

FOCUS

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Bubbly in my tummy

Volcano, the smoothie and bubble tea cafe next to Ribs N' Blues in Tech Square, offers drinks to cool you down or warm you up. **Page 17**

It's time to Duke it out

How will Tech's basketball team rate against the No. 1 defense in the ACC? The *'Nique* previews this Saturday's game against Duke. **Page 31**



A Capella Club proves they can hit high note

Word of mouth, creative publicity and high-profile gigs have helped fuel the growth of the A Capella Club

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

Upon entering Room 203 of the Couch building, where the A Capella Club is rehearsing, the first thing you notice is how unorganized everything seems. The club's members are gathered in a ragged circle around the piano in the center of the room; in between songs they throw water bottles at each other, gossip and giggle. Even during songs, some members wander around the room as they sing the chorus.

"I enjoy being a part of this group, because I like singing... [but] the community here is just so great," John Hendrix, an Electrical Engineering freshman, said over the din of singing and piano playing in the background.

Though the two capella groups, the men's ensemble Sympathetic Vibrations and the women's ensemble Nothin' But Treble, have been around since 1998, this year has been a big one for them, according to Meg Morris, a third-year STAC major and president of the A Capella Club.

"Back when I joined the group in 2001, all of the arrangements we did were from other groups."

Madhu Adiga
Music Director, Nothin' But Treble

"We've completely changed," she said, "and this has all taken place over the last year."

For one thing, the group now sings mostly its own arrangements. "Back when Meg and I joined the group in 2001, all of the arrangements we did were from other groups," said Madhu Adiga, a third year Biochemistry major and the music director of Nothin' But Treble. "We did none of our own stuff."

"That's not exactly looked highly upon in a capella circles," Morris added.

Nowadays, however, any member of the group can arrange their own music, using a program called Finale that allows them to hear the product as it is being

composed. For example, one of the pieces in their current repertoire is Evanescence's "Bring Me To Life," which Adiga arranged. "It's gradually grown until we're doing all of our own stuff," she said.

"Especially being at Tech and being a science major, I need some kind of musical outlet," said Adiga. "For me, it's an awesome creative outlet because now I'll hear songs on the radio and I'm like, oh, we



By Jennifer Lee / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The women's a capella ensemble, Nothin' But Treble, rehearses Evanescence's "Bring Me To Life," which was arranged by one of its members. Performing their own arrangements is one way the group has recently grown.

can arrange that."

The A Capella Club also recently came under the umbrella of the music department. Traditionally, the group has always strived to maintain their independence from the department, due to differences in

expectations. For example, the previous choral director insisted that members of the club also participate in the more "official" ensembles of chorale or chamber choir.

"The guys especially weren't cool with that," Adiga explained. "We

run our own practices, we set our own practice times, we run our own auditions...[so] we've always been scared that we're going to lose our identity and our autonomy as a

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Pendleton-Parker meets President

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

It is nearly impossible for a newcomer to walk into Billiee Pendleton-Parker's office and not gape at her wallpapering of hundreds of colorful photographs, posters and magnets.

The visitor, after recovering from this initial shock, may notice her other decorations and trinkets that compound this effect, including the

shelf of small games sitting in one corner, the furniture and bookshelves and boxes that crowd the room, and the bowl of candy ready for the taking. It is perhaps the liveliest, friendliest, most colorful and vivid room on the Georgia Tech campus.

"I absolutely love to surround myself with things and people that I love," Pendleton-Parker said, the Assistant Director for the Center for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL).

If her office is a reflection of her personality, then it may come as no surprise that she was selected among several candidates by White House officials to greet President George W. Bush, who he flew in to Atlanta to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. in memoriam two weeks ago.

In an effort to promote volunteerism as part of the USA Freedom Corps program, a volunteer-oriented office of the White House, President Bush often requests a short meeting with one or more community volunteers when he visits a U.S. city.

Pendleton-Parker was nominated by Hands on Atlanta, a nonprofit community organization, for her work at the King's Bridge Retirement Community as well as her history of active volunteerism.

"Billiee is involved in just about every major cause in the city: homelessness, AIDS, senior services, discrimination, cancer, youth support, sexual assault, digital divide," said Scott Jackson, a Tech alumnus and close friend of Pendleton-Parker's.

Her adventures began on Tuesday, Jan. 13, when she received an urgent call from Hands on Atlanta. "I had seven messages on my cell phone... five on the office machine, 12 emails," she said. "[They] were trying to ask me [if I] would like to be nominated...to meet the Presi-

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Organizational stipends only secondary consideration for most campus leaders

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

A few students approached the Student Government Association earlier this month concerned that some leaders of Tier 2 student organizations are paid with SGA-funded stipends while others are not.

SGA is presently taking steps to address the issue, although Ben

Lawder, a fourth-year Management major and the Vice President of Campus Affairs, assured that it is not a widespread concern among most Tier 2 leaders at this time and will not affect most students.

"I wouldn't say it's a controversy," Lawder said. "Several people just raised a broad concern to the SGA office that some people get paid [while] other people [are not]. Since then, we've looked into it."

Organizations on campus that

are included in SGA's budget are classified into three tiers based on the method of funding and overall function in campus life.

Tier 2 organizations are comprised of student governing bodies such as SGA, Student Center Programs Council, all five student publications and WREK radio, among others. The rest of the organizations on campus belong to Tier 3, though only a

small percentage of Tier 3 organizations are actually funded by SGA.

Many of the top Tier 2 leaders are paid for their work from the SGA during their

terms, but this practice has raised some concern among other students in Tier 2 organizations who are not given monetary rewards.

"Part of the [concern is] that some people on campus get paid to do their jobs, [while] other people might have just as busy a

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Photo courtesy Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Billiee Pendleton-Parker, Assistant Director of CETL, was nominated by Hands on Atlanta to greet President Bush at the airport when he visited Atlanta for MLK, Jr. Day. She also received an award for her volunteerism.

College freshman show increased interest in political activity

By **Rebecca Oberholtzer**
Daily Collegian

(U-WIRE) For the first time in about 30 years, college freshmen are becoming more interested in politics, according to a report by an educational institute released Monday.

About 34 percent of students surveyed in fall 2003 said following politics is important, compared to 28.1 percent in 2000, a record low, according to the 38th annual survey by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles.

"We are coming into a presidential election year, and we always see more interest in election years."

Jessica Hopkins
President, Penn State College Democrats

Jessica Hopkins, president of Pennsylvania State University College Democrats, said two factors come to mind in relation to the increase.

"The first is that we are coming into a presidential election year, and we always see more interest in election years. The second, being that this is the highest rise in 30 years, it's interesting because the Vietnam war was going on at that time," Hopkins said.

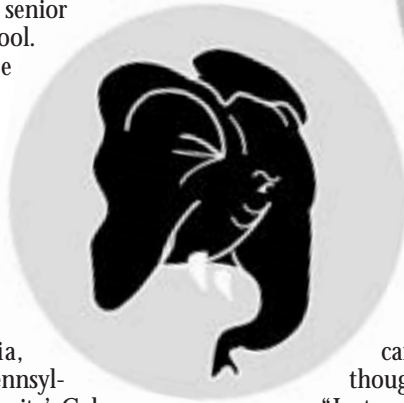
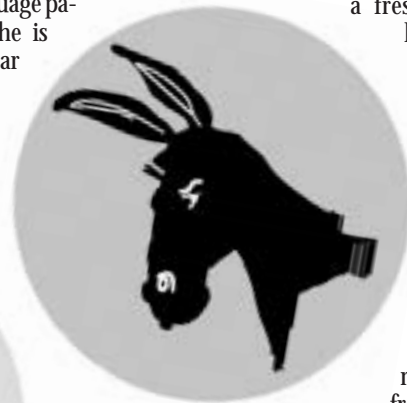
She said the Iraq conflict is not necessarily comparable to Vietnam, but it causes division in politics and causes people to look at the issues.

The survey's data was based on responses of 276,449 students at 413 U.S. baccalaureate colleges and universities.

Students were surveyed upon entering school in the fall, and their responses were based on their behaviors and ideologies from the previous year, which in most cases was their senior year in high school.

"I think the biggest factor in determining students' involvement with politics is where they grow up and how they grow up," said Brian Battaglia, president of Pennsylvania State University's College Republicans.

Joyce Olsen, graduate speech and language pathology, said she is in her second year of graduate school, and the time that has passed



since her freshman year has been significant in shaping her thoughts.
"Just over the years, you learn so much. You could not

be interested in something as a freshman but then learn more about it and really care four years later."

Jason Smutz, freshman psychology major, said he thinks it would be interesting to hear a follow-up report in four years from those surveyed

in the study this fall.
"I think a lot would change. Students are graduating, and they are depending more on the government for stuff," Smutz said.

Hopkins said it's hard for her to say whether she thinks students' ideas

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Come to the Photo staff meetings ... Thursday at 6 p.m. in Room 137 of the Flag Building

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time and don't get paid anything," Lawder said. "There's no standardization, and that's being brought up before those groups in order to implement a more standardized style."

Lawder explained that the leaders of many of these organizations receive stipends for a reason. "These positions take up quite a bit of time," he said. "You're in meetings all the time, or you're dealing with students, or you're working on the newspaper...and so you can't really have...a part time job, so this is supposed to kind of take that role."

These monetary compensations are small compared to regular working wages. Students in the highest-paid positions earn approximately \$5000 a year, and stipends quickly drop from there.

Nevertheless, several Tier 2 student leaders surveyed said that they agreed with this philosophy, citing their own positions as examples.

Pelham Norville, the President of the Graduate SGA, provided an extensive list of board meetings, committees, planning meetings for a variety of special functions, regular meetings with individual students and administrators and various public appearances as part of his responsibilities.

His undergraduate counterpart, Nate Watson, carries out similar duties as well as trying "to attend as many campus events as possible so that I can talk to people about what is going on."

"I find that the typical load is...30 to 35 hours per week," Watson said, requiring "sacrifices...in the are-

nas of social life, sleep and academics."

Other Tier 2 organizations serve different functions, but their leaders still usually find themselves with similar commitments. Jeff Smith, President of the Student Center Programs Council, cited a number of organization and coordination meetings on top of his general duties as a representative of the SCPC at a variety of events.

He estimated at least 10-20 hours of work a week and supports stipends because "my position requires an extreme amount of commitment. I always have to be thinking about the future and where the Student Center is headed...If I was not compensated, I feel that, unfortunately, I would be forced to get a part-time job."

Jonathan Trimm, Editor-in-Chief of the *Blueprint*, agreed, stating "I do not think a student on this campus would work for the *Blueprint* if there was not some sort of monetary reward. The whole process just takes too much time and too much effort." He calculated at least 16 hours a week spent planning and organizing the yearbook as well as conducting meetings with section editors and performing various administrative tasks.

However, the stipends Trimm and others receive are usually too

small to be the primary motivator for accepting their positions.

"I didn't even bother to look and see how much it was going to be for when I decided I wanted this job," Norville said, adding, "I think...in most cases, the people who work hard, and earn the money that they receive, are motivated by other factors."

As a result, some students see the issue of stipends as unnecessary, because "people...feel that they're doing it because they love Georgia Tech and they want to make a difference on campus, not because they're doing it for any sort of paycheck," said Lawder.

Lawder cited his own position as an example. His own list of responsibilities—which includes a variety of weekly administrative and committee meetings, coordination of all Campus Affairs Board Committee Chairs, office hours, meetings with individual administrators and planning of special events—is comparable to that of other SGA officials who do receive stipends. Last semester's campus-wide trip to Six Flags, for instance, "took about 400 hours of my time to pull off," he said.

He added that SGA has acknowledged the students' concerns and is taking steps to address the issue.

In order to detect the trends in student payments on campus, SGA has compiled a report listing all student leaders who receive stipends as well as other money budgeted toward organizations like student publications.

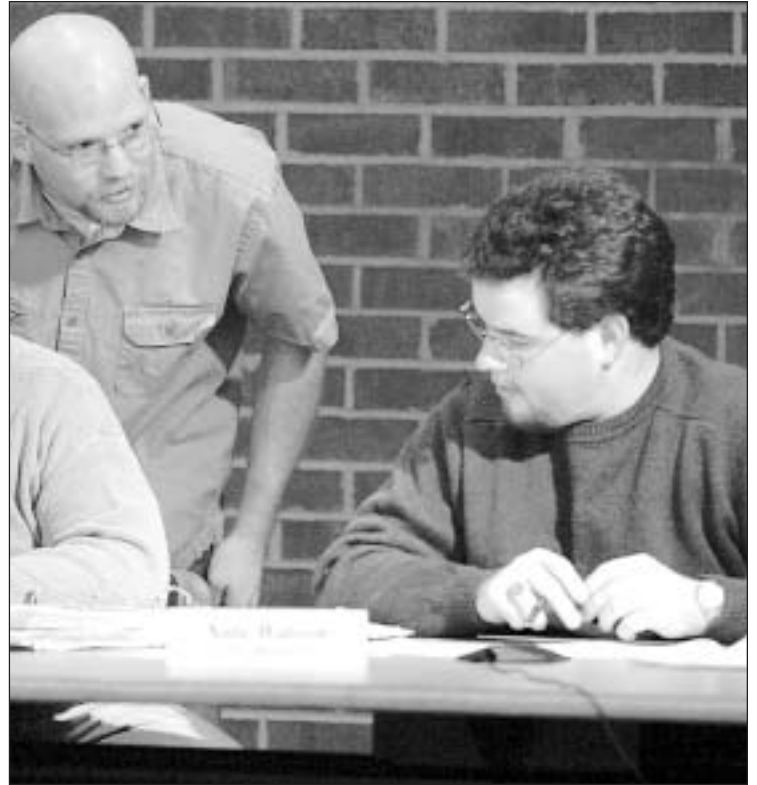
The report also contains financial information of other important student institutions, such as the Res-

"If I was not compensated, I feel that, unfortunately, I would be forced to get a part time job."

Jeff Smith
President, Student Center Programs Council

"[People] feel that they're doing it because they...want to make a difference on campus, not...for any sort of paycheck."

Ben Lawder
VP Campus Affairs



By Peter Jensen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

As Undergraduate SGA President, Nate Watson receives a stipend, as do students who hold various other positions within Tier 2 organizations such as the *Technique*, WREK and Student Center Programs Council.

2003-04 Student Organization Stipends

A sampling of what various Tier 2 leaders are paid yearly:

Undergraduate SGA President	\$4,582.00
Undergraduate SGA Vice President	\$2,291.00
Student Center Programs Council President	\$3,000.00
Student Center Programs Council Webmaster	\$4,320.00
<i>Technique</i> Editor-in-Chief	\$4,480.00
<i>Blueprint</i> Editor-in-Chief	\$4,000.00
WREK General Manager	\$1,800.00
RHA President	\$1,890.00

idential Housing Association, which receives funding from the Housing Department, and student assistants, who are paid differently depending on the department they work for.

Lawder said that the issue will likely be placed on the agenda of a future SGA meeting, where it may be subject to public debate. There they will decide whether or not to pursue further courses of action, al-

though they have already discussed the issue with leaders of other organizations to gain a general feel for the campus' stance on the matter.

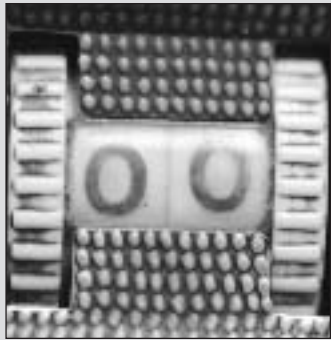
The Joint Finance Committee, which makes financial recommendations to the SGA, is also "working on a policy to standardize stipends and make a formal policy on who will receive them and how they are allocated," according to Lawder.

Winner receives a free *Technique* T-shirt

Tech Up Close

Last week's winner:

Danny Nguyen



Last week's Tech
Up Close:

Score counter on pool
tables in Tech and
Brittain Rec

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

in the real world you
have to write

clearly
cleanly
concisely

we can teach
you how

TECHNIQUE

Bush

from page 11

dent, so of course my answer was 'yes.'"

Two phone interviews with White House officials and one Social Security number mishap later, she received the call confirming the opportunity. She took the offer, she said, not for political reasons, but to discuss and promote her voluntary causes.

"I was representing... Hands on Atlanta [and] Georgia Tech, my student volunteers here and volunteers in general," she said, "so... it was my chance to talk with him about volunteerism."

Pendleton-Parker arrived at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport that Thursday and was taken to a private field where Air Force One would touch down.

After Bush landed and exchanged pleasantries with two Atlanta dignitaries, he walked over and introduced himself to Pendleton-Parker, giving her five minutes alone with

him.

The experience, she said, was surreal. "The impact of this didn't hit me [until] the night before when one of the advance people... said, 'I want you to know that, on any given day, the President is never alone with anyone... except up to five people, and tomorrow, you are one of those.' And [I thought], 'Ooookay,' cause we were *alone*. No Secret Service. I mean, they were watching, but to have the President's... ear for five minutes!"

However, it was also fun, she said. She felt very comfortable in the President's presence, a trait of his personality that she admired.

"He was charming," she recalled. "He said, 'Well, so how are things going?' and I'm thinking, that's the President of the United States asking how things are going, so what do I say?"

She spent her five minutes discussing volunteerism, as planned, without any inhibition. "I said... 'I want to tell you some things that

perhaps you don't know, some behind the scenes stories,'" she said. "I had many good friends who work at Hands on Atlanta... so there were some things that I shared with him that you know people just don't

"I'm thinking, that's the President of the United States asking how things are going, so what do I say?"

Billie Pendleton-Parker
Assistant Director, CETL

know."

And as a naturally affectionate person, she found herself repeatedly laying a gentle hand on the President's arm, an act that appalled the reporters who swarmed around her following her meeting. However,

she lauded both the press' and the Secret Service's kindness throughout the process, dismissing the horror stories often associated with both entities.

"This [was] a very low-key story," she said, "and so it was just one at a time in turn."

She had already had to contend with reporters beforehand, anyway. The evening before, a CBS-TV news crew paid her a special visit as she worked at King's Bridge, filming her activities for a short news documentary. ABC had its own encounter with her office when they conducted its own interview the following morning.

Pendleton-Parker was given another fifteen minutes of fame two days later, when she was presented with the highly prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award at a special church service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. The award is a presidential recognition for lifelong commitment to volunteer service at home or aboard. As a recipient,

Pendleton-Parker had a special seat in the second row, where she saw Coretta Scott King and her escort, U2's Bono, in person.

"The young people just went wacko," she said about Bono's unexpected appearance. "'Bono! Aaahhh!'"

Both experiences have had a remarkable impact on her life, she said. While the emotional implications are still processing, the effect her recognition has had on those who know her have been extremely heartening.

And those who know her can't imagine a more appropriate recipient for the honors.

"It's her completely genuine, selfless spirit," Jackson said. "It's the untainted purity she shows when she gives, and it's her undying mission to infect everyone around her with the same philanthropic attitude."

He added, "It was quite an honor for Bush to have the opportunity to meet BP-P."