FOCUS

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Am I glowing?
The Sam Nunn Security Program took a field trip to the Savannah River Site, a prominent nuclear facility, and the *'Nique* got to tag along for the ride. **Page 12**

There's no Leo DiCaprio...
...but there is beautiful choreography, music and costumes. Check out our review of the Atlanta Ballet's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. **Page 19**

GTCN gets taste of own talk show with Tyler

A program featuring Aisha Tyler—actress, author and former host of E!'s Talk Soup*—will air on GTCN next month*

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

The hit television show *Friends* wound up in the Georgia Tech Cable Network's studio three weeks ago—or, at least, a small piece of it did.

Unbeknownst to many students, the nationally-acclaimed actress, comedian and author Aisha Tyler visited Tech's campus earlier this month to promote her newest book, *Swerve: A Guide to the Sweet Life for Postmodern Girls*, a commentary on pop culture, sex and dating.

The African-American celebrity with her trademark razor wit is popularly known from several TV shows, including her recurring role as Ross's love interest, paleontologist Charlie Wheeler, on *Friends* and as a host of E!'s *Talk Soup*.

The crew at GTCN had the privilege of sitting down with Tyler for an hour-long interview earlier this month. That interview, where Tyler shared her life story and her views on topics ranging from female empowerment to body image, is currently being edited into a GTCN special presentation called *GTCN: A Conversation (And Laughs) With Aisha Tyler.*

The final product, complete with music and graphics, will air on GTCN21 at an undetermined date and time next month.

"[The show is] designed to provide insight into her perspective on relevant topics such as career choices, sex in the media and the challenges faced by minorities," explained Mark Adelman, the general manager of GTCN.

> "Women relate to her without feeling intimidated, [and] men find her intelligent and sexy."
>
> **Mark Adelman**
> GTCN General Manager

"Interviewing Ms. Tyler is a unique opportunity to frankly discuss those topics in a way that is entertaining," as previously demonstrated on her other shows, like the Comedy Central hit *Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn*, a talk show famous for its merciless roasts of the people and situations in recent headlines, Adelman said.

"Her comedic voice is raw, edgy, honest and wonderfully refreshing, yet a look at the audiences at her live performances reveals her broad appeal: women, men, mainstream, urban, young, old," Adelman added.

"Aisha can attract attention due to her celebrity...Her aggressive performance style recalls Chris Rock or Richard Pryor with the physicality of a young Eddie Murphy," Adelman said. "That attention translates to access…Women relate to her without feeling intimidated, [and] men find her intelligent and sexy."

Photo Courtesy Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Aisha Tyler, best known for her role as Ross's ex-girlfriend Charlie Wheeler on *Friends*, came to Tech to promote her book. GTCN was able to get a special interview with the actress, which they are producing as a program.

That was why, when Tyler popped up at Tech's Barnes and Noble Bookstore promoting *Swerve*, GTCN seized the opportunity to produce a show that would attract Tech's own diverse student body.

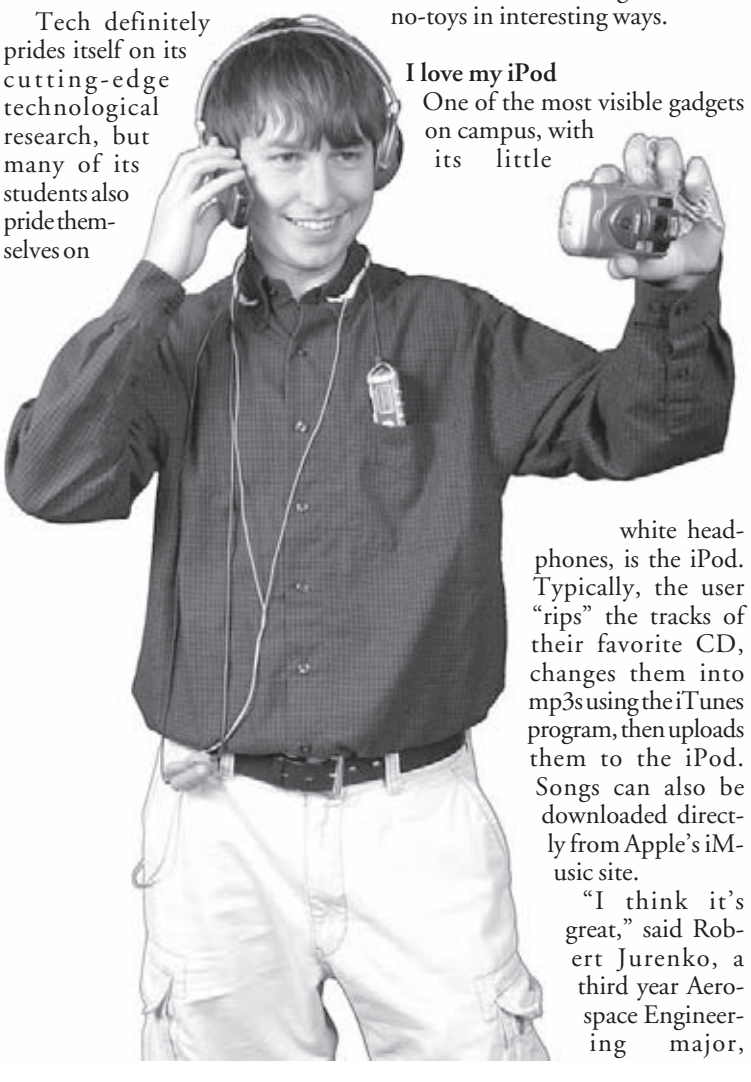
Adelman coordinated with the bookstore and Tyler's publicist to arrange the short-notice interview with the actress, and Tyler was invited to the studio, where she sat opposite LaToya West, a fourth-year Science, Technology and Culture major and a student producer who also hosts the GTCN show

*See **Tyler**, page 15*

Inspector Gadget would be proud

By Marcela Musgrove
Contributing Writer

Tech definitely prides itself on its cutting-edge technological research, but many of its students also pride themselves on picking up on technology trends as consumers. This week we focus on students who are using their techno-toys in interesting ways.



I love my iPod

One of the most visible gadgets on campus, with its little white headphones, is the iPod. Typically, the user "rips" the tracks of their favorite CD, changes them into mp3s using the iTunes program, then uploads them to the iPod. Songs can also be downloaded directly from Apple's iMusic site.

"I think it's great," said Robert Jurenko, a third year Aerospace Engineering major, who's had an iPod since last summer.

"I downloaded my entire CD collection so I can carry it around with me, and depending on my mood, I can listen to whatever I want," he said.

Jurenko also enhanced his iPod by buying a car adaptor, which plugs into the iPod's headphone jack. Once he specifies the radio signal, he can then listen to all of his tracks in his car.

A new way of listening to the radio

Instead of carrying around a Walkman, Pablo Macouzet, a fifth-year Industrial Engineering student, listens to his music using XM satellite radio instead.

Typically, most satellite radios are used in cars so that while someone is traveling, they can listen to the same station the whole time or one of 120 channels of commercial-free music, talk and news programming transmitted via satellite.

However, Macouzet's radio, called the "Roady," is smaller and more portable, so he wanted to find a way to use it around Tech.

"I soon found out that another XM radio fan had developed a belt accessory called the X-Man with a built-in antenna and a couple of battery packs that allow you to simply attach the Roady to your belt and use it as a walkman," he said.

*See **Gadgets**, page 13*

Think textbooks are too expensive? Recent report blames publishers

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

To poor college students, expensive textbooks will always be a damper at the beginning of a new semester. However, a recent study by the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) points the finger at textbook publishers for inflating prices, through practices such as issuing frequent new editions and bundling the textbook with extra material.

> "Publishers continue to put out new editions...in order to combat our ability to sell used books."
>
> **Joe Earle**
> Textbook Manager, GT B&N

According to Joe Earle, the bookstore's textbook manager, this is indeed the case. "Publishers continue to put out new editions...in order to combat our ability to sell used books," he said, adding, "there's continually new editions of books coming out that clearly haven't changed over the past few years."

This is especially true for basic undergraduate courses, whose concepts change little, even with new developments in technology. "We're teaching basic courses [in] mechanics, dynamics, control, heat transfer, fluids. Nothing changes," said John Papastavridis, a Mechanical Engineering professor who read about CALPIRG's report in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

"They keep sending us new editions; there's no reason for that, it's wasteful."

In addition, "all the six majors publishers now bundle their product with some type of CD or access code," Earle said.

Chemistry professor David Collard said, "Most introductory science textbooks now come with a CD, and most students do not find them particularly useful."

Many students agree readily

*See **Rip-off?**, page 16*

Trip to nuclear facility not exactly like Homer's job

By Art Seavey
Entertainment Editor

Where can you attend lectures on topics of international security, chat with agents at CIA headquarters, tour highly-secured nuclear facilities, receive a substantial stipend and still obtain an engineering Ph.D.? Look no further than Tech.

The Sam Nunn Security Fellows, part of an International Affairs graduate program, receive the aforementioned benefits and a myriad of others. The *Technique* accompanied the group on their most recent trip to Fort Gordon and the infamous Savannah River Site, a nuclear facility that produced much of the material for the U.S.'s nuclear weapons during the Cold War.

Leaving early Tuesday, Feb. 17th, the Fellows and the program's faculty headed to Fort Gordon, an Army base just outside Augusta, Georgia.

> "The Savannah River Site...was the most interesting and interactive part of the trip that we've had."
>
> **Jacob Sauer**
> Physics Ph.D. candidate

On site at the Battle Command Battle Lab, the group was deluged with technical information concerning the future communications systems that will transform military combat.

Jacob Sauer, a Ph.D. candidate for Physics, commented on the first leg of the trip. "In my opinion, we've been exposed to some pretty high-level stuff, which I don't think everybody [understood]. I definitely didn't understand everything that was told to us at Fort Gordon, because it was a Battle Lab, and these guys use more acronyms then the CIA does," he said. "[But] the stuff that I did understand was very interesting."

Leaving Fort Gordon, the Fellows traveled to a hotel in Aiken, South Carolina to relax. There was definite camaraderie among the Fellows, and even with the faculty. Waking up early the next morning, the Fellows boarded tour buses provided by the Savannah River Site.

> "I definitely didn't understand everything that was told to us at Fort Gordon, because...these guys use more acronyms then the CIA does."
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> **Jacob Sauer**
> Physics Ph.D. candidate

In 1950, the Atomic Energy Commission asked the DuPont Company to construct the Savannah River Plant. Since then, five nuclear reactors have been built, utilized and decommissioned. The basic outputs of the site have included tritium and plutonium-239, essential materials in the fabrication of nuclear weapons.

In addition, the site also houses the largest Defense Waste Processing Facility in the nation. Before the waste is processed, however, it is stored in underground sludge tanks, some of which have leaked. This, among other activities that have gone awry, meld the site into a valuable environmental case study.

The Fellows were given a complete overview of the site, from past to present, in extensive detail. As the Savannah River Site is enormous, buses were used to tour its 310 square miles.

"The Savannah River Site…probably was the most interesting and interactive part of the trip that we've had. It was extremely well organized. We were on a tight schedule, but I'm sure everything involved with nuclear operators has got to be, but it was absolutely wonderful," Sauer said.

Diane Norris, a Ph.D. candidate for Nuclear and Radiological Engineering, said, "As a nuclear scientist, I was familiar with the technical aspect of Savannah River, but more importantly, the trip verified that the government takes national security seriously."

"It is more of a concrete image to see, in person, sites that contain sensitive information, and how secure the facilities are, as opposed to just reading about it in a brochure or in the news,"

*See **Nuclear**, page 15*

Photo Courtesy Sam Nunn Security Program

Students in the program interact with a variety of officials, including Senator Sam Nunn, above.

Photo Courtesy Savannah River Site

The Sam Nunn Fellows stand in front of the Savannah River Site before going on a tour of the classified area.

Photo Courtesy Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Gadgets from page 11

Silly trolleys, GPS is for kids

Global Positioning Systems made headlines recently with the implementation of GPS devices in Tech Trolleys to track their progress around the campus loop.

But Peter Jensen, a Computer Science graduate student, has his own cellphone-sized GPS device that he uses mostly for navigation. "My device has mapping software built in," Jensen said. "So, for example, I can tell how far away I am from the freeway and what direction I'm moving in. The moving map is updated based on my frame of reference."

One special feature of his device is its track log, which tells him where he was at given time. As photography is one of Jensen's hobbies, the device comes in handy. "I can keep track of where I've taken photos by correlating the timestamps on my digital camera and the time logs," he said.

Jensen also uses his GPS device for fun, in a popular activity called "geocaching." GPS users who discover interesting locations around the country can leave "treasure boxes" with logbooks or hidden presents there and record its coordinates on a website, **www.geocaching.com**. Other adventurers can then use their GPS devices to go on a scavenger hunt for these treasures, and can then replace them with something else for the next person to enjoy.

Not your average PDA anymore

Fiyin Adewale, a fourth-year Computer Engineering major, has both a PDA and a cell phone—something that is not unusual at Tech. What is unusual, though, is the way he has customized these gadgets to control other devices.

"I installed a program called OmniRemote on my Palm to capture infrared codes sent by the remote controls from my TV and room fan," Adewale said. "Now I can channel surf and cool down my room from my bed using my PDA."

Bluetooth technology and a program called SailingClicker are the keys to Adewale's control of the rest of his devices.

"I've got my most commonly used programs (mp3 player, movie player, etc.) set up so I can control them from anywhere in the apartment," he said.

> "When I leave my room...my computer will automatically pause my music so my roommates don't get annoyed."
>
> **Fiyin Adewale**
> Fourth-year CompE major

"If I'm in the kitchen and don't like the song that's playing, I can just reach over and change songs using my phone."

Since his computer is networked with his phone in a Bluetooth short-range network, it can tell when the phone drops out of range after he moves more than 30 feet away from his computer and runs a series of custom scripts.

"When I leave my room," Adewale explained, "my computer will automatically pause my music so my roommates don't get annoyed, put up an away message if I forgot to put one up and put up a password-protected screen saver."

Then, when he is back in his apartment, he said, "My computer can tell that the phone is nearby and runs more custom scripts. I have it set to resume my music from where it left off, remove my away message if it was set automatically, and say 'Welcome back, Fiyin.'"

Winner receives a free student combo at Li'l Dinos

Tech Close Up

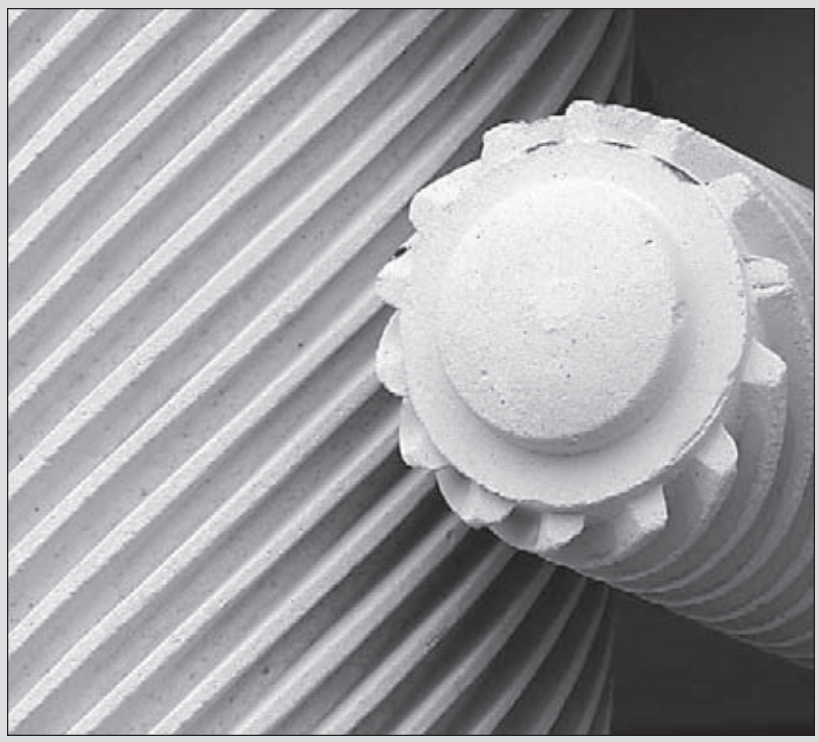
DELI LI'L DINO GRILLE

Last week's winner:

Gene Karshenboym

Last week's Tech Up Close:

Parking ticket dispenser for Student Center lot



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

Nuclear

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she said. "Overall, it was an intense and positive experience."

The periodic field trips culminate in a week-long visit to Washington, D.C., a visit which will possibly include tours of the Senate, Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency and other high-profile facilities.

Many of the Fellows perform research directly related to what they're learning in the program. Sauer, for example, is working on a quantum-computing project involving cryptography.

Norris's research, on the other hand, focuses on bioterrorism. "My thesis involves not only simulating the dispersion of harmful particles in buildings, i.e., anthrax, but also to look at current first-responder guidance relating to the response to bioterrorism."

The Fellows agree that the program has been remarkably worthwhile. It has been a welcome change from their engineering and science classes, allowing them to study topics of utmost national saliency.

"This program is an absolute necessity for scientists who want to pursue careers in government, research, academia and the private sector," Norris said. "The skills learned...are necessary for scientists to market and drive their potentially advanced ideas that might have otherwise been ignored or downplayed."

Sauer agreed. "[People] don't realize that a lot of these technical fields, especially at Georgia Tech, are almost one-to-one with security issues. I think if more people realized that, they'd definitely jump on the chance to learn about these things."

The School of International Affairs established the fellowship under the Center for International Strategy, Technology and Policy just this year.

Tasheen Kazi, a Tech graduate, manages the program. "The McArthur Foundation had set up an initiative that wanted to address this issue of science and international security," Kazi said.

Four International Affairs faculty members proposed a program unique to Tech to garner funds from the foundation. "They wrote up a proposal with this whole idea of bringing fellows in, scientists and engineers, and giving them an opportunity to learn about policy issues as they relate to international security and conduct research at the intersection between their expertise in science and technology and policy," Kazi said.

> "It's pretty good. It's really loose, like a discussion forum. It's not very structured and allows us to...go whatever direction we might take."
>
> **Ryan Johnson**
> ME Ph.D. candidate

Tech's proposal was accepted, earning a 1.3 million dollar grant, and placing it among nine other schools in the upper echelon of academia including the likes of Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and MIT.

International Affairs Professors Seymour Goodman and John Endicott serve as the Principal Investigators leading the Fellows. Three hours a week for the Spring and Fall semesters they train the pre-doctoral, post-doctoral, and mid-career Fellows in policy issues relating to national security.

"[The faculty] represent an amazing amount of experience from a diplomatic standpoint and from a sort of military/technology standpoint," said Ryan Johnson, a Ph.D. candidate for Mechanical Engineering.

The Fellows' education is further supplemented by a range of speakers who are experts in their field on hot security topics.

"We've actually listened to several very talented and very well-informed speakers during the course of the class, including former ambassador John Kelley, and former Senator Sam Nunn," Sauer said.

"[Speaker] Steve Flynn was talking about export control and import control…He basically explained...the dangers of the current situation with the containers and how easy it would be to plant a nuclear weapon or any type of chemical or biological weapon," Sauer said.

The actual classroom portion of the Fellowship counts as a three-hour course each semester. This portion gives students the opportunity to debate and probe others on the issues.

"It's pretty good. It's really loose, like a discussion forum. It's not very structured and allows us to sort of go whatever direction we might take," Johnson said.

"The [Sam Nunn Security Fellowship] has…more importantly given me the opportunity to think beyond the 'tunnel' and assess global impacts of how science can be used to combat terrorism and develop potential public policy," Norris said.

With all of the fellows having backgrounds in engineering, this loose format is quite a change. "Discussion in science classes are almost nonexistent," Sauer said.

So if science and engineering are not fulfilling enough, then look to the Sam Nunn Security Program to fill the void. Applications for next year's program are due March 15th.

For more info, visit ***http://www.cistp.gatech.edu/cistp/SamNunn.***

Tyler

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Flava 101.

With three cameras focused on the lively duo, West proceeded to ask Tyler a series of questions derived from the actress's book and biography.

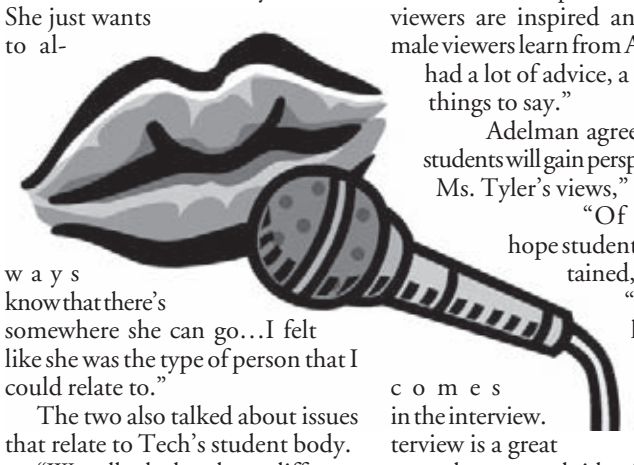
According to West, the experience was fun for both interviewer and interviewee.

"It's like a conversation between me and Aisha," West said. "We actually gave her the option of [filming in] segments, because we usually do things in segments…but the conversation flowed so well that it just went for one straight hour."

> "We gave her the option of [filming in] segments...but the conversation flowed so well that it just went for one straight hour."
>
> **LaToya West**
> Fourth-year STaC major

West also had nothing but praise for Tyler's personality, complimenting the actress on her easygoing attitude, modesty and conversational skills.

"She's not one of those celebrities who lets her status go to her head," West said. "She never wants to think that she's actually made it. She just wants to always know that there's somewhere she can go…I felt like she was the type of person that I could relate to."



The two also talked about issues that relate to Tech's student body.

"We talked a lot about different things that she's been through in her life...where she came from, and how she got to where she is today," West said.

For instance, "She talks about how she would get kicked out of class for speaking out," West laughed. "And now the irony is [that] speaking out is what makes her successful today."

She went on to describe how Tyler flatly rejected the popular stereotype of women as quiet, submissive creatures.

"She talks a lot about empowering women…and that's how she got to where she is today, being a successful actress/comedian," West said, touting Tyler as a wonderful role model for both male and female viewers.

West hopes that the show will have a similar impact on its viewers.

"Female viewers, especially, I hope that they can see a powerful woman who didn't play the stereotypical role and who's very successful now because she didn't play that role," West said. "I hope that the female viewers are inspired and that the male viewers learn from Aisha…She had a lot of advice, a lot of good things to say."

Adelman agreed. "I hope students will gain perspective from Ms. Tyler's views," he said.

"Of course, I hope students are entertained," he added. "Ms. Tyler is hilarious, and it comes through in the interview. This interview is a great chance to meet the personal side of this noted celebrity."

Rip-off?

from page 11

on this count. Jignesh Fifadara, a Chemical Engineering major, said, "Usually the CDs in the back of the book—I never usually use them, I never even open them."

Collard said that in a survey by a company, RevText.com, on what resources students found useful, study guides ranked high while accompanying CDs ranked low. "This arises, in large part, because the faculty members do not assign exercises from the CD for credit," he said.

"I have some books [where] I still have the CD sealed inside of it," said Benjamin Stensland, an Undecided Engineering major. "A lot of that extra material we never use, and the teacher never references."

Time is also an issue for students, who have enough to study as it is. Papastavridis, who has authored textbooks, said, "My philosophy is to do the books as self-contained as possible, because students have so little time."

On the other hand, CALPIRG's portrayal of textbook publishers as money-hungry companies may be a bit harsh, according to other faculty members.

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The report released by CALPIRG accused publishers of price-inflation practices such as frequently putting out new editions without many changes, and bundling textbooks with additional, non-pertinent software.

In contrast to the report, David Smith, a lecturer for computer science, said that publishers are often willing to work with faculty.

For example, Smith is working to give students the option of just buying online access to a book.

"For CS1322, they have a website that you have to pay for…but I was talking to [the publishing representative] about getting our students access to just the website," he said. "So she's talking about packaging an economical workbook and just access to the website for much less than [the book]."

In his experience, Smith said, "the conversation with me is always, how can we get the cost down."

Tech may also have an advantage as a large school. For organic chemistry, which enrolls approximately 400 students a semester, students are required to purchase a copy of the ChemOffice suite, a chemistry graphics and analysis software.

This software is available bundled with the organic chemistry textbook, a decision that was facilitated by the Chemistry department.

"The publisher's salesperson indicated that they would pass along this software 'at-cost,'" said Collard, which is about four times cheaper than purchasing the software alone. "The publisher was very willing to do this to keep Georgia Tech as a customer."

Toby Block, a chemistry professor who authored the general chemistry textbook, *Science of Change,* also emphasized that not all new editions are driven by a desire for profit. "The two revisions for the textbook that I have been involved with were major revisions," that took over a year, she said.

In addition, Block said that publishers are often flexible. When the decision was made this year to do a smaller number of experiments in the introductory chemistry lab, Thomson Learning, which publishes the lab manual, worked with the department to produce a "custom version" of the book with a shortened number of experiments.

Thomson Learning also made news after CALPIRG's report was released, when it announced that it would produce "economy" versions of textbooks by using, for example, cheaper paper, or less graphics and colors.

> "Most introductory science textbooks now come with a CD. And most students do not find them particularly useful."
>
> **David Collard**
> Chemistry professor

Papastavridis said that these less-fancy versions may even be beneficial to students.

"In basic subjects, the colors and all the glossy diagrams, they are distracting, [and] do more harm than good," he said.

"Less colors and photos shouldn't be a problem. While some publishers brag about 'pedagogical use of color,' meaning all the force vectors are red, all the displacement vectors are green, etc., that's always seemed like a marketing ploy to me," said Eric Murray, a Physics professor.

However, Block pointed out that an attractive book may motivate students to read it, "instead of it being, 'Oh, that's an awful dull book, I don't even like to look at it,'" she said.

But many students said they would appreciate a lower-cost option when it comes to textbooks.

"I would definitely go for that," said Suyog Mody, a computer science student. "I don't see any need to make such heavy, huge, thick textbooks with all that shiny paper."

"If the same information is in there, who cares what the book looks like?" added Albert Whiteside, a Mechanical Engineering major.

Bottom line, students and professors say that the more options, the better.

"The professors could stay with same editions of the books, so therefore new ones aren't needed. They could make full use of the ones they make us buy. They could possibly consider books that are softcover instead of hardcover," suggested Jennifer Rogers, a first-year History, Science, and Technology major.

Papastavridis suggested, "The library should buy multiple copies of undergraduate books," pointing out that they do so for graduates. "Why not give students a choice?"

To read CALPIRG's report, see ***www.calpirg.org.***