Homecoming conflict causes fall break move

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.”
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.

“I 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.

By Daniel Amick
News Editor

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.

“How 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

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.itee.org. Attendance at the entire conference is not required; one may attend any or all of the sessions.