

# "The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

# TECHNIQUE

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Seen any droids around here?  
DragonCon invades Atlanta, page 19

Plus ► Expansion to India and China, page 11



Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

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By Ariel Bravy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Fire alert:** Smoke filled the air as firefighters battled flames early Friday evening (above). The strange spectacle, which caught the attention of students heading out for Labor Day weekend, was caused by a student's automobile catching on fire in front of 8th Street Apartments. A fire also occurred on the first floor of the 8th Street South Apartments last Thursday (right). The fire was set off in the kitchen when a student was cooking on the stove.

By Ariel Bravy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



## Hurricane relief efforts continue

By Nikhil Joshi  
Assistant News Editor

In response to the large number of refugees who came to Atlanta last week, a number of students and campus organizations have reached out by volunteering and beginning to raise funds.

The Office of the Dean of Students organized a volunteer force of students when it was informed last Friday that Alexander Memorial Coliseum would be used as an overflow shelter.

"We had about 90 people come in on Friday evening, but we had an overwhelming response from the Tech community," said Sarah Brackmann, assistant director of Student Involvement for Community Service.

Brackmann estimated that the number of daytime guests reached approximately 300 over the next few days. Brackmann's office and the Office of the Dean of Students worked to organize volunteers into

odd and even hour shifts. Brackmann said the volunteers worked 24 hours a day over the weekend when put together. Although the majority of volunteers were students, staff and faculty were also present.

"Students, faculty and staff provided services such as security and registration and helped as needed. On Friday night, when we discovered that we were out of towels, some students went around to different hotels and other locations collecting towels and bringing them back," she said.

SGA also took part in the effort at the shelter. "We have been working with Dean Gail and the Office of the Dean of Students to make sure that the needs of our visitors are met," said David Andersen, undergraduate student body president.

These efforts were somewhat hindered by inaccurate material

**"We had an overwhelming response from the Tech community."**

**Sarah Brackmann**  
Assistant Director of Student Involvement

See Relief, page 6

## Yellow Jacket Park hosts 9/11 tribute

A group of individuals and student organizations organized a 9/11 flag memorial, which begins today with a moment of silence and will last through the weekend.

Almost 3,000 flags will be set up in Yellow Jacket Park, one to commemorate each life that was lost during the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. Today and tomorrow, organizers will be requesting the sponsorship of a flag for \$1. All donations will go to the Red Cross.

This event is being supported by several groups on campus including Student Affairs, Diversity Programs, SGA and the Air Force ROTC.

## Football shuffles parking zones

Parking and Transportation changed parking zones WR29 and W01 last week. WR29 permit holders may no longer park on Ferst Dr. as the zone containing those spots has been changed to W01.

The department has also announced that cars may not be parked on Hemphill Ave. during home football games this year to ease the flow of traffic. Vehicles left on Hemphill Ave. during gameday may be towed.

Information on other game day parking zone changes can be found at [www.parking.gatech.edu](http://www.parking.gatech.edu).

## Flag Building loses flags, future uncertain

By Eric Reid  
Contributing Writer

The flags which once decorated the atrium of the Smithgall Student Services Building, commonly referred to as the 'Flag Building', were removed this summer for cleaning and building maintenance.

The flags were originally put up during the 1996 Olympic games, when Tech welcomed a host of international athletes to campus.

According to William Schafer, vice president of Student Affairs, the flags were removed for practical reasons.

Problems with the building's window seals allowed condensation to form between the panes. Schafer said the removal of the flags was necessary so that the seals could be replaced and the atrium painted. The flags are currently being stored in an office in the Smithgall Building.

In addition to the cleaning and maintenance needs, Schafer said he had received negative feedback on the flags' condition. "Some complaints [came] in to me about how bad they looked," Schafer said.

Upon their removal the flags were discovered to be unfit for display, as colors had faded and many of the edges had become ragged. This has prompted Schafer to consider alternate options for the atrium and for the flags themselves.

"When [the] atrium was designed, it was designed to be open,"



By Peter Jensen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**The Student Services Building gained its nickname, the Flag Building, from the flags (left) that no longer hang in the atrium (right).**



By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Schafer said. "My hope is that people don't make it a big deal."

"Right now, we're just working through the stage of fixing the building," he said.

Schafer said that he began receiving complaints soon after the removal of the flags. He said that a decision on the fate of the flags has not yet been made.

Schafer also dispelled some ru-

mors about their intended location. "They will not end up in the Global Learning Center," he said.

Schafer said that he is now seeking student input on a new design for the atrium. "We could do the same but maintain [the flags] better," he said.

"But if we do put them up, it should be done appropriately," he said, referring to both the condition

of the flags, their continual upkeep in the future and to the issue of full international representation among the flags.

Some students said they appreciated seeing the flags in the Smithgall building.

"I just like looking at so many flags. They signify the diversity of our campus and give a sense of unity. I don't mind where they put them up, as long as it's in a prominent place," Erin Epperson, a fourth-year Biology major, said.

"They definitely need to put something up in the atrium, though, not just leave it empty," Epperson said.

"Georgia Tech is known for its international students," said Laila Rifay, a second-year International Affairs major.

"Why don't they put [the flags] up somewhere else, like the Student Center? I would just like to see the flags displayed somewhere," Rifay said.

In addition to the replacement of the flags, other changes are being considered and implemented in the Smithgall Building.

For instance, Schafer said, one possibility is a flat screen in the atrium for information purposes. The old furniture in the atrium lobby has been replaced. Schafer said he hopes to make it a facility students can be proud of.

"I want to do other things to

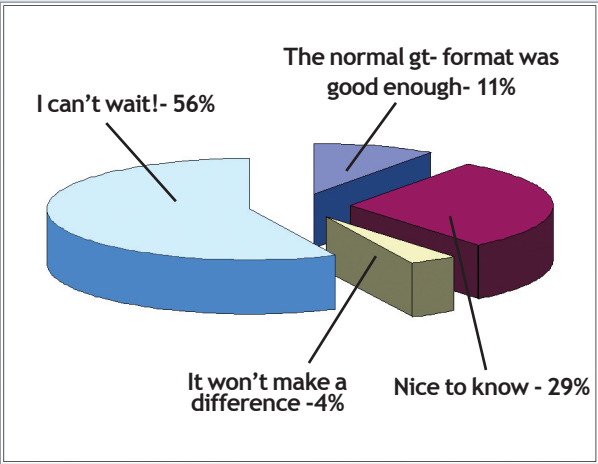
See Flags, page 4



Technique Online Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 52 responses.

What do you think about OIT allowing email aliases?



By Lauren Griffin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:

Where should the Flag Building's flags go?

Tell us at [www.nique.net](http://www.nique.net)



**Agency assist**  
8/22/2005 15:30:00 hrs.  
**Location:** Hemphill Avenue  
**Incident:** Assisted agency with serving an outstanding arrest warrant..

**Health- safety**  
8/22/2005 16:23:00 hrs.  
**Location:** Student Center  
**Incident:** Report of injured person treated by ambulance personnel.

8/24/2005 21:00:00 hrs.  
**Location:** CRC  
**Incident:** Report of injured person transported to Crawford Long Hospital.

From the files of the GTPD...  
**Campus Crime**

**Lost property**  
8/22/2005 17:18:00 hrs.  
**Location:** 8th Street  
**Incident:** Report of a lost wallet.  
8/23/2005 14:30:00 hrs.  
**Location:** Caldwell Residence Hall  
**Incident:** Report of a lost wallet and its contents.

**Theft**  
8/25/2005 0:41:00 hrs.  
**Location:** CRC  
**Incident:** Report of a stolen wallet.

**Entering auto**  
8/23/2005 3:04:00 hrs.  
**Location:** Techwood Drive  
**Incident:** Offender arrested for entering auto.

**Fire**  
8/23/2005 17:35:00 hrs.  
**Location:** Area 1 and 2 Housing Office  
**Incident:** Report of a small brush fire.

**Criminal trespass**  
8/23/2005 21:37:00 hrs.  
**Location:** Pi Kappa Phi house  
**Incident:** Report that subject entered the residence.

**Information**  
8/25/2005 6:32:00 hrs.  
**Location:** Wardlaw Building  
**Incident:** Report of a broken parking gate.

Corrections

The number of Bosnians killed in the genocide was incorrectly stated as 80,000 in the article titled 'Tech student gives keynote speech at United Nations' on page 11 last week. The number was actually 8,000.

TECHNIQUE

The South's liveliest newspaper

# Council Clippings



Each week, elected members of the houses of the Student Government Association (SGA) meet to consider allocation bills and talk about campus issues. Here are summaries of those meetings.

## Graduate Student Senate

# Senate discusses picnic preparations

By Amanda Dugan  
News Editor

The Graduate Student Senate passed no bills at their regular meeting Tuesday. The senators discussed their efforts for the Graduate Student Picnic and the possibility of bringing the comic strip author Jorge Cham to speak in October.

The minutes from last meeting were approved after a problem with the email list used to distribute them was addressed.

Mitch Keller, executive vice president, opened the meeting with his report. Keller asked for the senators to tell him anything he needed to be doing for the picnic that was held yesterday at the Campus Recreation Center (CRC).

The senators discussed changing the raffle ticket system from last year and signed up for times to work the check-in table. The senators also debated whether or not to use table clothes.

President Kasi David discussed the situation of the Tulane University international, graduate students in his report and reminded the senators of ways to volunteer. "We're going to extend an invitation for them to

## Bills tabled

- Joint Allocation to Aarohi for sitar concert

join the picnic," David said.

The Internal Affairs Committee was the only committee to report. Senators said that problems with the bill system had led to multiple copies of bills, including three copies last week of the allocation for the Six Flags event. "Please remember to monitor the bill system. Bills need to have authors by noon on Sunday or they won't be on the agenda," Keller said.

Senators also discussed the benefits and costs of bringing the author of graduate comic strip "Piled Higher and Deeper" and Tech alumnus, Jorge Cham, to campus for a talk in October. The senators said that they would like for Cham to come and that they would pursue a bookstore signing to help reduce costs.

A joint allocation to Aarohi for a sitar concert was postponed to the next meeting so that it could be referred to the Joint Finance Committee.

The meeting concluded with a request for graduate senators to serve on the Joint Finance Committee.

## Undergraduate House of Representatives

# UHR elects secretary, treasurer



By Robert Combier / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Patrick Cook and Aaron Bivins discuss GT Night at Six Flags. Cook and Bivins asked for volunteers for shuttle ticket distribution, information table workers and for decorating the park with white and gold.

By Arcadiy Kantor  
Senior Staff Writer

The Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) passed one bill and held elections for several positions during their regular meeting on Tuesday.

The meeting commenced when Micah Lucas, Joint Finance Committee chair, said that budgets for student organizations are due on Sept. 30. Saira Amir, undergraduate vice president, also asked representatives to use the online bill submission system.

Raheel Goheer, vice president of Campus Affairs, spoke to inform the undergraduates that the Georgia Tech Cable Network (GTCN)

will rebroadcast UHR meetings on Wednesday nights.

David Andersen, undergraduate student body president, said he was proud of the campus's response to the arrival of students evacuated from Tulane University as a result of Hurricane Katrina. "It was great to see everybody come together to welcome them to Tech," he said.

Andersen said he recognized the efforts of students volunteering at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum, which is currently housing approximately 300 hurricane evacuees, and discussed plans for a Hurricane Katrina donation drive.

Andersen said donations will be collected at this weekend's football game against the University of North

## Bills passed

- Appointment of council representatives

Carolina (UNC) and at a variety of points around campus. A number of student organizations are working with SGA in this effort. "I want to see all of you stay involved," he said.

Dean of Students Gail DiSabatino said she thanked students for their response to the arrival of the Tulane students on campus.

DiSabatino encouraged representatives to attend the event at Six Flags as a way of thanking themselves for a job well done.

See UHR, page 4

**UHR** from page 3

Sophomore President Patrick Cook discussed the status of planning for the Georgia Tech Night at Six Flags.

Cook said that approximately 4,000 tickets to the event were sold as of the time of the meeting and that Student Government anticipated another 1,000 to 1,500 tickets to be sold before Friday.

Cook also asked for volunteers

to help staff the event. He said that SGA would be distributing complimentary tickets to Six Flags to all Tulane students who are currently on campus.

Cook also praised his fellow representatives for their efforts in bringing the Six Flags night to fruition. "It's not a one-man effort," he said.

The undergraduates suspended the bylaws and addressed one bill that would have otherwise not come up for consideration until next week. This sole bill passed by the under-

graduates confirmed Andersen's appointments for Council Representatives. The three appointees, Emanuel Indrei, Chris Theodoridis and Chris VanAcker, were confirmed without discussion.

The House of Representatives also held elections for several positions within student government. After all of the candidates had the opportunity to speak before the representatives, the House went into an executive session to discuss the merits of the nominees.

Claudia Jones was elected to the position of Treasurer, Lauren Forbes was elected to the position of Honor Advisory Committee (HAC) chair and Will Welch, Paul Byrne and Aaron Marr were elected as members-at-large. Aaron Bolduc, who ran unopposed for the position of secretary, was also elected.

The meeting concluded after DiSabatino said for representatives to get word out to students to be welcoming of all fans at the football game against UNC this weekend.

**Flags** from page 1

make the building more attractive to students...you make it look good and people [say] 'wow, thanks for doing that'," Schafer said.

Schafer said he appreciates the dedication of Facilities for taking responsibility of many for the repairs and updates.

Over the summer, Facilities also replaced carpets in many of the offices.

Come to the *Technique's* weekly meeting  
Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Room 137 of the  
Student Services Building  
There is free pizza, drinks, and no  
experience necessary.



# OSI adds faculty conference option

By Amanda Dugan  
News Editor

The Office of Student Integrity (OSI) has introduced the option of adjudicating honor code violations through a faculty conference in addition to the judiciary process that was and continues to be in effect.

A faculty conference allows a faculty member to meet with a student, reach a decision and then send the decision or the case to the OSI following the discovery of an alleged cheating occurrence.

"A few years ago we had a committee whose goal was to look at the whole academic integrity process. The conference option came out of that," said Karen Boyd, senior associate dean of student life.

During the development process Tech examined options at five peer institutions. "It's different depending on where you go," Boyd said.

Boyd said it was decided to offer the faculty conference option in addition to the judiciary process that had previously been the only course of action. "It is an option, but everything else is still available," Boyd said.

As part of offering the faculty conference option Boyd said the Office of Student Integrity (OSI) is providing more guidelines and information to both students and faculty on their website. Boyd also said that one advantage to having faculty conferences is increased communication between the faculty member and the student. "If a student

did do something, even minor, the faculty will be more open with the violation," Boyd said.

"Students are going to talk to faculty and faculty are going to talk to the students," she said.

"A lot of students come into counseling saying they just want to talk to faculty but have been told not to because of the process," said Mitch Keller, a mathematics graduate student and Honor Advisory Council (HAC) member.

Students will be able to immediately hear from faculty and discuss

**"I think for a lot of cases faculty will continue to do things as they have always done them."**

**Mitch Keller**  
HAC Member

the problem if the new option is used according to Boyd.

If a faculty member and student chose to have a faculty conference it could decrease the time the process take. Boyd said the typical judiciary process takes one to two weeks on average, but can take months in the worst-case scenario.

"With the new process it could be resolved within 30 minutes of the faculty talking to the student. Reasonably, we should expect that

it will take more in the 1-2 week range," Boyd said.

Faculty can still choose to bring issues directly to the OSI and students can also bring concerns OSI. "The biggest challenge is going to be the faculty and students knowing enough to implement it fairly; making the students' and faculty's experience as close to others across the board," Boyd said.

Boyd said she thinks the faculty may be hesitant to use conferences until they hear success stories.


Keller said that he feels that faculty who have not used the judiciary process may address honor code violations now, but also that many faculty may choose to use the old method. "I think for a lot of cases faculty will continue to do things as they have always done them," Keller said.

One problem the OSI has addressed is consistency between judiciary decisions and faculty conferences. Boyd said that neither one is meant to provide a tougher punishment. "We are attempting to be consistent by providing last year's resolutions," Boyd said.

"We focused on figuring out how to do that [ensure fairness]. So a student's rights weren't injured and the faculty could be informed and defensible."

Boyd said that faculty should remember that academic integrity sanctioning guidelines are precisely that, guidelines, and that individual

See Faculty, page 6



**MARATHON**

unleaded self serve	319 <sup>9</sup>
plus self serve	329 <sup>9</sup>
premium self serve	339 <sup>9</sup>
diesel self serve	299 <sup>9</sup>

By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Prices soar:** Hurricane Katrina contributed to sending gas prices to an all-time high last week. Tech students felt the pinch as they traveled to Auburn to cheer on the Jackets last weekend.

## Relief

from page 1

published on Wednesday in local news media, which stated that the coliseum was closed due to scheduling conflicts. In an email sent on Wednesday to students, faculty and staff, President Wayne Clough dispelled these rumors, writing that the coliseum would remain open to hurricane victims until today.

SGA will also be coordinating efforts to raise money during this weekend's football game against the University of North Carolina. Working with the Athletic Association, SGA will be organizing bucket brigades. These volunteers will be standing at every gate collecting money approximately 15 minutes before the game begins until 15 minutes after kickoff. Organizations that have signed up to assist with this include Ambassadors, Georgia Tech Student Foundation, African American Student Union, National Society of Black Engineers and the Minority Recruitment Team. Andersen said another brigade would be organized for the Sept. 17 game against the University of Connecticut if it is successful.

In addition, students in different organizations have been participating in separate fundraising and clothes drives, many of which began this Tuesday, to help hurricane victims. According to the Office of Community Service, students have set a fundraising goal of \$50,000. Several student organizations, both Greek and non-Greek, will be collecting money to give to the Red Cross at tables on Skiles Walkway until Sept. 20. Institute Partnerships, SGA and MOVE have begun a clothing drive that will last until



By Ariel Bravy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Jennifer Dhir (left), Viji Sundaram (center) and Neil Patel (right) take donations on Skiles Walkway for victims of Hurricane Katrina.**

Sept. 24; some of these clothes will go to hurricane victims. Additionally, several Greek organizations,

**“The effort put forth so far has been very successful.”**

**Sarah Brackmann**  
Assistant Director of Student Involvement

Christian Campus Fellowship and other organizations are holding their own fundraisers and drives. The Office of Community Service will continue to collect donations through Oct. 1. All donations will go to the Red Cross.

“The effort put forth so far has been very successful,” Brackmann

said.

As part of several long-term goals, the office is planning community service trips to areas affected by the hurricane. Brackmann said that a community service trip to New Orleans is currently being discussed. An alternative spring break location in Mississippi or Louisiana is also a possibility, Brackmann said.

Andersen said that SGA also has other long-term plans that he would like to see go through; the organization is currently pushing to have Buzzcard readers to accept donations outside Woodruff and Brittain dining halls and for the Bursar's office to accept credit card donations online.

“Although this is still in the planning stage, it is something we are pushing for. These are great ways to raise money because sometimes students want to give [donations], but don't have cash on them. We've

gotten good responses from both the Bursar's Office and Auxiliary Services,” Andersen said.

Andersen said that he was pleased with the response of students and of the university as a whole. “I'm very happy to see the campus and everybody in the Georgia Tech community come together to make this a priority. People have put off agenda items and Labor Day plans to service those in need,” he said.

“It's important to understand the impact this has on people around the country and on people here at Tech. I just want them to know that SGA and everyone on campus is here to support them,” he said.

Tech also opened up its undergraduate and graduate admissions for students enrolled in universities located in areas affected by Katrina.

As of Wednesday, 55 students were enrolled under this policy which allows students to stay for one semester. These students may

**“It's important to understand the impact this has on people around the country and on people here.”**

**David Andersen**  
Undergraduate Student Body President

reapply after the semester is over if they wish to remain at Tech. Free Six Flags tickets were also provided for the Tulane students who are visiting or enrolled at Tech.

## Faculty

from page 5

cases may differ. “It is not a single process across the board, it is an educated decision,” Boyd said.

“There are no hard and fast rules. Faculty can use discretion,” Keller said.

Students who have already had an honor code violation are not eligible to use the faculty conference option. “A thing for a student to know is that if they have had a violation in the past, even if they meet with a faculty member, it is going to get forwarded,” Boyd said.

Boyd said that faculty and students should be aware of their rights throughout the process. “Students always have the right to request a hearing. But, they have to request a hearing within 6 calendar days. It's their job to inform us they are concerned about something,” Boyd said.

Keller said that he thinks faculty will use the process responsibly, but that students should still understand their rights. “Students need to feel comfortable talking to advisors to know how the process should be,” Keller said.

“You aren't stuck with the faculty members decision, you can appeal,” Boyd said.

Both students and faculty are encouraged to contact the OSI to better understand the process Boyd said. “If students or faculty ever have questions, our counselors are available to answer questions make sure people are aware,” Boyd said.

“Someone from the dean's office would love to sit in on the meeting, not to stick up for faculty or the student, but for the process,” Keller said.



# Boyd leaves to further education

By Arcadiy Kantor  
Senior Staff Writer

After seven years at Tech, Karen Boyd, senior associate dean of students, will be departing to pursue graduate studies at the end of the month.

"I've been planning to go to graduate school for a while, to get my Ph.D., but over the span of seven years I never was able to physically start my Ph.D. program," Boyd said.

Boyd will be studying Student Affairs and Administration at the University of Georgia (UGA). "I jokingly say that I couldn't get my Ph.D. at Georgia Tech, both because it's extremely difficult and it's not in my field...so I had to go to an easier school," Boyd said.

"[UGA] is a very good school for what I'm doing...if I were looking nationally at programs, it would be one of the programs that would be considered."

Boyd said that the graduate program will better equip her for making an impact on students. "I realized personally that in my field, to do it well, you need to have that seminal experience," she said, "I want to challenge myself to be able to do the next level up. And that would require [the graduate] program."

Boyd decided to depart this semester because of a graduate assistantship that will allow her to study full-time while expanding her skill set. "I get to work in the academic side of the house, which is something student affairs professionals don't get very often," she said. "It's just an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

With a graduate degree, Boyd said she will have the opportunity to serve in positions that will em-

power her to implement large-scale programs and changes. "I would like the opportunity to make big picture impacts on students' ability to benefit from their education, to be more successful," she said.

Boyd said several experiences stood out as particular highlights from her seven years at Tech. One of these was the NCAA basketball Final Four celebration in spring 2004. "I participated with a group planning how the Institute would respond, and...one of my favorite things was to watch the look on our

Boyd said. "All 13 of those things have been implemented and have resulted in a substantial change in students' reported cheating behaviors as well as students' reported tolerance of others cheating."

"Students say that they'll confront their peers substantially more than they said they would before the honor code happened," she added. "Honestly, I'd rather not be dealing with students who cheated, I'd rather them be confronted before they do it."

"I think we've seen a significant improvement in students' abilities to review their decision making and make better choices. They've learned how to be more ethical in the environment they're in



**"I want to challenge myself to be able to do the next level up. And that would require [the graduate] program."**

**Karen Boyd**  
Sr. Associate Dean of Students

students' faces when they got that experience," she said.

"It was really rewarding to see our students that excited and happy about something about Georgia Tech."

"The part that was most gratifying to me was [that] the plan that the Dean of Students office and the Student Affairs staff and the Institute at large put together helped students have a good, fun, positive time with no damage to the Institute or its reputation."

Boyd also said she is proud of the way the Institute handled the Computer Science cheating scandal in 2002. That incident, in which 187 students were accused of cheating on assignments for introductory CS classes, led to sweeping changes in College of Computing and Institute policy. "There were 13 recommendations that were made immediately following the CS cheating case,"

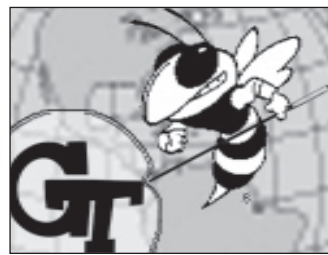
right now, and I think that's going to extrapolate to when they get out of Tech."

Boyd said she feels the Institute has continuously bettered itself in her time here and that she expects it to continue to do so. "I think that Tech, before I got here, had a vision for its future: That it was going to be an important academic player in the future, both for students and academia at large. And I believe that the changes I've seen over the last seven years have truly brought it into the 21st century," she said.

Boyd said she leaves Tech on an optimistic note. "The vision that we have as an institute, with the undergraduate research and an international plan, is going to make all the difference in the world for this place," she said. "I believe in Georgia Tech. I believe it's what it says it is. I think it's the real deal and I want great things for it."

## Breaking *the* Bubble

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



### Supreme Court Chief Justice Rehnquist dies

Chief Justice William Rehnquist passed away last Saturday at the age of 80. Rehnquist was diagnosed last October with thyroid cancer.

Rehnquist was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Nixon in 1972. He replaced Warren Burger as Chief Justice in 1986, under President Reagan. A conservative republican, Rehnquist was often a lone dissenter early in his career, but then became part of a conservative majority (5-4) in his years as Chief Justice.

According to CNN, Supreme Court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said that he had "continued to perform his duties on the Court until a precipitous decline in his health the last couple of days."

President Bush nominated Judge John Roberts to fill Rehnquist's position on Monday.

### California passes first gay marriage bill

The legislature of the state of Calif. became the first to uphold a bill permitting same-sex marriage Tuesday. The state's Assembly approved the bill 41-35 one week after the state's Senate approved it with a vote of 21-15.

Currently, Californians who register as domestic partners are given similar rights and duties as married couples.

The Assembly had rejected a similar bill by a margin of four in

June. In the bill passed by the Assembly last week, four Democrats who voted to pass the bill had previously abstained from voting.

Although Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger expressly supports same-sex marriages, advocates fear that he may veto the bill. Schwarzenegger said, according to an article published by the Associated Press, that the issue was up to the courts.

A state appellate court is reviewing the appeal of a lower-court ruling which had overturned the statewide ban of the recognition of same-sex marriages. "[Schwarzenegger] will uphold whatever the court decides," spokeswoman Margita Thompson told AP.

Currently same-sex marriages are legal only in Massachusetts.

### Baghdad limits travel to odd license plates

The government of Iraq created a new rule which kept a large portion of motorists in the country's capital of Baghdad off the streets Tuesday. The ruling was made in response to fears that Iraq, whose oil reserves are the world's third-largest, might run out of fuel. Shortages have also resulted in a black market for gasoline.

Officials declared that only motorists with cars whose license plates ended in odd numbers could drive on the streets.

According to CNN, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Chalabi, who also runs the nation's oil sector, said that the rule's purpose was "to reduce the intensive demand for fuel."