

# TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

ONLINE <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique>

Serving Georgia Tech since 1911 • Volume 86, Issue 21 • 36 pages

AASU stirs controversy, legal issues by inviting Al Sharpton to campus.

OPINIONS page 9

Freddie Prinze Jr. stars in a chick flick that the boys club won't mind going to see.

ENTERTAINMENT page 19



Opinions 8 • Campus Life 11 • Entertainment 19 • Comics 28 • Sports 36

## Tech student killed in apartment 'invasion'

By Jennifer Hinkel  
News Editor

On January 18, student James Banger was shot in his Atlanta home. The assailant also opened fire on Banger's dog. Another man in the apartment, either Banger's roommate or a visitor, was also shot. The second victim survived the shooting. Banger was taken to a hospital; he died shortly thereafter.

Last semester was Banger's first at Tech, where he studied Aerospace Engineering. He was enrolled in a dual degree program with Morehouse College, as well.

Atlanta Police Department Detective Walker is heading up the homicide investigation.

"It was a home invasion, basically," said Walker. The attacker entered Banger's southwest Atlanta apartment at 1037 Harwell Street.

A motive for the crime has not yet been determined, according to Walker. He speculates that intentions to rob the apartment or its inhabitants were likely.

Chief of the Georgia Tech Police Department Jack Vickery, although not involved in the homicide investigation, offered safety tips to students.

"Whether you live off-campus, in a home, or on-campus, you need to know who you are opening your door to and to be careful about who you invite in," said Vickery. "If someone doesn't look right, notify the police and have them check it out... I don't like to be an alarmist, but I like for students to be conscious of their environment. It is better to be safe and cautious as best as you can. Whether or not those things would have made a difference in this instance, I don't know."

The Atlanta Police Department has a composite drawing of the suspect on-hand, although no arrests have yet been made.

*The Atlanta Police Department asks that anyone with information regarding James Banger contact Detective Walker at 404-853-4235.*

## 'Tech got very lucky that day'



Photos by Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Friday's Stinger accident leaves two injured

By Jody Shaw  
Managing Editor

At approximately 10:10 a.m. last Friday, the sound of twisting metal and broken glass pierced the morning quiet of a Tech campus that was still waking up. A Stinger bus sped out of control, swerved into the wrong lane of traffic, and struck another vehicle before wrapping itself around a metal utility pole, injuring two in the process.

The incident, which ended

at the corner of Ferst Drive and Atlanta Drive in front of the IBB building, began when a Stinger driver lost control of his bus.

"[The bus driver] stated he was traveling east on Ferst Drive when the breaks on [his] vehicle failed, causing him to enter the intersection on a red traffic signal," Officer Timothy Foster said in a report from Georgia Tech Police Department.

The bus struck a 2000 Honda Accord driven by an alum-

nus who wished to remain anonymous.

"The bus was speeding much faster than normal—maybe 50-60 miles per hour. The driver was acting like a maniac speeding through the intersection," said the alumnus shortly after the incident took place.

The alumnus was traveling north on Atlantic Drive headed towards Tenth Street. His car was already in the intersection when he saw the Stinger coming towards him. He said he attempt-

ed to accelerate through the intersection and avoid the bus, but he was unable to do so. The Stinger struck the back right corner of his car. While the impact caused substantial damage, he was able to drive away.

The Stinger, however, continued through the intersection and struck a pole, forcing it to be towed. The bus driver and one student were taken to Grady Hospital for observation. After

*See Stinger, page 5*

## FE contract will enforce mandatory year-long meal plan



By Kristi Odom / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Buzz grabs a tray and gets in line at Brittain dining hall. Students in the Freshmen Experience program may be seeing more of the dining halls even if they move out of an FE dorm, according to a revamped contract.

By Tony Klumper  
Assistant News Editor

After over 16 months of planning, the Department of Housing released a revised copy of the housing contract for Freshmen Experience (FE) residents.

According to Director of Housing Mike Black, the contract was rewritten in order to make the contract more understandable to the average student.

"We have written a new overall housing contract, period. The Freshmen Experience contract is only a small part of this process," said Black. "We were trying to make the contracts more easy to read from the student's point of view. Basically, we were trying to make the new contract more user friendly."

However, Assistant Director of Housing Dan Morrison said that although confusing parts of the contract were rewritten, no major changes were made in the overall contract.

"The basic changes that were made were more spelling out specifically what was confusing to students before," said Morrison.

Although housing officials said that no major changes were made in the contract, RHA president Dave Stopp feels differently.

"They pretty much rewrote the entire FE contract, and I think a lot of the changes they made were very positive," said Stopp. "They kept

**"We don't feel that students would be able to eat healthy without a mandatory meal plan."**

**Dan Morrison**  
Assistant Director of Housing

the content mostly the same, but they wrote it in very plain language. If you ever looked over the old contract, you can tell it is very tough to read."

"I really like the fact that they changed it so that you could understand what you are reading."

"However, one of the changes

that they made that I think was pretty negative was a move to make FE meal plans mandatory for second term even if they moved out of the Freshmen Experience," said Stopp.

"I think that's doing a disservice to freshmen."

According to Morrison, the FE meal plan has always been mandatory for second term, but the former contract did not specifically spell out this requirement.

"[FE second term mandatory meal plans] have always been the case, but it was never clearly described in the contract," said Morrison. "Even if somebody leaves the FE and stays on campus, the contract has always called for a year-long dining plan."

Many are wondering exactly what the purpose of a mandatory meal plan during second term is for students.

"When people live in Freshmen Experience, the reported goal of the meal plan is to build the community," said Stopp.

*See Freshmen, page 7*

# Dean Blum calls rumors about DuPree funding loss ‘premature’

By Derek Haynes  
Assistant Sports Editor

Rumors that the school of management will not receive a promised \$20 million dollar pledge from Tech grad and entrepreneur Tom DuPree are premature, according to DuPree College of Management Dean Terry Blum.

“The pledge is not due until 2005, and Tom DuPree has every intention of honoring the pledge,” said Blum.

Concerns over the donation have been aroused due to the recent difficulties DuPree’s company, Avado Brands, Inc. (NasdaqSC: AVDO), formerly Apple South, has been having on the stock market. Shares have dipped to \$ 0.65 a share, down from as high as \$28.25 in May of 1996.

DuPree, who in 1986 purchased the franchise rights to develop Applebee’s restaurants, pledged to transfer stock in his company to the College of Management, which bears his name.

Today, Avado Brands operates several entrepreneurial restaurant divisions. The company sold its stake in Applebee’s in 1997.

The DuPree College has not earmarked the future commitment. In addition, the thought of taking DuPree’s name off the school if the pledge doesn’t come through has never crossed Dean Blum’s mind.

“[DuPree] has done a lot for this College... He has helped elevate the school of management to the position it is in today.”

**Terry Blum**  
Dean of the DuPree College of Management



“Tom has done a lot for this College; when he made the pledge, the mangement school wasn’t even a separate college,” says Blum.

“He has helped elevate the school of management to the position it is in today.”

The decline in value of Avado Brands on the market is not the first hardship DuPree has faced, entrepreneurial or otherwise.

DuPree’s stay at Tech was anything but smooth. He failed out twice, and he was only allowed to return after convincing the registrar’s office that he would not fail out again. After graduating in 1974, DuPree held a brief job as an accountant before purchasing a Burger King franchise in Toccoa, Ga.

He turned the failed Burger King franchise around, and over time bought several more.

Dean Blum feels DuPree’s experience with entrepreneurship will help him get out of his current financial difficulty.

“When you are an entrepreneur,

you take a lot of risks, but Tom has shown an ability to overcome,” said Blum.

DuPree has a strong record of philanthropy. He has donated over \$7 million to Morgan County Schools, which has an annual budget of \$12 million.

He also gives a full-ride scholarship to any student attending Tech who graduated from Morgan County, called the DuPree Foundation Scholarship.

DuPree pledged the largest amount in Georgia Tech history in May of 1996 when he decided to give \$20 million to the school of management. The school officially changed its name to the DuPree College of Management that November.

Based on DuPree’s record of philanthropy and the volatility of the market, the College of Management emphasized this is not a panic situation.

“We are hopefully optimistic that the pledge will be made,” said Blum.

## Berkeley students call for turning off cell phones

By Bonne Chance and  
Andrea O'Brien  
University of California-  
Berkeley

(U-WIRE)—Distraught over the incessant ringing of cellular phones in cafes, classrooms and stores, both University of California-Berkeley and city groups will take action against extraneous phone use Wednesday.

The Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) senate will vote Wednesday night on a bill urging students to end cell phone interruptions in classrooms.

At the same time, Berkeley residents will host a public meeting on the "wireless revolution" in downtown Berkeley.

If the ASUC bill, authored by Senator Matteen Mokalla, passes, the senate will send a letter to Chancellor Robert Berdahl and UC Berkeley department chairs requesting professors tell students to turn off pagers and cell phones while in class.

"I want the students that are the assailants to know that they deeply annoy both professors and their fellow students," Mokalla said.

He added, however, that many students with cell phones exercise proper phone etiquette.

"This isn't a bill against cell phones, it's a bill for responsibility," he said.

Many students, even those who own cell phones, said they are annoyed when the familiar ring pierces the quiet of a lecture hall.

"Yeah, I have a cell phone and I bring it to class, but I put the ring-er on silent," said UC Berkeley freshman Tina Kaur, an intended psychology major.

"When people's phones ring in class, I just think it's disrespectful. I don't think I've ever forgotten to turn it off."

One UC Berkeley sophomore said he uses a cell phone because he does not have a phone at his house, but he always remembers to turn his phone off during class.

See *Phones*, page 4

“When people’s phones ring in class, I just think it’s disrespectful.”

**Tina Kaur**  
UC Berkeley freshman

# News briefs

## AASU seeks poets and writers for anthology

The African American Student Union is looking for poets, short story writers, and artists to submit their work for this year's Heritage Unbounded. Heritage Unbounded is a collection of the works published in honor of Black History Month. If interested in contributing, please contact April Labossiere at appy\_one@hotmail.com.

## Deadline for International Study award approaches

The deadline for Student Leadership Awards for International Study applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 16. Award recipients will receive one of ten cash prizes of \$3,000 or study and travel abroad.

Applications are judged on leadership on campus and within the community and the applicability of proposed travel program to your studies at Tech. Pick up an application from the Georgia Tech Alumni Association at 190 North Avenue (across from Grant Field) or download it from the Web site at gyalumni.org after January 16.

For more information, please call 404-385-1094 or e-mail Kathryn Smith, kathryn.smith@alumni.gatech.edu.

## FASET membership drive seeks future leaders

FASET Orientation has begun its membership drive for 2001. In order to receive a new leader application, attendance is necessary at one of the three mandatory information sessions (located in Room 103 of the IC, Tennenbaum Auditorium). Info sessions will be held on Monday, February 5, at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 6, at 11:00 a.m., and Monday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Please contact the FASET Cabinet Membership Co-chairs, Sid Kossowsky (gte793h@prism.gatech.edu) or Cornelia Herlong (gte833e@prism.gatech.edu) with questions.

## OIT announces availability of Multimedia Workshop

The Educational Technologies Directorate of OIT (ET) announces the availability of the Rich Student Multimedia Workshop, which will focus on cultivating audio, visualization and Web projects. The workshop is located on the first floor of the Rich Building in the room where the Rich Computing Lab was previously housed. All workshop users will be required to scan their Buzz Card to gain entry to the room.

The Rich Student Multimedia Workshop features thirty development workstations. Twenty of the systems have been arranged into five pods of four computers each. A complete system summary can be found on the ET web site at <http://edtech.gatech.edu/> under the Computer Lab Services section.

The lab will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ET plans to staff the workshop between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to coordinate and assist with the usage of the lab. Reservations can be made and workshop schedules can be found on the ET web site at: <http://edtech.gatech.edu/>

## Council Clippings Undergraduate House of Representatives

# House debates hosting Sharpton

By Mary DeCamp  
Senior News Staff

The highlight of the January 30 Undergraduate House of Representatives meeting was the debate over the amount of money that should be allocated to the African American Student Union (AASU) for Black History Month.

The debate was caused by the fact that the AASU is planning on hosting a controversial speaker, the Reverend Al Sharpton.

Some of the UHR representatives spoke out against allocating money to cover fees for Sharpton to speak, arguing that they felt hosting Sharpton would be inappropriate,

as he is such a controversial figure.

For almost an hour, representatives debated this issue under the watchful eyes of observing students. A large number turned out to support both sides of the debate.

When it came time to vote, the bill passed, giving the AASU the maximum amount of money possible, including funds for Sharpton's fees.

Several other bills were brought before the House. First, two new representatives were approved and took oath. E.W. Looney is the new Sophomore Representative, while Sid Kossowsky is the new Chemical Engineering Representative.

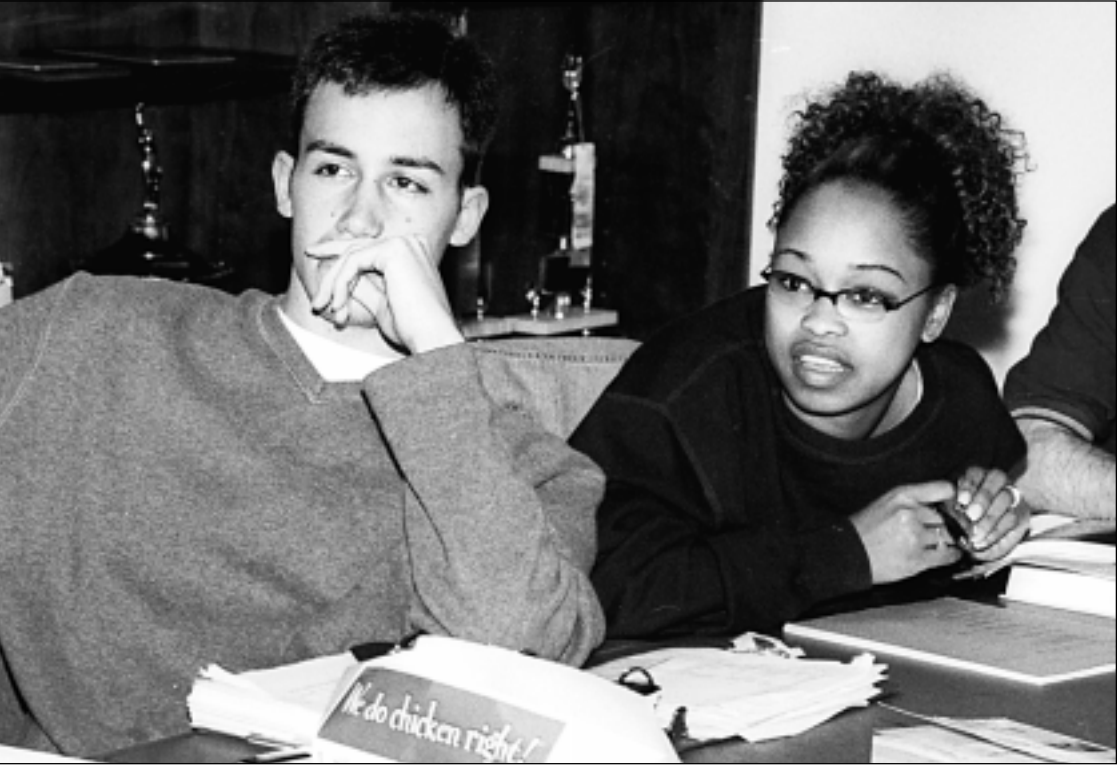
In addition, the new Academic

Bill of Rights was brought up for approval before the House. After a few minor amendments, the bill passed, approving the new Academic Bill of Rights for students.

The remaining bills dealt with allocating money to various organizations. One of these organizations, ORGT, asked for money to help pay for some materials that they will use in team building activities. The bill passed.

Two athletic groups, the Women's Ultimate Team and the Georgia Tech Hockey Club proposed separate bills for allocations. The Women's Ultimate Team asked for

See UHR, page 5



By David Ziskind / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Dave Stopp and Tiffany Massey listen closely to the proceedings of SGA's advisory board. Tuesday's Undergraduate House meeting was marked by heated debate over a speaker that lasted almost an hour.

2daysuntil christina's birthday. Areyouexcited? The big22. The landof meaningless birthday. At least i'mnot 23. no one loves you when you are 23. i am 22 and very loved. though you shoud make me feel more loved by wishing me happy birthday.



Phones

from page 2

"I've heard phones ring in class many times," Steven Chung said. "The professor will be talking about something interesting and it interrupts. Then the person waits, searches for the phone while it gets louder and louder."

Jennifer Berdahl, a UC Berkeley assistant professor at the Haas School of Business, said cell phones ring in about one-third of her lectures, despite the fact that Berdahl asks students to turn phones off at the start of lecture.

Some professors, however, choose to dismiss the interruption lightly, a UC Berkeley sophomore said.

"It's really annoying when someone's rings in class," said Justin Bomar, a history major.

"Professors are usually annoyed, but they're tolerant too...some make jokes about it. It would be nice if [students] would just turn the phone off."

Outside of the university, some residents would also like to see cell phones be turned off-for good.

At Wednesday's meeting at the Public Safety Building, Berkeley residents watched a video exposing the

"It's really annoying when [a phone] rings in class. It would be nice if they would just turn the phone off."

**Justin Bomar**  
UC Berkeley sophomore

many health risks posed by wireless communication.

This communication endangers the lives of cell phone users since it causes "radio wave sickness," which manifests itself through symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, memory loss and the inability to concen-

trate, according to Libby Kelley, director of the Nevato-based Council on Wireless Technology Impacts.

While only 3,000 people used cellular phones in 1994, there are now 109 million connected nationwide, Kelley said.

"Cell phone companies are like an army, going around and making deals," Kelley said.

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 deregulated the telephone industry for the first time since 1934, allowing new wireless carriers to enter the marketplace, Kelley said.

While community members warn about the potential health hazards of cell phones, city officials grouse over its misuse.

Berkeley police Lt. Stan Muller said cell phones pose a distraction for city drivers.

"I think [cell phones] are an associate cause [of accidents], just by judging the different maneuvers of people driving through city streets and highways," he said.

Many restaurants throughout the city mirror police officers' exasperation about cell phone chatters.

Patrons should take their cellular conversations outside the restaurant or not have them at all, said some local businesses.

Cally Martin, a waitress at La Mediterranee on College Avenue, said she would prefer not to even serve people who are chatting on their phones.

"It causes us to give rude service because we don't feel like we are being treated very nicely," she said.

She added that cell-phone users often look comical, "sitting at the corner of the restaurant, talking to themselves."

"We are of the opinion that the meal is a time to escape from business, and most people want to escape from things that remind them of their daily life," said Mario Daniele, general manager of Chez Panisse on Shattuck Avenue, which suggests customers refrain from using their phones while dining.

‘NIQUE

read it. love it. live it.

NEWS

pass some along.

‘NIQUE

it’s what’s for dinner.

SPORTS

play it.

‘NIQUE

join us.

tuesdays. 7 pm. student sevicees

BLUEPRINT

Make  
your  
appoint-  
ment  
TODAY!

visit:

www.cyberbuzz.  
gatech.edu/  
blueprint/

UHR from page 3

money to help pay for the expenses associated with two tournaments while the GT Hockey Club asked for money for travel expenses. The House passed both bills.

Phi Psi Textile Fraternity also asked for funding to send six of its members to a National Conference. This bill passed as well.

President J.R. Spriggle announced that next year's homecoming will take place on October 20.

Economics Representative Stephen Popick announced that the first issue the FOCUS initiative will tackle is parking on campus. There are several problems that have been pointed out by students that FOCUS members will try to rectify in the upcoming weeks.

SGA encourages input from all students and will hold a Town Hall meeting next Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to discuss solutions to the parking problem.

After Popick spoke, Bob Harty, who deals with the communications and publicity aspect of Georgia Tech, spoke on his responsibilities at Tech. According to Hardy the office deals with issues such as student recruitment, fundraising, and media relations among other things.

Hardy also showed the assembly a film that his office compiled for a presentation to Ford Motor Company, which asked for \$10 million for an Environmental Sciences and Technology Building. In the end, Ford granted Tech the money. Tech was in competition with 10 other schools for the donation.

Stinger from page 1

examinations, both were treated for bruises and released.

Pamela Kirby, the injured student, was sitting in the second seat on the door side of the bus and was ejected during the impact. When she landed, Kirby fell on her leg, and after the incident went into shock.

Kirby offered a different explanation of the accident than the one offered by the bus driver, GTPD, and the Department of Parking and Transportation.

"I don't know anything about brakes, but they are not fine one minute and then all of the sudden give out. To me, the brakes did not give out," Kirby said.

She never felt as though the bus had lost control. Kirby believes the bus driver purposefully sped up through the intersection.

"I was sitting in the front, and I looked up at the moment we went coming to the light. [The bus driver] was going through a yellow light, but as soon as it turned, the other car went," Kirby said.

According to Kirby, both cars claimed the green light, which caused the accident.

Karen Boyd, Senior Associate Dean of Students, arrived on the scene shortly after the incident occurred to deal with any students in need, but no other passengers maintained injuries. The other three students who had been on the bus left the area immediately after the collision.

"Georgia Tech got very lucky

that day. While you never want to deal with a situation like that, it could have been a lot worse," Boyd said.

Rod Weis, Director of Parking and Transportation, agreed with Boyd. He believes that Johnson's brakes failed, he knew his brakes had failed, and he made a conscious decision to maneuver his bus to position where it could be stopped without injuring passengers or pedestrians.

"I think we are fortunate that he chose to hit the pole rather keep going against traffic or get further

up the sidewalk," Weis said.

The Stinger accident raises new issues about transportation services at Tech and their safety.

While the Department of Parking and Transportation, a division of Auxiliary Services, oversees the Stinger, it contracts with Argenbright, Inc., a local transportation company that also serves the Atlanta airport, to provide the service.

"At this point, Argenbright is doing an independent investigation... because they want to find out what happened and what can be done to prevent it," Weis said.



By Marques McMillan / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**A Stinger bus collided with and wrapped around a pole after an out-of-control slide down Ferst Avenue on Friday morning. The Department of Parking and Transportation cites a brake failure as the cause of the crash.**

Argenbright provides the buses and bus drivers, as well as any bus maintenance and driver training. Tech merely pays for whatever is needed. As the customer, however, Weis' department can make requests as long as they can be funded.

"After we get all the information in, if there is something that could have been done to prevent or lessen what happened, we will certainly work with Argenbright to make sure that training occurs. We will look at everything that happened—even down to the next time we order new buses," said Weis.

According to Weis, drivers already receive extensive training from Argenbright, including training regarding emergency situations. The buses also go through regular maintenance inspections.

Weis cited Argenbright's lack of accidents in the past and their overall excellent safety record. He considers the service safe and sees no need for student fear or alarm, though he did offer one suggestion.

"I think the photographs of the bus with that pole in the side certainly point out the reason why we ask that nobody stand in front of that white line in the front. It is impossible to engineer that thing with all the open windows to protect you if you are standing in that stairwell," Weis said.

Kirby admitted that she continues to ride the Stinger and also feels it is a safe service.

"I still ride. I understand that accidents can happen and that nothing was intentional. Every driver does all that he or she can to protect the passengers," Kirby said.

# Freshmen

from page 1

“I think that is a very noble goal, it’s a positive thing, but I think that I’m not sure how effectively a mandatory meal plan accomplishes that. I think that the main thing a mandatory meal plan [during second term] accomplishes is giving dining services on this campus a bit of a monopoly.”

Morrison feels that the purpose of the mandatory meal plan extends beyond building the community.

“We feel that a mandatory meal plan should be required by all freshmen, so that they won’t have to factor in how they are going to eat well or how to budget their food money,” said Morrison.

“We don’t feel that the masses of students would be able to eat healthy [on their own] without a mandatory meal plan.”

Furthermore, Stopp feels that the idea of mandatory second term meal plan stems more from a business initiative than a need to help the students.

“I would agree that there are some business initiatives to [having mandatory meal plans], constant cash flow for Marriott or that sort of thing, but dining services are for the

community and for the students,” said Stopp.

“I think that [dining services] needs to look more at the customer end and see what they need to do for them.”

“Most of the people I have talked to feel that it’s a decision made in the interest of business and not in the interest of students,” said Stopp.

Black agrees that business is at least a partial reason behind the year-long mandatory meal plan. “[The mandatory meal plan] keeps the whole plan viable,” said Black.

“The meal plan is just a small part of the contract, and in the end everything has to be paid and the meal plans allow us to support other things on campus. We could have a scaled back meal plan, but in the end the quality would go away.”

In the end, Stopp would like to see the Department of Housing take a different approach with the FE meal plan.

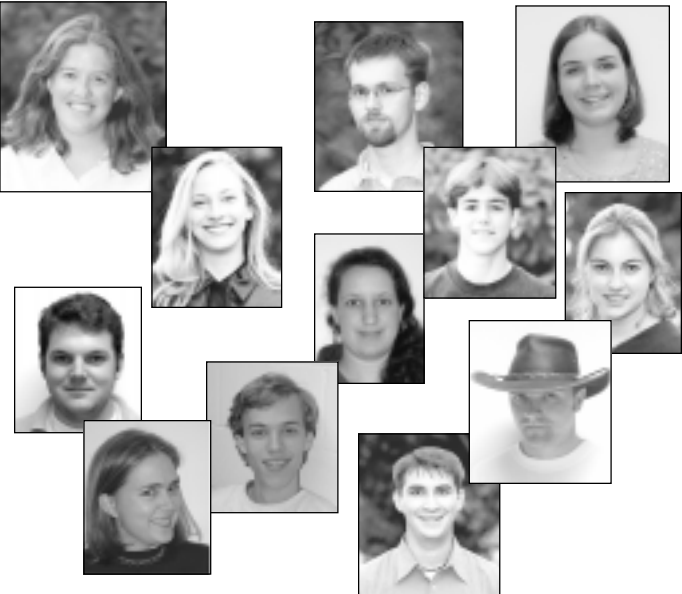
“Ideally, I would like to see it where they offer a 75 [meal] block for non-Greek students, or [where they] make the meal plan non-mandatory for second term. I think that is a very good compromise, because it still allows the bonding that a lot of people feel happens during the first term,” said Stopp.

## Eating Out Lunch with the President



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**President Wayne Clough** lunched with students yesterday in the Student Center Food Court at the invitation of Tech’s Undergraduate SGA. Students enjoyed the opportunity to speak casually with him.



### JOIN THE TECHNIQUE

pick an editor • tuesdays • student services