

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

TECHNIQUE

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Volleyball looks to extend its winning streak against Virginia Tech.

For some, war isn't so far away. Many students and alumni serve in the military.

SPORTS page 34

FOCUS page 11



Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

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Tech to oust Barbell Club

Students organize in protest of decision

By Haining Yu
Assistant News Editor

At a meeting two weeks ago, Tech administrators informed representatives of the Barbell Club that they were to lose their gym. Located in the basement of O'Keefe Gym, the Barbell Club space is to be renovated into new locker room facilities for the women's volleyball team, which currently play in the space adjacent to the Barbell Club facilities.

According to Robert Thompson, Tech's senior vice president for administration and finance, who called the meeting, the removal of the club was necessary for compliance with Title IX regulations.

In the past, the volleyball team utilized locker rooms in Alexander Memorial Coliseum, but according to a Title IX compliance report prepared this spring by an outside consultant, the volleyball team needs to have locker facilities located in the

same building in which they compete.

The report, prepared by Gender Equity and Sports Management consultants Lamar Daniel, Inc., marks the halfway point in the NCAA's 10-year certification cycle. Required by the NCAA to be performed in the five-year interim between certification, the report is a self study designed to help the school identify trouble spots in academic integrity, fiscal integrity, governance, commitment to rules compliance and commitment to equity. Failure by a school to properly address concerns brought up in a five-year interim report can be punished by ineligibility for NCAA championships and eventually removal from active membership in the association.

According to representatives of the club, the decision to evict the Barbell Club was made without any input from officers and members, and with no prior official notice.

While the eviction notice was given without a specific deadline, administrators are firm in the finality of their decision. According to Thompson, no replacement facilities were offered to the club due to the lack of available space on campus.

Instead, club members were invited to move their workouts to the new fitness center at the CRC. Representatives of the CRC present at the meeting offered to give club representatives a personal tour of their facilities, and to discuss changes or additions that could be made to better assist the club's transition to the CRC.

According to Director Michael Edwards, the CRC is open to input from the club on its needs, and is open to making adjustments, including purchasing more equipment and possibly

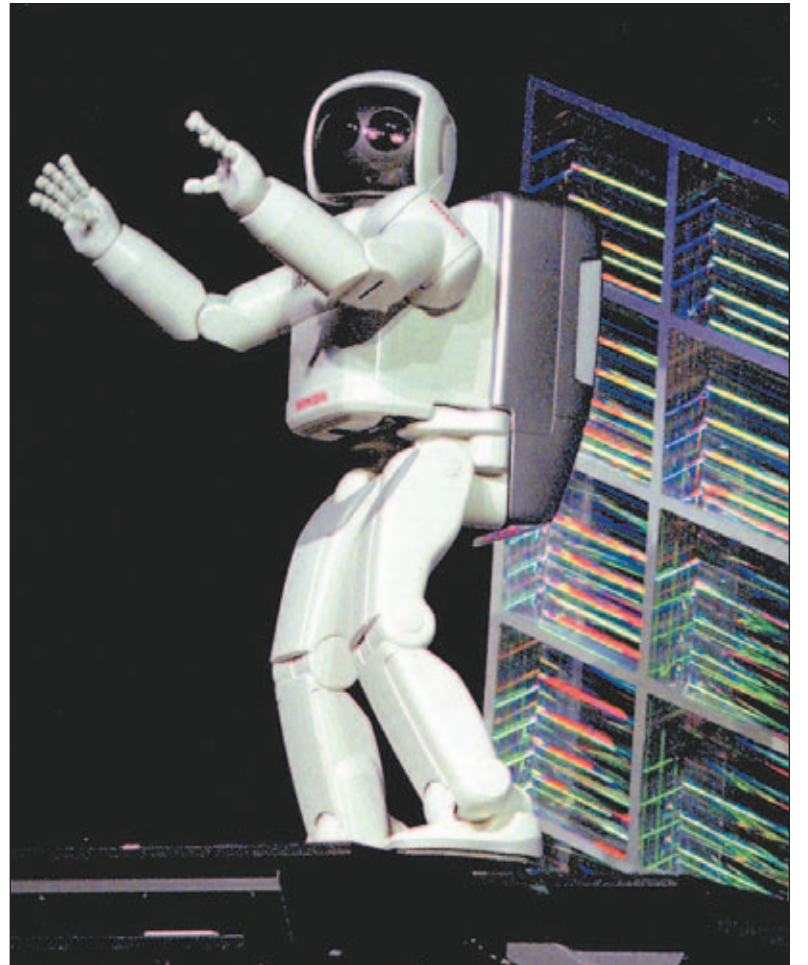


Barbell Club members met last Thursday night to discuss a proposal put forward by administrators that would remove them from their current facilities. The Barbell Club uses weight-lifting rooms located in the basement of the O'Keefe building.

By Jamie Howell /
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

See Barbell, page 7

Humanoid robot ASIMO performs for campus as part of nationwide tour



By Andrew Saulters / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

ASIMO celebrates after climbing a set of stairs at the Ferst Center.

By Inn Inn Chen
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 23-25, Tech hosted Honda's "Say Hello to ASIMO" educational tour, featuring the world's most advanced humanoid robot.

ASIMO, or Advanced Step in Innovative MObility, showed off its skills, which included walking up and down steps and hula dancing in the Ferst Center for performing arts. There were several demonstrations, including some for local schools from around Atlanta and others for Tech students and faculty.

The whole event afforded an opportunity for Tech publicity and public outreach.

Stephen Keeny, ASIMO Project Leader from Honda of America, said he "considers Tech a leader in science and technology education," and cited that as the main reason for Honda choosing Tech as a venue for its tour. "Everyone here seems so interested in science," he said.

Vanessa Larco, a first-year Computer Science major, said the event "shows off how prestigious we are."

The event brought in many students from the Atlanta area, almost 1,400 on Thursday and Friday, who not only got to see ASIMO, but also a glimpse into the Tech community, and in particular, the College of Computing.

See ASIMO, page 5

GTCOW to feature trivia, debates

Georgia Tech Coming Out Week takes place next week, Oct. 4-8.

Events include Monday's kickoff fair on the Skiles Walkway from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also featured Monday is Sex for Ramblin' Wrecks trivia in the Music Listening Room from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. A gay marriage debate will take place at the Campanile Tuesday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to noon, and an alumni panel will provide advice to current students. The week closes out Thursday with a coming out workshop from 11 a.m. to noon and the intercollegiate Big Gay Out party from 8 p.m. to midnight at Under the Couch.

Facing tight budget, SGA offers alternatives

By Nikhil Joshi
Contributing Writer

Amy Phuong, undergraduate student body president, presented and distributed the Georgia Tech Fundraising Guide Book to student organization leaders Sept. 6 at the President's Summit.

"There are a lot of student organizations that don't know where to go for funds, and this is one place they can go to," Phuong said. "The strategies in this guide are directed mainly to organizations that need to fundraise on a small scale."

The 10-page guide, written by Phuong with the help of undergradu-

ate treasurer Ambika Bumb, contains general fundraising strategies and advice, information about poten-

tial on-campus sponsors and a brief section explaining corporate sponsorship. Most of the ideas, Phuong said, came from her past leadership roles and research.

"SGA's goal is to help all students on campus," Bumb said. "As part of this goal, we make an effort to inform

organizations on how to finance efficiently."

The majority of the guide consists of information about organizations such as the Residence Hall Association (RHA), the Student Life Fund and the Alumni Association, preceded by an explanation of SGA's four accounts and bill procedures.

"The goal is to maximize resources on campus," Phuong said.

"SGA has a limited amount of funds which can be allocated...this year."

David Andersen
JFC chair

"There are large organizations on campus like RHA that provide a great deal of funding."

According to JFC chair David Andersen, SGA's limited budget affects many small student organizations. "SGA has a limited amount of funds which can be allocated towards smaller campus organizations this year, since a large chunk of our money has gone towards... the new Campus Recreation Center," he said.

Andersen said that the guide will present organization leaders with more options.

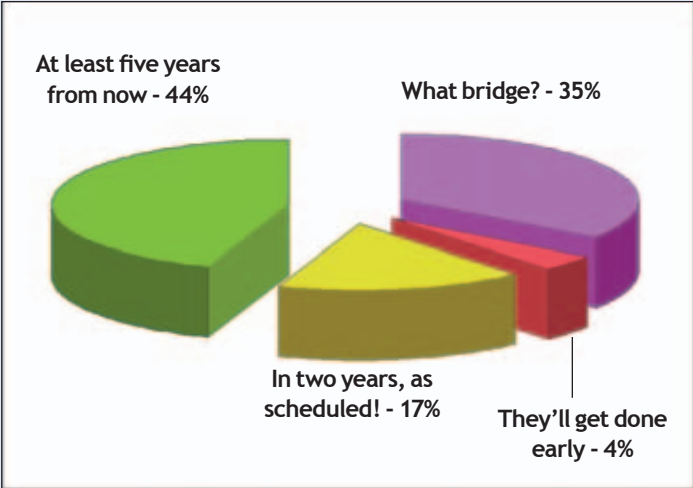
"A major focus of ours this year

See Money, page 5

TechniqueOnline Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 101 responses.

When will the Fifth St. bridge expansion be done?



By Lauren Griffin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:

What is a fair solution to the Barbell Club situation?
Tell us at www.nique.net



Agency assist
9/25/2004 2:40:00 hrs.
Location: 610 Spring Street
Incident: Offender arrested on outstanding warrant.

Theft
9/23/2004 13:42:00 hrs.
Location: Groseclose building
Incident: Report that a room was entered and a laptop was stolen.

9/24/2004 9:44:00 hrs.
Location: Student Center
Incident: Report of a stolen backpack.

From the files of the GTPD...
Crime Reports

Theft (continued)
9/24/2004 11:46:00 hrs.
Location: CRC
Incident: Report of stolen money and merchandise.

9/24/2004 12:39:00 hrs.
Location: CRC
Incident: Report of a stolen BuzzCard.

9/24/2004 13:23:00 hrs.
Location: Facilities
Incident: Report of a stolen Sony Digital Camera.
9/24/2004 16:35:00 hrs.
Location: Skiles building
Incident: Report of a stolen bicycle.

9/27/2004 14:25:00 hrs.
Location: 939 Hemphill Avenue
Incident: Report of a stolen flower pot.

Controlled substances
9/25/2004 0:40:00 hrs.
Location: Bunger Henry
Incident: Underage students in possession of alcohol.

9/25/2004 3:39:00 hrs.
Location: Folk Parking Lot
Incident: Underage students in possession of alcohol.

Traffic accident
9/24/2004 2:45:00 hrs.
Location: Marietta Street/Bankhead Avenue/Means Street
Incident: Report of a two-vehicle accident (injuries reported).

9/26/2004 0:42:00 hrs.
Location: EE Architecture parking lot
Incident: Report of a two-vehicle accident (no injuries reported).

Corrections

- Last week the article entitled "Hurricanes' impact felt on campus and at home" incorrectly stated the name of the hurricane that affected Matthew Widlansky's home. It was Hurricane Frances, not Hurricane Charley.

The *Technique* welcomes your comments, suggestions and story ideas, as well as information about errors that call for correction. Messages may be emailed to nique@gatech.edu. Letters to the editor may be directed to the same address, or to opinions@technique.gatech.edu.

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Clough addresses undergraduates about state budget cut

By Stephen Baehl
News Editor

Institute President Wayne Clough spoke to the Undergraduate House of Representatives Tuesday about recent state budget cuts and their effects on Tech, including a possible midyear tuition hike.

He said the cuts would amount to roughly \$8 million for Tech. "We've taken bigger budget cuts than this before," Clough said. "So what's the problem?"

"It's the timing," he said.

Clough told the representatives that these cuts came at a time after Tech had set its budget for the year. "How do you get rid of \$8 million out of your system?" Clough asked.

"Nobody wants a midyear tuition hike, just like we don't want a mid-year budget cut...it's unexpected,"

he added.

However, Clough said, the issue at hand was the importance placed on maintaining educational quality. "If we're going to maintain quality and serve your needs in the future," he said, "then something has to change. And that's the bottom line."

Andrew Harris, Institute director of government relations, said students could still play a role in helping the situation.

"With your help...there's a good possibility that the governor would take some of the cut," he said. However, Harris said it would be highly unlikely for the entire cut to be removed.

"People pay attention when you speak, and I think you speak through this petition," Harris said,

See UHR, page 6



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Institute President Wayne Clough speaks to the Undergraduate House of Representatives at its meeting Tuesday. Clough said state budget cuts to the University System came at a bad time.

Graduates swear in new senators, elect secretary

By Stephen Baehl
News Editor

For the first time this year, the Graduate Student Senate meeting was host to a relatively full house of senators thanks to last week's elections.

The new senators were sworn in and introduced to the process, resulting in a slow start to the meeting.

President Kasi David introduced sign-up sheets for students to sign onto the statewide petition speaking out against midyear budget cuts to the University System of Georgia, which could lead to a midyear tuition increase.

"By now I think you've all heard about the proposed tuition increase," David said. He urged all senators to take a sheet back to their respective departments for signatures.

The meeting then moved on to more administrative business as the floor opened for nominations to fill the positions of treasurer and secretary.

Mitchel Keller was the sole nomination for secretary. He accepted, and was elected without discussion.

The role of treasurer proved more difficult to fill.

At the initial lack of volunteers, Vice President Lisa Brown added that the treasurer would receive a stipend. "You get a stipend of \$543 for the year...so after taxes, you can buy a book," she said.

Still, no volunteers stepped forward. The meeting moved on, leaving an election of treasurer for next week's meeting.

The graduates first considered a bill requesting a joint allocation of about \$29,000 to the Rowing Club. The club requested two new boats, eight oars and two amplification systems. Club president Erin Donohoe said the team needed the additional boats to aid in both practices and competitions. The club competes nationally and has approximately 100 members.

See GSS, page 4

Bills considered by both houses of the Student Government Association

Undergraduate House of Representatives

Title	Author	Status
Joint allocation to Students of Objectivism	Chris Rankine	Tabled
Allocation to Society of Women Engineers	Stephanie Bent	Passed
Special rule of order	Hunter Oates	Passed
Joint allocation to Rowing Club	Stephanie Bent	Passed
Resolution expressing condolences	Amy Phuong	Passed
Joint allocation to TEAM Buzz community service day	Richard Wright	Tabled
Joint allocation to Chinese Students	Joseph Sanchez	Passed
Appointments to Institute Committees	Amy Phuong	Passed
Joint resolution on state budget reduction	Amy Phuong	Passed
Appointments of council representatives	Amy Phuong	Passed

Graduate Student Senate

Joint allocation to Students of Objectivism	Ed Greco	Tabled
Joint allocation to Rowing Club	Ed Greco	Passed
Joint allocation to TEAM Buzz community service day	Teag Haughan	Passed (\$0)
Joint allocation to Chinese Students	Ed Greco	Passed
Joint resolution on state budget reduction	Kasi David	Tabled

SLIVER

www.nique.net/sliver

Mice are people, too.
I'm just consenting to do things that you politely asked me to do.
Nobody has conversations with me quite like I do.
Gaylab ran off with scheme to Las Vegas to let real languages do the work.
you know you need a new meal plan when... 9/10 meals are cereal.
...you take food out to feed a stray cat
... you would rather not eat, than eat at brittain
Thissliverboxain't big enough for the two of us, King of No Pants! -Cap'n Jeff
...you are 5 weeks into your freshman year and still eating at brittain
...your friends chose dorms on west campus strictly for food

See page 4 for more
Slivers!

Graduates elect new senators

By Michael Handelman
Contributing Writer

Graduate students elected a new slate of senators into office last week. However, this year's contest was not without some glitches.

Immediately following the transmission of an email encouraging graduate students to vote on the **elections.gatech.edu** web site, the server malfunctioned.

Graduate student government officials opted to amend the date of the elections to add extra time for students to vote, given the duration of the downtime.

"The system came back up on Tuesday morning, so we extended elections...Tuesday morning until Thursday midnight," said Kasi David, graduate student president.

After the server was restored, graduate students were notified of the technical difficulties with the

elections.gatech.edu server.

"[We] sent an email to graduate students explaining the problem and postponing elections by one day," said Pelham Norville, internal development chair.

After viewing the ballot on the repaired server, some graduate students may have seen some unfamiliar names on their screens due to the major listing of some.

"There was one student who was incorrectly entered into the wrong school, but she never checked during elections to verify that her name was on the ballot for her school," Norville said.

While the votes cast for this senator were nullified, the aspiring senator was ultimately appointed to a vacant position.

Although overall voter turnout percentages were not available at press time, the vote totals of some senators never broke out of the

single-digits.

Among newly elected senators, Marcus Williamson (Architecture) was elected with only two votes. Priyanka Rohatgi (Chemistry) was the highest vote-getter with 36 total votes. Among all winning elected senators, the average vote count was fifteen.

Mechanical Engineering Senator Maria-Isabel Carnasciali, who received 14 votes, was dissatisfied with the turnout.

"The voter turnout was terrible...I knew it wouldn't be very high, but it was lower than I expected," she said.

She cited the temporarily unavailable elections server as one possible cause for the low turnout rate, saying "grad students aren't going to remember to go back to the website at a later time and see if the website

See **Vote**, page 6

GSS from page 3

"From speaking to the organization, we got the impression that they only needed one boat for the competitions, because they can also rent boats," said David Andersen, Joint Finance Committee chair. JFC recommended the bill be cut in half, to fund one boat, four oars, and one amp system. The measure was amended per JFC recommendation and passed.

An unusual bill then came before the senate; Katie Graybeal of TEAM Buzz spoke about the bill requesting a \$1,268 allocation to the club. Graybeal said the money was being requested as a result of a miscommunication with SGA about the ability to rollover unused funds SGA allocated to it last year.

Graybeal said the organization had been told it could receive rollover funds left over from its allocations last year. However, come August, she was informed that the club was not given rollover funding. The requested

money was to offset purchases made based on a budget that included those funds.

"This was an interesting bill that came forward," Andersen said. "I don't know what happened in the communications...but we do not permit the rollover of Tier 3 funds." TEAM Buzz is a Tier 3 organization. "I was not there," Andersen said. "I've just heard both sides of the story."

Andersen said JFC policy dictated that he must recommend the bill not be funded, as it was both retroactive and requesting reimbursement for funds spent on the purchase of gifts and promotional items.

JFC policy does not permit funding gifts or retroactive expenditures.

"I feel terrible for the organization that they're going to have to come up with this \$1,268," said senator Pelham Norville. However, he said JFC policy and the retroactive nature of the bill could not permit its passage. The bill was amended to \$0, as per JFC, and passed.

SLIVER www.nique.net/sliver

If you want some insight into your classes, look them up in Proverbs. e.g. CS 2335 == Proverbs 23:35, CS 2130 == Proverbs 21:30, CS 1321 == Proverbs 13:21, ECE 20:30 == Proverbs 20:30, etc.

Hey look, the letter finally came.

www.extralifeforkids.com

Is it wrong to imagine knocking down one of the street lamps on Bobby Dodd road to use it like a skateboard?

Who was the idiot that quoted a cartoon last week, and how sad is it that I actually know that?

Co-oping sucks. You just sit in an office all day...

And listen to people tell you what to do...

Class is better because at least you can sleep through that!

And I still can't believe McDonalds is supporting U[sic]GA. Just heard the add again on the buzz

what does a PANDA use... inverted?

my cheek has left the building

I wish the world didn't have people, it would be perfect

Murder Mystery Dinner a let down compared to last year

have you heard about alpha omega epsilon? it's a professional engineering sorority

Interpol rocks my socks off

My CD was in the bathroom.

Well, what were YOU doing?

My mother was a zombie, my father was a zombie, and I'll soon be strong, young zombie man.

WEAR GOLD ON GAME-DAYS!

Most important lesson learned last week: If your prof tells you to do something, make sure it's alright with your TA

See page 13 for more
Slivers!

ASIMO from page 1

The admissions staff was present to answer questions from the students.

Aaron Bobick, director of the GVU (Graphics, Visualization, Usability) Center in the College of Computing, said, "I think we used it as an opportunity to reach out to the community in a way that is perhaps novel. I think it is something that we would like to do again."

The program was mostly designed by Honda. "They wanted it to be big," according to Maureen Biggers, assistant dean of students in the CoC.

The length of the program, however, was limited, as the nickel metal hydride battery in ASIMO only affords the robot a half hour of power.

It remains to be seen what ties Tech will have with Honda or ASIMO in the future.

Right now, ASIMO is in the midst of its 18-month national tour of educational institutions and facilities across the United States, which includes other well-known universities such as Stanford, Purdue and Ohio State.

ASIMO was designed by Honda engineers to use its mobility to operate in the real world.

The robot's movement mimics that of a human. Honda's goal is for the robot to help the elderly and handicapped who have dif-

ficulty with menial tasks around the house.

Thus, ASIMO is designed to be friendly, standing a mere four feet tall and weighing only 115 pounds. The possibility of seeing ASIMO in the home, however, is still at least 10 years down the line.

Honda is now working on more functions for ASIMO. They have completed elementary face and gesture recognition that ASIMO can use to take in visual commands.

Honda is also working on making ASIMO able to get up without aid when it falls.

Though still in development, and far from being marketable, ASIMO is a highly publicized technology, and many have seen what it can do on TV.

Even with ASIMO's known presence on television, the demonstration was still worth going to, according to

third-year Industrial Design major Justin Schwartzhoff. "There was a huge difference seeing it here versus on TV," he said.

The program showcased how friendly and helpful the robot could be around the house by helping those with difficulty getting around.

However, some may still have lingering doubts about using a mechanized assistant. William Hudson, a first-year Industrial Engineering major, said, "The idea of becoming responsible and reactive to a completely inanimate object is disturbing."

"I think we used it as an opportunity to reach out to the community in a way that is perhaps novel."

Aaron Bobick
Director, GVU in CoC



By Shelley Robinson / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Grand Opening: Michael Edwards, director of Campus Recreation, speaks about the newly completed Campus Recreation Center. The CRC hosted a grand opening celebration in its main lobby Wednesday afternoon to mark the completion of the SAC II construction project, which began in 2001.

Money from page 1

has been to emphasize the importance for campus organizations to look towards additional sources of funding...before coming to SGA to request money through a bill or budget," Andersen said. "The Organizational Funding Guide is an extension of this effort and serves as a great step forward for organizational finance, since its main purpose is

to assist organizations in finding funding outside of the limited SGA budget," Andersen added. Phuong began work on the guide last year with Ben Lawder, who at the time served as vice president of campus affairs. She said that "this is 'Phase I' of the process. We expect to lengthen the guide book."

Along with updating the guide, Phuong said that SGA would like to make it more accessible. SGA plans to coordinate with the President's Council, which has a similar guide

("Georgia Tech Student Organizations Manual") available from a link on the leadership.gatech.edu website, to "come up with a comprehensive list of what each department has in terms of resources."

"This will allow it [the guide book] to be instantly accessible to student organizations and their officers," Andersen said. "[S]ince we see this guide as a work in progress, placing it online means that students will only be a mouse click away from the most recent version."

Submit a Sliver!

www.nique.net/sliver



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Poetic License: British poet Dean Parkin recites a poem in the Clary Theater Tuesday, Sept. 28. Parkin, along with Naomi Jaffa and Neil Rollinson brought their art to students as part of the Ivan Allen College's Poetry at Tech series.

UHR

from page 3

referring to a petition SGA is distributing among the student body this week through Monday. Students can sign on to express their displeasure with state budget cuts.

Amy Phuong, undergraduate student body president, brought a stack of the petitions to the meetings for representatives to take and distribute as they could. "I want to see every sheet out of here, gone, signed fully, and back," she said.

Twenty-nine of Georgia's 34 colleges have agreed to participate in the petition drive, Phuong said.

The undergraduates then moved on to a lengthy list of bills up for consideration.

In order to help expedite the process, the first bill considered was a special rule of order proposed by Earth and Atmospheric Sciences representative Hunter

Oates. The rule limited speaking times for each bill up for consideration. The measure quickly passed with little discussion.

A set of tabled bills also aided in expediting the night's meeting.

One of the largest measures to be tabled was a request from TEAM Buzz for roughly \$1,200. Katie Graybeal, club representative, said the funds requested were to offset a cost absorbed by the club as a result of a miscommunication with SGA.

Graybeal said she had been under the impression from talking with SGA last year that funds the club did not use from last year's allocations could be rolled over to this year. As such, the team made some \$3,500 of credit card purchases under this assumption.

However, when Graybeal contacted SGA about this rollover this year, she was told it did not pass. TEAM Buzz was able to cancel most of its orders,

but remained unable to cancel \$1,200 worth.

After some discussion, representatives elected to table the bill in order to find out more about the cause and nature of the miscommunication.

In addition, a \$500 joint allocation to Students of Objectivism was tabled to allow the club time to get more information about its event, as details were lacking due to last minute changes beyond the club's control.

Other bills were considered as quickly as possible, often being amended per Joint Finance Committee recommendations.

Such bills included a \$14,540 allocation to the Rowing Club for a new boat, oars and amplification system.

UHR also allocated some \$4,500 to the Chinese Students for their Mid-Autumn Festival, to be held in the Ferst Center this year. The expected attendance is around 1,200.

Vote

from page 4

is working."

Other incoming senators were pleased with the turnout.

According to Chemistry senator Siddhartha Maheshwary, who received 11 votes, the voter turnout "exceeded my expectations."

David said that the trends of this year have not differed from previous years.

"For the graduate student

elections, [low turnout] follows the general trend. If there is no other competition for a specific senate position, then all that is necessary is to get your lab mates to vote, and you have won the seat," he said.

The senate held its first meeting this past Tuesday, swearing in all newly elected officers. Vacant positions will be filled by appointments in the coming weeks' meetings.

"If a seat is not vacant in a particular school, a certain num-

ber of senators can be appointed at-large, but there is a limit as to how many can come from a single school," Norville said.

Overall, David believed that the election "went well," yet he felt that there were some changes needed for next year's graduate senate election.

"It's always been traditionally difficult getting all the [Senate] seats filled...and so, it is something that we will continue trying to improve on in the future," he said.

Tech offers CRC as alternative to meet Barbell Club's needs.

Barbell Continued from page 1

expanding hours of access.

"The Institute is willing to work with the club to have it continue as an outstanding organization," Edwards said. "We appreciate the difficulty of this decision, but it is our strong hope that the Barbell Club will...work with us to help meet their needs as a student organization."

Barbell Club members however, are not prepared to accept either the CRC's invitation or their eviction from their current premises, and have instead launched a "Save the Barbell Club" campaign. Many members are incensed, and everything from lengthy tirades to passionate pleas to information on the club's history and activities have been sent to Institute administrators and faculty.

News of the club's plight has also spread throughout the student population. According to Michael Kim, President of Barbell Club and member of Pi Kappa Alpha, because a large percentage of club members are brothers from the nearby fraternities, the Greek community at Tech is especially riled. An email sent out this Tuesday by the Inter-Fraternity Council to all fraternity presidents encouraged Greek involvement in the issue. "Since a majority of [the Barbell Club's] members are Greek," read the email, "it would have a huge impact on our community."

"In the 48 years I've been at Georgia Tech," said George Slayton, Barbell Club manager, "I've seen so many things done that have just walked all over students, and this is something I just can't stand to see."

Club members are demanding that the Athletic Association take another look at its options. Among the alternatives pointed out by the club is moving volleyball competitions to the Coliseum where lockers are, instead of moving lockers to where the games are.

The club is also asking that the AA take another look at adding onto or renovating other spaces in O'Keefe, which currently contains various occupants such as GTRI, the Facilities Department and the Modern Languages Department. The club offered to donate \$25,000 of its own funds to the AA to assist in any construction needed for the locker room if it is allowed to stay in its current location.

"There are other solutions," Slayton said. "They don't have to take away the Barbell Club."

According to Thompson, who also holds the title of Athletic Association treasurer and who directly oversees budget and finance issues for the AA, the alternatives suggested by the Barbell Club are simply too costly for the AA to afford even with the \$25,000 offer, or are logistically difficult.

"We went through a big discus-

sion," Thompson said, "but the Coliseum is heavily used by both men's and women's basketball for not just their games, but also their practices. To squeeze in another volleyball venue...the scheduling requirements for practice times and game times just wouldn't work."

Also, the volleyball team is known to be very fond of their space in O'Keefe. "It's more conducive to their sport...they don't like to play in the Coliseum," Thompson said.

Though no firm estimates were made for cost of renovation or annexation, Thompson maintained that building onto O'Keefe would be not only costly, but next to impossible because of O'Keefe's historical status. "It's an old building and it's historic. In order to try to get someone to even allow you to modify a historic building is almost impossible," he said.

The Barbell Club is not without history of its own. One of the oldest and largest student organizations on campus, the Barbell club has been in existence since the mid-1950s.

Relocated twice since their beginnings in the basement of the Tech YMCA (now the Alumni House) the Barbell Club has called its cur-

"I've seen so many things done that have just walked all over students, and this is something I just can't stand..."

George Slayton
Barbell Club manager

rent facilities home for the past 25 years. Consisting of eight workout rooms, a dressing and shower room, two restrooms and an office, the club boasts over \$150,000 in weight lifting and aerobic equipment.

With a club-reported average of 900 student members and over 100 faculty, staff and alumni members a year, nearly every 1 in 10 undergrads is a Barbell Club member.

Though dominated by males, the club is has more than a dozen female members as well.

According to Slayton, 10 years ago the Barbell Club was faced with a similar proposal from the Athletic Association. A representative of the AA indicated to Slayton the desire of the AA to "take the upper half of the Barbell Club...to be used as a dressing room, shower and training room for the women's volleyball team," Slayton said. But when the AA realized the bad publicity that would be created by such a decision, they backed down.

"I don't know what happened in 1990," Thompson said. "I wasn't here, and I'm not concerned about that."

Thompson stressed that the club's position is much different now, with

the availability of the new CRC facilities.

"I expect that they [the Barbell Club] are in a transition. The CRC didn't have the facilities they have until this summer. In the previous years that [Barbell Club] was all they had. Now, all of a sudden, there's the CRC with 190 machines and more coming."

With the CRC also willing to make changes for the club, Thompson hopes that club members will "try to work with us to see if we can't come up with a win-win [situation], instead of a lose-lose."

During the construction of the CRC, the Barbell Club opened its doors free of charge to all members of the Tech community during the interim when the SAC/CRC had to close its doors.

Now, despite the opening of the brand-new, state-of-the-art workout facilities at the CRC, Barbell Club members are still willing to pay the \$50 yearly membership fee in order to enjoy certain membership benefits, including 24/7 key access to the club.

The club's proximity to East Campus, especially Fraternity Row, is also a large draw to its members, as is the no-frills atmosphere of the gym, which is notably more masculine than the, as Slayton puts it, "commercial spa" atmosphere found at the CRC. The club is often filled with loud music, and the guys there occasionally work out shirtless.

It is not that he dislikes the CRC, said Paul Evans, a Barbell Club member and second-year Industrial Engineering major who lives on West Campus, but it's that he likes the Barbell Club better, even if it does mean a longer walk.

Like many members of the Barbell Club, where friendships and bonds are vital, Evans mostly works out with his buddies, and because of varying schedules, they often go to the gym at odd hours.

"Last semester we used to go around 12 or one a lot of the time," Evans said. Indicating crowding and the lack of late hours at the CRC as reasons, Evans added, "If the club got torn down, I probably wouldn't be working out as regularly."

Breaking the Bubble



A lot of things went on outside the bubble of Tech in the past week. Below are summaries of a few of the important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

How to make \$40,000 by age four

Marla Olmstead may very well be the next Mozart...in painting that is. At the tender age of four, Marla, a native of Binghamton, N.Y. has already hosted her first gallery show, created a stir in the art community and in her home town, and sold over 24 paintings at a total of nearly \$40,000—a number far greater than she can even comprehend, much less count to.

Marla's father is an amateur painter who started letting Marla play-paint with him at the age of one. By age three, Marla's creations were being displayed in a local coffee shop, and selling, at a starting price of \$250. Now, a year later, Marla's paintings go for \$6,000 each, with a waiting list of customers eager to buy the next masterpiece by this child prodigy.

Leno announces he will retire in 2009

Monday on the "Tonight Show," Leno announced his plans to retire when his contract with NBC is over in 2009. Leno also announced that his successor to the "Tonight Show" will be "Late Night" show host Conan O'Brien. According to entertainment insiders, the announcement was made five years early in order to avoid the unfortunate parting of ways between Leno and Letterman after Johnny Carson announced his retirement in 1991. After NBC gave Leno first dibs on the "Tonight Show," Letterman left the network for his own show on CBS.

According to Leno, who will be 59 in five years, part of the reason he is leaving the show after his contract has expired is because he had made a promise to his wife Mavis that he would take her out to dinner before he turned 60.

Iraqi elections to continue as planned

Despite concerns from international leaders and the continuing violence at home, Iraqi leaders, with the support of the Bush administration, say they are firmly set in their goal of holding elections this January. Late last week, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld voiced concern that only partial elections could be held, ones that would exclude the most dangerous parts of the country.

"Let's say you tried to have an election and you could have it in three-quarters or four-fifths of the country, but in some places you couldn't because the violence was too great," Rumsfeld said at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. "Well, so be it. Nothing's perfect in life, so you have an election that's not quite perfect. Is it better than not having an election? You bet."

Oil prices rise above \$50 a barrel

Oil prices set a record high Tuesday, as the price per barrel broke the \$50 mark. Saudi Arabia responded to the high oil prices by announcing Tuesday that it would increase oil production from 9.5 million barrels a day to 11 million barrels a day in an effort to stabilize prices.