

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

TECHNIQUE

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Plus ► Interning at the state legislature, page 9



Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

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SGA election apps available

Elections for SGA's undergraduate officers and representatives will take place next month, and applications for prospective candidates are now available in the SGA office.

Interested students can pick up application packets in the SGA office or download one online at www.sga.gatech.edu/elections.

Applications for the positions of president and executive vice president are due Wednesday, March 16, at 4 p.m.

All representative applications are tentatively due Thursday, March 17, at 4 p.m. However, this time may be subject to change.

Candidate information sessions will be held Monday, March 14 through Thursday, March 17.

Campaigning will begin at midnight on Monday, March 28. Elections are slated for Monday, April 11 through Wednesday, April 13.

Talk to address leadership

Howard Prince, director of the Center for Ethical Leadership at the University of Texas, is coming to Tech to engage in discussions about leadership programs.

He will present a lecture on Monday, March 7, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in room 117 of the Flag Building.



By Jon Drews / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Dancing the Night Away: Students dance at the Biltmore Hotel in RHA's WinterBuzz 2005 formal Friday, Feb. 25. Attendees danced to the beat of various music under an array of multicolored lights throughout the evening. This was the 14th annual WinterBuzz.

International plan takes root

By Nikhil Joshi
Staff Writer

Several academic units turned in course lists earlier this week for the International Plan, an initiative begun as a part of the Quality Enhancement Plan during the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation process.

Students will be able to apply for admission to the program as early as next semester.

Academic units—including International Af-

fairs, History, Technology and Society, and Management—are currently submitting course lists to the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (IUCC), which will give final approval March 31.

Associate Provost Jack Lohmann and Howard Rollins, director of International Education—who have led the process of drawing out the plan—feel that it will help Tech's reputation.

"Globalism is more important now than ever," Rollins said. "The Inter-

national Plan will make Tech more visible on the international scene. It will also attract more students who will be valuable to Georgia Tech."

Students who choose to pursue the International Plan will complete four main requirements: three preliminary courses, which provide a context for international study, as well as either two years of proficiency in a foreign language or the equivalent, which is measured by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Lan-

guages (ACTFL) Language Proficiency Test.

The program also includes two semesters of study or work abroad as well as a culminating course to be taken in a student's final year.

The preliminary courses are not major-specific, and students will take one in each of the following categories: international relations, global economics and one relating to the specific region in which they wish to study abroad.

See Plan, page 5

OIT works around kinks in spam filter

By Alexandra Pajak
Contributing Writer

Last month, delays slowed email services at Tech when messages due to a virus backed up a new spam filtering system recently implemented by the Office of Information Technology (OIT). In addition, some individuals' entire inboxes were temporarily deleted.

Chief Technology Officer Ron Hutchins said the holdups were related to a spike in messages passing through the new Ciphertrust system, which helps rid incoming mail of spam.

However, he said that the filter improves the Prism system in many ways. He explained that the Ciphertrust system functions first with a "spam identification" system that helps Tech filter unwanted emails from unknown sources.

"This has been one of the most

asked-for things on campus...The roll-out [of the Ciphertrust system] was successful until we had the influx of a virus," Hutchins said. "It sent a huge number of emails into the system."

Jason Bel-ford, OIT's technical leader on spam control, said that the week of Feb. 16—when the delays occurred—OIT saw approximately 200,000 emails sent due to the virus.

Fifth-year Electrical Engineering student Gregory Heim experienced email problems during the weeks of Feb. 16 and Feb. 23.

"Somehow a listserve I am on

got a virus or spammers got hold of the [honors] club email. And now I get porn spam."

Hutchins said, however, that such email on a listserve is most likely not related to the Feb. 16 virus.

Most students seemed unaffected by the recent filtering errors. "I didn't have a problem," said Nihal Ladiwala, a student worker at the computer cluster in the Student Center.

Ladiwala expressed satisfaction with email accounts on campus.

He also pointed to the message located on Webmail's homepage (webmail.mail.gatech.edu) as an

"People advertise through [spam]. It's so insidious—you can turn off your TV, not look at billboards."

Ron Hutchins
Chief technology officer

Tech does not oppose HOPE limit

By Haining Yu
Assistant News Editor

Tech administrators do not oppose legislation that passed in the Georgia House of Representatives last week limiting the number of credit hours covered by the HOPE Scholarship to 127 hours, regardless of degree program requirements. If passed by the Senate, the bill will come into effect for all students enrolling in a state school after July 2005.

In a letter written by Institute President Wayne Clough to Representative Bill Hembree who introduced the bill, HB 299, he wrote, "As might be expected, this did give us some initial concerns about our students being reimbursed for all their required college credit if they continued to be otherwise HOPE eligible. However, having now discussed this matter with officials with the Georgia Student Finance Commission, and getting a full explanation as to how this change would be administered, we are of the opinion

"Theoretically, you can have HOPE cover 140 credit hours, as long as you plan your last semester."

Andrew Harris
Director, Government Relations

that HB 299 will offer a viable option for those whose curricula require 127 hours to graduate. Therefore we do not have any opposition to the bill."

Under current laws, HOPE will cover the cost of college until either graduation or until 127 credit hours have been attempted for degrees requiring less than 127 credit hours for complete. However, for degree programs requiring more than 127 credit hours, HOPE will currently cover all of the credits required for graduation, up to 150 hours.

The legislation would end this exception. While the legislation is targeted towards joint degree programs that offer students a chance to earn a bachelor's and a master's degree at the same time, none of the dual degree programs at Tech are covered by HOPE. According to Registrar Jo McIver, 11 majors at Tech will be affected by the 127 credit hour limit. There are currently 5,047 students enrolled in these majors. While the legislation in HB 299 will not affect students already enrolled at Tech, more than 5,000 people could be enrolled in affected majors in the next four years.

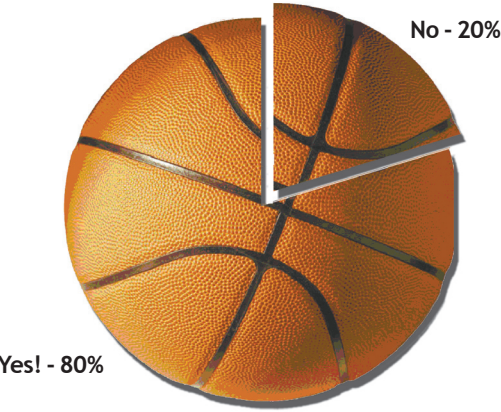
The "viable option" Clough referred to in his letter is the HOPE "grace period." If a student begins his or her last semester with less than 127 credit hours, HOPE will pay for the entire last semester, even

See HOPE, page 5

TechniqueOnline Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 85 responses.

Will Tech make the NCAA tournament?



By Lauren Griffin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:
What majors need international exposure?
Tell us at www.nique.net



Sidewalk campfire

On Feb. 23, an unknown person started a fire on the sidewalk outside Alexander Memorial Coliseum. Students in the area who were camping out for a basketball game stated they did not know who was responsible. The fire caused no damages and was extinguished by GTPD.

Not your average scalper

On Feb. 23, two men were in the process of the sale of a Duke vs. Tech basketball ticket. One of the men switched the ticket with an old ticket and handed it off to his partner,

From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime

who ran from the scene.

The cheated man held onto the offender until police came to the scene. GTPD arrested the deceptive man.

Stepping on toes

On Feb. 23, a man and his wife were attempting to leave O'Keefe West Parking Lot when a female student and a male blocked his way. The driver asked them to please move and honked his horn.

The girl became aggressive and flipped her middle finger at him. The driver threatened to call the police and the girl said she was going to call herself. The girl's foot was reported to be run over. GTPD could not locate the female victim, so they released the driver and his wife.

Oops

On Feb. 24, a male student in Hefner reported he gave personal information to a suspicious female offering him a Visa Club Card. The student said the woman told him he had excellent credit and qualified for a Visa Club Card.

The student gave her his social security number, home address, phone number, mother's name, annual income and employment history. Afterward, he became suspicious and tried to call the woman. His call was transferred to a full voice mailbox. A Visa Credit Card representative told GTPD they had no information about a Visa Club Card.

This week's campus crime information contributed by Amanda Dugan

Corrections

Technique welcomes your comments and suggestions, as well as information about errors that call for correction. Messages may be emailed to niq@gatech.edu. Letters to the editor may be directed to the same address, or to opinions@technique.gatech.edu.

Check out
the
paper next
week
for the
first-ever

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scavenger
hunt

Council Clippings



Each week, elected members of the houses of the Student Government Association (SGA) meet to consider allocation bills and talk about campus issues. Here are summaries of those meetings.

Graduate Student Senate

Graduates fund Sting Break concert request

By Arcadiy Kantor
Senior Staff Writer

The Graduate Student Senate held a lengthy meeting Tuesday, passing five bills after extensive discussion.

The largest bill passed by the graduates was an allocation of \$20,000 to the Student Center Programs Council to help cover Sting Break artist fees. According to organization representatives, this year's Sting Break will be accompanied by charity events, and this charity affiliation has allowed for a significant increase in artist cachet.

Despite the organization's expectation to get a substantial discount on artist fees thanks to the charity involvement, more funds are still needed to secure the presence of an artist. The \$20,000 request will go towards paying that fee.

Kasi David, graduate student body president, spoke out in support of the bill.

While nearly all of the other senators supported the bill, several of them also expressed concerns about the event.

Electrical and Computer Engineering Senator Pelham Norville spoke at length about his past experience with organizing concerts,

Bills passed

- Joint allocation to Culture Tech and Freshman Activities Board
- Joint allocation to Mars Society at Georgia Tech (a)
- Joint allocation to Mars Society at Georgia Tech (b)
- Joint allocation to India Club, Pakistani Student Association, Cricket Club
- Joint allocation to Student Center Programs Council

Bills failed

- Joint allocation to Culture Tech (b)

delineating his numerous issues with hosting the event outdoors in Yellow Jacket Park. He expressed his belief that it would have been more affordable to host the concert at an indoor facility due to lower staging, security and other costs.

Despite this concern, however, he said he supports the bill and requested that his suggestions be considered next year.

After the prolonged discussion period, the bill passed by a wide margin.

See GSS, page 4

Undergraduate House of Representatives

Clough presents capital campaign

Have some major gifts now that can be captured within the campaign.

Position ourselves to be ready as the economy grows stronger.

Take advantage of relationships developed over past 10 years and growth in the Institute's reputational status.



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Institute President Wayne Clough speaks at Tuesday's Undergraduate House of Representatives meeting. He addressed the Institute's monetary standing and the beginning of the next capital campaign.

By Shan Sharif
Contributing Writer

The Undergraduate House of Representatives passed six bills and failed one during Tuesday night's meeting. Before the meeting began, Institute President Wayne Clough gave a presentation to the representatives.

Clough spoke about plans for the next capital campaign, a long-term fundraising effort. According to Clough, Tech receives approximately \$180-\$190 million from the state; this revenue is used to cover basic expenses such as professor salaries. Tech's budget is much more than this, and fundraising is a necessary source of revenue.

Although Tech is constantly fundraising, a major effort like the capital campaign is necessary, Clough said.

According to him, state governments in general are cutting back on funding of public universities. Tech's budget is growing faster than state funding is, he said.

When planning such a fundraising campaign, Clough said that two things need to be considered: the duration of the fundraising and its monetary goal.

He said he believes that a capital campaign would be effective at this time, and that there is justification for a \$1 billion campaign.

See UHR, page 4

Bills passed

- Joint allocation to Culture Tech and Freshman Activities Board
- Allocation to MOVE
- Joint allocation to Mars Society at Georgia Tech (a)
- Joint allocation to Mars Society at Georgia Tech (b)
- 2005 Elections Code and Elections Schedule Spring 2005
- Joint allocation to India Club, Pakistani Student Association, Cricket Club
- Joint allocation to Student Center Programs Council

Bills failed

- Joint allocation to Culture Tech (b)

Interested in photography?
Email photoed@technique.gatech.edu to
find out about shooting for the *Technique*!



By Scott Medway / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

All the Right Moves: Students dance all night at the Onyx Ball last Saturday in the Alumni House. The ball was the first annual Black History Month gala, sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the African-American Student Union and the National Society of Black Engineers.

UHR

from page 3

If implemented, this Capital Campaign project will be the third major fundraising campaign at Tech. The previous campaign raised approximately \$700 million.

After the presentation, the representatives turned to the list of bills before them for the evening.

The Student Center Programs Council requested money for funding of the Sting Break concert. A few representatives wanted to know which artist would be performing.

The organization representative stated that if the bill were passed, there was a 95 percent chance that Ludacris will be performing; however, at the time there was no absolute certainty. He said there are two backup bands in case of problems. The bill passed.

The Mars Society requested

funding to cover expenses of traveling to the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) in southern Utah, a laboratory that simulates the environment of Mars. The expenses included hardware that is necessary for the expedition. The organization submitted two bills related to funds for attending the MDRS; the bills were slated together and passed.

A joint allocation to Culture Tech and Freshman Activities Board was also considered.

The bill, which requested funding for their Culture Extravaganza, was tabled last week. Amendments were made to the bill that removed all items that covered food expenses and the bill was then passed for approximately \$400.

Representatives discussed another joint allocation to Culture Tech, which was also tabled last week. The organization was seeking an additional \$2,000 for rental

of the Robert Ferst Center. The bill failed.

Representatives also passed an allocation to the Georgia Tech India Club, Pakistan Student Association and Georgia Tech Cricket Club. The bill requested funding to cover expenses for purchasing the broadcasting rights for a series of upcoming cricket matches. Students will have the opportunity to watch these matches.

Two bills that concerned the upcoming elections were slated together. One bill concerned the elections code and the other dealt with the elections schedule. Both bills were passed with minor amendments.

A bill for an allocation to MOVE was passed, as well. The bill requested funding to cover travel expenses for a member of the organization to attend a community service conference in Berkeley.

GSS

from page 3

The senators also addressed two bills that were tabled last week.

The first of the two bills, a joint allocation to the Freshman Activities Board and Culture Tech to run Cultural Extravaganza (an event set to run concurrently with Culture Tech's food fair), was tabled last week because it requested a significant sum of money and did not enumerate the items on which it would be spent.

The bill was rewritten to address those failures and resubmitted at a new total of \$423. The details revealed, however, that several of the organizations requested funds for food, a violation of Joint Finance Committee (JFC) policy. The senators removed the food items from the bill, trimming the total to \$360, and proceeded to pass it.

The other tabled bill from last week did not share the same fate, however. The bill, requesting money for a March 7 Culture Tech performance at the Ferst Center, failed to pass in its second attempt.

SGA has an agreement with the Ferst Center that stipulates rental costs for the facility will be covered automatically for any student organization hosting an event that is expected to draw over 500 students.

The organizers of the Culture Tech performance expected only approximately 100 attendees for their event, falling far short of the 500-student mark.

Senators felt that though there may have been some miscommunication between the organization and Ferst Center staff regarding the funding requirements, SGA should not be responsible for picking up the bill.

"The Ferst Center is welcome to try to make amends," said Brandon Yarbrough, a Computer Science senator.

The organization did seek to

find a different place to hold its event, but failed to locate another available auditorium by the time of the GSS meeting. The senators reaffirmed their recommendation of an alternate venue before failing the bill by a wide margin.

Since the meeting, Culture Tech followed the Senate's advice and has found a location for the event—it will be held in the LeCraw Auditorium.

The next two bills dealt with requests from the Mars Society at Georgia Tech. The organization focuses on the exploration and study of the planet, as well as public awareness of progress in the field.

The club asked for money to fund a planned trip for a team of researchers to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah. The two-week trip will cost the club approximately \$14,000: they asked for \$1,400 in one bill and \$1,073.40 in another to defray some of the expenses.

According to organization representative John Christian, the team will be the first group composed entirely of students from one university to perform research at the station.

The organization has done a significant amount of fundraising for the trip. Additionally, members will be paying for many of the associated expenses out of their own pockets.

Several senators spoke out in support of the Mars Society's trip, pointing to the group's extensive efforts to minimize the funds they needed to request from SGA as worthwhile reasons to pass their bills. The rest of the Senate agreed and passed both bills, one of them unanimously.

The next bill, moved from new to old business and passed by the senators, was a request for \$750 by several clubs to buy broadcast rights for the India-Pakistan Cricket Series, running March 4 through April 9. The bill saw little discussion prior to its passage.

**We'd like to hear from you.
Write us a letter.**

opinions@technique.gatech.edu

Dropped classes that count toward HOPE hours may still limit students

HOPE

Continued from page 1

if the final number of credit hours paid for exceeds 127. While this grace period is not officially stated in the legislation of HOPE, it is the policy of the Georgia Student Finance Commission, the state group that administers HOPE.

Hembree said he introduced the bill in an attempt to bring fairness. The bill is not directly aimed at cutting costs for HOPE, and administrators for the scholarship are not sure how much this measure will save. Instead, Hembree said in an address to the House, "This is an issue of fairness. All programs and all HOPE scholars should be equal," according to the *AJC*.

Andrew Harris, Tech's director of Government Relations, reiterated Clough's letter, saying that the administration does not oppose the

bill because with proper planning, students should still be able to have HOPE until they graduate, regardless of major. "Theoretically," Harris said, "you can have HOPE cover 140 credit hours, as long as you plan your last semester."

Many students are already taking advantage of the "grace period" policy.

"I only have one HOPE credit hour left in this semester," said Yoni Pollak, a Mechanical Engineering student, "but I got 12 credit hours paid for by HOPE."

However, Pollak is a transfer student, and the total number of credit hours he attempted while on HOPE exceeds the limits for a Mechanical Engineering degree.

"I do have to pay for four more hours this summer before I graduate," Pollak conceded, "but I think it's pretty fair, compared to my friends who are paying out-of-state tuition."

"When you drop a class, it counts against your HOPE hours, so to get in at 127 you'd pretty much have to not drop a class, or only drop one class..."

Matthew Kuhlke
Fifth-year ECE major

But Matthew Kuhlke, a fifth-year Electrical and Computer Engineering major, said dropping classes will become a bigger issue with the proposed limits.

"Usually, you only need about 120 hours to graduate. So it seems that they give you the extra 6 or 7

for dropping a class or two, but here at Tech you have 127 or 126 anyways," Kuhlke said.

At Tech especially, dropping classes is common due to the large amounts of course work some classes require, he said.

"When you drop a class, it counts against your HOPE hours, so to get

in at 127 you'd pretty much have to not drop a class or drop only one class during your whole time here," Kuhlke added, "I don't think it's very reasonable."

In the end, though, Pollak said, the biggest bane for HOPE recipients at Tech is still the high grade point average requirements.

together their experiences abroad in the context of their major," Rollins said.

The goal of the International Plan is for students to be able to apply these courses of study to any degree program.

"There are already opportunities abroad, and the International Plan will open even more doors for students."

Maria Geonczy
First-year CE

This final course is major-specific, although a collaborative course covering similar disciplines is being considered.

These courses have not yet been created. According to Rollins, the capstone will teach students "how their disciplines are practiced across

the world, and define the role of culture in these disciplines."

Rollins added that the course is what sets the International Plan apart from initiatives at other universities. "Other schools may offer a certificate or major in another department, but in the International Plan, global context is a natural part of each discipline," he said.

Some students reacted positively to the creation of the program. "It makes sense that Georgia Tech would head in an international direction," said Maria Geonczy, first-year Civil Engineering major. "There are already opportunities abroad, and the International Plan will open even more doors for students," he said. Michael Chu, first-year Electrical Engineering major, agreed. "It seems like a great opportunity—something that a lot of students will be interested in," he said.

Tech will be accepting approximately 100 students into the program in the spring, and, according to Lohmann, hopes to have 300 students in each class participating in the program by the time it is finalized in five years.

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.

Juvenile executions ruled unconstitutional

The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that the execution of minors or those who committed their crimes while minors is unconstitutional. The 5-4 decision held that the practice violated the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The ruling effectively brings to an end a practice that is carried out in 19 states in the U.S., and will throw out the death sentences of some 70 juvenile murderers on death row.

"The age of 18 is the point where society draws the line for many purposes between childhood and adulthood. It is, we conclude, the age at which the line of death eligibility ought to rest," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, according to www.cnn.com.

Murder of crows threatens royal family

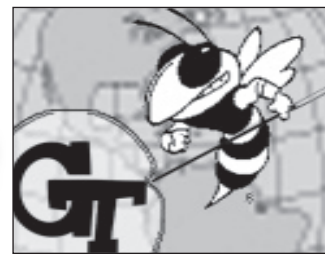
According to legend, the British royal family may be in danger. Six ravens who live in the Tower of London are threatened by up to 200 crows who have invaded their space, stealing food and spreading disease.

King Charles II in the 17th century ordered that six ravens should always live at the Tower of London; legend holds that if they leave, the tower will fall and, subsequently, the monarchy.

Sharpshooter Derrick Coyle has taken up arms in defense of the six ravens. Every Sunday at dawn, he patrols the tower with his .22 air rifle, aiming for ill birds among the group of crows to help prevent the spread of disease to the ravens. Interestingly enough, a collective group of crows is referred to in English as a murder of crows.

Not showering tears Iranian family apart

An Iranian woman has filed for divorce because her husband has



not showered in over a year. According to the woman, 36, even their children are no longer willing to approach their smelly father.

Iranian law defines a concise list of valid reasons for a wife to divorce her husband, which include being a drug addict, in jail, abusive or impotent. Not showering for an extended period of time is not on the list; however, the woman will attempt to prove that her husband's smell has caused her to hate him so much that she can no longer remain in the same residence with him.

Japanese firms work to bring robots to life

Japanese company Flower Robotics unveiled a new robot that may one day replace static mannequins in clothing stores. The humanoid robot, programmed using motion-capture technology, is capable of striking a variety of glamorous poses and identifying the brands on shoppers' bags to assist marketing research.

In related news, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries has announced that it is exploring options for the development and manufacture of general-purpose bipedal construction robots. The robots, similar to those popularized by the animated series *Mobile Suit Gundam*, were the focus of a mid-February recruiting event.

Anti-Syrian sentiment grows in Lebanon

Leaders of Lebanon's opposition movement have made a list of demands, including the resignation of Lebanese security chiefs and the immediate withdrawal of Syrian forces. Mass demonstrations began last month after the assassination of popular former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in Beirut.

The pro-Syrian Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karami has already resigned in the face of mass public pressure. Syria has provided no immediate response to the opposition's demands; however, Syrian President Bashar Assad has pledged to withdraw his troops from Lebanon.

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

Man, you'd think out of all the water fountains in the library, at least one would have good cold water... nope.

Next stupid pedestrian who crosses in front of me when I have a green light gets run over. I mean it.

"Mr. Enginer" --presented by the Miss I-Can't-Spells To the geek couple in the front row in HPS 1040: NO MAKING OUT IN CLASS! OR BEFORE CLASS! OR ANYTIME WHEN I MIGHT HAPPEN TO SEE IT! eww...

We can do anything that you can't stop us from doing.

Was that just me or did someone chalk the shocker on the Skiles walkway?

MISSING: girls on campus who are sweet, sincere, attractive but not cocky about it, and interested in dating me the ad manager needs to get laid, maybe then she wouldn't be so bitter

every girl on campus needs to go see 'Hitch'. You'd learn so much...

Thank you Two Bits Man! Now campus is gonna reek like an unflushed toilet next week!

Odd thing is that I'm gonna be forced into testing out the theory myself.

Ooooh!Ooooh! Old section editors posting slivers!! Which one?