Domestic partners get benefits

By Tony Kluemper

News Editor

After more than a year of debate and planning, Tech administrators recently announced that the Institute would implement a new limited benefits program to employees’ same-sex domestic partners.

Under the new policy, same-sex domestic partners of Tech employees’ would be part of a limited benefits program. The program would allow access to dental insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance, which is now only available to employee spouses.

According to Danny Ingram, a staff member of the Office of Information Technology (OIT) the new policy will allow Tech to further compete for faculty members. “In the highly competitive environment to higher education, an institution that needs to maintain a competitive advantage must recruit and retain the best employees and students,” Ingram told the Whistle. “We [Tech] cannot afford to lose gay and lesbian faculty, staff, researchers or students to other universities that offer domestic benefits.”

In fact, in a study conducted in 2000 it was found that of the top ten ranked universities in the nation, all had some type of same-sex domestic partner benefits. However, only three of the top ten public universities had such policies. In order to compete with the higher ranked universities, Tech decided to make a change.

The process began in the summer of 2001 when a small group of faculty and staff from schools throughout the University System of Georgia met to discuss the issue of offering domestic benefits to same-sex partners of System employees.

In the year since, numerous groups devised a plan to offer limited benefits to same-sex partners. Under the plan, the main difference between policies for same-sex partners and standard for spouses is the fact that under the same-sex program, Tech will not pay any of the premium for the insurance policies provided.

Though some consider the introduction of limited benefits as a step in the right direction, some wonder why Tech doesn’t follow the lead of Emory, which has a policy that offers the same benefits to same-sex domestic partners as spouses.

However, according to Associate Vice President for Human Resources Chuck Donbaugh, Tech cannot offer to pay the premium for same-sex partners because of regulations from the Board of Regents.

“The University System’s benefits program is regulated by the Board of Regents, and that program does not include domestic partner coverage,” Donbaugh told the Whistle.
In order to receive the benefits, employees and partners would have to sign a “Declaration of Domestic Partnership” stating that they reside together, are neither married nor related by blood and are at least 18 years old. In addition, those wanting benefits would have to submit documentation substantiating the domestic partnership, such as evidence of a joint checking account.

Many are now hoping that the Board of Regents will adopt a policy towards same-sex partner benefits so that Tech would be able to offer the equal benefits.

“I believe that the benefits should be equal for both same-sex partners and married partners,” said David Prophitt, the Associate Program Director for Community Services. “The Board of Regents should follow the example of numerous other corporations and institutions in this area.”

Now that Tech has developed a policy for faculty and staff on this issue, many students are wondering if similar policies for the same-sex domestic partners of students will be adopted in the near future.

In fact, last semester SGA voted on a resolution that would give similar benefits to same-sex domestic partners of undergraduate and graduate students. The resolution failed, however, due greatly to the fact that Tech and the Board of Regents had no such policy for faculty and staff.

In the end, most agree that this is a great move by the institute. “It’s a great step in the right direction of Tech having a more diverse community,” said Jonathan Duke, co-organizer of GT Coming Out Week.
RHA polls student opinion on smoking ban

By Sriram Narasimhan
Senior Staff Writer

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) will be conducting surveys next week in order to evaluate the smoking policy in every residence hall on campus. The current policy states that only if a resident allows his or her roommate to smoke in the room, may the smoker do so. Additionally, residents may not smoke in the hallways.

According to RHA, however, complaints by non-smokers have risen in the last two years regarding that smoke still leaks into the hallway from a room that permits smoking, especially in the traditional style dorms.

“It is very rare where you can pass by a room and not smell smoke,” said CA David Ewing.

The impetus to conduct an email-based survey became apparent at the beginning of the year, when the Harrison-Towers hall council, part of Freshman Experience (FE), unanimously voted to ban smoking in those two halls. The problem with this, however, is that a hall council cannot enforce such a decision according to Housing policy.

Although RHA took the vote by Harrison-Towers as a surprise and later informed the FE hall council that the decision could not be binding, it did move to draft a campus-wide survey that would help RHA ultimately decide whether a complete ban on smoking should exist. Smoking would still be permitted around designated entrances to the buildings.

“We are not looking to ban smoke, but just evaluate the current smoking policy,” said Jason Hurley, RHA Vice President. “We are looking to protect the rights of both smokers and non-smokers.”

In fact, the survey from RHA will be emailed to every Tech resident, including graduate students and those living in apartment style halls, to see if the ban would be appreciated by every resident. It is already known that an overwhelming majority of students in traditional-style halls would like to see the ban, but that apartment residents are less enthusiastic, since secondhand smoke does not readily affect those students.

The concern, therefore, is that if a smoke-free policy were implemented, it would have to be an all-around ban for all the residence halls, not just buildings where the majority of its residents agreed to a smoke-free environment. This is due to hesitation about tinkering with the housing priority system.

“It will be an all or nothing choice for the entire campus. If the majority of the students do not want the ban, we will stop here,” said Hurley.

An email will be sent out next week providing a website link where students can fill out the survey online. The results will be tabulated automatically. If
they indicate that the residents prefer a change in the smoking policy, RHA will draft a resolution based upon those results. If the resolution passes in the RHA Legislative Council, it will be sent to the Department of Housing as a recommendation.

Housing will then attempt to address logistical issues such as damages to furniture incurred by smoke, a concern for apartments and traditional-style halls, as well as fines or judicial affairs relating to smoking in smoke-free designated areas.

Although a majority of non-smokers might agree to a campus-wide ban in the survey, there are still many smokers on campus who feel that the current policy remains fair for both groups.

“I don’t think the smoke in the hallways is detrimental,” said Brad Esclabon, a resident in an FE dorm and occasional smoker. “It’s not concentrated enough.”

Proponents of the survey hope that both smokers and non-smokers attend the groups so that both sides are represented at focus groups scheduled for the week of November 18.

“We have to find a balance between the rights of people who do not want to be affected by secondhand smoke and the rights of those who want to smoke where they can,” said Heather Surrency, Wellness Center director and one of the authors of the survey.

RHA also plans to discuss the surveys at a town hall meeting on Nov. 14 in Room 117 of the Student Services building.
Clough influential in new sewer improvements

By Daniel Amick
Senior Staff Writer

Atlanta’s aging sewer system has been called an environmental disaster. Some parts of the system are over 130 years old and have just one pipe to transport both sewage and runoff water. When heavy rainfall hits the Atlanta area, as happened this week, the system overflows and spills millions of gallons of raw sewage into backyards, local streams, and rivers.

The Atlanta City Council formally endorsed elements of “Clean Water Atlanta,” Mayor Shirley Franklin’s plan to fix Atlanta’s sewer system Monday. Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough played a major part in the development of the plan as Chair of the Mayor’s Clean Water Advisory Panel.

“Most of Clean Water Atlanta is based on the Clough panel’s recommendations,” said Franklin.

The $3 billion proposal calls for the gradual separation of key sewage and runoff pipes as well as the construction of two giant underground tunnels. Each of these tunnels will be capable of temporarily storing 300 million gallons of runoff. Once the rain stops, the runoff will slowly be filtered, cleaned, and released. The massive plan will be implemented over the next four years.

“If we are not careful, [the building program] could raise water and sewer rates so high our city will be unaffordable for most of us. That is why we are seeking the most effective, lowest cost alternatives,” said Franklin.

Franklin’s plan had a number of critics, including local residents and the Sierra Club, who had pushed for complete separation of the sewage and runoff systems.

Clough’s role in the process began back in June. Franklin asked Clough to organize and lead an independent group of nine experts as they reviewed the city’s plan. Clough selected civil engineers, wastewater management specialists and public health experts to serve on the panel. The group reviewed Franklin’s plan and held a series of four public meetings over the course of several months this summer. The panel heard from experts, city officials and members of the community. In September, they offered a series of recommendations.

“In developing our recommendations to the mayor, we focused on three key issues: water quality, schedule and quality of life for residents,” said Clough.

The panel proposed a way to reduce the number of bio-solids filtering stations from six to four and to eliminate a regulator plant. The measure will save the city about $155 million. Other recommendations will result in fewer construction disruptions for residents and keep the project on schedule.
The schedule of the plan is critical because in 1998, the city of Atlanta settled a lawsuit with the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. The settlement requires that any cleanup plan be completed by 2007.

Clough’s panel also looked at alternative plans, including the one put forward by residents. They determined that such a plan would cost $200 million more and would never be completed by the 2007 deadline.

“This plan achieves the highest water quality at the lowest cost in the shortest amount of time,” said Franklin.

This marks Clough’s third foray into public policy in the last year. He also served on a committee set up by Georgia Governor Roy Barnes to study natural gas deregulation, and participated in President George W. Bush’s economic forum in August that brought various experts, leaders and citizens together to offer economic advice. Since last December, Clough has also been a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.
Graduates approve two new charters

By Tony Kluemper

News Editor

After allocating nearly $20,000 at last week’s meeting, the Graduate senators sped through this week’s session; the meeting lasted less than an hour. Most of the bills presented dealt with the approval of charters for Tech’s newest student organizations, which resulted in little contention throughout the meeting.

The one allocation bill that sparked any debate among the senators was an allocation to the Office of International Education (OIE) to fund its annual Food Fair. According to senator Gaurav Asthana, who authored the bill, the fair is part of the Culture Fest event and will take place Nov. 18 on Skiles Walkway.

Asthana commented that the Food Fair had been very popular with students in past years. “This event has always been very popular among students with over 500 students being served last year alone,” said Asthana.

In addition, the organization had suffered from a lack of corporate sponsorship that had been available in past years, and many senators wondered if any of the student organizations participating would be helping to fund the event. “We don’t ask the student organizations participating to fund the event because they will be preparing the food and serving it to students,” said Asthana.

During the debate, JFC chairman Chris Webb commented on why the bill had failed to gain JFC’s recommendation. “In the end, in this bill we were going to end up paying five dollars of an eight dollar meal, and a majority of the members of JFC felt this was too much,” said Webb.

Some senators suggested that OIE should increase ticket prices, which are currently three dollars a meal, in order to offset some of the costs. However, Asthana felt that if the cost for the meals was too high, students would be less likely to participate in the event.

Once the vote was called, even further confusion erupted as numerous senators, including coordinating officer Jennifer Matthews, questioned the calculation of the total money requested in the bill. In the end, senators came up with three to four different totals with little agreement on which total was correct.

Asthana then asked for a motion to go against JFC policy and include the funding of food in the allocation bringing the new total to just over $2,900. When the votes were counted, the bill passed with the food funding included.

The senators also approved the charters of two new organizations: the Yellow Jackets Skeet Shooters and the Yellow Jackets Table Tennis team.

According to JCOC chair Tim Cailloux, both charters were approved under
JCOC policy as there are no other organizations currently serving the same purpose on campus.

The other chartering bill of the night, for the Glory Phi God organization, was tabled due to the fact that no representatives were present to defend their positions after JCOC recommended against approving the charter.

President Alan Michaels also announced the possible formation of a student Capital Campaign organized by members of SGA, which will be presented in a bill at next week’s meeting.
Undergrads vote to fund Food Fair

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

House representatives discuss a bill for the allocation of funds to the Office of International Education to sponsor the Food Fair as part of the annual Culture Fest.

By Daniel Amick
Senior Staff Writer

SGA President Tiffany Massey kicked off Tuesday night’s meeting of the Undergraduate House of Representatives with a lively game of SGA Trivia. She asked questions like “What does JCOC stand for?” (Joint Campus Organizations Committee), and, “How many members are on the Joint Finance Committee?” (10).

More entertaining than the trivia questions themselves was the spectacle of various SGA members attempting, often unsuccessfully, to accurately throw small plastic containers of candy to representatives who correctly answered a question. While Massey’s aim was fairly accurate, Vice President of Administrative Affairs Eric Clopper nearly took someone’s head off. SGA Executive Vice President Nate Watson, probably hoping to avoid hitting the overhead lights, aimed low and smashed a candy container into the first row of desks.

After trivia, and with sugar now pumping through their veins, representatives dove into the night’s agenda. They first tabled an allocation bill to the Chess Club and then considered a slate made up of two bills: an allocation to the Women’s Gymnastics Team, and an allocation to SAC One Night Stand. Members voted to remove the bill for SAC One Night Stand and consider it separately because the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) had cut portions of the bill requesting money for t-shirts. Without much discussion, representatives passed the bill with the t-shirt funding intact.

When an allocation to Fall Fest 2002’s International Food Fair came to the floor, nobody seemed to be able to figure out exactly how much money to allocate. After sorting through incorrect calculations made by the JFC and an estimate made by the Graduate Student Senate, members finally settled on the correct allocation amount.
Then, representatives entered into a prolonged discussion over whether SGA should actually fund food for the Food Fair. JFC’s policy is to cut out such funding and the House generally follows such recommendations.

Management Rep. Ben Lawder and MSE Rep. Glenn Matthews both fought hard to adopt the JFC amendment cutting the food funding, citing a need to be consistent with every bill they consider. At first that seemed to be majority opinion.

Then, Public Policy Rep. Michael Handelman shot back, saying that JFC policies were only suggestions to the UHR.

“We still have minds to make an intelligent decision,” said Handelman.


“When my constituents come to me, I’m going to tell them it was you all who did this, and not me,” said Management Rep. Randi Truelove, addressing the fact that cutting food funding would raise the cost of a meal from three to six dollars. In the end the JFC amendment failed and the bill passed in its original form with food funding intact.

In other business, representatives approved by unanimous acclamation a bill appointing about twenty people to Institute-wide Committees. The three chartering bills up for consideration were all tabled because no organization representatives were present.

President Massey also addressed a bill in New Business. The bill would provide funding for an effort to launch a Capital Campaign. The idea is to sell bricks with names inscribed on them to alumni, students, faculty and anyone else who is interested. The bricks would then be laid in walkways somewhere on campus. Money raised in the campaign could reach 2.5 million dollars and would go directly to a Student Life Endowment that would fund student activities on campus.
Breaking the Bubble

Perdue upsets Barnes for governor

Sonny Perdue defeated incumbent Roy Barnes to become Georgia’s first Republican governor since Reconstruction. He received a telephone concession from Barnes around midnight, and a congratulatory call from President Bush. Hailing from Bonaire, Perdue won the race with 52 percent of the total votes. Barnes commented that his defeat was likely linked to a nationwide Republican uprising and his push to change the Georgia state flag to exclude the Confederate symbol.

Chambliss defeats Cleland for Senate seat

With President George W. Bush’s backing, Republican Saxby Chambliss upset Max Cleland in a bitter race for the Georgia seat in the United States Senate. Chambliss is a four-term Congressman from Moultrie and the current chair of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security. He said that he will make restoring confidence in the economy a priority. The victory ends one of the most negative campaigns in recent Georgia history.

GOP takes U. S. Senate, keeps House

After Republican Norm Coleman’s win in Minnesota, the Republican party will now have at least a 51-seat majority in the United States Senate. Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott attributed the victories to issues such as antiterrorism, homeland security and dealing with the economy. The GOP also won at least 226 seats in the House of Representatives (218 are needed for a majority).


The United States took the final draft of its resolution on Iraq to the United Nations Security Council, hoping to win approval after eight weeks of negotiation. The revisions make concessions to allies who feared that the original draft could trigger a new war against Iraq. The main idea, however, remains the same, according to U. S. officials: a threat of serious consequences if Iraq does not comply with the stringent new weapons inspections imposed.

Sharon announces early elections

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced in a surprise move that Israel would hold elections eight months early. Sharon’s opponents reacted quickly to the announcement, speaking out about Israel’s shaky security, Palestinian conflicts, and a possible American war against Iraq. Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he would accept a previously made offer to become Sharon’s new foreign minister. Sharon criticized his rivals as irresponsible or self-important, forcing him to choose early elections as the “least bad option.”
NEWS BRIEFS

Ramblin’ Nights to be held tonight

The next Ramblin’ Nights event for the game against FSU will be held tonight from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Student Center.

The event will feature the comedy of Chris Rock’s brother, Tony, as well as a live jazz band, massage therapists and a PlayStation 2 tournament. Free food will be served at midnight.

Signups for alumni dinner almost over

The Georgia Tech Student Alumni Association is hosting an Alumni Dinner event Sunday, Nov. 17. Interested students can register online at cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/saa by 5 p.m. this Sunday. There will be an information session Monday at 6:15 p.m. at the Alumni house.

Biomedical device aids in bypass surgery

Ray Vito of the School of Biomedical Engineering and other engineers have developed a device that mechanically lengthens an artery in patients preparing for coronary artery bypass surgery.

Vito is CEO of Medanoia Medical Inc. which he founded to market the device.
OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Domestic partners

Georgia Tech’s new policy of providing limited benefits to same-sex domestic partners will improve the Institute, as it will allow us to attract faculty from a more diverse range of academics. This policy demonstrates Tech’s continued leadership among public universities and will enable the Institute to have a more prestigious academic environment. Although the policy does not extend the full range of benefits that married, heterosexual couples get, it does demonstrate Tech’s commitment to recruiting the best possible faculty in order to improve Tech’s standing among institutes of higher learning.

While the policy itself will bring Georgia Tech closer to the idea of equality for all people, the way that the policy is presented, applied and enforced will be essential to its success. Because Tech is a conservative campus in a conservative state, the policy should not be presented as an explicit endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle. Rather, the policy should be presented as a benefit to campus because of the better academic community it will build-a based on tolerance and equity.

Before the benefits are instated, several implementation issues must be resolved. Safeguards against fraud should be formulated to protect Georgia Tech and the taxpayers of Georgia against illegitimate claims. Assertions of long-term relationships should be required before benefits are extended.

If similar benefits are not offered to unmarried, long-term heterosexual couples, they should be extended to them in the interest of fairness. Additionally, these benefits should be extended to the same-sex partners of students as well as faculty and staff. These benefits would be especially important for attracting the most diverse graduate student body. Same-sex benefits are important for graduate students as they are much more likely to be in a long-term committed relationship. Attracting graduate students from the largest possible field will also improves Tech’s rankings, making the policy providing same-sex partner benefits a positive for the entire Institute.

Smoking policy

The changes in Housing’s smoking policy being investigated by the Residence Hall Association are too paternalistic and controlling. While smoking is annoying to non-smokers and dangerous to everyone, prohibiting smoking in all Georgia Tech dorms is too restrictive a policy. Instead, the current policy should be more stringently enforced. The policy should be enforced in the same method that quiet hours are. If someone is being too loud in the halls during quiet hours, any resident may ask him or her to be quiet or talk to housing staff about the problem. If a smoker’s smoke is bothersome to any other resident, whether they be roommates or hallmates, he or she should move to an area where they do not bother anyone. A policy like this would effectively solve the problem without being overly restrictive.
The RHA’s response to resident’s complaints about smoking in the dorms reflects well on the organization. After hearing numerous complaints about a problem in housing, RHA took action to correct the situation, fulfilling its responsibility to Tech residents. Additionally, allowing students to vote on what they think the ideal policy is will make students feel more connected to the making of Housing policy and more in control of their own lives.
Student amnesia leads to unsatisfactory policies

By Sara Cames
Opinions Editor

A recent article in the Technique reported on the lack of funds to renovate the bookstore space. Dr. Lee Wilcox, Vice President of Student Affairs, said, “The availability of funding is influencing the configuration of the space,” leading to rampant speculation that this space will not be used in the way that is detailed in the Student Center Expansion Task Force report.

Although it is difficult to tell how this situation will be resolved, I’m worried that students’ best interests will be ignored in whatever contingency plan is formulated. Most of the students who formulated the plans for the bookstore space have graduated, and this lack of funds presents the perfect situation for those plans to be changed.

Though students were promised this space as an expansion of one of the smallest student centers in the nation, there has been little campus outrage about the idea that Tech’s numerous student organizations will not get the support they deserve.

All of this brings me to my point: because students are so apt to forget the promises of the administration and faculty, Tech officials often have free range in their actions, even if they fly in the face of student opinion. Students stay at Tech an average of five years; most administrators and faculty stay here for 15 or more. Because our time as individual students is so short, promises that are made to the student body can sometimes be conveniently forgotten, especially after the students agitating for the change have all graduated.

Senior finals are another excellent example. Many underclassmen may not even know there was a time when seniors were not required to take final exams during their graduating semester. This rule was a Tech tradition and allowed students to receive their real diplomas when walking across stage.

At the time the change was being proposed, there was a massive student outcry against the policy. The Faculty Senate voted for the change, knowing that student opposition to the plan would die out as soon as those students directly affected by the change graduated.

I understand that at times, administrators and faculty must make decisions that we as students do not like but are necessary for us to get a good education; I, however, do not believe that forcing graduating seniors to take final exams is one of these decisions. By approving a policy with little noticeable educational value over the strong wishes of a majority of students, the administration and faculty simply revealed that they believe they can ignore student opinion when it suits their own interests.
Funding for SAC II is another situation in which student opinion did not play the role that it should have during the decision-making process. While most students supported the idea of updating Tech’s recreation facilities and were even willing to financially support it, many of them felt that poor fundraising on the part of the administration was behind the $54 fee increase that students were being asked to approve.

Some students even suggested alternate plans, such as increasing fees only when the facilities were complete so that those students who had access to the improved gym would be the ones to fund it. Student Government failed the fee increase, but the administration continued with plans to raise the fees anyway, claiming that the close vote in SGA demonstrated that students wanted the new facilities.

While most students are happy about the coming improvements to SAC, the idea that the administration would ignore a vote opposing the fee increase demonstrates the extent to which student opinion is disregarded.

I bring up these examples not to renew controversy on issues that are in the past but to point out that student input is often ignored on this campus. Sometimes, it is not even sought—the bookstore move and the changes to the introductory CS courses being prime examples. There are probably countless other policies and programs that created long-forgotten student controversy that I have not even heard of because of the extent of student amnesia on this campus.

What is especially disturbing about this phenomenon is how successful programs and policies are that administrators and faculty collaborate on. Undergraduate research creates benefits for professors, students and the Institute as a whole. The Honor Code, which required collaboration of faculty, administration and students, was successful in its first years but has recently suffered many troubles as faculty have stopped supporting the Code and students have lost faith in the system.

While the faculty and administration have a responsibility to take student opinion into account, we students also have an obligation to use the power that we have. We must begin exercising our right to discuss issues of concern with the faculty and administration as well as communicating to upcoming upperclassmen and incoming students the problems of the past. It is only with this sharing of history that we can begin to make the faculty and administration more responsive to our needs. If we are content to forget problems as soon as an unsatisfactory solution is forced upon us, we will never be able to achieve changes that would make Tech a better place for us all.
Advertising on the internet is ubiquitous, unavoidable

By Stephen Baehl
Copy Editor

Congratulations! If this article is not flashing, you’ve been selected as a winner! Click here to claim your prize!

Oh, wait, wrong media type.

Yes, we are in the midst of the Golden Era of Internet Advertising in all its glorious...um, splendor. No one is safe; this is a threat that bears down upon us all with equal weight. Something must be done, if only to help the vast Internet community cope with the invasion of their once pleasantly independent, uninterrupted surfing spree. CLICK HERE FOR 4 FREE DVDs!!!

It all started with some sadistic little marketer (probably spawned from a place similar to the genius that brought us telemarketing) and his emails one day. Sending out letters to all his little marketer cohorts, he suddenly realized how similar this “emailing” thing was to choking thousands upon thousands of mailboxes full of worthless junk mail. Only, this would cost less.

And so, the virus that is junk mail spread to the Internet. It was only a logical step, then, to take the idea of large, annoying billboards lining the highway and translate it to the concept of large, even more annoying banners cluttering the information superhighway.

Even better, those banners could be made to pop up on the innocent browser’s computer, coming between said user and said user’s browsing experience! “Let’s make everything as impossibly inconvenient and annoying as possible-people are sure to buy our products!”

This brings us, then, to the present day. BUY THE NEW WIRELESS X-CAM TODAY!!! Er, sorry about that. Okay, let’s try to look at the positive. After all, there is a reason for everything’s existence—even the duck-billed platypus has a purpose (it amuses people just by the way it looks). So, perhaps pop-up ads, banners and spam have a purpose too, right? ...Right? Hey, where are you going?

Okay, so all those intrepid webmasters out there that provide us with all these wonderful web sites have to pay for their efforts with both time and money. In return, allowing some advertiser to leech off a page at least serves to bring a source of income to the webmaster. This makes it viable for people to continue producing pages that can be viewed for free.

So, if nothing else, thank the ads for the free browsing. Then promptly curse at them and close the window. Of course, be sure to make a mental note of the product being advertised so you can boycott it. CLICK THE MOVING MONKEY AND WIN A PRIZE!!
A more practical solution might be to try a pop-up killer. I’m not going to go into too much detail on how one works—those of you who would care know more about it than I do, and those of you who don’t care wouldn’t want me to go beyond the words “Java script.” And no, that has no relation to Starbucks. The handy thing about pop-up killers is that they can be disabled whenever they interfere with a site you are actually trying to view properly. Otherwise, they rather successfully do what their name suggests: kill pop-up ads. We can only hope the death of those annoying things is slow and painful. Perhaps a pop-up torturer would be a good alternative program... CLICK HERE FOR FREE MONEY!!!

So, on to another serious topic of concern. Spam. Junk email. The spawn of Satan. Call it what you will; we all know what you mean. This creation is much like the curious mosquito. It serves no real purpose other than to annoy you, and perhaps occasionally suck your blood. Or, at least your limited space on a free web-based email account.

So what can be done about these binary terrors? There are several methods of combating them. One is fairly common: junk mail filters. Hotmail.com offers one, as do many other email servers and programs. Just make sure you don’t accidentally filter out your weekly newsletters of...well, whatever it is you subscribe to.

The second solution is far less practical, but far more fun. Chain letters. That’s right; fight fire with fire. Who jumps for joy when they see “FWD: SEND THIS TO 20 FRIENDS OR DIE IN 2 HOURS!!!” in their mailbox? Ooh, ooh...not me. If you are one of these people, the Health and Wellness Center offers help for these kinds of things, and I’m sure someone at the College of Psychology can even assist, too. Otherwise, at least feel glad that a use has finally been assigned to these denizens of the world of email: ammunition. Just reply to each and every one of the offending spammers with a chain letter.

In reality, of course, this will have little effect on the actual sender of the mail. People who send chain letters most likely love getting email of any type as they are obviously desperately lonely. It’s really an option intended more to make you feel better, as though you have done something back to those idiots annoying you with junk emails. If you really hate pop-up ads and junk email, the best solution is simply to stop using the internet entirely.

So, when you next face the arduous task of wading through the barrage of advertisements on the Internet (likely within moments, seeing as how this is Tech), remember: THE FIRST MONTH’S MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!!!
Student tickets not a way to profit

It is immoral to sell student tickets for profit. Such acts are against the spirit of the game and an insult to the students who attend these games. All students pay an activity fee which entitles them to free tickets to home sporting events. For one student to acquire these tickets and then sell them to other students is horrific. This is behavior that goes on all the time at U(sic) GA, not something that we should condone on this campus.

Many of these student scalpers talk about capitalism and free trade as justifications for these acts. I agree that it is capitalism, but are you really that cutthroat that you are willing to shaft a fellow Tech student? If you don’t need your tickets, just give them to a student who wants to go to the game, don’t sell them! This begs the question, “Would you sell your own grandmother if you thought you could make a quick buck?”

The point of those tickets is to go see our Jackets whoop up on the sorry Seminoles and cheer on the Brave and Bold, not to make a quick dollar on students who weren’t able to get a ticket. I stand opposed to these nameless carpetbaggers and encourage all students to do the same. I would rather sit at home and watch the game on T.V. than pay one red cent to a roach of a person who would sell student tickets back to students.
Classroom Controversies

Class group work facilitates learning

By Jennifer Hinkel

Apart from the core curriculum of equations, formulas and theories, Tech students should also expect to learn something of teamwork, communication and leadership skills. The ideal place for developing these skills is in the classroom, but some professors acquiesce to group work only in the form of take-home projects. While in-class group work is ideal for cooperation and communication, take-home group work undermines these goals and results in a breakdown of the skills teamwork should teach.

Group learning in the classroom is both needed and welcomed. Some departments have mastered ways to incorporate a group environment into their classes, such as the Biomedical Engineering department’s use of “problem-based learning” (PBL) for undergraduates, where groups of eight students work on projects with a professor’s supervision and guidance.

When group learning is kept in the classroom, everyone must participate. Groups have an equal amount of time to work on their ideas and the majority of discussion, collaboration and sharing take place with a professor on hand to answer questions, guide efforts and direct groups to various resources. While individuals gather information outside of class, it only becomes completely relevant and useful in the group context. In various other departments, many professors allow time during class for small groups of students to work on practice problems or projects. However, too many professors take group learning out of the classroom and assign it as homework.

When take-home group projects become de rigueur, students are left not only with the cumbersome task of coordinating up to ten different schedules to find a meeting time, but they also lack the guidance of a professor and the more disciplined environment of the classroom. Even if the group can coordinate a meeting (which, in much of my experience, is nearly impossible), no one is present to ensure that group members attend and participate in discussions. It is this communication that creates the benefits of collaborative group learning.

While some may argue that such projects teach responsibility, the responsibility for the entire group often falls on one or two students, overburdening them while allowing the rest of the group to free-ride. Teaching healthy group work practices in the classroom should be a function of a good university; leaving students on their own to coordinate teamwork is irresponsible and ineffective, as it fails to teach cooperative values.

In-class group learning is essential. Numerous studies have shown its effectiveness over traditional lectures, especially in the education of women. It also has several good “side effects” ranging from teaching discussion skills to encouraging healthy competition among group members. My most
meaningful and complete learning experiences at Tech have been in eight-
student Biomedical Engineering PBL classes and in small International
Affairs seminar classes with no more than twelve students. In those settings, I
felt challenged and engaged to participate as an individual.

These group efforts and discussions were only successful, however, because
they took place within the classroom and under the watchful eye of a
professor willing to pilot the group. My numerous experiences with take-
home group projects have been ones of headaches over the inability to set
meeting times, the lack of participation from some members and the overall
feeling of being unprepared when the time came to present the assignment.
Professors should be discouraged from overburdening students with the
administrative responsibilities of scheduling out-of-class meetings and
hounding less responsible group members to do their part. Group learning is
valuable to the collegiate experience. Professors, take the lead in developing
in-class group work for your classes and departments. Students, encourage
your professors to give you supervised classroom time for group work, or at
the very least help with group administration when they do assign outside
projects.

Neither group will regret their efforts when they reap a harvest of team
sharing, collaborative communication and intellectual activation that can be
found only in a cooperative setting.
Test scores not only important thing in life

(U-WIRE) California Poly State U.-I bombed the Law School Admissions Test. While this is something that I’m not necessarily proud of, I feel it is somewhat therapeutic to talk openly about it.

I spent my summer studying for it and then managed to completely blow it. It still seems strange-I think I’m still in shock. In one phone call to an automated voice message, my dreams of going to Boston University were shattered.

I’m now in day three of the new world I’ve entered, the one where it’s okay that I’m not going to go to law school next fall and instead taking a year off. I’m not sure why I thought that this was a negative thing, but this forced realization opened my eyes to the idea of taking a year off and doing something low-key. Throw in some insight from Jesse James, and I realize my life is far from over (which I completely thought it was).

So how does Jesse James fit into this? The Jesse James I’m talking about is not an outlaw from the 1800s (although they are related) and is actually a tattoo-covered Californian with a hot-rod heart.

James is the owner of West Coast Choppers. After watching a Discovery Channel special about him, I realized that not only is my life far from over, but everyone has something unique to capitalize on.

Seeing James for the first time, the stereotypical bad-boy image popped into my head. Here is this guy whose arms are covered with tattoos (including a “Pay up, sucker” tattoo on the palm of his hand), his fingernails are permanently stained from working on cars and bikes and he’s dressed like a punk. Stereotypes clamored in my head.

Before seeing this documentary, I never would have thought that he would be a renowned millionaire, as well as the owner of a very lucrative business. Stereotypes are stupid, obviously.

James started riding motorcycles at age seven and found something he enjoyed. Taking his hobby further, he found he had a talent for design. His education stopped at high school, but that doesn’t mean his chance for success ended there, too.

Today we put so much emphasis on higher education that it’s easy to lose sight of personal talents. James didn’t need to attend college to find his career. Ask any of his famous clients (Shaquille O’Neil and Keanu Reeves to name a couple), and they can tell you that it didn’t take some college-level algebra to make James’ choppers some of the best.

While I can’t name something I excel at, I know there’s something there. The best part is that I don’t have to know right now. Somewhere between midterms and resume building, I forgot that I’m 21 and still have a few more years of self-discovery. During those years, I am sure I will find some way to
capitalize on my personal talents.

Work shouldn’t be what we do in life, but rather who we are. Seeing James’ success made me realize that all it takes is finding something you enjoy to find those talents.

With the LSAT over and behind me—for a year at least—I can focus on the other things, like being 21, in college and having a few more months of freedom from the job world ahead of me.
Students go postal over sharing mailboxes

The ‘Nique gets an inside look at why the Georgia Tech post office, located in the student center, is able to assign more than one student to a post office box.

By Kimberly Hinckley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Although this student was able to pull an envelope out of her mailbox, only one of 15,020 boxes, its contents might not belong to her. Due to the prevalence of box sharing in Tech’s post office, many students find others’ mail in their boxes.

By Daniel Amick
Senior Staff Writer

Whether you’re an undergraduate or a graduate student, whether you live on-campus or off, if you are a Georgia Tech student, you have a post office box in the Student Center. Unfortunately, there are just too many students to give everyone their own. Some people have no choice but to share.

“I don’t mind sharing a box,” said INTA senior Katie Wagnon.

“I have shared it with the same girl since we were freshmen.”

“I’m lucky because I happened not to have to share,” said another student. She then glanced furtively over her shoulder toward the post office pickup window.

“I don’t want the post office to find out, or they’ll put me back in the lottery or something,” she said, only half-joking.

Perhaps she’s talked to some other students who have neither a private box nor a pleasant, care-free relationship with their box-mate.

“I don’t mind [sharing],” said graduate student Arati Srinivasan.
“But the other student doesn’t ever check his mail, and it just sits there and accumulates.”

David Silver, a fifth-year undergrad, said he has been sharing a box for his entire time at Tech, sometimes with not just one, but two other students.

“One time I found my mail on the ground,” he said.

In another incident, Silver’s bank mailed him new checkbooks.

“A buddy of mine found them on the ground and gave them to me,” said Silver.

“When it’s mail that’s one thing, but when it’s something like checkbooks, that’s something else.” He says he would like to see sharing eliminated “for security and privacy reasons.”

Sharing P.O. boxes without written consent is unheard of at other post offices, so why is it permitted here? The post office itself is Georgia Tech property, and the 11 full-time employees are employees of Georgia Tech, not the U.S. Postal Service. The administration can therefore decide how to use the boxes they provide.

There are 15,020 P.O. boxes in the student center post office. Some are reserved for student organizations, but most are assigned to individuals.

According to Postal Services Manager Morris Power, as of early this fall, just over 3,000 of those boxes are shared.

“We knew sharing had been a problem,” said Power.

“We do get complaints from time to time, and we look at each complaint individually, on a case-by-case basis,” he said.

A Tech employee for 17 years, Power is responsible for all mail services at Georgia Tech. He says that when he first began working at the GT post office, there were only 7,700 boxes.

“Then, around 1990, we had a major renovation,” said Power. About 8,000 new boxes were added and, at the time, that was enough for every student to have his or her own.

“But it’s supply and demand, you know? As enrollment increased, students had to begin sharing boxes,” he said.

So, with enrollment showing no signs of dropping significantly any time soon, is this situation destined to go on indefinitely? No.

Is Georgia Tech planning to add additional boxes? Well, not exactly. Instead, says Power, the answer lies in assigning P.O. boxes only to those students who need them.

“In the past, it was a requirement that every Georgia Tech student be assigned a P.O. box,” said Power. “The box was a student’s official Georgia Tech mailing address.”

“Now, the email address is a student’s official mailing address,” he said. This change potentially gives more flexibility in the utilization of boxes.

Several years ago, Georgia Tech set up a task force that conducted surveys of students.

“They asked all kinds of questions,” said Power. The task force’s goal was to
determine which students want and need P.O. boxes and whether some people would give them up if given the opportunity. About a year ago, the task force issued its recommendations.

“What we found was that students who live off-campus don’t want [a P.O. box],” said Power. The task force recommended students should be given a choice in the matter or that boxes be assigned only to on-campus residents.

“I don’t use [my box] very much,” said ECE Grad student Aravind Nayak, who lives off-campus.

Wagnon, who also lives off-campus, expressed a similar view.

“I see the utility of having a box for official campus mail and stuff, but I never ever get anything in it. It’s not like [my mail] doesn’t come to my house,” she said.

Power is in the process of hiring an Administrative Coordinator, who will work to communicate with students. He says he hopes in “the near future” to begin asking students if they would like to opt out of having a box.

“We believe that [once this effort is put in place] we’ll be in a position where we’re no longer going to be having people share P.O. boxes,” said Power.

Other changes may also be coming to the student center post office. When the bookstore moves out of the Houston building, the post office will be remodeled to allow students to move directly from the student center, through the post office, to the new space.

During the remodeling, new, larger boxes will be installed, allowing for oversized envelopes and certain small packages to be placed inside.

“This will keep people from being forced to stand in line and wait for a package,” said Power.

“I’m kind of excited,” he said, “because we’re giving students an option, and helping to improve service to students. We know students have concerns. I think this will be a positive thing.”
Students’ illegal file sharing poses new problems

By Rob Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

An anonymous user searches the popular file sharing program Kazaa under the shade of night. Darkness won’t prevent companies with copyrights from finding out who this user really is, though.

By Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer

Since the fall of Napster in early 2001, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) have been on a legal warpath to stop the sharing and downloading of copyrighted files.

Peer to peer sharing involves the transfer of files, music recordings or movies from one user’s computer to another person’s computer. Unlike Napster, peer to peer sharing does not involve one central server.

“The peer to peer sharing is really convenient. I don’t have to buy a whole cd, I can just download the few songs I like,” said Kyle Hannah, a fifth-year EE major.

The RIAA and MPAA have begun a high-pressure campaign to stop file-sharing by reaching out to universities, workplaces, and internet service providers.

In October, the RIAA, MPAA and other copyright trade groups sent a letter to more than 2,000 university presidents warning them that large volumes of students were using college resources to violate federal law.

While the RIAA and MPAA have rarely pursued action against internet service providers in the past, the loss of tens of millions of dollars due to file-sharing have caused the associations to step up their efforts. As a result, students, universities and companies have found themselves in legal trouble with the trade associations.

In September, the University of Georgia received a notice from Warner Bros. Studios that one of their students, freshman Ben Albert, had violated copyright infringement law by downloading a copy of Austin Powers 3:
Goldmember off of Kazaa. UGA responded by charging Albert with violating its computer use policy. Albert’s sanctions from the University Judiciary were that he had to research copyright issues as they relate to the entertainment media and develop a fact sheet of useful hints for computer users.

Verizon Communications is currently embroiled in a lawsuit with the RIAA. The RIAA asked a federal judge in October to order Verizon to turn over the name of a Kazaa subscriber who had allegedly shared copies of more than 600 music recordings. Verizon argued it is only a conduit and is not hosting the material, therefore the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) does not apply.

The DMCA addresses the potential of the internet facilitating piracy. Under the DMCA, downloading mp3s not directly from the artists, copying personal cds onto mp3s for distribution on the internet and downloading movies for viewing or to copy into divx format are all forms of federal copyright violation.

According to Yolonda Cameron, a lawyer in the Georgia Tech Legal Affairs office, the act does provide protections for service providers who act as a conduit for the transmission or routing of infringing material, and do not directly participate or know of the actions of its users. The DMCA has other protections in the law, including the turbocharged-subpoena process, which permits a copyright owner to send a subpoena ordering a “service provider” to turn over information about a subscriber. Verizon is arguing that service providers that do not host the materials do not fall under the DMCA.

If the RIAA wins its lawsuit against Verizon, it would mean music industries would have the power to identify hundreds of music pirates at a time without going to court first.

At Georgia Tech, downloading files through peer to peer sharing networks is easy because of the high-speed fast internet service that the Office of Information Technology (OIT) provides, a fact not lost on the RIAA or the MPAA.

When other universities blocked access to Napster during its peak, Georgia Tech did not because of OIT’s status as a transient internet service provider (ISP). There are no plans to block access to other peer to peer sharing sites either. “It would remove our status as a transient ISP. By shutting those applications down, it would be considered more of a contact management issue. We didn’t want to change our ISP status by doing that,” said Brian Culver, a Technical Director in OIT’s Information Security department.

Greg Hale, a Technical Director in GT’s Information Security Directorate, said that the Institute had determined that the sharing networks could be used for other purposes than to violate the law.

As a transient ISP, OIT is responsible only for providing the internet connection. It does not provide any security protections for users or companies or restrict content from users. “We can not be in every student’s room policing what they do,” said Cameron.

The recording and movie industries have taken notice of students’ online activities. “I’m averaging three or four complaints a day, and it’s frequently regarding the same system,” said Hale. Culver also confirmed that this year OIT had received more complaints than usual.
OIT’s response is to issue a notice to the file-sharing student informing them about the notice OIT received regarding the student’s usage violation, and informing them that they could be in violation of Georgia Tech’s Computer and Network Usage Policy. “If the student refused to stop sharing or downloading files, then the student would be referred to [the Office of Student Integrity] for discipline action, but as far as I know that hasn’t happened yet because students have been responsive to OIT’s request that they stop the activity,” said Lee Wilcox, Dean of Student Affairs.

According to Tech’s Code of Conduct, students can receive sanctions for nonacademic misconduct, such as for violating federal copyright law.

“Essentially we’re trying to do this in an educational and not a punitive way. OIT is helping us to educate students about these copyright infringement laws. We would only sanction a student if they ignored our advice,” said Wilcox.

Wilcox said that OIT and the Student Affairs Office plan to educate students in the residence halls and in the Greek system to warn them about the potential for getting into trouble.

“I think that it’s probably wrong, but the internet is an excellent medium for transferring music and movies,” said Matt Panero, a fourth year AE major.
8 Mile: Eminem’s film debut an intense performance

Brittany Murphy and Eminem (above) star in the new drama 8 Mile. In the film, Eminem plays a character similar to his real-life persona; he is an aspiring rapper with a dead-end job and a poor relationship with his mother.

By Aman Solomon
Contributing Writer

Title: 8 Mile
Starring: Eminem, Kim Basinger, Mekhi Phifer, Brittany Murphy
Director: Curtis Hanson
Length: 118 minutes
Rating: R

Much of the buzz surrounding Eminem’s debut movie 8 Mile has been centered on one question: Can the man who makes millions rapping about murdering his mother and gulping down Vicadin tablets turn in a credible acting performance?

The answer is a resounding yes, and it is Eminem’s intense, stoic performance that holds this terrific movie together.

The rap movie genre has been filled with awful vanity projects such has Vanilla Ice’s Cool as Ice and dime-a-dozen action movie knockoffs.

This film manages to transcend most of the stereotypes that preceded it, while at the same time giving audiences a truly atmospheric look at the hip-hop subculture.

The film opens with Eminem’s character, Jimmy Smith, Jr., nicknamed Rabbit, preparing to compete in a battle rap in a grungy hip hop club called The Shelter. He hops from toe to toe in the public restroom and stares at himself in the mirror, the fear and self-distrust laid bare in his eyes.

Soon after he chokes at the competition, and it is revealed to the audience that along with his embarrassed on stage, he has also broken up with his girlfriend. After leaving her his car, he is forced to move back to his mother’s trailer. Located along the eight-mile road of the title, which separates the largely white areas of Detroit from the extremely poor black neighborhoods,
Rabbit enters only to find his mother Stephanie (Kim Basinger) in the throes of sexual passion with a man barely older than he is.

However, he has no choice but to live there with her and his young sister Lilly (Chloe Greenfield), and to work at a stamping plant where his job consists of repeatedly pressing a button for terrible pay. The film makes it completely clear that Rabbit is at, or very near, rock bottom.

When he is not fighting with his mother’s uneducated boyfriend, or working at his dead-end job, Rabbit spends time causing trouble with his group of friends, most notably Future (Mekhi Phifer), another aspiring rapper and the host of the weekly battle raps at The Shelter. More than anyone else, he believes in Rabbit’s ability, and his performance helps make the movie.

There are other influences in Rabbit’s life, including a group of rappers who call themselves the Free World and are constantly confronting Rabbit’s crew. In addition, there is the shady Wink (Eugene Boyd), who constantly entices him with the promise of time in the production studio and introductions to “producers” who will help him make it big. There is also the character of Alex (Brittany Murphy) who temporarily interests Rabbit, perhaps due to his relating to her intense goal of escaping the world in which they live.

As the film progresses, there is also a series of intense and consistently hilarious sequences in which Rabbit completely demolishes other characters through battle raps. One particular situation in which he defends a gay coworker against a character played by the rapper Xzibit is not only deftly written, but it also serves to clarify Eminem’s stance on homosexuality and the use of certain words that have drawn him much heat in the media. In fact, the entire movie is somewhat a vindication of Eminem’s talent.

There was probably little doubt in anyone’s mind that Eminem would have some amazing rhymes in the movie. However, many would expect the quality of the film to pale in comparison.

The director, Curtis Hanson, who directed the Academy Award-nominated movies L.A. Confidential and Wonder Boys, certainly helped matters. His careful direction manages to paint a gritty picture of the character’s journey without resorting to clichés or judgment.

The writer, Scott Silver, also gave the film a great boost by making the scope of the film relatively small. The entire movie takes place in less than a week, and the characters are barely better off in the end than when the movie began.

The real brilliance is how carefully this movie handles the small victories Rabbit manages to achieve as he accepts his situation and learns to make the most of it.

The climactic series of battle raps towards the end of the film had the preview audience clapping and almost jumping out of their seats, but the final battle with the leader of the Free World in which Rabbit dissects the fact that he is white, poor, and humiliated and turns it around on his opponent is one the most satisfying and well earned conclusion of any movie in recent memory.

As Rabbit leaves the club to head back to a night shift at his dead-end job, his future is still up in the air. There is no sappy Hollywood conclusion, but the true lesson of this film is self-acceptance. Eminem has staked his claim as not only being one of the best rappers out there, but perhaps the best rapper-turned-actor to yet grace the screen.
And his movie didn’t need any overblown action sequences, multi-million-dollar escapades, or Steven Seagal. DMX, take notes. The Verdict: An acclaimed rapper finally produces a great film; Enimen makes crossing genres look easy in this terrific film. Perhaps his performance will pave the way for more artists to do the same.
Seventh Woodystock festival showcases local, Tech bands

Grant Wheeless, a Tech student, performed at Woodystock last weekend with his band Weberdog. Woodystock, currently in its seventh semester, is organized with the help of RHA, Hall Council and others.

By Amanda Bryson
Contributing Writer

Looking for some good live music at Tech? You should have kept your eyes open for the modest fliers on campus telephone poles advertising Woodystock.

Six semesters ago, Cole Getzler was a Peer Leader in search of a way to get more live rock music to Tech campus. Under the Couch was great, but not quite enough on its own. So with the encouragement of his Peer Advisor to “do something big” and with the help of some friends and residents who were in bands, Getzler set about creating the first Woodystock.

Held indoors at its namesake, “Woody’s,” sometime around Halloween, the first Woodystock was essentially a really big party thrown with the help of RHA, Hall Council and very devoted music enthusiasts. Since then, Woodystock has grown to a semesterly outdoor concert held on the Freshman Experience commons, attracting various local bands and receiving increased support from RHA and Hall Council, as well as students looking for good live music at Tech.

It’s traditionally put together in short order, and its essence is still the same: live music, free food and a bunch of music fans. “Take about two weeks, put it all together, and then you have Woodystock,” said this semester’s lead organizer, A.J. Milton.

The results are good, if this semester was any indication. The first band to play this year was local rock act Weberdog. Weberdog had such a good time appearing at the last Woodystock that they volunteered right away to headline this year’s show. They sounded exactly like the weather the day of
the show: comfortable, energizing and cool.

The second and third bands to play were the Taj Motel Trio and Slow Children at Play, both local ska bands. Taj Motel Trio was great. They sounded good, were fun to watch, and the band looked like they were having an awesome time during the show.

Slow Children at Play were also making their second Woodystock appearance, and put forth another excellent ska set. All the bands were previewed by organizers through means such as MP3.com.

The only thing missing at this Woodystock was the number of people the show deserved. The crowd near the stage was sparse, and those who had the urge to dance were in no danger of running into anyone. Turnout at previous Woodystocks has been close to twice that of this semester’s, according to Milton, who suggested that the decline may have been due to a large number of Greek and athletic activities competing for students’ time this past weekend. That’s too bad, because Woodystock is a good thing—the kind of laid-back student entertainment that Tech students need more of.
I’ve come across about a thousand flyers promoting this band, and I routinely see their name in concert listings. I’ve even interviewed their publicist, but I still have yet to see a performance by this band called Tilden’s Faith. As a Technique entertainment journalist (Senior Staff Writer nonetheless), it’s almost irresponsible of me to not have at least one show under my belt.

Tilden’s has made several appearances in the Technique over the last three years and is arguably the most successful rock act to have roots at Georgia Tech. But recently, the word got out that the Tilden’s legacy may be winding down.

I happened into a chance encounter with Coleman, the lead vocalist from Tilden’s while at a friend’s family gathering in Gwinnett. Like I said, being ignorant of actually seeing the band play, I was introduced to Coleman, all the while having no idea that I had just written a story on his band and a few other Tech-based acts only two months ago.

He was dressed quite sportily as he arrived, escorted by his girlfriend, who was decked out in full soccer-playing attire, fresh from a game. Katie had just missed the final goal in an overtime soccer shootout and was somewhat distressed. Anyway, somewhere in one of the many conversations being exchanged, Katie brought up the subject of Coleman’s band breaking up.

Coleman...band...so it all at once fit together-the Tilden’s Faith guy! And Tilden’s Faith, the legacy Tech rock band, was being broken up. I had to learn more. Essentially, the band members’ priorities have diverged. Tilden’s drummer Jim and lead guitarist/Tech grad Dave Curylo, decided they want to search out some new horizons. Yet nonetheless, Coleman and bassist/Tech grad Lewis are not quite ready to give up the Faith. Coleman expressed interest in finding a new drummer and guitarist to replace their recent departures. The band clearly means a lot to him. He even got a bit pestered at his girlfriend for bringing up the issue of the band’s separation.

But with a little attention to the band’s history, there doesn’t seem to be too much to be worried about. Redesigning the band through the coming and going of its members is not a new practice for Tilden’s Faith. They have been through a series of transformations since the band first began playing together over three years ago.

They acquired their current bass player, Will, the night their former bass player quit the band. Coleman himself has been fired and later brought back on at least one occasion. While this ongoing series of shuffling may give the impression that the band has had problems with its unity, it also shows that they must be onto something with their music persisting through this chaotic rearrangement of personnel.
Not to replay the material that was published two months ago in this very section, by this very writer, but for those of you who didn’t get copies, Tilden’s Faith has released two albums. Stayed was released in March 1999 and featured two tracks, Someday and Scarecrow, which became favorites of local radio stations. Their second EP, Change, was released three years later and was critically acclaimed by local pop culture magazine Creative Loafing as being “unusually cohesive.”

So apparently the efforts of Tilden’s Faith up to this point have not been in vain, and even if their best days are behind them, they’ve still made a rare successful run through the local music scene. The band (as it is presently configured) will be performing one more show before calling it quits. It will be tomorrow at CJ’s Landing in Buckhead.
Spike Lee speaks about political issues at the University of Texas

(U-WIRE) University of Texas – Austin-Politically charged filmmaker Spike Lee spoke Tuesday night to a sold-out crowd at the Texas Union Ballroom.

Lee spoke about several issues, including the portrayal of African-Americans in the media, the need for young people to possess a passion for their future careers and the need to vote.

“Two years ago on Nov. 2, while your [Texas’] governor was out breaking the record for the highest number of executions ... we [the United States] got bushwhacked, bamboozled,” Lee said. “The highest office in this country was stolen – the election was fixed,” he said, recalling Florida’s flawed vote-counting process.

In addition to emphasizing political awareness, Lee told students to seek careers that they are passionate about.

“You have to find out what it is that you love to do in these four years or however many it takes you to get through school,” he said. “Or else you can end up like some of my old college classmates – miserable, divorced and overweight.”

Lee also spoke of the power and danger of mass media images. He said young African-Americans are often forced to deal with conflicting societal messages, citing evidence of cultural stereotypes that equate intelligence with whiteness.

“If you’re African-American, know proper English and are intelligent, you’re often criticized for being too white,” Lee said. “But, if you’re on the corner and jobless with a blunt in your mouth, that’s considered being ‘real.’”

Lee said it’s important for everyone to learn and recognize cultural stereotypes in films as weak.

He spoke of Michael Clarke Duncan’s role in “The Green Mile” as the stereotypical “super, duper, magical mystical Negro with special powers.”

In the film, Duncan plays John Coffey, who is on death row and possesses special healing powers that serve an all-white cast of characters, Lee said.

And, in the film’s conclusion, he embodies the “happy slave” stereotype by deciding to proceed with the execution despite the suggestion from prison guard Paul Edgecomb, played by Tom Hanks, that he attempt to escape.

Highly influenced by director Martin Scorcese, Lee said his films seek to debunk faulty portrayals of African-Americans.

“What people missed about my film Bamboozled is that it not only was about African-Americans, but the misrepresentation of minority groups-Latin-Americans, gays, women,” Lee said.
“I enjoyed hearing him speak, but I would have liked to hear more about the ideas behind his movies and how they originated,” said Desmond Rice, publicity chair for the African-American Culture Committee and a journalism sophomore.

“I’m glad he addressed the need for young people to follow their dreams and to do something that they would be happy doing,” UT staff member Amy Yearwood said. “As a staff member, it’s a message that we all feel is important, but perhaps it is better for younger people to hear it from outside sources.”
...Two Bits

Welcome to this week’s rendition of satirical, cynical, spiteful goodness—all lumped into Two Bits.

Well, isn’t it just wonderful that we have so many people in Congress now for Bush to get along with? I think this will really help remedy some of his social problems and feelings of isolation. I for one was getting fed up with that snobby clique of liberal Capitol Hill thugs that got a kick out of cornering Bush in the White House bathroom and giving him swirlies.

So now we’ve finally got some folks elected here who are going to be agreeable, complacent and just plain nicer to poor old George, who’s doing his best to keep us safe from the evil doers.

It doesn’t surprise me that in Georgia the Republicans pitched a winning campaign. I mean, would you vote for Roy Barnes knowing that he once picked Bush last for kickball and tried to lie about it, saying that he thought Bush had already been picked by the other team?

And if that isn’t scandalous enough, get this: Max Cleland was the only Congressman who failed to attend Bush’s White House slumber party and tried to say that he thought it was the night after.

Saxby Chambliss not only came, but brought along some cookies for everyone and told the best ghost stories, and he didn’t laugh in the morning when everyone woke up to find that poor Donny Rumsfeld had wet the bed again (he has a problem). Saxby’s kind of behavior sounds more like what I want to see displayed in the U.S. Senate, and that is exactly the reason why I bought that “Saxby for 2002” doggy t-shirt for my puppy.

But no doubt it was the access to Bush’s glorious coattails that pushed the Republicans to their victory. And even though I don’t really understand what exactly Bush has done that makes him such a wonderful president, I suppose it’s just one of those things that are better off left unquestioned-like who is the Two Bits Man or why should we invade Iraq.

But nonetheless, I figured it would be worth the energy to schedule a quick interview with the president to get his thoughts on the outcomes of Election Day. Two Bits Man: Mr. President, your affiliation has clearly influenced the results of several elections across the country. But I must ask you to elaborate on your accomplishments. For example, could you explain to me how much safer we are now than we were before September 11? Or if we are on our way to regaining the economic prosperity that we once enjoyed? George Bush: (slowly and resolutely): My non-patriotic opponents... (pause) may say that not enough evidence has been accumulated to justify an invasion of Iraq (he’s looking me dead in the eye, and I think he doesn’t like Iraq), but if we wait for further evidence to mount...it could be too late. TBM: Mr. President, now that the Republicans control congress, what benefits can we come to expect from our now overwhelming Republican leadership? GB: Well (seems
to be really stumped but I know he’s not)...I’m going to put it to you simply, Iraq... (pauses) is...well...just bad.TBM: Is it bad Mr. President?GB: Bad, Bad, Bad.TBM: Thank you Mr. President and congratulations on your...GB: (in a sudden fit of rage) SADDAM TRIED TO HURT MY DADDY!

After this interview, I was somewhat skeptical of the whole idea of Iraq being “just bad,” but I wasn’t going to let a little skepticism contaminate my patriotism. Folks, I plead that you would not doubt my faith in American democracy, nor my patriotism (if I were a dog I would wear the Saxby doggy t-shirt as well).

But all t-shirts aside-doggy or otherwise-could you believe how intense the Senate campaigning got? It was news to me that Saxby Chambliss had promoted legislation to burn senior citizens with blow torches paid for by social security money and that Max Cleland voted 7 times to let violent prisoners eat under-educated children. But you just can’t tell for sure exactly who is telling the truth these days.

The elections are over, so I’m going to quit my griping about politics, at least until next year’s primaries. This is the Two Bits Man signing off to go play with my puppy.
FANTAS-TECH!

Tech outscores NC State in final period to end No. 8 Wolfpack‘s bid for an undefeated season

By Charles Frey/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

True freshman Ajenavi “Ace” Eziemefe dives just short of the goal line against the North Carolina State Wolfpack. The Jackets next take on the FSU Seminoles at 3:30 p.m. at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

By Scott Kretschmann
Contributing Writer

It was a cold, dreary homecoming in Raleigh, NC as the Yellow Jackets (6-3,3-3) handed NC State (9-1,4-1) their first defeat of the season. Georgia Tech came into a sold out Carter-Finley Stadium ready to play and needing a strong win to salvage their season, while NC State was riding high on their best season in history.

It looked to be a battle of mighty offenses, and this was reinforced by the first play of the game, in which Wolfpack quarterback and Heisman candidate Philip Rivers opened with a trick flea-flicker pass that gained 48 yards. However, Tech’s defense managed to hold NC State on their next few plays and force a Wolfpack field goal—the only score of the quarter.

The beginning of the second quarter brought more of the same. Tech’s offense kept moving downfield and maintained control of the ball, allowing the defense to stay fresh and able to stop NC State’s powerful offense at each possession. However, things began to look up for Tech as halftime approached. Georgia Tech quarterback A.J. Suggs was successfully moving the ball downfield through a combination of accurate passes and his third rush of the game. An unnecessary roughness call against NC State then brought the ball inside the 20-yard line. On a critical third down conversion, Tech pulled off a trick play of its own, when running back Ajenavi “Ace” Eziemefe completed a halfback option pass to Suggs, who came inches away from earning a touchdown. However, NC State held Tech’s running game at the goal line, and after a questionable “no touchdown” call on a run by Eziemefe, Tech was forced to settle for a field goal, tying the game at 3-3 going into halftime.

The Yellow Jackets came out after halftime with a renewed vigor, as they
now saw it within their grasp to defeat the unbeaten Wolfpack. A fumble on a
punt return by NC State early in the third quarter allowed Tech to move back
downfield, but just like the previous time, NC State held Scott Kretschmann
them just short of the endzone.

A second field goal made it 6-3 Yellow Jackets. This score also made senior
placekicker Luke Manget Tech’s all-time leading scorer with 302 points.
This was truly a game for records. Later in the game, Philip Rivers broke NC
State’s school record of 637 career completions. NC State also scored its 51st
and 52nd touchdowns of the season—both school records.

Rivers faced immense pressure from Tech’s defense in the third quarter,
forcing punts and allowing Tech to move back downfield once more and set
Manget up for a 41 yard field goal, making it 9-3 Georgia Tech. Pressure
continued to come from Tech’s defense on the next drive. Rivers was sacked
twice before he managed to complete a few passes downfield, culminating in
a touchdown pass to Jerricho Cotchery, catching back up to Georgia Tech
and making the score 10-9 NC State going into the fourth quarter.

Tech’s defense did not let up in the fourth quarter, consistently hurrying and
hitting Rivers, allowing few opportunities. However, the talented quarterback
managed to get the ball downfield on a few key opportunities, and when
combined with a Tech penalty, set up a touchdown run by freshman T.A.
McLendon to take a 17-9 lead.

Georgia Tech now needed a score badly and got it by a very fortunate
penalty. On third and 14, Suggs was sacked, but a delay of game penalty on
Tech nullified the play and gave Suggs a second chance, which he converted
into a 28-yard pass to Jonathan Smith.

Fortune smiled on the Jackets again when NC State’s Greg Golden dropped a
likely interception in the endzone, which allowed Tech to finish off the drive
with a touchdown pass from Suggs to J.P Foschi. Suggs then completed to
Smith for a two-point conversion, tying the score at 17.

Following this turn of events, Tech’s defense came out energized and they
brought even more pressure on Rivers, enough so that he never truly had a
chance to make a play, while Darryl Smith and Tech’s linebackers essentially
stopped State’s running game.

The next punt by NC State was short, and when combined with an amazing
26-yard punt return by Kelley Rhino, put Tech on NC State’s 22-yard line.
Two plays and 16 seconds later, Gordon Clinkscale ran in Tech’s second
touchdown. The away sideline suddenly erupted into celebration, with many
players and coaches running slightly onto the field. The mood in the stadium,
with the exception of the one small row of gold, was decidedly somber.

The last plays of the game were rather tense, as the game could have gone
either way. On NC State’s next drive, Georgia Tech safety Cory Collins
caused a fumble that Tech recovered, but NC State’s Dantonio Burnette
intercepted Suggs’ pass a few plays later, turning the ball over again.
However, despite having a few excellent chances, NC State failed to
capitalize and the score remained 24-17 Georgia Tech after the last NC State
pass was intercepted by Jeremy Muyres. There was mass celebration by the
team after the clock finally ran out, as they realized they had defeated the
highly ranked Wolfpack, and although the sea of red in the stadium quickly
disappeared, Tech’s faithful fans stayed and celebrated while the Tech band
played.
Philip Rivers commented that Tech was “the best team we’ve played so far” and credited the Tech defense for sticking to its plan, executing it well and never stopping. A.J. Suggs, meanwhile, had what was probably his most solid game of the year, completing 21 of 36 for 211 yards and rushing for 23 yards.

With the Jackets winning their sixth of the season, they are now bowl eligible and may be looking at many different bowls depending on the outcome of the rest of the season. Chuck Edwards, the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl scout, said that Tech might be a good prospect because of the strong team and the large crowd that the hometown Jackets would likely bring. Much remains to be seen about the outcome of the season for Tech, but the future certainly looks brighter now.
Leadership key for CWS return

Tech’s pitching squad, which carried the team in last year’s College World Series run, returns most of its guns and brings several newcomers.

By Al Przygocki  
Senior Staff Writer

Last season saw the Joltin’ Jackets slam their way to Omaha and the College World Series. Coming off of one of the best seasons in school history, how will the 2003 Jackets stack up? After fall practices, a few questions were answered, but even more are still lingering. Let’s tackle them one by one.

Freshmen

This year’s recruiting class was ranked number one by both Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball. So, who’s going to play this year and who will have the biggest impact on 2003?

While the freshmen all look to be as good as advertised, look for Tyler Greene and Micah Owings to make the biggest impact right away. Tyler Greene stepped it up over the course of the fall and will be the starting shortstop to open the season. He should provide very good defense and his hitting should continue to develop.

Micah Owings had probably the best fall of the freshmen and looks to be able to step in right away as both a starting pitcher and a designated hitter. At this point, Jason Neighborgall is still a project. He has amazing stuff, as evidenced by the 98-mph fastball and devastating curveball witnessed by this observer. Unfortunately, the command isn’t there, which is one of the reasons he dropped in last year’s MLB draft.

Asked how Owings will be used this season, Head Coach Danny Hall said, “I can see him ending up being a weekend guy. I think he’s very talented. I
think he really competes. Mentally, he’s very strong. Of the freshmen, he is the closest to being ready to contribute right away.”

On the progress made by Tyler Greene in practices, Hall commented, “As the fall went on, he made a lot of great plays. He’s going to be a great player. He’s usually the first guy at practice and a lot of times the last guy to leave practice.”

“He’s very committed to being a great player, and he has a tremendous passion to be one of the best players in the country, and he wants to learn. There’ll be days where he plays like a freshman, and there’ll be a lot of days where everyone will see that he’s got a lot of talent.”

Also, look for several freshmen to fill key backup roles. Roswell’s Steven Blackwood projects as the team’s fourth outfielder and should see some time as a DH. Ryan Stanley will be the backup at first base, and Andy Hawranick is an excellent catch-and-throw guy who will be the reserve catcher. For now, Jon Crosby and Ryan Self will add depth to an already solid bullpen.

It was the pitching that really carried Tech down the stretch last year, and the staff returns all of its major contributors and adds some young guns. How will the new guys fit in and who will take which roles?

Kyle Bakker will continue to be the Ace of the staff, and Jeff Watchko will continue to be the closer. The other starters are projected to be Brian Burks, Chris Goodman, Kyle Schmidt, and Micah Owings. Keep an eye on Aaron Walker and Andrew Kown to possibly crack the starting rotation as both had outstanding falls. Jason Neighborgall is an incredible talent but has yet to put it all together. If he does get things turned around next season, he could propel Tech deep into the postseason.

The bullpen is loaded with talented pitchers. Jeff Watchko will once again be the closer, and he should once again receive solid setup work from Aaron Walker, Jeff Kindel, Nick Wagner, and Jordan Crews. Philip Perry will be redshirting this season as he recovers from Tommy John surgery. The pen will also include Andrew Kown, Chandler Miller, and the newcomers: Neighborgall, Jon Crosby, Ryan Self, Jared Hyatt, and John Berthelsen.

 Asked about his depth of quality arms, Coach Hall answered, “I think this team has the pitching to go as far as possible. Our pitching is good enough to win a national championship.”

On Jason Neighborgall and his struggle to succeed, Coach Hall said, “He’s got tremendous ability. He’s got a lot to learn about everything. Guy’s like that, they can make a big jump. He’s got so much ability that he’s always going to stack up stuff-wise better than anybody we have. We’ve got to continue to develop him. We’ve got three months before we have to play. He’s got to use those three months well, to try to keep learning and improving. He’ll be a factor, whether it’s as a starter or a reliever or midweek guy. Some how, some way, he’s going to be a factor on this club. Potentially he’s a superstar.”

Defensive problems plagued the Jackets at inopportune times all last season and helped the Jackets take an earlier than expected exit from the College World Series. So, what have the Jackets done to shore up their defense for 2003?

Having Tyler Greene at shortstop should help plug some of the holes on the left side of the infield. Victor Menocal was an average shortstop defensively
who was really in the lineup more for his bat. Greene is the opposite at this stage of his career, as his defense is his primary strength.

Eric Patterson at second base started off slowly last year in the field, probably due to pressing at the plate, but ended the season as one of the team’s top defenders. Brandon Boggs in centerfield has a year of experience under his belt and should continue to show improvement on defense.

Catcher Mike Nickeas has also worked to become an even better catch-and-throw guy. This improved defense up the middle should help the Jackets close the gap on the top defensive teams next season.

On things to work on for the new season, Head Coach Danny Hall decided that, “The area we have got to get better in is defense. We are not a national championship-caliber defensive team right now. That’s one area we’ve got to get better at.”

Coach Hall continued, “I would also say that we are not a national championship-caliber offensive team right now either. We can be, but right now, no. We’ve got to get better on defense and see if offensively we can make some strides.”Position Battles

Five position starters from the College World Series will not be returning this season. Who will step up and take their places in the starting lineup?

Third Base – This spot has been one of uncertainty for the past two seasons, and that’s certainly the case for 2003. The frontrunner for the job right now is Davis Myers, who is considered to be the strongest defensive candidate as well as being a good baserunner. Jake Hall is considered to be a better contact hitter, but his defense is not quite as good as Myers. Look for this battle to continue for most of the season with Cameron Lane and Garrett Groce also receiving consideration.

Shortstop – Tyler Greene turned down the pros for a chance to come to Tech and develop into the next Nomar. Just like Menocal, Greene will wear Nomar’s number five and looks to be able to grow into the next great Georgia Tech shortstop.

First Base – This spot should fall to Jason Perry’s regular backup last season, Clifton Remole. Remo should continue to provide pop from the left side of the plate and play solid defense. Don’t be surprised to see Micah Owings play first from time to time, and projected backup Ryan Stanley can also handle first base.

Catcher – This spot will also fall to last year’s backup. Mike Nickeas will succeed Tyler Parker behind the dish and is looking to show an improved offensive game to go with his already solid defense.

Centerfield – Brandon Boggs opened last season as the starting centerfielder. He lost that job to Wes Rynders due to miscues in the field and a lack of offensive pop. Brandon has all the tools to be a superstar in this game and should break out this year, both in the field and at the plate where he looks to erase the memories of a homer-less season.

Leadership

Tech has had all the talent in the world before but has only rarely translated that talent into postseason success. Last year’s team may have been one of the least talented Tech teams in a decade, but the went to the College World
Series on the strength of their senior leadership. Who will step into that leadership void and help mold this collection of great talent into a great team?

Initially, the leader of the team and the player most respected by his teammates is Jeff Watchko. Watchko has been in the program for four years, seen good times and bad times, and has a commanding presence. It can be hard for a pitcher to be a leader on a baseball team, simply due to the natural separation of pitchers and position players.

As such, watch for Eric Patterson and Matt Murton to step forward as leaders amongst the position players. Patterson can draw on his experiences with USA baseball, and Matt Murton leads by example with his work ethic and quiet strength.

“I think everyone respects Jeff Watchko,” Hall said. “He’s a senior, he’s been in the system for four years, and he’s the one guy I think everyone has total respect for. I look for him to be one of our big leaders. I think it has to come from a lot of different places.

“Of the position players,” Hall added. “As a sophomore Eric Patterson is one of the best leadership guys we have.”

“Murton does it in a little bit of a different way. He really works hard, and so he’s more of a leader by example. I think that’s something where we’ll have to see how it evolves. That’s one of the things where we want to see what they think as far as who the leaders are.”

CWS Hangover

How will last year’s trip to Omaha affect this year’s squad? Will they fight to get back? Will they rest on their laurels? Will they be able to avoid the trap of media hype that comes with a CWS trip and a number one ranked recruiting class?

“I think that they want to go back. Anyone who was there understood that we were very close to competing for the national championship,” Hall said.

“You eliminate a couple of innings, and we outplayed our opponents, but every inning counts. I’m hoping we learned from the experience of being out there. I’m hoping that experience motivates us to do better, but every year is different.”

“How this team gels, what type of chemistry they have, how hard they’re willing to work, what kind of sacrifices they are willing to make, those are all things that pertain to this year’s team, not last year’s team.”
WEEKEND PREVIEW

Georgia Tech vs. Florida State

By David Rottmann

Coaching:

This is a match-up of experienced coaches. Chan Gailey has coached for 28 years, including going to four Super Bowls and has this year’s Yellow Jacket team at 6-3 (3-3, ACC), a fine effort considering the circumstances Gailey has had to deal with. Bobby Bowden, who ranks second all-time to Joe Paterno with 329 wins, has his Florida State squad also at 6-3, but they are currently in first place in the ACC at 5-0.

The three FSU losses have come in a tough upset loss to Louisville in overtime, to then top-ranked Miami on a missed last-second field goal, and to a resurgent Notre Dame team. FSU is 10-7-1 against Tech throughout history, with all ten wins coming since the Seminoles joined the ACC in 1992. The Jackets have dropped five straight to the Noles at Bobby Dodd Stadium, which does not bode well for Tech.

Advantage: Florida State

Quarterback:

Both teams have gotten lackluster quarterback play throughout the season. Florida State will likely send out sophomore Adrian McPherson who was impressive in his first career start against Wake Forest last week. On the year McPherson is completing over 60% of his passes with six touchdowns and only one interception. McPherson replaced Chris Rix at starter due to Rix’s inconsistency.

A.J. Suggs has been playing solidly over the past few weeks. For the year he is completing 59% of his passes with nine touchdowns and seven interceptions to go along with his 181.4 yards-per-game average.

Advantage: Even

Running Back:

The Seminoles took a big blow in their win against Wake Forest. Bruising tailback Greg Jones went down with a torn ACL and other ligament damage. This puts the ACC’s leading rusher out for the season. Filling in for Jones will be senior Nick Maddox who rushed for a career-high 122 yards against Wake. Maddox is also a dangerous receiving threat.

Tech will continue to use a platoon of backs. Senior Gordon Clinkscale will get the start for the Jackets. Clinkscale ran for a career-high 94 yards with his lone touchdown on the year in the Jackets’ upset victory over eight-ranked N. C. State. Joining Clinkscale will be freshman walk-on P.J. Daniels and freshman “Ace” Eziemefe.

Advantage: Florida State
Wide Receivers:
Florida State’s senior receiver duo of Anquan Boldin and Talman Gardner is one of the best in the ACC. Both have a great combination of size and speed that make them dangerous threats in the passing game. Boldin is fourth in the ACC with 699 yards receiving. Both are averaging over sixteen yards-per-catch and have combined for thirteen touchdowns.

Georgia Tech’s Kerry Watkins leads the ACC in receptions and is third in receiving yards. Senior Will Glover and junior Jonathan Smith have failed to provide big play ability opposite Watkins. Glover is gaining just 8.6 yards-per-catch while Smith has not been much better with 10.7 yards-per-catch.

Advantage: Florida State

Offensive Line:
Florida State has one of the most talented offensive lines in the ACC. This group has four senior starters in tackle Brett Williams, guards Todd Williams and Montrae Holland, and center Antoine Mirambeau. Rounding out this group is talented sophomore tackle Ray Willis. However, they have allowed nineteen sacks on the year.

The Yellow Jacket O-line has been solid, allowing only three sacks in the last five games, and only thirteen total on the season. Led by sophomore tackle Nat Dorsey and junior center Hugh Reilly, both All-America candidates.

Advantage: Even

Defensive Line:
Probably the strength of Florida State’s defense is its defensive line. This group has nineteen sacks and 62 tackles for loss. Senior end Alonzo Jackson has a team-high seven sacks, and junior end Kevin Emanuel has a team-high fourteen tackles for loss. Talented defensive tackle Darnell Dockett leads all defensive linemen on the team in tackles with 40, placing him fourth on the team.

Tech has two young ends in sophomore Tony Hargrove and red-shirt freshman Eric Henderson. Henderson leads the team in tackles for loss with eleven. They each have three sacks as well, tying them for second on the squad. Tackles Travis Parker and Alfred Malone have been solid, but not very productive.

Advantage: Florida State

Linebackers:
The Seminoles have possibly the fastest set of linebackers in the nation. Led by outside linebackers Kendyll Pope and Michael Boulware, the Florida State linebackers are effective against both the run and the pass. Pope has emerged as one of the league’s top linebackers with 77 tackles and seven tackles for loss.

Georgia Tech has a great set of linebackers. Junior middle linebacker Daryl Smith leads the team with 63 tackles and four sacks and ranks second with ten tackles for loss. Senior outside linebacker Recardo Wimbush is second on the team with 61 tackles. Junior outside linebacker Keyaron Fox is third on the team in tackles and tackles for loss.

Advantage: Georgia Tech
Secondary:

The Florida State secondary is the weakest part of this defense. They have good depth at corner, with four players that have starting experience, led by junior Rufus Brown. The safeties are young, but quite talented. Sophomore Jerome Carter headlines this group along with fellow sophomores B.J. Ward and Kyler Hall.

Tech has an experienced group in the secondary. They are led by senior safeties Jeremy Muyers and Cory Collins, who rank fourth and fifth on the team in tackles respectively. Muyers also has a team-high four interceptions. Corners Marvious Hester and Jonathan Cox, both 5'10,” may have some trouble guarding Florida State’s big receivers.

Advantage: Georgia Tech

Special Teams:

Despite a solid season for place kicker Xavier Beitia, wide left will continue to haunt him. The sophomore has gone 16-22 on field goals. Senior punter Chance Gwaltney is a solid punter averaging 41.1 yards-per-punt. Return specialist Leon Washington is averaging over twelve yards on each punt return and over 32 yards on kickoff returns, including a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

Georgia Tech special teams have been solid all season. Kicker Luke Manget is 9-13 on field goals and with his ten points against N.C. State passed Scott Sisson to become Tech’s all-time leading scorer. Manget’s consecutive PAT streak is now at 153. The punter duo of Dan Dyke and Chris Morehouse has combined for an average of 40.2 yards-per-punt. Tech return specialists have been consistent but have not broken many big plays.

Advantage: Even
Evaluating the BCS: For once the ‘C’ isn’t silent

By John Parsons
Senior Staff Writer

Last weekend provided the first major shakeup in the BCS. Four of the last eight undefeated teams in Division 1-A fell, leaving Oklahoma, Ohio State, Miami and Bowling Green. Miami even slipped behind Ohio State in the BCS after playing Rutgers close before a 34-point fourth quarter explosion won the game by a 48-17 margin. They trailed the Scarlet Knights 17-14 heading into the fourth quarter!

How’s that for a challenge to one’s manhood: trailing the Scarlet “Anythings” in football heading into the fourth quarter. Ohio State, meanwhile, demolished the far more fearsome Golden Gophers of Minnesota by a 34-3 margin.

Oklahoma has to be considered the best the nation right now after mowing down Texas, Iowa State and Colorado in the last four weeks. It’s even more impressive if you consider that all three of those teams were riding high heading into their respective matchups with the Sooners. In fact, they all had winning streaks of at least five games snapped by the Sooners.

Miami can still make up ground with their remaining schedule, which consisted of visits to Knoxville and Syracuse and hosting Pittsburgh and Virginia Tech. My guess is that it would be Ohio State left out of the party if all three major undefeated teams finished that way.

It is pretty obvious from glancing at the rest of the standings that strength of schedule plays a much stronger role this year.

Why else would thrice beaten Florida and FSU each be in the top fifteen. This emphasis on schedule strength seems to already be having a positive affect on the game.

Already this year we’ve seen FSU/Notre Dame and Miami/Florida matchups that used to be reserved for bowl games. This weekend Tennessee will host Miami. No doubt ADs will start looking for more of these types of non-conference opponents, especially for teams in conferences like the Big East where there just aren’t enough quality opponents within the conference make a case for inclusion in the title game, especially when carrying a loss.

I guess the only thing that puzzles me about the polls this week is how far Colorado fell after a loss to Oklahoma. Meanwhile, Georgia and Notre Dame barely moved after losses to opponents perceived as inferior. You’d think that Florida and Boston College would at least make significant gains in the polls, but that didn’t happen either. To close out this college football themed column, I think the Michigan State coaching situation needs addressing. Bobby Williams was fired this week after the program’s worst loss in 55
years left the team with a 3-6 record.

That doesn’t get you fired, however. The most telling moment in the whole issues was his response when he was asked if he had lost the team.

He said, “I don’t know.” That is as close to “yes” as you’re going to get in response to that question. I can only say that it’s about time.

The team had already lost two of its captains. Quarterback Jeff Smoker was suspended for “violating team rules,” which can be as little as missing curfew or as big as a nice way of saying he has a drug and/or alcohol problem. It turns out it was the latter.

Then tailback Dawan Moss went Randy Moss on a cop after a traffic stop (Memo to NYPD: Beware of pulling over Santana). So what Williams meant to say was: “Lost the team? What team? I don’t see a team.”
SPORTS BRIEFS

Tech basketball season opens Friday

Tech basketball fans can get their first look at the 2002-2003 men and women’s teams at HoopsFest on Friday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m., at Alexander Memorial Coliseum at McDonald’s Center. Admission is free, and both teams will scrimmage and be available for autographs and photos. There will be contests and games for fans of all ages and 150 T-shirts will be given away.

Paintball team takes home SEC Championships

The Georgia Tech Tournament Paintball Team took home the first place trophy in their first NCPA (National Collegiate Paintball Association) event. The team competed in the championships against the UGA, Clemson, Virginia Tech, the Citadel, and Oklahoma State. Tech is currently ranked No. 9 in the nation after competing in only a single event.

No. 24 Volleyball tames Tigers

The Georgia Tech volleyball team defeated Clemson in four games, 30-23, 30-27, 25-30, 30-26 on Tuesday night. With the win, the Yellow Jackets improve to 24-5, 10-3 Atlantic Coast Conference while the Tigers fall to 15-13, 6-7 ACC.

Memorial toy drive at FSU-Tech football game

The Michael Isenhour Memorial Toy Drive to Benefit Kids with Cancer will be held this Saturday at Bobby Dodd Stadium. Collection of toys will begin 1 hour prior to kick-off. All toys collected will be donated to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and the Ronald McDonald House. Students are encouraged to bring unwrapped, unused toys to any gate surrounding the stadium.