

TECHNIQUE

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Get rowdy! New seating places students on top of basketball court at AMC.

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Bomb prank scares east side

By Jody Shaw
News 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 though 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 Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students prepared sandwiches and organized clothes to be distributed to homeless individuals in the area. They slept at the Campanile Wednesday night as part of MOVE's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. More coverage of the events can be found on page 5.

Former GE CEO to speak

The DuPree College of Management will host a conversation with Jack Welch next Thursday.

Welch is the former CEO of General Electric and will speak on his new book *Jack, Straight from the Gut* with DuPree Dean Terry Blum.

The event will be held at 10 a.m. in the Bioengineering and Biosciences building.

Military Week begins Mon.

Tech will hold its annual Military Week next week.

The events will begin on Monday with a guest speaker. The week will end with a Joint-Service Military Banquet on Thursday.

Numerous military guest speakers, including some Tech alums, will be on campus throughout the week.

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 next spring 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. Once the change was made, many students worried that their quarter credits in certain areas would

"It will probably be a problem until we get all of the people through that were under quarters."

Jo McIver
Registrar



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 Curriculum 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 a chance to take the addi-

tional hours of humanities and social sciences."

However, with the end of this transition policy, many students are finding themselves without the necessary twelve hours of both social science and humanities credit 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 that 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 Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The wreck, which is currently stored near Bobby Dodd Stadium, will soon have a new on-campus home due to stadium renovations.

By Sriram 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...liability is something 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 Navendra Seshadri
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 position of Chair of the Music Department. The department, a part of the College Of Architecture, works closely with the college and other campus organizations including SGA, the Alumni Association and the Athletics Association.

Johnson believes that "the department's job is to get the rest of campus involved" and make them aware of what is going on around campus. His most important duties as the head of the music department at Georgia Tech are to support the faculty, hire people who are suitable for certain posts and facilitates them with what they need to succeed.

Johnson, a native Atlantan, was a successful high school band director for ten years at two different high schools in the Atlanta metro area. In addition, he directed the Dekalb College Jazz Band for over eight years. The Dekalb Jazz Band performed at the Montreaux International Jazz Festival, the North Sea Jazz Festival, and the Toronto Jazz Festival. Besides his responsibilities at Georgia Tech, he also served as the director for the 300-member Atlanta Olympic Band (1992-1996).

Johnson has also managed to find time to serve as Festival Director for the Southern Star Music Festival sponsored by Six

See *Bucky*, page 3

Technique Online Voice Your Opinion!

Last issue's poll garnered 73 responses to the question: "What do you think of midterm grade reports?"

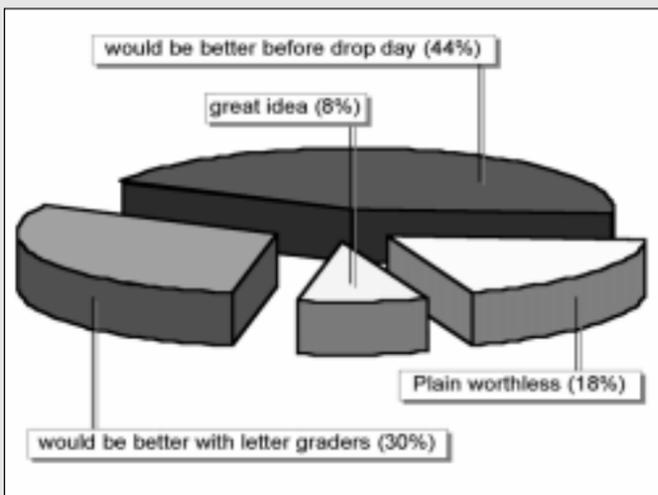


Image by Ben Small / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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 af-

fect 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 Jaymelle 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 bookstore, 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 college 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

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Flags Over Georgia. Johnson is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. He is also a member of Phi Beta Mu, CBDNA, MENC, IAJE, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Mu Alpha. Currently, Johnson is the Vice President of the ACC Band Director's Association.

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

It wasn't long before he was invited by the Georgia Tech Music Department to take up the offer, which he certainly took advantage of. With over eighteen years of experience as the Director of Bands, Johnson has managed to bring significant changes to the department. Other than being in charge and directing the concert band, the marching band and the pep band, Johnson initiated 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 reasons for leaving, Johnson simply stated that "looking at the monetary 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.



By Alisa Hawkins / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

After leading the Tech band for nine years, Bucky Johnson will step down at the end of the semester. Johnson plans to travel more after retiring.

Many students have expressed their fondness for Johnson.

"He's done so much for the music 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 benefits 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 medical incentives and other smaller benefits. 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 activities is getting together with his parents for a Sunday lunch.

Bucky's favorite instrument is the drum and he enjoys listening to Pachadel's "Canon." Emperada Overture, Hounds of Spring—Reed,

Sailors and Whales—MacBeth are some of the concert band pieces he enjoys to conduct. His favorite composer 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 worried that someone is going to get hurt or going to trip and fall and break themselves or their instrument."

The tradition he feels is most important for everyone to remember is "our service to the Institute and keeping spirits up." From teacher to director, Bucky has had the opportunity to interact with many different students in his years teaching at Tech. He has taught the Marching 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 without the support of the faculty," said Johnson.

Obituary 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 become home to the apartment-style residence halls built, in part, for the 1996 Olympics.

During his tenure, Harrison also presided over the addition of a number of new facilities, as 50 new buildings were either completed or funded during his term as president.

Tech historian Robert McMath, who authored *Engineering 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, which was held near Junior's Grill known today as Harrison Square.

Harrison is survived by his two sons; Robert and Richard; and his four grandsons; Matthew, Michael, Daniel and David.

Explosion from page 1

As the officer approached the bag, part of it exploded. He later found out the bag contained two two-liter bottles filled with a volatile liquid. The explosion was caused by one of the two bottles exploding.

Immediately the second officer on the scene contacted emergency medical services, as the explosion injured 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.

The streets in the immediate area were closed off, and traffic was rerouted in order to give the emergency officials room to operate and keep individuals out of the area.

"Being five in the morning, there were not a whole lot of people in the area, and there was nothing really evacuated. The people who were in

fraternities in the immediate area were just told to stay in their houses," said Vickery.

The bomb squad from the Atlanta Police Department arrived to investigate the incident and the remaining device, and members of the Georgia State University Police offered their assistance in directing traffic.

"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.

"There were some other things found at that scene, a ninja costume and some CO₂ pellets that were probably used for pranks."

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 the 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 evening approximately 50 Tech students camped out at the Campanile 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 neigh-

borhood, 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 real responsive."

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



By Ian Clark / 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.

Wreck

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the property will be protected," Sterling Brown, Senior Associate Athletic Director, said.

Part of the construction, however, will limit access to the area of the stadium alongside Bobby Dodd Way and will prevent the fifty-member Reck Club from performing routine maintenance on the vehicle and will force the club to find a new location for it. After contemplating several options, the club decided to move the Wreck to an undisclosed location on-campus, once its former home before it was transferred to the stadium.

One option suggested by a member of the Athletic Association was to integrate a glass atrium into the new entrance to Bobby Dodd Stadium, as it would serve as a means of being a prominent showcase for the Wreck, thereby bolstering its

image even further as an icon of Tech. However, not only would it be overly expensive for both the Reck Club and the Athletic Association to support funding for those plans, it would also be infeasible for members of the club to access the vehicle on a day-to-day basis.

"There was no money budgeted by the Athletic Association for that. Since we were not part of any discussion, we would not know where to start. Our mission is not to raise money to build space. The mission [of the club] is to be the support of the entire campus to promote the history of Georgia Tech all the way to the car itself," Kirk McQueen, Director of Facilities and Operations for Campus Recreation and the faculty advisor for the Ramblin' Reck club, said.

Brown also suggested that the Wreck be stored on the parking deck of the future SAC II, but that ongo-

ing project would not be completed until September of 2004. However, members of the Reck Club did not hesitate to consider that location in the future.

McQueen also expressed concerns in regard to placing the Wreck in a location off-campus. "To store it safely was our main concern. It is the icon, goes to weddings on weekends, and is often out by the campanile." In addition, because the driver of the Wreck is a student, easy access to it was a priority from the beginning.

Options for the automobile's future location were in discussion for several months from the time the club was notified in early June by the Athletic Association, which finalized the construction contract, to just recently. However, many members expressed strong concerns that they were neither approached before the renovation plans were

signed in agreement, nor involved in any discussion.

"I wish we would have known earlier about the renovations and that we were moving, but we are still very happy that we are keeping [the Wreck] on campus. We were a little worried at first, and now after the initial disclosure, we became proactive and open to the stadium as a better facility," Erik Demirgian, President of the Ramblin' Reck Club, said.

However, Brown felt confident that the club received adequate time to find a better location for the vehicle. "[In June], we just knew we were going to start the renovations. The logistics program is an outgrowth of the construction plan. When we decided that we were doing renovations to the stadium, we started to see what things would be impacted and someone said that the Wreck would be one," Brown said.

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."