for their Dance Party on Sept. 30. The bill passed in its amended form.

The sixth bill brought before the senate was the Joint Allocation to Students for Justice in Palestine. The bill asked for $1,900 to bring in Jeff Halper as a guest speaker on Oct 19. The bill passed the senate.

The last bill brought before the senate was a Joint Allocation to President’s Council Governing Board President’s Summit. The senators amended the bill to remove business cards and sales tax bringing the total to $1166.16. The bill passed unanimously in its amended form.

For more information or to signup please visit the website: www.safespace.gatech.edu

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**INFORMATION | SUPPORT | RESOURCES**

The Safe Space program increases the visible presence of allies who can help to shape an Institute’s culture that is accepting of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or any other difference.

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Participation in the safe space program will be entirely voluntary and open to all Georgia Tech faculty, staff, and student staff, including Housing Staff, Teaching Assistants, Student Assistants, and leaders of campus organizations.

You must complete Safe Space 1 training before participating in the new Safe Space 2 program.

For more information or to signup please visit the website: www.safespace.gatech.edu

### Upcoming Training Dates

**Safe Space 1**

- **October 6**
  - 12-1 pm
- **November 9**
  - 11 am - 12 pm
- **November 17**
  - 2-4 pm

(For more information, please visit [www.safespace.gatech.edu](http://www.safespace.gatech.edu))