



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Sting Rail to fly above campus

New transport to be built after construction complaints



Photo illustration courtesy of Michael Tanner

By Martin McFly
Alternative Transport Fan

Students who are tired of picking their way around orange cones and wire fences have cause to celebrate: plans for Sting Rail, a new monorail transportation system, will soon be unveiled on campus in response to overwhelming criticism of campus construction.

The monorail will have stops in all major areas of campus and promises to be a viable alternative to Facebook ranting against blocked-off construction zones.

"We understand people are upset about the construction blocking walkways—trust me, we've received litigation notices," said Ben Hassled, director of Construction Damage Control. "Sting Rail will solve all that. It will elevate students above

the construction so that it will no longer be an obstruction. Plus, monorails are safe, fast and quiet. They're less expensive and undoubtedly less pointless than running 'I love construction' publicity campaigns."

Institute administration has shown strong support for the Sting Rail initiative. "We're proud to be at the forefront of alternative transportation," said Reed Mylippy, vice president of Communications Jargon. "At Tech, the sky is the limit, and Sting Rail will literally take us to new heights."

The monorail also promises to be a cornerstone of the Institute's environmental sustainability program. "Everything that goes into the building of Sting Rail will be recycled," said Mary Jane High, director of the Slow Campus Transport Program.

"In fact, we'll be taking parts from Stinger shuttles, which will all be dismantled due to severe lack of student interest in using them."

Students have even been invited to take part in the dismantling process. Students Against Stingers (SAS) has partnered with the Stress Relief Clinic to equip all interested persons with sledgehammers, axes and clubs to smash and otherwise destroy the current fleet.

"The health benefits of this event will almost equal the environmental ones. We expect serious declines in student stress levels," said Brea Themore, MD, of the Stress Relief Clinic.

Currently, plans are speeding ahead for the construction of Sting Rail. Due to the economic climate, all work will be done in-house to cut costs, so all engineer-

ing classes will be put on hold while engineering professors and students work together on the monorail.

"We have every confidence that our professors and students have the talent and expertise to make this project a success without any financial remuneration," Mylippy said. "But we're offering wonderful, generous incentives: professors will get more unpaid holidays and students will get unlimited meals at our fine dining halls."

While work on Sting Rail begins in the sky above, construction will continue on the ground. "Sting Rail will offer us a great opportunity to expand construction to hitherto restricted campus areas," Hassled said. "Soon, students will be flying high and we'll be free to make campus as unwalkable as possible below. It's a win-win."

SGA plans to hold elections gladiator-style

By Maximus Publican
Fierce Legislator

In an effort to increase interest in their upcoming elections, SGA has announced a new format for those running for the office of president.

While campaigning and polling for all other positions will remain the same, the new format for candidates running for president will change into a week-long SGA Gladiators competition, to be aired on GTCN.

"We believe that in the face of a tough economic crisis, we need a leader that is not only smart, responsible and capable, but also physically tough," said Clarke Kentwater, SGA arbitrary protocol chair. "That way, we weed out the zeroes

from the heroes."

The decision to change the election process was reached after SGA representatives found it difficult to communicate candidates' platforms to the Tech population.

As a result, students at the UHR meeting on Tuesday voted for a new way to boost student interest in the elections this year.

Out of ten choices, UHR narrowed down the choice to three formats: Project SGAWay (in which candidates will be judged on how well they can fashion a new Buzz mascot in a week), Tech Survivor (candidates would be stuck in an Architecture studio for a week and see who survives), or SGA



By Photo Pugilist / Student Publications

Candidates duke it out in the ring for the SGA presidency.

Lectures to become Twitter-only

By @willgt09
Resident Twatter

In a move to make lectures more technologically advanced and socially hip, the Student Technology for Undergraduate Progress and Integration Department (S.T.U.P.I.D.) plans to mandate that a majority of Tech's courses switch over to a Twitter-only lecture style. This change will allow professors to use the popular microblogging service to send "tweets" of lecture notes in 140-character pieces to their students.

The move to Twitter lectures comes after S.T.U.P.I.D. conducted a student survey at the end of last semester and found that a majority of students have become more prone to skip lectures, but have spent more time on Twitter, as they are always equipped with a mobile phone or device capable of receiving Twitter messages, or "tweets."

The move also has a variety of cost-saving outcomes. The Institute can now save on electricity by not having to light many lecture halls, as there is no need for professors to hold classes. Another perk is the ability to save money on printing tests, worksheets or other class materials. Students can just tweet their homework or test answers back to their professors.

"We think this is really an innovative move in the right direction for re-engaging students in their courses," said Frank Lee Moronick, chair of S.T.U.P.I.D. "Students can now attend lecture without having to attend anything. It's a learn anywhere system."

While some concern was expressed by professors of more complex or non-standard subjects such as multi-variable calculus or history of film, most have embraced the change. "You know, even if I have to describe every scene of a melodramatic, Lynchian film through hundreds of tweets, that's fine," said Simon B. Esse, a professor of Imaginary Cinematic Critique. "I've seen these films a lot. I don't even have to be on campus."

Students are also embracing this change despite the obvious difficulties. "Reading a complicated calculus formula spaced over 10 or so tweets on my phone can be hard," said Alex Trecky, a third-year Computer Savvy major. "But maybe I'll learn it better because I have to spend more time looking at every part."

Other students have come to grips with paying overages in their text messaging plans. "I don't really care that I have about a \$200 or more text message overage charge every month," said Victoria Rich, a first-year Schematic Mapping major. "I don't have to go to lecture, and since it's for school, my parents pay!"

Lesterman does admit that it is difficult for her to submit studio work for her classes. "Yeah, it's hard, but I just take a photo and tweet my professor the URL. It might be really blurry or off-color, but oh well, Twitter rocks!"

Gladiator from page 1

Gladiators.

SGA picked Gladiators “because it offered the most exciting contest and promised to attract the most voters,” Kentwater said.

In SGA Gladiators, presidential candidates will be required to go on publicity runs, advertising their every move through a character persona instead of enduring the current campaigning process of flyering and tabling.

In addition, the debate will now be replaced by a 30-minute power round of three obstacles chosen by the Tech population. Obstacles can include everything from the Joust, in which candidates battle each other with combat clubs while giving presidential speeches, to the Altrasphere, in which candidates navigate a course of miniature Wrecks from inside giant steel and mesh balls that they push with their bodies.

Finally, candidates will be pitted against each other in a tournament-style battle for the position of SGA president. Of the three candidates currently running for president, two will be narrowed down to battle in the Eliminator, an obstacle course that includes swimming under a flaming surface and leaping to catch a giant zip line while reciting Robert’s Rules of Order.

To conserve time, Hulk Hogan will mediate in case of a runoff. SGA Gladiators will be aired from April 1 to April 5 on GTCN. Tickets for the Eliminator will be available at the Student Center for free with Buzzcard.

AIG buys out Bobby Dodd Stadium with bonuses

By Bleedin’ White & Gold
Not a Sell-Out

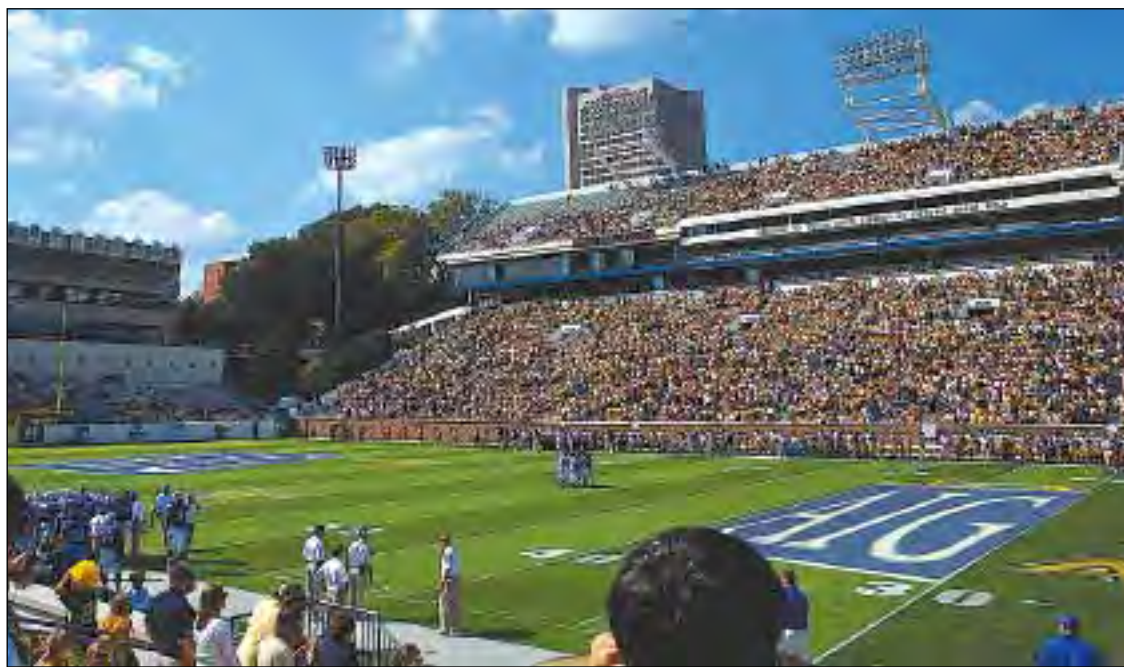
After Paul Johnson’s first season on the Flats proved to be a rousing success, there was talk among Tech fans that Bobby Dodd Stadium should be renamed for the coach who brought the school its first football victory over Georgia since 2000.

On Wednesday morning, the Athletic Association announced that it had indeed decided to change the name of the stadium—but not in honor of Johnson. Following the completion of two months of contract negotiations, the Jackets will officially play their home games at AIG Stadium next season.

“We are pleased and excited to begin this profitable new era for Georgia Tech football. I know our new partners at American International Group feel the same way, and I hope that this relationship can continue for as long as the government can keep them afloat—I mean, er, for years to come,” said Athletic Director Dan Radakovich at Wednesday’s press conference.

Asked to comment on the well-publicized resignation of AIG executive Jake DeSantis, who quit his job on Tuesday—the same day the contract was signed, Radakovich could think of only one explanation: “He must be a Georgia fan. I might feel sorry for the guy if I wasn’t busy laughing at him.”

The terms of the contract call



By Sporty Shooter / Student Publications

for the insurance giant to pay the school \$10 million a year for the naming rights over the next eight years, with opportunities for AIG to buy out the contract for \$20 million after 2009 and for \$8 million after 2012 if the company is unable to recoup its losses. It is currently purchasing rights with the bonuses of pro-Tech executives. A source close to the negotiations noted that the discussions related to the buyout clauses were tense, claiming that an AIG representative initially misinterpreted the term to mean “bailout” and thought the Tech representative was mocking him.

On campus, initial reactions to the news were mixed. Third-year Micro Finance major Skip Tickle lauded the AA’s decision to set tradition aside in favor of profit, but he questioned the choice of AIG. “I’m honestly wondering if AIG can rustle up any money after its bonuses run out, but if they were able to make a solid case to the AA, I won’t argue,” he said.

Second-year MGT Chief Kickingstallionsims, who plans to try out for the football team as a walk-on next year, took the news less seriously: “If they’re going to go that route, then they might as well rename it The Waffle House

or something like that.”

Johnson publicly expressed happiness for the agreement. However, during Wednesday’s spring practice session, the message “I hate corporate sponsorships” appeared on the coach’s Twitter feed. Minutes later, though, a second Tweet appeared in which Johnson confirmed that the disparaging original message was the result of a prank by a first-year player. Without naming the player, he declared that the player had been cut and expressed his “very mild sadness that this young man will never get to set foot on the field at AIG Stadium.”



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The application may be found at www.progressandservice.com.

Application deadline is April 3, 2009, and may be returned at the **SGA Office** in the **Student Center Commons**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Corey Boone, Chairman of the Georgia Tech Academic Affairs Committee, at ctboone@gatech.edu