

By Musau Kithome /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Stinger drivers wait aboard a bus for their shift to start, in order to avoid the cold weather. The drivers of First Transit, including 27 Tech drivers, voted unanimously for representation by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 278.

Mayor, AASU celebrate black history

By Craig Tabita
News Editor

The African American Student Union (AASU) wanted a powerful keynote speaker for their inaugural Black History Month Celebration that would draw in and engage groups all over campus. When Atlanta mayor Shirley Franklin agreed to come speak, they got all of that and more.



Mayor Shirley Franklin

Franklin, who has served as Atlanta's mayor since being elected as a first-time candidate for public office in 2001, spoke in the Student Center ballroom as part of the event on Saturday, Feb. 23 which was free and open to the general public.

"The main purpose of the event was to have a speaker that could engage the entire campus which different groups could relate to," said Candace Mitchell, a second-year Computer Science major and AASU Black History Co-Chair.

"Shirley Franklin is a politician so we reached out to political groups; she's a woman so we reached out to the Women's Resource Center. We wanted to create an event that many people could come out to and enjoy, and also obtain a little knowledge about black history and the reason our organization does a lot of events to uplift black history," Mitchell said.

"I was amazed by how much insight she was able to offer, [including] the questions afterward, [some of which] pertained to black history but also stepped outside the realm. She talked about the progress of the city in general, gave personal advice to mothers and students who wanted to reach out in their community more. She's able to give insight and wisdom in many different areas," Mitchell said.

Franklin touched on a broad array of topics,

See Mayor, page 2

Stinger drivers vote 'yes' on union

By Corbin Pon
Assistant News Editor

The drivers of the Tech Trolleys and Stinger buses have voted unanimously to join the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 728. This vote coincided with unanimous decisions to join the Teamsters by the other groups of drivers who are employed by First Transit. First Transit, a subsidiary company of FirstGroup PLC, is the employer of drivers at Tech, Emory University, Georgia State University and other Atlanta locales.

In all, 170 drivers were eligible to partake in the vote that would confirm the Teamsters as the official representatives of the First Transit drivers. The vote among drivers at Tech

was 27-0.

"I've never seen, since I've been dealing with unions, a vote that had been unanimous," said Hans Reid, a driver at Tech. "I'm glad that [the vote] is all

"It was clear that the workers stood together in a united voice."

Ben Speight
Teamsters Organizer

over. Now we can get working on the contract."

Reid initially contacted the Teamsters last Fall with the idea of forming a union. With

116 drivers voting in favor of the Teamsters, they will now represent the drivers in contract negotiations. Negotiations are expected to get started within the next two months.

"It was clear that the workers stood together in a united voice," said Ben Speight, organizer with the Teamsters. "We are expecting to move into negotiations shortly."

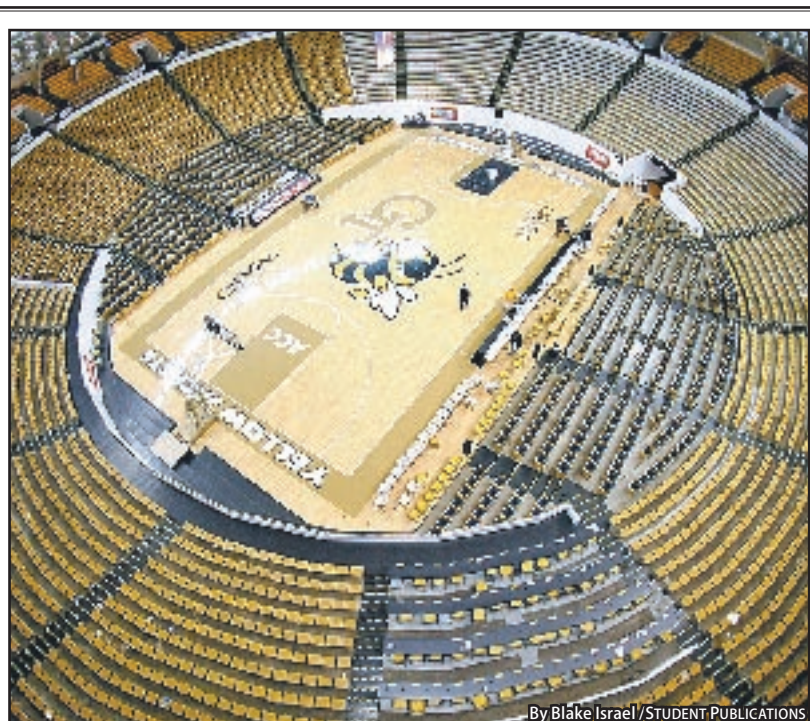
Currently the drivers are organizing in preparations for a meeting to bargain for a new contract. They must first elect a negotiating committee that will represent all the drivers in the contract talks. The members of the elected committee will represent the various groups of drivers from around the city.

See Drivers, page 4

DRIVERS SPEAK OUT

Hans Reid: "I've never seen, since I've been dealing with unions, a vote that had been unanimous. I'm glad that it is all over. Now we can get working on the contract."

Brenda Knox: "The union can provide us with better wages and health care. [Currently,] there are no benefits offered to us."



By Blake Israel /STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Rained out: A bucket and tarp collect water as a heavy rain causes the Coliseum's roof to leak. As a result, Tech's scheduled men's basketball game against Virginia on Feb. 21 was rescheduled for March 4.

Yahoo! Hack Days begin today

By Corbin Pon
Assistant News Editor

Today, Tech and the GT Association for Computing Machinery (GTACM) will be hosting Yahoo! Hack Days. With the event set to last until March 7, Yahoo! Hack Days is a series of events and activities filled with games, demonstrations, seminars, opportunities to meet Yahoo! developers and capped off with the chance to win a Nintendo Wii video game console.

Yahoo! Hack Days have been held in universities all over the country. In 2007, events were held at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University.

Now Yahoo! Hack Days has

come to Tech, and Friday's kickoff event will begin 5:30 p.m. in the Klaus Advanced Computing Building.

The kickoff event gives a brief overview about Hack Days and its history. Friday will also feature a raffle in which one can win an iPod shuffle and different Yahoo! paraphernalia.

The activities begin Saturday with demonstrations, the presentation of code from past participants and idea generation. Yahoo! will also host a hacking workshop being held in the Klaus Building.

Participants will be given a lesson on how to hack, and the workshop will give an overview of the tools available on the Yahoo! Developer Network and offer up coding shortcuts.

"This is the next installment of the hack adventure...come by

for a quick and dirty lesson on how to hack," reads the Yahoo! Hack Days website. No events will be held on Sunday.

Starting up again on Monday, that day's highlight will be a demonstration by Rasmus Lerdorf. Lerdorf is the founder and creator of the PHP scripting language. He will be on the campus during the week and will speak at other events.

Tuesday will continue the GTACM series of Tech Talks, with Yahoo! being featured. The format will be a lecture and presentation by Yahoo! followed by an open question and answer period. Wednesday will highlight another demonstration by Lerdorf as well as a barbecue for all the Hack Day participants.

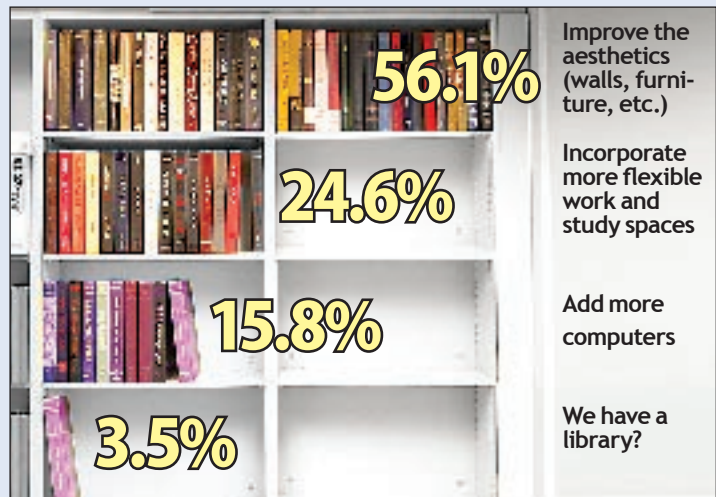
From 11 p.m. to 1 p.m. on

See Hack, page 4

Technique Online Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 127 responses.

How can the library be improved?



By Robert Combler / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:

How do you feel about \$250,000 for Tech Rec?

Tell us at www.nique.net

Mayor from page 1

from politics (including her support of Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama) to history and local issues. Speaking to an audience of primarily Tech students, she emphasized the ability of young people to affect change.

"There's all sorts of evidence that young people can lead the way to positive change," she said, using as an example the 25-year-old Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership of the Montgomery bus boycott.

"The value of young people is that you are able to believe the impossible," Franklin said.

She described the importance of self-confidence and setting and maintaining high expectations for oneself. Franklin described how when she decided to run for mayor she faced wide-ranging and sometimes ridiculous criticism for things such as being "not black enough", not as smart as her opponents in the campaign (who held Ph.D.'s to her MA), and "too blonde".

She said that since she was a teenager, she has faced low expectations

because she was a black woman, and she has always taken delight in proving people wrong every step of the way.

Other than Franklin's speech, the event featured short monologues read by AASU members representing eras and figures of black history, among them South African president Nelson Mandela, singer Marion Anderson, the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision integrating public schools, slave rebellion leader Nat Turner, nationalist leader Marcus Garvey, activist Malcolm X and poet Maya Angelou.



Unwanted company

A member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity entered his house on Saturday, Feb. 23 to find the kitchen window and back door ajar and a male with a brightly colored hat exiting the house empty-handed. He stated that all of the other fraternity members were away from the house for the weekend.

Smashing planters

A resident of Smith Residence Hall came downstairs on Thursday Feb. 21 at 5:20 a.m. for a morning smoke when he reported that two planters had been knocked over and damaged, apparently by residents.

From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime

Excuse me, officer...

Members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon reported on Feb. 23 that Delta Tau Delta members had thrown bottles at their house. A SAE member asked them to stop, but after seeing a man with a yellow "POLICE" vest in the DTD yard he backed away, at which point the man in the vest came over and struck him in the head. Police then questioned a man at DTD, a former fraternity president, who claimed not to know who the man in the vest was. SAE members later reported that the man, no longer wearing the vest but bearing a "fu man chu painted on mustache," urinated in their yard. Police were later able to identify the man in the vest as the man at DTD they had questioned and arrested him for impersonating a policeman.

Cr-EE-py

A female student was working on a project at noon on Thursday, Feb. 21 in the Van Leer building when an unknown man, 6'1" tall, approached and told her she was beautiful. She felt uncomfortable and tried to leave, but he pulled her towards him and forcibly hugged and kissed her on the neck. She was able to get away and ran through the rain to a neighboring building.

Something screwy going on...

A housing employee reported that screws had been removed from a door on the west side of the Center St. Apts. The employee also stated that this had happened five times previously.

By Craig Tabita, News Editor

said the president's office showed a lot of interest in this event and wants to take it even further next year.

"We're interested in forming a black history committee on campus. Dr. Clough is very interested in helping us do this... We're going to try to develop our calendar earlier so we can do a lot more things and have a lot more support from the Institute for the black history calendar, so that way it will be spread around campus a lot better... Basically we're trying to build on the success we had this month to make it better next year," Mitchell said.

They also presented a slideshow documenting black history at Tech, from the first black Tech students in 1961 to more modern scenes such as the current Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech, both of whom had been sponsored by AASU.

"Our theme for this Black History Month was progress. We wanted to illustrate the progress of black culture," Mitchell said.

In addition to helping to plan the event, Mitchell appeared on stage to introduce Sue Ann Allen, executive assistant to President Clough, who then introduced Franklin. Mitchell

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Council Clippings

This week in Student Government

Each Tuesday, elected members of the two houses of the Student Government Association, the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), convene to consider allocation bills and discuss issues facing campus. Here is a summary of those two meetings.

By William Brawley, Contributing Writer, and Craig Tabita, News Editor

This edition of *Council Clippings* covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Feb. 26, 2008.

Bill of the Week: Road Trip With a Reason

PASSED: Joint allocation to Campus Christian Fellowship (CCF), requesting \$8,209 to cover transportation costs for Road Trip With a Reason, a service project to raise awareness of conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo; amended to \$8,141 per JFC recommendation (passed GSS 13-7-1; passed UHR 32-3-0)

CCF requested joint funding for the organization's upcoming service project, Road Trip With A Reason. The goal of the project is to raise awareness of the ongoing brutality occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The bill listed 17 cities in neighboring states and indicated that approximately 26 people would travel to each location. The projects are organized around a series of service projects simultaneously held in a variety of cities around the southeast, yet no projects in Georgia. The service projects will center around some form of park or nature clean up or maintenance, such as beach and boardwalk clean up in Jacksonville.

There was a lot of concern and questioning over the practicality and overall connection between the service projects and raising awareness in Africa. In response, the organization explained that they would be wearing shirts promoting awareness and that the act of volunteering will cause people to ask questions about the cause.

Despite this, there was still opposition to the bill. In the GSS, Senator Mitch Keller passionately opposed the bill. "I can't support this bill. This is a bill to fund a trip for students to drive around the southeast doing service projects," said Keller. He went further by stating that there are multiple opportunities to do awareness-raising community service projects in the Atlanta area. Nevertheless, the bill was passed by a vote of 13 in favor, 7 opposed, and 1 abstention, and passed easily in the UHR, with the Joint Finance Committee's recommendation only adjusting some of the listed mileages between cities according to Rand McNally's web site.

Guest Speaker: Rich Steele

Rich Steele, Student Center director, spoke to both houses this week to preview and discuss a proposal to renovate Tech Rec's bowling facilities. Steele plans on introducing a substantial funding bill in the coming weeks asking for \$225,000 for all new bowling equipment, which will include new pinsetters, new scorers, and a lane machine. The current equipment, with was last updated in 1996 prior to the Olympics, has become very old and troublesome, with more and more complaints coming in about malfunctions. The industry standard for bowling equipment is around 3000 frames before needing repair; Tech Rec's averages 500.

Steele also discussed Tech Rec's declining attendance in recent years and the new renovations as a way to try to rejuvenate the recreation area, saying "We think if we had better [bowling] equipment, we could grow it substantially more." When asked whether people have asked for new renovations to Tech Rec, Steele responded saying that 54% of Tech students don't even go to Tech Rec, and that "people feel like the equipment doesn't work.... We're trying to overcome a very negative perception," Steele said. Steele also responded to questions about what other options around campus have decreased Tech Rec's attendance, mentioned Atlantic Station and other bowling alleys that serve alcohol, but added that this type of information is difficult to determine.

Next Week

Next week the SGA will consider several joint allocation bills: the GT Pre-Dental Society is requesting \$2,475.34 for an outreach event at a local shelter; Solar Jackets is requesting \$12,242 for fees associated with entering the North American Solar Challenge this summer; Culture Tech is requesting \$3,382 for their Food Fair and \$3,454 for their Performance Night; and the Women's Volleyball Club is requesting \$1,546 to travel to Dallas for their national tournament. The GSS will also consider the Men's Volleyball Club bill that was postponed.

Summary of SGA Voting

Bill and description	Result	
	UHR	GSS
Joint allocation to LeaderShape: The organization requested travel, entrance, and activities fees for a leadership conference, a total of \$15,800 for 40 students.	Passed 27-9-0	Passed 20-2-1
Joint allocation to Campus Christian Fellowship: The bill requested funding for Road Trip With A Reason, a service project to raise awareness of conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo.	Passed 32-3-0	Passed 13-7-1
Joint allocation to African-American Student Union: The organization sought founding to cover expenses for the Onyx Ball, a celebration event culminating Black History Month.	Passed 34-1-0	Passed 22-1-0
Joint allocation to AIESEC: AIESEC requested funding for travel expenses and fees to send a student to an international conference in Toyko.	Previously passed 26-12-1	Passed 20-1-2
Joint allocation to Men's Volleyball Club: Once again the organizational representative was not present for the GSS meeting, causing them to postpone consideration of the bill another week.	Previously passed 36-3-0	Postponed one week
Joint resolution expressing condolences to Northern Illinois University: This resolution expressed condolences to the families and friends of victims of the Feb. 14 shootings at NIU.	Passed by unanimous acclamation	Passed 15-2-2

youtube.com
gtsmart

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

The NPC Sororities are so excited for Chi Omega Tau! Good Luck!

The imports are having a party again.

"i want a man, i want a man, i want a mansion in the skyyyy!"

"suck it, trebek!"

KEEPIN' IT REAL.

I wish my hallmate would stop being an obnoxious jerk. but i lov her anyway not really.

Michelle is reading over my shoulder....sort of theres this girl named rachael on the hall..who thinks she's so hot cause she gets so many slivers.. oooooohhh big accomplishment!

"yes, it's true. she's not a professional"

Why do people like to throw things down my shirt? she should probably leave it up to the professionals. that's right!

Je suis de generacion dersenchantee

bananas in pajamas!

does anyone remember dreamstreet? ohh yeah you are my sugar rush!

i wonder why they never print the elvish ones?

There are so many hot boys in CFY...

theres this stalker....she stalks people.

why don't y'all ever print the slivers in elvish? We demand representation!

my name is lasarah

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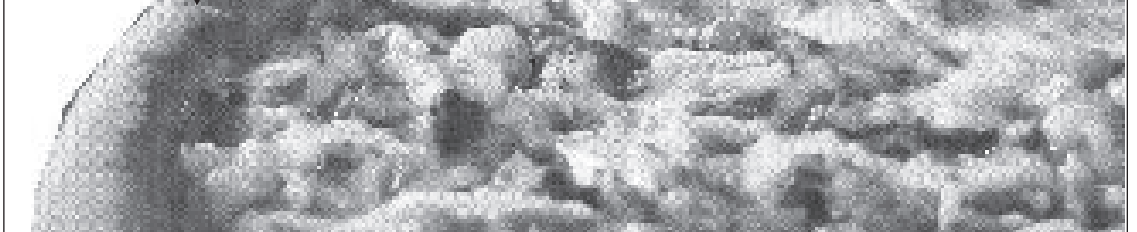
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Drivers from page 1

The drivers must also decide on what they will be negotiating for with First Transit. Surveys are being sent to all the drivers so they can select their top contract priorities. The union will then take the most important and most achievable issues to form the basis for their contract, according to Reid.

"The union can provide us with better wages and health care. There are no benefits offered to us," said Brenda Knox, a bus operator.

"I have never had a job that didn't provide [benefits, holidays and sick days]," Reid said.

On top of issues surrounding worker pay and benefits, the drivers also have cited problems with worker

treatment and working conditions as a reason to form a union. Bus drivers have complained about being mistreated on the job and being berated by their supervisors, according to Speight. They have also said that the working conditions are unsafe and sometimes dangerous.

One specific hazard was that the drivers claimed that one of the vents on a Tech Trolley had been exhausting extremely hot air. They claimed that the air was so hot that it gave them burns.

In two Physician Activity Status Reports from Concentra Medical Centers provided by the Teamsters, drivers Knox and Theodore Barnes were treated for lower leg burns of the first degree in the month of January.

William Hinton, another driver

who had complained about the heat from the Trolleys, had been released from his job by First Transit. In a settlement between First Transit and Hinton, provided by the Teamsters, he was reinstated to his position as driver without any loss of seniority or status. First Transit would also provide six weeks of back pay at a rate of 40 hours per week. First Transit also could not take any retaliatory actions against Hinton based on charges related to the settlement.

In the settlement, First Transit would also have to investigate and take appropriate action to address safety concerns related to excessive engine heat on the Tech Trolleys. The Teamsters agreed that they would not to file a charge with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Hack from page 1

Thursday, the "Meet the Developers" luncheon will be held in the Klaus Building. During the luncheon, Yahoo! developers will be available and participants will be able to meet with them in a more informal environment.

Beginning at 4 p.m., the contest to win a Nintendo Wii will get underway. The contest is designed as a 24-hour coding marathon and centers around mashups and website creation.

The contest participants will be allowed to organize themselves into self-chosen teams of four. The Yahoo! developers will be at the Klaus Building for the entire 24 hours for hack help, moral support, food,

giveaways, music, football games, Tetris tournaments and a selection of other activities.

Exactly 24 hours later, the "hack fest" will come to an end and submissions from all the groups will be due. The end of the day will finish up with more demonstrations, the judging of the "hack fest" submissions and the awards ceremony.

Each member of the winning team will receive a Nintendo Wii, and an opportunity to participate in the national challenge, featuring an all expenses paid trip to Yahoo! headquarters.

For more information about the event and festivities, visit the GTACM website at gtacm.org/index.html as well as the Yahoo! Hack U web site, located at developer.yahoo.com/hacku/.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Today is Drop Day—last day to withdraw

Feb. 29 marks the last day students can withdraw from individual courses and receive a 'W' grade. Students should be aware that they must maintain 12 hours of enrollment to continue to keep full-time status.

Workshop advises how to prevent video game addiction

The Counseling Center is offering a workshop titled "Logging Off: Learning to Prevent Video Game Addiction" on Monday, March 3 from 4 p.m.-5 p.m. It will help students evaluate their video-game playing habits and find a balance that ensures their gaming does not interfere with their school, work, and personal life.

Women's Awareness Month begins with rock-climbing

The Women's Resource Center has a number of activities planned celebrating March as Women's Awareness Month. Leading into the festivities is Women's Night on the Wall, tonight at the CRC rock-climbing wall. Other events include Women's Day of Service which will be Saturday, March 8, with the purpose of bringing women together to participate in community service projects, and Take Back the Night, an event to raise awareness of sexual violence against women. For more information, visit www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/wam/

New Tech website showcases blogs

By Ranganath Venkataraman
Senior Staff Writer

Visitors to the Georgia Tech homepage (www.gatech.edu) are noticing a new addition to the recently-renovated website: namely, blogs written by students, faculty, and staff.

These blogs delve into rich detail on any topic the bloggers choose to write about; it is the public's window into the daily lives of Tech students, and is the medium for enhanced connections between current and prospective students.

"The student blogs for the College of Computing were conceived as a way of letting both current and prospective students learn about the things that current students are involved in and doing on a daily basis," said Jennifer Whitlow, a fourth-year Computational Media major and blogger.

"It's used to provide a more first hand/personal experience for those reading the blog because they can learn about students' true feelings, reactions and stresses."

The blogs serve dual purposes in that while they do provide a glimpse into Tech life for the interested outsiders; they also allow students to discuss topics that they feel are important, adopting approaches that are unencumbered by any rules or regulations.

Third-year Computer Science

major Chris Stuckey's rationale for being a blogger fell among similar lines.

"For my particular theme, I wanted to approach a side of student opinion not commonly shared with the world at large," Stuckey said. "In other words I wanted to educate the reader on some issue that students face, and I would try to make an objective case before swaying the reader to my opinion."

Whitlow, a prominent presence in recruitment, felt that the blogs would contribute to that effort while acting as a compact source of information about her daily life for her family and friends.

"This was a great opportunity to keep them up to date without sending out tons of emails to different people or groups of people," Whitlow said.

Both bloggers became involved in the initiative after an email was sent to all Computer Science and Computational Media majors, looking for student bloggers.

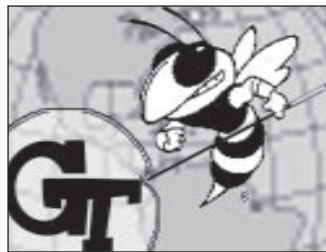
Interested students can create a blog by going to a web site such as blogspot.com or blogger.com, setting up an account and creating the blog by choosing desired templates and titles.

"Blogging is simple and takes little time," Whitlow said. "It's a great way to share with friends and family what's going on in your daily life."

"Blogging is simple and takes little time.... It's a great way to share with friends and family what's going on in your life."

Jennifer Whitlow
Fourth-year CM

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.

EU hands Microsoft \$1.3 billion fine

In a move to send a message to Microsoft and all other companies, the European antitrust regulator levied a \$1.35 billion fine against the world's largest software company on Wednesday, reported The New York Times.

The size of the fine surprised lawyers and legal experts, as the European Commission and its main antitrust regulator, Neelie Kroes, made a clear assertion of their power. Microsoft's issue with the commission has cost them more than \$2.3 billion.

This decision might pose future problems for other technology companies Apple, Intel and Qualcomm. The vigorous interpretations of what is considered unfair competition has the potential to raise operating costs in Europe for these and other American companies.

In a statement that followed the decision, Kroes expressed her irritation with what she said was Microsoft's failure to make the changes that were ordered by the commission in 2004. Those changes were ordered when the commission deemed Microsoft's market dominance of its Windows software to be abusive.

Last Thursday, Microsoft published 30,000 pages of previously secret software code of the Windows operating system. They considered this move as a significant concession toward greater openness and compatibility

with its competitors. Microsoft responded to the commission's decision by stating that it was reviewing the decision. It also said that it considered the fine as part of past issues that had already been resolved.

Drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis spreads in former USSR

Drug-resistant tuberculosis cases in parts of the former Soviet Union are at the highest ever recorded, reported The New York Times. The World Health Organization (WHO) released these findings Tuesday from the largest global survey on the problem, and said that the rates could go even higher, potentially spreading the disease to other locations.

In Baku, Azerbaijan, 22.3 percent of new tuberculosis cases are resistant to the standard anti-TB drug regimen. These rates are the highest in the survey. The period of the survey period lasted from 2002 to 2006.

The first survey in four years, the data collected shows that earlier predictions about the inability of governments to keep control of the disease in many areas proved to be correct. Health officials blame this on the fact that the governments had not invested enough to build, equip and staff laboratories that would be able to detect the presence of the disease. They also blame the current state of disease on countries not stockpiling enough of the standard drugs and not monitoring patients to ensure they completed the full extent of their treatment.



Applications for Editor-in-Chief are now available!

The Office of Student Media and Board of Student Publications are now accepting applications for the following student publication editors:

- Blueprint (yearbook)
- Erato (literary arts magazine)
- North Avenue Review (open forum magazine)
- T-Book (online survival guide)
- The Tower (undergraduate research journal)
- Technique (newspaper)

Qualified candidates may secure applications in Room 137 of the Student Services building or download an application at www.nique.net.

Completed applications are due in the Office of Student Media by no later than 5:00pm, Friday, March 21, 2008.

Questions or completed applications may be directed to Mac Pitts, Director of Student Media at mac.pitts@vpss.gatech.edu.

WR 91.1 FM PROGRAM SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12:00	Atmospherics				Coffee and Stash		Hour of Soul
1:00	Overnight Alternatives					WR 91.1 1:00	Bob's Backline FUNKS SCORE
6:00	Classics					6:00	Weekend Compos
9:00	Just Jazz						Public Affairs
12:00	11:00 Non-Plate Special	Live @ Skiles	11:00 Non-Plate Special	Live @ Skiles	11:00 Non-Plate Special	Expanded Compos	
1:00	Rock Rhythm And Roll						Weekend Compos
6:00	Hemp & Back	Underground Soundings	Sports Report	Tech Talk	Crossing CLASSICS	Broadway	Globes
7:00	Koher Noise	Gold Source		Carwades	Friday Night F&B Fry	Dezito Hour	
8:00	Indian Media	Football	Milias	54-48			Sunday Special
9:00	Sub-Saharan Vibes	Longwood and Longhorns	Dezito All Music	Webcom Renaissance	Soakage	The Saturday Night Cocktail Lounge	Back Alley Punk ROCK
10:00	French Caribbean	Use it: Wash	Fiction			EDM Sound System	Personality Gifs
11:00	Continental Drift	New Parox	Psychout	Electric Geopolis			

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