Housing Break-ins

The recent burglaries in housing highlight the need for constant vigilance against crime. Tech’s location in middle of a major city makes such a point even more urgent. The steps that Housing is taking will make dorms safer and more secure. Installing locks on every floor of dorms will hopefully alleviate some of the problems.

Most of the danger of burglaries and violence in housing comes from residents letting people into the buildings. Students must be more cautious and aware of the dangers of letting unidentified people into buildings. While it may seem rude not to let someone into a dorm, it is better to protect the other residents in the building than to slight a stranger. If a resident lets someone into a building, he or she helps one person; if the resident protects the safety of his or her residence hall by not letting someone in, he or she helps an entire building.

School Colors

Navy is an excellent choice as a third school color for many reasons. Navy has a history with Tech, being mentioned in some documents as one of the original colors. The alternative color being considered, black, would not be a good choice because there is already a team in the ACC whose colors are black and gold, Wake Forest. Because we would never want to be confused with that school, navy is an ideal choice. Having a third color is beneficial both for accenting white and old gold, both light colors, and for sports such as swimming and track that need darker uniforms. Finally, because many pieces of Tech merchandise already use navy, the change in official policy will be good for branding and identification of Tech sports teams. Because many people across the country know Tech by its athletics, consistent colors will help with identification of Georgia Tech.

Child Care Facility

The Home Park Learning Center will be beneficial both for Tech and the surrounding community. The presence of child-care close to campus will do much to attract both faculty and grad students. While the price is not cheaper than other child care, the Center’s proximity to campus makes it a draw for those people related to Tech who have children.

Beyond these obvious benefits, the Center will also serve the purpose of increasing the links between Georgia Tech and Home Park. While the neighborhood and the Institute seem intimately connected, relations between the two have not always been rosy. Anything which can serve to increase harmony between the two is welcome.

Vote on Nov. 5

This Tuesday, November 5, remember to vote in the midterm election! Recent studies have shown that the percentage of people aged 18-25 who vote has been steadily decreasing for the past decade. We students must be sure to protect our unique interests by participating in the political process and voting. For information on the Georgia races and the issues in this election, visit the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Election Guide at www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/metro/election2002/index.html.

A group of Lambda Chi Alpha alumni from across the country attended the judging of the Homecoming display competition. As responsible alumni, they indulged in a beer after a long trip during the judging of Lambda Chi’s Homecoming entries. After a round of applause from the judges and the other bystanders, the judges headed off to the next house. A long week of construction, pomegranate and mechanical rigging was finally over. Once the judges left the property, Buck Cooke informed the brothers that they had been disqualified because of alcohol. No active brothers were drinking, and no alcohol was present among them. Being totally forthcoming and honest, the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha informed the Homecoming Chairman that the “brothers” in question were alumni. They had not participated in any aspect of the week and were present to watch the display. After a lengthy discussion about the disqualification with Cooke, Lambda Chi was given the opportunity to protest the decision.

On Sunday evening, after all the alumni had gone home from an otherwise great Homecoming, the protest meeting was held. During that meeting, the decision stood. What a message to send to our alumni! Are they to understand that we don’t want them here during Homecoming? Buck Cooke and the members of the Homecoming Executive Committee should re-evaluate what Homecoming stands for, why we have it in the first place, and begin to reason like adults. I for one am disappointed in the ethics these people demonstrated to our alumni and to the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha.

William Leslie
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Under the Couch changes detrimental to campus

Earlier this semester, Under the Couch cancelled all of its shows. No, they didn’t decide to just quit and up and leave, providing entertainment for Tech students—the administration insisted on it too.

Under the Couch is run by the Musician’s Network, an organization of students who book bigger acts for the Atlanta area in addition to Tech students.

The changes were brought about at the request of some seniors, former employees of the Couch from several years ago by Dean Boyd, investigated the organization and found some areas of concern. While the considered reasons were valid, I don’t believe they warranted a complete shutdown of Under the Couch.

One issue was the noise that the concerts produce. Since Under the Couch is in close proximity to several campus dorms, many students complained of the late-night noise. When the network wanted to shift the location and recreation on campus, this problem would be easy to deal with. One solution would be to use the old bookstore space as a concert venue. The bookstore space, with a few modifications, would be an ideal place to host concerts. The bookstore is located in the middle of campus, far away from any residence hall.

The fact that Under the Couch hosts many events not related to Georgia Tech students is another group of people the administration is concerned with. I sent a cappella groups performed at Under the Couch, the venue also welcomed various local and national a cappella artists. Unfortunately, I felt that the Musician’s Network should focus on Georgia Tech students and providing them with a place to perform. Under the Couch could be a great venue. In many cases, high school students attended the shows, bringing prospective students to campus to see what Tech offers besides academics.

Under the Couch provided much needed entertainment for students, especially those without a car who could not get to off-campus venues very easily. It was extremely convenient to just walk across campus to see some of my favorite shows. The year I went to concerts at Under the Couch and had a great time. I got to see people from my class that I hadn’t even had a chance to talk to since freshman year. I also got to see some good bands without the hassle of leaving campus.

People always say Tech students need culture and diversity in their lives, that we need to get away from all the math and science. Well, we just lost one of our creative outlets. Sure, the Frenz Center puts on good performances, but they are general more formal and restrictive. Under the Couch provided an informal, laid-back atmosphere in which to enjoy new and different music styles. Every night there was a different kind of music being performed, so almost everyone could find something they liked.

Under the Couch was an asset that many schools have. How many schools actually have their own concert venue where groups other than Tech can perform? Some comments I found on the Under the Couch website were:

“Under the Couch was the possibility to get hooked into the music scene. Now that UTCC has been taken away, I will have harder to hear new bands and experience different types of music. This is just one more example of the shifting that has taken place at Tech. They claim to support diversity, but they will not allow a little louder music or crazier people.”

“Please bring UTC back. I’ve been to countless shows there, and I was always impressed. I miss some of the few venues I go to that is near me. It was awesome! Hopefully this really will be a permanent move. I want UTC back!”

“Under the Couch has greatly improved my college experience. I am sad to see the venue go, but continue to support you guys. Rock on! The Tech administration should take a look at Under the Couch and continue working with the Musician’s Network to figure out a compromise. Here’s my proposal, although it’s a little biased towards the Musician’s Network: move Under the Couch to a different location (preferably the bookstore) and keep things going like they were. Allow as many non-Georgia Tech events as possible, and allow non-Georgia Tech students. Performancs by Tech groups (which are offenses) are generally more enjoyable, or at least different. If performances are restricted to Tech groups, we wouldn’t have many Georgia Tech students. How is Under the Couch supposed to break even momentarily if they can’t host as many people and be able and in as many as possible? It’s basic economics, and Under the Couch is a venture that does require some funding. Hopefully the extreme measure of canceling all the Musician’s Network shows is only temporary.

Computers are the key to the future of engineering

What of the future of engineering? What will your field look like in twenty years? Are you factoring this into your computer's equations? You have upper level students that have been forced to use a program for your class. It performs a specific function to allow you to accomplish your tasks. Twenty years ago, you would have had to do the task by hand.

Depending on the problem, this type of math could be anywhere from difficult to impossible for the student of yesteryear. Think about that for a second. Twenty years isn’t that long, you’ll still be in the middle of your career twenty years from now. In twenty years, it’s not too much of a stretch to extrapolate and say that the computer could perform every task that you’re currently learning in your engineering and math classes. An “Engineer in a Box” if you will.

Assuming this to be the case, why bother doing well at Tech? Why aren’t they using math as a tool to cut corners on the desk at 2 a.m. because you don’t think about minor computer calculations? People who don’t understand the discipline nearly as well as the engineer of tomorrow are using your job as a program and a bit of hand waving:

Often I hear the same dilemma that auto workers faced in the eighties: the replacement of human labor by machines. In this case, jobs in the field will need to be replaced by engineers whose higher paying and more skilled jobs replaced those lost opportunities. The robots that replaced factory workers created jobs designing the robots and maintaining them. I anticipate that a similar condition will occur in engineering. The number of times when a problem is involved in developing a solution will be hidden behind a terribly designed user interface in a powerful in engineering program. You and I will be left with reducing the requirements to a valid one, but of the envelope type calculations, and dealing with management and customers.

Essentially all we’ll have to be chief engineers, the man who comes up with the ideas rather than the one who has to run the numbers. This will be a good thing, as it will allow us to do only the interesting bits rather than be forced in through mathematical tedium to complete our design.

So what will engineers be like in twenty years? Not much different from today, and with a lot less math and a lot more computer. And I mean more than just the use of a computer program to cut corners or use the same programs that you’re using rear their ugly head. As far as skills, either make yourself useful. Some people will be worth keeping on a team or special-ize to the point that it’s not worth writing a computer program to do your job.

Computers are a tool like any other. One’s life easier. I haven’t heard any complaints that CAD programs should be done away with because they reduce the amount of work that you have to do. Why should common engineering tasks be any different? I don’t share the opinion of some that this will lead to engineers becoming stu- dier or lazier.

The role filled by the engineer is that of problem solver, as long as there are problems to be solved, there will be a need for engineers to solve them. If those engineers can do more per capita than today’s engineers and the job market shrinks, we’ll be left with only those with the most desire to want to do it. Engineers are rather clever people in general, I’m quite confident that even in a field of engineering there will be certain niche roles that a computer program cannot fill, and engineers will be the most qualified for those roles. The practice of the discipline may change, but the discipline itself endures.

One final note based on personal experience: if you buy into my argument, that you’re going to graduate with some pros- pbably have not. Since you and I (sadly) don’t write the grading criteria your academic standing will most certainly suffer if you don’t bother learning the “unimpor- tant” formulas for the test. Learning the formulas is a waste of time if you’re using rears their ugly head. As far as skills, either make yourself useful. Some people will be worth keeping on a team or special-ize to the point that it’s not worth writing a computer program to do your job.

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Incoherent Scribbblings

Episode Three: In Which Evil Arrives...

Well, well, well, how does it feel to be on the receiving end of karma?

Sigh...

LOOKS LIKE MR. RAY IS THE REAL PLAYER!

PLEASE STOP! CAN'T YOU SEE MY HEART IS HURTING?

SNIFF... JUST GO AWAY...

Oh geez. Cheer up, lil' guy. Girls come and go. Listen, my name is Eddie. You can hang with me if you want.

And thanks, I'm managing and oh no! It's Lord Serious?

Lord Serious?

So um... Lord Serious... what's with your um... your uh...

I AM THE GREAT HORNY ONE OF WHICH THE SQUIRRELY PROPHECY SPOKE...

Oooh-oooh-oooh! Well guys, I think it's time I go... um... stand way over there...

Evil powers!
**Buzz Around the Campus**

Shonta Smith  
MGT 2nd Yr  
“All the fraternity displays.”

Janeen Anthony  
IE 4th Yr  
“I like the T-Shirts.”

Tiffanie Golden  
IE 4th Yr  
“The Wrek parade programs were beautiful.”

Thomas Holst  
ME 4th Yr  
“Beating the Cavaliers.”

**Question of the week**

“What was your favorite Homecoming event?”

Adam Johnson  
MGT 4th Yr  
“The alumni band rocked!”

Erin Looney  
CEE 1st Yr  
“Celebrating my friend’s winning of the Freshman Cake Race.”

Chris Clarke  
ME 1st Yr  
“Bombing Fiji with water balloons.”

Bonnie Vaughan  
BC 5th Yr  
“Actually knowing people in the Mr. & Ms. GT contest.”

Feature and Photos by Scott Meuleners and Charles Frey
Advice on Love and Life

The Madame has a burst of inspiration recently, after hearing a story to top all true stories. Apparently, one of my adoring advice-seekers was making out with her boyfriend on his lofted bed. They got hot and heavy and soon enough she rolled right off their platform of pleasure. She crashed, back first, on his fish tank, splashing water and goldfish everywhere! With a naked trip to the hospital to complete the couple’s adventure, the Madame feels needed and wanted—people have so many problems! Now I will solve these poor students’ troubles.

I am a freshman major, and I think may be bi. I find myself attracted to both men and women, but don’t want to lose the gay lifestyle. What should I do to make myself attracted to only females?

—Unwanted questioned

Oh, boy. The Madame feels befuddled: give me a moment while I mop my brow. What you need to do first, honey, is get yourself to Athens. If you feel the need to be attracted only to fly chickadees, then the streets of downtown Athens are your godsend—the hot women come in droves, their Clair Oil number 5 blonde hair sexilly swooshing, clinging to the moist corners of your mouth because of droid. However, if you still do not find yourself attracted to the women, then I think you may have to do some long, hard thinking about what you really want, both out of a relationship and out of life. You have to realize that if you are, the more likely your boy is to the sensitive area on a man, Blind?

—and stupid!

Have you ever been introduced to the sensitive area on a man, Blind? Let me tell you about it. It’s smaller than a breadbox but bigger than…well, actually, it’s pretty little. What you need to do, dear, is kindly threaten the idiot’s tender nether regions. Once he is scared into honesty, ask him up-front about his deal; was he cheating on you or did he just fall out of love? Is your friend just a rebound relationship because he is emotionally torn and fragile right now, or is he in it for the booty? Second, you need to talk to your supposed “best friend.” I wouldn’t call any ex-lover-stealer a best friend.

To prevent this sort of thing from happening in the future, keep your eyes and ears open, and be suspecting. Tap your next boy’s phone line and bug his clothes. It’s the only sure way to keep what’s yours pure. Let me tell you from my personal experience in France this past summer (you might recognize my stories of the boy with the overly large glasses and Ricky rake bike) that stalking is the way to get what you want. Demand respect, because it’s what you deserve. Just make sure you keep a good distance when following your par-amour, and don’t trip!

This weekend, my new boyfriend and I are going to his fraternity’s semi-formal. We have not had sex yet, and he has been driping verbal out-too-noble hints that he wants to have sex this weekend. I’m not ready yet, but I’m not sure how to tell him that. What should I do?

—Siegred of Sesto

Umm, could you explain to me why you would go to a semi-formal without expecting to do the dirty deed? Look, Scared, I’m going to tell it to you straight. No boy is going to pay gobs of money for the shirt (and if it’s long-sleeved, you know it costs even more money), the dinner, the booze, the condoms, not to mention the actual event itself, and not expect to get something out of the evening. If you aren’t into a post-dancing foray, perhaps you have chosen the wrong boy to take a swirl around the dance floor with. If you’re comfortable enough to know that you don’t want to squeeze his bedpostings, then you need to tell him this, straight out (and be ready to shell out some cash for those shirts). The more honest you are, the more likely your boy is to the (insert interest group here) and to Americans that (said issue) is important to the (insert interest group here) because it is important to choose its own programming — limiting the cherished First Amendment’s guarantee of freedom of the press. But this bill would not inhibit that freedom; it would help the media exercise in it ways that would also facilitate another free-dom — the right to vote. Instead of arguing over the lack of separation between politics and the media, the focus should be put on why politicians are reduced to running their mindless ads in the first place.

McCain said it best: “Free air time can better inform the public about candidates and invite viewers to become more engaged in their government by learning more about the individuals seeking to represent them.” Too bad McCain’s argument won’t show up on any news broadcasts — it’s too long for them to bother.