H1N1 vaccines shortage still persists

By Matt Schichte
Contributing Writer

While Tech students wait for news regarding the arrival of the H1N1 vaccine, those in charge of bringing the vaccine to campus are doing the same. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initially estimated that vaccines would be readily available around the U.S. by the end of Oct. However, as of Thursday morning, Nov. 5, the Stamps Health Services Center had still not received a shipment of the vaccines.

The journey to Tech begins with the federal government allocating vaccine shipments to state governments, who then redistribute the shipments to local governments. Then, the local governments dole out their allotted vaccines to medical service providers within their districts. The Fulton County Health Department (FCHD) is the last stop for a vaccine before arriving at Tech.

Tech’s Health and Services Department (HS&D) and their Department of Emergency Preparedness (DEP) have been collaborating in all aspects concerning the H1N1 virus on campus. Both departments have been in regular contact with the FCHD to inquire about the vaccines.

“I was in contact with them as recently as last Friday continuing to ask the question ‘When are we going to get our vaccines?’ said Jonathan Baker, Director of Health Services. “They are cautious and conservative in their communication with us and it’s sort of a ‘when we know you’ll know situation’.

The largest obstacle to receiving the vaccine is the nation-wide effort to bring the vaccine to the mass in a temporary way, I’m sure the government would be happy to hear about it. These viruses are replicated in chickens eggs and it takes a long time to replicate them,” Baker said.

Because of the country-wide scarcity, the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has created a set of guidelines to help target the groups that seem to be most vulnerable to H1N1. The initial target groups included pregnant women, those who live with or care for infants younger than six months, health care personnel and people with pre-existing health conditions.

“They have recently expanded the age category to the age of 2 to 24 year old, which most Tech students fall into,” Baker said. “We’ve finally reached the right demographic to potentially get vaccines. That’s good news for Georgia Tech because that takes our hopefulness to the next level.” The ACIP extended the age category to college students over the age of 25. The ACIP has also updated the list of those most vulnerable to include anyone over the age of 6 months.

While Tech students wait for the journey to Tech begins, the local governments continue to ask the question “When are we going to receive our vaccines?” Tech’s Health and Services Department has expressed their disappointment with the CDC and HHS in their communication with them. The local governments are cautious and conservative in their communication with the CDC and HHS.

The ACIP extended the age category to college students over the age of 25. The ACIP has also updated the list of those most vulnerable to include anyone over the age of 6 months.

Poor voter turnout reported citywide

By Rebecca Tattersfield
Contributing Writer

The City of Atlanta elections results were announced Tuesday, Nov. 3 after polling closed at 8 a.m. A few pivotal races were left undecided, as no one candidate achieved the required 50% vote needed to take office. The campaign will continue with run-off elections, to be held on Dec. 1 to fill the position of mayor, Atlanta City Council district 6, and other offices in the city council and school board.

The results for mayor in the initial elections came in Tuesday night to show that Mary Norwood only received 44.64% of the total votes, followed by Kasim Reed with 37.99%. Candidates Lisa Borders and Jesse Spikes made their concession speeches late Tuesday evening. Alex Wan, who received 33.27%, and Tad Christian, who received 22.34%, will also continue to campaign for the City Council seat for District 6 (Midtown).

Reed has said that he plans to continue his strategy of door to door campaigning which has proven successful for the past 17 months. Norwood has said that she plans to pursue the support of Lisa Borders, who came in third on Tuesday with 13.92% of the vote. In an election that has been so far muddled with questions of race and age, the two candidates are trying to keep to the high road as they continue down the road to Dec.

The elections for precinct O2X were held in Tech Rec in the student center. The environment was one of the major differences for this year’s elections with sounds of pins falling and students applauding coming from an event around the corner. Usually held in the Piedmont Room, the election station ended up in the Tec Rec in the Student Center instead due to overbooking. Poll manager for a precinct Robinson did say, however what for future elections, including the run-off election, they’ll make sure to book the Piedmont room early.

For Robinson, the day started at 6 a.m. He declared the polls open at 7 a.m. for the students and other voters of the precinct. “We have had about a 5% turn out, around one hundred people or so, from the 2,300 in the precinct,” said Robinson at 6:30 p.m. However, he was hopeful for a large amount of late-comers, due to people getting off work and out of classes later in the day, before he declared the polls closed at 8 p.m. At the end of the day, the official turn-out was 64.7% of the total precinct.

The turn-out rate was low across the city. Compared to the 2001 mayoral race, when Shirley Franklin was first elected, where 41% of registered voters cast a ballot, only 24% of registered voters turned out Tuesday. One district in southwest Atlanta had less than 5% voter turn-out, although other southwestern precincts saw turn-outs of up to 50%.

By Vijai Narayanan
Assistant News Editor

The Athletic Association (AA), in conjunction with SGA, will begin to implement a new set of game day rules and procedures starting this weekend at the game against Wake Forest. The changes are designed with the intent of improving the flow of ticketed patrons in and out of the stadium, which has come under criticism following extended wait times at earlier games.

The change in game day logistics consists of two parts. First, the AA plans to designate one of the three portals in the student section at the North end zone as an exit only portal. Students entering the lower north gate will have to use the remaining two portals for entry into the stadium. This change was made in response to the heavy traffic experienced at the start of the game and two way traffic in between intervals.

“We’ve had experience with doing something similar in the past, and with the layout and logistics of the stadium I think it will really help improving the flow of traffic in and out of the stadium,” said Doug Allvine, the assistant athletic director for special projects.

The second change proposed by the AA is to require all students to display their reserved seat locator/voucher prior to swiping their BuzzCard for entry. Students will also be required to present their vouchers to ushers before being seated in their blocks. According to Allvine, this change will be implemented in order to preserve the integrity of student groups. In addition, this policy will be implemented in order prevent students with single game tickets from entering at the lower north end zone, reducing congestion and preventing them from taking group seats.

“The vouchers are issued to provide students in a group with the opportunity of sitting with their friends... that is why the ushers are checking patrons for vouchers before seating them,” said Allvine.

Allwine, students will be required only to briefly flash vouchers to security personnel at the gate, and this will not add significantly to the time taken to move through the gate.

“What we’ve noticed is that traffic for the south [end zone] enters through Gate 7 because students have been conditioned to know that they need to enter there...” Allwine added that another reason for the backup in traffic during football games is the
Technique
The South's Liveliest College Newspaper

Founded in 1911, the Technique is the student newspaper of the Georgia Institute of Technology, and is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. The Technique publishes on Fridays weekly during the fall and spring and biweekly during the summer.

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First copy free—for additional copies call (404) 894-2830

From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime

By Vijay Narayanan
Assistant News Editor

White trash bag

At approximately noon on Oct. 28, officers responded to a call about a suspicious male in the Barnes and Noble Bookstore. The individual was described as wearing only a white trash bag around his waist. Officers made contact with the suspect near the entrance of the store. The suspect was in possession of a t-shirt and pair of shorts, which was later confirmed to have been stolen.

Upon questioning, the suspect claimed to have entered the Barnes and Noble after being robbed of all his possessions, including his clothes. He also advised that he was in possession of his cell phone during, and after the robbery but did not call for any police assistance.

When asked why he did not seek help from an employee at the counter, the suspect admitted that there were circumstances surrounding his state that he did not wish to discuss. Atlanta Police arrived on the scene and arrested the suspect for indecent exposure.

Foot Race

On Oct. 24, an officer was dispatched to the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity house after a call about several people throwing items at the fraternity house. The officer was notified that the people involved were currently several yards down, walking along the sidewalk of Ferst Drive. The officer gave chase, catching up to approximately ten people in the courtyard of the Architecture building.

The officer had the entire group walk back to the fraternity house, and the complainant only identified one person in the bunch as being involved in the incident. The complainant stated that a group of Georgia Tech students, who were members of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, were in their yard and irate at not being allowed into a closed party that night. A representative for the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity decided not to press formal charges because no damage was done to the house. The suspect was issued a criminal trespass warning and allowed to leave the area.

POLL OF THE WEEK

How important do you think an official Dead Week Policy is?

Next issue's question:

Will you get an H1N1 vaccine?

Tell us at nique.net

Based on 122 responses

65.9% Very important and professors should follow it strictly.

5.7% Not important at all.

5.7% What's a dead week policy?

22.7% Necessary, but not possible to maintain.
This edition of Council Clippings covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Nov. 3, 2009.

Archery Club

The Archery Club submitted a bill requesting funding for additional competitions. The bill was submitted in a similar fashion to other student organizations, since the club was not around when budgets were due for the current fiscal year. GSS passed the bill, amended per JFC policy, 24-4.

UHR cut funding out the bill for the second two of the three competitions which the club sought funding for, citing that the time frame was outside the six week window. UHR passed its version of the bill 43-3-1. It will go to conference committee.

Freshman Leadership Summit

UHR considered a bill that would amend its by-laws, requiring UHR members to attend or participate in at least two different SGA functions, such as being a member on a committee, or attend an SGA function outside of the weekly meetings, as approved by the House at the beginning of each semester. Some representatives expressed that such a condition would be outside the requirements of a UHR representative. The bill received a vote of 34-10, failing to meet the two-thirds requirement of the entire house, which is 39 votes, to be enacted.

Elections from page 1

Electronic “dream machines” were used this year, eight in total. There had been a couple minor glitches with the computers according to Robinson, including voters being mismatched to their precincts. William Harris, fourth-year CS, said, “As a CS major, I wish there was more transparency. With the old punching cards, at least you could tell exactly how you had voted. With these computers, it’s not the same.”

“Throughout the day, 3 tapes will be run through the machines,” Robinson said. “The first is a short tape that we run through in the morning that makes sure no one has voted on the machines yet. At the end of the day, we run two long tapes. One goes to the Secretary State offices, and the other goes on the back window [in the student center] so that everyone at the polling place can see the results.” At the end of the day the main results were taken to the officials for Fulton County. According to Robinson, the whole process [of voting] takes only 15 minutes.

ATLANTA ELECTION RESULTS

MAYOR
Mary Norwood 45.9%
Kasim Reed 36.3%
Lisa Borders 14.5%
Jessie Spikes 2.5%
Kyle Keyser 0.7%
Pete Brownlowe 0.1%

CITY COUNCIL 6
Alex Wan 32%
Liz Coyle 23%
Tad Christian 22%
Steve Brodie 14%
Bahareh Azizi 8%
Miguel Gallegos 2%

Candidates Norwood and Reed will run-off in Dec. for mayor, following Tuesday’s election in which no candidate got a majority.

FALL 2009 COMMENCEMENT

PhD and Master’s Ceremony

Date: Friday, December 11
Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: Alexander Memorial Coliseum
Speaker: Dr. Regina Dugan, Director, DARPA

Undergraduate Ceremony 1:
Colleges of Architecture, Computing, Management, Sciences, and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Date: Saturday, December 12
Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Location: Alexander Memorial Coliseum
Speaker: Admiral Richard H. Truly, NASA Administrator (Retired)

RSVP by November 20
www.commencement.gatech.edu

YOU’LL SOON BE RAMBLIN’ ON...

IMPORTANT!! Graduates must RSVP to attend Fall 2009 Commencement

Undergraduate Ceremony 2:
College of Engineering

Date: Saturday, December 12
Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: Alexander Memorial Coliseum
Speaker: Bill Nuti, Chairman and CEO, NCR Corporation
Wingnuts to remain on campus until next May

By Kamna Bohra  Contributing Writer

Auxiliary Services is now attempting a compromise for the relocation of Wingnuts and the East Side Market due to the new, definite construction of a new dining hall along North Avenue. Auxiliary Services has not made a final decision yet concerning Wingnuts.

“Too much of [Wingnuts’] business is delivery that if they can [relocate] in the immediate off campus vicinity, students should experience no change in the service they provide,” said Rosalind Meyers, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, in a written response to a resolution recently submitted by the Undergraduate Honor Society (UHSR).

The resolution requests “Wingnuts and the East Side Market [to] be preserved, not necessarily in their present location, but to a location in which they can continue their present location, but to a location in which they can continue to provide service to the Georgia Tech campus.” The resolution also cites “the proximity of late night food and convenience stores [as] imperative to the safety of Tech students.”

The desire for Tech students to have to walk across the bridge to the BP late at night to get snacks or basic necessities that East Side currently provides, and Auxiliary Services is coming up with plans to find a good alternative way of providing that, hopefully at a lower cost to everyone,” said David Moroniti, fourth-year AE major and Residential Hall Association (RHA) Director of Finance.

Despite opposing the new dining hall and the removal of the stores along North Avenue, Tech departments including RHA justify the plans for construction.

“Britain is currently way over capacity. Quality suffers because of overcapacity and many problems can be addressed by shifting some demand over to a new dining hall,” Moroniti said in a press release.

“It’s not that students don’t want a new dining hall. The students who live in North Avenue don’t have meal plans, so they need a late night meal option… So long as the service of Wingnuts is kept up, location doesn’t matter,” said Jimmy Williams, third-year BME and Vice President of Campus Affairs.

According to Susan Yi, manager and owner of Wingnuts, Auxiliary Services had approached them earlier this week about the possibility of remaining open for the rest of the academic year. Yi maintains that the eatery would still be accessible for Tech students and located off campus to move to, after Auxiliary Services first approached Wingnuts. Auxiliary Services maintained that Wingnuts would only be there until the end of this academic year, since construction plans for the new dining hall are already underway.

“The relocation of Wingnuts is projected to be in May 2010 to Marietta Street,” Yi said.

“The original $30 million plan was to have the dining hall in the center of the North Avenue quad, but Tech only has $10 million due to the economic downturn,” Moroniti said.

Current plans indicate that the new 20,000 square-foot residential dining facility will seat approximately 300 people and include late night operation and an outdoor dining patio. The construction will also include an assessment and revamp of accessibility to North Avenue and the dining hall. Construction will begin in May 2010, and the new dining hall will be complete by July 2011.

In Memoriam

John Behnken, an evening MBA student, passed away last weekend. A service will be held in his memory Saturday, Nov. 7 at 11 a.m. at Northminster Church in Roswell. In lieu of flowers, it has been asked that donations be set up in his memory. Donations can be made to the Georgia Tech Foundation, Inc.

H1N1 from page 1

aged students after realizing that the virus is causing serious health outcomes for our lowered immunities,” said Pepe Bowman, Nursing Supervisor at the Health Services Center.

“College students are more susceptible than other because of their lowered immunities,” said Pepe Bowman, Nursing Supervisor at the Health Services Center. College students remain particularly vulnerable to the H1N1 virus and many other communicable diseases like the common flu. Often their immunities are significantly lowered by the rigors of college life. The H1N1 is encouraging other forms of prevention in the vaccine’s absence. The Health Center is also encouraging students to get the seasonal flu shot. The Health Center has administered roughly 3,000 of these inoculations this year. The shot is being offered at no additional cost to full-time students.

The unavailability of the H1N1 vaccine has allowed the HSD and DEP to create contingency plans for however many or however few vaccines they are rationed. The process for getting H1N1 flu shots will likely mimic the procedure that students go through for their seasonal flu shot. However, the process will depend on the amount of vaccine received.

“It’s all dose-dependent. How many doses of vaccine we receive really dictates the scale [of the number of vaccinations],” Baker said. “We have a contingency plan to do thousands a day to hundreds a day. We’ve planned that and prepared appropriately. We spent the entire summer working on these issues and I think we’re prepared.”

The HSD and DEP have requested enough vaccine for the Tech community, but it is uncertain whether they will receive such a large amount. They are certain that they won’t receive the entire quantity in one shipment.

“We may have a restricted amount of vaccine and we will be following the same category of guidelines of priority when the doses arrive,” Baker said.

Two new student policies for football

1) GATE 7: Seat Locator required for entry

Students must display their “Reserved Seat Locator/Voucher” prior to swiping their BuzzCard for entry through Gate 7 (Calhoun Plaza). Students failing to show their “Reserved Seat Locator/Voucher” will not be allowed GATE 7 access and will be redirected to GATE 10. There will be no exceptions. Official “student” guests (via host BuzzCard only) may enter GATE 7 with their Student Host only if the Student Host has their “Reserved Seat Locator/Voucher.”

2) EXIT ONLY student portal

For the lower north student sections, the “LEFT/EAST/Section 119-116” portal will beCOME EXIT ONLY for both remaining games. Students entering the lower north must use the other two portals to access the lower north student seating.

These two changes were designed to help alleviate congestion during games.
Nobel laureate Larry Kroto speaks at the Ferst Center

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

Nobel Laureate Sir Harry Kroto was the feature speaker at the Ferst Center on Nov. 4. The event was the latest stop on the global lecture circuit sponsored by the Honeywell Science Initiative Lecture Series.

Kroto discussed his early life and what motivated him to be a scientist. He then gave a brief overview of his research and his ground-breaking discovery of the fullerene. As well, he discussed theological and political issues and criticized the present state of research and education. Kroto’s and his colleague’s work in stumbling upon fullerene provided a base for the development of future technological achievements such as nanotechnology.

“People are built bottom up from nanotechnology,” Kroto said. “However, there is a level of ignorance of nanotechnology by the public.”

Kroto was also adamant in his views of the current state of education and how research is conducted, comparing it to his earlier days at university without restrictions. “I was very fortunate not to be controlled as professors in England now are and professors here,” Kroto said. “Universities now have to do all these things and outside organizations say you have to know exactly what you’re doing.”

He stressed the importance of studying science and asserted the how discovery affects people’s lives even for those outside of the domain. “This goes very deeply because people outside of science think science is only important if it is useful and so you have to tell people what you’re doing and besides you can’t even know about that. In fact when you discover something surprising which you didn’t know anything about, that’s the important science.”

The final segment of Kroto’s lecture focused on the humanitarian aspects of science. He stressed his discomfort in science’s role in the development of weapons such as napalm and land mines and then alluded to Joseph Rotblat, a physicist for the Manhattan project.

The lecture concluded with an impassioned plea for people to strongly consider these humanitarian concerns and work towards a better, more peaceful future.

For more information about Kroto and to see more lectures should visit www.vega.org.uk/ or www.honeywellscience.com/.

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tuesday @ 7 p.m.
when you should be in room 137 of the flag building

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World Town Planning Day

Georgia Institute of Technology
Student Planning Association
presents

Elliott Sclar
(Columbia University)

“The Policy Network as a Strategic Planning Tool: A New Approach to Urban Planning in the Global South”

Wednesday, 11 November 2009
6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.
Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium
Architecture East Building on the Campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology
for Directions visit
http://www.coa.gatech.edu/about_us/maps/index.php


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