

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

TECHNIQUE

Volume 90, Issue 20 • 36 pages • ONLINE www.nique.net

Does the fish on your car sport legs? The evolution debate heats up.

Swimming and diving drowned the competition at a recent meet against Clemson.



FOCUS page 11

SPORTS page 33

Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

Opinions 8 • Focus 11 • Entertainment 19 • Comics 26 • Sports 36

Fire hits Ribs n Blues

By Haining Yu
Assistant News Editor

5th St. Ribs n Blues in Technology Square is closed for at least several weeks as the restaurant works to resolve problems that caused a fire last Thursday.

According to Student Center Director Rich Steele, who also manages retail contracts in Technology Square the fire was contained in the grease exhaust duct above the restaurant.

The incident happened around 5 or 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, said Bret Brooks, Ribs n Blues owner.

No one was hurt in the fire. However, serious damage did occur to the metal duct system that draws fumes from the restaurant's grill and expels them four floors above, from the roof of the Global Learning Center.

See Fire, page 4



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

5th St. Ribs n Blues is closed until further notice after a fire struck the Technology Square restaurant last Thursday.

Ticket distribution under review

SGA, AA look at alternatives to long lines at Coliseum



By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech students cheer at the Virginia Tech game Saturday. SGA and the Athletic Association are trying to develop new ways of distributing tickets because of increased student turnout at games this year.

By Haining Yu
Assistant News Editor

Basketball fans can expect to see changes throughout this season in the way student tickets are distributed before games. Since last November, SGA has been working closely with the Athletic Association in brainstorming new ways to handle the current disparity between the demand for, and availability of, student tickets.

Amy Phuong, undergraduate student body president, said, "Our main objective is to not have people wait in line and end up getting turned away because there aren't enough seats."

Initial discussions about student seating began over questions about Swarm. Because Swarm's membership is roughly 1.5 times what it was the year before, there is no way

for Alexander Memorial Coliseum to accommodate all of Swarm in the designated section, which is designed to hold only 200 to 300

"Our main objective is to not have people wait in line and end up getting turned away because there aren't enough seats."

Amy Phuong
Undergraduate president

people at most.

Very soon, the issue of general student seating was brought up as

well; due to last year's successful run, more and more fans are expected to turn up at Alexander Coliseum this year. While it is very exciting, said Phuong, to see the large number of students waiting for tickets before the games, the most disappointing thing for a fan ready to see the game is to be asked to go home because all of the seating is full.

The increased wait times combined with the lack of assurance of actually getting a seat can be demoralizing to fans who are strong supporters of the team, but who might not be dedicated enough to brave a long wait in line. Some of these fans decide to watch the game on TV, even though the action is going on just a few blocks away. School leaders, including Phuong and SGA Athletics and Recreational Services Chair

See Tickets, page 5

High cost holds up readership program

By Arcadiy Kantor
Senior Staff Writer

The Residence Hall Association, which sponsored a trial of the *USA Today* Collegiate Readership Program last spring, is currently seeking funds to make the program permanent.

The program, which would make *USA Today* and the *New York Times* available to students at no charge Monday through Friday, is currently held up due to its hefty price tag.

"They told us when we started the program, that at full capacity...[it] would cost, with three newspapers, roughly \$65,000," said RHA President Andrew Howard.

However, consumption significantly outpaced expected levels.

"When we got the numbers back after the trial period, it turned out to be \$105,000."

Both the dining halls and the Student Center saw huge numbers of newspaper readers. "Consumption in the Student Center was unbelievably high. They could not keep the bins full enough," Howard said. "In the five week trial program we're usually going to see a spike over the first two weeks and then see it average out by...week three, four and five. But we just saw a spike, it

never went down."

The budget crunch of the past several years has made finding funding for the program more difficult, however. RHA is currently planning to propose a three-pronged funding solution, with departments paying for bins located in their buildings, SGA covering the Student Center and Library distribution, and RHA paying for

newspapers in the dining halls.

Even if RHA is successful in securing money from the two other

"A reduced program...basically makes it first-come, first-serve."

Andrew Howard
RHA president

sources, however, the program may not succeed in launching in its full form. The full program would provide sufficient newspapers for every student who wants one and have approximately five distribution points.

Lack of funds could see the program scaled back to feature fewer locations and a reduced number of papers per location. "A reduced program...basically makes it first-come, first-serve," Howard said.

The cost of such a reduced program could be brought down to more closely approach the original \$65,000 estimate. Such an abbreviated program would lose some of the benefits of the full program,

See Papers, page 6

UGA challenges Tech in fundraiser

The University of Georgia has issued a challenge to Tech: which school can raise more money in the tsunami relief effort?

As a result of the challenge, and UGA's lack of a closure date for fundraising activities, tsunami relief efforts on campus have been extended.

Originally slated to end this past Wednesday, Jan. 26, the fundraising campaign will continue well into February until an undetermined date.

Currently, the relief effort has raised \$15,000. Tech's projected goal at the launch of the campaign was \$60,000.

Patricia Breed, one of the student organizers of the fundraising effort at Tech, said the current methods of donation will continue to be available to students.

In addition, Breed said, new fundraisers will take place. The concert originally scheduled for tomorrow has been pushed back to an as-yet undecided date in mid-February. The concert will feature A Cappella, the Indian dance group and the Glee Club, she said. Students who wish to attend will be able to donate to the relief effort in lieu of purchasing tickets.

Also, a raffle for throwing pies in professors' faces will take place to further raise funds. For more information, see the relief effort's website at www.ttr.gatech.edu.

SGA offers online parking survey

A survey regarding the Department of Parking and Transportation is now available on SGA's website, www.sga.gatech.edu.

The survey is open to any Tech student to express their feelings on various aspects of Parking's services to campus, including rating safety effectiveness and parking permit prices.

The forms also allow students to submit ideas for improvements in the office's services.

Also included in the survey are questions regarding the Stingerette service.

July in January at CRC tonight

The Student Center Programs Council is hosting July in January at the CRC today from 8:30 p.m. to midnight.

The event's theme focuses on reminding students of summer, and will be held at the leisure pool. Tropical food will be provided along with free massages and other activities.

Some of the other events include contests and giveaways. Prizes range from DVDs to ukuleles and kiddie pools.

TechniqueOnline

Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 37 responses.

Should class attendance ever be mandatory?

Response	Count
Never	24
Always	5
Only for people with failing grades	3
Only in freshman/intro classes	5

By Lauren Griffin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:

Is student seating at the Coliseum sufficient?

Tell us at www.nique.net



Booted

On Jan. 19, Tech's Division of Transportation booted a woman's gray Toyota Corolla at the intersection of North Avenue and Tech Parkway. The woman had accumulated an excessive number of parking violations.

On Jan. 20, the Toyota and boot were missing. The boot and lock are valued at \$465.00.

Man refuses to pay parking

A man was dropping off an elderly

From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime

person in the Student Center parking lot and could not obtain a ticket from the entrance gate.

After five to ten minutes in the parking lot he tried to exit and stated he didn't understand paying for such a short time. Parking called GTPD who explained to the man that without proof of his time in the lot he must pay the posted fee. The man then cooperated with no further incident.

Broken pot

On Jan. 22, a female Tech resident found her plant pot broken in the lobby of 8th Street West.

The woman called the police and housing maintenance cleaned up the mess.

The plant pot was worth about \$50.

Fire

On Jan. 20, fire coming from Ribs n Blues on the outside of the building set off the Global Learning Center fire alarm. Lt. Hill of the Atlanta Fire Department responded and put out the fire (see page 1).

This week's campus crime information contributed by Amanda Dugan

Corrections

The *Technique* welcomes your comments and suggestions, 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.

TECHNIQUE

Distracting you every week since 1911

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

Senators fund Sailing Club's reduced request

By Stephen Baehl
News Editor

Tuesday morning's Graduate Student Senate meeting focused on two allocation bills brought before the senators.

The first was a conference committee bill dealing with an allocation to the Sailing Club. This was the second time the club's request had come before GSS.

"This bill was brought before you back in November," said the organization representative, "and it failed because we hadn't done enough fundraising."

He said that since then, the club had engaged in fundraising efforts and pursuit of corporate sponsorships. This activity, in addition to the completion of a long-term project to overhaul a keel boat, had allowed the team to reduce its requested funding for new boats from \$36,000 to \$26,000.

The organization representative

Correction: Last week, the *Technique* incorrectly reported that a GSS three-strikes attendance rule was new. The rule was in place already and was reiterated at last week's meeting.

- Bills passed**
- Joint allocation to GTSC
 - Joint allocation to African American Student Union
 - (Spot bill) Appointment of senators

added that much of the club's recent financial improvement came as a result of more than just working in the last two months. "While it seems like we came up with all this money in one or two months, it's really a long-term fundraising effort," he said.

Coordinating officer Priyanka Rohatgi spoke in favor of the bill. "We [originally] rejected this bill because they'd done no fundraising," she said.

"This is a prime example that when SGA puts an impression on an organization to raise money," she said, that the organization will do so. She added that this is a good thing to keep in mind for future requests.

"If we reject them now, their condition is really bad," Rohatgi said. She added that the price of boats has already gone up three percent, and

See **GSS**, page 7

Undergraduate House of Representatives

UHR denies AASU funding for gifts



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Valerie Williams, Tanisha Green and Christian Braneon asked for support for the Black Leadership Conference at Tuesday's UHR meeting. A debate ensued over allocation of funds for guest-speaker gifts.

By Nikhil Joshi
Staff Writer

In its session Tuesday night, the Undergraduate House of Representatives passed three allocation bills—a joint allocation to the African American Student Union, a joint allocation to the Sailing Club and an allocation to the Fresh Formal.

The first of these bills gave the African American Student Union \$1,600. This money will go towards funding the Black Leadership Conference as well as Heritage Night.

The bill generated a great deal of debate on whether or not SGA should fund gifts for speakers at the conference. In the end, the UHR passed the bill, but unlike the Graduate

Senate, they voted to exclude the \$710 allocated to the gifts.

The Black Leadership Conference, the purpose of which, according to the organization, is "to help African American students and graduates of Georgia Tech realize their individual capacity for leadership, provide instruction on how and when to lead, and give examples of positive leaders in the community," was mentioned by Institute President Wayne Clough in the State of the Institute.

For this reason, House representatives as well as the organization members acknowledged the importance of this debate.

Representative Stephanie Bent, the author of the bill, along with the

- Bills passed**
- Appointment of Undergraduate Judicial Cabinet Justice
 - Allocation to Fresh Formal
 - Joint allocation to Georgia Tech Sailing Club
 - Joint allocation to AASU

- Bills withdrawn**
- Allocation to Bowling Club
 - Joint allocation to Hong Kong Student Association

organization representatives present, argued that \$710 was needed in order to fund gifts for keynote

See **UHR**, page 4

Technique

Get a subscription for \$35 a year!

email nique@gatech.edu



By Scott Medway / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Deal Me In: Evan Eisenstadt and Jamie Meyers participate in a poker game during IFC spring rush week. Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity hosted the poker tournament Thursday, Jan. 20, as part of the activities of the week. Rush week took place Tuesday, Jan. 18 to Friday, Jan. 21.

Fire

from page 1

While it is known that the fire was contained within the duct system, the exact cause of the fire is currently unknown, as it is still under investigation by various insurance companies.

It is also not known where within the duct system the fire took place. Fortunately, the ventilation system was not shared by any of the neigh-

boring restaurants, and thus no other parties have been affected by the fire. The extent of the fire's damage is still under assessment, but it seems likely that extensive repairs will be needed to fix the problem.

According to Steele, the owners of Ribs n Blues are "taking the incident very seriously and...are taking every necessary action to ensure that the facility is fully repaired in a timely manner."

Both outside and Tech engineers

are currently being brought in to examine the damage of the fire, a process made difficult by the fact that the ducts are sealed within the walls of the building.

These walls need to be cut through in order for the engineers to determine where the fire damage occurred.

After the damage is properly assessed, a contractor needs to be found. Who will be liable to pay for the repairs remains in question.

UHR

from page 3

speakers at the conference, who would not be receiving any other compensation.

The organization, according to its representatives, requested speakers to volunteer their time to speak in the interest of reducing costs.

The other option, they said, would have been to pay a large sum of money, almost ten times as much, to have keynote speakers.

Because they did not give the speakers any money, they felt obligated to give them gifts at the very minimum as a sign of their gratitude.

Furthermore, argued Bent, the speakers would be more likely to return to give speeches if they felt that their contributions were appreciated.

David Andersen, chair of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC), said that funding of the gifts was not in accordance with JFC policy. While recognizing the importance of the conference, Andersen said that it was also important to "uphold precedence; we [SGA] did not fund gifts for TEAM Buzz."

The majority of the house agreed that the need for consistency in decisions outweighed the need to allocate the specified funds, and the bill was passed accordingly.

In addition, the house passed a bill that provided \$700 for the Fresh Formal.

The event will be put on by FreShGA and will be held for students involved in any of the freshmen leadership organizations, including

Freshmen Council, Freshmen Activities Board, FreShGA and Emerging Leaders. SGA has financed the formal in past years.

The house also passed a conference committee version of a previous bill allocating \$26,024 to the Georgia Tech Sailing Club.

Two bills which were previously postponed—a joint allocation to the Bowling Club and a joint allocation to Georgia Tech Hong Kong Student Association—were withdrawn by their respective authors.

Several important announcements were also made in the reports of SGA executives.

Amy Phuong, undergraduate student body president, said that the tsunami relief effort was "going well" and that Tech is combining efforts with other schools in Georgia, including the University of Georgia and Georgia State University.

She also announced that a benefit show was planned for the upcoming Saturday at the Ferst Center for the Arts.

The show will include performances by singing groups as well as participation from the other organizations involved in the relief effort.

Matt Ridley, vice president of campus affairs, announced that representatives would be using a new online system for bill submission beginning Feb. 7.

Finally, Meaghan Bayer was appointed Undergraduate Judicial Cabinet Justice. The representative previously occupying the position had stepped down, and Bayer was selected internally to fill the student's role.



By Julia Bunch / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

And Now, Our Feature Presentation: A group of students film a ninja as part of their team's iMovie outside the Glenn residence hall. Teams worked on their movies from Jan. 10 to 16.

CoC offers interdisciplinary Ph.D.

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

The College of Computing is breaking new ground with the introduction of a new Ph.D. program in Human-Centered Computing. The new degree offers an interdisciplinary focus not on computer science itself but on how computing supports human need.

"The easiest definition is sort of equal parts study of what it fundamentally means to be human and...of what's fundamental and interesting about computing technologies," said Elizabeth Mynatt, an Associate Professor in the College of Computing and the faculty coordinator for the HCC program.

The program's interdisciplinary focus means it encompasses students with diverse backgrounds working on a variety of research projects in areas including human computer interaction, learning sciences, cognitive science, database construction and information security.

"What we needed was...a student body where there would be people who were not necessarily undergraduate majors in computer science, because a lot of this work involved in designing systems are not people who are actually going to build the systems themselves," said Nancy Nersessian, a Professor in the College of Computing and the School of Public Policy and Director of the Cognitive Science

program. "[These] are people who are going to [study] how people use computers and how computers are involved in people's lives along these various dimensions."

Current projects include a study of communication using cell phone images and the use of online communities to encourage deeper discourse among history students.

The program can be custom-fitted to each student, even those with little background in computer science.

"We have students that come from everything from traditional CS to...an undergraduate degree in elementary education," Mynatt said. "We have students with back-

See CoC, page 6

Leaky pipe causes ULC water shut-off

By Arcadiy Kantor
Senior Staff Writer

Students residing in the Undergraduate Living Center were faced with a day-long water outage last Tuesday. The water was shut down between 8 and 9 a.m. and turned back on at approximately 7 p.m.

The outage was the result of a pinhole-sized puncture in a water line on the ground floor. Housing had to get an outside contractor to come in and fix it.

Originally, water was scheduled to be turned back on at 4 p.m. "Any time you go up and start working on a project, sometimes you run into a

few things...It obviously took them a bit longer than anticipated," said Jameson Moschella, the Residence Life Coordinator for ULC.

Students were forced to deal with the shut-off on short notice. Announcements were posted between 6 and 7 p.m. Monday night. Community advisors also went around to all rooms to inform residents of the shut-off.

Residents were inconvenienced despite the notification. "It was a pretty big inconvenience...not so much during the day, but especially [in the evening] to use the restroom," said Randy Hays, a third-year Chemical Engineering major.

Tickets from page 1

Ashlyn Wadley, feel that this system needs to change. They, along with representatives from the Athletic Association, have been meeting to discuss ways to give the students who really want to be at the games a way to "reserve" a spot. But at the same time, they want to give last-minute arrivals some hope in actually getting into the game.

Though no long-term or definite changes have been made yet, student options for getting assured seating have already begun to crop up. In December, the AA gave vouchers to the first 1,000 students to sign in at the women's basketball game against Georgia. Those vouchers guaranteed entry into the men's basketball game vs. Georgia two days later.

In hopes of producing a win-win situation for both fans and the women's basketball team, the AA will make the same kind of offer for the Clemson, NC State and Duke games.

According to a school-wide email

sent out by Brian Moore of the AA, the first 1,000 students to sign in by 7:15 p.m. at each women's game will be given vouchers guaranteeing admission to the corresponding men's game upon signing out at the end of the women's game.

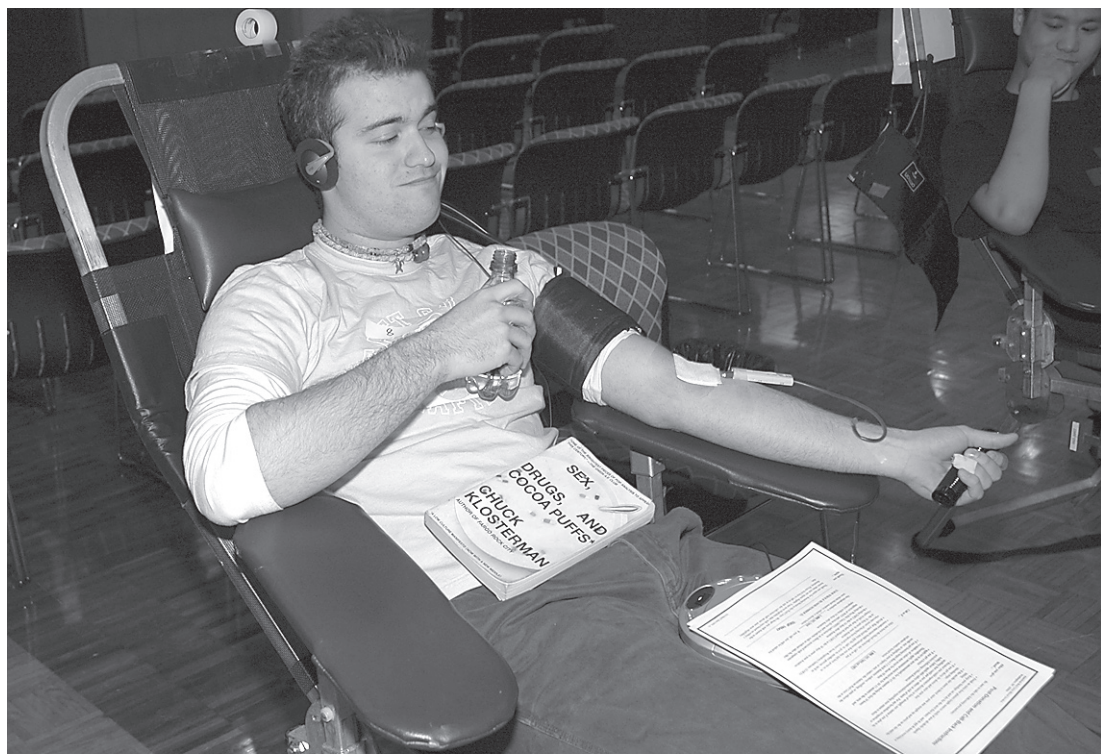
With only about 1,700 general student seats available, the Thriller dome provides seating to only about one tenth of the student population. With the possibility of 1,000 students receiving seat vouchers, that also means that more than half of the student seats can be "reserved" beforehand.

However, if a student fails to show up to redeem his or her voucher at the specified game, the student's seat will be opened up for non-voucher holding students so that the seat will not go to waste.

In the future, said Phuong, students might receive a "credit" for guaranteed seating on their BuzzCards instead of an actual voucher. Alternative ways of gaining priority seating are still being considered, and students can expect new ideas to be forthcoming.

WE WANT YOU IN OUR SHEETS!

Write for us.
development@nique.net



By Michael Kraus / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Gift of Life: Aaron Brandt gives blood during the winter blood drive on campus in the Student Center Ballroom. The MOVE office and Delta Sigma Chi sponsored the drive, which took place Jan. 18-20 and was open for any volunteers to come give blood.

CoC

from page 5

grounds in industrial design. We have students with backgrounds in industrial engineering. So it's really encapsulating that spectrum, and part of the challenge of the program is then sort of bringing everyone up to speed on each person's respective discipline."

This multiple-entry approach, according to Mynatt, will help extend the reach of the HCC program beyond the college itself.

"So, for example, we've had a joint proposal from industrial engineering, digital media within the LCC, and the HCC within the College of Computing to have an integrated training program," Mynatt said. "The idea being...to understand that computing technology [is] intrinsic

to many areas of study here at Georgia Tech, not just within the College of Computing, and so we want the impact of the HCC program not to be just within our college but to really have an influence in how computing education and research is done here at Georgia Tech as a whole."

The program, which was approved by the Board of Regents this past November, was born from a desire among many of the College of Computing faculty to broaden the college's focus.

"We started thinking...about the fact that we had only one Ph.D., and that the Ph.D didn't represent the broader aspects of computing," Nersessian said. "When our new dean [Rich DeMillo] came on board...he decided to make that a top priority."

The program is still under de-

velopment, although the College of Computing has already received over 70 applications from candidates who hope to enroll in the fall. Mynatt said that the faculty is still clarifying which topics fall under the HCC header, although the program has already evolved from an initial design to an established community of HCC faculty and students.

"There's finally a place that [the students say] feels like home," Mynatt said. "They don't feel like someone on the fringe in contrast to more traditional programs."

"That'll be exciting, 'cause then they'll go out and represent the program to the rest of the world," Mynatt said.

For more information about the HCC Ph.D. program, including how to apply, visit www.cc.gatech.edu/hcc.

Papers

from page 1

however, as many students who may otherwise want a paper would be unable to get one because of the limited supply.

Another option, Howard said, would be to add an additional fee to each student's tuition costs. According to him, an extra \$5 fee per student per semester would be sufficient to fund the program in full.

Any new fee or increase in an existing fee must be approved by the Board of Regents, however, and would further prolong the implementation process.

Another challenge the program would bring, aside from the cost issues, is the increase in waste generated from the newspapers.

According to Howard, they were not prepared for the amount of waste generated by the trial program and would need

to work with Facilities to increase the number and emptying frequency of the recycling bins near the newspaper pickup locations.

Despite the challenges, it is likely that students will see the program brought to campus in some form.

According to Howard, RHA is dedicated to getting the program up and running because of the very positive reception the program received on campus during its trial run.

"I got over 50 to 60 emails from residents and students saying, 'Great program, please bring it,'" Howard said.

"Reading a newspaper while sitting in the dining hall every now

and then provided a refreshing break from textbooks and kept me informed on world events," said Alok Marwaha, a second-year Computer Engineering major. "Being engulfed in classes...you tend to forget what is going on in the world outside of Georgia Tech."

According to Howard, the goals of bringing the program to campus are to have a more informed student body, help the students who must read the newspaper for their classes and to give students another way to relax from the rigors of Tech.

Surveys conducted by *USA Today*

before and after the trial show that the program was achieving these goals. The number of students who had read a newspaper three or more days a week within the last month increased from 35 percent in the pre-trial survey to 61 percent in the post-trial one. The percentage of students who said they did not read a newspaper

at all dropped from 21 percent to about 8 percent.

After the trial's completion, 22 percent of students said a newspaper was their primary source for news, compared to only 8 percent prior to the trial. Furthermore, while 49 percent of students originally said their newspaper readership had dropped since coming to college, only 30 percent felt that way after the trial's conclusion.

Howard said he is committed to launching the program in some form, and students look forward to the day when they can read a free copy of the *New York Times* over breakfast once again.

"Reading a newspaper while sitting in the dining hall every now and then provided a refreshing break from textbooks and kept me informed on world events."

Alok Marwaha
Second-year CompE

OIT announces security initiatives

By Michael Handelman
Staff Writer

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) announced initiatives last week to combat the scourge of students' email boxes: phishing and spam.

Phishing emails are messages disguised as official communications from financial institutions, designed to deceive the recipient into providing personal information.

OIT announced a fraud alert, addressing a concern that students, faculty and staff may fall victim to the phishing schemes.

In a press release announcing the alert, OIT Information Security Director Herb Baines said, "Because the miscreants behind these scams use fake emails from every major bank, credit card company and lending organization in the United States, the probability of receiving a fake email from your bank or financial institution is high."

More information on steps that students may take to identify phishing attempts are available at www.oit.gatech.edu.

Unsolicited emails, known as spam, often use unintelligible words and phrases to evade simple email filters. In response, OIT is developing an advanced email filter to identify and quarantine these messages.

The system is implemented in response to the large percentage of spam emails, as compared with legitimate communication, received on Tech's mail servers.

According to Jonathan Huff, OIT manager of collaborative applica-

tions, "nearly sixty percent of mail received on campus is spam."

The email filtering system, now in a pilot stage, is an implementation of IronMail, an off-the-shelf product purchased by OIT.

The pilot program is composed of two stages: first, a header will be appended to all emails indicating the likelihood that the respective message is a legitimate communication, as opposed to an unsolicited advertisement. However, all emails, regardless of their spam rating, will continue to be delivered to campus

**"Nearly 60 percent
of mail received on
campus is spam."**

Jonathan Huff
OIT department manager

email boxes.

Although this first phase is being implemented in select academic and administrative departments on campus, OIT officials could not provide a timeline as to when these headers will be appended to students' email messages.

"OIT's mail is routing through [the application], and the development office is going to have their mail routed tomorrow...since it is going to be implemented in an unobtrusive manner, we can really turn on Spectrum [student] email at anytime, once we have the architectural issues worked out," Huff said.

The second phase of the program will actively divert emails to a quarantine folder.

If the respective email meets the threshold spam rating, students will have the option of retrieving those diverted messages.

Some students, however, are skeptical about OIT's effectiveness in combating spam. Computer Science major Summers Pittman said, "Spammers will change their tactics faster than OIT will update their [spam-catching] heuristics."

However, while OIT is eager to begin the first phase of the spam trial, officials are less optimistic on when the second phase will be implemented.

"At this point, we are not doing anything other than adding the headers, and the reason we want to do that is so that we can gauge the effectiveness of the product...We don't want people to lose mail," Huff said.

Although students will have the ability to configure their email clients, and the Spectrum web interface to divert and forward emails based on the spam rating, OIT is cautious about advertising the instructions for this functionality.

Huff said, "When we feel that [filtering] is something that we want people to really embrace...We'll set out some instructions for people on the OIT [web page]."

An estimated time for implementation of the quarantine feature of the spam tracker was not available, but Huff said, "The quarantine is in the near future, but not weeks...more like months."

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.

Attempted suicide leads to 10 deaths

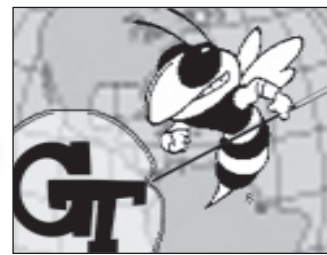
At least 10 people died when a Los Angeles commuter train hit an SUV that had been abandoned on the train tracks by a suicidal man who ended up changing his mind. The first train then derailed and hit another commuter train bound in the opposite direction. Parts of both trains tipped over, while other cars caught fire, resulting in the hospitalization of over 100 people.

According to Randy Adams, police chief of Glendale, California, the suspect changed his mind about taking his own life, and simply got out of the car, leaving the vehicle sitting on the tracks.

Rice confirmed, Gonzales endorsed

Condoleezza Rice was confirmed Wednesday as Colin Powell's successor for the position of Secretary of State. Despite rigorous debate in the days leading up to the vote, Rice was confirmed in an overwhelming majority vote, 85 to 15.

Critics of Rice point to her



involvement as National Security Advisor in the faulty intelligence leading up to the War in Iraq.

The Senate Judiciary Committee also voted today to endorse Alberto E. Gonzales to be John Ashcroft's successor as Attorney General. Gonzales barely passed, however, in a vote that numbered 10 to 8. The Judiciary Committee was split along party lines in this vote, as Democrats continued to question Gonzales' role in forming the policies that led to the Abu Ghraib prison torture scandal.

Stick figures lead to pair of arrests

Two special education students in a school in Ocala, Florida, aged nine and 10, were arrested Monday for drawing a stick-figure rendering of themselves stabbing a classmate and hanging him by a rope.

The two boys were charged with making a written threat to kill or harm another person, a second-degree felony.

According to the Ocala Police Department, the pictures were drawn solely to scare and intimidate the classmate. Parents protested the arrest, saying the misguided youngsters should be punished by the school and their family, not by the police department.

GSS

from page 3

will increase more in 2005.

Rohatgi also said UHR passed the bill for the amount requested. After some questions about the nature of the club's fundraising efforts, the senators passed the bill easily for the full amount requested.

The second bill to come before the graduates saw more debate. The African American Student Union requested funding to cover the Black

Leadership Conference and other events relating to Black History Month, including Heritage Night.

According to organization representative Stephanie Bent, the total initial budget for February's events was reduced from \$26,000 to \$11,000 by cutting out unneeded extra costs. This, in addition to money raised for the events already, allowed a greatly reduced allocation request for the AASU.

However, some of the money requested was intended to fund gifts

for several of the events' speakers. Funding gifts is against Joint Finance Committee (JFC) policy. Bent argued, however, that the speakers had agreed to come speak for free, and it would be rude to not provide them with at least some compensation for their work.

Secretary Mitch Keller noted that, while funding gifts was against JFC policy, spending less money on gifts than on simply hiring the speakers effectively resulted in SGA needing to spend less money. He said it was entirely possible that

the organization could have gotten a large chunk of a \$5,000 request for paying for speakers, but instead, only asked for \$710 to cover gifts.

Other senators disagreed with funding the gifts. Rohatgi said doing so would set a precedent for other organizations that came to ask for large sums of money later in the year. Other senators expressed reluctance at violating JFC policy.

However, one senator replied, "We violate JFC policy left and right." He urged senators to make

their decision based on the case in question, not a policy rule.

Keller agreed. "Regarding JFC policy," he said, "it's policy for JFC, not policy for the Senate." He added, "There's nothing that says we are bound by JFC policy. We are not breaking the rules by any means."

In the end, the senators decided to leave the funding for speakers' gifts in by a narrow margin of 11-10.

The bill was then passed in its final form with a more comfortable majority.