Relay for Life raises $130,000

Relay for Life, which took place last weekend on the Roe Stamps Fields, included more than 700 participants and raised $65,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society. In addition, Bill Todd, Tech alumnus and CEO of the Georgia Cancer Coalition, pledged to match the funds raised by Relay, and thus an additional $65,000 will be donated towards cancer research conducted at Tech. This is the first year that money raised at Tech’s Relay will directly fund cancer research that occurs on campus.

TBD celebrates 10th anniversary

The 10th annual Tech Beautification Day takes place on campus tomorrow, Saturday, April 21. Events kick off with breakfast starting at 8 a.m., and work on projects will run from 9 a.m. until noon. The day concludes with a Celebration of Service in Yellow Jacket Park. More information is available at www.techbeautificationday.org.

Sting Break starts tonight at 8 p.m.

T.I., the self-proclaimed “King of the South,” will play in Yellow Jacket Park as part of the annual Sting Break celebration beginning at 8 p.m. tonight.

The concert will be hosted by local comedian Louis Ramey and the opening band will be local Battle of the Bands winner Just Sidesplitting Sacriledge.

Atheists present a divine comedy

Tech Atheists are hosting a comedy show at Under the Couch tonight at 7 p.m. The event, called “Suckdancing Sanswers,” will take place just before Sting Break, so students can attend both.

Inside

Graduate Student Elections Page 4
Student Activity Policy fails to go into effect Page 4
Full Story Page 4
SGA Meetings Page 5
Honor’s students examine, invest in their program Page 9
Collegiate Panhellenic Council fails bylaws amendment Page 9

---SGA Election Coverage 2007---

Parvatiyar, Peebles win runoff

Anu Parvatiyar (right) and Matt Peeples (left) won the runoff elections this week. Parvatiyar made up a 700 vote deficit from the general election to overcome Youngblood by 500 votes.

By Craig Tabita
Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) runoff elections for the positions of undergraduate student body president and executive vice president ended with Anu Parvatiyar convincingly defeating Mark Youngblood for the presidency, but less than a hundred votes putting Matt Peeples past George Ray in the vice presidential election.

The runoffs were held between the top two candidates in each of last week’s executive elections because no candidate had received a majority of the vote.

The victory by Parvatiyar was a reversal of the finish between the two candidates last week, where Youngblood had 1792 votes to Parvatiyar’s 1117. With two fewer candidates in the race for voters to choose from, Parvatiyar was able to raise her vote total to 1449 while Youngblood’s total actually fell to 1410.

Peeples was able to maintain the advantage over Ray that he held in last week’s election, edging past Ray with a 1643 votes to 1549 votes for Ray.

Parvatiyar said she was “shocked” by the results but at the same time eager to get started.

“I had told people this wouldn’t really change what I planned to do for the next year, but it was a reversal of the finish between the two candidates last week, where Youngblood had 1792 votes to Parvatiyar’s 1117. With two fewer candidates in the race for voters to choose from, Parvatiyar was able to raise her vote total to 1449 while Youngblood’s total actually fell to 1410. Peeples was able to maintain the advantage over Ray that he held in last week’s election, edging past Ray with 1643 votes to 1549 votes for Ray.

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Tech since I was a faculty member of Virginia Tech and my family lived in Blacksburg during that time," Clough said. "Under a clear blue afternoon sky, students, faculty and administrators gathered around the Campanile Tuesday to commemorate those who lost their lives in the shooting at Virginia Tech Monday. Hundreds who lost their lives in the shooting Tuesday to commemorate those who lost their lives in the shooting during that time," Clough said. "Having grown up in Roanoke, Virginia and watching many of my high school friends go on to Virginia Tech and having seen how important Virginia Tech is to Roanoke, Blacksburg and all the surrounding areas, I want to say on behalf of my friends that I can’t imagine what they must be feeling right now," Grab said. "I know that all of our hearts go out to those at Virginia Tech, but none of us can imagine what they must be going through at this time."

"It’s so incomprehensible how so many innocent people lost their lives doing what comes so naturally." Wayne Clough Institute President

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"The words of both Clough and Grab rang clear because they had such a close connection with those directly involved in the tragedy at Virginia Tech. They spoke of their personal relationships with those affected by the events. One example of how they were directly affected was Clough speaking about hiring one of the professors who was killed during the shootings."

"The shootings also struck a chord with Georgia Tech students because of the similarities between Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech."

Skip the parking pass, keep the cash, and enjoy cruising around campus in one of these.

Join Flexcar and leave your car at home next semester. There’s never been a better time to sign up, because we just cut the fee by more than half! Meaning, it’s more affordable than ever to use any of the low-emission, fuel-efficient Flexcar hybrids, sedans and other vehicles all over campus, Midtown, Downtown and now Decatur! Perfect for running errands, for hauling stuff, or just for fun.

Unlike rental cars, Flexcar is open to all qualified students 18 and over! All you pay for is the time you use the cars, with rates between $6-12 an hour including gas, insurance, maintenance, and even on-campus parking! Plus, eligible staff and faculty can join and drive for free.

For more info visit flexcar.com/GT, or call 404-817-3599.
Politics  from page 1

1996, where he served until running for U.S. Senate in 2004. During his Senate campaign he achieved national attention with his keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

He has received some criticism during his campaign due to his rela-

tive lack of political experience at the national level, but he turned that around to use it to his advantage.

“I haven’t been in Washington that long, but as I’m going around the country I’m hearing that people aren’t sure that’s a problem,” Obama said, in keeping with the general theme of his speech that America needs to “turn the page” on a political system he says is out of touch with American citizens who have grown cynical and disillusioned with their government.

He continued to describe various elements of his campaign platform in detail, focusing mainly on his opposition to the war in Iraq, his vision for universal health care, improving public schools, and his belief that America needs to work towards energy independence.

Having such a famous figure right on campus was a big attraction for many Tech students, even if they weren’t necessarily supporters of Obama’s campaign.

“I don’t feel like I have a top choice yet, but I had recently heard more about Obama, so I just came out to hear what he has to say,” said Stephanie Garner, a third year Industrial Engineering major.

Among the thousands of visi-
tors to campus were students from other local institutions. Alisha Jones-Caldwell, a student at Spelman College, came with Richard McDaniel, who attends Morehouse College.

They said they have been Obama supporters ever since he first tossed his hat into the presidential ring and were excited to learn that he was coming to Atlanta.

“I like how he is straightforward. He lets you know what he is for and what he is against, and doesn’t beat around the bush,” McDaniel said.

“I appreciate his honesty. I think that people aren’t sure if that’s a problem.”

Barack Obama
Presidential Candidate

that is lacking in our political system today,” Jones-Caldwell said.

Only days after the appearance, by the presidential hopeful, the Democratic Party’s presidential nominee from 2000 came to campus, although his visit was not political in nature.

Former Vice President Al Gore came to the Ferst Center Wednesday, April 18 to deliver a speech about how climate change is endangering the future habitability of the planet, and that society must accept the “scientific consensus” on the subject and begin to work towards solutions.

Describing himself as a “former politician” and “on the ninth step of recovery” from politics, he began his appearance by commending Insti-
tute President Wayne Clough and other members of the administration on the work they’ve done towards making Tech more sustainable.

He followed with some light-

hearted comments about the controversial 2000 presidential election and how his lifestyle changed in the following years after having been in Washington since being elected to the House in 1976, the Senate in 1984 and then becoming Bill Clinton’s vice president in 1992.

“There are winners and there are losers, and then there’s that little-known third category,” he joked.

However the mood quickly turned serious as Gore described how wasteful living, a lack of responsi-
bility for polluting companies, and ignorance of environmental issues has our planet on a course for disaster, and that it is a moral imperative for governments should also strive to be carbon neutral.

As an example he cited the prime minister of New Zealand who, after seeing his film, placed a greater pri-
ority on countering climate change and decided that his country needed to work towards carbon neutrality and sustainability.

Homecoming 2007

Create a graphic design for this year’s theme and win the $500 prize!

Buzz & The Knights
of Tech Tower:
A MEDIEVAL HOMECOMING

Contest open to current Georgia Tech students only. Submit files to the Student Center Programs Area no later than Friday, May 4th on CD or flash drive.

For further details regarding file specifications and submission guidelines, please visit the website: www.fun.gatech.edu.
**Student Government**

**UHR stops SAF policy short**

By James Stephenson  
News Editor

The Student Activity Fee (SAF), the replacement of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) policy, passed by the Georgia Tech College Republicans (GTR) failed in the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR). In the senate, the bill passed by a vote of 26-2, but the bill only received three positive votes in the house, making it impossible for the bill to go into effect.

The SAF policy has been a hot button issue between the senate and the house. The differences in the time in a conference committee to come up with a compromise that would make both chambers of the Student Government happy. The bill resolving to enact the SAF policy left the conference committee last week and was placed on the agenda of both houses to be voted on.

The House of Representatives passed the bill, but the SAF policy renewed the argument between the two chambers of the SGA. Last year, the budget dispute between the Senate and the House nearly passing a budget which would have meant that no organization on campus would have gotten the funding that they deserved.

While both chambers of the SGA passed the budget, the SAF policy renewed the argument between the two chambers at the close of the school year.

“I am obviously disappointed that the UHR chose to reject nearly a year and a half worth of work on the part of many individuals on our campus,” said Mitch Keller, graduate SGA president.

The reasons are complicated. It seems that some members of the UHR felt that the new policy would force them to give up authority, while the intent of the policy’s standards for allocations that did not follow the policy was simply to require a higher standard than usual for making exceptions,” Keller said.

According to Brock Wester, coordinating officer and graduate SGA president-elect, the reason that the bill failed the house was because of the language used to establish the new enactment ratio.

The point of contention in the enactment ratio was that the ratio was being raised to prevent the house from being able to pass a bill on no matter what happened in the senate. However, the new enactment ratio was trying to force a simple majority to occur in both chambers of the Senate.

Currently, a bill can fail in the senate and then pass the house, and if there are changes, the bill can pass overall if the two versions of the bill are exactly the same. If they are not exactly the same, the bill goes to a conference committee.

The SAF policy was sparked by the Georgia Tech Defense Fund (SAF) lawsuit against Tech. SGA felt that it was necessary to change the JFC policy to make the funding process clearer to organizations requesting money.

With the failure of the SAF policy, the JFC policy stays in effect until the JFC meets in the fall to revise its policy. Until then, organizations have the ability to determine whether or not they can request certain moneys or not. The leader of student organizations to contact their SGA leaders to urge them to adopt the policy early in the fall semester to provide greater clarity and consistency for organizations,” Keller said.

Wester, getting a new SAF policy introduced and passed will be one of his top priorities in the fall.

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**Wester, Yerger win grad election**

By James Stephenson  
News Editor

The graduate student government elections ended Thursday morning when results were announced at the election of both Brock Wester and Karl Yerger as graduate president and graduate executive vice president respectively.

Both races were officially unopposed, though the executive vice president position received some contention by a possible write-in ballot by the Graduate Judiciary Committee (GJC) last week.

The presidential race, though, was always uncontented and Wester has been using the past few weeks to learn about his new position so his transition time can be shorter.

“Recently, I have been transitioning into the job. Mitch [Keller], [current graduate president], has done a good job getting me involved in a variety of committees to help me learn the position,” Wester said.

While Wester is happy about winning, he knows that there are several issues awaiting him once he assumed his position.

“One thing is that I do not have as much experience within the SGA as [Keller] did when he became president,” Wester said.

The four main issues are graduate students on campus, graduate students stipends, payroll deductions, and graduate health insurance.

“The ticketing issues is in a way resolved. The current executive vice president Ryan Bechtel met with Bobby Beallieu, [the undergraduate vice president of campus affairs], and determined how tickers would be distributed next year. There will be a thousand tickets allocated specifically for graduate students, but it will be fair for undergraduates, as well,” Wester said.

Payroll deductions is also close to a done deal.

“[Keller] made it one of his priorities this year. I don’t know if it will be implemented, but if it is not, I will make it one of my priorities,” Wester said.

“[The house and the senate] will be able to do a lot of things next year by working together,” Brock Wester  
Graduate President-elect

The other two issues still have a long way to go before they are resolved.

“With the health insurance, the recent re-bid was unexpected. [Keller] will stay involved next year and I am confident that we will come up with a good plan for the graduates,” Wester said.

With stipends, currently some departments do not pay their Masters and Ph D. students enough to have a livable wage.

“In some cases, the stipend does not even cover rent. We are looking for a centralized policy and will be meeting in May to discuss possible steps,” Wester said.

Yerger will be the executive vice president next year despite some challenges facing the executive vice president position.

“Yerger’s biggest challenge will be running the weekly Graduate Student Senate meetings.”

“I think running meetings can be a difficult task, but I am confident in [Yerger’s] ability to run effectively,” Wester said.

According to Wester, and Yerger will have the time at the beginning of the year. Yerger will have time at the beginning of the year to do a lot of things involving the Student Senate meetings.

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[Page 6 for more Slivers!]
The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) met Tuesday. 12 bills passed while one failed.

The first bill brought before the senate was the joint allocation to the American Medical Students Association. The bill was returning from the conference committee where the undergraduates and the graduates compromised on the bill. The bill passed the senate.

The next bill brought before the senate was the joint allocation to the American Medical Students Association, Joint Allocation to Triathlon Club, Joint Allocation to Leadershape, Joint Allocation to American Medical Students Association, Joint Allocation to RHA, Joint Allocation to Hellenic Society, Joint Resolution AASU, Joint Allocation to Equestrian Club, Joint Allocation to Wreck Racing, Resolution Expressing Candidences, Joint Resolution FY2008 Budget. The bill passed unanimously with 29 votes in favor.

The third bill presented to the house was the joint allocation to the GT chapter of the American Medical Students Association, which had been in conference committee. The bill passed with 28 votes in favor and one vote against.

The second bill brought before the house was the joint allocation to the Leadershape Conference. The conference was asking for $15,500 to help cover "A six-day program that goes yearly at Tech, as well as other campuses around the nation", said Danielle McDonald, Assistant Dean of Students. The bill passed unanimously with 29 votes in favor.

The fourth bill brought before the house was the joint allocation to the GT chapter of the American Medical Students Association, Joint Resolution FY2008 Budget, Annual Budget, Approved Joint Resolution FY2008 Budget, Amendments April 10 dealing with their Judicial branch to help form a joint judicial board between IFC and the other Greek organizations on campus to deal with institutional issues. The bill passed with 28 votes in favor, no votes against and one abstention.

The sixth bill was the Resolution Approving the Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC) bylaws changes. This council had made various updates in their bylaws to correlate them with national standards, as well as dividing their philanthropy chair into two positions. The bill was amended to also approve the changes to the CPC constitution.

The seventh bill brought before the house was the joint allocation to Leadershape Conference. This conference was asking for $15,500 to help cover a program that goes yearly at Tech, as well as other campuses around the nation, said Danielle McDonald, Assistant Dean of Students. The bill passed unanimously with 29 votes in favor.

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Memorial
from page 2

Both universities have a heavy focus on engineering and with Georgia Tech’s entrance into the ACC, the two schools play each other in sports every year.

Reverend Al LaCour of the Reformed University Fellowship International also spoke at the ceremony. “I’ve been a minister for about 30 years, and the times that I am asked the most difficult questions are times just like this: hurricanes, 9/11, highway fatalities. What’s the point? Is there a point? What is the meaning of this entire massacre? Is there any purpose in our pain?” LaCour said.

LaCour directed those present to a poem for Ecclesiastes in the Bible and emphasized that everything is not meaningless.

The Georgia Tech Chamber Choir sang “I Did Not Die” by Mary Frye to conclude the event, although a statement by Clough summarizes the reaction on campus to the horrible shooting at Georgia Tech. “I know that we will forever be saddened in fact of what happened, and we need to do all we can to assist.” Wayne Clough, Institute President

“I know that we will always be forever saddened in fact of what happened, and we need to do all we can to assist.”

Wayne Clough
Institute President

Traffic accident
4/16/2007 16:27:00 hrs.
Location: 600 Block Cherry Street/ Guggenheim Building Lot Incident: Report of a hit and run vehicle accident (no reported injuries).

4/15/2007 17:29:00 hrs.
Location: Hemphill Avenue and Ninth Street Incident: Report of a two vehicle traffic accident (no injuries reported)

Fire
4/16/2007 10:50:00 hrs.
Location: 1008 Hemphill Avenue Incident: Report of a house fire

Health-Safety
4/16/2007 18:15:00 hrs.
Location: Whitaker Building Incident: Report of a sick person, transported by ambulance to Grady Hospital

Criminal trespass
4/16/2007 16:00:00 hrs.
Location: Eighth Street Apartments Incident: Report of a damaged window and fire exit sign

Motor vehicle theft
4/16/2007 17:00:00 hrs.
Location: Whitaker Building Incident: Report of a stolen dark blue ‘01 Club Car Carry All 2

Each year, Auxiliary Services is pleased to award ten $3,000 scholarships to Georgia Tech students who play a positive role in the Tech community through informal and formal roles as leaders or in support capacities.

In addition, two $3,200 scholarships are awarded to students who have achieved academic success at Tech, while managing the challenges of being a single parent.

We are happy and proud to say thank you to students who have supported us over the years. We understand and appreciate the hard work, self-discipline, and perseverance required for the Georgia Tech student to succeed and hope that these scholarships will express our thanks.

The money for these scholarships is derived from the royalties paid to Georgia Tech for the sale of all merchandise bearing the Institute’s name or logo. We are pleased that we are able to return the money to those who have helped make our operations successful.

If you are making a positive impact on the Georgia Tech community we encourage you to apply next year! Applications will be available online at


sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

No offense to anyone reading my slivers!!! I intend to open your eyes, not to create a sliver-style flamewar. I should study... but I am going to play super smash instead... GT Mmm... Podium Bear... how do you always know how I am feeling? gumball AND a flyer thanks for giving me something to throw teh gum away in, nothin but treble!!!

i am not surprised by the VT shooting, i’m not saying it’s not sad. it is, very. i’m just not surprised at all. i’m in the library and the glee club or something is performing in LBC. awesome?!

ha

ME 6053 sucks caboodle

“Karaoke” is Japanese for “tone-deaf.”

Not really.

Chaotic Neutral: “I’m not going to do this. It’s Tuesday.”

Jack Bauer: “I’ll kill you because it’s Tuesday.”

You wanna know what’s sad? It’s expensive 2 run 4 office. I thought a reason why HoR could be held by 25ys is that the US could have new blood & ideas could bring some fresh perspective in policy. People nowadays in GA have to have money or some crazy connections to get the sign for qualifying. I needed to clean my room. On the way to class today I passed 2 girls I’d sleep with, all time high. I’m really sad at the horrible crimes. Those young lives were more precious than some stupid class!!

You’ll never walk alone

Nevin ‘Rando’ Samuel Peace up A-Town!! I freaking hate finals For a conservative, Ruth is doing a great job as professional victim.

BAHRAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!! ERENBANG!!!!!!!

but Bahrain is better.

i want ana to lose so that the tools at this school realize that they really don’t run everything.

See page 8 for more Slivers!
Parvatiyar said she encourages anyone interested in an executive board position to apply and that applications will be due Friday, April 27. “I’m a believer in making sure you get the right people on board first, so there will have to be a very quick turn-around time on these positions,” Parvatiyar said.

Peeples, like Parvatiyar, was relieved to have the extended deadline.

“I want to commend the other candidates for running a good campaign.”

Matt Peeples
Undergraduate Executive Vice President-elect

campaign come to a close and set his sights on the upcoming year in his new position.

“It feels great to have all to over win. The race was really close all the way and I want to commend the other candidates for running a good campaign and raising some important issues. I hope to work to implement the PRS system and we will have to do a little bit of work on our Joint Finance Committee policy since it failed at the last meeting,” Peeples said.

The results were announced in the Student Center Commons by Will Welch, elections committee chair, and fourth-year International Affairs major Zach Schrader. However, the time was moved up from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in order to not overlap with a choir performance held in the Ferst Center, which ran until approximately 6 p.m.

The results came as a surprise to many who had followed the election as Parvatiyar made up such a large vote deficit. However, with two less candidates on the race, there are still enough voters that reach a large number of voters who had previously supported one of the other candidates.

Another aspect of note with the run-off elections is the high voter turnout for a new position. The presidential runoff received 3,354 votes, 76 percent of the voter turnout from the initial SGA election and which is the highest vote total ever and thus far in previous years.

According to Welch, the high voter turnout is due to the need for a runoff and was the result of an overall successful campaign and election cycle on campus.

Grant Prk, Tri-Plex, 1 BR, WD, Parking, washer/dryer , fridge. $275 monthly possible 866-889-9440 www.bluewhalepoolmanagement.com or call us@770-893-9017.

Lifeguard position open this summer at indoor and outdoor pools. Salary: $7.50-$10.00 an hour. Go to www.bluewhalepoolmanagement.com and click on Employment Help Desk or call 770-893-9017.

Part time weekend dispatcher needed for immediate opening. Call 1-866-770-4605 or email resume to jennifer@emejob.net.

Dynamo Pool Management and Dynamo Swim School now taking applications for immediate openings for our 2007 (indoor and outdoor pools) for the following positions: Team Leads, Swim Instructors, Head Lifeguards, Lifeguards, Pay Range: $7.50-$10.00 per hour. Pay depends on experience and position. Outdoor pools are located at Rivermill Club, North Fulton Counties. Indoor pools: Whole Foods, East Cobb, Buckhead, Galleria. Experience necessary.Training provided at nominal cost. Now interviewing. Contact: Tammy Wilson at 770-752-6789 x4, donna@dynamoswimchool.com for indoor pool instructors;Devon Ferry 770-772-2879 x18, devon@ferry.com for outdoor team leads and swim instructors;Mike Cotter 770-458-9422 x11, dynamom@earthlink.net for outdoor head lifeguards and lifeguards.

**Runoff from page 1**

“You put yourself out for judgment by 12,500 people and hope that you do it. I’m excited for what the year will bring and for the potential that we have.” Parvatiyar said.

Parvatiyar is currently the chief of staff in current undergraduate student body president Alison Grab’s executive cabinet. Grab believes having this position will help Parvatiyar adjust to her new role.

“She has great experience and I think she’ll be able to come in and take over quickly. I think she will face the challenges that all presidents face in trying to build the learning curve in the position, and connect with the students. I think her tour is going to be really difficult too, but I’m sure Ali will do a great job,” Grab said.

According to Parvatiyar, her first priority as president will be to fill out her executive cabinet, which includes the positions of Chief of Staff and Vice Presidents of Administrative Affairs, Campus Affairs, Campus Operations, and Legislative Affairs. She said she will work with Grab to make sure the applications for those positions go out as soon as possible.

Parvatiyar said she encourages anyone interested in an executive board position to apply and that applications will be due Friday, April 27. “I’m a believer in making sure you get the right people on board first, so there will have to be a very quick turn-around time on these positions,” Parvatiyar said.

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and it passed unanimously with 29 votes in favor.

The seventh bill brought before the house was the joint allocation to the Hellenic society, which had been moved up from new business. The culturally based club was requesting funding to purchase new flags, and the bill passed unanimously with 29 votes.

The eighth bill presented to the house was the joint allocation to Wreck Racing. The bill was amended down to a joint allocation to RHA around campus, which will be expanding next year. The bill passed with 25 votes in favor, one vote against and two abstentions.

The ninth bill presented was the joint allocation to Wreck Racing. The bill was amended down to a new total of $285, which was what the organization expressed as crucial. The bill passed unanimously with 28 votes in favor.

The tenth bill presented to the house was the joint allocation to Equestrian Club. The club’s president, Stacey Mahlmeister, has qualified for nationals, and the group was requesting travel and coaching funds. The bill was amended to strike the coaching funds, and lower the travel costs. The final bill passed the house with 28 votes in favor.

The eleventh bill presented was the joint allocation to the African American Students Union. The group is holding an end of year conference, and received $75 for publicity funding. The bill passed unanimously with 28 yays.

The twelfth bill presented was the joint allocation to the Hellenic society. The bill failed the house with only 3 votes in favor, 26 votes against and no abstentions.

The thirteenth bill presented to the house was the joint resolution expressing condolences to the Virginia Tech community. The bill passed by unanimous acclamation.

The fourteenth bill brought before the house was the joint allocation to the African American Students Union. The group is holding an end of year conference, and received $75 for publicity funding. The bill passed unanimously with 28 yays.

The fifteenth and final bill presented to the house this semester was the joint resolution on the fiscal year 2008 budget for Tier I, II, and III organizations. The bill had been in conference committee since last week, and was changed slightly from the version passed in the house. The aquatic center received four more paid weeks of operations, as well as various small changes throughout the budget. The budget passed the house with 28 votes in favor, one vote against and no abstentions.

The funding was to go towards the newspaper program sponsored by the Residence Hall Association.

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Student Life

CPC fails to grant local, associates voting rights

By Vivian Kaul
Staff Writer

The Collegiate Panhellican Council (CPC) was recently presented with new amendments to their constitution that would allow local sororities and associate member committees some voting rights within CPC. This is part of several changes that have been made to streamline the current CPC constitution. However, the amendments failed to pass CPC after a tied vote Monday night.

Jenn Tanner, CPC Executive Vice President, was one of the instrumental figures in the process. “This last semester we made a lot of changes to the constitution bylaws. Just a lot of clean up as far as the bylaws are concerned,” Tanner said.

Voting rights bylaws have come up before, but the issue was refining the proposed legislation. “The concern at the time was because they were associate members and paid fewer dues than we do, and have significantly less members than we do. Giving them voting rights was not an interest at the time.” Tanner said.

She went on to say that this is because many of the issues that call for votes are not issues that the associate members would have any interest in. “We vote on issues of formal recruitment issues which would not be of interest to them since they do not take part in formal recruitment,” Tanner said.

Associate members and local sororities pushing for these new rights were then told by the CPC to refine their scope. The voting rights have been proposed a total of 5 times. The most recently failed amendments require that a member who wishes to gain voting rights must be a member in good standing with perfect attendance for a period of at least 2 years. After the committee gains voting rights it is subject to all of the rules which govern the legislative bodies. However, even with these rules in place there are still restrictions on how many local sororities can be part of the council.

“There are regulations about how many sororities we can have in our council at one time. But really it doesn’t matter because they can still participate in Greek Week and Homecoming,” she said.

There are also additional benefits for local sororities beyond voting rights. Under the new amendments they will also gain the ability to hold positions as committee chairs.

Despite apparent support from the national sororities on campus during discussion about the amendments before the vote, the amendments still ultimately failed.

“It seems, to me and I believe to most of the leaders in the council, that it is unfair for them to pay dues, come to events, and yet they don’t have avote. They should have a vote for the issues that pertain to them,” Tanner said.

Honor’s Program students examine future of program

By Corbin Ponn
Staff Writer

The inaugural year of Tech’s Honor’s Program is coming to an end, and this first class has seen its share of ups and downs that inevitably appear with the beginning of a new initiative. However, in the end, a community developed as the students have helped to iron out issues and inject some of their own ideas for the future of the Honor’s Program.

“There are six students on the [Honor’s Program] committee, and we plan out what programs the students want to do over the course of the semester. This year was a trial run for the committee... as we looked for ways to bring all the students together,” said Erin Garcia, first-year Industrial Engineering major and member of the committee.

In addition to Garcia, the other five students that make up the Honor’s Program committee are Rachir Karmali, Ricardo Ibarria, Emily Chambers, Nuelle Beren and Will Marshall.

The activity that the students decided to undertake this year was conducting book drives at Tech and at some high schools in the local area. The books are then donated to Sheltering Arms, a non-profit early childhood education program. During the summer they will participate in a program called “Reading Pals” where they will go to read to kids once a week.

“They are a real group of go-getters. They have found ways to get over the obstacles. They contacted some of their high schools about doing book drives and had to deal with finding out that later the book drives hadn’t taken place. They just drop what they were doing,” said Nicole Leonard, assistant to the director for the Honor’s Program.

In addition to a committee that plans program-wide activities, students have also expressed interest in the creation of a steering committee that would be responsible for organized communication with the Honor’s Program office. This strategic planning committee would provide the students with the ability to help define the Honor’s Program so it doesn’t become just a title.

“We don’t want to have the [Honors Program] be like us saying, ‘Hey! Look at us!’ There were some [unknowns in the beginning], because we didn’t quite know what we were getting ourselves into.”

We now [better] know what is required of us, [and] students want the steering committee to [help define] where the program goes, to [provide student input on] aspects like reasonable expectations... By knowing the expectations and also knowing how to interact with the office, people are getting a lot more comfortable,” Garcia said.

This comfort has led students to get behind a proposal to create new special topics classes that they need to take for their curriculum. The new class centered around music is a popular example of the Honor’s Program students proposing new ideas.

“We really try to encourage them to have ideas for classes, especially if the ideas are interdisciplinary and group focused in nature. We would love to accommodate the students for these courses that are part of their requirements,” Leonard said.

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