Students support HOPE amendment

By Jenny Zhang

Around 40 college students from around the state assembled at the Capitol Feb. 8 for a rally initiated by Tech to support the Governor’s “HOPE Chest” amendment. The amendment would ensure that lottery money can only be used for HOPE and pre-K programs.

Chris Dempsey
Executive Director, GACR

“This amendment would ensure that [lottery] money can only be used for HOPE and pre-K programs.”

Students stand outside the Capitol at a Tech student-initiated Feb. 8 rally to support the proposed “HOPE Chest” amendment.

RHA hosts Buzz on Ice semi-formal

The Residence Hall Association is hosting the Buzz on Ice semi-formal, also known as Winterbuzz, tonight at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. The dance will start at 9 p.m. and continue until 1 a.m. A Stinger will be available for pick-up and drop-off between 8:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. Tickets will be available at the door for $10 and a t-shirt is available for an additional five dollars.

Management earns high marks

International business school rankings for 2005 recently published by The Financial Times indicate that the College of Management ranked 80th in the nation. The college moved up four spots in the overall business school category from last year and 14 spots from 2003.

Additionally, the College of Management earned the 59th spot in best value and the 38th in job placement success. A total of 150 schools from the U.S., Europe, Canada, South America, Mexico, Australia, China, South Africa and Singapore competed for the top 100 spots.

Mateas wins Slamdance award

Judges at the Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah awarded Michael Mateas, an assistant professor in the School of Literature, Communication and Culture, the Grand Jury Sparky Award for his artistic intelligence-based computer game, Interactive Stories. The game, developed with Andrew Stern and worked on for five years before releasing it, the game can be downloaded for free at www.interactivestory.net. It features an alteration between a man and a woman. The player’s choices result in the game’s outcome. In addition to teaching, Mateas serves as director of the Experimental Game Lab at Tech. The Slamdance Film Festival started in 1995. A variety of many types are presented with accolades for their achievements at the festival.

New USG Chancellor gives opening remarks

By Amanda Dugan

The new University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor, Erroll B. Davis Jr, made his first formal remarks to the Board of Regents Feb. 8. Davis assumed duties as chancellor on Feb. 6. Davis opened his speech, which was webcast to universities across the system, by saying that he is excited to be in Georgia and to be working with the Board of Regents.

He used the speech as an opportunity to greet the 35 colleges and universities across the system that he is now responsible for as chancellor. Davis said that the work of administrators, faculty and staff is an important contribution to the state. “We must be driven by our mission of creating a more educated Georgia—a mission that changes individual lives.”

Erroll B. Davis Jr.
USG Chancellor

“We must be driven by our mission of creating a more educated Georgia—a mission that changes individual lives.”

People and businesses are drawn to centers of education and intellect and (faculty, staff, and administrators) are the nucleus of that intellectual activity,” Davis said. “The system serves more than 250,000 talented students, who understand the indisputable impact that education—quality education—will have in their lives.”

As he started to address the students in his speech, he said that he hoped they were not missing any classes to hear him talk. Davis said that he appreciates the students’ commitment to educational excellence and achievement. “By seeking to enhance your horizons, you reflect well on our state and its future promise. You are the primary reason that more than 38,000 employees work so hard each day to ensure your access to high-quality academic programs, top-flight facilities and first-rate facilities,” Davis said.

Davis cited the Schlitz Beer commercial, “You only go around once” as a reminder to enjoy the experience of college, but to also take full advantage of the resources provided. “Enjoy yourselves. Savor the experience, but try to do it quickly! I urge you to take every advantage of the outstanding resources you have at your disposal on our campuses. By optimizing your educational experiences, you overall quality of life for our state’s citizens. This is a significant mission. In today’s modern world, education is a common denominator to success — successful intellectual participation in society and successful participation in our nation’s economy.”

Davis said that it is important to make nationally recognized higher education available throughout the state. “This system...powers Georgia’s economic engine...
From the files of the GTPD...

Copper wire crime

Sometime between Jan. 23 and Jan. 30, 9 spools of copper wire were stolen from a locked trailer. The lock on the trailer was cut. The total value of the wire is about $1,000.

Police Crime

A person was arrested for soliciting money at the intersection of Williams St. and North Avenue on Jan. 28. The offender was transported to Grady Detention Center as he had been warned before.

Consider yourself warned

A woman was arrested for soliciting money at the intersection of Williams St. and North Avenue on Jan. 28. She had been warned before.

On Jan. 27, a student received two harassing phone calls back-to-back. Both phone calls used profane language and were mean spirited. The caller is believed to be the student’s roommate’s boyfriend.

Recalls

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the area and that the annual Sting Break concert has been free to students in the past. Senator Karen Feigh, an Industrial and Systems Engineering graduate student, said she believed that spending $40,000 to improve ticket prices at the currently planned rate of seven to nine dollars, which he said is easily less than 20 percent of the market value for tickets to similar concerts. During discussion of the bill, Senator Pelham Norville, an Electrical and Computer Engineering graduate student, expressed concern that the concert committee would not be maximizing profit by fixing the ticket prices at the currently planned rate of seven to nine dollars, which he said is easily less than 20 percent of the market value for tickets to similar concerts. The concert committee representative countered with concern that students might be unwilling to pay the increased ticket prices. Senator Pelham Norville, an Electrical and Computer Engineering graduate student, said he did not approve of the way the concert was planned, citing the failure of the concert committee to survey the campus about its music preferences before signing an artist of a specific genre for the concert. Given the music preferences of the student body, Senator Ed Greco, a Physics graduate student, said that he believed that spending $40,000 would be unnecessary, given that a classic rock band could be signed easily for half of that amount. When discussion ended and the bill to fund the concert came to a vote,
Students awoke to find frost on their cars Monday morning as Georgia's first snow of the year fell. Although there was not enough snow to play in, Facilities did pour salt on sidewalks and stairs around campus to protect students from the ice by the storm.

Not quite a winter wonderland. Students awoke to find frost on their cars Monday morning as Georgia’s first snow of the year fell. Although there was not enough snow to play in, Facilities did pour salt on sidewalks and stairs around campus to protect students from the ice by the storm.

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from page 1
quarters based in Illinois.”

SAE’s alumni presented a plan to the Office of Greek Affairs in May 2004 regarding the chapter’s chartering. “[The alumni] presented us with a re-chartering plan [designing] the steps they wanted to take,” Cooke said.

Local alumni recruited new members for the colony in January 2005. “Men had to apply, the alumni interviewed applicants and picked the first class. They went to the student organizations and my office [for assistance],” Cooke said. “They had great alumni support. [Alumni] recruited some really stellar men.”

During January 2005, the group began the process of gaining recognition as a campus organization. “The men started the process of becoming a recognized student organization at Tech. Once they received pending charter status from IFC, the colony petitioned IFC for provisional membership,” Cooke said. The colony was granted provisional membership until receiving a charter from SAE.

The students selected to be part of Georgia Phi’s first class moved into the chapter’s previous residence on Fourth Street Aug. 5, 2005, where they held formal rush events.

Since the suspension in 2000, the house had been used by Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Xi Delta.

A group of 35 members was officially initiated into Georgia Phi after the chapter regained its charter in late January. Kyle Brumby, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering major, was elected president. “The chapter issued a new charter from SAE. They were also presented with the original charter [used before the suspension],” Cooke said. “The men in the chapter now are listed as the Founding Fathers in the charter.”

“I’m very excited. This is something I’ve been looking forward to and that I’m very proud of. We’ve already had a strong start and we will continue to grow,” Brumby said. Brumby said that the chapter had put together a very comprehensive plan that deals with hazing. According to Brumby, Sigma Phi plans on being more sensitive to the hazing policies enforced by IFC and SAE. “[Hazing] is something that’s part of the national by-laws. It’s against federal law and the student fraternity laws,” Brumby said. SAE sponsors seminars about hazing and how to prevent [hazing],” he said.

Also said that all of the chapter’s members feel that hazing is inappropriate. “One of the reasons I don’t feel it’s a problem now is because most of our members didn’t join [other] fraternities for reasons surrounding this,” Brumby said. “We feel it is constructive to better our new members with constructive reinforcement. Hazing doesn’t work.”

“I am confident about what the men of Georgia Phi will bring to our campus. I could not be more excited about [SAE] coming back,” Cooke said.

from page 3

the bill failed with 15 opposed and 3 in favor. However, the bill passed by a large enough margin in the House of Representatives to be enacted despite the GSS decision.

The next two bills that came up for discussion were funding requests for the Miss Asian Atlanta Pageant.

The first bill the GSS discussed was the JCC version of the Miss Asian Atlanta Pageant bill voted on in last week’s meeting, and the second was a last-minute funding request to cover Ferst Center usage fees for the Miss Asian Atlanta Pageant.

During discussion of the Miss Asian Atlanta bills, representatives said that GSS should grant the Chinese Student Association’s funding requests, which total 50 percent of the cost of the event on the grounds that 50 percent of the contestants come from Tech, and 500 of the available 1,200 tickets available for the event are guaranteed to go to Tech students.

The representative for the bills also pointed out that the organization is in the process of requesting the remaining 50 percent of the Representative to be granted from the student government associations of all the colleges represented by contestants in the pageant.

GSS passed the JCC form of the bill giving $1,906 to the pageant. The bill requesting $1,812 to cover Ferst Center usage fees passed with an amendment reducing funding by $150 because, according to representatives, the organization could borrow a projector from the Residence Hall Association rather than renting one for $150.

The other three bills considered to propose to charter the Journey Christian Fellowship, the Beautification Day at Georgia Tech and the Marine Robotics Group. The GSS denied the bills altogether and passed them by unanimous acclamation.

U.S. trade deficit hits all time high

The Commerce Department said Friday that the 2005 trade deficit was recorded to be a high of $725.8 billion. This is the fourth year in a row that the trade deficit has been a high. The deficits over the past four years have largely resulted from a continuing trade deficit with China and other consumer goods, according to the Chicago Tribune. “Such a huge trade gap undercuts domestic manufacturing and destroys good U.S. jobs,” said Richard Trumka, secretary and treasurer of American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.
Currently, the Georgia Constitution has provisions that allow HOPE lottery money to be spent on capital outlay projects for educational facilities and technological training for teachers in the state’s public institutions. The new amendment moves to strike these provisions, thus preventing senators from using HOPE money for other purposes.

A different option for protecting HOPE was proposed by Democratic Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor. He supports a plan that would require a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate, followed by a public referendum vote, before program spending could be cut.

“[Taylor’s option] leaves legislators too much control to take money out of the lottery for other things. Less money means fewer people will receive HOPE,” Dempsey said.

“Right now there are excess funds, but we don’t want the extra money to be spent on other things. We need to protect HOPE for future generations to make up for possible shortfalls later.” Members of Tech’s chapter of College Republicans helped organize the rally, contacting leaders at other campuses to gather support. Students from numerous Georgia schools, including UGA, Kennesaw State, Georgia Southern and Brenau, were in attendance.

At the rally, students were able to speak directly to some senators and make their opinions known. Dempsey said the event was very effective because of the positive press they received and the support that they showed. The rally was covered by WSB radio, 11 Alive and the Athens Banner-Herald.

We might organize another rally when the revote occurs,” Dempsey said. “If students care about this issue, they should contact their senators and voice their opinions. The legislature will respond to voter concerns, and hopefully HOPE will be protected.”

At present, the HOPE amendment has been ‘engrossed,’ meaning no other amendments can be made to the legislation. It will be reconsidered by the Senate later in the legislative session. If the amendment passes, it will go on the ballot for Georgia voters in November; a majority vote will secure the constitutional change to bind HOPE funds.

The representatives also passed three bills by unanimous acclamation, chartering the Journey Christian Fellowship, Beautification Day and the Marine Robotics Group.
CRC landscaping project begins first phase at entrance

By Ranganath Venkataraman
Saag Wiser

The first phase of a long-term landscaping project began last week at the Campus Recreation Center (CRC). The project, which is currently only developing the area in front of the CRC, has temporarily closed the shortcut from Roe Stamps Field to the CRC.

According to Mike Edwards, CRC Director, this is the beginning of the first of four phases in a long-term project design that is intended to make the most of extra space in and around the CRC while beautifying the surroundings.

Phase one concentrates on the development of the area in front of the CRC.

“They’re scraping the poor soil that was laid out there, which was not conducive to growing plants,” Edwards said. “They’re putting in good soil and then laying some sod and put some plantings in.”

Edwards said that this was merely the part of the phase one that could be completed with the available funding. “A design was finally put into place and some funding became available through the Facilities Office,” he said.

The total cost of this phase, according to Young, the landscape project manager, was $134,000. The second phase of the plan focuses on the efficient usage of space around the leisure pool in the CRC.

According to Edwards the goal here was to use the space for student functions that take place near the leisure pool.

“We do functions for all sorts of student organizations because of the slide and sunning patio,” Edwards said.

“There’s more area between the leisure pool and Tech parkway that can be captured and utilized for all student functions that go on near that leisure pool,” Edwards said.

The third phase is in charge of landscaping provisions for spectator sporting events in the Roe Stamps field by the CRC. Seating would not resemble bleachers, but would blend into the landscape according to Edwards.

“We have an extensive intramural and sports club program. People come to watch, so we want to provide areas for that to happen,” he said. The fourth phase will include updating the landscape on the back of the building that is visible to the road.

Some students, while supportive of the idea, felt that the landscaping would not affect their decision to visit the CRC.

“I think it’s a good idea, but frankly, I was going to go and work out there, no matter what it looked like,” said Matt Scrudato, a first-year Biomedical Engineering major. “It’s nice to have some bleachers and stuff,” O’Connor added. “Over the weekend there was a lacrosse competition and people were just standing there or bringing folding chairs out there to sit on.”

This landscape design, while considered in previous years, has only recently been implemented due to constraints in funding.

“They’re scraping the poor soil and putting some plantings in,” said Haldan Gates, a first-year Aerospace Engineering major. “The CRC looks good as it is anyway, but having a place to sit would be nice,” Gates added.

Brian O’Connor, a second-year Mechanical Engineering major said he support the plan for seating provisions in the Roe Stamps field.

“They do need some bleachers and stuff,” O’Connor said. “This landscape design, while considered in previous years, has only recently been implemented due to constraints in funding.”

The original CRC construction project, in order to meet the budget, had very little landscaping in the end product,” Edwards said. “When funding became available, the project was started.”

Edwards said that the overall design is beautiful, but that the other phases would only be completed as funding became available and that it would be impossible to project a date for the end of the entire project.

“Landscape projects are expensive…especially if you’d like to do a nice landscape like they are attempting to do all over campus,” Edwards said.

Edwards said that there would be inconvenience during the project, but that landscaping around a building made it more inviting and that there would be more green space for students to socialize.

“There are inconveniences with the fences up. Things will be difficult and students will have to walk around to the entrance instead of using the shortcut,” Edwards said.

Many students, however, appear to be unconcerned about any inconveniences caused by construction and dismiss them for the benefit of the end result.

“The long way just takes thirty-seconds to walk around,” O’Connor said.

George Yim, a fourth-year Management major, said that he felt the same way and that students who are going to the CRC would not mind walking.

“If we’re just walking a bit we won’t be affected. After all, this is the CRC,” Yim said.

“Just don’t be lazy and walk around,” Buckner said. “It’s a minor inconvenience, but if it’s for the common good, it’s worth it.”

The first phase of a long-term landscaping project started last week at the Campus Recreation Center (CRC). The landscaping has temporarily closed the shortcut students use to access Roe Stamps Field.

“Before giving, I always look for the Humane Seal.”

NOAH WYLE
Star of NBC’s hit show ER

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