**Bomb prank scares east side**

By Judy Shaw

Editor

A rude awakening greeted Tech fraternity members whose houses are located near the intersection of Fifth Street and Techwood Drive early Sunday morning when a small device exploded in the area. The incident injured one member of the Georgia Tech Police Department and set in motion a chain of events that blocked off streets in the area for almost four hours.

“The explosion was kind of low level, even technically it was an explosion, and this type of device is illegal,” said Jack Vickery, Georgia Tech Chief of Police.

According to Vickery, a GTPD officer spotted a suspicious college-aged white male in the area shortly before the explosion. The officer originally thought the man might be looking for an automobile to break into, as a number of such burglaries have occurred on campus in recent weeks.

“The officer got out of his patrol car to investigate and the guy took off running. He left a bag sitting on the ground,” said Vickery.

See Explosion, page 4

---

**Increasing Awareness: A Night Without a Home**

By Sriram Narasimhan

Contributing Writer

As some students prepared to end their years at Tech, a number of students were surprised to find that due to semester conversion they were left just a few hours short of the amount required for graduation.

Many of these students realized they lacked hours after filing a petition for graduation for the upcoming semester. According to Registrar Jo McIver this problem is a result of the semester conversion that took place in the fall of 1999.

Tech converted to semesters in 1999 after the Board of Regents decision to move all public universities to this system. The change was made, many students worried that their quarter credits in certain areas would not directly transfer to the semester credit hours needed to graduate.

Therefore Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs Robert McMath suggested that a transition policy be established to deal with this problem. The policy that was approved by the Undergraduate Curricular Committee at the time of semester conversion was the 9-9-22 rule.

“Under this rule, if you had at least nine hours of humanities and at least nine hours of social sciences and at least a total of 22 hours in these areas you could graduate,” said McIver.

“We had the 9-9-22 rule in effect through this past summer.”

“This is what the committee did to help find a solution for the semester conversion. The committee felt that after two years everyone had a chance to make up the hours. They would have had to take the additional hours of humanities and social sciences. However, with the end of this transition policy, many students are finding themselves without the necessary number of hours in these fields needed to graduate under the semester system.”

According to McMath, there is at least one student who is currently less than 1 credit hour away from meeting graduation requirements.

“The most likely way a student would be less than one credit hour short is if they were a transfer student and in the process of converting we ended up with fractional credit hours,” said McMath. “I am aware of one such case, and there may be others that I am unaware of, and...”

See Grad page 2

---

**Wreck ready to roll with stadium construction**

By Srisita Narasimhan

Contributing Writer

The Ramblin’ Reck Club recently finalized plans to permanently store the Wreck in a new location on campus. The action was prompted by the Georgia Tech Athletic Association which informed the club in June that it could not continue to store the vehicle in its current location near Bobby Dodd Stadium during renovations to the stadium.

The two-year construction project would make it difficult for members of the organization to access the garage where the Wreck is housed.

A contract between Georgia Tech and Carter-Turner, the construction company overseeing the project, was signed in January. The plans for the project came due to concerns that there is currently no way to secure the entire stadium. Renovations are expected to begin immediately after the November 24 football game against the University of Georgia.

“I’ve been to other schools, and I’ve never seen anything as open as Georgia Tech. It isn’t very intelligent...it’s kind of a mess that is paramount in our minds. When we build our stadium, we can feel certain that...”

See Wreck, page 5

---

**Some seniors feel sting of semester switch**

By Tony Kluemper

Assistant News Editor

As some students prepared to end their years at Tech, a number of students were surprised to find that due to semester conversion they were left just a few hours short of the amount required for graduation.

Many of these students realized they lacked hours after filing a petition for graduation for the upcoming semester. According to Registrar Jo McIver this problem is a result of the semester conversion that took place in the fall of 1999.

Tech converted to semesters in 1999 after the Board of Regents decision to move all public universities to this system. The change was made, many students worried that their quarter credits in certain areas would not directly transfer to the semester credit hours needed to graduate.

Therefore Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs Robert McMath suggested that a transition policy be established to deal with this problem. The policy that was approved by the Undergraduate Curricular Committee at the time of semester conversion was the 9-9-22 rule.

“Under this rule, if you had at least nine hours of humanities and at least nine hours of social sciences and at least a total of 22 hours in these areas you could graduate,” said McIver.

“We had the 9-9-22 rule in effect through this past summer.”

“This is what the committee did to help find a solution for the semester conversion. The committee felt that after two years everyone had a chance to make up the hours. They would have had to take the additional hours of humanities and social sciences. However, with the end of this transition policy, many students are finding themselves without the necessary number of hours in these fields needed to graduate under the semester system.”

According to McMath, there is at least one student who is currently less than 1 credit hour away from meeting graduation requirements.

“The most likely way a student would be less than one credit hour short is if they were a transfer student and in the process of converting we ended up with fractional credit hours,” said McMath. “I am aware of one such case, and there may be others that I am unaware of, and...”

See Grad page 2

---

**Wreck ready to roll with stadium construction**

By Srisita Narasimhan

Contributing Writer

The Ramblin’ Reck Club recently finalized plans to permanently store the Wreck in a new location on campus. The action was prompted by the Georgia Tech Athletic Association which informed the club in June that it could not continue to store the vehicle in its current location near Bobby Dodd Stadium during renovations to the stadium.

The two-year construction project would make it difficult for members of the organization to access the garage where the Wreck is housed.

A contract between Georgia Tech and Carter-Turner, the construction company overseeing the project, was signed in January. The plans for the project came due to concerns that there is currently no way to secure the entire stadium. Renovations are expected to begin immediately after the November 24 football game against the University of Georgia.

“I’ve been to other schools, and I’ve never seen anything as open as Georgia Tech. It isn’t very intelligent...it’s kind of a mess that is paramount in our minds. When we build our stadium, we can feel certain that...”

See Wreck, page 5

---

News Feature

**Band’s ‘Bucky’ to bid Dec. farewell**

By Narendra Shekdar

Contributing Writer

James Gerald “Bucky” Johnson, Chair of the Music Department at Georgia Tech, recently announced that he will take an early retirement at the end of this semester. Johnson’s lifelong ambition of touring around Europe and Southeast Asia and spending more time with his family and his friends will soon become a reality.

Nine years ago, Johnson took the posi-
This week’s poll is about graduating seniors. Did you get shafted by the semester conversion? Do you think you should graduate anyway? Tell us at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique.

Grad from page 1

that issue is being addressed through the formal process with the curriculum committee.

“That issue is working its way through the process now and I am hopeful the decision will be fair to students caught in that circumstance.”

Many students are wondering how one can end up with a fraction of a credit hour in a course. According to McIver, this fraction is due to the way quarter hours were converted into semester credit hours.

“The way we convert is to take the number of credit hours under the quarter semester and multiply by two-thirds,” said McIver. “It’s just a straight two-thirds conversion and that’s why we’re coming up with these .33s and .66s.”

The larger problem, however, could be with students who find themselves one or two credit hours short of humanities or social science credits.

This problem could possibly affect a much greater number of students.

“There are then students who are one or possibly two credit hours short, which is to say less than a regular three hour course, and I am asking the Registrar to identify those students to see what the scope of the problem is,” said McMath.

“It’s going to be 2003 before we have students who have been under semesters their entire time at Tech.”

Jo McIver
Registrar

“The reason why we are just seeing it now is because the 9-9-22 rule has now collapsed.”

Many of those students are now left wondering what they can do to graduate on time and according to McMath that decision is up to the curriculum committee.

“Students who were here a year under quarters and are short one hour would either need to find a one hour course, such as the introduction INTA course, or appeal to the curriculum committee,” said McMath.

The decision on how to proceed from here and if any additional changes will be made or not is now being reviewed by the curriculum committee.

Although this problem could occur in future semesters, McIver feels that the degree of the problem should decrease greatly each semester over the next few years.

“It will probably be a problem until we get all of the people through that were under quarters,” said McIver.

“It started in 1999 so it’s going to be 2003 before we have students who have been under semesters their entire time at Tech. The scale of the problem is going to be less as time goes on.”
College briefs

California cracks down on credit card solicitors
By Jaynelle Saint Jean
Daily Aztec

(U-WIRE) San Jose State University—Since last year, computer engineering junior Raymond Smith has acquired two promotional T-shirts, a bouncy ball, and a faux-Swiss Army watch—all in exchange for completing credit card applications.

Smith represents just one of the 80 percent of students who apply for credit cards on San Diego State University’s campus because they want the gift.

Come Jan. 1, however, recently approved legislation designed to empower and educate college students on the risks of debt will significantly change the way credit cards are marketed to students at colleges and universities throughout the state.

Governor Gray Davis signed the bill Sept. 13. The bill’s author, Assemblyman Paul Koretz, said he applauds Davis for the leadership and vision he showed by signing this bill.

“(Credit card solicitors) set up their tables outside the campus booknote, targeting students who may be financially strapped after spending hundreds of dollars on books and supplies,” Koretz said.

Stopping to apply for credit cards hampers students when they are trying to get from place to place, said Smith.

Even with the new legislation, however, credit card companies will still have access to students because schools are allowed to have contracts with them.

The new legislation forces credit card vendors to register with colleges and university administrations and limits the number of tabling sites but does not completely ban their presence.

UVA fears drop in international student attendance
By Josh Goodman
Cavalier Daily

(U-WIRE) University of Virginia—President George W. Bush announced his support last week for more stringent visa requirements for foreign students seeking to enter the United States. The decision has some in the University of Virginia community worried that fewer international students will enroll next year.

Though tougher visa rules have not yet been enacted, evidence already exists that fewer international students may enter the University next year.

“We have noticed a drop-off in the number of foreign students requesting applications,” said William Quandt, vice provost for international affairs.

University officials acknowledge the increased need for security following the Sept. 11 attacks, but they hope new laws will not discourage international students from coming to the University.

“Nobody knows what the ramifications of this new directive will be,” International Studies Student Adviser Richard Tanson said. “It would be absolutely disastrous if the number of international students was curtailed.”

One measure under consideration by Congress and Bush’s administration is a national tracking system for foreign students. Students would have their fingerprints or palm prints checked at all airports and national borders.

A goal of the Bush administration is to ensure that foreigners who come to the U.S. on student visas actually attend school.

Bucky

Flag Over Georgia. Johnson is an honor member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. He is also a member of Phi Beta Mu, CBDA, MENC, IAJE, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Mu Alpha. Currently, Johnson is the Vice President of the ACC Band Directors’ Association.

Johnson was recommended by the band directors at Druid Hills High School to apply for the open-
ing at Georgia Tech in 1983.

It wasn’t long before he was in-
vited by the Georgia Tech Music Department to take up the offer, which he certainly took advantage of. With over eighteen years of ex-
perience as the Director of Bands, Johnson has managed to bring sig-
nificant changes to the department.

Other than being in charge and di-
recting the concert band, the march-
ing band and the pep band, Johnson ini-
itated a women’s pep band and got it approved within his first year of service.

Johnson states that he does not regret leaving his position because “the music department is in such a great place now and can continue to prosper without me.”

When confronted about his rea-
sions for leaving, Johnson simply stated that “looking at the mone-
tary benefits of retirement and the fact that I can spend more time with my family; I see no reason why now wouldn’t be a good time to retire.”

Johnson admits, however, that he will definitely miss “the day-to-
day life” with his colleagues. His plans after retiring include taking a tour around Europe, visiting Japan and Hong Kong and perhaps even New Zealand.

“I’ve lived in Atlanta all my life, so I would love to travel to other places and meet people with different cultures,” said Johnson.

He also noted that he misses spending time with his friends and family. He reveals that “you simply don’t have the free time you want” on the weekends “even though it is very exciting.”

“I like being paid for what I enjoy doing but since my life has revolved around music for a long time, I think now is a good time to take a break,” said Johnson.

Many students have expressed their fondness for Johnson.

“He’s done so much for the mu-
ic program since he’s been at Tech—
we’re definitely losing one of the family. I am definitely happy for him, but at the same time I am sad to see him go,” said color guard captain Wendy Stone.

“Whether it is band or guard related or not, I feel comfortable talking to him about any problems or just to chat.”

Johnson started teaching music at the age of twenty-one. After over thirty years of experience, he says that there are many retirement ben-
efits that he wants to take advantage of. For instance, he is now allowed to receive sixty percent of his pay for the rest of his life, several medi-
cal incentives and other smaller ben-
efits. This is one of his reasons for leaving his position.

In his spare time, Johnson likes to participate in a wide variety of activities. One of his favorite activi-
ties is getting together with his par-
ets for a Sunday lunch.

Bucky’s favorite instrument is the drum and he enjoys listening to Pachelbel’s “Canon.” Emperadora Overture, Hounds of Spring.—Reed, Sailors and Whales—MacBeth are some of the concert band pieces he enjoys to conduct. His favorite com-
poser of all times is Alfred Reed.

Johnson’s favorite Tech band tradition is “the Horse” as it gives the members of the band a chance to let our hair down, but I am wor-
ed that someone is going to get hurt or going to trip and fall and break themselves or their instru-
ment.”

The tradition he feels is most important for everyone to remem-
ber is “our service to the Institute and keeping spirits up.” From teacher to director, Bucky has had the op-
portunity to interact with many dif-
ferent students in his years teaching at Tech. He has taught the March-
ing Band, Jazz Band, and Symphonic Band here at Georgia Tech.

Although many people have held significant positions at Tech, Johnson believes he is extremely fortunate because he has been able to control his destiny and have a great amount of flexibility.

“I feel that I have been very lucky in life to receive this position and I couldn’t not have done it all with-
out the support of the faculty,” said Johnson.
Edwin Harrison

Former Georgia Tech President Edwin Harrison passed away from illness in his Virginia home at age 85 on October 23.

Harrison, who was the sixth president of the Institute, guided Tech for 11 years beginning in August of 1957. He managed the Institute through a turbulent time of social change at many American colleges and universities. His coordination of the peaceful integration of Tech will be among the many accomplishments for which Harrison will be remembered. At the time, Tech was the first university in the south to peacefully integrate.

Harrison also oversaw physical, in addition to social, changes at the Institute. He engineered the purchase of the land west of Hemphill Avenue and north of Ferst Drive that would later be the site of a number of new facilities, as 56 new buildings were either completed or funded during his term as president.

Tech historian Robert McMath, who authored Engineer- ing the New South: Georgia Tech 1885-1985, called this the “biggest campus expansion and building boom in the school’s history until the 1990s.”

President G. Wayne Clough, who was an undergraduate student while Harrison served as President of the Institute, told The Whistle Harrison was “a friendly, thoughtful man who made important decisions that helped shape the future of Georgia Tech.”

Harrison also maintained popularity with the student body throughout his tenure. Clough recounted to The Whistle a time when Harrison cancelled classes to honor the basketball team. It was in Harrison’s honor that the “T” from atop Tech Tower was first stolen. It was presented at “Wonderful Ed’s Day,” a celebration of his retirement, as the first officer and left him with red spots on his face. The two were still unsure about what remained in the package.

They also noticed a piece of PVC piping on the ground in the area, which led them to believe the situation could be serious. The City of Atlanta authorities were then contacted.

“We got the fire department in there, and they decontaminated the officer, and the area was closed off for a while so that we could get the bomb disposal folks in there,” said Vickery.

“Things that would at one time be considered pranks can’t be done anymore.”

Jack Vickery
Georgia Tech Police Chief

“[The bomb squad] came in and imploded the remaining bottle and determined that the PVC pipe was just something people were using to set off bottle rockets,” said Vickery.

According to Vickery, there is a standard protocol for responding to such emergency situations. The Atlanta Police Department has a procedure, similar to the one it implemented at Skiles, to deal with hazardous devices.

“While officials are still investigating to determine exactly what substance was in the liquid that caused the bottles to explode, Vickery noted that it was most likely a mixture of a number of chemicals that built-up the gas pressure inside and eventually caused the explosion.

“It has been a while, but we have encountered this type of thing before,” said Vickery.

Tech officials are also looking for the individual involved, as he managed to elude officers in the initial few minutes.

“The circumstances we are dealing with today, where people have a heightened concern about security and are dealing with the unknown, [the perpetrator] definitely created an unknown situation for a lot of people,” said Vickery.

“Folks need to know that things that would at one time be considered pranks can’t be done anymore,” said Vickery.

Students who wish to report information about this incident can contact the Georgia Tech Police Department at (404) 894-9966.
Students engage hunger, homelessness through week’s events

By Jody Shaw
News Editor

Throughout the week, Tech students have participated in a number of events to raise awareness of hunger and homelessness issues in the Atlanta area.

The Tech events correspond with other events around the nation that have taken place this week to improve the same issues.

The Taskforce for the Homeless has aided in the planning of many of these events and has named November National Homeless Awareness Month.

Mobilizing Opportunities for Volunteer Experience (MOVE) Chair Rachel Giese coordinated this year’s second annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

On Monday evening, 200 Tech students attended a hunger banquet at the student center. The participants were randomly divided into groups as they entered the ballroom, and then food was distributed among the groups according to the levels at which food is distributed around the world. For example, the largest group ate rice with their hands on the floor while the smallest group ate a gourmet meal seated at a table.

On Wednesday morning approximately 50 Tech students camped out at the Campbelle to raise awareness of homelessness in Atlanta. While staying awake during the night the students served the hungry and homeless. They made sandwiches for the hungry, organized clothes for the homeless, and wrote letters to local and national politicians to inform them about the issues.

On Thursday morning Tech students listened to hear firsthand stories about being homeless at the “Faces of the Homelessness Panel.”

The week culminates with four service projects on Saturday: Giese hopes to have 150 students volunteering. They will clean up a neighborhood, sort food at the Atlanta Food Bank, and prepare food for Meals on Wheels.

“Saturday we are really hoping to take action. Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is a national event; it is real big in California. I wanted to make everything, including the sleepout, more action oriented, so that we can learn and then do something,” said Giese.

Overall, Giese was very pleased with participation at the events.

“Even students who were not able to come out to the hunger banquet or the campout knew that the average age of a homeless person is nine, and that in itself is an advocacy piece,” said Giese.

“People are learning that kids and single mothers and other helpless people are also homeless. Tech students have been really responsive.”

Students who want more information about these issues can visit www.homelesstaskforce.org.

By Ian Chew • Student Publications

Students attend the Hunger Banquet held Monday in the Student Center. The event was held as part of MOVE’s Hunger Awareness Week.

Brown also expressed concerns that Georgia Tech was already locked into a construction plan from the start, and that waiting to speak to those groups affected by the renovations would add millions of dollars to the original budget. According to the Athletic Association, there is a very tight schedule set for the renovations.

The formal unveiling of the new construction designs took place yesterday. All organizations associated with Bobby Dodd Stadium, including the Ramblin’ Reck Club, were invited to the gathering.

But in light of future events, however, Demirgian said, “it is not only the responsibility of the Reck club, but the responsibility of the students to know where the Athletic Association makes plans. If everyone were to become more involved, we would affect the look of Tech and its icon.”

Students attend the Hunger Banquet held Monday in the Student Center. The event was held as part of MOVE’s Hunger Awareness Week.

NEWS
Technique • Friday, November 9, 2001 • 5