

FOCUS

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Tech tenderness

The Tech community shows an outpouring of kindness and generosity within the first two weeks of school. Page 18

Not just a dream team

This is a reality—check out Tech's best recruiting class ever in women's basketball history. Page 40



By Ian Clark / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Clough is Georgia Tech's link to Washington, D.C. Clough has recently been invited to serve on many local, regional and national committees for a myriad of topics, ranging from homeland security to sewers.

President popular servant

Tech's Clough exemplifies the "Progress and Service" motto of the Institute through his public service record for city, state and nation

By Jennifer Schur
Focus Editor

Natural gas deregulator. Sewer fixer. Science advisor. Economic planner. In addition to the many capacities in which he serves on campus, Tech President Wayne Clough has been devoting a significant amount of his time to public service. Indeed, the president seems to be exemplifying the "Progress and Service" that has served as the Institute's motto since 1885.

Clough's most recent venture into public service work came at President George W. Bush's recent economic forum at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Bush gathered a diverse group of Americans—from educators to manual laborers to small business owners—for the one-day summit to discuss the current economy and the president's plans for its future growth.

Eight panels made up the forum, with Tech's Clough participating in the Technology and Innovation panel.

"I was very impressed that President Bush, Vice President Cheney and the entire Cabinet would at-

tend a meeting like this and really do a lot of listening," said Clough in *The Whistle*, Tech's faculty and staff newspaper.

"I think we all came away impressed by how little they talked and how much they listened to our ideas, observations and concerns."

Attending the Waco summit, however, was not Clough's first service work for the commander-in-chief. Since his appointment in December, Clough has served on the President's Council of Advisors in Science and Technology (PCAST).

Clough accepted his role on the Council with great enthusiasm.

"This committee affords me a unique opportunity to help represent our views in addressing the policies that set the national agenda," said Clough.

"The issues we've been asked to address have never been more important at this time in our nation's history."

Bush gave the PCAST four issues to address in December: the science and technology of combating terrorism, improving energy efficiency, federal investments in

science and technology and its economic benefits and infrastructure for the 21st century. The group issued the first of its reports in late July on the subject of combating terrorism.

Management flexibility is of paramount importance in the initial organization of research and development programs within the Department of Homeland Security—in terms of organization, personnel and budget. Especially in this initial formative stage, and given that DHS must successfully merge existing programs and cultures, flexibility in organizing an overall structure and establishing operational programs will be vitally important," said the PCAST report.

"The management of technical programs is best conducted in an environment where requirements are clearly specified for the broad goals and objectives, but specific mandates and prohibitions regarding how to achieve these objectives are avoided."

Clough actually chairs the panel on Federal Research and Develop-

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An Occasional Series



First decade of women filled with feats

Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer

Imagine attending convocation as a college freshman and being one of only two women in the audience out of 800 men. Elizabeth Herndon and Diane Michel faced this situation when they enrolled at Tech in 1952.

While the original enabling act in 1885 did not mention gender, there were no female graduates from any state-supported university in Georgia until 1919, when Annie Wise graduated from the Evening School of Commerce in 1919 with a bachelor of commercial studies degree. Wise later became a commerce instructor at Tech.

When other state colleges became co-ed in 1933, the Board of Regents specifically prohibited women from Tech.

In 1943, Annie Bonds, a North Fulton High School senior, petitioned the Board of Regents to change the Georgia Code because she wanted to be an electrical engineer. Forced to attend Auburn when the regents denied her petition, she tried to receive a tuition reimbursement, a request also denied.

Although the world had changed after the war, Georgia was still the only state in the nation to ban engineering degrees for women. How-

ever, the cause had a strong ally—Ella Van Leer. Ella Van Leer was the wife of then-Tech President Blake Van Leer.

In 1945, the Van Leers began their campaign to make the institute coed. Many criticized the Van Leers' actions. The *Technique* frequently received negative letters to the editor about the proposal.

Despite the constant ridicule and criticism, Ella Van Leer persisted with her campaign and enlisted the Women's Chamber of Commerce to help and started a petition drive. However, in June 1947, the Regents rejected President Van Leer's appeal to change section 32-123.

A new alternative for women arose in 1948 when the Technical Institute also known as Southern Tech opened as a co-educational institution. Barbara Hudson was the first female student in this program.

Dorothy Crosland, Tech's librarian at the time, joined the crusade in 1947. Crosland's influence with members on the regents' board contributed to the progressive changing of attitudes on the board. President Van Leer also directed Cherry Emerson to conduct studies on how much it would cost to add female lavatories on campus. Emerson's study indicated it would take \$50,000 to build ladies' rest rooms in all of the old buildings on cam-

pus. Van Leer sent the "toilet report" and information on women's organizations raising funds to the board to challenge the state's policies in court.

On March 12, 1952, Regent Rutherford Ellis, the then-new chairman of the Education Committee, sponsored a resolution to change the admissions policy. On April 9 the Board of Regents agreed in a 7-5 vote to admit women to Tech.

The new admissions policy only allowed women to pursue degrees in engineering or architecture because other state colleges offered the sciences. However, Van Leer sought to change the admissions policy and also open to ROTC to women.

The first four women admitted were Coleman Douglass, an architecture major, Regina Marie Didden, a chemical engineering major, Herndon, an aeronautical engineering major and Michel, an electrical engineering major. However, only Herndon and Michel came in the fall quarter. Four more women arrived in winter 1953 and five arrived in fall 1953. There were over 5,000 males on campus and 800 males in Herndon and Michel's freshman class.

Faced with criticism from their classmates, which included com-

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Profile of Andy Powell

FACES AT GEORGIA TECH

By Jennifer Lee
Contributing Writer

For someone whose resume includes "published author of *You May Not Tie an Alligator to a Fire Hydrant: 101 Real Dumb Laws*," freshman Andy Powell is quite modest and soft-spoken.

The book, published in June by Simon & Schuster, is based on a website, www.dumblaws.com, that Powell and his high school friend Jeff Koon created. The 18-year-old from Columbus, Georgia admits that the idea just came randomly to the two of them one day. "School just

wasn't keeping us occupied enough. We got bored," Powell explains.

The site has been around for a while: the pair created dumblaws.com during their freshman year. The site has about 1,300 laws listed, organized by state, city and other categories. For example, in Quitman, Georgia, it is illegal for a chicken to cross the road.

Like many sites, they first hosted it on a free webspace provider. Later, however, as the number of dumb laws grew, they decided to get their own domain. "It was a big

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By Tim Cailloux / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Andy Powell became a website owner during his freshman year in high school, then a two-time published author by his freshman year in college.

Tech sense of community shines

By Jennifer Schur
Focus Editor

The warm feeling is evident when you walk through the doors. Tommy throws a smile and a wave your way, and you know you belong in this mecca of student eats. Junior's Grill has been a Tech tradition in good food and even better hospitality for 54 years. Earlier in August, the Tech community was given the opportunity to return Junior's kindness.

On August 22 Junior's employee Leo Vargas and his family were chased out of their apartment in Peachtree Creek by a fire started by a neighbor's abandoned, burning cigarette. Their apartment sustained heavy damage and the family was left homeless—but not for long, thanks to Tech friends. The Tech community responded in a quick three days once an email call for help was dispatched by Billie Pendleton-Parker.

"I didn't expect all this. I'm very surprised," said Vargas of the community's generosity.

Vargas and his brother Lupe, sister Carmen and Carmen's eight-month-old baby were without clothes, furniture and basic necessities after the fire. The material and emotional support provided by Tech students and faculty was "overwhelming. [There was] a great response and we got everything we needed and more," Vargas said through interpreter Tom Tsilakis.

This situation allows Tech "to mirror itself, to see how generous we are as a community. This is the message, the bottom line we should

take away from all that's happened," Junior's owner Tommy Klemis said. Klemis repeatedly mentioned the importance of Tech's tightly-knit community to the school's character and charm. Although Klemis has never before seen this kind of speedy and kind response to someone's misfortune, it "doesn't surprise me. It would happen time and time again as long as people know about [the incident]."

Vargas, who buses tables and cleans up at Junior's, has since relocated to a new apartment, a switch that was made easier because of the

help of the Tech community and their outpouring of generosity. The apartment is fully furnished due to donations from the community.

When asked why people responded the way they did, Vargas said, "[They are] good hearted

people."

"My brother and sister [and I] are very grateful, [we] thank everyone who helped."

The experiences of Nazanin Ruppender during the first week of school similarly exemplified the strong community at Tech.

Ruppender's car was stolen from her hotel the week before fall semester began. Her car was filled with all of the belongings she was carting from home to school, including clothes, textbooks, a computer and other personal items.

Bobby Pearson, Director of the Bookstore, said, "I can't imagine being in this situation."

Through the bookstore, Pearson was able to help Ruppender and her family by giving her text-

books, clothes and other items the bookstore could provide.

"It was an easy decision to make. It's a community effort to help out, [and I] want[ed] to help out as much as I [could]," Pearson said.

"This isn't the first time something like this has happened. The departments rally around—this [campus] is a friendly environment. People want to help out as much as possible."

Dan Morrison, Associate Director of Housing for Residence Life, also lent a hand. He asked himself, "What resources do we have to help?"

Through the Department of Housing, Morrison allowed Ruppender to check in to housing without her stolen buzzcard and set up a computer and telephone in her room. Morrison also thought to tell Ruppender's family to check into the buyer protection programs that might apply to her belongings and make it easier to recover the money from the stolen items.

Morrison's aim was to "get them through this crisis so they could focus on what they could do. I wanted to let her family know that [Nazanin] is taken care of here, so you can out [to fix other things]." He tried to be "helpful with what was available." Ruppender's father thanked Morrison for his help, emphasizing that the kind response his family received from the Tech community was one of the reasons he wanted his daughter at a school like Georgia Tech. Morrison recalls at least four instances in his five years at Tech in which the community has rallied around a person in need. Dining services has provided people with temporary meal plans, Housing found a permanent on-campus home for a family hurt by arson and once even converted a residence lounge into a temporary dorm room for a misplaced student.

"I want to believe that one does that on a campus like this—that we aren't so big," Morrison said.

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investment," he says of the \$100 they spent on purchasing their domain.

"My family was a little skeptical of the whole website when I started out in 1998. They were like, don't stress yourself out over this. Concentrate on your schoolwork."

However, their investment more than paid off, because Yahoo! listed their site on one of their top 100 lists, and with that, hits jumped from just a few to about 10,000 hits a day. Powell consistently spent about 10-15 hours a week over a period of four years on the site. "Of course,

sometimes school bogged us down, but sometimes, we had lots of free time so we'd spend it on the site." This summer, for example, Powell spent a good deal of time revamping it.

How do they find these laws? Much of the research is done online: "People send them to us, and we just verify them. Also," he adds, "sometimes we just read through laws and see. After doing it for a while, you get a feel for where the good ones are."

The book is a condensed version of the website, with 101 laws divided up into three sections: People, Animals and Things. Every law gets a page, and included is the full text of the law, as well as comments for some of the more interesting ones. Powell also wrote the preface.

So has his life changed since the book was published? Well, sort of. For one thing, he's not rich. For *101 Real Dumb Laws*, he received \$6000 in advance, and he also gets 60 cents per book after 15,000 are sold. Currently, he says, their book has sold about 12,000 copies.

"It's not as exciting as you might

think," Powell laughs.

Although there are some interesting stories: "People have come to me saying, 'I'm getting divorced and my husband wants to take everything—will you come defend me in court?' And I'm like, no, no."

Another funny story, he says, happened a couple of months ago. "Someone emailed me, and said, 'This is just wonderful work you're doing for the Libertarian Party! Thank you for getting our word out there!' You know, down with the big government, and stuff like that."

Powell says that neither he, nor Koon, had any sort of political feelings in mind when they created the website or wrote the book. "At the

time, I wasn't even 18, so I couldn't vote... I'm just doing it for the heck of it." He adds, "Simon & Schuster called me. We didn't try and promote it or anything."

Pulling out a copy of the book, he flips quickly through the pages. "Lots of these are sort of common sense," he says, stopping on a page with a law that says that you can't lean over a bridge. "But I think, no real harm comes out of the laws."

He pauses so a *Technique* photographer can snap a picture of him with his book, and then puts it back into his backpack. Powell doesn't seem to mind posing—after all, this summer he and Koon did a media tour which included appearances on Good Morning America, The Early Show, CNN's American Morning with Paula Zahn and Fox and Friends.

"It was really, really fun," Powell says enthusiastically of the four-day, all-expenses-paid trip. "We got set up in the Marriott Marquis, did the whole TV star deal. They gave us \$100 a day to eat, so we'd buy din-

"I don't think this will become a career; I just got lucky."

Andy Powell

Author and ME Freshman

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Tech Up Close

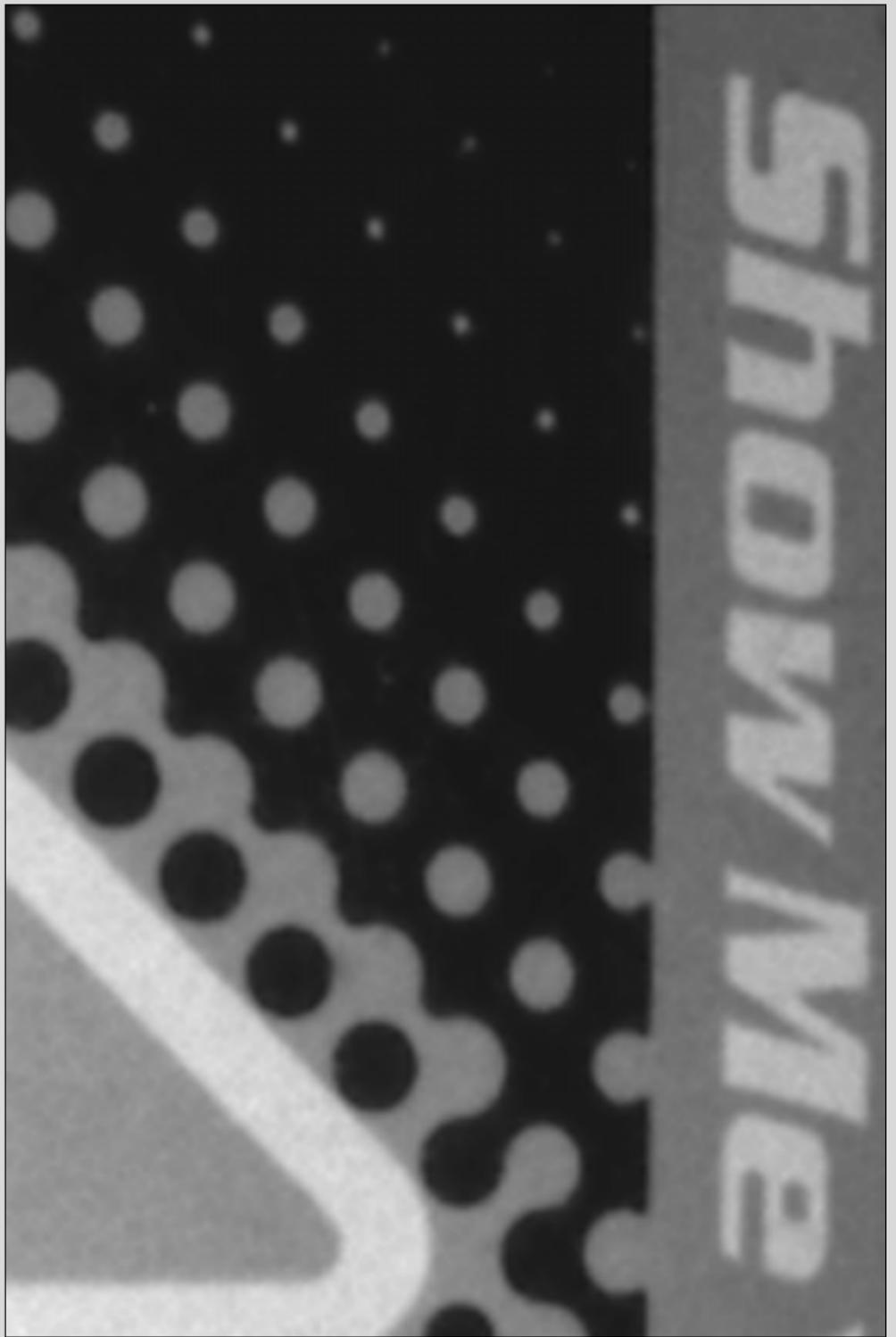


email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

Winner of the Tech Up Close contest receives a *Technique* T-shirt and a coupon for a free student combo at Li'l Dino's.

Last week's Tech Up Close: Olympic runner carving on the side of the Bookstore Mall next to the College Optical.

Last week's winner:
Lesley Ribble



By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Clough

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ment.

The President's contributions in the public sector are not limited to just the arena of national policy; he is making a difference in Tech's backyard as well. Clough serves on a number of State of Georgia and City of Atlanta boards.

Earlier this year Georgia Governor Roy Barnes appointed Clough to chair the Governor's Blue Ribbon Natural Gas Task Force, which studied Georgia's natural gas deregulation. Since the General Assembly approved deregulation of the natural gas industry in 1997 in hopes that it would lower prices and improve customer service, many believe the policy has failed on both counts. Suppliers have even had trouble making profits and staying in business. Clough's committee, however, found that re-regulation, switching all of Georgia's gas users back to one provider, would be chaotic, costly and unworkable.

In the City, Clough has taken

on the ominous task of revamping Atlanta's crumbling and polluted sewers—a task that has grown more arduous in the last several weeks, as initial figures on the possible cost of the project were released.

According to these numbers, an overall of the sewer system could cost anywhere from \$750 million to \$1.2 billion, depending on whether the city decides to dig deep storage tunnels to carry sewage overflow or build separate pipe systems to carry storm water and sewage. According to Mayor Shirley Franklin, unless Atlanta receives state and federal funds for the repairs, sewer rates in the city may triple over the next 12 years.

The committee, which has been working since June, has until the end of this month to choose a plan in order for the construction to be completed by 2007. The Environmental Protection Agency has imposed the 2007 deadline on the city, as the pollution from its sewers affect the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries.

In addition to the committees

mentioned, Clough also lends his time to several other civic groups. He is a member of the Executive Committees of Central Atlanta Progress and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce as well as a trustee of Georgia Research Alliance; he also acts as a special consultant to the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit System for ongoing major seismic retrofit operations.

With all his civic activity and leadership, it is no wonder that for six years, Clough has been listed among the 100 Most Influential People in Georgia by *Georgia Trend* magazine. Only the future will tell whether or not Clough takes his unique brand of "Progress and Service" to elected office; Perhaps a move from the President's Mansion to the Governor's Mansion is in this yellowjacket's long-term agenda.

The full report of the PCAST's recommendations is available online at www.ostp.gov/PCAST/DHSreport.html.

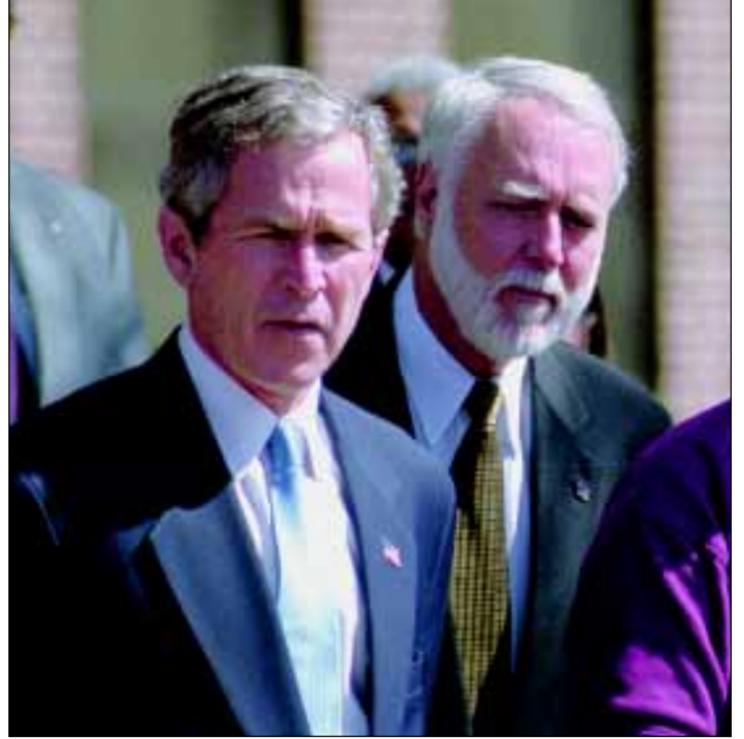


Photo Courtesy Institute Communications and Public Affairs

President Bush has asked Clough for his input on the President's Council of Advisors in Science and Technology and at the recent economic forum held in Waco, Texas, just a few of Clough's ventures into public service.

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ner and, like, three appetizers because we could. It was really cool," he reiterates.

And, of course, there were the shows. "I met all the people," he says of the news anchors he met. "At CNN, I literally bumped into Connie Chung behind the set as we were walking in opposite directions! She introduced herself in the end."

During one of the shows, Powell says, "we were sitting on the little loveseat, and it faces the window where everyone waves at you. We turned around during a commercial break, and everyone outside got ecstatic and started waving, as if someone important had just looked at them!"

He continues, a little pensively, "And I thought, I should be on the other side of the glass, waving in at people, not the other way around. So it was cool to have them look at me and Jeff like we were celebrities. You don't get that anywhere else."

Simon & Schuster also has the two writing a second book, this one on dumb warnings—and this time, the advance is \$10,000. Also in the works is a dumb laws board game.

But one thing's for sure: Georgia Tech, at least, is treating Powell the same as everyone else. "To do [the book] during senior year was not a big deal: your grades are done, you're home-free. But trying to get [the second one] done during freshman year is hectic." Besides having to work on the manuscript, Powell and Koon have to write 300 trivia questions to go with the board game. "The difference for Jeff," Powell says of his friend, who attends the University of Georgia, "is that he's got plenty of free time."

However, Powell's enjoying his life at Tech. He says, "I'm doing all the Tech things, like going to the football games and living in the freshman dorms. I'm having a lot of fun." A mechanical engineering major, he's interested in getting involved with GT Motorsports, although he admits the book keeps his plate full.

When asked if he sees writing in his future, Powell laughs, and says no. "Right now, I'm trying to focus on being a mechanical engineer. I don't think this will become a career; I just got lucky." But Powell maintains an optimistic and laid-back outlook: "I'm just running with it. Whatever happens, happens!"

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ments such as “Nell of an Engineer” and “I’m a Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech and I keep my lipstick near,” the women persisted and proved to their male classmates they wanted a real degree and not a “MRS” degree.

Since the women could not join any of the existing Greek fraternities, the first local sorority was established in 1953 and became a part of Alpha Xi Delta.

Ella Van Leer guided the women by serving as dorm mother—the first female students resided in spare bedrooms at her house. Tech did not open any female dorms until 1969.

Several milestones were reached: Ann Brown became the first female cheerleader in 1953. By fall 1954, there were two female cadets in the Air Force ROTC, even though the Air Force did not begin to recruit females till the 1970s. The Van Leers’ efforts paved the way for their daughter, Maryly Van Leer Peck, to become the first female doctoral candidate.

Unfortunately President Van Leer died in January 1956 before he could see the first woman graduate in June. Michel received a degree in Industrial Engineering in June 1956.

Physics prof performs a different experiment

By *Joshua Cuneo*
Contributing Writer

Dr. Michael Schatz of the School of Physics has advanced the integration of technology and education with the recent introduction of the personal response system in his Physics 2211 course.

Under this system, Schatz provides each student with an assigned transmitter and then poses a multiple-choice question on an overhead projector. After calculating the answer, each student keys his or her answer into the transmitter and then projects the signal to one of eight receivers posted around the room, giving the instant statistics which include what percentage of students selected each answer.

The transmitters themselves are numbered and come equipped with screens to display the student’s name and a space to key in a response. The student’s name changes color when he has successfully submitted his answer to the receiving unit. Using another student’s transmitter is considered an honor code violation.

“I’m glad I’m in [the class],” said Randy Hays, a freshman enrolled

in Schatz’s new experimental physics course. “I think it’s better than having him call out people randomly.”

The system does indeed work to encourage student enthusiasm in the course. “There’s a little bit of pride involved,” Hays explained. “When every question is complete, he pulls up the statistics, [and] you don’t want to be part of the 10 percent that got it wrong.”

Furthermore, the system forces student participation, thereby reinforcing the information to the class and improving student performance.

Also, since the questions count toward each student’s grade (albeit a small part) and attendance record, most students feel compelled to attend both the lectures and recitation—also taught by Schatz—every week.

“You have to come up with an answer, or else you’re not counted as being in class,” said Hays.

The system also carries a small—albeit noticeable—downside.

“Some people finish questions before everyone else, so they have to wait for awhile,” said Hays. Also, since the technology is new, students have to tolerate frequent in-



By Ian Clark / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A student in Schatz’s Physics 2211 course uses the new personal response system device as a new tool in problem solving alongside his calculator.

tervals of downtime.

Nevertheless, if the system continues to prove successful, it may be

a harbinger of similar technology in other classrooms, both within and outside of Tech.