Parking renewal
Stinger contract

By Michael Handelman
Contribution Writer

Citing current concerns over the state of on-campus transportation, including the Stingerette and Stinger systems, Parking and Transportation systems recently commissioned a study from Lanier Parking Systems. The results, which were released earlier this month, contain recommendations for improvements to both systems. This report arrived as negotiations of the contract with First Vector, the vendor whose operations were the subject of the report’s criticisms, ended.

The study found that the system was generally unreliable, saying that, “buses on the red and blue routes were often observed to arrive well after their posted times.” Vehicle maintenance, staffing issues, obstructions from construction on Ferst Dr. and traffic on North Avenue were cited as reasons for this unreliability.

Complaints from riders of the Yellow Route, which currently serves as a shuttle between the Midtown MARTA station and campus, included scheduling difficulties and lack of capacity. The report summarized the level of dissatisfaction with the Stinger, stating “[there] are numerous complaints about the level of service and a general feeling that the system is unreliable.”

In response, Parking and Transportation Services attributed the concerns over the low quality of service to the age of the vehicles used. Breakdowns and repairs have also often prevented efficient operation.

Parking and Transportation plans to remediate this with the purchase of all new vehicles. Currently, out of the current fleet of nine vehicles, four were built in 1994, and one was built in 1992. Ten new buses will replace these.

These purchases of Stinger buses coincide with the purchases of trolleys to service Technology Square. Eight trolleys will be purchased for those routes, with two serving as spares. The use of spares should reduce operational delays due to disrepair.

The long-awaited campus-wide finding plan, designed to add directional signs to ease navigation around campus, will include the development of bus stops and shelters.

The report recommended placement of these shelters “at Techwood Drive, Bobby Dodd, Technology Square….and along Atlantic Drive.”

Currently, Georgia Tech contracts out the operation of the Stinger system to First Vector, a private company operating out of College Park.

Although the report criticized the operations and reliability of the Stinger, the same company was successful in winning the bid to provide service for a new contract that begins July 1. Vice President for Auxiliary Operations Brad Meyers asserts that “many vendors bid and First Vector was the successful bidder...it was not a renegotiation of our current contract.”

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Management prepares for Tech Square move

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

On July 14 the much anticipated Technology Square will officially open to the public. The project boasts a hotel, convention center, state of the art technology, the new Barnes and Noble Bookstore and the new home of the DuPree College of Management.

Located in Midtown the project is sometimes considered psychologically if not physically separated from the rest of campus. The fact that it lies on the other side of the interstate poses some very unique integration problems.

According to Dr. Nathan Bennett, the Associate Dean of the DuPree College of Management, who is personally overseeing the transfer of the college’s career services, MBA and executive education programs, Technology Square aims to be the buzz of the campus despite its location.

With splendid lounges, futuristic IT infrastructure and its promise of bringing good eating to campus Bennett says, “it will be the part of campus students will want to hang out. It will be the equivalent of Harvard square.”

From the College of Management’s perspective, this is a monumental moment in its history. Bennett says, “this building will change the
Parking contract.” The differences between the old contract with First Vector and the new contract include stricter requirements for areas with past deficiencies. Meyers defends the continued selection of First Vector, saying that “we made clear to company management that service needs to dramatically improve, that we expected a much closer relationship to company management, a new on-campus manager whom we approved in advance and more communication.” Meyers also sees that improving the quality of the drivers as a top priority. “No consultant … can know the campus the way we know it, but [Lanier Parking Systems] has made many valuable recommendations.” Rosalind Meyers
VP Auxiliary Services

“[T]here is a conception that life at Georgia Tech should be perfect, but, we have made a difference in the past.”

Nate Watson
Undergrad President

SGA

Watson responded to claims raised during the SGA election regarding the usefulness of student government, saying, “We had a very high turnout, one of the highest turnouts in the nation… the fact that some people are upset about the direction that student government is heading in means that people are paying attention to what we are doing.”

Addressing students who feel that “we can change even more things on Tech’s campus.”

Watson seeks to work with CETL, the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, to expand a program for training that has been proven successful by the Math Department.

With Danny Puckett elected as the new Vice-President for the Undergraduate House of Representatives, Watson sees each branch of government acting independently in its decision making, adding that “we have some of the best representatives we’ve ever had in the House of Representatives.”

The Undergraduate Judicial Cabinet, the branch of student government that primarily handles non-academic infractions of the student conduct code, will be led by Chief Justice Kevin Haalaska. The new student government administration also looks to maintain its traditional autonomy between the executive and judicial branches.

Ultimately, Watson said that he believes “people should be in control of what is happening to them.”

interested in writing for the

TECHNIQUE?
when: tuesday, june 17, 7 p.m.
where: student services (flag building) room 137
free pizza!!
The Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) has named Dr. Stephen Cross, current director and chief executive officer of the Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute, as its new director.

Cross will also serve as a vice president for Tech and as a professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

GTRI’s current director, Edward Reedy, is retiring from Tech after a 33-year career and seven years as director. Cross begins his duties on September 1.

In a statement released to the press, Dr. Cross is quoted as saying, “to lead one of the world’s most highly regarded research organizations is an exciting opportunity and challenge. I’m honored to be asked to join such an impressive group of professionals. GTRI has made — and is continuing to make — significant and lasting contributions to the nation’s security and economic strength. It has a key role to play in ensuring Georgia Tech’s vision and strategy for the future.”

GTRI, which is highly regarded internationally, is the nonprofit applied research arm of Tech. Over a thousand employees perform or support approximately $115 million in annual research for more than 200 clients in industry and government.

“GTRI officially began in 1934 with three research projects and $12,000, although its actual origins are in the 1919 bill passed by the Georgia Legislature that created the State Engineering Experiment Station,” Cross begins his duties on September 1.

“The biggest challenge for all of us has been that this is a once in a lifetime thing. It wasn’t done before and the college will work to iron out as many problems as it can.”

Bennet cautions that even with every effort to make the roll-out painless, a lot of patience will be needed from the students to make it work.

“Monkeypox infects the Western Hemisphere

Health officials in Wisconsin have confirmed at least four cases of monkeypox in the Milwaukee area in what is believed to be the first outbreak of the disease in the Western Hemisphere. Another twenty in the area are suspected of having the disease, along with a few residents of Illinois and Indiana. The CDC believes that those who are infected were made so by infected pet prairie dogs and Gambian rats sold by a Milwaukee pet distributor. The disease, which is related to smallpox, is usually transmitted to people from squirrels and primates through a bite or contact with the animal’s blood.

Computer Science from around the world

Interested in taking a class on how to write a computer virus? Look no further than the University of Calgary. The University plans to go ahead with its class “Computer Virus and Malware” this fall. The University has drawn criticism from security professionals, but the University believes it has instituted adequate protection to prevent any of the viruses from leaking outside their Intranet.

Martha Stewart indicted

Martha Stewart was indicted this week on charges of five federal counts of insider trading related to her sale of shares of ImClone just before the stock plummeted in value. She has pleaded innocent and her trial is expected to begin next week. Martha Stewart has set up a web site, marthatalcus.com, proclaiming her innocence.