Georgia Tech declines to block Napster
Cites legal precedent in response to Metallica & Dr. Dre

S
tating clearly that the university "...neither participate(s) in nor condone(s) any infringement of your clients' copy-
righted materials...", the Georgia Institute of Technology declined a request from the rock group Metallica and rap star
Dr. Dre to block student access to the Napster Web site.

Through lawyers, the groups had requested that Tech, as well as as many as 25 other universities, block student access to
Napster under the possible threat of litigation. Napster is under legal attack from the recording industry, because it
allows people to download copyrighted music as well as other information at no cost.

"This is not a statement of support for Napster, nor are we condoning copyright infringement," said Bob
Harty, a university spokesperson. "We have made it very clear to students, faculty, and staff that it is a violation of
Georgia Tech's computer usage code to engage in copyright infringe-
ment. Our policy (which may be found on the university web-
site at http://www.oit.gatech.edu/security/policy/usage/con-
tents.html) is explicit, and we have vigorously enforced it when violations have been brought to our attention. If people break
the law," said Harty, "then we already have means to address it.
To unilaterally block access to a site is an overly blunt response to this issue and we believe that it constitutes an unwise pol-
icy."

Under the provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright
Act, Georgia Tech is considered to be an Internet Service Provider, like Earthlink or America Online. Due to that desig-
nation, the Institute cannot selectively block specific sites based
upon content and retain that designation. To block Napster
access would open the door for any petiti
tor to demand that the Institute block other sites for any number of reasons. Further, there is legitimate information on Napster to which students may want to have access.

"We are an educational institution and we will err on the
side of unfettered access to informa-
tion," said Harty. "While we do not endorse Napster and deplore any
copyright infringement, we do not regulate what our students can and
cannot access. Once we start down that path, he said, "there could con-
ceivably be no end to similar demands."

Harty also noted that from a tech-
nology perspective, the Web site is essentially impossible to completely block. "Our experts advise us that it is
till but impossible to effectively block access to a single site, without
dramatically disrupting access to the
entire Internet. At a university like
Georgia Tech, such a solution is impractical. Further, even if we
found a temporary method, our students are bright enough to
find ways around it."

The legality of Napster is currently being reviewed by the
9th Circuit Court in California. A decision is expected within
the next month. If Napster is found to violate copyright laws, it
will be shut down, thereby making the Metallica and Dr. Dre
request essentially moot.

In previous legal action, the musical groups brought suit
against Indiana University, Yale University, and the University of
Southern California, demanding that they block Napster
access. All three universities agreed and the suits have been
dropped.

Napster's response to letters sent to universities

Hank Barry, CEO of Napster—
"These letters are a heavy-handed attempt by Meta-
llica's lawyers to increase university bans as part of their effort to shut down Napster. Students who engage in person-to-person file sharing are not copyright infringers, and we
hope that, while the litigation is pending, schools
would not be intimidated by Metallica and limit the freedom of students to participate in the
Napster community."

Facts about Napster

• Between February and July of 2000, the number of Napster users climbed from
1.1 million to 4.9 million, or 345 percent. It is the fastest growing web application in
Internet history.

• Usage of Napster in the workplace more than doubled, jumping from 417,000 users
in May to 887,000 users in July.

• Napster is among the top 50 most popular
sites on the Internet.

• While more than half of college students (58%) have used Napster to
download online music, 79% still buy music on CDs

Sources: Media Metrix, Reuters

Attorneys for Metallica and Dr. Dre —
excerpt from their letter to Tech
"...In April of this year, Metallica and Dr. Dre filed their
own lawsuits against Napster in the United States District
Court for the Central District of California. In addition to nam-
ing Napster as a defendant, Metallica named three universities as defendants, University of Southern California, Yale
University and Indiana University, along with other universities to be named later, claiming that these university defendants
should be held liable for copyright infringement for their know-
ing facilitation of the massive copyright infringements occur-
ing through Napster. Shortly after the suit was filed, USC, Yale and Indiana University all decided to restrict access by
their students to Napster. Although these decisions were made
after litigation had been filed, it is clear to us that all three of
these universities were already engaging in an ethical discus-
sion over whether or not they should be taking action to pre-
vent copyright infringements through their system and, absent
the litigation, still would have concluded that access to Napster
through their system should be restricted.

By this letter, we ask you to also promptly ban access by
your community to Napster. Even without the threat of litigation from artists and other copyright owners, I believe that you
can easily recognize the irony of encouraging your students to
participate in the creative arts, while engaging in behavior which, if unchecked, will make it impossible for those students
to earn income from their future creative efforts..."
Spotlight
Meet Henry Valk

Full Name: Henry Valk
Age: 71
Occupation: Professor of Physics

Current projects and/or research: Increasing the use of web-based homework systems for sophomore physics, and carrying out research in few-body physics.

What I find most challenging about my job: Developing new approaches to the teaching of concepts in physics.

Years at Tech: 30


Marital Status: Married to Gillian

Children: Alison (30), Diana (25), Robert (19) and Richard (19)

Pets: Labrador Retriever "Tumbles"

The last book I read, and enjoyed, was: "The Genius of Science" by Abraham Pais

My ideal weekend would include: A walk on the beach.

One thing I would like to improve in today’s society: The quality of fundamental education.

When I was younger I wanted to be: Surprise, a scientist.

The best advice I ever received was: From my mother, "Always complete what you start."

My pet peeve is: The unnecessary weight, size and cost of current mathematics and science textbooks.

My daily routine would be incomplete without: Working the New York Times crossword.

Did you know

With phase three of the Student Center Food Court well under way, there is hope that the renovated dining room will be completed during the fall semester. The current phase of the construction is being implemented by local contractors Sycamore Construction. Currently the work is taking place during slow periods of the day and at night. Once completed, patrons will be treated to an entirely new dining area. For comments regarding the construction project, e-mail stucencommsta@stucen.gatech.edu.

Faculty and staff may not be aware that many of the streets in Home Park (north of Tech) have parking restricted to residents only. These streets are marked with red and white signs indicating "No Parking — Zone HP Stickers Exempt." A number of streets also prohibit parking on one side — cars will be towed on those streets. Residents of Home Park have reported frequent car break-ins during the day. For information about parking in Home Park, visit HPCIA’s website: www.accessatlanta.com/community/groups/homepark/Parking_FAQ.html.

Tech fans worked out some frustration following a heartbreaking loss to Florida State when the Yellow Jackets pounded Navy's Midshipmen by a score of 40-13. The celebration was short-lived, however, when an overtime loss to N.C. State last Thursday left the team with a record of 2-2 for the season.
Atlanta addresses the influence of the Internet

Elizabeth Campell
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

With 82 percent of its residents online, Atlanta is undoubtedly one of the most wired cities in the country. So it wasn't surprising that Georgia Tech hosted the first of eight national "America: On the Net" town hall meetings on September 14 at Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology. The meetings are the brainchild of the Internet Policy Institute (IPI), a Washington-based, independent non-profit research and educational organization whose mission is to facilitate information-sharing for the debate on Internet policy and to provide objective, high-quality analysis to those decision-makers shaping public policy.

It was Newt Gingrich, who served as the keynote speaker. As former U.S. representative for Georgia’s 14th congressional district and former CEO of Netscape, Gingrich has a long history of being a leader in the areas of education and the Internet. He addressed the audience by stating that every child should have a computer. Gingrich mentioned that the healthcare industry needed to embraced the Internet and that the Internet was going to be a very serious problem related to the ease with which pornographic sites may be accessed. To spur dialogue, moderator Kara Swisher often asked whom everyone felt should make decisions on the issues of concern — governments, businesses, corporations and students, expressed their opinions on the pressing issues of financial information security, privacy of healthcare information, voting on the Internet, and rural access to the Internet.

New research in nanojets challenges predictions of fluid dynamics

John Toon
Research News and Publications

Liquid jets a few nanometers in diameter could one day be used for producing ever-smaller electronic circuitry, lifting genes into cells, etching tiny features and even serving as fuel injectors for microscopic engines. But on these smallest of size scales, physical processes are often different than at larger scales, forcing engineers to reconsider both their expectations of how such nanoscale devices would perform — and the established physical equations governing them.

Writing in the August 18 issue of the journal Science, two Georgia Institute of Technology researchers suggest that it may be possible to produce jets as small as six nanometers in diameter, though these tiny devices would require special conditions to operate and would be particularly sensitive to effects not of concern at more familiar size scales.

"We are now being driven by fundamental, technological and economical considerations to explore and evaluate systems that are smaller and smaller," explained Uzi Landman, director of Georgia Tech's Center for Computational Materials Science. "There is no point in trying to make devices of this size scale without knowing what their physical behaviors and fundamental limitations are going to be."

To study jets just a few nanometers in diameter, Landman and collaborator Michael Moseler used molecular dynamics simulations to observe how propane molecules would behave when compressed within a tiny reservoir and then injected out of a narrow nozzle made of gold. The simulations recorded the dynamics of the fluid molecules over periods of several nanoseconds. Once able to maintain the flow of propane, the researchers studied the properties of their simulated nanojets. They found that while the jets achieved a relatively high exit velocity of approximately 400 meters per second, instabilities caused by thermal fluctuations affected the jets' shape after exit. As they break up, the droplets of propane separate from the jets form remarkably uniform size. Landman noted that "in applications such as fuel injectors, this is a very important aspect because of the issue of efficient burning of the droplets."

The second phase of their work finds the researchers attempting to reconcile their observations with the predictions of traditional fluid dynamics equations, which do not account for the effect of thermally induced fluctuations, which significantly affect the stability of nanojets.

"There are always fluctuations or noise in all natural phenomena," Landman said. "But as the scale of the physical system decreases, then the amplitude of the relative effect of such fluctuations becomes stronger and stronger."

Reformulating the hydrodynamic equations allowed Landman and Moseler to properly describe what they had observed in their atomistic simulations. Their modified equations can now be used by other researchers to predict the behavior of nanojets of other materials under other conditions.

As a next step, the researchers plan to create nanojets experimentally and use them to apply patterns that could replace current lithographic processes in the manufacture of nanoscale miniaturized circuits. They could potentially also be used as "gene guns" to insert genetic materials into cells without damaging them. "We could be very economical and perhaps allow one to achieve things that are not available technologically any other way," Landman added. Their work is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research and in part by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.
BrownBags/Lectures

Sept. 27
The Institute for Sustainable Technology and Development is holding a preliminary planning meeting to explore participation in an upcoming national design competition for the next generation of solar-powered, energy-efficient homes. Prototypes will compete in ten events that will determine the winner. Individuals from all colleges and disciplines are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be at 11 a.m. in the Student Center, room 319. Lunch is provided.

Sept. 28
The GVU Brown Bag Series continues with "Digital Family Portraits: Supporting Peace of Mind for Extended Family Members," as professors of computing and psychology address the issue of caring for older adults who want to continue to live independently. The event is scheduled for 12 p.m. in room 102 of the Pettit Building. For more information, call 894-4488 or gvu-info@gvu.gatech.edu.

Oct. 3
Smith College President, Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, the first African-American woman to head the New England institution, will speak on "Ethical Leadership in Higher Education: Issues and Challenges" at 7 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 215-2680 or tle@morehouse.edu.

Dr. Glen Kowach of Lacen Technologies will be the featured speaker for SME’s Fall Seminar Series. The topic: "Shrinking from the Heat: Negative Thermal Expansion Materials." At 3:30 p.m. in room 185 of the Love Building and is open to the public. For more information, contact marlene.white@mse.gatech.edu or 894-2850.

Faculty Development

Sept. 28
Learn more about networking, teambuilding and communication at the Women’s Resource Center during their “Make the Connection” hour at 11 a.m. in room 217-A of the Student Services building. It is open to all. For more information, call 385-0230.

Miscellaneous

Sept. 30
The Atlanta chapter of Child Relief and You (CRY) and the India Club of Georgia Tech invite you to participate in a fundraiser to benefit grassroots child relief projects in India and the work of the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. with a 5K walk/run, the event will continue throughout the day as a freeforall for all participants. Participation in the form of sponsorship, cash and in-kind donations are invited. For more information, call 943-9485 or atlanta@us.cry.org or register at www.us.cry.org/graywalk_atl.

Oct. 6
The George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering will be designated a Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The ceremony is at 3 p.m. in the first floor atrium of the Love Building. A reception will follow. The Woodruff School is the first school to be so honored. If you would like to attend, call 894-3200.

Upcoming

Oct. 10
The annual “State of the Institution Address” will be delivered by President Cough to the faculty at the fall meeting of the general faculty. All faculty are invited to attend the address, at 3 p.m. in the Student Center. Details of the meeting agenda are to be found at www.facultysenate.gatech.edu. Contact edward.thomas@physics.gatech.edu for more information.

Classifieds

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christine.marks@music.gatech.edu.

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ties.gatech.edu.

Girl’s 3-piece bedroom set. White
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MISCELLANEOUS
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to do pc computer generated typing (papers,
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ends, from 7:00-2:30 at $12.50/hr.

Amaryllis bulbs, red, $3 each. Do
extremely well indoors or out. Plant in
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