Committee to consider grade substitution

By Jody Shaw
Associate Editor

A proposal that would allow limited grade substitution, once known as grade forgiveness, is slowly working its way through several Academic Senate committees.

The Student Rules and Regulations Committee soon will discuss the proposed grade substitution policy that would give undergraduate students the limited ability to re-take a Tech course in which they earn a D or F and replace their previous grade in the calculation of their GPAs.

If viewed favorably by the committee at its Feb. 9 meeting, the policy could find its way to the Academic Senate, the body that must approve any such change to make it official Tech policy.

Under the proposed policy, students may substitute grades for a maximum of three 1000-level courses, though they may only do so once per course.

The original course grade would appear on the student’s transcript, but it would be marked to indicate that the course was retaken, and it would not be used in the calculation of the student’s GPA.

The policy was drafted and passed unanimously by the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (IUCC), a standing committee of the Academic Senate that originally considered the issue in September.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs Robert McMath, who, along with Gary May, the Special Assistant to the President, spearheaded the initiative for the Office of the President, believes this “limited opportunity” will allow some students who fall behind early in their Tech careers a chance to catch up, remain at the Institute and succeed late in their undergraduate careers.

See Grades, page 7

Lt. governor discusses HOPE with students

By Helen Yu
Contributing Writer

Georgia Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor met with students from Tech and Georgia State University Wednesday to talk about possible cuts to Georgia’s HOPE scholarship in the 2005 budget.

Taylor, a Democrat, laid out a position in stark contrast to Republican Governor Sonny Perdue.

The cuts in question pertain to HOPE’s current policy to pay for a $300 yearly book stipend, in addition to basic tuition costs at public Georgia institutions. If made, these cuts will amount to $125 million.

The scholarship, eligible to all Georgia residents with a B average or higher in high school, has been in existence for over a decade, paying for 17,661 Tech students alone.

Co-author of the original HOPE bill, Taylor detailed his counterproposal of changes for HOPE that preserve “the original contract we signed with the students of Georgia...to pay for your college costs.”

Taylor’s HOPE proposal includes three main components: implementing a 3.0 GPA requirement for the scholarship to replace the current 80 out of 100 percent requirement; re-evaluating HOPE scholars every 24 credit hours instead of the current 30 credit hours; and asking for a three year tuition and fee freeze from the University System of Georgia.

Taylor accused Perdue of underestimating the budget. “Their model is based on misinformation, and their projections, in my mind, are incorrect. There are absolutely no numbers coming out of state government saying that there is any financial pressure until 2008.”

Taylor also expressed his opposition to Perdue’s proposal of making HOPE a “work-study type program.”

See HOPE, page 4

Black History Month kicks off

Dr. Beverly Tarum, author of Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? will speak in the Student Center Ballroom Mon. Feb 2 at 6 p.m.

Duke ticket policy announced

The Athletic Association has announced its ticket distribution policy for the Tech-Duke basketball game. A Student Ticket Committee member will arrive at Gate 2 at noon on Saturday, Jan. 31 to distribute vouchers for entry to the game. Each student is allowed one voucher and must show their BuzzCard in order to get a voucher. Students with vouchers will return to form a line at 3 p.m. at Gate 2.

At 3:30 p.m., the gates will open for those with vouchers and BuzzCards. Remaining students will then be allowed to enter on a first come, first serve basis.

CRC construction set for fall ‘04 completion

By Stephen Bazel
Senior Staff Writer

Installation of office furniture and weight equipment, as well as staff training and emergency planning, will take about four weeks, McQueen said. There will also be a new main entrance added to the facility.

“All this will take time to be able to get online,” McQueen said.

Phase II will include many new additions to the campus recreation, as well as bringing back others that have been absent since the closure of SAC in May 2003.

McQueen said that Phase I did not have enough room to

See CRC, page 6

Swarmin’ the Tigers

By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Swarms member Sean Coleman reacts as the Clemson Tigers fall to the Yellow Jackets at the “Thrillerdome”.

Tuesday night, Jackets improved to 1-6-3. The Jackets face off against the No. 1 Duke Blue Devils tomorrow.

See Sports, page 32
**Technique Online Voice Your Opinion!**

Last issue’s question garnered 56 responses:

What do you think of increased student fees?

- Worth Every Penny 13%
- Some are Worth it 55%
- Others are Not 13%
- Don’t Care 15%

**This week’s question:**

What are you most looking forward to in the completed CRC?

Tell us what you think at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique.

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**CRIME REPORTS**

From the files of the GTPD...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/23/04</td>
<td>3:17:00</td>
<td>Fowler Street @ Fourth Street</td>
<td>Offender arrested for driving under the influence.</td>
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<td>Techwood Drive/8th Street Apartments</td>
<td>Offender arrested for criminal damage to property.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ferst Drive @ Regents Drive</td>
<td>Offender arrested for speeding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/21/04</td>
<td>23:31:00</td>
<td>151 Sixth Street/O’Keefe West Lot</td>
<td>Report that a green 1995 Ford Explorer was entered and items were taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23/04</td>
<td>17:47:00</td>
<td>879 Hemphill Avenue/Parking Office</td>
<td>Report that a white 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix was stolen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/24/04</td>
<td>13:19:00</td>
<td>749 Fowler Street/Peters Parking Deck lower level</td>
<td>Report that a red 1989 Chevy Silverado was stolen.</td>
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**DUI**

- 1/23/2004 3:17:00 hrs.
- 1/22/2004 18:55:00 hrs.
- 1/24/2004 0:40:00 hrs.
- 1/25/2004 20:29:00 hrs.
- 1/23/2004 7:15:00 hrs.

**Battery**

- 1/24/2004 2:48:00 hrs.
- 1/22/2004 18:55:00 hrs.

**Entering auto**

- 1/22/2004 18:55:00 hrs.
- 1/23/2004 17:47:00 hrs.

**Crimes to Prepare**

- 1/1/2004 2000 Jeep Cherokee was entered and items were taken.
- 1/2/2004 2000 Jeep Cherokee was entered and items were taken.
- 1/3/2004 2000 Jeep Cherokee was entered and items were taken.
- 1/4/2004 2000 Jeep Cherokee was entered and items were taken.
- 1/5/2004 2000 Jeep Cherokee was entered and items were taken.

**Motor vehicle theft**

- 1/23/2004 17:47:00 hrs.
- 1/24/2004 13:19:00 hrs.
- 1/25/2004 15:49:00 hrs.

**Fire alarm**

- 1/23/2004 17:47:00 hrs.
- 1/24/2004 13:19:00 hrs.
- 1/23/2004 17:47:00 hrs.
- 1/24/2004 13:19:00 hrs.
- 1/23/2004 17:47:00 hrs.

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Come to our weekly meeting Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in room 137 of the Student Services building and eat free pizza.
Representatives elect Handelman in four-way VP race

By Edward Tamsberg
Staff Writer

"I was at first sad to see Danny [Puckett] go, but then I was excited because I knew that I would get this chance to run."

Adam Bernstein
CS representative

Michael Handelman urges undergraduate representatives to elect him Executive Vice President. Handelman defeated three other contenders to win the election.

Senators table MLR couches bill

By Daniel Amick
News Editor

"I was at first sad to see Danny [Puckett] go, but then I was excited because I knew that I would get this chance to run."

Adam Bernstein
CS representative

Hammock said that the current couches in the Music Listening Room are about 20 years old. She said they have been re-covered in 1993, but are once again frayed and "pretty dirty." She said that re-covering again is not an option.

Physics senator Edwin Greco asked why the cost seemed so high.

"It's just furniture," he said. Hammock said that part of the reason the price was so high is that the couches must be of high enough quality to match the lifespan of the current couches.

Another reason the cost is so high is that the couches are modular, rather than independent units.

Some senators suggested that, rather than fund the full amount now, the Senate should approve one third this year and the remaining amount over the next two years.

This option might end up being more expensive, but one senator said it may be the only option available.

See GSS, page 5

By Stephen Marek
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

UHR: Bills Considered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>Ashley Case</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to SC Programs Council</td>
<td>Adam Bernstein</td>
<td>tabled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint allocation to African American Student Union Stephanie Bent</td>
<td>tabled</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Lambda Sigma</td>
<td>Saira Amir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint allocation to Ultimate Frisbee Club Team</td>
<td>Justin Winter</td>
<td>tabled</td>
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<td>Appointment of Institute Wide Committee members Nate Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint allocation to African American Student Union Stephanie Bent</td>
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</table>
Obituary

Robert Vincent Mackay

Georgia Tech lost a member of its community on Monday, January 5 when Robert “Robbie” Vincent Mackay, 20, passed away.

Robbie was a third-year International Affairs major. He was a graduate of The Athens Academy.

Those who knew Mackay remember him as a “really good man” who had a contagious smile and an adventurous spirit. He “was into all the things kids were into,” one friend said.

Mackay was a member of Swarm, an avid gamer and a fan of science fiction movies. He was athletic, enjoying rugby and basketball. According to a former roommate, he was also a history buff, extremely well read and always eager for a good debate. He eventually wanted to work for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mackay entered Tech as a part of the Army ROTC, program, but had to withdraw after a semester because of asthma. He continued to take ROTC classes and had a love for the program.

In September 2003, Mackay experienced back pain and was eventually diagnosed with leukemia. He withdrew from Tech in October and received treatment. Those who knew Mackay were surprised by his passing because he seemed to be improving.

His life was celebrated at three memorial services, the latest on Saturday, January 24.

He is survived by his parents, Leigh and Victoria Mackay; and younger brother, Andrew Mackay, all of Greensboro, GA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Robert Vincent Mackay to The Athens Academy, 1261 Spartan Lane, Athens, Georgia 30606.

UHR

from page 3

Oates. Oates also asked the other members of UHR to consider his record of service, but spent little time in front of them as he had no formal speech prepared for the event.

Oates proposed that members would benefit from a new system of distribution of information for UHR that would speed up meetings by sending them zip files of info on the bills for the night so they would be informed as they entered the room each Tuesday evening. Oates also mentioned that he would be running for an executive position later this semester when elections for all executive positions are held.

Handelman and Spanier were the last two candidates to address the House. Both spoke of their willingness to serve, but it was only Handelman that had four years of experience with the Undergraduate House. Spanier noted his four-year involvement with JFC as well.

In addition to time as an undergraduate representative, Handelman had also been active as a FASET and Psych-1000 team leader, and had been involved in the Ivan Allen College Student Advisory Board, the Men’s Glee Club, College Democrats and Pride Alliance.

Although Handelman opposed Puckett last year in elections for VP and was defeated, representatives agreed in a straight majority, with no runoff election, that he was the right choice to serve in the role of vice president. Handelman took over the rest of the night’s meeting without missing a beat as he was immediately sworn in after his election.

However, the meeting ended prematurely when after a vote was taken, Handelman realized two members of UHR had left following the questioning period was the minimum requirement for full time students, many at Tech take more, therefore making the re-evaluation period less than one academic year.

In response, Nate Watson, Student Body President said that after the discussion was over “I hope students will take the opportunity to get involved in the process and fight future cuts to our budget, because that what causes tuition increases, not the HOPE program.”

To that end, student government is forming a Lobby Board that will lobby legislators at the statehouse. “We feel that by giving legislators the opportunity to directly interact with the students their budgetary decisions will be affecting, we will achieve a greater level of awareness on the part of these legislators about the concerns of Georgia Tech,” said William Welch, SGA’s chair of governmental and external affairs. The Lobby Board is modeled off of a successful program already in place at Auburn. “It is very important that we give legislators the chance to put a human face on their budgetary decisions,” Welch said.

Submit a sliver and we’ll print it in the paper! Go to www.nique.net/sliver, and express your feelings!
The Senate also gave funding to Ultimate Frisbee for a trip to San Diego. There, the team will compete in an invitation-only tournament.

Senators also approved two allocations to the African American Student Union.

The organization requested money to help advertise for upcoming Black History Month events and a leadership conference. There was some discussion about whether the organization should combine the advertising efforts described in the two bills but ultimately funded both bills.

Joint Finance Committee Chair Lisa Brown addressed the Senate to respond to confusion about recent changes to JFC policy. The new policy cuts all funding for decorations down to $100.

Brown said that this move was taken in response to shrinking funds. She emphasized that the JFC only makes recommendations.

“I really encourage you guys to challenge me,” Brown said. She urged members to “think about what’s important for student life and ‘the big picture.’”

Auxiliary Services Communications Officer Melissa Moore presented a quarterly report to the Senate describing that department’s activities.

An allocation bill to Lambda Sigma to fund a dance marathon was postponed until next week because no organization representative was present.

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They have been there when we needed them and have kept us up to speed on all accounts.”

Kirk McQueen
Interim CRC Director

“It’s a small world after all

A student listens to a company spokesperson at the International Internship Fair Wednesday afternoon in the MARC building.

By Gaurav Nagle / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

CRC
from page 1

host racquetball courts, a squash court and some of the other recreational facilities offered in SAC.

The first floor of Phase II will host a cardio-theatre and weight room, locker rooms, four racquetball courts, one squash court and a climbing wall. Some equipment currently set up in the CRC will be moved to its new location once construction is complete.

A leisure pool will also be included in the second phase of the center’s construction. McQueen said the pool came into being as a result of a donation.

“That pool will have six lanes for recreational swim, a 184-foot water slide and a lazy river,” he said. “When the varsity swim team has the main pool for practice or meets, the leisure pool will serve us for recreational swim during those times.”

Phase II will also host a café on the second floor, as well as an entry lounge area and administrative offices.

Auxiliary Services has funded the construction of a parking deck as part of the facility, as well. Access to the deck’s 500-600 parking spaces will be available from both Ferst Drive and Tech Parkway.

The six-floor parking deck is planned to be considered a new parking zone, W10.

McQueen said it has been a pleasure working with Skansa, the construction firm working on Phase II.

“They have been there when we needed them and have kept us up to speed on all accounts,” he said. “It has been two and a half years and all has been exciting.”

Construction on Phase I of the CRC was also completed ahead of schedule. Originally planned to be finished in October 2003, the facility was open for student use in August.

Phase I includes a 50 meter natatorium, complete with multiple diving platforms and spectator seating for up to 1800 people on the first two floors. The fourth floor houses six basketball courts surrounded by multi-purpose exercise rooms, an auxiliary gym and a game room, for amenities like table tennis.

The sixth floor has an indoor track, open in the middle with a view down to the courts. Also on the floor is a collection of cardio equipment, such as rowing machines.

The entire south side hosts a clear view of the city through its windows.
A lot of things went on outside of the bubble of Georgia Tech this week. Below are summaries of a few of the important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

**Kerry gains momentum with NH primary win**
Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, frontrunner in the Democratic presidential candidacy, garnered 39 percent of the vote in Tuesday’s New Hampshire primary. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean finished second with 26 percent of the vote. Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark and Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina each earned about 12 percent. The win continues Kerry’s “comeback” trend—as recent as two weeks ago showed him behind Dean by double digits in New Hampshire.

**“MyDoom” called fastest spreading worm ever**

The MyDoom mass-mailing worm struck thousands of computer users around the world this week. British security firm MessageLabs said Wednesday that the worm accounted for 1 in 12 emails handled. Computers become infected when a user opens an email attachment, usually an executable or .zip file disguised as a normal text file.

**Judge rules Schwarzenegger broke campaign law**

A California judge ruled Tuesday that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger violated the state’s campaign laws when he took out a $4.5 million bank loan for last-minute campaign expenses. Schwarzenegger’s campaign lawyer said the act was based on a 2002 interpretation of the law—an interpretation the recent ruling said is wrong.

**Second NASA Mars rover encounters problems**

While NASA’s first rover on Mars, Spirit, continues to be idle due to problems that arose last Wednesday, Opportunity, the second such rover, has suffered a power drain. Mission manager Jim Erickson said the problem was likely caused by a heater on the robot that turns itself on and runs without commands from NASA. NASA scientists do not believe the problem will overheat the vehicle, but are unsure of long-term effects. Erickson said the rover was otherwise in “pretty good shape.”

**Proposed Grade Substitution Policy**

The Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee proposed the following modifications to the Student Rules and Regulations to implement a grade substitution policy. The Student Rules and Regulations Committee, a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, takes up the issue Feb. 19.

The course must be repeated at Georgia Tech before the student has earned 61 or more resident credit hours. The application for grade substitution must be filed with the Registrar’s Office no later than the deadline for withdrawing from a course during the student’s next term in residence after the course is repeated.

The original course and grade will continue to appear on the student’s transcript, with a notation that the course was repeated and that the original grade is not included in computation of the academic average. Credit for the course will be counted only once.

If the revised academic average results in a change in academic standing for any term, then the revised standing will be reflected on the student’s transcript. If standing is changed from Dismissal to a higher standing, it will be recorded as “standing from Dismissal” and the dismissal will continue to be counted with respect to regulations and policies related to withdrawal and readmission.

A course is not eligible for grade substitution if the student was found guilty of academic misconduct in that class.

The grade substitution policy (including, but not limited to, course eligibility, with respect to regulations and policies related to withdrawal and readmission, and the procedures for the application for grade substitution) will be change by this policy is that drastic,” said Math.

May concurred.

There are many anecdotes about students who fail out of the Institute only to come back after sitting out one year or two years,” May said. “Under this policy, they could stay at the Institute, continue to take classes and recalculate themselves.”

The current proposal also stipulates that students may only use grade substitution for classes taken in fall 2003 or later, and that they must do so before earning 61 or more credit hours at the Institute. The opportunity exists, however, to make the final policy more retroactive.

“In thinking more about the issue, there is a good argument for retroactivity,” May said. “I’m not personally opposed to it, but thought this initial proposal would be more palatable to the faculty.”

In an April 2003 memo to the IUCC, May and Math site the grade substitution policies maintained at peer institutions such as UC-Berkeley, Johns Hopkins, Minnesota, Purdue and Stanford, along with their correspondingly higher freshman retention and six-year graduation rates.

Additionally, the administrators hope the change will help correct what they see as another problem Tech graduates face—that potential employers are sometimes reluctant to interview Tech students because their GPAs are low relative compared to those at peer institutions.

“Ultimately, the potential employer will look at the entire transcript, but there will be some students for whom this policy will give them a chance [for a job opportunity],” Math said.

If the proposed policy receives a green light from the SRRC, it heads to the Academic Senate when it meets April 20. Teaching and research faculty members of the Tech faculty constitute the body, which sets academic, research and related policies for the Institute.

“I would fully expect a wide range of opinions [from the faculty],” Math said. “There is no right or wrong answer on this type of issue.”

According to May, however, as faculty members learn more about the limitations of the proposed policy, they become less concerned about softening the academic experience or creating opportunities for abuse.

Student opinion seems similar to that of the faculty; they are warm to the idea of a limited grade substitution policy.

“I think three times seems like a little much, but it sounds like something that would be beneficial to get students acquainted with the [Tech] environment,” Greg Leo, second-year Economics major, said.

“Freshmen have never dealt with classes this difficult. It’s similar to teachers that allow students to drop a test so that they can become used to a particular teacher,” he said.

Second-year Biology major Erin Dainer agreed.

“Your first year in college, a lot of people mess up. I had good teachers in high school, and I learned how to study, but I noticed a lot of my friends didn’t know how,” Dainer said.

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**Looking to get involved on campus?**

**Join the Technique staff.**
Grade substitution is a policy that has the potential to benefitfully impact many students, if the plan is implemented with the right restrictions and with the right goals in mind. Last October, when the Student Government Association held an issue meeting to open a forum for discussion of the topic, the details of and motivations for the possible change were fuzzy. At that time, the 'Nique's editorial board recommended that grade substitution would be acceptable only if it was implemented to benefit students and not if it was just an attempt to increase Tech's rankings. The further details available now show grade substitution to be a move in the right direction.

Since grade substitution will apply only to three 1000-level classes for students who have less than 61 hours, the new policy will not have sweeping effects on the Institute's average GPA, the retention rate or the six year graduation rate. The proposed policy will, however, help first year students who have trouble adjusting to the rigors of college and the type of studying required. However, since this appears to be the main benefit of grade substitution, there may be a better way to provide a cushion which allows struggling students time to adjust. Instead of the current restriction to 1000-level classes, the policy could allow that any first semester class, regardless of the level, qualify for grade substitution. Keeping the substitution policy applicable only to first semester classes would ensure that the quality of education a Tech degree represents would not suffer, while allowing our freshmen grading system more closely to our peer institutions such as MIT.

Traditional concerns that arise in discussing grade substitution include preventing grade inflation, preserving the quality of a Tech degree and hurting "C" students who aren't able to retake classes. A possible concern for the currently proposed substitution system in particular is the not uncommon scenario of a junior or senior student taking a 1000-level class, like EAS 1600, for the first time after they have 61 hours. If the older student fails the class, it is unfair for them to be unable to retake the class while a younger classmate would be able to retake the course. This is another reason why restructuring the substitution policy so that it applies to just first semester courses makes sense.

As these nuances are figured out, the implementation of a limited grade substitution policy that helps individual students overcome a difficult adjustment to college will prove to be a positive development.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.
At some point last year, I started evaluating the experiences my stay here at Tech has brought my way—not just academic experiences, but social, spiritual and emotional as well. As I looked at my transcript and resumed and reflected on my grades, extracurricular activities, work experience and time with friends, I was impressed by everything I had accomplished for myself over the last few years. However, I was also troubled by that thought at the same time. I couldn’t escape the fact that with each passing week, everything that I had done up until then I had done for myself.

I decided to confront this thought for several weeks. I tried to dismiss it—or all, I suppose was to do things for myself at this stage in my life, right? I figured that once I finished school, got a job, started a family and accomplished all of that, I want to do, then I could begin to give back and start to do things for others.

It didn’t take me long to realize how flawed my logic was. So, I decided to find something that I could do for others on a regular basis. I considered getting involved in volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

Ultimately, I decided to contact the local Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America (BBBBSA) office to find out more about their program. At first, I was a little unsure about the whole thing. It was a volunteer to spend at least an hour each week for an entire year with the children they mentor. For one person, especially me, devoting an hour each week to something like this is a big sacrifice.

As I learned more about their program and about how it has positively influenced the whole of so many children, I decided it was a great way for me to do something to help out in the community and to get a good example for a child in need of a positive role model.

The BBBBSA office paired me up with a five-year-old boy named Keith. Keith’s father passed away from a heart attack a few years ago. Keith currently lives with his older sister at his grandmother’s house and apparently does not have any contact with his mother.

As I went to meet Keith for the first time, I was extremely nervous. The last time I’ve had any significant experience with a five-year-old was when I was in kindergarten! I was afraid he would be too high-maintenance for me—or more than what I could handle. However, when I walked into the room in which he had been patiently waiting, his face lit up and he smiled one of the biggest smiles I think I have ever seen. At that moment, I knew I had made the right choice, and every concern and insecurity I had about being a big brother seemed to vanish.

Keith and I have gotten together for the past few years. We’ve gone bike riding together, played baseball and basketball, driven a dump truck around a parking lot, played with my pets, played video games and gone horseback riding. He is happy doing anything and is just glad to have someone interested in him enough to spend time with him.

I realized that not everyone has an hour to give each week due to varying school and work schedules. However, if you feel compelled to make a difference, take some time to go to a volunteerunteer’s office and organization on campus and in the community that will fit with your schedule. I assure you that you will feel better knowing that you are contributing to something other than your own education and career development.

I consider volunteering with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America to be one of the best decisions I have made so far. I wish everyone could have the opportunity to do something like this.
A global trek with view from Tech

Provost’s plan aims to throw Tech into the global game

"Globalization is happening very rapidly, like it or not," Tech Provost Jean-Lou Chameau recently said to members of the faculty. "It’s very important for Georgia Tech to be in the game."

What exactly that game is, though, remains to be seen in a world where the sort of contrasting stories that struck me as I read the New York Times online Monday evening still exist. The first, entitled “Low Wage Costa Ricans Make Baseballs for Millions,” was a feature article about a factory run by Rawlings, the exclusive supplier of balls for Major League Baseball, and the contrast between the $2,750 average salary paid to the Costa Ricans who make baseballs by hand and the $2,377,000 average salary paid to the athletes who play with them for our entertainment. The Rawlings factory operates in a special free trade zone, where it pays neither taxes nor import duties on its raw materials, and it compensates its employees with just 30 cents for each ball produced, while demanding machine-like efficiency and perfection.

The second headline read as follows: “Costa Rican BeFifth Country in New Trade Pact with U.S.” The Central American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA, which is still under negotiation, will surely bring more industries, like the mak-
Bubbly in my tummy
Volcano, the smoothie and bubble tea cafe next to Rho N’ Blues in Tech Square, offers drinks to cool you down or warm you up. 

It’s time to Duke it out
How will Tech’s basketball team rate against the No. 1 defense in the ACC? The Writers preview this Saturday’s game against Duke.

FOCUS TECHNIQUE • Friday, January 30, 2004 • Page 11

A Capella Club proves they can hit high note
Word of mouth, creative publicity and high-profile gigs have helped fuel the growth of the A Capella Club

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

Upon entering Room 203 of the Couch building, where the A Capella Club is rehearsing, the first thing you notice is how unorganized everything seems. The club’s members are gathered in a ragged circle around the piano in the center of the room; in between songs they throw water bottles at each other, group and giggle. Even during songs, some members wander around the room as they sing the chorus.

“Enjoying a part of this group, because I like singing... [but] the community here is just so great, John Hendins, an Electrical Engineering freshman, said over the din of singing and piano playing in the background. Though the two a capella groups, the men’s ensemble, Synphatic Vibrations and the women’s ensemble, Nothin’ But Treble, have been around since 1998, this year has been a big one for them, according to Meg Morris, a third-year STAC major and president of the A Capella Club.

“We’ve completely changed,” she said, “and this has all taken place over the last year.”

For one thing, the group now sings mostly in its own arrangements. “Back when Meg and I joined the group in 2001, all of the arrangements we did were from other groups,” said Madhu Adiga, a third-year Treble music director, and the music director of Nothin’ But Treble. “We did none of our own stuff.”

“That’s not exactly looked highly upon in a cappella circles,” Morris added. Nowadays, however, any member of the group can arrange their own music, using a program called Finale that allows them to hear the producer as it is being composed. For example, one of the pieces in their current repertoire is Evanescence’s “Bring Me To Life,” which Adiga arranged. “It’s gradually grown until we’re doing all of our own stuff,” she said.

“Especially being at Tech and being a science major, I need some kind of musical outlet,” said Adiga. “For me, it’s an awesome creative outlet because now I’ll hear songs on the radio and I’m like, oh, we can arrange that.”

The A Capella Club also recently came under the umbrella of the music department. Traditionally, the group has always strived to maintain their independence from the department, due to differences in expectations. For example, the previous choral director insisted that members of the club also participate in the more “official” ensembles of chorus or chamber choir. “The guys especially weren’t cool with that,” Adiga explained. “We run our own practices, we set our own practice times, we run our own auditions...[so] we’ve always been scared that we’re going to lose our identity and our autonomy as a club.”

The women’s a capella ensemble, Nothin’ But Treble, rehearses Evanescence’s “Bring Me To Life,” which was arranged by one of its members. Performing their own arrangements is one way the group has recently grown.

The women’s a capella ensemble, Nothin’ But Treble, rehearses Evanescence’s “Bring Me To Life,” which was arranged by one of its members. Performing their own arrangements is one way the group has recently grown.

Pendleton-Parker meets President

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

It is nearly impossible for a new comer to walk into Billiee Pendleton-Parker’s office and not gape at her wall of hundreds of colorful photographs, posters and magnets. The visitor, after recovering from this initial shock, may notice her other decorations and trinkets that compound this effect, including the shelf of small games sitting in one corner, the furniture and bookshelves and boxes that crowd the room, and the bowl of candy ready for the taking. It is perhaps the liveliest, friendliest, most colorful and vivid room on the Georgia Tech campus. I absolutely love to surround myself with things and people that I love,” Pendleton-Parker said, the Assistant Director for the Center for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL). If her office is a reflection of her personality, then it may come as no surprise that she was selected among several candidates by White House officials to greet President George W. Bush, who he flew in to Atlanta to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. in memorial two weeks ago.

In an effort to promote volunteerism as part of the USA Freedom Corps program, a volunteer-oriented office of the White House, President Bush often requests a short meeting with or without community volunteers wherever he visits a U.S. city.

Pendleton-Parker was nominated by Hands on Atlanta, a non-profit community organization, for her work at the King’s Bridge Retirement Community as well as her history of active volunteerism. “Billiee is involved in just about every major cause in the city: homelessness, AIDS, senior services, discrimination, cancer, youth support, sexual assault, digital divide,” said Scott Jackson, a Tech alumnus and close friend of Pendleton-Parker’s. Her adventures began on Tuesday, Jan. 13, when she received an urgent call from Hands on Atlanta. “I had seven messages on my cell phone...five on the office machine, 12 emails,” she said. “[They] were trying to ask me [if] I would like to be nominated...to meet the Presi... See Bush, page 16

Organizational stipends only secondary consideration for most campus leaders

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

A few students approached the Student Government Association earlier this month concerned that some leaders of Tier 2 student organizations are paid with SGA-funded stipends while others are not.

SGA is presently taking steps to address the issue, although Ben Lawder, a fourth-year management major and the Vice President of Campus Affairs, assured that it is not a widespread concern among most Tier 2 leaders at this time and will not affect most students. “I wouldn’t say it’s a controversy,” Lawder said. “Several people just raised a broad concern to the SGA office that some people get paid [while] other people are not. Since then, we’ve looked into it.”

Organizations on campus that are included in SGA’s budget are classified into three tiers based on the method of funding and overall function in campus life. Tier 3 organizations are comprised of student governing bodies such as SGA, Student Center Programs Council, all five student publications and WREK radio, among others. The rest of the organizations on campus belong to Tier 3, though only a small percentage of Tier 3 organizations are actually funded by SGA. Many of the top Tier 2 leaders are paid for their work from the SGA during their terms, but this practice has raised some concern among other students in Tier 2 who are not given monetary rewards. “Part of the [concern is] that some people on campus get paid to do their jobs, [while] other people might have just as busy a
College freshman show increased interest in political activity

By Rebecca Oberholtzer
Daily Collegian

(U-WIRE) For the first time in about 30 years, college freshmen are becoming more interested in politics, according to a report by an educational institute released Monday.

About 54 percent of students surveyed in fall 2003 said following politics is important, compared to 28.1 percent in 2000, a record low, according to the 38th annual survey by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Jessica Hopkins, president of Pennsylvania State University College Democrats, said two factors come to mind in relation to the increase.

“We are coming into a presidential election year, and we always see more interest in election years.” Jessica Hopkins President, Penn State College Democrats

The first is that we are coming into a presidential election year, and we always see more interest in election years. The second, being that this is the highest rise in 30 years, it’s interesting because the Vietnam war was going on at that time,” Hopkins said.

She said the Iraq conflict is not necessarily comparable to Vietnam, but it causes division in politics and causes people to look at the issues.

The survey’s data was based on responses of 276,449 students at 413 U.S. baccalaureate colleges and universities.

Students were surveyed upon entering school in the fall, and their responses were based on their behaviors and ideologies from the previous year, which in most cases was their senior year in high school.

“I think the biggest factor in determining students’ involvement with politics is where they grow up and how they grow up,” said Brian Battaglia, president of Pennsylvania State University’s College Republicans.

Jessica Hopkins, president of Pennsylvania State University College Democrats, said two factors come to mind in relation to the increase.

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Joyce Olsen, graduate-speech and language pathology, said she is in her second year of graduate school, and the time that has passed since her freshman year has been significant in shaping her thoughts.

“Just over the years, you learn so much. You could not be interested in something as a freshman but then learn more about it and really care four years later.”

Jason Smutz, freshman psychology major, said he thinks it would be interesting to hear a follow-up report in four years from those surveyed in the study this fall.

“I think a lot would change. Students are graduating, and they are depending more on the government for stuff,” Smutz said.

Hopkins said it’s hard for her to say whether she thinks students’ ideas

See Politics, page 15
time and don’t get paid anything,” Lawder said. “There’s no standard-ization, and that’s being brought up before those groups in order to im-plement a more standardized style.”

Lawder explained that the leaders of many of these organi-zations receive stipends for a rea-son. “These po-sitions take up quite a lot of time,” he said. “You’re in meet-ings all the time, or you’re dealing with students, or you’re working on the newspaper...and so you can’t really have a part-time job, so this is supposed to kind of take that role.”

These monetary compensations are small compared to regular work-ing wages. Students in the highest-paid positions earn approximately $5000 a year, and stipends quickly drop from there.

Nevertheless, several Tier 2 stu-dent leaders surveyed said that they agreed with this philosophy, citing their own positions as examples.

Pelham Norville, the President of the Graduate SGA, provided an example of how paid administrative assistants, planning meetings for a va-riety of special functions, regular committee meetings, office hours, meetings with individual administrators and plan-ning of special events — is compara-tive to that of other SGA officials who do receive stipends. Last se-son, his campus-wide trip to Six Flags, for instance, “took about 400 hours of my time to pull off,” he said.

He added that SGA has acknowledged the stu-dents’ concerns and is taking steps to address the issue.

“[People] feel that they’re doing it because they...want to make a difference on campus, not...for any sort of paycheck.” Ben Lawder

By Peter Jensen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

2003-04 Student Organization Stipends

A sampling of what various Tier 2 leaders are paid yearly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate SGA President</td>
<td>$4,582.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate SGA Vice President</td>
<td>$2,291.00</td>
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<td>Student Center Programs Council President</td>
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<td>Student Center Programs Council Webmaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blueprint Editor-in-Chief</td>
<td>$4,480.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>WREK General Manager</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHA President</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFC President</td>
<td>$1,890.00</td>
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Although they have already discussed the issue with leaders of other orga-nizations to gain a general feel for the campus’ stance on the matter. The Joint Finance Committee, which makes financial recom-mendations to the SGA, is also “working on a policy to standardize stipends and make a formal policy on who will receive them and how they are allocated,” according to Lawder.
Winner receives a free Technique T-shirt

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Danny Nguyen

Last week’s Tech Up Close:
Score counter on pool tables in Tech and Brittain Rec

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

in the real world you have to write

- clearly
- cleanly
- concisely

we can teach you how

TECHNIQUE
Politics from page 12

change after four years in college.

“You would probably see some people that are more involved, but you would also see some people who become cynical when they get more involved and drop out of politics,” Hopkins said.

Julie Jones, freshman elementary education major, said she doesn’t consider herself a political person, but she registered to vote this year.

Jones said she agrees that the upcoming election and the Iraq war have been two events that called attention to the political spotlight.

“I’m registered as a Democrat, but as far as being a liberal or conservative, I’m in the middle,” Jones said.

While there has been a shift in political interest, the survey also reported a shift to more students labeling themselves as conservatives than in the past.

In 2003, 22.7 percent of those surveyed identified themselves as conservatives, up from 21.3 percent in 2002. The percentage of liberal freshmen is still higher at 24.2 percent, but decreased from 25.9 percent in 2002.

“I think students and people in general have tended to become more conservative because of recent events dealing with security and terrorist attacks,” Battaglia said.

One figure that has remained fairly consistent during the past couple of years is the percentage of freshmen who consider themselves in the middle, around 50 percent.

Hopkins said more voters are less interested in being involved with one party and more interested in being Independents.

“The political pendulum swings back and forth,” she said. “About 30 years ago, liberals dominated, then in the ’80s was the era of Reaganism. Overall there maintains an equilibrium, which is part of the natural progression of politics.”

A cappella (from page 11)

Hands on Atlanta Day, Women’s Awareness Month and President’s Scholar Weekend.

Being a performing group often has its perks, too. “We sang for the Georgia Tech Foundation’s huge Christmas dinner—and we got to sing Christmas carols for them,” Morris said.

“And then they asked us to stay for dinner.”

All of these gigs have helped word of mouth spread. “While our numbers haven’t necessarily grown, the number of people auditioning has,” said Morris.

And the number of people who come to their concerts has, as well. At their concert last semester, students packed Under the Couch for their performance. “We surpassed the fire safety capacity of the Couch, and then people stood outside and listened to us, too,” Morris said.

“I was riding the adrenaline high from the weekend,” Adiga recalled.

The group’s spring concert is coming up as well, a joint venture with the Emory and UGA a cappella groups next Friday, Feb. 6th.

The group is also trying to put out a live CD before their end-of-semester concert in April. “[We’re] really excited,” Morris said. “[We’ve] never cut a CD before and we really want to try and get it out by April. We hope to cut the live CD now, and then raise the funds to do a real CD in the fall.”

They also aren’t below the occasional publicity stunt. In addition to pre-selling tickets for their Feb. 6th concert next week, the men’s group, Symphonic Vibrations, is also doing a little something for Valentine’s Day.

“We’re ‘selling’ ourselves—a guy can buy us to sing songs for their sweetheart,” Hubbard said, “as a small fundraiser for us and a way for word of mouth to spread yet again.”

Both Symphonic Vibrations and Nothin’ But Treble have weekly two-hour rehearses per week, but its members don’t seem to mind.

“We’re so small of a group that we’re fairly tight knit,” Morris said.

Jeff Bosworth, an Aerospace Engineering freshman, said, “It’s my favorite thing I do here on campus. I think if we sang different music it wouldn’t matter—if it’s the atmosphere that makes it what it is.”

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Name

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Bush from page 11
dent, so of course my answer was
‘yes.’ Two phone interviews with White
House officials and one Social Se-
curity number mishap later, she re-
ceived the call confirming the
opportunity. She took the offer, she
said, not for political reasons, but to
discuss and promote her voluntary
causes. “I was representing…Hands on
Atlanta [and] Georgia Tech, my stu-
dent volunteers here and volunteers
in general,” she said, “so…it was
my chance to talk with him about
volunteerism.” Pendleton-Parker
arrived at Hartsfield-Jackson Interna-
tional Airport that Thursday and was
taken to a private field where Air Force
One would touch down. After Bush
landed and exchanged
pleasantries with two Atlanta digni-
taries, he walked over and intro-
duced himself to Pendleton-Parker,
giving her five minutes alone with
him. The experience, she said, was sur-
real. “The impact of this didn’t hit
me [until] the night before when
one of the advance people…said, ‘I
want you to know that, on any giv-
en day, the President is never alone
with anyone…except up to five peo-
ple, and tomorrow, you are one of
those.’ And [I thought], ‘Oooosokay,
cause we were alone No Secret Ser-
vice. I mean, they were watching,
but to have the President’s…ear for
five minutes!” However, it was also fun, she
said. She felt very comfortable in
the President’s presence, a trait of
his personality that she admired.
“He was charming,” she recalled.
“‘He said, ‘Well, how’s things
going?’ and I’m thinking, that’s the
President of the United States ask-
ing how things are going, so what
do I say?” She spent her five minutes dis-
cussing volunteerism, as planned,
without any inhibition. “I said…I
want to tell you some things that
perhaps you don’t know, some be-
hind the scenes stories,” she said. “I
had many good friends who work at
Hands on Atlanta…so there were
some things that I shared with him
that you know people just don’t
know.” And as a naturally affectionate
person, she found herself repeated-
ly laying a gentle hand on the Presi-
dent’s arm, an act that appalled the
reporters who swarmed around her
following her meeting. However,
she lauded both the press’ and the
Secret Service’s kindness through-
out the process, dismissing the hor-
ror stories often associated with both
tentities. “This [was] a very low-key sto-
rty,” she said, “and so it was just one
day at a time in turn.” She had already had to contend
with reporters beforehand, anyway.
The evening before, a CBS-TV news
crew paid her a special visit as she
worked at King’s Bridge, filming
her activities for a short news docu-
mentary. ABC had its own encoun-
ter with her office when they
conducted its own interview the fol-
lowing morning. Pendleton-Parker was given an-
other fifteen minutes of fame two
days later, when she was presented
with the highly prestigious Presi-
dent’s Volunteer Service Award at a
special church service in honor of
Martin Luther King, Jr. The award
is a presidential recognition for life-
long commitment to volunteer ser-
vice at home or aboard. As a recipient,
Pendleton-Parker had a special seat
in the second row, where she saw
Coretta Scott King and her escort,
U2’s Bono, in person. “The young people just went wac-
ko,” she said about Bono’s unex-
pected appearance. “‘Bono! Aaahhh!’” Both experiences have had a re-
markable impact on her life, she
said. While the emotional implica-
tions are still processing, the effect
her recognition has had on those
who know her have been extremely
heartening. And those who know her can’t
imagine a more appropriate recipi-
ent for the honors. “It’s her completely genuine, self-
less spirit,” Jackson said. “It’s the
untainted purity she shows when
she gives, and it’s her undying mis-
sion to infect everyone around her
with the same philanthropic atti-
dute.” He added, “It was quite an hon-
or for Bush to have the opportunity
to meet BP-P.”
Murder at Tech?
Author B. Rose depicts a fictional murder with Tech as the setting. Is it worth a read? Page 23

Out like a fat kid
The ‘Napé was there for the first ever round of intramural dodgeball. Check out the results. Page 27

ENTERTAINMENT

Guzzle some bubbles at Volcano
By Erich Hansen Contributing Writer

It may be small, but you wouldn’t want to pass up Volcano on Tech Square. The café-like locale offers a unique blend of teas and smoothies that will warm (or cool) you up.

Most of the items on the menu are smoothies and teas. Teas come hot or cold, green or black. The Bubble Tea is a popular selection with balls of tapioca in the bottom. They serve as a tasty treat after a tasty beverage. The weather may be too cold now, but during the spring and summer, smoothies from Volcano will be a great way to stay cool in the summer heat. For those looking to warm up, a wide variety of hot chocolate completes the menu.

Volcano also has a great atmosphere. The small space features a variety of seating options: tables along the bar, the couch in the back and cushioned chairs in the front. A really nice, symmetrical pink cabinet lies in the back, filling up an entire wall. Board games and magazines

Check out the results.

See Tea Time, page 21

Wilson lands in theaters with hilarious Bounce
By Justin Miller Contributing Writer

I cannot offer an objective reflection of any Owen Wilson affair. A scribbled home movie of his spaghetti dinner would receive my enthralled attention. His presence in any film renders it enjoyable. Nearly a decade ago, Bottle Rocket rede- fined comedic film, reminding us how humorous silence and subtlety can be (paying the way for The Royal Tenenbaums and Lost in Translation). Wilson has since appeared as a variation of overambitious cowboy Digan in nearly every role, a method Jimmy Stewart proved perfectly acceptable.

In The Big Bouncer, Jack Ryan (Wilson) resembles a slightly matured and more successful Digan who carries a cast of established actors (Morgan Freeman, Gary Sinise, Charlie Sheen) through a clumsy script as a flippant islander smitten by the rapacious but shapely Nancy Hayes (Sara Foster), who reminds us just how much fun A-class prostitution can be.

By mature, I mean sexually charged. Never have there been so many unclad silhouettes in a movie rated appropriate for my 13-year-old brother. But silhouettes and euphemism do not allow the sensuality that both the character and audience desire. We settle for character motivation as sex without desire, promiscuity without remorse.

There is a similar emptiness of image that would seem so natural to the setting. For a film photographed entirely on the North Shore it seems poorly focused and out of frame, but there are enough women and hollow waves to make any main- lander in late January miss the sun. Wilson’s crooked smile and awkward aura offer more formal composition than natural forms of land and water. Ryan, a hand-to-mouth

Check Bounce, page 19

Fab’rik impresses with low-cost high-fashion boutique
By Vivian Vakili Senior Staff Writer

Coco Chanel once said, “Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening.” Very few people seem to actually grasp this all-encom- passing view, but then again, very few people attain the understand- ing of fashion maven Coco Chanel.

Indeed, “fashion” is an agitator of expression as a song or a painting or even a poem. Chanel also emphasized the importance of uniqueness, and this element seems to be the most obviously one lacking in to- day’s fashion community. Everyone in a while, however, one stumbles across a store or boutique which caters not to the typical but to the distinctive.

Fab’rik is one such place. Entering the store for the first time, I was immediately impressed by the spaciousness and simple elegance. Scanning the selection, I noted a wide array of both men’s and women’s jeans, extremely well-fitting skirts, dresses, shirts and pants—all in very comple- mentary color schemes that were both clas-sic and modern. I immediate- ly reached the conclusion that each item had been selected very carefully, every piece possess- ing a beauty which most stores completely lacked. In other words, everything was of very high quality... but that did not keep it from being unattainably expensive or impractical.

For college students desiring the

See Fab’rik, page 21

Dark side of Fox theater with Floyd
Are Fridays lacking in excitement? Travel to the dark side of the moon and beyond this Friday at the Fox Theater. At 8 p.m., experience the music of Pink Floyd set to dancing lasers and lights. Who needs Stone Mountain Park when the Fox plays Pink Floyd? The show is for mature audiences. 21 and up, so expect some entertainment. Tickets run from $25–27.

Apache showcases lyrical engineering
This Saturday, head over to East Campus and slip through the 3rd Street pedestrian tunnel and step into Apache Café. The Midtown venue is hosting a second stage battle of the bands coming up next Thursday. The evening should offer a lively and energetic atmo- sphere with some lyrical tunes sur- passing any in Atlanta. The show is 21 and up, and begins at 9 p.m. Admission is $10 for all members of the audience.

Smoosh with class this Valentine’s Day
Are you searching for a Valen- tine’s gift that will verwitwewanks than last year’s ill-conceived Tick- le-Me-Elmo Furby? Plan an early celebration at the Atlanta Sympho- ny Orchestra. This weekend’s 8 p.m. show features Schubert, Sibelius and Grieg. Tickets start at $58.

Next weekend, Thursday through Saturday, experience Beethoven and Bruckner, with tickets beginning at $43. Looking for something more familiar? Purchase tickets to a special Howard Shore-led symphony showcasing music from Lord of the Rings. The concert is set for June 4 and 5, with tickets starting around $22.

Statue of David gets down with 99x
Spend an evening listening to live acoustic music at the High Mu- seum of Art while browsing through the galleries. The event is part of 99x’s Organic X series. The con- cert is from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday night. Entrance price is only $15. While at the High, ex- plore the restored statue of David, see an exhibit on Whistler, a famous American painter and observe Archi- tect Richard Meier as a designer and artist

Why eat dessert when there is dessert?
Travel to the Kalahari—well at least in spirit. The Fernbank Muse- um of Natural History is showcasing a special exhibition of June and Tim Liversedge’s photographs de- tailing the exotic desert. The exhi- bition runs through the end of April. Student admission is just $11. Head to www.fernbank.edu for more in- formation.
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Let us know what you think about the paper.

E-mail opinions @ technique.gatech.edu

Q.E.D. Original Comic Strip

A BEER? I DON'T THINK BEER IS VERY GOOD FOR A...

WAIT... UH... WHY CAN I HEAR YOU...

BECAUSE I CAN SEND MY THOUGHTS TELEPATHICALLY.

CAN I HAVE MY BEER NOW?

UH YEAH... I THINK I NEED A FEW MYSELF.

by Brian Lewis [gtg043f@mail.gatech.edu]
**Bounce**

from page 17

![Photo](Photo_Bounce.jpg)

Owen Wilson and Sara Foster face off in their latest film *The Big Bounce*. Wilson utilizes the same 'cowboy' type character from his other movies.

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**Disfranco delivers *Educated* sound**

By Hillary Lipko

Staff Writer

These days, the "do-it-yourself" record seems to be the latest of artistic trends in recorded music. Many bands and artists have taken to producing and sometimes marketing their albums themselves. Some, either unwilling or unable to put up with the corporate bureaucracy that is common in many of the major record companies, have even started their own fledgling record labels. Ani Difranco, on the other hand, did "do-it-yourself" before it was cool to do-it-yourself.

*Educated Guess* is Ani’s twenty-first release on her Righteous Babe label. Since 1990 she has defined and redefined what it really means to “go solo,” and with this album she has done it again.

*Educated Guess* was recorded chiefly in a shotgun shack in the Bywater neighborhood of New Orleans using minimal setup and a few techniques that would make many sound engineers cringe. Not only did she restrict herself to eight tracks on vintage equipment, but she also played all of the instruments and provided all of the backing vocals heard on the album.

Possibly the most unusual of all was that she readily incorporated background such as rain and passing trains as a sort of accompaniment.

The result of these unorthodox methods is an album that gets about as close to a live performance as a CD can get without actually being a live recording.

*Educated Guess* is an emotionally and politically charged record that combines Ani’s signature folk rock sound with spoken word tracks such as “Platforms” and “Grand Canyon.”

Listening to the album straight through almost feels like listening to an especially good open mic session at a particularly cozy coffee shop. Of course, many of Ani Difranco’s songs spent a previous life as poetry, so the expressive and powerful force of her lyrics is neither unusual nor surprising.

The driving acoustic guitar combined with versatile vocals and a mood that swings from mellow on one track to downright pissed off on two songs later makes for an album that is unmistakably Ani. However, this cannot be taken to mean that *Educated Guess* or any of her previous albums are anything but unique entities in her extensive repertoire.

Part of what keeps Ani’s loyal fan base coming back for more is the fact that her style never stagnates and that she is always experimenting with and evolving her sound. That, combined with her vivacity, confidence and wit is enough to make just about anyone listen and take notice.

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Fab’rik from page 17

perfect mix of glamour, comfort and affordability, a trip to Fab’rik would be one well spent. In fact, owner Dana Williams boasts that Fab’rik makes us different.”

Dana Williams Owner

The experience is what really makes us different.”

Data responded that they are people “looking for something to wear that no one else will have on.” Oh, and by the way, when was the last time you went to a boutique for yoga lessons, to attend an art, birthday or CD release party, to hang out with friends and enjoy hot or cold tea.

This eclectic café is located in Tech Square near Ribs and Blues. Volcano certainly makes a great addition to the Tech community.

Fab’rik certain-ture of fashion.

That, interestingly enough, brings us full circle to Coco Chanel’s quote regarding the all-inclusive nature of fashion. Fab’rik certainly seems to have this philosophy down to an art.

And luckily, it’s all very accessible. Fab’rik is conveniently located on West Peachtree Street, within five minutes of campus. Upcoming events include a huge New York sample sale Jan. 31 and “The Good Girl’s Guide to a Bad Girl’s Valentine’s Day” seminar Feb. 5. You may also check out Fab’rik at www.fabrikatlanta.com.

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Tea Time from page 17

lie on a shelf for entertainment options. They even have playing cards.

The staff is really friendly and outgoing, and they make you feel like a part of the gang. They are very amiable with magnetic personalities. Don’t be surprised if they ask about and seem genuinely interested in how your day is going.

Beverages are very reasonably priced considering how good they are. The sizes available are also fairly large. Prices range from two to four dollars, though most drinks are closer to two dollars with only a few higher-priced beverages.

No matter what you order, the drink of Volcano seems to please. The teas are excellent and served piping hot. It also brings a spoonful of culture with every cup. All in all, Volcano is a great, cultural location to hang out with friends and enjoy hot or cold tea.

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Fab’rik from page 17

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By this she may perhaps be referring to the gorgeous $30 pointed heels or the very chic $42 black boots. As Williams herself says, “The experience is what really makes us different.”

But the experience of Fab’rik goes beyond a fantastic collection of clothing and shoes which includes such brands as “Free People,” “French Connection,” “Hot Sauce,” “Ben Sherman,” “Buffalo,” “Paper Denim Cloth,” “Blue Calf,” “Red Ensign,” “Steve Madden,” “Pazzo” and many others. Fab’rik also carries an assortment of unique accessories and clever cards with some by local designers.

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What would Atlanta be without World of Coke...better off?

By Brendan Ward
Contributing Writer

Soda, pop or soda pop, no matter what you called it growing up, in Atlanta it is most definitely a Coke (even if you actually really want a Pepsi). Atlanta is the birthplace of Coca-Cola, the soft drink of the world, and with the Coke building looming over the heads of Tech students, it is a part of our daily lives.

The World of Coke, which is situated across from Underground Atlanta, serves as a way to get to know this Atlanta-based company. As soon as visitors enter (and pay), they are bombarded with Coke memorabilia including old bottles, countless Coca-Cola advertisement pieces and a large mock bottling machine which busily moves bottles of the brown fizzy liquid to unknown destinations.

There are short promotional videos to watch along the way that show impoverished children enjoying the only thing they have left; you guessed it, an ice-cold Coke (my mom actually cried during one of these overly-dramatic commercials).

There also is an authentic soda jerk who spews the same spiel about old-fashioned soda fountains every 15 minutes to camera-heavy tourists who eagerly soak it up.

“IT IS A GRAND COMMERCIAL WITH A $7 COVER CHARGE. THE WORLD OF COKE WAS ENTERTAINING BUT I LEFT WITH A BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH…”

After another floor of Coke advertisements, you finally reach the high point of the tour: the “Tastes of the World” exhibit. There is constant action in this room as soft drinks are spat out in thin streams into waiting vats lined with esoteric lights.

Here it is possible to sample Coca-Cola beverages from around the world, Italy to Indonesia, and tourists spill it down as fast as possible, climbing over each other to get to the sample cups, the fountains, the trashcans and finally, the bathroom.

Finally, in order to exit, one must pass through the gift shop. You can buy bears, T-shirts, glasses, board games and about anything else imaginable, all stamped with the Coca-Cola stamp and marked up in price accordingly. The Coca-Cola Company says it “exists to benefit and refresh everyone it touches.” After visiting the World of Coke it is blatantly obvious that the main goal of the “museum” is to sell more Coke.

It is a grand commercial with a $7 cover charge. The World of Coke was entertaining, but I left with a bad taste in my mouth. Then again, it could have been the soda from Singapore.

Look for more stories detailing attractions that make Atlanta unique in future of the Technique.
Superficial characters fill *Halls of fictionalized Tech*

By Hillary Lipko

Staff Writer

Murder, sex, secrets, lies, corruption and even a little underhanded heroism. Undoubtedly, these elements can make for a great yarn. When set in a locale that a reader can identify with, the story has potential for greatness. *Halls of Poison Ivy*, written by Atlanta author B.B. Rose, weaves a tale of a murderer and corruption at Georgia Tech that at first glance promises to be a good weekend read.

The novel opens upon an unknown assailant creeping through the shadows around the president's office. The assailant takes aim and shoots at the individual who is working at the president's desk—one Andy Halls of Poison Ivy—over the shoulder of his@cereal.

While Rose tries to paint a realistic picture of the Instructure, the extreme localized detail to which she takes her descriptions makes for a more cartoon-like depiction rather than a lifelike one. In the end, this story could have been just as effectively set at a fictional university, toured in its fictional world to be one of prestige and renown.

*Halls of Poison Ivy* might be for you if you've got a weekend to burn and you don't mind something that reads like a sub-par Danielle Steele novel.

Page after page of personal manipulation strategy and cliche love scenes, written in a simplistic style and only lightly seasoned with a plot, gets pretty boring after about half of this nearly 400-page novel.

The story in and of itself is not bad; however, on this occasion it might have been a better screenplay than a book.

The good news is that the Two Bits Man didn't die before I submitted last week's column. The bad news is that I can't surf the web any more. Death or inability to view b虹dage/badage/badger.com—I'm not sure which is worse.

Hi. My name is Two Bits Man, and I am addicted to the internet. I came to this meeting, because I realized that the internet has consumed my life. Okay, enough with the baloney support group cliche, but seriously, I was just thinking about how we've come to completely depend on connectivity. Maybe the Two Bits man is just a little overly sensitive on this topic, because he is midway through his second week of not having a sound network connection.

To not have a steady internet connection makes me feel like I'm in 1995 again. Okay, maybe not—music nowadays is much worse, and I actually relish people calling me a geek. Back in the day, being a geek was embarrassing for a high school student, and people would have been able to see through American Idol, but I digress.

Last week, I went on a business trip to a computing conference. You might think that there would be super networking at a computing conference, but it was sporty at best. Granted, there were 52 different wireless networks at the conference, but most of them were secured in some way. As a sidebar, that many radio waves can't possibly be good. Just because I died before finishing the last issue doesn't mean that conference attendance aren't a few steps closer to a tumor.

If spotty coverage at the conference wasn't bad enough, I got home to find that my cable had completely gone out and the blinky-light-of-doom was flashing on my cable modem. I called and found out that oops, they accidentally disconnect-ed my service. Frankly, I was surprised that they did actually admit fault. I would have expected a canned response like, "Mr. Man, in order to better serve you, we've discontinued your cable service."

Five phone calls later, they assure me that there's no way that it can be outside of my apartment, but rather they will have to make a service call and come inside to fix the problem. The Two Bits Man stressed to them that he had been out of town all week, so nothing could have happened inside the apartment, but they contend not. I suppose that it should be obvious that a ne-feiraus vandal broke in and cut my cable line, but left all other objects untouched. Well, at least I'll have a hostage if they don't fix it this time.

I remember when people first started to get hooked on the net. Netscape 2.0—yummy. Back then, we were naive enough to give our real email addresses when web sites asked for them. My GT number strings with the harsh reality of that blunder. Back as a young froshling, I signed up for an online trivia site, who sold out to another company, who sold out to another company and so on. Years later, the Two Bits Man is given the secrets to bargain priced cigarettes, prescription drugs and meeting singles in church every day, thanks to a penchant for trivia in the mid-'90s.

Personally, I am really hooked, and this time I've spent without a connection has really begun to tear at my soul. I need my AIM. After all, the phone is so passe. When you talk to someone on the phone, you have to hang up and call someone else to talk about the first person behind their back. With instant messaging, you can belittle scores of people simultaneously behind their backs while they all make fun of you behind your back. As a Tech student, I appreciate efficiency, and hostility is much more efficient now, thanks to the net.

If I don't get my internet connection soon, the withdrawal is going to become unbearable. I actually have to step outside to know what the weather is doing, because I can't look at the Weather Channel's web site. What's worse is that I might actually have to go to a mall to make senseless impulse buys. Nonetheless, I am trying to cope. I keep reminding myself of the benefits of having no cable. I don't risk accidentally turning on the TV to find a reality show...hmm, apparently there is only one benefit to not having cable, so coping just isn't happening. Until the cable guy comes to visit, this is a frantic Two Bits Man reminding you that when you sign up for online trivia, use an enemy's email address.
Dodgeball teams compete for glory in CRC’s newest sport

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

Before a crowd of joggers, basketball players and small packs of fans, two teams competed in the newest intramural sport to hit Tech in recent years—dodgeball. “It’s a monumental battle when two teams are brought together on the court,” said Elliot Hunt, a member of the team We Wear Caps.

Games begin when two teams, composed of ten players each, race to gain possession of four rubber gym balls placed at the center of the basketball court. There is no limit on how many balls one team can gain at once. Once ten seconds have passed, a player may throw the ball at any opposing team member. Multiple balls can be thrown at once.

The object of the game is to be the last man standing at the end of the six-minute game. Instead of hearing chants for defense, teammates can often be heard shouting “get catches.” A player can throw one of the balls anywhere below the neck. To win a match, a team has to win the best out of five games.

During last Monday’s sequence of games, the Johntys Boys faced off against the Ducks. In the first game, the Ducks grabbed three balls compared to the Johntys Boys’ one ball and flung them at the Johntys Boys as soon as ten seconds had passed. Within a minute, the Ducks had already knocked out one of their opponents.

“Dodgeball brings out your inner beast,” said Courtney Wilson, a STAC major.

The matchup was ferocious as dodgeballs flew all around the court, even straying and coming close to hitting spectators. Players were only able to dodge or catch the ball because it is illegal to duck.

“With this many balls flying around, it’s hard to keep track of who’s in or out,” said Cody Spencer, an intramural supervisor. Intramural referees have to watch closely to catch any illegal plays and keep score totals.

Both teams effectively made use of “out” players by having them retrieve stray balls for them. After two games, it was clear the Ducks were dominating the field as the team made many skillful moves such as deflecting a dodgeball from hitting a fellow Ducks by deflecting it with another ball.

At the end of the match, the Ducks had won 3-1 over the Johntys Boys. While the teams may have been hostile on the court, the two teams were good sports and shook hands after the match.

For more information and rankings, go to www.sac.gatech.edu/IM.
Rugby triumphs over Bulldogs

By Andy Holt
Contributing Writer

In the latest installment of the storied rivalry between the Jackets and the Georgia Bulldogs, the club rugby teams of both schools met at Atlanta’s Central City Park last Saturday. After football and basketball losses, Tech is on the board for the season with three victories in three matches against UGA.

In the main event, the A-sides of Tech’s club rugby team went on to defeat archrival Georgia last weekend. After a shout-out from Clemson, Tech’s club rugby team went on to defeat archrival Georgia last weekend.

Georgia’s superior backs gave their offense a high-powered feel, with Doug Hardin, who is now a profes-

tor at Vanderbilt, when the dust settled, the score was 26-7 and the OGRES had stomped the little Blind Pigs into blind bacon. The B-side showed great promise in finishing the shutout 31-21.

These victories may be the start of an upswing for the Jackets, who suffered a loss of the South African Steven von Brembsen in the off-season to injury. He was the starting fly-half, a position analogous to quarterback, and has proven difficult to replace, according to Coach Dan MacDougald. Von Brembsen also had many more years of experience at rugby than most of the team. MacDougald said von Brembsen’s replacement, Brandon Olikas, is progressing well.

The Alumni game and B-side game were just as exciting, with the OGRES, the Old Gold Rugby Elite Side, defeating the Georgia alumni team, the Blind Pig Sporting Society.

The team’s next match will be against Georgia Southern tomorrow at the Burger Bowl.

It’s official: Will Bynum can play some hoops.

Not too many people in ACC land knew that until just recently. Before matriculating to Tech via the University of Arizona, Bynum’s minutes, along with his role on Lute Olson’s Wildcat team, started to diminish with each passing game.

A tad over a year ago, Bynum, generously listed at 6’0”, decided that he needed a change of scenery. He swapped the Arizona desert for Georgia peachies and the rest, as they say, is history.

Well, perhaps not quite. Will Bynum has many chapters yet to unfold on the Flats, and he is shaping up to be Tech’s most celebrated basketball player since Jason Collier in the late ‘90s.

Following less-than-spectacular numbers during his first five games since becoming eligible on Dec. 13, Bynum has erupted for an average of 18 points per game in five of Tech’s last seven contests. He had his coming-out party Jan. 17 versus Clemson by a score of 6-0, decided that he needed a change of scenery. He swapped the Arizona desert for Georgia peachies and the rest, as they say, is history.

The victory was a great rebound for the Jackets, who had suffered a loss of the South African Steven von Brembsen in the off-season to injury. He was the starting fly-half, a position analogous to quarterback, and has proven difficult to replace, according to Coach Dan MacDougald. Von Brembsen also had many more years of experience at rugby than most of the team. MacDougald said von Brembsen’s replacement, Brandon Olikas, is progressing well.

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Stokes

from page 32

Player of the Year at Riverwood High School, where she graduated with honors the same year.

During her first two years at Tech, Stokes started in 25 games, scoring in double-digit in 13 of those games, including an amazing 32-point performance against Maryland on the road.

On top of these athletic achievements, Stokes was named to the 2001 Dean’s List. Stokes’ junior year was really a breakout year for her, when she scored her career high with 34 points against UNC, and was second leading scorer on the team, averaging 15.7 points per game.

Helping the Lady Jackets receive their first bid to the NCAA tournament since 1993, Stokes’ junior year numbers were so impressive that she was named a 2004 pre-season All-America and All-ACC candidate.

When asked if she ever envisioned all this happening, Stokes replied, “I wouldn’t want to say that it’s unexpected because I always believed that I could do it, but I had to put a lot of hard work into it.” Stokes said that being able to have great coaches was so important that she would amount to this type of success in college, Stokes replied, “Right now my favorite song is that ‘Yeah!’ with Lil’ Jon and Usher.” Stokes said. “I’m a huge Lil’ Jon fan, I think his music is always energetic and it always can hype us [teammates] up.” Stokes also loves writing and said she favors her favorite ways to do. She also loves to listen to music. “Right now my favorite song is that ‘Yeah!’ with Lil’ Jon and Usher.” Stokes said. “I’m a huge Lil’ Jon fan, I think his music is always energetic and it always can hype us [teammates] up.” Stokes also loves writing and said she favors her favorite ways to do. She also loves to listen to music. We all know how to play and coach. 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MacChelle Joseph

Women’s Basketball Coach

Along with her mother, Claudia, she attends all of Fallon’s home games and some of the away games as well. Fallon goes home on weekends when she can to spend time with family.

Secondly to her parents, Stokes credits Coach Joseph as being a major source of inspiration. Playing for (Coach Joseph) “is always intense,” Stokes said. “She’s such a competitor because she was a player…and that’s the only way she knows how to play and coach. Everything’s intense.” Stokes said. "She finally turned the corner of going from a very good player to a great player."
Before the men’s basketball team faced Clemson Tuesday night, the men’s and women’s track and field teams faced the Tigers at the Clemson Invitational last Sunday. The women’s team narrowly finished behind host Clemson, 93-91.33 points. The men’s track and field team finished fifth out of nine teams with 66 points.

“Senior Kyle Rabbit broke in Clemson’s brand new indoor track and field facility by setting a new Clemson indoor track record...”

Senior Kyle Rabbit broke in Clemson’s new indoor track and field facility by setting a new Clemson indoor track record in the 3000 meters with a time of 8:17.49. Freshman Ashlee Kidd also set a new Clemson indoor record in the 400 meters with a NCAA provisional time of 54.38.

Breaking another kind of record, ACC performer of the week Monettral Person destroyed his own school record in the 60-meter hurdles and won the event for Tech. Junior Dana Rogers had a NCAA provisional mark in the same event for the women’s side. Teammate Andriane Lapsley finished sixth in the events with a personal best time.

In the long distance events, senior captain Brendon Mahoney finished third in the 800 meters, while freshman Jennifer Sims finished fourth in the event for the women’s team. Much of the Jackets’ success in the meet was due to three Tech runners finishing in the top eight in the mile run.

Senior Jennifer Lentz led the Rambling Wreck with a sixth-place finish in 5:08.39. For the men’s team, junior Neil McDonagh placed seventh, posting a time of 5:22.84, and freshman Kirby Cross finished the race in eighth place with a time of 5:12.70.

In addition to placing in the 60-meter dash, Person and Lapsley finished fifth and sixth, respectively in their 60-meter dash events. Bringing home the silver for the pack, senior Amandi Rhett tied her season-best time of 7.46. Rhett also placed in the top eight in the 200 meters.

Leading the field events for Tech, All-American sophomore Chaunte Howard won the high jump for the third straight time this season for the women. Howard posted a mark of 1.78 meters in the event. Howard placed second in the long jump event with a mark of 5.93 meters. For the third consecutive week, senior Michael Massey captured the high jump event and cleared a NCAA provisional mark of 2.17 meters. Sophomore I-Perfection Harris, who also plays football for the Wreck, posted a mark of 7.45 meters in the long jump. Junior transfer Mike McPherson finished behind Harris in the top eight with 7.14 meters.

After tallying a NCAA provisional mark of 12.95 meters in the triple jump, junior Shanta Smith found herself in second place in the event.

Teammate Brandy Depland finished fourth.

Senior Michael Massey captured the high jump event and cleared a NCAA provisional mark of 2.17 meters.”

Senior Michael Massey captured the high jump event and cleared a NCAA provisional mark of 2.17 meters.

Teammate Brandy Depland finished fourth.

Senior Spencer Irvine had a jump of 14.22 meters to take home a sixth place for the men’s team.

The men’s distance medley relay team, with members Barton Christ, Brandon Duckett, Cristian Duval and David Herren, finished in 10:22.36, fast enough to qualify for the NCAA championship meet provisionally and a fifth place finish.

Tech will return to Clemson today for the Clemson Pentathlon.
Cagers look to upset second No. 1 of the season

By Vishal Patel
Contributing Writer

Going 4-1 since dropping their ACC opener at Chapel Hill nearly two weeks ago, Head Coach Paul Hewitt's Jackets are now getting ready for their premier game of the season as the team welcomes the No. 1 team in the nation, the 16-1 Duke Blue Devils, to Alexander Memorial Coliseum Saturday.

Tech goes into the game this weekend with plenty of rest and high hopes for an upset, thanks to the stellar play of Will Bynum off the bench against Maryland, Wake Forest and North Carolina as well as the slump-breaking performance of B.J. Elder Tuesday night against Clemson.

"We need to shake this little malaise in terms of rebounding. I think everything else, we're doing well."

Paul Hewitt
Men's Basketball Coach

Before the basketball season even started, Hewitt said junior guard B.J. Elder was college basketball's "best kept secret."

The secret is out after Elder's 36 point barrage against a Clemson squad that has won only once in ACC games this season.

At last year's Duke game, Jarrett Jack tries to sneak past Duke's J.J. Redick. Duke won the game 77-58. The Jackets hopes to defend their unbeaten home record against the No. 1 Blue Devils tomorrow at 5 p.m.

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

At last year's Duke game, Jarrett Jack tries to sneak past Duke's J.J. Redick. Duke won the game 77-58. The Jackets hopes to defend their unbeaten home record against the No. 1 Blue Devils tomorrow at 5 p.m.

The critical moment for Tech was after Elder's 36 point barrage against a Clemson squad that has won only once in ACC games this season.

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The secret is out after Elder's 36 point barrage against a Clemson squad that has won only once in ACC games this season.

Blue Devils are a young squad capable of throwing a lethal two-way attack that can score both from the perimeter as well as inside. Led by sophomore guard J.J. Redick, Duke shoots an average of 38 percent from beyond the arc, which is second in the ACC, compared to Tech's average of 36 percent, good for third place.

Duke has a powerful inside presence that cannot be forgotten either. Forward Shelden Williams and Shavlik Randolph gather the majority of Duke rebounds.

However, more important for Tech will be keeping up with Duke on the rebounding end. The Jackets have had difficulty rebounding lately, getting outrebounded in the last four games.

"We need to shake this little malaise in terms of rebounding. I think everything else, we're doing well."

Clemson had the most lopsided rebounding edge of the four teams, outrebounding Tech by 13.

Perhaps the momentum provided by Elder will be able to last and overshadow the loss of forward Clarence Moore, who is nursing lingering turf toe and is likely to sit out Saturday.

Moore was replaced by senior guard Marvin Lewis, who resumes starting after four game hiatus.

Unbeaten against ACC opponents and riding a 13-game winning streak going into a face-off against Florida State Jan. 29, the Jackets hope to their unbeaten home record against the No. 1 Blue Devils tomorrow at 5 p.m.
Elder battles flu to lead Tech

By Joseph Iseang
Staff Writer

Tech’s basketball team suffered another bump in the road with a loss to NC State at Raleigh. The notorious tough-at-home Wolfpack fought off a comeback by the Jackets to take sole possession of second place in the ACC.

The team quickly rebounded from that loss when they defended their homecourt against a valiant Clemson effort Tuesday night. Behind Elder’s career-high 36 points, Tech held on to defeat the Tigers 76-69.

Elder put another stellar defensive effort against Clemson at home, but the Tigers returned the favor in kind. The game started out slowly, with both teams playing good defense and struggling on offense. Clemson had a hard time adjusting to Tech’s full-court press and found it difficult to move the ball up the court. However, Tech didn’t really capitalize on the turnovers they forced; errant passes and dropped balls were the main culprits for Tech’s turnovers.

Defending Tech’s home record, guard B.J. Elder was unstoppable against Clemson last Tuesday. Elder scored a career-high 36 points. The junior was recently named to the watch list for the Wooden Award.

By Fenton Gardner
Contributing Writer

If you were asked to look up the verb poke in the dictionary, you would find the following definition: “to poke or stir up (as a fire) with fuel.” If someone asked you to then use the word in a sentence, you could say something like “Old man Giles stokes up the fire every evening in order to keep warm after coming in from the cold.” Stokes. What a fitting last name for a young woman who, in 2003, helped lead Tech to the NCAA tournament, and was named to both the 2003 All-ACC and ACC All-Tournament teams along the way.

“She finally turned the corner of going from a very good player to a great player,” said Head Coach MaChelle Joseph of Stokes’ 2003 NCAA tournament campaign in a press release earlier this year, “and I’d like to see her become an elite player this year.” Well it is evident that Fallon Stokes has evolved into an elite player in her senior year.

In the offseason, she worked to improve her jumpshot and ball-handling skills in order to become a more consistent threat. She is currently the third leading scorer in the ACC with 17.5 points per game and the leading rebounder for the team with 6.6 rebounds per game. Her field goal percentage of 42.7 percent and free throw percentage of 71 percent have also increased since last year. Although amazing and numerous, these accomplishments are only a part of the story.

A native Atlanta, Stokes first began playing organized basketball when she was in the eighth grade. After seeing her skills in track and field, a coach at South Atlanta Christian Academy suggested that maybe she needed to play basketball. Thus began the basketball career of Stokes, not knowing that she would go on to become the 2000 Georgia.

By Bill Alvin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Baseball Benefit honors 1994 team

Tech’s annual Baseball Benefit Dinner will honor the 1994 College World Series team tonight. The annual dinner and auction will be held at the Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center. Boston Red Sox pitcher Jason Varitek, a member of the 1994 team, will be in attendance. On Saturday, the baseball team will also hold the annual free alumni game at 12 p.m. with an autograph session set to follow.

Softball team ranked ACC No. 2

Tech’s softball team has been selected as the No. 2 pick for the 2004 ACC softball season after finishing in a tie for second with UNC and Virginia last season. Florida State was picked as the No. 1 team in the poll.

Gailey hosts signing day party

Tech fans have been invited to join Head Coach Chan Gailey and his staff for a Signing Day Celebration Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. The event includes a reception, dinner and a video presentation on Tech’s 2004 class of signees. The event will be held in the Club Lounge on the east side of Bobby Dodd Stadium. Tickets are $12 each.

Revenge of the Nerds

While Georgia may have latched the Jackets on the football field and basketball court, Tech’s rugby team took out its revenge on a different type of field.

Tanglin’ with Tigers

While the basketball team faced Clemson on the court, men’s and women’s track and field took on the Tigers on their home turf.