



Volume 93, Issue 24  
28 pages  
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# TECHNIQUE

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Salsa dancing  
meets Valen-  
tine's Day at  
Salsamor.

Page 9



## USA Today editor speaks to campus

By Caryn Womack  
Contributing Writer

Editor and Senior Vice President of USA Today and [usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com) Ken Paulson spoke at the First Center on Wednesday as a continuation of the Finding Common Ground series. His speech, "Rebooting America: News for a New Generation," addressed the current issues facing the press today and how students can make an impact on the media industry.

As a part of the series, whose in-

augural speaker last year was Maya Angelou, Paulson was invited to encourage thought and discussion among Tech students on topics regarding First Amendment rights and today's press.

"We thought that his work, in terms of what he deals with on a daily basis and the kinds of decisions he needs to make about what he wants to place out there for the general public to know about... fit within the overall mission of Finding Common Ground," said John Stein, dean of students.

Before presenting his speech to an audience of several hundred students and faculty members, Paulson met with members of various student publications. During this time, he fielded questions from students and discussed his opinion on the technological potentials and future of news media.

"I always enjoy the experience of [speaking at college campuses]. It helps me keep in touch with a new generation," Paulson said.

His confidence in the impact of students on the press could be found

throughout his speech. He referred several times to the impact of this generation on the music industry, alluding to the fact that it could also revolutionize news media and journalism.

"I think this is a particularly interesting generation that can make a difference. We live in a time when there's an extensive array of choices in terms of news and information, and this generation can help shape that in a very positive way," Paul-



See Editor, page 4

By Blake Israel /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Students turn out for lunar eclipse



Students view the lunar eclipse through telescopes set up at Yellow Jacket Park. Inset: an up-close view.

By Ethan Trehwitt /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

By Jenny Zhang  
Layout Editor

Yellow Jacket Park was full of moon-gazers this Wednesday night as people turned out to watch the last total lunar eclipse of the decade (the next one is in 2010). The eclipse began at 8:43 p.m. and reached totality at 10:01 p.m. By then well over 100 people had gathered in the park to observe the red-tinted moon. Some came toting their own telescopes and binoculars while others wandered by after seeing the crowd.

Bhavna Kumar, an Electrical Engineering graduate student, stayed on campus especially to watch the eclipse. "I talked to some people from the Astronomy Club and they said they would have telescopes set up here tonight. I knew I couldn't see

this from home, so I decided to come and check it out. The view through the telescopes is pretty awesome. You can even see the craters on the surface of the moon," she said.

The Astronomy Club publicized the event with chalking last week but was surprised by the turnout.

"We just brought our telescopes out to watch the eclipse. We're actually surprised at the large number of people that have come," said Jenny Rome, a fifth-year Aerospace Engineering major and president of the Astronomy Club.

Club treasurer Kenneth Kinion was on hand to pour hot chocolate for the eclipse enthusiasts and to answer questions about it.

"We were worried at first about how visible the eclipse would be since there were so many clouds, but

it turned out well. It's great because you can see Saturn too—it's just to the lower left of the moon. Some people have told me they can see its rings," he said.

The celestial spectacle also attracted a few off-campus visitors. Dave Lumpkin, a Tech graduate who stays involved with the Astronomy Club, brought along his friend Dan Llewellyn, owner of the store Telescope Atlanta. Both arrived with their own high-powered telescopes and were happy to offer students a look through them.

A sizable crowd was still milling about the park when the eclipse ended around 10:50 p.m. "The real story here is how social people are being, even more so than at parties," said Josh Beavers, an Electrical Engineering graduate student.

## Library plans new renovations

By Corbin Pon  
Assistant News Editor

Renovations to the first floor of the library over the last few years have provided students with the East and West Commons as places to study, hop on a computer or just pick up a quick snack. Now Tech is poised to once again renovate another section of the library, moving forward with plans to upgrade the second floor of the West Commons (2 West).

"One big reason [for renovating 2 West] is that this floor has already been cleared of the book stacks that used to be there. This gives us an open box within which to work with more flexibility than on the other floors. Also, it is one of the small floors... so any renovation efforts will not be as costly," said Bob Fox, associate director for Library Administration and Public Services.

The planning and design phases of the area will take some cues from the efforts that went into the redesign of the East Commons. This includes getting student input and insight on what the space will look like and what it will contain during the development cycle.

"One of the things that we learned after building the West Commons is that we needed

student feedback. The East Commons had students looking over the design, and it has turned out well," Fox said.

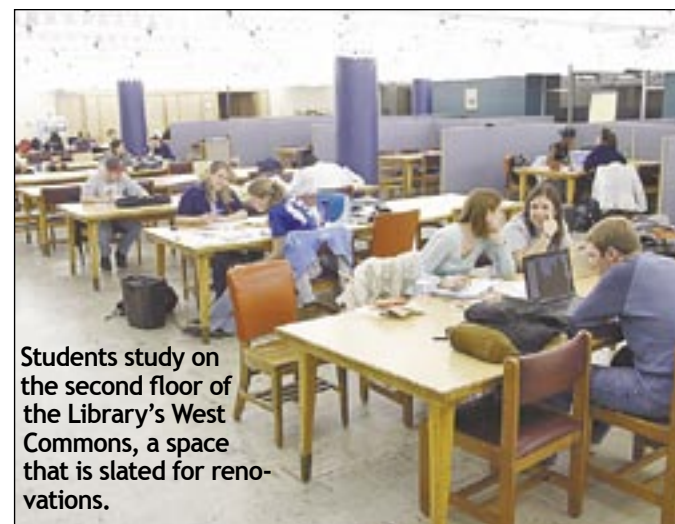
Brian Mathews, the user experience librarian, is heading up efforts to acquire student input. His goal is to get perspectives ranging from the casual user to the students who make their way into the Library every day.

For the first task, Mathews sat down with the most frequent users of 2 West to get their insights and opinions about the effects of the change and ways of improving the space.

"I am a little concerned about [the changes]...but you can't find out if something is going to be good or bad until you see it.... The library is someplace you go to do work, and... 2 West is something that I feel really works right now.... [I] hope they don't change the setting too much," said Adam Weiss, third-year Aerospace Engineering major.

Mathews began a series of talks with various student organizations and focus groups to get their perspectives on what changes to the second floor area would provide the best possible benefit for the students. The focus groups, in particular, tried to obtain a cross section of student

See Library, page 2



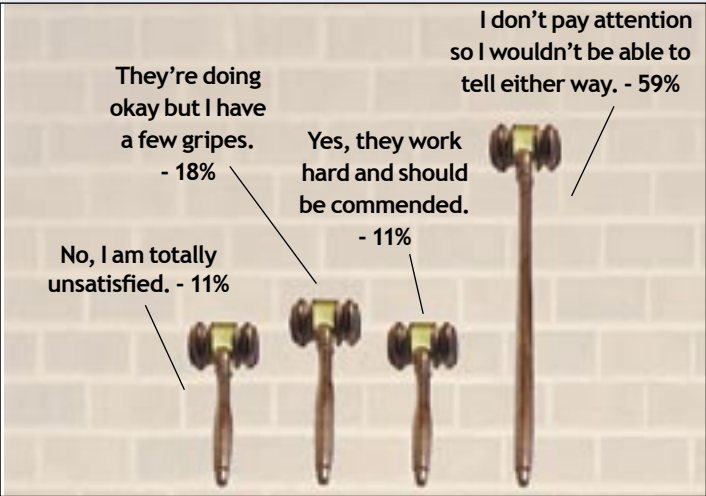
Students study on the second floor of the Library's West Commons, a space that is slated for renovations.

By Jon Drews /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



TechniqueOnline Voice your opinion!  
Last issue's question received 44 responses.

Is SGA doing an adequate job of serving students?



By Robert Combier / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:  
How can the library be improved?  
Tell us at [www.nique.net](http://www.nique.net)

Library from page 1

leaders from across campus.  
In a focus group moderated by Mathews last Tuesday, the participants consisted of Brandon Kearse, fourth-year Mechanical Engineering major, Mitch Keller, Ph.D. student with the School of Mathematics and Michael Warwick, third-year Management major.  
Mathews posed a mix of general and specific questions to the focus group about the library in general and the space of 2 West. Some gen-

eral questions asked of the group involved understanding how each person utilized the library, whether they would be accessing the Library's collection or using the study spaces around the building. This was followed by asking what could be added that would make the library a better place.  
"More moldable space. Something that... you can have [as] an individual work space, but if you want to combine,... it would be an effective use of space," Warwick said.  
Mathews also showed the focus

group a slide show of room designs being used by other universities around the world to gauge their impressions and to discuss whether any of the design elements should be incorporated in the planning of 2 West. Wall color, furniture styles, lighting schemes and other topics were all discussed during the session.  
"What I've seen is that [students] really want to maintain the group focus [of 2 West]. They like the combination of open space and barrier space... and the importance of aesthetics, atmosphere and décor... [2 West] is kind of sterile or dreary in some places. If [students] are going to study for a long time, [they] need something more inspiring," Mathews said.  
The series of focus groups will finish up at the end of February. At that point, prototype designs and sketches will be made.  
The library will then display the sketches to ensure that they have interpreted the input from the students correctly and continue to make changes if necessary.  
The library's plan is to begin the 2 West renovation by the start of the

From the files of the GTPD...  
Campus Crime



- Student Conduct Code Violation**  
2/14/2008 11:59:00 hrs.  
Location: Fowler St. @ Ferst Dr.  
Incident: Report of possession of liquor and open container
- Traffic Accident**  
2/14/2008 14:30:00 hrs.  
Location: Fourth St. @ Fowler St.  
Incident: Report of a two-vehicle accident (no reported accidents)
- Information**  
2/17/2008 2:57:00 hrs.  
Location: Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity  
Incident: Report of loud music

- Burglary**  
2/17/2008 5:30:00 hrs.  
Location: Psi Upsilon fraternity  
Incident: Report of a stolen laptop computer, game console and video games
- Traffic Violation**  
2/17/2008 1:40:00 hrs.  
Location: Techwood Dr. @ 5th St.  
Incident: Offender arrested for altering driver's license and driving while unlicensed
- Motor Vehicle Theft**  
2/17/2008 20:00:00 hrs.  
Location: Family Apartments parking deck  
Incident: Report of a stolen Honda Civic DX

- Larceny-Theft**  
2/16/2008 13:40:00 hrs.  
Location: Campus Recreation Center  
Incident: Report of a stolen wallet and contents
- 2/16/2008 2:00:00 hrs.  
Location: CRC Parking Deck  
Incident: Report of a Chevrolet Silverado was entered and items taken
- 2/15/2008 16:15:00 hrs.  
Location: Barnes and Noble  
Incident: Report of a stolen book-bag
- 2/15/2008 11:00:00 hrs.  
Location: Couch building  
Incident: Report of a stolen Cannonball Saxophone and attachments

summer semester and complete the entire project before the beginning of the fall semester.  
This way, the renovations will pose as little of a distraction to the library's users as possible, according to Mathews.  
An open forum will be held Feb. 26 in floor 2 West as part of the process of gathering student input. Students are invited to bring thoughts, concerns, visions, drawings, photos and other ideas. More information can be found by going to [www.librarycommons.gatech.edu/2west](http://www.librarycommons.gatech.edu/2west).



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February 11 - March 3



## Council Clippings

This week in Student Government

Each Tuesday, elected members of the two houses of the Student Government Association, the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), convene to consider allocation bills and discuss issues facing campus. Here is a summary of those two meetings.

By Corbin Pon, Assistant News Editor, & William Brawley, Contributing Writer

This edition of *Council Clippings* covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Feb. 19, 2008.

### Bill of the Week: Phi Psi Textile Fraternity

**PASSED:** Joint allocation to Phi Psi Textile Fraternity, requesting \$4111.50 to cover expenses of the national textile convention being held at Tech. (passed GSS 14-4-0; passed UHR 28-10-1)

The funding requested for by the Joint Allocation to Phi Psi Textile Fraternity will pay for some of the expenses of the national textile convention that is being held at Tech this year. The initial amount requested was \$4,111.50. Some of the line items for which the bill requested funding included busing for tours of textile plants, Tech police fees and two days of entertainment.

The fundraising efforts came from corporate sponsors and donations, amounting to \$1750. Ticket sales also contributed \$5500 to funding the event. The organization itself provided \$500, which brought the total cost of the event to \$12,000.

Concerns brought up in the UHR focused on the fact that only 19 students from Tech would be going to the event and that the event was not open to all students. UHR mentioned this was a reason that they usually did not fund honor societies, because the student activity was paid for by all students. The organizational representative said the School of Polymer, Textile and Fiber Engineering has only 50 students, and with 19 of the students going to the event, the group represents a large percentage of the total students.

The Joint Finance Committee made several recommendations to the funding of the bill. The first line item struck was the funding for busing for the plant tours. The plants are located in Cornelia and Jefferson, GA, both locations within 150 miles. That decision took \$1900 out of the funding. The \$550 dedicated for place settings were struck from the bill and funding the print information packets was reduced to \$47.25 from \$300. The Tech police fees were also struck, but this was at the organization's request. This resulted in the final bill totaling \$1233.75.

In the GSS, it was decided that the organization

would lower the costs for Tech students to five dollars. Finally, there was discussion and concern about the issue of the CRC. The GSS didn't want student CRC fees going to non-Tech people who would use the facility. Both the UHR and GSS passed the bill.

### UHR Impeachment proceedings

Impeachment proceedings were begun against two representatives. Modern Languages representative Corey Myers was removed from his position by a 34-0-4 vote due to having accrued more than three absences this semester.

The other, Biomedical Engineering representative Michael Chervonski, requested by e-mail to postpone his vote on expulsion to next week, when he would be able to appear to offer his excuse. He said he has been travelling to medical schools around the country and this has caused him to miss UHR meetings. With his absence total having climbed to nine, the UHR was divided between representatives that desired Chervonski be dismissed immediately and others wanting him to explain himself to the House. In the end, he was expelled by a vote of 35-3.

### Next Week

SGA business for next week consists of considering the Joint Allocation to LeaderShape, the Joint Allocation to the African American Student Union (AASU) for the Onyx Ball and the Joint Allocation to CCF.

The Joint Allocation to LeaderShape is requesting funds to cover this year's program fee of \$15,800. The Joint Allocation to AASU for the Onyx Ball is requesting funding for The Onyx Ball: 4th Annual Black History Month Gala. The bill is asking for \$885 for the event.

The Joint Allocation to CCF is requesting funds for a 20 city road trip around the southeast to participate in service activities. Approximately 26 students will go to each stop. The total amount requested is \$8209.

## Summary of SGA Voting

Bill and description	Result	
	UHR	GSS
<b>Joint allocation to Men's Volleyball Club:</b> The organization seeks funding to compensate a coach for the competition team.	<b>Passed</b> 36-3-0	<b>Postponed</b> 1 week
<b>Joint allocation to Students of Objectivism at Tech:</b> The bill is asking for speaker fees and publicity material to host a senior research scholar who will speak on the War on Terrorism.	<b>Passed</b> 35-3-1	<b>Passed</b> 21-3-1
<b>Joint allocation to Muslim Student Association:</b> The bill seeks to pay honorariums for speakers invited to the Islamic Awareness Series.	<b>Passed</b> 35-4-0	<b>Passed</b> 14-3-5
<b>Joint allocation to Trailblazers:</b> The bill seeks funding assistance for Trailblazer's Alternative Break trips to help reduce the cost to participants.	<b>Passed</b> 37-2-0	<b>Passed</b> 17-3-1
<b>Joint allocation to Phi Psi Textile Fraternity:</b> The bill will help fund expenses for the three day conference the chapter is hosting in Atlanta.	<b>Passed</b> 28-10-1	<b>Passed</b> 14-4-0
<b>Joint allocation to Student Center Programs Council Concert Committee:</b> The bill asks for \$40,000 for the funding of the Sting Break concert	<b>Previously passed</b> 34-2-0	<b>Passed</b> 24-1-2
<b>Joint allocation to AIESEC</b> The bill requested \$830 to send a member of the organization to Japan for an international conference. UHR agreed to pay the \$200 delegate fee but not the airfare.	<b>Passed</b> 26-12-1	<b>On agenda</b> next week

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Astronaut scholarship now available

Applications are now being accepted for the Astronaut Scholarship. The \$10,000 award is given by the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation to a rising junior, senior, or early graduate student who has shown "intellectual daring, innovation and creativity". The application must be submitted by March 11. More information can be found at [www.psp.gatech.edu/astro](http://www.psp.gatech.edu/astro)

## Rape reported near 10th and Hemphill

A female unaffiliated with Tech was abducted and raped on Feb. 17 at 1 a.m., according to a crime alert issued by the Georgia Tech Police Department.

The victim reported that three black males took her to an unknown location in a four-door sedan of unknown make. In response to the incident, GTPD announced they have increased patrols in the area.

## Editor

from page 1

son said

Following introductions by Anu Parvatiyar, undergraduate student body president, and Institute President Wayne Clough, Paulson began his lecture with a short explanation of his passion for news, reflecting on his logic that if he couldn't be a superhero like Superman, journalist Clark Kent must be the next best thing.

He established the differences in today's news landscape and that of the Golden Age, highlighted in movies like *Deadline USA*. He went on to discuss failures of the current press and societal issues that have made trustworthy journalism seemingly scarce.

"We live in a time when people take the First Amendment for granted, and they have a negative impression of free press. So often we forget that the job of the press is to look out for the public. The public forgets that, and too often the press forgets that," Paulson said.

He gave a brief history of the creation of the press, mentioning that it was originally established to keep tabs on the government at the beginning of our country.

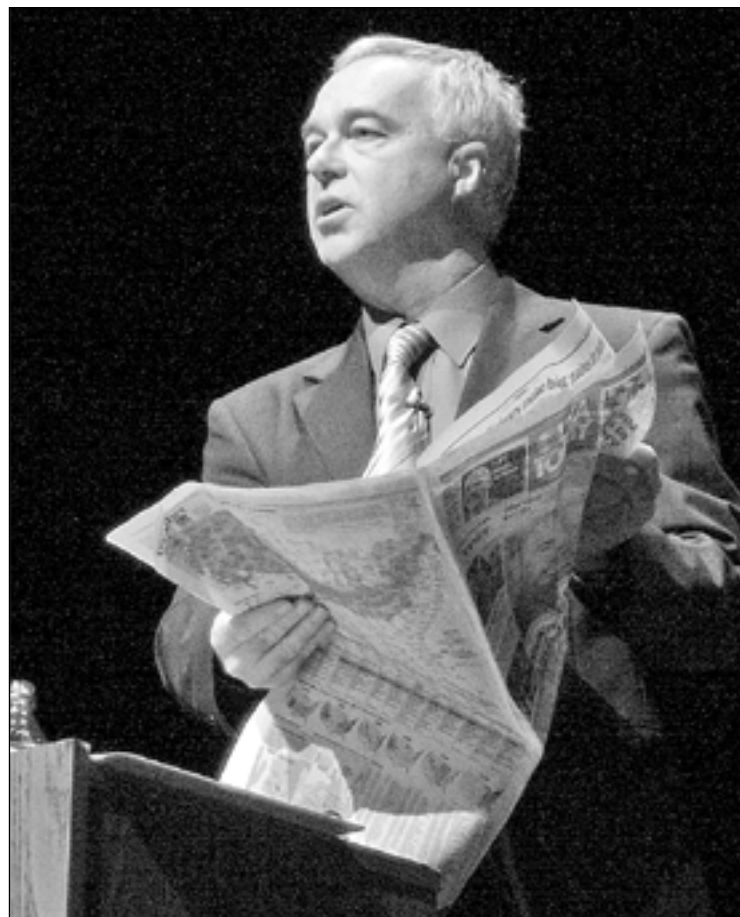
A large part of Paulson's speech centered around what steps could be taken to remove discrepancies between expectations of the press and the actual news with which the public is presented.

He suggested that "if we settle for 'Journalism Lite,' we end up with 'Democracy Lite,'" and that if students will reject prefabricated and inarticulate work, they can have a positive influence.

After the speech Paulson held a short question and answer session during which both students and faculty came forward with questions about Paulson's job, his method of decision-making regarding controversial topics and the future of journalism in general.

Paulson has worked as both a journalist and a lawyer and is a former editor of newspapers in five different states. He has also served as Executive Director of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University.

Finding Common Ground is a student organization created in 2006 whose purpose is to "[initiate] a continuing culture of dialogue to ensure the inclusion of as many voices as possible in discussions of issues that affect both the campus community and society at large."



By Blake Israel /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Ken Paulson, editor of USA Today, speaks on Feb. 20 at the Ferst Center. His appearance was sponsored by Finding Common Ground.

## sliver

[www.nique.net/sliver](http://www.nique.net/sliver)

Matt just dropped a Cheerio on the floor...then he ate it. I swear.

You're welcome

SGA has become a rubber stamp - bring forth your most outrageous bills, even if they seem to violate SGA policy, and you will most likely get what you are asking for.

basket

like i wasn't going to proof the slivers.

Go. Actually if you're house hunting, I hear the place near 10th and Hemphill is a great location.

stay in n ave? find an expensive apt somewhere? do i stay or do i go... you know the words..

writing above me= standing on shoulders of genius.

I wonder if i skipped every class for the next week i could get the calc 2 hw done. probably not. FI

<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/02/19/News/University.>

Engineering.Programs.Offer.different.Perspective-3217793.shtml

You'd think that if the PTFE department is so willing to pay students' tuition so that they switch to PTFE, itd be willing to shell out a couple grand for the Textile Fraternity to host an intercollegiate conference.



## Weekly Activities

Student Center Programs Council

**LIVE AND IN PERSON!**  
The Jerry Springer Goes Back to School Tour is coming to Georgia Tech!



Friday, February 29  
8:00 p.m.  
Ferst Center for the Arts  
FREE!

Free tickets at the Student Center Programs Office Mon. - Fri. 8am - 4:30 pm. starting February 18th. Must show Buzzcard.

For more information on this speaker/performer please visit [www.apbspeakers.com](http://www.apbspeakers.com)

Submit your questions to Jerry at [www.jerryspringertv.com/jerry\\_backtoschool.html](http://www.jerryspringertv.com/jerry_backtoschool.html)

## JOIN THE STUDENT CENTER PROGRAMS COUNCIL

WANTED: GT students to make new friends, plan events, get involved! Don't miss this opportunity to join the Student Center Programs Council. Apply on-line: [www.fun.gatech.edu](http://www.fun.gatech.edu)

## HOMECOMING '08

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# Nanowires power devices from ordinary movement

By Craig Tabita  
News Editor

Advances in nanotechnology have paved the way for a wide array of wearable or implantable electronic devices aimed at solving important problems, but each of these new devices inherently presents a new issue: how to maintain a steady and abundant supply of power to keep them running. The reliable functioning of devices like implantable blood pressure sensors and trackers used in military operations can literally mean the difference between life and death.

Conventional batteries are not a great option. Anyone with an iPod can attest to their batteries' tendency to run dry just when you need them the most. Plus, for applications within the human body, the idea of placing a battery filled with toxic materials is not a very pleasing proposition. Solar energy is another possibility, but besides being expensive to implement, it has the drawback of requiring the user to be under clear sunlight.

To eliminate these obstacles, a group led by Tech professor Zhong Lin Wang has developed a self-powering method of powering nano-scale electronics that works by scavenging energy from the environment. Such nanogenerators could be powered by vibration caused by the ordinary motion of the wearer's body. Heartbeats or even ambient noise could also be tapped for power with these nanogenerators.

Wang, a professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering, has been working on methods of converting mechanical energy to electricity since 2005. This discovery, representing his group's latest find-

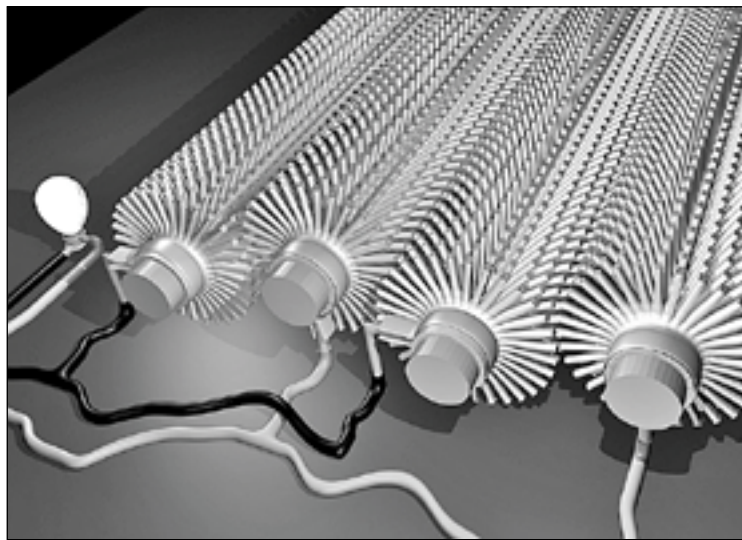


Illustration courtesy of Zhong Lin Wang

The interaction between zinc oxide nanowires emanating from fibers produces power through the piezoelectric effect.

ings, appeared in the Feb. 14 issue of *Nature*. It builds upon research that was previously reported in *Science* in April 2006 and April 2007.

The key to the nanogenerators is the combination of zinc oxide's properties of being a semiconductor as well as piezoelectric. Piezoelectricity is a phenomenon where the application of force to a crystal results in the production of an electric charge. In Wang's system, the effect was elicited in zinc oxide nanowires which were grown radially on fibers of Kevlar, forming a structure that Wang describes as resembling a forest without branches. One of the fibers is coated with gold to serve as the electrode in the system.

For one application of this technology, Wang visualizes the nanowires someday being incorporated into the fibers of everyday clothing. Therefore the wearer could power essential devices such as the aforementioned blood pressure sensors

or military trackers just by walking around in a shirt. Charge would be collected over a long period of movement by the wearer and stored, with power being consumed only at specified intervals or as needed. The cost of purchasing such a nanowire-containing shirt, Wang expects, will eventually be only slightly higher than an ordinary shirt.

Several hurdles lie ahead before the full possibilities can be realized. Among them is that the efficiency and lifetime of the nanogenerators needs to be increased before they could ever be used to power a device with the power requirements of a cell phone or iPod. Also, for these wires to be woven into clothing to create so-called power shirts, they must be made to withstand a cycle in a washing machine. Currently they would simply dissolve, according to Wang, so his group is investigating ways to protect the nanowires from moisture.

## Breaking the Bubble



A lot of things went on outside the bubble of Tech in the past week. Here are a few important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

### Pakistani elections shake up parliament

The Pakistani General Election was held Feb. 18, after having been postponed from its original Jan. 8 date. The newly elected parliament is in opposition of U.S.-backed President Pervez Musharraf and could hurt the focus on the war on terrorism, reported CBS News. The new government said they would stay the course with regards to the war on terror, but experts believe there might be a dilution in the country's focus.

Leaders of the opposition parties in parliament are in negotiations, but analysts believe it won't be long until they come into conflict with Musharraf. According to the initial results, the Pakistan People Party, the party of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, won the largest share of votes, and the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), led by Nawaz Sharif, followed closely behind in the voting. The parties have been critical of Musharraf.

President Bush said on Wednesday that Musharraf had done the right thing by holding fair elections. He hoped that he would be able to work with the new government and called the elections a victory for the Pakistani people.

The friction between Musharraf and the new opposition parties is thought to have been made worse by the relationship between Musharraf and PML-N leader Sharif. Sharif was ousted from power in

1999, when Musharraf took power in a bloodless coup. Sarif called for Musharraf to step down from power, citing his defeat in the general election.

The Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q) closely associated with Musharraf had at least 23 ministers from its 75 member cabinet lose in their constituencies. Musharraf said on Wednesday that he would not resign from his post.

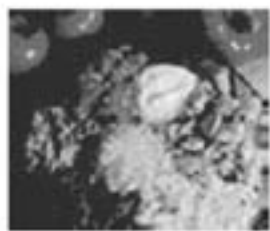
### Castro resigns after 49 years leading Cuba

Cuban leader Fidel Castro, who hasn't been seen in public since falling ill 19 months ago, told the Cuban people on Feb. 19 that he would be stepping down as president of the country he led for nearly half a century, reported *BusinessWeek*.

Castro wrote in a statement in the official Communist Party newspaper *Granma* that he would neither pursue nor accept the position of President of the State Council and Commander in Chief when the National Assembly meets on Feb. 24. Castro's brother Raul, 76, is expected to succeed him as the President of Cuba, following the path that was laid out by the resignation. The move is also expected to raise a younger generation of leaders into the spotlight.

Castro has been Cuba's president since 1976, and before that he was the prime minister since 1959, after he successfully led a revolution against then-leader Fulgencio Batista. Castro's run as Cuba's leader saw 10 different U.S. presidents come into the Oval Office.

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Covered parking and controlled  
access

Courtyard with seating area and  
fountain

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one home at a time.®

