Two armed robberies occurred near campus last week at the Wachovia on State St. and Arby's on Spring St. offf. The majority of the armed robberies which occurred within the expanded patrol zone of 500 feet past campus covered by the GTPD. The two instances mark the eighth and ninth armed robberies since May in and around Tech's campus and serve as another reminder of the increasing crime in the Atlanta area over the past few months.

The first of the crimes was an armed bank robbery on Friday, Nov. 6. Unlike the majority of the armed robberies which happened in the Home Park neighborhood which happened between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m., the robbery at the Wachovia happened at 11:15 a.m. The suspect, described as a five-foot-five to five-foot-nine black male in a plaid shirt, entered the Wachovia Bank near Techwood Parkway and State Street and proceeded to rob the bank.

The GTPD believe that the suspect may have been carrying a handgun during the robbery. The suspect then reportedly drove off in a 2004 silver Nissan Maxima, heading northbound on Techwood Parkway. The car is also believed to have been one stolen earlier from South Atlanta.

Less than a week later, a second armed robbery occurred at the Arby's on Spring Street and Fourth Street. Three black males who ranged from five-foot-ten to six-foot-two in height were wearing dark clothing and daw rags over their faces while they entered the restaurant at 10:40 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. The men each displayed handguns to the employees and proceeded to take all the contents of the cash registers. Afterwards, they fled from the scene towards Williams Street. Although no one was injured in the incident, the suspects were still at large as of Wednesday night.

With the increase in crime activity, the GTPD and Atlanta Police Department (APD) recommend that students be extra alert and take extra precautions when there may be reasons why those days don't work for some people. For our development staff, that's right before the end of the year and people do tax and give gifts related to tax benefits right before the end of the year so it is a very busy time for the development staff. So for special situations a supervisor can have their employees take different days. However, the vast majority of people at Georgia Tech will take those days, said Peterson.

In the spring, the Tech administration will allow much more flexibility for employees as far as selecting the affected days. There are no preferred dates. The decision will be left to up to the employees and their supervisors.

"Dec. 21-24 is when we work, but it doesn't affect students. Students will be away having a holiday so it was done to minimize the effects on the education of students. If you think about it if a faculty is teaching five days a week, when is he or she going to take a furlough day without cancelling a class? So we just didn't want that to happen so we took the four days right before Christmas," said Dr. Anderson D. Smith, senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs.

This time was chosen because it is during the winter break and, consequently, there will be no classes taking place. Students therefore would not be directly affected. According to Peterson, there won't be a lot of events on campus, said Institute President G.P. "Bud" Peterson.

While it is expected that faculty and staff will be furloughed during this time frame, there will be some exceptions. Employees can, with a business-related exception, request to take the four furlough days at another time.

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GTTPD were called to the Alexander Memorial Coliseum after receiving a call from the Tech Athletic Association about stolen cell phones. The cell phones belonged to players from the visiting Western Kentucky University basketball team. Four team members reported each of their cell phones and a pack of white undershirts stolen after they returned to the visiting team locker room. Of the stolen goods included two iPhone 3GS, a Samsung Instinct and an HTC Hero cell phones. GTTPD and Facilities are to review surveillance videos from the coliseum.

Although employees admitted to having seen the suspect in the store beforehand, they stated it was the first time he had caused any criminal activity.

The party is over

GTTPD officers reported to the Barnes and Nobles bookstore after receiving a call from the manager concerning attempted shoplifting. The suspect, a black male in his 40’s, entered the store carrying a black garbage bag and proceeded to stuff Milky Way candy bars into the bag. Barnes and Nobles employees surrounded and questioned him before officers arrived to the scene.

Although the suspect refused to answer or comment, he did drop the contents of the bag and additional candy bars from his pocket.

The suspect then exited the store and fled southbound onto Armstead Place NW on foot. Although employees admitted to having seen the suspect in the store beforehand, they stated it was the first time he had caused any criminal activity.

From the files of the GTTPD...

Campus Crime

POLICE

Phone home?

GTTPD were called to assist a security guard at Delta Upsilon after the guard was concerned about extreme occupancy levels in the house. Upon arrival, the GTTPD questioned students leaving the party, who stated that there was barely enough room to dance or even walk. GTTPD officers attempted to shut down the party without incident. They were called again, however, less than an hour later to clear the crowd again after brothers requested for help. GTTPD officers then advised the brothers to close the front so the party would be over.

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POLL OF THE WEEK

Will you get an H1N1 vaccine?

11.8% I have not decided yet
12.5% Yes
71.5% No
4.2% There’s a vaccine for it?

Based on 144 responses

Next issue’s question:
How do you feel about a potential rise in the academic excellence fee?

Tell us at nique.net
Each Tuesday, elected members of the two houses of the Student Government Association, the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), convene to consider allocation bills and discuss issues facing campus. Here is a summary of those two meetings.

By Vijai Narayanan, Assistant News Editor

This edition of Council Clippings covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Nov. 10, 2009.

Gamers Guild
The Gamers Guild holds weekly meetings to play board games. The club submitted a bill requesting funding from UHR to purchase new games for the following semester. GSS considered the bill but representatives from the organization were not present at their meeting. However, they chose to continue debating the bill despite the absence. The bill requested $262 and passed UHR with a vote of 40-6-2 and passed GSS with 13-12-0.

Archery Club
Last week UHR amended a bill put forward to fund competition expenses for the Archery Club. GSS representatives amended the bill by reducing advertising funding and modifying travel expenses. Representatives from UHR moved to strike funding of registration fees for two competitions and travel expenses to one of the competitions. As a result, the bill was moved to conference committee. In conference committee, GSS agreed to all of the changes made by UHR. The bill totaled $8,792 and passed UHR 47-1-0 and GSS 17-5-2.

Water Polo
The water polo team requested funding for transportation and tournament fees to the National Water Polo Tournament. The GT water polo team won the Southeast Division after defeating rivals Vanderbilt. This marks the third consecutive year that the water polo team made it to the national tournament. Overall, the bill cost $840 and passed UHR with a vote of 49-1-0.

A lot of things went on outside the bubble of Tech in the past week. Here are a few important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

Shooting rampage at Fort Hood, TX
On Nov. 5, Major Nidal Hasan, an army psychiatrist opened fire in the Soldier Rating and Processing Center at Fort Hood, Texas. The gunman killed 13 people and wounded 30 others, sending shockwaves through the small Texas community and raising alarm throughout the nation. The shooting was described as the deadliest ever on a military base. The incident also raised questions about the psychological health of soldiers in the military. Hasan was shot by a civilian police officer, but managed to survive and is hospitalized under army guard.

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The House of Representatives approved legislation to overhaul America’s healthcare system last Saturday. Lawmakers voted 220 to 215 to approve the plan, which is expected to cost over $1.1 trillion over the next decade.

Proponents of the bill claimed that the costs of the bill will be covered through new fees and taxes, along with cuts to Medicare. One Republican voted for the bill, and 39 Democrats voted against it. According to the New York Times, Democrats who voted against the measure represent mainly swing districts. The bill will now move forward to the floor of the Senate.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

Cause of parking garage crash discovered

Gateway Development, the company that leases the Century One parking garage in Tech Square has determined and released the cause of last June’s parking garage collapse. The garage collapsed last summer and damaged 35 cars housed inside, yet no one was injured during the incident.

The cause was determined to be a misaligned bolt on the fifth floor of the garage. Repairs are currently being made and Gateway officials ensure that checks will be done to ensure its safety before reopening the garage for use.

Health Center receives H1N1 vaccines

The Stamps Health Center has received a limited supply of H1N1 vaccines. The health center has set up a distribution schedule which started Nov. 10.

The vaccine will be distributed first to Tech students, faculty and staff who are considered medically fragile, such as pregnant women or people who suffer from chronic illness or immune disorders. Non-medically fragile Tech community members gained access to the vaccine starting Wednesday, Nov. 11.

People who are medically fragile can receive vaccinations at the Stamps Health Services Center, while non-medically fragile students, faculty and staff can all receive vaccinations in the Student Center. All vaccinations for students are free if the student has paid their mandatory health fee, and will cost $25 for faculty and staff. In order to be vaccinated you must present your Buzzcard.

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**SGA hosts student strategic planning forum**

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Nov. 5, Tech students representing a multitude of clubs and organizations attended SGA’s Strategic Planning Forum at the Flag Building. The forum was part of a larger strategic initiative organized by faculty and staff to discuss ideas on how to improve student life at Tech.

“We want to include the students in the strategic planning process,” said Alina Staskevicius, president of SGA. “The first draft should be coming out relatively soon for the strategic plan.”

A panel of Tech administrators including Dean of Students John Stein and Director of Research and Analysis at the Department of Communication and Marketing Kathryn Wallace presided over the meeting to hear and discuss the presented ideas. The strategic initiative at Tech is intended to be a long-term project for campus and the greater community. Organizers stressed that any ideas presented at the meeting could have effects that could reach as far as the year 2035.

“(Our strategy is to reach as many students as possible through small and large focused discussion and the way we are getting figured out in 25 years [on how] to define what the student life experience should be at Tech,” Stein said.

This event was one of many held by the administration following the announcement of the 25 Year Strategic Plan following Institute President G.P. ’Bud’ Peterson’s Investiture on Sept. 3. Students in attendance broke off into four groups for ten minutes to brainstorm ideas. Afterwards, they reconvened to present a summary of their discussion. They repeated this process several times during the evening with different topics selected by the organizers. Discussion topics included revising the curriculum to allow for interdisciplinary tracks, restructuring classes to allow for more online lectures, involving students in the strategic planning process and the way we are getting figured out in 25 years [on how] to define what the student life experience should be at Tech.”

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**Attn: Student Organizations**

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Heavy CULC construction begins this week

With the continuation of breaking ground, heavy construction for the Clough Undergraduate Learning Center (CULC) is underway. As of earlier last week, the team responsible for the CULC has shifted to the next phase of its construction, including large digging of soil and other earth in the area that was formerly Yellow Jacket Park.

Until Jan. 2010, the construction crews will be excavating over 31,000 cubic yards of soil and installing walls next to the library. The contractors will then install underground utilities and the foundation with plans for the building structure’s completion in Sept. 2010. Although the construction will proceed for the duration of the semester, the site will be quiet for final exams and lower levels.

“We anticipate construction to move into full swing in the coming months and remain optimis-tic for a Fall 2011 opening,” said Barrett Carson, Vice President for Development.

“Construction of a facility this size in the center of campus is cer-tainly a challenge, particularly for those in the surrounding build-ings. The contractor is taking all reasonable measures to minimize disruptions as much as possible,” said John Duconge, Senior Proj ect Manager.

Although the construction will proceed for the duration of the semester, the site will be quiet for the weeks of final exams, gradua-tion and home football games. This will also be the case for all fu-ture semesters until the CULC’s completion.

The pathway between the library and Crosland Tower is also expected to reopen by Nov. 13, re-opening a commonly used walk-way. The Tech Green, which was originally closed for sewer repair, will reopen in early December.

Tech administrators also plan for a Town Hall discussion in January to identify the upcoming construction activities and possible detours.

Students will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the construction.

Upcoming construction includes the direct connection between the CULC and the library. The new building will connect to the library at the main entrance and lower levels.

“The concept for the [CULC] has always sought to integrate the west face of the Price Gilbert Li-brary to take advantage of natu-ral synergies between the two. The two will connect, in fact, on several levels to provide seamless movement between the two,” Carson said.

The project, whose plans began in the 1990s following the arrival of former President G. Wayne Clough, was originally put on hold due to “state budgeting is- sues and institutional priorities,” Carson said.

However, an initial private donation of $8 million created momentum for the CULC in the later years of Clough’s presidency, culminating in an additional $60 million from the state and $25 million in private philanthropy.

The private component includes a $5 million donation from an Atlanta-area foundation and an anonymous promise “to match 1:1 gifts and commitments designated for the project up to a maximum of $8.75 million,” Carson said.

“In anticipation of pledge ful-fillments and final state appro-priations, the Institute is utilizing internal borrowing to keep the project on track and to avoid any further delays,” Carson said, in re-sponse to the amount of time the project is otherwise taking.

“Simultaneous to [the CULC’s] construction will be an enhancement to the adjacent Tech Green and Skiles Walkway…At more than 200,000 gross square feet, the facility will be a stunning testimony to Tech’s commitment to undergraduate education and will stand as a beacon of sustain-ability,” Carson said.
Buzzcard funds misappropriations fixed

By Matt Schricke Contributing Writer

The BuzzCard Center mistakenly redeposited funds into the accounts of a number of unexpected students in the morning hours of Wednesday, Nov. 4. Affected students found upwards of hundreds of dollars previously not there when using or checking their Buzzcards that day.

The error took place when the BuzzCard Center received a faulty file from Banner system, which controls various programs such as OSCAR and other Tech data management software.

The Banner system had been experiencing problems at the time. The problem file attributed mistakenly caused the Buzzcard Center’s system to redeposit previously deposited funds into student accounts.

“All of the funds that were deposited were funds that had originally come through the Bursar’s office to the BuzzCard Center in the last few semesters,” said BuzzCard Center Director Donald Smith. “Most of these funds were part of previous meal plans contracts.”

The BuzzCard office discovered the error at 7:30 a.m., approximately two hours after it was determined to have occurred. By 12:30 p.m. the problem was rectified and all of the mistaken deposits were reversed.

“While most students who noticed the sudden increase in their funds contacted us to find out what happened, there were a few people who thought that their parents had made deposits to their accounts and decided to spend the funds,” Smith said.

“After the accounts were restored to their proper balance the BuzzCard Center began to contact students who now had negative balances and informed them of the erroneous deposits,” Smith said.

Despite the circumstances, the BuzzCard Center did not lose any money.

Students who spent the funds will be liable for them. The BuzzCard Center does expect that any of the misallocated funds spent by students during the five-hour window before the error was corrected be paid back.

As of Wednesday afternoon, half of the affected students have corrected their balance. Any affected accounts that remain unbalanced will be added to their student accounts on OSCAR and charged to the Bursar’s office. Students will have to pay through their system and/or the Bursar’s office. Students who spent the funds will have to pay them back in order to register for classes or graduate.

After repairing the error on Wednesday, the BuzzCard Center has made additional changes to their system and/or the Bursar’s office to prevent such an incident from happening again. These changes include fine-tuning the system and/or the Bursar’s office in order to register for classes or graduate.

To communicate and help with the strategic planning initiative, students can access www.gatech.edu/visions.

While the investigations of both crimes are being spearheaded by the APD, if anyone has more information on either of the robberies they are advised to contact the GTPD at 404-894-2500.
Student basketball tickets move to first-come first-serve

By Vijai Narayanan
Assistant News Writer

The Athletic Association (AA) announced a new set of ticketing policies and procedures for the men’s basketball season this year. Changes were implemented this past week for the game against the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. As part of the changes, students will no longer be required to sign up online to obtain a ticket prior to the game. Instead, students will be required only to show their Buzzcard at the entrance to the game. In addition, students will be allowed to take floor seats, with limited priority given to SWARM members. Prior to this season, the AA implemented an online ticketing system that required students to sign up in advance for tickets and present them at the entrance gate. This year, students will automatically be assigned tickets for the game on their Buzzcard and will be allowed to enter the game based on arrival times.

“When I first came here we were using the ticket return system through which students had to login multiple times and sign up several days in advance to get tickets...it was very cumbersome,” said Doug Allvine, the Assistant Athletic Director of Special Projects.

In addition to moving student tickets offline and directly onto student Buzzcards, the AA has decided to allow non-SWARM members the opportunity to take floor seats. SWARM members present at the entrance gate one hour before tip-off will still be allowed to take up floor seats prior to regular student-ticket holders. If the SWARM does not have enough members to fill up the floor seats, students with regular tickets will be allowed to go on the floor. Any SWARM members who arrive after the floor seats are open to general student ticket holders but before the 300 person limit for floor seating is reached will also be allowed to stand on the floor during the game. Non-SWARM members who wish to sit on the floor must be registered as students, not wear opposing colors, and will be asked to stay for the duration of the game.

“The SWARM have traditionally been our most ardent fans, but even they will admit that with the attendance last year that they didn't fill up the seats or they didn't fill them up quick enough at the start of the game,” said Allvine. “This came not from us or the students but from the basketball team, because they really want us to make sure that the floor is filled and the crowd is excited before tip-off.”

However, some students are unhappy with the proposed changes to the floor seating policy.

“I was really disappointed to hear that the AA was opening up floor seats in the basketball games to all students... it takes away the tangible advantages to being in SWARM,” said Chandler Epp, a third-year IAML.

“I think this is a terrible system and it doesn’t award fan loyalty... it doesn’t create a good atmosphere and it really just encourages bandwagon fans to show up for big games,” said Hari Gopal, third-year MGT.

Depending on attendance during the season, the AA is considering implementing an online ticketing system for popular games, similar to the ticketing system used for football.

“Although we haven’t had to turn students away from basketball games yet, if the demand for tickets exceeds the supply, then we will setup an online ticketing system,” said Graham Neff, the Assistant Director of Ticketing.

If such an online system is put in place, some students will be given priority tickets to games based on attendance and arrival time.

“If for some reason we go for an online sign-up system we’ll setup a group called ‘Super-Jacket Fans,’ and 400 students will automatically be given tickets for that game. The remaining students will have to sign up for tickets online,” Allvine said.