

## BASEBALL GAINS EXPERIENCE

Meet Matt White, who contributes his professional experience by serving as a volunteer coach for Tech's baseball team. Page 28

## ROCK AND ROLL!

The latest addition to the very popular Guitar Hero series of games presents new songs, new modes and a new guitar controller. Page 16



## One Voice sheds light on human trafficking

By Victoriya Rokhlin  
Contributing Writer

Many Tech students are unaware that the seemingly innocuous corner of Peachtree and North Avenue is characterized by one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in this country. Students learned such statistics as they lent their support for the human rights rally event called One Voice last Thursday in Brittain Rec.

The event, which featured a guest speaker, an informational video and other interactive activities, was created by a group of Tech students passionate about spreading awareness about the growing epidemic of human trafficking in Atlanta.

The facts and figures are the most powerful weapons One Voice uses to fuel the need to raise awareness for this cause. Fact: over 300,000 children are victims to sexual exploitation every year. Fact: Atlanta is considered to be the number one city for human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the country.

"Hearing the statistics was the most shocking thing to me. I had no idea there was a problem this big in the U.S.," said Luke Bachelor, a STAC alumni who attended the event.

Stephanie Davis, advisor to Mayor Shirley Franklin, spoke unequivocally to students about the gravity of the problems facing Atlanta

as the city struggles to eradicate the many dimensions of the issue.

"We consider this the new slavery, and we are enlisting the new abolitionists to join us to put a stop to it," Davis said.

All throughout, Davis made it clear that despite the overwhelming numbers and statistics, there is hope and Tech students can make a difference.

First, Davis explained that poverty and a lack of education is a huge contributing factor. According to Davis, children that grow up in tough neighborhoods sometimes have a history of abuse, which makes them more susceptible to become runaways. Police estimate that once on the streets, young girls will be approached by a pimp within 48 hours. At that point, it is increasingly hard to rescue a girl, as many victimized girls are scared to report the pimp for fear of losing protection.

Second, access to sex services has become easier than ever with the advent of the internet and social networking sites, such as [craigslist.com](http://craigslist.com). Pimps use the "erotic encounters" section to post photos of underage girls, seemingly eager to please for the right price. The easy access to Craigslist is as much a curse as it is a blessing, argues Davis, who points out that police are now using the site to conduct undercover sting

See **Voice**, page 13

## FSA takes top honors in dance competition at UF

By Hamza Hasan  
Contributing Writer

This year, the Filipino Student Association took first place at the University of Florida Def Talent Jam (DTJ) competition, a weekend-long mixer and dance competition which takes place in the fall.

DTJ welcomes many different collegiate student groups who practice for months preparing dance routines and performances. For 15 years DTJ has invited students and professional groups alike.

With an annual attendance of over 2,000 people, DTJ is the one of the most well-known cultural student association mixers in the Southeast.

At Tech, the Filipino Student Association (FSA) has placed third for the past two years, but with a combined program with the Georgia State FSA and a top-notch

choreographer, they took the title at DTJ in 2007 from the defending champion, the University of Central Florida.

The theme for DTJ this year was based on Halloween: "Royal Blood." Members from Tech's FSA danced a hip-hop routine depicting a scene between black and

white chess pieces dancing in synchronization with original steps as well as famous moves like those featured in Soulja Boy's "Crank That" and Unk's "Walk It Out."

"The best part of the weekend was when they announced that we won first place."

**Acelyn Barlaan**  
Third year ECE

when they announced that we won first place," said FSA member and performer Acelyn Barlaan, a third-year Electrical and Computer Engineering major.

However, the victory did not come without sacrifice. The road to DTJ began in September, with intense practices multiple times

See **FSA**, page 14



By Jason Ossey /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## OUT OF THE DARKNESS

*Students work to raise awareness about suicide*

By David Lowry  
Contributing Writer

Last Sunday, Oct. 28, the Tech Health Promotion Department and students from Active Minds at Tech attended this year's American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Community Walk in Piedmont Park.

Active Minds, an organization new to Tech, aims at helping students cope with mental health issues or mental illness and encouraging students to seek help as soon as it is needed.

But Georgia Tech was only one of the groups to attend last weekend's community walk. Groups from other colleges, such as Emory, and high school service organizations also participated in the event. However, families, survivors or victims of suicide made up the majority of the walkers.

The event itself started at Piedmont Park at noon. Participants went on a three to five mile journey around Lake Clara Meer, ending back at Piedmont park around 5 p.m.

The purpose of the Out of the Darkness Community Walk was to raise awareness of mood disorders while reaching out to those affected by either mental

illness or suicide. In addition, the AFSP uses donations and event contributions to support their research and activities.

The AFSP's activities include providing education and information about mental illness and suicide, publicizing the effects of suicide and offering programs for survivors of suicide or those who have been affected by suicide. Ultimately, though, the goal of the AFSP remains the same: to determine why suicide occurs and how best to prevent it.

Additionally, the AFSP's efforts are not limited to the city of Atlanta.

Using such statistics as the fact that an additional person will commit suicide in the United States every 16 minutes, the AFSP aims at increasing the awareness of the dangers of suicide all across the nation.

A few years ago, the AFSP began a series of public service announcements. The most successful, "Suicide Shouldn't be a Secret," has reached over 88 million television viewers.

Last year, the AFSP broadcasted a program aimed solely at the survivors of suicide, called the National Survivors of Suicide day program. This program was shown in over 100 communities and on the AFSP website.

This year, the Atlanta-area Out of the Darkness Community Walk was only one of many walks across the nation held over the last month. Over 100 communities hosted thousands of walkers in support of the AFSP.

But such efforts inevitably cost money. Although the AFSP is unusually efficient—using only 19 percent of its income and dedicating the other 81 percent to funding new programs and initiatives—the AFSP relies heavily upon the annual Out of the Darkness walks across the country to raise money.

In addition to walkers, several people, sponsors and organizations choose to donate and support the AFSP.

Several businesses have deals, saying that they will at least match other donations. In particular, organizations such as Wal-Mart and the Johnny Foundation donate thousands of dollars to the community walks.

The AFSP also offers prizes to participants who raise significant amounts of money.

The incentives range from an Out of the Darkness t-shirt for raising 150 dollars to an Apple iPhone or an iPod for those who raise over 5000 dollars.

See **AFSP**, page 14

# Islamofascism Awareness Week prompts debate

By Aileen Li  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 25, the College Republicans (GTCR) once again hosted the screening of the film *Obsession: Radical Islam's War against the West* by David Horowitz, a civil rights activist who promotes "Islamofascism Awareness Week."

"Last year's Obsession event was a tremendous success on campus, so I definitely wanted to participate again this year," said William Bowden, the GTCR Treasurer.

"I hope that students will take the time to care about this important issue and learn how they can best combat radical Islam and its message of hate and division," said Connor Carolan-Tolbert, chairman of GTCR.

The film began with the quote "this is a film about radical Islam Terror, a dangerous ideology fueled by religious hatred." However, it then recognizes that "it is important to remember most Muslims are peaceful and do not support terror," and the film is about "a radical worldview and the threat it poses to us all, Muslim and non-Muslim alike."

Using a number of interviews and footage from the Arab television, the film explored issues such as religion as an incentive for terrorism, the single threat from radical Islam and the usage of propaganda.

One interviewee John Loftus, a former Justice Department prosecutor, commented that "the world, despite the number of attacks, is still in denial. They don't want to believe that someone has declared war on them."

However, the College Democrats feel that although Al-Qaeda does pose a threat, the biggest threat to America's life comes from its own invasions.

"American's tolerance of Bush's invasion of Iraq and domestic roll-

backs of civil rights has caused more damage to America's affluence and global influence than any al-Qaeda attack could ever dream of accomplishing," said Griffin Wasdin, the President of GT College Democrats (GTCD).

During the film, repeated footage was shown of radical Muslims committing acts of terror in corners of the world, propaganda in the Middle East portraying America as the face of Satan and of Arab textbooks teaching that "this religion [Islam] will destroy all other religions through the Islamic Jihad fighters."

Another interviewee Nonie Darwish, daughter of a Shahid Martyr,

**"I hope that students will...learn how they can best combat radical Islam and its message of hate and division."**

**Connor Carolan-Tolbert**  
Chairman, GTCR

went as far as saying "[America] has been infiltrated with people who wanted the Qur'an to replace our Constitution," and that the radical groups are no longer confined to the Middle East but have spread to all over the world.

In response, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) feels that the film does little to help students understand the reality of the Muslim community. "We have heard enough from the media to warn us about these radicals and extremists—so much so that 'Radical Islam' is increasingly the only image of Islam that the general public perceives,"

said Ahmed Salim, the president of MSA.

"We have said it and will continue to say it: that's not Islam. If you look at the terrorists around the world, their common denominator is not Islam; it's politics," Salim said.

GTCD also agrees that religion is being exploited by radicals to control populations to advance their own agendas, comparing that to how German nationalism was exploited by Hitler.

After the screening of the movie, Dr. Ahmet Erbil, a professor in the physics department was invited to share his insights on the matter. Dr. Erbil not only gave a thorough history of Christianity and Islam, but he also recanted some of his personal experiences with the extremists and shared his view about religion as an incentive for terror.

"When I was growing up in Turkey, as a Muslim boy, I was taught to love other people and work hard, because working hard is being close to God," Erbil said. "When I came to America to do my graduate studies at MIT, I never felt like an outsider. This is to say that Christianity, Islam and Judaism don't really have that many differences because in essence, we have similar types of value, systems and formations of conducts."

"Islam, as a religion, has nothing to do with this group talked about in the film. There's nothing Islamic about these groups," Erbil said.

In addition, Erbil proposed possible routes for people to identify the issue in hand. "I firmly believe what is described [in the film] is going on. I have seen some of those scenes first hand. It worries me deeply because it is violent and [the radicals] will not stop easily until they change," Erbil said.

"I'm very worried that we're losing despite we spend hundreds of billions of dollars in the Middle East just because we don't fully

comprehend how things work in the Middle East. It is very important that people understand the issues and address them in a systematic manner without deviating from the common goal," Erbil said.

The GTCD shares the same view that blindly going into war and spending billions are no longer good options. "Look inward at our response to the attacks of 9-11: approximately 3,000 Americans were killed, and in response, the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq have generated casualties estimated at more than 600,000 by at least two major studies," Wasdin said.

"The world cannot sustain that kind of escalation, and the global economy is dragged down by the massive governmental overspending necessary to support such rampant destruction," Wasdin said.

However, despite efforts of advertisements, only about ten people

attended the screening event and joined Dr. Erbil in the discussion afterwards. "While we were disappointed with the low turnout, especially compared to last year when we had at least fifty people attend, we were nevertheless happy to

have a few concerned students and faculty and members of the community come out and view the film and stay for the discussion afterwards," Bowden said.

However, students have another opportunity to discuss the points presented in the film in the annual Islamic Awareness Week hosted by MSA in the spring. "We hope that through our proactive and sustained efforts on this campus, we will be helping to keep Georgia Tech an environment where all people can feel safe to come together to learn and grow as individuals, as well as members of a larger society," Salim said.

**"'Radical Islam'...[is] not Islam. If you look at the terrorists around the world, their common denominator is not Islam, it's politics."**

**Ahmed Salim**  
President, MSA



By Jon Haeffele /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Shafi Motiwalla and David Ramezani express their opinions after the screening of *Obsession*, presented by the College Republicans.**

## Attention First Year Students!!

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## sliver

[www.nique.net/sliver](http://www.nique.net/sliver)

item  
wouldn't it be awesome if you could just, like, rent a dog for a day?  
sometimes the things I doodle scare me  
Whoever drew the xkcd comic on the sidewalk near 8th street...  
That was pure genius! I salute you, Sir (or Lady)!  
Long baths, coconut oiled hair, spicy food.. desi @ tech  
I'm sure your interlocutor would, if he knew who you were  
Not now chief  
O is for Tuna!  
No! Don't slice the tomato!  
To the girl asking her guy friend why people bike on sidewalks, on  
Wednesday: I HOPE YOU HEARD ME  
Ahhh, I want a Smart shirt!  
My dad's car is stuck at my girlfriend's dorm. The clutch is dead. He's  
not mad about the car...he's mad that I wasn't studying.  
Get your leg off my boyfriend you skank! It is complete cottage  
cheese!  
Rob you suck. You are NOT the intramural king. You are just old.  
Will someone tell them to stop playing that lame recording from the  
campanile...I liked the bells so much better.  
Gorgeous volleyball players walking by Army PT on Wednesday:  
that was me that whistled at you.  
Why do i see four blue routes pass before my red shows up? come  
on.  
Woodys using plasitc and foam now? If that has something to do with  
water from washing dishes, maybe think about the trash combined  
with water/energy used making the stuff  
Panda Panda Panda!  
Hey, pretty girl in my psych class and calc 2 class, WHAT IS YOUR  
NAME?!?  
My girlfriend makes a HELLUVA sexy pirate. No...she doesn't go  
to Tech.  
You guys have it wrong. There are plenty of good-looking girls here.  
There are just A LOT MORE at other places.  
That pink Mustang belongs to a GIRL. The paint is pearly...it's  
nice.

**Voice** from page 11

operations. Thanks to Davis' efforts and appeals, Craigslist now includes a link to the Atlanta Police Department on every posting.

"It's a small victory, but we are looking at all kinds of avenues [for trafficking]," Davis said.

Another avenue that makes human trafficking such a problem revolves around the fact that Atlanta has more strip clubs per capita than Las Vegas. Davis explained that not only is the vast abundance of strip clubs problematic, the young age of the dancers accounts for much of the sexual exploitation occurring in Atlanta.

Convinced that it was vital to get these young girls out of the environment of strip clubs, Davis lobbied the Atlanta City Council to pass an ordinance that raised the age of Atlanta strip club dancers from 18 to 21. The council unanimously agreed, and this latest victory, which goes into effect this week, ensures that the 2,800 strippers currently aged 18-20 will no longer be working at the strip clubs in Atlanta. Davis admitted that while she was expecting heavy oppositions from the industry, she was surprised to hear a lot of positive feedback from bar owners and older strippers alike.

Third, Davis pointed to the behavioral issue involved in human trafficking of the buyers who create the demand for these young girls in the first place.

"What is it going to take to get [people] to stop paying for sex?" Davis said multiple times, evoking a range of responses from the attending crowd. Most agreed with Shirley Franklin's current "Dear John" initiative, a public education campaign which uses shame to target Atlanta's successful businessmen who participate in the sexual exploitation of young girls. The ads run in prominent newspapers like the Atlanta Business Chronicle as well

as billboards all over the city.

While most attendees concur the campaign should be successful and will at least make perpetrators rethink their actions, a few students did not think that shame alone could stop this disturbing cycle of behavior. Some students commented that there needed to be serious judicial consequences, such as jail time and other punishments.

In addition, Atlanta has limited resources to deal with the multiplying problems of human trafficking. A generous donation of \$400,000 from one donor allowed the doors of Angela's Place to open as a safe haven for Atlanta's sexually exploited victims.

**"Awareness is our biggest obstacle, because when people have no idea we simply cannot make progress with this cause."**

**Beth West**  
Second year ENVE

"[Angela's House] is still only one of three refuges specifically for prostituted girls," Davis said.

Davis noted the need for more safe havens; the waiting list for Angela's Place, which currently has just 6 beds, is over 140 girls.

After Davis finished, conversation amongst attendees immediately sparked which is exactly what head organizer, Beth West, a second-year Environmental Engineering major, was hoping for.

"Awareness is our biggest obstacle, because when people have no idea we simply cannot make progress with this cause," West said.

Shelly Eckert, a second year

Biomedical Engineering major, heard about One Voice through her church.

"It is an outrage that there's slavery in this city, our city where we learn, where we live... and to think that such atrocious things are happening is outrageous," Eckert said.

What a Tech student can do to help really depends on his/her level of time availability and desire to commit to the cause. Student organizers Hannah Clement and Beth West stressed that while funds are always needed, volunteering one's time is an equally precious resource.

"There are so many opportunities for every personality type... for people who are interested in the political aspect to the emotional aspect of helping the victims," said Hannah Clement, a second-year Industrial Engineering major.

For a more hands-on approach, students can train to be part of a street team with the Midtown Community Church, in which a van drives around downtown "hot spots" and rescues girls off the street. Students can also volunteer their time with the Juvenile Justice Organization to escort the young victims in court, acting as their allies and often, their only support system as they face a judge.

West emphasized that the need to do something, no matter how small, is most important. Anything a person can do, whether it is cleaning up trash, mentoring school children or writing a letter to a legislator will contribute to creating a safe community for Atlanta's young girls.

West and Clement's next steps are organizing a benefit concert featuring Molly Williams. All proceeds will benefit the Juvenile Justice Fund's effort to start a new safe house for rescued girls. To follow the process of raising awareness with One Voice, check out the blog at [www.one-voice-atlanta.blogspot.com](http://www.one-voice-atlanta.blogspot.com) or email [onevoiceatl@gmail.com](mailto:onevoiceatl@gmail.com) for any questions concerning what can be done to help.



By Ben Keyserling /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Stephanie Davis, Policy Advisor on Women's Issues to Mayor Shirley Franklin, discusses the problem of child trafficking in Atlanta.



By Ben Keyserling /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Molly Williams inks Luke Bachelor's hand before he places a handprint on One Voice's wall of supporters at last Thursday's event.

**sliver**

[www.nique.net/sliver](http://www.nique.net/sliver)

\$10 says the student sections aren't even 3/4 full...  
i changed my major today and i'm having an emotional breakdown pew pew pew!  
There are two TAs in AE2020. Black ink and Red Ink. Black Ink TA is the devil.  
to that guy complaining about smelly people in MGT: at least I'm saving this great state some water!  
i don't know about you guys, but i actually really like t-square.  
I GOT 13 ON MY ENGLISH PAPER WHY  
to the thai guy looking for a girl -- it's not that you're taiwanese, it's that you type things like "plz." loser.  
I demand more slivers!  
victoria secrets angels.... classy  
Jacob B. is the IM master. Especially with women. That are really 60 yr. old men.  
system(shutdown -A)  
Andy is facebook pimp.  
Azar is short for Azarius  
After GP just move the freakin' couches. It's not that hard you

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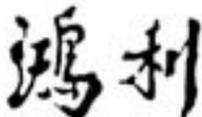
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**FSA** from page 11

a week.  
 “Before we got up on stage, it was nerve-racking. We were all anxious to just get it over with already. But once we started dancing, all the anxiety went away and the adrenaline rush kicked in. We knew that all our hard

work and preparations came down to this one dance, so we might as well give it our all and have fun with it. And we did,” Barlaan said.  
 The performers ranged from amateurs to advanced dancers, bringing together people with years of training with those with very little.  
 “The practices pushed our limits, requiring dance rehearsals for

hours to perfect every little thing,” Barlaan said.  
 According to Barlaan, the Filipino culture takes great interest in the art of dance. Although FSA was dancing hip-hop, traditional Filipino dance has both original and foreign influences.

The Filipino culture expanded its range of dancing with the arrival of Spanish in the 16th century. That, combined with American occupation in the 20th century, resulted in a cultural crossroads reflected in dance. With such a slew of techniques, Filipino dancing is one of the most versatile and expansive forms of the art.

As seen at DTJ 2007, FSA at Tech excels in including dancing as part of its embrace of Filipino culture. FSA’s membership, however, is not limited to students of Filipino descent—everyone is welcome to participate in FSA.

“Students of all cultural backgrounds were invited and were present at DTJ...there’s never anything about FSA that is for Filipinos only,” Barlaan said.

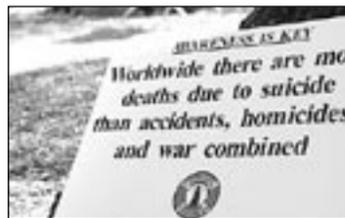
The purpose of FSA is simply to encourage and sponsor a fun environment for the preservation of Filipino culture. The organization regularly holds events to help people discover and enjoy Filipino traditions. No events are restricted to Filipinos, and everyone is welcome to enjoy many of the activities sponsored by FSA.

To find more information about FSA, visit the contact page at <http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/fsa/contact.php> or look for some of their upcoming events.



Photo courtesy of Acelyn Barlaan

Members of the Filipino Student Association from Tech and Georgia State perform their hip-hop routine, which placed first overall.



By Jonathan Agee /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



By Jonathan Agee /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



By Jonathan Agee /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Top left: A sign at the Walk presents a comparison of suicide deaths to other causes. Left: Brina Potvin, Georgia’s representative for Miss Teen USA 2007, discusses teen suicide prevention. Above: Participants walk in Piedmont Park to support initiatives for suicide prevention.

**AFSP** from page 11

The single largest fundraiser nationwide earns the coveted grand prize: a trip for two to New York City and an invitation to AFSP’s 2008 Lifesavers Dinner.

All in all, the Out of the Darkness Community walks raise large sums of money.

Although money continues to pour in throughout the end of the

year, the community walks have currently raised over 2 million dollars.

By the end of the year, the AFSP hopes to raise enough money to continue funding its \$5 million invested in current research grants and initiatives.

More information about the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and how to donate can be found at the AFSP’s website: [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org).



*The Student Center Homecoming Committee would like to thank the following students and sponsors, who made Homecoming 2007 possible.*



- Heather Aquilino
- Annie Bidgood
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Interested in planning next year’s Homecoming events? Contact [homecoming@mail.gatech.edu](mailto:homecoming@mail.gatech.edu)

