Students reflect on Honors Program

By Ranganath Venkataaraman
Senior Staff Writer

One year ago, the first class of 115 students in the Honors Program entered Tech, the first to embark on a journey where no one knew exactly where they would end up. Now, in its second year, students enrolled in the program have plenty of praise for it, but with some scattered issues.

First proposed in the fall of 2004, the program aims to enhance the educational experience of select admitted freshmen by introducing smaller classes and allowing closer contact with faculty. There is no separate application; prospective enrollees must only include two of the five optional essays with their standard application. Another goal of the program is to lure highly qualified applicants to Tech who may be thinking of attending other universities.

One of the successes of the program has been its intimacy and the open flow of ideas that it facilitates, according to last year’s charter class members.

“The Honors Program is an intellectually stimulating environment. Classes are not necessarily more difficult; it just gives everyone the opportunity to freely discuss what is going on,” said Will Boyd, a second-year Physics major in the program.

Howell Residence Hall has been designated as the on-campus home of honors students, at least during their freshman year. The building, which was originally used as a traditional Freshman Experience dorm, is now filled with honors students.

See Honors, page 5

Ticket policy changes for grads, SWARM

By Emily Chambers
Senior Staff Writer

EFFECTS OF THE NEW POLICY:
Graduate students:
A fixed amount of tickets will be reserved for graduate students and can be picked up starting on Tuesdays before home games.

SWARM:
Tickets may be picked up on Fridays after turning in a member’s voucher eight days before game day.

1st and 10:
No changes.

Students in SWARM cheer on the Jackets at last season’s homecoming.

See Tickets, page 7

UHR, GSS pass joint finance bill

By Emily Chambers
Senior Staff Writer

Whether most students at Tech realize it or not, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) policy is a document with a profound effect on their college experience since it oversees how the Student Government Association (SGA) funds students organizations. Finally, in the culmination of a several-year-long effort, a new edition of the policy was finally able to pass both the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) and the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) on Tuesday.

Both branches of SGA share the responsibilities of allocating the Student Activity Fee. The new JFC policy lays out recommendations for the allocation of the fees.

The policy itself deals with both joint and non-joint Student Activity Fee allocations. Both the graduate and undergraduates vote on Joint Allocations, and the funds requested can be drawn from two different accounts, the Capital Outlay and the Prior Year Account.

Non-Joint allocations are funded by only one legislative branch. These funds are in limited accounts designated for special projects and initiatives of SGA, and are drawn from the Undergraduate Legislative Reserve (ULR) and the Graduate Legislative Reserve (GLR).

According to the newly passed policy, student organizations
JFC from page 1

may receive funding in the forms of an annual budget and/or written requests for funds in the forms of bills. Organizations must submit their budgets for the next fiscal year in October of each year. At this point, they are reviewed by the Joint Finance Committee Chair, the Vice President of Finance, and the JFC Chair present their budgets for the next fiscal year. Organizations must submit requests for funds in the forms of an annual budget and/or written requests for funds in the forms of bills. They at least serve as a good estimate - 42%

No, different colleges are right for different people - 13%

The entire system is corrupt and rigged - 23%

They at least serve as a good estimate - 42%

Based on the initial review of the budget, the SGA determines the next year’s Student Activity Fee and begins the process of budgetary planning. The JFC policy also defines what may and may not be included in the Student Activity Budget. Events with alcohol present, food, capital expenditures, gifts, FASET materials, and recruitment activities are all prohibited.

The debate was centered on the inclusion of anti-religious groups, such as atheist groups, in the definition of “church” as it is used in its separation of church and state clauses. The JFC policy was amended this week in both houses. The GSS amended the policy to include a definition of emergency capital expenditure. This definition outlined unforeseeable costs that a student organization can request funding for, such as theft of organization property.

In order to amend the JFC policy, the minimum .60 enactment ratio must be met, as well as majority approval in each individual chamber. The recent amendments to the JFC policy will soon be available on the SGA website, sga.gatech.edu, and the full voting record will be available on the new Online Bill System at www.gtsga.com.

From the files of the GTPD...

**Criminal Trespass**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/2/2007</td>
<td>15:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Metered parking between Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Drive and Atlantic Drive</td>
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<td>Incident:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident:</td>
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<td>Report of damages to a black '07</td>
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<td>9/1/2007</td>
<td>13:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Transit Center Parking Deck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident:</td>
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<td>Report of a stolen/recovered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Drive/94 Honda Accord.</td>
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**Driving under the Influence**

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<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Location:</td>
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<td>North Avenue/North Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Parking Gate</td>
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**Motor Vehicle Theft**

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<tr>
<td>9/3/2007</td>
<td>18:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>First Drive/Campus Transit Center</td>
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<td>Incident:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Parking Deck</td>
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**Buglary**

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<td>08:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>North Avenue/Burge Apartments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Offender arrested and transported</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>to the Fulton County Jail.</td>
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**Fire/Incident**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Incident</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/2/2007</td>
<td>3:20</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Tech Parkway/Means Street/North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Avenue Apartments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident:</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>Offender arrested for driving under the influence, no license on person and possession of drug related items, was transported and released to the Fulton County Jail.</td>
<td></td>
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**UHR Meeting**

During the UHR meeting this past week there was debate over one of the prohibited items. Prohibited allocations include religious activities, which are defined by the JFC policy as activities which support religious worship and proselytizing. The debate was centered on the inclusion of anti-religious groups, such as atheist groups, in this definition; while they are not religiously devout, they are similarly focused on religion.

The definition outlined unforeseeable costs that a student organization can request funding for, such as theft of organization property. There was a second amendment, dealing with the enactment ratio required for the policy to become effective. The original definition called for a .60 enactment ratio with a 25% affirmative vote in each chamber. Enactment ratio is the number of legislators in each chamber divided by the percentage of the student activity fee that each chamber represents. The policy was amended to state “at least .60” for clarification purposes.

In order to amend the JFC policy, the minimum .60 enactment ratio must be met, as well as majority approval in each individual chamber. The recent amendments to the JFC policy will soon be available on the SGA website, sga.gatech.edu, and the full voting record will be available on the new Online Bill System at www.gtsga.com.

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CROSS INTO THE BLUE

**Campus Crime**

**Detachment 165**

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**R·O·T·C**
GSS funds picnic, adopts JFC policy

UHR approves new JFC policy

I’m a fish in the water, watch how I swim. Shanghai Shanghai Shanghai Shanghai
I love GT HEROs! ![image]
someone’s delusional
great evz vs. pathetic thbn... who would win? Klaus to Tech Square in 10 minutes? Can’t be done!
Hourai Hourai Hourai Hourai
Gonging Greek is the best choice I ever made!!!
Tim Gallagher looks like a mexican train robber...
Care Bears teach you NOTHING
I got 100% of my daily recommended allowance of Creepy from Tim’s front page picture...thanks, Technique! destroy all robots
drone
The purpose of fire drills is to desensitize students to ensure maximum casualties in an actual fire.
ZOMG did Tech just whip Notre Dame? Other schools: win game, shirts come off. Tech: win game, Starcraft limit cap comes off
You should’ve used Pam, Stickyfood!
What happens to a broken heart sentenced to 19 hours and an insane roommate?
Freeball Friday is in session. Dress accordingly.
has two bits man had a brain transplant? it’s like he’s a totally different person!
one who’s actually FUNNY kerstin, i dont know who you are, but thanks for sharing your music on itunes
France Holland Tibet Kyrono London Russia Orioles! If you were about to be paddled with a paddle with holes in it, what’s your first thought?
Grapes.
DEUUUUUUUUUUCE
how are we supposed to understand in recitation what you poorly taught in lecture if we have a quiz EVERY single session?
Hey Cheeseburger Charlie: Choice and the Jackers owned you.

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**Information Session**
Date: 9/12/07  Time: 7:00pm
Location details: Student Success Center
President Suite B
Resume Drop Date: 9/13/07
The director of the Honors Program is Greg Nobles, a professor in the School of History, Technology, and Society. He said he is very pleased with the trajectory of the program during its initial year.

"The students also developed a very strong intellectual and social community in Howell," Nobles said. "In general, the students—and the faculty members, too, I should add—seemed to get it in terms of the underlying goals of the program, and they made the program even better than we had originally imagined."

Having everyone inside the same dorm gives the students a great opportunity to get to know each other, but overcrowding has forced some of the honors students to reside in the adjacent Smith Hall.

"I'm not mad, just disappointed," said Jonathan Saethang, a second-year Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering major, who said being locked out of activities like study sessions! sometimes leaves him and the others who don't have keys to Howell feeling isolated.

On first learning that a subset of incoming freshmen would now belong to an Honors Program, many students expressed concerns of creating such a separated community and how it would benefit the majority of the greater student body who is not directly involved with it. But Nobles pointed to examples of how the Honors Program has already made contributions that non-Honors Program students can appreciate.

"We provided financial and logistical support to a group of very energetic and able Honors Program students who organized GT Trailblazers last year, creating an alternative Spring Break experience that took both Honors Program and non-Honors Program students on a working/hiking trip to the Appalachian Trail," Nobles said.

This alternative break was conceived by four honors program students: Boyd, Shaffer, Jonathan Saethang, a second-year Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering major, and Martha Lesniewski, second-year Materials Science and Engineering major.

"It's an alternative spring break trip with twelve students to do trail maintenance work on Appalachian Trail and combine it with outdoor activities," Boyd said.

Nobles added that the Honors Program also co-sponsors talks, which are open to the entire campus community. He emphasized a series of talks and small meetings, hosted by Alan Lightman, in 2008.

"Lightman is a physicist, writer and poet who is currently a professor at MIT."

"We've tried to provide our students with both challenges and opportunities, and they've made the most of them."

---

**Greg Nobles**
Honors Program Director, HTS Professor

Boyd expressed that isolation could still occur in a much more basic sense.

"The gated communities might alienate us from the rest of the Tech community," Boyd said. "If we're going to be living in the same dorm, students must make sure to get to know one another and be connected with the rest of campus."

"The role of the Honors Program in a Tech student's career, as a permanent fixture or a transient introduction, will also be considered in the upcoming years."

"You're required to take Honors courses, two each semester, in first year Seminar courses in each semester of your second year," Boyd said. "A lot of the core courses are offered with the Honors equivalent."

Beyond all the seminars and the activities outside of classes, those Honors sections of core courses have proven to be one of the most prized benefits of the program.

"I love the smaller class sizes," said Beatrice Wan, a first-year Biomedical Engineering major whose course load includes honors introductory computing and biology courses.

As students enter their junior and senior years, there are fewer Honors courses to be taken and thus less to distinguish them from other students.

"If we don't do anything different, what gives us the right to call ourselves Honors students?" Boyd asks.

The seminar courses, called special topics courses, were also points that would need addressing, according to Nobles.

" Probably the biggest challenge we need to address is making sure that the HP special topics courses, which are innovative and intellectually exciting, can be made fit better within each student's overall course schedule and, above all, can be used for elective credit."

"The standard curriculum is set, the core curriculum is set, so the only way to get these courses in is to use the major curriculum at Tech," Nobles said.

"At this point, I think the most important thing to know about the Honors Program is that we've tried to provide our students with both challenges and opportunities, and they've made the most of them," Nobles said.
SGA unveils new interactive Online Bill System

By Corbin Pon
Assistant News Editor

A brand-new online bill system has been rolled out by the Student Government Association (SGA) making the bill process and voting more accessible and transparent to the students not in SGA.

Students will be able to access the Online Bill System by going to www.gtsga.com. Not only will undergraduate representatives and graduate senators be able to author bills here, students will also be able to access and view bills that are currently under consideration by the SGA.

“This was entirely a student-led initiative,” said Anu Parvatiyar, undergraduate student body president.

The new Online Bill System will make Student Government more transparent by giving all students the opportunity both to see what bills are before SGA and to give feedback to their elected representatives,” said Matt Peeples, Undergraduate Executive vice president.

There was an old billing system, but it was intended only to be used by members of the SGA to access, edit and view bills.

“The need for the new system arose because the only online bill system was dysfunctional,” Peeples said.

The new site comes with an updated look and will include features that will make it easier for students to interact with and hold accountable their SGA representatives. Students will be able to ask their representatives questions, make comments on the bills being presented and ask for help on an SGA discussion board.

The new system also provides a Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed so that students will be able to keep up-to-date on all the changes that will occur.

“Currently there are four bills that are on the system and all are joint allocation bills,” Peeples said.

Each bill and topic in the system is selectable. Selecting each subject will present more detail, including budget breakdowns and comments. Users will also be able to download all bills and forum topics in PDF format.

“The Online Bill System was a legitimate amount of work during the summer… and was written with Ajax and PHP. It is very dynamic with lots of users being able to read the data. Students now can actively and openly discuss the bills,” said Matt Goforth, Chairman of the SGA Information Technology Committee.

SGA legislators see the new system as an opportunity to be more

See SGA web, page 7

The new SGA Online Bill System website adds transparency to student government by giving students total access to SGA voting records.

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Correction

In last issue’s News section, the story “Tech achieves highest ever U.S. News rank,” wrongly stated that Tech had been ranked among the “Top Academic Programs to Watch” for two consecutive years. Tech has been ranked for six consecutive years.

A Tech tradition since 1911
Tickets from page 1

The amnesty period will be placed back in the general pool, and will be available to undergraduates both in blocks and as individual students. Graduates were able to pick up tickets this Tuesday for Saturday’s home opener against Samford University.

“We started the graduate ticketing because so many graduates were unhappy about being unable to get tickets for the games,” said Scott McLaren, assistant athletic director for Ticketing and Sales.

Discussion about the changes to the graduate ticketing policy began in January. The Athletic Association worked with members of the graduate and undergraduate branches of Student Government.

“SGA has a student ticketing committee. There have been several changes on it for the past few years, and they look at any changes that are proposed by the Athletic Association to try to come up with compromises between the undergraduates and graduates. They are the ones that have been asking at changing the block procedures, and they will be looking at changing the system next year,” said Anu Parvatiyar, undergraduate student body president.

Changes were also made to the distribution of tickets to members of SWARM, the group of yellow-shirted, screaming fans who can be found in the north endzone of football games. In previous years, SWARM members picked up their tickets in line with other student blocks. According to the new Student Ticket Procedures, SWARM will now be able to pick up their tickets a day earlier, picking up Saturday tickets on Friday.

In order to receive a ticket for SWARM a member’s voucher must be turned in with the block 8 days prior to the game. The procedure is the same for non-SWARM members of 1st and 10, an organization of students as well as alumni whose other activities include fundraising for athletics.

“We had originally looked at changing how SWARM tickets and registration were maintained, but we decided against becoming more actively involved,” McLaren said.

“We were looking into expediting the block ticketing pick-up process by trying to add in two lines, but that is not something that has happened yet. That is a change that we are looking at later in the season, or even next year,” Parvatiyar said.

There are no current changes to the student ticketing system. Blocks of students not affiliated with 1st and 10 may still pick up their tickets the morning of football games, and individual students who are not in blocks may continue to do so as well.

“We really don’t foresee any difficulties with the new procedures, and all groups that want block tickets should be able to get them,” McLaren said.

The ticket office is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the gates to the stadium open one-and-a-half hours before gametime.

Tell us how you really feel. Submit a slaver online at nique.net

SGA web from page 6

“Now, if a student organization wants to plan an activity, all they have to do it ask the SGA community online how they can get the most assistance in the shortest amount of time.”

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The site is labeled as “provisional” while the administrators work out issues. The SGA is encouraging all students to register at the site.

Tickets from page 1

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We are an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity in the workplace. We promote a drug-free work environment.

In order to receive a ticket for SWARM a member’s voucher must be turned in with the block 8 days prior to the game. The procedure is the same for non-SWARM members of 1st and 10, an organization of students as well as alumni whose other activities include fundraising for athletics.

“We had originally looked at changing how SWARM tickets and registration were maintained, but we decided against becoming more actively involved,” McLaren said.

“We were looking into expediting the block ticketing pick-up process by trying to add in two lines, but that is not something that has happened yet. That is a change that we are looking at later in the season, or even next year,” Parvatiyar said.

There are no current changes to the student ticketing system. Blocks of students not affiliated with 1st and 10 may still pick up their tickets the morning of football games, and individual students who are not in blocks may continue to do so as well.

“We really don’t foresee any difficulties with the new procedures, and all groups that want block tickets should be able to get them,” McLaren said.

The ticket office is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the gates to the stadium open one-and-a-half hours before gametime.

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SGA web from page 6

“Now, if a student organization wants to plan an activity, all they have to do is ask the SGA community online how they can get the most assistance in the shortest amount of time.”

“We really don’t foresee any difficulties with the new procedures, and all groups that want block tickets should be able to get them,” McLaren said.

The site is labeled as “provisional” while the administrators work out issues. The SGA is encouraging all students to register at the site.
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Georgia Tech Career Fair
Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Information Session
Wednesday, September 12, 2007
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m
Bill Moore
Student Success Center
Clary Theatre

Resume Drop Deadline
Thursday, September 13, 2007

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Management creates GPA requirement for major-changes
By James Hite
Contributing Writer

A new policy in the College of Management will require that stu-
dents with 60 or more credits who want to transfer into the Manage-
ment major must have a minimum 2.3 cumulative GPA. The policy will
go into effect Oct. 1.

However, the new added selectiv-
ity of the College of Management
may not have a widespread im-
pact. According to Steve Salbu,
deans of the College of
Management, 88% of students
who change their major to Man-
agement are in 'good standing'
academically, and he approximates
that 30% of those students have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

"This policy encourages students
to consider changing their majors
earlier in their academic career so
they can quickly transition into the
Management curriculum and start
building their competitiveness for
internships and full-time positions," Salbu
said.

Nancy Gimbel, the director of Undergraduate Programs,
College of Management, emphasized the
importance of internships.

"We have probably about 40% of
our undergraduate students graduat-
ing without internships, and you just
can't do that if you're trying to be
competitive in the top job market.
And we find that students who wait
longer to get into our major have a
really hard time fitting those in.
[The new policy is] aimed at really
attracting better students to our pro-
gram... [and] getting them in
here earlier," Gimbel said.

"[The new policy is] aimed
at really attracting better
students into our program..."
Nancy Gimbel
Director of Undergraduate Programs,
College of Management

Making it more difficult for
change-of-major students to get
into the College of Management
later in their college career provides
more opportunity for students who,
with internal自制性, may not have a
2.3 GPA or higher.

"This policy is not about making it
harder for students to transfer into our
major," Gimbel said. "It is about
providing more opportunity for
students to get into our major if
they wait longer in their college career.

"We're not looking to decrease the
number of Management majors, just
attract more high-achieving students
to our major. Students above 60
credits who do not have a 2.3 GPA
but would like to join Management
will not be impacted by this policy,"
Gimbel said.

The policy change will go into effect Oct. 1.

A new added selectivity policy in the College of Management will require that students with 60 or more credits who want to transfer into the Management major must have a minimum 2.3 cumulative GPA. The policy will go into effect Oct. 1.

Breaking the Bubble
Adventurous millionaire missing
Investigators are searching
western Nevada for Steve Fossett, a 63 year old millionaire aviator who has not been heard from since taking off on Monday, September 3, for a brief recreational flight.

According to the New York Times, Fossett flew out of a ranch
owned by hotel magnate William Barron Hilton at 9 a.m. and was
expected to return by noon.

Major Cynthia Ryan, public
information officer of the Civil
Air Patrol/Nevada wing, reported
that the weather was clear with only light wind and the plane
was in excellent technical condition.

FAP records indicate that the plane, a single-engine Citabria
Super Decathlon, was built in 1980 or earlier.

Ryan said the plane also has a
tracking device that can be tracked
by satellite, but did not know whether
searchers had received information from the device.

Fossett is well-known for his
daring quests. In 2002 he achieved
the first round-the-world flight in
a hot-air balloon after five unsuc-
cessful previous tries.

GT Career Fair
Tuesday Sept 11
Engineering, Sciences and Mgmt
TWO WISHES LEFT.

GT Career Fair
Tuesday Sept 11
Engineering, Sciences and Mgmt
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Stephen Kump, the newly appointed Vice President for Campus Affairs, speaks to the Representatives at last week’s House meeting.

The organization requested $10,000 for speaker fees for the events, as well as $500 for banners. The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) recommended that the bill be amended down to $108 for banners, which passed in a successive motion.

Limited information about who the speakers would be for the various sessions sparked a motion to table the bill.

“Finding Common Ground is an SGA initiative,” said Representative Katie Frasier, “and I think it is important for us to remember that when we are debating funding them.”

The issue here isn’t funding Finding Common Ground, it is funding something basically a $10,000 miscellaneous. I recommend that we table this for a week so that we can get a more comprehensive breakdown. I would rather fund a larger amount that is more itemized, than a $10,000 miscellaneous,” said Representative George Ray.

The bill passed with a vote of 32 yays and five nays.

The next bill presented was the Joint Allocation to Wreck Racing. The bill was tabled as there was no representative from the organization present.

The final bill presented to the House was the JFC policy. The house amended the policy per the Graduate Student Senate, including a definition for emergency capital expenditures as opposed to non-emergency capital expenditures.

The house then debated amending to prohibit funding for organizations based on protecting religion or religious beliefs.

The policy passed the house with 37 votes in favor and three votes opposed.

The final bill dealt with the Joint Finance Committee Policy. The main issue involved reinserting language that had been removed from last year’s policy involving emergency capital finances—money set aside for student organizations to purchase equipment if an unforeseeable incident occurred.

Normally organizations are expected to save for equipment, and the emergencies would be limited to situations like theft of uniforms or destruction of a boat. The bill was passed.

“We open up all of our classes to students after that first phase registration, so if they really want to do it [they can] just come on over and take the classes... If this is the place they’re supposed to be they’ll do well in the classes, and their GPA will keep going up, and [then] they’ll be eligible to join,” Gimbel said.