Undergrad research picks up steam with website, funding

By Daniel Amick
Senior Staff Writer

In late January, the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies unveiled a new website detailing research opportunities for undergraduates at Georgia Tech. Designed by Dr. Legh Bortonsley, the website outlines a variety of Institute-wide programs as well as other research opportunities through the individual colleges and schools.

“Universities have two roles,” said Bortonsley. “First, the role is to educate, and the second is to generate new knowledge. Research is the perfect way to meld those two roles.”

The website represents a first step in a campus-wide effort to increase undergraduate students’ awareness of and involvement in research.

“We’d like to reach a point where half of our students have an undergraduate research experience,” said Dr. Robert McMath, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs. McMath is responsible for overseeing efforts to promote and enhance undergraduate research.

“One of the things we’re trying to do is just get our arms around the size of this activity right now. There are no good statistics, with the exception of a couple of unions, (regarding) exactly how many students are participating in a formal way in undergraduate research.

“We’re maybe in the twenty percent range.”

While Georgia Tech leads many other public institutions in undergraduate research, it lags behind top schools like Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Tech’s relatively low numbers, however, are not necessarily due to a lack of opportunity.

“There is probably more capacity on the part of the faculty right now to oversee research than there is student demand,” said McMath.

Amy Vinson, a senior Biochemistry major, rang up her first undergraduate research during her sophomore year.

Some of that research culminated in a physics study that was published in a popular science journal.

By Kimberly Hickey
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Charles Anderson and Jeffrey Crenshaw try to outmove each other on the new “Dance Dance Revolution” game in the Student Center recreation area.
Last issue’s poll garnered 49 responses to the question: “How did Tech fare in football recruiting?”

Pretty Poorly (43%)
Great! Chan is the Man. (10%)
Decent, considering the circumstances. (47%)

This week’s poll is about grade inflation at Tech. What is your explanation for rising average GPAs and rising honor graduation rates? Tell us at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique.

10 years ago: Feb. 14, 1992—Susan Sutherland won the election for UHR president receiving almost two times as many votes as her nearest opponent. The Yellow Jackets turned over the ball 18 times in a 71-62 loss at home to the Duke Blue Devils. The loss dropped the Jackets to 4-6 in the ACC.

20 years ago: Feb. 12, 1982—The Student Center Governing Board sent a request to the Dean of Students asking for permission to show X-rated films. If approved, the showing of X-rated films will become official school policy.

30 years ago: Feb. 11, 1972—SGA unanimously passed a resolution in support of state legislation that could change the age of legal majority to 18. The petition, organized by SGA, was one of the most massive lobbying efforts in Tech history. The Jackets were set to play in the North-South Invitational in Charlotte. They will face fifth-ranked UNC.
**Research** from page 1

In an article published in *Science* last year.

“Undergraduate research is a possibility for every student at Tech that has the tiniest amount of initiative and interest,” she said.

“In general, research is out there for those students who want it.”

“Undergraduate research is happening all over the campus,” said McMath. He pointed to the College of Computing as well as Chemical Engineering as examples of well

developed programs that foster such research. McMath also notes that research opportunities are numerous outside of science and engineering majors, like those in the Ivan Allen College.

“The biggest problem I think we’ve had to date is strictly communication. My sense is, from talking with a good many students, that a lot of students who are interested in [research] haven’t known what was available,” said McMath.

The new website is a preliminary attempt to provide students with better information about all of Tech’s research programs open to them. President Wayne Clough urged a renewed emphasis on undergraduate research in his 2001 State of the Institute Address. Clough called for the formation of a fund to support research through President’s Undergraduate Research Awards. This year, the Georgia Tech Research Corporation (GTRC) agreed to provide $250,000 to the fund. GTRC is a financially independent body that manages all of Georgia Tech’s research activities. Each college requests a portion of that fund based on the number of research applications they receive.

“We probably will have close to $250,000 worth of requests from the colleges, so I’m really pleased that students and faculty are asking for this funding,” said McMath.

In his appearance before the Undergraduate House on Tuesday, Clough expressed excitement about the undergraduate research program. He anticipates that all of the funds will be used for this year, and he hopes that more can be allocated next year.

A new student publication in development should also serve to promote undergraduate research. Georgia Tech graduate student Benjamin Small is working to develop the *Journal of Student Research and Technology*.

He hopes these potential initiatives and interest and that their research can be published in more established journals. He hopes these potential problems can be overcome. Small expects to publish about eight student written articles. Submissions cover a wide range of topics: Emergency Flight Planning (AE/IE), Laser Diodes (EE), Role of Governments in Space Exploration (PUBP), Computer Education (EE), Organizational Behavior (INTA) and Motorcycle Touring and Outdoor Recreation (HTS).

“I hope that [the Journal] promotes the exchange of ideas and

promotes everyone on campus [to be] aware of all the different kinds of research, especially out of their discipline,” Small said. All of these efforts, he is hoped, will eventually build research into the student culture, “so people assume that we have undergraduate research instead of wondering if we do,” said McMath.

“I envision a time when students are waiting and wanting to do research,” concluded Bortromley.

Online information can be found at [www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu](http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu)

**Research from page 1**

**Research is a possibility for every student at Tech that has…initiative and interest**

*Amy Vinson*

Biochemistry senior

**Research** from page 1

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“We do have some funds guaranteed...so it’s definitely going to happen this year,” said Small.

The magazine-like journal will be modeled after similar publications at other research institutes. Small hopes that Tech students will submit their research from a variety of fields for publication. McMath supports Small’s efforts, but points to potential conflicts for those individuals who might want to publish their research in more established journals. He hopes these potential problems can be overcome. Small expects to publish about eight student written articles. Submissions cover a wide range of topics: Emergency Flight Planning (AE/IE), Laser Diodes (EE), Role of Governments in Space Exploration (PUBP), Computer Education (EE), Organizational Behavior (INTA) and Motorcycle Touring and Outdoor Recreation (HTS).

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GSS unable to pass 2002-03 fee budget

By Judy Shaw
News Editor

The Graduate Student Senators finally had a chance to start discussing the 2002-03 Fiscal Year Student Activity Fee budget with the amendments made by the Undergraduate House.

“The changes [the Undergraduates] have made are good changes,” said Vice President of Finance Dave Maybury.

Because the Senators voted to move debate on the budget to the end of the meeting, they were unable to pass the bill before they lost quorum.

Before debating the budget, however, the Senators approved a number of allocation bills. The Senate considered the conference committee version of the bill to provide funds for Georgia Tech Team Handball. Last week, the GSS passed the handball bill with a total $300 higher than the UHR version, which forced the bill to a conference committee. The committee decided to pass the bill with an added $150.

Because the bill was a conference committee version, it could not be amended, and, therefore, the debate was fairly limited, and the Senators approved the bill.

The Senators also approved funding for Women’s Awareness Month. Though WAM has had trouble raising as much money as it has in the past from corporate sponsors, it still asked for less money than in previous years. The Senators appreciated that fact and passed the bill for the requested amount.

Bills Considered

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Clough addresses Undergrad House

By Judy Shaw
News Editor

UHR representatives passed a number of funding allocations at its Tuesday meeting, but they also spent a substantial amount of time discussing possible bylaw changes. All this business occurred after Institute President Wayne Clough addressed the House and answered questions from representatives and visitors.

Clough shared news about midterm grade reports, undergraduate learning, leadership and research initiatives, state legislative developments that could affect Tech and campus construction projects. In the question and answer portion, Clough discussed domestic partnerships and whether or not Tech will recognize them for benefits.

“We are a state institution, and therefore, we are subject to the rules and regulations of the Board of Regents—until they change their policies, we won’t change ours,” said Clough.

After Clough, the House spent time on discussions about bylaws and absences appeals. Currently, Representatives who miss three meetings are removed from the House automatically and must appeal the decision to the SGA Advisory Board, which consists mostly of executive officers. The bylaw change would have made the House itself the new body to decide appeals. The Representatives decided to remand the bill to the Internal Development committee for further work.
OPINIONS

Our Views

Honor Code needs enforcer

A committee has been formed to review academic misconduct at Tech and how to best defend Institute integrity. The Georgia Tech Honor Code, a written standard that all students and faculty are expected to follow, should have been sufficient but has not promoted honesty among students, due process of offenders or consistency between professors.

The committee’s investigation into the formation of a neutral position within the Provost’s office offers students and professors an advocate for their honor rights. This person could keep both sides informed as to their duties and responsibilities with respect to academic integrity. He or she could act as a liaison between students and faculty with regard to these issues and could outline all of the policies that need to be adhered to. Originating this position in the Provost’s office would lend credibility to what seems like a powerless document.

The person that fills this important position would benefit students in that he or she could act as a watchdog for unfair practices, inequality in the classroom and due process in adjudication. It would also be essential for such an “Honor Officer” to develop integrity within the student body.

For the faculty this person could help professors with the process, from the syllabus to the final exam, the Honor Officer could provide a support structure for educators.

Ultimately, there can be no justice for students without standards for the faculty. The Honor Code is really an honor contract, and an impartial and credible party is needed to make sure that students and faculty uphold both sides of the agreement.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

Be aware of your surroundings

Georgia Tech suffers from an astronomical number of auto break-ins, as well as a high number of outright thefts. While it is easy to suggest that we need more police coverage, a reality check may be in order. Tech campus already has what must be the greatest police density of any jurisdiction in the state.

I would suggest that the crux of the problem is that our campus feels as safe as it does. Despite a few well-publicized incidents, there is very little violent crime on our campus. Our community, in large part, conducts itself with a great casualness for being smack in the middle of the auto theft capital of the nation. When I walk to campus from my parking space, I pass by a lot of other parked vehicles. What I see in them never ceases to amaze me. At one point, I passed by a fairly expensive car, parked in an isolated area on campus with its valuables.

I don’t know why people on campus keep forgetting that they are downtown in one of the most dangerous cities in the country. There is not an invisible fence that keeps the hoodlums off campus; being that our streets are public streets, GTPD can’t remove them unless they have committed a crime.

While I wouldn’t turn down more police protection if it were offered, there is more improvement to be found by making our community more aware of how careless it is with its valuables.

Check out git.police.crime reports sometime. It’s a useful reminder that just because you may not see these crimes going on on campus firsthand, you need to be careful. I recommend that you take measures to make sure that you and your property are not the path of least resistance.

Wes Younger
gte147e@prism.gatech.edu

Absolute moral standards are a necessity

Matthew Brown’s letter in the February 8 issue of the Technique on absolute moral standards was interesting but flawed. Granted, absolute moral standards have been used by evil agents all throughout history, from the terrorists and Nazis he mentioned to the racists of our own country. However, there have been people on the opposing sides using their own absolute moral standards to resist these things. I’m sure that Mr. Brown, like them and the rest of us, would absolutely reject these evils.

Absolute moral standards are not the problem. The problem is that in many cases some people have been using the wrong absolute standards. Mr. Brown says “when you’ve got absolute truth, you don’t have to think about right and wrong.” Rather, absolute truth is entirely about right and wrong.

Even Mr. Brown’s apparent utilitarian philosophy has some kind of absolute principle, such as “happiness is the greatest good,” by which all actions should be measured for being morally right or wrong. The problem with this approach is that it judges only by consequences, which can be unintended, negating the morality or immorality of the action. In worst-case scenarios utilitarianism can be used to justify any act. Killing an innocent man, stripping people of their dignity or anything else, while not typically justified on utilitarian grounds, can be defended. And all these things, we feel, are absolutely wrong.

Moral dilemmas require thought and sensitivity but not necessarily on a case-by-case basis. They require thoughtful people to judge according to decent absolute standards, which they have determined using thought and sensitivity, and then to do what is right. I would hope our society never loses that.

Randall McElroy
gte643u@prism.gatech.edu
Grade inflation at Tech? Many factors explain trends

I will not graduate from Georgia Tech with a 4.0. A lackluster attitude during the second semester of my freshman year made sure that fact. Am I happy that I was not graduate from Tech with perfect grades? Not really—would not want that sort of record coming out of college! But am I glad that I did not make an 'A' when I didn't deserve it? You're darn right I am.

Jody Shaw
News Editor

Grade inflation at Tech? Many factors explain trends

I am not a blonde-haired, green-eyed kid on the street, but the causes of these two trends will be explored, before the phenomenon is revealed. There is absolutely no disputing the fact that Tech, and probably other institutions, have gone to Stanford for engineering or public policy or staying-in-state and attending Georgia Tech. The caliper of in-state students, who make up half of the student body, has significantly increased.

According to a recent article in the American Psychological Association's journal, grade inflation here is probably not limited to Georgia Tech but to a number of other institutions. How, then, do we explain the two trends?

One potential reason for the increased GPA and honors graduation rates is the increase in the number of faculty members at Tech that have increased and gotten hired from other institutions. New faculty members may bring new perspectives and techniques that have helped students and professors to perform better academically. The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning has also firmly established itself with programs that seek to improve the instructional performance of both professors and teaching assistants. These programs, along with CETL's course survey program that provides feedback to professors each semester, have greatly improved the instruction, which is tied to student grades.

Another possible contributor to the problems of Tech grades and honors graduation rates is the increase in the number of students who have gone to Stanford for engineering or the number of students who have gone to Stanford for engineering or public policy or staying-in-state and attending Georgia Tech. The caliper of students, who make up half of the student body, has significantly increased.

There is no disputing the fact that both average GPAs and honor graduation rates have been increasing, but at the same time, I hope that other possible explanations will be explored, before the phenomenon is revealed. There is absolutely no disputing the fact that Tech, and probably other institutions, have gone to Stanford for engineering or public policy or staying-in-state and attending Georgia Tech. The caliper of in-state students, who make up half of the student body, has significantly increased. Secondly, HOPE provides incentive for these students to perform well once they arrive at Tech, since they must maintain a 3.0 in order to continue receiving free tuition and fees from the state of Georgia.

Other possible explanations from the student side include an increase in the number of female students who, through the demographic shift, have performed better academically. An increase in economic competition for both professors and for students to go college may also be a factor in explaining the students' drives to make better grades in their classes.

In addition to student change, faculty change may also play a part in explaining these trends. Over the last few years, the number of faculty members at Tech has increased and gotten hired from other institutions. New faculty members may bring new perspectives and techniques that have helped students and professors to perform better academically. The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning has also firmly established itself with programs that seek to improve the instructional performance of both professors and teaching assistants. These programs, along with CETL's course survey program that provides feedback to professors each semester, have greatly improved the instruction, which is tied to student grades.

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Racism a reality at Tech

It was about 12:30am on Sunday, February 10, 2002. You can call me Jah, and my friend is one of Atlanta’s bravest firefighters. My friend was dropping me off at my car which was parked in the B07 parking deck. We had just come back from a long road trip from my hometown of St. Louis, MO.

I got into my car and came out of the parking deck. I was pulling around to get my bags out of my friend’s car when the Georgia Tech Police Department rolled up on us, three cars deep. Supposedly they were there to tell us that we could not park across the street from the B07 parking deck in the A15 parking spaces in front of the Georgia Tech facilities building.

As soon as the officer stepped out of his car, I yelled, “What’s the problem officer? I am a student here.” He asked me what I was doing. I told him that my friend had just dropped me off to pick up my car at the B07 lot, and was getting my bags out of his car because we have just come back from a road trip.

I asked him if he wanted to see my student ID because he was looking at my head and my friend’s gold teeth with disbelief that we were doing nothing wrong. Officer Ricker proceeded to insult my intelligence as he walked back to his police car by saying, “You can’t park there in front of the reactor; we just don’t let people park in front of the reactor; we just come back from a road trip."

The real deal was that I was a black man in a parking deck late at night when students’ cars have recently been burglarized. Approximately 75 cars were broken into ever winter break alone. So they decided to crack down. They decided to take action. They decided to profile. I would expect more from Tech’s police department because of the ethnic diversity at this school. But times have nor changed, and because it is Black History Month it just stands out more in my mind. I have to speak my peace in the Technique because I know that there are plenty of minority students that can relate to similar situations in the dorms, around campus or at many other places. But sometimes people just remain quite. At the Campus Police Station they asked if I wanted to file a complaint. I said “no”, I wanted my complaint to be heard. Officer Ricker must have thought I was one of those ‘House Negroes’ walking around here.

Nobody wants to defy the system. Too many of our ancestors died not to address these issues. I am speaking today for the first three black students that were admitted to Georgia Tech back in September of 1961. I am sure they endured lots of struggle despite all of the good press the school wants to put out about its integration process. We all know the real deal. It’s still apparently 41 years later.

Jahera Kehuti
jah12gt@yahoo.com

Techs and the City: Oh, why can’t this be love?

By Jennifer Hinkel
Focus Editor

Because today marks Valentine’s Day weekend, and because this is the Technique, I would feel almost wrong to write a column without phrases such as “the ratio” and “dating at Tech.” However, I have failed to develop a new argument for this situation. Girls at Tech will say the following: “the odds are good, but the odds are odd.” Guys at Tech will complain that the odds aren’t good at all and that the goods are, to put it nicely, mean-spirited and snobby. Still, hundreds of Tech students manage to date each other, somehow debunking the dating myths.

Atlanta presents an antithetical problem. Atlanta has too many Negroes’ walking around here. Too many of our ancestors died not to address these issues. I am speaking today for the first three black students that were admitted to Georgia Tech back in September of 1961. I am sure they endured lots of struggle despite all of the good press the school wants to put out about its integration process. We all know the real deal. It’s still apparently 41 years later.

I would rather stop the complainers and listen to the daters. Maybe we’re just not suited to date those who are not Jackets.

Contrary to popular belief, most of us Tech women are not after an Mr. Right degree. Why would we suffer through Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, CS and DNP just to marry someone with financial security? After finishing our degrees, many of us will become the chief breadwinners.

After graduating from Tech, most of us, whether male or female, will become some of the hottest commodities on the dating market. We will (hopefully) have high-paying jobs, we will know all sorts of useful information (thanks to Ma Tech) and we will have been blessed with the ability to successfully engage in social interactions, such as planning LAN parties and working together to complete biomedical engineering projects. We don’t have classes like they do at Cornell (take wine tasting, for instance), but many Tech students will have accrued such valuable information as part of their extra-curricular activities long before they graduate. In short, we will be some hot stuff.

Maybe that’s exactly why everyone at Tech is looking for another Yellow Jacket to couple up with. We’re all on equal footing. We should acknowledge our common need for friends who understand what we’re talking about, whether it’s parking tickets, the SAC or the comfy desks in the Love Building. I wouldn’t want to put myself on the Atlanta meat market because I’m sure I would lose against some dumb, very skinny rich blonde. At the same time, I would have to try to explain pluripotent stem cells and paradigm shifts to an investment banker with a Porsche. I think dating Tech students is easier, and in most cases, simply better.

But everyone must date who they will. Love is, apparently, blind to such things as whether or not one truly understands differential equations.
Question of the week
“What are your plans for Valentine’s Day?”

Monica Mead
Bio Senior
“Going to dinner at Soto Soto.”

Neil McDonagh
MGT Sophomore
“I’ll leave that to your imagination.”

Alex Demestihas
BC Freshman
“I’m going to UGA to see my girl (to surprise her).”

Karl Washington
CS Freshman
“Celebrating my birthday.”

Jalencia Adams
MGT Freshman
“Going to the movies.”

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Feature and photos by John Jewell
Surfing, and just happened to stumble upon a surfing thread. Contributing Writer: By Jennifer Lee.

**Dating TV shows: Real romance or really ridiculous?**

By Madhu Adiga

On Valentine’s Day, even some of the busiest couples make time to see each other. However, spending Valentine’s Day together becomes a challenge for those whose significant others are elsewhere near-by. Exactly how hard is it to maintain a long distance relationship while you are in college? Along with the change in academics and being away from home, many students who come to Tech also have to deal with leaving a boyfriend or girlfriend behind.

Elizabeth Deems, a freshman Aerospace Engineering major, has been dating her boyfriend for three years and two months. He, however, is completing his last year of high school in their hometown of Springfield, Virginia. “He is thinking about coming to Tech next year, but he’s staying on the East coast wherever he goes, so it’s not too bad.”

However, she doesn’t think that it truly gives her a “taste of something that they’ve had a ‘taste of something better.’” And there’s Fifth Wheel, where two couples go on a double date, and then a fifth person—maybe a previous lover or even a celebrity—is added to the mix. With all these shows on the air, it would seem as though people can’t get enough, right? However, she says there aren’t as many as they claim to be, at least here at Tech. “That’s not to say that Tech students don’t have a sense of humor. Most people will readily admit to having watched reality romance shows at least once or twice.

I get a kick out of Blind Date because of the little bubbles that pop up,” said Carol Hsu, a CS major, “but it’s not like you can take the show seriously. I just laugh at it.”

The fact that these so-called “reality shows” really aren’t realistic seems to be the general consensus among the female population at Tech. “It’s funny to watch the girls fight on TV,” said freshman Christina Mac-Donald. “Also, it’s fun to compare them to their boyfriends before college, and just begin to realize the work and dedication needed to maintain a long distance relationship during their first semester on campus.”

Daniel Larsen, a third-year Computer Science major, has seen the shows. “I think that [couples] should definitely have a set thing they do every day, or every other day.”

**Jackets dating Dawgs share romance, rivalry**

By Josh Alexander

The almost ancient Tech vs. UGA rivalry may be the ultimate clash. Settlement on Earth is such a magnitude of hate between schools, yet there are some students that date Dawgs who, despite this huge rivalry, date students at UGA.

“How does that work?” one might ask. “How can two people with such vast ideological differences have a meaningful relationship?”

A few of those students who are brave enough to try a Tech–UGA relationship told the Focus section the reality behind their relationships.

Finding Tech students that date students at UGA, on the surface, may not seem to be a difficult task. The abundance of men at Tech and the competitive abundance of women at Georgia is huge but one has to believe that these types of relationships may be a common occurrence. I’d like to date a girl from UGA,” said Joe McGill, a Management sophomore. However, finding Tech students who date students at UGA is actually an arduous task.

Tyler Lowe, a Mechanical Engineering junior, recently began dating a girl who attends UGA. “I met my girlfriend at a party at my fraternity house,” Lowe said. “I knew from the beginning she was from UGA. I don’t really think it’s a big deal.”

Jennifer Hanes, a Management major whose boyfriend goes to UGA, says, “He sometimes gives me a hard time for going to Tech, but he’s still a big Tech fan!”

So what kind of things do these students face while visiting their significant others? “Usually when I go to visit...”
added, “They’re so cheesy and stupid you feel guilty watching them.”

Freshman Electrical Engineering major Larry Lindsey, however, had a response that may be more representative of the Tech male constituency: “I don’t think these shows have an adequate representation of the population. I mean, when do you ever see a nerd on these shows?”

Lately even, it seems as if these programs have acquired a perverse appetite for destruction. In an effort to increase ratings by appealing to vast sadistic audiences, some dating shows have seemingly begun to intentionally arrange catastrophic mismatches. Such maneuvers have worked twofold in the case of the WB’s Blind Date, where the extra chaotic date situations yield more opportunity for the sarcastic pop-up features and make the show even racier. Then, the higher ratings give the show’s producers the liberty to hire an even more creative troop of writers to exploit such situations.

Those who are not so amused by the influx of dating shows like Dismissed and Blind Date shouldn’t get too worried; TV isn’t going in the all-dating direction any time soon.

At least at Tech, shows such as Dawson’s Creek and Felicity still attract the most addicted audiences.

**Rivalry**

Her, her friends are very nice to me. They sometimes compliment her for dating a guy from Tech,” Lowe said. Others seem to encounter a slightly more harsh welcome.

Constance Mansour, a STC major, and her boyfriend Ryan, who attends UGA, have been dating since high school.

“Sometimes his friends make lots of comments and jokes about computer stuff, but sometimes when I visit he’ll tell people I go to Georgia State instead of Tech,” Mansour said.

Another student said that several male students at UGA once told him to “Go back to Atlanta and stay away from the UGA girls,” while he was visiting his girlfriend. For the most part, however, those interviewed seemed to have few problems in their relationships dealing with the rivalry, except when it came to football.

Football, of course, brings the Tech–UGA rivalry to what can become a very nasty zenith. So the Tech students were asked about how they planned to handle the obvious problem of seating at the Georgia game next year in Athens.

“She’ll sit in the Tech section for the football game,” said Lowe of his UGA girlfriend. “She’ll root for Tech, too,” he added, optimistically. “Well, at least I won’t root for UGA.”

Hanes and her boyfriend will take a different approach, “We’ll sit wherever we can get the best seats,” she said.

Despite the rivalry, some students have found romance in Athens. However, dating a rival might not be easy. “Compromise is definitely the way to go,” said Lowe, “So just remember that before you head over to UGA.”
email: focus@technique.gatech.edu
Winner will be selected randomly from correct entries and receives a Technique T-shirt and free Papa John’s pizza.

Last week’s Tech Up Close:
A knob on the Engine (in front of Tech Tower)

Last week’s winner:
Michael Castille
Distance
dated his girlfriend who lives in Dal-
las, Texas, for three years now.
“When I first came to Tech, I
used to try to see her once every
or two months. But it’s gone down
since then; this year I only got to see
her twice,” he said.
Many students in long-distance
relationships experience the same;
as time goes on, the demands of
college preclude frequent traveling.
However, the relationships do not
have to fade.
Over the years, technology has
created the plight of those in long-
distance relationships.
Such is the case for Mechanical
Engineering freshman John Fuller,
whose girlfriend is currently living
in Thailand and finishing out her
last year of high school. They met
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“if you want [the relationship] to work
badly enough, you’ll make sure that it
does.”
Daniel Larsen
Computer Science major
Academy sets field for 74th annual Oscars

The biggest night in Hollywood is on its way, and The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring shines supreme with thirteen nominations. Also of note is the new Best Animated Feature category added for this year.

The Academy Awards give recognition to films which not only reflect the mood of contemporary Hollywood, but also those which promise to retain their impact on future generations of movie makers and audiences. Producer Laura Ziskin will be putting together another great show, hosted by perennial favorite Whoopi Goldberg.

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring is favorite and above the most dominant feature in cinema for this year, receiving nominations in thirteen categories, including Best Picture, Supporting Actor (Ian McKellen), Art Direction, Writing, Adapted Screenplay, Film Editing and Makeup. “This is a film that didn’t have an international star in it,” McKellen said. “It had a director whose track record in this genre was nonexistent. And of course, this is a movie that doesn’t have an ending. Only a fool would have money into it. Fortunately, News Line Cinema was foolish enough to take the risk.”

The Academy also gave an exceptional amount of attention to Ron Howard’s psychologically provoking, A Beautiful Mind, starting Best Actor in a Leading Role Nominee, Russell Crowe.

Receiving the Best Adapted Screenplay nomination for A Beautiful Mind, is Patrick Goldstein, whose previous work was never close to being as highly commended. Goldstein was formerly considered by most of Hollywood as a “writer for hire,” accredited with an assortment of high-grossing films including films such as Batman Forever, and The Client. Goldstein’s work on A Beautiful Mind reveals a more serious adaptation of a literary work.

In addition to Crowe and Goldstein’s nominations, the film is also nominated for Best Picture, Direction, Supporting Actress (Jennifer Connelly), Film Editing and Makeup.

Speaking of makeup, a surprising no-show on the nominee list in the category for Best Makeup is Rick Baker, for Planet of the Apes. Baker’s nomination left Planet of the Apes expectably with no nominations.

Also receiving less than usual Oscar attention is Steven Spielberg for his Sci-Fi drama A.I. Artificial Intelligence. The film received only two nominations, one for Music (Score) and the other for Visual Effects.

Alongside The Lord of the Rings and A Beautiful Mind among Best Picture nominations are Robert Altman’s mystery suspense thriller Gosford Park, Todd Field’s drama In the Bedroom, and the saucy and scenic Moulin Rouge. Not making a showing in this category, and regrettably so, is the box office smash Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone which only received three nominations.

New category, Best Animated Feature Film debuts this year. Of the nominees, either Shrek, Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius vs. Monsters Inc will become the first winner.

Director Baz Luhrmann’s Moulin Rouge made a loud splash with the Academy, receiving eight total nominations. Despite its electric fast, elaborate costuming and set design, like the other nominees for Best Picture, Moulin Rouge is a core is essentially a conventionally themed film.

The dark horse nominee in the Best Picture category is surely Todd Field’s drama, In the Bedroom. In the Bedroom, is the story of a couple whose only child is enthralled within an ill-fated love affair that ends tragically and the characters’ evolving methods of coping with the loss. Taking In the Bedroom as an anomaly, The Oscars are not known for giving a lot of attention to darker and more probing pieces of work. And the nominee for this year, though all brilliant pieces of work, seem to sternly reaffirm that predisposition. The themes for this year especially after September 11 seem to be predominantly uplifting and inclined to offer comfort in the wake of distress.

Time for grades!

It’s time for Luge!

As the Winter Games take place out west in Salt Lake City, Two Bits has a decidedly Olympic flavor this week.

By Kimberly Rieck

Staff Writer

When the “Greatest Show on Earth” comes to Atlanta, it will feature a new addition unlike anything ever seen before on the circus stage — ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson. Iverson is the first African-American Ringmaster in the history of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. In his two years with the circus, he has dramatically reinvented the show with his unique style.

Iverson, the son of a postal worker and a firefighter, began his career at the age of 11 when he joined the world-renowned Boys Choir of Harlem. While he was with the Boys Choir, he received intense and formal training, and was taught how to use the skills of charm and self-expression through the art of music.

As a member of the choir, he was able to travel around the world and gain invaluable experience for his career. During his world travels, he saw Placido Domingo perform in Japan and sang at the intermission for Luciano Pavarotti’s Concert in Central Park.

The movie opens with a beautiful scene of a lone female driving an expensive car through a mountainous two-lane road. So, of course she is going to start passing cats in front of her and the opera music makes this scene a little over the top. You witness the inevitable crash but you’re not left with the summary.

There wasn’t any amazing cinematography in John Q. The film doesn’t showcase any mind bogglers; the special effects nor a fast-paced winding plot to follow. John Q relies on a powerful story that anyone with a heart can sympathize with.

The movie opens with a beautiful scene of a lone female driving an expensive car through a mountainous two-lane road. So, of course she is going to start passing cats in front of her and the opera music makes this scene a little over the top. You witness the inevitable crash but you’re not left with the summary.

Efforts were made to keep things simple in the script, but the only people who seem to have an understanding of it are the characters themselves. The audience is left with a vague understanding of the events, but there is no closure or sense of satisfaction. Overall, John Q is a well-made film that will appeal to anyone who enjoys a good drama, but it doesn’t quite live up to its potential.

By Alyson Lauer

Contributing Writer

Iverson managed to win over producer Kenneth Feld and director Philip McKinley with his voice and star quality.

McKinley invited him to audition for the position of ringmaster.

Up against 29 other aspiring ringmasters, Iverson faced fierce competition to secure the role.

See Circus, page 18
The Live List:
More concerts than you can shake a stick at, though shaking a stick at a concert would be weird.

Circus
from page 17

As the ringmaster, the role of the ringmaster has been a predominately white role. However, Iverson managed to win over producer Kenneth Feld and McKinnell with his voice and star quality.

Since Iverson has come to the position, he has brought several changes and elevated his role beyond that of the traditional role of ringmaster. His main duty is to lead the audience through the whole experience.

Iverson has to shape the presentation, pace and personality of every performance while embodying the circus and the principles upon which Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey has based itself on for over 130 years.

In direct contrast to any ringmaster before him, Iverson breaks into rhythm and dance. The 131st circus has a “samba-thing” theme. To enhance the performances of all of the circus artists, there is an exciting Latin pulse and Carnival style theme woven through all. All of the songs have been customized to suit his tenor voice. The music that Iverson sings has a Brazilian beat to it.

In addition, Iverson dances along to the music, making him one of the first ringmasters that is able to sing and dance.

To complement Iverson’s singing, the circus has arranged for Iverson to have a chorale of Brazilian dancers to back him up. The Folclorico do Brazil dancers are from Ipanema. Overall, there are 12 dancers that enhance Iverson’s vocal talents with their beautiful and thrilling salsa moves.

Even the Bo and Bello combo has a salsa tune. Bo is the world’s smartest elephant, while Bello Nock is the clown that performs several important stoutkeepers with Bo and Bello even join Iverson in the music-making act. The circus will be at Philips through Feb. 24.
The Technique welcomes your opinion on this crossword puzzle. To voice it, email
entertainment@technique.gatech.edu

The answers may be found upside down on page 20.
family with Denise’s (Kimberly Elsie) car being reposed and towed away and John (Denzel Washington) explaining to her that it was either the car or the house. Mikey, a body-building loving con completes the Archibald family. Slowly, we get to Mikey’s baseball game; he never makes it to second base but collapses in the dirt due to heart failure.

Now Mikey needs a heart transplant but the family’s insurance won’t cover it. A deposit of $75,000 must be made before their name can even get put on a waiting list. Anne Heche, a cold, unconvincing hospital director, flatly tells the couple that they can either come up with the money or try to make their son’s last days happier.

All of their runarounds with getting money and filing paperwork are empathy inducing, yet I still can’t get into it. A frantic phone call from Denise sets John into action and you can finally start to get interested.

Left with no options but to watch his son die, John Q, as he becomes known to the hostage negotiator, decides to lock himself, the cardio doctor and a few random bystanders in the emergency ward. His only demand is that his son be placed on the donor list for a new heart.

A stab wound victim provides comic relief inside while a story hungry news reporter and police chief fire things up outside. The subplots based around their characters are a bit distracting and not developed to the extent of actually being interesting.

John Q is waiting on a miracle, spreading his difficulties with insurance companies and still managing to gain the affection of his hostages while waiting out the police. These scenes with the hostages are the most entertaining probably because they include a pregnant woman, a thug, a sassy young doctor, a rich guy and his blonde girlfriend, and the despised cardio doctor who refuses surgery.

Sniper attempts fail and the police are getting desperate. Unbeknownst to them, John is getting even more impatient and boldly volunteers his own heart. He asks the doctor to perform the transplant after he kills himself. John’s love for his son is so strong that he is willing to give his own life.

John Q will make you angry at society and jealous of the love between father and son, but it won’t, by any means, deny you that warm and fuzzy feeling you get from a story of love and courage. The two hours of my life claimed by the film was time well spent.
I had forgotten a fact about myself: I hate to watch the Olympics on TV. Of course, this fact hit me over the head this week, since it’s all anyone talks about these days. Why should the Two Bits Man hate watching the Olympics on TV? Simple. It’s the sportscasters. Here you have a bunch of people who know nothing about the sports they’re announcing.

As a result, the sportscasters divide their comments into two categories, both of which are equally disgusting. They either make really cheesy attempts at sounding cool and knowledgeable or they slander the contestants. They do the former with comments like “Whoooooaaaa! That was one heck of a run from Ross the Boss on his totally righteous snowboard! Did you see that powder fly?” Even though these are the same sportscasters who would otherwise be announcing college basketball, they are now stuck trying to add color commentary to sports for which most Americans don’t know the rules, so the attempt sounds pretty sad.

When they’re not attempting to sound cool and knowledgeable, they are criticizing every minute error the athletes make. “Gosh, Bob, did you see that incredible wipeout that the French ice skater just made? Let’s take a look at that in slow motion. Notice how her left foot twists just a tiny bit. That’s gonna cost her a medal for sure. I’m surprised she didn’t fall flat on her ass for that terrible blunder.” I just feel sorry for these poor athletes getting so hostilely berated on national television.

Of course, there’s Googlewhacking, a new sport for the rare brainiac who is both a geek and a literature nut. In this sport, you have to develop a two-word combination that when entered into Google will only yield one result. As a catch, the ‘whack’ doesn’t count if it comes from a site that is merely a list of words. For a minute, the Two Bits Man thought he had a conquest with “dodecahedral evangelist,” but a sad fate occurred when it turned out to be a mere spelling list of abstract words. No folks, I am not making this up. If you don’t believe me, I suggest you Google for “googlewhack.” Though you may think that this is a silly sport, unworthy of a true athlete, it’s not such an easy feat to make a successful whack. I felt certain that I would narrow it to the elusive one hit with “Gandhi paradichlorobenzene,” but there is enough common ground between one of the most important figures in world history and the active ingredient in mothballs to make for a whopping three sites.

The problem with googlewhacking is that it doesn’t utilize the snow, and the pedantic members of the IOC require events in the Winter Olympics to use snow or ice. With that in mind, I propose that they institute a new winter sport, Extreme Googlewhacking. I figure that it’ll work just like regular googlewhacking, except it events will be conducted outside in a blizzard while participants wear heavy padding and refer to one another as “dude.”

If Extreme Googlewhacking’s not your speed, perhaps you should consider Extreme Rock-Paper-Scissors. As one of the world’s most underrated sports, rock-paper-scissors never seems to get the acclaim it deserves. I find this utterly perplexing, since the strategy behind the game is utterly mind-boggling. If you don’t take this sport seriously, then I challenge you to play me in a game of rock-paper-scissors using North American rules, for the best three of five. Again, I realize that rock-paper-scissors is not traditionally a winter sport, but it most certainly could be with a little fleece and a nice ice skating rink. Furthermore, the addition of rock-paper-scissors would contribute two new events to the revised program, as both European and North American rules should be accounted for.

With the addition of either of these sports, I think the Olympics would be better for sportscasters. While few sportscasters know the exacting rules of the luge, most are imminently qualified to offer color to a rock-paper-scissors match. Until next week, this is the Two Bits Man reminding you that though it may take some time for the world to accept it, just like men’s figure skating, googlewhacking is a real sport.
Basketball

from page 28

be Muhammad. The athletic, small forward has quickly become a fan favorite with his high-energy play and electrifying dunks in the open floor. While this bench has shown flashes of what it could be, they are still too young and inconsistent to be considered a good bench.

Grade: C

Coaching: Paul Hewitt has done a laudable job in guiding this young team. Following the loss of Michaël Ensomhour to leukemia, Hewitt was left with Akins as the lone senior. Hewitt does have nine freshmen and sophomore on his roster, which bodes well for future seasons. Coach Hewitt has gotten this young team playing up to the level of its talent with impressive wins over Florida State, North Carolina and Clemson and close losses to national powers Maryland and Virginia. The recent turnaround has seen Tech play the way the Yellow Jacket faithful have known they were capable of from the start. A good run in the ACC tournament or a good run into post-season play will definitely set the tone for what appears to be a good future for Georgia Tech basketball.

Final Grade (Not an average): C

Tate

from page 28

placed her in Tech’s all-time ranks as the 12th best in the school’s history. Sideline last season with a stress fracture, Tate has come back with full force to become a dominant leader on and off the court.

Tate, a self-professed gospel singer, is involved in numerous organizations including Tech’s Athletics In Action campus ministry, mentor programs and My House in Atlanta. She has received the Sportswoman of the Year award in her senior year and the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame’s Tip of the Cap Award. Tate has also been named an All-American for Tech’s basketball. She has seen plenty of minutes off the bench at the point, shooting guard, and recently, starting at small forward. Elder has seen plenty of minutes on the court has been the weakness of the Georgia Tech bench. The team with his intensity and electrifying dunks in the open floor. While this bench has shown flashes of what it could be, they are still too young and inconsistent to be considered a good bench.

Grade: C

Coaching: Paul Hewitt has done a laudable job in guiding this young team. Following the loss of Michaël Ensomhour to leukemia, Hewitt was left with Akins as the lone senior. Hewitt does have nine freshmen and sophomore on his roster, which bodes well for future seasons. Coach Hewitt has gotten this young team playing up to the level of its talent with impressive wins over Florida State, North Carolina and Clemson and close losses to national powers Maryland and Virginia. The recent turnaround has seen Tech play the way the Yellow Jacket faithful have known they were capable of from the start. A good run in the ACC tournament or a good run into post-season play will definitely set the tone for what appears to be a good future for Georgia Tech basketball.

Final Grade (Not an average): C

Intramural Notebook

Gridders at top of Hoops IM

I was too busy earlier this semester trying to lure Johnnie Cochran to represent me in my computer science cheating case to register for spring intramurals, but now that the ordeal is over I can concentrate on phase II. If you are a natural leader, you best head to the captains meeting next Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Student Center Theater. That’s Just Dirty

Last night I was cyber-stalking and I came across a very interesting—and good—men’s A-League basketball team. The team: Dirty South Outlaws. Well, it looks like Cory Collins, Ke- rren Fox, and Will Glover have found their true sport. They are averaging 62 ppg and allowing only 36.5 ppg. The next best offensive team in the division, Killasquad, averages only 47.5 ppg. The team finds themselves No. 2 in intramurals.

Could a football game break out?

The No. 3 team in men’s bas- ketball is Kershbumb with some more familiar names including Tech wide receiver Jonathan Smith, Kelley Rhima and Brian Lee. Their bench but—don’t-break defense and run-and-shoot of- fense are both ranked second in the Hoyas division.

Do you need an instruction manual?

Alpha Gamma Delta has not had much luck on the basketball court. The squad is averaging under nine ppg in their three losses while giving up almost 34 ppg. The FIJI softball team is averaging almost seven more runs per game on the artificial turf of SAC field.
Men’s Hoops: Tech (10-15, 3-9 ACC) at Saint Louis (11-14, 5-7 C-USA)

Frontcourt
Saint Louis gets frontcourt presence from Chris Braun and Kenny Brown, the Billikens’ leading rebounder. Ed Nelson comes off of ACC Rookie of the Week honors and is the top freshman rebounder in the ACC. Clarence Moore and B.J. Elder will provide scoring, rebounding, and defense. Luke Schenscher should continue to add a towering defensive presence and help Tech control the glass.

Backcourt
Tech should have an advantage from the outside as Tony Akins continues to be among the conference leaders in scoring and Marvin Lewis joins Akins as the top three point shooting tandem in the ACC. St. Louis relies on a three guard attack with Marque Perry leading the Billikens in scoring. Backcourt mate Jason Edwin is also a scoring threat while Drew Diener leads their perimeter attack.

Defense
Tech will be looking to create an up-tempo game and continue to get offense from its defense using intense full-court pressure. Saint Louis plays a very physical half-court defense that they use to wear teams down. The advantage goes to whichever team can impose its style upon the other.

Coaching
Tech coach Paul Hewitt continues his multi-year plan to transform Tech into a more athletic, more defensively-minded team, and is a very good in-game manager. Lorenzo Romar enters his third season as Billikens’ coach after serving three years as the head coach of Pepperdine and four years as an assistant coach at UCLA. In only his second year at Saint Louis he led the team into the postseason where they won the C-USA title.

Intangibles
Saint Louis beat Tech back in November at the Las Vegas Invitational and will also have the home court advantage as Tech plays a rare late season out of conference road game. Tech has grown and developed into a very different team since that first meeting and is no longer capable of being as easily confused or intimidated.

Forecast
A victory over Saint Louis would help Tech build momentum before closing out their season with a string of four ACC games. Tech must establish tempo, keep Saint Louis away from the free throw line and not get caught playing a possession-to-possession game.

Billikens lose their luck...Jackets 68, Billikens 61.

What is a Billiken?
What exactly is a Billiken? The Billiken was originally a statuette and piggy bank that was a popular fad around 1910. It was such a national phenomenon, that it was coined “Billikenmania.” During this craze William O’Connor, a St. Louis sports writer, noticed that SLU football coach at the time, John Bender, looked remarkably like the famous Billiken. Other writers and cartoonists followed O’Connor’s form and soon the entire team took the coach’s nickname. “Billikenmania” is still in full effect at Saint Louis University where the figurines are considered good luck charms.

last week’s winner
Congratulations to John Rafferty. He was the first to correctly answer that 19-1 is the record of the Tech Club Ice Hockey team. The team is ranked No. 1 in Division III and is hosting the national tournament March 1-3.

thrashers numbers
explain what the number on page 28 represents, and win a pair of thrashers tickets
Skydiving

ties called and asked for it back when I landed. I wanted to move fast when I got to the door. The plane is moving 100 miles per hour through the sky and the wind is loud enough to block out all the other sounds but the plane engines. When I exited, I put one knee on the floor of the plane and the tip of my other shoe hung over the outside of the plane. It’s not a position I wanted to be in for long. I didn’t realize how high 14,000 feet was until I jumped out of the plane well above the clouds. I didn’t realize how high 14,000 feet was; we would jump out of the plane well above the clouds.

The scariest part? The landing. Like the gas gauge on my car, it seemed like the ground came up quicker the closer I got to the end.

The Atmosphere

The people at the hangar Saturday were as diverse as the colors on their parachutes. There were men pushing 60 years of age, middle-aged women and plenty of college students. The one thing absent: the hard-nosed veteran bashing the beginners. There was a real camaraderie in the group with the beginners asking for tips from the jumpmasters, groups of divers arranging 8-way dives. Skydive Atlanta worker Tim Macek blowing the air horn when a diver bifed (messes up) a landing, and a pair of dogs running around the hangar.

The day was beautiful but a little chilly. The cool weather showed in the number of divers at Skydive Atlanta. There were approximately 20 skydivers for the wind. February Saturday, during the summer a Saturday will draw well over 60 divers. The hangar Skydive Atlanta is housed in looks more like a hangout for college students; there are couches, a big screen television, a PlayStation, several VCRs, a basketball hoop, two grills, firewood and more. There’s even a disco ball hanging from the tall ceiling. The Tech Club has a special area for their equipment, complete with a large banner. The club houses $30,000 worth of equipment in the facility.

A History of Success

The Tech Skydiving Club has a storied history. The club was founded in 1969 and two of its members were the first to conduct a banner pass. The Skydiving Club has not only had an effect on Tech students but the sport as a whole. Former club member Steve Snyder invented the wrist-mounted altimeter, which is now standard gear for skydivers. Former members have also formed a professional team that was regarded as one of the best in the world. The club has won 12 collegiate titles in the past 15 years, the most recent of which was won in 1996. The Air Force Academy won the collegiate tournament last year, but Tech was one of the highest finishing colleges that isn’t a service academy school. The Jackets were the last team to beat Air Force.

“I’m not uncommon to see a kid on Air Force with 500 jumps,” said Whitcomb. “It’s almost like a varsity sport; they can jump for free.”

The club has also seen its members land on the artificial turf of SAC Fields and on the soft grass of Russ Chandler Stadium, home of the No. 9 collegiate baseball squad.

The Sport Parachute Club has 12 members, some who dive once a month, like IE major Jim Pallotta, and others, like Paul Bellavine and Jonathan Moshe, who jump almost every weekend.

For divers who want more than just the thrill of jumping out of the plane, the club has its own competition team. GT Invincid, composed of club members Jonathan Barlett, Allison Yaits, Brian Timberlake and Craig Sellars will compete against other Georgia schools in a new collegiate league and in the national tournament. The 4-way competition teams are the most common, but teams can also be made of eight and 16 members. Team formations require more effort than just jumping out of the plane and holding hands.

“Three to four hours are spent during the week on creapers, practicing formations on the ground, called dirt-diving,” explained competition team member Allison Yaits. “We also spend approximately two hours reviewing videos of our jumps to help improve our timing, technique, and choreography. The captains put in another 15 hours a week working on sponsorship, funding, planning dives, planning practices and talking with other teams on training strategies.”

In addition, five hours are spent reviewing film of other squad’s dives. The team practices at the drop zone two weekends each month to make an average of 4-10 dives a month.

Sky-High Price?

Talk to college students and few can afford to buy toilet paper, let alone jump from a plane. A tandem jump where you’re harnessed to an instructor, costs $140 for Tech students, a discount of 20 dollars. To jump by yourself, the price through the Tech Skydiving Club is $249 to complete the first phase of the accelerated freefall program. This includes two instructors assisting the diver in the freefall and a six-hour training course. The instructors guide the landing over radio. For skydivers with a U.S. Parachute Association (USPA) License, the cost is $19 per dive.

One advantage of joining the GT Sport Parachute Club is that they have all the equipment needed to dive. A complete equipment set will cost between $4,000-$5,000, which is out of the price range of a majority of college students.

What if the parachute doesn’t open?

While making the drive to the hangar just outside of Thomaston, I asked Matt the obvious question. “What happens if the parachute doesn’t open?”

Four members of the Tech club had to have the reserve canopy (the main canopy did not work) in the past year; none sustained serious injuries.

Whitcomb emphasized the importance of realizing a parachuter still has plenty of time when the main canopy doesn’t open.

“The worst thing you can do is flip out,” said the Tech club president. “The lowest that you can deploy your reserve is 600 feet, which means that you have about 15 seconds after opening to deal with a malfunction.”

One of the biggest advances in skydiving safety was made in 1986 with the advent of the Cypres Automatic Activation Device (AADD). The Cypres, which has the processing power of a personal computer, is placed inside a skydiver’s rig and automatically fires the reserve canopy if the diver passes 750 ft. above ground level at a speed of 78 mph or more. The Tech club has the device, which costs $1300 to purchase and between $1100 and $200 dollars a year to service, on all seven of the skydiving rigs the club owns. It is estimated that between a fourth and a third of skydiving deaths each year could be saved by the device.

How many skydiving deaths are there each year? From 1990-2000, the high was 44 deaths in 1998 and the low was 23 deaths in 1990. In 2000, there were 30 skydiving deaths. During the nineties an average of 30 deaths occurred per year, according to the USPA, one fatality per 115,000 jumps. For a comparison, SCUBA diving has an average of 47 deaths per 100,000 SCUBA dives.

Will I do it again?

If I could afford to dive regularly, I’d do it in a heartbeat. There really is no other activity that compares. I remember when I first arrived at the Skydive Atlanta hangar I wondered was skydiving was all the Sport Parachute Club President talked about.

Now I know why.
Here are the numbers...what do they mean?

**ERA of freshman softball pitcher Jessica Sallinger during her senior season in high school.**

In her first start for the Lady Jackets, she pitched a no-hitter, striking out 11 of 15 batters that she faced.

**Number of runs scored by the Tech baseball team on Sunday against Georgia Southern without the aid of a hit.**

There were three walks, three wild pitches, three stolen bases, and both a passed ball and an error.

**Ranking of South Alabama, who the Tech Women’s Tennis team upset on Sunday 6 to 1, Alabama’s sole point came from the doubles event in which they won two of the three matches.**

**Three point shooting percentage of GT Sport Parachute Club President Matt Whitcomb (bottom left) jumps with five other skydivers from other schools. They have just exited the plane and are beginning to build the formation.**

By Derek Haynes

**Sports Editor**

Tim Marek, co-owner of Skydive Atlanta, scanned the hanger on Saturday afternoon as he talked about his views on skydiving.

“I think everyone in here has a screw loose,” said Marek, who has made over 900 dives since he started three years ago. Marek may be right, but after experiencing my first skydive last weekend, I think Marek and his fellow skydivers would find it difficult to go through life like normal human beings.

Humans aren’t made to fly.

**Gridders take to the court**

There are two teams in the IVS Basketball League composed of players that many fans would recognize at Bobby Dodd. Page 25

**What’s a Billiken anyway?**

Paul Hewitt and the GT hoops squad heads to St. Louis Saturday to take on the Billikens in a non-conference matchup. Page 26

**Tenuta in as coordinator**

Chuck Galasy has continued to fill up his coaching staff with coaching and recruiting talent. Jon Tenuta has been chosen to take the position vacated by former Tech defensive coordinator Rick Smith. Tenuta left the same job at North Carolina to take the position as Yellow Jacket. Tenuta has long been credited as a gifted defensive coach and has coached at Marshall and Ohio State, among others. Brick Haley, from Baylor, was also hired as the line backers coach.

**Several Jackets reap honors**

For the second week in a row a member of the Tech basketball squad has received ACC Rookie of the Week. Last week center Luke Schenscher received the honors, this week Ed Nelson claimed the recognition. During the past week Nelson averaged 15.8 points per game and shot 63 percent from the field and collected 4.5 rebounds.

On the baseball side of the ACC, Tech hurler Kyle Bakker was named ACC Player of the Week for his performance against Georgia Southern. In his first start of the season, the sophomore gave up only four singles and no runs in seven innings. He struck out seven of the 27 batters that he faced.

**Regina Tate receives Sports-woman of the Year Award**

By Katie Neal

Contributing Writer

Last week another milestone was set for Georgia Tech Women’s Basketball. On February 6 Regina Tate, the senior forward from Columbus, Ga., became the first Georgia Tech athlete to win the Georgia Commission on Women Collegiate Sportswoman of the Year Award at the annual Georgia Women’s Internship Network’s Community Awards Program. Sponsored by the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the association works to provide the recognition and promote an awareness of and a network for women in sports.

Coach Agnus Berenato, who received the G.A.H.P.E.R.D. College Coach of the Year last year, nominated Tate for the honor. The award is presented to a female athlete over 18 years of age who has represented her sport(s) in performance, leadership and community service in a university, college or junior college. Tate was competing against four other finalists from Georgia schools for this award.

As both a Dean’s List mechanical engineering student with a 3.75 GPA and an outstanding player with enormous work ethic, Regina Tate is certainly worthy of the award. She is the non-all-around defender for the Lady Jackets and currently second in scoring and rebounding, averaging 13.2 points and 7.7 rebounds per game. Her rebounding average has put her into the top five in the ACC and has

**Falling from 14,000 ft.**

By David Rottman

Sports Editor

COURTESY TECH SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB

GT Sport Parachute Club President Matt Whitcomb (bottom left) jumps with five other skydivers from other schools. They have just exited the plane and are beginning to build the formation.

By Derek Haynes

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Three point shooting percentage of a hit. There were three walks, three wild pitches, three stolen bases, and both a passed ball and an error.

**by the numbers**

**0.00**

ERA of freshman softball pitcher Jessica Sallinger during her senior season in high school. In her first start for the Lady Jackets, she pitched a no-hitter, striking out 11 of 15 batters that she faced.

**2**

Number of runs scored by the Tech baseball team on Sunday against Georgia Southern without the aid of a hit. There were three walks, three wild pitches, three stolen bases, and both a passed ball and an error.

**25**

Ranking of South Alabama, who the Tech Women’s Tennis team upset on Sunday 6 to 1, Alabama’s sole point came from the doubles event in which they won two of the three matches.

**40.5**

Three point shooting percentage of GT Sport Parachute Club President Matt Whitcomb (bottom left) jumps with five other skydivers from other schools. They have just exited the plane and are beginning to build the formation.

**Men’s Basketball Progress Report**

By David Rottman

Contribution Writer

**Hoops barely passing by**

**Backcourt mates Tony Akins and Marvin Lewis have been the most consistent offensive performers for the Jackets. The two are the only Jackets averaging in double figures for the season. Akins, Tech’s top scorer at 15.9 points per game, has shown not just the ability to drain the three, with his ACC leading 40.5 percent from beyond the arc, but also an ability to create opportunities for his teammates. His average of 5.6 assists per game is good for fifth in the ACC. Lewis, while occasionally failing to show up in big games, has given the Jacket three a consistent perimeter threat, while occasionally failing to show up in big games, has given the Jacket three a consistent perimeter threat, while occasionally failing to show up in big games, has given the Jacket three a consistent perimeter threat.**

**Frontcourt: While the starting lineup has varied, the Tech frontcourt has had it moments. The bright spots have been sophomore Clarence Moore and freshman Ed Nelson. Moore has been instrumental in the Jackets’ recent success, averaging 10.4 points per game and 46.4 percent from three in ACC play. Nelson has been one of the top freshmen in the ACC, averaging 8.9 points (10.8 against the ACC) and a team-leading 6.8 rebounds, which leads all ACC rookies. The third frontcourt member has rotated throughout the season. Nine of Tech’s 10-man rotation have started a game this season.**

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