

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Crime still a concern

Administration and GTPD should work with students

Crime around Tech has been the topic of discussion for students for the past month and deserves still more attention than it is being given. While we appreciate that the student reaction so quickly sparked the extension of the Stingerette service from campus to door of off-campus housing in Home Park and Centennial Place, this is not enough to make students safe.

In the recent town hall meeting held by College Democrats, some students left feeling as though the only advice given was not to walk at night anywhere.

This advice, while sound, does not address the practical needs of students. Students must be able to get home after studying at night. For now, the extended Stingerette service helps students to protect themselves, but what will happen in the fall?

Student initiatives, such as a town hall meeting addressing crime held by the College Democrats are a clear demonstra-

tion of student activism, and the administration and Atlanta PD should respond in kind.

Beyond emails, the administration itself has yet to reach out to students to help them feel safer. We applaud students for trying to make their voices heard on this issue, but now Tech needs to step up and answer. For once, students are willing to take action, interested and concerned about crime. Tech, GTPD and Atlanta police should take this opportunity to tell students about crime prevention.

It would be great to find a way to make the extension of Stingerette services permanent and financially feasible. Perhaps Tech could extend a bus route off campus, much like the green route. However, there would have to be some way for students to be safe at the bus stops while they wait. If Tech students can come up with Waitless on their own, though, surely a notification system for the buses can be created to do the same.

The Consensus Opinion reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

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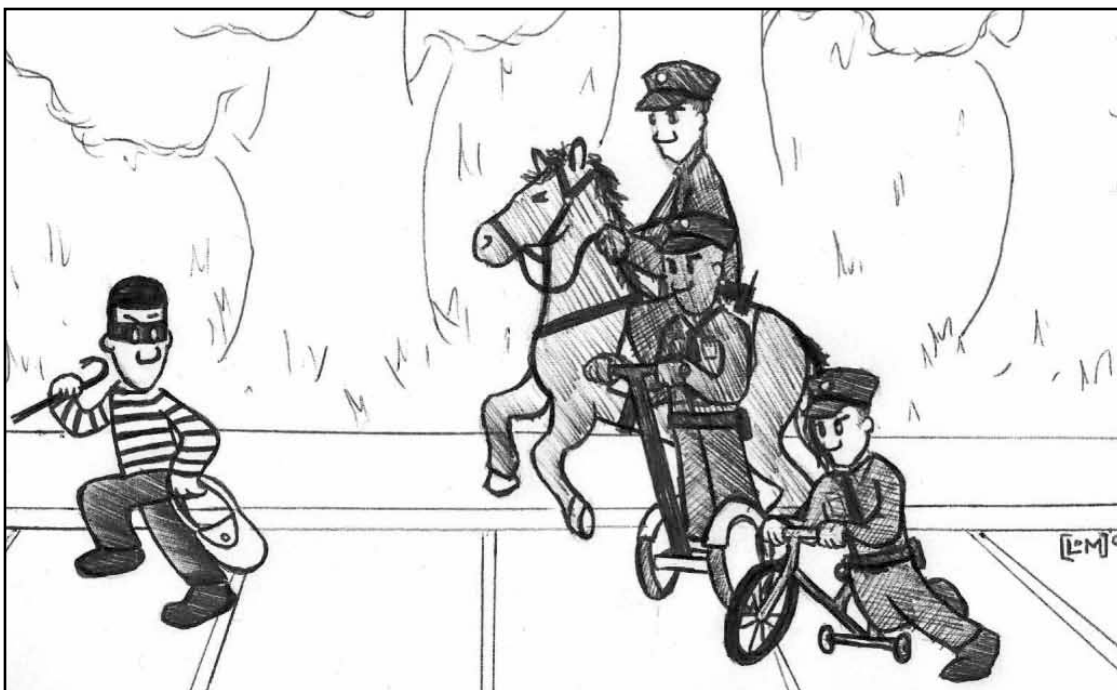
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On-campus road blocks encourage alternative transportation

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Administration should take action

President Peterson, thank you for keeping us all in the loop on steps Tech is taking on public safety. As a faculty member concerned about community, who commutes by foot from Midtown, I follow these topics with interest.

However, I am disappointed in reading this bulletin that the only solutions suggested are on the part of the police on the one hand, and individuals on the other. What is the role of the Institute?

There are many things Tech could do besides liaising with the police and educating individuals that would help us all stay safer.

For example, the areas of construction sites and the detours around them are very poorly lit; fixing that would make them less appealing as hiding places and safer for pedestrians to navigate.

At present, there are long waits in the dark for scarce and inadequate shuttles. Students writing in the *Technique* have also pointed out the potential to increase safety by improving campus transport.

The trolley and shuttle system could be a usable alternative to parking or walking alone for those who must come to labs, offices, the library, or student events at night, if there were reliable increased frequency, expanded routes, and well-lit secure waiting places.

Students, staff and faculty who have to come in from off-campus late at night have to park very far from their labs and offices, forcing them to walk across empty parking lots and a dark campus. Changing late-night parking rules would be a bureaucratic hassle, but would increase safety. These are just a few ideas; there are many more ways to make campus safer.

Bigger conversations need to happen about how to strengthen the communities in neighborhoods around Tech to make them safer for all of their residents. Tech should be a good neighbor by being in dialogue with non-Tech residents of those neighborhoods and supporting their initiatives to improve community centers, schools, youth programs and the like, as well as making sure police are accountable and their practices are transparent so that they can earn the trust of community members at Tech and beyond.

Fundamentally, I hope someone at Tech is thinking: what besides more police and individual common sense can we do to make our community safer?

Anne Pollock
STAC assistant professor

If you must commit a crime, don't use a gun

Upon reading the influx of letters regarding recent incidences of crime near campus, I feel led to offer a different perspective. Crime is often an economic problem. As the economy worsens, crime increases. With lack of jobs and other alternatives, people become

Write to us: letters@nique.net

We welcome your letters in response to *Technique* content as well as topics relevant to campus. We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis.

Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Include your full name, year (1st, 2nd, etc.) and major. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed per term.

desperate, and resort to crime. Previous submissions have explored local law enforcement to improve their efforts. Since this has already been done, I address this letter to the criminals.

As a child growing up in Atlanta, my house was robbed a few times. We never had cash in the house, and computers and televisions were too large for petty thieves to carry, so we were out less than fifty dollars after those incidences.

The only items robbers ever took with them were VCRS and boom boxes. If we were never robbed, we would probably never have upgraded to DVD and CD players, and I would still be listening to mix tapes on cassette and watching VHS movies. My parents now live in the suburbs and will probably never upgrade to Blue Ray. The reason I can talk about these few incidences so lightheartedly is that they weren't armed robberies.

No one can convince me that firearms are necessary to rob a Tech student. What are we going to do to you, gouge your eyes out with a mechanical pencil? I've never heard of anyone dying from getting hit in the back of the head with a TI-89. Simply demanding that I empty the contents of my purse is sufficient.

If I were robbed on my way me from the library at night I would consider that a bad day. If you robbed me at gunpoint, I would suffer a traumatic experience that would probably blight any good memories I may have of Tech.

Plus, the punishments for armed robberies are much more severe. Why take on the unnecessary risk? While I don't condone crime, it is a nearly unavoidable with an economic downturn. However, the unnecessary use of firearms is bad for everyone.

Korin Reid
Fifth-year CHBE

Healthier food should be offered, not donuts

Am I the only person who views GT's recent decision to bring Dunkin Donuts to the student center abhorrent? Just what

Amusement parks turn people to drones

Amusement parks have, since the dawn of civilization, been available for the delight of every community imaginable. Birked from the ideas of carnivals and fairs, it has grown into the beast that we know it today, resembling small cities hosting iron serpents and various other attractions.

But the irony ensues through the symbol being an antithesis of what it really represents, a somewhat desensitization of culture itself.

Disney had a vision of creating “lands” which would help stir the imagination of the patrons that visit. This was meant to allow these individuals to partake in different experiences throughout their visit; going from “future land” to “frontier land” exhibits a contrast in every aspect of life.

I soon realized that this was not indeed the backwash of Disney’s amusement parks. Instead individuals become mindless, disregarding all the fine details that Disney put in place, completely ignorant of their surroundings.

After coming back from Disney World, during the July 4th weekend, I was intrigued by the sociological mentality of the crowd. They are herded like cattle, mindlessly walking, pushing, and shoving toward their destination.

One by one, each head swaying left and right, we walk to the same rhythm as



“The public no longer thinks while inside the vicinity, but instead succumb to the nature of our...frightening endeavors.”

Kelvin Kuo
Photo Editor

if we were all being lead to an inevitable end. Walking down, everyone is bounded by steel cages that lead through long walkways, a maze for our senses.

The public no longer thinks while inside the vicinity, but instead succumb to the nature of it, our final destination of frightening endeavors. Fighting to become the first in line, there is no affinity to other human beings, but instead only towards the groups they are in.

Civilization as we know it crumbles and rots as we degrade to animalistic beings. Slowly as we inch forward, each individual becomes more tightly knit and familiarity no longer matters. Oblivious to their current status, until finally a glistening steel steed appears to take them away.

Our true selves come out while mounted on the track of any roller coaster. Anticipating the events to come, yet only able to sense and live for the moment. Once the cart is unleashed, our inhibitions are

dropped and fear grabs us by our tails, unexpectedly. With nowhere to hide, our raw emotions shine for everyone to see. Sheer fright, enjoyment, indifference is casted, and we always lust for more devolved into what civilization has strived to avoid.

The corporation dehumanizes us, facilitating our tendencies to graze on the ideas of riding the next big roller coaster. Thrill seekers are no longer thrill seekers, but instead another statistic in their books.

Every aspect of the park is planned, so we no longer have to think, no longer have to anticipate our fate.

Our humanity drops right as we lay our feet on the asphalt, suddenly and inevitably transformed into the monster that hibernates inside of us. I find that people no longer have empathy for each other, but only fend for themselves, and their direct subsidiaries.

With park prices increasing recently raising the admittance to each park, the new price at

80 dollars for a day, worth of musky sweat, harsh sunlight, and rude patrons does not tickle my fancy.

I find myself fighting to get my moneys worth also. I believe that I could easily receive the same treatment, if I wanted to, for free at any local public park.

What is the method to this apparent madness we call amusement parks? Are we there living for the moment, in order to degrade ourselves into mere beings?

Why do we pay top dollar to mindlessly wander the pastures developed by amusement park giants? I ask myself these questions after each endeavor, waiting for a clue on what is truly fascinating about these stables.

While leaving the park, I see the same ritualistic mannerisms that consumed the ones that dared enter. Individuals marked after the exit of the park, as if branded for reentrance.

With the lingering euphoria, we exit as we had entered, funneled through wires into transportation that will lead us away, shipped back to our dwellings, leaving us with bewilderment and a blasé attitude toward what they have ahead, lusting for more adventure. This desensitization has made me wonder why we always allow nature to rule nature in these situations.

25 year plan should embrace all majors

It seems President Bud Peterson has decided to take another go at developing a 25-year plan for a major university, as he announced to campus Monday by email.

His first, the “Flagship 2030” plan for the University of Colorado at Boulder, referred to a goal of establishing a “new flagship university of the 21st century”. Tech’s current strategic plan contains similar wording: “the technological research university of the 21st century”. While references to the 21st century are textbook marketing-speak, in this case it represents an actual development that has to occur for Tech to remain not just an elite university, but relevant as a driver of progress in our society.

Some of the items in Tech’s new plan will be usual elements of such university strategic plans: improving education and research, promoting diversity, expanding financial aid availability, and so forth. These are worthy and necessary goals but these represent the current status quo. Tech has done a great job at being an excellent institution by the traditional standards of an engineering school. But to truly live up to being a 21st century technological research university, Tech will need big adjustments to its approach.

I strongly believe that, first and foremost, Tech needs to drop the notion that it is an



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Craig Tabita
Editor Emeritus

engineering school by definition. Almost as a matter of policy, from the top to the bottom, it seems everything at Tech is supposed to be about engineering first and foremost, and then the other disciplines where there is room left over. Even the selection of Peterson as Tech’s president, depending on which member of the presidential search committee you ask, was based in part on satisfying a requirement of being an engineer. This does not represent much of a commitment to the success of Tech’s other programs on the part of those individuals having control over Tech and its future. For too many, the primary measure of Tech’s success is how high *U.S. News* has ranked our engineering programs.

The problem with this is that technology is not just about engineering anymore. Technology is now intimately intertwined with every discipline, including all of the departments and majors at Tech, and it is technology that will carry those disciplines forward

into the future. Therefore, in the future a technology-centered institution like Tech should be at the forefront in all sorts of fields, and Tech has the duty of carving new paths for these disciplines to follow. If Tech is doing its job as a technological research university, fifty years from now the institute will be renowned for its research in areas like public policy and computational media, and the success of its alumni in those fields.

Yet, right now non-engineering programs at Tech are often overlooked and discredited. Tech needs to bring these other programs up to the same level of excellence, and meanwhile work to fix their reputations and clear up people’s misconceptions. Such a move, even if it requires diverting resources from the beloved engineering departments, will in the end produce a more complete and better renowned technological research university. This benefits everyone, even the engineers.

Perhaps at this point, we

will no longer have a campus where students who aren’t studying engineering feel like they don’t belong here. A campus where students have mutual intellectual respect for one another will produce a more unified campus community and a more pleasant atmosphere. Suffice it to say, with regard to certain majors that intellectual respect doesn’t entirely exist at the moment.

It’s time for Tech to move out of the past. It’s time to forge new definitions of success while forging new campus traditions. I can only offer my own perspective of what that means and how it should be done, but I’ll be severely disappointed in any 25 year plan that doesn’t take very seriously our non-engineering programs and recognize how vital they are to Tech.

Peterson’s message to campus included a reference “directed discussion sessions” to be held this fall as a chance for students to be involved. My suggestion is to take these sessions very seriously and make time to prepare for and attend them. As students, our perspective is critical towards setting Tech’s course for the next 25 years. For most of us, the majority of that time frame will be spent trading on the reputation of Tech as an institution after having graduated, with a degree whose value will be highly dependent on the success of this 25 year plan.

BUZZ Around Campus

What was the best part of this summer?



Caleb Galeos
Fourth-year CS

“Graduating.”



Tyler Meehan
Third-year CS

“Going to the beach with my family.”



Rachel Munnerlyn
Fourth-year CS

“Going to Stone Mountain and doing sky hike.”



Amanda Magabo
Third-year CE

“Going to Costa Rica.”

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT-or-NOT

**Stingerette extended**

In response to the recent spike in crime in off-campus neighborhoods, the Stingerette's route has been extended to take students directly to their homes in Home Park and in Centennial Place for the rest of the summer. Hopefully, this will make students safer on the way back from long hours slaving at the library. We also hope that something similar can be put in place for the fall to ensure continued safety.

**Prestigious presenters**

Muhtar Kent, President and CEO of the Coca-Cola Company, has been selected as the speaker this December for the engineering ceremony and Admiral Truely, Air Force research pilot and Tech grad (AE '59) has been selected for the non-engineering graduates. Both are prestigious additions to our ceremonies and all graduates have yet another reason to look forward to graduation.

**Centergy deck falls**

A part of the parking deck of the Centergy building in Tech Square collapsed, crushing four levels of cars. No one was hurt, but the cars were unrecoverable in that section, while the others could not even recover their intact cars immediately for fear of collapsing another part of the deck. There is a vague fear of the demise of other parking decks in the area as now this contractor's bridge and deck have fallen.

**Useless light**

If you have ever been unfortunate enough to be caught at the traffic light at Atlantic and Ferst, you know how long you can waste time and watch nothing happen. Since Atlantic is now closed off from both directions, no one is turning either left or right there, but rather simply stopping to enjoy the weather. Perhaps the little traffic on Atlantic deserves only a stop sign to save time.

Leave behind a legacy in life

Over 20,000 people turned out on this past Tuesday to honor Michael Jackson, the one and only "King of Pop." In his lifetime, MJ sold over 750 million records, supported 39 charities, won 13 Grammys, and revolutionized the world of music. People are going to remember Michael Jackson forever because he left behind a legacy of all the amazing things he did in his lifetime.

Although most of us don't have MJ's moonwalking skills or his collection of awards and honors, we all still have something unique to leave behind—our experiences and the lessons we have learned. Inevitably, after four, five or six years, all of us will "get out" of Tech. The question is if the valuable things that we have learned and the great things we have done will leave with us, or if they will be passed down.

This is a fundamental question that everyone should think about, especially in the context of student life and leadership. As both students and leaders we should have the posterity to think about not only the here and now, but also how we can leave a legacy for the future.



"Although most of us don't have MJ's moonwalking skills... we all still have something unique to leave behind."

Jonathan Saethang

Chair of PCGB and Managing Editor

A legacy is not simply a litany of accomplishments; it is a conscious effort to manifest intentions into actions. The objective of leaving a legacy should not be solely for recognition or for validation. Rather, the most important defining aspect of a legacy is to leave behind a positive impact.

It is essential to consider the ways that we can best make positive impacts that will continue on after we are gone. For example, philanthropy is a critical part of many student organizations that seek to give back to the community. Conducting a one-time service project is a great way to have a positive impact on the present, but establishing an ongoing program that continues to carry out service projects is a way to carry that impact into the future. While

it is important for us to take initiative in the present, it is more important for us to empower others to continue our work in the future.

One important way to help pass on lessons learned is to conduct a proper transition. This is probably one of the most common mistakes that a student organization can make. Many student organizations have struggled because those in charge did not share any information, thereby making their successors repeat the same mistakes that they endured.

As busy Tech students, it becomes very easy for us to get caught up in the tasks at hand. It is a vital skill, however, to have the ability to think ahead about what the future holds. What legacy will we leave?

Donuts from page 4

we students need, yet another multinational fast food corporation serving us nutritionally-void food that preys on our addiction to sugar and fat. Add Dunkin' to our impressive list of quality food establishments like Chick-fil-A, Pizza Hut, and Burger King.

The last time I checked, energy and nutrition do not come from simple carbohydrates, refined white sugar, and saturated fat. They come from complex carbohydrates, found in fruits and vegetables. The stuff they put in the

smoothies that they make at the location that will be replaced by Dunkin' Donuts. We will be replacing real food with junk food. Health and quality are not associated with Dunkin' Donuts.

It is because of our addiction to sugar and fat that 1 in 3 children born after the year 2000 will get early-onset diabetes and part of the reason we are the fattest country in the world. The idea that GT would not only allow, but actively recruit such an unhealthy enterprise that makes bad choices more convenient for students actually epitomizes everything wrong with our country's health system.

I'm not sure which is more repulsive, the "food" they serve at Dunkin' Donuts or the poor decision to replace the only place to get fresh fruit on campus (the CRC smoothie place doesn't count because its never open) with a donut shop. A fruit bar is the exact thing we need, and its being taken and replaced by an unhealthy fast food chain. Don't let the low prices fool you. You get what you pay for.

Health and nutrition are about as high a priority on the GT Dining Service's list as safety and prevention are on the GTPD's list.

Nathan Black
Fifth-Year EE

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