

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

TECHNIQUE

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With its recent tournament win, undefeated softball is on a roll.

Hairspray isn't just for your hair; this musical is filled with colorful social commentary.

SPORTS page 31

ENTERTAINMENT page 17



Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

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Top student films air tonight

Campus MovieNite is tonight at the Ferst Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, and a lucky few will win door prizes.

In addition to the grand prize, prizes will be handed out for five new film categories: best film from a club or organization, best film from a fraternity or sorority, best film from a freshmen team, best documentary and best film promoting Women's Awareness Month.

Nobel laureate Hume to speak

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate John Hume of Northern Ireland will be speaking tomorrow at the Human Rights Conference to be held in the Wardlaw Center. The conference starts today at 9 a.m. and runs until 5:30 p.m. It continues tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will examine the status of human rights in an "era of crisis."

Other speakers include representatives from Amnesty International USA and the Carter Center, as well as scholars from Tech and other academic and non-profit institutions. The conference is free and open to the public. A complete list of speakers is available at www.humanrights.gatech.edu.

Tsunami relief concert Monday

Nothin' But Treble, Tech's only all female a cappella group, is holding a Tsunami Relief Benefit Concert on Monday night at 8 p.m. The concert will take place at Under the Couch. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted. All donations will be sent to the tsunami relief effort overseas.

Committee proposes fee hike

By Michael Handelman
Staff Writer

The Joint Finance Committee of the SGA has recommended a \$15 increase to the Student Activity Fee (SAF) in response to increased funding requests. These requests come primarily from the Campus Recreation Center and the Student Center. The SAF currently

stands at \$98 per semester.

According to a JFC report, "Without an SAF increase, the combined effect of increased costs in Tier 1 and Tier 2 organizations would significantly diminish the funds available to Tier 3 organizations and Student Government operating account."

Additionally, the report also stated that without a fee increase, the Tech-

Rec area of the Student Center would "most likely have to be shut down."

If approved by the Board of Regents, the fee increase would also maintain last year's levels of funding for the cultural, sports and academic clubs collectively known as Tier 3 organizations.

Of the total \$15 increase, two-thirds

See Budget, page 7



By Jon Kaye / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Year of the Rooster: Students celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Rooster with a traditional dragon dance near the Campanile. The Chinese Student Association rang in the lunar new year last Thursday, Feb. 10. Twelve different animals comprise the cycle of Chinese years.

Suspect arrested for car break-ins

By Amanda Dugan
Staff Writer

The Georgia Tech Police Department arrested Tony Jackson last month, a man suspected to be the source of a recent increase in vehicle break-ins on East Campus.

"We think Jackson is responsible for the recent increase because of the location and car he was found in. He also matched descriptions of previous witnesses," Public Safety Officer Carla Cook said.

GTPD responded to a call reporting

a suspicious male looking into vehicles in Peters Parking deck. On arrival they found Jackson in the driver's seat of a Nissan Frontier. There was visible broken glass on the ground. Jackson resisted arrest and gave the name Michael Ben Hall.

"The south part of campus and SUVs like the Nissan Frontier seemed to be the target recently," Cook said.

Four other entered autos were found in the immediate area where GTPD arrested Jackson. He was charged with entering autos, giving a false name to police, obstruction of officers, criminal

trespass, financial transaction card theft and theft by receiving stolen property.

Jackson is currently in jail and has a \$15,000 bond. Cook said the number of reported auto break-ins decreased after his arrest.

Jackson was previously arrested Sept. 18, 2004 for receiving stolen property. Jackson ran before being detained by the GTPD, who responded to a suspicious person call. Jackson was found with a Nike bag that had been

See Crime, page 4

System allows for online laundry tracking



By Andrew Saulters / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech students will soon be able to check the status of their laundry remotely via online tracking and email updates.

By Grace Mookan
Contributing Writer

A new initiative backed by the Student Center and the Residence Hall Association (RHA) in cooperation with MacGray Laundry Co., the company responsible for campus laundry machines, is trying to change laundry to make it more convenient for Tech students.

This initiative includes a new online laundry tracking service, new washers and a price increase.

The laundry tracking service, priced at approximately \$10,000,

will be an online tool aimed at allowing students to check the status of their laundry and how

"I think it would free up time while doing laundry..."

Meghan Quinlan
2nd-year Psych major

many minutes they have left on washers and dryers.

The system can also inform

students of free washers and dryers, and be a source used to locate machines in need of maintenance repairs.

This service would also include options for students to be emailed or text messaged on their cell phones when their laundry is ready.

Some students feel this will help save time in a busy day.

"I think it would free up time while doing laundry so you could do other things," said Meghan Quinlan, second-year Psychology major.

See Laundry, page 5

Quality Enhancement Plan

International Plan wins Senate approval

By Nikhil Joshi
Staff Writer

The Academic Senate and General Faculty voted at their Feb. 1 meeting to adopt a designator for the International Plan portion of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). This puts the QEP, part of Tech's ongoing effort to maintain accreditation, a step closer to implementation.

The International Plan will place a global emphasis on any degree program. Students who pursue this course of study will take classes related to language, global economics and international relations, as well as a class covering a major region or country of the world. Two overseas terms will accompany the coursework.

"There is no form of preparation at the university as substantive for global studies [as the International Plan]," said Jack Lohmann, associate provost. "Employers will be aware of its benefits."

In the Senate meeting, Howard Rollins, director of International Education, said "We want to help students develop international competence, not just provide overseas experience," according to *The Whistle*.

By early next week, Tech will release a draft of the full QEP, which it will later submit to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for review March 15.

The QEP submission is one of the requirements SACS has in place for accreditation for all universities.

The plan varies from school to school, focusing on a topic chosen by the school.

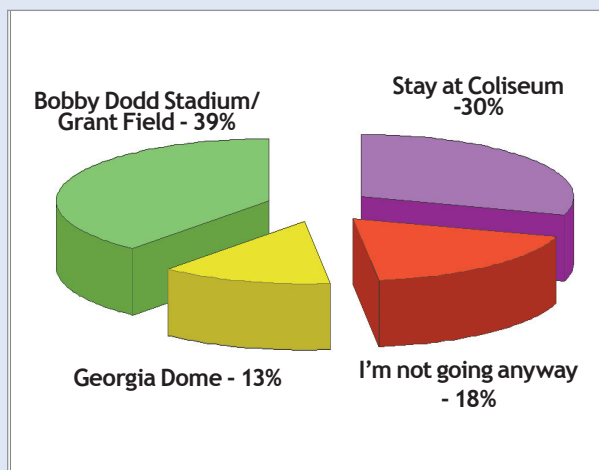
Tech's QEP deals with undergraduate students and consists of two parts—the International Plan and a Research Plan, both of which the school intends to implement over approximately the next five years.

Lohmann described the QEP as an "exciting and unique" opportunity because of what students as well as the school stand to gain from it.

Not only will it help the school get reaccredited, he said, but it will give students the opportunity to strengthen their academic records in preparation for post-graduate studies or the workforce.

Like the International Plan, the Research Plan will allow undergraduates to complete a degree designation in the same

See QEP, page 7

Technique Online Voice your opinion!*Last issue's question received 112 responses.***Where would you like commencement to be?**

By Lauren Griffin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

*This week's question:***Do you support a \$15 Student Activity Fee increase?**Tell us at www.nique.net**Going up?**

At the North Campus Parking Deck, an unknown person urinated on the floor after breaking into the elevator control room. The defecation occurred sometime between 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4. Upon inspection no damages were found.

"I will end you."

In the College of Computing room 315, a male student reportedly said, "I will end you," to another student after being treated condescendingly for being late to lab. The non-tardy student felt threatened

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

and filed a police report citing that the student also pounded his fists. No charges were pressed.

Not for medicinal purposes

On Lynch Street, a 20-year-old man was arrested after trying to evade police by foot after wrecking his Ford truck. The man crashed his truck after running a stop sign at Hemphill Avenue and Ferst Drive. Two sacks of suspected marijuana and other drug paraphernalia were found in the truck.

Not only do they wake you up...

At the Weber Building, a landscaping crew scraped up several vehicles as they blew leaves around the parking lot. A male witness saw two men with leafblowers repeatedly

bump into several trucks parked behind the building. A 20-year-old male claimed that several scratches on his truck that already had touch-up paint on them were caused by the crew. The landscaping supervisor was made aware of the incident.

Suspended

A 20-year-old woman was told her license from Baton Rouge, La. was suspended, after her green Ford Explorer was stopped for having an expired tag. She was cited for driving with a suspended license and operating her vehicle without a valid tag. Her car was impounded and she was released.

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.

Coverage requests

The *Technique* welcomes requests for coverage. Press releases and event information may be emailed to nique@gatech.edu

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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

Grads fund Ultimate team, appoint senators

By Arcadiy Kantor
Senior Staff Writer

The Graduate Student Senate held another brief meeting Tuesday, passing two bills with little discussion before adjourning.

The Senate passed an allocation to the Men's Ultimate club team, giving the organization \$1,300 to cover a tournament entry fee and partial travel expenses to San Diego.

The senators initially failed to pass a motion to raise the bill for consideration because the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) had not yet met to discuss whether the bill met funding guidelines.

Senator Pelham Norville urged the senators to reconsider, however, as the bill needed immediate action. He informed the Senate that he had spoken to David Andersen, JFC chair, who said the bill did follow the committee's guidelines.

The club was invited at the end of January to the President's Day tournament and has had to scramble to make travel arrangements as a result.

On a second effort, the Senate voted to address the bill and proceeded to pass it with little discussion.

The other bill passed at the

Bills passed

- Joint allocation to Men's Ultimate Club Team
- Appointment of graduate senators

meeting, proposed as a spot bill by Kasi David, graduate student body president, appointed two additional senators.

The two senators will be representing the Schools of Industrial and Systems Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

The senators also received an update on the results of a meeting of the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) Steering Committee.

The committee discussed the cleanliness of the CRC's bathrooms and locker rooms at its meeting.

According to the senator reporting the meeting, the custodial staff at the CRC has not been doing an adequate job of cleaning the center's facilities, and since the custodians are not employed directly by the CRC, resolving the issue has been difficult.

The senator further said that CRC Director Mike Edwards has been

See GSS, page 4

Undergraduate House of Representatives

UHR tables Wushu Club allocation



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Eric Scukanec, George Boone and Lindsay Sprung were sworn in to the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet by Chief Justice Meghan Bayer. They were approved by unanimous acclamation at UHR.

By Shan Sharif
Contributing Writer

The Undergraduate House of Representatives passed two bills and postponed one bill during Tuesday night's session.

An allocation to the Wushu Club was one of the first bills considered. Wushu Club is an organization that promotes and practices Chinese martial arts, especially Wushu. According to the organization's representative, Wushu Club practices nearly every day.

The organization was asking for money for an annual Collegiate Level Competition that will be held in University of California Davis. The money will be used to cover travel

expenses and a registration fee for the three members of Wushu Club that will be participating in the competition.

According to Wushu Club's representative, the organization attended the tournament last year and performed very well. He expects that they will do well again this year.

The representatives were concerned about the way the bill was written.

Since the organization has both undergraduate and graduate members, it was supposed to be a joint allocation between the Undergraduate House of Representatives and the Graduate Student Senate.

The representatives voted to table the bill so it could be properly

Bills passed

- Appointment of Undergraduate Judicial Council Justice
- Joint allocation to Men's Ultimate Club Team

Bills tabled

- Allocation to Wushu Club

written.

Another bill considered was an allocation to the Men's Ultimate Club Team. This club competes with Ultimate Teams from other clubs and schools.

The organization's representative and president of the club, Parag

See UHR, page 5

GSS from page 3

personally involved in improving the situation.

Additionally, Secretary Mitchel Keller announced the availability of the SGA’s online bill submission system.

Senators expressed hope that the system will speed up the process of getting a bill through student government. The system makes several advancements towards that goal.

One of the features of the system requires authors to provide substantially more information about each bill.

The data presented on each bill includes a summary of the requesting organization’s fundraising efforts, previously received SGA funding and expected participation numbers for events.

Instructions for submitting a bill using the new system are available on the SGA website, www.sga.gatech.edu.

Crime from page 1

reported stolen. “It is not unusual to have multiple incidents with the same person,” Cook said.

“This same type of incident happened before. We had a surge of break-ins that ended after we arrested Antonio Kimble,” Cook said.

Kimble was arrested by the GTPD in 2003 for theft by receiving stolen property, possession of tools, criminal trespass, entering

auto, interference with government property and escape.

He mainly targeted Jeeps and Hondas parked in the south and west areas of campus.

On Jan. 27, Kimble was released from Fulton County Jail. A recent crime alert warned people around campus to be on the look out for Kimble.

“We sent out a crime alert so that he could be caught before entering any vehicles,” Cook said.

“It’s a cycle. They will break in, get

arrested, and come back. We need everyone to be aware,” Cook said.

“With vehicle safety it is about a raised awareness. When we send out a mass e-mail it is like 16,000 extra officers are helping us,” Cook said, “Criminals know to watch out for police in the blue cars, but it is not as easy if everyone is on the alert.”

“Always secure valuables and be aware of your surroundings. Sometimes it is easy to forget on Tech’s campus that we’re in downtown Atlanta,” Cook said.

Are you interested in...

- writing?

emaildevelopment@nique.net

-photography?

emailphotoed@technique.gatech.edu

Laundry from page 1

“Having the ability to check washer status online wouldn’t completely take away the pain of doing laundry, but it would definitely be a step in the right direction,” said RHA President Andrew Howard.

Though the website will be external to the Tech network, traffic will still be run through it.

“Schools like MIT, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Polytechnic Institute, Columbia and various other tech-savvy schools all along the east coast are already using this laundry tracking service,” said David Fernandes, RHA vice president.

Because of positive feedback from these schools as well as Tech, this service is being pursued by RHA and the Student Center.

The initiative goes beyond the online tracking service.

Rich Steele, director of the Student Center, said he hopes to renovate laundry rooms as well as relieve areas

of high-congestion.

“Many new and exciting ideas about laundry reformation are being discussed and a contract is being drawn up with MacGray Laundry Co.,” he said.

“I don’t see the need for this expensive system... A tracking system for stingers would be much more useful.”

Umehani Dalal First-year EE major

The results of this new initiative are already being seen in the replacement of old top-loading machines with new front-loading machines.

“The new machines allow for a greater capacity and more efficiency,” Fernandes said.

Quinlan agreed. “I think the new machines are an improvement over old machines; they wash better,” she said.

Some students, however, disagree. “The new machines feel smaller,” said Jason Bennett, first-year Computer Science major.

“They’re annoying. I now have to cram in clothes I used to fit in comfortably and slam the door quickly to prevent clothes from falling out,” he added.

In addition, the Brittain Rec, ULC, West Commons and Hopkins laundry rooms are scheduled to have BuzzCard Monitors installed so that all students may have access to laundry facilities.

Though the details of the laundry tracking service are not finalized and a contract is still on the drawing board, there is a high probability that it will be signed in upcoming weeks. If so, the changes will be effective starting Fall 2005.

A price increase in washing is also expected starting Fall 2005.

“Washing prices have been con-

stant for the last seven years although Atlanta’s water and sewer costs have experienced an approximately 30 to 40 percent increase,” Steele said.

The new price for washing during peak hours will be \$1.25, up from \$1 now. A discounted price of \$1.00 will be offered from 4 a.m. to 12 noon on weekdays. Drying costs will remain constant.

Students have differing opinions about the online laundry service.

“It would make doing laundry very convenient,” said first-year Chemical Engineering major Melanie Dewitt.

However, not everyone was as supportive.

“I don’t see the need for this expensive system. Whenever I go down there’s always a free machine,” said Umehani Dalal, a first-year Electrical Engineering major.

Steele said he remains optimistic about the initiative and “looks to have all new machine in all facilities, improve the level of service for students and provide a better laundry experience all-around.”

UHR from page 3

Gajarawala, said the team had been invited to an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament hosted by University of California San Diego.

There will be 30 men’s teams from around the country attending the tournament.

The organization is asking for \$1,000 for travel expenses and \$300 for registration fees.

There will be 15 members going to the tournament from the Tech team.

The bill was not initially slated for discussion. However, it was moved from old to new business so that the undergraduates could consider it before the club needed the money.

The bill passed in the GSS and it met JFC recommendations, so it was passed quickly.

Finally, a bill for appointments to the Undergraduate Judicial Council Justice was passed. Three new Justices were sworn in.

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

1. Will someone tell that poor kid that his iPod is gone forever?

2. Will somebody also tell him he can win another one by entering the campus-wide black history contest?

3. Anybody else see the Eternal Flame at the physical plant?

4. It’s raining. Why are you still walking around outside barefooted?

I don’t want to eat your tortilla.

and i wont be printing that... studentAv(“so, what is Logic-Works?”);

studentBv(“well, hrm. Ya know Photoshop? It is like that, but for circuits.”);

breaking up for me is as easy as deleting them from my buddy list

I hate Valentine’s Day!!!

Gaby: be my valentine! I love you, Guille.

Girls u alwys get the white guys. Be Different. Get someone else.

Thanks to Needs-A-Good-Brushing boy in INTA 2010 (emp. methods w/ Brecke) for providing endlless entertainment.

\m/ d_-b \m/

Walid ate the Baby

Bill for President

Pyrophrenology

The dumber people think you are, the more surprised they’re gonna be when you kill them.

Have a great Single Awareness Day!

Jigga-huh?

To the dude in love with the blonde MGT girl: you’re not a stalker, you just have a penis.

Too bad, mine’s bigger.

Physics sucks, and they know it!

If you’re that annoying know-it-all who asks all the questions in Java, shut up! No one else cares and we’re not impressed!

Lacrosse Games On SAC Fields...come drunk, bring friends, and heckle the opposing team

See page 12 for more slivers



By Scott Medway / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Leading the Way: President Wayne Clough gives a presentation Feb. 15 during "Georgia Tech: Innovating Here and Now," a discussion of Tech's role as an innovation leader in the 21st century.

QEP

from page 1

amount of time that it takes most students to graduate.

Students who choose to be in this program will participate in three semesters of research, and will take courses to learn how research is conducted and presented.

Lohmann said that the Research Plan "will provide opportunities for undergraduate students who want to be involved with intense research."

For completing either program successfully, students will receive a degree designation similar to the one for the Cooperative Plan.

Because neither program is a separate degree or certificate, students who choose to pursue one of the two programs will not need any

extra hours to graduate.

The hours will be accommodated for by modifying the curricula requirements of different majors.

"The Research Plan and International Plan will be integrated into the degree programs," Lohmann said.

"In the International Plan, for example, students will take courses for completion of the program, along with degree courses, from their freshman year to their senior year," he said.

Akshay Chander, a first-year Industrial Engineering major, liked the idea of the QEP after being informed of the Research Plan and the International Plan.

"I think both the Research Plan and the International Plan have huge benefits for students," he said. "Graduate schools will look favorably

upon undergraduate research."

Even after it is accredited once, a school must apply to SACS every 10 years for accreditation.

To complete the process, SACS will conduct an on-site visit in April, and Tech is expected to be reaccredited by December.

However, Lohmann said, Tech will continue to work on the plans outlined in the QEP for more than the next five years, by which time he anticipates that the Research Plan and the International Plan will be implemented.

"Our efforts will continue beyond five years," he said. "We want to broaden and expand these programs to meet our goals."

A draft of the QEP will be released by early next week, and will be submitted to SACS by mid-March.

Budget

from page 1

is dedicated to increased staffing demands from the facility expansions of the CRC and Student Center.

Additionally, 13 percent of the increase will go toward improving "risk management," and seven percent of the increase will fund an expansion of CRC's operating hours.

Other earmarked funds from the fee increase would subsidize the operation of Tech-Rec and fund state-mandated fee increases for administrative staff serving student organizations.

Current SGA funding policies require that Tier 1 organizations (which the CRC and Student Center are) receive the highest priority in student activity fee allocations.

However, despite this requirement, student government officials say that they have attempted to minimize Tier 1 funding requests.

"Tier 1 has to receive a priority... We have trimmed all the fat out of their budgets," said David Andersen, JFC chair.

"The budget that the CRC sent to us was significantly lower than the one that they initially sent to

SGA," he added.

SGA officials are adamant that the fee increases are essential to maintaining the current level of student life.

"Since [the] CRC's expansion, the numbers alone have shown the increased usage and crowding of the facility... I know several students have commented on wanting to use the facility more and expanding its hours," said Amy Phuong, undergraduate student body president.

"I know we have worked closely with [CRC director] Mike Edwards... to ensure that the fee increase will be efficiently maximized and spent to best meet the majority of students," she added.

Kasi David, graduate student body president, said that increasing funding to the CRC was necessary to maintain the quality of graduate student life.

"When we got the numbers from the CRC, in terms of the big increase of numbers of people coming into it, and particularly from the graduate student perspective," he said. "It made it easier to support the decisions of the fee increase, because we realized how vital of a service it is."

"Most of the things that this fee is going to fund is education outside the classroom... It is regrettable that we have to increase it, but it is also a necessary increase to make sure that students have the type of experience that makes them well-rounded," David added.

Student government officials

"It is regrettable that we have to increase it, but it is also a necessary increase..."

Kasi David

Graduate president

have stressed that the goal of the fee increase is to fund the Student Center and CRC, and not to increase the total amount of funding to Tier 3 organizations.

"Even with the increased number of budgets, the budget for the entire Tier 3 is not increased... Therefore, we have stressed fundraising efforts

and utilizing resources," Phuong said.

A fee increase is not guaranteed. The Board of Regents could choose to approve a smaller increase, or they could reject any increase.

Should either of those outcomes happen, SGA officers predict negative consequences for student organizations. The JFC report listed sport clubs, hobby groups, cultural and diversity organizations, community service projects, leadership conferences and student life programs as groups that could receive decreased SGA funding.

There are some members of SGA who feel that there were other avenues to cut excess funding from this year's budget.

Math representative Stephanie Bent said, "I am disappointed that the stipend issue has not been investigated... Each organization—*Technique*, SGA and Student Center Programs Council—chooses how much they think their officers deserve and I fear that some people are being under-compensated and some overcompensated."

David, however, said the level of funding for stipends plays a minimal

role in the budget increases.

"I do agree that we possibly should take a closer look at stipends, and make them more consistent, and there is always room for improving the system across the board," he said. "I wouldn't say that stipends are a large part of the fee increase."

Phuong also cited experiences last year that precluded discussions of the stipends for this year's budget.

"Last year's SGA [executive officers] began looking into the stipend issue, and it got a very negative response from student organizations who were either directly or indirectly affected... The general consensus from last year was to back off from the stipend issue until we did more research," she said.

Once finalized, the undergraduate and graduate presidents will submit the proposed budget and fee increase to their student councils for approval. SGA executive officers said they are confident that students will support their efforts.

"Whether they are involved in a campus organization or not, we feel that the overwhelming response that we have received warrants a \$15 fee increase," Andersen said.

Technique

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