

# TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

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Serving Georgia Tech since 1911 • Volume 87, Issue 29 • 36 pages

Four Tech students compete in NCAA swimming and diving championships.

SPORTS page 35

Spring cleaning—students and employees work to keep campus green.

FOCUS page 13



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## Mullin named OIT director

John Mullin was named the new Director of OIT, marking the end of a search that began last fall. Mullin replaces Gordon Wishon, who left to accept a position at Notre Dame. OIT also promoted Ron Hutchins to a newly created position designed to meet the technological demands of Tech's academic and research communities. Mullin, who has been serving as interim Director since Wishon's departure, came to Tech in 1994.

## Relay for Life kicks off Friday

Relay for Life kicks off tonight at SAC Field. Teams will walk to raise money for cancer throughout the night.

## UHR positions remain vacant

Although SGA elections were held last week, the Undergraduate House of Representatives still has over ten positions that remain unfilled. Students interested in being appointed can find an application in the SGA office.

Students in good standing with 40 hours who are currently taking at least two major classes are eligible to be major representatives. To apply for the Sophomore Representative position you must have between 30 and 60 hours. The following spots are open: Building Construction, Chemistry, EAS, Economics, Industrial Design, Industrial Engineering (3), Mechanical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Physics, Psychology, Sophomore, and STAC.

## People in Motion Riding the Segway



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS  
Members of the Tech community, including Mechanical Engineering Chair Ward Winer, enjoyed a ride on the Segway last Thursday at the MRDC.

## Drinking stats inconclusive

By Chris Baucom  
Editor Emeritus

A nine percentage-point reduction in student binge drinking touted last week by Tech's public relations arm is not statistically significant, according to data from the Harvard School of Public Health. However, the decrease does represent an important downward trend in binge drinking levels, Vice President of Student Affairs Lee Wilcox said.

"I think the main point here is that GT SMART is a six year program, and we want to look at how we're doing annually, and the Harvard data allows us to

look for trends," Wilcox said. "This year's Harvard data shows that some very important trends are appearing—some very positive trends. The binge drinking rate has gone down four percentage points from 99 to 2000 and another five points from 2000 to 2001. It's not quite statistically significant, but it sure is in the right direction—it looks like a strong trend."

According to the 1999 sample, 43 percent of students binged at least once. By 2001, that number had fallen to 34 percent. The Harvard study defined binge

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## Amendments ruled invalid

SGA forced to call special election to amend constitution after UJC decision

By Jody Shaw  
News Editor

The Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet ruled that recently passed amendments to the Undergraduate Student Government Constitution are invalid. SGA plans to hold a special election April 17-19 to revote on the three proposals, as well as a fourth amendment.

"I strongly encourage the entire student body to vote on these referendums. They affect all of us as members of the Georgia Tech community," said Undergraduate Student Government Association President Chris Kavanaugh.

The UJC ruled that the vote was invalid because the amendments failed to run in the *Technique* a week prior to the original election. According to the Undergraduate Student Government Association Constitution, any constitutional amendments must be publicly announced in the weekly campus newspaper. A communication error between Kavanaugh and *Technique* Editor-in-Chief Matthew Bryan resulted in the amendments not being printed in the newspaper.

All three amendments received the required two-thirds majority vote of the student body. One of the amendments—the

one that bans discrimination in student organizations—passed by only a two vote margin.

The first amendment concerns the UJC. It increases the number of justices from ten to twelve members, allows justices to hear cases over the summer, and provides an interim Chief Justice be appointed in emergency situations. This is in response to the increased caseload of the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet.

The second amendment adds language to the Constitution for Equal Opportunity to participate in SGA. The amendment prohibits discrimination for positions based on race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap in accordance with Federal and State Law. Currently, there are no Equal Opportunity Clauses in the Constitution.

The third amendment adds language to the Constitution for Equal Opportunity to participate in all student organizations. The amendment would prohibit discrimination both in membership and in activities based on race, gender, national origin, ethnicity.

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"I'm not concerned at all about voter turnout."

Chris Kavanaugh  
Undergraduate SGA President

## Clough names director, changes Ferst Center structure

By Tony Klumper  
Assistant News Editor

Almost ten years to the day after it officially opened to the public, the Robert Ferst Center for the Arts will begin a new era next Monday. The change comes after a new director was hired late last month. According to the Office of the President, Jay Constantz will take over as director next Monday.

Constantz, who was previously executive director of the Bayfront Park in Miami, was hired after a four-month search process that ended over a year of planning after the departure of John Talbott, the previous director who left in September 2000. The job as director will mark a return to Atlanta for Constantz, who was once Assistant General Manager of the Fox Theatre, a

position he held for twelve years.

According to Institute President G. Wayne Clough, Constantz will help to lead the Ferst Center towards its goal of balancing the needs of both the student body and the Atlanta community. "Jay Constantz is an accomplished arts leader who will help us take the Ferst Center into its second decade and establish it as one of Atlanta's top cultural resources," said Clough.

Many in the search committee were impressed by Constantz's success in previous endeavors and hoped that he would do the same for the Ferst Center.

While at Bayfront Park, Constantz was able to turn a \$1 million debt that existed when he arrived into a \$25,000 surplus by the end of his first year on the job.

"Everyone agreed that he [Con-

"I think I can play a particular role in helping to communicate better with the student body and faculty as well."

Lee Wilcox  
Vice President of Student Affairs



stantz] was the person who could move the center to the next level," said Sue Rosser, Dean of the Ivan Allen College and chair of the Ferst Center's search committee.

In addition to the hiring of Constantz, President Clough made another major change to the organization of the Ferst Center. The change will result in the moving of the Ferst Center from under the direction of Auxiliary Services

to the Office of Student Affairs under Vice President for Student Affairs Lee Wilcox.

According to Clough, the change was important in making sure that the Ferst Center was living up to its full potential. "This completes a reconstitution of the structure for the Ferst Center that follows the recommendations of the new strategic plan," said Clough.

The change in structure official-

ly took place on Monday, April 1 and Wilcox is quick to point out that his role will be more of a liaison between the president and Ferst Center director than anything else.

"My role will be to oversee the big picture relative to the center, to help Jay communicate throughout the campus, to make sure that the Office of the President is informed about the center."

In addition, Wilcox feels that he will be able to help the Ferst Center and Constantz to communicate more effectively with the Tech community. "I think I can play a particular role in helping to communicate better with the student body and faculty as well," said Wilcox.

Wilcox hopes that in the coming seasons the center will be able to

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### Technique Online Voice Your Opinion!

Last issue's poll garnered 48 responses to the question: "Were you surprised by the outcome of the SGA presidential election?"

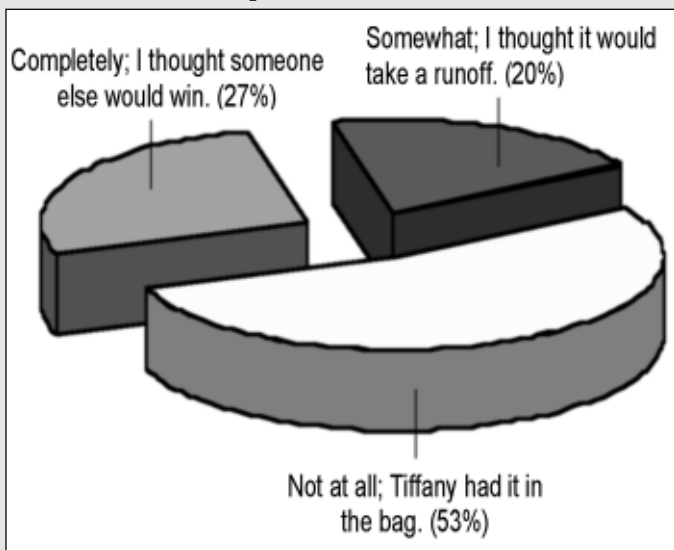
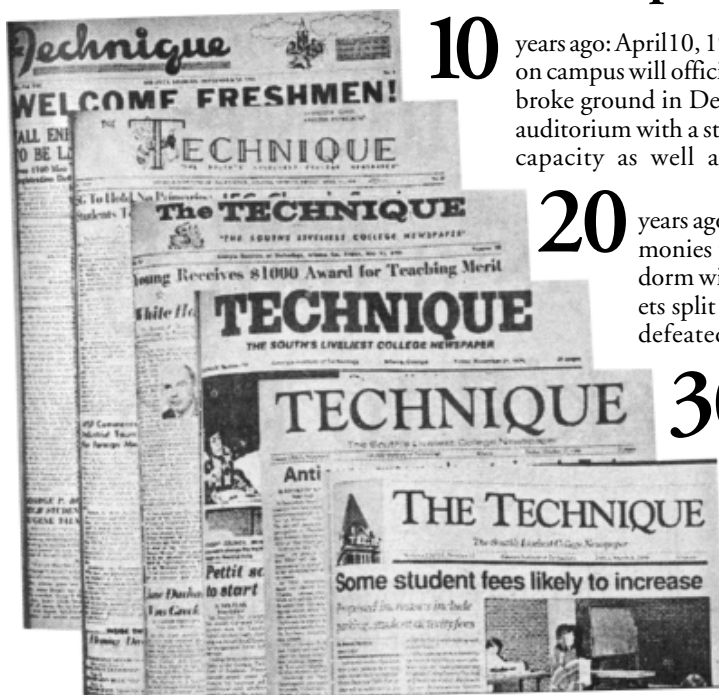


Image by Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's poll is about binge drinking. Five drinks in one sitting for a man and three for a woman is binge drinking. Do you do it? Tell us what you think at [www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique](http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique).

# From the archives...

## The Nique's top stories from:



**10** years ago: April 10, 1992—The new Tech Theatre for the Arts on campus will officially open on April 15. The center, which broke ground in December of 1989, will house a 1,200 seat auditorium with a stage, orchestra pit and full theatre staging capacity as well as a new home for the DramaTech.

**20** years ago: April 9, 1982—Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for Tech's newest dorm. The dorm will cost \$8 million to complete. The Jackets split a pair of games in baseball action. Tech defeated UNC, while falling to NC State.

**30** years ago: April 7, 1972—In an unprovoked attack, a Tech student was shot outside his fraternity house. The incident was the result of gunfire from a passing car in front of the Kappa Sigma house. The shot caused only minor damage to the student's leg. Tech's new president, Dr. Joseph Pettit, announced plans for a possible Student Conduct Code.

## Senate approves Cyberbuzz funding

By Jody Shaw  
News Editor

The Graduate Student Senate jumped straight into discussion on Tuesday after adjourning the previous week because it lost quorum. The Senators debated the merits of a bill to provide a new computer and other new equipment to Cyberbuzz for student organization use.

The organization originally requested about \$14,000 to provide for a large back-end server, a front-end workstation, basic video equipment and a microphone. Cyberbuzz plans to use the equipment to streamline student organizations; they will be able to borrow the Cyberbuzz media equipment to broadcast more campus events online. The larger back-end capabilities will aid in this process. Student organizations will be able to use the equipment free of charge.

At last week's meeting, a number of senators criticized the request. They argued that such resources already existed on campus and that new needs could be covered through requests from the technology fee allocation committee. ECE Senator Edgar Brown, the graduate student representative on the committee, noted that usually academic departments make most of the technology fee requests, but Cyberbuzz had obtained technology fee funding before.

At-Large Senator David Maybury argued that the Cyberbuzz bill did not actually support a student activity, and he also expressed concerns that a lot of computers already exist on campus. Despite concerns about whether or not the request should be before the technology fee committee instead of the Student Government Association, a number of senators supported the Cyberbuzz idea.

CE Senator Michael Dodd noted that while he usually opposes funding technology purchases with student activity fees, he felt that the equipment would improve the activities that all student organizations take

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## Council Clippings Senate and House



By Kimberly Hinckley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Mechanical Engineering Representative Josh Alexander and CS Representative Bryan Billings enjoy a laugh at the UHR meeting. The House lacked quorum for a while, but once it got started, a number of bills were considered in a short time span.**

### Bills Considered

#### Undergraduate House of Representatives

Allocation to IIE	Author: Lindsay Mazza	passed
Joint Allocation to GT Tennis Club	Author: Dusty Riddle	passed
Amendment to UHR Bylaws (absences)	Author: Brian George	failed
Amendment to UHR Bylaws (Technique)	Author: Brian George	passed
Amendment to UHR Bylaws (advisory)	Author: Brian George	passed
Amendment to UHR Bylaws (HAC)	Author: Brian George	passed
Amendment to UHR Bylaws (procedures)	Author: Brian George	passed
Amendment to UHR Bylaws (judicial)	Author: Brian George	passed
Resolution on Student Activity Fee Use	Author: Brian George	in committee
Resolution Drop Day	Author: Brian George	in committee

#### Graduate Student Senate

Joint Allocation to Cyberbuzz	Author: Rani El-Hajjar	passed
Joint Allocation to ID Soc. of America	Author: Valerio Curt	passed
Joint Resolution on Domestic Partners	Author: Elizabeth Chesnutt	tabled

## UJC ruling forces House rule change

By Jody Shaw  
News Editor

The members of the Undergraduate House of Representatives spent more of their time on bylaw amendments, as Internal Development Committee Chair Brian George again brought a number of bills before the body.

Business was delayed initially, as the House lacked the necessary quorum to call to order. Once a quorum was assembled, however, the House flew through the bills and ended its meeting just before 9:00 p.m.

One of the major bylaw concerns the attendance policy for representatives. For a substantial amount of time, UHR has operated under a policy that any representative who accumulated three absences could be removed from the SGA Advisory board. This stipulation is in the UHR bylaws. In its constitution, however, SGA has a stipulation that states "if a representative neglects his duties, impeachment charges may be brought against him."

Recently representatives began to discuss the proper way to remove delinquent representatives. The UHR Solicitor General Scott Fletcher asked the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet for a constitutional interpretation to see if the stipulations conflicted. The UJC ruled that they did.

"The UJC interprets this...to mean that a representative may only be removed through a process of impeachment, not simply by a review of Advisory," said Chief Justice Sara Cames, in her letter to Undergraduate President Chris Kavanaugh.

George proposed a constitutional amendment to change the clause to all the Advisory to remove representatives. The House, however, decided against such an action. It failed the bill, leaving impeachment as the only way in which a representative can be removed.

The representative passed a number of other amendments, however, including one to rename the Legislative Communications Committee the House Administrative Committee.

## Stats

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drinkers as men who had five or more, or women who had four or more drinks in a row at least once in a two-week period.

“By comparing the proportions across the years, there is not significant evidence of a negative trend because the confidence intervals overlap,” Brani Vidakovic, a statistics professor in the school of Industrial Engineering, said. “With the same tests, you can arrive at different conclusions—so there are endless possibilities for [interpreting the data].” This particular analysis neither proves nor disproves a trend, but it is certainly legitimate to claim a downward trend, Vidakovic said.

Sam Becknel, project director for the GT SMART coalition, emphasized the program’s focus on environmental change over any short-term statistical gains. “These results, in my opinion, are nowhere near the reality of what the environmental change approaches can do

on anybody’s campus—as well as in the community,” Becknel said.

Components of GT SMART’s approach include helping neighborhoods close to Tech understand their rights and responsibilities, making sure that underage students do not have easy access to alcohol and helping students manage their own parties more effectively, Becknel said. The coalition also mounted an extensive advertising and public relations campaign addressing the dangers associated with high risk drinking.

Becknel also stressed the importance of maintaining good relationships with Home Park, Berkeley Park and Ansley Park since students need those neighborhoods for off-campus housing alternatives.

Becknel expressed his frustration with how GT SMART is perceived by the student body. Some students have criticized the program for, well, not doing anything at all.

“Binge drinking at Georgia Tech is a problem; how severe of a problem it is ranges from person to person,” Student Body President Chris

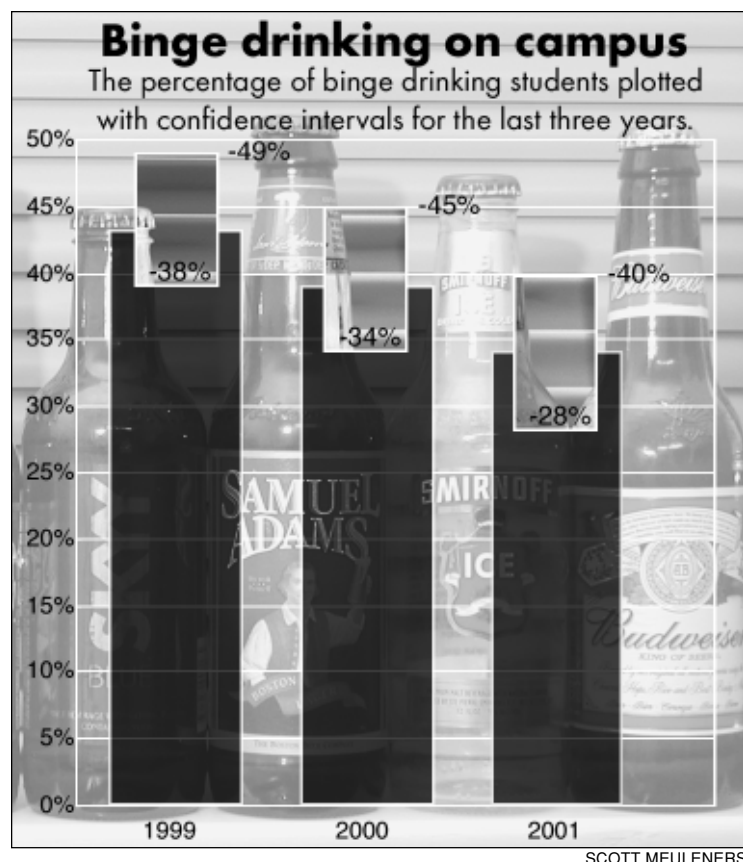
Kavanaugh said. “GT SMART’s role at Georgia Tech is worthwhile, but in order to be effective, they must communicate their goals to the student body. Currently, most students think they are here to make Georgia Tech a dry campus.”

Student sentiments and statistical squabbles aside, Wilcox feels that changing the peer culture will ultimately be the only effective way to reduce binge drinking.

“Changing something as complex and deeply rooted as binge drinking on college campuses is something that there is no quick fix to,” Wilcox said.

“That’s why we’re taking this broad environmental approach, looking at all sorts of different ways to affect the environment. The only thing that’s really going to change [the culture] in the long run is affecting student attitudes about drinking, and that just takes a long time.”

For additional information, please visit <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/cas> or <http://www.gtsmart.gatech.edu>.



**GSS**

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part in.

Enough Senators agreed, and the bill passed by a slim margin of 18-16 with three senators abstaining.

The Senators also considered the Joint Resolution on Student Domestic Partner Benefits that failed the House last week. In the Senate, the debate extremely differed from the debate that took place in the House. Most of the Senators were concerned with the technicalities and costs of the bill—who would define domestic partners, how much would such benefits cost the Institute, and who would foot that bill.

Undergraduate At-Large Representative Michael Handelman, the bill's author, was in attendance to explain the issue to the senators. He noted that a number of other institutions of higher education already provide domestic partner benefits. Each determines who a domestic partner is differently—some require long-term cohabitation, others re-

quire financial interdependence, and some even require legal affidavits.

Much of the discussion in the Senate also concentrated on the current Institute policy regarding domestic partner benefits. President Wayne Clough noted in his appearance before the Undergraduate House of Representatives this semester that official Institute policy would not change until the official Board of Regents policy changes.

A number of Senators wanted to pass the resolution and then allow SGA members to establish a committee to come up with guidelines for implementing a domestic partner benefits program for students. Such a program would equate long-term domestic partners with spouses of married students. Because the Student Government Association controls the budgets of the Student Athletic Center, the Student Center and other organizations, Handelman argued that it could ensure the access for domestic partners if it found such an action appropriate. The Senators tabled the bill.

caused the original problem. Constitutional amendments will have too be either run in the *Technique* or publicized in another appropriate manner.

Though some representatives expressed concern about the amount of voter turnout for the special election, Kavanaugh believes it will go well.

"I am not concerned at all about voter turnout. At over 30 percent, Georgia Tech is among the highest in voter turnout among all colleges and universities, where the average is eight percent," said Kavanaugh.

**Ferst**

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attract a number of national caliber acts to serve the entire Atlanta community while having plenty of student-oriented things as well. "We are a university-based center, so unlike the Fox Theatre where all of the acts are trying to make money, we are trying to at least break even, if not make money for certain things," said Wilcox. "But we know we're not going to make money for a lot of other things for students, such as band concerts or orchestra concerts. It [the strategic plan] calls for the balance."

Therefore, one of the first tasks for Constantz will be to figure out how to achieve this balance. According to Constantz, he is up to the task.

"The programming has to speak to the community," said Constantz. "It [the Ferst Center] needs to be a major resource for the cultural growth and entertainment of the students, faculty and staff at Tech. But it also has to satisfy the needs of the Atlanta community."

Although many are wondering if this change in structure is not a result of the financial and leadership troubles the center has experienced under Auxiliary Services, Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services Rosalind Meyers feels this is absolutely not the case.

"What he [President Clough] has told me and what he has put in some press releases is that he felt that he wanted to be more personally involved in the operation of the Ferst Center," said Meyers.

Wilcox said that this was one objective behind the president's de-



By Matthew Douglas Bryan / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**President Clough recently named a new director for the Robert Ferst Center who will now report to Student Affairs instead of Aux. Services.**

cision. "I meet weekly with President Clough and can therefore talk about what's happening with the center," said Wilcox. "The president wanted to be closer to the center and that's one of the reason he shifted responsibility here [Student Affairs] in that I report directly to him."

Furthermore, according to Meyers, this change is consistent with what has happened due to changes in the leadership of the Ferst Center in recent years. "A few years ago the Ferst Center director reported to the director of the Student Center," said Meyers.

"The position was raised to a higher level by having that person report to the Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services and now it's being raised to a higher level yet."

Wilcox agreed that Auxiliary Services has handled the financial obligation of the Ferst Center well. "I think Auxiliary Services has done a

very effective job in making sure that the center meets its financial obligations," said Wilcox.

Many are now wondering what changes the Office of Student Affairs will bring to the Ferst Center. As of right now Wilcox is just hoping to "get his feet wet" first before thinking about making any major changes. "There's no one thing that we're setting out to change right off the bat," said Wilcox.

However, Wilcox did voice a need to make the center more available for student use. "[Right now] students have to rent the place. I would like to review that and see if we can change the way we go about doing that," said Wilcox.

At this point, Wilcox feels that Constantz will be able to face any problems that he may incur with the Ferst Center. "I think Jay has tremendous experience and he will be able to recognize opportunities and understand what the pressures are," said Wilcox.

**SGA**

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nicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap in accordance with Federal and State Law. It also prohibits the chartering of organizations that discriminate or participate in activities that discriminate based on race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap in accordance with Federal and State Law.

The fourth amendment, which was added at the Tuesday meeting, adjusts the constitutional clause that