

Vigil for protesters

Students hold remembrance ceremony for victims of violence in Iran. ▶ 7



Centergy parking deck collapses, no injuries



Photo by Blake Israel / Student Publications

Four floors of the Centergy parking deck in Tech Square collapsed on June 29 leaving heaps of debris as well as crushed and damaged cars. No one was injured in the incident.

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

On June 29 a Midtown Atlanta parking deck at the corner of Spring Street and Fifth Street collapsed around 12:30 pm. The 1,415-space garage mainly served employees of the Centergy building, RBC Bank, Georgia Tech and patrons of the nearby L.A. Fitness Center.

Roughly 700 vehicles were re-

moved from the deck and 45 were rendered unusable as a result of the four-story "pancake-style" collapse. No injuries were reported as a result of the collapse.

Hardin Construction was the general contractor for the Centergy parking deck, which was completed in 2004. However, Metromont Corporation was the subcontractor which did the actual construction work. The building was fabricated from

precast concrete pieces manufactured at Metromont's facilities in Greenville, SC and Hiram, Ga. The parking deck has not been inspected since receiving its certificate of occupancy upon completion, and there had been no complaints since. Consequently, city officials did not feel the need to conduct what would have been a costly inspection.

"Obviously, we're...very concerned about what took place

and we're trying to figure out what could've happened," said Bill Pinto, president of Hardin Construction. "Nobody should be concerned about a parking deck anymore than - some plane crashes and all of a sudden you say, well, I can't go on that plane anymore - that's not the case."

However, Hardin Construction was recently fined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the Atlanta Botanical Garden bridge collapse. The pedestrian bridge collapsed last December, killing one construction worker and injuring 18 others. According to OSHA's report on this accident, Hardin Construction and two other companies had placed support towers too far apart and had not properly inspected the structure.

"It's unfortunate that a connection [between the two incidents] continues to get made. They're absolutely and totally different situations," Pinto said.

Typically, structures such as bridges and parking garages are "over-designed" to handle any excess stress.

"In the design phase, we try to allow for some tolerances. We design for a stronger structure than it ought to be," said Robert Leon, a professor of civil engineering at Tech.

One striking aspect of the Centergy parking deck collapse is that such collapses normally occur during two phases: during or soon after construction, or when the structure has aged so much that it is falling part. The Centergy deck, however, has been in operation for only five years.

According to Harry Gleich, Vice President of Engineering for Metromont Corporation, the company has a clean slate and has done construction work on other concrete garages in Atlantic Station, Emory and the World of Coke. While he did not offer any speculative explanations for the collapse, he did rule out the possibility that the structure had been overloaded.

"Weight should not be an issue," Gleich said.

David Tyndall, head of Gateway Development, the company that owns the parking deck, reported that an exterior beam extending from one column to another, called the spandrel beam, had popped out. What forced the beam out is under investigation.

"With regard to those who had been affected and lost cars, we have been in contact with them and the property insurance companies," said Harry Conley, president and CEO of Fifth Street Management Company. "All of those issues have to be worked out. In the meantime they have been instructed to contact their insurance companies to make arrangements for other modes of transportation and then come back and talk to us."

Current rebuilding estimates project that repairs will take between three to six months. However, work won't begin until the investigation into the cause of the collapse has been finished.

"No repairs will begin until the cause of the collapse is determined," Conley said. "There will be some preliminary meetings in the next few weeks and a new design plan put into place."

Thompson named new Ferst Center Director

By Sijia Cai
News Editor

George Thompson, former professional dancer and general manager of the American Conservatory Theater, has been named as the new director of the Ferst Center for the Arts.

He steps into the position more than a year after former director Jay Constantz left Tech. Stephanie Lee, marketing director of the Ferst Center, served as interim director until Thompson was appointed last month.

As manager of the American Conservatory Theater, Thompson was responsible for organizing the production and operation of 14 shows per year. At the Ferst Center, he will be in charge of not only organizing each season's performances but also administration and fundraising, among other things.

"Early in my career, I worked at the State University of New York. That gave me a very student-centric perspective on managing a campus arts program. So coming to Tech is like a homecoming ex-

perience for me," Thompson said.

Thompson has over two decades of experience in managing arts organizations. One of his most significant accomplishments was increasing the budget of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center's operating budget from \$7 million to \$27 million while serving as executive vice president there.

"We had three very strong finalists, but George stood out because of his background and interviewing ability. He is really the best person to take the Ferst Center to its next level," said Bill Schafer, Vice President of Student Affairs, who chaired the search committee for a new director.

According to Schafer, after the former director left, a company called the Management Consultants for the Arts Inc. worked with Tech to develop a comprehensive report on what the future direction of the Ferst Center should be. One of the recommendations was that the Center needed to deepen its connections with the academic side of campus.

"I think there are many con-

nections that we can draw between the arts and engineering. Dance and architecture, for example, use a lot of the same nomenclature. Trying to find those connections while bringing world-class art to the campus is a main part of what I want to do," Thompson said.

Traditionally, the Ferst Center has been funded through state funding, revenue from performances, and fundraising. In light of the decreasing state budget, Thompson says that a main priority for the Ferst Center will be making sure that all the performances can pay for themselves and that further efforts to increase attendance, both from within and outside of the campus community, are undertaken.

"The Ferst Center cannot and should not be just another presenter in a vast array of presenters around the country. We need to brand our programming so that it's distinctive," Thompson said.

Another main focus of Thompson's is getting students more involved in the performing arts.

"When students come to a university, they are pulled in so many



Photo by Adebola Adedire / Student Publications

George Thompson, a former professional dancer with 20 years of experience in arts management, is the new Ferst Center Director.

different directions. I would just like to expose the arts to them, maybe bring in an outdoor performance or simply ask students

for their opinions. But I am heartened by the large number of our students who do come to all of our performances," Thompson said.

TECHNIQUE

The South's Liveliest College Newspaper

Founded in 1911, the *Technique* is the student newspaper of the Georgia Institute of Technology, and is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. The *Technique* publishes on Fridays weekly during the fall and spring and biweekly during the summer.

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Campus Crime

By Sijia Cai
News Editor

Student robbed...again

On June 29, a Tech student was walking by himself on Mecalaslin Street between 15th and 16th Street when he was robbed at gunpoint. According to his report, a large black SUV pulled up to him as he was heading northbound towards 16th Street. Three black males jumped out of the vehicle and pointed handguns at him. One of the suspects was wearing a white shirt while the others were wearing dark clothing. The student was forced to give up his backpack and cell phone after one of the attackers ordered him to surrender his wallet and struck

him on the head with the handgun. After taking the student's possessions, the suspects told him to run away, upon which he did so and alarmed the police. Even though the victim was slightly injured during the incident, he refused medical treatment and was released. Neither Atlanta police nor Tech police were able to locate the suspects.

Don't solicit on the street

On June 26 at around noon, officers received a report that a person was walking around the road on North Avenue at Williams Street, soliciting rides and

business. The person was arrested for soliciting drivers in a public setting and was released to the Fulton County Jail. Interestingly, two days afterwards another person was arrested for soliciting passing drivers for rides and business at the same intersection. This time the incident was reported in the evening; the offender was also arrested and transported to the Fulton County Jail.

When high, keep to yourself

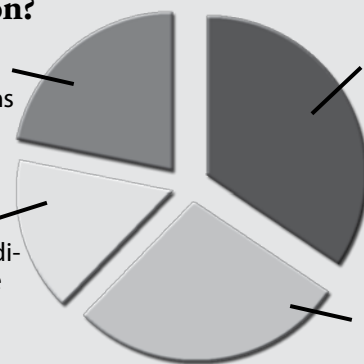
On June 29 at approximately 2 a.m., officers arrested a man for public intoxication at the corner of Tenth Street at State Street. The suspect was obviously drunk and was found to be in possession of marijuana and drug related equipment. Officers ran a check on the offender and subsequently released him to the Fulton County Jail.

POLL OF THE WEEK

How do you feel about the Iranian presidential election?

18.89%
They have elections in Iran? No way!

13.33%
It was fair and democratic. Ahmadi-nejad won because the people picked him.



Based on 90 responses

Next issue's question:

How do you feel about the Centergy parking deck collapse?

Tell us at niquen.net

TECHNIQUE

THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

SUMMER SCHEDULE

TECHNIQUE IN NEWSTANDS:

FRIDAY, MAY 22
FRIDAY, JUNE 12
FRIDAY, JUNE 26
FRIDAY, JULY 10

TECHNIQUE THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

STAFF MEETINGS
FREE PIZZA!

7 PM

TUESDAY, MAY 26
TUESDAY, JUNE 2
TUESDAY, JUNE 30

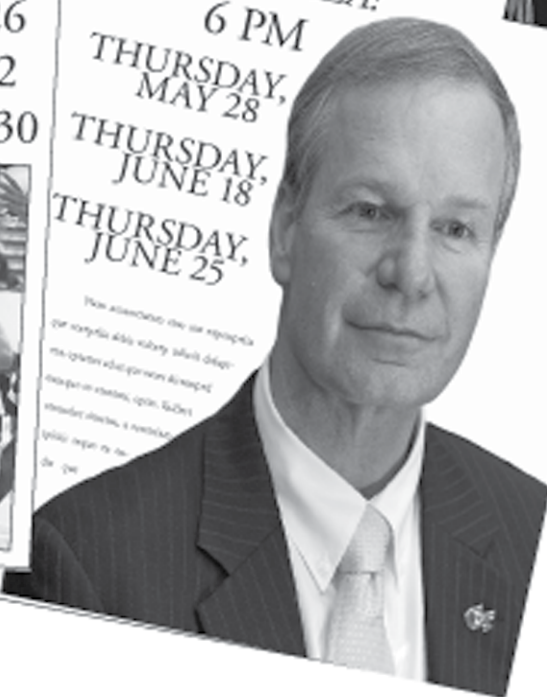


TECHNIQUE THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

PHOTO MEETINGS
FREE PIZZA!

6 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 28
THURSDAY, JUNE 18
THURSDAY, JUNE 25



Tech helps launch “green” mission

By Vijai Narayanan
Senior Staff Writer

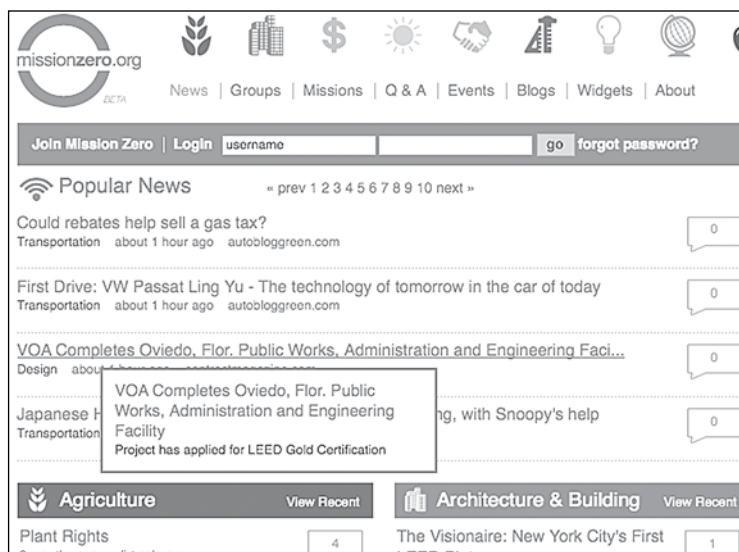
Tech has recently been named as a founding partner for Mission Zero, an online community that offers a place to share ideas and ask questions about sustainability issues. The goal of the website is to provide resources for companies interested in taking steps to become zero waste or carbon neutral. Moreover, it is a place for interested participants to learn about sustainability practices and how to implement them.

This resource was developed by Interface Inc., a local Atlanta company and leading manufacturer in the carpet industry. The idea for Mission Zero was conceived by Ray Anderson, a Tech alumnus and founder of Interface Inc. Anderson is also recognized as a pioneer in the sustainability field and was one of the first company executives who sought to make his company zero waste.

“Mission Zero provides a base for companies to put out their goals for the world to see and to become more environmentally sustainable by forming ideas through networking and discussion,” said Sarah Mallory, Student Communications Director for GreenBuzz, an on-campus sustainability resource.

Mallory said that individuals play a critical role in the project by asking questions and helping the community come up with answers.

The Mission Zero website includes a comprehensive news section that offers information on topics such as agriculture, design and environmental policy. The site also includes a mechanism for groups to take on smaller goals, or “missions,” such as switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs.



A screenshot of missionzero.org shows industry-related forums.

In addition, the site includes a social networking component where individuals, as well as members, can participate in group discussions to share ideas and ask specific questions.

“The more information and interaction there is on the site, the more global support it will attract, so that more people can join and make positive change happen,” Mallory said.

According to Mallory, Mission Zero was a logical step for Tech after GreenBuzz was developed in early 2008. She said that Tech strengthens its position in the sustainability field by participating in the project. In fact, Tech was the only university invited to be a part of Mission Zero.

“Interface approached Tech because of its research efforts in the field of sustainability and its track record on environmental issues,” said Terry Blum, Professor in the College of Management and an initial point of contact for Mission Zero.

“We are especially excited about the students getting in-

involved. This next generation is critical to maintaining the momentum that has been started,” said Joyce LaVelle, Senior Vice President of Marketing for InterfaceFLOR. “We sought out leaders who will contribute valuable information to the site and be able to recruit their own stakeholders... to build and sustain the community.”

In the early stages of the project, Tech played a mainly advisory role on how to build the community and raise the project’s visibility. According to Mallory, the next step would be attracting faculty, staff and students to get involved in the mission as well as to suggest possible improvements to the website.

Interface Inc. plans to step away from the project once the final version of the site is released. Afterwards, the site will be run by the community alone.

“Anyone anywhere can participate, which is so exciting to us because it is the community, not Interface, who will determine where this will go,” LaVelle said.

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 around the world.

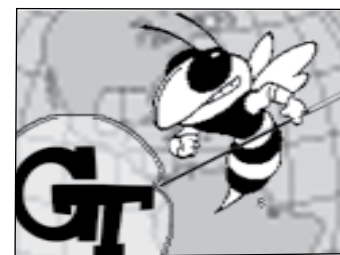
King of pop Michael Jackson dies at age 50

On June 25, Michael Jackson, legendary singer and entertainer, died of a cardiac arrest at the age of 50. His personal doctor, Conrad Murray, reported that he had found Jackson in bed, not breathing, and had conducted CPR before alerting the police.

When paramedics arrived on the scene, they tried to resuscitate Jackson but were unsuccessful even after he had been moved to the UCLA Medical Center. The police reportedly found numerous strong painkillers and other prescription drugs in Jackson’s home, while Murray’s car has been towed for evidence. Murray, however, has denied prescribing any dangerous drugs to his patient.

Jackson had been scheduled to perform 50 sold-out concerts at a London arena, which he had indicated would be the “final curtain call” of his career. The concerts, as well as the public memorial service, were organized and promoted by AEG Live, which reportedly had a three-and-a-half year contract with Jackson.

Jackson is survived by his three children, his siblings, and his parents. His mother, Katherine Jackson, has temporary custody of the children. The will also names Diana Ross as guardian of Jackson’s children in the



event that his mother is unable to take care of them. There is media speculation that his previous wife, who gave birth to his older two children, will be seeking custody of them.

A public memorial service was held on July 7 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles and featured a variety of performers such as Stevie Wonder and Mariah Carey. It is still unclear where Jackson’s body will be put to rest.

Plane crashes into Indian Ocean, 1 survivor

An Airbus 310 operated by Yemenia Airlines crashed into the Indian Ocean on June 30 with 153 aboard. The plane was en route from Sana’a, Yemen to Moroni, Comoros and crashed off the coast of a Comoros island a few minutes away from the airport.

Most of the passengers on board were French citizens who were heading home for vacation and had boarded the flight after a stop at Sana’a. Since Comoros does not possess any sea rescue capabilities, two French aircraft and a vessel searched for the crashed airplane.

Out of the 153 passengers and crew aboard, only one, a twelve year old girl named Bahia Bakari, survived. According to Bakari, she could not swim and had no life vest but held on to aircraft wreckage for more than 13 hours in the water until rescued. Her mother, who was traveling with her, did not survive the crash. She has been flown back to her home in France.



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Lee is the most amazingly stunning woman I have met.
Ohh I forgot I like beer. So I like girls, cars, beer, and pies more or less in that order.

is it bad that my gatech email inbox has 18,000 emails in it
Trolley fail.

i have no idea who mr. r hoffner is, but now i would like like to kick him in his shins. good going buzzport announcements --
Hello from Lithuania! Or should I say labas?!

rackley
Challenge 09

i just spiked my punch using free fall motion...physics is getting to me...

the ratio is finally getting to me...this is a problem...
So apparently the people next to you at a red light WON'T go crazy for a sharp dressed man.

I thought everyone liked ZZ Top.

mo mo don't leave me :-(

NAN shower lottery: the losing streak is ridiculous...

she did what?! o.O

http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/studentsforlife/index.html

omg stupid thermo stealing my beauty sleep.... my bed awaits me..

why is GT dining hall food so good? this pizza tastes like the opposite of cardboard with no tomatoa sauce

Hi, billy mays here!!!!

omg mj I will miss u in my heart u were my life and I will listen to thriller on repeat forever

what's my name?

my boyfriend's new car is so sexy!! i hope to inherit it one day lol
Bleach is GREAT!!! (the anime, not the cleaner, the cleaner is just ok)

Is it bad when you can relate to most of XKCD?

you broke your promise again-- of course, u went to boston.

if you click "reply all" on a mailing list, i will round up exactly 17 people, find you on facebook, and tar and feather you. stop being douche bags