

## Band prepares for Thanksgiving Day Parade

By Sarah Boling  
Contributing Writer

With over 400 registered student organizations and numerous programs such as study abroad, work abroad, co-op and more, students at Tech are afforded opportunities here that they will likely never see again. The 365 members of the Yellow Jacket Marching Band are about to add another very memorable experience to their repertoire.

Next month, the band will be travelling to New York City to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as one of only two college bands invited. It is the first time ever that the Yellow Jacket Marching Band has been invited to perform in this prestigious event.

"Every year, Macy's accepts applications for the Parade. Applicants must submit a video, CD, and photos," said Chris Moore, director of athletic bands. "Applications must be submitted two years in advance, so we planned ahead in hopes of performing for our 100th year anniversary."

This year indeed marks 100 years since the original 14-member Georgia Tech band was formed by Robert "Biddy" Bidez, a textile major from Mobile, AL. The band's hope to celebrate their

centennial by marching in the Thanksgiving Parade is now a reality, and as Tech students know all too well, reality almost always induces some level of stress.

"We're currently over \$100,000 short of our fundraising goal, which means we're about two-thirds of the way there," Moore said. Seeming optimistic, he added, "We deeply appreciate all of the fans and alumni who have shown their support by donating."

Donating money is easy, and all of the necessary information can be found by going to [www.gatech.edu](http://www.gatech.edu) and clicking the "March to Manhattan" link at the top right of the page. The funds will cover the cost of transportation, hotel and food expenses. The band directors anticipate this performance being one of many high-profile opportunities to share their music programs with the Tech community. In addition to accepting donations, the Yellow Jacket Marching Band is raising money through paid performances.

"We do a lot of outside performances with corporations. They pay us to play at their special events. The drum line has also played with Keith Urban three times, as well as with Kenny Chesney and Sugarland," Moore said. "Additionally, we will be

putting on a Homecoming concert called Surround Sound at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24, in the Ferst Center."

While logistics are undeniably important, the band must also, of course, be both musically and technically ready to march on national television. Since they will be playing familiar songs such as Tech's fight song and some selections from the pregame show, additional practices are not necessary.

"The band meets as a class, so we're mostly just incorporating our preparation for the Thanksgiving Parade into that practice time," Moore said. "One additional practice that we will be having is on October 5th. They're closing off West Peachtree Street so that we can get a feel for what marching down a city street will actually be like. Macy's requires us to submit a video of what our exact routine looks like, so we'll tape that rehearsal and send it in."

For those who, thus far in life, have not religiously watched the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade every year, this is definitely the year to start. Like every float in the parade, the band will march along the parade route and then



By Michael Skinner / Student Publications

The Yellow Jacket Marching Band will perform in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. They are now fundraising to finance the trip.

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## Gun rights play role in election



Photo illustration by Michael Schneider / Student Publications

The presidential candidates have slightly varying opinions on gun rights. Obama supports state governments' gun control laws, while McCain believes all law-abiding citizens should be able to carry firearms.

By Yameen Huq  
Contributing Writer

As election day nears, many Tech students will analyze the candidates' stances on key issues in an attempt to choose the best person for the presidency. For some, this means looking at the presidential candidates' policies regarding gun rights.

Security issues—whether on a personal, economic or national level—affect Americans directly. Those for gun control believe that

reducing the supply of guns is necessary to fight crime and keep guns away from criminals. Those against gun control argue that it is ineffective and gives an advantage to lawbreakers who obtain guns through illegal channels over law-abiding citizens.

Ultimately, both candidates have the safety of the people as their top concern, but differ in their way of implementing it. One side sees equality under police and government as the answer, the other emphasizes in the individual's right to bear arms.

Democratic Party candidate Barack Obama has been moderate on the issue of gun control, when compared to some other Democrats who tend to lean towards the extreme end of the gun control spectrum. Obama supports the Second Amendment and the decision of the Supreme Court to defend gun rights from the national government. However, he has strongly supported the rights of local and state governments to determine how

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## Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off

By Anastasia Marchenkova  
Contributing Writer

*Hispanic Business* magazine has named Tech as the number one program for Hispanic Engineering graduate programs. The diversity of the Institute is undergoing massive growth in the size and quality of Hispanic education, and Hispanics are by far the fastest growing ethnic class at Tech.

National Hispanic Heritage Month began on September 15th and will last for 31 days. Seven countries, including Mexico, Chile, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica have their independence days within this one-month period. Columbus Day also falls within this time period.

This celebration began as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 and was expanded into a full month observance in 1988. The term "Hispanic" is actually an ethnic term which encompasses people of many different races and origins and does not refer to one specific race; it refers to all Spanish-speaking areas of the world.

This year, Tech welcomes 126 new Hispanic freshmen to campus, in addition to the 888 that made up the Tech Hispanic population in the fall of 2007. At Tech, there are many different Latino organizations. One of the largest is the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), an on campus organization that helps Hispanics network within the job industry and provides a career forum to develop business skills.

The SHPE chapter at Tech has about 110 members as of fall 2008. Jonathan Duarte, a fourth-year IE major, president of the SHPE Tech chapter for '08-'09, says "[SHPE] is a little bit different. We are one of the strongest chapters [in the nation], due to the sheer number of members and support of the companies." Companies, including GE, HP, Xerox, Delta, Lockheed Martin and many others, frequently run informational sessions on skills such as building resumes and interviewing.

"The idea [of SHPE] is not to make us feel better about ourselves but to collaborate," Duarte said. In addition to more formal career fairs and company recruiting events, the companies interact with SHPE students in an informal setup to

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much gun control is desirable. For example, in his home state of Illinois, he endorsed a gun ban that made it illegal for people to carry concealed weapons in public. This was particularly important for Illinois because the state, including the city of Chicago, was home to hotbeds of crime and violence.

The bill qualified this ban by allowing retired police officers the right to carry concealed weapons. At the same time, he also supported regulations in the weapons industry, encouraging "common-sense regulation" on gun licensing such as background checks as well as limiting gun purchases to one gun per month. The latter belief was put into practice with a bill he cosponsored in Illinois to limit gun purchases.

Keeping in line with progressive values, Obama has emphasized that uplifting the economy and changing society is the treatment America needs to reduce crime, as opposed to the temporary bandage he believes gun rights give. He believes in punishing the gun dealers who provide weapons on the street, letting them fall into the hands of the youth. He has criticized the president for not renewing the assault weapons ban, a previously "hot-button" issue from the 2004 presidential election.

While in the Senate, Obama has continued to fight against the gun society, voting no on the prohibition of lawsuits against gun manufacturers. His ultimate belief on gun control is that stopping the illegal street sale of guns is the best way to reduce crime.

McCain has taken the opposing view, standing behind the Second Amendment as the right to defend oneself. Despite being a war hero, he admits to not owning a gun but defends the rights of other individuals to do so. He sees nothing wrong with law-abiding

citizens who own guns, but advocates strong prosecution against transgressors who have used guns illegally. Throughout his career, he has always emphasized punishing the criminals rather than the means by which they break the law. Over the years, gun rights advocates have voiced the opinion that people kill people, not guns.

However, McCain's policies on high powered assault weapons have been slightly less consistent. McCain has spoken against assault weapons and cheap guns, and he also voted against the assault weapons ban that Bush did not renew.

**"I oppose any law requiring registration of, or restricting the manufacture of...firearms or ammunition to law-abiding citizens."**

**Bob Barr**  
Libertarian Candidate for President

He has supported the requiring of safety locks and the Youth Violence Prevention Act, which restricted guns from children. To qualify that, McCain has previously voted "yes" on allowing guns sold without trigger locks.

Staying true to his conservative roots, McCain has emphasized the rule of law focusing on penalties for gun violations even if the laws go against his beliefs. McCain emphasizes change in society as a better way to alleviate crime than armed citizenry.

Differing from Obama's social approach, he has taken a moral values-oriented approach, stating that violent web sites and media

are also a major cause of violent crime in the United States. McCain believes in the importance of self-defense and liberty, but agrees with Obama that changing the state of society is a must.

Third-party candidates have their own stances on gun rights. Libertarian presidential candidate Bob Barr, during his tenure in Congress, supported banning lawsuits against gun manufacturers and attempted to decrease the gun waiting period from three days to one.

"I oppose any law requiring registration of, or restricting the ownership, manufacture or transfer sale of firearms or ammunition to law-abiding citizens," said Barr on his campaign website.

Constitution Party candidate Chuck Baldwin is a member of Gun Owners of America and the National Rifle Association while at the same time stating that buying guns protects liberty.

Green Party candidate Cynthia McKinney has taken an opposing view, going against decreasing the gun waiting period and encouraging lawsuits against gun manufacturers for misuse. McKinney's views are in line with Obama's while Baldwin and Barr have taken a more conservative stance than McCain.

Although Tech's campus is a weapon free zone, students may be interested in gun rights because of the nature of our urban environment, especially in light of the student massacres throughout other campuses such as Virginia Tech.

Whether students see guns as the answer or the problem could potentially determine who they elect as the next president: Obama, who holds guns owners and gun companies accountable, or McCain, who believes in the right to bear arms and the right to self-defense, or one of the third-party candidates.

**GUNS IN CHURCHES?**  
**THE DEBATE OVER PUBLIC FIREARMS CONTINUES IN GEORGIA**

Thanks to House Bill 89, which passed in July, firearms-licensed Georgians may now legally carry guns into state parks, alcohol-serving restaurants and on MARTA.

Last week, the Georgia Senate heard a proposal to further weaken the current ban on guns at "public gatherings," including churches and college campuses. The draft legislation, written by Senator Mitch Seabaugh (R-Sharpburg), would not allow licensed carriers to bring weapons into jails or courtrooms.

Gun control advocate groups say the proposal will bring danger to unstable environments like hospitals with mental patients. Supporters of the new legislation counter that gun control laws only stop law-abiding citizens.


| Pro-gun control   | Anti-gun control  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Georgians have the right to be safe from gun violence in their homes and in public, including schools, churches and places of work.</li> <li>Only trained law enforcement should carry guns at certain public places like mental hospitals.</li> <li>The availability of guns makes death or critical injury more likely in domestic violence, criminal activity, suicide attempts and unintentional shootings.</li> <li>It is possible to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by gun violence with reasonable legislation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citizens of Georgia and the U.S. have the Constitutional right to own and carry the firearm of their choice for any reason other than to commit a crime.</li> <li>Gun control laws do not stop criminals who have no regard for the law and only inhibit law-abiding citizens.</li> <li>Licensed carriers rarely commit crimes. Instead, violent crimes are typically committed by individuals packing heat illegally.</li> <li>Legislation should reflect the right to self-defense and respect the freedom to possess arms.</li> </ul> |

**Learn More**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence<br/><a href="http://www.bradiycampaign.org">www.bradiycampaign.org</a></li> <li>Coalition to Stop Gun Violence<br/><a href="http://www.csgv.org">www.csgv.org</a></li> <li>Violence Policy Center<br/><a href="http://www.vpc.org">www.vpc.org</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students for Concealed Carry on Campus<br/><a href="http://www.concealedcampus.org">www.concealedcampus.org</a></li> <li>National Rifle Association<br/><a href="http://www.nra.org">www.nra.org</a></li> <li>Gun Owners of America<br/><a href="http://www.gunowners.org">www.gunowners.org</a></li> </ul> |
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In 1945, a group of Hispanic parents in California filed suit to end segregation in their schools. The groundbreaking case, *Mendez v. Westminster*, was decided in 1947 when the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that the school districts could not segregate on the basis of national origin, establishing an important legal precedent.

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Why is it when I'm walking, all these girls seem to always get in my way so I actually have to look them in the eye to see where they're going?  
I'm normally a really friendly guy but for some reason I have this need to be an asshole to every freshmen I see.  
So what does it mean if a girl consistently superpokes you at least 3 times a day on facebook?  
Hey if a girl throws herself at me, sorry dude but I got to throw myself back at her. She's not going for you.  
Hey Makeup Girl, WHY SO SERIOUS?  
ISYE 3770- i'm going to dominate you!  
i can't wait for APOPA bowling on friday!  
Strengthening Enemies (Chavez and Iran) without fear of our overstretched military, Failing Education System, Millions without Healthcare, And you're voting for fourth to dead last graduate at the naval academy and a mayor of a 9,000 populated town?  
cs quote of the week: this is like myspace  
No Money for Social Security, Gas prices, Poor Relief to Natural Disasters, Outsourcing of Jobs and Companies, and you're seriously considering voting for a MILF and a family who made millions off the sale of America's Beer, Budweiser?  
hispanic  
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Come to NSCS Induction Ceremony on September 29, 2008!  
NSCS Induction Ceremony Sept 29!  
lol at berinhout  
To the girl watching Girls next door in the NAA gym, my names Jon and it was nice to meet you. I cant believe you watch a show like that! LOL!  
T-Book is coming...  
...next week. Freshmen, be on the lookout for your FREE copy! shut up about gen chem... seriously the class is for retards and you freshmen suck  
i kissed a boy and i liked it  
wowwww

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play, standing stationary, in front of Macy's for one minute and 15 seconds. Moore hopes to use this time in the spotlight, as well as the trip as a whole, to get Tech noticed.

"We're going to try to get on Good Morning America and any other televised show that we can, to let people know that Georgia Tech is in town," Moore said. "This is going to be a fun trip, but we're also on a mission to promote Tech."

The band will be leaving campus on Sunday, November 23rd, and will start driving back immediately

after the parade on Thursday. "We're taking buses because flying 400 people, including staff, to New York is not realistic from a financial standpoint," Moore said.

Band members may see a show together on Broadway one night and will have some time Monday through Wednesday for sightseeing, but it is clear that these are secondary to the goal of getting Tech's name out as much as possible.

"We are excited to be going, honored to have been chosen and hope to represent Georgia Tech and the city of Atlanta," Moore said.



By Jon Drews / Student Publications

The marching band performs in the library fountain as part of their pre-game activities before last year's football home opener against Samford. They will be performing in New York City for this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

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allow students a chance to talk with the company representatives in a less stressful environment.

SHPE is not only a professional organization, it is a way to meet students and other people, as well as help the community. "It is a way to make friend of the same path or background," Duarte said.

The support within the organization also extends to companies offering scholarships to students excelling in engineering. SHPE has two directors of recruiting for the organization, who are in charge of organizing events such as "Latino Welcome Week" to recruit new Tech Hispanics into the organization as well as tutoring inner-city Atlanta students in math and science.

But what makes Tech the number one graduate program for engineering? According to Patricio Vela, an assistant professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the faculty advisor for SHPE, it's the fact that Georgia has a vested interest in making Tech the leading university in the state and that Tech has a positive impact on the local economy and global research.

The state support for education, which includes scholarships, allows more students than ever to choose Tech as the place for their undergraduate and graduate education.

"The value of the PhD is undervalued [in general]" Vela said.

Tech holds access to research facilities that many other schools do not have, like the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). Duarte said that when at local and state career fairs, "it is great to see

how people react when you say you go to Tech."

The diversity at Tech is evident from the statistics gathered.

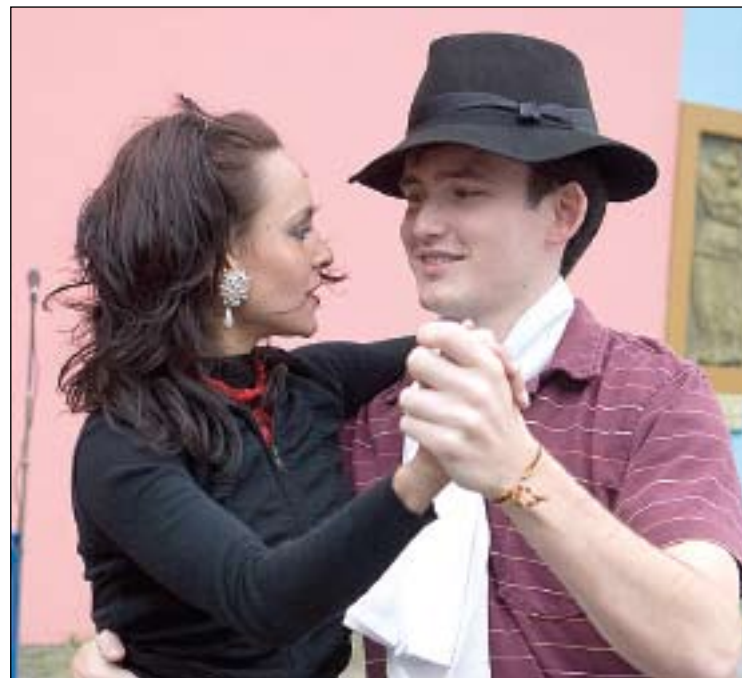
"[Tech] allows you to understand different cultural perspectives," Vela said, through the interaction between all the various people on campus. As globalization is happening, "companies place a lot of emphasis on diversity," Duarte emphasizes, and "the ability to interact with different cultures and perspectives is a skill that recruiters seek."

To students like Duarte, National Hispanic Heritage Month is "a way to remember our culture and our roots".

Other student organizations,

such as the Spanish Speaking Organization (SSO), Hispanic Recruitment Team (HRT), the Lambda Theta Alpha Latin sorority, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), and the Lambda Upsilon Lambda fraternity, work with SHPE and each other in a council to bring together their goals and spread them to the Tech community and outside areas. SGA also supports SHPE and other Latino organizations by providing funds for travel expenses to places such as business conferences and out of town career fairs.

"A lot of us have blended with the American culture, but it's good to remember where we came from" Duarte said.



By Michael Schneider / Student Publications

Tango dancing is an integral part of the Argentinian lifestyle. National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates this and other traditions and elements of Hispanic culture.

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