Homecoming conflict causes fall break move

Students participate in the Mini 500 during Homecoming last fall. Fall break has been moved to the week after the Homecoming football game.

By Jody Shaw
Associate Editor

Confronted with the possibility of compressing next fall’s week of Homecoming events into just three short days, Tech administrators made the decision to move the two-day fall break back one week in the semester schedule.

The change, announced last week, means that fall break will occur Oct. 18-19, rather Oct. 11-12. Students who wish to participate fully in Homecoming and attend the game against Duke will see their traditional four-day holiday reduced.

The change, which has frustrated some students, sprang from issues that appeared early in the planning process.

Each year, once the ACC releases the football schedule for the coming fall, the Alumni Association convenes a meeting of interested parties to begin the process of planning Homecoming.

The group includes representatives from the Alumni Association, Athletic Association, the Office of the President, Ramblin’ Reck Club and Student Center Programs Council, among others. This year’s meeting took place Feb. 9. The group’s first priority was to decide a Homecoming game date.

“October is usually the driest month, so typically you want to plan these events in October because that’s when you have the nicest weather,” said Joe Irwin, Executive Director of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association.

The committee considered several options within that time frame. The first home game within that month, on Oct. 2, pits the Yellow Jackets against the Hurricanes of the University of Miami, a newcomer to the ACC, but a team that has won five college football national titles in the last two decades.

Tech planners decided not to put the football team’s homecoming winning...
streak on the line against the ‘Canes and instead decided to use that date as Family Weekend. Miami’s supporters are not known for traveling with their team, meaning that tickets should be readily available for campus visitors.

The next home game is Oct. 16 against the Duke Blue Devils, but officials initially shied away from it because fall break was Oct. 11-12.

The next available games, however, are a nationally-televised contest against the Virginia Tech Hokies, which would not work because it falls on a Thursday night and a Nov. 13 non-conference match-up with the Connecticut Huskies, which would present the possibility of holding Homecoming events in cold or rainy weather.

“The logical date was the Duke game,” Irwin said, “which presented the problem of fall break.”

In fall 2001, Homecoming occurred on the three-days immediately following fall break. Irwin and others received feedback from Homecoming planners from the Student Center Programs Council and other organizations that the festivities suffered.

“After looking through the rule books and guidelines from that year and comparing it with others, it was obvious that the three-day week significantly decreased the number of events,” said Brandon Elson, Homecoming chair.

The compressed week in 2001 resulted in combining the mock rock and talent show competitions into one event and holding the festival on Tuesday evening, when many students had not yet returned from the break, among other alterations.

“There was a feeling that there is so much going on with students that they want to have a full week. You’re faced with a three-day academic week, too—it’s not like school is out,” Irwin said.

“We as a committee went to the President’s Office and said ‘This is the ideal week for Homecoming. It happens to be the week of fall break. Can we move fall break?’”

Gary May, Executive Assistant to the President, and Registrar Jo McIver then took the next steps to make the move. Setting the dates for breaks within school semesters is a decision left to individual institutions by the Board of Regents, which sets the parameters in which universities must operate—such as the number of days they must hold class and the dates within which the semesters must occur.

Different schools use breaks for different purposes; some universities in Savannah coordinate their spring breaks with St. Patrick’s Day, and the University of Georgia always takes its fall recess when its football team plays the University of Florida in Jacksonville. At Tech, however, the purpose of fall break has always been to give students a chance to rest their minds.

“You really want your fall break to come after the first set of midterm exams are administered,” May said.

McIver, who actually sets the Institute’s academic calendar, agreed.

“I just pick the middle of the term,” McIver said, “because really that is the purpose of fall break—to give you a rest after your exams.”

This desire to keep the purpose of fall break intact prevented moving the two-day recess ahead in the calendar, as neither May nor McIver wanted it to
occur before students take their midterms. Moving it two weeks later, however, would have put it too late in the calendar, according to McIver.

“If we start moving it too much, it kind of loses its reason for being,” McIver said. “That would be the only thing that would bother me.”

Further limiting the possible options is the Thanksgiving break, which causes students to miss a Thursday and a Friday during the semester. Moving the fall break from its traditionally Monday-Tuesday spot to the end of the week, then, would take Thursday and Friday from professors and students for a second time and potentially wreak havoc with certain curricula, especially labs, according May and McIver.

Weighing all the options, then, the administrators decided to simply move the break back exactly one week, placing it immediately following Homecoming, and forcing some students to choose between taking a four-day trip, perhaps an opportunity to go home for out-of-state students, and staying for the Homecoming festivities.

Administrators and students involved with Homecoming have expressed concerns that this alteration may hurt Homecoming by diminishing participation.

“The concerns that have been voiced to me are that this will make Homecoming seem less big and less representative than we would like it to be,” Buck Cooke, Assistant Director of Student Involvement for Greek Life, said.

Cooke has worked with the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Society and other organizations to make Homecoming week more inclusive of the entire campus and involve more non-Greek organizations in the week’s activities.

“Homecoming is not just for IFC and Panhellenic; it is for everyone,” Cooke said.

“The fears I have heard are that some groups are not going to participate because it is not part of their institutional memory—they have only done it once or twice. If they have to choose between taking a four-day weekend and participating in Homecoming, which maybe they have only done once or twice, what are they going to do?”

Cooke expressed concerns that some Greek chapters may not participate at their traditional levels, though Elson and others still expect a good showing.

“From what I know, participation will be good because it has to be; at least within the Greek community, chapters will participate to the fullest because of the competition. With non-Greeks, it is probable only the most passionate groups [that] will participate,” Elson said.

Additionally, Elson’s committee is already looking for ways to work within the possible reality of reduced participation.

It is considering a reduction in the participation requirement for the Freshmen Cake Race, which currently requires 100 percent participation from a fraternity’s freshmen to participate in order to receive maximum points towards the Homecoming competition.

The Athletic Association is planning on a typical turnout.

“We think the festivities will continue to be attractive and exciting enough to keep a significant number of students on campus during the Homecoming
weekend,” said Paul Griffin, Senior Associate Director of Athletics. Students have differing opinions on whether or not they would sacrifice a day of their break to attend the events and game.

“I would definitely go to the game,” said Jonathan Bailey, a senior Industrial Engineering major. “But I think they should try to steer clear of fall break when planning these things.”

Tom Parker, another ISyE senior, said he “would be much less likely” to attend.

As planning continues for the current schedule, the possibility of another date change still remains a possibility, though a remote one.

“I don’t want to say that it is impossible [to change the date of fall break again], but the date is becoming pretty final,” May said.

Right now, members of the Student Government Association are still working to gather student opinion on the issue.

“The more opinions SGA hears from students, the more confident SGA can be in approaching the administration about how to adjust the dates of fall break,” said Nate Watson, Undergraduate Student Body President.

“Fall break exists for the purpose of allowing students to catch their breath. I think that means that students’ concerns about the dates of fall break should carry a lot of weight-and SGA looks forward to communicating the students’ message on this subject.”

Administrators, meanwhile, seem to believe the current situation may be the best possible solution.

“Also a lot of people make plans around that date-family vacations, plane tickets and all that stuff-so it is difficult when we change our dates like this,” McIver said. “I hope we are not going to change it again.”

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Budget cuts limit summer courses

By Stephen Baehl
Senior Staff Writer

Budget problems continue to plague the Institute, coming in their latest form—a reduction of undergraduate summer course offerings in the School of Mechanical Engineering, as well as other schools.

Ward Winer, chair of the School of Mechanical Engineering, said the school will face a cut of about $600,000 next year, roughly five percent of its current budget.

Winer said the school has been hit especially hard by recent economic troubles, as it is funded by both state funds and an endowment. It will not only receive fewer state funds, but its endowment funding is also significantly reduced due to stock market values.

The reduction in course offerings to Mechanical Engineering students, approximately one-third of whom are in the co-op program, will likely affect many undergraduates’ college plans. “Undergraduates all feel like when there is a budget cut, they’re the first ones on the list to be shafted,” said Andrew Scott, a Mechanical Engineering student.

In addition to the direct impact on graduation plans, he said, “Labs in the fall are going to be overflowing with students who couldn’t take them in the summer, affecting everyone else’s schedule.”

Winer said the school is doing its best to accommodate both budget cuts and students. “We really are here to provide the students with a good education,” he said. “But we are obligated to stay within our budget. And we have relatively few options to reduce budget; unfortunately, this is one of them.”

Mechanical Engineering courses that will not be offered this summer but that usually are include: ME 2016, 2110, 3056, 3720, 4053 and 4041. The 4053 class is an intensive senior-level lab that is a prerequisite for ME 4055 (Experimental Engineering), another time-consuming lab course. The lack of the prerequisites offered in the summer has particularly concerned some students.

Associate Chair of Mechanical Engineering Chris Lynch has been discussing the cuts with Mechanical Engineering classes in order to get a feel for just how many students will be impacted. Students with problems have come to see Lynch, and he urges others to do the same.

“One can’t promise we’re going to be able to help every student,” he said, “but we’re going to come close.”

One affected student, Mechanical Engineering junior Kim Pemberton, said, “Dr. Lynch seems helpful if you approach him, but there’s not much he can really do, and the stuff he can do doesn’t really help us all that much.”

The school has sought other means of reducing such effects from funding.
troubles. According to Winer, the administration reduced the number of graduate students supported, cut back on faculty travel and let go of some part-time workers.

Further savings have come from simple conservation-limiting paper available for students’ printing in computer labs is one such example that Winer said has saved the school money.

But even these efforts could not keep students from feeling the impact of the budget woes.

Pemberton had planned on finishing all her Mechanical Engineering courses by next spring, leaving only elective classes so that she could study abroad in Australia. However, that is no longer possible because ME 4053 is not being offered in the summer as she had expected.

Lynch offered her an override, she said, which would allow her to take both 4053 and 4055 in the fall. However, such a course load could prove overwhelming. “I don’t know how much of an academic suicide that would be,” Pemberton said.

In the end, she decided she would forego studying abroad and push her graduation back.

However, this also leaves Pemberton without enough courses to take this summer. “It’s not really economical,” she said, saying that she is an out-of-state student and would be paying too much money for too few hours without the needed lab.

Another Mechanical Engineering student, a senior who asked not to be identified, said she had planned on taking 4053 this summer and 4055 in the fall, allowing her to graduate in December. After speaking to Lynch, she has been granted an override and been allowed to take 4055 in the summer, followed by 4053 in fall semester.

This leaves her with a difficult lab and her senior design project in the same semester. She said it will be difficult, “but it’s not like I haven’t had tough semesters before.”

She added that while she is glad the administration “is really being understanding and making exceptions so I can get out on time,” she wishes they could have informed students of the changes in a more timely manner.

Scott agreed, saying, “The least they could have done is to have given more time to warn the students so they could plan their schedule accordingly. Instead, people have to wait another semester and get an email with ‘we apologize for any inconveniences this may cause.’

“It’s a little bit more than an inconvenience to some people, I’m sure,” he said.

Other schools have also been affected by the situation. “Budget cuts mean the school will be offering two to three fewer summer courses than we have in the past,” said Pat McCarthy, Economics school chair.

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering chair Ronald Rousseau said his department will have to deal with the cuts, as well. However, he also said, “We’ve managed to handle the summer that’s coming up without any reduction in the number of courses that we’re going to offer.”

The school has decreased the number of sections to be offered at other times
in the year, he said, and it will use research support to cover faculty so they can teach during the summer. “It could reduce the flexibility that some students have,” he said. “But we’re working to minimize the impact of the reduction in sections.”

Rousseau estimated the school has faced budget cuts of about 15 percent over the last few years and has coped accordingly. As for the current cuts, “I’m very hopeful that they’ll be short-term,” he said.
Grade substitution draft proposal modified

By Daniel Amick

News Editor

At a recent meeting, an Academic Senate committee modified the grade substitution proposal. The committee is now circulating the draft document for input from faculty and students.

A grade substitution policy allows students to retake a limited number of courses and substitute their second grade for the first.

The original proposal, formulated by the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, would have allowed students to retake up to three 1000-level courses in which they received a grade of D or F. The course would have to have been retaken before the student earned 61 credit hours.

The Student Regulations Committee (SRC) received and discussed the IUCC proposal at its Feb. 9 meeting.

“This committee really does not do anything more than recommend... rules and regulations changes to the Academic Senate, so we can’t, on our own, create new rules and regulations. We simply make recommendations to the Academic Senate,” said Paul Benkeser, chair of the SRC.

“In general, I think that most of the committee members felt that some sort of grade substitution policy was probably a good thing,” Benkeser said.

He also said committee members wanted the issue fully vetted and discussed before it came before the Academic Senate.

“There was a general concern on our committee that [the proposal] needed a bit more discussion in the community before sending it on to the Academic Senate. We felt there was still some confusion, misunderstanding [and] misinterpretation, at the implications of a grade substitution policy,” Benkeser said.

“We decided not to do anything more than to make some possible modifications to the proposal that was sent to us and then circulate it around to various groups for comment.”

The committee made four significant changes to the proposal. They reached a general consensus that any grade substitution policy should not be restricted to 1000-level courses because some freshmen take higher-level courses. Some majors have introductory-level courses at levels higher than 1000.

The committee also agreed that any policy should only be applied to courses taken in the first two terms in residence at Tech. The committee felt that the motivation behind the proposal is to improve retention rates of students who have trouble adjusting to Tech during their first year.

"[The purpose] is to provide them with some incentive, to allow them to see the light at the end of the tunnel and not just to throw in the towel"
prematurely,” Benkeser said. “There are some students who have a more
difficult time adjusting to Tech’s environment than others.” The committee
also changed the time limit to retake courses from a limit based on credit
hours to one based on semesters at Tech. The modified proposal would allow
substitution if the course is repeated within a student’s first four terms in
residence.

Finally, the committee reduced the number of courses that can be retaken
from three to two. Benkeser said no one on the committee was fiercely
opposed to more than two courses, but that the number was seen as a
compromise with people who oppose grade substitution.

Benkeser said committee members also noted that any grade substitution
policy would have to be complemented by strong academic advisement.
Advisors would have to target at-risk students for assistance. He also said
strong advisement is difficult to legislate and thus would be left in the hands
of deans and individual schools.

“We’re gathering input that we’re going to bring back to our meeting on
March 15,” Benkeser said.

Student members of the committee Don Kang and David Anderson are
soliciting student opinion on the issue. Kang said he was planning to conduct
a survey on Skiles walkway in the near future. He said he and other students
had fought to get the 1000-level restriction removed. He is also seeking to
make the policy retroactive so some students will not be disadvantaged. SRC
committee meetings are open to the public. The next one will be held March
15 at 10 a.m. in the U.A. Whitaker building, Room 2110.
Majority of Student Center Commons to open March 15

By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A steel trellis takes shape above the new entrance to the Student Center Commons. The space is scheduled to open after spring break.

If all goes according to plan, construction work on the Student Center Commons will finish within the next week.

Furniture will arrive and retailers will begin moving into the new space shortly thereafter. On March 15, the first day after spring break, the commons area and a number of the retail locations will open to students.

“The Monday you come back from spring break, we’ll have the doors flung open wide and you’ll be able to come in and use the space,” said Rich Steele, Student Center director.

The SCC, once the Tech bookstore, is a conglomeration of food outlets, lounge space, conference rooms, student organizations offices and retailers.

“By the 15th, we’ll have all of our lounge furniture in place. We will have received our meeting room furniture, but we’re just going to start taking reservations for the meeting rooms on the 15th,” Steele said. The SCC has two conference rooms on the first floor, and four rooms upstairs. Steele said they are designed to offer higher quality meeting spaces.
An Italian restaurant, dubbed Pandini’s, will open on the 15th as well. The restaurant will be equipped with an oven capable of cooking about 160 pizzas per hour, and will have seating for nearly 100 people.

Adjacent to Pandini’s is a carpeted seating area and a raised stage. A revamped Burdell’s will also open in March, along with a copy center that will sell inkjet cartridges at half price. A planned nonalcoholic pub will not open until the fall.

The SCC will also include STA Travel, Hair Cuttery and College Optical.

Eight kiosks are spread throughout the space. Student organizations will be able to use the kiosks as information tables to promote their events. Organizations will be able to request reservations for both kiosks and conference rooms online later this semester.

Student government, WREK Radio and other student organizations are still at least six to eight weeks from moving into new SCC offices. Space will be allocated to organizations by Assistant Dean Danielle McDonald.

The SCC was always scheduled to open to students after spring break. However, actual construction on the SCC was delayed for about five weeks because of delays in securing a fire permit. To bring the building up to fire code, a sprinkler system was extended to include the post office and new fire exits were added.

In addition, large steel beams had to be added to reinforce sections of the second floor when builders realized the weight of WREK Radio’s album collection would be too much for the existing structure to bear.

According to Steele, future plans could include changing the Cyber Café into an Einstein’s Bagels restaurant. Steele said the plan would go forward if it fell within the available budget.
Representatives Justin Winter and Matt Swanburg study a bill during Tuesday night’s UHR meeting. The UHR and GSS both passed allocations to the Microgravity Team.

By Stephen Baehl
Senior Staff Writer

Tuesday night’s student government meeting was plagued by several close votes during discussion, forcing Executive Vice President Michael Handelman to resort to counting votes several times throughout the evening, and representatives found themselves standing and sitting more than they would in a game of musical chairs.

After a ten-minute interruption for SGA members to line up for yearbook pictures shortly after the meeting was called to order, Sally Hammock, Student Center Associate Director, gave a guest report on the Student Center Commons.

The commons area and three-fourths of the retail locations are set to open March 15, she said.

As a prelude to the night’s bill discussions, Handelman reminded members to keep heart during long meetings such as the previous week’s. He said the administration has placed its trust in the SGA to make the decisions it does.
“What I want to emphasize today-what’s important in the House is not necessarily the yea or nay vote at the end of the discussion but rather the process that we go through to reach those decisions,” he said.

“What we do here is very important, and you’re really appreciated for what you do.”

The majority of the discussion centered upon a bill to allocate funds to the NASA Microgravity Team, a group of seven Aerospace Engineering students working on a NASA-sponsored research project. The project entails sending four of the team’s members to Houston and acquiring a few thousand dollars’ worth of equipment.

“We’ve gone through fundraisers, and it’s not like we’re just coming to you as a freebie,” organization representative Chester Ong told SGA members. “We’re coming to you as a last resort.”

The bill asked for $2,150.30 for equipment, possible medical care costs, travel expenses and publicity.

However, reports from the Joint Finance Committee and Coordinator Officer Eric Clopper indicated that organization representatives had earlier said the Aerospace Engineering department would pick up funds that SGA did not provide.

Ong said that at the time of earlier questioning, the department had said it would cover half the needed money, but the students were left to find other means of funding for the other half. Another team member, also an SGA representative, noted that an Aerospace Engineering professor would “more than likely” provide the funding, that the organization sought funding from SGA as a backup, and that the amount needed could possibly be reduced.

Several representatives questioned funding something that might get more funds anyway.

“It’s our stance that SGA is a last resort on funding, and it’s not fair that the AE department depends on us for funding,” freshman representative Saira Amir said.

“I think it’s a great idea, but it’s not our place to be funding this kind of bill, especially in a time of budget crisis.” She said she felt the bill should be tabled until more information was available.

In light of the possible funding forthcoming, both the Joint Finance Committee and Graduate Senate reports indicated that providing funding only for publicity and travel expenses, but not equipment, was in order.

Several representatives, however, pointed out that the SGA needed to look at the fact that this is a student activity, and so it is up to SGA to fund it based on its merits, not based on hearsay about what the School of Aerospace Engineering might or might not fund.

Vice President of Campus Affairs Ben Lawder seconded the point, saying, “We need to make our decision based on the fact that this is a student organization, not based on what the AE department says.”

In the end, the bill passed with cuts only to money requested for T-shirts and posters, with a little over 20 yeas. The final amount allocated to the club was around $2,000.

Representatives also passed a bill covering some traveling and tournament
expenses for the water polo team, as well as a bill to provide funding for Tech Chorale’s tour bus to Myrtle Beach and Charleston, South Carolina.

A bill for the Campus Civitan was withdrawn, while a bill to the Biomedical Engineering Student Advisory Board was postponed because no representative was present.
Council Clippings Senate and House

Senators weigh Microgravity bill

By Daniel Amick
News Editor

In a meeting that lacked the prolonged debates that have come to characterize recent sessions, graduate senators dispensed with the bills before them in rapid fashion.

The only bill to draw the senators’ scrutiny was an allocation to the Microgravity Team to fund an experiment aboard a NASA KC-135 jet. The bill originally totalled about $2,100. Joint Finance Chairman Lisa Brown reported that her committee had reduced the bill to fund travel expenses only.

Some senators questioned whether the organization could get funding from other sources. The organization representative said Tech had pledged about $1,500 but that the money would not cover all of the team’s expenses. Physics senator Edwin Greco pushed the organization representative on exactly which items could be paid for with alternative sources.

Brown also said that information supplied to JFC earlier “had a lot of discrepancies” compared to information presented at the meeting. She said she was under the impression that only undergraduates were members of the team. The organization representative said graduate students were helping to construct the experiment but would not be allowed on the airplane to conduct it.

Materials Science and Engineering senator Kasi David argued that because graduate students cannot take part in the event, the bill should be funded out of the Undergraduate Legislative Reserve (ULR).

After discussion, senators voted to amend the bill per the JFC’s recommendations. They also moved the funding from the Prior Year account to the ULR. The bill passed.

Senators also approved a bill funding the purchase of a BuzzCard reader and an exit sign for the Musician’s Network. The organization representatives said that a BuzzCard reader would allow students to use the facility to record their music, even late at night. Students would pay a fee to the Network. Then their BuzzCard code would be entered into the system. The organization representatives said this procedure would allow them to monitor who was using the facility, and when.

Senators also passed an allocation to IEEE to pay registration fees to a regional conference. They approved a bill for the Biomedical Engineering Student Advisory Board to pay for decorations for a banquet. Finally, senators passed an allocation funding a tour bus for the Tech Chorale so that they can go on a singing tour of Myrtle Beach and Charleston in March.

A bill for water polo was postponed because no representative was present.
Ask Dr. Clough

President Clough answers your questions from last fall’s State of the Institute address

By Dr. Wayne Clough

Columnist

With possible tuition increases next year, why do we see new construction projects that are unusable by current students?

The answer to this question has several dimensions, and it is useful to start at the end and work backwards.

First, Tech typically has a construction project under way almost every year to address the needs of our growing student body and research endeavors as well as the need to continuously upgrade older facilities so they will not fall into a state of disrepair. So it is almost inevitable that every Tech student will at some point be here when some construction is going on that they will not use during their tenure on campus.

However, the result of the construction is to improve the campus for succeeding generations of students and in doing so to improve the value of your degree after you leave campus.

As to funding for construction, it is not linked to tuition. Funding sources for buildings include state appropriations, bonds and private donations. [These sources] are “one-time” and do not serve to help the long-term issues that come with cuts in an annual operational budget.

We are fortunate to be able to have donor support that allows us to build some new facilities... Even though we are facing problems in our operating budget, donor funding that is designated for construction projects is allowing us to improve the physical environment for teaching and learning. Regarding our annual budget, it pays for instruction and other core functions of the Institute. The principal revenue sources are sponsored funds, state appropriations and student tuition and fees. Of our total $730 million budget, only around 15 percent comes from tuition and fees.

Increases in tuition are needed to support our basic operations in the face of the extensive cuts that have come in state funding for our base budget. These cuts now are approaching $50 million and tuition increases will only offset them to a modest degree. This means we are working hard to do more with less while doing our best to maintain quality in the educational process.
Breaking the Bubble

A lot of things went on outside of the bubble of Georgia Tech this week. Below are summaries of a few of the important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

Runaway train blast in Iran kills at least 180

An Iranian train carrying petrol, fertilizer and sulfur products caught fire and ran out of control down the line Wednesday until derailing at Neishabour, a village 400 miles east of Tehran. Many rushed to the scene to help, but the train exploded shortly thereafter, killing all those in the vicinity and trapping nearby villagers in collapsed homes.

As of Wednesday afternoon, 183 bodies had been recovered from the scene; among those reported dead by Iran’s state news agency were the mayor, energy chief and fire chief of the city.

Dean abandons bid for Democratic nomination

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean Wednesday announced that he would no longer be a candidate in the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination. The announcement came after Dean’s third-place finish in the Wisconsin primary; he failed to win any primaries or caucuses. Frontrunner Sen. John Kerry (Mass.) took home another win in Wisconsin, narrowly edging out Sen. John Edwards (NC).

Be the first on your block to own a Blue Angel jet

A Navy F/A-18A Hornet jet fighter, formerly of the Blue Angels aerial demonstration team, was for sale on eBay Tuesday. “This thing obviously slipped through the system somehow,” said Mike Landa of Landa and Associates, the firm that listed the fighter. He claimed, however, to have obtained the jet legally. The bid started at $1 million for the jet, with an offer for assembly for only $9 million more.

Teen discovers his own abduction via Internet

A San Fernando Valley resident, 17, discovered a picture of himself at age three on a missing children website. He had allegedly been abducted from Canada 14 years ago when his mother did not return him to his father after a court-ordered visit. The mother awaits extradition to Canada. The boy was reportedly upset at her arrest and has been placed in foster care.
News Briefs

RHA elections deadline tomorrow

Anyone wishing to run in the upcoming Residence Hall Association elections must submit an application by tomorrow, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. in the RHA office, Student Services building, Rm. 101. Applications can be found at rha.gatech.edu/rha/forms/exbd_app.html.

At that time, there will be a mandatory meeting for all candidates. Campaigning begins at midnight. Candidates will deliver speeches to the Legislative Council on March 2 at 9 p.m. Elections will be held on March 17 at 9 p.m.

Any questions about the elections process should be directed to elections@rha.gatech.edu.

SGA elections deadline March 4

Applications for those wishing to run in upcoming Student Government Association elections are due in the SGA office, Student Services building, Rm. 131, by 4 p.m. on March 3. Applications can be picked up in the same office.

Campaigning begins March 15. Elections are held March 29-31. Any runoff elections will be held on April 5-6.

IEEE to hold conference Feb. 25

The Tech branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) will host its annual Student-Professional Awareness Conference (S-PAC) on Wednesday, Feb. 25 in the Student Center Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the speakers and their topics, visit spac.gtiee.org. Attendance at the entire conference is not required; one may attend any or all of the sessions.
OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Fall forward for break

The roar of the crowds and the chants of fans filling Bobby Dodd Stadium during the much anticipated annual Homecoming football game might be dimmer this fall. At the request of a few student organizers, the date for next semester’s fall break has been pushed back a week from its original placement in the semester. This move makes the Saturday of fall break the day of the Homecoming game as well. Students should not be forced to choose between a well-deserved four-day break to recover from midterms and watching their Yellow Jackets play an exciting football game.

The student planners’ motivation for changing the date was based on the effect the original date would have had on Homecoming activities—the festivities would have been squeezed into a scant three days.

While condensing Homecoming week might at first seem like a horrible idea, considering that less than 30 percent of the student body actually participates in the events, a shorter time frame is not such a bad idea. Changing fall break to conflict with the game, on the other hand, affects all students. Homecoming organizers have been forced to deal with an abridged week of festivities in the recent past and were able to make do—and would be able to again this year; therefore, fall break should be changed back to its originally scheduled date.

In the past when fall break overlapped with the beginning of Homecoming week, there was a decrease in participation for some of the events. Since most members of Greek organizations seem to participate in events solely for the purpose of securing points to help their houses win, instead of because of a true love for the pyramid egg toss or other such field events, shortening Homecoming would not be such a travesty. If anything, it would allow students to be that much more excited about the very popular events like mock rock.

To appease all interests, though, a possible solution that would allow Homecoming to occupy an entire week and prevent the game from conflicting with break would be to make the break the Thursday and Friday after the game. A Thursday-Friday schedule could be run on Monday and Tuesday so that students wouldn’t miss too many of the same classes in one semester.

Essentially, more student input should have been gathered before a decision that affects the entire student community was made, similar to the way the dates of spring break were decided. Only with further changes will students be able to celebrate Homecoming and still enjoy a travel-worthy long weekend.
Culture of cash fades as plastic pervades

By Jennifer Schur
Opinions Editor

The little subject of plastic has enthralled me the past few days. More specifically, the way plastic has taken over my life, my friends’ lives and the lives of most college students.

Lest you think me a Polymer, Textile and Fibers major about to deliver a dissertation worthy of a DuPont commercial, I’m referring to the way credit and debit cards have killed the culture of cash. The final straw that is proof of a broken camel’s back somewhere is that Junior’s, the venerable restaurant that is a Tech institution, now accepts credit and debit cards for payment.

Only the rare teenager in my day regularly made purchases with a credit card, but coming to college, most students are forced to form a relationship with APR, “rewards points” and monthly statements. Although I’m a big proponent of plastic money, it takes something away from the idea of the power of money. To think that the ability to purchase a big-ticket item like a car (or, say, five textbooks a semester) is closer than it should be-reach into the purse, pull out the wallet and whip out the card-is reason for concern.

The ease with which large amounts of my financial means can be transferred from my account in one swipe is staggering. What’s even more disturbing is the ease with which I, and most people I know, can rapidly spend large amounts of money in many small increments over a short period of time without realizing it. A lunch here, a snack there, a little grocery shopping and—bam!—the week is over and I’m fifty dollars poorer.

While credit cards may provide convenience in some respects, like not having to stop by the ATM all the time and not having to worry about carrying wads of cash around, plastic also makes it easier to spend larger amounts of money in a shorter period of time. The act of pulling cash out of your wallet, counting out each bill and physically handing away a given amount of your hard-earned money causes you to take note of the amount being spent. That’s a good thing, especially for college students.

While credit cards offer some conveniences, when used in certain settings they can be more of a pain than anything else; waiting in line at Juniors can already take a long time, and since there is only one credit card machine for the two registers, when people use plastic the lines become even longer.

I am heavily dependant on my debit card, just because I always forget to stop by the ATM. So while I am grateful for the widespread acceptance of such cards, I, and other card users, should have to wait in a separate line to pay at a fast food restaurants like Junior’s.

The ability to pay with plastic has caused society to lose touch with the culture of the dollar. What with most students who are employed by the Institute and other companies opting for direct deposit of their paychecks,
people can go for weeks without touching a five spot.

Technology has overwhelmed the individual’s power of the purse—now we have the power of the buy now, pay later. I remember way back when, when I would reverently place my earmarked bills into a Ziploc bag hidden in my underwear drawer. Those were the days of using coins, too.

Nowadays, change is looked down upon. Our currency should be based on integer values since it’s nearly impossible to spend coins in a respectable setting. Try to leave change instead of bills for a tip, regardless of the value the change adds up to, and you’re berated. Just ask Susan B. Anthony. Her coin can be found in the bank or post office, and if you try to use her, heavy sighs are sure to follow. Vending machines, the one place where coin usage is still acceptable, won’t even take her!

I happen to like the coin, a solid representation of financial possession. Today’s American citizen wants everything quick, easy and light, and the coin just doesn’t fulfill these requirements. When did nickels and dimes become more of a hassle than a denomination of money?

Maybe around the same time that America became the world’s largest debtor nation. The proliferation of credit card use and the decreasing use of coins and cash are signs that individuals are following in the country’s footsteps and reveling in debt. For a time in our lives when fiscal responsibility is paramount—who wants to be paying off debt for the next 60 years?—credit cards may be easy, but they also don’t teach monetary consciousness.

To preserve the culture of money, the history of the faces centered on our bills and the traditions of our nation embodied in the greenback, we should make the move back to filling our wallets with cash, not plastic. Do your neighbor in line a favor—just use a Washington.
Take the time to find your green, earthy side

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

As a kid, one of the magazines I subscribed to was Ranger Rick. It was probably where I first learned about environmental responsibility-kid-friendly ways that I could reduce, reuse and recycle by taking shorter showers, turning off the lights whenever I left a room and bringing a lunchbox to school instead of using paper bags. My parents helped out, too: we would make monthly trips to the local recycling center with the family station wagon filled with plastics, cardboard and newspaper.

So maybe I’m more sensitive than most people to examples of wastefulness on campus. Here in the dorms, we keep our computers running 24/7; most of the academic buildings keep their lights on all night. During football season, the bright stadium lights that can illuminate the entire night sky stay on, even when there are no games. When I go to the dining hall, I see students get platefuls of food, only to eat half. When I’m at the computer lab, I watch students print out pages and pages of notes and try to do the math: with an 800-page allowance per student, how many reams of paper does OIT go through every semester? I wonder about these things all the time.

Unfortunately, most students don’t. At college, more so than other places, it’s easy to forget about being green. Taking shorter showers and turning off the lights whenever you leave the room isn’t such a big deal when you’re not the one footing the water and electricity bill.

Limited on-campus recycling options also make it harder. Though recycling newspaper, office paper, aluminum cans and plastic containers isn’t a problem (kudos to Facilities for those green receptacles around campus, as well as to RHA for starting an in-dorm recycling program this year), would it be possible to expand the kinds of materials that we can recycle? If the success of current programs is any indication, students would definitely make use of additional options.

For example, what about glass recycling, for all the empty beer bottles from parties? What about recycling for ferrous iron (what canned food tins are made out of), for all the Campbell’s soup and other instant food that college students live off of? What about cardboard, especially at the beginning and end of the semester, when there are boxes and boxes of things being packed and unpacked? And plastic bags? I take my plastic bags from grocery shopping to Publix, but of course, most people don’t have the patience or resources to do the same.

I would also love to see more activism on campus. Earth Day doesn’t seem to be a big deal at Tech, and I’m not sure if we even have an Environmental Club or similar organization. At the same time, though, we don’t necessarily have to create a new organization in order to promote a greener student body. Campus-wide service days like Tech Beautification Day and TeamBuzz
could incorporate more environmentally-friendly projects. Maybe senior design projects could even examine Tech’s energy consumption, propose ways to reduce water use or implement a more efficient heating/cooling system in our aging dorms. The administration also needs to get involved, making an effort to educate students about what they can do on an individual basis, in the same way that the Women’s Resource Center plans Women’s Awareness Month.

But in most cases, especially for busy Tech students, the difference between being green and being wasteful is just a matter of remembering. So here are some reminders: hold onto your Coke can until you pass a recycling bin. Use the blue bin that Housing provides for recycling instead of as just another trashcan. If you share a kitchen or lounge, turn off the light if no one’s there. If you use disposable eatingware, invest in some washable plastic or glass bowls and utensils. At the computer lab, learn how to print your notes double-sided or two pages per sheet.

Some people may say that these little things won’t really make a difference in the larger scheme of things. But at Tech, especially, where we’re always looking into the future in terms of new technologies and ideas, we have as good a reason as any to look at the future in terms of the impact we’re making on the environment, as well.

So when you’re done reading this Technique, you know what to do.
OUR VIEWS Hot or Not

HOT: Substitute this!

The latest proposal about grade substitution circulating around Tech’s various committees calls for the policy to apply to all classes taken during freshman year. This amendment to the proposal is a welcome change, not only because it was suggested in the ‘Nique, but also because it more adequately provides a means for students having trouble adjusting to college to do so, without killing their GPA.

NOT: Cutting classes

Due to budget cuts the School of Mechanical Engineering has been forced to cut its class offerings this summer. Although class cuts are always “not hot,” the ME administrators’ responses to problems that the cuts have caused are hot. The department is setting an excellent example of caring for its students and their ability to finish the curriculum, rather than just leaving students out in the cold without solutions.

HOT: Sunny baseball

Wednesday’s weather provided the perfect background for the baseball team’s home opener at Russ Chandler Memorial stadium. Bright sunshine warmed the fans who filled the stands as the No. 5 Yellow Jackets began their march to another ACC Championship by beating Savannah State 13-4.

NOT: Where’s the whistle?

In recent days, the whistle that blows at five ‘til the hour to signal the change of classes has become increasingly faint. The characteristic “tooooot toooooot” can no longer be heard from west campus and sometimes isn’t even audible on east! Sadly, without its reminder, professors lose track of time and classes run over.
Step up and serve Tech

In a little less than a month, students will begin campaigning for Student Government Association (SGA) elections. In addition to the widely publicized races for president and vice-president, over 100 students will vie for seats in the Undergraduate House of Representatives, the legislative branch of SGA. Although the top two races receive the most attention, it’s the dozens of students running for Representative who will make next year’s SGA successful.

Tech needs good students to fill these positions and represent the different academic departments and classes. With new internal changes taking effect next year, the House will be a dynamic force for change on campus. But this will only happen if students step up and take the challenge. If you really want to make sure that SGA represents you, what better way is there than by running for a position yourself? Applications for Representative are available now, and I encourage everyone to run for a position.

Every year there are people who consider running but don’t, and after the election they regret not putting themselves on the ballot. No one should make that mistake this year. Running for office can be very rewarding and everyone should relish their opportunity to participate in this process.

Representatives serve different constituencies. The class representatives will speak on behalf of the freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. The academic representatives will voice the concerns of the students in each major. These are important roles that need to be filled by students who can serve these constituencies. Co-op students and Varsity athletes will also elect representatives to speak on their behalf.

The Technique has done a good job this year covering what happens in SGA. But even the best newspaper coverage can’t cover all of the important work performed by the members of the Undergraduate House.

They serve on committees, work with administration officials, help organizations get funding and serve their constituents in too many ways to count. Georgia Tech needs its best leaders from all across campus to get involved and make a difference. After all, democracy is not a spectator sport.
“Frat boy” jokes in comics ignorant

What’s with all of the recent “frat boy” related comic jokes? I am referring to both the not-at-all funny Brian Lewis “Fraternity House Plant” series, as well as the recent Matt Norris “Vagina Monologues” comic in which “Frat Boy Rick” makes a lame pass at a woman advertising the play.

Don’t get me wrong— I can take a joke. But the frequency of these jokes seems to have increased lately, and the more often they have been coming out, the less funny they are. After all, the stereotype of the beer swilling, misogynist frat boy is just that—a stereotype.

One can imagine the outrage that would occur if other groups on campus were portrayed simply by their stereotypes in a poor attempt at comic humor in the Technique.

Maybe the comic strip artists of the Technique should go back to making jokes about squirrels and stop using incorrect stereotypes for the sake of humor.
Readers Respond GT Dance Team

Dance Team wardrobe choices trouble crowd

I hope you were at the GT-UNC game and witnessed the display of RED and BLACK during the halftime performance of your Dance Team.

I was embarrassed and dumbfounded. I have tried to email Charity Johnson, one of the dance team’s coaches, but her email inbox was full.

I would like to comment on the team’s poor choice of colors.

They are obviously quite talented and work very hard, but for the collection of 10 plus team members and a coach to decide that red and black was appropriate attire for a GT halftime performance has me baffled.

Perhaps there was some underlying theme between the music and costume. If so, then the distraction of the colors was too great and the theme was not evident.

From the students reaction, I don’t think I’m in the minority on this opinion.
Readers Respond GT Dance Team

Colors explained

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Dance Team made quite an impact with their choice of colors for one of their outfits used during last week’s GT-UNC basketball game.

The choice of colors for our halftime performance at the GT-UNC game was solely related to a Valentines’ Day theme. Unfortunately this theme was overshadowed by the crowd response. It was by no means meant to offend anyone, and we apologize to those whom it did offend. It will certainly not happen again. Thank you.
Readers Respond GT Dance Team

Red and black causes uproar and boos in stands

I feel bad writing to you the first time to complain about something at Tech, but I was enjoying the GT-UNC basketball game from the Swarm when something disturbing happened. You have to understand, I like the basketball dance team. They provide entertainment in between Ish’s dunks and B.J.’s threes.

Now I know that Valentine’s day was last Saturday. Maybe that was the reason. Maybe they just weren’t thinking. But their motivation doesn’t really matter. They should not come out onto our basketball court wearing red and black. Ever.

They were booed a fair amount. They need to understand that we were booing their choice of outfits, not their dancing. So continue dancing, but change the clothes.

They change four times a game anyway, so I’m sure they can do better for the halftime show than red and black. I’ll repeat, they should not come out onto our basketball court wearing red and black. Ever.
Spam not good eatin’ on GT mail accounts

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

“Bigger penXs with the NEW pill,” read the latest of many similar emails in the mailbox of one Tech student. Despite popular pressure for large penile size in men, however, the recipient chose to ignore that particular email.

It also probably helped that the recipient’s name was Jennifer.

In this day and age of prolific internet advertising, finding one’s mailbox full of junk email promoting everything from low mortgage rates to enlarging body parts-the aptly-named “spam”-is an almost daily occurrence.

But while spam isn’t unusual on a Hotmail or Yahoo account, it’s becoming more common in many Tech students’ mailboxes, and that trend has officials at the Office of Information Technology (OIT) concerned.

The amount of junk mail that students get varies, however. Some students, like Jennifer Gaines, a second-year Chemistry major, do not get any. “I just never use that email for anything,” she said. “The only people that email me are my [on that account] parents.”

Scott Kim, a third-year Electrical Engineering major, said that he gets “probably two or three [junk mails] a day.” He said that the relatively small amount of spam he does get is probably due to a fellow student accidently using his email. “It’s happened to me before,” he said, “where I’ve gotten emails intended for other people.”

On the other hand, Abhishek Shah, a second-year Chemical Engineering major, estimated that “if I get about 35-40 emails a day, at least 25-30 would be spam.”

John Bryson, OIT Department Manager for a servers support group, noted, “We don’t have good statistics on the amount of spamming, since there are many email servers on campus.”

But OIT is aware that it is a growing problem, and in response, they have been developing out a number of anti-spam procedures and technologies.

“We have turned on authenticated SMTP on some of the larger e-mail servers and turned off open relaying of email,” Bryson said, “so [that a] would-be spammer must have a valid Georgia Tech email account to...send out spam.”

OIT also maintains a block list of some of the internet’s biggest spam servers and responds to viruses that use spam to propagate (the recent myDoom virus is an example).

The Information Technology Architecture Committee (ITAC), a group within OIT that includes a subcommittee focused on anti-spam technology, has also considered making use of a special hardware appliance that may be dropped into the Tech network at the campus borders.
This device, according to Bryson, “has some technology for either tagging stuff as probably being spam, or it has technology for dropping it or refiling it,” depending on how the user sets his spam rules on his email client.

Another option is programming the Institute’s servers to filter out any incoming mail whose contents the filter interprets as spam. However, there is always the danger of accidentally blocking legitimate email, which is a growing concern as email has become a more commonplace conduit of business at Tech.

For example, at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, OIT was asked to remove its anti-spam software from the GTRI servers after it accidentally blocked a legitimate e-mail from a remote client.

Many spammers also search the internet for servers that are on open relay or open proxy, a configuration that allows spammers to “bounce” their emails off of those remote servers, giving them valid-looking “from” addresses that make them hazardous to block.

"[It’s] actually a legitimate server, maybe at another school,” Bryson said. “It’s just that they’re misconfigured, and so they’re sending out spam.”

On the flip side, some campus researchers investigating spam and the techniques and processes of spammers insist on receiving their e-mail unfiltered.

“We’ve got people who may...be completely happy if they never saw another spam message ever again to people who want to receive all that traffic as part of what they’re interested in,” said Mark Sanders, Director of Development Information Services at OIT and Chair of ITAC’s anti-spam committee.

“So how do you develop systems to accommodate both needs? That’s where we go to our Tech people to come up with...answers,” Sanders said.

OIT’s battle against spam is further complicated as spammers, themselves professional technicians, scramble to overcome the latest advancements in anti-spam technology.

“You can search for the word ‘Viagra’ [in the subject line].” Bryson said, “but what if they put V-I-A and then an HTML tag and then G-R-A, and so when it displays, it displays ‘Viagra’ to the user, but a filter...does not see [it]?”

“They’re getting pretty clever now with inserting images into the messages,” added John Douglass, an OIT Systems Support Specialist.

“And whenever it pulls that image, it pulls it from a remote location, which confirms your email address. Now they’re starting to...insert random words, and they’ll put it in white so you can’t see it, and then they’ll put their message, and that gets around some of the standard detections.”

“The problem is likely to go back and forth a bit, before we see any real resolution,” Bryson said.

In the meantime, OIT has a number of suggestions for students, faculty, and other campus mail users. Though Tech’s secure servers make it difficult to install popular spam clients like SpamPal, many of the latest email clients—such as Outlook, Eudora and Mozilla Thunderbird—come with built-in spam filters, and can be configured to recognize potential spam and move it to a separate folder or block it altogether.
OIT also recommends, among other things, keeping one’s email address out of public domains, such as websites, public newsgroups and chat rooms, since these are some of the most common sites for spammers to obtain legitimate email addresses.

In fact, any member of Tech with a computer account is at risk, since a spammer would need only to write a script to interact with the online Georgia Tech Directory off of the main webpage.

If the spammer then sends spam to these addresses, according to Jason Belford, an OIT Systems Support Specialist, “and then the user [clicks] the ‘remove’ button, the spammer has now validated that email address. He can now turn around and sell that email address as valid to other spammers. Companies wishing to spam a large audience are willing to pay big bucks for legitimate email addresses.”

In light of all this, ITAC is currently investigating anti-spam efforts at both the campus and departmental level, “One, in terms of what we can and cannot do...and two, based off of that information, coming up with some guidelines or recommendations for either best practices or...processes and procedures,” Sanders said. The committee will issue a final report in mid-March.

But, as information technology specialists emphasize repeatedly, no solution is guaranteed to be 100% effective.

“If there was a magic bullet, we wouldn’t have spam on the internet right now,” Bryson said.

“Everyone would buy the magic bullet and implement it and that would be that. That doesn’t mean there’s no hope. There’re as many solutions as there are vendors out there trying to sell you something.”

Spam Dos and Don’ts

DO...

Use spam filtering that is available in your email client

Use BCC: instead of CC: in emails

Be a good net citizen by using servers that have authenticated SMTP

Minimize postings to newsgroups, or use less public newsgroups such as the Tech internal news servers

DON’T...

Include your email address anywhere on any web site

Answer spam

Sign guestbooks

Sign up for free stuff on the Web

Sign up for distribution lists that you don’t need

Click on executable attachments that could be viruses

How Spammers Get Addresses
When you browse some web sites
When you submit your email address in a web form somewhere
When you post to a USENET newsgroup using your email address
When someone with whom you maintain contact has their address book
“harvested” with spyware or a virus
From mailing lists
From professional public directories
From scanning websites with webspiders
From professionally directories
From IRC and chat rooms
By buying lists from others
By guessing likely addresses in various domains
By simple brute-force guessing: a recent virus was adding common names to .gatech.edu.
Six degrees of separation gives new spin to making friends

Sites like Friendster gain popularity with internet-savvy Tech students as ways to network, meet new people

By Marcela Musgrove
Contributing Writer

The confirmation was waiting in my email box: “Jan is now your friend.”

Never mind that I’ve known Jan for 10 years, though I hadn’t actually seen him in six. That little email made this seem like an event.

If this train of thought doesn’t sound familiar, then you might not be acquainted with a growing number of what are best called “social networking” sites, including Friendster (www.friendster.com), Myspace (www.myspace.com), Tribe (www.tribe.net) and Google-created Orkut (www.orkut.com), the newest addition to an ever-growing list.

The idea behind these sites is nothing new. Sixdegrees.com was created in the late ’90s on the theory that one person is connected to any other person in the world by less than six degrees-for example, your friend has a friend whose coworker was roommates with Kevin Bacon’s sister in college.

While SixDegrees never took off, the latest generation of social networking sites has merged the “friend of a friend” concept with techniques from matchmaking sites and online community bulletin boards, drawing the attention of the media, venture capitalists and academics centers from all over.

Friendster is probably the best-known, open to anyone who wants to sign up. The first step is to fill out a profile with the basic information about you, including gender, age, location and hometown. The user must also specify his or her relationship status, as well as interest in looking for people: is that person open for dating or serious relationship, or is just looking for friends or activity partners?

The beauty of networking sites like Friendster is that through the six-degrees idea, your “personal network”—people who are friends of your friends of your friends—can grow exponentially. A user who has just a few well-connected friends may still be linked to several thousand people in his personal network.

This is good news for people who use Friendster as a way to meet other people—or at least browse around to see what kind of people are linked to them through their personal network.

In addition, there a section that allows the user to list as many interests and favorites as he cares to. This allows Friendster to suggest members of your personal network who may share the same interests as you.

If you listed rock-climbing, for example, as one of your interests, a hyperlink
is created on your profile to give you a link to everyone in your network that also listed it as an interest. If you’re interested in meeting potential dates via Friendster, you can also search for people by geographical area, age and relationship status.

Of course, these sites wouldn’t be complete without pictures. Friendster allows users to upload several photos of yourself so that people who come across your profile will know what you look like.

“I met a girl from Agnes Scott through Friendster. She contacted me to say that I was cute,” said Eoin Grosch, a third-year Industrial Engineering major.

In this respect, Friendster may also have some advantages to random online matchmaking sites when it comes to meeting people. “I feel somewhat safer on Friendster than I would if I were meeting that person on a chat room, because I trust my friend’s judgment of character when it comes to choosing friends,” said Marian Alicia, a second-year Architecture major.

On the other hand, Friendster is also ideal for online stalkers. “I periodically get requests from people to add them as friends,” said Tullio. “I figure it helps them out in some way if they are trying to look popular or meet people through me, so I will add them, or let them add me.”

Though most of his immediate friends are part of the computer science community, Tullio remains wary. “It branches out quickly into all kinds of freaky people,” he said.

Some people use Friendster more as a way to keep in touch with old friends.

“Through Friendster I’ve met immediate friends of my friends locally and other people from the friends network nationally. I don’t really use it to keep up with my friends, since I see them every day, but it has been an open door to meet people all over,” Alicia said.

“I wasn’t really using it to meet people, more to connect with friends who don’t live close to Atlanta,” said Resident Life Coordinator Brett Hulst, who has used Friendster for almost a year. “I have found people I went to high school with in other cities and peers who work in student affairs who I have met at conferences.”

Smitha Prasadh, a fifth-year Science, Technology and Culture major, has mixed opinions. “I think I just joined Friendster because a lot of my friends did and it was the cool thing to do, so to speak. But through it, I was able to reunite with a few people from my high school, as well as people I’d lost touch with for years.”

“Unfortunately,” Prasadh added, “I also attract the attention of clingy boys looking to pick up girls online.”

In some ways, Friendster has become somewhat of an online popularity contest. There catch is that you can only see profiles for the people within four degrees of your network, giving people more of an incentive to get other people to join so they can invite their friends and so on.

“I think I have about 40 friends,” said Grosch, who joked, “a lot of blood and sweat went into those acquisitions.”

He explained, “I usually know the people who are my ‘friends.’ They’re usually people I’ve met before who I either happen to see on there or else they happen to see me on the site when they’re searching around.”
Hulst agreed. “It was pretty addictive at first, seeing how many people you could be linked to,” he admitted. “At this point I am close to a million people in my network through 68 friends.”

Besides the profiles themselves, users can also judge people based on the testimonials their friends leave for them, which can range from serious to funny, frank, complimentary, mean or sarcastic.

Orkut is the newest of the sites, less than a month old, but is already turning out to rival Friendster’s with over 80,000 members. Orkut works similarly to Friendster with a profile, testimonials and network of friends.

However, Orkut also has additional features such as separate professional and personal profiles, additional ratings for coolness, trustworthiness and sexiness with which your friends can rate you, as well as the option of creating or joining communities for your interests and affiliations, complete with discussion boards.

Orkut is also invitation only. Patrick Jarrett, a second year computer science major, points out several advantages to this. “You know, if you go clubbing, there is almost always a line outside. Bouncers are trained to keep a line and never empty it. Why? It adds to the draw. ‘Look at all those people! That club must be awesome!’ So the implementation of invite only keeps more people wanting to be included, keeps it a house of the ‘elite.’”

The flip side to is that invitation only may limit the diversity of the site, as evidenced by Orkut’s initial predominantly white male demographic of users. Since the initial launch of the site, more women and people from different countries and cultures appear to be joining.

Tech Industrial Design ’99 grad Laura Slate pointed out another advantage to Orkut. “Friendster is...not so user-friendly,” she said. Due to the way communities are set up within Orkut, Slate said, “[its] interface... allows users to more quickly locate groups of people that share the same interests.”

For example, Slate created a Georgia Tech community on Orkut, which currently has 83 members including students, faculty and alumni. Though Slate doesn’t recognize most of the people in the community, she said, “It’s cool to see other people living all over that went [to Tech]. It seems like there are a couple of new members everyday.”

However, most students who do use social networking sites at all are members of multiple services, especially as the popularity of these sites wax and wane.

“I was into Friendster for a while, but then the fun kind of died,” said Grosch, who uses both Friendster and MySpace but notes that Friendster is much slower in terms of loading time.

Shannon Bauman, a masters student in Human-Computer Interaction, said, “I used to use Friendster, then sort of faded out and now use Orkut.” Bauman added, “If Orkut stays how it is I wouldn’t be surprised if I slowly lost interest in this as well...But at the moment I am really enjoying it and having fun reading lots messages in lots of different communities.”

However, Joe Tullio, a Computer Science graduate student and infrequent user of both services, remains unconvinced. “I have met no one through it and don’t know of any other users who have gotten anything out of it,” Tullio said.
So will these sites last? While they are fodder for dissertations and discourses on how social networking works in the information age, they have yet to determine how they will make money since they are both currently free. Other subscription-based sites such as match.com have added the friends network and search option to their standard personal ads, while professional sites such as Ryze.com have found members willing to pay a monthly premium to get “gold status” through a business networking site.

But regardless of whether these sites are a passing fad or here to stay, they’re a part of pop culture that can be enjoyed for free now during all that downtime in front of the computer screen.
SGA hopes to influence state policy through lobby board

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Student Government Association has recently created a Student Lobbying Board to up the ante in its lobbying efforts at the state legislature. The Board is an extension of SGA’s Governmental and External Affairs Committee, which is responsible for coordinating efforts to inform and communicate with local, state and federal bodies.

Lobbying, an integral though sometimes overlooked part of legislative decision-making, is the main way by which information from an interest group, such as Tech, reaches the ears and minds of legislators. It is the lobbyist’s job to inform the legislator on the facts of the issue, from the standpoint of the client that the lobbyist represents.

The board, headed by the Governmental and External Affairs Committee, will serve as a direct channel of communication between students and state legislators. William Welch, the committee chair, said, “We feel that by giving legislators the opportunity to directly interact with the students...
[whom] their budgetary decisions will be affecting, we will achieve a greater level of awareness on the part of these legislators about the concerns of Georgia Tech.”

The main focus of the lobbying efforts will be on budget and appropriations issues, to “lay out what Tech needs and stop budget cuts,” Welch said. The Board will lobby to prevent further reductions to Tech’s funding, which, according to Andrew Harris, Director of Governmental Relations and Tech’s current professional lobbyist, has faced considerable cuts in recent years totaling approximately $40 million dollars.

Harris also singled out three main budgetary issues that need to be focused on. These include maintaining full funding for the University System of Georgia’s formula, restoring the Equipment, Technology, and Construction Trust (ETACT) Fund and gaining additional funding for Tech’s Savannah campus.

The ETACT Fund is vital to funding research programs at Tech: its funds are used to match research proposals that are written to organizations such as the National Science Foundation or the National Institutes of Health, and the availability of matching is an important component in obtaining research grants. President Clough recently indicated in a meeting with the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate that Governor Sonny Perdue’s recommended budget removes ETACT funding from the state lottery. Clough said that unless something changes, Tech will need to position itself to generate other sources of funding after the 2005 fiscal year.

Though it is a student organization, the Lobby Board plans to work closely with Harris. “I anticipate that the Lobbying Board and my office will work very closely together,” said Harris. According to him, communication between the two organizations is crucial: “The key is we need to be informed and share the same information...otherwise our efforts could be counterproductive.”

Harris noted that while it’s not a new idea for students to act as lobbyists for Tech, what is new is that the board is student organized. This may be a good thing, since students are “the best spokesmen and ambassadors...particularly when addressing student-focused issues,” he said.

The idea for such a board was brought up last fall by Governmental and External Affairs committee member Paul Byrne, who was inspired by Auburn University’s successful student lobbying program. Over the course of the semester, the committee had thrown the idea around but “hadn’t done anything solid with it,” Welch said.

However, SGA Undergraduate President Nate Watson later came to the committee with Clough’s approval of the idea. “He told us that this is something President Clough really wanted to happen,” Welch said. With Clough’s interest as a catalyst, the committee was able to draw up plans for the board, and create an application process within a month’s time.

“We said, this is what we need to do and this is who we need to talk to,” Welch said. “We drew up the application, sent it out there to see who would reply.”

So far the Board has finished its first round of applicant interviews with 19 potential members, after the initial batch of applications for the Student Lobby Board were received on Feb. 11.
“We have a good group of people from a pretty wide range of backgrounds who will really represent the student body well,” Welch said.

According to Harris, the most important factor in successful lobbying is strong relationships. “The key thing is to develop a rapport with the legislators, to establish credibility, provide accurate information and to keep your word,” Harris said.

Welch concurred, saying, “We want to make sure that they know us; we want to establish a network...so that ten years from now we’ll have a pre-established relationship with legislators.”

The board has not yet begun lobbying activities this year, since the legislative season is almost over. “It’s too late this season to do much,” Welch admitted.

However, in the six to eight months until the next legislative season, which begins late next fall, much of the time will be spent on internal organization of the board. “It’s a brand new organization and we’re trying to figure out how exactly we are going to work,” said Welch.

In addition, the upcoming summer will be spent “calling legislators...to start forming these relationships, so that [in] November, we’ll be ready to present to them.”

Applications are still being considered for anyone interested in being a part of the Board. Previous lobbying or government experience is not necessary.

In fact, Welch said, “[Lobbying] is a new process to me. It’s a learning experience.”
State budget cuts hurt financial aid as well as academics

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

The campus is filled with hubbub about the economic downturn, and students and faculty alike are noting the cutbacks that Tech’s six colleges have had to make in light of recent Institute budget cuts.

But few faculty, and likely fewer students, probably realize that the Office of Student Financial Planning and Services has had to tighten its own belt as well, due not only to Institute cuts but also to the as-yet-unknown fate of HOPE and other state and federally-funded financial aid programs.

“[We] don’t yet know what the legislature will do with certain state programs,” said Director Marie Mons. “Obviously, the HOPE scholarship has been in the press a lot. They’re trying to make adjustments to that program to make sure that it lasts for the long haul.”

Other state scholarships are also at risk, Mons said, and some have already been affected, including the Governor’s Scholarship, which took a cut during the mid-year budget readjustment in December 2002.

“Anytime there’s a shortfall or reduction in state revenue, those programs have to be looked at very, very closely,” Mons explained.

HOPE has the added complication of being lottery-funded instead of based on public commitment, so, Mons said, what’s “really at the heart of the issue with the HOPE program is finding ways to have a long-term commitment... Georgia does have the largest grant scholarship program currently in practice, and so...the challenge right now will be, ‘Where is HOPE going?’”

On the other hand, federally-funded financial aid continues to receive the same budget every year, although that has created difficulties for its recipients in the face of rising costs and the rising number of Americans pursuing higher education.

“Each year, the President [of the United States] will put into his budget funding for those programs administered by the Department of Education,” Mons said.

”[But] when you couple the programs not being increased with... rising tuition [and] other costs, that, in effect...means the program has less money [than it] has in the past,” she said.

Adding to those concerns, this year Congress has begun the reauthorization process of the Higher Education Act of 1965. In this process, Congress examines the various financial aid programs sponsored by the Act and determines any changes that need to be made, which puts the fate of some federal programs into question.
State and federal concerns aside, the Office of Financial Aid has had to make similar adjustments to the Institute’s budget cuts as the various academic departments.

Mons said, “We face the challenges that all institutions do, and that is trying to control cost, tuition, fees,” while at the same time preserving the quality of education at Tech. “The administration...and others have worked very hard to make sure that quality [is] maintained.”

Mons emphasized, though, that Tech is not a struggling institution, unlike some that faced financial problems even before the economic downturn.

“Tech has a long tradition and great supporters...and there’s still a great commitment to develop those resources,” Mons said. She cited Tech classes celebrating their benchmark reunions as an example, explaining that many of them choose to offer financial support to various Institute-level scholarships as their contribution.

Nevertheless, the economy has demanded some belt tightening, and Mons has helped implement several cost-cutting changes within the Office of Financial Aid. For example, it has invested heavily in the electronic distribution of information, which cuts back on office supply expenses.

Nevertheless, she said, her office is “focused on making sure...that we meet our core obligations.”

And students have responded; Mons reported an increase in the number of students stopping by the office seeking advice on good financial management and various financial aid opportunities.

“They’re faced with the same challenges that everyone is facing.” Mons said. “They’re trying to do more with less funding...[They’re] strategically planning their coursework so that they [can] maximize their time here on campus.”

For example, “students are actually looking at study abroad programs,” because, she said, it is one of the more economical options offered at Tech.

“One of the things that we work with students on in an individual case by case basis is...trying to make sure they know what all their options are,” Mons explained. “[We] help students...identify resources, make sure they apply, make sure they apply on time, make sure they understand what their options are.”

This is especially important for students who may lose funding due to potential cuts to programs like HOPE.

Instead of exploring other options, Mons said, some students are prone to use more unattractive options like covering expenses with a credit card or working too many hours per week on top of a regular academic course load.

Given the current state of the economy, Mons encourages students in financial need to take out loans.

“Loans are probably one of the most attractive long term sources of funding out there,” she said, explaining that loan interest rates are presently below 4 percent, the lowest in history.

However, Mons warned, as the number one provider of college loans is the federal government, loan limits have not risen to meet rising college costs.
Federal work-study programs are another promising option, but Mons said this has proven unpopular with the student body, citing time commitment and wages as the primary reasons.

“Most students will tell you that, quite honestly, many of them can find jobs with better pay rate out in the community,” she said. “We wish more students would participate in the federal work-study program, but they don’t.”

Mons also stressed the importance of good academic planning. Students who are prone to registering for too many classes in a given semester and later dropping them, having meanwhile purchased the extra books, use up their HOPE attempted hours and funding faster than necessary.

“[So] they have a whole year or so left on their program, but their HOPE runs out because they’ve attempted so many hours,” Mons said.

Others, she said, are guilty of poor financial planning, and she described the great strain placed on her office last year when a number of students didn’t apply for financial aid until August 1, two weeks before fall semester was due to begin.

“It really concerns me that students would wait that long to have their financial house in order,” she said.

“So one of the things students can do is to apply, and to apply early...so that their options can be out there.”

The situation could potentially be worse this year if funding from HOPE is cut, increasing the number of students seeking financial aid.

“I really hope we don’t all scramble and do that in August,” Mons said. “I really hope we do all that scrambling in May and June.”

Meanwhile, despite tight budgets, the office is busy working to attract both potential and current students with financial incentives.

“We are constantly putting together packages for students so that...attention gets given to rewarding merit as well as supporting students who financially otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford it,” Mons said.

“You don’t have to be ‘destitute’ to get help to pay for college, and you shouldn’t wait until you’re desperate to start asking questions,” she said.
Harvard administration says no to funding student sex magazine

(U-WIRE) Brown University-Harvard University has built a reputation as a pioneer in a number of fields—medicine, business, law and theology among them. Pornography, it appears, will not make the list.

After coming under intense media scrutiny, the university released a statement last week saying it will not fund a proposed student publication that would have included nude photographs of undergraduates. Two days earlier, the school’s Committee on College Life had granted approval to the magazine, a decision that would have enabled it to apply for school funding.

In a written statement prepared for the media, the two female students behind the proposal wrote that the magazine, called H Bomb, would “serve as a popular forum for discussion about sex that is not otherwise available.” The magazine would include sex related feature articles, fiction, art, advice columns and photography submitted by students, they wrote.

But the committee’s decision set off a storm of confusion, controversy and backpedaling. Harvard’s student newspaper, the Crimson, dubbed H Bomb a “porn magazine” in a headline, and national and international media outlets quickly picked up the story.

Robert Mitchell, director of communications at Harvard, said his office had received “literally hundreds of inquiries.”

Harvard then issued a statement reversing its position on H Bomb. It said there had been “much misunderstanding” about the publication and that the committee had made its decision on the assumption “that it would not include material that would be considered pornographic.”

The statement clarified that no funding would be provided for the magazine, and the committee would review its decision with the students.

But despite the amount of controversy H Bomb generated, the magazine would not have been the first of its kind. Before granting its approval, the Harvard committee had reviewed copies of Squirm, a sex publication from Vassar College.

Sarah Zarrow, a senior at Vassar and assistant photo editor of Squirm, described the publication, now in its fifth year, as an “artistic and literary magazine” exploring issues of sexuality absent from mainstream culture.

Among other things, Squirm includes nude photographs of Vassar students.

“We’re not a porn mag, so there are certain things we can’t show,” Zarrow said. “A lot of the photos are pretty artsy. I guess they would probably qualify as erotica.”

The magazine, which receives funding from the Vassar Student Association,
operates with the same level of recognition as other student groups, Zarrow said.

Zarrow applauded Harvard’s initial endorsement of H Bomb, saying additional discussion of such issues represents a step forward. She said Harvard had succumbed to the pressure of the media by reversing its decision.

Although Brown has no publication to rival Squirm, issues of sex and sexuality are on the agenda of several student groups.

Daniel Bassichis, advocacy chair of Queer Alliance, said discussion about the nature of sexuality is needed on campus.

“I think it’s incredibly important to dismantle the notion that sexuality is rigid and private and disconnected from our everyday lives,” Bassichis said.

An article about H Bomb in the Washington Post listed Queer Alliance’s annual party, Sex Power God, as an example of frank discussion about sexuality at elite colleges.

“I think for a lot of people, [Sex Power God] provides a different space for expression than other parties,” Bassichis said.
Dexter Freebish rocks out Vinyl

Lead singer Kyle took time out from touring to speak with the ‘Nique about the new album

By Hillary Lipko / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Kyle of Dexter Freebish belts out lyrics at Vinyl. The band recently released their album Tripped into Divine, satisfying many awaiting fans.

By Hillary Lipko
Staff Writer

“You’ve got to have passion in life for something,” Kyle, lead singer of Dexter Freebish, said of the pursuit of creative endeavors. When it comes to what this band has for music, though, passion might be a bit of an understatement. Whatever it is, fans both old and new felt it as Dexter Freebish laid down a diverse set last Friday, drawing upon a repertoire that ranges from energetic to reflective to just downright fun.

Atlanta was only the third stop on a tour that has been a long time coming for this band. It’s been nearly four years since Dexter Freebish has released an album, and in that time the band has written nearly 80 songs, split with their record label and parted ways with guitarist Charles Martin.

“There’s a big difference between this album and Life of Saturdays. Then, we had much more of a ‘the world is our oyster attitude’...[but] after the tour, we took some time off to write some songs [and] we wanted to go in another direction,” Kyle said of their sophomore album and first independent release, Tripped Into Divine.
And write songs they did. Unfortunately, or maybe not so much so, executives at Capitol didn’t care too much for the new direction that the band wanted to take.

“It became a battle for creative freedom. Tripped Into Divine goes through a lot of what we’ve been through with that. [It’s] a lot darker, more serious,” Kyle explained.

Dexter Freebish’s split with Capitol is just one facet of a movement toward artist independence within the music industry.

“You don’t have to be on a label to be successful. Money is the only reason why labels have any power...bands have the true power,” Kyle asserted while discussing the benefits of being an independent band. “There’s so much freedom in [being independent]. We got to record just like we wanted; everything is ours, and there was no one hovering, saying, ‘This is how it has to be.’”

Later, when discussing some of the songs on Tripped Into Divine, Kyle offered an example as to the freedom that they now had.

” We wanted to put [“Pretty People”] on Life of Saturdays, but the label didn’t want to. We tried again [when we started Tripped Into Divine]. It’s always been a song we’ve played live and fans have always asked if we were ever going to record it. The song is really tongue-in-cheek and hard to convey on a recording...I didn’t want to come off as a jerk. The fans wanted it, though, so we had to do it,” Kyle said.

In the end, it seems like everyone got something. The band got their creative freedom, the fans got one of their favorite Dexter songs pressed into a CD, and the world got Tripped Into Divine.

From the scores of songs written for the album, the band somehow managed to pick twelve that run from being on top of the world to being in the deepest pits of despair.

“There were just certain ones that would float to the top,” Kyle said of choosing which songs would be included on the album. “We picked those songs because they meant something to us.”

Armed with an expanded repertoire, a new outlook and a new guitarist, Dexter Freebish launched their tour for Tripped Into Divine, which brought them to the stage at Atlanta’s Vinyl last Friday. “We’re always excited about playing in Atlanta; it’s like a second home. We have so many fans here, and we always look forward to seeing them,” Kyle said.

When asked what fans might expect from a Dexter Freebish show, Kyle had a philosophy about live shows in general that proved to be a true reflection of what this band is really about.

“I love going to shows. What always disappoints me is when there’s nothing special about them...the bands just stand up there and play the songs just like they are on the album. What bothers me about some other bands, though, is when the singer can’t do something even close to the way it is on the album.”

Kyle and the rest of Dexter Freebish don’t need to worry about falling into either of those categories. Friday night’s performance, while staying true to the original feel of the recorded songs, incorporated an energy and a variety that can only be conveyed in the best of live shows.
The set kicked off with a pair of new songs from Tripped Into Divine and continued with a mix of both old and new music to which every Dexter fan in the audience danced and sung along. The stage was lined with loyal members of the Dexter Freebish street team, including two fans who had seen the band a grand total of 29 times.

As is almost custom, the set included the satirical “Pretty People” and a cover of Neil Diamond’s “Sweet Caroline,” which, played Dexter-style, proved to be a crowd-pleaser among even the hardest rocking of fans.

It hardly seemed like anyone wanted the concert to end, but as all concerts do, it did. Unlike most bands that subsequently dash from the stage to the safety of their tour bus, limo or other private vehicle, the members of Dexter Freebish soon appeared over by the merchandise table, more than willing to sign autographs, take pictures and just mingle with the audience.

“We really appreciate the people who come out to the shows,” Kyle said.

“We’re in contact with a lot of the people on the street team, and we always make a lot of friends when we’re out of the road.” A great live band that appreciates and even parties with their fans. Could anyone really ask for more?
Women unite, perform annual Monologues

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Women’s Awareness Month produced Eve Ensler’s Vagina Monologues last Friday. The enthusiastic crowd at the Ferst Center for the Arts were given a chance to mingle with the actors after the show.

By Evan Zasoski
Staff Writer

Being a man and, by definition, lacking a vagina, I was very unsure about this whole Vagina Monologues thing. I could see how several hours of time filled with women discussing, in frank detail, their hoo-has, could conceivably go south for me very quickly, no pun intended. Fortunately for me and vagina warriors everywhere, however, the Tech production of The Vagina Monologues made for some top-notch theater.

Eve Ensler’s The Vagina Monologues is, for the most part, exactly what you’d think it would be—a group of women getting up on stage and talking about vaginas, both the real things and as metaphors for various aspects of the female experience. The monologues ranged from the dramatic to the comedic to the erotic and even the tragic. They were either direct transcriptions of actual women’s stories or compilations brought together to represent a general theme.

Rather surprisingly, to be quite honest, there was very little discomfort factor in most of the monologues. In all of the frank and open talk about clitorises, menstruation, pubic hair, etc., I was pretty much geared up for an evening filled with much uncomfortable squirming.

However, the subject matter was treated with a certain level of respect and maturity that it didn’t come off at all as upsetting or gross. Though, to be fair, I think the guy a couple of seats down from me disagreed wholeheartedly with that assessment. It seemed to take a rather Herculean force of will for him to make it through the whole evening without running out of the building screaming “EWWWW!”

Despite the best efforts of all concerned, they couldn’t fill up the entirety of the show only with talk about vaginas. Many of the monologues used the idea of a vagina as a jumping off point from which to talk about various and sundry issues.
These ranged from some interesting pieces on sexuality to several downright infuriating treatises about the treatment of women in various parts of the globe.

Suffice it to say that the list of people that I dislike intensely has grown by the number of quite a few men in both Pakistan and Mexico. On a lighter note, the highlight for the evening would have to be Linda Kang’s rendition of “The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy.”

I won’t ruin it for anyone, but it’s both thoroughly entertaining and, let’s just come out and say it, totally hot.

Even though things went, for the most part, very smoothly, there were a few minor blunders to be found in the performance. Mostly these came in the form of a few flubbed lines and a couple of painfully awkward silences as actresses racked their brains trying to remember lines.

Also, a small number of the pieces were somewhat hit and miss in their effectiveness, but these negative moments were few and far between. They also never detracted from the overall success of the show.

Proceeds from the entertaining, informative performance went to the Grady Rape Crisis Center, Men Stopping Violence and murdered and missing women of Juarez.
Epps, Ryan fight losing battle Against the Ropes

Meg Ryan and Omar Epps star in Paramount’s Against the Ropes which opens today. The plot turned out to be lackluster, along with the performances.

By Julia Trapold
Advertising Manager

When you hear Meg Ryan’s name associated with a movie, you expect a light-hearted romantic comedy with her playing a fool looking for love. Against the Ropes aims to break Meg Ryan away from that stereotype. While it accomplishes that feat, unlike her other movies, it fails to support Ryan with an entertaining plot.

In the film, loosely based on a true story, Ryan plays Jackie Kallen, a woman who was born and raised on boxing—her father was a trainer and her uncle was a famous boxer. As an adult, Kallen is a secretary for a boxing promoter, an arrogant man who thinks it’s impossible for a woman to know anything about boxing. During an argument with a rival promoter after a big fight (Tony Shalhoub), Kallen acquires the contract of the losing boxer for one dollar to prove that a woman can do just as well as a man in the boxing world.

While on a visit to her new client, Kallen encounters the fists of Luther Shaw (Omar Epps), who she thinks appears more promising than her client. Although Shaw is a rough man from the projects with no boxing experience, Kallen is convinced he has potential and eventually persuades him to box for her. He signs a contract, and she enlists Felix Reynolds (Charles S. Dutton) to train him.

The rest of the movie focuses on Shaw’s rise within the boxing world and the growing relationship between Kallen and Shaw. As one of the first women to break the barrier in the world of boxing, Kallen gains more media attention than Shaw, eventually causing her ego to take control and cause a rift in their relationship. The main theme is a Cinderella story of how Kallen, an underdog in the boxing world, rises to success. It is more a film about Kallen...
than a boxing film, although the boxing scenes are well-acted and entertaining.

Epps, Dutton and Shalhoub also give good performances, but unfortunately, the subplots (such as Shaw dating Kallen’s best friend) are underdeveloped and do not add much to the entertainment value of the film. The film is rather predictable, and it does nothing to keep the audience interested in the characters.
Cyberpunk author Gibson visits campus

Gibson invented the pop-culture term ‘cyberspace’ and wrote about the internet before it existed. He was the first to refer to it as the ‘matrix.’

By Echezona Ukah
Contributing Writer

I would like to introduce you to a brilliant author named William Gibson. With titles such as Johnny Mnemonic: The Screenplay, Mona Lisa Overdrive, and most recently, Pattern Recognition, he is one of the premiere cyberpunk authors of our time.

Born in 1948 in South Carolina, this Canadian resident was one of the first to describe the internet “officially” as a matrix and vernacularly as a cyberspace. That is quite impressive for someone who resisted the internet at first. Talking with him during a phone interview, it makes sense that he would think so much of the internet, because he actually gets inspired by the number of results that turn up during a search on Google.

His style of writing involves taking his readers on joy ride of self-discovery—leaving out too many details so his readers can “connect the dots.” He is more interested in posing questions to his readers than he is interested in giving answers.

I asked him which one of the major questions he hopes his new book, Pattern Recognition poses. He said, “If the Western nations, as we call it, are done with the industrial era and have moved to a post industrial era, what is it that we do as a post-industrial community? I think all we just do is branding.”

Branding is one of the major subjects dealt with in his book, Pattern Recognition. The protagonist, Cayce Pollard “is an expensive, spookily intuitive market-research consultant,” Gibson said.

She is given an assignment to find out the source of some addictive footage.
The idea is that whoever created the footage could help her client create great brand loyalty for their products. This search takes her through a complex web of computer hacks and trips through Russia and Tokyo.

Gibson believes that cultural trends tend to “emerge organically from the society” every twenty years. As opposed to the school of thought that says that companies actively bring back those trends. He believes that such companies, on spotting the trends, use them to sell their products.

Since I was dying to know the answer, I had to pull his leg by asking him how he would go about making his novels into a brand, he laughed and said he wouldn’t want to do that with his novels because it could possibly spoil his books. But if he had to, he might work out something whereby he approves other authors’ works.

Last Friday, Gibson signed books in Tech Square. If you missed the opportunity to meet him, pick up a copy of Pattern Recognition at the Bookstore.
NFL Street boasts full-contact fun, irreverent football play

(U-WIRE) U. Texas-Austin: “Ricky – you run a screen right. Randy – you go deep, and hope no one can catch you. Shockey – you run an out pattern, but watch you don’t mess up your knee on that trash can over there, dude. If none of you guys are open, I’m just going to run like hell.” “Aiight, Donovan.” “Ready. Break!”

That’s basically the way it goes on “NFL Street,” EA Big’s latest addition to the highly successful “Street” series. Borrowing the playground format that made “NBA Street” so successful, the NFL version of this game is fast-paced, improvisational seven-on-seven football that packs plenty of action and loads of loose balls.

That right there is about the only knock on this otherwise great game. This keeps the games almost always close, setting gamers up for exciting, bragging-rights finishes, but it can be a major pain when attempting to take on the CPU in some career-building action.

For head-to-head game-play there are two ways gamers can play this one. A quick game allows you to pick seven players from real NFL squads and go at it on a variety of playing fields, including a beach, warehouse, under the stars on a rooftop in NYC and one setting known simply as “The Yard,” supposedly in Houston somewhere.

All the fields are interactive and have real effects on the way the game is played (meaning, you run slower on the beach and risk concussion from support beams in the warehouse.)

A typical “NFL Street” team consists of a QB, RB, WR, D-Back, O-lineman, D-lineman and linebacker.

If you really want to mash things up, try the pick-up game format. This is basically a “who came to the park to play today” type of scenario. Gamers are offered a variety of players, ranging from two to 15 at each position, to choose from. Grab a quarterback, maybe Donovan McNabb or David Carr, a stud running back like Ricky Williams or LaDainian Tomlinson, two receivers instead of a DB (hint, hint!) and two D-linemen for that added defensive pressure. Yeah, that’s another hint, Einstein. This is by far the most fun option “NFL Street” players have.

In the “NFL Challenge” mode, gamers are given a scrub team of made-up players that they can mold into a street-ball powerhouse by completing various skill challenges and then taking on the real teams with theirhopefully-improved squads.

Unlock former NFL stars like Barry Sanders and new fields to play on by beating NFL teams on their own turf.
Pick up “NFL Street” while it's still early in the semester and get your fill of full-contact, fist pumping football before midterms get underway.
Mitra’s culinary genius delights

By Vivian Vakili
Senior Staff Writer

With custom ironwork, custom seating and custom lighting, it is no wonder that Mitra, the newly opened restaurant on Juniper Street, appeals to quite the custom taste, as well. Upon entering Mitra, it immediately becomes evident that the owners of this restaurant must have also been designers, because the entire building is absolutely sensory-filled. A peaceful waterfall adorns the entrance, star-shaped lights hang from the ceilings, and the discerning eye will recognize the restaurant’s name subtly incorporated into the ironwork. However, this is just the beginning of what will culminate in nothing less than a sumptuous culinary experience.

The appetizers include such items as “scallop ceviche with avocado, red onion, cilantro and plantain chips,” “jalapeno grilled Vermont quail with white beans, cranberries and wild mushrooms,” and “roasted lamb cabrales empanadas with toasted almond raisin relish.” If you’re not salivating at this point, you’re probably in need of a dictionary.

No need, however, as Mitra’s incredibly friendly wait staff is more than happy to fill you in on translations. For my appetizer, I chose the flash-fried oysters and the crispy Rhode Island calamari.

My fellow diner, who happened to be a vegetarian, quickly noted that the menu lacked a serious assortment of vegetarian choices. Upon relaying this to the chef, however, she was presented with what she called a “scrumptious” walnut and cheese concoction.

My calamari and oysters were very noteworthy, as well; I don’t think I’ve ever had either accompanied by a sweet sauce. It was rather unique.

For the main course, I chose the “slow-roasted boneless beef short ribs with grilled asparagus.” I found the beef to be of excellent quality, as it was extremely delicate and cooked perfectly. The asparagus was equally superb.

The only part about this entrée which I did not care for was the bed of mashed sweet potatoes upon which the beef and asparagus rested. Again, I was a bit surprised by the presence of sweetness in what is traditionally an unsweet combination of meat, potato, and vegetable. Other entrees boasted by both the chef and the waitress included “pull-apart pig with natural mojo reduction” and “Chimichurri skirt steak with puree of cayenne maple sweet potatoes.”

My vegetarian counterpart, upon noting again that there were no vegetarian entrées, opted for a plate of four vegetarian sides which she ranked as “excellent.” She agreed that the asparagus was indeed perfect.

Finally, it was time for the much-anticipated dessert menu. This presented perhaps the toughest choice for us, as it was difficult to choose between
descriptions such as, “Tamarind vanilla pound cake with coconut ice cream,”
“cinnamon chocolate lava cake and tuaca ice cream” and “Cuban coffee flan
with cornmeal sugar cookie.”

Ultimately, I chose the “white chocolate caramel cheesecake” and my friend
chose the “roasted pear cranberry strudel with toasted pecan brown butter
anglaise.”

My white chocolate cheesecake arrived with a beautiful carved chocolate
ornament with stripes on top and it was very tasty—but again, I would have
preferred to have left out the pistachios, as I felt that they presented a very
strange accessory to the sweet cheesecake. My friend, on the other hand,
fully enjoyed her roasted pear cranberry strudel, noting its delicate taste and
syrupy-sweet aroma.

Overall, I believe that Mitra is an incredible sensory experience. The
presentation of items is absolutely gorgeous, the wait staff and cook are very
prompt and accommodating, and the atmosphere is certainly unique and very
inviting.

And, if you happen to have that insatiable sweet tooth and that certain
appreciation for the finer things in life, Mitra is for you. Located near Tech
Square, on Juniper Street in Midtown, it’s very convenient as well. Expect
prices on the lower end of a three course meal to run around $30.
...Two Bits

Sorry. $500 not enough to guarantee parking place

By Two Bits Man

Columnist

So, there I was, minding my own business, not bothering a soul in the world, when the phone rings. It’s parking. It’s a game night and they want me to move my car out of the parking spot that I bought with my money to somewhere not quite so filled with, you know, assholes that steal my parking spot on game nights. Parking, as an entity, then told me that I’d best be quick about it, because if I didn’t hop to it, the wrecker that just showed up was going to do it for me. I guess I should just be thankful that they at least had the decency to call and tell me before they had my car towed at my expense.

Like most of the goodly people of the Georgia Tech community, I both hate and fear the Parking department. There is no method to their madness, no rhythm, rhyme or meter from which they derive their blatant insanity. They rule this campus with an iron fist, and it’s about damned time for someone to stand up to them. Too bad I’ve already done my insane stunt article for this semester. Looks like you guys will have to find someone else to do your dirty work this time. Sorry.

Honestly, I really don’t mind being asked to move my car on game nights. I’m sure that the son of a whore who steals my spot every other week paid good money for the right to inconvenience me with a twenty minute cross-campus walk, often in the freezing rain. I’m also sure the unwashed mouth breather has a very legitimate reason for causing me pain.

Perhaps he has a sick son-let’s call him Timmy-who despite his crippling disability, cannot be swayed from his love of Georgia Tech and it’s fine basketball program. Maybe the only thing that keeps this young boy going is his passionate, fervent hope that one day he, too, will be healthy and strong enough to walk out onto that field (err, court) of honor and play the great game as The Good Lord surely meant him to play it, and in the end, it will be all the sweeter for his years of suffering. God Bless you, little Timmy, God bless Georgia Tech basketball, and God bless the United States of America.

Actually, you know what? No. I’m not sure of any of that. What I am sure of is that whoever absconds with my parking spot is almost certainly a dazzling trifecta of fat, lazy and stupid who can’t be bothered to park his car a mere five minutes’ walk away so that I don’t have to traipse all the way across campus twice, once in the middle of the night, so that I can have my car back in its lot by eight in the morning-EIGHT.

It’s not fair, dammit! It’s just not right. I paid for that spot fair and square. Could I at least have a couple more hours to move it back, please? I’m not asking for anyone’s first born here. I can find my own ingredients for soup, thank you very much.
What really ticks me off is being treated like some kind of squatter who is merely being allowed to use that parking space until the real guy shows up. Just be a little less snooty about the whole thing. Could you, guys?

Because, and I hate being a jerk like this, but they were jerks first; if I get one more call where I get talked to like the slow kid in class I might just be forced to ask, of the two people on the phone at that moment, which one is studying for a high-paying Bachelor’s Degree and which one works for the damned Parking Department? Because I often forget.
Entertainment Briefs

Class it up with wine, jazz Sunday

The second annual Atlanta Wine Show will be Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Fox Theater. The event will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will showcase wines from around the world, excellent food and jazz music. For those closet cases who need validation for paying to get wasted, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to charities. Registration is $50 at the door, but only $40 online at www.atlantawineshow.com. For those under 21, avoid the temptation to test the fake obtained in Little Five Points.

Kill Bill playing at Student Center

It is time to Kill Bill. The Student Center Programs Council is showing Kill Bill: Vol. 1 Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the door for $2 with a student ID, and friends who do not attend Tech are only $3. The ultimate cheap date: Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu and lots of blood. And speaking of blood, don’t miss City of God Thursday, Feb. 26, also in the Student Center theater.

Eclectic movies abound in Atlanta

For those who cannot wait until next week for City of God (Cidade de Deus), it is playing at Madstone Theaters this week. At Landmark Theaters, Fog of War is currently screening. Check out the review in last week’s ‘Nique. Another interesting looking film is Tokyo Godfathers, an animated movie about a crew of homeless individuals who endeavor to return a lost baby to his family. Tokyo Godfathers is playing at Landmark and is in Japanese with English subtitles.

Have a jazzy time at High Friday

Friday, Feb. 20, is a jazz night at the High Museum of Art. Every third Friday of the month, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., visitors can drop in at the High Museum can listen to live jazz in the atrium. Museum members have no admission charge, and tickets are $15 for the public, available at the event. Food is available for purchase, making the event a great way to kick off the long-awaited weekend.

LCC brings three poets to Tech

Make sure to keep next Tuesday free so you can add to your cultural experiences. This Feb. 24 at 4:30 p.m. Tech will get a taste of top-notch poetry. The H. Bruce Poetry Reading will present Brooks Haxton, Jeffrey McDaniel and Vijay Seshadri in the Clary Theater located in the Student Success Center. Following the readings fans will have the chance to buy signed copies of the poets’ books.
Softball triumphs in home opener

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Although the softball season may have only just begun, the Jackets have defeated a top ten team and won their home opener against Furman. The team will compete in the Georgia State Tournament this weekend.

By Edward Tamsberg
Staff Writer

All-American shortstop Tara Knudsen and junior Liz Bartle each drove in two runs as the Tech softball team shut out Furman 8-0 and 2-0 in a double-header Tuesday afternoon at Glenn Field.

In the first game, the Jackets took an early 1-0 lead in the first inning. Soraya Reddick led off with a walk and a stolen base that sophomore outfielder Amy Hosier then followed up with a hit over the left fielder’s head for an RBI double.

Tech tallied two more runs in the third inning as Knudsen smacked a two-run homer after a Reddick single, giving Tech a 3-0 lead.

Then in the bottom of the fifth inning with the bases loaded, Bartle came up to bat and sent a drive off the top of the center field fence to score two Jackets and increase the lead to five.

Junior second baseman Katie Donovan followed Bartle’s double with an RBI single up the middle making it 6-0.
This was followed up by senior Tasha Waugh, who then pinch hit for the Yellow Jackets, knocking a sacrifice fly to right field to bring in Bartle and push the Jackets’ lead to seven.

The game ended in the bottom of the sixth inning, 8-0, when senior outfielder Sara Wissmann singled to right field with the bases loaded after a little more than five innings of play.

Voeltz threw all five innings for the Ramblin’ Wreck, retiring 11 straight and striking out six, allowing just one hit in the ballgame, and freshman pitcher Sarah Wood threw a scoreless sixth inning for Tech, allowing one hit and struck out one.

However things were not over as the nightcap began with an electric pitcher’s dual between Sallinger and Furman’s Kristy Goodrich. Neither pitcher surrendered a run through the first four innings of play, with the Jackets leaving four runners on base. However, Reddick broke the scoreless tie in the bottom of the fifth inning, hitting a two-run homerun after Wissman was hit by a pitch, giving Tech a 2-0 lead.

Sallinger continued the effort retiring 19 batters in a row after letting Furman’s leadoff batter reach on an error. But in the seventh inning the Lady Paladins’ Joni Lockridge ruined Sallinger’s bid for her fifth no-hitter in her career with a one-out single to left field.

However Sallinger was not down, as she then recorded her tenth strikeout of the game and induced a ground out to end the game.

The Jackets scored two runs, on five hits and committed two errors, while the Lady Paladins had no runs, on one hit and one error.

Knudsen, Bartle and Reddick led Tech offensively with Knudsen perfect on the day, going 4-for-4, with two RBIs, a home run and three walks. Bartle went 2-for-5, with two RBIs, and Reddick finished 2-for-5, with a walk, stolen base and a game-winning home run.

Tech pitchers also did well as Erin Voeltz and Jessica Sallinger each tossed one-hitters, while senior outfielder Soraya Reddick delivered a game-winning two-run homerun in the fifth inning of the nightcap for the sweep.

“I thought we came out with a lot of intensity in game one and did a lot of things well,” said head coach Ehren Earleywine.

“We lost a bit of our intensity in the second game and weren’t as focused. We had great pitching performances in both games, but we were not aggressive in game two. It was nice to get back on the diamond and I was pleased with the end result.”

The Ramblin’ Wreck will remain in Atlanta as they head to Georgia State for a tournament, Feb. 21-22. The Yellow Jackets improved to 5-1, while Furman fell to 1-6.
Moore shows there’s more to life than hoops

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Basketball forward Clarence Moore greets fans eagerly waiting for tickets at last month’s Duke game. Earlier this season, Coach Paul Hewitt labeled Moore his “most valuable player” for his contributions to the team.

By Ryan Peck
Senior Staff Writer

Regardless of the situation or setting, Clarence Moore tends to stand out in a crowd.

He’s easy to spot in pre-game warm-ups, where “Mo” literally skips and dances to a seemingly perpetual beat in his head. On and off the court, he typically fashions a smile accompanied by numerous jovial facial expressions. His hair, a vivacious array of braids, would appear to be a byproduct of his fancy-free disposition.

“That’s just me,” said the 6’5”, 215-lb. redshirt-senior. “I’m a fun guy...a good guy to hang around. There are so many things you can be down about. I just try to keep a positive attitude about everything. I’m always up, rarely ever down.”

Despite his propensity to accentuate the positive and evade the negative, the Norco, LA native found himself smack in the middle of the doldrums following Tech’s 2001-2002 season.

Moore was coming off his most successful season on the court at Georgia Tech. On the heels of a promising freshman campaign in 1999-2000, Moore broke his foot during the offseason and was forced to take a medical redshirt during Tech’s NCAA Tournament season of 2000-2001. The following year, a healthy Moore emerged as a leader on an extremely young Tech team. More valuable than his 9.4 points and 5.4 rebounds per game were the intangibles that he brought to the table. Moore was among the more outspoken players on the team, and his intensity helped Tech win eight of 10 games down the stretch. Head coach Paul Hewitt recognized Moore as an indispensable cog in the Tech machine, labeling him “the most important player” on the Jacket squad.

However, Moore’s passion for the game diminished in the summer of 2002. Off-the-court issues sent him into an emotional tailspin. He conceded that his
heart was not where he thought it should be. Hewitt granted Moore a
subsequent leave of absence from the team, acknowledging that the door
would remain open for a potential return.

Moore attributes his stint of despondency to the loss of his mother, Avis, who
succumbed to cancer in 1999. The usually carefree Moore could not help but
dwell on the melancholy event, and basketball suddenly didn’t seem all that
important.

"[Her death] was pretty much the key factor in me deciding not to play last
year," Moore said. “My [little league] coach always told me that if it’s not
fun anymore then you shouldn’t be doing it, because you’re not going to be
out there for the right reasons. I felt like ‘Hey, I’m not out here giving 110
percent, and if I’m not going to do that then I shouldn’t be out here at all,
because I’m not only hurting myself, but I’m hurting the team, because I’m
not playing up to my potential.’"

The time off served Moore well. The respite enabled him to put everything
into perspective, which allowed him to overcome his personal obstacles.

“The year I had off just really matured me a lot. I really didn’t have too many
people to depend on, so I was depending on myself, and it just kind of made
me grow up a little bit. I figured that a man would finish something that he
had started...so I wanted to come back and show everybody that I’m not a
quitter, I’m a fighter.”

“Mo” has done his part since returning to the team, recording 6.1 points and
4.8 rebounds per game. He’s also opportunistic behind the three-point arc,
where he knocks down threes at a 44.2 percent clip. His welcomed return has
bolstered a potent Tech attack.

Little was expected of the Jackets this year, due in large part to the defections
of big men Chris Bosh (NBA) and Ed Nelson (transfer). However, with six
games remaining in the regular season, Tech has already eclipsed last year’s
win total by two games, and the Jackets are positioning themselves for a nice
seed in next month’s NCAA tournament. It’s no coincidence that Moore’s
return has been accompanied by such a positive turnaround.

“Before I made any decisions [on returning to the team], I talked to a lot of
[teammates] and they all felt comfortable with it,” Moore said. “One of the
main factors in me coming back was wanting to prove to the guys that I
wanted to help finish what we started.”
Men’s tennis downs Middle Tenn.

Scott Schnugg returns a serve during Monday’s tennis matches against Middle Tennessee State. Schnugg was victorious in both singles and doubles events. Tech defeated MTSU 5-2 at the Bill Moore Tennis Center.

By Kimberly Rieck

The Jackets’ men’s tennis team remains undefeated at 5-0 for the season after a victory over Middle Tennessee State Monday at the Moore Tennis Center.

Senior West Nott led the team with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Middle Tenn.’s Kirk Jackson. Down break point in the third set and tied 1-1 in set wins with Jackson, Nott pulled ahead to win 6-4.

“I got down a break in the third set and needed to break back immediately,” Nott said in a press release. “I just let loose. I went for all my shots and they all went in.”

Tech began the day with a hard fought doubles match between Tech’s team of sophomore Trevor McLeod and senior Joao Menano and Middle Tennessee State’s Trevor Short and Greg Pollack. McLeod and Menano won by 8-6.

The pair of Jose Luis Muguruza and Pieters added another win to the Jackets’ tally by knocking off MTSU’s Andreas Siljestrom and Rishan Kuruppo. Muguruza and Pieters won 8-4.

Down 4-1, Tech’s Scott Schnugg and Marko Rajevac battled back to tie the
pair of Brandon Allen and Kai Schledom, the No. 46 duo pair in the nation. Schnugg and Rajevac won 7-2 in the tiebreaker, with the final match score being 9-8.

In the singles competition, the Jackets gained an early lead after both their No. 1 and No. 3 singles players were victorious. No. 3 Pieters defeated MTSU’s Schledom, 6-0, 6-1. Remaining undefeated for the day, No. 1 Schnugg swept MTSU’s Short 6-1, 6-4.

However, after Tech’s early wins, MTSU’s players fought back to win the next two matches. MTSU’s Siljestrom defeated No. 2 Mugurua in three sets- 4-6, 6-2, 6-2. Rajevac lost to MTSU’s Kuruppo in two sets. “Once they got that win at No. 2, the momentum shifted,” said head coach Kenny Thorne in a press release. “Everything was a dog fight from there.”

The final match of the day was between Tech’s Menano and MTSU’s Sitaram. Sitaram took the first set 6-4. Menano preceded to take the second set 7-5. In the final match, Menano and Sitaram duked it out and played a tie break, with Menano taking the win 11-9.

Tech will face Illinois tonight at 6 p.m. in Champaign, IL. On Saturday, the Jackets will take on Louisville at the Illinois Complex. The team’s first ACC game will be against Duke Feb. 28.
Track and field teams set to compete in ACC championships

The men’s and women’s track and field teams will head to Clemson, S.C. today for the 2004 ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships. The team has broken several school and track records at the Clemson venue.

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

After climbing the charts to No. 6 and No. 25, respectively, the men’s and women’s track and field teams are ready to take on conference rivals at the 2004 ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships later today and tomorrow in Clemson, S.C. The meet will be held in the Clemson Indoor Track and Field facility, a venue that Tech teams have visited three times already this season.

“The ACC Championship weekend is the most important weekend of our indoor season,” said men’s head coach Grover Hinsdale.

Men’s outlook

On the men’s side, the competition is shaping up to be a fierce battle for the top four spots between Maryland, North Carolina, Tech and Florida State, who won last year’s championship.

“We’re expecting to go out and be very competitive. We’re hoping for a top three finish,” Hinsdale said.

A trio of seniors are leading the way for the Jackets. Brendon Mahoney, Michael Massey and Kyle Rabbitt all hold top times in the ACC.

Mahoney holds the ACC’s fastest times in the 800 meters and mile races. He earned All-ACC honors in both events last year and was recently named ACC Indoor Track and Field Athlete of the Week. According to Trackwire, Mahoney is No. 26 in the nation in the 800 meters and No. 15 in the mile. Besides leading the pack speed-wise, Mahoney leads the team off the track.
“I would love to have a dozen Brendon Mahoneys on my team every year. His heart, his leadership and his competitiveness, you just can’t put a value on it,” Hinsdale said. “He’s an incredible young man who’s our captain, and he’s kind of our bell cow. We all look to him to lead the team as he should and as he’s done in the past.”

In the high jump event, Massey has come into his own this year. He has held the high jump top mark the entire season, after tallying a jump of 7’1.50” at the Clemson Invitational. Massey has previously received All-ACC outdoor track honors. Massey ranks No. 8 in the nation for the high jump.

“Michael has really come into his own this year. I’m really happy for him about that. He’s worked real hard and has been focused this year. It’s not by accident that he’s leading the event in the conference this year,” Hinsdale said.

At last year’s indoor meet, Rabbitt broke school records in the 3000 and 5000 meters. He currently holds the conference’s top time in the 3000 meters after clocking in at 8:11.00. He has not run the 5000 meters this season.

All-ACC Montrell Person will lead the way for the Jackets in the 60 meter hurdles. He holds the conference’s fastest time and has the No. 4 ranking in the nation.

Shot putter Zeb Sion will try for his first indoor honors after receiving All-ACC honors at least year’s outdoor meet. Sion’s season-high toss of 56’6.50” ranks fifth in the ACC. The Idaho native is also No. 29 in the nation in the event.

Two strong candidates for All-ACC honors in the long jump event are Holt McPherson and I-Perfection Harris. McPherson is No. 6 nationally in the event and has a season-record of 24’11.75” meters. Harris ranks in the top 15 with a jump of 24’5.5”.

“We’re probably as balanced a team as we’ve ever been, having competitive people in almost all areas,” Hinsdale said.

Women’s Outlook

It was only two years ago that Tech’s women team claimed its first conference title, overthrowing North Carolina powerhouse, and the team is looking to repeat that feat this year. The competition is tight this year as Tech is ranked No. 6 in the nation and UNC is right behind at No. 7, according to Trackwire rankings.

“This is probably the best women’s conference that I’ve seen heading into this weekend. North Carolina is a very good team, they always are, and I think we’re a very good team,” said head women’s coach Alan Drosky.

“Clemson is stronger than they’ve been in a few years. Even beyond that, I’ve seen some teams that are much improved on the track side like N.C. State and Duke that have traditionally been strong in the distance events, but this year had really good track kids in the sprints, hurdles and jumps that they have not had in the past.”

Defending ACC champion Chaunte Howard has dominated the high jump this season and holds the No. 1 mark in the conference and nation. She set the Clemson Indoor facility record on Dec. 6, 2003, with a jump of 6’2.25”.

Howard is No. 29 in the nation and No. 2 in the ACC in the long jump. Drosky said Howard will be a key factor at the meet for the team.
In addition to Howard, junior Shanta Smith is also a defending indoor ACC champion. She won the triple jump at last year’s championships and holds the school record with a jump of 43’4.50” earlier this year at the Clemson track. Smith has suffered back problems this season but is expected to still compete. Smith also ranks among the top 20 in the nation in the 400 meters.

Freshman Ashlee Kidd has tallied an ACC best time in the 400 meters going into the meet. Kidd ranks in the top 20 nationally in the 400 meters.

“Ashlee has done extremely well, no matter the year, but especially for a freshman. I hope she can continue that,” Drosky said.

In the hurdles, All-ACC performer Melanie Waits and Dana Rogers will compete. Rogers and Waits rank second and eighth in the hurdles, respectively.

Rogers holds the league’s top time in the 55-meter hurdles.

After garnering two runner-up finishes for Tech at last year’s championships in the 60- and 200-meter dashes, Amandi Rhett is a contender for the gold after holding the league’s top time in the 200 meters and second-fastest time in the 60 meters this season.

Besides Tech’s history of competing well at the new venue, the close proximity of Clemson will be a welcome change. Last year’s conference meet was held in Chapel Hill, over a six-hour drive from Tech. Clemson is a short two-hour drive for the teams.

Although Tech may not be hosting the meet, the two teams may have an advantage over other rivals due to Clemson hosting it.

The men’s and women’s teams have competed at the Clemson Indoor facility three times previously this season, and the building was only built this year.

“I think it is an advantage to have run on the track you’re competing on for the conference meet. Outdoors, I don’t necessarily think it’s that big of an impact. The radius of the curve [on each indoor track] is different, it’s a lot more magnified than in outdoors.” Hinsdale said.

Besides sprint events, knowing the track can also make a difference.

“Runways are going to be different at different tracks and for the jumping events- being able to get your steps right is very important. Being familiar with the runway and having a number of opportunities to compete on the runway certainly helps,” Drosky said.

Besides the conference championship being on the line, the ACC meet is one of the few chances Tech athletes will have to qualify for the March’s NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. Several individuals including Person, Massey, Mahoney, Howard and Kidd have already qualified. The outdoor season will commence in mid-March.
No. 5 golf wins big at Waikoloa Intercollegiate

By Clark Nelson

Contributing Writer

Battling strong winds and strong competition, the Tech golf team stood tall and won the Taylor Made-Waikoloa Intercollegiate in Waikoloa, Hawaii last week. The team finished with a score of 841, three strokes better than UCLA.

Tech led wire to wire after jumping out to a ten shot lead after the first round. Three golfers shot 69 for the Yellow Jackets on the final day to clinch the title, their fourth in the previous seven trips. Chan Wongluekiet, Mike Barbosa and Kevin Larsen paced Tech who continued their dominance in the Big Island tournament. Only once in the past seven tries have the Jackets finished out of the top five.

“This is a great way to start the spring season, but we have to realize there is still a long way to go. We have to keep working hard and keep improving” said Head coach Bruce Heppler, in a press release.

Coming into the tournament, Tech boasted three top forty golfers in the nation according to Golfweek: number 18 Nicholas Thompson, number 21 Robert Castro and number 40 Kevin Larson. Thompson, a junior from Coral Springs, FL, had surgery on his knee after the fall season. He has rebounded quickly; winning Tech’s pre-tournament qualifying by a wide margin.

“It didn’t really affect his golf swing in the fall, but it was very painful for him to walk,” Heppler said.

The star for the Jackets in the Aloha state was Chan Wongluekiet, a junior from Bradenton, Florida, who shot under par all three rounds. Chan finished the third round with a 69 to finish in fifth place individually.

Heading into the final day, Tech was holding on for dear life as hard-charging UCLA, UC Davis and Washington had swung their way within three strokes of the Jackets. Tech had shot 19 shots higher the second day (291) than the first. However, three players scored under 70 for the Yellow Jackets to seal the victory.

“I’m proud of the way our guys came back today,” Heppler said.

Anthony Kim, a freshman from Oklahoma, won medalist honors by shooting 11-under (205) for the tournament. Four Tech golfers finished in the top 18 overall.
Women’s swim team heads to Charlottesville for ACCs

Tech’s two women divers, Laurissa Prystaj and Amy Sutton, rank among the ACC’s top-scoring divers. The women’s swim team is looking to improve on last year’s sixth place finish with the help of added talent.

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

The women’s swimming and diving team will be competing in the 2004 ACC Championship today through Saturday at the University of Virginia’s Aquatic and Fitness Center. The event is the Jackets’ third ACC championship, as the team was formed in 2001.

“This is what we’ve been working for all season. Our training and preparation have been geared towards this competition. Our women are excited about the prospect of swimming fast and highly motivated to accomplish personal goals, which hopefully will lead to accomplishing team goals,” said head coach Seth Baron.

Preliminaries for the championship will be held at 11 a.m. today and tomorrow and finals will commence at 7 p.m. each day.

One-meter diving preliminaries began last night after the swimming preliminaries. Three-meter preliminaries will take place after today’s swimming prelims, with the finals for the event being held tomorrow night.
This year’s championship marks a milestone for the team, as it's the first time the Jackets have come into the meet with experienced ACC veterans.

“One of our biggest problems we had the first two years with a brand new program was a lack of leadership. But now we have some seasoned veterans who have been to two ACC Championships and understand what’s expected and what to expect once they get there,” Baron said.

The team’s main goal, according to Baron, is to move up from last year’s sixth place finish by at least one spot, an improvement from the opening season’s eighth place finish at the conference meet.

“Across the board, we’ve got the opportunity to score in a lot of events. We’ve got a little bit more consistency from one event to the other that we didn’t have a year ago.” Baron said.

“If you look at last year’s finishes, Clemson was in fifth place, and I would say they’re probably statistically the team for us to beat this year for the last place spot,” Baron said.

Besides the junior leaders, the Jackets will bring several freshman to the meet.

“I think the freshman have got a lot of excitement and maybe some nervous energy... This is a meet that is a lot different from anything that they’ve ever experienced. It’s going to be something... that they can feed off the amount of energy and enthusiasm it generates,” Baron said.

Freshman Vesna Stojanovska leads the way for the Jackets, ranking among the nation’s best swimmers in the ACC and NCAA in the 200 free, 500 free and 200 butterfly events.

Stojanovska has the ACC’s best time in the 200 fly, with 1:58.82 minutes, ranking her No. 11 in the nation. She is ranked second in the conference in the 200 free and No. 40 in the NCAA. Her fastest 500 free time going into the conference meet places her eighth in the ACC.

Leading the backstroking events, sophomore Ashley Kracke, junior Anna Saum and freshman Dana West are set to make their marks at the meet.

Saum placed first in the 100 and 200 backstroke events against Emory University last month.

Kracke is the school record holder in the 200 and 100 back events. Her top finishes last season were at the ACC championships. Kracke came in fourth place in the 100 back and had an NCAA ‘B’ qualifying time in the event.

“Our breaststrokes are strong with Alison Walker and Laura Heiser [competing in them],” Baron said.

Heiser, a sophomore, set a school record at the ACC championships last year in the 100 breaststroke. She finished in 11th place in the event. Heiser also finished in 20th place at the 200 breast event.

In the diving events, sophomore Laurissa Prystaj has posted top 10 scores in the ACC. She broke her own school record on the three-meter board versus Emory.

Prystaj is ranked eighth in both the three-meter and one-meter diving events. Prystaj has qualified for the NCAA B Diving Championships. Teammate Amy Sutton has qualified for the B championships as well.
On the opening day of the competition Wednesday, North Carolina scored 74 points, leading Florida State, Maryland and the rest of the field.

Tech scored 50 points, after placing sixth and seventh in the 200 yard medley and 800 yard freestyle relays, matching Clemson’s opening day total. Both relay teams posted new school records.


Updated results for the meet can be found at www.theacc.com.
ACC Round-Up

Clemson upsets No.13 N.C. State

After upsetting Duke, the No.1 team in the nation at the time, No.13 North Carolina State missed its shots and lost to Clemson, currently ranked last in the Atlantic Coast Conference 60-55. It was the second victory over a ranked opponent for the Tigers and first-year coach Oliver Purnell since Clemson defeated No. 12 North Carolina 81-72. NCSU missed its first four shots and hit only 30.2 percent from the floor. The Wolfpack only scored 19 points before halftime, its fewest total all season.

Duke wrestling defeats Campbell

The Duke Blue Devils improved to 8-6 after defeating Campbell University 37-3 in men’s wrestling. Duke won nine of the ten matches. Senior Michael Mitchell led the Blue Devils with a 25-7 victory over Campbell’s Josh Kalafchi. Duke’s Christian Smith won for the 26th time this season. Duke is currently No. 1 in the ACC for men’s wrestling. N.C. State is No. 2 on the conference poll.

ACC teams rank high in lacrosse

The Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association(IWLCA) has ranked five of the ACC’s women’s lacrosse teams among the top 15 teams in the nation. Three of the top four teams are from the league: No. 2 Maryland, No. 3 Virginia and No. 4 Duke. North Carolina is No.11 in the poll. Princeton University stands atop the poll. Lacrosse play begins next week. UNC will play eight of the top ten teams this season.

FSU gets state-of-the-art golf course

Florida State University’s Don Veller Seminole Golf Course is undergoing extensive renovations, including redesigning and rebuilding 18 greens on the course and installing TifEagle ultra dwarf turf. FSU is completely redesigning the 14th hole. The renovations begin March 1 and will end in September later this year. The new design is by Bob Walker, who designed the St. James Bay and Regatta Bay golf courses, renowned in Florida. The Tallahasee course will remain open throughout the renovations.
Faces in the Crowd

Tyler Greene
Sophomore
Baseball- Shortstop

Following in the tradition of outstanding shortstops from Tech, Tyler Greene wears jersey No. 5, the same number sported by former Tech stars Nomar Garciaparra and Victor Menocal. He’s among five Tech players named to Baseball America’s preseason All-America team.

Greene was drafted in the second round by the Atlanta Braves last year and turned down a sizable signing bonus to play for Tech. He is one of the highest drafted players to enroll at Tech, along with Owings. Green was third baseman for the USA Baseball National Team last summer.

Micah Owings
Sophomore
Baseball-Pitcher

Micah Owings’ three-run home run was the highlight of Tech’s home opener win against Savannah State earlier this week. An All-America player, Owings has established himself as Tech’s No. 1 starter. He owns a 90 mph-plus fastball and led the Jackets in both wins and home runs as a freshman.

As a freshman, Owings was the 2003 ACC Rookie of the Year and an All-ACC selection. He was a second-round draft pick of the Colorado Rockies in 2002 and turned down a large signing bonus to play for Tech.

Jessica Sallinger
Junior
Softball-Pitcher

Last week against Furman, Jessica Sallinger retired 19 batters in a row. Only a one-out single ruined Sallinger’s bid for her fifth no-hitter. Strike-outs are nothing new for Sallinger who holds the school record in career wins, strikeouts, ERA and complete games. She was an All-ACC Pitcher in 2003, the 2002 ACC Rookie of the Year and made the first team of the 2002 All-Southeast Region.

A Georgia high school standout, Sallinger received the Georgia Pitcher of the Year award in 2001. She is majoring in management.
Sport Shorts

Ga. Force honors Tech legends

Over thirty Tech football legends will be honored Sunday at halftime when the Georgia Force takes on the New Orleans VooDoo in the Arena at Gwinnett Center. Some of the many former Jackets in attendance include Taz Anderson, the 1961 NFL Rookie of the Year, George Godsey, Ryan Stewart and Kelley Rhino. The game will be televised at 3 p.m. on NBC.

For more information, visit www.georgiaforce.com.

Lady Jackets to face UNC

The women’s basketball team will face ACC rival North Carolina Monday at 7 p.m. at Alexander Memorial Coliseum. The game will be broadcast live on WREK-Radio 91.1 FM in Atlanta and online at www.wrek.org.

No. 5 Beesball takes on Villanova

The No. 5 Tech baseball team will play a triple header against Villanova this weekend. The first game is today at 4 p.m. at Russ Chandler Memorial Stadium. The Jackets will then compete against Villanova Sat. at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.
by the numbers

12: Number of straight weeks the Jackets’ men’s basketball team has appeared in the top 25 Associated Press poll and in the ESPN/USA Today poll. Tech debuted at No. 13 in the AP poll Dec. 1, 2003.

13: Number of points the baseball team scored against visiting Savannah State Wednesday. No. 5 Tech defeated Savannah 13-4. Tech’s starter Philip Perry struck out six in the win.

3: Number of shots Tech defeated UCLA by at the Taylor Made-Waikoloa Intercollegiate in Waikoloa, Hawaii. The team closed with a 10-under-par 278 with a 23-under 841 total. Three players, Chan Wongluekiet, Mike Barbosa and Kevin Larsin, shot 69 on the course.

4: Number of women’s basketball players who scored in double victories against Maryland. The Jackets defeated ACC rival Maryland 58-57. Senior Fallon Stokes was the leading scorer with 18 points, followed by Megan Harpring’s 12 points, Alex Stewart’s 11 points and Megan Isom’s ten points. Tech is now 13-11 overall and 4-8 in the conference.

6'2.25": School record mark in the high jump, held by sophomore All-American Chaunte Howard. Howard is the defending ACC champion in the high jump and holds the top mark going into tomorrow’s conference championships.

215: Here’s the number...what does it represent?

To enter email the Sports Editor at sports@technique.gatech.edu with the correct answer to the challenge. A winner will be selected from among the qualified entries. The winner will receive a pair of tickets to an Atlanta Thrashers home game, where admission is always $10 for a seat in the $36 section with a student ID. Visit www.atlantathrashers.com for more info on college nights.