Clough presents vision for new year

By Jody Shaw
News Editor

In his annual State of the Institute Address, President G. Wayne Clough highlighted Tech’s accomplishments throughout the last year and set a number of goals for the coming year. Clough identified seven strategic goals for the Institute, but focused on three in particular—student-focused education, enhanced research enterprise and expanded local, regional and global outreach.

In discussing his goal of more student-focused education, Clough noted the success of the undergraduate research initiative he introduced in last year’s State of the Institute Address. The Institute has already funded 50 undergraduate research projects.

“Beyond our central initiative, many, many others have developed their own outstanding undergraduate research programs,” said Clough.

Another aspect of student-focused learning emphasized by Clough was the improved physical environment for teaching and learning. He discussed the new Learning Resources Center, which the Board of Regents recently placed on its list of construction projects to be funded. It will be adjacent to the library and will include classrooms and labs as well as other academic support services.

“Every freshman student will take their chemistry, physics, biology and earth sciences laboratories in this building, bringing them almost daily into the same space where advising, information access and tutoring services are also there for them,” said Clough.

Clough also discussed the progress of the student leadership initiative coordinated by Robert McMath, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and Lee Wilcox, Vice President of Student Affairs and its role in student-focused education. He also announced the appointment of Dr. Arnie Stancil, a professor in Chemical Engineering, to the Turner Chair of Servant Leadership—a position that will work to further develop student leadership at Tech.

The last component of student-focused learning emphasized by Clough was the new midterm grade reports, which will be made available to students for the first time this week.

“The midterm reporting process addresses a need that was acknowledged by students and faculty alike,” said Clough.

“Analyzing how performance improved will be a great team effort involving faculty, academic advisors, academic support staff, our registrar’s office, the counseling center and student affairs and the dorm community,” said Clough.

See Clough, page 7

Midterms out after fall break

Tech will issue midterm grade reports for the first time in its history on Wednesday, October 24.

At that time, any student in a 1000-2000-level class will receive either an ‘S’ for satisfactory academic performance in the class or a ‘U’ for unsatisfactory performance. All students who receive a ‘U’ will be notified by their advisors to schedule make-up tests. The new schedule will help the students to determine how best to improve their academic progress.

Midterm grades will be accessible online at oscar.gatech.edu in the same way transcripts are regularly accessed.

Merrill named to cell bio chair

Alfred H. Merrill, one of the world’s most renowned biochemists, recently joined the Tech faculty in the School of Biology. Merrill was named the first Smith-Ball Institute Chair in Molecular and Cell Biology earlier this year. Merrill’s research is in sphingolipid biology. Sphingolipids are compounds that have been found to inhibit colon cancer.

“I am very pleased and excited about Professor Merrill’s arrival,” said Gary Schuster, Dean of the College of Sciences.

Merrill is one of 14 new faculty members in the College of Sciences.

No Technique until Oct. 26

Because of fall break next Monday and Tuesday, there will be no issue of the Technique next week. The paper will resume its normal weekly publication schedule on Friday, October 26.

Homecoming events packed into three day week

By Sriniv Narasimhan
Contributing Writer

The annual homecoming football game at Bobby Dodd Stadium will take place next Saturday, October 20, against North Carolina State. However, due to fall break the Monday and Tuesday prior to it, Tech students will only have three days of the traditional pregame events and festivities, instead of the usual five.

The theme of the Homecoming events that will take place throughout the following week starting on Wednesday will be “Jackets in the Jungle,” which was decided in the spring. Kick-off day will be on Tuesday, followed by spirited events such as a Homecoming Banner Contest, a photo safari, “Buzz’s Jungle Extravaganza,” the Mini 500 and the Homecoming Display Contest. As it has always been, the week will conclude with the Rambin’ Rock Parade and football game on Saturday.

The registrar is responsible for setting the dates for fall break. From there, the Homecoming Committee of the Student Centers Programs Board sits down with a calendar of the football games and other events to plan out when its activities will be held.

Although fall break was pushed back a week last year, which gave the committee a full week of events, it was not the case this year. As a result, there were no other days to hold Homecoming events available except the three following the holiday.

“We had no other choice,” said Andy Burnham, the Homecoming Committee Chair.

The tighter schedule has forced the committee to make a number of changes to its usual calendar of events. For example, the talent show and mock rock are traditionally separate events, but this year the two had to be combined. The Fair Center for the Arts, which houses them, could not be reserved for two nights in a short span of three days.

The shorter schedule should not, according to Burnham, lower the student body’s spirit. The committee aims this year to increase non-Greek enrollment in

See Jungle, page 5

New accountability act passed by SGA

By Tony Kluemper
Assistant News Editor

The undergraduate student body will now be able to hold their Student Government representatives more accountable for their actions, with the passage of a bill by Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) this Tuesday. The Voting Accountability Act, which was approved unanimously by the representatives at this week’s meeting, will give the student body direct access to how their representatives are voting.

According to UHR Executive Vice-President Nate Watson, this idea is important on two levels for both the students and the representatives. “The whole idea behind the voting accountability act is to provide several important services to the student body and the members of the Undergraduate House of Representatives,” said Watson. “The reason that this came up is that many people feel that it’s very important that the students understand how their representatives are voting.”

In addition, Watson felt that the idea would allow the representatives to look at how they were voting over long periods of time. This would allow them the opportunity to make sure they were voting in accordance with their own values and the wishes of their constituents.

In the House meeting on Tuesday, most representatives supported the idea and principle behind the bill—greater accountability. Some worried, however, about possible costs of the bill and how the information would be distributed. Those details were not included in Tuesday’s bill and they will be addressed by the Legislative Communications Committee of UHR.

Although this is the first time in recent history that a bill like this has been passed, according to Watson the idea itself is not a new concept. “It’s been something that’s been tossed around for a very long time, longer than I’ve been here,” said Watson.
"[ECE Representative] Eric Clopper came to me with the idea and so we got together and flushed it out and he took the initiative to really flush it out and say this is how it should work," said Watson.

"Eric, far and away, deserves credit for being the person who saw this lying around, picked it up and realized the potential it could have and turned it into action."

"I realized there was no way to watch how your representatives voted. I thought they really needed to be accountable because we [the students] put them into office. I thought it was important for us to know, so I started working on this last Spring, and it really got going at the SGA retreat this fall," said Clopper.

The bill was presented at the October 2 meeting and was voted on at this week’s meeting of UHR in order to give students an opportunity to voice their opinion. Watson hopes to get the idea up and running almost immediately now that the changes in the bylaws of UHR have been made.

"We will be trying to put it into force as soon as possible because this provides such a valuable service to both the student body and the Undergraduate House of Representatives," said Watson.

According to Clopper, students will be able to access the voting information from a number of sources on campus.

"We are going to post the results on the web in some kind of searchable form," said Clopper.

Watson also pointed out that every effort would be made to keep the results updated on a week-to-week basis to ensure that the Student Body is given accurate information about their representatives.

In the end, Watson hopes that this bill will allow the student body to see more of what happens during UHR meetings. "I think this is a great opportunity for UHR to hold themselves more accountable to their constituents and inform their constituents on how they are voting on the bills that affect what happens on campus," said Watson.

"One of the things I said I would do when I ran for Vice President [of UHR] was that I would help to make UHR communicate better with the student body and be more transparent in their [UHR] actions."

The bill, which is an amendment to the bylaws, does not include the details of implementation. Clopper wanted to leave that up to each Executive Vice President to determine on a yearly basis. The bill merely states that the undergraduates will make this information available.

The ideas being discussed right now include a searchable web site or paper newsletter publishing the votes. Clopper feels that a similar system could work in the Graduate Student Senate, though at this point, there are no plans to implement one.

More information about the House debate surrounding the Voter Accountability Act can be found in the UHR report on the facing page.
Smith selected as new GSS Treasurer

By Jody Shaw
News Editor

Tuesday the Senate approved a number of funding allocations including one to keep Tech students from getting struck by lightening. Before they approved those measures, however, the senators filled a void left by former Senator Charles Mull.

When President George W. Bush called up reservists around the country a few weeks ago, Mull was one of a number of Tech students to get the call. Mull had been serving in the office of treasurer, and on Tuesday, members of the Graduate Student Senate elected a replacement. They choose Jeff Smith, who like Mull represents the College of Management.

The Senators approved a bill to allocate over $5,000 to the Tech intramurals program and the Student Athletic Center to install a lightning warning protection system. Dan Hazlett, the Intramurals Director at SAC, believes the system will improve safety and allow the SAC to better regulate inclement weather is a threat.

The system, which is manufactured by Thor Guard and endorsed by the Professional Golf Association, will be mounted in an outside location near SAC fields. When the system senses a hazardous weather situation that could cause lightning within a one mile radius of its location, the system issues audio and visual alerts. It sounds a horn and activates a strobe light. The system is activated when the chance of lightening, as calculated by the technology, rises above 30 percent.

While the Senators seemed opposed the bill at first, many eventually warmed up to the proposal.

ECE Senator Leandro Barajas asked why Hazlett asked SGA to fund the venture instead of going to Facilities or another Institute department. Hazlett noted that there is no other budget from which money could be tapped for this type of venture. All

See GSS, page 4

Accountability act dominates debate

By Tony Kluemper
Assistant News Editor

There was much debate about how accountable representatives should be held at last week’s meeting of UHR. The debate centered around the Voting Accountability Act, which would allow the student body to view the voting records of the UHR representatives after each meeting.

ECE Representative Eric Clopper authored the bill and addressed the House saying, “The purpose of this [bill] is three fold accountability for ourselves to make sure we are voting in agreement with our beliefs and values, increased involvement of our constituency who will have a better idea of how we voted and can talk to us about it, and the accountability of our constituents who will now be able to see if we are listening to their opinions.”

The act called for a change in the bylaws in that UHR would be responsible for recording the votes of the members. In addition, the Legislative Communications Committee would be in charge of deciding how these records would be published for the Student Body. The final section of the act called for a punishment of one-half absence if a representative failed to turn in his votes for a meeting.

One of the major objections to the act was that it could possibly cause a great deal of negative campaigning among representatives at next spring’s UHR elections. Clopper, however, feels that this would not be the case. “What some would call a ‘dirty’ election is actually nothing more than an informed election,” said Clopper. “The election committee would also work to make sure that the election codes are upheld and negative campaigning does not occur.”

Vice President of Finance David Maybury agreed with Clopper. “By having an election where students are voting based on how their representative voted, we are making a great leap over what we have done in the past,” said Maybury.
Ferst Center experiences marketing, budgetary success

By Sriram Narasimhan
Contributing Writer

The Ferst Center for the Arts has established several reforms to its marketing approach and programming agenda, resulting in a significant comeback to exceed its budget for 2000. It anticipates producing even greater revenue this year.

As is the case with any theater, the Center relies on several sources of funding—ticket sales, rental fees, endowments, and contributions from corporations, alumni or other campus groups.

For some time, however, ticket sales at the theater have been low and rarely met budget, especially from the student body of Georgia Tech, who have comprised less than a few percent of the total audience in past fiscal years. In addition, donations have not been as high as they once were, partly due to a lack of funding from the SGA in recent years. As a result of these combined factors, the Ferst Center has almost always experienced some amount of loss.

The loss was particularly severe in 1999, as revealed to the public when the Center cut at least twelve events from the following year's pre-scheduled program. Each show was extensively analyzed by the staff and those programs that were not expected to do well were cancelled.

"We had a program that was really overambitious ... in some ways, it [2000] served as a testing year," said Rosalind Meyers, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services.

A second problem that the Center encountered was its underdeveloped marketing strategy. Although a great deal of money was spent to determine which shows were of highest interest to the Atlanta community, it was not spent wisely.

"The Ferst Center has not had a definite mission. It's been in existence for ten years and still hasn't found its niche. The programming has been haphazard," Hoffman added.

"A great deal of money was spent to determine which shows were of highest interest to the Atlanta community, it was not spent wisely," said Rosalind Meyers, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services.

In the end, the vote was passed unanimously with Economics representative Stephen Popick abstaining from voting because he felt the penalty was not strong enough.

"This act will weigh down the LCC Committee greatly and may prevent them from serving their original purpose which is to get [SGA] info out into the campus."

Some members felt, however, that the act was not without its negative effects. "We have to consider the negative effects of this bill," said Junior Representative Tiffany Massey. "This act will weigh down the LCC Committee greatly and may prevent them from serving their original purpose which is to get [SGA] info out into the campus."

In other business, the House also announced that UHR would not hold a regular meeting next week. Therefore the next meeting will be Tuesday, October 23 and will feature Tech's new provost Dr. Jean Lou Chameau as the guest speaker.
Concerns raised over ‘T’-less shirt

By Nasir Barday
Senior News Staff

The design for this year’s homecoming T-shirt caused a stir within the Institute administration this week. Plans for the new T-shirt include a depiction of Tech Tower with its prominent ‘T’ stolen. Officials expressed concerns over sending a mixed message to students about stealing the ‘T’.

Though still considered a tradition by some, stealing the “T” is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and was condemned by President G. Wayne Clough in an open letter sent to the Technique in 1997. The design comes after two students, David Mueller and Jimmy Henderson, were suspended for stealing the ‘T’ from atop Tech Tower just last month.

After a student informed him of the T-shirt design, Dr. Lee Wilcox, Vice President of Student Affairs, emailed a letter of concern to Ian Carr, President of the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC).

“We in the administration feel distressed that mixed messages are being sent to the Tech community about this ‘tradition’ being acceptable,” said Wilcox, emphasizing the quotes around “tradition.”

According to Carr, when he received the message from Wilcox, he was not aware of the depiction of the missing ‘T.’ “[The IFC] is in charge of picking which design to use and the Homecoming Committee gets approval for the T-shirt,” said Carr.

The individuals who actually chose the T-shirt design were unavailable for comment.

According to Carr, the Homecoming committee received approval from the Georgia Tech Licensing Office, which handles usage of Georgia Tech Logos and Buzz, Georgia Tech’s mascot.

This year’s homecoming shirt design, by Dan Moore, features an image of Tech Tower without the ‘T.’ Administrators have noted their concern about the mixed message students may receive regarding ‘T’ theft.

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Last year’s Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech Rajiv Saigal and Jill Polliniak enjoy a ride in the Wreck. This year’s winners will be announced next Saturday.

Homecoming Schedule of Events

10/11 - 10/19
All week
Ugly Man on Campus
Student Center Lobby

10/16 - 10/19
All week
Homecoming Bonfire Contest
Campus-Wide

10/16
Kickoff Party and Outdoor Movie
Burger Bowl

9 p.m.
Photo Safari
Music Listening Room

4 p.m.
Tech Trivia Night
Junior’s Grill

7 p.m.
Buzz’s Jungle Extravaganza
Compassia/Stiles

10/17
Talent Show/Mock Rock
Ferst Center for the Arts

4:30 p.m.
Homecoming Display Contest
Campus-wide

10/18
Coach’s Lunch
Coliseum

11 a.m.
Mini 500
Coliseum Parking Lot

3:30 p.m.
Homecoming Formal
The Renaissance

8 p.m.
Freshman Coke Race
Ferst Drive (near PKP, PKA)

7 p.m.
Ramblin’ Rock Parade
Fowler and Eighth Street

8 a.m.
Mr. and Ms. GT announcement
Great Field

8 a.m.
Homecoming Parade
Clough Way

3:30 p.m.
Open House
Technique in 1997. The design comes after two students, David Mueller and Jimmy Henderson, were suspended for stealing the ‘T’ from atop Tech Tower just last month.

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Although the approval of the Ramblin’ Reck Club was not re-
quired, said Carr, “it seemed ap-
propriate since they order such a large quantity of T-shirts.”

However, the Homecoming Committee neglected to run the design by Buck Cook, Advisor for Greek Affairs.

By the time Georgia Tech ad-
mistration had learned of the new design, $18,000 worth of T-shirts had already been produced.

“The IFC fronted at least some of the money,” said Carr.

Orders had been taken from stu-
dent organizations on campus, in-
cluding those that don’t have Greek af-
ciations, and the Ramblin’ Reck Club made an order based on an estimate of how many could be sold at the Homecoming Game on Oc-
tober 20 as well as at numerous other locations throughout Home-
coming Week.

“We served as an intermediary,” said Carr.

“We want to make the campus aware that we feel this is a tradition that needs to stop,” said Carr along-
side Susanne Hodges, President of the Panhellenic Council.

Ian Carr and Susanne Hodges sub-
mitted a letter to the editor about this issue. It can be found on page 8 of the Opinions section.

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Ferst
from page 4

Much of the focus, from the stand-
point of Hoffer and her staff, has been directed toward the students, not surprising for a theater that is considered the heart and soul of performing arts at Georgia Tech.

In fact, an SGA student com-
mitee was created for the task of assisting the Ferst Center board in marketing its ideas to other students and learning what their cultural per-
spetives are truly. The purpose of the committee was to also secure cheaper student tickets and theater rental fees.

“The Ferst holds a unique posi-
tion in that it is on a college campus and smack in the middle of a major metropolitan area. The Ferst has tried a small and large number of shows, varying from jazz and clas-
cal to opera and dance, to see what sells. Now, I think the Ferst has come up with a good solution-mak-
ing sure the shows are what stu-
dents like while trying to draw in outside sales,” said Rusty Johnson, the former Ferst Center Student Advisory Board Chair.

“In my opinion...the input from students has greatly impacted the shows presented.”

The waning ticket sales, howev-
er, weren’t the only cause for the profit losses in prior years. Endow-
ments are, with no doubt, lucrative gifts or for any theater seeking to remain successful. A full-time De-
velopment Director was hired last year to secure an endowment, spe-
cifically for that reason.

Donations, similarly, have not been easy to obtain, especially from SGA. Bills that would have provid-
ed funding to assist student organi-
zations pay for fees when renting the theater were passed by the un-
dergraduate senate and failed by the graduate senate. This, in essence, has forced campus groups to pay a hefty price of anywhere from $650 to $10,000, depending on the amount of time they use it.

In some cases, it would restrict them using it altogether, thereby decreasing the Center’s profits. Most of the groups that take advantage of the theater are cultural and performing arts or-
ganizations.

“[Rentals] are one of the points for having a theater,” said Hoffer, who has strived to make the rental process more student-friendly in the past year as she has served as interim director.

“However, we can’t afford to waive the rental fee.”

In past years, SGA use provided 
fee in return for $10 student tickets and lower renting fees. How-
ever, the Ferst Center was split from the Student Center by Auxiliary Services during the 1999-2000 year and consequently, the Center did not submit a budget in time for SGA funding for the 2000-01 fiscal

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Clough
from page 1

counselor in housing.”

The next goal highlighted by Clough was increased local, region-
al, and global outreach. Clough spe-
cifically noted the increased local outreach Tech is planning for the next years. The campus is physical-
ly expanding in all directions with new buildings, and the Institute is also expanding services into the com-
unity. One example of this out-
reach is the Technology Square development, which includes not only amenities for the Tech com-
unity, but also for the greater At-
lanta community.

Clough also emphasized the im-
portance of building a greater re-
search enterprise.

“We have to create an environ-
ment where faculty can pursue both short and long term research that produces usable products for today as well as the basis for those of tomorrow,” said Clough.

In particular, Clough noted the importance of interdisciplinary re-
search. Tech’s growing involvement in biotechnology research, he claims, is an example of how interdisciplinary 
research can allow the Instit-
ute to expand into new fields of research and stay on the cutting edge of knowledge creation.

“We already have significant re-
search underway in several interdiscipli-
ary fields that have tremendous potential for the future,” said Clough.

These new fields will allow Tech to better fulfill its role as a leading technological university.

“We strive to define the techno-
logical university of the 21st centu-
ry because of the opportunity and the capability it will provide to shape futures through innovation—the futures of our students, our Institute and the citizens of our community, state, nation and world,” said Clough.

Clough ended his address on a more philosophical note. He ac-
nowledged that in the wake of the events of September, Tech’s role in the world is even more important.

“Go for Georgia Tech and our na-
ton, we now live in a changed envi-
ronment, one faced with economic challenges as well as societal ones,” said Clough.

“Yet nothing need deter us from our mission of educating the lead-
ers of tomorrow and creating the knowledge required to address the problems we face. Indeed, both of these tasks are now even more im-
portant to our nation, reinforcing as never before the essential nature of what it is we are positioned to do. If we remain true to our well-honed strategies and unleash the talent of the people who are Georgia Tech, our opportunity to make a differ-
ce has never been greater.”

As he does each year, Clough delivered the address a number of times throughout the week. He ad-
dressed the faculty on Tuesday af-
ternoon and the student body on Thursday morning.