SGA candidates kick off campaign

By Tony Kluemper News Editor

With three candidates running for both president and vice president of the undergraduate SGA, this year’s race appears to be one of the most contested in recent years. Each candidate has been actively campaigning since the campaign kick off at midnight on Wednesday.

The three candidates for the presidential race are Ben Lawder, the current treasurer of UHR, Nate Watson, the current executive vice president, and Calvin John Yu, who does not currently serve in SGA. In the vice presidential race, Public Policy Rep Michael Handelman, Freshmen Rep Danny Packert and Junior Rep Chris Rankine will face off.

While the top races feature numerous options, the Undergraduate House voted at its Tuesday meeting to extend the deadline for representative applications until today. The extension came as a result of a low number of applicants for the positions. In fact, at the end of the day Tuesday, there were only applicants running for just over half of the representative positions in the House.

See SGA, page 5

Suspect still at large in spring break assault

By Daniel Amick Assistant News Editor

Over spring break, a woman was assaulted in the first-floor restroom of the Student Services Building. The incident occurred Tuesday March 4. Erin Mace had been studying for roughly two hours and entered the restroom at about 8 p.m.

“While in the bathroom, she heard some noise,” said Lenford Forbes, a criminal investigator with the Georgia Tech Police Department. Mace opened the stall to find a white male standing in front of her. The man exposed himself before pushing her back toward the stall. Mace screamed “Fire!” and “Help!”

“The attacker” grabbed her by the throat, pushed her toward the stall, and told her not to scream or he would crush her throat. He told her not to say anything,” said Forbes.

At that point, Mace kicked the attacker in the groin. “He let her go and left the bathroom,” said Forbes. According to the Incident Report, Mace followed the man into the hall and grabbed the back of his jacket collar, turning him around. The man then ran out of the south-west door of the building.

There were not many other students in the Student Services Building at the time and no one else was able to have seen the attacker. Mace called the police and GTPD Officer Carla Gartner responded. A search for the individual was unsuccessful.

“We’ve been checking with other local agencies, the City of Atlanta, (and) Georgia State Police Department to see if they have any similar incidents,” said GTPD Public Safety Lieutenant Cecelya Taylor.

“(Other local agencies) don’t have any similar incidents with people of the same description. They’ve been given fliers, as have other law enforcement agencies close by,” said Forbes.

Investigators have released a description and sketch of the attacker. The man is between 20 and 25 years old. He has a slen- der build and is about 5’10” or 5’11.” He has short, dark hair, and is of slim build.

See Assault, page 6

Housing plans smoking ban for fall ‘03

By Laura Masce Contributing Writer

It looks like the number of smokers who congregate outside dorm entrances may soon be in- creasing. The Department of Housing announced this week that it would be enforcing a no-smoking policy beginning Aug. 3, 2003 for all campus resident halls. The new policy has been enacted as a result of the RHA’s proposal for a smoking ban, which appears to have much appeal among residents based on a sur- vey sent out in fall 2001.

Jason Hurley, vice president of RHA, was one of the first members of the organization to bring up the idea for a student survey regarding a smoking ban, and RHA chose to work with the Wellness Center and Resi- dence Life in order to create an unbiased means to chart resi- dents’ attitudes.

“I wanted every student to have a voice,” said Hurley, “and the method we chose was an online survey that was emailed to everyone.”

The survey generated a re- sponse from over 44 percent of residents (2,881 students), and when asked, “should smoking be permitted in residence hall buildings,” 82.6 percent of the respondents said no.

The survey showed that the housing body wanted smoking out of the resident halls, while 71.7 percent of the respondents said “no” to smoking in the resident halls.

See Smoking, page 5

SGA presidential candidates Ben Lawder and Nate Watson get an early start putting up posters all over campus. Campaigning began at midnight Wednesday and runs until elections March 28.

By Chris Guestyer STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

RHA elects new president, officers

The Residence Hall Association held elections for next year’s officers at this week’s meeting.

Members elected Andrew Howard, who is currently serv- ing as treasurer of the organiza- tion, as next year’s president. Aaron Wroblewski, who has served as RHA’s programs coordi- nator, won the treasurer race.

And after over five runoffs Stephanie Johnson came out on top of the election for secretary.

Since there were no candi- dates for vice president, RHA has extended the deadline to turn in applications. Students have until this Wednesday to fill out an application at www.rha.gatech.edu.

Alumni offer Arch. scholarship

Tech graduates Michael Rand- all and Alex Paulson of Rand- all-Paulson Architects Inc. of Roswell have created a $25,000 scholarship for Architecture stu- dents. Applicants must submit a 2,000 to 5,000 word essay on “the impact of non-traditional services on the business of archi- tecture.” For more information, see www.randallpaulson.com.

Post office changes to come this summer

By Tony Kluemper News Editor

In an attempt to respond to student opin- ion, officials in the Student Center announced this week numerous changes in both space and procedures to the campus post office system for on-campus and off-campus stu- dents beginning this summer.

According to Student Center director Rich Steele, all of the changes will be made as part of the remodeling planned for the old bookstore space.

“The expansion will require that we elimi- nate approximately one-third of the post office boxes in order to create a connection between the two buildings,” said Steele.

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From the archives...

**The Nique’s top stories from:**

10 years ago: March 5, 1993—SGA cut $180,000 from the student activity fee budget. GSS recommended that all students take a lab safety class to comply with OSHA regulations. Residents of Burge, Callaway, and Healey formed the Family Housing Association because of increased crime.

20 years ago: March 4, 1983—Ballots in the SGA election were declared invalid after an Elections Committee member tampered with them. Committee Chairman Dick Murdock found “seven distinct stacks of ballots, all facing the same direction” inside a locked ballot box at the library.

30 years ago: March 9, 1973—The Athletic Association Dining Hall reopened as striking dining hall workers and management reached an agreement. The agreement didn’t raise wages but did give workers paid vacation time, paid overtime, and ten paid holidays per year. Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter visited Tech for a banquet for the State Legislature.
Graduates amend, pass ‘03-’04 budget

By Tony Klaumner
News Editor

After two weeks of amendment debates, the graduates were refreshed enough from spring break to call for a vote on next fiscal year’s student activity fee budget. The vote capped off a meeting, that originally featured very little debate outside of the budget. Senator Kasi David made the original motion to untable the budget bill in order to ask for an amendment, which had already been approved by the Undergraduate House, who had passed the budget two meetings earlier.

David’s amendment called for the removal of the budget of the Yellow Jacket Flying Club. The status of the club in accordance with SGA policy is currently under debate, and many senators felt it was best to cut the budget since these issues had not yet been resolved.

“The can always request the money through bills next year,” said ECE Senator Pelham Norville. “There is some legal ambiguity to whether it is actually a club, which prevents a reason to cut its budget.”

However, others wished to wait until the actual status of the club was decided before cutting its budget. “Why can we wait until the waiver is discussed next week before we decide?” asked AE Senator Kent Siebenek.

When the vote was called on the amendment, more senators carried Pelham’s opinion and the amendment passed by a wide majority.

Once the single amendment had been passed, another motion was made to approve the entire budget including all of the amendments made by the senators in past meetings. After debating the issue for over a month, there was ironically no debate when the vote was called. In the end, the budget also passed with little opposition. Although both parts of SGA have now passed the amended budget, the process is not yet been resolved.

See GSS, page 4

House reps approve spring break vote

By Daniel Amick
Assistant News Editor

A quick look at the agenda for Tuesday night’s meeting of the Undergraduate House suggested a repeat of the ultra-short meeting two weeks ago. Controversial issues like a resolution on the Flying Club’s funding eligibility and a new incarnation of the immigration bill were pushed off until next week, leaving only a handful of bills.

However, there must be a bellow somewhere that precludes the possibility of back-to-back brevity, because the pace of the meeting quickly dropped to a crawl, beginning with the appointments of eleven new representatives.

CS Rep Adam Bernstein made a motion to hold off on appointments until the end of the meeting. He argued that new reps should not vote on bills up for consideration this week because they had not had time to study the issues.

“There’s a reason we have new business and old business,” said Bernstein. Public Policy Rep Michael Handelman and ME Rep Josh Alexander countered that the appointees are intelligent people and should be allowed to participate in the meeting. Bernstein’s motion failed, and the reps took their oaths of office.

Reps voted to override the Joint Finance Committee and fund T-shirts for Tech Beautification Day and food for Culture Tech.

Sophomore Rep Amy Phuong and Management Rep Ben Lawder argued that T-shirts were a “vital part” of Tech Beautification Day, providing both publicity and a reward to participants.

MSPE Rep Glenn Matthews opposed the funding of Culture Tech food, saying that reps should apply an even standard to all organizations. ECE Rep John Paterson countered that food is an essential part of the event. After discussion, both allocations passed by a wide margin.

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Peering into the future

brown eyes and a facial piercing of some kind.

The individual was wearing a dark-colored, heavy, canvas-type jacket, dark pants, and dark leather shoes. He is being sought for Battery and Public Indecency.

If you have any information regarding this case, contact Detective Forbes at 404-894-9966 or by email at lenford.forbes@police.gatech.edu.

According to Forbes, crimes like this are not common on-campus.

We might have one or two [a year]," he said.

Mace fought her attacker, but anyone faced with the same situation should judge for themselves whether to do the same.

"If the person is armed, we wouldn't recommend anything like that,"she said.

He said that students be aware of their surroundings in and around campus buildings.

"Call transportation and parking if you need an escort," said Taylor.

"That's very important." She also suggested traveling in pairs.

Leah Melnick, a second year International Affairs major, has a different view on the new smoking policies, for she feels that students who choose to smoke, like herself, will be greatly inconvenienced by having to go outside.

"If two roommates are living together and they both agree about smoking, then it should be up to the roommates in that room," Melnick said. "I don't think it should be the decision of other people on campus about what people can do in their own rooms."

Michelle Grant also recognizes possible problems with the new policy. "I can see the ban becoming an issue with people getting upset that Georgia Tech is mandating policies about things they like, but that's not the case," said Grant.

Morrison sees many benefits resulting from the no-smoking policy, as well, such as better rapport between roommates. "I am hoping this will improve roommate relations," he stated. "The number one problem prior to these smoke-free housing initiatives was almost always the debate between smoking and non-smoking."

"This policy is something that can work for students, and that we worked through with students," said Morrison.
PO Boxes  from page 1

The other changes are completely separate from the physical renova-
tions, however, as those involved hope to work to make the mail sys-
tem more efficient. Steele said that over the past three years, numerous
task forces have looked at the issue and recommended many of the same
steps. “The first task force made a recommendation a couple of years
ago that we reduce box assignments so that only campus residents would
be automatically assigned a box,” said Steele.

With the removal of nearly 5,000 boxes definite, the Student
Center used this opportunity to begin this process. The first step was to survey
students, both on-campus and off-
campus, on their opinion of the need for campus mail boxes. According to
project manager Carter Green, over 2,500 students responded.

Green said that the results clear-
ly showed that off-campus students did not feel the use of a campus box
was needed. In fact, nearly 76 per-
cent answered that they either defi-
nitely or probably would not want
to retain a box on campus, while only 5 percent felt that it was very
important to maintain the box.

These results led Steele and Green
to develop a new plan where stu-
dents not living on campus this fall
would not automatically be assigned
a box beginning this summer. How-
ever, off-campus students who want
to keep their boxes will still have
that option.

“There would be an application
that would need to be completed and
we have stated that it’s on a first-come, first-serve basis,” said Steele.

Green wanted to make sure to
clearly define the term “on-cam-
pus” housing. “By on-campus we
mean students who are living in Tech
housing over the summer or have
applied for the fall,” said Carter.

“This doesn’t apply to Greek hous-
ing or housing through student or-
ganizations.”

SGA  from page 1

marks the second year that the ap-
plication deadline was extended due
to lack of candidates.

Graduate senators also kicked off
their election process this week. How-
ever graduate students will vote	only on the president and vice pres-
ident in the election.

The graduate election also fea-
tures two candidates for president and three for vice president. Cur-
rent senators Yaser Bharti and Pel-
ham Norville will campaign for the
top job while current senators Roy
Furbank, Deborah Middleton and Robin Bechel will compete for vice
president.

Campaigning will continue un-
til March 26 when students can be-
gin voting online in the general
election. The polls will remain open
until 4 p.m. March 28.

UHR  from page 3

Executive Vice President Nate
Watson temporarily gave up the chair
to speak in favor of a bill that he
wrote, a non-binding referendum
on spring break. The referendum
gives students an opportunity to vote
on whether to move spring break
back one week, two weeks or to leave it where it is.

Watson said that administrators are
willing to work with student
government on this issue and to
make a decision based on student
opinion, but it is very difficult to determine what student opinion is.
A referendum, he said, is appropri-
ate.

Reps debated at length the for-
mat of the question. Rep Tegan
Counts pushed for a two-part ques-
tion, while Rep Eman Kirbaj sug-
gested that students rank the three
choices. In the end, reps approved a
two-part question asking if spring
break should be changed and, if so,
how.

Reps also considered a resolu-
tion on new Stinger bus service routes. Administrators are developing
plans for new routes once Tech Square
and other new buildings are com-
pleted. The resolution would ex-
press dissatisfaction with currently
plans.

Lawder said he thought the issue
was important but urged more study
before passing the resolution.

“I’m not sure that I know enough
to make an informed decision,” he
said.

Matthews and EAS Rep Hunter
Oates spoke in favor of the resolu-
tion, saying that they saw nothing
wrong with expressing opinions to
administrators. Reps voted to table
the resolution until a later date.