Friday, January 26, 2001

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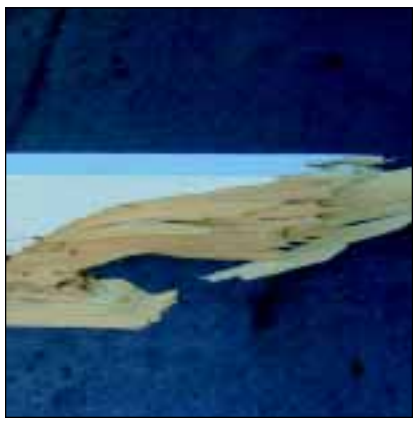

By Carter Green / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Vandalism of parking gates has increased in past weeks, especially at Peter's Parking Deck. However, West Campus' Curran has not been immune to damage.

Parking takes steps to curb deck vandalism

Security cameras and stake-outs helped to find suspects; the Dean of Students office promises consequences for offenders

By Jennifer LaHatte
News Staff

Since October of last year, Peter's Parking Deck on East Campus has fallen victim to nightly pranks, ranging from broken gate arms to damaged card readers that have cost the Parking Office an estimated $5,000 in damage. After numerous efforts to deter these acts, the Parking Office has increased security, arming the deck with video cameras and positioning concealed parking staff inside the deck at night to monitor the gates.

The vandalism that occurred approximately two weeks ago prompted the Parking Office to tighten security on the lot to determine the reason for these actions and who was causing the problem.

"They took the whole gate mechanism, they took the whole box where the gate arm goes and the card reader. One of the students found it in the back of his truck and brought it back to us," said Allen Corry, Assistant Director of Parking and Transportation Services.

> Nightly pranks have cost the Parking Office an estimated $5,000 in damage.

Video and card reader records show that students are the cause of this vandalism, a fact that the Parking Office can not comprehend.

"What's really bad about this is that the people who are caught are students. I really don't understand why they would do that; it not only hurts students in terms of higher fees, but it hurts them in terms of the gates are open, unauthorized people are in there," said Rod Weis, Director of Parking and Transportation Services.

*See **Parking**, page 2*

Academic Affairs group proposes Student Bill of Rights

By Neeraj Kumar
News Staff

The Academic Affairs Committee and the Quality of Learning Environment Committee (QLEC), both a part of the Campus Affairs board of the Student Government Association (SGA), merged last semester, and together they have been working on several projects designed to aid students by improving the academic environment at Tech.

Currently, the committee's biggest project is the Student Bill of Rights, a document which will define exactly what rights students have in the classroom. Although several student rights are currently outlined in the student handbook, they are not official, and therefore not enforceable.

The goal of creating a Student Bill of Rights is to make certain rights guaranteed to students, regardless of the class or professor. The bill includes rights to an advisor, proper and timely evalulation, adherence to the Honor Code, and the receipt of a detailed syllabus, among other guidelines for classroom conduct between professors and students.

Nate Watson, Co-Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, said that having a well defined and accepted framework for student rights gives students one less thing to worry about.

"Knowing that they are guaranteed certain rights gives confidence to students," said Watson.

The document is in the final stages of being completed by the committee, after which the bill of rights will be presented to the administration and the faculty. Watson feels confident that the faculty and administration will accept the bill.

"We feel that the faculty sincerely wants to help students succeed," said Watson.

The committee feels that one of the major steps, pending faculty and administrative approval, will be to present the bill to various student organizations.

"We want to raise awareness about this," said Watson. "We feel that this will be a very positive thing for all parties."

Along with the Student Bill of Rights, the Academic Affairs Committee is organizing a student-faculty luncheon to be held later this semester. Melinda Agyekum, Co-Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee and former chair of QLEC,

*See **Academics**, page 5*

Freshman Retreat plan halted

By Nasir Barday
News Staff

Progress on the recent Rambling Wreck Retreat initiative ground to a halt this week as funds for the program's operation failed to materialize.

"We don't know our budget situation yet, and this could be a very tight budget year," said President Wayne Clough. "The University System is seeing decreased allocation because the enrollments are going down."

Although Tech's enrollment is increasing, there is no guarantee the Institute will receive funding in direct proportion to its enrollment. "We won't know what our allocation is until April," said Clough.

The program would have allowed incoming freshmen to meet each other before starting classes.

"Last year, and then again this year, there were a lot of discussions, and we tentatively planned to have a pilot this coming fall. We originally had planned to have [a pilot] last fall, but we pulled the plug on that ourselves. We just didn't feel there was time to do that effectively," Osher said.

"As we began to plan, Dr. Clough asked us to put a stop on all new programs… This was not done with prejudice toward the camp or any other programs; he just didn't want us to do anything that he couldn't fully fund. We kind of were in limbo for a while."

The freeze on the program has frustrated many of its organizers, including Rajiv Saigal, who was the retreat's student

*See **Camp**, page 7*

SGA Election Schedule

February 12	Application packets available
February 26, 27	Mandatory information sessions for candidates
March 2	Applications due
March 14	Campaigning begins at 12:01 a.m.
March 26 to 28	Election, ends at 4 p.m. on March 28
March 27	Campaign expense reports due at 5 p.m.
April 2, 3	Run-off election, ends at 4 p.m. on the April 3
April 3	Campaign expense reports due at 5 p.m.

Feature Photo Wayfinding

By Carter Green/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

New signs and maps on campus are part of the aptly named 'Wayfinding' plan, aimed at helping people get around Tech. For full story, see page 7.

FOCUS survey finds top concerns

By Tony Kluemper
Assistant News Editor

After surveying nearly one-third of the undergraduate student body last week, the Student Government Association (SGA) FOCUS initiative will now begin the process of taking the results and addressing the concerns of students across campus. The survey, which was distributed on January 17 and 18, asked students to choose three campus issues that they felt greatly affected their lives as students.

Parking, Academic Affairs, and Housing were chosen by students as the issues that most affected campus life, said FOCUS director Stephen Popick.

In the survey, students were also asked to list reasons why the issues affected campus, and how the services could be improved.

"[In regards to Academic Affairs], the largest problems that a lot of people were complaining about were TA's with language problems and professors who cared more about research than the actual students," said Popick.

Students also suggested ideas for solutions to parking problems around campus.

"One of the best ideas that we had was when somebody suggested that we post parking fines in areas so that students will know how much they will be paying when they get fined. [Signs] might serve as a deterrent for someone parking illegally," said Popick.

Now that the survey results have been tabulated, SGA is beginning to evaluate the student opinions and develop a plan of action.

"Right now, I am working on getting the group of FOCUS advisors together, " said Popick. "Then, we are going to figure who we are going to meet with within the different departments and start working on coming up with suggestions for improvement."

Although the student survey gave the FOCUS group its initial information, Undergraduate Student Body President J.R. Spriggle commented that student input would be sought throughout the entire process.

> "People were complaining about professors who cared more about research than the students."
>
> **Stephen Popick**
> SGA FOCUS Director

"We have tossed out all types of ideas [to get student input] from further student surveys, to hitting organizations and talking to individual friends [of SGA representatives]," said Spriggle.

Spriggle also suggested the possibility of a town hall meeting as a forum for gathering student suggestions.

In addition to gathering input along the way, Popick wants to keep students informed throughout the FOCUS initiative.

"We are planning on making students aware of the survey results by putting posters up around the Student Center this week," said Popick. "We need to keep the students connected throughout the process."

Furthermore, SGA is planning on involving the administration in the initiative.

"[Vice President of Campus Affairs] Erica Young has been working closely to try to coordinate an administrator lunch series, where members of SGA will have lunch in the food court with an administrator that is pertinent to the particular department we are targeting," said Spriggle. "We would encourage anyone to sit down with us and express their opinions on the issue."

Bob McMath, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, feels that FOCUS will help to inform students regarding the steps that departments are already taking to address problems identified in the surveys.

"There are already a lot of things underway to try to improve the academic life of Tech students," said McMath. "[FOCUS] will help us to probe into the minds of students and find the specific areas we need

*See **FOCUS**, page 7*

Parking

from page 1

Parking states that without the gates to protect the vehicles that were parked inside Peter's Deck that night, one car was stolen and seven others were vandalized.

According to Ritchie Brown, Supervisor of maintenance, gates, and access cards, the cost to replace the broken mechanism is 4,000 dollars. To cover the costs for this damage, the Parking Office will be forced to charge higher prices for parking permits.

"That prank is costing us time and money, and everyone is involved—the dean, the police, and parking enforcement," said Corry.

After the Parking Office helps to identify which students are involved in the vandalism, the Office of the Dean of Students aids in the disciplinary actions that the suspects will undergo.

"We're bringing students in for an investigation. It's not an automatic thing. We have a conversation with students, we ask what the issues are, we ask what's going on, we ask whether they did it or not," said Karen Boyd, Senior Associate Dean of Students.

Under the Parking Rules and Regulations, 'altering, defacing, removing, or destroying any official control device, immobilizing device, signal, gate, or sign damages' results in a fine of $100, plus the damage costs, as well as a disciplinary warning, and twenty hours of community service. All cases are also referred to the police for possible legal action. Depending on the nature and severity of the damage, probation also becomes a possibility.

"A lot of times, the community service hours will be with parking, so students can see just how hard it is to run this office," said Boyd.

The Parking Office will continue to monitor Peter's Parking Deck with video surveillance, hidden parking enforcement, and a Buzz card tracking system until the vandalism stops.

"We can monitor who goes into the deck by their card swipe and identify the vehicle, then look at the time on the video and we can tell who the student is," said Corry.

"All we can do is monitor and station enforcement out there, like security agencies even, if we have to go that route."

> "That prank [of tearing down deck gates] is costing us time and money, and everyone is involved– the dean, the police, and parking enforcement."
>
> **Allen Corry**
> Assistant Director of Parking and Transportation

Random Jen Hinkel fact #198: If Jen were to choose any profession on earth, she would be the Queen of England.

News briefs

Graduate student and son lose home in recent fire

A Georgia Tech Grad student and her son were victims of a recent fire in Chamblee/ Dunwoody. They lost all personal belongings. Contributions of household goods, boys clothing size 12, or women's clothing size 8/10 may be brought to the Office of the Dean of Students, 210 in the Student Services Building.

Ferst Center for the Arts interest meeting scheduled

On Monday, February 5, 2001 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Ferst Center for the Arts will host an interest meeting to gather input on performance programming and help promote the arts on campus. The meeting will be held in the Richards Gallery of the Ferst Center.

Topics under discussion include types of shows that will be scheduled for the future and student interest in publicizing and promoting the performing arts at Tech.

Guest Speakers scheduled for spring SGA meetings

Mr. Bob Harty, Executive Director of Institute Communication & Public Affairs, will be speaking Tuesday, January 30 at the Undergraduate House of Representatives meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. in room 117 of the Student Services Building.

Upcoming speakers include Ms. Barbara Hall, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services, who will speak on Tuesday, February 6.

Tech student named Student Engineer of the Year

Tech student Patrick Loring was selected by National Engineers Week as the Student Engineer of the Year. National Engineers Week was founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. Paul S. Chinowsky, Ph.D, also of Georgia Tech, was selected as Engineer of the Year in Education.

Award winners will be honored at a February 24 banquet. For more information, visit www.engineersweek.com.

'Conversations at the Carter Center' features a special event on conflict resolution and peacemaking

On Thursday, February 8, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the Carter Center will host presentations on Conflict Resolution and the Search for Reconciliation. The Carter Center works along with governmental peacemakers and the UN to bring warring parties to the negotiating table to resolve conflicts. Two people who spend their lives resolving conflicts talk about the struggle achieving sustainable peace in which everyone wins. The challenge of the search for reconciliation will be examined from both personal experience and historical perspective.

Send announcements to news@technique.gatech.edu.

Council Clippings Undergraduate House of Representatives

Undergrads announce Clough's plan to dine at Student Center, finalize calendar for elections

By Mary DeCamp
Senior News Staff

The January 23 meeting of the Undergraduate House of Representatives hosted the presentation of many bills, as well as many important announcements.

Erica Young, Vice President of Campus Affairs, announced that next Thursday, February 1, President Clough will be dining in the Student Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A different distinguished faculty member will eat lunch at the Student Center once a week.

Marla Jo McIver, Registrar, addressed any questions that representatives might have concerning the duties of the Registrar's Office. She mentioned that newly enforced prerequisites will continue and answered some questions concerning double majors.

Dean Gail DiSabitino announced that nomination forms for the Women's Leadership Conference Women of Excellence Award are available in the Dean of Students office.

President J.R. Spriggle discussed some of the changes in store for Georgia Tech's budget next year.

> "This is an example of a one-column pulled quote. Remember to leave plenty of white space above!"
>
> **The Elusive Dr. Staff**
> Mr. Extraordinaire

Some of the more notable changes include approximately an 8% increase in the cost of housing and a 7% average increase in parking costs. In other announcements, a Majors Fair is scheduled for February 6, and the Athletic Association announced planned renovation for both the football and baseball fields in upcoming years.

The first five bills were slated together and voted on at the same time. They all pertained to organizations' petitions for funds to cover travel expenses, league fees, and conferences. The organizations involved were the men's soccer club, the computer machinery club, the equestrian club, the wrestling club, and GT IEEE; the bills were passed.

The next three bills were slated together. Each of these bills dealt with chartering a new organization. The organizations were Students for Life, a group dedicated to discussing pro-life issues; Students Organized for Justice, a group focusing on enforcing human and civil rights; and Ducks Unlimited, a group concerned with wetlands and wildlife conservation. The bills passed.

The next bill chartered the Global Exchange Organization, a group that wants to help study abroad students visiting Tech adjust to Amer-

See UHR, page 7

By Brian Oxford / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Undergraduate House of Representatives meets each Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Student Services (Flag) Building room 117. For more information on the Student Government Association, contact your rep.

ARE YOU:
bored? busy? need amusement?
DO YOU LIKE TO:
eat pizza? lots of pizza? laugh? spike your hair? sing in the shower? watch dawson's creek? talk about boys? drink coffee? look collegiate? date people less than half your age plus seven? crush on sports writers? have relationships with staff members or even an editor? pinch wallets? waffle? hang random computer parts in your office? tell christina stories? wish for that which you can't have? casually date? get violated?

JOIN THE TECHNIQUE
tuesday. 7 pm. rm 137. student services.

write stories. take pictures. eat pizza. laugh. smile.

ads. finding happiness in the small things.

Random Jen Hinkel fact #442: Jen's birthday is on February 10. Interestingly enough, so is band formal.

Rights

from page 1

feels that this will provide a forum in which students and faculty can improve relations through discussion.

"[The professors] will be able to hear people's opinions about how [students] feel the community at Tech is," said Agyekum. The luncheon could host as many as 200 students and faculty.

"We are trying to get students who are usually less involved in the student government [to attend the luncheon] in order to hear their perspectives," said Watson.

In addition to the campus-wide proposal of a Student Bill of Rights, the Academic Affairs Committee is also working on having a student advisory board within each major.

The reasoning behind the advisory boards is that issues often exist within a major school which affect only students in that particular major, such as the use of a building's labs or other facilities. The committee feels that people within the specific department can more easily address these needs.

The advisory boards would be composed of students in the specific major who could "provide a medium between the students, faculty, and administration of that department," said Watson.

Although some departments already have such boards (such as the Industrial and Systems Engineering department), the Academic Affairs Committee wants to implement these in every major. Cooperating with the committee in this venture are the SGA major representatives.

In addition to these three major projects, there are a number of smaller initiatives underway among the members of the committee. In the past, QLEC worked to improve the quality of Teaching Assistants (TAs) by gathering undergraduate students' opinions of TAs.

Factors included how approachable the TAs were, how well informed they were about the class, class activities, and whether they were good teachers. This work continues on in the Academic Affairs Committee.

The committee is also working on trying to improve Dead Week by making it truly "dead" for the students, so that no quizzes, exams, or large assignments are given.

Currently, although there is a Dead Week, it is often not strictly followed by all professors, and many students continue to have quizzes and exams during that time.

The committee may also try to implement one or two mandatory "reading days" immediately prior to exams, during which there would be no classes held; these days would serve to provide students time to study for exams without time constraints of class schedules.

The Academic Affairs Committee meets Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m. in the SGA office, and all interested students are welcome to join.

Proposed Student Bill of Rights

1. The right to have an assigned advisor
2. The right to realistic evaluation of the student's progress before withdrawal times
3. The right to consult professors or instructors outside of regularly scheduled class times if necessary
4. The right to have access to all necessary campus facilities
5. The right to not have any required activity outside of regularly scheduled times
6. The right to receive a detailed syllabus, in writing, at the beginning of the semester with all relevant information, such as grading policies, required materials, etc. on it, and to have all subsequent changes also be given in writing, with ample time to implement any changes.
7. The right to have adequate time to learn all of the material being covered.
8. The right to have access to all references used by the instructor.
9. The right to have access to the student's grade before the final grades are given.
10. The right to be clearly informed about the grade appeals process.
11. The right to be clearly informed about what exactly constitutes academic misconduct.

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Random Jen Hinkel fact #007: If Jen were to star as any movie character, she would replace Denise Austin as the smart Bond Girl.

Camp

from page 1

director before graduating last semester.

"I felt like the administration was very inflexible in this decision... If they wanted [the retreat] to happen, it would happen," said Saigal.

"It's disappointing that there are two different groups that care so much about Georgia Tech—the administration and the students—but they can't come together in harmony for what they feel is best for Tech," said Chris Kavanaugh, who was a member of the Retreat Council. "The administration is not out to get us. [Administrators and students] are working for a common goal, but not in a common way."

Lack of state funding for the program contributed to the decision to halt the program. "[Clough] had requested, as I understand it, additional funds from the state, and those did not materialize. I can't promise that if we got those funds that we would have been able to run the pilot. But that certainly was a factor," Osher said.

"We want to do the right things by our students," said Clough.

According to Clough, low retention and graduation rates—as well as student dissatisfaction with services and academic infrastructure—are other key areas that need attention. "We just haven't gotten our arms around these things to know how to use our existing funds."

Clough felt that spending money on a Freshman Retreat would be premature, at least until all the implications are more thoroughly evaluated.

"I certainly feel the Freshman Retreat is a good idea, but I'm looking at several good ideas," said Clough. "This is a big ticket item, which would wipe out four or five other programs [if it were fully funded]." Clough also expressed a desire to have such a program—if implemented—available to all incoming freshman, which would require a large financial commitment.

"It was estimated by [Vice President of Student Affairs Lee] Wilcox that it would take at least a $5 million endowment to secure funding for the camp in perpetuity," Osher added. At the time of publication, Wilcox was not available for comment on his estimate due to travel.

As a supplement to FASET, the Rambling Wreck Retreat would have featured leadership training, emphasis on school spirit, alumni and faculty involvement, and discussions on honor and integrity, according to several members of the retreat council.

"Various schools have programs [like this], some of which cost a lot of money," said Osher. "MIT has programs that cost hundreds of dollars [per participant]…We wanted to have something that students didn't have to pay for. Something that would therefore not exclude anybody."

"The idea was to get to the point that if 2,000 freshmen wanted to come to the camp, there would be three camps. Some might be leadership oriented, some might be academic oriented, and some might be service oriented.

"It's a completely different experience," said Saigal, comparing the retreat program to the FASET orientation program.

Osher also saw significant contrasts to FASET. "[FASET programs] don't change people's minds; they don't change people's hearts." The purpose of the retreat was "to make students better leaders, to make students bond with each other and with Georgia Tech better, and kind of get in touch with spirit, tradition, those kinds of things," Osher said. "We think this is a plus for Tech, and it would be a great way to get the freshman class off to a good start."

According to Clough, he will keep the program in mind—along with other undergraduate initiatives—when future funding decisions are made. "We will certainly keep it on our docket," said Clough.

FOCUS

from page 2

to address."

Parking and Transportation director Rod Weiss hopes that FOCUS will educate students.

"Hopefully, more Tech students will be aware that the problems with parking are caused greatly by the fact that we don't have enough room," said Weiss. "The demand simply exceeds the supply."

By the end of FOCUS, Spriggle feels that the greatest achievement will be improving exchange among SGA, administrators, and the rest of campus.

"I think that a lot of communication will be established," said Spriggle. "We can't expect a problem to be fixed in two weeks... that is not what we are trying to do. Our goal as the student government is to communicate the students' needs to the administrators, and that is what we are trying to do."

UHR

from page 3

ican culture and help Tech students who go overseas gain familiarity with other cultures.

The next three bills dealt with allocating money to different organizations, the WREK radio station, the cycling team, and the Parachute Club; all passed.

The final bills concerned upcoming SGA elections. An elections calendar passed, as well as amendments to the current Election Code.

'Wayfinding' project makes campus easier to navigate

By Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor

In an effort to increase Tech's visiblity in Atlanta and to make campus easier to navigate, a committee chaired by Bob Thompson plans to implement a project named the Wayfinding Master Plan. Scheduled to follow on the heels of Tech's current Master Plan, the Wayfinding Plan will involve numerous aspects of campus.

Thompson, the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, enlisted consultant companies MIG and Square Peg Design to assist in the plan's development.

MIG, one of the consultants for the project, has already designed prototype signs that are appearing on campus for evaluation purposes.

Along with navigating around the campus, the plan also involves finding campus from I-85/75, the Hartsfield International Airport, and MARTA public transportation. Considerations include developing a "ceremonial" entrance and directing the way to visitor parking; the Fifth Street Project plans provide such a campus gateway.

Ideas for campus beautification and pedestrian walkways, such as landscaping along Ferst and new paths around campus, were also aspects of the MIG plan.

Square Peg Design, another project consultant, included proposals for "trailblazers" at the exits of I-75/85 to direct vehicles to Tech, as well as signs on North Avenue to guide visitors driving to campus. Map kiosks at key campus intersections, color coded for different areas and supplemented with smaller directional signs, would guide pedestrian traffic as a first phase to the Wayfinding Plan.

A second phase would include relocating some entrance signs, clearly identifying visitor parking lots, and creating uniform signs designating permit parking areas.

Permanent signs for major buildings would fall under phase three of the plan, according to representatives of the consultant firms. Uniform building signs, entrance plaques, and consistent street signs would be implemented as well.

> Considerations include developing a "ceremonial" entrance and directing the way to visitor parking.

Landscaping and signs would be used to increase visibility from the interstate, as well.

"Right now, all you have is parking lots behind frat[ernities]... [Appearance] can really make a statement," said the Square Peg Design representative.

Final plans for improving 'wayfinding' would be changes to the Stinger system by naming Stinger stops, better notification or a confirmed schedule, and redesign of the shuttle busses.

The committee is optimistic about the possiblity of implementing the three phases of the plan over the next three years, as the Master Plan continues development and the Fifth Street Project undergoes construction.

For more Master Plan info, visit www.masterplan.gatech.edu

and when my smile gets old and faded \ wait around I'll smile again \
shouldn't be so complicated
just hold me and then \ just hold me again

ads. finding happiness in the small things.

Random Jen Hinkel fact #261: Jen's favorite jazz composer is George Gershwin.