All about the Technique

By Tony Kluemper
Editor-in-Chief

The Technique is Georgia Tech’s official student newspaper. Founded in 1911, the Technique has been published weekly since then, except for a short period of time when it was published twice a week.

The Technique consists of five sections, each of which covers a different area of news. The news section, which starts on the front page, covers issues prompted by events and people in the Georgia Tech community. Administrative and faculty decisions of note or the successes and failures of student organizations, both appear in the news section.

The Opinions section is a forum for letters to the editor from students, faculty and staff members and alumni, staff editorials, full-length opinion pieces written by members of the Technique editorial board and the consensus opinion, the official position of the paper on campus issues. To compose the consensus editorial, the members of the editorial board meet for approximately one hour each week, discuss the issues in each section that most directly and attempt to form an overall opinion on them. The Opinions Editor then articulates the editorial board’s opinion in the consensus column.

Focus is a magazine-style section that provides more in-depth feature-length stories about Tech ideas, issues and individuals. The Entertainment section includes features about Tech- and Atlanta-based entertainment offerings that would appeal to students, as well as music, movie and other reviews. The Sports section covers a wide variety of Tech sports from varsity to club and intramural teams. Each section has an editor who is responsible for its content, layout, and administration.

The Technique has a general staff meeting every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in room 137 of the Student Services building. The meeting is open to people interested in writing or taking pictures for the newspaper and to those already involved. Additionally, section editors often meet with their staffs to assign and collect stories. On Wednesday nights, the editorial staff is on deadline to edit stories and design the layout for the following Friday’s paper.

Students interested in getting involved with the Technique should attend a general staff meeting or email the editor-in-chief for more information.
Technique Credo

This paper is the voice of the student body and the servant of its interests. It is the champion of all causes that will contribute to the development of the institution in numbers, influence, and character.

It has been named the Technique, a name that expresses the purpose and nature of the school and paper as well, perhaps, as it can be expressed in a word. For although we desire inspiration with school spirit, and a wealth of life and feeling for every student, yet we desire also the aim of our work and study should not be forgotten. That, with each succeeding issue, the name should become associated with the richest experiences of our college life, with our most intense efforts, and happiest accomplishments-this is the hope of the editors.

For the Technique desires intensely to serve; to express for us our wishes and needs; to increase our school spirit; encourage us in disappointment; congratulate us in success. It desires to make more efficient the management of student enterprises by offering a means of communication between the directors and the workers. It will obviate many meetings that are now necessary and make more effective those that are held.

It wishes to bring the alumni in closer contact with college like and college enterprise; to bring more quickly and solidly their support to our efforts; to make them feel themselves more intimately a part of the school.

In a word, the Technique desires to serve as a timesaver, a conserver of energy and spirit, a power behind every college movement.
Car thefts jump sharply

By Laura Masce
Senior Staff Writer

Since the beginning of 2003, Georgia Tech has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of vehicle thefts and break-ins.

Teresa Crocker, chief of the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD), recognizes the growing problem. Between January 1 and August 18 of 2002, she notes that only “48 vehicles were stolen,” while in the same time period during 2003 “64 vehicles were stolen, which was a 33% increase.”

Howie Allen and Leslie Lange are two students who have been personally affected by the rise in vehicle crime. Allen’s car was stolen, while Lange’s car was broken into with items removed.

Allen’s car was found stripped of belongings and some parts. Lange’s possessions were found and returned, as well.

Allen’s car was parked on west campus in the Woodruff parking lot where it was stolen during spring semester. He expressed his frustrations about the lack of parking security.

“That [Woodruff] lot is a high risk area being right next to Northside Drive,” Allen stated. “There’s no security on it. They [Parking] charge a whole lot to have to park in insecure locations.”

Lange articulated similar feelings of dissatisfaction when she stated, “my car was parked on Fowler, right in front of a fraternity house, and no one saw anything. That’s not really a secluded area. I feel that if the police had driven around and made their presence known, maybe it wouldn’t have happened.”

The GTPD is taking note of the numbers of crimes and student reactions, but utilizing more patrolling policemen is not the primary means the department will be using to diminish crime rates.

“We’re not doing it [reducing crime rates] by putting officers in the lot and patrolling,” said Crocker. “It’s not happening because we are already dedicated to that and the numbers are going up, so we have to do something different.”

Crocker and the police force will be instituting a few changes, one of which is canine-trained officers. These officers will be able to utilize dogs in their investigations into vehicle crimes.

“We have two officers who are being trained as canine officers now,” said Crocker. “The main thing I think the dogs will help us with on a day to day basis is tracking these people who are coming over and taking cars.”

Besides instituting canine officers, the GTPD is also working closely with the Parking department in order to determine the best protection for vehicles, especially in the parking decks.
Bob Furniss, Director of Parking and Transportation, has been working with Crocker. One of the ideas they are considering is the use of metal grating in the parking garages.

“One idea that I have that I would like to implement is to put security screening in the decks on the first level,” said Furniss.

“A lot of the decks here on campus are wide open where people could actually walk out the sides of the deck. What I’d like to do is put some aesthetically pleasing, but secure grating in these openings,” he said.

Such grating on the first floor will seal many openings, and it “will actually limit the access and the escape routes of criminals,” said Furniss.

“This will actually make Chief Crocker’s job easier because her officers now could approach the garage at its vehicle entrances and cut off the access points right away,” said Furniss.

This idea is still in deliberation, so it will be some time before it is introduced. One of the immediate changes students will see, though, is an increase in the parking deck lighting.

“The other thing we are doing, and we are starting to do it right away, is to re-lamp the older decks,” stated Furniss.

“Right now a lot of the decks have what they call high-pressure sodium, which is yellow light. We’re hoping to change Georgia Tech’s standard to white light, which is a metal halite fixture. This is bright white light, and that ... will make the garages much brighter,” he said.

Some students have questioned why the Parking department has not simply installed security cameras into the lots. It is because cameras are extremely expensive to install and maintain, so as of right now, they will not be added.

Bob Furniss stated, however, that the new white lighting will be “preparation” for security cameras, and in the future, if cameras are installed, the lighting will already be appropriate and effective.

Parking and Police Departments are still urging students to use common sense when parking their cars. Crocker believes many of the perpetrators to be “professionals” and “repeat offenders,” who know what they are doing. She believes it is important that students take basic measures to secure vehicles.

“It’s the little simple things you can do that protects your valuables, protects your vehicle and adds to the overall security,” he said.
The process by which students may obtain football tickets for the upcoming season at Tech has changed. No longer will bringing one’s student ID to the Georgia Tech Athletic Association (GTAA) ticket window the week of the game be sufficient to get a ticket.

Students must now bring their IDs to the ticket window at any time to obtain a coupon sheet. This sheet will have six vouchers, one for each home game.

Students will then bring a coupon to the ticket window the week of the game and exchange it for a ticket. The hours of the ticket window’s operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In order to obtain tickets, co-op students may make a photocopy of the front and back of their cards and sign the copies, stating who will pick up their coupons.

Blocks of 11 to 300 coupons may only be turned in Monday the week of the game, and tickets shall be picked up on the subsequent Wednesday. Only the designated block leader can exchange the tickets. Guest coupons may also be available for purchase by the block leader for inclusion in the block. For away games, students may purchase tickets for the same price at which the tickets are being sold to the public.

Sold out away games will have an announced lottery for ticket sales. The price of the tickets is determined by the hosting institution. Date passes may be available for purchase starting the Monday of the week of the game for the price of an Adult ticket. Date Passes are available for $27 each to the Maryland and North Carolina games. Any questions about the new process should be directed to the Georgia Tech Athletic Association.
Woodruff re-opening delayed

By Michael Handelman
Staff Writer

Anyone who purchased a meal plan this fall quickly discovered that Woodruff Dining Hall, the traditional dining area for West Campus, was closed for renovations.

“I was surprised that [Woodruff Dining] wasn’t ready by the time school opened,” said Will Hobbs, a mechanical engineering major.

”[T]hey knew school was opening, and it still wasn’t ready,” he said.

In lieu of the dining halls, dining services now offers alternatives that include the WestSide Coffeehouse, Brittain Dining Hall, and the Student Center food court.

Todd Schram, general manager of campus dining, cites unexpected construction difficulties that pushed the work past its initial August 24th completion date.

“We knew, going into this, that it was an extremely ambitious project, it wasn’t purely cosmetic,” said Schram.

“Given that ambitious project, everything had to fall into place, and everything had to be perfect, and it just hasn’t happened that way,” he said.

All students who have a meal plan, including west campus residents, may eat at Brittain dining hall, where buffet style serving allows for ‘unlimited seconds’, However, for students who don’t want to make the trek across campus, Dining Services offers other, closer alternatives.

Breakfast meal alternatives include daily continental breakfasts at Westside Diner, with breakfast sandwiches that include Chik-Fil-A. Students may also eat at the food court, with $5.50 allowed for the meal. On weekends, the monetary amount for a food court breakfast increases to $6.50.

The WestSide Coffeehouse is the alternative lunch location. The meal plan will not cover lunch at the Food Court. Students using a meal plan are discouraged from eating there during lunch because of crowding issues. Dinner is served at the Food Court and Pizza Hut, where students will receive $6.50 to spend on their meals.

Students in most meal plans will receive the same, if not higher, dollar equivalent amount per meal in the alterative locations, as opposed to eating at Woodruff. With the ‘West Side Plan’, a meal plan for non-Freshmen Experience housing residents on west campus, the per meal cost is $6.98.

Currently, cost per meal, the total cost of the meal plan divided into the total available meals, ranges from $3.73 to $6.98.

Concern about crowding at Brittain from West Campus residents led Dining Services to place an outdoor servicing facility, serving hot dogs and

...
hamburgers, for students in a rush.

“Brittain has been fine in terms of lines,” said Schram.

“The student center downstairs went well. It was a steady group of people.”

Some students have expressed concern regarding Dining Service’s ability to maintain a high level of service during the construction period.

“I’ve checked out the WestSide lunch thing, and it’s pretty decent but there’s not much variety, so you wouldn’t want to eat there every day,” said Derek Cash, an aeronautical engineering major.

Although Dining Services confirmed that the current offerings at the alternative locations were not “complex”, there are plans to increase the food offerings once information on the customer counts and food preferences are more apparent.

“We are down there every day talking to [students]”, says Darcy Tice, marketing manager for Dining Services. According to Tice, most of the comments heard have been positive, with students citing WestSide dining option as being a very convenient alternative.

Some incoming freshmen are skeptical that the Woodruff Dining Hall will open on its rescheduled construction date.

“[F]rom what I’ve heard, they’re not really good on staying according to schedule,” said Dan Sankar, a freshman mechanical engineering major.

According to dining services, the renovations to Woodruff were necessary due to both the gloomy atmosphere and lack of food production space available at the existing facility.

A new tray return will be added, eliminating the necessity for students to scrape their extra food into a trash can.

“When a student has to go into a cart and slop food into a trash container, that’s probably not one of the better last experiences of any dining,” said Schram.

Other features of the new dining hall include new carpet, chairs, lighting, and paint. The food service facilities will allow made-to-order meals and display of fresh produce.

Cookies, cakes and cobblers will be available from a new bakery. Specialty foods such as Sizzlin Salads, Premier Pasta, Showtime, and Encore will provide greater variety.

In spite of the closing, many students are positive about the dining hall closing.

Others are frustrated with the inconvenience of traveling further to eat their meals.

“I had to ride my bike over to Brittain, and that was a hassle,” said Hobbs.

“I think it’s an even trade-off to eat food at the food court for now,” he said.
Ineligibilities cause shake-up

By Stephen Baehl
Senior Staff Writer

This season, Tech will be less one tennis player and 10 football players. Academic ineligibility has involuntarily sidelined a handful of student athletes, including leading rusher Tony Hollings and starting defensive end Tony Hargrove.

Reserve players Anthony Lawston, Kingi McNair and Michael Sampson will also miss this season. Other players’ names were withheld due to privacy issues.

“This is not something that should happen at Georgia Tech, one of the leading research universities in the nation,” said President Wayne Clough in a summer press release.

Clough announced June 18 that Academic Support Services would continue to help student-athletes by reporting to both the Athletic Director and the Office of the Provost. He also stated that Carole Moore, formerly the Director of Academic Services for the Athletic Association, “elected to return to a full-time academic role at Georgia Tech,” in which she now serves as special assistant to the Vice Provost.

“I’m very excited about the opportunities I’m being given under the vice provost,” said Moore. “It’s the same thing I was doing before, just in a wider venue than it was.” Moore hopes to work to improve the quality of student life around Tech, something she feels has improved during her 23 years here, but an issue that still could use work.

Col. James Stevens was asked to take over the position of Director of Academic Services. Stevens graduated from Tech in 1975 with a degree in Industrial Management, and “was a former football and baseball stand-out for Tech in the early 1970s,” said Clough. Stevens recently retired from the Air Force.

“With his military background, it goes without saying that [Stevens] will stress discipline and accountability,” said Athletic Director David Braine, “and his leadership will immediately command the respect of our student-athletes.”

“At the same time, he fully understands the challenges that Georgia Tech students face, particularly when combined with the demands of collegiate athletics,” he said.

For Stevens, involvement is key to the success of student-athletes at the Institute. He enjoys his new position, citing “good folks to work with” and the excitement of getting to know the student-athletes.

Stevens said that the department will send people to check on classes to make sure athletes are attending. Any problems will be reported to coaches, who
will then “mete out discipline,” Stevens said.

Furthermore, the Department of Academic Services mandates 10 to 12 hours a week of study hall time for freshman athletes and those who have GPA problems.

Moore said the department also makes use of special tutors for student-athletes, advisors to help them with course scheduling and special sessions to help students having difficulty with tests and/or learning disabilities. Such practices are expected to continue.

Clough also stated that he and Braine “expect better effort and performance from our student-athletes. The vast majority of our student-athletes go far above and beyond what an average student must do in pursuit of their education. But all of the support systems in the world won’t work if a student isn’t motivated to obtain an education.”

Moore told the Technique over the summer that the association offered several services to assist athletes in their academic pursuits, but a combination of management neglect, lack of student discipline and ineffective monitoring all contributed to the ineligible students.

Stevens said his main goal in his new position is to keep athletes on track to graduate in time, which by definition would maintain their academic eligibility throughout their tenure at Tech.

However, it must be noted that many athletes have no trouble maintaining a busy schedule and finding time to study. Stevens noted that athletes whose GPA exceeds 3.5 usually require no monitoring or extra help, which leaves the majority of the department’s resources for those who need them.
Old-fashioned trolley bridges Technology Square gap

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A Tech Trolley driver rings the bell as he approaches Technology Square. The trolley route spans I-75/85, connecting Georgia Tech and Midtown. Buses are supplementing the trolleys until more are brought online.

By Michael Handelman

Staff Writer

Georgia Tech’s Parking and Transportation Department recently unveiled the Tech Trolley, a new transportation system designed to provide access to Technology Square from various areas on campus. The buses began their service on August 4.

Trolley stops include the Midtown MARTA station, the Student Recreation Center and at the intersection of Ferst and Hemphill. According to the schedule posted by Parking and Transportation, the trolleys will run a ten minute loop, with 1-3 minutes between each stop. This system will run concurrently with the existing Stinger bus routes.

Some students have expressed concern of overlap between the two systems.

“I am glad Tech is getting new trolleys and buses,” said Matt Ridley, an ISyE major.

“I am a little bit concerned at having separate routes for Tech Square. It seems more logical to incorporate Tech Square into one of the existing Blue or Red routes and increase the frequency of the buses,” he said.

However according to Parking and Transportation Director Bob Furniss, the Trolley and Stinger bus system serve different needs and therefore need
different routes.

“The trolleys run a very specific route to and from campus, Technology Square and the Midtown MARTA station,” said Furniss.

Current routes for both systems show an overlap between Fowler Street and the Campus Recreation Center on Ferst Drive.

Some students have experienced delays in the implementation of the new system.

“My friends and I were waiting for the trolley after hours, but we must have waited for over a half hour, maybe 45 minutes,” said CMPE major Felix Hu.

“It wasn’t until a Gold Marta Shuttle arrived that we were able to catch a ride back home,” he said.

The past reliability of on-campus transportation systems has been questioned. The most recent criticism came this summer with the release of a report commissioned by the Department of Parking and Transportation to analyze the Stinger service on campus. The report cited “numerous complaints about the level of service and a general feeling that the [Stinger] system is unreliable.”

However, a recently negotiated transportation contract with the same vendor included provisions to improve the quality and reliability of Stinger service.

Transportation systems on campus will have “improved standards and mechanisms to insure that those [new negotiated standards] are maintained,” said Furniss.

Some of these negotiated clauses include the purchase of new Stinger buses. There are also supposed to be “spare” buses in case of mechanical failure or breakdowns. Features of the new buses include capabilities for electronic tracking, including the use of Global Positioning System devices.

Parking and Transportation’s ambitious plans to improve on-campus transportation has been hampered by the late delivery of both trolleys and stingers.

Only three trolleys and four stingers have arrived; although there are no temporary replacements for the trolleys, older stinger buses are being used until all the new models arrive. Eventually, the fleet will consist of eight trolleys and ten stinger buses.

Tech is encouraging individuals in Midtown and visitors to use the trolleys, in addition to the usual passengers of students, faculty and staff.

“Anyone can get on the trolley. We do not require an I.D., so visitors to Georgia Tech and Midtown can come to Technology Square direct from the airport. They can ride MARTA and board the trolley at the Midtown station,” said Furniss in a press release.

Parking and Transportation Services hopes that students will use the trolley system as their primary transportation between the main campus and midtown campus. Overall, initial feedback received has shown that “the trolleys have been well received,” said Furniss.

Some Tech students have already begun the search for an alternative name for the trolley.

“I think they should call the Tech Trolley the M-Train,” said Psychology
major Mary Holder, citing the new location of the Dupree College of Management at Technology Square.
Policy change allows some students to exempt Regents’

By Arjun Subramanian
Contributing Writer

[Editor’s note: This article is reprinted, with modifications, from the June 27 issue of the Technique.]

The incoming class of freshmen are sure to face numerous changes in school and state policy from the classes that came before them. Although the tuition increase may be the most noticeable difference this year, students who entered any school within the University System of Georgia after the summer 2003 semester may no longer have to take the standardized Regents’ Test.

This change is a direct result of a spring Board of Regents decision to modify its policy regarding the 30-year-old Regents’ Testing Program. Under the new policy, students who match a specific cut-off based on SAT or ACT scores will be allowed to exempt the exam.

The policy now states that those who have a minimum 510 SAT verbal score or 23 ACT reading score will no longer have to pass the reading section of the Regents’ Test. According to a press release from the Board of Regents, the Board felt these standardized tests adequately represented the same testing standards as the Georgia’s Regents’ Test.

However, different standards are in place for the other section of the test. In order to exempt out of the essay portion of the test, students will have to meet certain standards on national tests that include an externally-graded writing portion. Students that have a minimum score of 650 on the English SAT II exam or a minimum score of 4 on the International Baccalaureate higher-level English exam will qualify students for essay exemption.

In addition, those incoming students who received at least a 3 on the AP test in either English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition will also not have to take the essay portion of the test.

If not eligible for the exemption, students must continue to take and pass the Regents’ Test before accumulating 45 hours of course credit. Students should be notified by email if they need to take the test.

Most notifications begin after a student has accumulated 30 hours of credit at Tech. If the test is not passed by the time one reaches 45 hours, students are then forced to take a remedial reading and writing course.

The Regents’ Test is a two-part mandatory test given to all students in the University System. It is designed to ensure students possess college-level writing and reading competency. Many in the administration feel that the new policy will remove the Regents’ Test requirement for most Georgia Tech students.
“Based on the new testing policy, over 96 percent of the Georgia Tech student community would be exempt from taking the Regents test,” said Debbie Williamson, the Associate Registrar.

Traditionally Tech’s Regents’ Test scores have outperformed the scores of most of the other members of the University System of Georgia. During the 2002-2003 testing year, over 90 percent of Tech students taking the test passed both the verbal and essay portions.
Tech leads in black engineering degrees

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

According to Black Issues in Higher Education magazine’s annual college rankings report, Georgia Tech is the number one producer of African-American engineers at the bachelor’s and master’s degree levels.

This is due to several factors, one of the most important being the increased efforts by administration to recruit minority students without relying on affirmative action quotas. Jessica Gordon, a fifth-year physics major, said that she became interested in Tech when she first received a brochure from the school.

“After I applied, I started to get info from OMED about their services. I was getting calls from Tech about coming, too, so the proactive role that Tech played in recruiting people and actually getting me to know more about the school really intrigued me.”

However, as more black students come to Tech, the on-campus African-American population is also working hard to make sure that the trend continues.

One of the organizations that has played an influential role in increasing the number of black students is the Georgia Tech Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. In addition to weekly meetings, it hosts academic retreats, study sessions, company info sessions and an annual career fair. It also sends representatives to a national convention each year.

Gordon, who has since become president of GTSBE, has witnessed the trend in the organization as well, for example, in the number of members who are dual-degree students. Tech maintains a good relationship with the historically black institutions in the Atlanta area through its dual-degree program, where students obtain an undergraduate degree in liberal arts from one of the institutions that make up the Atlanta University Center (Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, Spelman College, Morehouse School of Medicine and the Interdenominational Theological Center), and then move on to obtain an undergraduate degree in engineering from Tech. It is a popular program, with more than 100 African-American students enrolled.

The difference is also one of quality, as evidenced by the freshman class. “Most of the people that have taken leadership positions within the organization were freshman last year,” says Gordon. “A lot of our students last year... did have 4.0 GPAs, and a lot more had 3.0s and above.”

She also attributes some of this success to various hands-on programs. For example, GTSBE participates in the Pre-College Initiative program, a national outreach program where college students introduce science and engineering to local schools. Currently, GTSBE does outreach at Towers...
High School, Westlake High School, and Cedar Grove High School.

“If I went to high school and I remember that Georgia Tech came to my campus and told me about engineering, I’d be more inclined to apply,” says Gordon. “Quite a few students who are part of our organization were products of the PCI program.”

For some, Atlanta’s black community is another factor. Michael Johnson, a fifth-year CS major who is also a GTSBE officer, says, “Originally I was planning on doing computer engineering, so I applied to [Tech] because this is one of the top computer engineering and computer science. When it came down to it, I had family here in Atlanta.”

Gordon added, “There are people who do consider... that AUC is right around the corner, and they think about parties and the nightlife of Atlanta. Atlanta is a great city and they do have all that stuff; they do have a great African-American base in the city for us to tap into.”

Increasingly, however, for many black students it is simply Tech’s reputation for strong academic programs that draws them to the school.

One program that emphasizes a focus on academics is OMED’s Challenge Program, a five-week academic simulation where entering minority freshmen review mathematics and science concepts, as well as attend various nonacademic workshops and corporate seminars.

Says Gordon, of GTSBE membership: “I have also seen students take more pride in their work, and that’s also partly due to... the Challenge program.”

Tech is also actively recruiting at not just the high school level. Some programs geared toward undergraduate and graduate students are FOCUS, an annual event designed to attract undergraduates from around to country to Tech’s graduate programs; SURE (The Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering/Science Program), a 10-week summer research program which pairs undergraduates with a faculty member and a graduate student mentor to undertake research projects in the College of Engineering; FACES (Facilitating Academic Careers in Engineering and Sciences). A collaborative effort of Tech’s Colleges of Engineering and Sciences and Morehouse College to increase the number of African-Americans receiving doctoral degrees and encourage them to become faculty members.

In 2001-2002, Georgia Tech awarded 125 bachelor’s degrees in engineering to African-American students (accounting for 10 percent of the total number of bachelor’s engineering degrees awarded).

Tech is unique in the undergraduate field in that it is the only university among the top five universities that does not have a predominantly black student population.
GTCN revamps cable line-up, adds forty new channels

By Arjun Subramanian
Contributing Writer

[Editor’s note: This article is reprinted, with modifications, from the June 27 issue of the Technique.]

The Georgia Tech Cable Network [GTCN], has completely revamped its offering of cable channels to the student community living on campus. The new lineup offers dozens of new channels and a custom mix of content.

International students can get a taste of home from channels such as India’s ZEE TV, TV Asia, China’s CCTV and Japan’s TV Japan. In all, residents now have access to 22 International channels, making GTCN’s offering the most unique in the nation.

The lineup includes all the previous channels and 40 additional channels. From HBO to Cartoon Network, the new offering is customized to meet the needs of the Georgia Tech community and reflects the demographics of the student population. Despite the revamp, the cost to students is the same. Residents of on-campus housing pay for the service through the Housing fee, but will not face any increases due to GTCN.

This is made possible largely through switching from regular cable to Dish Networks. Dish Networks, called Direct Broadcast Satellite, bypasses traditional distribution systems. The recent entrance of DBS into the market has forced the cost of content to come down as cable companies try to compete.

“In the past, what we could offer to students was fairly limited,” said Mark Adelman, General Manager of GTCN.

"[In the past] [W]e were not able to pick and choose, and, as a result, it was severely under-serving the campus. But with the advent of DBS, not only do costs come down, the ability to customize content becomes a reality,” he said.

Despite the hype about DBS, Adelman points out that GTCN does not restrict itself to Dish Networks. The real concern, he said, is access to the right content, and if something is available on cable, GTCN is willing to purchase it.

“The reason for providing such a diverse lineup is one, for the target demographic and two, more importantly, to bring different news perspectives to the campus,” said Adelman.

In the long-term, GTCN sees itself in an advantageous position when compared to other universities across the nation. One of the main factors for this is the quality of the cable infrastructure. GTCN hopes to maintain the quality of the infrastructure in the future. Most universities have problems
with their networks, which are generally old and poorly maintained.

“There are plans to expand into the fraternities and sororities,” said Adelman, “but expanding to offer the service to all students regardless of residence location is impossible due to laws that restrict distribution rights to specific areas.”

GTCN aims to improve student life by delivering quality entertainment into every dorm room.

“Hopefully, this is a step in the right direction for improving student life on campus,” said Adelman.
Bob Furniss takes over as new Parking director

By Michael Handelman

[Editor’s note: This article is reprinted, with modifications, from the May 30 issue of the Technique.]

Tech’s new director of Parking and Transportation Services has set his top priority as safety, including both the structural safety of parking facilities and life safety.

“GT Parking and Police are working collaboratively to increase patrols in all parking facilities,” said Bob Furniss, who started on May 7.

“Discussing physical upgrades and improvements that will enhance security in the decks,” said Furniss.

With the anticipated completion of Technology Square this summer, Furniss’ immediate project is preparing the approximately 1,550 new parking spaces developed with the complex. Priority for these spaces will go the tenants of the complex, while the remaining spaces will be assigned for student use.

However, with both classrooms and the bookstore now located in Midtown Atlanta, students can access a ‘trolley’ service that will shuttle them between central campus locations and Technology Square.

Some of these trolleys are equipped with a Global Positioning System that will relay the location of the trolley on an electronic message board located at the trolley stops. Implemented in August, this pilot program may expand to an entire fleet of trolleys, if successful.

Construction of new buildings and facilities on campus has recently reduced the number of surface lots. These changes are forcing Parking and Transportation Services to replace lost surface spaces with new multi-level parking structures that include a parking deck for the Campus Recreation Center and Technology Square projects.

However, these upgraded parking facilities requiring more funding for both construction and maintenance. Furniss has examined ways to increase the revenue of Parking and Transportation Services and has offered several solutions.

These ideas including charging campus departments for their use of parking facilities and lots, as opposed to their current ‘free’ use of parking spaces.

Given the current increase in parking permit rates, Furniss anticipates that fees will “rise a little bit” in the next several years to accommodate funding for the new parking facilities.

Alternative sources of income, including the development of parking decks
that include retail facilities and other businesses on the ground floor could assist in bringing in needed funds.

Furniss also recognizes the need for an evaluation of the Stinger and Stingerette campus transportation systems.

Before his arrival at Tech, an outside consultant was hired to evaluate and recommend changes to the current on-campus transportation system.

Although currently there is no timeline for implementing the recommendations of the consultant report, Furniss is confident in his ability to address the concerns of the Tech community.

“There will be significant changes in the Stinger and Stingerette services including improved schedules, dependable service, faster headways and friendlier service,” he said.

Ultimately, Furniss believes that improving these services will also reduce the demand for parking spaces on campus.

“If we provide a very timely/dependable service, then the service will be a good alternative for folks who currently have access to public transit but choose to drive personal vehicles to campus” Furniss said.

With only a few weeks on the job, the Administration has placed confidence in the ability of Furniss to address future challenges.

Rosalind Meyers, Associate VP of Auxiliary Services said, “The department has made great strides over the past few years but we know it has a way to go. He has worked with students and is familiar with the challenges of balancing student needs with the needs of faculty, staff and visitors”.

Undergraduate Student Body President Nate Watson.

“Mr. Furniss brings a great deal of experience with him to Georgia Tech. I believe that this experience will aid him in improving the parking and transportation situation at Georgia Tech in a student friendly-manner,” said Watson.

Watson is also interested in raising the quality of services provided by Parking and Transportation Services.

“With the rising price of parking passes, I believe we should also expect rising levels of service, security and flexibility,” said Watson.

Furniss expressed his desire to “tap the resource of students to get additional thoughts and ideas,” including working with Student Government to gain input.

Students interested in getting involved with Parking and Transportation issues on campus can contact Kelly Ferrell, chair of SGA’s Parking, Transportation and Facilities Committee.
Students face tuition increase

By Tim Atkins
Summer News Editor

[Editor’s note: This article is reprinted, with modifications, from the May 30 issue of the Technique.]

In the face of budget cuts from the Georgia state legislature, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has approved a 15 percent increase in tuition at Georgia’s research universities. The board also voted to increase student fees. Full-time, in-state undergraduates can expect to pay $209 more per semester. Out-of-state students will see a $987 increase. Full-time, in-state graduate students will pay $251 more per semester, while out-of-state graduate students will be charged $1004 more per semester.

Every Tech student will be pay $21 more in student fees.

Even with the hike in tuition and in student fees, Georgia Tech is still considered a bargain by both those inside and outside of Tech.

"[Georgia Tech] still [has] one of the lowest charges among our peer institutions. Georgia Tech has twenty-one designated peer institutions, and we rank as the second-least expensive. [We’re] still a great deal overall, [even] with the increase,” said Carol Payne, Georgia Tech’s bursar.

Although the non-research universities, four-year and two-year colleges received a smaller percentage increase, all college students in the University System of Georgia will be paying more to attend college next year.

Because of the state budget cuts, the four Georgia research institutions must have a larger percentage increase than the fees of non-research institutions in order to maintain current levels of programming.

Premier programs cost more to run. Therefore, a decrease in budget will require even more funds to compensate. Having the same level of programs with less money from state is not possible without the increase in tuition.

Georgia Tech students have faced annual increases in tuition in the past, although not of this magnitude. Any future increases in tuition depend heavily on how the state is doing financially, and how much the state legislature decides to budget the University System of Georgia.

“Our peer institutions traditionally have a 10—21 percent increase every single year,” said Payne.

However, the 15 percent increase will hit some students harder than others. The Bursar’s office said that the HOPE scholarship would still cover all tuition and fees as it has done in the past. For those without HOPE, the financial aid office is working to identify additional funding sources to cover the increase.

The bursar’s office maintains that they care very deeply about the students,
and that no one is thrilled about this increase.

“If students choose to go to another peer institution, they would still have to pay more there than to remain at Tech,” said Payne.
From the archives...

10 years ago: August 20, 1993 – Students began receiving new identification cards. The card would be used temporarily until the Griffin system, precursor to the Buzzcard, could be implemented campus-wide. Vandals damaged an Olympic sculpture on loan from the University of Georgia.

20 years ago: August 12, 1983-Tech hosted Simon and Garfunkel at Grant Field. To protect the field and new Astroturf, the Athletic Association installed a 94,000 square-foot tarp and prohibited food and containers of any kind. Tech received 25 percent of the profits from the concert.

30 years ago: August 17, 1973-The family of Fuller E. Callaway III donated $2.5 million for the construction of the new student athletic complex, then known as SAC-70. At the time, the donation was the largest ever given to Tech. Tech student Kem Hall won the Miss Georgia World Pageant. She was the first Tech student to be so honored.
Breaking the Bubble

Terrorists strike U.N. headquarters in Iraq

Iraq’s U.N. headquarters suffered a suicide bombing attack Tuesday when a truck loaded with munitions from Saddam Hussein’s old military arsenal was detonated at the U.N. complex. The attack, considered the worst the international body has ever suffered, left at least 20 dead, including top U.N. envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello. Following the blast, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan questioned U.S. security efforts in the nation, but vowed the U.N. would stay in Iraq.

Virus epidemic spreads through cyberspace

Four different worms have caused problems on computers ranging from home PCs to corporate networks in the past week. The latest, Sobig.F, surfaced Monday in Europe and has quickly spread to several thousand computers worldwide. This comes shortly after last week’s MS Blaster worm attack, which caused many Windows-based computers to crash and led to yet another worm, Welchia, which was written to remove MS Blaster from infected computers. Welchia infected several corporate networks, including Air Canada, forcing flight delays. A circulating email claiming to patch Windows against the Blaster is said to contain a self-installing Trojan application.

Palestinian terrorists kill 20 in Israel

A suicide bombing targeting an Israeli bus killed 20 people Tuesday, including five Americans and at least five children. Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas is seeking the arrest of suspects directly involved in the attack, but will not take further action against terrorist groups without Yasser Arafat’s approval. Israel warned that peace talks could not progress unless the Palestinian government cracked down on terrorism.
News Briefs

Intramural sign-up starts Mon.

Fall Intramurals begin Sept. 2. Anyone wishing to enter a team must attend a Captain’s Meeting Monday, August 25 at 6 p.m. in Instructional Center room 103. Online registration begins Tuesday, August 26 at 8 a.m. and ends Wednesday, August 27 at 12 p.m. For additional information and eligibility requirements, visit www.campusrecreation.gatech.edu/IM.

PEDS awards Tech Square

People Educating Drivers on Safety (PEDS) named Technology Square and the Centurgy project Atlanta’s most pedestrian-friendly developments in 2003. PEDS awarded Georgia Tech the Golden Show Award at a ceremony Friday night. Tech alumnus Ryan Gravel also received a Golden Shoe Award for mass-transit research that he began as a graduate student.

Research money apps due Aug. 25

Fall applications for President's Undergraduate Research Awards are due Monday, August 25. The award is intended to fund student salaries and travel expenses. Students should contact individual faculty members to set up research projects. The OUS will review applications and notify award recipients. For application instructions and forms, visit www.undergraduate research.gatech.edu.
OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Woodies remodeling

Woodruff dining hall, commonly known as Woodies and located on west campus, is currently closed for remodeling. The facility was supposed to be re-opened when the fall semester started, but due to the “ambitious” nature of the project, it has yet to open its doors to West Campus diners.

It is good that construction was done mostly during the summer, when demand is much less than that in the fall and spring, and if there must be delays it is better that they occur at the beginning of the fall semester rather than in the middle of the semester or during finals. However, Auxiliary Services should have been more realistic in their estimation of when the work would be done; perhaps this way, more effective and accessible options could have been implemented during the delay.

Auxiliary Services’ response to the delay has been to send meal plan holders to the West Side Diner for boxed meals and to the Student Center for breakfast and dinner; this response has raised several issues that need to be examined by Auxiliary Services and students.

The Student Center food court, which was previously only open until 4 p.m., currently remains open until 8 p.m. to provide dinner options for would-be-Woodies patrons. This change in hours should remain in effect even after Woodies is reopened, to provide a viable dining option for the many students who attend organization meetings in the evenings in the Student Center, as well as for students who live off campus and find themselves still at Tech at dinner time.

Another ancillary issue that has been raised by Woodruff’s closure is the possibility of expanding the application of meal plans to the Student Center food court. While on the surface this might seem like an upgrade, upon closer inspection it becomes more complex—such a change could possibly increase the cost of all meal plans and could make the food court even more crowded than it is now. Better wayfinding needed

With the recent push to improve wayfinding on campus, it is surprising, and inexcusable, to see a lack of signs indicating Trolley stops, especially considering how new the Trolley system is. If money can be spent to renumber parking lots, money should certainly be spent to post informative signs by all Stinger and Trolley stops, including their schedules and routes.
This “old” man dishes out advice

By Tony Kluemper
Editor-in-Chief

Earlier this week, I started my fourth year as a student here at Ma Tech and for the first time since coming to Tech, I felt old. Sure I wasn’t around for the Olympics, and I have no horror stories of Techwood dorm. But I was around when Technology Square was just a parking lot and graduating seniors didn’t have to take finals. These feelings started when I was sitting in class during my first day of senior design, and I started to realize that in less than nine months I will be a graduate of this fine institute (with a little help from my professors) and will for the first time be out on my own (hopefully with a job).

Since I was in this “old” mood when I started thinking about an editorial topic, I decided to take on the old wise man (some would not agree with the wise part, by the way) and give some advice to the classes of 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 (don’t laugh, it could happen).

Since this first issue of the Technique is traditionally known as the Freshmen Issue, advice for freshman can be found throughout. The Freshman Survival Guide gives you the inside info on all the Tech traditions, past and present, while Entertainment details the best place to see a movie. However, my advice to you freshmen won’t appear anywhere else in this paper. The advice you are about to encounter is like none you have ever heard before (except for the thousand of other times you might have heard something similar).

1. Tech is hard, but you can deal with it. Anyone who has ever taken a class at Tech knows that Tech is not your average state school. I mean, what does it tell you when one of the most recognizable features on campus is in the shape of a giant shaft. Tech ranks as one of the top ten public schools in the nation for a reason, so don’t expect a cake walk in any class, even Health. At the same time if you are one of these people who stresses over every little detail (like I was in high school), you have to learn to relax and deal with the stress or you are much more likely not to make it.

For me, first semester was full of stress. CS 1311 (as it was once called) created numerous breakdowns until I reached a point where the stress got the better of me. After failing to understand even the slightest bit of the first semester, I felt my career at Tech was ruined (ok, so maybe I’m over dramatizing it a little).

However, something happened at mid-semester, and I came to the realization that it was just one class that would most likely have little bearing on my career as a civil engineer. I relaxed and ended up doing better in the course than expected.

Now don’t get me wrong, my advice is not to deal with the classes by not going to them (that will get you a one-way ticket home to your local community college). Instead, I ask that you take a deep breath every once in a
while and not amplify the effects of one class, or even two classes, on your entire future. Trust me, that permanent record thing doesn’t really exist.

2. Meet some people in person. This is a no-brainer and has been said from everyone who has given you advice about Tech from your FASET leader to your PL, and yet still some people continue to play [insert whatever the popular computer game is at the moment] all alone in your room. People are everywhere at Tech, and they aren’t that hard to meet. (Trust me, I even made friends freshman year.)

I’m not saying you have to go out and join ten student organizations to pad your future resumes (although the Technique is always looking for new writers and photographers).

Hell, I’m not even asking everyone to go outside and meet people. If you like computer games, why not find someone to compete with? You’ve met a person, and you can still sit in your room and play [insert whatever the popular computer game is at the moment], but this time you’ll have someone actually in the room with you. Hey, you might even want to take a break every now and again to have a conversation.

3. Don’t try to be best friends with everyone. These type of people are the opposite of those who sit in their rooms and play computer games alone. They seem to have lots of friends and are always talking to someone. There was a time, when I was in your shoes, that this was the type of person I wanted to be. I’m not sure if Tech made me more cynical, or hanging around these type of people did, but I’ve come to realize that under the surface being best friends with everyone isn’t all it’s cracked up to be.

To tell you the truth, I don’t have loads and loads of friends, but the friends that I do have are extremely close and would do almost anything for me, and I would do the same for them. This extreme closeness comes from spending endless amounts of time together, which is not available when you’re making best friends with everyone.

Like it or not, that is the advice this “old” Tech student has for all of you newbies. Be warned that this is simply my views on Tech and not everyone will agree with what I have to say. In fact, I figure that most of you reading this editorial won’t take my opinion to heart, and why should you?

You are now free to have your own opinions about everything—from when and if you go to class, to how many shots you really want to take, to if it is really a smart idea to light the dorm hallway on fire, to deciding how much sleep you really need to function as a normal human being (by the way, this amount will decrease exponentially as you move through your career at Tech).

And so, my final piece of advice, which is so important that I won’t even label it with a number, is to use this new found freedom of opinion wisely and learn from your mistakes (like setting the dorm on fire, which is haven’t figured it out yet is a big no-no with the Housing folks) because in four, five or six short years you will use this opinion to offer advice to the incoming class of 2012, 2013, 2014 or 2015. Man, now I really feel old.
Sweeping out my digital dust bunnies

By Jennifer Schur  
Opinions Editor

Bright and early Friday morning, I stuck my newly acquired key into my lock and opened the door to my on-campus dorm room for the first time in 3 months, only to find it in the exact same condition it was before. Normally, this would be a good sign, meaning that the summer occupant had avoided “partying too hard” in his room. But instead, this observation saddened and frustrated me.

You see, I was charged 50 dollars for the damage I incurred to the walls of my room when I pulled my poster hanging hooks off the walls. I (and not outrageously so, in my opinion) believed that by paying this cold hard cash to the Department of Housing, I would be getting a service in return—mainly, the spackling and painting of the bare patches I made. But no. Instead, when I excitedly brought my first load of belongings into my room, I was confronted with several unsightly pockmarks on my walls. Alas.

In the spirit of finding the silver lining in the situation, I realized that this “oversight” by Housing merely meant that now I could rehang my posters in the same place as last year, without causing new damage.

Moving on with my moving in, I found myself nearing the bottom of the boxes that numbered my life (what a thought to think, that my entire life currently fits in the back of a midsized SUV). But in doing so, I found that I was in actuality nowhere near being unpacked. This is how I came across my own loads of what a commentator on National Public Radio earlier this summer called “digital baggage.”

The number of disks, zip disks and burned data CDs I own has tripled since I’ve been at Tech. Not to mention the number of “Favorites” I have bookmarked in Internet Explorer or the many pictures of people I don’t even remember anymore that came to me via email attachments.

The beginning of school triggers a spring cleaning-like frenzy in me, in which everything in my room needs to be just so, including, apparently, my digital room as well. With the start of class I felt the need to clean out my harddrive, somewhat haphazardly deleting random files at will with the intent of doing the digital equivalent of sweeping out the dust bunnies from under the bed.

This process occasionally results in the accidental deletion of important email attachments (i.e. syllabi for current classes), but also serves as a walk down memory lane. It feels like looking into a window whose panes reflect the past when looking at old files on my computer.

Although all of my material belongings might fit into the rear end of my car and are easily quantifiable, with the ubiquitous use of computers and instant messenger (and the phenomenon of saving conversations) my emotional
memories, experiences and knowledge gained while at Tech have now also been catalogued in a quantifiable way-in my computer’s memory.

It’s sobering to see your years laid out in front of you (with the added option of seeing your past in list or icon format), coldly demarcating a white background.

To mimic Tony, and in light of the sudden philosophical turn this editorial has taken, here’s some words of recommendation from a student only half way through her time here at Tech and yet feeling as though she is already being stared down by her past because of a digital medium that is impossible to escape in an atmosphere like Tech’s.

Firstly, live as though you have a 100 gigabyte harddrive, a one in which you never have to go through your old files, in which you can save every conversation. I feel as though my memory is less stressed by knowing that if I ever really wanted to, I could go back and read, and relive, what it was that made 2 a.m. such an enjoyable part of the day to be awake to witness.

Next, find the time to enjoy just being with yourself. Taking time to relax is essential to enjoying your time at Tech-the academic and the social aspects of it.

And finally, the most important recommendation I can make is to read the Technique religiously, all week, every week. The stories you’ll find in these pages will inform, excite and incite you. And then you should write a letter to the editor, at opinions@technique.gatech.edu
OUR VIEWS Hot or Not

Comfy tushies

The word on the streets in cool this week is “mesh chairs.” If you haven’t jumped on the trolley to check out the new Management building’s classrooms with these mesh chairs, you’re denying your bum a trip to hiney heaven. We expect to see a new rush of students changing majors to management this semester, as well as a skyrocketing in the attendance rates of management classes.

Fans shafted

It’s not just the freshmen who are wandering around the stadium looking lost this week—with the changes made to the ticket distribution process, no one seems to be clear on how many loops students must jump through to get their tickets now. We are forced to wonder: why the stricter guidelines now, when we have more seating than we ever have before (and were hardly ever able to fill the old stadium, anyway)?

Student life exists

Student life this semester is hotter than the kitchen in Brittain. Better Than Ezra is playing in the Ferst Center in September, the BYU opening football game is being shown on the jumbotron in the new stadium, and The Matrix was shown on the Tech Tower lawn. Kudos to whoever has made these events happen.

Missin’ my SAC

The change of the name of the SAC to the Campus Recreation Center seems unnecessary—how is the building to be referred to now? Crrrrcccc? (sound it out) SAC rolled off the tongue so easily. Perhaps the donor for the new building didn’t want to be associated with anything called “SAC.”
Moore change unfair

I write regarding the recent treatment of Dr. Carole Moore.

I understand that she has been “reassigned” out of the Athletic Association following the academic disqualification of several athletes. She has also been slandered by the Atlanta Journal and left undefended by her employer. This is an absolute unfair treatment on a professional and personal level, but consistent with the Institute’s attitude toward athletics. If an athlete fails, it is never his or her own fault-someone else must take the blame. It is inconceivable that the athletes are simply not “Georgia Tech material.”

Georgia Tech has a very high retention rate for athletes-but a lower overall retention rate. And yet the President does not get reassigned. A double standard, no?

I only hope that Dr. Moore will be happier in her new position, transferred out of the baby sitting department. She is one of the finest, most civilized and humanistic people Georgia Tech has the good fortune to employ. And I see she remains underappreciated.
A Global Trek with View from Tech

Exploring the role of Tech students in an ever expanding world

By Jody Shaw

Is Google God? New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman of feared this question to his readers over the summer. The Pulitzer Prize winner noted that the search engine is all-knowing, all-powerful and a source of answers for many human questions-qualities that might make one feel inclined to apply God-like adjectives to the website.

A dramatic analogy aside, Google has changed the way we, as young Americans, look at the world and the way the world looks back at us. Our events, ideas and values are freely available for all to consume at the click of a search button, and we have the opportunity to educate ourselves likewise.

With the advent of Google News, we can consume up to the minute news reports not only from the domestic press, but from around the world. We can gain a perspective and level of understanding of world events that would have been difficult, if not impossible, just a few short years ago. And we can do it instantly-making it possible to stay involved even on a Georgia Tech schedule with just a little bit of effort and interest.

But why put forth that effort? And why express that interest? It could be summed up with a one-word answer of globalization, but in some ways, what once served as a valuable term for explaining a dominant force of the last decade has become a buzzword without academic or practical significance. What does it mean? It means that the choices about what modernity should look like are less numerous-it all looks like America. It means that, at least among educated elites of the world like ourselves, we all live a little bit closer to our neighbors, and we are all more empowered as actors at the individual level.

More importantly, it also means that, especially in the developing world, the United States has an incredible amount of influence over the actions of other sovereign states. Citizens of these countries may take issue with issue with this influence; after all, they voted for neither Bush nor Gore in the 2000 election, yet the feel the impact of America every day. They feel it in the Bolivian jungle where the U.S. fights its drug war, and they feel it in Saudi Arabia where the U.S. empowers an oppressive monarchy.

The average citizen of the world, as the vast majority of the world is not developed, feels his voice heard less and less, as his government pursues interests the he views as foreign or elite.

The U.S. is everywhere now, and everyone is forming an opinion on our government, our country and our people. As citizens we ought to at least attempt to understand the risks and responsibilities that come with the great influence our country wields.
We as Georgia Tech students have a particular responsibility as part of the elite of our own country. We are the leaders and problem solvers who will pursue progress and further service in our positions in industry, government and academia. Should we not know at least as much about the International Monetary Fund, no matter what our field of study, as an Argentine secretary?

Beyond our responsibility as leaders, the successes and struggles of today’s world, and the ones that will come tomorrow, will be rooted in technology—something all of us at Tech recognize.

One needs look no further than last week’s blackouts in the U.S. to see the important role that resource management will play in the future. In this sense Georgia Tech individuals and ideas will drive the development and progress of our country and the world.

Throughout the semester this column will look at the way in which the individuals and ideas at Tech currently interact with the international community and ways in which they could interact in the future. It will also examine the reciprocal: the manner in which the world impacts us as a Tech community.

There is a lot to think about, so let’s get Google-ing.
GT numbers: why I’m gtg and you’re gte

Every year many students are left wondering about the reasoning behind the seemingly randomly-assigned email account numbers. The Technique digs deeper into the issue to give you, the reader, the story behind your number.

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Ever wonder why you’re just a number to Georgia Tech officials, and why your number starts with “gte” and your friend’s number starts with “gtg?” OIT assures that there is an explanation to this e-mail madness.

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

Every Georgia Tech student is familiar with the concept of GT account numbers—the seemingly random combination of alphanumeric characters assigned to each entering student that becomes one’s college e-mail address and login name at any of the campus computer clusters.

Yet according to OIT, the department that assigns GT account numbers, there’s a method to this madness. Every student account number by rule begins with the letters “gt” followed by either four digits and a letter, or a letter, three digits and another letter. Employees also have a GT account, which feature the employee’s initials followed by a number.

This system evolved from the basic procedure used to assign GT accounts back when they were first introduced in November 1987. “It used to be that if a student was assigned a post office box, the ID would be created by putting a ‘gt’ in the beginning, taking the last four numbers of the post office box, put that in the middle, then followed by a letter,” explained Monica Rowland, Department Manager in the OIT Customer Support Center.

However, if the student came in without a post office box assigned, they would be given an account beginning with “gt,” but followed by a letter, three arbitrary numbers, and then another letter.
More recently, as incoming freshmen began registering online during FASET much earlier than before-before they had received post office box numbers-OIT was forced to abandon their previous assignment scheme.

“When that happened, everybody got ‘gt’, a letter followed by numbers, then another letter,” said Jason Belford, Assistant Support Specialist to OIT. “That pretty much ended ‘gt’, four numbers, and a letter. Everybody was being rolled in prior to having a post office box. That’s where we get the more common format.”

Numbers are assigned to new students based on the order in which their name arrives at OIT. “Now, it is sequentially done based on our feed from Banner [Tech’s online registration system],” said Belford.

“Our feed looks at who registered for last semester, who registered for this semester, who registered for next semester, because that way it knows which accounts to delete [and] which ones to add.” As new students are assigned account numbers, the system increases the previous account number by 1. When it gets to 999z, it goes to the next letter.

This incrementing continues even as old account numbers from students long graduated become defunct. OIT can recycle old numbers, but they’re hesitant to do so. “It does have the possibility of being recycled,” said Belford. “Have we recycled them? Maybe under a system fluke, we have. We have not purposely done it....There are bigger troubles if we do.”

Instead, OIT tries to permanently reserve its account numbers for the students that once used them. That way, said Rowland, “people can return.”

Yet despite the logic and efficiency of this system, one of the most frequent complaints raised against OIT is that GT account numbers are too ugly and impersonal. Why, the argument goes, aren’t students given more personal user IDs, as is the case at some other schools?

One of the primary reasons, explained Rowland and Belford, is that Georgia Tech introduced the system so early that the technology at the time did not allow it. “One of the reasons the account was created was as a login account,” said Belford.

Georgia Tech had by then employed UNIX to satisfy its networking needs. “Up until just a few months ago, user names on a Unix box could only be up to 8 characters...We had to fit in that limitation.”

There also needed to be a definitive way to distinguish between student and employee IDs, and two standardized, differing algorithms for the two groups allowed that distinction. One reason this was necessary, explained Rowland, was allocation of resources. “An employee might not need as many BANANAS or allocations that a student would need,” she said, “so there had to be a distinguishing feature built into them.”

Students frustrated with the impersonality of the GT account number system used to have an alternative: e-mail aliases provided by ResNet, the IT support arm of the Department of Housing.

Starting in the mid-1990s, ResNet provided students with unique, easy-to-remember aliases for their regular Georgia Tech e-mail accounts at a time when internet aliases were scarce and expensive.

“Any person with a prism ID could authenticate using their Georgia Tech OIT-given account name and password,” explained Adrian Smith, the ResNet
Program Manager.

“They would log into the system, and they were allowed to create one alias that cold point to any e-mail address that they chose.”

That address would read as the user’s chosen name@resnet.gatech.edu. A similar ResNet service provided custom host names (a user’s first name. resnet.gatech.edu) that pointed toward the student’s IP address during a given semester.

However, the ability to create ResNet aliases was recently canceled a few months ago, upsetting many students who appreciated the easy alternative the system offered over the direct use of one’s GT account number. That decision, explained Smith, arose due to a variety of factors.

One was the growing popularity of the aliases. “Not having an operations center 24 hours a day almost 365 days a year, we could not effectively manage or support that service,” Smith explained.

“We had a couple of times last year when we had a few minor issues with our server during the holiday weekends, and that caused problems with people because that was the only e-mail address they were publishing.”

“It was taking it farther than the intended purpose of the original program,” he said. “When it came right down to it, there was no way that we could support it effectively with the resources we were given to the extent that the people using it wanted.”

To compound the problem, the system was heavily used by the wrong students. “I also ran some statistics on students using the system, and I found that 50% of those actively using their aliases were not in our residential halls any longer,” said Smith. Furthermore, the program that provided the aliases became increasingly difficult to manage. Originally written by a student, when he left, ResNet had to continually support the software through periodic upgrades of their server.

“It was on Linux, [and] every time we’ve updated Linux, we’ve had to modify the code because [it] was very specific, because of the different things [we’re doing],” said Smith.

“We were spending a significant portion of time recreating a system on the back end to make it work.”

Those factors weighed together demanded elimination of the service. But for users who were infatuated with the system-particularly the tech-savvy computer users-there are plenty of options available, said Smith.

For example, with domain names becoming cheaper, many students have begun buying their own domain names and creating e-mail addresses based on those.

“Now e-mail addresses are available free, and even when you sign up with a dial-in or a broadband account, they basically give you however many e-mail addresses you want,” said Smith.

“It’s very inexpensive now that web space and storage space have gotten a lot cheaper over the past few years.”

Both ResNet and OIT are also working together toward better options for e-mail addresses. Smith has tried collaborating with OIT to introduce a system similar to ResNet aliases that could be supported under the department’s 24-
hour, 7-day-a-week service center.

However, that may not be an option until further in the future, he said, for OIT’s resources are currently directed toward other, more pressing projects.

Belford, of OIT, is also on a team that is in the finishing stages of replacing the current account management system with an upgraded one, which promises a number of improvements. “As a student and an employee of Tech, you would get two different accounts,” he said. “A student coming in here will have one account. They become a staff, they’ll have that same account.... The format of that name will change, the process you have to go through to get the account may change.”

But, Belford said, “The direction we’re moving is person-based.”
Safe Space program provides haven for GLBT and allies

By Jason Reeves
Contributing Writer

With the growing concern with diversity both at Georgia Tech’s campus and nationally, it comes as no surprise that Tech will begin offering a Safe Space program in upcoming years. This program specifically offers a place where students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) may come to talk and to receive advice.

According to chair Matt Ridley, the main objectives of the program are varied.

“The program will provide a supportive environment for GLBT members of campus, to facilitate their ‘coming out’ process, to foster a social climate in which others do not feel the need to express anti-gay attitudes in order to ‘fit in’, to dispel negative stereotypes and present factually accurate information about GLBT people, and to publicize other support resources or structures that are available on or off campus.”

Starting this year, the program is spearheaded by Ridley, a member of the Pride Alliance, along with others such as Dean Stephanie Ray and community service/MOVE advisor David Prophitt.

“Safe Space, or similarly named ‘Safe Zone’ programs, are happening all over the country, particularly in institutions of higher education,” said Ridley. Like the other Safe Space programs at over 125 other colleges across the nation, Safe Space is intended to promote understanding and acceptance of differences in sexual orientation.

This program is intended to inform students of the presence of ‘allies’ at Georgia Tech. Allies are individuals who may or may not self-identify as members of the GLBTQ community but who show respect and concern for the safety of members of the GLBTQ community. Often, however, there is no guide for the GLBTQ ally. “These heterosexual allies often will have few skills or resources available to them and no information to guide their own development or to help others become better advocates for the GLBT student population...Safe Space programs provide a way to train allies to be just that, allies,” said Ridley.

He stressed the importance of training allies. “Heterosexual staff and faculty can have a significant effect on creating a positive culture welcoming GLBT students into any student population,” he said.

This year returning housing staff members have had the option to take a course explaining the purpose of Safe Space and how to become active in it. Ridley said that the training involves “receiving a packet of information and resources as well as being trained on basic information as to the needs and
Joann Spinchemcomb, a returning Community Advisor (CA) in the east campus apartments said that the Safe Space information was “hands down the best part of housing training this year.” It was described as well thought out and thorough, and it emphasized what life as GLBT member was like.

The training also emphasized the necessity to have a person to come to who would be an ally as well as someone students can trust with delicate information regarding GLBT status. Spinchemcomb is “happy to be a part of the program...proud to be able to place the sticker on her door,” as she thinks that the program will definitely benefit the Tech community.

Safe Spaces will be located around other areas of campus as well as in some of the residence halls. Locations of the Safe Spaces on campus will be posted on the Safe Space website, http://www.safespace.gatech.edu, which is currently under construction. For now, Ridley stressed for people interested in signing up for training to e-mail him at gte784v@mail.gatech.edu.

“Simply look for the safe space logos/stickers to be displayed on office doors and bulletin boards,” he said. Students who want to learn more about the program can also speak with Ray, Prophitt, Billiee Pendleton-Parker, Ann Pitini, Ridley or Brett Hulst.

The program is officially sponsored by the Office of Diversity Issues and Programming and the Department of Housing, while all funding has been provided by the Georgia Tech Student Foundation.

While Safe Space is geared toward the GLBTQ community, it is a program that offers safety not only for gays and lesbians but for all students.

According to Ridley, it is another step that Georgia Tech will take as an institution to uphold its commitment to diversity and mutual respect of all students.
Recycling isn’t just for aluminum cans and newspapers

Chemical engineering associate professor Matthew Realff (center) and industrial engineering professor Jane Ammons (right) aim to make recycling computers more efficient for consumers and corporations.

By Madhu Adiga
Senior Staff Writer

Crash! Thud! Hear that? That’s the sound of another Tech student tossing his obsolete computer off some random rooftop. Why? Because he can...besides, what else is he supposed to do with it?

Industrial Engineering professor Jane Ammons and Chemical Engineering associate professor Matthew Realff hope to change that. Their collaborative research on optimizing reverse production systems aims to make recycling computers a more consumer and corporate-friendly practice.

What is a reverse production system? Commercial production occurs at a centralized location and then is spread out to the consumer community. Reverse production, then, such as recycling computers, seeks to optimize bringing products back in from consumer regions to a centralized region for processing.

The pair first began studying reverse production systems in 1995 with alumnus Ray Anderson, now CEO of Interface. They set out to optimize carpet recycling systems and found that it was best to have one central collection for different types of carpet, rather than to have companies set up a competing network of collections. They then received two National Science Foundation grants, one in 1998 and one in 2001 to recover and reuse materials found in electronic waste, more commonly known as e-trash. “We were both interested in environmentally conscious design and manufacturing
systems,” said Ammons.

This is becoming especially important because the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that over 250 million computer monitors will become obsolete over the next three years. Most obsolete computers in the U.S. wind up in landfills. The average computer monitor alone contains two to four pounds of lead, which can easily seep into the groundwater of landfills.

It’s not that no one knows how to recycle computers. Metal from the chips can be recycled, as can the plastic from the hardware. Facilities up north can recycle the cathode ray tube (CRT) glass from monitors into glass for new monitors. However, the average consumer wouldn’t recycle old computers as readily as he would aluminum cans and newspapers, because he can’t just leave the computer in a recycling bin out on the curb. Consumers don’t want to pay for the shipping of computers to recycling facilities and manufacturers don’t want the responsibility of disposing of computers they sold years ago.

“It’s a matter of taking all variables into account and coming up with a cost-effective solution,” said Realff. However, there are a lot of variables. For example, the re-usability of discarded computers depends heavily on how old they are. Also, the absolute volume of recyclable material is not something that can be plotted over time. “People in the U.S. have a lot of storage space in their homes, and they tend to keep things like old computers for years at a time. So when there’s an incentive to clean out e-trash, you’ll get a high volume of materials initially because people are cleaning out their homes, but you don’t know that you’ll get the same amount the next year or the next,” said Realff.

“Also, collectors have different agendas. Some want to dispose of e-trash, but others want to recycle it, or donate discarded computers to the needy,” said Ammons.

Then there’s the issue of where to set up collection and recycling centers. Georgia, for example, has a very uneven population distribution. It’s obvious that one center would be set up in Atlanta, but how many should be set up elsewhere in the state, and where should they be? Right now, the facilities available to recycle CRT glass are in Ohio and Pennsylvania, but would it be economically sound to set up one in the south, or ship materials to the already established recyclers?

“It’s a systems problem,” said Realff. “It’s not a problem that you can solve by just changing one or two conditions, because they’re all interconnected and it’s not just one variable that gives you the answer.”

To tackle such a complicated problem, Ammons and Realff use mathematical modeling to take into account all of the different parameters involved. “We use a mixed integer linear programming model to develop a robust solution that minimizes cost,” said Ammons. Mixed integer linear programming takes into account discrete variables such as cost and number of computers, as well as flow variables. “The model creates a superstructure with all the variables in place and possible locations of recycling centers, and the package picks out the locations with the lowest cost,” said Realff.

The research actually serves a twofold purpose. The application of the mathematical modeling is clear, but there is also a theoretical benefit. “In using this model, we’re not only trying to optimize this particular reverse production system, but we’re understanding how to solve large-scale problems in general,” said Ammons. Although the model only deals with the
state of Georgia, the team’s hope is that it will be a system that other states
can use as an example for setting up their own recycling initiatives, as well as
a convincing argument to policymakers.

Ammons is a government-appointed member of the Georgia Computer
Equipment Disposal and Recycling Council, and within the next year, she
and Realff anticipate optimizing their model to figure out economically
sound recycling options in Georgia and suggest this to state legislators.

“It’s a matter of recognizing that waste is just a resource in the wrong place,”
said Realff.
Students return from summer vacation to a completed Technology Square

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

New signs direct visitors of Technology Square to the various new venues. In addition to the Barnes & Noble, Tech Square also features a new hotel and conference center, parking deck and numerous restaurants.

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

[Editor’s Note: This article is reprinted, with minor modifications, from the July 11 issue of the Technique.]

Georgia Tech is catching up to its red-and-black rival in one key area: we’re finally getting its own college town.

At least, that’s what Rosalind Meyers, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, is calling the new multi-block facility whose stores have been opening sporadically since June. Originally proposed by President Clough and his senior administration in 2000, Technology Square was designed to meet several objectives. One, Meyers said, “was to create a retail hub...where students could go and have the feel of a college town that was off campus but on campus at the same time.”

But the Square was also born with other intentions in mind. “One was to integrate Georgia Tech more with the Midtown community so that we felt more a part of Midtown, and Midtown felt more a part of Georgia Tech-rather than have us isolated on the other side of the interstate,” said Meyers. This, she said, is why they chose a site across the Fifth Street Bridge. Also, the shortage of campus space demanded expansion, and transferring the College of Management and the Global Learning Center to a new facility would afford more breathing room for the remaining departments.

The project seemed promising from its outset. There were unusually few
obstacles; in fact, the biggest impediment was campus skepticism concerning the location of the square.

“If you had seen this site two years ago, even though it was so close to the campus, it looked like a big wilderness,” explained Meyers. “It was just vacant space with no buildings...and the people said, ‘Why do you want to go there? There’s nothing. It’s so far from the campus.’ But actually, now, it is the campus.”

The total cost of the project was $191 million, which includes “the architecture fees, getting all the permits and licenses... [and] getting this site ready for construction. The rest of the costs are people who work here at Georgia Tech, and they worked a few extra hours, but it didn’t cost any money,” said Meyers. “It’s so exciting. We didn’t mind the extra time.”

The project was funded through the purchase of bonds by the various departments associated with the Square, and the departments have made individual plans to repay the bonds. The College of Management, for instance, has actively pushed fundraising since the Square was first conceived, and the Georgia Tech Hotel and the Global Learning Center will raise the money through the revenue earned from regular business.

The project has also benefited from constant student input. “Way back-let’s say two and a half years ago—there was a big student committee that...came up with a study of all the things that they would like to see here,” said Meyers. “All the time that we’ve been working with retailers, we’ve had a student representative from the Student Government...come to all of our retail meetings.” That input helped the project team make a selection of restaurants and other retail outlets that “are going to be reasonably priced, appeal to students and to the surrounding community, and... complement each other.”

Barnes & Noble at Georgia Tech

The centerpiece of the Square opened its doors last month: Barnes&Noble at Georgia Tech, a fully-stocked, official Barnes&Noble bookstore with every major genre of literature (including an extra-large science fiction section for its Tech customers) and plenty of lounge chairs for the leisure readers.

Along one side is an expanded collection of Georgia Tech paraphernalia, which sits beneath a mural illustrating Tech’s culture and history. An information center is the store’s centerpiece, and extra cash registers crowd the front entrance in preparation for the great textbook rushes that precede fall and spring semesters.

Up a short flight of stairs is the essential Starbucks, with dozens of tables and chairs for studying and socializing, a diverse menu, and late hours for late-night studying. In the back is a separate concession store, stocked with a larger variety of drinks and snacks than Burdell’s.

An escalator takes the customer up past a hanging model of a Schoenbrod rowing shell used by the Georgia Tech Crew Club in the late 1980s (the shoes of the last riders are still inside) to a strip mall of specialty shops. Against one wall is the electronic shop, where students can browse shelves of CDs and DVDs in addition to computers, PDAs, and other technological toys.

Hidden in the back is another lounge area equipped with a screen to broadcast movies, play games, or hold conferences. And tucked away from the commotion of the rest of the store is a small, bare corner that sticks out of
the building, affording a lofty view of the rest of Technology Square.

Against another wall is the textbook and supplies store with its own separate information center. Long rows of shelves allow the store to stock far more books than its predecessor, and in the back are the office supplies. This store is hidden behind a wall that showcases the products of the dorm shop, a special selection of products for residents of Georgia Tech that includes everything from laundry baskets to carpets.

Opposite this is another collection of lounge chairs, this one surrounding a floor-to-ceiling, 360-degree gas fireplace for the winter months, along with shelves of science and technical reference books. This setup sits before a wall of windows that overlooks the outdoor plaza in the center of the building. Double doors nearby afford direct access to the new Dupree College of Management complex.

The New Dupree College of Management

Management majors can look forward to working in one of the most technologically advanced buildings at Tech this year. The classrooms come outfitted with multiple dry-erase boards, screens and state-of-the-art projector equipment. Motion sensors flip the lights on as soon as one enters the room, and the lengthy tables are tiered and come with individual, professional-style rolling chairs. Mounted on each table between chairs are small domes, each with two power sockets and two Ethernet ports for laptop users.

Students, employees, and visitors can also enter the College through its front glass double doors that open into a glass-lined lobby. Staircases on either side lead to hallways lined with floor-to-ceiling windows and plush chairs and tables overlooking the central plaza. Also at hand are myriad conference rooms and offices of all sizes.

Rest, Research, and Retail

The other buildings at Technology Square include the Global Learning Center for Continuing Professional Education and Systems Learning and a corresponding hotel, the new Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.

“The hotel has 250 sleeping rooms, a bar and lounge area, a dining room, and all of their meals are served buffet style, since they’re going to do a lot of conferences there,” said Meyers. “Of course, the hotel is also open for any regular business, but [it] also has a big ballroom and many meeting rooms in addition to the sleeping rooms.”

The Square has also leased 17,000 feet of retail space to a number of companies. For eatery, students can look forward to a St. Charles’ Deli, a Tin Drum Asian Café, a Fifth Street Ribs and Blues, and a Marble Slab Creamery, among others. For students 21 and over, Fifth Street Ribs and the Asian Café will serve alcohol.

Georgia Tech research is also expanding into the new space. The Advanced Technology Development Center and the Technology Square Research Building will both operate out of the Square.

Transportation

Students and visitors to the Square can park in the new parking deck equipped with 1500 spaces and full police security.

A new program called Smart Park will allow students to pay for all-day
parking with their Buzz Card at only $4.00 per day-half the price of other campus parking-with a $20.00 permit that will also allow students to park in the deck on evenings and weekends.

As an alternative, a new series of public vehicles, the Tech Trolleys, will be put into service this fall in addition to the Stingers and will run a continuous loop between the former site of the SAC, Technology Square, and the Midtown MARTA Station. Meyers estimates that the Trolleys may run as often as every five minutes during peak hours.

Grand Opening

Although some stores have already opened, the Square will have its grand opening in October when most of the stores have finished moving in. The date is designed to coincide with the weekend of the Tech vs. Maryland football game.
New director brings New York experience to choral program

By Madhu Adiga  
Senior Staff Writer

Yes, Georgia Tech has a music department. Yes, people at Georgia Tech sing. And the Georgia Tech Music Department has a new face. Dr. Jerry Ulrich will join the staff this fall to replace Dr. Bill Caldwell as the Director of Choral Activities at Georgia Tech.

Dr. Ulrich comes to Tech after leaving his position as choral conductor at the LaGuardia High School of Music, Art and Performing Arts (the Fame school) in New York City.

Ulrich grew up in Southern Illinois and got his bachelor’s degree at Eastern Illinois University. After getting his Ph.D. at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, he taught for 17 years at Southampton College and Hofstra University in New York as an adjunct faculty member, and accepted the position at LaGuardia two years ago.

He has enjoyed a rich career as a sought-after composer, arranger and guest conductor, as well as singing for four years with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus under famed director and arranger Robert Shaw.

So why would someone with his resume leave an acclaimed performing arts school to teach choir at... well, Tech?

“I actually hadn’t previously planned on leaving LaGuardia, but I saw the opening for a choral director at Georgia Tech advertised, and I became interested,” he said. “I’ve lived in Atlanta before, so I know Georgia Tech’s reputation for academic excellence, and I knew Dr. Caldwell.”

Ulrich also took an interest in Georgia Tech’s plans for a music technology major. “I was very intrigued by the idea of a program that incorporates music with Georgia Tech’s technological resources, and I saw a lot of potential and possibility for growth,” he said.

He was also interested in coming back to Atlanta, having lived here previously. Even though he enjoyed living in New York and will miss certain things about it, he also was happy to leave what he called a “pressure cooker environment.” He said, “I remember coming back to Atlanta and asking for directions on campus, and I thought, ‘Is everyone this nice?’”

While vying for the position, Ulrich got the chance to come to campus and work briefly with all three of Tech’s choirs: the chorale, the chamber choir and the men’s glee club.

When asked what he thought of the ensembles, he said, “one thing that really stood out to me was the student autonomy. I think there’s a real strength in the ownership these students take of the choral groups, and I’m very excited
about it. This is something new to me and something I definitely plan to capitalize on.”

Sure, but how do they sound? How does one go from teaching an ensemble of focused, formally trained vocal majors to directing a group of science and engineering students who run the gamut of musical experience?

“The real trick is that choral music is by nature a pedestrian art,” said Ulrich.

“It’s a challenge to work with people who have varying levels of experience, from the guy who’s been playing piano for eight years and is really serious about his music, to the guy who’s never read music before and just knows that he ‘likes to sing.’”

To handle this, Ulrich draws upon his own interesting background. It’s hard to imagine, but the poised, nationally respected conductor got his musical start in a ragtag garage rock band, with only his wits, guts, guitar and amp to guide him.

“I had pretty much no formal training until my sophomore year of college, so I came in with a real passion and naivete. I have the degree now, which is the only difference,” said Ulrich.

Ulrich does not view the difference in experience levels within the chorale as an impediment, but rather sees it for the fun it can offer.

“I’m there to speak to musicians, but I like the innocence and the passion of the kid who just wants the choral experience.”

This year, he plans on diversifying the traditional choral repertoire. “I noticed what a large international population Georgia Tech has, and yet I don’t see that mirrored in the chorale department,” said Ulrich. He plans on doing music from Korea, Venezuela, India and other countries, as well as incorporating more traditional chamber music.

“I would like to program music that hits all cultures, and hopefully appeal to all cultures in student recruitment,” said Ulrich. “There’s so much in our world that divides us, but vocal music is so international.”

Overall, Ulrich is very excited to work at Tech. He believes that all three ensembles have a well-crafted choral sound.

“The students I’ve seen here are bright and so engaged in the process. They’re ready to learn and interested in learning.”
It’s not just the freshman fifteen anymore: America is fat

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

Ask any student about obesity trends in the United States, and they’ll readily tell you that they’re on the rise. People are fat. Two recent studies released by the Center of Disease Control reported that the number of US adults that may be classified as obese according to their body mass index are 20.9 percent and 30 percent, a jump from corresponding values of 12.0 percent and 23 percent in the early 1990s. These skyrocketing obesity rates have caught the nation’s attention and pulled our entire modern lifestyle into question.

Georgia Tech, with its young, active student body, would seem to be safe from this public health crisis. According to a study conducted by the Wellness Center during the Spring of 2001, however, 30 percent of Georgia Tech students think that they are overweight or obese, a trend consistent with the national data. No data measuring the actual percentage of overweight or obese students is available.

This conclusion shatters common assumptions about life at Georgia Tech. How can a campus with a young population with high metabolisms, a well-stocked and well-frequented student athletic complex and myriad athletics and intramurals possibly be experiencing a severe obesity problem?

“Students here are more academically geared and engineering geared so they’re not as likely to seek out that kind of information,” explained Molly Wray, a health educator at the Wellness Center. “Students are studying a lot, sitting in front of a computer a lot, [and] a lot of students pull all-nighters studying and doing projects, so physical activity’s probably the last thing on their mind.”

That fits the data presented in the Wellness Center report. Of the students surveyed, 30 percent participated in no vigorous physical activity for a week preceding the survey, and 43 percent participated in no moderate physical activity during the same time period. Only 27 percent were enrolled in a physical education course and 33 percent had participated on a college intramural sports team.

“In my opinion, [the SAC is] not a state-of-the-art workout facility,” said Wray, “but I think when they have the new one built, it’s going to be great.” Also, she said, there are no exercise service programs, no certified trainers, and the aerobics program requires a fee, which puts financially strapped students at a disadvantage.

As for nutrition, only 6 percent of the students surveyed reported that they
consumed the requisite five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day and 37 percent ate three or more meals per day, whereas 82.5 percent reported that they consumed one or more fast-food meals a week, not to mention the widespread consumption of one of the most fattening foods available: alcohol.

Aside from the time pressures that encourage students to seek faster foods, Wray also blamed the offerings at the dining halls and the Food Court. “The dining services are self-supportive...so they’re going to sell what will sell, which is pizza, French fries...,” she said. “We’re going against big giants like the Coke and Pepsi people. They have millions and billions of dollars to advertise every year, and public health doesn’t have that kind of money...”

It’s a classic catch-22 situation. Because healthier alternatives don’t generate as much profit, they’re more expensive, which further discourages students from purchasing them.

Also at fault are the computer-enhanced media supermodels and traditional societal expectations that pressure men into maintaining a rippling musculature and women into a perfect hourglass figure.

Even in college, said Wray, “Women get attention from guys based on how they look, and so I think that’s reinforcing some of the messages they’ve been receiving [from the media].” Many men face a similar difficulty, she said, and they end up working out to the point of obsession. The problem is also worsened in the Greek organizations, due to their appearance-driven culture and competitiveness. “I know that when...Greek Week [comes along], I have a lot of students coming in for body fat checks. They’re really trying to crash diet right then.”

To compound the problem, the prevalence of fattening foods and supersized meals conflicts with the ideals propagated by the media, creating a tailspin of confusion and frustration that often leads to eating disorders, a commonality at Tech among both men and women.

These are the situations that HPS 1040, the requisite health glass, guards students against, but Wray feels that the one course isn’t sufficient to cover these topics adequately. “I think it’s very difficult to have just one class covering health. I have a whole degree in that, because there’s so many different things to cover,” said Wray. “I think Tech is at a disadvantage because there aren’t majors...like nutrition and wellness. I think that sometimes things like wellness and health are pushed to the wayside. I think we need to focus on the overall person being healthy.”

Wray said that a lack of sufficient information is part of Georgia Tech’s weight problem.

“Students here aren’t quite as aware of what are healthy foods, what can we do for physical activity, what can we do to keep ourselves healthy,” said Wray. “A lot of people think that this won’t happen to me now... The freshmen just come to college and just eat whatever they want.”

And those students that are interested in losing weight are often misinformed. Wray and her colleagues frown on popular low-fat diets, for instance, insisting that certain fats are essential nutrients.

Fats have earned a negative stigma in the United States since the low-fat movement of the early 1990s. Since then, Americans have consumed more low-fat or nonfat foods, but many products substitute extra calories without
the consumer realizing it. Diets are more balanced in Europe, where the health benefits of unsaturated fats are better understood, and Europeans consume smaller meals, made more filling with healthier fats.

Even worse are the diet pills and the other overnight weight loss claims made by advertisers. “People...want a quick fix,” said Wray. “I think people think of [maintaining a healthy lifestyle] as really hard, so they don’t even want to try at all. It’s part of our culture. We want a pill for everything. [It’s] impatience.” To fill the information void, Wray and her colleagues have made a pointed effort to get the right materials out to the student body.

They hand out information pamphlets regularly, invite guests such as a dietician who dined at the Brittain dining hall last month and lectured on nutritious choices, practice environmental intervention to encourage walking, biking, and consumption of more fruits, and hold lectures in classes and Greek organizations, among other things.

Wray herself conducts nutrition analysis with students free of charge to help them improve their dietary intake, and Wray credits her staff for encouraging the recent ban on smoking in all of the campus dormitories.

Health and behavior are complicated, however, so “there’s only so much we can do,” and she wishes that she could intervene sooner.

Ultimately, she said, when it comes to maintaining good health, “it’s really based on how we value ourselves. Do we value ourselves based on what we look like, or is it who we are on the inside, or is it how much we succeed?”
Seabiscuit proves to be champion by too many lengths

Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Seabiscuit rides to victory in this story of the famed racing horse that captivated the nation. Though the film is exciting from the beginning, the presence of one false climax after another results in a less than stellar run.

By Jason Allen
Contribution Writer

Title: Seabiscuit

Starring: Tobey Maguire, Jeff Bridges, Chris Cooper

Director: Gary Ross

Length: 140 Minutes

Rating: PG-13

Final Grade: B+

Cinematic history is cluttered with sports tales of underdogs conquering the greatest obstacles, but audiences often welcome manipulative tugs on the emotional heartstrings. Sylvester Stallone’s Rocky beats the stuffing out of his formidable foes. The Karate Kid performs that funky crane kick to defeat the cocky bully. And who can forget Rick Moranis coaching the Little Giants to a football title?

Attempting to one-up the aforementioned titans comes Seabiscuit, a seemingly never-ending true, miraculous story of a racehorse that inspired a nation recovering from economic collapse. The film takes place after the stock market crash of 1929.

A once booming country suddenly found itself in poverty, with people living in makeshift towns and forming lines for food. The revolutionary industrial
changes of the previous decade seemed trivial as citizens struggled to merely survive. In a real conflict of technology versus horse, the animal, once shunned for the progress of the automobile, again stood at the forefront as people discovered a psychological release in watching galloping thoroughbreds at the track. It certainly did not hurt that the monetary rewards from gambling could help to offset losses.

In this climate, one unlikely pairing rose to the top and reminded the working classes that anything was possible. Seabiscuit’s small size and the above average height of his jockey proved no problem. A team of average men sponsored a horse that overcame the stables of the wealthiest entrepreneurs. Thousands gawked at the animal that defeated apparent physical disadvantages, clamoring for a horseshoe “autograph,” and people flooded to the grandstands, even climbing trees for a better view.

The film’s cast includes some of today’s finest actors, and the horse functions as the uniting centerpiece of a recovery triangle of broken men. Jeff Bridges takes on the role of Charles Howard, the self-made business success and owner of Seabiscuit who suffers a family tragedy. Chris Cooper turns in a fine performance as compassionate horse whisperer Tom Smith, searching for meaning after being displaced when the ways of the Old West gradually vanish. His eyes twinkle as he saves an injured bronco from a trip to the glue factory, noting “Every horse is good for something.”

Tobey Maguire moonlights between gigs donning the Spider-man tights by inhabiting the jockey’s uniform of Johnny “Red” Pollard. With tousled locks of orange hair that could give Carrot Top cause for alarm, Maguire’s abandoned youth seethes with the same rage initially despised in Seabiscuit. The almost telepathic bond between the rider and his partner develops as they feed off each other’s fire, and the parallels of career-threatening injuries also haunt both. William H. Macy plays a supporting role as radio announcer “Tick-Tock” McGlaughlin who brings Seabiscuit’s struggle to the forefront throughout the nation.

Underneath his smarmy veneer and pencil-thin mustache, the radio announcer provides the film’s sole comic relief by operating as his entire broadcast booth staff. He peppers his calls of the races with sound effects using small instruments, including a train whistle and xylophone, while speaking at a rapid pace that would make a used car salesman blush with envy. The breathtaking cinematography includes large landscapes and pans of the cheering crowds. The introduction of Seabiscuit himself comes in a beautiful composition where he emerges in the mist of night, only the silhouette of a handler visible through the fog. The most amazing camera work springs to life during the races, and the audience is trotting alongside the jockeys in the middle of the pack. The sense of speed is thoroughly astounding, as shots capture the riders bickering back and forth or yelling encouragement in the ears of their animals.

When the slow motion kicks in and the clods of dirt fly off hooves breaking in freshly groomed soil, the imagery almost creates the magical aroma of the autumn breeze, the concession stand, and manure. Perfect period detail is reflected in everything from the costumes to the household appliances. Archival black-and-white photos from the era, depicting forlorn stockbrokers and model-T assembly lines, mix with the new movie footage to deliver a document of a forgotten time.
Much like the “foreign” sports of hockey and soccer, horseracing does not enjoy surging popularity among Americans today, but anyone can identify with a good old-fashioned David and Goliath rivalry no matter the delivery avenue. The film hits every expected thematic beat: if it were not factual, the screenwriter would deserve a critical lambasting for incorporating every athletics cliché available. The protagonists work hard, overcome setbacks and proceed to the big competition.

The swell of Randy Newman’s score pumps through the speakers, with a tad of Moby thrown in for the ears of hipsters, prompting the points when viewers are supposed to feel something. And darn it, despite slightly guilty consciences, they do. Of course, the eventual victor is never in doubt, but as it stands, the fun is the journey and recognition of a spirit that lifted the desperate above their personal turmoil.

However, one false climax after another grows tiresome. As Seabiscuit sweeps into the winner’s circle crowned in flowers after a neck-and-neck finish, the theater lights should come up soon after a fitting end to a great movie. But what is this? More dreams must be pursued and redemptions need fulfilling.

The filmmakers are not completely at fault for sticking to historical accuracy, yet it seems as if they tried to compress too much of Laura Hillenbrand’s best-selling book into the screen adaptation. The languid pacing of the events is especially conspicuous after the goosebump inducing highs of the races, for then ensues another long stretch of character development.

This summer, Dreamworks presents a tough sell amidst standard blockbuster fare featuring violent bad boys and scantily clad angels. The film fits the mold of Oscar bait normally reserved for the end of the year. As a counter-programming offering this early in the season, Seabiscuit might follow established patterns of artsy, sentimental entertainment, but it transcends formula.

After seeing the film, city-dwelling patrons will most likely yearn to find one of those horse rental tourist traps that takes customers on carefully pre-planned paths through the “wilderness.”

That is, until they remember the last vacation when their trusty steed ran off through a field in an uncontrollable frenzy, leaving them hanging on for dear life. Anybody willing to abandon cynicism should definitely go along for the ride, so to speak.
Bored yet? Find out what Tech and Atlanta have to offer

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Parking tickets are a common site on Tech’s campus. In fact, the Nique’s own Jason Mabry suggests taking a study break to follow the parking trucks around campus for a little fun when feeling bored or overstressed.

By C. Jason Mabry
Senior Staff Writer

The Georgia Tech social scene: it’s there. Though perhaps not readily apparent in its various aspects, it is indeed alive and even mildly thriving. Even in the past two years, Tech has made great strides toward improving campus life and removing the Institution from the category of least content students – it remains number two. However, with the exception of a few engineering majors, students need not feel at a loss because opportunities abound.

For those of the outdoor and active persuasion, investigate the options at SAC and ORGT. Organized sports and small group activities are available in a variety of skill and interest levels, perfect for the seasoned hardbody or the casual participant. If all else fails, circle the SAC field or drop by the Burger Bowl next door. Tech may not be renowned for its greenspace, but don’t let that be a deterrent.

Long hallways are perfect for challenging games of Ultimate, and Instructional Center classrooms make for interesting racquetball courts. When searching for a unique and exciting outing, whether alone or with a date, little can be more inspiring than observing the Department of Parking operating at their finest. Stop by the Architecture lot for a non-stop ticketing funfest. Best of all, the event is completely free and ongoing. A parking ticket is not hard to find at Tech.
For those who enjoy theater, DramaTech puts on many productions throughout the year. The shows are a great break from continuous studying and can be very entertaining. The students have a heavy hand in the production of the pieces, and they are quite a lot of fun. DramaTech – just do it. The Student Center also offers numerous boredom breakers. Have a few hours to kill before the drudgery of another lecture? Watch a free movie or sleep in the music listening center. The lanes and pool tables are open all day for a quick game or an all-afternoon party.

The more artistically motivated can engage in numerous activities at the craft center. These offerings are just the basics; many events are held in and around the Student Center all year, from small booths to large outdoor festivals. Organizations exist to fill most any interest, but if one does not fit, new ones can always be started. Groups are continually recruiting for their causes, especially at the Organizations fair.

Still looking for something to do? Tech sports teams have games all the time. This makes for great entertainment and provides the opportunity to support the Institute and perhaps even appear on television. Oh, and remember to wear yellow.

If campus does not seem the place to be after hours or on the weekends, naysayers will be hard-pressed to express displeasure of Atlanta. Sure, the city is large, largely unwalkable, atmospherically oppressive and downright dirty.

Nevertheless, Atlanta is a mecca for entertainment. Nightcrawlers and barhoppers have it made in Atlanta. The city is home to the highest number of young singles in the country. If the perfect match is nowhere to be found in those sociable and group-oriented CS classes, chances are they might be out in the city. The streets are full of people and fun and offer a greatly needed reprieve from school monotony. Most would argue that the finest in nightlife resides in Buckhead, and for founded reasons.

The amount and variety of during and after hours entertainment in the city is unparalleled, if only in comparison to Tech. The Midtown area holds some of Atlanta’s best cuisine, shopping and nightspots. The cars are flashier, the clothes seem more expensive and the music is louder. Furthermore, Little Five Points and the Moreland District offer fun on a low-key level. The area is great for watching people (versus Five Points which is great for watching the wallet). Eclectic shops, restaurants and people make this district a great afternoon hangout.

Virginia-Highlands effortlessly meshes Buckhead with Moreland for an up-and-coming stylish yet workable atmosphere complete with its own set of amazing locales for a variety of entertainment. Hang around after dinner at numerous coffee and dessert shops and be sure to partake of the vivacity of that which is Paolo’s Gelateria. It is not to be missed. Have no real aim for the day? Traverse Peachtree (street, that is). Bum around downtown and enjoy the mix of people, or the mix of drinks. Underground is the underdog and the Central Library has what the Tech Library lacks.

For real fun, try driving in the area late at night on the weekend. Sometimes the show is better than a parade. If you happen to enjoy movies, Atlanta offers a number of non-traditional movie theaters. Amongst the selection are Tara Cinemas, having shown such enigmatic favorites as Assassination Tango and Bowling for Columbine.
In addition to the Do’s around campus, here are some on the Don’t list. The Library is a great place to study, and is renowned for its bathrooms. Put more eloquently, the bathrooms are like a 1950s horror flick – eerily alive and pulsating with filth. Unless a science project is calling, avoid these outhouses at all costs.

Also, do not take classes in the Old Architecture auditorium if staying awake is part of the program. Temperatures run the in extremes, and the seats and lighting beg for dozers. Extra credit should be awarded to those who stay alert.

Finally, always know an alternate route. If Tech can inconvenience students in any way, expect it, for it is the norm. The bottom line is this: enjoy the requisite six or seven years it takes to graduate. It will be worth it.
Think you know Rock? Get to know MoRisen Records

Snatches of Pink, a local band out of Charlotte, is one of the groups signed to the exciting new record label, MoRisen. Be sure to catch this band and others at their upcoming show at Atlanta’s Echo Lounge August 27th.

By Chelsea Paxton
Contributing Writer

On August 27th, for one night only, Atlanta will get a taste of what the rest of the Southeast is already talking about. Snatches of Pink and Jennyanykind, along with The Talk, will play at East Atlanta’s Echo Lounge to kick off the release of The Talk’s forthcoming LP, “No, You Shut Up” which officially drops August 26th. All three are at the forefront of talks on who’s “about to be the next big thing in this rock revolution,” but none hail from Detroit, New York, or LA; these guys are right up the road neighbors from North Carolina.

These bands are just a few of the raw talents signed to the independent record label, MoRisen Records, based out of what could easily be mistaken for an upper-crust Atlanta suburb, Charlotte, NC. Full of soccer moms in Escalades, Charlotte is, on the surface, the epitome of upper middle class white suburbia, and MoRisen is geniusly fixed in the center, handpicking talented, passionate rockers from bars and clubs all the way to Chapel Hill and back. The upcoming album releases of not only The Talk but also Chapel Hill’s Marat (“Marat” September 23) and the first release in 7 years from Snatches of Pink (“Hyena” October 7) has the rest of us looking twice at the kids in the garage next door, shaking our heads, saying, “Rock n roll? In North Carolina?” and then quickly, “Now why didn’t I think of this?”

In today’s pop-culture infested market no one even thinks to look to the South for anything beyond hard core rap (already well taken care of by SoSo

Courtesy of MoRisen Records

Snatches of Pink, a local band out of Charlotte, is one of the groups signed to the exciting new record label, MoRisen. Be sure to catch this band and others at their upcoming show at Atlanta’s Echo Lounge August 27th.
Def and Disturbing the Peace) or the occasional Injected, and even then no one looks past Atlanta or maybe Athens in a pinch. No one, that is, except Chuck Morrison, genius of foresight and founder of MoRisen Records. In 2001, after several years in various facets of the music industry, Morrison had the guts and vision to combine his business bravado with his love of music and seize upon the untapped wealth of the Carolina music scene. Thus, MoRisen records had its beginnings, one part forward business and marketing label, and equal part lover of lyrics and live musical innovators. MoRisen, simply put, is the best thing to happen to music in years, promoting real, intense musicians with unbridled talent and the gift of performance.

The birth of MoRisen represents the emergence of a new kind of label that is both forward thinking, with its innovative and aggressive marketing strategies, and timeless, with a focus on great songs written and performed by pure musical talents who know how to deliver on record and on stage. A real and much needed alternative for today’s quality seeking music fans, MoRisen Records is committed to releasing albums that explore the best of North Carolina’s alternative rock and guitar-driven pop.

This is nothing new for Snatches of Pink. They’ve been on hiatus but with their forthcoming, “Hyena,” if you missed them the first time around then don’t be a victim of the same mistake twice. I slipped in my preview copy of “Hyena” nonchalantly, expecting little more than loud guitars and incoherent vocals that are the trademarks of the dime a dozen rock bands of contemporary American rock. But I was hooked from the first riff, slightly amazed and absolutely exhilarated...it was like being launched into a rowdy British dive bar in the late 60s only to find out that Chris Robinson is on vocals. The first track left me wanting to hear more and wondering exactly where I was when Rolling Stone and Spin were writing about Snatches the first time. As Magnet magazine stated so perfectly, “Snatches of Pink left me exhausted- one part drunken noise orgy, one part spiritual cleansing and numerous parts hammer of the gods. Arrogant, excessive, beautiful.” This band, considered the pioneers of North Carolina’s alternative rock, has spent time touring with the likes of The Ramones, Iggy Pop, and Soundgarden, perfecting their unabashed unruliness and lyrical depth and being praised for their unconventional musical approach by critics both big and small.

Also playing the Echo Lounge show is Chapel Hill’s Jennyanykind, twin brothers Mark and Michael Holland. These brothers of “American revival rock” have a vibe that feels at first listen like an Allman Brothers throwback. But with the first vocals, it is evident that the combination of genuine lyricism and brilliant enmeshment of both blues and pop, leaves this duo defying classification. This is John Mayer back when he played Eddie’s attic...but better. Jennyanykind’s MoRisen debut, “Peas and Collards,” is slated for a fall 2003 release.

Releasing their first CD under the MoRisen label on the 26th of August are Charlotte based alternative punk-rockers The Talk. This band’s style has all of the invigorating rowdiness of the best of the 80s combined with a knack for songwriting soulfulness.

The result is good, fun, rock and roll. Having formed only in 2002, these Charlotte boys may be new, but they have all of the ability and drive of legendary superstars. Not content to simply ride on talent, their dedication has already led to a self promoted and produced coast-to-coast tour, a strong local following. The foursome received “Best Band” honors from Charlotte’s
Creative Loafing in 2002, and studio time with well-known and unquestionably talented producer Mike Mogis (Bright Eyes, Sideshow). The Talk has already taken the Tarheel State by storm and is poised to do the same with discerning music lovers around the country.

Also on the MoRisen label is Leisure McCorkle out of Charlotte, NC whose 2002 release “Jet Set Baby” received critical acclaim and The Never. Formerly the b-sides, The Never will release their MoRisen debut in 2004. Still not convinced? Keep listening; this is only the beginning of the hype for Snatches of Pink, The Talk, Jennyanykind and all of the MoRisen artists for that matter. For more info on the MoRisen label as well as artist information and song samples, check out www.MoRisen.com.
Atlanta offers many options for movie lovers of all kinds

Regal Hollywood 24, off Shallowford Road, is one of the many movie theaters around Atlanta. It offers stadium seating and reduced prices to students.

By Joseph Jeong
Contributing Writer

You have arrived at Tech and would like to go catch a movie after a tough week of classes. But where do you go? We’ve solved that problem for you by listing some of the theaters close to campus and listing their amenities as well as their shortcomings.

AMC Phipps
3500 Peachtree Rd N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-816-4262

This is another movie theater popular with those without cars, since it is also within walking distance of the Lenox MARTA station. Like UA Lenox Square, it is located right next to a food court, but the similarities end there. It is a much nicer theater located at the very top of Phipps Plaza and much more popular than its UA neighbor. Unfortunately, it doesn’t show some of the most popular movies. However, it does make up for it by occasionally showing more obscure movies that you wouldn’t normally expect from a major movie chain. Shopping is also available to moviegoers but only for those with fatter wallets than most.

AMC Parkway Pointe
3101 Cobb Parkway Ste 201  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
770-937-0078

Formerly a General Cinemas theater, this theater was recently bought out by AMC and is now the newest AMC theater around town. One of the newer theaters, it is equipped with up-to-date equipment and is overall one of the nicest theaters around. An additional bonus is the Borders Bookstore located right next door, making it very easy to kill time before the start of a movie.

AMC Southlake  
7065 Mount Zion Circle  
Morrow, GA 30260  
404-816-4262

The furthest movie theater on this list, it is located a good 25 minutes south of the Tech campus, but it is well worth the drive. A behemoth of a movie theater, this place has four major screens that can handle even the biggest of movie releases. As far as movie theater facilities go, they don’t get any better than this. If you need tickets to the next installment of the Star Wars chronicles or Lord of the Rings, don’t sweat it. AMC Southlake probably has it because it will most likely be showing on all four major screens while it is sold out at Parkway Pointe or Regal Hollywood 24. If it was just a little closer, this would undoubtedly be the most popular movie theater.

Regal Cinemas Hollywood 24  
3265 NE Expressway Access Rd  
Chamblee, GA 30341  
770-936-5737

One of the newest players around town in the movie theater business, it didn’t make a subtle impression when it opened. Regal Hollywood 24 is a can’t-miss eyesore along Interstate 85, with a huge, bright purple neon building declaring its presence to its neighbors.

Aside from the beyond-tacky architectural design, this really is a nice theater. Blessed with state of the art facilities and 24 screens, it has risen to the top of movie theaters around Atlanta. Like Phipps, you can also occasionally find more obscure, artsy movies playing at this theater, providing a nice surprise. It was also one of the major participants in the recent Atlanta Film Festival. Perhaps the theater’s only flaw is that there aren’t many places around it to kill time or go grab a bite. Driving out and then coming back can be somewhat of a pain because of it being located on an access road. Making the recent switch from Pepsi to Coca-Cola products at the concession stands gets it bonus points in my book.

United Artist Tara  
2345 Cheshire Bridge Road N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
404-634-6288

This is considered the “art” theater around town. Looking for the latest David
Lynch movie or the latest foreign movie with an unpronounceable name?
You’ll find it here.

Not the newest theater in town, but no one really watches the movies shown at Tara for their awesome special effects or the ultra-realistic audio. It is a quaint place that has its own unique charm, and definitely a place worth checking out at least once. Plus, you will be able to catch interesting independent films.
The Hiss return to Atlanta after touring with Oasis

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Lead singer and guitarist Adrian Barrera plays to an enthusiastic crowd at 99X’s “The Big Rock” Friday night. The Hiss, who are considered one of the most successful bands from East Atlanta, opened for The White Stripes.

By Michael Sprinkel
Contributing Writer

[Editor’s Note: This article is reprinted, with minor modifications, from the June 27 issue of the Technique.]

In my listless nights in smoke-filled dives and low capacity rock clubs, The Hiss was a band that would periodically find their way into conversations about the local music scene. From the fragmented garble put together from my eavesdropping, I could tell that this band had a sound that left people with an extremely favorable opinion. They were the kind of band that whether or not you owned their c.d., you would find yourself singing along at one of their shows. When given the opportunity to review the music of a local band that I knew was achieving a level of acclaim, I enthusiastically snatched the c.d. and threw it into my car stereo.

The first track, “Clever Kicks,” opens with an oscillating tremolo bar guitar solo, reminiscent of something one might hear on an old Sonic Youth album. After a few seconds, the drums kick in on top of guitar feedback. I immediately knew that I was going to like the remainder of this album. In a musical climate rife with Clear Channel generated playlists and pop icons produced on a mass media assembly line, the art of imperfection in the recording process has been lost. It is seemingly inappropriate to print an album where the guitar player inadvertently brushed his palm on the high “E” string in the forty-second measure of song two.
Heaven forbid that the buzz from a Marshall Amplifier finagles its way onto the final cut. The insipid practice of overproduction has taken the essence out of the crass and ornery roots of rock and roll. The Hiss managed to record a real rock album, complete will all of the buzzes and squeals we desperately want to hear again. Regarding their music, The Hiss is quite simply, an awesome band. Most of the members hail from Gainesville, Florida where they were immersed in the dynamic and influential scene that produced bands such as Palatka, Panthro UK, Radon and Less Than Jake. Five years ago when America’s musical canvas was whitewashed with insipid formulaic corporate productions, the band found a safe haven away from the monotony. I interviewed the band before their set at 99X’s “Big Rock” event in Stone Mountain Park where they were opening for The White Stripes.

Regarding their experience in Gainesville, Adrian Barrera, the band’s vocalist-guitarist had this to say, “[The popular music scene of five years ago] didn’t really hit us because we were still living in Florida. We were really spoiled because they had this really cool music scene in Gainesville... We weren’t really paying attention to modern rock and MTV. It was horrible. Five years ago, we were definitely more in to underground stuff. Gainesville was like its own little universe. There were so many bands there. There were so many bands that were good there...You didn’t need to pay attention to what was on the radio.”

The Hiss produces a rough vintage sound conglomerated from classic British rock and late seventies punk. Imagine Led Zeppelin mixed with The Clash with a dash of The Ramones and a pinch of The Rolling Stones for flavoring. This eclectic mixture yields a set list that is sure to appeal to everyone, not just a minute selection of the rock crop. In an era where popular music has instituted a de facto system of fan base segregation, a band that can break down these barriers is a welcome change.

If a dynamic and worldly new sound were to come from anywhere, it would not be unlikely that it would come from Atlanta where the local music scene is harshly divided between different genres, leaving musicians to struggle for a fan base. According to Barrera, “The music scene is definitely more rigid here in Atlanta...Ya’ know, there’s the ‘rock and roll’ kids that come out to see us. I believe our shows are a bit more diverse. Ya’ see, I just like music. I don’t like only one genre of music. [The music scene] doesn’t blend as much here, but, little by little, I think all of those lines will start to fade away.” The Hiss just finished a tour of Germany with Oasis, which the band enthusiastically described as “absolutely amazing...coolest guys ever.” Every member of The Hiss has been a fan of Oasis for many years, so the opportunity to tour with them must have been surreal, especially for the band’s lead guitar player, “Noel Gallagher has been one of my favorite guitar players for a while...he’s one of my heroes really.”

When asked about the conflict between the Gallagher brothers, the band assured me that the media has grossly exaggerated its magnitude, “It’s overplayed. They’re brothers, know what I mean? We’d be talking to one of them, and the other would just be waiting for him to say something – try to egg him on and whatnot. It was really funny, actually. I would do the same thing to my brother. I could understand. It’s just typical sibling rivalry.”

The Hiss is currently putting the finishing touches to its debut album to be released on Loog/Polydor Records in the United Kingdom and Europe this summer. The band will be laying down the tracks under the guidance of the
respected U.K. producer Owen Morris (The Verve, Oasis). Named after an obscure sixties art movement featuring “the staged murder of a rabbi and a giant vagina.” Their single, “Riverbed,” is permeating the radio waves of fourteen different stations across the U.S and can be purchased in various record stores throughout Atlanta (FYE, Best Buy, Corner CD, Criminal, Eat More, among others). If you are interested in hearing other artists in the Atlanta area, The Hiss recommend The Tom Collins Band and Vin Correjo. Vin Correjo recently played at the Cotton Club and earned a spot at Music Midtown.
Smith leads by example, on and off the field

Daryl Smith is setting the pace for football players across the nation with his fast moves and quiet demeanor.

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

After a successful play last season linebacker Daryl Smith is congratulated by his former teammate, Ricardo Wimbush. Smith’s performance on the field has won him much acclaim, including a no. 8 national ranking.

By Clark Nelson
Contributing Writer

Coming off a disappointing end to last season and a tumultuous spring, Georgia Tech can be sure of one thing for the upcoming year: Daryl Smith. The Jackets’ middle linebacker is entering his senior season after leading the team in tackles two of his first three seasons. Smith comes into the season rated the No. 8 middle linebacker in the nation by The Sporting News and is tabbed as an All-ACC performer by many more publications. Yet, when asked about his preseason accolades, Smith says he doesn’t pay too much attention to them. This goes along with the Albany, Georgia native’s quiet demeanor.

The linebacker is Tech’s active leader in career tackles and is 20th on the all-time list for linebackers. Last season, Daryl racked up 99 tackles along with 15 tackles for loss and 5 sacks. I asked Daryl what goes through his mind when the ball is snapped.

“You really can’t describe it, I read my keys, go to the ball and try to make a play,” said Smith.

Daryl has suffered through some injuries in his career, including a dislocated elbow in his sophomore season. Smith missed three games that season, but finished strong and was named to Sports Illustrated’s All-Bowl Team for 2001.

He underwent shoulder surgery and missed spring practice, but he will be full
strength for the first game of the season against BYU.

Looking ahead to the season, Daryl knows Tech has many challenges ahead of them. The Jackets were picked to finish 8th in the conference, but Smith is not discouraged by it.

“I like doing what nobody thinks we can, and I think we are going to surprise some people this year,” said Smith.

Daryl certainly surprised the ACC and the nation his freshmen year. Coming in as a freshman on the Flats, Daryl said the speed of the game and the size of the players were his biggest adjustments. By the third game, he was starting and finished as Tech’s top tackler. He played his best game against Georgia with a career high 16 tackles and a 70-yard interception return for a touchdown. But the play Daryl remembers most from his freshmen season is the touchdown catch Kerry Watkins made to knock off 4th ranked Clemson. For his play in that game, the linebacker earned ACC Rookie of the Week. Later that season, Football News and The Sporting News named him First-Team Freshmen All-American.

But for all of his on the field accomplishments, Daryl lists his selection to the 2002 Academic All-ACC football team as one of his greatest. He credits his parents for having the biggest impact on his life. Smith also credits the Georgia Tech coaches for having a big impact.

“They talk to us everyday and we know that if we have a problem we can go talk to them. They are like our parents when we are away from home,” said Smith.

The senior standout is not looking forward to any particular game this year. “Everybody in the conference has picked up, so every game is a challenge,” said Smith.

Smith chose Tech for academics and because he felt the most comfortable here. Off the field, he considers himself just like any other student. If the NFL does not work out, then Daryl would like to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Leaders come in all shapes and sizes; Daryl Smith is no different. The 6-2, 235 knows he must be a leader on Tech’s defensive unit this season, but he prefers to lead by example. Daryl feels it does not matter how your get your message across, just that it is understood. He may be under fire early and often considering the Jackets lost two defensive tackles. Daryl will be counted on to shore up the middle of the defense while chasing running backs from sideline to sideline. But then again, he has been doing this for the last three years.
It’s Official: Miami and Virginia Tech are in

By John Scaduto
Contributing Writer

[Editor’s Note: This article is reprinted, with minor modifications, from the July 11 issue of the Technique.]

The Atlantic Coast Conference grew to 11 teams on June 30, as the University of Miami followed Virginia Tech in accepting an invitation to leave the Big East. The two programs will athletically join the ACC after paying a $1 million Big East exit fee and a $2 million entrance fee, possibly as soon as 2004.

“The ACC is stronger today than yesterday and may well be at its strongest point in its history,” said ACC Commissioner John Swofford at the press conference where he along with all the ACC school presidents announced the expansion plan.

The original plan called for the additions of Syracuse and Boston College along with Miami, but this did not produce the seven ACC votes necessary for expansion. Duke and North Carolina developed a general opposition to expansion and the University of Virginia received in-state political pressure to veto any plan snubbing Virginia Tech.

Several alternatives arose, including the addition VT to the group of Miami, Syracuse, and BC. This proposal discouraged many throughout the ACC, since it also meant splitting revenues among the 13 teams. Another plan was developed that called for the addition of only Miami, seemingly a compromise after the Big East retaliated with a lawsuit. This was short-lived as an offer was quickly extended to and accepted by VT – in place of Syracuse and BC.

The initial lawsuit filed by several Big East members cited the negative impact of expansion and accused the ACC of conspiracy. Even when it became clear that expansion would occur, the Big East still remained adamant in curbing the subtractions from its league. In a counteroffer led by Syracuse and Boston College, the conference tried to persuade Miami to stay by guaranteeing $45 million over five years, in addition to a travel supplement.

In the end, analysts argue the Hurricanes chose a stable future in the ACC over temporary financial appeasement. But the legal struggle will continue, as Big East members are contending that they have spent millions on their respective football programs based upon presumed loyalty from the two schools.

While the Big East scrambles to stabilize, the ACC will undergo many adjustments in the coming months that will shake the athletic landscape of the entire conference. The most-notable change will be in scheduling, where growing from 9 to 11 teams will create a unique situation.
Fortunately, the Big 10 Conference (which has 11 teams) has been running this type of scheduling for several years, as Swofford says the plan will be to use that format as a “jumping off place.” The idea of splitting the ACC into two divisions is also on the table, as a probable conference football championship game would use this type of structure.

As for basketball, the ACC does not plan on splitting into divisions any time soon. The traditional home-and-away format will be reformed, as not all teams in the conference will face-off twice a year. This means that some match-ups will retain the previous two-game format while others will play just once. ACC teams may also be able to schedule conference opponents in games considered non-conference – another nuance from Big 10 scheduling.

An expansion to 11 teams will also add two play-in games to the conference tournament, upping the number to three. It will be the bottom four (instead of the bottom two) playing it out on Thursday night of the tournament to decide who plays the top-seed on Friday. It is uncertain whether the new alignment will have any impact on the ACC tournament sites, since they have been chosen through the 2011 season.

One of the initial perks and drawing points of expansion was having a conference title game every year in football. But since it resulted in an 11 teams, it will now take a little extra to get that coveted match. The NCAA has a rule that allows a championship game for leagues with 12 members or more.

The ACC has filed to change the rule to where a league with ten teams or more may hold a championship game. And as for now, commissioner Swofford says that the league would be divided in football only if a title match exists. This implies that either the NCAA must overturn its rule or the ACC must add a 12th team. The $10 million in profits that would accrue from this match would provide more than half the amount needed to ensure that this 11-team setup will be as profitable as the former 9-team setup.

However, the ACC has no plans at the moment to add another team. “We’re not in any rush at this point. We think we have got two great new members and we need a little time to bring them into the fold and get going with our two new members before we jump to any other conclusions,” said Wayne Clough, Institute President, at the press conference.

On the scheduling front, the new conference intends to model its format on the Big 10, where each team annually plays one rival and seven rotated opponents. This will fit nicely, since Miami and VT already have annual ACC rivals in Florida State and Virginia.

Nonetheless, everyone seems to be excited at the prospect of a new ACC. The leaders of each of the existing and incoming schools expressed their excitement, as did Georgia Tech football coach Chan Gailey.

“We have added two very strong football schools, and when you do that, you make it a stronger football conference... We should do well in recruiting because of it, we should [do] well at the gate because of it, we should do well in the television ratings because of it, and we should have a stronger program overall because of it,” said Gailey.
Dying to see the BYU Game? Check this out  

By Kimberly Rieck  
Sports Editor

On August 28, Georgia Tech will play their first football game of the season against Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Luckily, thanks to an ingenious idea, students, faculty, alumni and friends will have an opportunity to watch the game from Bobby Dodd Stadium.

Immediately after Traditions Night, students will have the opportunity to watch the BYU game with all of their friends in front of the stadium’s jumbotron. The event marks the first time the school’s jumbotron has been used to broadcast an away game. The Ramblin’ Reck Club hosts Traditions Night each year to acclimate new freshmen students with Tech traditions and sports.

The event came about because of a single email. According to Lee Wilcox, Vice President of Student Affairs, a student, Chris Horner, emailed President Clough suggesting that the school show the BYU football game at Bobby Dodd Stadium. Clough then sent a note to Dave Braine, the Athletics Director and Wilcox to see if it would be feasible. Wilcox said that after it was determined that the technical aspects of showing the game such as getting the rights from ESPN to broadcast the live feed, staffing concerns at the game were worked out, and equipment, the process of getting the program in place began. The idea came about so suddenly this summer that even the RATS week brochure lists the viewing of the BYU game as being at the Campanile.

Seating will be in the West Stands because the North Stands may not be completely finished by August 28. Wilcox did say that construction on the North Stands will be done at the stadium in time for the Auburn game.

What began as a simple email is now a large collaborative effort determined to provide a great and beneficial event the Tech community. Many different campus groups are getting together with the Student Affairs office to make the event happen.

Wilcox said the Athletic Association is providing the normal game day atmosphere at their own expense even though they will not receive any money as they normally do on game day. The Alumni Association is helping out with publicity are Chi Omega Tau, Ramblin’ Reck Club, RHA, IFC, and Panhellenic.

Besides getting the opportunity to watch Tech on the jumbotron, you might also get a few prizes as well. There will be free refreshments including hot dogs, coke and veggie options to the first 1,000 students.

Whether or not more away games will be televised at Bobby Dodd is still to be determined. It all depends on the turnout for this first momentous occasion.
“This is a special event. If it works out, we might want to do it again,” said Wilcox.
2003 Georgia Tech Football: New year, new challenges

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A player catches a ball during preseason football practice. The Jackets are looking to improve on last year’s record, in which the team went 7-6. The team has their work cut out for them due to a grueling schedule.

By Ryan Peck
Senior Staff Writer

On the surface, a season culminating in a sixth consecutive bowl appearance would be considered a rousing success by most schools. However, the prominent emotions of fans, players and coaches following Georgia Tech’s 7-6 campaign in 2002 were those of confusion and disappointment. The triumphs of 2002 were overshadowed by uninspired losses, most notably to Maryland, Georgia and Fresno State in the Silicon Valley Classic. Two of those contests were nationally televised embarrassments and Tech’s lackluster effort against archrival Georgia in November provoked head coach Chan Gailey to suggest that his team had quit. Although the season concluded with a 30-21 loss to an undermanned Fresno State team, the setbacks would not cease following that gloomy day in San Jose.

Ten significant contributors to the team were ruled academically ineligible following the spring semester in May, rendering Tech’s potential 2003 gridiron edition depleted and frighteningly callow. In spite of the turmoil felt on Bobby Dodd Way over the past 10-plus months, the Jackets seem eager and determined to shock all of the prognosticators and extend their streak of bowl appearances to seven straight in 2003. However, that will not be an easy task in light of heavy personnel losses, alterations in coaching strategies and one of the most murderous schedules in all of college football staring down the Jackets this fall.

Quarterback
True freshman Reggie Ball has quickly moved to the top of the depth chart. Coaches have marveled at his decision-making ability and poise for an 18 year old. Ball’s stature, at 5-11 and 192 lbs. and field presence have drawn comparisons to former Tech star Joe Hamilton. His rapid ascension up the depth chart jettisoned Damarius Bilbo from the quarterback race. Bilbo, who was Tech’s number one QB going into fall practice, will be given a chance to contribute at multiple other positions, provided he opts to remain at Georgia Tech instead of transferring. Incumbent A.J. Suggs is waiting in the wings and would love nothing more than to atone for an inconsistent 2002 season, but it appears the starting job is Ball’s to lose. Pat Carter, another true freshman, also continues to battle for the job.

Grade: C

Running Back

Academic losses hit the Jackets hard here. Tony Hollings and Michael Sampson were among the casualties in May. Look for a tailback by committee led by sophomores Ace Eziemefe and P.J. Daniels. Both are powerful runners, but do not possess breakaway speed. Morris Brown transfer Chris Woods has been impressive in practice with his vision and patience with the ball in hands. Expect him to see playing time. Coaches hope senior Jermaine Hatch can regain his 2000 form and contribute. Keep an eye on true freshman Rashaun Grant from Florida.

Grade: B-

Fullback

Injuries leveled Tech in the spring, as Jimmy Dixon and Jonathan Jackson were sidelined. Both hope to be healthy August 28 at BYU. Mammoth redshirt-freshman Michael Matthews filled in admirably in April and may contribute if he’s not needed on the defensive line.

Grade: C

Wide Receiver

In addition to the losses of graduated seniors Will Glover and Kerry Watkins, LeKeldrick Bridges was done in by grades and is ineligible for 2003. Tech will rely heavily on senior Jonathan Smith. Juniors Nate Curry, Mark Logan and Levon Thomas, along with redshirt-freshman Xavier McGuire, provide a solid nucleus at the wideout position. Damarius Bilbo may find his niche here. His size, 6-3 and 225 lbs. and elusiveness pose a potentially dangerous weapon if he’s able to make a smooth transition to receiver.

Grade: B-

Tight End

The Jackets are strong here, with the return of three-year letterman J.P. Foschi. When he needs a breather Tech will insert redshirt-freshman George Cooper into the lineup. Foschi is a proven commodity and the coaches are high on Cooper.

Grade: B+

Offensive Line

Tech arguably returns the best O-Line unit in the ACC. Senior center Hugh Reilly is the captain of the group. He is joined by massive junior stalwarts
Leon Robinson and Nat Dorsey on the left side of the line. The right side of the line is comprised of Brad Honeycutt at guard and Kyle Wallace at tackle. Expect Tech to run often behind this experienced front, however, depth is an issue here.

Grade: A

Overall Offensive Grade: C+

Defensive Line

The academic debacle absolutely devastated Tech on the defensive line. The losses of interior lineman Alfred Malone and ends Tony Hargrove and Terron Pullen have left the Jackets young and depleted. Sophomores Eric Henderson and Travis Parker lead the way. Prospects for a return by Tech’s all-time sack master, Greg Gathers, are inauspicious for the time being. He has not yet been cleared to practice as he continues to recover from a kidney ailment. Coaches are preparing for the season as if he will contribute sparingly, if at all. Expect to see a lot of mammoth true freshmen Mansfield Wrotto and LeShawn Newberry. Gailey has mentioned inserting linebacker Gerris Wilkinson onto the line of scrimmage in certain situations, as he searches for potential defensive schemes and alignments devised to compensate for the attrition suffered up front.

Grade: C-

Linebackers

Hands down, the strength of the Tech “D.” Veterans Daryl Smith and Key Fox bolster this unit, which is rounded out by redshirt-sophomore Gerris Wilkinson. Tabugbo Anyansi and Ather Brown provide depth. True freshmen Nick Moore, KaMichael Hall and Phillip Wheeler may see action here as well.

Grade: A

Secondary

This unit is youth-laden, but arguably the most athletic group of cover guys Tech has fielded in over a decade. Returning corner Jonathan Cox is the lone veteran of the unit. Electric sophomore Reuben Houston, the star of the Spring Game, will start opposite Cox. Safeties James Butler and converted-QB Dawan Landry are inexperienced, but not lacking in ability. Backups Dennis Davis and I-Perfection Harris have speed to burn. Tech also signed its most highly regarded corner prospect in recent memory, Kenny Scott, in February. Expect big things from him.

Grade: C+

Overall Defensive Grade: C+

Special Teams

Graduation decimated Tech’s special teams corps. Tech must replace its starting placekicker, punter and punt return specialist from last season. Former walk-on Dan Burnett received the starting nod at placekicker. Coaches have been pleased with his performance in fall practices thus far. Strong legged David Jordan will most likely handle the kickoff responsibilities. The punting duties will fall to unproven Hall Higgins or Andy Thomson. Jonathan Smith will likely return punts and may join P.J. Daniels as the other deep man on kickoffs. Burnett is 0-4 on career field goal
Grade: D

Schedule

As if things weren’t tough enough, the Jackets will entertain a schedule regarded nationwide as one of the countries’ top-10 most difficult slates. Newly renovated Bobby Dodd Stadium will be the site for blockbuster games against Auburn, N.C. State, Maryland and Georgia. Clemson and North Carolina will travel to Atlanta as well. The road schedule includes a trip to BYU, which will mark the Jackets’ season opener, as well as visits to Florida State, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, Duke and Virginia.

Bottom Line

Chan Gailey has experienced more bumps in the road during his 19 months on the Flats than most coaches do in an entire career. The 2003 season marks an opportunity for Gailey to vindicate himself for the abundance of egregious setbacks suffered on and off the playing field during the past year and a half. Anything less than a solid product may provide sufficient fuel for disgruntled alumni and boosters to force Gailey out the door. It is imperative that the Jackets stay healthy, as they are dangerously thin at several key positions. Fans will also be eager to see if the new offensive scheme employed by Gailey will pay dividends. He has designated former NFL assistant Buddy Geis as passing game coordinator and Patrick Nix as running game coordinator, but Gailey will do the bulk of the play calling. Jon Tenuta returns to run the defense. Look for him to utilize an extremely aggressive approach with a favorable mix of senior leadership and youthful exuberance. Special teams, which have been a strength at Tech for years, are now questionable at best. Anywhere from four to seven wins is realistic, although the latter may be necessary in order for Gailey to maintain his post in 2004.
Faces in the Crowd

By Katie Neal
Senior Staff Writer

Brendan Mahoney
Senior

800, 1500 Meters- Track & Field

As one of Tech’s men’s track and field’s most prominent shining stars and one of the nation’s top middle distance runners, Brendon Mahoney’s most recent accomplishment was an eighth place finish in the 1500 meters at this past U.S. Nationals. After sitting out most of his sophomore year with a leg injury, he has returned to earn both all-ACC and all-America honors for the team.

A local boy from Marist, Mahoney captured both national and state titles at the high school level. He took the national title in the mile at the Footlocker High School National Championships in Raleigh, N.C., in 1999 and won Georgia state titles in the 800 meters and the mile.

Fallon Stokes
Senior

Forward- Women’s Basketball

Fallon Stokes, a 5-foot-10 forward, has developed into one of the Lady Jacket’s prime-time players over the past two seasons. Stokes has become a crucial asset to both Tech’s offensive and defensive power.

She earned All-ACC honors for the first time in her career last season and was named to the ACC All-Tournament second team after scoring 32 points and grabbing 18 rebounds in the two games, topped by a double-double of 18 points and 10 boards against Florida State in the quarterfinals. Averaging 15.7 points per game and 6.5 rebounds per game, Stokes’ career high last season of 34 points against North Carolina was the second-highest in the ACC.

Keyaron Fox
Senior

Linebacker- Football

Senior linebacker Keyaron “Key” Fox is as easily recognizable on the field as off of it. The 6-foot-3 220 pounder is known for his in-your-face attitude on defense and his extroverted personality off the field. John Hollis of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution described him as “a fun-loving guy who cherishes excitement and attention, he’s always on the lookout for something new and exciting” in a recent article about Fox.

The Atlanta native is projected to be the focal point of the Tech defense this
season. Currently at a career total of 221 tackles with 22 tackles for loss and 11 pass breakups, Fox racked up a career-high 16 tackles and a forced fumble against Fresno State. One of Tech’s leading tacklers, Fox is the man to watch when the defense is in action.
Beyond the White and Gold

ACC Expansion: It’s a football, money thing

By John Scaduto
Contributing Writer

It has been a busy off-season for Georgia Tech-Bosh going fourth in the draft, several baseball studs being named to represent America, Hollings garnering a (overrated?) second-round pick in the NFL supplemental draft. But those are fleeting stories. The one that is sure to be around for a while is ACC expansion.

To some of you this might be old news and a belated article, but if you’ve been in a different country or under a rock most of the summer, let me elaborate (even though that’s really no excuse, but I am a nice guy). My friends, the ACC has grown. Miami and Virginia Tech are in the house. No longer are we the stepchild of NCAA football powerhouses, gaining respect simply for a FSU team that caught fire during the late 80s (yes, I know GT won it all in 1990, but lets be honest). No longer will we be ridiculed for lack of schedule strength and depth. No longer will we rest on the laurels that are basketball and us being smarter than them. We’re bringin’ the pain. We’re loaded. I can’t wait... Forget all those critics and whiners (might be you), this is a good thing. I can hear it now. What about the Big East? What about basketball?? What about Tech?!? The others we’ll get to later, but it’s a good thing for the ACC, and it’s a darn good thing for Tech. Trust me. First, let’s go over one thing. Whenever you see the word ‘football’, you are allowed by me to substitute it with the word ‘money,’ since that is what this whole expansion deal is about-football/money. I promise it will not undermine the integrity of this article (what little amount that may be).

The Big East – hmm.. we won’t spend too much time on this; it’s in the past. But what a bunch of hypocrites! Apparently, Commish Tranghese forgot that his conference similarly raided the Atlantic 10 in ’94 when trying to bolster its football program. Granted, I know West Virginia and Rutgers aren’t on the level of Virginia Tech and Miami, but the Atlantic 10 isn’t exactly on the level of the Big East either. Mid-major conferences like the A-10 have to start from scratch when something like that happens; they don’t get thrown into the pool of Notre Dame football suitors. That is for viable conferences-like, say, the Big East. And on the matter of suiting teams, be prepared for more hypocrisy as the Big East mends its wounds with the acquisition of other mid-major schools, such as Louisville or University of Central Florida—both of whom currently reside in the up-and-coming Conference USA. This would be a striking blow that should set the C-USA back by about a decade, but nobody is crying about that one.

Yet, a bit of pity seems to be in order. I mean, we are taking their most successful and most profitable football programs. That’s essentially equivalent of someone stealing away Duke and Maryland. Maybe ‘hypocrisy’ is a little harsh. What exactly would any of us do if our economic livelihood
were brought before the guillotine? (Think losing HOPE and/or parents cutting off the flow.) Would we not kick and scream and bite and threaten lawsuits? Of course we would. Anything in our power to avoid such demise—it’s the American spirit. We will not go quietly into the night! So, as a concerned ambassador from the ACC to the Big East, I would like to say, “Sorry, but we got what we came for—your move.”

Note: This was written before Mr. Tranghese extended a gracious apology to ACC Commissioner John Swofford for his actions throughout the deliberations, which from my outside perspective may have been unwarranted (the apology). Do your thing, Mr. Tranghese.

I can sympathize with the Big East’s struggle to maintain, but one of the most notable concessions to expansion came from inside the ACC, in the form of Coach K and all the Dean Smith worshippers in Chapel Hill. Honestly, I like Coach K and never have any gripes with either of the two schools. Duke is to ACC basketball what Miami is to Big East football, and I appreciate that. Their contention to ACC expansion actually held a valid argument that it would unnecessarily burn bridges that we did not need burned. And aside from using the analogy of running a John Deere through someone’s yard, it was a good point. I would have felt that this was a truly sincere gesture, had they not coupled that with another position of concern. This position was the thought that expansion would cause—drum roll please—excessive travel. Excessive travel? Spare me. Duke perennially competes in an Alaska invitational (where the brilliant Coach K has done some serious recruiting for a few previous classes), and just this past fall the team traveled across the globe to play in England. North Carolina would do the same had its basketball program not fallen of the map a couple of years ago.

With those chilly winters, you’d think they wouldn’t mind taking a trip down to South Beach to play a little ball once in a while. Shoot, you’d think they’d push to have Miami host the ACC tournament every year. Then again, these are the people who still think basketball is numero uno.

Still, even some level-minded folk are disappointed that we failed to retain Syracuse as part of the expansion. I understand that we are inherently drawn to hype, but to be realistic, the Syracuse basketball program is just good. Prior to “the year of Carmelo” (yes, for a couple months Lebron-mania took a backseat), the Orangemen sported a modest team that struggled to break the top-four in the Big East. Anthony was, is and always will be the real deal, and arguably the greatest freshman ever to play the game.

However, the last I heard, the main man was on a flight to Denver. And when one takes a look back at the pre-2003 contemporary Big East, it’s not Syracuse that pops out. UConn, Pittsburgh, St. Johns and even Boston College lead the way. Seton Hall was higher on the pecking order not too long ago.

To put it in perspective, let us suppose that the expansion process took place 3 years ago. Instead of griping at the snub of Syracuse, most would be wondering why the ACC chose the Orangemen over the other programs to accompany Boston College.

Therefore, ACC dwellers, be content with Virginia Tech, and keep reminding yourself that we are in it for the football (with all apologizes to Coach Hewitt).

Now for the happy stuff, and if you have not yet caught on, here is a clue:
football is what this whole expansion thing is about. We wanted Syracuse, but we needed Miami. That’s why it happened.

The beauty of the whole situation is that the conference was already on the up-and-up in football, with Florida State’s seemingly automatic conference title being anything but automatic the past couple of seasons. The Hokies and Hurricanes will only add fuel to this growing flame that is ACC respectability (and profits!).

Instead of having only two or three BCS-quality teams on a good year, we can now boast four or five on an off year! Okay, so it is good for the ACC— but won’t this hurt Tech football?

No, competition is not a bad thing. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. The road to the national title just got easier—hear me out. True, our weaker seasons will be greatly magnified with the added competition, but so will our stronger seasons. Had the incredible run that was the 2000 season happened in 2007, do you believe that Tech would have only earned a BCS ranking of 15th? Doubt it. See, it will only take another run like that to cause a national stir, which is most-certainly not out of the question—even with an immensely tougher schedule.

This leads us to rebuilding the program and recruiting. Imagine, Gailey will now be able to truly reach that speedy southern Florida back who was shunned by Miami for lack of available scholarships—or even probation, to which UM is no stranger.

So, is this good for Tech? Of course. Is this good for the ACC? Hell yeah. Is this good for the rest of the NCAA? Not unless the other conferences would like to be dominated in every facet of the collegiate game.

But it is what it is, and the only concern now should be the future. Tech must recognize that, Coach K must recognize that (I am sure he already does) and the Big East must recognize that. We must move forward, mend the fences and help the people forget the admittedly goofy process that was expansion.

The ACC has taken the first step in appealing the NCAA’s 12-school title game rule. Without an conference championship, the additions of the two new programs will not immediately live up to expectations, giving room to all those who criticized growth in the first place—remember, football = money.

This was a lot to divulge, so some of the things in this article may not apply to you; some of the other things may offend you; but no matter who you are, you must remember this one thing: it is all about football.
Sport Shorts

Thrash joins Tech Swimming and Diving staff

Maria Thrash has been named an assistant swim coach at Tech, head coach Seth Baron announced earlier this month. Thrash previously was the Head Senior Coach at Swim Atlanta. Besides her assistant coach duties, Thrash will work with the sprinters, handle conditioning, help with recruiting and also direct swimming camps for the Jackets. Thrash has over 35 years of experience coaching and competing in the sport.

Zarzycki named Tech Director of Marketing and Sales

John T. Zarzycki has been named the director of Marketing and Sales at the Georgia Tech Athletic Association. From 1993-1996, Zarzycki worked on the marketing efforts for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. He joins the Jackets after spending three years as founder and managing director of The Oxford Group, an Atlanta sports marking firm.

Adkins, Duval head 2003 Georgia Tech Hall of Fame class

Olympic gold medal hurdler Derrick Adkins and four-time all-America golfer David Duval join a group of six former Georgia Tech student athletes who have been elected to the Tech Athletic Hall of Fame. Joining Adkins and Duval are all-ACC quarterback Shawn Jones and All-America kicker Scott Sisson, both of whom were on the 1990 National Championship football team, as well as six-time track All-American Nelrae Pasha Ali and 1982 football captain David Lutz.

Volleyball named No. 12 in coaches Preseason Poll

The Georgia Tech volleyball team will begin the season ranked 12th in the nation after receiving 668 votes. Southern California, the defending national champion, received the top spot in the poll after receiving 1624 votes. Working in the Jackets’ favor this year is the fact that the team will return every starter from a squad that broke numerous school records last year. The ranking is the highest in school history. The team is also ranked no. 1 in the ACC Coaches’ Preseason Poll.
by the numbers

12: The Georgia Tech volleyball team’s preseason ranking in the USA Today/AVCA Coaches Preseason Poll. The team received 668 votes on the poll. The ranking is the Jacket’s highest in school history. The team is also ranked number one in the ACC preseason coaches’ poll.

3: Number of Georgia Tech players who led the USA Baseball National Team to the golden medal game at the 2003 Pan Am Games. The players were Mike Nickeas, Eric Patterson and Micah Owings.

104: The number of Tech student-athletes named to the 2002-03 Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Honor Roll. The honor roll is comprised of student-athletes with a 3.0 GPA for the full academic year.