

TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

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Serving Georgia Tech since 1911 • Volume 86, Issue 4 • 16 pages

Football and baseball stadium expansion plans move forward.

SPORTS page 16

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

ENTERTAINMENT page 11

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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."

See *Midtown*, page 3

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

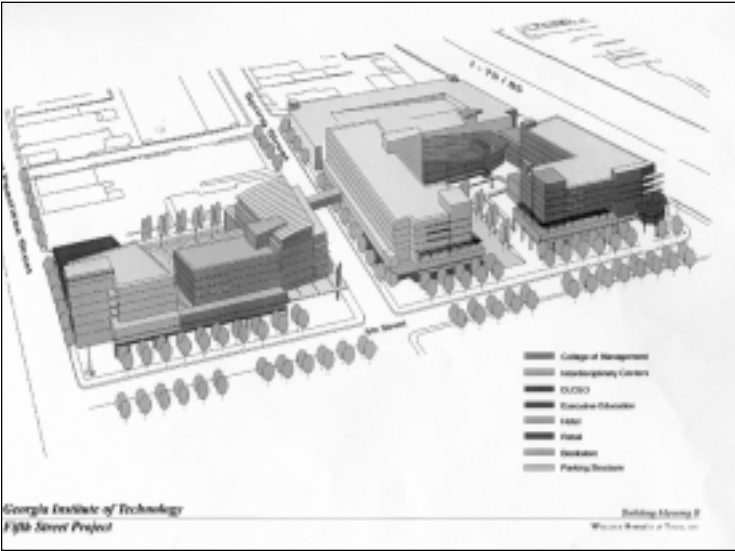
Good Luck!

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.

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, July 14, 2000

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Graduate health care

Health insurance. As undergrads, we don't think about it very much because we're covered by our parents' insurance. For graduate students, though, health insurance is a very real concern.

Just a short while ago, grad students received the option of purchasing health insurance from the Health Center. Now they want Tech to help subsidize their insurance costs. Having chosen to forgo the working world in favor of continuing their education, grad students have decided the opportunity cost of going to school is lower than that of going to work. That doesn't mean they shouldn't be entitled to some help with their health insurance, though.

There are limits to how much Tech can and should do, though. Paying for all of the insurance will create too large of a financial burden for the institute. And while subsidizing health insurance for the graduate student is a good idea, subsidizing health insurance for the student's family may be outside of Tech's means.

Subsidizing part of the cost of graduate health insurance is a smart move on Tech's part as it may be the pivotal factor in a student's decision to come here for graduate school. We want to be competitive with the other top grad schools in the country, so why not add a little incentive to encourage students to come to Tech?

Housing move-out

It seems like every month there is a new problem with Housing. July is no different as students are beginning to realize how inconvenient this summer's move-out schedule is.

Housing made the mistake of scheduling conference housing until August 12 before they had decided when Fall Semester would start and before they had decided when students would be able to move into their fall assignments. This means that students cannot move straight into their fall housing from summer housing unless they are on campus on August 14, which is right in the middle of break.

Most students will not be on campus over the break, which

means they must move out of their summer housing before they leave. This is a problem for students who do not live nearby and have nowhere to store their belongings.

Housing made a scheduling mistake, and in the future they need to plan ahead. They should make sure to set student housing schedules before allowing conferences to book on-campus housing.

The views on these pages are our opinions. If you don't agree with them, fine. Write us a letter. We would like to hear what you think. We will probably even print it in the paper. You might like that. So write us.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of The Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

Course critiques

Course critique for regular summer classes will run from July 17 until July 28. We encourage you to fill them out at www.coursesurvey.gatech.edu/student_login.cfm. Professors really do take your suggestions into consideration!

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Campus security definitely an issue for Tech students

This letter is in response to Sean Mendis, who wrote in a previous issue that campus safety is not an issue. I personally wonder if he even lives near or around this hellhole part of Atlanta, or if he even lives on this campus.

I have been here since the summer of 1995, and I can tell you, that security IS an issue here at Tech. Mr. Mendis has obviously never dealt with the "keystone cops," better known as the GTPD. These people are some of the sorriest, saddest excuses for law enforcement that have ever worn the shield. The various articles over the past 18 months about their response system only help to reinforce this belief.

Mr. Mendis tries to quote some numbers to make the GTPD look good. Mr. Mendis seems to be a spokesman for these people. In all fairness, they probably do meet some minimum requirement, but so does government cheese.

Maybe I'm just spoiled, but I came from a town just outside of

Tampa, FL and we had fewer police patrolling a larger area and yet we had fewer crimes.

I wonder why it is that people think that they're getting good security when there isn't a day that goes by when there is not a major theft or other crime reported on our campus. Mr. Mendis tries to compare our crime rate with those of large campuses like UCLA, but fails to mention that they have nearly FOUR times our student populations.

The problem is not that we have less crime, it is that fewer people will report them because most people know that the response by the police will be inadequate, if they bother to do anything at all.

Ryan Fernandez
gt5940b@prism.gatech.edu

Quote of the week:

"If you don't like your job, you don't strike. You just go in everyday and do it really half-assed. That's the American Way." — Homer Simpson

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Editorial Art Spoofing 'Survivor'

DON'T MISS THE LATEST CBS HIT: CAMPAIGN SURVIVOR



Housing continues to frustrate students with policies

Housing has screwed me—again. Yes, I know, it's hard to believe, but it's true. First there was a computer glitch, now there's a scheduling mistake. When summer housing got messed up, I thought, "At least the fall housing process went smoothly." That's what I thought.

For the upcoming school year, my three friends and I are living in Center Street. When we were signing up for summer housing, the staff at the housing office—several different people—told us that we had priority for our fall space if the students living there in spring did not stay. If they did stay, we had priority for another room in Center Street. However, two of us ended up in Center Street (not in our fall space though) and the other two got stuck in Howell. How did that happen?

I later learned that the housing office was using a new computer program to assign rooms and roommates. It had a glitch. So almost everyone who requested summer housing had an error with their request.

My roommates and I were upset, but we figured there was nothing we could do about it because so many people were affected by the glitch. We accepted the fact that we couldn't live together and looked forward to the fall when we would be together.

And we are still living together in the fall. But moving in is now a major problem.

As you probably know, many of the on-campus housing buildings not inhabited by students during the summer are used for conferences. Apparently, the housing office scheduled conferences for the buildings up until August 12. But the

"Housing has caused me to dread the semester break and my mind to fill with worries rather than relaxing thoughts."

Julia Trapold
Opinions Editor



summer semester ends August 4. So what are returning students supposed to do?

Usually, as in the transition from Spring Semester to Summer Semester, returning students move out the last day of the term or the day after, and may move into their new housing the same day. This results in students living in their new housing over break. For the transition from summer to fall housing, returning students who remain on campus over the break may switch rooms on August 14—they must be out of their summer rooms by then and cannot move into their fall rooms before then. Students who are not returning to campus housing must be moved out by August 4. Now what about the students who are returning but will not be on campus during the two week break? That's where the problem lies.

Personally, I would like to be home for as long as possible since I rarely get to visit my family and friends back in Pittsburgh. I will be home from August 6 to August 16. That means I won't be on campus for the move out date. What am I to do?

Well, I talked to housing. Several times. I must move out completely by August 14, which means I have to move out before I go home. When I return to campus, I may

move in as long as it is past August 14. My problem is I have no idea where to store all my things. I have a futon, a recliner, a computer, bookshelves, and tons of clothes. I can't take that all home with me. Maybe half of it can be stored in my car, but what about the rest? Housing has caused me to dread the semester break and my mind to fill with worries rather than relaxing thoughts.

My main irritation is that I am moving from the zero floor of Center Street South to the third floor of Center Street South. Why should I have to remove all my belongings just to move them back in two weeks later? I politely asked housing if I could at least move my furniture and larger things to my new apartment before going home. They said no. I have two solutions: change my plane ticket so that I return to campus on August 14, wasting several days that I could have spent at home, or get storage off campus. Both solutions will cost me money that I shouldn't have to spend.

I understand why certain buildings that are being used for conferences cannot be opened to students until August 14. But why not the buildings that are being used by students now? If the people in my fall apartment are moving out on August 4, I don't see why I shouldn't be allowed to move in that same

day. If they were staying till August 14 I could move in the same day. The reason I was given for not being able to move in on August 4 was that housing needs to clean the apartment. But if the students in my apartment stayed until August 14 and I moved in the same day, they wouldn't get to clean it. So shouldn't it be up to me if I want my apartment cleaned or not? It'd be much more convenient for me if I could bypass the cleaning and move in earlier. Housing needs to consider the needs of the students. Maybe they don't want to give Center Street and Sixth Street — the two apartment complexes open during the summer — certain exceptions since other buildings can't be open till later, but that's just stupid. I chose to live in Center Street because I knew it would be open in the summer and I thought I wouldn't have to move twice. I was wrong, I am being forced to move out and move back into the same building in the span of two weeks. That's ridiculous.

I don't really have any suggestions for housing. I just think they should be more understanding. And they should let returning students move into their new rooms as soon as the previous residents have left. I don't want to come back to campus early just so I can move upstairs. I also don't want to pack up all my things and pay to store them. Housing made the scheduling mistake — they should try to accommodate us.

Julia has only been at Tech for one year, yet she is already frustrated with numerous campus services. She hopes, but doubts, that her complaining may help her current housing situation.

Harry Potter is magical—can't we just leave it that way?

Like many Atlantans my age, I spent the later part of last Friday night in Buckhead...only I was at a bookstore, waiting for *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the latest book in J. K. Rowling's immensely popular series about a boy wizard. Like many people of any age, I had been eagerly awaiting the new *Harry Potter* book. I wanted to know what would happen to Harry, Ron, and Hermione as they tolerated Draco Malfoy, avoided Professor Snape, and foiled You-Know-Who's latest plots at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Like much of the world, I have fallen in love with *Harry Potter*.

Much of the world does not include all of the world, though, and like any wildly popular phenomenon, the *Harry Potter* series has its share of detractors. *Harry Potter* is sexist. *Harry Potter* promotes the occult. *Harry Potter* is harmful to children. *Harry Potter* should be banned.

In at least thirteen areas around the country, *Harry Potter* books are considered unacceptable reading material for children, and steps have been taken to ensure children do not gain access to any of the books. School districts have requested that teachers not read *Harry Potter* books to their students. In fact, last October, Elizabeth Mounce, a South Carolina citizen who asked the state's Board of Education to remove Har-

"Remember to pick up both the quote and the picture box when moving this onto your layout. Don't change the picture size!"

Huda Kazi
Acting Editor



ry Potter from the school libraries, was quoted as saying, "The books have a serious tone of death, hate, lack of respect, and sheer evil."

Excuse me? Sheer evil? Did we read the same books?

Yes, the books have some serious moments, and yes, they deal with issues such as death, hate, lack of respect, and evil. So do the *Chronicles of Narnia*, probably one of the most beloved children's series of all time. Neither series is out to corrupt children. Rather, they present the darker side of life via a story everyone can understand. Draco Malfoy hates all Mudbloods (wizards and witches who have non-magical ancestry) and shows absolutely no respect to his teachers, but nobody who has read the *Harry Potter* series can mistake Malfoy for one of the good guys. The message here seems to be pretty obvious.

Some parents have expressed concerns over the predominance of magic in the books. They are worried their children will begin to believe too

much in the occult instead of religion. Let's give these children the credit they deserve, shall we? Children are bright enough to recognize the books for what they are—imaginative, fantastic stories. I doubt any child over the age of ten is in danger of abandoning his religion in favor of becoming a warlock simply because of *Harry Potter*. And as for children under ten—well, they are always in danger of believing too much in something, and that's where their parents need to be sure to do *their* job about setting the record straight.

Then, of course, there are those who believe *Harry Potter* is chauvanistic. "Harry's fictional realm of magic and wizardry perfectly mirrors the conventional assumption that men do and should run the world," writes Salon.com columnist Christine Schoefer. "From the beginning of the first Potter book, it is boys and men, wizards and sorcerers, who catch our attention by dominating the scenes and determining the action."

Schoefer goes on to account for Hermione, Ginny, and Professor McGonagall, casting each aside as flawed and a poor representative of the female gender. She neglects to mention any other prominent female characters, and conveniently overlooks the equality with which boys and girls are treated at Hogwarts as well as the drawbacks to the boys' characters. Ron and Harry, unlike level-headed Hermione, often neglect to think things through before pushing forward. The result is often Hermione covering for them with Professor McGonagall.

Admittedly, there are paths in *Harry Potter* where the boys have more to do than the girls, but I don't see that as a covert plot on the Rowling's part to downplay the roles of women in society. When the main character in your high fantasy novel is a boy, he will necessarily end up performing many heroic feats—perhaps even more than the girls.

Harry Potter is a story, not a guide for how to live your life. Please don't spoil the pure magic of the books by tearing them apart for cult references and sexism. Certainly don't take them away from children, who for the first time in a while have finally found a *book* they love. And if you haven't read them—do.

Swan songs traditionally close with thank-yous...but mine have been relegated to empty ad space on page 10.

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CAMPUS LIFE

Technique • Friday, July 14, 2000

Copenhagen, here I come!

Get all the travel facts and Netherlands nightlife scoop Fall Semester in a continuing column by our very own study abroad correspondent.

Freshman Issue

Catch the first issue of Fall Semester that will give a heads-up on programs, special events and goings-on for not just the freshmen.

NASA and Tech team up to teach high school rocket scientists

By Becca Cutri-Kohart
Errant Rocket Scientist

Recently, researchers across campus are seeming younger and younger. It's not just an illusion. There are actually high school students on campus performing innovative and cutting edge research under the supervision of professors all summer through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) SHARP Plus program.

The NASA program takes top high school students from all over the country who are part of under-represented groups in engineering (women and minorities) and pair them with professors and researchers to participate in hands-on research. The eight-week program (June 12 to August 4) takes place at 14 universities all over the country.

At Tech, the program is administered through the Georgia Space Grant Consortium (GSGC) office, under the direction of Dr. Erian Armanios and Wanda Pierson. Participants are selected through a highly competitive application process.

The NASA SHARP students at Tech are paired with professors and doing research with them on topics that include smart spacesuit design, polymers, flight simulation, thermal protection systems, interplanetary shipping companies, computational fluid dynamics, flight mechanics, and autonomous aerial vehicles.

NASA SHARP alumni have gone on to study engineering here and at other nationally recognized engineering and science universities, including MIT, CalTech, Princeton, and Stanford.

For many, this summer is their first introduction to college life. High school senior Sarah Wilhoit said she has toured colleges



Photo by Carter Green / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

High school student Sarah Wilhoit (left) and mentor Dr. Carolyn Ruppel (right) of EAS are studying the permeability of soil samples

before, but her discussions with the professor and students she works with have given her "guidance in college selection and how [universities] actually go about their research."

All the NASA SHARP participants are required to continue their work into the academic year as well as present both written and oral reports about their progress. Wilhoit will enter her research in the International Science Fair Competition.

The high school students aren't the only ones who benefit from this program. The professors they are working for have found the students to be useful and able assistants.

"It has been really eye-opening. When you are told you've got a high school student coming, you don't know what to expect. She's really bright and sharp," said Dr. Carolyn Ruppel, Wilhoit's advisor.

Armanios echoed the sentiment, "[The professors] are all in awe... the quality of the stu-

dents is outstanding."

The students rapidly integrated themselves into both the Tech and Atlanta communities. They live in Cloudman and dine at Brittain, and they can often be seen playing volleyball in the East Campus Courtyard. They take cultural and educational field trips to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Lockheed Martin, Delta and more.

The students' chaperone and live-in advisor, Micaela Culbreth, said the students are adapting well to college life, since they are all "very disciplined and doing fine... they are learning to be more responsible."

The final outcome of the program is college-bound engineering students who have been exposed to university-level research and college academics. The participant's opinions of the program, however, can be summed up in the words of Sarah Wilhoit, "This is worthwhile. I'm glad I did it."

Real World Digest Weeks 5 and 6

'Real World' adventures continue

Jamie Schulz
Will not strip for Melissa

Since I had nothing better to do on the holiday weekend, I watched the "Real World" on MTV, for you, dear reader, probably while you were out doing something more interesting.

It seems our own Tech ambassador to N'awlins, Matt Smith, still isn't warming too well to Julie. He practically shot her down when she asked him to go to the drag show. His excuse? "I don't like that; it's not normal."

Wise up, Matt; you attend school in the city that has been labeled as being the gay hub of the south. It's an everyday occurrence in Atlanta. Tolerate it, and have fun. Need we remind you that you're in New Orleans? She's going to give up sooner or later.

But Melissa seems to be the one to watch. She broke up with "Frat Matt" because she felt they were too different, and that he only used her for the glamour associated with the house.

The show seems to be focused on just three people right now. Very aggravating.

But if it doesn't get ratings, why show it? And why do they all have to be so two-dimensional? Take Jamie, for instance. He seems to have no

If it doesn't get ratings, why show it? And why do they all have to be so two-dimensional?

depth. He's been out with quite a couple of girls and has expressed his attraction to Kelley, but he has nothing more to say.

Matt still doesn't play a pivotal role going into the sixth week, but David has taken the place of Melissa as the problem child. He's gotten a job as a bartender. A bit hypocritical, since he says that alcohol doesn't solve anything.

The show they're producing has had some snafus. Everyone was supposed to be working on the show, and as producer, Kelley was wanting to see David's work.

He claims he has it, but has no hard data. Tempers flare and expletives fly again in the board room when David shoots down everyone's ideas, but he takes the defensive every time someone mentions his music.

Seems Davey-boy is making friends, though he did win back Melissa when he stripped for her at her birthday party. Exciting, even if Melissa tried to hook up with *everyone* in the house after her party.



Cartoon by Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Buzz Around the Campus

A Special with
FASET Leaders



Question of the week

"How do you scare Freshmen?"

Feature by Becca Cutri-Kohart
& Julia Trapold,
Photos by Dale Russell



Rajiv Saigal
EE Senior

"Turn them upside down & shake 'em til they give me their lunch money."



Trey Baltz
CE Junior

"Tell them how long I'll be at Tech."



Matt Mason
ISyE Senior

"Introduce myself."



Ryan Reynolds &
Kate McGarity
ME & ChE Sophomores

"Take them to Brittain."

Battles

from page 1

The agility of Blood Clot, a two-wheeled double wedge painted bright red, came as no surprise. However, its builders, Jason Brown and Ken-ny McKenny from Chattanooga, had also packed quite a wallop under the hood. The little robot easily fought at close quarters with oppo-nents twice its size, leveraging itself under their bodywork or slamming hard enough to knock them apart. When the pieces stopped flying, Brown and McKenny had earned the title.

The RoboJackets, Georgia Tech’s robotics club, made their debut in the middleweight division with a low-profile rig christened RoboBuzz. Built close to the ground in a four-sided wedge design, the robot was designed to sweep in and knock opponents off balance, then quickly get itself out of harm’s way.

A combination of equipment breakdowns and women’s

undergarments would do RoboBuzz in, however. Up against Stealth Wedgie, a single large wedge with a pile of panties dumped on top, it fought to a draw in one bout and was pushed out in two others.

After the competition, team cap-tain Kevin Reim said, “Consider-ing all the bad luck and the mishaps we’ve been having, I think we did pretty well... We didn’t get the right parts that we wanted, that needed to be on there, and the speed con-trollers were kind of cheap and were failing anyway. But at least we were able to get up on stage with all the things that were going wrong.”

Stealth Wedgie, driven by Brian Craig of northeast Atlanta, would go on to win the division champi-onship. Jim Craig, his uncle, later won top honors in the Battle Royal. For this event, all functioning ro-bots were put in the ring at once and turned loose against each oth-er, and the last one standing was declared the winner.

The heavyweight fights were all

about one thing: doing a lot of damage in the shortest possible time—and Tin Lizzie Borden handled most of that. Locking up with Stingray II in the division’s first face-off, Lizzie did an admirable job of ventilating its opponent’s bodywork before shoving it out of the ring twice to reach the finals.

Across the ring in the day’s last head-to-head match was Heap, a big, flat, black monster with a cir-cular saw mounted in front. Cam-eramen and reporters were cleared out of the area behind the stage for their own protection as the two com-batants came out fighting.

When their cutting weapons failed, there was nothing for them to do but slug it out at point-blank range. Smoke began to rise from the stage and the carpet blackened as Lizzie gradually pushed Heap over the edge to win the first round. The saw was replaced by a drill for the second, but Lizzie paid no mind and chopped its way to another vic-tory and the division title.



Photo by Alan Back / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

RoboBuzz (left), representing Tech, locks up with Stealth Wedgie during Robot Battles at Dragon*Con 2000. Kelly Lockhart referees the match.

ENTERTAINMENT

Technique • Friday, July 14, 2000

Technique withdrawal

Want another 'Nique? You'll have to wait until the Freshman Issue. Look for it in a bin near you.

The next Jim Jones?

Do it your self cult workshop. See Two Bits for complete information Page 14

Great advances in musical navigation



By Mac Carbone / TURNING NORMAN RECORDS

Drifting Through (L to R: Randall Kirsch, Everett Bolton, Paul Madigan, Jay Doyle, Brian Werner) will bring their blend of rock and refined jam back to Atlanta on July 27, performing at Smith's Olde Bar.

By Alan Back

Notepad, camera, sledgehammer...

In the world of popular music, few innovations have had more effect than the jam session. Some bands fool around after hours to let off all their excess energy, while others prefer to do it in front of audiences and take a chance on sounding like boneheads. And there are some, like the Raleigh outfit Drifting Through, that have learned to channel that enthusiasm and create a sound that appeals to fans of disciplined playing and free-spirited improvisation alike.

The current began to move in 1993, when lead singer Randall Kirsch and bassist Everett Bolton started playing together during

their freshman year at Wake Forest University. Guitarist Jay Doyle fetched up on shore two years later, and Drifting Through was born as a trio.

In late 1997, having graduated and moved to Raleigh, they met keyboardist Brian Werner and drummer Paul Madigan. These two transplanted New Yorkers, who were playing in the band Mojo at the time, would soon find themselves recruited for emergency duty. The drummer who had been working with Kirsch's group got a pink slip just before they were to enter a competition to find a local band to play on the side stage at the 1998 H.O.R.D.E. tour.

"We were totally in between when we had to play this thing, so we called them because we

knew they were really good. We did, I guess, four or five rehearsals before that show. It just clicked and felt great," Kirsch commented. Drifting Through expanded to a quintet after Mojo broke up; they now have an EP, *Extended Play* (1998), and a full-length album, *Spell* (2000), to their credit.

Spell neatly reflects the influences and perspectives of the five players, while still blending them into a coherent whole and presenting them in a more radio-friendly manner than was done on *Extended Play*. The EP drew considerable media attention, but more than a few critics pigeonholed the band as just another group of noodlers—a response that prompted them to reconsider what they wanted

to do with their next effort.

"There's sort of a stigma to the jam genre—it's been done so well by one or two bands, but done very badly by 1,000 others," Kirsch said. "We really wanted to make [*Spell*] an album and focus more on the songs being what they were, rather than on the jam." He added that they set out to find the best way to separate live performance from studio work and determine how to deal with each.

This year's effort showcases the band's new approach to the latter, venturing into several areas of pop and rock. "Twilight" carries overtones of Blues Traveler's mellower work, while the acoustic vibe of "Stained Glass Window" recalls the early Dave Matthews Band recordings. The juice flows freely for the Allman Brothers/Black Crowes guitar harmonies of "Centerline," and "Shade" feels as if it could break into an open jam at any moment thanks to Werner's organ romping.

Concerning this eclectic mix and his contributions to it, Kirsch explained, "I don't necessarily think I have to shut those doors; I'd rather keep them open and write from a bunch of different standpoints and styles. The great thing about Drifting Through is that I can take these songs to them and they can play in all the styles, and there's a good feel in all of them. We really enjoy the variety, and it makes for a much more exciting live show to keep changing things

See *Drifting Through*, page 14

Feature *The Matrix* DVD

'The Matrix' DVD offers quality entertainment

By Jayson Wehrend

Entertainment staff

If you never saw *The Matrix*, where were you during 1999? Tons of people saw it, and (most shocking of all) almost everyone loved it. Quite an impressive feat, considering the main character is Keanu Reeves. In the movie, Neo (Keanu Reeves) is a brilliant computer hacker who discovers our world is not what it seems. With the aid of Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss), Neo attempts to destroy the system that controls humanity. Combining an interesting story with an innovative use of special effects, *The Matrix* holds plenty of replay value.

Video: For a \$200 million blockbuster, I expected the video quality to be as close to the theater as possible. Having seen the movie 6 times in the theaters (liking a movie isn't a crime) I was fully prepared to detect any discrepancies in quality. Happily, I report no such problem. The picture is crystal clear; nary a scratch or pixel in sight. The black level was dead on; it was never too dark, and the image never looked washed out. A number of times during the movie, a green filter was placed over the lens. That muted green color comes out beautifully on DVD. The movie is presented in its original 2.35:1 aspect ratio, so you don't miss out on anything happening on the edges.

Audio: *The Matrix* really stands out from other eye-candy action flicks because of its dynamic use of sound. The DVD jumps right into the task of proving it's as good as its theatrical predecessor. The front sound stage has very nice sound separation. When characters move across the screen the sound follows them through the speakers. Guns fire from one speaker and bullets sweep across the center, impacting in the right speaker. The rear surrounds join in to pump out music, even more gunshots, and echoes of some of the larger sets. Many of the slow motion shots of guns firing put the sub to good use. The sound delay on the slow motion shots, coupled with the subwoofer's boom, makes the shots seem all the more powerful.

Extras: After the wonderful video and audio treatments, how do the extras stack up? Starting it all off is a feature-length, audio commentary with Moss, the editor, and the special effects supervisor. Moss was mostly quiet, but she did talk about the parts in the film she especially liked. The commentary offered good insight into how the movie was put together. I was particularly pleased to see that the film is automatically subtitled during the commentary.

Also included was a "making of" documentary. Running about 25 minutes long, it offered a look at the extensive work that went into making the martial arts fights scenes.

The next extra is titled "Follow the White Rabbit." When you select this, at nine different points in the film a white rabbit will pop up on the screen. If you hit enter on your remote, it will take you to a mini-documentary that explains how the scene was shot. You can access two hidden documentaries by clicking on the red pills in the menus. One of them goes to a five minute documentary called "What is Bullet-Time?" The second pill takes you to a feature called "What is Concept?" I would have really loved the original movie trailers and a commentary by the Wachowski brothers, but I can live with the extras I got.

B.B. King and Eric Clapton sing the blues

By Michael Epstein

Perfect Dark addict

Artist: B.B. King & Eric Clapton

Album: *Riding With the King*

Studio: Reprise

Tracks: 12

Running Time: 61:13

Genre: Rock/Blues

Rating: ★★★★★

On *Riding With the King*, two of the greatest guitarists in history, Eric Clapton and B.B. King team up to produce an album that is good but not the exceptional piece of work that might be expected from men of their reputation.

King has been a legend since the fifties, while Clapton has, over time, become a legend in his own right. Both seem to have a way with the blues.

This album takes a "go with what you know" approach and is more blues experience than rock and roll experience. Most of the world's good blues songs have already been written. Therefore, there is not one original on the album, which is somewhat of a shame as it seems a full collaboration between King and Clapton would have produced some excellent results. Instead the album is merely a collection of their takes on these

songs.

First of all, it should be noted that, while *Riding With the King* is a musical collaboration between King and Clapton, Clapton might as well have not sung on the album. Basically, as far as vocals go, King easily steals the show. Indeed Clapton is a good singer in his own right, but he just cannot keep up with King's distinctive sound. On the other hand, King and Clapton seem to match each other's talents on the guitar, and it could be suspected that only those with excellent ears for the music of King, Clapton or both could tell the difference.

As for the album, King and Clapton work some real magic on *Riding With the King*. They do things with guitars seldom heard in music. Their blues make you feel like you are sitting in a smoky, hole-in-the-wall dive listening to some poor soul play out his heart, and that is a large part of the appeal of this album. It is also the main reason to recommend the purchase of this album. Collaborations like this do not come around every day. Be warned, though: not every track is worthy. Track four, "Marry you," just has too much of a pop edge to fit on the album.

There really are two main rea-



By Craig Mathew / REPRIS RECORDS

Eric Clapton and B.B. King love to sing the blues. Their project, "Riding with the King," is a collaboration of mellow blues remakes.

sons to purchase this album, and many people will not fit under either category. Primarily, fans of King, Clapton, or both will definitely want to add this disc to their collection. The second reason is how much one enjoys

mellow music.

This album is excellent study or relaxation music. Other than that, there is no major reason to buy this album, and one would be better suited to purchasing classic King.

