Cover photo
Several students display their Technique pride by standing on the steam engine on the lawn west of Tech Tower. The steam engine was once part of the Shop Building, one of the two original buildings on the Georgia Tech campus. The Shop Building once had a tower similar to that of the administration building, but after a fire in 1892, the building was rebuilt without a tower.

Other photo credits
The Technique would like to thank the Georgia Tech Archives and Records Management for their invaluable assistance in locating several older photographs. The following two photos were graciously provided by the archives: the photo of pre-oscar registration on the front cover of campus life and the drownproofing photo on page 12 of the freshman survival guide.

The remainder of the historical photos in the survival guide were reproduced from a 1909-10 general catalog. Photos from the 1949 and 1953 Blueprint are also listed to the right, as well.

About this issue
The Technique prints a special Freshman Issue each fall as a service to new—and returning—Tech students. We’re always looking for new, energetic, regular members of the weekly publication schedule next Friday. If you have any questions or comments about this paper, please e-mail Chris Baucom at editor@technique.gatech.edu. Feel free to contact other members of the editorial staff, whose names are listed to the right, as well.

What makes “The South’s Liveliest College Newspaper” tick?

By Chris Baucom
Editor-in-Chief


“Working for the Technique is really a good way to stay on top of campus events and feel you’re a part of the Georgia Tech community,” Baucom says. “I feel like I’m contributing to the school in some way instead of just taking from it.”

“It’s a really a good way to stay on top of the consensus editorial. Students interested in writing for the Technique may e-mail any of the section editors or the editor-in-chief for more information.”

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Thanks, Chris for filling a little space in my pages!
What’s inside this issue of the Technique?

News, Opinions, and Comics

Page 5 Joe Morse, a Tech freshman who disappeared at the end of last spring, has still not been seen or heard from. Although the Technique has no new information since we first reported the case this summer, the article has been updated to make the entire campus aware of the situation.

Page 6 Tech’s proposed Fifth Street development will give the Bookstore, College of Management, and other departments new homes. The campus will be expanding across the interstate towards the intersection of Fifth and West Peachtree. Stay tuned for further news about how this will affect you.

Page 7 Students may no longer loft their beds without first contacting the department of housing for the proper equipment. Also see Rosalind Meyers, Associate Vice-President for Auxiliary Services, shop at the Westside Market.

Page 8 Sewer renovation will affect East Campus residents and parking. The City of Atlanta will be tearing up several streets on East Campus to perform repairs on its aging infrastructure.

Page 11 Administrative buildings hit by summer break-ins. Both Tech Tower and the Dean of Students’ office were burglarized over the summer; GTPD made two arrests.

Page 12 University [sic] of Georgia to fight race-based admissions policy ruling.

Page 15 Internet cheating conspiracy exposed in California.

Page 17 Tiger-striped home of LSU students upsets the neighbors.

Page 21 Feature photos: freshman move-in day

Page 24 NC State Chancellor, President help students with move-in.

Consensus. Writing it is one of the primary functions of the Editorial Board. Read the Technique’s official position on campus issues. Opinions represented in consensus reflect the majority opinion of Ed Board, but not necessarily the opinion of individual editors.

Page 26 Staff Editorials. Read what Technique editorial staff members have to say about campus issues. Staff editorials are solely the opinion of the author and in no way reflect the official position of the paper.

Page 30 Dave Barry, Non Sequitur, and Dilbert. What more could you ask for in a college comics section? Well, let us know if you’d rather have something else.

Freshman Survival Guide

Page 2 Advice from a fifth year senior: hear what James Stoneall, Tech student extraordinaire, has to say about school, extracurricular involvement, and life in general.

Page 3 Money and Food: the essentials of survival. News Editor Jen Hinkel explains how to eat well and save money at the same time.

Page 5 Sex Ed 101: Hear words of wisdom from a Health Center Peer Educator. And read about the most beautiful old car in the world.

Page 6 There’s no shame in finding a tutor. Tech will be substantially more difficult than high school, so knowing how and when to seek help can be vital to your survival.

Page 7 Names and faces on campus that you really need to know on this campus. See students, administrators, and friends of Tech who can help you along your way.

Page 9 Pros and Cons of popular places to study on campus. Is the library too hot? Are study rooms too crowded? Get the lowdown here.

Page 10 Get your maps here! Campus maps, MAR- TA maps, and off-campus destinations included at no extra charge.

Page 12 The Technique presents... The zillionth annual editors’ dictionary of Tech words and phrases that every student should know. Or at least be familiar with.

Page 14 The Women’s Resource Center, located on the second floor of the Student Services building, provides a variety of services and programs to the Georgia Tech student body.

Page 15 I’m a ramblin’ wreck from Georgia Tech and a hell of an engineer... Read the words to the songs all Tech students should know.

Page 17 The Technique proudly presents... 99 things to do before you graduate. Cut this list out and put it on your wall. Check items off as you complete them...

Page 19 Don’t be a victim of campus crime. The Georgia Tech Police Department provides tips on how to proactively protect yourself.

Campus Life

Page 2 Student find resource through Dean of Students’ ADMPTS office.

Page 3 Fall rush excited campus, but getting your first car may be even more exciting. Plus, read a poem reminiscing about memories of Tech.

Page 5 Letter from your undergraduate student body president J. R. Spinggall. Feel free to call or visit him in his room at any time. Also read about the Undergraduate Student Government Association.

Page 7 Minors and Certificates: find out how you can specialize in a field outside your major.

Page 8 The Technique’s travel correspondent reviews books dedicated to the subject of travel.

Page 10 The secret life of a pledge: what’s involved with pledging a fraternity? Although rush is over, initiation is still a ways off.

Page 11 To be or not to be: Greek that is, indeed, the question. Read two different perspectives: one from a fraternity brother, and one from an unaffiliated, fiercely independent female.

Page 13 Performing groups on campus. Yes, Tech does have an outlet for the performing arts through chorale, orchestra, the musicians’ network, and other student groups. Learn how to get involved and express your artistic side.

Page 15 Buzz Around the Campus: see pictures and read quotes of fellow students in this weekly “question of the week” feature.

Sports

Page 2 Football ticket distribution information: find out how to get your FREE student tickets to Tech’s football games.

Page 3 Football season preview: hear what’s going on with Tech’s football team. Also get the scoop on football and baseball stadium expansion plans.

Page 4 An interview with Paul Hewitt, Tech basketball’s new head coach

Page 5 Football Forecast

Page 7 Tech’s women’s volleyball team is one of the best in the nation. Go see one of their games in the O’Keefe gym to see for yourself.

Page 8 The cross country team, one of Tech’s oldest varsity sports, gears up for a new season.

Page 11 Jason Collier, former Tech basketball standout, gets drafted—then immediately traded to Houston.

Entertainment

Page 2 Entertainment reader survey. Tell us what you think about the entertainment section!

Page 3 Find out what’s hot and what’s not with the Technique’s Fall Movie Preview.

Page 5 Two Bits, the Technique’s longstanding (and often futile) attempt to provide a note of humor to our rather ordinary existence. Can you guess the identity of Two Bits Man? It’s one of our most closely held secrets...

Page 6 The Student Center actually has a place where you can listen to CD’s for free—it’s called the Music Listening Room, and it’s on the second floor.

Page 7 Like music? Read Alan Back’s commentary on the Atlantic Music Conference.

Page 9 Get some. Class, that is. As in opera, theatre, ballet, and museums, among other things. See what Atlanta has to offer in this exciting genre of entertainment.

Page 11 DVD is the wave of the future. Read commentary about the format, and a few reviewers.

Page 12 Just when you thought it was safe to visit the clubs...

Page 13 New Dungeons and Dragons movie hyped at Dragon*Con

Page 14 Pretty faces paired with “Ugly” plot: read the Technique’s review of “Coyote Ugly.”

Page 15 The Technique’s handy guide to local restaurants, complete with prices, comments, phone numbers, and distance from campus.

C is for Carter and that’s good enough for me!
I don’t speak Italian, so you’ll have to repeat the question.
Parents of Joe Morse continue search for son

Joseph Morse had finished his first year as a Tech student when he disappeared from his Towers dorm room the last day of Spring Semester. He has not contacted family and was last seen by a Lenovo ATM security camera.

By Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor

More than three months since his disappearance from campus, buildings, classrooms, and residence halls have been pored with posters asking students if they have seen Joe, now 20-year-old Joe Morse. The students have contacted neither family nor friends with whom he resides since his family moved from the Towers dormitory early May 6. "We kept on waiting for him to reappear," said Daniel Uhlig, a Peer Leader on Morse’s floor in Towers. When Morse was last seen walking to the shower around 8:30 a.m. the day of Spring Semester check-out, friends did not notice anything out of the ordinary.

Michael Treman, the last student to see Morse before he vanished, remembers the morning clearly. "But there was Joe... walking down the hall, swinging his key chain, and smiling like he always does. I groggily said ‘good morning,’ and ‘hey,’ and proceeded to walk by me and around the corner. That was the last time anyone saw him. Odd, because he didn’t seem the least bit different from his usual self."

Morse’s belongings remained in his dorm room; he left campus with only the clothes he was wearing, his wallet, and his glasses. He had told friends and his parents that he had enrolled for summer classes and housing, but when concerned Housing Staff checked their records, he had done neither.

"Our gut feeling is that he was depressed and homesick and just was totally overwhelmed," said Morse’s mother in an earlier interview with the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Morse’s home newspaper. "But we want to say to him, ‘You’re our son. You’re always going to be our son. And there’s nothing that can’t be worked out.’"

Morse’s parents had planned to pick him up in early May in Ohio, where he would return home for the summer by a student standby flight from Harris Field. He planned to take a bus if he was unable to get on a flight.

During Spring Semester, Morse, a Mechanical Engineering major, attended classes infrequently, missed tests and exams as well as lectures. However, his friends did not notice any change in his demeanor.

Rising sophomore Treman, who also lived in Towers, wrote the following about Morse: “Joe was one of the most happy-go-lucky guys I knew. He was always greeting or just playing around, yet he always seemed to get his work done. He was a pretty smart guy, although he didn’t like to act that way."

“He always had a funny expression on his face, and he could ALWAYS be seen walking around swinging his key like a lifeguard on his tennis-shoe string key chain. The weirdest thing is that no one even expected Joe to go and do something like this."

“He always seemed anxious to get home and see his parents and dogs but never to leave them all behind."

Morse was also involved around campus. “He was all hall council president for Towens and Harrison, on the intramus

By Matt Gray
News Staff

With the start of the new school year comes the entrance of a new class of freshmen. This year, expected enrollment numbers are 2,200 students, one of the largest groups ever admitted.

The fall 2000 RAT class also boasts high levels of achievement and achievement, with an average high school GPA of 3.79. Last year’s class averaged a 3.66.

One hundred twenty-four National Merit Scholars chose to attend Tech, compared to one hundred Scholars that entered last year.

The number of students with a perfect 1600 SAT score doubled, rising from six to twelve.

Seventy-two students participated in the summer Challenge Program, designed to help minority students make the transition to university life.

Tech’s family retainer rate remained high, with 432 students claiming a relative as a current student or Tech alumnus.

Continuing Tech’s Internet-based trend, almost a quarter of the applicants completed their applications on-line, up from 19% in 1999.

Annual rankings of colleges and universities have noticed the continuing growth of the school, with U.S. News and World Report placing Tech 10th among Public Universities.

In addition, Money magazine rated Tech second for best buys among scientific and technical schools, and Black Issues in Higher Education awarded a number two ranking for bachelor’s degrees in engineering awarded to minority students.

The most popular majors this year are Undecided Engineering, Computer Science, and Computer Engineering, reflecting the strong and growing job market in high technology fields.

For students coming from outside the U.S., India is the largest number of students, followed by Korea.

China and Taiwan tied for third in number of international students.

The most common first names were Chris and Jennifer; the most common last name in the Freshman Class is Lee.

Fifth Street Project will give DuPree College of Management a new home

By Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor

The expansion of campus East of I-75/85, known as the “Fifth Street Project” and long part of Tech’s Master Plan, will consist of an extensive, multi-building construction and a new home for the DuPree College of Management.

The move will increase visibility and reputation of the faculty and the School of Economics to a new level of prominence that will improve the educational experience of not only the College but the Institute as well.

Sue Rosser
Dean of Ivan Allen College

McCarthy began his career in 1978 as an Associate Professor at Purdue. Later, he worked as a Professor of Economics in the School of Management.

"Dr. McCarthy is a widely respected scholar and teacher in his field," said Sue Rosser, Dean of Ivan Allen College. "In addition, he brings a breadth of interdisciplinary and international experience very much in concert with the Ivan Allen College Mission. Inasmuch as virtually every major taught by Georgia Tech has an economic dimension, I believe Dr. McCarthy can lead the School to a new level of prominence that will improve the educational experience of not only the College but the Institute as well."

Some of McCarthy’s more exciting appointments have been at the Athens Laboratory of Business Administration in Greece, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and as an associate professor economics at the University of Southern California. He takes over the position from Dr. William Schaffer, who served as the acting Chair.

See Chairs, page 14

Tech welcomes new department chairs

By Matt Gray
News Staff

The Schools of Economics and the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture will both have new chairs for the 2000-2001 school year.

Economics will be chaired by Patrick A. McCarthy, known for his work on the economic impact of transportation and related issues, while LCC will be home for Robert P. Kolker, renowned for his work on communications, English, and various forms of media.

Both chairs were brought to Tech from different universities, with McCarthy leaving 22 years at Purdue University and Kolker having spent almost thirty years at University of Maryland-College Park.

"I am delighted with the opportunity of joining the faculty of Georgia Tech, a premier research institution," McCarthy said.

"And I am looking forward to collaborating with other units in the Ivan Allen College and working with colleagues in the School of Economics to build upon the solid research and teaching contributions of the economics faculty."

By Matt Gray
News Staff

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See Chairs, page 14

Kevin, why are you taking 21 hours this semester?
Grads get subsidized health care

By Becca Cutri-Kohart and Jennifer Hinkel
Campus Life Editor, News Editor

After a long battle, subsidized health insurance is on its way for graduate students. The insurance will be provided with a 20% subsidy for graduate research assistants (GRAs), students assistants (GSAs) and teaching assistants (GTAs).

The policy will be provided through Pearce and Pearce, and will be the same policy currently available through GIT Student Health Services. Students on the policy will pay discounted rates, and Pearce and Pearce will bill Georgia Tech for the 20% of the services as a subsidy.

The policies are effective August 23, 2000 through August 22, 2001. They can be paid monthly or for the entire semester.

Eligibility is for GRAs, GTAs, and GSAs who are paid with Georgia Tech payroll for at least 1/3 of their time during the term. In order to be eligible, each student must be enrolled full time.

The decision to subsidize health care has come after extensive discussion in the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), which has been working to improve the condition of graduate student health care for several years. Tech now joins many of its peer institutions, which offer benefit plans and insurance reimbursement to graduate student assistants and graduates in research.

A group of graduate students, with the help of Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost for research Dr. Charles Liotta, worked to change the current policy.

The students petitioned for a plan comparable to the one offered through the Student Health Center, costing approximately $400 per student. The current plan will cost approximately $373 per student.

Significant progress has already unfolded; task forces have been organized at the Institute level as well as in the Board of Regents.

Dr. Liotta has assured students that as of Fall 2000 Semester, he will be providing 20% coverage for graduate assistants out of his own budget.


According to the article, “the preponderance of evidence shows that the schools we compare ourselves to and compete against are offering health insurance as part of graduate assistant compensation.”

Though published two years ago, this realization has only now come into practice. Jenelle Piepmeier, the previous chair of the Health Services Committee, composed the paper, along with Graduate Student

See Health, page 21

C is for Carter and that’s good enough for me.
Alpha Xi Delta sorority finds new campus home

Sisters of Alpha Xi Delta moved in the past weeks to the former house of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity on Fourth Street. The house has been completely renovated and cleaned for the sorority. Alpha Xi Delta sisters formerly resided in a section of the Fourth Street Apartments on Techwood Drive.

Library announces holiday weekend hours

The library hours will change due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 4. Also, classes will not be held on Labor Day. The schedule is as follows:
Saturday, Sept. 2 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 3 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 4 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight
Tuesday, Sept. 5 regular hours resumed

One day volunteer project to be held tomorrow

Free breakfast, lunch, and transportation will be provided to participants in "Into the Streets," a one day volunteer project that will be held on Saturday, August 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Projects include working with children, HIV patients, and senior adults. Call 404-894-2002 or e-mail move@programs.stucen.gatech.edu.

Student Center hosts “Fun With Shirts” activity

On Tuesday, August 29 in the Post Office Lobby, the Programs Board of the Student Center will offer T-shirt grab bags from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Volunteer Fair to be held on August 31

A volunteer fair will be held on Skiles Walkway from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thurs., Aug. 31. Free refreshments will be provided and over 40 places to volunteer will present options for student involvement, such as tutoring, environmental activism, and teaching senior adults.

Crafts Center hours

The Craft Center has facilities for making ceramics, banners, posters, pottery, stained glass, and other items of art. Students can explore such artistic endeavors from 12:15 to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 12:15 to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The center is located on the third floor of the Student Center.

Career Fair liaison meeting dates changed

The meeting to receive more information about becoming a career liaison has been moved from Monday, September 4 to Tuesday, September 5 due to the Labor Day holiday.

C is also for Cookie which is also good enough for me, too.
Sewer renovation to affect East Campus students, parking

By Mary Beth Holley
News Staff

Bradshaw Construction Corporation, MC., Inc. has begun updating an old and deteriorating sewer system extending through campus in a project that began earlier this week.

The construction on the Orme Street Combined Trunk Relief Sewer will severely impact the Tech Community, especially students living on East Campus, until the project’s completion date in February or March of 2002.

Phases I and II, which stopped at the intersection of Fowler and Forth Streets, were completed in 1997, and already the results of these projects have been positive.

Peter’s Parking Deck and the alleyway between Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Kappa Psi have been virtually without flooding since the completion of the first two phases.

The Joint Venture Company will complete Phase III, the final step of the project.

Fowler

The Orme Street project should eliminate odors and flooding along Brittain Drive and Bobby Dodd Way. It will also increase capacity of the sewer so the city of Atlanta can proceed with building new residences at the end of the sewer line near Centennial Park.

Before any work can be done, a junction box must be made at the intersection of Fowler and Fourth so all of the utilities, including communications fiber, telephone lines, electricity lines, and water mains, can be rerouted.

Tech’s Office of Information Technology, BellSouth, Georgia Power and United Water will be part of a cooperative effort, helping with this phase of the project.

Interests such as campus pedestrian and vehicular movement are of great concern. Student movement from residence halls and classrooms, athletic events, and during move-in, move-out, dead week, and final exams will be impacted by the construction.

East Campus will lose over 70 parking spaces. One of the first phases of the project will be to build a new entrance to Peter’s Parking Deck on the north lower level, ensuring continued entry and preserving parking spaces.

The existing entrance on Fowler will remain in use. Ultimately, the new entrance will eliminate most of the traffic headaches that are common on game day.

The project will also involve closing part of Fourth Street, but length and area of closures are uncertain at this time.

However, the intersections of Fowler, Fourth, and Brittain will be closed for the duration of the project.

These intersections will serve as an entrance for the construction workers and the site of the junction box.

Cars and pedestrians will still be able to use the alleyways next to Sigma Phi Epsilon and Alpha Tau Omega, as well as the alley behind Alpha Epsilon Psi. The intersection of Bobby Dodd Way and Brittain Drive will have limited short-term partial closures, but will never be closed for pedestrian traffic.

Fred Dolder
Senior Project Manager, Office of Facilities Design & Construction

“For the first four to six months while a ten foot by eleven foot trench is dug along Brittain Drive, the noise will be horrible.”

One of our major concerns is noise,” said Fred Dolder, senior project manager, Office of Facilities Design and Construction. “For the first four to six months while a ten foot by eleven foot trench is dug along Brittain Drive, the noise will be horrible.”

The construction crew has been notified of the numerous residents on and around Brittain Drive and they will be taking strides to limit noise.

See Sewers, page 21
Bringing mean machines to life

By Alan Bach
Working every beat in the city

There are a few intrepid souls on every college campus who love nothing better than to slap together weird contraptions out of random spare parts and make them do shameless things just for fun. At Georgia Tech, most of them belong to the Robojackets, the student robotics club. Alumnus Brad Geving founded the organization last fall while working toward a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering (ME). His goal for doing so, he explained, was to attract attention to robotics research and the people involved with it.

“Students don’t realize this talent exists for them to tap into because it’s not constantly in their faces. They might hear about something robotic happening in the basement of some obscure building, but they never find it, and when they do, it’s not the glamorous project they imagined,” he commented. “The club is there to stir up interest and breed enthusiasm for robotics. It’s a forum where you can create, and at the same time learn valuable skills that will be with you forever.”

Members generally sign on with one or more specialized subgroups, each of which organizes itself to handle a particular job. “Within the group, you have your project leader, you have different tasks defined by those people, and you function as a group targeting that particular project in its whole,” said Kevin Reim, a senior in Industrial Design.

The club’s roots date back to 1997, when Geving learned of a robotics contest that one of his friends entered the middleweight division in; the finished robot was put together a team to take over the project, and the finished robot was entered in the 1999 BattleBots competition (an annual event similar to Robot Wars) last August. The Robojackets were chartered shortly afterward. Professor Wayne Book and Assistant Professor Imme Ebert-Uphoff, both of ME, serve as the faculty sponsors.

To solve the problem, Geving put together a team to take over the project, and the finished robot was entered in the 1999 BattleBots competition (an annual event similar to Robot Wars) last August. The Robojackets were chartered shortly afterward. Professor Wayne Book and Assistant Professor Imme Ebert-Uphoff, both of ME, serve as the faculty sponsors.

Ian Campbell, an ME sophomore, worked on the BattleBots robot and saw it in action after seven weeks of building work. “We won our first round, but then we had some gear problems. The gears we used for our lifting arm were made of plastic, and they broke down pretty fast. For the next round, we switched to a ramming strategy, but the robot wasn’t designed for that.”

“We probably needed two more weeks beyond that [seven-week period] to repair some problems, but the competition date cut that short,” Geving remarked. Attempts to build an entry for this year were abandoned when the contest organizers changed the event date, but plans are already in the works for 2001. On July 2, the Robojackets made their debut in Robot Battles at Dragon*Con 2000. Held on the last day of the annual science fiction/fantasy convention, this contest was a small-scale version of BattleBots. Some 20 robots fought head-to-head in three different weight divisions; teams could advance by either immobilizing their opponents or knocking them out of the ring.

RoboBuzz, the Tech competitor, entered the middleweight division under the control of Reim, Campbell, and ME junior Mark Randolph. Hugging the ground and sporting a

See Robots, page 11

And if the Pope says “Whasssssssup!” back to him, he will become a priest.
Project
from page 5

which are accredited, DuPree has been ranked in the mid-forties by organizations such as U.S. News and World Report.

“There is only one school above us on the list who is smaller than two, three, or four times the size of Georgia Tech,” said Dean Blum. The College of Management reports that its faculty is one of the highest draws for the school; the new building in the Fifth Street Complex would provide another “competitive advantage,” according to Blum.

The move to the Fifth Street complex will benefit the college not only because of the vastly expanded teaching facilities made available by the new buildings, but also by the strategic location in the heart of what has come to be known as an area of “Midtown Renaissance.” The Management Complex, which will house the DuPree College, Executive Education areas, and interdisciplinary centers, will contain 181,000 square feet of classroom, offices, and learning resource space. The interdisciplinary centers will include areas designated for various programs, such as the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, a program studying urban growth issues in Atlanta.

Blum calls the expansion “absolutely central to our mission in a million ways.” Currently, the College of Management is experiencing rapid growth in majors, increased demand for classes among non-majors, and a burgeoning Executive Education program.

Demands for educational programs in technology-oriented management and entrepreneurship are also on the rise. The new space will provide facilities to increase capacity in all of these areas, as well as add facilities designed to deliver distance learning programming. The complex will improve facilities for these disciplines while moving the college closer to the Atlanta business community.

The Executive Education program is one part of the DuPree College that will greatly benefit from the move. Presently, the program is served by one classroom in the College of Management building, said Blum. Executive Education already brings in revenues of four million dollars annually for the College of Management.

Management students, including undergraduates, graduates, and executives, will also enjoy a location close to the nexus of technology-based businesses that has formed in Midtown.

The renovated Biltmore Hotel, across West Peachtree Street from the new development, accommodates several of the small, high-tech companies that have been sprouting up around Midtown and the Tech campus. Other companies that have formed as a result of the Advanced Technology Development Center, Tech’s “business incubator,” are located in the area surrounding the expansion area.

“The new development will be closer to the companies incubating in the Biltmore and in Midtown,” said Dean Blum, making the DuPree college “more connected to innovation and growth.” The College of Management also hopes that the flourishing, technological economy nearby will provide networking aspects for students.

Atlanta is experiencing a phenomenal increase in the amount of businesses and people who want to locate downtown,” said Susan Mendheim, chief executive and president of the Midtown Alliance. According to a recent Tech press release, Mendheim has “praised Tech’s plans to develop this declining stretch of property into vital space and services.”

“It is very, very important for Georgia Tech to make the next surge forward,” said Dean Blum.

The total construction of the Fifth Street Project will cost an estimated $148 million, $35 million of which is designated as the cost of the Management Complex. Unlike funding for other parts of the project, the DuPree College complex will be financed by private donations. Taxpayer dollars will not be used as a source of funding.

Ground breaking for the entire Fifth Street Project will occur some time in early 2001. The project is expected to be completed approximately two years after the start date.

"It is very important for Tech to make the next surge forward."  
Terry Blum  
Dean of DuPree College
Administrative buildings hit by summer break-ins and burglaries

Break-ins during Summer Semester caused alarm; GTPD arrested two suspects in connection with some of the incidents

By Huda Kazi
Editor Emeritus

At 9:30 on Tuesday night, June 27, Senior Associate Dean of Students Karen Boyd thought she was the only person left in her suite. However, when she stepped out of her personal office, she found a young African-American male seated at one of the desks in the outer office.

He told her his name, claiming to be a member of the custodial staff.

“He didn’t look like anybody I’ve ever seen on the cleaning staff,” said Boyd. “I know the custodial staff pretty well.”

Boyd asked him what he was doing in the office and encouraged him to leave, which he did without argument. She then called campus police.

“The person looked familiar, so I wasn’t overly scared at first, until I realized he didn’t want me to recognize him. He pulled his hat down over his eyes. He didn’t want me to be aware of who he was,” stated Boyd, who can give a very clear description of the intruder.

That break-in at the Student Services building in June was the latest in a string of burglaries all over campus.

In the month of June, sixteen buildings were burglarized, including the Administration Building, the Student Success Center, Lyman Hall, the Savant Building, and MRDC II.

According to Chief Jack Vickery of the Tech Police Department, almost all of the buildings on the Hill have been hit at some time or another.

“Typically, the areas most often hit by burglaries are fraternity houses. This is unusual to the extent that it has been primarily some of the administrative type of buildings,” commented Vickery.

In all the cases, the motive for the break-ins appeared to be theft. The intruder was usually looking for cash, although a few of the buildings lost computers and audio/visual equipment.

“In many of them,” stated Vickery, “it was going through drawers and desks, and at the same time leaving some valuable equipment.”

Two arrests have been made for two of the break-ins. Vickery feels some of burglaries may have been perpetrated by the same person while others were obviously the work of different people.

None of the break-ins showed any sign of forced entry into the building. Vickery assumes the intruders either came through an open door or came in during regular office hours and remained after everyone else left.

Both Vickery and Boyd agree awareness is the key to prevention.

“Students need to be aware that there is crime in the world, and they need to make very careful decisions about what they are doing,” commented Boyd.

Campus Safety Tips

• Never prop open exterior doors
• Lock dorm room doors always
• Choose safe, well-lit routes
• Avoid walking, jogging, or biking alone at night
• Call for rides after dark
• Park in well lit areas
• Don’t leave valuables in your car
• Lock bicycles in designated areas

For more campus safety tips, check out the Freshman Survival Guide page 19.

Robots

from page 9

four-sided wedge design, the flat robot was built to stop others cold by sliding underneath them. In addition, its speed and ability to turn and spin quickly would allow it to stay out of harm’s way and use its corners to back at the opposition’s bodywork like a buzzsaw.

Although RoboBuzz lost its first match, the team chose to view the day as a learning experience and a good return on their two weeks of building work. “We were fared all right with what we had,” said Reim, head of the project group. “We didn’t get the right parts that we wanted, that needed to be on there, and the speed controllers were kind of cheap and were failing us. But at least we were able to get up on stage with all the things that were going wrong.”

Reim expressed confidence that the Robojackets will be able to turn in a better performance next year. “We pretty much had defensive driving and attack driving strategies; we never had any really sophisticated weaponry. I think we’ll come back with a heavier robot, a bigger robot, one that’s more powerful…We had no idea what this was going to be like when we came in. But now we know, and we can prepare for it next time.”

Geving echoed Reim’s sentiment with respect to BattleBots: “This is why competitions are so important. You learn what works and what doesn’t very quickly and never make the same mistake twice.”

He stated that most of the funds for the BattleBots project (roughly $2,500) came out of his pocket, but the $1,000 budget for Dragon “Con was covered by the Georgia Tech Student Foundation. He hopes to be able to stay involved with the jobs of securing sponsors and money for future ventures.

In addition to building combat-ready robots, the club keeps active outside the competitive realm. Promotions Chair Heather Heffner, an ME junior, described an ongoing project involving the design of a walking robot as a way for members to do robotics work for its own sake.

“People can get experience in building and programming, and they can work on design concepts without a hard and fast time frame hanging over them,” she said. “The group is a competitive robot club, but this is more for experience in building.”

Other projects currently under consideration include a “Robot in a Bag!” fundraiser—selling sets of parts with instructions for building a basic robot from them—and working with local high schools. “There are a lot of students who know a lot about robotics, and it would be nice to find them and get others without experience involved as well,” Heffner stated.

“This is where the club comes in,” Geving said. “Learn about robots by participating in competitions. Put tools in the hands of students early in their school careers to add value to their classroom experiences.” Projects such as BattleBots design, requiring time commitments longer than a single semester, are more compatible with a permanent student organization than a formal class, in his opinion.

Students interested in joining the Robojackets can visit the club’s Web site at robot.me.gatech.edu/~club.

But I told him that if he does become a priest, he could go to Las Vegas and be an Elvis priest. That would be cool.
New Internet company Best Book Buys™ (www.bestbookbuys.com), a leading On-line book shopping comparison site for college students and a service of Best Web Buys, announced Monday that the site has been recognized as a top “Textbooks Site” in SmartMoney Magazine’s 2000 Internet Guide. The editors of SmartMoney Magazine evaluated more than 2,000 sites in making their selections of the 52 leading sites in 31 categories.

“I’ve been reading lately that students don’t save much money from buying their textbooks On-line, but that just isn’t true,” said Steve Loyola, President of Best Book Buys. “We constantly receive feedback from students who use Best Book Buys to find books at much lower prices than their college bookstores.”

“I make online purchases pretty frequently and most often bought books at Amazon.com before I found Best Book Buys about a month ago,” said Jessica E. Smith, a junior at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. “Best Book Buys is a subsidiary of Best Web Buys and was founded in 1997 by Steve Loyola, a former Jet Propulsion Laboratory computer scientist. The company is located at 2400 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, California, 91001 and can be reached at 626.296.6260. The company is closely held. Business inquiries should be directed to Steve Loyola.

For example, three popular textbooks titled “General Chemistry”, “Microeconomics”, and “Business” have a combined list price of $273. A search at www.BestBookBuys.com finds these same books selling for $206 new and $140 used. This amounts to a savings of 24 percent (new) or 49 percent (used) off the list price.

Best Book Buys compares prices, shipping and availability of more than 3 million titles at dozens of online bookstores including Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Borders, BigWords, eCampus.com, VarsityBooks.com and Page One.

Best Book Buys is also the first online shopping comparison site to have a Buyback Search Service which allows students to search for the best prices to sell back their textbooks whether or not they bought the books online. Besides serving the college market, Best Book Buys also helps consumers find new, used, close-out and audio books. Best Book Buys is a subsidiary of Best Web Buys and was founded in 1997 by Steve Loyola, a former Jet Propulsion Laboratory computer scientist. The company is located at 2400 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, California, 91001 and can be reached at 626.296.6260. The company is closely held. Business inquiries should be directed to Steve Loyola.

Editors Note: Best Book Buys and Best Web Buys are trademarks of Best Web Buys. All other trade or brand names mentioned herein are the property of their respective owners.

The University System of Georgia and other universities throughout the nation face continuing litigation on this issue. We are willing to assume a leadership role if it will help resolve this issue.”

Stephen Portch
U[sic]GA System Chancellor

The University of Texas—Austin

(U:WIRE) University [sic] of Georgia officials pushed forward with their attempt to allow race-based admissions policies by announcing that they would appeal a ruling that disallowed such action at the university.

Following a July 24 decision by a U.S. district court judge, the U[sic]GA Board of Regents and President Michael Adams said Tuesday they supported the use of race as a factor in admissions and urged the Georgia Office of the Attorney General to appeal to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

A federal district judge ruled the university could not use race as a factor for admissions and said affirmative action wasn’t in the compelling interest of the state.

While the circuit court is considering the matter, the university has stopped using race as a factor for admission.

Previously, the university[sic] used factors such as race and an applicant’s high school and economic background in evaluating about 15 percent of those who were on the fringe of being admitted.

Adams said while the university [sic] will follow the race-free rules, it will be as aggressive as possible within the law in attracting people of all races and backgrounds.

“It is clear that the state of Georgia must do all it can to make the benefits of higher education available to the broadest possible segment of its population,” he said.

Adams added that with so many similar cases entering courts nationwide, there is a strong chance the case will draw national attention and should receive a definitive federal ruling.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1996 denied taking an affirmative action case with which the UT School of Law was involved. University of Texas School of Law professor Doug Laycock has said the Supreme Court will be more likely to look at a case such as Hopwood or Georgia as lawyers present more ideas in similar arguments.

Hopwood is the 1996 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that effectively ended affirmative action in Texas public colleges and universities as interpreted by former Attorney General Dan Morales.

The 11th circuit court’s ruling would affect Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

U[sic]GA System Chancellor Stephen Portch said using affirmative action in admissions is important for the educational community around the nation.

He also said that the university[sic] is willing to fight for the right to use admissions policies that are based on race.

“The University System of Georgia and other universities throughout the nation face continuing litigation on this issue,” Portch said. “We are willing to assume a leadership role if it will help resolve this issue.”

Even with the matter is pending in court, Adams said that the University[sic] of Georgia will continue to strive to increase minority enrollment by enhancing precollege programs that bring many minorities to the university.

In addition, the university[sic] will intensify efforts to fund scholarships that are worth more than just tuition and fees, so students will not be kept from attending the university because of outside costs.

“Jeez, I’m having a total crisis here! Maybe I’ll go swim in the fountain... again."
Lofts

“Lofts are potentially risky,” said Housing Director Stephen Morrison. “We’re stopping allowing people to build lofts.”

Morrison said that students often don’t leave a true climbing system. It’s not easy to leave the end of the bed open.

As Housing does not provide ladders for top bunks and lofts, arranging furniture at the ends of beds obstructs rungs and makes climbing dangerous.

“We want students to have the chance to think about how they want their beds,” Morrison said. “Rather than having beds lofted from the initial move-in, why not provide options? Students should be given a chance to think about how they want their beds.”

Although he acknowledged that lofting beds is usually the most space-efficient way of arranging a dorm room, students have other options.

Morrison mentioned summer conferences and semester turnover as reasons for why the lofting process is taking time to complete. “It’s not easy to get them up in a week and a half,” he said.

All beds used for youth conferences and renovations had been configured to rest on the ground for safety of younger students; therefore, many beds on campus are in low configurations.

“Give us this week, and we’ll come around and put them together correctly.”

Students wishing to have the configuration of their beds altered should contact a Housing staff member, such as a PL, PA, or CA, so that a trained Housing representative can properly assemble the furniture in a safe and correct manner.
You’re as plush as a sofa and almost as sparkly.

Among his other favorite activities, according to students and Peer Leaders on his Towers floor, were adding to a list of “Joe Quotes” — creative and fun phrases coined by those on the hall — and playing PlayStation football with other students in his section.

Morse’s parents and friends believed that Morse would be returning to Tech for the Summer Semester; he told friends that he had arranged a co-op job with Caterpillar starting in the fall. He had not registered for Summer housing, Towers housing staff discovered the day of his disappearance. Morse’s whereabouts were unknown from 8:30 a.m. until 10:58 a.m., when footage from an ATM camera at Lenox Mall watched Morse withdraw the remaining $120 from his bank account. Joe Morse has not been seen since the morning of May 6. At that time, he was wearing a plaid shirt. Morse is further described as 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 130 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes.

Dean Gail DiSabatino has been in contact with Morse’s parents since they reported that their son did not return home as planned. Tech administrators share concern with his parents and friends and have been instrumental in facilitating the ongoing investigation, along with the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) and housing staff.

Morse’s parents encourage any student that may have seen or heard anything regarding their son’s disappearance to contact someone with that information, such as Dean of Students Gail DiSabatino, Father Mario of the Catholic Center, or Detective Lenford Forbes of the GTPD. “If they can think of anything they saw or heard that we can follow up on… that might point us in his direction,” said Debbie Morse, Joe’s mother.

Mrs. Morse feels that her son may have felt stressed or pressured to maintain Dean’s List grades, and said “that’s important, but it’s not the most important thing.” She hopes students will find “somebody that they can confide in.” “It’s important that this doesn’t happen to anybody else,” she said.

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After about ten pages I run out of interesting things to say. I think that’s happened.
Student Publications
Student Services Building, Room 137

North Avenue Review
HTTP://CYBERBUZZ.GATECH.EDU/NAR

Essays
Poetry
Art
Conspiracy theories
Rants on life in general

Cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/erato
dspubera@prism

BluePrint
"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

T-Book
Written for students by students.
HTTP://CYBERBUZZ.GATECH.EDU/TBOOK

TECHNIQUE
HTTP://CYBERBUZZ.GATECH.EDU/TNCH
Tiger-striped home of LSU students upsets neighbors

Neighbors go up in arms over students’ purple and gold house, complaining about property values, college-aged neighbors, and a wild paint job. The students’ parents are Louisiana State alumni and football fans.

By Marlene Naanes

Louisiana State University

(U-WIRE) Some Louisiana State University fans say they bleed purple and gold, but if your mother was a Golden Girl and your father was a football player, purple and gold might not only be the color of your blood — it might also be the color of your house.

And when Baker Brooks suggested the family paint its house the colors representing the University so many members of his family attended, his mother and former LSU Golden Girl thought it would be a positive sign of support, she said.

“I thought LSU fans would really like it, but it sounded really off the wall,” said Richardson, now a physical education teacher.

However, she said she rationalized the new look for her house saying if people buy purple-and-gold cars and decorate the inside of their houses with LSU paraphernalia, painting a house the school colors is not too much different, she said.

Her son’s love for the school also pushed her to consider painting the house before, “I almost wish I didn’t have to leave,” he said. “I love going to the football games, even though you end up either sun burnt, rained on or cold.”

After some consideration, Richardson OK’d the paint job because she thought it would be a positive sign of support for the University and a fun place for her three children attending the University to live, she said.

So, the Brooks brothers and some friends painted the house at 1612 Rosemont Drive, and now it stands with four bright yellow walls, three covered in thick, curly purple stripes. The loud paint job only took the LSU fans four hours and was a bonding experience for the students, Richardson said.

The “Tiger House” now stands as a symbol of the family’s legacy at LSU, Baker Brooks said. “It got me in the school spirit,” he said. “All my friends love it.”

However, the students’ neighbors do not share the family’s love of the eccentric decor.

Many neighbors think that the family of LSU Tigers attacked the neighborhood with the boldly painted house in response to a failed petition that asked neighbors’ permission to add on to Richardson’s house.

When Richardson and her husband Danny bought the house, they hoped to add on to it so their three college-aged children could move in with them, Bonnie Richardson said. Baker Brooks asked permission to paint the house before the petition was turned down by the Metro Board of Adjustment, an agency that determines whether construction in a regulated subdivision is feasible, Bonnie Richardson said.

Neighbors who opposed the expansion of the Richardson house and saw the purple-and-gold paint go on the house after the board’s decision believed that the Richardsons were trying to get back at the neighborhood, said Joe Sampere, a resident of the neighborhood for 33 years.

“If their intentions were to be fans, they would have painted the house before,” he said.

Sampere catered to LSU students as owner of a hotdog stand and real estate agent and said he supports LSU in winning and losing seasons, but thinks that the family’s decision to paint the house was ignorant.

“All of them claim to be educated at LSU,” Sampere said. “If that’s what they teach them in school, I don’t want to go to LSU.”

Sampere and other neighbors said the traffic down the block has increased since the Richardsons painted their house.

The other residents of the neighborhood also are concerned with their property values going down because of the house’s appearance. Loud tailgating parties during football season at Sampere’s biggest concern because after the board turned down the Richardsons’ plans, they decided to stay in their previous house with their youngest child and have their college-aged children live in the “Tiger House” alone.

“When they get on that juice (alcohol), they do things that they will probably be sorry for,” Sampere said.

However, alcohol has never been served in her house, Bonnie Richardson said. Neighbors never approached the Richardsons or their children about the house, but the police have been called out when a number of cars are in the driveway, Bonnie Richardson said.

The calls were unfounded because her sons were only having friends stop by their house as a meeting point to go somewhere else, she said.

“They are good students and they are very patriotic to their school,” she said. Even though there is some friction in the neighborhood because of the “Tiger House,” neighbors might consider a compromise about the Richardsons’ remodeling plans if they talk to the neighborhoods, Sampere said.

“As for the paint, I guess in time, we will get used to it,” said Josie Sampere, Joe Sampere’s wife.

The Richardsons and their children do not see their house harming the neighborhood and want neighbors to understand it was done in the name of school spirit, Bonnie Richardson said.

“It won’t hurt the neighborhood because it’s only paint and we haven’t broken any rules,” she said. “We’ve got LSU kids living here and they come from an LSU family.”

“Tiger House” neighbor

Joe Sampere

Maybe a winter one, then, I suppose.
Tech Toy assembly and instructions

By Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor

How to assemble your Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets Fortune Teller

1. Cut out the nifty, pre-printed Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket fortune teller square from page 21.

[Editor’s Note: Any engineer's method of cutting, such as scissors, an Exacto knife, any Swiss Army knife implement, fire, or otherwise chemically separating the square from the surrounding paper is acceptable.]

2. With the side printed with the toy facing down, fold a crease by matching two corners together. Unfold this crease and continue to look at the back side. Then, fold a perpendicular crease by matching the opposite corners. Unfold your paper square. You will now have a square piece of paper with diagonal creases running from corner to corner.

3. Fold each corner to the center of the paper and turn it over. The side printed with the fortunes is now facing up.

4. Fold the new corners to the center. Do not turn over. The numbers are now facing you.

5. Fold the square in half from edge to edge (not from corner to corner!) in both directions. This fold theoretically divides the square into quarters. Unfold these creases.

6. Turn square over and put thumbs and forefingers under each flap and bring fingers together toward middle, just like you did in grade school!

How to play the Yellow Jacket fortune teller game

1. Hold the fortune teller and tell a Tech student to choose one of the words shown. Choices are: “Georgia,” “Tech,” “Yellow,” and “Jackets.”

2. Spell out the chosen word by opening and closing the fortune teller, and stop when the word is finished. For example, open and close the fortune teller four times for the word “Tech.”

3. Have your Tech student choose one of the numbers that is shown. Count out that number by opening and closing the fortune teller, and stop when the number is counted.

4. Have your Tech student choose another number, and repeat step 3. You can repeat step 3 indefinitely, but 2 repetitions has been found to be an optimal number, maximizing enjoyment and fun while minimizing how annoying you are to your friends.

5. Let the Tech student choose one last number. Then, surprise him or her by simply opening the flap beneath that number and revealing a personalized Tech fortune.
Government Presidents Doug Britton and David White.

The Graduate Student debated a resolution by Piepmeier two years ago that called for the administration to look into health care provisions for Graduate Research Assistants and Graduate Teaching Assistants. The unanimously passed resolution is part of the basis for the change that has now occurred.

One of the primary goals of those who advocated the new plan was to make Tech more attractive to incoming grads. A Strategic Plan for the Georgia Institute of Technology, a plan detailing the mission, strategic context, and goals for the future success of Tech, includes as an objective to "attract the best graduate students- a crucial lifeline for future research excellence."

In 1996, an implementation committee compiled a working document which detailed objectives to achieve this goal. Although the document stated that "by Fall of 1998, the Provost and Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance will work with the Board of Regents to develop a fringe benefits program for graduate assistants," no such program existed until two years after its set date of implementation.

For more information on graduate student health care, students can look for a brochure that will be available soon. Information can also be found at http://www.pearceandpearce.com/gatech/gatech.html.

The tunnel’s depth will ultimately reach below the water table. Construction crews will be using compressed air to ensure the safety and structural integrity of buildings above.

In addition, the depth of the tunnel built under Bobby Dodd Way, Techwood Drive, and North Avenue at thirty feet underground will pose safety concerns.

Another chief concern for Dodler is the safety of students walking and living around the construction area.

The only bidder for the Orme Street project, Bradshaw Construction Corporation was awarded the sewer repair contract by Bill Campbell, the mayor of Atlanta.

The contract received by Bradshaw for $22.95 million was awarded on May 23 of this year.

The sewer renovation is a city of Atlanta project with the Institute acting as a liaison between the construction crews and the city.

Tech will continue to monitor the project to ensure the impact to campus is minimal and Tech interests are continually considered.
Metallic mayhem reigns supreme at Robot Battles 2000

Imagine, if you will, a cross between a gladiator fight and a sumo wrestling match. Two well-armed fighters edge toward each other, then lunge in for the attack as a capacity crowd shouts for blood. They change again and again, and after one goes down for the count, the corner men whisper their toolboxes to get ready for the next onslaught.

You now have an idea of what went on at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta during the Robot Battles competition, part of Dragon*Con 2000. Builders and spectators took over one of the hotel’s ballrooms on July 2, the last day of the annual science fiction/fantasy convention, to put forth their best efforts at turning perfectly good mechanical creations into disfigured wrecks.

Creator Kelly Lockhart took the idea for the contest from Critter Crunch, a similar event held at the annual MileHiCon sci-fi gathering in Denver. Only three teams entered the first Robot Battles in 1991, but the field has steadily grown since then; some 20 robots faced off at the Hyatt last month.

The concept is simple. Teams build and arm robots in one of three weight divisions—lightweight (1-10 pounds), middleweight (10-25 pounds), or heavyweight (25-50 pounds)—and pit them against each other in head-to-head combat. A robot wins the round if it either stops its opponent cold or pushes it out of bounds. The first team to win two rounds advances. If the robots both become immobile or go out of bounds together, the round is a draw; they both drop out.

Geisting at the teams that were setting up all over the ballroom, Lockhart said, “They do it because it’s their hobby and just for enjoyment. Every person here, at the drop of a hat, will help out another team, lend them tools or whatever if they need it.” Builders were indeed tossing around ideas and tools as they got ready to lock horns.

“Every person here…will help out another team, lend them tools or whatever if they need it.”
Kelly Lockhart
Robot Battles Creator

Over the years, the structure of the competition has gradually changed, but one item that has remained constant is the “Frankenstein Rule.” The rule states, “If a vehicle proves sufficiently offensive to the audience, the audience may, at their discretion, take pitchforks in hand and throw the robot and its operator in the nearest creek or large body of water.”

It was almost invoked last year against Stringray, an entry Lockhart described as “built from a kiddie pool, hot pink, turned upside down, and it was absolutely, undeniably hideous!” However, the robot and its creator, Simon Arthur of Dotaville, stayed on dry land, and Arthur entered a redesigned Stringray as a heavyweight for this year.

Packing a ramming spike, a lifting arm, and two secondary spikes, Stringray II came ready to throw down. “I tried to incrementally improve the design, but ended up having to redo the whole thing,” Arthur explained before the fights began.

Meanwhile, Terry Talton, from Dallas, Ga., was doing some final leak tests on his own heavyweight robot, Tin Lizzie Borden, to make sure its gas-operated hatchet could cut the mustard. He proudly showed off a 16-gauge steel plate that was full of holes from an earlier dry run, then proceeded to chop through the cover and 200 pages of a hardback book—half an inch of paper and a slab of cardboard—while a suitably impressed crowd watched.

Before Talton’s entry could perform open robot surgery, though, the rest of the field had to be dealt with. Lightweight division robots ranged from the devious (Blood Clot, a double wedge painted bright red) to the bizarre (Nenesis Enforcer, a radio-controlled car armed with a can of Silly String™) and the absurd (Mini-Me, a little car with a big screw protruding from its top). These robots were built for speed, which backfired on a few of them when they failed to stop at the ring’s edge and plummeted to the ballroom floor.

There is no method, scientific or otherwise, by which cheap pizza can be turned into filet mignon. Accept it and chow down.
RoboJackets, Georgia Tech’s robotics club, made their debut in the middleweight division with a low-profile, Christopher Robin: Robobuzz. Built close to the ground in a four-sided wedge design, the robot was designed to sweep in and knock opponents off balance, then quickly get itself out of harm’s way.

The combination of equipment breakdowns and women’s undergarments would do Robobuzz in, however. Up against Stealth Wedgie, a single large wedge with a pile of panties dumped on top, it fought to a draw in one bout and was pushed out in two others.

Even though the Robojackets were knocked out in their first match, they still saw the day as a victory of sorts. After the competition, team captain Kevin Reim said, “Considering all the bad luck and the mishaps we’ve been having, I think we did pretty well... We didn’t get the right parts that we wanted, that needed to be on there, and the speed controllers were kind of cheap and were failing anyway. But at least we were able to get up on stage with all the things that were going wrong.”

Things went wrong for several other teams in the division as well. With circular saw blades for back wheels and a body built from an old ammunition box, Max Legroom seemed to be spoiling for a fight—but it did more damage to the arena floor than to its opponent. The saw blades tore into the carpet as the robot nimbly maneuvered out of harm’s way; after they both came off almost at once, though, the bout was over in seconds.

Then there was the menacing Evil Cubed Y2K, a contraption that looked like a deranged combine harvester, against the broad wedge design and dirty laundry of Panty Bot. The combatants won a round apiece in spite of the panties that got caught up in their machinery and turned the stage into an unholy mess. In the end, Evil Cubed had to forfeit when it could not be repaired. Panty Bot, driven by Jim Craig from northeastern Atlanta, would later claim victory in the Battle Royal. In this event, all functioning robots were turned loose on each other at once, and the last one left standing was declared the winner. His nephew Brian took home top honors in the middleweight division as the operator of Stealth Wedgie.

Jim took credit for introducing underwear as offensive weaponry in the years following his 1991 RoboBattles debut. He said, “About two or three years later, I built a serious robot and made catapults for it out of some rat traps to throw bras and panties at opponents. No real power, not very good batter-ies—but the bigger robots would get caught up in all the panties and they couldn’t move.” The tactic paid off this year, even if the arena did end up looking as if a hand grenade had exploded in one of the Hyatt’s laundry carts.

The heavyweight fights were all about one thing: doing a lot of damage in the shortest possible time—and Tin Lizzie Borden handled most of that. Locking up with Stingray II in the division’s first face-off, Lizzie did an admirable job of ventilating its opponent’s bodywork (and battery) before shutting it out of the ring twice to advance to the finals.

Across the ring in the day’s last head-to-head match was Heap, a big, flat, black monster with a circular saw mounted in front. Cameramen and reporters were cleared out of the area behind the stage for their own protection as the two combatants came out fighting.

When their cutting weapons failed, there was nothing for them to do but slug it out at point-blank range. Smoke began to rise from the stage and the carpet blackened as Lizzie gradually pushed Heap over the edge to win the first round.

After the robot was hauled up (and its innards had been collected from the floor), the saw gave way to a drill bit and the second round began. Lizzie wanted no time backing Heap into a corner and chopping away, then powering it out of the arena to win the division title. "Robot Battles ended without any press representatives being mangled (although one nearly ended up stopping a robot with his face), and no one’s pride was wrecked either. What the crowd saw was a man with a strange sense of humor, in an equally strange suit, presiding over a day of fights that had people cheering as if the world heavyweight boxing championship was on the line. Not bad for a day’s work.”

Blood Clot’s agility came as no surprise, but its builders, Jason Brown and Kenny McKenzie from Chattanooga, had also packed quite a wallop under the hood. The little, a single large wedge with a pile of panties dumped on top, it fought to a draw in one bout and was pushed out in two others.

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Blood Clot (left) shakes hands with Nitty Gritty in the lightweight fights.
N.C. State chancellor, president help students move into dorms

By Andrew Buchert
North Carolina State University

(U-WIRE) The more than 6,000 North Carolina State students and parents who fought the heat to move into campus residence halls over the weekend were not the only ones lifting, sweating and replacing lost fluids when NCSU Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and Provost Kermit Hall assisted the Central and West campus move-in efforts Saturday morning.

“We are out here to assist the students with moving in, getting settled and getting started,” Fox said, “and also because this is a great opportunity (for the administration) to interact with students and parents.”

As Fox and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Tom Stafford made their way from the Tri-Towers of Central Campus to Sullivan and Lee residence halls on West Campus, they also used the opportunity to promote the $3.1 billion building bond referendum for the UNC system and community colleges on the upcoming November ballot.

According to Fox, approximately $468 million of the bond package could be available to NCSU for the renovation and expansion of campus facilities.

“We want people to recognize that these bonds are very significant for our future,” she said.

Hall and 25 representatives from his office were on hand at Lee Hall for most of the Saturday morning move-in effort. Hall and his staff assisted the Lee residents and their parents and promoted the new University Honors Program sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

“Lee is the home for the new Honors Program,” Hall said, “and so we are out here today literally hauling boxes, suitcases, stereos and whatever else (the residents) may need.”

The Honors Program is an intensive two-year program open to incoming freshmen that emphasizes small group work, research, greater student-faculty interaction and greater academic depth.

“This year, we have 116 students in the Honors Program,” Hall said, “and we hope that number will double each year.”

Fox and Hall also attributed their presence on Saturday to emphasizing the unity of the entire NCSU community, including the faculty and administration.

“We want students to recognize that we are a community and that university life is not as much of an adjustment as they think,” Fox said.

“One of our main goals is for all students to graduate on time,” Hall said, “and if we show that we are concerned about helping students move in, then we show that we are also concerned about their academic success.”
There is no method, scientific or otherwise, by which cheap pizza can be turned into filet mignon. Accept it and chow down.

Tech Toys: Your own Yellow Jacket Fortune Teller

Instructions for assembly and play on page 19

By Jennifer Hinkel

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS