Military Week Bringing out the big guns

The annual Military Week event, organized by Army and Air Force ROTC, began on Monday with a Veterans Day celebration at the Campanile. Throughout the week, members of ROTC and area military units displayed various pieces of paraphernalia including a wide range of weapons to students.

By Scott McDermott / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Student orgs may gain access to Ferst

By Daniel Amick
Senior Staff Writer

Members of student government and administrators from the Robert Ferst Center for the Arts have reached an agreement that will allow student organizations to use Ferst Center facilities without paying rental fees.

"This is really a good deal," said Undergraduate Student Body President Tiffany Massey, Massey and Graduate Senator Pelham Norville were instrumental in negotiating the agreement.

"I think this is great," said Ferst Center Theatre Director Jay Constantz. "Anything we can do, either at our level [in the Ferst Center] or at the level of student government, to make the Ferst Center more accessible to students is a great idea. Normally, the Ferst Center’s entrance fee is about $2,000 for full day usage and somewhat less for shorter rental periods. Under the agreement, the Student Government Association (SGA) will allocate a lump sum of $10,000 to cover the rental fees for all student organizations that use the facility. The agreement covers only the rental fee.

A joint allocation bill for the lump sum will likely come up for a vote at next week’s Undergraduate House of Representatives meeting. At Tuesday’s meeting, Massey urged representatives to act quickly.

“We have been waiting to do this forever,” said Massey. “There are student organizations waiting on us. We need closure on this issue.”

Constantz agreed. “This process has been going on for seven or eight years.”

Library announces further renovation plans

By Sivaram Narasimhan
Senior Staff Writer

The elaborate renovations made to the Library West Commons (LWC) over the summer have kept Tech students demanding more state-of-the-art computer workstations, made apparent by the long line of students waiting to use the facilities which are almost always filled to capacity.

Well these demands may soon be answered. Preliminary steps are now underway to expand the facilities to the second floor of the library. These renovations will not only meet the high demand but will also provide an additional test-bed for the soon-to-be-built Undergraduate Learning Center.

Initially prompted by a visit by President Wayne Clough and the Provost to the LWC, the library administration, with the guidance of OIT, decided that it should embark upon a second phase of the library renovations; this process providing more collaborative environment for student group projects.

“We were positively impressed that we had done something valuable to the students. We had done more work on the first floor, but there were some things we weren’t able to build into it,” said Richard Meyer, Academic Dean for the library.

Although the first floor LWC renovations were originally planned to be rearranged regularly to incorporate spaces of a collaborative nature, it was discovered that because the demand was so high, individual workstations, no particular arrangement was a preference. This fact led to the decision to con-
Last issue’s poll garnered 82 responses to the question: “What changes do you feel should be made in the dorm smoking policy?”

This week’s poll is related to the student led Capital Campaign. How do you feel about the proposed memorial brick sale? Tell us what you think at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique.

From the archives...

The Nique’s top stories from:

10 years ago: November 13, 1992—Two families were attacked by armed assailants while in their rooms at the Burge apartment complex. Apparently the attacker entered the apartments through the street level windows. The Jackets lost their fifth game of the season to Baylor by a score of 31-27.

20 years ago: November 12, 1982—Bill Laite, A Tech alumnus and owner of a beer distributing company, presented the idea of a new “Ramblin’ Wreck” brand beer to the Georgia Tech foundation. The foundation failed to support the idea.

30 years ago: November 14, 1972—Tim Mitchell resigned as director of the Student Center. Mitchell served as director for nearly four years and oversaw the construction process and completion of the center in 1970. Mitchell felt that the biggest problem he faced while at Tech was “Tech’s pull towards mediocrity.”
Stanphill addresses Graduate Senate
By Tony Klaumper
News Editor

After finishing in record time last week, the Graduates decided to make it last this week as the senate meeting ran for over an hour. Not only were eight bills on the agenda, but the meeting also featured presentations on SAC II and the Ferst Center.

To begin the meeting, Butch Stanphill, director of SAC, presented an update on the construction of the new facilities at SAC, complete with a taped virtual tour of the project. Stanphill commented that the aquatic center should be enclosed and ready for student use by July of next year.

“Once the aquatic center is enclosed, we will move everything that is in the front of SAC to the back area,” said Stanphill. “Once everything has been moved the remaining SAC structure will be torn down in order to build the new front area.”

According to Stanphill, the total project should be complete at the beginning of fall semester 2004. However with the increase in space in the new facility, SAC is requesting funding for eight additional positions in their budgets for next fiscal year.

Stanphill wanted to make sure that Senators were well educated about the project and the need for the new positions when making budget decisions.

The other issue discussed before any bills were even mentioned dealt with student organizations’ use of the Ferst Center. According to senator Pelham Norville, who is the graduate representative on the Ferst Center Advisory Board, SGA is currently looking at a plan where funding from SGA bills were even mentioned dealt with student organizations’ use of the Ferst Center.

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“The idea for SGA to directly fund student organizations’ use of the Ferst Center were expressed at the issue meeting held by UHR last month,” said Norville.

The plan under discussion would allocate $10,000 a semester from student fees to pay for rental of the Ferst Center for student organizations.

However, not every student led event See GSS, page 4

Undergrads debate chartering issue
By Daniel Amick
Senior Staff Writer

The Undergraduate House of Representatives considered a bill at the Nov. 3 meeting. At this week’s meeting, the House considered a bill funding startup costs for a new student Capital Campaign.

The Undergraduate House of Representatives hovered precariously on the edge of quorum throughout Tuesday night’s meeting. A number of members were not present because of a Music Department concert. As a result, Executive Vice President Nate Watson was forced to call a five-minute recess early in the meeting to determine the precise number of reps needed to satisfy quorum. The move was also designed to buy time for additional members to arrive. After some impromptu calculations, Watson announced that quorum had in fact been met, and the meeting resumed.

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Robert McMath spoke to the House as a special guest. He gave representatives a detailed presentation about the new Undergraduate Learning Center, a massive academic building for which construction is set to begin within a few years.

“We went all over the country to look at buildings,” said McMath. “We saw buildings that worked. We saw buildings that didn’t work.”

When completed, the ULC will be adjacent to the library and, at over 200,000 square feet, will be larger than the Student Center. It will include state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, a version of the Library’s West Commons, academic support services and what McMath calls a “skunk works” facility for developing new teaching techniques.

After McMath’s presentation, members turned to old business. The most contentious issue up for consideration was whether or not to charter the Atlanta Chinese Christian Campus Fellowship. The Graduate Student Senate had rejected the bill and UHR’s Joint Campus Organizations Committee recommended against chartering, saying the ACCCF allows non-Georgia Tech students, faculty, alumni or staff to be members, excludes a large portion of Tech’s population by holding services in Chinese, meets...
off-campus and duplicates other religious organizations on campus.

ME Representative Josh Alexander rose in support of chartering, saying he saw no duplication of purpose. He also argued that English-speaking services could exclude Chinese speakers.

“It seems like your argument is a double-edged sword,” said Alexander to JCOC Chair Tim Cailloux. “You want [ACCCF] to be different to avoid duplication, yet at the same time, you say if they’re different, they’re exclusive.”

Representatives voted on the bill and passed it. However, because the GSS had failed the bill two weeks prior, the House passed an amended version of the bill at their meeting last week. Due to this situation the bill was sent to conference committee where it was decided that the organization would only get the funding if the those participating in the pageant were all Tech students.

Many senators felt that even with the new stipulations, the bill still had problems. “I have some strong reservations about student fees going to fund scholarships,” said Norville. After some debate, the graduates failed the conference committee bill by a large majority.

GSS would be eligible for the funding. “The event and the organization would have to meet certain criteria before they could receive the funding to rent the center,” said Norville. The bill to approve this allocation was presented in new business and therefore will not be voted on until next week’s meeting.

In other business, the senate took another look at a bill requesting funding for a Miss Asian Atlanta scholarship pageant sponsored by the Tech Chinese Student Association. Although the graduates had failed the bill two weeks prior, the House passed an amended version of the bill at their meeting last week. Due to this situation the bill was sent to conference committee where it was decided that the organization would only get the funding if the those participating in the pageant were all Tech students.

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Alternatively, no student organization can request free rent for more than two events per semester. Any unexpected revenue generated by the event will be held by the Ferst Center to fund the cost of rental fees during the following year.

The Ferst Center Event Coordinator will implement the new policy. Organizations uncertain about the process or the eligibility requirements can bring their questions to the Ferst Center Student Advisory Board. The board will be responsible for answering questions and, in the event of uncertainty, will review eligibility status of the requesting organization. It will then issue its recommendation to the Event Coordinator.

Next year, the Ferst Center and SGA will renegotiate a new amount of funds based on the number of organizations that use the facility that year.

The main hall of the Ferst Center is the largest performance facility on campus with 1,355 seats.
"We are sure that the expansion is mainly about supporting group endeavor, and not about supporting individual endeavor."

Crit Stuart
Library Public Services

Library from page 1

structure an entirely different computer cluster that will not only expand the current facilities but add group-focused study capabilities as well.

“We wanted to add some collaborative spaces with computing support and make them sound isolated,” said Meyer.
The hope is that when these group spaces are designed next year, the facilities are used in such a way that students can reserve them and meet together as groups to work on class projects. The computers at each station would incorporate the latest technologies and would be fully supported with a greater variety of engineering-based software. A possibility that has also recently risen is the incorporation of teleconferencing capabilities into each space.

“We are still in the discovery stage,” said Crit Stuart, the library’s Associate Director for Public Services. “We are asking students what kinds of spaces they prefer to do learning, projects, and take breaks between assignments, as groups. We are sure that the expansion is mainly about supporting group endeavor, and not about supporting individual endeavor.”

In fact, most students working on group assignments feel that improvements to the library are necessary. One such students is Aaron Lovitz, who is currently preparing a formal presentation with several others for his INTA class.

“It seems like we have to get our online information from everywhere else and bring it back to the library just to meet. It’s just a good place to meet as a group at first, but not to actually set up our presentation. The library’s only convenient because it’s at the center of campus,” said Lovitz.

Another aspect of the design that has been focused on includes aesthetic appearances and living areas for students to relax between long intervals of studying or completing certain assignments.

Students and faculty are saying that we should also build in relief and even consider how we can use art and various objects to give students a break from intensive group work,” said Tony Gilmer, Project Advisor for the library renovations and an OIT staff member. “We will also provide greater access to [re-freshments].”

In recent focus groups, in fact, administrators have discovered that most student groups prefer an environment where they can perform three steps in a single location, without the hassle of going to the library to collect information, then going off-campus to print it, and then meeting elsewhere to actually develop the group presentation, whether on PowerPoint slides or computer-based demonstrations. The library and OIT are investigating various forms of study-lounging areas and media software to accomplish this.

“We would incorporate three things: study, stop and software,” said Gilmer.

The entire expansion of the second floor would be renovated for these purposes. One of the concerns the library had was in figuring out where the reference books currently located there would go. No definitive plans have been made yet, but most likely each book will be evaluated and either discarded if out-of-date or moved to another floor.

If enough funding is available, the collaborative effort between the library and OIT will also result in the renovation of the presentation practice room behind the LWC as well as an upgrade to the computer cluster in the Homer Rice Center. The practice room would allow students to have their individual group presentations in a sound-proof locale, equipped with the latest multimedia technologies.

Architects who will review the second floor expansion, presenta
tion practice room and Homer Rice Center upgrade have already been hired, and are expected to complete their design and budget proposal by Feb. 15.

Only then will a formal request for funding be submitted to the President’s office. If the proposal is approved, construction could begin as early as the summer.

Capital from page 1

Even though the project idea has generated support in both branches of Student Government, several concerns still stand, such as the cost of the bricks, the effectiveness of the sale and the location of the bricks.

The administration has not allo
cated a specific space as of yet, but SGA hopes that Yellow Jacket Park, the area to replace Hightower, will be an option, as well as the area between the Library and the Bookstore Mall, and near the Undergraduate Learning Center.

Bricks will be priced on a multi-
tier scale for all sectors of the community, and right now are projected to be $50-75 for students, and approximately $125 for faculty.

“I think it’s a good idea in theory, but I don’t know if students will want to pay that much money,” said Blake LaFever, a fifth-year computer engineering student.

Fourth-year mechanical engineering major Samir Idnani agrees that the bricks might be too expensive to generate much student support. “I’m sure faculty and alumni would like the idea, but I don’t know how well it would work out with the students,” said Idnani. “Still, I think it’s really good that SGA is trying to do something about student life,” added Idnani.

Organizers of the project realize that many people will have questions about the student capital campaign. “I would love to hear student concerns once word about this gets out, because even I had plenty of questions about how this will work,” said Massey.

“It would be great if we could make the bricks cheaper for stu-
dents, but with the cost of installing, the bricks, engraving and other such things, we have to charge more to generate enough profit to make this project worth doing. Other schools who have done this project have made their bricks even more expensive,” said Massey.

Massey also added that SGA will target other groups for donations, such as corporations and young alumni, from whom they have received much support, even a pledge of 100 bricks.

As to what kind of activities the capital will fund, nothing concrete has been planned. “I’d like to ex-
tend the graduate conference fund, [which funds travelling to academ-
ical and professional conferences], to undergraduates. I’d also like to see more major concerts on campus,” said Michaels.

Idnani agreed. “I’d love to see more concerts, like SR-71 and Reel Big Fish last year,” he said.

“I think it would be great to have more activities at the SAC. SAC Attack was a blast,” added LaFever.

“I just hope people realize just how much this project will do for both students and administration to improve the quality of life,” said Michaels.

Now that the bill has passed SGA, organizers will talk to representa
tives from the Development Office and the Alumni Association to get a
clear understanding of how to publicize and manage the project and get space from the administration. Initial request letters will then be sent out in early December.