Institute closes in wake of Tuesday tragedy

Students reacted emotionally to attacks that forced Tech's closure and affected countless community members

By Nevis Barday
Senior Staff Writer

In response to Tuesday's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President G. Wayne Clough cancelled classes and closed Tech campus. The decision came after Stephen Portch, Chancellor of the Board of Regents, gave all units of the University System of Georgia the option to close their campuses. Clough cited concerns about possible damage to high rise buildings that could affect campus life, as well as concerns about logistical problems for staff and students leaving campus, in making the decision to close Georgia Tech campus.

The closure marks the first time in at least twenty years Tech has been closed for a non-weather incident. Although there was no inherent danger of an attack on Atlanta, there was concern about backlash against international students. In response to this, Dean Gail DiSabatino held an impromptu international student organization meeting, which included representatives from the India Club, the Arab Student Organization, and others.

Such an incident was not likely, according to Robert McMath, Provost of Undergraduate Studies. McMath has been at Georgia Tech through both the Gulf War and the Iran Hostage situation and noted “Tech students handled those [situations] well.”

The Office of International Students in the Savant building remained open to aid students. The issue of fundraising to help the victims of the attacks was briefly discussed, but it was felt more important to discuss more pertinent issues, such as the safety of international students on campus. Discussion of the details of a fund-raiser was postponed.

To make sure students stayed informed and to eliminate tensions due to rumors, television around campus, including the large television in the Student Center Lounge, were tuned to CNN. The Student Center itself was also kept open amidst the closing of campus, as were the Woodruff and Britain dining halls on campus. The Stringer continued to provide campus transportation.

By Jennifer LaHatte
Managing Editor

As Dr. Jean Lou Chameau assumed his new role as Georgia Tech’s Provost in June, the top spot in the College of Engineering was left vacant. Now, a campus search committee, armed with the help of A.T. Kearney, an executive search firm based in Alexandria, Virginia, is on the lookout for a new Dean.

The 16-member search committee is composed of Tech faculty, students, alumni and administration, primarily from the College of Engineering.

Chameau nominated the committee members and helped to steer the committee by providing them with guidelines for selecting a qualified candidate.

“A good candidate would be an intellectual leader who has lots of ideas about education and research. It would have to be someone who is a strong communicator and can represent the college well. They must be willing to help other people and have the interest and capabilities of raising money for the college,” said Chameau.

Partnering with A.T. Kearney will help the committee by recommending candidates, helping with the publicity and general organization of the search.

“We’re just in the starting stage really,” said Ron Schafer, Regents’ Professor in the

By Tyrus Gailey
News Staff

Contractors began painting over approximately 240 of the recently added parking spaces along Tech Parkway on Wednesday. Georgia Tech parking officials ordered the removal of the spaces following objections from City of Atlanta officials, who charge the spaces are unsafe and fail to meet the standards in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

In an article in the September 7 Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta Commissioner of Planning Michael Dobbins, accused Tech parking officials of re-striping the city-controlled street before checking with traffic engineers. In the same article, Atlanta Police Major John Woodward remarked the spaces create a safety hazard because students make mid-block crosswalks between parked cars.

Rod Weis, Director of Parking and Transportation, first found out about the City’s objection to the spaces through an article. He then contacted the city officials who made the comments. Weis maintains the original layout of the parallel spaces lining the pedestrian island is safer than the alternative of commuters on the side across the parking from campus having to cross all the lanes of traffic, but conceding the parking office will have to comply with city code.

“We don’t want to do something that the City of Atlanta doesn’t like, and we’re willing to cooperate with them, but frankly, in my opinion, I don’t think it makes any difference whether they’re inside or outside. [The City] kept talking about the conventional way to place parking, and I think they’re more concerned about convention,” said Weis.

Weis considers the primary hazard to pedestrians on Tech Parkway as being the excessive speed of through-travelers on the road.

“At 35 mph, it’s open enough to see vehicles coming. My concern is when [motorists] go through there at 55 and 60 mph,” said Weis.

According to Georgia Tech Police Chief Jack Vickery, campus police are not legally authorized to use radar for traffic enforcement on Tech Parkway, but that may soon change.

“If it’s outside of the place that we’ve been permitted to run radar, then we can’t use radar for speed enforcement. That doesn’t mean we can’t have our permit amended, it’s just an administrative process,” said Vickery.

This permit takes approximately one month to secure, provided the application is approved. Currently, Georgia Tech officers can only issue citations by following a speeder in their police car to verify the infraction.

By Neal Ughi
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Bush advisor to speak Thursday

Lawrence Lindsey, a top economic advisor to President George W. Bush who helped craft the recent tax cut, will be the speaker at the Tennenbaum Lecture next Thursday morning.

Lindsey will speak on “The Roles of Fiscal and Monetary Policy” at 12:00 noon in the Tennenbaum Auditorium, room 103 of the Instructional Center.

Tech rankings drop in US News

According to this year’s rankings from U.S. News and World Report Georgia Tech numbered slightly from 35 overall to 41 compared to all of the nation’s colleges and universities. Though overall ranking declined, Tech remained in the top ten public institutions.

The College of Engineering also enjoyed good rankings with fourteen departments ranked in the top five nationally.

Notably, the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering regained the number one ranking it had enjoyed for a number of years before dropping to two last year.

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Tech students reflect on Tuesday’s events in editorials and letters.

Young engineers looking for a place to explore their talents turn to Legos.

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Tech Parkway spaces reconsidered

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Violent crime increases on campus

By Mary DeCamp
Senior Staff Writer

Full semester is only a few weeks old, but in that short time there have been a high number of crimes committed on and around Tech campus.

The majority of these crimes have involved theft of valuables from cars, cars themselves, and theft of bicyc- cles. However, the greatest area of concern is the dramatic increase in the number of armed robberies in the past few weeks.

Between August 1 and September 7, a total of five armed robberies were committed on campus, some of which occurred during daylight. None of the victims were seriously injured.

“The people who have been vic- timized in these armed robberies have been smart and handed over what the robbers wanted,” said GTPD Chief Jack Vickery. “That’s the most important thing—to cooperate with the criminals.”

None of the perpetrators in these armed robberies have been caught, and detectives have been following up with the victims and touching base with the Atlanta Robbery Squad in hopes of apprehending the off-enders.

The most common type of crime that occurs on campus is car break- ins. Criminals often target car ste- reos and other visible valuables left in cars. These break-ins are known for being well planned out, said Shratter.

“People should remember to keep valuables in their cars out of sight and to be on the lookout for any suspicious activity,” said Vickery.

There is no harm in reporting unusual behavior and having it checked out, even if it turns out to be legitimate.”

Although there is no clear and obvious reason for this recent surge in crime, there are some theories that could, in part, explain the in- crease in these numbers.

“Crime is a very complex problem; it is hard to pinpoint what causes behaviors and patterns to change. To some degree it could be the economy. Crime tends to go down when the economy is good. Now that we are in a downturn with more people out of work, an increase in criminal activity is like- ly. Also, sometimes you just have a few more criminals moving through the area,” said Vickery.

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Jack Vickery
Georgia Tech Police Chief

Vickery added that some atypi- cal behavior could also be expected because it is the beginning of the semester. People are often hurried- ly rushing around trying to grow accustomed to new routines and many often leave valuables unat- tended. After the first few weeks of a new semester, things often tend to calm down and return to normal.

A number of Tech students are uncomfortable about this increase in crime.

“I am concerned because park- ing lots are not always the safest place to be. And I have a close friend whose car was recently stolen, which brings this violent activity close to home,” said Kelly Stowers, a fourth year Mechanical Engineering ma- jor.

Third year Computer Science major Matt Guinn holds a different view on the situation.

“I’ve been here for two years and crime always goes up and down. As long as you don’t do anything ridic- ulous I think you’re pretty safe,” said Guinn.

With this existing rise in crime, Chief Vickery places special emphasis on important safety tips that he ad- vises that everyone always follow.

“Students should avoid late-night travels, but if you have to be out at night use the Stingerette to take you home. Go out in groups, and pay attention to what is going on around you. Don’t put yourself at risk. If you are the victim of a crime, get to a place of safety immediately, and report what happened right away,” said Vickery.

While the GTPD does its best to prevent criminal offenses and en- sure safety on campus, Vickery points out that they cannot work alone to prevent all crime.

“We need the eyes of everyone on campus to pay attention to what’s going on to keep each other safe,” said Vickery.

Students and others who need to re- port crime or emergencies on campus can contact the Georgia Tech Police Department at 4-2500. Crime in- formation can also be found on their website at www.police.gatech.edu.

Recent Armed Robberies

August 8
Fowler and Eighth
Student knocked
Suspect: Black male age 18-20
August 24
Atlantic Drive
Knife
August 29
Marriott and McMillan
Gun
August 31
North and Strong
Gun

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and chair of the search committee. “[Last week] we started sending out ads in professional and academic journals and we’ve been emailing out nomination forms.”

The search committee will re- view all the nominations and appli- cations, possibly as early as November, and will then come up with a list of eight to ten candidates to interview. From these candidates, the committee will narrow it down to two or three top choices to turn over to Chameau.

“I’m the one who has to decide who I feel is the best candidate after considerations from the commit- tee. Then I have to recruit that per- son,” said Chameau.

According to Schafer, the com- mittee hopes to select a final candi- date for the winter of 2002, and until then, Associate Dean Nari Davidson will serve as interim Dean.

Leaning toward the other side of the spectrum is fifth-year CS stu- dent Sven Roepke, who did not re- ceive a permit.

“[It’s] good, if it gets me a space this semester, if not, I don’t know, it could be dangerous,” said Roepke.

“But seriously, Tech Parkway nev- er gets busy; it never needs two lanes, but if they ever fix the parking prob- lem, they should put it back the way it was. There’s no sidewalk there. It’s not a good place for parking.”

Weis also believes the closing down of an extra lane may have partly drawn the city officials’ ob- jections to the parking. The same ARC article that brought the city concerns to light featured statements from a motorist who was disgrun- dled at a lack of signs to warn drivers that they will encounter merging lanes around the west campus curve heading towards North Avenue.
**Correction**

The article on page 2 of last week’s paper entitled “New student health insurance provider brings rate increase" incorrectly stated that the rate for spouses of students “increased almost three times.” While the rate increase for spouses was higher than the increase for the individual student rate, it only increased approximately 40 percent. The Technique regrets the error.
NYU residence halls evacuated Tuesday
By Bill Lucia & Matt Murphy
Washington Square News

(U-WIRE) New York University—Thousands of New York University students were evacuated from six University residence halls Tuesday morning, shortly after the south tower of the World Trade Center crumbled to the ground amid a cloud of smoke, dust and flame.

New York Police Department officers told officials in Broome Street, Lafayette Street, Water Street, Cliff Street, John Street and The Ocean residence halls to evacuate students after the destruction of the south tower around 10:45 a.m., a Water Street resident assistant (RA) said.

“It was pandemonium outside,” RA Mike Grudzienski said.

“It was announced on TV that southern Manhattan was being evacuated and RAs were telling students to wait because people were running down the street screaming. There was dust and soot everywhere,” he said.

The evacuated dorms were all within 20 blocks of the disaster site. Water Street, located only eight blocks away, was the closest.

“At about 9 a.m. and I heard a loud sound, like a bomb,” Kelly Hoover, a Water Street resident, said. “I looked out my window and saw the top 20 stories [of the north tower] burning.”

“My dorm had a perfect view,” Water Street resident Rocco Cetta said. “When I saw [the north tower] fall I was in shock.”

The billowing smoke from the blasts began to permeate in the halls of Water Street after the collapse of the north tower.

“I was watching out my window for an hour, then there was smoke in the hallways and I got really nervous,” Water Street resident Laura Garret said. “When the second tower collapsed a guy came to our room yelling, ‘Get the hell out.’”

Once outside, the evacuated students were told to walk north to Coles Sports Center by their RAs.

Indiana U. international students attacked
By Jessica Halverson
Indiana Daily Student

(U-WIRE) Indiana University—As of Tuesday afternoon, Indiana University officials heard three accounts of student assault, stemming from prejudices and anger influenced by the plane attacks. Two Muslim women were verbally assaulted and one was possibly physically assaulted, said Kenneth Rogers, Associate Dean of International Programs.

“Recalling what’s happened on occasions in the past, people who seem to just be unable to control their emotions and their prejudices take the occasion to take it out on someone perceived to be foreign,” Rogers said.

Atcharee Seetapun, international graduate student, said she noticed two IU Police Department officers standing outside of the building where the assaults took place.

“I didn’t think something like this would happen in America,” said Seetapun, who is originally from Thailand.

Student Eshah Shariff, whose parents are from Afghanistan, said everyone he has talked to has been open-minded about the events and he carries no extra concern. Shariff also said people should not link Osama bin Laden to Afghanistan, since he is not actually Afghan. He feels it is unfortunate bin Laden can give an entire country a bad name.

The Commission On Multicultural Understanding received calls Tuesday from international students who were afraid to leave their buildings, some of whom wear traditional dress, said COMU Chair and Associate Dean of Students Pam Freeman.

IUPUI students, professor survive in Pentagon
By Jessica Halverson
Indiana Daily Student

(U-WIRE) Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis—Twenty-eight IUPUI graduate students and one Indiana University professor narrowly escaped the Pentagon attack.

The IUPUI group was on the top floor of the Pentagon receiving a scheduled briefing when a loud blast bellowed throughout that end of the complex, said Jim Buher, a Bloomington professor traveling with the IUPUI students.

Buher estimates the crash, and the explosion that followed, happened about 300 to 400 feet from the students’ location.

“There was smoke coming out of the ductwork, and dust was falling from the ceiling,” Buher told The Sagamore Tuesday afternoon from his hotel room in Washington.

“We went out of the room, and about 30 feet down the corridor, it was filling up with smoke,” said Buher. “People were crouching down on the floor, dodging light fixtures falling from the ceiling. You barely could see.”

The floor had already caved in about 30 inches, Buher said, and the group turned back toward the briefing room. It, too, was filling up with smoke, and the stairwell was lined with debris.

A Pentagon staff had found a way through the hallway, and the group followed him to the nearest exit, which happened to be in the same direction as the explosion. Buher and his students finally got out of the building and returned to their hotel.
The attacks heightened student emotions and raised concern on campus. Students gathered for emotion- al support at an impromptu vigil held that night at the Kessler Campanile. Provost Jean-Lou Chameau spoke at the gathering. Senior Associate Dean of Students Karen Boyd was also present.

Jack Vickery, Chief of Georgia Tech Police, ordered double shifts for campus police to protect campus throughout the day and the night following the incidents.

While students and administrators on campus prepared for the worst, students at New York University sought safety. “The residence halls in lower Manhattan were evac- uated,” said Brandt Gassman, news editor for the Washington Square News, New York University’s cam- pus newspaper, told the Technique. “No one was hurt, but they felt the explosion,” said Gassman. “The displaced students had to walk 30 blocks to the Student Center. Everything is covered with smoke and ash.”

The Georgia Tech campus re- opened on Wednesday. There had been plans to close campus on Wednesday if a “National Day of Mourning” were declared by Con- gress or President Bush. The Uni- versity of Georgia as well as most other colleges in the University Sys- tem of Georgia, followed suit. Em- ory University, however, remained closed on Wednesday, as did New York University.

The away game at Florida State University, along with all ACC games that were to be played this week- end, was cancelled. The attacks heightened student emotions and raised concern on cam- pus, especially in the immediate af- termath of the incidents.

“The people back in India are more worried [than we are],” said Anish Kamath, a first-year interna- tional student from India studying Industrial Engineering. “We are getting calls and mails from every- body. They don’t know which part of the US is in trouble.”

Jason Thorne, a first-year Aero- space Engineer, got word about the attacks while he was in his room in Caldwell hall.

“Pretty much everybody on the hall has their door open and a lot of people in every room watching the news,” said Thorne.

“I lived in New York for seven years,” said Britton Carter, a third- year Computer Engineer. “I just can’t believe those buildings are gone. The skyline’s not going to look the same ever again. When I look at it, I won’t be able to help but think about today.”

Eric Clopper, a Computer En- gineer, calls Washington D.C. home. He worked previously at the Penta- got. “I’ve only heard about two people who were killed,” said Clop- per, “they were friends of friends. We got very lucky with that.”

“They say we should go back to normal, but what is normal now? Everything is so trivial compared to this,” said Clopper.