

Chemical reaction sends three students to hospital



Photo by Joey Cerone/Student Publications

The GTPD and Atlanta Fire Department respond to the chemical reaction at the College of Computing Thursday.

By Matt Schrichte
Contributing Writer

Three students were hospitalized Thursday evening after an unintended chemical reaction took place at the College of Computing at 801 Ferst Drive. The unplanned reaction occurred in the basement of the building near the freshmen Chemistry labs. The graduate students were preparing chemicals for undergraduate experiments when potassium thiocyanate and nitric acid were inadvertently mixed to form nitrogen dioxide—a toxic gas.

The incident was reported at 7:10 p.m. Members of the Atlanta fire department, Georgia Tech Police Department and the Institute Environmental Health and safety units promptly responded to the scene. The Atlanta fire department personnel tested the lab the same evening of the spill. The building reopened at approximately 7 a.m. Friday morning after Tech EHS officers had removed the newly formed nitrogen dioxide.

Nitrogen dioxide is a reddish-brown toxic gas noted for its pungent smell. Some more frequent produc-

ers of the noxious gas include internal combustion engines and thermal power stations. It is also responsible for the reddish hue of mushroom clouds produced by atmospheric nuclear tests. When inhaled, it can negatively affect a number of physiological systems in the body, most notably lung tissue.

The students were able to respond quickly and sealed the heavy-gauge plastic container after the chemicals began to react.

“[The nitrogen dioxide] was

See **Reaction**, page 5

Dead Week policy to be reviewed

By Kamna Bohra
Contributing Writer

Following years of undergraduate student complaints about the “Week Preceding Final Examinations” (WPFE), more commonly known as “Dead Week,” SGA is now making a move toward a defined policy to be reviewed in November.

If the Academic Senate passes the policy, then it will be implemented in Spring 2010. In addition, the policy will also be found in the Registrar’s catalog for students to access and familiarize themselves with.

The only current mention of WPFE is found in a single clause of the Faculty Handbook, which prohibits faculty from giving quizzes or tests after the Wednesday of WPFE.

The purpose of WPFE is to “allow students time to properly integrate and master material prior to final examinations,” said a press release from SGA’s Academic Affairs committee about the progress toward the upcoming policy, which focuses on limiting the assignments due on WPFE.

The biggest concern amongst SGA representatives and students in previous years has been the lack of faculty compliance with the clause due to lack of knowledge by the faculty or sometimes lack of enforcement by the upper administration. In a survey conducted by SGA, students mentioned that “the current state of affairs in Dead Week is far too stressful and time-pressured to be conducive to studying of a semester’s worth of course material,” according to the aforementioned press release from SGA.

“We’re trying to open up the chain of communication a little more,” said Rob Parrish, third-year ME and chair of SGA’s Academic Affairs Committee that has been active in the preparation of the proposal for the past four months.

“We are developing a full marketing campaign to ensure that all stake holders know exactly what the policy is. Quite frankly, we can pass the most stringent policy imaginable, but unless everyone is aware of it, nothing will really change,” said C.T. Boone, third-year MGT and SGA Vice President of Communications.

Policy builders acknowledge that professors are not completely at fault as they do plan or 16 full weeks to cover all the academic material necessary for the final exam.

See **Policy**, page 5

ATLANTA MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections take place next week on campus



2009 Election Guide

Photo by Julia Bunch/Student Publications

By Rebecca Tattersfield
Contributing Writer

The City of Atlanta will hold municipal elections on Tuesday, Nov. 3 in an effort to fill the offices for Mayor, multiple City Council seats and the Board of Education. The incumbent mayor, Shirley Franklin will be ineligible to run for re-election due to term limits on her office. As a result,

the mayoral campaign has been left wide open and has led to a hotly contested race.

The key issues prevalent in the campaigns include safety, unemployment and fiscal responsibility. In addition to the Office of Mayor, students can participate in elections for city council posts. Students living on campus may vote for candidates representing District 6, and may also vote for candidates running for at-large posi-

tions on city council. The city council functions as a legislative body, proposing bills and passing legislation to help govern the city. Both the Office of Mayor and City Council posts are non-partisan.

Students may vote for any of the positions on Nov. 3 in the Piedmont Room at the Student Center. The candidates for both the mayoral and city council elections are listed below.

ATLANTA MAYORAL ELECTIONS



LISA BORDERS

Photo courtesy of Borders for Atlanta

Lisa Borders: Atlanta City Council President

Education: Graduate of Duke University (BA) and a Masters of Science in Health Administration from the University of Colorado.

Issues: Has a four level platform divided into such categories as “Getting Our Money’s Worth,” which includes such goals as to focus revenue on city obligations while cutting unnecessary spending; “Protecting All of Our Neighbors,” in which she plans to increase public service personnel among



KASIM REED

Photo courtesy of Kasim Reed for Mayor

Kasim Reed: State Senator of the 35th District

Education: Graduate of Howard University (BA) and Howard University School of Law

Issues: Wants to expand the MARTA network; Tax relief, including raising the homestead exemption for all Atlantans and freezing property tax assessments for low-income seniors; supports the continuance of Mayor Franklin’s Next Step program; promises to add 750 sworn officers to the Atlanta Police Depart-



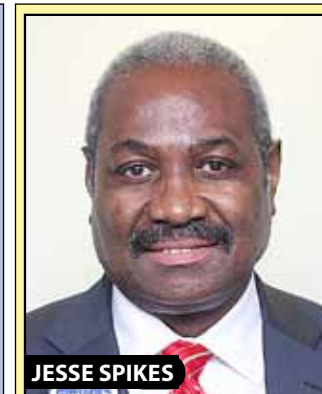
MARY NORWOOD

Photo courtesy of Mary Norwood for Mayor

Mary Norwood: Atlanta City Councilwoman, Post 2

Education: Graduate of Emory University

Issues: Has two main platform planks: a 12-point Public Safety Program that includes modernizing and making transparent the accounting system to decrease furloughing in the police and fire fighting budgets, expanding the current police force by 10%, initiating a Deferred Retirement Option Program for the police force, helping public safety personnel become



JESSE SPIKES

Photo by Jarrett Skov/Student Publications

Jesse Spikes: Attorney
Education: Graduate of Dartmouth College, Oxford University (Rhodes Scholar) and Harvard Law School.

Issues: The Cornerstones on Spike’s platform are Fiscal Responsibility, in which Spikes says he will hire an Independent CFO to lead financial planning; Public Safety, to which Spike also plans to increase both police and fire fighting forces; Partnerships That Work, and Jobs. To increase employment opportunities Spike “will rely on [his] vast

See **Election Guide**, page 5

TECHNIQUE

The South's Liveliest College Newspaper

Founded in 1911, the *Technique* is the student newspaper of the Georgia Institute of Technology, and is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. The *Technique* publishes on Fridays weekly during the fall and spring and biweekly during the summer.

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From the files of the GTPD... Campus Crime

By Vijai Narayanan
Assistant News Editor



Busted Buffoon

An officer was dispatched to Smith Residence Hall on Oct. 12 to investigate a tip about persons smoking marijuana in their dorm room. Upon entering the suspect's room the officer questioned the suspect on whether he had been smoking any marijuana. After the suspect blankly stared back at the officer, the officer questioned the suspect again.

The suspect admitted that he had, in fact, been smoking marijuana in his room and handed over a prescription bottle filled with less than one ounce of the drug from his desk drawer. The

suspect was arrested and taken into custody for possession of marijuana.

Popping Pills

Stamps Health Center notified police about a case involving a student who altered his medical prescription. The student visited the Health Center in order to receive a tetanus shot, after which he complained of pain. The doctor administering the tetanus shot provided the student with a prescription of 15 Percocet pills. A short time later, the doctor received a telephone call from a Rite Aid Pharmacy, requesting to

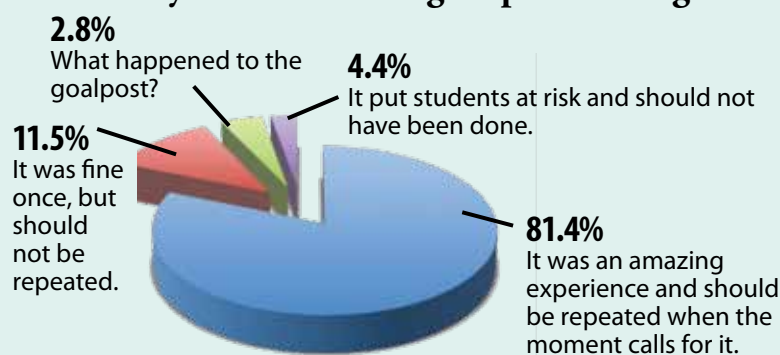
confirm the prescription that was given to the student. The pharmacist stated that the prescription looked to have been altered for 45 pills, which seemed to be an odd amount requested. Upon questioning the suspect admitted that he had altered the prescription and apologized. Police will continue this investigation.

Get Out the Way!

On Oct. 7 an officer observed an open door at the Burge Apartments, located on North Ave. The officer entered the building and found a black male on the second floor trying to hide himself. A search of the individual found a four inch knife concealed inside of two socks. The knife was impounded and the occupant was arrested. Fortunately for the suspect, the SWAT team was not practicing in the building at that time.

POLL OF THE WEEK

What do you think of the goal post coming down?



Based on 252 responses

Next issue's question:

How important do you think an official dead week policy is?

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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 Vijai Narayanan, Assistant News Editor



Photo by Chris Cassidy / Student Publications

UHR representatives discuss issues while waiting for members to arrive to this week's meeting.

This edition of *Council Clippings* covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Oct. 27, 2009.

No Quorum

The Undergraduate House of Representatives had a low turnout this week, resulting in the postponement of several bills. The House was unable to achieve quorum at the start of the meeting and attending representatives were asked to contact additional representatives to come to the meeting. In order to achieve quorum, UHR must have 38 representatives in attendance. Only 36 members were present at the start of the meeting.

The House held a discussion forum until more members came to the meeting. Upon achieving quorum the House decided to postpone several bills in an effort to allow more representatives to get involved in the decision-making process.

Golf Club

The Golf Club requested funding from SGA for approximately \$1200 in order to enter a match play event with Clemson University. Clemson is one of the club's biggest rivals in the National Collegiate Club Golf Association (NCCGA). The Golf Club holds try-outs for the tournament team

at the beginning of each semester.

The competition will be held on Nov. 1 and will be a one day, 36-hole event (two rounds) with 12-man teams. The bill was amended to \$1000 in accordance with JFC policy regarding funding amounts for club team play.

The club requested funding in order to cover the greens fee charged to use the course on competition day. The Golf Club has received funds for five tournaments in FY '09-'10, and requested additional funding for this tournament only. The bill passed UHR with a vote of 37-1-0 and GSS 17-3-1.

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.

Twin explosions kill over 100 in Baghdad

Twin car bombs targeting government buildings in Baghdad exploded on Sunday, killing at least 155 people and wounding more than 500. The explosions ripped through traffic and buildings in the vicinity, including a bus-load of children leaving a day care center. The first bomb targeted the Justice Ministry and the second was aimed at a nearby provincial government building.

The bombings are seen as an attempt to undermine Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government prior to crucial national elections in January. The explosions also indicate that militants have the capacity to strike key targets, despite repeated claims of progress by Iraqi security forces since the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraqi cities earlier this year. The

blasts present a problem for the current White House strategy for Iraq, which aims to have combat forces out of Iraq by next August and complete a full military withdrawal by 2012.

NASA launches new rocket after delays

After experiencing several delays, NASA launched a test of its Ares I-X rocket on Wednesday, thereby taking a first step towards returning to the moon by 2020. The launch was postponed two days as a result of poor weather. The rocket is approximately 327 feet tall and is labeled by the agency as being the largest rocket in the world.

The Constellation Program has been developing the rockets in an effort to replace the space shuttles, which will be phased out in 2010. As the program moves forward, NASA hopes to mount the Orion space capsule for manned space flight atop the rocket by 2015 for testing. The launch comes at a crucial time, as the Obama administration plans to unveil its plan for space exploration later this month.

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Tech Trolley expands to Publix stop

By Coby Lu
Contributing Writer

Parking and Transportation (P&T) has announced that it will launch a new pilot program for the Tech Trolley. The program, which started Monday, Oct. 19, added an additional stop at the Midtown Publix on the corner of Peachtree Place and Spring Street.

The trolley will be stopping there starting at 6 p.m. on weekdays and during regular Trolley service hours on weekends. These hours were chosen to avoid rush hour because of safety concerns at the intersection.

"[There are] two significant reasons why we started the pilot Publix stop. One was we had the weekend grocery shuttle that we already do, but it got to its capacity and we wanted to find a way that we could allow students to get to the grocery store any day of the week that they wanted to go. Another thing was that SGA encouraged us to find a route which would allow students to go to the grocery store every day," said Aaron Fowler, Alternative Transportation Coordinator.

"The intersection doesn't have a light, so, just as a safety precaution, for now, we are doing the stop after rush hour so that the trolley has enough time to make the turn without the light there," Fowler said.

The pilot programs will run until the end of the semester.



Photo by Eric Turner/Student Publications

The Tech Trolley drives by the newest stop on its route the Publix located on Peachtree and Spring Street. The stop will be used after 6 p.m. on weekdays and during all normal hours on weekends.

Because it is only in the first few weeks of operation, P&T has yet to collect significant data on the stop's usage. However, P&T intends to collect data on the number of students who use the stop, assess student support for the stop, and evaluate the safety concerns of stopping at the intersection. P&T will then decide whether the stop will become a permanent one for the trolley.

"So far there seems to be a lot of support from students. On the

inaugural run, I hopped on the trolley, and when a student got off at the stop, another student turned to the driver and said, 'It's a great idea. I'm really glad that you guys are doing this.' So I think as far as the students go, there is a good amount of support," Fowler said.

The trolley drivers are also committed to helping the students. "I think the drivers are there for the best wishes for the students. We want to run the best routes we can," said Fowler.

In addition to this new stop, P&T has other plans for the trolley as well. Another stop will also be added to the trolley route at the Academy of Medicine on the corner of West Peachtree Street and 7th Street. The academy building was acquired two years ago by Tech and is currently used as a special events space for student groups and outside parties. The trolley will begin stopping there starting Nov. 2 without installation of a pilot program.

Reaction from page 1

capped and placed in the lab to contain the reaction. There wasn't actually a spill," said Demyanek.

"Fortunately the quantity was limited and the students reacted quickly and properly to the circumstance. With the general ventilation of the lab, [exposure] was kept down," said Mark Demyanek, assistant vice president of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).

"The building was evacuated as a precaution. Three students were transported to Grady Hospital for observation," said Matt Nagel, Tech's Media Communications specialist. The students showed no signs of lingering effects and were cleared for release that same evening.

"The students are fine... the Georgia Tech response team worked very well together to promptly address the situation. I believe this can be attributed to good training, communication and the Georgia Tech administration's commitment to environmental health and safety," Demyanek said.

According to Demyanek, the students and the response team followed appropriate protocols after the incident. Tech's chemical safety office does offer basic and advanced lab training classes on a regular basis. They provide information on safety training as well as emergency procedures and are open for all undergraduate and graduate students. The next session will be held on Oct. 30.

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CULC construction plans, designs revealed

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

Construction on the Clough Undergraduate Learning Center (CULC) has begun in earnest. The design process has been ongoing for years, and finishing touches will continue through the Spring of 2010. Current estimates have major construction taking 18 months. The opening is scheduled for Fall 2011.

“What we’re trying to do now is to wrap up the design, actually all the big decisions have been made,” said John Ducogne, proj-

ect manager. “We’re getting ready to enter the next phase which is construction documents which is the more technical side of the design process ... to prepare some documents that the contractor can use to build from.”

Features students can expect out of the CULC are classrooms, labs for freshmen and sophomore science courses, study lounges, tutoring zones, OIT support and a café.

Concurrent with construction with the CULC will be renovations of Skiles Walkway. The plan is to reduce the grade of the walk-

way by spreading the rise over a distance three times greater than the current length of the staircase. The walkway will remain open until the end of Fall 2010.

“Until we get to the point where we work on [Skiles], it will remain open as is. So starting next December are plans to construct a half of a new walkway and over the other half we will provide a temporary walkway for pedestrians and once we finish construction we will flip flop and reverse it,” Duconge said.

Construction will also affect areas outside of Skiles. The CULC

will connect with the library west commons, and renovation of the Hinman building is scheduled to begin early next year.

Although there will be noise from construction, it is not expected to be a major disturbance and noise levels should not see a precipitous increase from current levels.

As routes around campus are closed, attempts will be made to inform students prior to their closures. “We will try to get the information distributed through email and through the *Technique*,” Duconge said.

Policy

from page 1

A WPFE policy has not been put in place due to previous “faculty concerns of violations of academic freedom,” according to the prior mentioned press release.

“This is a compromise between students and faculty. We need some things in WPFE that are pedagogically sound to help students, not to hurt them,” Parrish said.

In the Student Regulations Committee meeting on Oct. 14, a consensus was reached for the new policy that professors may assign projects to be due during WPFE, given that the guidelines for either are properly outlined by the deadline for class withdrawal.

☆☆☆ 2009 Election Ballot Guide

ATLANTA MAYOR ELECTIONS, CONTINUED

LISA BORDERS

other things; “Making Atlanta Work,” by demanding support for MARTA; and continue the 10-Year Blueprint To End Homelessness plan.

KASIM REED

and a closer relationship with the Atlanta Police Foundation; and expanding tax credits and other incentive programs for businesses.

MARY NORWOOD

homeowners within the city, and working to ensure more vigorous prosecutions. The second plank is taxes and financial accountability.

JESSE SPIKES

business experience and worldwide network of relationships to recruit jobs to our city.”

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL: DISTRICT 6 ELECTIONS

Photos courtesy of Vote Azizi, Steve Brodie 09, Tad Christian, Mark Gallegos District 6, and Alex Wan for Atlanta



BAHAREH AZIZI

Bahareh Azizi: B.S. in Biochemistry/Biotechnology from Michigan State University then a doctorate degree from Georgia Tech. Her key issues include Safety, High Property Taxes and Water Bills, Business Growth, Education, Transportation, and Green Initiatives. See <http://voteazizi.com>



STEVE BRODIE

Steve Brodie: Graduate American University, Washington D.C. His key issues include Public Safety, Taxes, and Economic Opportunity. See <http://www.stevebrodie09.com>



TAD CHRISTIAN

Tad Christian: Graduate Kansas State University, with a B.S. in Business. Experience in Project/Production Management, Procurement Quality Assurance, Business Development and Industrial Engineering. Issues: Taxes, Crime, and Consensus. See <http://tadchristian.com/>



MIGUEL GALLEGOS

Miguel Gallegos: Graduate University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. Command Sergeant Major in the Army JROTC. See <http://www.miguelgallegosdistrict6.com/>



ALEX WAN

Alex Wan: Graduate University of Pennsylvania -The Wharton School and Gorgia Tech. He is Director of Development for Jerusalem House, Atlanta’s oldest and largest provider of permanent, supportive housing for homeless or low-income individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. See <http://www.alexwanforatlanta.com/>

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

WHO CAN VOTE

In order to vote in the mayoral and city council elections, you must be registered to vote in the state of Georgia, or as a college student, obtain a Georgia

Voter Registration form from the school’s registrar’s office.

WHEN TO VOTE

Voting will be open Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WHERE TO VOTE

Voting will take place on campus in the Piedmont Room of the Student Center Commons. Please bring an I.D. to your polling location.



Photo by Jon Drews/Student Publications

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