United front
Attack campus crime from all directions

The announcement that the Atlanta Police Department will allocate an additional four police officers to patrol Tech campus and the surrounding areas at night as well as four more officers for the Atlanta University Center and new undercover officers is a welcome addition to the crime prevention policies on campus. It is depressing that three Atlanta college students were shot before these steps were taken, but we acknowledge that there have been many steps in the right direction such as checkpoints around campus and the end of police furloughs.

The problem, however, will not be stopped just by increasing the number or even the quality of officers on campus, as has been done through the new addition of a SWAT team on campus. It is devastatingly apparent that the most violent and shocking crimes are being perpetrated by people with no ties to the universities. These criminals drive to our neighborhoods to wreak havoc on a vulnerable population, but they then return to the poverty stricken neighborhoods that circle Atlanta, neighborhoods like Vine City and English Avenue. Both the Atlanta Police Department and the universities of Atlanta must encourage programs that combat the rampant poverty and crime in these neighborhoods in order to stem the flow of criminals onto our campuses.

Unfortunately, while it is never the victim’s fault when a crime is perpetrated, we must remind students that we control the supply of vulnerable targets. Do not walk through Home Park or Centennial Place at night. The Stingerette service is affordable, far more so than a hospital visit or traumatic attack. If you cannot adjust your finances to afford a ride home, then adjust your schedule. Walk home earlier or crash on campus till the next day. At this point, all students should be aware of the danger and do everything they can to protect themselves, including modifying our behavior.

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

Get over Peter Pan syndrome and grow up

One third of students in the fourth avenue apartments may subscribe to a meal plan, but two thirds of them eat at wingnuts. Don’t remove the happy Chinese lady for worse food.

Daniel Moore
Third-year CS

We welcome your letters in response to Technique content as well as topics relevant to campus.

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 (1st, 2nd, etc.) and major. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. One site submission per person will be printed per term.

We will print letters on a timely basis. Any response to Technique content as well as reviews or complaints about the university will be considered for publication.

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**OPINIONS**

**BUZZ Around Campus**

**What is your favorite homecoming event?**

*Richard Mokuolu*
Third-year ME

*“I like Mock Rock because everyone is carefree and it seems like a lot of fun.”*

**Subho Chatterjee**
Second-year ECE

*“The Third Eye Blind concert in the Burger Bowl.”*

**Chris Willis**
First-year AE

*“I like the squirt gun event.”*

**Meredith Harney**
First-year PSYC

*“I’m really excited about Mock Rock.”*

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**INSTANT GRATIFICATION NOT REAL SATISFACTION**

**Kelvin Kuo**
Photography Editor

“**We no longer have to plan our day ahead of time, but instead live every second in the moment.”**

Today’s technologies allow us to get everything that we want in an instant. We no longer have to wait for what we need or want; instead, it can be obtained in seconds.

So is this really helping humans appreciate what we are gifted, or is it just reinforcing the idea of instant gratification?

The days of long touring or production for a delicious meal are waded away with hot pockets, easy mac, and pizza rolls. We no longer have to plan our day ahead of time, but instead live every second in the moment.

I think this ideal should change; we should start appreciating what we receive. Enter the new age of snail mail instead of e-mail, film instead of digital.

The best feeling in the world is getting a piece of mail or just a package, from someone that has been thinking of you. Brownies, a love letter, a mixed tape, all these could be in your possession through snail mail.

It is not quite the same receiving the same letter or music download over the Internet. Yes you get it all at once, and all in one piece, but what is the joy of the expected?

Totally unexpected, because of the unreliability of the United States Postal Service, packages en route moments of nostalgia. Printed photo books also thrive as a physical piece of our lives, bringing back memories of our yesterdays. Today you look at photos on a computer screen, instead of flipping through albums.

Backlight screens are the source of material to our minds, not a piece of paper that lives independently. But I would not disregard the instance when Polaroid came out with instant film, it was a great innovation. The art of developing film and producing a picture has been degenerating into flash drives and memory sticks. We now are able to take multiple pictures, write and rewrite many excerpts till its perfect, unlike trying to be perfect first.

We do not appreciate the beauty of the unknown. I know for a fact that perfect is not always the best. I have seen it through the holgas, diaz, and polaroids.

Prowess should determine conferences

“If in the world of sports, football is God and keeping the Sabbath holy should be of utmost importance.”

Matt Hoffman
Advertising Manager

It is time for change.

For too long we have seen subpar football conferences attempt to compete with legitimate competitive conferences that actually produce top rated football teams. This problem must be resolved; it is time to realign collegiate athletic conferences.

When the ACC pillaged the Big East some five years ago, many believed that a new era of a dominant east conference had begun but this was not the case. The ACC has only won one BCS game since the expansion, and the ACC conference title has been relegated to the same importance as the last game of the Pittsburgh Pirates season, no one cares and the outcome does not really matter.

The winner will most likely play the Big East champion in the Bowl and the loser will go to some other less than prominent bowl game that will be over looked by everyone who does not have a direct relationship with the school.

The Big East, or more appropriately the Little League conference, does not even a skeleton of its former self. The conference started with 15 teams in 1977, and as it stands now Cincin- nati and South Florida and the two programs are the biggest names in the conference. Not exactly the most impressive top end schools for a conference that is currently held in the ranks with the SEC and the Big 12.

So the easy way to solve this problem is to get rid of these two laces of conferences, and create four 16-team super conferences. First the SEC should pick up Tech, Florida State, Miami and Clemson. These four teams would fit well into the conference, as three of the schools already have their primary rival in the SEC, and geographically speaking are already woven into SEC territory.

The Big 12 should reform the old Southwest Conference, minus Arkansas, as its southern division, leaving the old Big 8 as the North division. This would allow teams like TCU and Houston to compete in a major conference, which would seem more appropriate given their recent success. The ACC should pick up Pitt, Louisville and Notre Dame. They would also need one more, but, they should improve over time.

It might seem strange to try to include mediocre teams and exclude other teams from the ACC, such as North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia Tech, but sometimes tough decisions have to be made: they are out. The Big 10 is the big problem. Out of all the conferences they would be the most reluctant to change, but here is what they should do: pick up Pittsburg, West Virginia, Louisville and Notre Dame. They would also need one more, but, they should improve over time.

The new super conferences would allow the schools stronger positions at negotiating tables with major networks, when hatching out broadcast rights and with major corporations for advertising contracts. The bowl games could also find the new arrangement beneficial, promoting the alumination that was the 2007 Orange Bowl between Wake Forest and Louisville.

Larger conferences will draw more fans, and equally distribute parity of teams, leading to better post-season matchups.

The scenario discussed is certainly just one of many that can have been thrown out there, but they all come from the same idea, that if the two conferences do not begin to produce results more fitting, of a top tier football conference, then they run the risk of not existing at all.
Future open for Institute design and personal development

“Peterson has challenged each of us to be fearless in suggesting transformative ideas that will help Tech...”

Stephen Cross
Director, Georgia Tech Research Institute

What can you have in common with Nathaniel Edwin Harris and the other founders of Tech? Designing the future! When the founders of Tech first proposed this Institute’s role in designing a New South, I doubt they could have foreseen, even fathomed, the world of today. But I’m sure they expected that what they initiated would have a profound impact in shaping that world. Because of their vision, Tech thrives today as one of the leading research universities in the world.

You can play an equally important role in designing the future of Tech through your participation in the ongoing strategic planning process. We’ve scheduled an exciting event on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 11 a.m. in the Ferst Center, during which Dr. James Canton, a recognized author, futurist and educational and business advisor, will address our community in a talk entitled “Higher Education, Technology, Innovation, and a Look into the Future.” This will be an opportunity to examine and ask questions about the trends and developments that will affect Tech over the next 25 years.

On behalf of the planning committee, I encourage you to attend and invite others too.

As you may know, Tech’s new president, G. P. “Bud” Peterson, initiated our strategic planning to address the question “What will Georgia Tech look like in 2035, on its 150th anniversary?” President Peterson has challenged each of us to be fearless in suggesting transformative ideas that will help Tech sustain and enhance its culture, improve the student experience, provide an exceptional education, achieve true preeminence in research, benefit the state while also being in a position to do nothing short of dizzying. Smart organizations like Tech will not do what they have foreseen, even fathomed, the founders of Tech... even their parents, say something like “time goes by so quickly.”

But looking in the rear view mirror from my own rapidly advancing stage of life, I can say it does! It seems only a tick of time since I was a young assistant professor in 1984. I built my first computer from a kit and wrote parts of my own operating system.

Had I been a bit more on the ball, I might have tried to sell it to some young kid like Bill Gates. IBM introduced its first personal computer later that year, and contracted with a start-up named Microsoft for its operating system. There was no World Wide Web then, but the arcane elements were there to support file transfers. The social media of the day (almost wholly restricted to universities) was e-mail. The pace of innovation that has occurred since is nothing short of dizzying. Smart organizations like Tech will not only be able to respond with agility, but also be in a position to direct that change.

So we ask the questions: What kind of skills will an educated workforce require in 2035? What research topics will be hot topics? Will Georgia become the major international destination for work in global health and energy systems? Will Atlanta and Savannah become internationally renowned in the arts because of Tech? How soon will The Rario be 1:1? Will diversity still be an issue? Will Tech alumni not only serve as leaders in industry, but also as governmental leaders in the state, nation and the world? Most importantly, how do we get there?

We invite your ideas. Our future will only be as bold and exciting as you help make it. Please join us in Designing the Future – working together to make a difference.

If you would like any more information about the ongoing strategic planning process, visit www.gatech.eduvisions or feel free to contact me at cross@gatech.edu or Chet Warzynski, chet.warzynski@ogden.gatech.edu.

Drop and Due Day

Today is drop day. All classes needed to be dropped must be done by 4 P.M.

All student organizations must submit their budgets to SGA by the end of today.