OPINIONS

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Weis leaves parking

After three years and numerous improvements, Rod Weis left the Georgia Tech Department of Parking and Transportation to work at Texas A & M as their parking director. Weis will be missed especially because of his innovation in leading a department that was acknowledged as the source of some of the biggest student problems at Tech.

Weis’ improvements included reforming the Stinger shuttle system to include additional buses, more useful routes, and a guarantee of a Stinger bus every five to ten minutes. Weis also started a system of increased parking enforcement.

The greatest modernization that Weis introduced was the online parking registration system that has prevented the long waits that used to be associated with getting a parking permit. Beyond the registration, the system now allows people on the waiting list to see how many people are in front of them on the list and for what lot they should expect to get a permit.

Despite all of these additions, there are still many areas that Parking can improve on. First, the Stingerette system is long overdue for some refinement. Stingerettes should run 24 hours a day to facilitate the safe travel of students, many of whom are out long past the 2 a.m. limit of the current system.

The Stinger system, despite all of its additions, still needs to run on a more systemized schedule. Each stop should have a listing of exact times that Stingers can be expected to arrive. Parking also needs to take steps to reach out to off-campus, private vendors to form partnerships that can provide Tech students who cannot get on-campus parking with other options. All of these are improvements that the new Director of Parking could take on in the upcoming year.

CS allows collaboration

The College of Computing’s decision to revise its policy on collaboration in introductory computer science is a step in the right direction. While no one can deny that every student is responsible for his or her own actions, this revision of policy demonstrates to students that the administration is concerned about the quality of Tech’s learning environment.

Troublesome is the fact that the committee that designed the changes did not include even one student. The revision of the policy surrounding the introductory CS classes is an issue in which students should have a voice, especially in light of recent events. Allowing collaboration, in and of itself, seems to be a good solution to many of the problems that the CS courses have faced in the past. Learning together is essential to grasping concepts that are alien to many students. The increased emphasis on tests may also lead to students having a better grasp of concepts rather than struggling to get code done for a homework assignment.

Beyond allowing collaboration, there are many other potential changes that should be considered by the CoC. First and foremost, the department should encourage more collaboration between professors and the TAs. Students will greatly benefit from such improved interactions because it would allow their TAs to be more effective. The department should also consider changing the course to a three-day-a-week course worth four hours of credit. This change would allow students to earn an amount of credit commensurate to the amount of time they must spend to make a satisfactory grade in the course.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

Hinkel’s column beneficial to Tech

Thank you for Jen Hinkel’s Techs and the City column this year in the Technique, especially the column in the April 19 issue summarizing the relationship between the two. Hinkel raised some interesting and important issues with creativity and clarity. Well done.

The relationship between the Georgia Tech community and the community of Atlanta will gain even more attention when the Technology Square project opens at 5th Street and West Peachtree Street. What recently introduced President Clough to speak on the project to the Rotary Club of Atlanta, I described the 5th Street Project as Tech "crossing the river." The Downtown Connector has been a physical barrier to the community for many years, and now it is bridged.

Dr. Clough has provided great leadership in reaching out to Atlanta and will continue to do so in the future.

Hinkel’s column has been very positive and helpful in providing an insightful and critical look from the student perspective at the symbiotic relationship between Georgia Tech and Atlanta.

Keep up the good work, and best of luck in the future!

Bill Todd, IM ‘71
bill.todd@tnci.net Adventures.com

The Technique is accepting applications for columnists for the fall semester. In order to apply to be a columnist for the Technique, please send ideas for the theme of your column, a writing sample, and how often you would like to write (i.e., once a month, once every two weeks, etc.). Previous experience with the Technique is helpful but not necessary. For examples of a previously-run column, please refer to Jen Hinkel’s “Techs and the City” column in last fall and spring’s editions of the Technique.

Quote of the week:
“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can’t read them.” – Mark Twain

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With new attractions, city may never sleep

“I’ll look to my left and see hammerhead sharks. To my right will be a artificial coral reef and an assortment of tropical fish.”

When I leave the building, I’ll see an area bustling with out-of-town visitors, neighborhood shops and plenty of restaurants.

Last, I’ll jump in my car—or maybe a train—and head to Atlanta’s four major downtown parks, more restaurants and a movie theater. Most of all, I’ll see an area of the city that is blooming and growing for hours without having to worry about getting hit by an out of control car.

Atlanta needed a before-and-after picture series during the Olympic years. That time has come again.

Last week, the Marcus Foundation and Coca-Cola announced plans to build an aquatic center north of Centennial Park on nine acres of land that Coke owns. The aquatic center will be adjacent to the new World of Coca-Cola that opens this fall.

Both of the facilities are expected to open in 2005. The Children’s Museum will open a year earlier. The opening of both is part of a downtown revitalization project that will add another dining option, another place to go to in the city that has been built by business, but failed to see the thriving forest of trees that were saddled with debt and needed to sacrifice exciting exhibits to pay back the loans.

The Atlanta aquarium won’t have to face those problems as Home Depot co-founder Bernard Marcus has committed to pay for the aquarium construction expected to be over $200 million. Marcus promises that the aquarium, expected to hold over 5 million gallons of water, will be one of the world’s best. Douglas Daugh, who will head the Atlanta business leaders at no cost to taxpayers. Many aquariums have struggled in the past 5 years, and those that were saddled with debt and needed to sacrifice exciting exhibits to pay back the loans.

The major cog missing from this puzzle is transportation. These new attractions mean more cars and more pollution to city that has plenty already. However, these developments will not further develop the basic Marta transportation system. Look for a light rail system to debut and for Marta to start branching out from the simple cross layout that currently exists.

Another area that will undergo a major change is real estate. If I had some cash, one of the first things I would do would be to buy a condo in downtown Atlanta near Centennial Park or near Atlantic Station. One of Atlanta’s biggest assets, its low cost of living, will benefit those who develop these developments are built. Atlanta will be faced with a hefty challenge: how to use the new real estate wisely. If we don’t think twice about the apartments and housing that develop on these developments, Atlanta might be praised as one of the best urban communities.

As business leaders, these men have been successful because they have fully thought through the possibilities. This will continue in the Atlanta development. As the city itself continues to grow, so will the business community. To produce generous philanthropists in the mold of Marcus, his fellow Home Depot Founder Bernard Marcus, and Tech president Dr. Barke’s words. I leave you with this question: what is your or her position or field of study? What is your company’s mission? What do you need to do to be successful? I hope that you will continue to discover the community around you. Go ahead and plant your roots where you feel the bond of community that you enjoy. Go ahead and plant your roots where you feel the bond of community that you enjoy.

The Tech career, I remained unimpressed by the community that interacts together, innovators together, imagines together and includes others. We celebrate together when we triumph—whether in athletics or the classroom. We also do seek to reflect something together during difficult times, like September 14 of last year. When I sat in the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program, students can Tech engineering degree without stopping foot in Atlanta. Other students can study at Tech’s campus in Metz, France or on one of its many study abroad programs across the academy spectrum—from chemical engineering to international economics. We see this innovation in the research produced by faculty and students alike, across the academia spectrum—from chemical engineering to international economics. We also see it in student affairs and auxiliary services. We are all trying to do whatever it is we do a little bit better and a little more innovative; in a sense, this makes every member of the community, no matter what his or her position or field of study, an engineer.

The Tech community is inclusive. We see this facet of the university now more than ever, as the Institute’s student body continues to grow. We also see that the campus is no longer bounded by North Avenue and Tenth Street; it extends around the world. Through the Georgia Tech Regional Institute’s student body continues to grow. In fact, the Tech student population will almost double by 2010. The Tech student population will almost double by 2010.

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The Tech campus means one of two things: more places to work and more places to fool around. While traffic congestion will increase, mass transportation alternatives will be built around the Tech campus. Atlanta is moving forward even in a state of economic decline. In a city that has been built by business, it seems only fitting that the downtown development that is now under way will be built by Atlanta business leaders at no cost to taxpayers. Many aquariums have struggled in the past 5 years, and those that were saddled with debt and needed to sacrifice exciting exhibits to pay back the loans.

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Buzz Around the Campus

**Question** of the week

“What is the biggest problem facing Atlanta?”

Lauren Sutheall
INTA Freshman

“Traffic.”

Andrew Cooper
IE Senior

“It’s full of the biggest bandwagon of sports fans.”

Rachel Black
HTS Junior

“The influx of rats once Hightower is destroyed.”

Brent Andrew Luie
MGT Junior

“Terrorism.”

Nathan Zick
IE Junior

“People are too busy.”

Brandon Swafford
CS Freshman

“Construction.”

Dinesh Mantri
CompE Sophomore

“Tech’s policy against domestic partner benefits.”

Heidi Hysell
CS Senior

“Athens has a wireless network, and we don’t.”

Feature and Photos by Scott Meuleners and Katie Oliff
Welcome! My name is Tiffany Massey, and I am the Undergraduate Student Body President of Georgia Institute of Technology.

I would like to take this opportunity to express how excited we are welcome you into the Tech community. We are proud to have the most qualified freshmen class in Tech’s history.

The Student Government is excited about serving you over this upcoming year and will be working on number of initiatives, for example, forums for students to express their views on campus issues, free usage of the Ferst Center for all student organizational performances, and web based overloads.

We encourage you to get involved in the campus community during your freshmen year to maximize your Tech experience.

As you can see, our Institution is undergoing a tremendous amount of change. Students are encouraged to embrace and participate in these exciting changes that are occurring and transforming our institution into the “technological institution of the future.”

The Student Government Association provides the opportunity for students to lead as an agent of change helping Georgia Tech reach its full potential.

There are many different opportunities to get involved in Student Government. Whether you choose to run for a legislative position in the House of Representatives or participate in an Executive or Institute Wide Committee, we encourage you to get involved where your interests lead you.

We are here to serve “you” - the students, and we welcome any questions or comments that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact us, we would love to hear from you.

The Student Government Office is located in room 131 of the Student Services Building. Please come by and see us soon!

Tiffany Massey
Undergraduate President
Student Government Association
president@sga.gatech.edu