

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## 14th year senior?

Vernard Martin, a Ph.D. student is finally in his last year at Tech. He arrived in 1986. You do the math. **Page 14**

## Find out who won!

The results from all the Homecoming Competitions. Including Carter Green, Tech's second ugliest man! **Page 16**

# Amateur radio club celebrates 90th birthday around world

By Anthony Ritz  
Brought to you by: the letter A

Coca-Cola, earthquakes, lox, and people from around the world; can you see the common thread linking these diverse items?

If you said Amateur Radio Club, you're absolutely right! This of course begs the very important question, "Huh?"

The Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club (GTARC) is a small but extremely well established organization which offers its members diverse opportunities using HAM radio to enrich their college experience through competition, service, or just a hobby.

The earliest records of an amateur radio club at Georgia Tech date from 1910. This is old enough that GTARC was among the five oldest such organizations anywhere.

Harvard, dating from 1909, currently boasts the oldest ARC.

However, GTARC members continue to look for the elusive

records which could leapfrog Tech's ARC past even Harvard in age. Despite a somewhat hazy historical record, the Amateur Radio Club marked its 90th anniversary the weekend before last.

To celebrate, ARC members spent the day on the air, talking to alumni and trying to educate

**"We talked to every continent."**

**Tim Cailloux**  
President, GTARC

people about the history of GTARC and of radio in general.

In doing so, "We contacted people in every state, we talked to every continent," said president Tim Cailloux. In all, this totaled more than a thousand people from such global hot spots as Bangladesh, Australia, Israel,

and Yugoslavia.

Indeed, for the around twenty members of the Amateur Radio Club, this sort of thing must seem almost routine.

GTARC members have access to their broadcast room on the fifth floor of the electrical engineering building almost any time, and from there they can speak to any HAM radio operator worldwide.

Often these contacts are made just for fun, but sometimes the club communicates with much greater purpose. In particular, when natural disasters strike land lines may become unusable.

Sometimes (as is often the case with hurricanes) satellite communication is impossible as well. In such instances, a HAM radio operator needs only a wire to communicate.

For this reason, the Mexico City earthquake of 1985 brought GTARC a call from Coca-Cola.

It seems Coca-Cola had lost

See GTARC, page 15



By David Ziskind / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tim Cailloux's call sign is W4EGT and the GTARC's call sign is W4AQL. The call signs are how the radio operators identify themselves to other radio stations.

## Homecoming Happenings



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Mini 500 was just one of the odd race events that happened during the Homecoming 2000 festivities. The winners were Phi Kappa Tau and Alpha Chi Omega. Find out who came in second and third on page 16.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Greeks and non-Greeks put together a variety of Recks for the traditional Homecoming parade. Unfortunately, most of them didn't make it through the whole race. Check out page 16 for a review of some of the wild cars.

## Tuning Tech TV on GTCN

By Brent Johnson  
Awesome article

From hip shows like Flava 101 and "The Buzz" to classic movies like Animal House or The Big Lebowski, the Georgia Tech Cable Network (GTCN) seems to provide it all. The creative energy of GTCN student employees has also produced such shows as the cartoon comedy Dr. Staff and the always hip Phat Video.

Airing three times a week, Phat Videos is a half an hour pop and alternative music video show which covers anything from sports stories to political issues. Already in its fourth season, Phat Video has been awarded third place in Over-all Music Oriented Programming by the National Association of College Broadcasting.

This is due in part by the large increase in student participation in the organization. This year, GTCN boasts over 20 student members, nearly seven times as many as they had last year. The average student at GTCN will put in anywhere from 15 to 20 hours a week working on a variety of tasks from writing to graphics to editing.

Nicholas Pickle, a co-producer for "The Buzz", remarked that he'd much rather be working at GTCN than doing just about any homework. "It's much more fun doing something you love." Jonathan Bonus, producer of "The Buzz", said that everything is just "reallaid back." "The Buzz" is the weekly television news show that can be seen every Sunday

and Tuesday. GTCN programming is competitive with that of other institutions such as NYU and Stanford.

Divided into three major divisions, Programming, Video Production, and Digital Media, GTCN can certainly get things done. Also being located in Georgia Tech has some real benefits. GTCN is equipped with a master control room (playfully called the "geek tank"), and four editing suites which Georgia Tech students have little difficulty learning how to use.

GTCN also spends time creating fresh show ideas. Emily Canning, Video Productions Manager, said that most of the new shows become more of a

**GTCN is equipped with a master control room (playfully called the "geek tank")**

"collaboration of ideas," because most ideas come from the students, who are constantly building upon each other.

Each show also has a web page with on-line ratings so

GTCN can get direct feedback from viewers. General Manager Foboi Simpson said, "Students can pull off a lot things I never thought of," though controversial shows often spark heated responses from viewers.

It was no surprise then that when asked about what he found most fun about working at GTCN, Simpson said, "the students!" On one final note, Simpson said "It's not work.... It's television!", a statement that could be a theme for GTCN.

For more information on Georgia Tech Cable Network, visit their World Wide Web site at <http://www.gtcn.gatech.edu/>

# FACES at Georgia Tech

## - Profile on Vernard Martin -

By Alexandros Salazar  
Campus Life Staff

"I'm a teddy bear." This is probably the most memorable phrase Vernard Martin uses to describe himself. "Most people look at me and wonder how. I'm a big black guy, but I'm really a teddy bear, that's all."

It is not hard to see how that would be true. Talking to him is like talking to a very, very happy bear. But then again, why wouldn't he be? After fourteen continuous years at Tech (no kidding, more on this later), Vernard is about to graduate with his Ph.D. in Computer Science. He already has a good career going, and he has been happily married for the past year or so.

When asked about his long stay at Tech, Vernard simply said "Tech is home." Coming from a proverbial one-red-light town called Hogansville, GA, Vernard watched his older brother come to Tech and send letters home. "As a result," said Vernard "I had this vision of Atlanta as this huge city, like New York. I wanted to go there." In 1986, Vernard came and joined the department of Information and Computer Science, which was part of the College of Science and Liberal Studies. In other words, he came before

the now-mammoth College of Computing even existed. He finished his undergraduate degree by 1990 and joined the Ph.D. program. "My first summer here, my parents called me and told me that they'd rather see me go to school rather than do the cruise they had planned. I have been at Tech ever since," said Vernard.

To tell Vernard's story would take far too long; in fifteen years, he has founded organizations, been on the student government, including

"...you can stay in school forever. But..."

Vernard Martin

four years as Chair of the Graduate Judiciary Committee, worked as a TA and system administrator (for a time, v@any.server.on.campus would reach him), and probably done many more things than he could tell about in a year (including an interesting episode regarding a pool on the second floor of Techwood... but I digress). But one thing that had to be asked was: Why now? After fourteen years, why do you want to leave now?

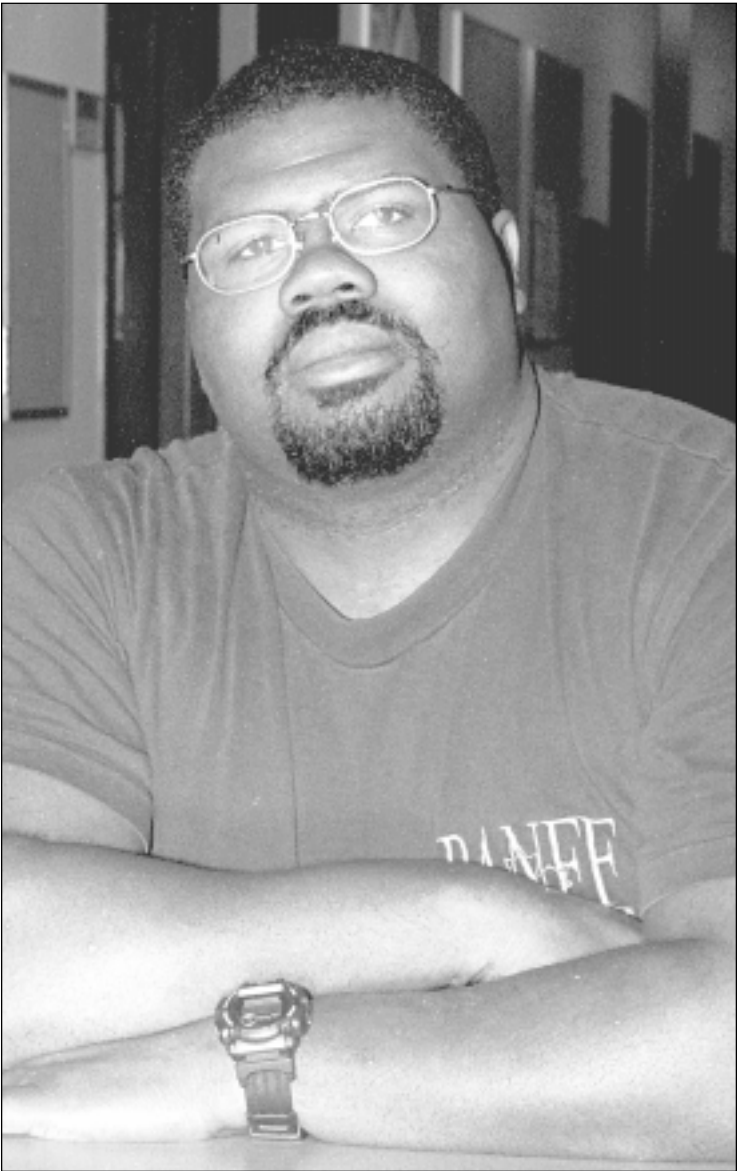
"I'm married now," Vernard said,

"While it's just you, it doesn't matter what you do, you can stay in school forever. But when you get married, you begin to take things more seriously. Also, I feel like I have learned everything that I could possibly learn from Tech. It's time to move on."

Not very far, though. "Over fifteen years, I have made a lot of friends that live in this area, and... I am very fond of. I don't think I'm going to move anytime soon. Sure, I'll travel for work, but I want to stay here. I'd also like to be within shooting distance of Tech."

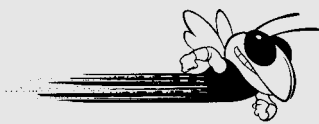
And with all that experience, what are his recommendations to the students? "I wish more students would take part in the programs that are designed to regulate them, like SGA. In the College of Computing, the first year I did SGA, there were five openings and four candidates. It's still like that."

While Vernard Martin may leave us soon as a member of the student body, he'll be around. "There are many organizations that I was a member of that I still look into sometimes. And they know that if they ever need anything, they're welcome to contact me, and I'll help in any way I can." If experience does indeed provide wisdom, Vernard is a sage.



By David Ziskind / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Vernard Martin has been on campus longer than many professors. His love for Tech is demonstrated by the fact that he's stayed here for 14 years and all his degrees. Vernard will be finishing his Ph.D. shortly.



# Buzz Around the Campus

**Question** of the week

“How will you ‘relieve stress’ over Fall Break?”

Feature and photos by Scott King.



**Rod Knudson**  
EE Junior

*“I’m studying for a spelling bee!”*



**Andrew Stevenson**  
BC Sophomore

*“Sex. Lots of sex.”*



**Annie Barclay**  
Physics Freshman

*“Throw darts at people’s pictures.”*



**Frank Robles**  
CS Freshmen

*“Gonna get my mosh on at Under the Couch.”*

## GTARC

from page 13

contact with their Mexico City affiliate, and the club helped them get in touch over the airwaves. Coca-Cola was very grateful, and in return “We had a mountain of soda,” said Callioux. Indeed, it is not unusual in such situations for GTARC to be contacted by NBC, CNN, and other news organizations. Sometimes, these groups even camp out on campus to get GTARC’s assistance. Tournaments around the nation provide operators a chance to

brush up on their skills in a fun environment. Generally the goal is to contact as many operators in as many places as quickly as possible. The biggest of these, the November Sweepstakes, has Morse Code-only and voice-only events on the first and third weekends of November. Tech sends a team each year, and even new members usually get the opportunity to step right in. Team members describe this event as “intense.”

Almost every other weekend sees a competition taking place by radio somewhere, often specifying people in a particular state to be contacted. When the Washington state event rolls around, first prize is a half pound of lox. There is also much to be done on the research side GTARC. Research into high frequency radio waves is leading to new technology allowing (at least in theory) web surfing by radio. Low frequencies, too, are not well understood. Callioux said GTARC prepares people better than almost anything else for their engi-

neering classes, with work in antennas for mechanical and civil engineers, “software defined radio” technology for CS majors, and, of course, plenty of fun for any ECE. *Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in EE room W218. The club charges SGA minimum dues of \$24/yr. Interested students are invited to participate first and join later if they like it. To learn more about GTARC visit their Web page at <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/W4AQL> (the club’s call letters), or e-mail [W4AQL@gatech.edu](mailto:W4AQL@gatech.edu)*

## Join Campus Life Staff

Write for me Write for me Write for me. So Anthony doesn’t have to write all the stories in my section! Staff Meetings. Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. Technique Office

Homecoming Event Results

Overall Winners

Fraternities

First: Phi Kappa Tau  
Second: Delta Chi  
Third: Theta Xi

Sororities

First: Phi Mu  
Second: Alpha Gamma Delta  
Third: Alpha Chi Omega

Event Winners

Mini 500

Fraternities

First: Phi Kappa Tau  
Second: Delta Chi  
Third: Beta Theta Pi

Sororities

First: Alpha Chi Omega  
Second: Alpha Xi Delta  
Third: Alpha Gamma Delta

Display Contest

Fraternities

First: Phi Kappa Tau  
Second: Tau Kappa Epsilon  
Third: Phi Kappa Tau

Sororities

First: Phi Mu  
Second: Alpha Gamma Delta  
Third: Alpha Chi Omega

Ugly Man on Campus

Non-Greek

First: Carter Green, Technique  
Fraternities

First: Delta Chi  
Second: Chi Psi

Sororities

First: Alpha Gamma Delta  
Second: Alpha Xi Delta

Reck - Classic Car

Sororities

First: Alpha Chi Omega  
Second: Alpha Gamma Delta  
Third: Phi Mu

Fraternities

First: Lambda Chi Alpha  
Second: Psi Upsilon  
Third: Pi Kappa Phi

Reck - Fixed Body

Sororities

First: Alpha Gamma Delta  
Second: Phi Mu  
Fraternities

First: Phi Kappa Tau

Second: Theta Xi

Third: Pi Kappa Phi

Reck - Contraption

First: Phi Kappa Tau  
Second: Theta Chi  
Third: Kappa Sigma

Tech Trivia

Sororities

First: Alpha Gamma Delta

Fraternities

First: Phi Kappa Phi

Ramblin’ reck parade wraps up

By Julia Trapold  
On early vacation

For the past 71 years, Georgia Tech has held a race as a homecoming festivity.

It is currently known as the Ramblin’ Reck Parade, but it has a very different history.

The parade began in 1929 when the *Technique* sponsored a race from Tech to Athens.

It was known as the Old Ford race back then because almost everyone drove a Ford. The race offered students a chance to show their skill in auto mechanics as well as have fun.

Later it was decided that it was too dangerous to drive old cars along the highway, so the race was confined to Tech’s campus. The first Ramblin’ Reck parade was held on campus in 1933.

The contestants drove their cars around the football field and were judged on the appearance of their costumes, the originality of their stunts, and the quality of their cars.

Now, 67 years after the first Ramblin’ Reck parade, the cars are much different.

The parade, which is sponsored by the Ramblin’ Reck Club, is now divided into three categories: classic, fixed body, and contraption.

A classic car is defined as an unmodified vehicle at least 25 years old; a fixed body vehicle must have a direct drive train; and a contrap-

tion must have an indirect drive train.

This year’s parade was held last Saturday at 8 a.m.

It began at Fowler and Eighth Streets, and it ended at Fowler and Fifth Streets. The contraptions had ten minutes to finish the race.

Saturday was one of the best parades we’ve had in terms of entries, said Amanda Clark, the Ramblin’ Reck Parade Chair.

It was decided that it was too dangerous to drive old cars along the highway, so the race was confined to Tech’s campus.

Everything went smoothly, but only three contraptions actually finished the course Kappa Sigma, Theta Chi, and Phi Kappa Tau.

Although the only three finishing contraptions came from fraternities, all chartered organizations may enter a vehicle in the parade.

Before the contraptions may participate in the parade, they must undergo two inspections the week before the parade. There are also restrictions, such as a maximum height and length.

Students spend weeks building the contraptions so that they meet restrictions and can actually run.

“We worked about four to five weeks, when we had time,” said Chris Greenway, vice president of Kappa Sigma, “In building our contraption, we used a working ’88 Nissan pickup and a ’64 U-Haul chassis with cab.”

Phi Kappa Tau finished first in the parade with a complicated contraption.

“Our wreck was the enormous, white and gold, steel inchworm,” said Joe Nilsestuen, a senior member of Phi Kappa Tau.

The design was basically two cars, attached by giant steel scissor-like arms.

The front car would push forward, and then pull the rear car towards it as the arms were contracted.

“It took a lot of work, time, and patience to make this thing work,” said Nilsestuen.

The cars are judged on static appearance and originality, operational performance, time, and a written presentation, which describes any special effects or history of the contraption.

The five judges last Saturday were John Carter, Tommy Klemis, Clint Padgett, Billiee Pendleton-Parker, and Dr. Lee Wilcox.

The first place contraption received \$500, and the first place fixed body received \$200.

# Time to meet Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech

By Becca Cutri-Kohart  
*Technique Queen*

Like James Bond and Mon-ey Penny, the Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech represent the spirit of this year's Homecoming. After several weeks of suspense, inter-views, a campus-wide election, and a final selection committee, the nominees for Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech were widdled down to ten, then five, and then finally the two winners. Rajiv Saigal and Jill Pollyniak were chosen. Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech is not a beauty pageant.

In fact, the deciding factors include grades, career aspirations, campus involvement, and a vote from the student body. "People say 'Oh, you're Homecoming Queen'" said Pollyniak, "I hate that word... this is an honor not a pageant." The tradition of Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech started in 1987.

Before that year, there was only a homecoming queen selected by popular vote. In one particular incident, a male ran for Homecoming queen and made it to the finals, although he withdrew from the contest.

In response to this event, the administration developed a system where people would not be honored just by popularity, but by other criteria as well.

Pollyniak was nominated by Delta Chi fraternity and Saigal was nominated by Alpha Chi Omega sorority in the first step in their bids to be the personification of campus. Though the nominations were last spring, the competition didn't pick up until the last month or so. Both Pollyniak and Saigal described the their feelings about the selection process as "nervousness."



By Alisa Hawkins / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Rajiv Saigal and Jill Pollyniak are this year's Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech. They were selected based on their academic success, interview, involvement on campus, love for GT, and a campus-wide vote.**

One of the first questions both had to answer in their quest to be Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech, even one of their first college questions ever, was "Why come to Georgia Tech in the first place?" Pollyniak and Saigal are common in that they weren't originally convinced that Tech was the place for them. But, in the end, they were convinced. "I totally fell in love with the place, Atlanta the big city, its value... it just felt right" said Saigal.

Both have ambitious career goals. Pollyniak plans on a career in business and consulting, and an eventual graduate degree. Saigal is already planning a career in biomedical engineering. After earning his Masters degree at a university in Denmark, he plans to come back to earn

his Ph.D. researching ways to help paralyzed people walk again and teaching.

As you would expect, both are very involved on campus. Pollyniak considers her primary achievement in helping freshmen through FASET, and cites one of her greatest accomplishments on campus is "the difference I've made in freshmen's lives." Saigal has led up Women's Awareness Month's Take Back the Night, and comments that he not only has a "passion for the issue," but also sees the need for men to take responsibility in preventing sexual assault.

Neither of our Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech are "all work, and no play." Among more interesting experiences, Pollyniak has

traveled to 30 countries, and was even on a train when it derailed in Peru. She is now considering joining the Peace Corps. Saigal has attended 21 Mardi Gras celebrations (this is helped by the fact that he originates from New Orleans). In his spare time, he also enjoys studying the unusual combination of eastern philosophy and break dancing!

Both were very modest in commenting on what makes them spectacular enough to represent campus in their positions as Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech. Saigal cites the "importance of serving others... [and his] belief in dedication" that has made him a success. Pollyniak added the her "love for the school and everything in it" made a huge difference.

## Thanks from Mr. & Ms.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people. I would like to thank my freshman roommate Tracy for inspiring me to be myself and pursue my dreams. To my friends, my family, and my boyfriend, thank you for encouraging me to continue my passions no matter what obstacles seem to fall in my way. Amy Stalzer, thank you for being a support, a mentor, and most importantly a friend. Your dedication, insight, and ability to inspire will never be forgotten. To all of Georgia Tech's faculty and administration, thank you for fostering a nurturing environment where student leaders can continuously learn, grow, excel, and achieve. To all of the freshmen, I can only hope that you will dare to be innovative, challenge limits, and envision a future community of leaders and visionaries, as I have. To the brothers of Delta-Chi, thank you for your nomination and continued support. I would not be where I am today if you hadn't believed in me. Finally, to my "partner in crime" Rajiv, you truly amaze me, you embody the spirit of a community leader, and I'm honored to share this next year with you.

*Jill Pollyniak*

Being named Mr. Georgia Tech was the most amazing experience of my life. I've spent a lot of time reflecting lately and I've come to realize how incredibly lucky a person I am. I wouldn't trade these past four years for anything. There are times in life when we are lucky enough to cross paths with those who inspire. I don't really don't see Mr. Georgia Tech as a reflection of myself, but rather a reflection of the many talented and inspiring people here. Great friends, great roommates, great mentors. These have been the hallmark of my Georgia Tech experience. In all her strengths and weaknesses, Georgia Tech offers the possibility to make us better people. We are some of the luckiest students in the land. I've always felt that we should view this opportunity as a calling to service, to give back to others for our good fortune. I've done my best to do that and hope that I have succeeded in some way. I am thankful for the opportunity to have fought for this community. It's been a good place to fight for. I finally have to give mention to my life mentor, Sensei Sang Lee. I thank him for his countless teachings.

*Rajiv Saigal*