New provost to be chosen

Hopefully change is chance for positive progress

We were surprised to hear of Schuster’s decision to step down from the post of provost, but are glad he will be staying on at Tech, as he did a good job in all the roles he has served here, especially stepping up as interim president.

With Schuster’s resignation, we look forward to the future provost with hope for positive change. This change cannot happen without targeting specific traits for the new provost during the search for his successor.

This search must specifically look for diversity of candidates. This does not mean looking for candidates from varying roles around Tech, but a full national search will allow us to pick from top candidates everywhere. At the same time, a nationwide search does not mean looking for candidates from non-engineering backgrounds to a true diversity of candidates.

A new provost is only one of many newly replaced positions on campus in the past year. With so much new blood on campus, we hope that it will be a catalyst of change that will improve campus, without losing the character of Tech in the process.

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

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Gun control debate should have middle-ground options

The debate over university gun control has risen again in the national media and here in the Technique, bringing with it the usual arguments.

Many people feel threatened with potentially fatal weapons in the classroom, while others feel safer with the opportunity for self-defense.

But what if there were an option to answer both sides’ concerns?

Defensive tools like stun guns and pepper spray offer a reasonably effective alternative for personal safety, without creating a significant risk of serious injury.

Unfortunately under Georgia state law, no student can have a taser on campus, even if locked away in the glove compartment of their car.

When every year seems to bring another school shooting by a mentally unstable student, and when every third school email explains a mugging incident on the back steps of campus, it becomes clear that we need to find a practical solution to make everyone safer.

How differently could that day at Virginia Tech have been if one of those professors or students had been prepared for the unlikely?

And how would our campus crime statistics change, if criminals knew there was a good possibility of a painful job?

Georgia Tech does its best to keep students safe with the Stingerette and a very visible police patrol.

But what about those 10 minutes alone on the university campus in the middle of the night before the Stingerette arrives, or those dark walks back into Homepark?

Granted, there is a chance for misuse or abuse, but what if there was a police directed, safety training course?

Questions like these should be included in an expanded campus discussion, because we as a community need to find a practical solution to the right to feel safe on our university campus.

Lizzie Elbel
Fourth-year ME

Internet grammar

In “Peterson responds to the undergraduate white paper,” I noticed that the Technique doesn’t capitalize the word “Internet.”

I am aware that this is a growing practice in some publications and was wondering if this was the Technique’s official stance on the matter, or just a slip-up.

I am genuinely interested in this, so I’ll avoid an all out rant about how much I hate the dropping of capitals and punctuation in an effort to be trendy and cute.

I certainly wouldn’t complain if it were capitalized, though.

Thank you for your time.

Nic Reveles
Fourth-year MGT
Halloween just improves over time

Even in the midst of all the mid-semester homework and tests on top of working and attempting to keep a sense of what balanced social life there are, still somehow things that make me extremely happy. The month of October reduces my stress level significantly, and it still surprises me that a simple little change in a month can have such an effect on my mood and overall outlook on life.

As a Tech student, I need all the stress relief I can possibly get my hands on. October is the month when the weather finally begins to cool and the days are exactly (and sometimes even enjoyable) temperature. The leaves change colors, the breeze picks up, and the outdoors becomes so incredibly pleasant.

It is my favorite month for so many reasons and one of those is by far the very essence of the month: Halloween. It’s one of the few times when my everyday life can change as dramatically and as quickly as it did when I was a child. My mind is filled with sugar comparing it to the reality of going through everyday life.

Online businesses and organizations in order for those who are particularly in need of the holiday even as go as far as decorating with spooky ghouls and robotic monsters meant to scare anyone who comes near. It brings back many fond memories of trick-or-treating in the neighborhood, having someone home stuffing myself with sugar un

Internet neutrality must be maintained

For those of you unawares of what it is, Net Neutrality is the current debate raging between Internet Service Providers and online businesses and organizations. Recently the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Obama administration have weighed in on the side of online businesses and organizations. More recently, Fox News and Glen Beck have weighed in on someone’s side, I am just not sure whose.

Personally it is important to me that we as a country have the freedom to have the free market be against my moral code to provide one more article to Mr. Beck’s Google searches, but in this case, due to the obscure nature of the debate he is waging, I will accept the Karl Reimann reduction and forge ahead. Neutral internet is the system that we have now. End users, meaning us, the citizens, pay a rate per month for a certain amount of data, no matter how much they use. If you pay $30 dollars, you can get videos and text faster than the people who pay 15 dollars a month. This is not acceptable. The news is that the AFC will get to you at about the same download speed as the person who pays $15 a month, and that will load at the same speed as MSN messenger.

Internet service providers have figured something out though. With the many in notorious of high network and bandwidth, they can now control the download speed from different ISP addresses. This means that the services providers can walk up to firms or organizations with online content and demand payment much like it does radio or television. This legislation would state that while ISPs are more than welcome to offer various internet speeds, they cannot peg content to certain speeds. If an end-user has paid for high-speed internet, all content available to that user on the internet must be broadcast at the same speed. Seems logical, right?

Unfortunately, not on some people. According to the ISPs and their current blond and screaming mouthpiece, by placing a tax on bandwidth speed for a content source is miniscule. Bandwidth is an end-user game, and by moving one content provider up in the line, you will always move someone else down, and ultimately, off the list. As the internet has been ruled a free speech zone of sorts, using federal business interests to reduce or eliminate the access of not-for-profits or small groups would be censorship. The stimulus bill money that has gone out so far will support broadband access has nothing to do with net neutrality. That is a separate issue dealing with funds that were accepted by the service providers to expand end-user access to the internet so that they now wish to double dip into.

As a closing note, understand that net neutrality is a minor political issue to most people, but as Tech students, students who will manage internet start-ups or work for online publications or blogs, it is one that will affect all of our futures as end users and business people. In order to encourage a lively and fair business culture with low barriers to entry as well as protect free speech, the neutral platform of the internet must be maintained.

A few of the recently watched greats are Trick-or-Treat, My Bloody Valentine 3D and The Thing. No matter how terrible or scary the movie, I am much more likely to watch it during October than I am throughout the rest of the year. The spirit of the holiday helps me overcome the “scared-y cat” in me and I am able to watch movies I usually wouldn’t. (Sometimes I will even go out of my way, but I watch them all the same). As adults, not only can you watch movies that we weren’t allowed to as kids, but we can do other things as well. Halloween is almost improved by getting older, which doesn’t happen with other holidays.

We are now able to satisfy our need for adrenaline thrills by going to the scariest haunted houses in the state and paying to practically pee in our pants as we scream our insides out. We can also pay to go get completely lost in a giant field of corn that has been cut into a maze.

The weather, the movies, the traditions, the spooky costumes, the candy and the scary all make the month of October my favorite of the entire year.

To put it quite simply, the month when the undead is celebrated makes me happiest to be alive.

“Internet neutrality must be maintained”

Tamara Johnson
Fourth-year BIO

“It’s shutting down a bit of nostalgia from freshman year.”

Andy Bardajy
Fifth-year ECE

“I deeply saddens me.”

Photos by Joey Caneva
Alumni enrich the experiences of students who reach out to them

When I was a senior in high school faced with choosing a college, Tech did not become my top choice until I attended the UGA vs. Tech game in Bobby Dodd Stadium. My mind was easily made up as I left. This was not because Tech was bad, rather because of my interaction with the people at the game. As I observed the Tech alumni in their white and gold, cheering for their team with heart and energy, treating others with respect and exuding a sense of pride in their school, I knew I had identified a group I wanted to join. They were the peers I hoped to have in the future. It is this sense of pride I wanted to have for myself as I graduated.

Ambassadors is a student organization run through the Alumni Association. Part of our responsibility is to represent the student body to alumni, faculty, staff and visitors. We want to promote Tech for what it is today, better understand where it has been and partner with current initiatives to create a better and brighter future for the institution.

Through Ambassadors, I have had a variety of interaction with alumni and have been given a multitude of lessons from the alumni and their perspective on Tech. I think that for opportunity for partnership between Alumni and students starts while we are students. They are able to communicate Tech’s past while we as students are able to describe the present and how we can work toward shaping the future together.

That perspective of the past is often the crucial link we miss as current students. There is a mindset that alumni-relations are only for when you graduate. The reality is that building partnerships play enhances ones’ time here. Seeing Tech through their eyes opens our eyes to opportunities for impact.

The alumni discuss the development of programs, ideas, values and organizations that have made a lasting impression on the school. Hearing these is motivating for us to seek out chances to do the same. The example alumni set for us as students to life our while we are here as well as after graduation. Alumni relations don’t have to be as formal as they do intentional. Alumni of Tech have pride, class and prestige and are looking to connect with students today to find those same traits. Through the various interactions with Alumni there is a chance to find the similarities across gender, generation, discipline, affiliation and interest.

When we as students come to appreciate the experiences of Alumni, we can incorporate them into our lives as students today. Building on past experiences gives us the chance to maintain momentum in learning, tradition and growth for the school. They are able to teach us to appreciate what we have. They are the givers of the opportunities, celebrating student successes and searching for ways to support the institution.

Alumni are seeking opportunities to support students. Alumni express an appreciation for the school developed through the perspective of looking back. They understand that the reputation of the degree they hold lies in the hands of students today. Alumni help you see the value of your education, even before you graduate.

Whether it is watching someone one’s face light up when you say “go Jackets,” hearing about the legendary drown proofing or singing the fight song with someone you don’t know, the connection between Tech graduates and students is about finding common ground. I have begun to understand that I am not just a yellow jacket for four years but for my lifetime. Seeing alumni interact at events, ceremonies or just around campus there is a sense of family among them. There are few schools with a bond that has the depth like the “white and gold.” There is an instant connection you will have with anyone in the Tech community. This loyalty unites people around the world. Interacting with alumni gives you the chance to develop that sense of ownership and belonging, as well as see Tech through their eyes.

Emily Jackson
President of GT Ambassadors

“Alumni relations don’t have to be as formal as they do intentional. Alumni... are looking to connect with students.”