

TECHNIQUE

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Football and baseball stadium expansion plans move forward.

SPORTS page 16

DVD review of *The Matrix*, because you can never have too much Keanu!

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Grad students battle for better health insurance

A new plan would be partly school-subsidized and increase competitive advantage of graduate programs, say advocates

By Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor

Apparently, not even graduate students are immune to health insurance woes.

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) has been working to improve the present condition of graduate student health care. Currently, students are able to purchase an insurance plan similar to that of undergrads through the Student Health Center and Pierce and Pierce, but none of the cost is covered by Tech.

Unlike many of Tech's peer institutions, which offer benefit plans and insurance reimbursement to graduate student assistants and grads in research, students in similar positions at Tech are not offered any such benefits.

A group of graduate students,

with the help of Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost for research Dr. Charles Liotta, are attempting to change the current policy. The students are petitioning for a plan comparable to the one offered through the Student Health Center, costing approximately \$400 per student.

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

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

University (sic) of Georgia graduate students have pushed to "promote the goal of obtaining health care coverage for graduate students," according to an

article which appeared in the April 22 issue of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

An article entitled "A Discussion of Graduate Health Insurance Coverage," published by a Tech Health Committee in 1998, touches on the main issues of providing some type of subsidized health care for grads. According to the article, "the preponderance of evidence shows that the schools we compare ourselves to and compete against are offering health insurance as part of graduate assistant compensation." Though published two years ago, this realization has yet to come into practice. Jenelle Piepmeier, the previous chair of the Health Services Committee, composed the paper, along with Graduate Student

See *Health*, page 3

Feature Photo 'Sylvia'



By Kristi Odom/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Greg (Hugh Meyer) holds his new dog Sylvia (Shana Kerr) back from a confrontation on the street. Sylvia opens at DramaTech Theatre this weekend. Call 404-894-2745 for reservations. Student tickets are \$4. Dates of performance are July 14, 15, 19-22, and 26-29. Curtain is at 8:00 p.m.

RoboJackets featured in Dragon*Con competition

By Alan Back
Live from ringside!

On July 2, the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta became a battlefield for the last day of the 2000 Dragon*Con science-fiction/fantasy convention. Design teams for the Robot Battles contest took over the area to do their best jobs of turning perfectly good machines into disfigured wrecks in front of a packed house.

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

Teams built and armed robots in one of three weight divisions—lightweight (1-10 pounds), middleweight (10-25 pounds), or heavyweight (25-50 pounds)—and pitted them against each other in head-to-head combat. A robot won a round by either stopping its opponent cold or pushing it out of the ring, and the first to win two rounds advanced.

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

Simon Arthur of Doraville un-

"Every person here, at the drop of a hat, will help out another team, lend them tools... if they need it."

Kelly Lockhart
Robot Battles Creator

veiled an overhauled version of his 1999 entry, Stingray. Packing a ramming spike, a lifting arm, and a pair of secondary spikes, Stingray II came ready to throw down.

"I tried to incrementally improve the design, but ended up having to redo the whole thing," Arthur explained before the fights began.

Meanwhile, Terry Talton, from Dallas, Georgia, was doing some last-minute testing on his own heavyweight robot, Tin Lizzie Borden, to make sure its gas-operated hatchet could cut the mustard. He then proceeded to chop through the cover and 200 pages of a hardback book while an impressed crowd watched.

Before Talton's creation could show off more of its moves, though, the rest of the field had to be dealt with.

Most of the lightweight entries were built primarily for speed, which backfired on a few of them when they failed to stop at the ring's edge and plummeted to the floor.

See *Battles*, page 10

Fifth Street Project Partnering with the Midtown Alliance

Midtown Alliance, Fifth Street Project a perfect match

By Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor

Across the canyon otherwise known as I-75/85, an empty eight acre expanse awaits rebirth, regeneration, and the implementation of an \$148 million plan that will carry campus into Midtown.

The Midtown Alliance, creator of the comprehensive development plan entitled "Blueprint Midtown," lists more than 30 projects that will be part of Atlanta's growth and improvement in coming years.

Susan Mendheim, the president and CEO of the Midtown Alliance, stressed the importance of Tech's role in the greater Blueprint Atlanta plan.

"The Blueprint calls for Fifth Street to be a major corridor," said Mendheim. "This pedestrian and

"The Blueprint calls for Fifth Street to be a major corridor... Tech has an opportunity for a great urban entertainment experience"

Susan Mendheim
President and CEO, Midtown Alliance

vehicular corridor is extremely important to us for a variety of reasons," said Mendheim.

Midtown Alliance's reasons for becoming partners with Tech in this project are "to connect Georgia Tech with the east side of the Midtown area," and "to provide a bridge to create a boulevard along Fifth Street."

The Alliance hopes that the project will turn Fifth Street into

a mecca of retail, restaurants, pedestrians, and students, complete with plenty of trees and bicycle lanes.

Mendheim expressed the Alliance's desire to assist in the creation of a "vibrant pedestrian experience," with hopes of "bringing hundreds upon hundreds onto the street, enjoying restaurants and shops."

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Summer Housing Check-out Reminder

Due to summer conference scheduling, the Department of Housing has implemented the following check-out/check-in policy for those living on campus during this summer:

You must either move out of your summer residence hall space by August 4 or be able to move to your fall residence hall space on Monday, August 14. If you choose not to store your belongings on August 4, you must be absolutely sure you will be able to move your belongings on August 14. Otherwise, a housing staff member will be forced to pack your belongings and place them into a temporary storage area at a cost of \$100 per day. The Department of Housing will not be responsible for the condition of your belongings.

Additional information is available at the Housing Web site (www.housing.gatech.edu) under the header, "Summer 2000 Closing"

Summer Semester Final Exam Schedule

Class Meeting Time	Exam Period	Day	Date	Examination Time
MWF 10:40 - 11:50	1	Sat	7/29	8:00 -10:50
MWF 1:20 - 2:30	2	Sat	7/29	11:30 - 2:20
TTH 10:00 - 11:45	3	Sat	7/29	2:50 - 5:40
MWF 9:20 - 10:30	4	Mon	7/31	8:00 -10:50
TTH 8:00 - 9:45	5	Mon	7/31	11:30 - 2:20
MWF 8:00 - 9:10	6	Mon	7/31	2:50 - 5:40
MWF 2:40 - 3:50	7	Tue	8/1	8:00 - 10:50
MWF 12:00 - 1:10	8	Tue	8/1	11:30 - 2:20
TTH 12:00 - 1:45	9	Tue	8/1	2:50 - 5:40
MWF 4:00 - 5:00	10	Wed	8/2	8:00 - 10:50
OPEN	11	Wed	8/2	11:30 - 2:20
PERIOD FOR CONFLICTS	12	Wed	8/2	2:50 - 5:40

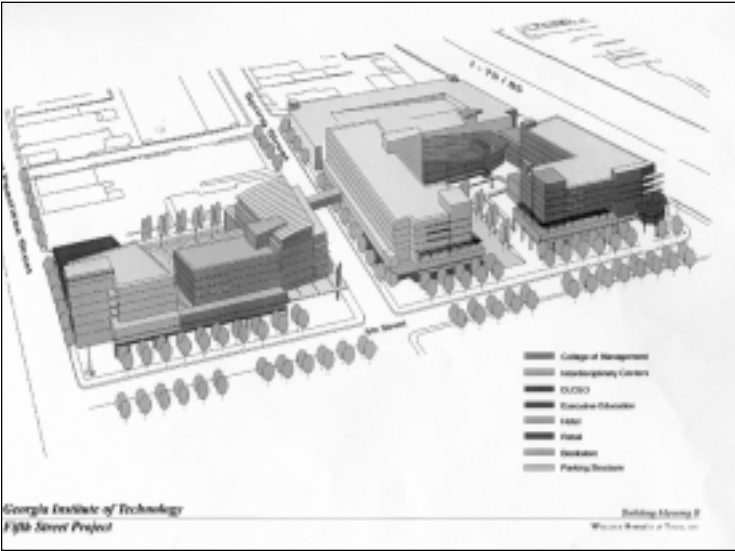
Good Luck!

NOTE: For a class meeting at irregular times, the examination period is determined by the day and hour at which the regularly sequenced class meets.

EXAMINATIONS FOR COURSES SCHEDULED DURING EVENING HOURS (5 p.m. or later): Examinations for courses scheduled during the evening hours will be conducted either during the regular evening class hours during the period of July 29 - August 2, or during the examination period for a daytime section of the course if one is available and the instructor approves.

Midtown

from page 1



An architectural drawing of the Fifth Street Project features a hotel (center on the right side of Spring Street). Retail and restaurant space is below. Fifth Street runs across the bottom of the sketch, with I-75/85 to the right.

Tech students will need to cross the interstate on Fifth Street to reach such buildings as the DuPree College of Management complex and the new University Bookstore location.

The retail space in the development will number more than 20,000 square feet. If it leases at average Atlanta rates at approximately \$18 to \$20 a square foot yearly, the retail space could bring in revenues of almost \$400,000 each year in leaseholds alone.

Students can anticipate part of the expansion as what Mendheim refers to as “critical mass of retail,” or large retail areas that attract top quality restaurants and shops.

Student concerns with the expansion involve such issues as transportation to the new area and parking in the DuPree College complex vicinity. Plans for such accommodations are not yet finalized, as the project start is at least ten months away, but designs do include a parking deck.

“Tech has an opportunity for a great urban entertainment experience,” said Mendheim.

As far as the relationship between the Midtown Alliance and Tech, Mendheim is optimistic that both will continue to support the multifaceted growth of Midtown, saying “We benefit from [Tech’s] presence and partnership.”

Health

from page 1

Government Presidents Doug Britton and David White.

The Graduate Student debated a resolution by Piepmeier two years ago that called for the administration to look into health care provisions for Graduate Research Assistants and Graduate Teaching Assistants. The unanimously passed resolution has still not yielded a plan to offer grads health care as part of a compensation package.

One of the primary goals of those who advocate a new plan is to make Tech more attractive to grads. *A Strategic Plan for the Georgia Institute of Technology*, a plan detailing the mission, strategic context, and goals for the future success of Tech,

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

A Discussion of Graduate Health Insurance Coverage 1998 Student Health Committee

includes as an objective to “attract the best graduate students- a crucial lifeline for future research excellence.”

In 1996, an implementation committee compiled a working document which detailed objectives to achieve this goal.

Although the document states that “by Fall of 1998, the Provost and Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance will work

with the Board of Regents to develop a fringe benefits program for graduate assistants,” no such program exists two years after its set date of implementation.

To GSS deals with this and other issues during their weekly meetings Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 117 of the Student Services Building. All students are welcome to provide input.

Studying for finals

Library hours for Finals Week

- Friday, July 28: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, July 29: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 30: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
- Monday, July 31: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 1: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 2: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
- Thursday, August 3: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
- Friday, August 4: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.