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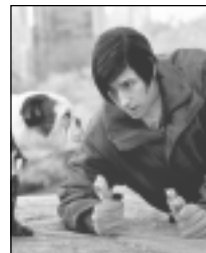
Serving Georgia Tech since 1911 • Volume 86, Issue 15 • 36 pages

The whole truth about parking tickets, towing, and your car.

CAMPUS LIFE page 13

Adam Sandler stars as the devil's son in the new release *Little Nicky*.

ENTERTAINMENT page 19



Opinions 8 • Campus Life 13 • Entertainment 19 • Comics 26 • Sports 36

Housing discusses smoking policy change

The Department of Housing contemplates a change to dormitory smoking policy that could add smoke-free rooms or designate entire buildings as non-smoking.

By Kim Holton
News Staff

Following inquiries to the Department of Housing about offering more "non-smoking" spaces, Housing has discussed changing the current smoking policy for dormitory buildings.

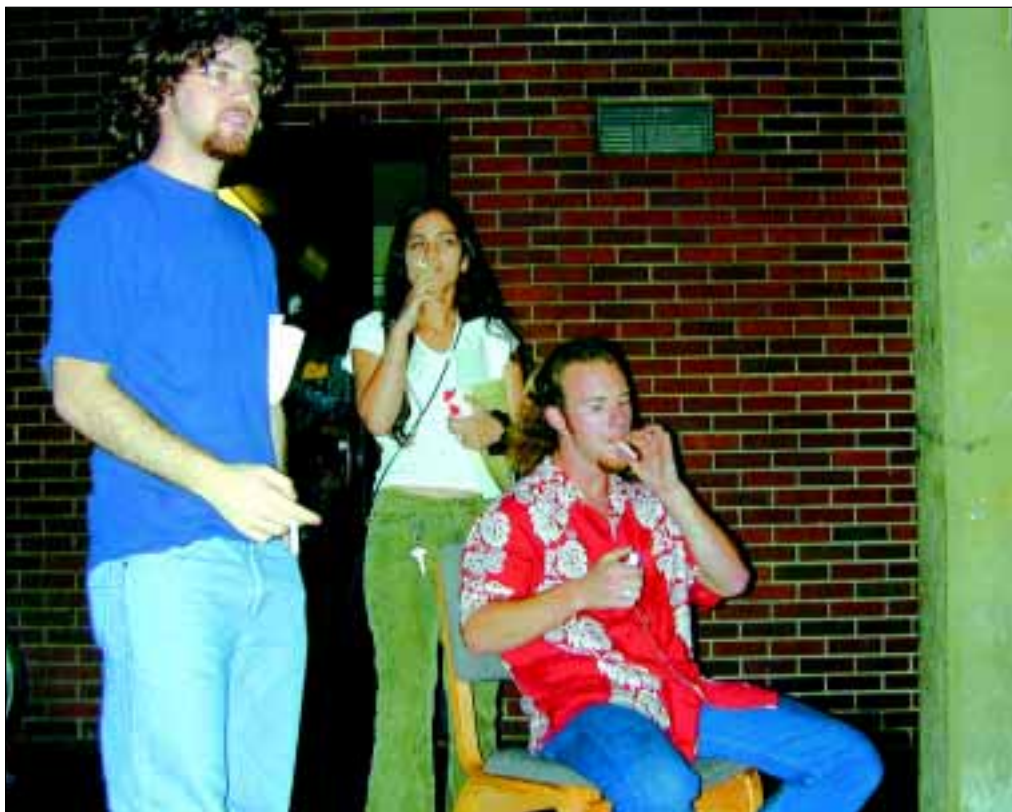
"There has not been a huge outcry," said Dan Morrison, Associate Director of Housing, Residence Life. "Each year, we in the Department speak with residents RHA [Residence Hall Association] leaders, student staff and others to look at policies to see if any need modifying or outright changing. This was one of the issues that arose."

The current policy does not restrict smoking in dorm rooms but leaves the issue to be decided among roommates. If changed, Housing could offer non-smoking floors or make all dorms smoke-free.

Morrison offered a possible scenario for starting small-scale change.

"We will more than likely declare several Freshman Experience halls 'smoke-free' for Fall 2001. At the same time, we will work with RHA to establish a plan to phase in some 'smoke-free' buildings in each upper-class living style—traditional, suite, apartment—for the 2002 academic year."

At this time, Housing has no plan to change the policy for upper-class housing.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Guillermo Christen, Ujala Qadir, and Brian Willson take a Wednesday night cigarette break between Field and Hopkins dorms. Housing may change dorm smoking policy in coming months.

"We do not yet know how many of our returning residents are smokers, because we do not ask this question when one signs up for their second, third or fourth years on campus," said Morrison. "We need to create, with RHA's and SGA's assistance, a plan to both determine the interest in upperclass students, as well as to determine a way to

move students around in the upperclass halls."

"Currently, our room selection process allows students who receive a selection number to stay in their room. We will have to re-work this process, or we will never be able to get smokers 'out' of certain buildings."

Currently, RHA and SGA are assisting Housing in finding

the most suitable options for students regarding smoking and dorm life.

In the last few weeks, hall councils have been polled for student opinion. In coming weeks, residents could see town hall meetings or other forums in discussion of the issue.

See *Smoke*, page 7

Engineering school proposes undergrad biomedical program

By Elizabeth Costner
News Staff

Although Tech currently offers several graduate programs related to the emerging bioengineering field, opportunities for undergrads wishing to study such topics have previously been limited to a handful of classes.

However, the department may soon expand to offer an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering.

"[Due to the] recent, rapid developments in biotechnology and the better understanding that employers have of the field, there is a more sizeable job market for undergraduates with biomedical engineering degrees," said Dr. Paul Benkeser, Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies in Biomedical Engineering.

Establishing a new major requires completion of a three step process.

First, the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee must review the proposed curriculum and recommend the curriculum for approval by the Academic Senate. Once the Academic Senate approves the program, the proposal is sent to the Board of Regents for final approval.

At this point, the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee has unanimously approved the curriculum. The Academic Senate will review the proposal at their December 5 meeting.

If the proposal passes in the Academic Senate, the Board of Regents will then review the proposal for a required ninety day evaluation period. Once the Board of Regents grants the program its final approval, the major can be introduced into the Tech curriculum.

See *BME*, page 5

Feature Photo Presidential Elections



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Ramses Ramirez drops his vote into the Student Center ballot box. Students waited in lines for up to 90 minutes in order to choose their candidate; many were voting in their first presidential election.

Auxiliary Services continues search for future director of Ferst Center

By Tony Klumper
Assistant News Editor

When John Talbott left his position as director of the Ferst Center for the Arts in October after two years as director, many questioned what plan of action Auxiliary Services would take to name a new director for the Center. However, as we approach the end of the semester, a permanent director has yet to be named.

In fact, according to Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services Rosalind Meyers the department has decided to take its time in finding a new director.

"We are really not that far along in the process. We have determined a job description, have begun advertising the position, and have reviewed some resumes. But other than that the process is still just beginning," said Meyers.

Meyers feels that Auxiliary Ser-

vices wants to take its time in making this decision because hiring a theater director is often a detailed process.

"Hiring a theater director is not like hiring an accountant. There are a lot more good accountants out there than there are good theater directors," said Meyers.

However according to Meyers the Ferst Center should have no problem finding qualified applicants to fill the position even after Auxiliary Services made the decision to cut 18 of this year's shows.

"I think we are a very highly respected and well known program," said Meyers.

"We cancelled [the shows] for this year because we used the knowledge that we gained from last year, and so we focused on keeping the performers that we felt would do well. And I want to stress that we still have about 30 different shows, which will still provide a wide vari-

ety."

Furthermore, Auxiliary Services feels that there are many factors that will enable them to take their time before naming a new director. "Well we already have all of our programming planned for this year, so we're not in a great hurry to fill the position and right now we have someone in the position [interim director] who is doing very well," said Meyers. "We also have two other positions open at the Ferst Center which we feel are more urgent."

Since Talbott resigned, Andrea Hoffer, a former programming director of the Student Center has been serving as interim director of the Center. According to Meyers, Hoffer left the Student Center a few months before Talbott left to pursue another job opportunity. "But when the job as interim director came up I knew she had the market-

See *Ferst*, page 7

School of Physics lists evening quizzes on OSCAR web

By Neeraj Kumar
News Staff

Starting with the Spring 2001 semester, the Physics department will be reinstating a system attempted earlier this semester for taking exams with a common evening exam time for all students.

Quizzes will be held once every few weeks, and students will be allowed ninety minutes of testing time. Also, the test forms will be the same for every student, regardless of professor. The exam is listed in the OSCAR as an additional class day; however, it will only apply when there is an exam (approximately once every three weeks).

This new system is being implemented by Professor Michael Schatz, coordinator for Physics 2211, in cooperation with the rest of the Physics Department.

This quizzing schedule is not completely untested; in fact, it was tried at the beginning of this semester for current Physics 2211 students. However, since the quiz schedule had not been announced beforehand or published in the OSCAR, the Physics department had to go through an extensive search through every student's schedule to find the time that

would cause the least conflicts with other classes or events.

Professors chose Monday evenings from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. as the time to administer the exams. This schedule not only allowed the students a longer time period to complete the exam, but it also freed up extra class times for lecture.

In response to complaints by some students about the inconvenience they experienced due to the exam times and concerns that these exams infringed upon time needed

for various extra-curricular activities, Nate Watson, Freshman Representative and Chair of the SGA Academic Priorities Committee, proposed a bill to the Student Government Association against the evening exams. The bill was approved with no dissenting votes

and two abstentions.

Watson felt that the opinion of SGA was that having Physics tests in the evenings opens up the opportunity for other departments to do the same, potentially creating so many student-faculty contact hours that numerous extra-curricular activities would become unfeasible.

If the Physics department presented a valid case for having evening

"We are trying to do things that will help the students... we are viewing this as an experiment."

Michael Schatz
Physics Professor



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Physics 2211 student Gabe Willis participates in a lab on statics. Students taking 2211 next semester will have additional quiz hours added to the course, which already includes four lecture hours and a three-hour lab.

exams, and such a proposal were accepted by the Student Government, then a precedent could be set allowing other departments to also schedule exams at night. In addition, the fact that the Physics department made this change without prior notification to the students was another point of contention.

Although the Physics department

stopped the evening tests after the first two due to opposition, the department obtained several positive results. After the next exam was given during the normal lecture hour, students were given an anonymous survey asking them to compare the two different testing environments.

Professor Larry Suduth estimates that approximately one-half to two-

thirds of the students completed this survey, with the result that about eighty-percent of the students preferred the evening exams to the lecture ones. Several students confirmed this by saying that the time pressure was removed, allowing them to concentrate fully on the questions.

See *Physics*, page 4

News briefs

Erato coffee house next week at Under the Couch

Erato, Georgia Tech's literary and art magazine, will present a coffee house next Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, and the night will feature poetry readings, music, and drama. The event will be held at Under the Couch, and everyone is invited to come, listen, and participate.

Erato would also like to remind all students that they are now accepting submissions for their next edition. Anyone who has poetry, short stories, or artwork to submit should contact dspubera@prism for more information.

Omega Phi Alpha to sponsor Sickle Cell toy drive

The National Service Sorority, Omega Phi Alpha, will hold a Toy Drive to benefit the Sickle Cell Foundation from today until Friday, December 8. Anyone wishing to donate a toy to the drive, should contact Candace Swint at gre051f@prism.

Freshmen Cabinet looking for student disc jockeys

The SGA Freshmen Cabinet is now looking for any student interested in serving as a disc jockey on Skiles walkway on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. If interested, please contact jskilesgt@sga.gatech.edu by November 18.

Team Buzz Community Service Day this Saturday

The fourth annual Team Buzz Community Service Day will be held this Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anyone who registered to participate in a project needs to meet at the Campanille Fountain for the Kickoff Rally from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., unless it was noted that the selected project started earlier.

Breakfast will be served at the Campanille until 9:00 a.m. for all participants. Most of the projects will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and the day will close at 1:30 p.m. with the celebration party to be held in the Festivals Area of Bobby Dodd Stadium (under the West Side stands).

Photography Club accepting officer applications

The Photography Club is now accepting applications for officer positions, including President, Vice President, and Treasurer. This new organization promotes creative photography around campus. Applications will be accepted until November 17, and can be dropped off in the Assistant Photography Editor box in the Student Publications office, room 137 of the Student Services building.

To obtain an application or find out more information, e-mail Alisa Hawkins at gte463j@prism.gatech.edu.

The first meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, November 28, in room 321 of the Student Center at 8:00 p.m.

Successful entrepreneurs speaker series visits campus

Come listen to successful entrepreneurs speak about their experiences and the lessons they have learned at an event to be held today in the Wardlaw Building.

The event is open to the entire GT community and the series features numerous successful entrepreneurs who can offer advice while sharing their success stories. The series will take place from 5:00-6:00 tonight.

Got news? Announcements? Send your briefs to the news desk! E-mail news@technique.gatech.edu

Council Clippings UHR

'Loop' gives students, SGA connection

By Mary DeCamp
News Staff

The November 7 meeting of the Undergraduate House of Representatives saw a variety of speakers and discussions which covered a wide range of topics.

President J.R. Spriggle mentioned "The Loop," which is a program in consideration that would, with the help of Cyberbuzz, allow the Student Government Association (SGA) to send interested students noteworthy news and information regarding SGA. The program could send information including minutes from meetings and more in-depth coverage of other topics and issues in student government.

Spriggle also brought up the fact that the library will not be open 24 hours at any point during this semester.

Erica Young, Vice President of Campus Affairs, reminded everyone that SAC's One Night Stand would take place on December 1.

Some of the Freshman Aides discussed their plan to have a disc jockey play music on Skiles Walkway on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. These are considered to be the times that the greatest number of students can benefit from the music.

Some of the Freshman Aides discussed their plan to have a disc jockey play music on Skiles Walkway...

Chair of the Governmental and External Affairs Committee Christine McIntyre and five other SGA members spoke of their experience at the Student Advisory Council.

The Board of Regents created this Council so that students

can come together and help their Student Government Associations improve student life.

The representatives attended different committees and helped to propose and pass legislation that would be more beneficial to colleges and college students throughout the state of Georgia, such as course survey availability to students and the use of a contract administrator to examine and review contracts.

Dean of Students Gail DiSabatino reminded everyone that the Flag Debate, sponsored by the Diversity Forum, will take place on Wednesday, November 15, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Dean Gail also mentioned the "Deck the Atrium" party, which will be held on November 30.

Rich Steele, Director of the Student Center, spoke of the plans to expand the Student Center into the Bookstore Mall Area. He said that the Student Center Expansion Task

See UHR, page 4



By Marques McMillan / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Undergraduate representatives vote on one of the scores of bills that are proposed each semester. UHR meets on Tuesday evenings in the Student Services, or "Flag" Building, at 7:30 p.m. Contact your rep for more info.

UHR

Force would be working hard to determine the best way to allocate this space.

Several bills were presented before the representatives.

A bill was brought up for the allocation of money for the Women's Soccer Club to travel to a tournament in Texas. The bill passed.

The Student Center Program Board brought up two bills before the representatives.

The first was from the Festival Committee, which asked for money to help finance the annual "Festival Behind the Fence." The bill passed, granting the Festival Committee \$4,560.

The second came from the Concert Committee, which asked for funds to help finance possible concerts in the future. After some amendments, this bill passed, allocating \$2,975 to the Concert Committee.

The Chess Club asked for funding for equipment costs and other essentials. This bill passed, allocating nearly \$800 to the Chess Club.

Three groups presented three separate bills, each asking to be granted charter so that they might have the benefits that are enjoyed by official student organizations. Each of these bills passed.

The first group was the Light of the Messiah, which is a group that

discusses Jesus' role as a Messiah.

The second group was the Sports and Canoe Kayak Club, which enjoys competing in sports events.

The third group was Helping Youth Through Peer Education (HYPE). This group focuses on reaching out to youth.

The Undergraduate House of Representatives convenes weekly in room 117 of the Student Services building at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday evenings. Contact your representative for more information or to voice your opinion on a UHR issue. All Georgia Tech students are welcome to attend the weekly house meetings.

from page 3

Physics

from page 2

According to physics professors, the merits of having evening tests are not only improved grades for students, but also standardization of the exams and more classroom teaching time. The exams will be written jointly by all professors teaching the course, and so no class will have an unfair advantage in grades due to different grading policies or difficulty levels. Although each professor loses some individual freedom by having common exams, the department is optimistic that the benefits will outweigh that negative aspect.

In addition, since there are usually about six exams in the entire

semester, six additional class periods will be freed up, allowing professors to go at a slightly more relaxed speed.

Professor Schatz is optimistic about this approach to the problem of the exams.

"We are trying to do things that will help the students," he said, adding that "we are viewing this as an experiment."

If the testing meets with unfavorable results, he said that the Physics department will come up with an alternate solution.

"It is important to remember that this is not set in stone." As of right now there are no plans to implement a similar plan for any other class within the Physics department or in any other department.

BME

from page 1

Town meeting on Georgia state flag debate slated for next week

By Jody Shaw
Managing Editor

The confederate flag debate that engulfed South Carolina during the presidential primaries and much of the last year comes to Georgia Tech next Wednesday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. when the diversity forum presents "A State Divided: The Flag Debate" at the Clary Theatre in the Student Success Center.

"We felt like the ground was fertile and the time was right for this discussion. We felt that it was right to have that discussion here on campus, and to get our students thinking about this issue and thinking...about things that affect our community, our state, and our nation," said Chris Young, Student Life Fellow and moderator for the town hall meeting.

During the two-hour event two state senators, Senator Joey Brush and Senator David Scott, will engage in a dialogue about the many issues surrounding the Georgia State flag. Brush, a Republican from district 24, represents the northern Augusta area. Scott, a Democratic legislator from district 36, represents the portion of Atlanta that includes Grady Memorial Hospital.

"Both of these men are distinguished legislators...these men come from two different worlds and have two different perspectives, but they are very committed to their perspectives and we thought that they

would be the best people to speak to our audience on the two different sides," said Young.

Each senator will open with a three-minute opening statement about his feeling on the flag. Young will then provide the questions and structure the debate for the next forty-five minutes.

"My intention as moderator is

"Our goal is to educate people in a neutral way about what the issues are on both sides."

Chris Young
Student Life Fellow

to make sure every angle that we can possibly cover in those two hours gets covered," said Young.

The remaining time will be filled with questions from the audience. Attendees will be able to submit questions to the senators in written form.

Because the event is open to the general public, members of the diversity forum will screen the questions for their appropriateness to ensure that no particular group or organization uses the town hall to propagate its feelings on the flag

issue.

In 1956 the Georgia General Assembly changed the design of the state flag to one that incorporates the highly controversial confederate battle flag.

Like today's flag, the previous design included the state seal on a blue field on the left portion of the flag. However, the old version contained three horizontal bars—red, white, and red—on the right portion of the flag in an adaptation of the confederacy's "stars and bars," rather than the battle flag it contains today.

The battle flag, which flew over the confederate armies, is commonly associated by some with slavery, racism, and secessionism.

"It means different things to different people. To some people it is a symbol of honor—the fight of the ancestors and the confederacy, the men who fought and strove for independence."

"To other people it is a symbol of division, a symbol of racism, of bigotry. It reminds people of a time of oppression and slavery. You have two very polarized views on what the flag is," said Young.

Many individuals question the motives of the men who voted to change the flag to its current design. These people contend that the flag was changed in opposition to forced integration after the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. the Board of Education*.

See *Flag*, page 7

Following this timetable, the major will be available for the freshman class entering in Fall 2001.

Upperclassman will also be able to transfer into biomedical engineering, but all of the required courses will not be offered immediately. With the addition of more faculty to the department, more classes will be offered and available throughout the next and upcoming years. For example, the first third year classes will not be offered before Fall 2002.

Biomedical engineering is the intersection of engineering, medicine, and biology. The range of jobs available for biomedical engineers include

designing prosthetic limbs and other damaged body parts as well as developing computer systems to monitor patients during surgery and designing artificial materials for implant. The biomedical engineer brings an engineering perspective to the new developments in medicine.

Georgia Tech currently offers a Master's program in bioengineering, a Ph. D. in bioengineering, and a joint Ph. D. program with Emory in biomedical engineering. Minor programs in biomedical engineering are also available for students. However, with semester conversion many students are unable to fulfill

the requirements for a minor in addition to their required major classes.

After graduation, "at our peer universities, a third of the students go on to medical school, a third continue on to graduate school, and the final third work in industry," said Benkeser.

Biomedical engineering is more specialized than other engineering majors so the job market is smaller. However, "various segments of industry have made significant investments into the field. The state of Georgia, for example, is encouraging the development of industries in biomedical engineering within the state."

"This major will give students another option. They will be able to keep up with the way the field is changing both in industry and other businesses that employ engineering graduates," said Benkeser.

"I'm happy that Tech is going to offer biomedical engineering," said Freshman Christina Weise, future biomedical engineering major.

"There is so much unnecessary suffering that our technology should be able to relieve. With the high standards Tech sets for each of its programs, this major will be geared toward developing the latest solutions."

"There is a more sizeable job market for undergraduates with biomedical engineering degrees."

Dr. Paul J. Benkeser
Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies in Biomedical Engineering.

Ferst

from page 1

ing and programming skills to do the job and offered her the job," said Meyers. "This is a real learning experience for her."

When asked what Auxiliary Services is looking for in a new director, Meyers stated four different skills: the ability to relate to students, the knowledge of how to deal with the agencies that represent artists, good organization skills, and a kind of person that can communicate with all types of people.

"It has to be someone who can really relate to the students. To give an example, the current acting director has worked with the Student Center and in the spring we are offering an options class to in understanding the opera Aida," said Meyers.

"Since we are going to be having the opera next semester, and we know that a lot of students don't know much about the opera and may not

be interested in going because they say they don't know what it is about. So this options class will allow students to go and learn something about the opera so when they go in they will know a little bit about what they are seeing. So it needs to be someone who can organize programs like that."

Although Auxiliary Services has already started receiving applications and resumes from potential directors, Meyers wants to make it aware that a decision will not be made without student input. "While we have received applications, we haven't really started seriously looking at the applicants to make a decision," said Meyers.

"We plan to form a committee with student representatives to look over the applications and make a recommendation. [The committee] will probably be organized sometime early next semester."

Smoke

from page 1

Morrison stresses that a decision on the smoking issue falls in the hands of the students.

"If the students do not want such changes, we in the Department [of Housing] are reluctant to implement them," said Morrison.

"Since I don't smoke, changing the policy doesn't affect me. However, I understand the reasons behind the request. It is something worth investigation," said freshman management major Kimberly DeCarrera. "I don't smoke. But it would be nice to know that in the future, I wouldn't have to worry about having future room that smells like smoke," said freshman Sarah Davies.

Students who smoke shared differing opinions on a possible change.

Amanda Newman, a second-year biology student, said "I think that

its great to respect other people's wishes and dislike of smoking, like your roommate's, but I do think that there should be a smoking lounge, at least one smoking lounge in each of the buildings, so that we don't freeze in the wintertime. Because you have to respect everybody.

CS major Guillermo Christen said "I think that stopping smoking in the dorms would be an intrusion to civil liberties. Cutting your right to smoke in a dorm is definitely an intrusion."

Other students saw a different perspective while they sought cover from Wednesday's rain showers.

"I believe that smoking in dorms should not be allowed, because if it were allowed, I wouldn't have met half of my friends that smoke outside with me," said Ujala Qadir.

Flag

from page 5

Others, including Judge John Sammons Bell, who sponsored the 1956, contend that the flag was changed to honor southerners who fought and died for a cause in which they believed.

"Our goal is not to sway people. Our goal is to educate people in a neutral way about what the issues are on both sides," said Young.

Because of the inflammatory nature of the issue, student affairs and Georgia Tech must be careful to

remain neutral.

Neither want to appear as though it is lobbying the General Assembly for any particular action on the issue.

"The diversity forum and Georgia Tech will take no official position on this [issue]. Our main goal is to generate discussion on an issue that has the potential to, and does in fact, divide people. We want each side to understand what the other side is thinking and believes."

T

Feature Photo BUZZ



By Daniel Uhlrig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Buzz gives Yellow Jacket football fans a thumbs-up on a recent Game Day. Last night, Tech took on the University of Virginia Cavaliers in a Thursday night ESPN game. See next issue's Sports section for more.