Tech's SWAT team trains using full equipment and gear at a shut-down laboratory facility.

GTPD adds SWAT team
By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) will add an eight man SWAT team to its force in the coming months. The team’s formation is the culmination of over three years of work by the administration to increase emergency preparedness and safety on campus.

In order to fund the development of the force, GTPD received an expanded budget from the Institute and additional grants from other sources. The funding provided for the development of the SWAT team and also for the procurement of more vehicles and equipment for use by GTPD.

Despite the additional resources provided for the creation of the force, there are still some constraints placed on the team, such as limited manpower. Members of the team currently perform regular patrols, but in addition to providing for the expansion of more vehicles and equipment, the GTPD will also be able to provide for the development of SWAT responsibilities.

“At this time we’re allowing SWAT guys to do double duty…” as we expand our personnel, we’re hoping to eventually to become a full time SWAT team. But we want to have a bit more people on patrol first, we don’t want to take away from our primary duties as patrolers,” said Lieutenant Marcus Walton, leader of the SWAT team.

In overall command of the team is retired Atlanta officer Anthony Whitmire, who has been policing since 1979 and is a ten year veteran of the City of Atlanta policing since 1979 and is a ten year veteran of the City of Atlanta

While no students were harmed in either confrontation in Home Park, not all student-related crime in the city has ended without violence. Last May Tech student Patrick Whaley was shot in the parking deck of the Tivoli Tenside apartment buildings near campus. Three men were sentenced on Oct. 13 for the crime of shooting Whaley as well as the kidnaping of Georgia State student Carsten Singh. The shooter, Robert Hodge, was sentenced to 30 years incarceration while his accomplices DeAngelo Love and Maurice Brown were both sentenced to 25 years. More recently, a Morehouse student was shot Tuesday Oct. 13 at 1 a.m. while walking home from the campus library. The shooter, DeAngelo Love, has been arrested and is scheduled to make his initial appearance in court on Oct. 27.

Since June, seven armed robberies have been reported on and off-campus. Six of the seven are shown.

MLR, UtC to be renovated in the Student Center
By Andrew Nelson
Contributing Writer

Since the 1970s, the Student Center’s Music Listening Room (MLR) has been a place for relaxation, a cool atmosphere and often for mid-day naps. However, by Spring 2010 the Student Center will convert the MLR into a new location for Under the Couch (UTC).

“For some people, relaxing means lying down on a couch and listening to music while the windows are closed. For others it means strumming away at a guitar or meeting a group of people,” said Evan Seguin, president of the Musicians Network, which runs UTC. “It’s hard to say exactly what a day at the new Under the Couch will be like because it all depends on what Tech students actually want to use the space for.”

With its recently decreasing utilization and the expansion of the music department, the Student Center decided last year to combine MLR with UTC, which has been in its current location (the ground-level space under the Couch Building) for over 15 years.

Weekly live concerts and recording services currently hosted at UTC will be moved to the new lounge. In addition, the daily music library offered by the MLR will be still there as well. It will operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

“The goal for the daytime operations of the space is to have a livelier version of the MLR. It’s ultimately a place for people to hang out and it’s getting kind of cramped,” said Seguin.

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What do you think of the North Ave. dining hall?

A student called police after stating that his ex-girlfriend had been stalking and harassing him and his current girlfriend. The girl, identified as a fellow swim team member, had been threatening suicide, and had shown the complaintant marks on her wrists. In response, the police officer advised him to talk to his swim coach about the situation instead.

Police were called to the Delta Tau Delta fraternity Thursday, Oct. 1 in the afternoon after a report of a criminal trespass. The complaintant stated that he found broken bottles thrown at the basketball court. The complaintant then went to investigate, and found two unknown males climb down the roof and run towards the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) house next door. He then saw the same two men, peeping through a window. When police tried to reach the SAE house, the respondent provided little help or concern in addressing the matter.

On Oct. 3 an officer pursued a vehicle for attempting to avoid a roadside safety checkpoint. The suspect driver crashed his car. The suspect continued to flee on foot, before the officer pinned and tackled him to the ground and took him into custody. The officers found a red and gray bag with three bricks of suspected crack cocaine, the largest one with the numbers ‘007’ engraved in it. The drugs were estimated to weigh three to five lbs.

An officer arrested a man on the night of Oct. 4 for allegedly striking the victim intentionally in the back of the head with his field hockey stick during a game on Stamps Field. The victim sustained a laceration to the back of his head that required stitches. According the victim the suspect acted aggressively throughout the game, often hitting other players in the legs. The victim indicated that he wanted to press charges and the officer placed the suspect under arrest for assault.

POLLS OF THE WEEK

What do you think of the Tech SWAT team?

- 28.8% It’s displacing businesses like Wingnuts or Quixomes.
- 21.9% I don’t use the dining halls.
- 9.4% It will be easier and more convenient to get food.

Next issue’s question:

What do you think of the Tech SWATH team?

Tell us at nique.net
This edition of Council Clippings covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Oct. 12, 2009.

Triathlon Club
The GT Triathlon Club requested $548.00 from SGA to help fund uniforms for the club. These uniforms are mainly intended for the national collegiate tournament in late February. The club generally finishes in the top ten. GSS passed the bill 24-1 and UHR passed the bill 39-1.

Crime from page 1
assistant police chief Alan Dreher at the press conference.

“We are thankful for the additional support. In the past when the APD has increased presence in Home Park there was a corresponding decrease in criminal activity,” said Home Park Community Improvement Association (HPCIA) President Nelson Burke. “[Late hours kept by Tech students] has a lot to do with it.”

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The HPCIA has offered a board position to Student Government Association to increase communication.

The GT Bowling Club
The GT Bowling Club sought funding for uniforms and the entry fee into the Brunswick South- ern Collegiate Classic. The entry fee was amended to $300, the bill was also amended to fund $400 for one set of eight uniforms, as the need for two sets of uniforms was seen as unnecessary.

North Ave. Dining
UHR discussed at length a resolution that states that the representative body “opposes any attempt to cease operations of Wingnuts and East Side Market on campus.” A wide range of aspects involving the dining hall to be placed at the North Avenue Apartments were discussed. Questions of the quality of food that would be provided at the new facility was discussed. After amendments to soften the language of the resolution and another to delay the vote failed, the resolution passed UHR 37-4-1.

For more see www.naisque.net.

Smaller increases have been seen in Home Park. GTPD stated that there were eight reported aggravated assaults in 2008, indicating an increase in reports of violent crime.

According the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the food crisis in poor nations coupled with the global economic crisis led to a spike in world hunger, breaking records worldwide. World hunger, breaking records with over 1 billion people undernourished. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization reported that the number of undernourished people rose by 100 million people last year, the highest rate in four decades.
PETERSON RESPONDS TO THE UNDERGRADUATE WHITE PAPER

By Kamna Bhora
Contributing Writer

In his response Peterson places heavy emphasis on the diversification of curriculum, increasing scheduling flexibility to allow students to take courses outside their majors. “Tech is a technologically university, and because of this, a great deal of technical depth defines most curricula. There is increasing understanding, however, that breadth needs to also define a Tech degree,” Peterson said.

“One of the President’s biggest things is the well-rounded leader, and that’s what we’re trying to produce. This is an institution producing the leaders in the fields, not just the workforces,” Choueiki said.

Peterson also notes the change in core curriculum courses to include “communication skills, a global perspective, team work and critical thinking skills.”

“Intellectual community is truly a culture shift to a Georgia Tech with more well-rounded curricula, a prominent speaker series and a bigger emphasis on service,” Staskievicis said.

Another key component of the white paper is the need for an expanded Student Center. Overcrowding has been a growing concern for several years now. “We need to be creative in identifying meeting space in other locations until plans for an expansion of the student center can be developed,” Peterson said.

“We don’t have a central main street. We don’t have a college town, but we want to create that sense of community,” Choueiki said.

Maturity and experience of the officers were also important considerations during the selection process for team members.

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“Tech’s SWAT team is made up of eight members. They are responsible for patrolling as well as handling extreme security concerns.”
The new MLR and UTC lounge will feature comfortable furniture, increased desk space and a large music library which will be entirely digitized. As of yet no home has been found for the MLR's 40-year collection of CDs and vinyls.

During the day, the lounge will operate similar to the MLR. It will feature comfortable furniture to relax and nap, possible open mic hours during lunch, occasional live bands, magazines, board games, increased desk space and a massive music library.

One major change to this music library is the fact that the 40-year collection of CDs and 4000 vinyls – including many limited and original editions – will no longer be available. Those collections will all be digitized and available for use via the room's music server.

The Student Center is still available for use via the room's selections will all be digitized and longer be available. The MLR and the study areas on the floor of the Student Center will operate similar to the MLR.

The Student Center will soundproof the floor and ceiling to prevent noise problems between the MLR and the study areas on the floor of the Student Center. The room is specifically designed to be a performance venue, and it will be optimally outfitted for acoustic performance.

Seguin has also collaborated with Tech's radio station WREK to allow evening shows and events at UTC to be broadcast live. “This is something we’ve always wanted to be able to do. I think that our organizations have very similar goals and can provide a lot to Tech students as a whole if we work together more often,” Seguin said.

Musicians Network and WREK have not finalized any details on this possible musical partnership, but representatives from both organizations have expressed excitement to work together in the same building.

The Musicians Network will retain control of the current UTC location until the end of the Spring 2010 semester. After that, campus officials and the music department will decide what to do with that space, which will most likely be used as offices for music faculty or storage.

“The move is really great for our organization, and, more importantly, to students to experience, create and share music,” Seguin said. “We are all very excited that this will be a huge step in bringing that to everyone on campus.”

The construction will be completed by 2010, but UTC will not move till after Spring semester.