

# "The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

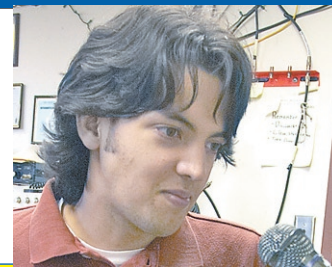
# TECHNIQUE

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Inside this issue ▶

Can you hear us now? Radio club talks to alumnus in space, page 11

Plus Annapolis, ready to report, page 15



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Opinions 8 • Focus 11 • Entertainment 15 • Comics 22 • Sports 28

## Regents propose plus/minus grades

By James Stephenson  
Staff Writer

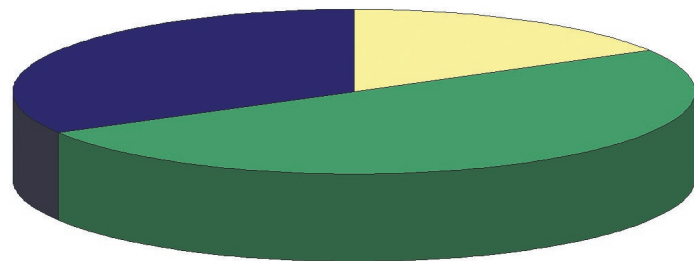
The Board of Regents is looking to implement a three year pilot program for a plus/minus grading system and has asked Tech to participate. The program would include a plus/minus system in students' transcripts and grade point averages.

"Basically, instead of simply A, B, C, D and F," said Andy Smith, vice provost for Academic Affairs, "the system would be A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D and F."

Several factors are still undecided in the implementation of the plus/minus system. In the general application of the system, the Board of Regents has offered Tech three options.

"We can choose to have the plus and minus affect GPA. We can have the plus and minus only on the transcript, but not affect GPA," Smith said. "Or we can choose to not

### Grading systems at peer institutions



Plus/minus grading system used to determine GPA (6)

Virginia Tech  
Washington-Seattle  
California-Berkeley  
UCLA  
Illinois -  
Urbana Champaign  
Penn State

Plus/minus grading system used on transcripts only (2)

MIT  
Stanford

No plus/minus grading system (4)

Texas A&M  
Minnesota  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
UT Austin

Source: 2003 Report on Grade Inflation, prepared by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs committee of the Academic Senate.

implement the program at all."

The weight of the "+" and the "-" also still has to be determined.

"What most schools typically do—though there are some exceptions—is give a third of a point for a plus and subtract third of a point for a minus," Smith said.

A study conducted by Arizona State University in the fall of 2002 on the plus/minus system showed that mean GPAs with the plus/minus system and those without had little difference. What the study concluded was that the system did not help curb grade inflation but simply increased grade accuracy.

The ability to give more precise measurements of a student's performance is what administrators and professors looked for when they proposed the change to the current grading system.

"For example, if I have a student

See **Grading**, page 6

## IEEE awards Meindl medal

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) recently chose Jim Meindl, a professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to be the recipient of its Medal of Honor, the organization's most prestigious award.

Meindl was recognized for his contributions to microelectronics—specifically low-power, bio-medical and on-chip interconnect networks.

## Lee earns Pierskalla Award

The Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS) recently gave Eva Lee, a professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, its annual Pierskalla Award. The award is given to an individual who shows excellence in the fields of health care and management sciences.

## Auxiliary Services scholarship

Auxiliary Services posted its online application for the 2006 Impact Scholarship recipient at [webhost.gatech.edu/auxsurvey/impact\\_scholarship/](http://webhost.gatech.edu/auxsurvey/impact_scholarship/).

Scholarship applicants must be enrolled either as full-time or co-op students with at least sophomore status, must be planning on enrolling for the 2006-2007 academic year and be in good standing with at least a 2.5 grade point average.

The deadline for applications is March 3 at 5:00 p.m. Auxiliary Services will give 10 scholarships worth \$3,000 each.

## GTPD reports crime down 22.3 percent

By Amanda Dugan  
News Editor

The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) saw a 22.3 percent reduction in overall crime from 2004 to 2005. However, incidents of robbery, aggravated assault and burglary all increased by at least 50 percent. GTPD attributes the overall reduction in crime to ongoing improvements in the police department and community awareness.

"[The reduction] could be because the community has called more, and I think that they are really taking a stand...and really being aware. We also have more officers on the road, because we have been able to hire

more. The word has gotten out on the street not to go over to Tech because you'll get caught," said Carla Cook, GTPD public safety sergeant.

Cook said that at any given time ten to eleven officers are patrolling the campus. GTPD also increased their canine unit this past year.

"The canine unit has really helped. We have three dogs

"[The reduction] could be because the community has called more, and I think that they are really taking a stand."

**Carla Cook**  
GTPD Public Safety Sergeant

The greatest crime decrease, 100 percent, was in rapes, with no incidents reported. Motor vehicle thefts decreased by 40 percent, with only 24 incidents being reported in 2005. Larceny-thefts decreased 32 percent, with 443 total incidents reported.

There were four incidents of aggravated assault

in 2005, up from one incident in 2004. Robberies increased by six, for a total of nine incidents in 2005. Both aggravated assaults and robberies decreased by over 40 percent from 2003 to 2004.

There were a total of 116 burglaries on campus, a 57 percent increase. Cook said GTPD is going to be working with housing and other areas of campus where burglaries seem to be occurring frequently to help reduce burglaries on campus.

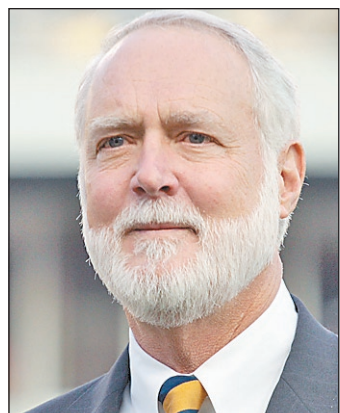
"We're always concerned [about an increase in crime], especially when those crimes are against people. The three [crimes] that went up, that is what we're going to be focusing a lot more attention on," Cook said.

## Clough serves as hurricane protection committee chair

By Jenny Zhang  
Copy Editor

Institute President Wayne Clough was recently appointed chair of the National Academies/National Research Committee on New Orleans Regional Hurricane Protection Projects. The committee, which reports to the Secretary of Defense, will oversee studies on the levee failures that occurred when Hurricane Katrina devastated the city last fall and review proposals for rebuilding New Orleans' flood protection systems.

"This is the largest engineering project of our generation, and it has to be completed in the shortest period of time," Clough said, whose first job when he graduated Georgia Tech was as a civil engineer working on flood protection issues in the Mississippi River



By Jamie Howell/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS  
**President Clough was named chair of the Hurricane Protection Projects committee.**

Basin. "It's an honor to be asked to be a part of it."

Clough said this is one of the few times when engineering

See **Clough**, page 5

## IFC changes scholarship fund

By Ranganath Venkataraman  
Staff Writer

The Intrafraternity Council (IFC), which governs the thirty fraternities on campus and handles relations between the Institute and the fraternities, is in the process of introducing special endowment scholarships for Greeks.

According to IFC president Michael Moreland, this is part of the progress that is being made to improve relations with the Institute.

"IFC has made a lot of progress in the last three years to catch up. We have discovered discrepancies in our own bylaws and we are playing a more vital role in day-to-day operations of the fraternities," Moreland said.

"We have also established a new account for sponsoring other student organizations in the spirit of collaboration," Moreland said.

Moreland added that the IFC's proposals were always in line with student life and student affairs. "It gave us a good picture of where



"There has been money going into the fund, but it was never carried out to its full potential."

**Michael Moreland**  
IFC President

student affairs were going and what Greeks had to offer."

The endowment scholarships are financed by a special scholarship fund, which is funded by the dues paid by each chapter.

"There has been money going into the fund, but it was never carried out to its full potential," Moreland said. "The money would end up being spent on sudden issues and was in a regular Merrill Lynch bank account."

The scholarship fund money, however, has now been transferred to an account in the Georgia Tech

Foundation.

"The advantage of this is that we're contributing to the foundation and we're keeping money within the school," said IFC Treasurer Trevor Kramer.

According to Kramer, transferring the funds to the Georgia Tech Foundation account is expected to provide a return of 10 to 15 percent. The Merrill Lynch account generated only one to two percent interest.

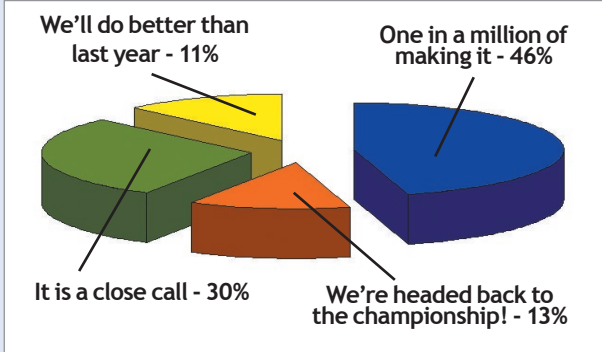
"Five to ten years from now the money we can give is going to be very

See **IFC**, page 5

**Technique Online** Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 73 responses.

What are the men's basketball team's post-season chances?



By Hillary Lipko / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:

What do you think about Tech's overall GPA?  
Tell us at [www.nique.net](http://www.nique.net)



**Burning for you**

On Jan. 10, two officers responded to a dumpster fire in front of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity house. When they arrived, the Atlanta Fire Department was already on the scene. The Fire Department determined that the culprit had set the trash inside a burn barrel on fire and then thrown it into the dumpster. There was no damage or witnesses.

From the files of the GTPD...

**Campus Crime**

**Hoovers missing**

A Georgia Tech employee submitted a missing property complaint on Jan. 12. On Dec. 14, a custodial employee performed an inventory and found 2 missing vacuums worth a total of \$289 both were used in Center Street and Hemphill Avenue Apartments.

**Hoovers missing, part two**

On Jan. 11, a Housing employee reported missing property to GTPD. He stated that the items could have

been misplaced. In all, eight missing vacuums, three steam cleaners and three radios totaling \$3,269 could not be accounted for.

**E.T. phone home**

Between Jan. 6 at 10:00 p.m. and Jan. 7 at 2:00 a.m., a student lost his cell phone. On Jan. 11, he found that \$200 in unauthorized international phone calls were made on the phone. The student had his service canceled.

This week's campus crime information written by Kenneth Baskett

**sliver**

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

Brad: Can we play naked tag?  
Becky: No!  
What a shame...  
That would be fun to play in this female apartment  
Fun for who?  
The thing that bothers me is the back door flap with a missing button  
You can only find that kind of underwear at hunting stores  
Well that makes sense  
Why are there pubes in the LWC headphones?  
I love you Becky!  
Iota Iota Nine rocks  
Does anyone know what "booya" means?  
JABOOKA! Yeah, thats right! JABOOKA!  
school still sucks in 2006  
Gelgamek, you suck. Leave us alone  
Why is it that all the girls I know at Tech complain that they can't find a guy?  
Because so many guys at Tech act/think like the one who posted the next sliver. --Sliver Girl  
hey GT females/nerd girls, if I had acne like you, i'd put some kind of weedkiller or fungicide or something on my face.  
Marco  
Can you hear me now?  
Saltmarshes are cool.  
people don't seem to realize hurling insults at someone via an anonymous sliver makes you look like more of a loser than anything you say.  
this alum was the first sliver girl  
that air force party friday night was awesome  
That's the new Bingo!  
Asian!  
Then I'd yell Crackers!  
I don't have a problem with sex, its just the whole relationship thing  
None of the Miss America contestants have talent  
Miss Georgia: so, yeah I'm asian  
Miss America contestants remind me of those push button dolls  
alison m. is so hot!  
Bow before me, for I am root.  
Greetings from your Online Editor  
"your online editor" ... fun times  
The Internet: Powered by The Chad  
See page 17 for more Slivers!

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California baby tuna, mixed with celery, onions, and our tasty sauce, then topped with alfalfa sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, and tomato. (My tuna rocks!)

**#4 TURKEY TOM®**  
Fresh sliced turkey breast, topped with lettuce, tomato, alfalfa sprouts, and mayo. (The original)

**#5 VITO™**  
The original Italian sub with genoa salami, provolone, capicola, onion, lettuce, tomato, & a real tasty Italian vinaigrette. (Order it with hot peppers, trust me!)

**#6 VEGETARIAN**  
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SLIM 3 Tuna salad  
SLIM 4 Turkey breast  
SLIM 5 Salami, capicola, cheese  
SLIM 6 Double provolone

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**#8 BILLY CLUB®**  
Roast beef, ham, provolone, Dijon mustard, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Here's to my old pal Billy who invented this great combo.)

**#9 ITALIAN NIGHT CLUB®**  
Real genoa salami, Italian capicola, smoked ham, and provolone cheese all topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, and our homemade Italian vinaigrette. (You hav'ta order hot peppers, just ask!)

**#10 HUNTER'S CLUB®**  
A full 1/4 pound of fresh sliced medium rare roast beef, provolone, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (It rocks!!!)

**#11 COUNTRY CLUB®**  
Fresh sliced turkey breast, applewood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)

**#12 BEACH CLUB®**  
Fresh baked turkey breast, provolone cheese, avocado spread, sliced cucumber, sprouts, lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (It's the real deal folks, and it ain't even California.)

**#13 GOURMET VEGGIE CLUB®**  
Double provolone, real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Try it on my 7-grain whole wheat bread. This veggie sandwich is world class!)

**#14 BOOTLEGGERS CLUB®**  
Roast beef, turkey breast, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. An American classic, certainly not invented by J.J. but definitely tweaked and fine-tuned to perfection!

**#15 CLUB TUNA®**  
The same as our #3 Sorry Charlie except this one has a lot more. Homemade tuna salad, provolone, sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, & tomato. (I guarantee it's awesome!)

**#16 CLUB LULU™**  
Fresh sliced turkey breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (JJ's original turkey & bacon club)

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# 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

# GSS passes three joint allocation bills

By Nikhil Joshi  
Assistant News Editor

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) passed a total of three bills Tuesday and heard a report from Melissa Moore, communications officer for Auxiliary Services.

The meeting began with Moore's presentation, in which she briefed the senate on various services and activities provided within the last year. Moore talked about programs in the Student Center, professional training and BuzzFunds, among other efforts by Auxiliary Services. She also communicated the results of a survey taken to gauge student opinion. The survey, according to Moore, revealed that Parking and Transportation received the lowest score for student satisfaction.

Moore then fielded questions from senators.

One senator asked whether or not the ice cream vending machine in the library would be replaced. Moore yielded time to Crit Stuart, the library's associate director for Public Services, to answer the question.

Stuart said that the number of vending machines was cut down to make room for renovations in the

## Bills passed

- Joint Allocation to Musician's Network
- Joint Allocation to iMovie Fest
- Joint Allocation to Mars Society

basement and that the ice cream machine would not be replaced. Stuart was attending the meeting on behalf of another organization, iMovie Fest, which was requesting funding.

After two brief executive reports from Mitch Keller, graduate student body vice president, and Kasi David, graduate student body president, the senators turned to the list of unfinished business before them.

The first of the three bills, a joint allocation to Musician's Network, passed after some discussion. Organizational representatives said that they were in charge of running Under the Couch and were in need of money to make renovations to the Couch Building in order to meet a fire code.

They received \$2,500, and the bill passed as amended by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). The

See GSS, page 6

## Undergraduate House of Representatives

# UHR hears updated master plan

By James Stephenson  
Staff Writer

The Undergraduate House of Representatives met this past Tuesday. Six new Representatives were approved and sworn in to the House. Three other bills were passed during the meeting, as well.

The first bill brought before the House was the joint allocation to the Musician's Network. The Musician's Network operates Under the Couch and they requested \$3,000 to replace acoustic foam in the recording studio. The foam previously in place was deemed unsafe by a fire marshal and was required to be replaced. The total cost for the replacement is \$3,700.

The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) recommended reducing the amount to \$2,500 with the expectation that the RHA would kick in \$500. The probability of the RHA funding the Musician's Network was called into question and revealed to be shaky at best. The bill was passed in its original form.

The next bill to be considered was a joint allocation to the iMovie Fest. The iMovie Fest committee was requesting funds to pay for renting the Ferst Center for the presentation of the movie projects.

Due to unexpected costs last year because of overtime charges incurred during the event, the bill was padded in several areas to account for the potential of a repeat incident. The JFC recommended taking out the padding and reducing the amount to \$2,269. The bill was amended per JFC recommendations and passed.

The final bill brought before the House was a joint allocation to the Mars Society. The society was asking for funding of an event in February to discuss issues in space, such as using space for weapons proliferation.



By Jason Ossey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Les Saunders from the Office of Capital Planning and Space Management speaks about the updated goals for Tech's master plan.

The event will have three speakers. One of the speakers will be a faculty member at Tech.

The JFC recommended reducing the bill to \$1,630 and eliminating the cost for renting a room in the Student Center, which is free for Tech organizations, and the travel costs of the guest speakers. The bill was amended per JFC recommendations and passed.

Les Saunders from the Office of Capital Planning and Space Management gave a presentation to the House during the meeting. Saunders laid out the updated goals for Tech's master plan.

The plan was an updated form of the 1997 master plan, of which Tech has already achieved all of its 15-year goals set out in that plan. The main concerns with the new master plan are the educational environment,

## Bills passed

- Joint Allocation to Musician's Network
- Joint Allocation to iMovie Fest
- Joint Allocation to Mars Society
- Appointment of Representatives

the research environment and the campus environment.

Other issues laid out in the plan include increasing accessibility on campus and increasing sustainability in planning for campus expansion. The master plan calls for 50 percent of the campus to have tree cover, as well as a reduction in the surface area currently used by roadways.

The plan creates a more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly campus.

See UHR, page 6

## STUDY FILM IN ITALY

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## Clough from page 1

and professional expertise coincide with a national imperative. "[New Orleans] is a great city, an icon for the country and it must be rebuilt. The [Hurricane Katrina disaster] continues to be a heartbreaking situation for thousands of people because they can't go home, and it's important for people...to step up and do something," Clough said the fact that he has family in New Orleans brings the importance of rebuilding to him on a very personal level as well.

Clough's appointment to committee chair also represents a continuation of Tech's commitment to

helping in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Tech was active in

**"This is the largest engineering project of our generation, and it has to be completed in the shortest period of time."**

**Wayne Clough**  
Institute President

relief efforts last year by offering aid to

hurricane evacuees, opening its doors to displaced students and initiating the largest fundraising campaign in campus history. "I hope to engage more people at Tech in [current] efforts," Clough said. Because of the technical and engineering aspects of the committee's work, Clough said it was an "opportunity to really do something that coincides with what we do as an institution...and a terrific opportunity for [Tech] students to learn."

According to Clough, the committee will first hold hearings in New Orleans in January and then begin work in earnest when information from the investigation teams comes in. Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue its ongo-

ing work to repair damaged areas of the levees because of the urgency of

**"It's important to make the statement that people can look to Tech for leadership on issues of this kind."**

**Wayne Clough**  
Institute President

the approaching hurricane season. Work will also begin to implement

levee improvements during the summer that will enhance the level of protection the levees provide over time. "If the levee system is to be taken to a category five hurricane level, it will take innovative approaches and require an extended period of time to accomplish," Clough said.

The committee will address both engineering and policy issues and hopes to have definitive results by June 1, 2006, the official start of the next hurricane season.

"It's important to make the statement that people can look to Tech for leadership on issues of this kind," Clough said. "As president, I hope to represent Georgia Tech and its commitment to work on these issues until they are resolved."

## IFC from page 3

substantial," Kramer said.

A meeting had been set up with John Carter, the president of the Georgia Tech Foundation, to discuss concerns about the scholarship money. While the IFC had \$30,000 dollars in its account, it only took \$25,000 to start up the endowment.

While the criteria for the schol-

arships have not been decided yet, Kramer said the scholarships would have a greek influence. The IFC will also be working with the Office of Financial Aid and have a committee that interviews and judges potential candidates.

"The money was given by them [the greeks], so we want to give it back to them," Kramer said.

According to Moreland, the IFC's goal is to award two to three \$1,000

scholarships every year.

Most greeks felt that this was a step in the right direction.

"I think it's a good idea because it encourages people who join fraternities to keep up their GPA," said Brendan O'Leary, a first-year Chemical Engineering major and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

"Academics are not always first. But when you're giving out scholarships, it helps to influence members

of the greek community to increase academics and compete."

Benji White, a second-year Biomedical Engineering major and a member of Delta Sigma Phi, said that he had a similar viewpoint.

"I think it's a great idea. While some fraternities already have scholarships for good grades, I think it'd also promote high leadership," White said. "I guess some people will see a few people get it the first time

around, and then they would start to work for it. In the beginning it'd be random people that are doing well out there on campus and making a difference."

"This is something we're really excited about. We set some goals to make a lasting impact on campus and on greek life in general, and I think creating this scholarship fund will achieve that goal for us," Kramer said.

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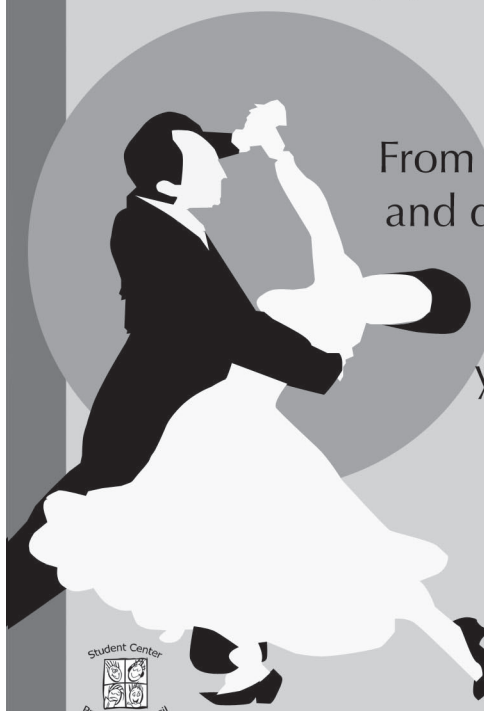
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The Lodge is located at 150 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Techwood Dr. at GT's East Campus.

Contact: Micheal Shutze  
[vicepres@gtchipsi.org](mailto:vicepres@gtchipsi.org) -or- 404.892.9623

## Options Classes

In-person Registration at Box Office: Jan 11- Feb 3  
Phone and Online Registration: Jan 12 - Feb 3  
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## Grading from page 1

who got an 81 and one who got an 89, I know there is a huge amount of difference in the work that those students put in to get those grades, but there is no way to differentiate between the two," Smith said.

"Personally, I would like to see the system in place," he said. "It gives the students more precise feedback and differentiates better what the student's performance actually is."

Smith acknowledged that it was not solely up to him to decide whether or not the new system went into effect.

"[The new system] is not some-

thing that should be dictated by the faculty," Smith said. "It is something that should be dictated by the students. I feel the students should make the decision whether or not to implement the program. I will ask the Academic Affairs Committee and the SGA to give me advice on the matter."

According to Smith, however, many students are against the plus/minus system.

"Students feel there is too much emphasis on grades, and this would increase that emphasis," Smith said. "However, what it does give the student is a more precise measure of performance."

"The first time I talked about

[the program] was at the Leadership Retreat last week," he said. "There was a lot of resistance to it at the conference. It was just a discussion, but I found a lot of students there have had a negative reaction to it."

"I do not know really how I would feel about that [type of system]," said Blake West, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering major. "I don't think I would like losing a third of a point for simply getting a minus on a grade."

If the new system passes through the student government in the next few weeks, students will be seeing pluses and minuses next to their grades as soon as this summer term.

## GSS from page 3

group had originally requested \$5,000 but told the committee that they had raised half of the money elsewhere.

The second bill which passed was a joint allocation to iMovie Fest. An organizational representative explained that the five-minute films created by students in one week would be aired late February at the Ferst Center.

Stuart added that two years ago iMovie Fest won the annual Burdell's Best Award.

Organizational representatives then answered questions regarding funding from the senators. In the middle of discussion on the bill, Keller called for a roll call. "I have to call for a roll call because we may have lost quorum," he said.

Keller urged senators to move through business more swiftly as a result of recent problems with too many senators departing the meeting

prior to its conclusion.

After counting the number of senators present, however, Keller announced that quorum was met with 19 senators.

Micah Lucas, chair of the JFC, then quickly proceeded to give a report in which he delineated the amendments JFC was recommending. The senators agreed to amend the bill in accordance with JFC's recommendations and voted to allocate \$2,269 to the organization.

The final bill, a joint allocation to the Mars Society at Georgia Tech, passed with no discussion. Senators agreed to fund the organization's request for a total of \$1,630 after amending the bill to reflect changes that had been suggested by JFC, reducing the amount because the organization requested funding for an event featuring guest speakers.

The senators then passed a motion to adjourn the meeting without commencing Open Forum, opting to hold any issues until next week.

## UHR from page 3

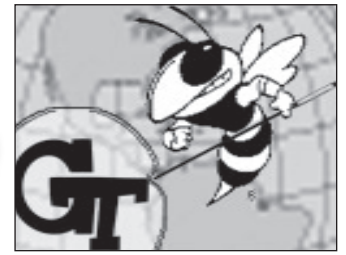
Another issue laid out in the plan is storm water drainage. Buildings recently constructed or currently under construction have built-in systems to capture, store and reuse rainwater.

An Eco-commons, which is basically a waterway that will travel from the Burger Bowl to the tennis courts across from the Coliseum, is included in the master plan to be constructed on campus.

The plan also calls for historic or "special" places on campus to be preserved. Currently, no measures are being taken to make sure that nothing is built on such areas. Areas under this designation include the old quad in front of Tech Tower, the mayor garden next to Skiles and the glade behind the President's House.

The details of the master plan can be viewed in depth at [www.space.gatech.edu/masterplan.htm](http://www.space.gatech.edu/masterplan.htm).

## 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.

### Bolivia swears in Indian President

Bolivia swore its first Indian president, Evo Morales, the son of a peasant farmer, into office Sunday. Morales promised, according to CNN, to end discrimination against native Indians, the majority ethnic group in Bolivia. He also said that he would utilize the country's gas reserves to help the economy.

"I wish to tell you, my Indian brothers, that the 500-year indigenous and popular campaign of resistance has not been in vain," he said, referring to an attempt to resist discrimination since the Spanish conquest of 1520.

Morales was widely supported in Bolivia, and celebrations ensued with the announcement of his victory. He said that his socialist government would better the economic situation in Bolivia, calling free market economy a failure.

Morales indicated that he would like to have good relations with the United States but said that he would hold on strongly to his socialist government strategy.

"Starting with the government of the United States and concluding with the government of Fidel Castro, we have international support," he said.

### Woman leaves kids for Springer taping

Shannon Cook, a 25-year-old from Wheaton, Ill., pleaded guilty to misdemeanor child endangerment and was placed on probation for a year last week.

Cook was arrested Oct. 19 of last year after leaving her four children alone for several hours in order to see a taping of the "Jerry Springer Show."

"I didn't think I'd be gone that long," she stated according to a police report. Her three children were placed in foster care.

### Man attacks the Fountain in France

Pierre Pioncelli, a 77-year old Frenchman, was ordered to pay a fine of \$262,700 (214,000 euros) Tuesday for attacking the Fountain, a porcelain urinal on display at the Pompidou Center in Paris, France. Built by Marcel Duchamp in 1917, the Fountain was created during the Dada movement, an early 20th century modern art movement.

Pioncelli, who attacked the urinal with a hammer, told police that he was acting in the spirit of the Dada movement. According to *USA Today*, the Fountain's value has been estimated at \$3.6 million.

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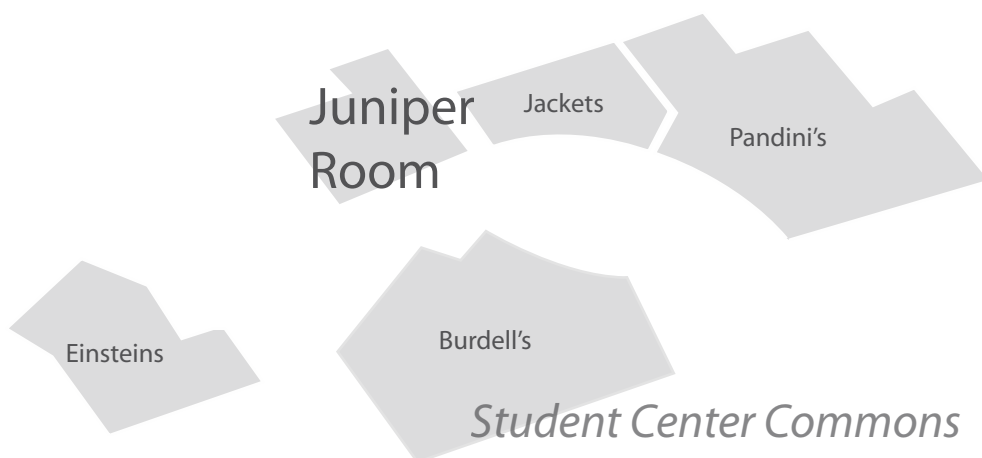
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[EDITOR@BLUEPRINT.GATECH.EDU](mailto:EDITOR@BLUEPRINT.GATECH.EDU)