

TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

ONLINE <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique>

Serving Georgia Tech since 1911 • Volume 87, Issue 30 • 36 pages

Shhh!!! Students participate in day of silence to support GLBT students.

FOCUS page 15

Greek Week 2002 continues on despite delays caused by weather, injuries.

NEWS page 7



Opinions 8 • Focus 15 • Entertainment 23 • Comics 28 • Sports 36

Admissions numbers show slight decrease

By Daniel Amick
Senior Staff Writer

In the third week of March, Georgia Tech's Office of Undergraduate Admissions mailed out the final set of acceptance letters to high school students who applied for entry in the 2002 Fall semester.

"We had a fewer number of applications this year, but the quality of the applicant pool was actually better than it was last year," said Director of Admissions Deborah Smith. "If you're using test scores as

your barometer, we expect next year's class to be as strong, maybe even stronger than [2001]," she said.

To date, Smith's office has received 8,899 freshman applications, 445 fewer than this time last year. This decline reverses the trend of rapid growth seen over the last three years.

"Between applications received in 1998 and...2001, we've had a 38 percent increase," said Smith. Freshman applications peaked last year at 9,482, the largest number in Tech's history.

"I think maybe we're just beginning to settle out," said Smith. The number of applicants who were accepted also decreased slightly, from 5,126 students last year, to 5,091 this year.

Accepted students have until May 1 to decide whether they wish to enroll. Smith expects at least 2,200 students to enroll in the fall. If this goal is met, the size of the new freshman class would be almost unchanged from the 2,220 who enrolled in 2001. However, the similarity in class size does not mean that class

composition will also remain steady. "The most significant change this year was a decrease in computer science applicants," said Smith.

"We've seen about a 30 percent decrease [from 2001 levels]," she said. This translates into about 460 fewer applications.

The drop follows three consecutive years of 30 to 35 percent annual growth in CS applicants.

"These were huge increases. I think what we're seeing is kind of a leveling off," said Smith. "Students are looking at other options, like

CompE and EE that incorporate computer science but don't necessarily lead to a degree in computer science."

International student applications also fell sharply. At this time last year, about 1,100 international students had applied for admissions. This year, that number has fallen by almost 50 percent to 556.

"Some of [the drop] could be attributed to the economy and [to] what's going on in other parts of the

See Numbers, page 5

Provost beefs up Dead Week policy

Tony Klumper
Assistant News Editor

Throughout much of Tech's recent history, the idea of an actually dead Dead Week has been more of a great idea than a reality for many Tech students. However, with the fall 1999 decision by the Academic Senate to make sure that no tests or quizzes were given during Dead Week beginning during Fall semester 2001, many thought that for the first time Dead Week would live up to its name.

As the policy stands right now, professors are not allowed to give test or quizzes during the week before final examinations. However, homework assignments and term projects are acceptable under the policy.

As many students found out at the end of last semester, these policies were not always upheld. According to SGA Vice President Nate Watson, the idea of a true Dead Week was in place last semester but the communication was somewhat lacking.

"I think a lot of students, including myself, had tests during Dead Week last semester," said Watson.

"We are talking about enforcing a policy on 800 faculty in every class they teach,

which in most cases is at least two classes, and communication within the Institute can be difficult at times, especially when you have a new policy that not everyone is completely aware of."

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs Bob McMath agreed with Watson that the lack of communication last semester was an

issue. "Now fall term, frankly I'm not sure we had a lot of communication," said McMath. "It had been approved by the Academic Senate, but that doesn't mean that everyone is necessarily going to know about it."

However, both Watson and McMath agree that students should see much more compliance with the Dead Week policy this semester. Watson feels that many started preparing early to make sure that everyone was informed of the policy and its meaning.

"We started early this year and I know that Dr. McMath and Dr. Chameau have been getting out and contacting professors and letting them know about the policy as well as letting school chairs know about the policy so that it comes up in faculty meetings and everyone is informed about it," said Watson.

"Cassie Pope and the SGA Academic Affairs committee have been working hard as well to help communicate this to faculty and work with students who still have tests scheduled during this time."

In addition, according to McMath, the faculty has been informed about the changes through numerous actions by his office and others over the past semester. "I have sent a notice to the faculty through the deans and the school chairs. There was also a brief story in the Whistle addressing the faculty," said McMath. "I think everyone is clear on what the rule is and I would

See Dead, page 2

"I think there should be much less confusion about the subject than there was in the fall."

Bob McMath
V. Provost of Academic Affairs

Relay for Life Tech Aids in Fight Against Cancer



By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students participate last Friday in the Relay for Life festivities held on SAC Field. This year's event marked the first time that Tech organized the fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. For a recap see page 15.

Greeks reject Dean's plan

By Chris Baucom
Editor Emeritus

Talks between the Interfraternity Council and the Dean of Students have stalled amid disagreements over the need for a Greek Chapter Excellence Plan. Work on the plan—which codifies standards of excellence for each chapter similar to the minimum standards already included in IFC's bylaws—began over three years ago and spans at least three different IFC administrations. The Panhellenic Council, which governs sororities, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which governs the historically black fraternities and sororities, have both given their support to the plan.

The plan identifies scholarship, philanthropy, leadership, chapter management, campus life, chapter relations and chapter awards as areas in which each Greek organization can achieve excellence. However, Greek leaders question whether or not the plan really aligns with the purpose of the Greek system.

Scholarship, leadership and philanthropy are by-products of a successful Greek system, Scott Crannell, IFC Pres-

ident, said. "The purpose of Greek organizations is to cultivate better people through building friendships around common values. When you build better people, better people use their skills to make the world better. So they use their skills for other things outside of their own Greek organizations."

"That was one of my concerns with the Greek excellence plan—I felt like it defined what our passions should be and I think that it threatened the individuality of each fraternity in the Greek system," Crannell said.

Many in the Greek community perceived the plan as forcing each chapter to participate in leadership and philanthropy, even though each group may not necessarily be interested in such activities. Administrators view the plan as a yardstick for evaluating chapter performance and as a potential public relations tool for both the Greek community and the Institute.

"It would enable us to pinpoint where some troublesome areas are and where we might be able to be more helpful in

See Greeks, page 5

Construction to continue through finals

Facilities plans to continue construction through finals week this year, as a number of projects are behind schedule. Usually campus construction is halted during the week, but this year work will continue on Bobby Dodd Stadium, the Biomedical Engineering building, Caldwell Residence Hall, and the Environmental Sciences building. Facilities also plans to continue the renovations to a number of other buildings. They plan to keep noise to a minimum.

Apply to park starting Mon.

On-line parking applications are available starting Monday April 15. Students, staff, and faculty can apply at www.applyparking.gatech.edu.

Technique Online Voice Your Opinion!

Last issue's poll garnered 57 responses to the question:
"Do you binge drink?"

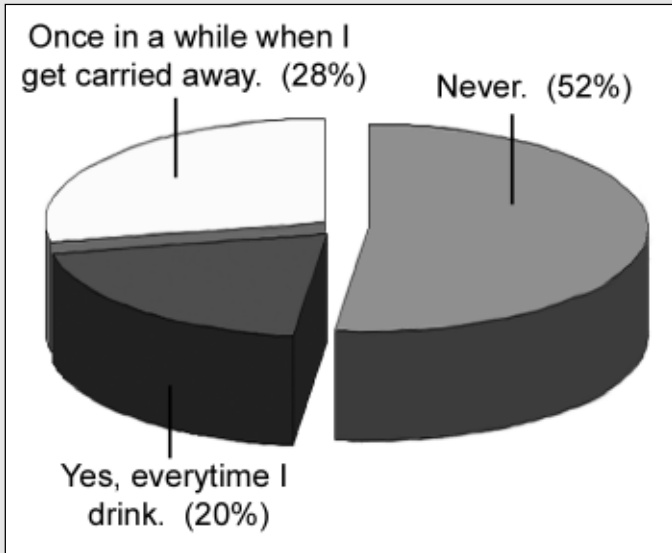
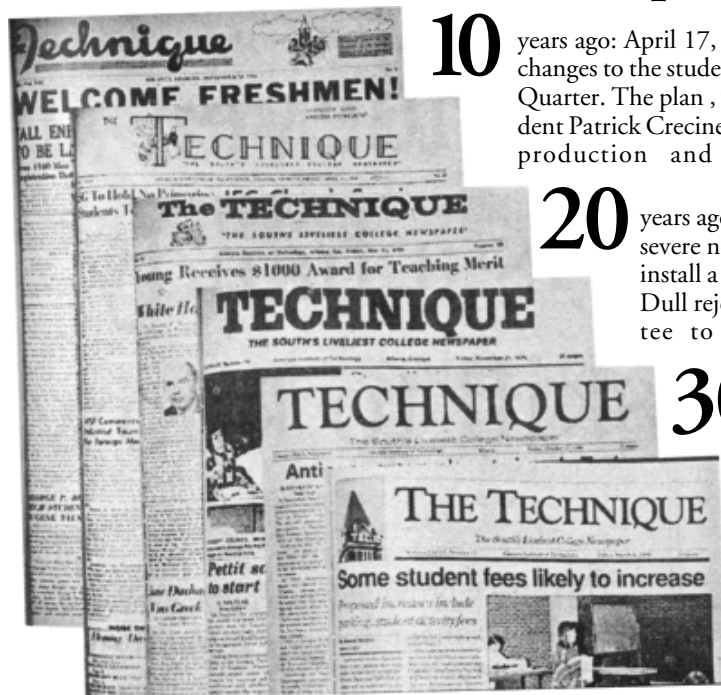


Image by Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's poll is domestic partner benefits. Do you think the Institute should offer such benefits to students or faculty members? Tell us what you think at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique.

From the archives...

The Nique's top stories from:

10 years ago: April 17, 1992—Tech announced plans to make changes to the student ID's at the beginning of the 1992 Fall Quarter. The plan, which was initially introduced by President Patrick Crecine, will include radical changes to both the production and use of the student ID cards.

20 years ago: April 16, 1982—In order to solve the severe noise problems, plans were announced to install a new whistle on top of the library. Dean Dull rejected a request from the movie committee to show X-rated films on campus.

30 years ago: April 21, 1972—The southbound lanes of Hemphill were officially closed off on campus. The northbound lanes should be closed within the next three weeks. The lane closings were a result of a transition to make the campus more pedestrian friendly. The plans call for a walkway to be built from the lower level of the Student Center to Skiles.

Dead

from page 1

say there has been a second wave of communication about the subject. I think there should be much less confusion about the subject than there was in the fall."

Although most of the faculty has now been notified of the change in policy and its effects, many students are now wondering what action to take if they do have a test or quiz during Dead Week. Watson urges anyone in this position to get in touch with either himself or Cassie

Pope as well as talking to the professors. McMath agrees that students should contact the professor as well as the chair of the school if an issue comes up. However, he feels that most professors will try to comply with the policy.

"I don't expect to have many cases of that but there may be one or two cases of that but we'll just have to play that by ear," said McMath. "I mean I can't say that there's going to be 100 percent compliance this term."

According to Watson, the next

step will be to evaluate how well the policy change was actually communicated this semester.

"We would like to analyze the success or failure of this policy and its implementation this semester, so at Midnight Breakfast we will be having a questionnaire available and be asking students to let us know if they had a test during Dead Week and what class it was in," said Watson. "That way we can find out where the problem areas are and help the administration focus on these areas."

Some students would argue that even with the policy changes in Dead Week, there is a better way to go about giving students time to prepare for finals. Although no counter proposals have been presented, Watson feels that there could be other solutions out there.

"Some schools use something like reading days where they have two days off before finals with no classes, but I'm not sure if that would be approved by Georgia Tech or the Board of Regents," said Watson.

However, according to McMath

the idea of a reading days system would not work for Tech.

"The reason why we have a dead week while there is still classes going on is by the Board of Regents policy that we have to have so many class days in the semester," said McMath. "Basically to have two semesters and a summer sessions and have a week in between, we are using every day that we can."

"It [reading days] is a great system if you can do it, but we are pretty much constrained by the calendar at this point."

Senate supports domestic partners

By Jody Shaw
News Editor

After an interesting discussion in which a number of senators raised different arguments, the Graduate Student Senate passed the Joint Resolution on Domestic Partnership Benefits that the Undergraduate House of Representatives failed two weeks prior.

There was initial confusion in the Senate, as some senators were unsure what to do with the bill since the House failed it; some wanted to remake the bill into a graduate-only resolution. They decided, however, that they should act on the bill at hand so that it could come off of the agenda. Because the House failed the resolution, however, it becomes little more than a symbolic gesture by the Senate. It was a stand on a controversial issue, that the House declined to take.

"I thought they [the Undergraduate Representatives] acted very stupidly," said At-Large Senator David Maybury. He argued that the Senate should pass the bill to make a point to UHR.

"A lot of them voted based on their religious beliefs," said Electrical and Computer Engineering Senator Elizabeth Chesnutt.

The senators, however, chose to support the bill.

"There are some very strong arguments for this type of partnership that our state does not recognize," said Math Senator Laura Sheppardson. She explained that until a few weeks ago she had opposed such partnerships, but after researching the subject, she had a change of heart.

The arguments of Maybury, Sheppardson, and a few other key senators were enough to overcome the opposition, many of whom were concerned about constituent backlash.

"I support this," said At-Large Senator Pelham Norvile, "but when I talked to my constituents, I got a mixed response."

The Senate votes were mixed as well. The bill passed with 13 senators voting yes, 11 voting no, and five choosing to abstain.

Council Clippings Senate and House



By Kimberly Hinckley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

HTS Representative Kristin Parker and Junior Class Representatives Dusty Riddle and Lindsey Mazza listen to debate at Tuesday's meeting of the Undergraduate House of Representatives. The meeting was stalled several times for lack of quorum.

Bills Considered

Undergraduate House of Representatives

Joint Allocation to Canoe, Kayak Club	Author: Stephen Popick	postponed
Joint Allocation to GT Earth Day	Author: Michael Handelman	passed
Joint Allocation to Presidents' Council	Author: Caroline Pflueger	failed
Joint Allocation to Tech Beautification Day	Author: Dusty Riddle	passed
Joint Allocation to Tech Beatification Day	Author: Dusty Riddle	passed

Graduate Student Senate

Joint Allocation to T-Book	Author: Laura Sheppardson	failed
Joint Allocation to GT Mock Trial Team	Author: Rani El-Hajjar	withdrawn
Joint Resolution on Domestic Partners	Author: Elizabeth Chesnutt	passed
Allocation to Public Policy Graduates	Author: Lindsey Rich	tabled
GSS Bylaws Amendment	Author: Elizabeth Chesnutt	passed
Joint Allocation to GT AIA	Author: David Maybury	passed
Joint Allocation to GT Bowling Club	Author: Laura Sheppardson	passed
Joint Allocation to GT Tennis Club	Author: Clint Chedester	passed
Joint Allocation to Georgia ASCE	Author: Michael O'Rourke	passed
Joint Allocation to Canoe, Kayak Club	Author: Elizabeth Chesnutt	passed
GSS Bylaws Amendment	Author: Elizabeth Chesnutt	tabled
Joint Allocation to Presidents' Council	Author: Laura Sheppardson	passed
Joint Allocation to Tech Beatification Day	Author: Joseph Jeong	passed
Joint Allocation to Tech Beutification Day	Author: Joseph Jeong	failed
Appointment to Institute Committee	Author: Trey Childress	passed

Enactment ratio used for TBD bill

By Jody Shaw
News Editor

On Tuesday, the members of the Undergraduate House of Representatives used the enactment ratio to pass a bill for the first time this school year. According to this formula, bills that the Graduate Student Senate fails may still be passed and enacted by the Student Government Association if they receive a certain percentage of votes in the House. This stipulation exists because undergraduate students make up more of Tech's overall student body and, thus, pay more of its activity fees.

In one of the most raucous meetings of the House in recent memory, the representatives allocated funds to Tech Beautification Day (TBD) for their post-volunteer celebration after a number of rather unusual events transpired. The meeting was delayed twice for lack of quorum. The TBD celebration bill originally failed, but it was reconsidered. On the reconsideration Executive Vice President Nate Watson announced that the bill had failed the enactment ratio only to reverse his announcement five minutes later and announce that the bill had indeed met the required majority. In the end, the organization received the over-\$5000 it requested.

The TBD group presented two bills to the House on Tuesday night. The first provided for funds to support the volunteer day itself. On the morning and early afternoon of Saturday April 27, Tech students, faculty and other Atlanta-area volunteers will clean-up campus in coordination with National Youth Service Day and Hands on Atlanta. The first bill that paid for supplies and other administrative needs passed after been amended according to Joint Finance Committee rules.

The second bill provided the conflict. TBD Finance Director Ben Lawder and Co-Chair Ankur Goel presented the bill; they argued that a post-volunteer activity aids in the service project and provides a

See UHR, page 7

Only one more issue to go! Hot diggity!

Greek

from page 1

mapping out a plan for the group," Gail DiSabatino, Dean of Students, said.

"Some need [assistance] more than others, some need it in different areas than others. This is what we thought the plan would do; it was based upon what Greeks have nationally decreed as what their purpose are: leadership, scholarship, philanthropy."

Each fall, the Dean's office receives several phone calls from parents concerned about their children participating in rush.

"I see the excellence plan as a way to quantify what is being done. If we have some solid numbers, that only strengthens my arguments to parents of why being Greek is a good thing for their son or daughter to consider," Buck Cooke, Greek Affairs Coordinator, said.

Cooke also hopes to use data derived from the plan to dispel common misconceptions about the Greek system fueled by negative media coverage and movies like *Animal House*.

"I look at fraternities and sororities as putting all of the leadership initiative into action because we are concerned about service, we are concerned about leadership, we are concerned about teamwork," Cooke said. But the Greek experience is about "the relationships and the changes that happen to people."

"There are so many different areas where the points are drawn from, and it seems to me that it's easy to get the points you would need to be at a higher ranking that I don't understand how the arguments of 'they're making us do things we don't want to do' really applies," Cooke said.

Cooke cited the gap between minimum standards and chapter of excellence award as shortcomings in the system currently included in IFC's bylaws. "Participation in the Dean Dull award is voluntary, and there are only three or four chapters

that really care about the Dean Dull award," said Cooke.

Several fraternities have expressed concern over using the plan's rankings to compete with each other during rush. The latest version of the plan recommends sharing each chapter's performance only with the president and advisors of the chapter—and not publishing the results on-line or in the rush brochure, as many students initially thought.

Another goal of the plan's proponents is increased cooperation within the three governing boards and their constituents. "Every Greek organization values certain things more than others," Andrea Pesonen, Panhellenic President, said. "One value isn't different than another or more important—it's just choosing what you want to focus on within your group. That's where we've come into a little bit of discussion."

At an IFC meeting last month, DiSabatino alarmed many of those present when she with her announcement that her office had "decided to abandon this as far as IFC goes" but to continue forward with Panhellenic and NPHC. When asked if she felt Greek organizations were held to a higher standard than other organizations at Tech, she replied, "I'm not here to debate the Chapter Excellence Plan. I'm here to inform you that we are not requiring you to be a part of this process."

Individual fraternities have the option of participating in the current plan voluntarily. Meanwhile, Crannell plans to contact each chapter president to reassess IFC's stance on the current plan and seek ideas for revising or abandoning the plan.

"I look forward to identifying what issues really do exist in the Greek system, getting the right people involved and accepting the challenge of fixing them," Crannell said.

DiSabatino also expressed her willingness to accommodate different viewpoints. "There's a lot we can give on, quite honestly. Again, the purpose is to move us in the right direction and to help us help the Greeks."

2002 Tower Awards Celebrating Academic Achievement



Photo courtesy of the Office of Minority Education

PhD candidates receive awards at the recent 2002 Tower Awards at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel. OMED hosted the program that honored 540 students for academic excellence. This year's event was the largest one in the history of the ten-year program that honors minority students at Tech.

Numbers

from page 1

world, but it's hard to make judgments or predictions based on this one year, when we're coming off of [years of] pretty large increases [in applicants]," said Smith.

Last year, minorities made up 29 percent of undergraduates. This year, applications from students identifying themselves as African-American fell by 116 and Asian-American applications dropped by 302. Hispanic applications rose by 52. The number of African-Americans accepted rose by three. Accepted Hispanic-Americans rose 20, while Asian-Americans accepted fell by 36.

Smith could not offer explanation for the variation in application numbers. "[The Admissions Office has] not identified any trends," she said.

One aspect of Georgia Tech that will not change with the incoming

freshman class is the male to female ratio. Females make up 29 percent of students accepted, unchanged from last year. Applications to the College of Architecture, the College of Engineering, and the Ivan Allen College all increased.

"Over the past five or six years, the Admissions Office as well as the Communications Office... has really been trying to promote the other degree programs at Georgia Tech," said Smith.

Part of the observed increase comes from out-of-state students who have applied to Tech for degree programs other than engineering. Smith also cites the DuPre College of Management and the College of Sciences as schools that are drawing in more applicants.

Statistics such as the freshman class's average SAT score, average high school GPA, and the number of National Merit Scholars will not be known until accepted students

actually choose to enroll.

The admissions process has not undergone any changes since last year. The Admissions Office still considers standardized test scores, high school courses and grades, Georgia residency, extracurricular activities, and a personal essay to try to make the most informed decision possible.

"Our goal is not to recruit or enroll students," said Smith. "Our goal is to recruit graduates. We expect every student who walks in the door here to graduate from Georgia Tech, and if they don't then [I ask] is it something that we didn't do in the admissions process. Can we learn from that? That's the bottom line."

Admission Numbers

Number of Applications	8,899
Number Accepted	5,091
Target Enrollment	2,200
Women Accepted	29%

UHR

from page 3

positive image of Tech to the media that they hope will be present.

Computer Science Representative Danielle Dees noted that JFC failed the bill and called its benefit to the overall event “questionable.”

Apparently the Graduate Student Senate agreed with Dees. They failed the bill with zero senators voting yes, 18 voting no and two abstaining. At first, the representatives appeared as though they would follow the same path.

Early on, Public Policy Representative Chris Webb, Physics Representative Scott Fletcher and At-Large Representative Michael Handelman led the fight against the bill, though all three eventually supported the bill.

In a rare alliance, Biology Representative Brad Bolton united with Junior Class Representatives Carmen Jackson and Tiffany Massey to argue in favor of the bill.

In the middle of the debate, the House came to a halt, as it lost quorum. Watson gave the House a five-minute recess to contact absent representatives and ask them to come to the meeting. When the House reassembled, no more representatives had arrived, and it looked as though the representatives would be forced to adjourn. The representatives tried to come up with a plan to make a quorum; some even offered to resign if it would aid the cause. These actions upset some members of the House.

“We are going to be illegitimate if we keep looking for ways to get around the constitution,” said Handelman. Luckily, such plans were

unnecessary. International Affairs Representative Andrew Hamilton arrived to give the House the quorum it needed.

Immediately, Senior Representative Jason Fowler motioned to vote on the bill. It passed the House but failed the enactment ratio.

Management Representative Andrew Keen motioned to reconsider the bill. The House decided to do so, and Bolton called for a roll call vote so that the choice of each representative would be recorded in the meeting’s minutes. This time the vote total was 19 in favor, four against, and six abstaining on the bill. Initially Watson miscalculated the ratio, and the meeting adjourned. He quickly corrected his math with the aid of Secretary Alice Gung, and announced that the bill had actually passed—an announcement that led to audible celebration by some representatives.

The Enactment Ratio

1. Take the number of Undergraduate House affirmative votes
2. Divide by the total UHR votes cast
3. Multiply by the fraction of total student activity fees undergraduates pay—this year it is 74 percent. Save that number.
4. Take number of Graduate Senate affirmative votes
5. Divide by the total number of Graduate Senate votes cast
6. Multiply by the fraction of total student activity fees graduates. Save that number.
7. Add the two numbers together to get the enactment ratio.
8. If the ratio is greater than 0.6, the bill passes.

Greeks fight safety, weather problems

By Jody Shaw
News Editor

Though festivities have been ongoing since Greek Week philanthropy day on March 23, the bulk of Greek Week activities kicked off on Sunday with a day full of competitions. The annual event draws together members of the Greek community for friendship and competition. Though most of the events have gone on with no problems, the week’s organizers have encountered issues with safety and weather.

For example, during Sunday’s arm wrestling competition, two students broke their arms—one female and one male. The female injury occurred first, but it was not discovered until after the second arm wrestler—a male—broke his arm in the heavy weight division. This second injury was noticed immediately, and the arm wrestling was cancelled and rescheduled to Thursday.

“This is pretty typical in arm wrestling competitions, from what I understand, but this has never happened at Tech before,” said Greek Advisor Buck Cooke.

“In the heavy weight division, since most of those people lift a lot of weights, when you work out, your muscles get faster at a rate that your bones cannot keep up with.”

Another safety concern of Cooke’s stems from the tug-a-rope competition affectionately known in the Greek community as “tug.” Cooke and members of the Greek Week Executive Committee worked to educate participants about the possible dangers of eating disorders



By Eric Aufderhaar / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Fraternity brothers participate in the chariot during Greek Week. As of Thursday, TKE and PKP were tied for first, while AXO led the sororities.

that accompany extreme dieting and exercise. Though no problems have officially occurred at Tech, Cooke believes that some have occurred over the years.

“I know that there have been problems. I know through anecdotal evidence that there have been people who have lost 40 pounds in one semester for tug,” said Cooke.

“Our students seem to understand that changes have to occur.”

Changes have occurred; the Greek Week committee hosted an educational seminar to inform students about healthy ways to lose weight. The weight limit for females was also raised, though it remained the same for males.

“In talking with a nutritionist,

he said that the amount of strength for a man increases when you increase the weight, so the fraternities would just have stronger men dieting to lose weight, which would just transfer the problem from one section of the chapter to the other,” said Cooke.

The fraternities and sororities will compete in the event on Sunday at noon at the vacant lot near O’Keefe Gym.

Aside from the weather that dampened Greek Week activities early on Tuesday and forced some events to be rescheduled for later in the week or moved indoors, the events have run as planned. Cooke credits the overall success to the hard work of the students.