

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, February 3, 2006



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Quote of the week:
"The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men."
 —Plato

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Survey says

The results of the Stingerette survey administered by the Student Government Association (SGA) send a mixed message. Roughly half of the student respondents indicated that they want the Stingerette service to go off-campus again, but are both unwilling to wait longer than 20 minutes and unwilling to pay an extra \$2.60 per semester to keep wait times down.

Unfortunately for all of us, it is not possible to have your cake and eat it, too. It is unrealistic to demand that the budget-strained Parking and Transportation department reinstate off-campus Stingerette service and keep wait times down without any additional financial support.

Based on the high percentage of survey responders who indicated that they want to use the Stingerette to go off campus, a solution of some sort does need to be found. The department should consider alternatives to restoring full off-campus service, such as having set routes with drop-off and pickup locations throughout the Home Park and Centennial Place areas. However, only a small percentage of respondents seemed to use this off-campus service, even though many desired it—adding to the inconclusive nature.

On a side note, the Parking and Transportation department should not place Global Positioning System (GPS) devices in the Stingerettes. A decision to do so would be financially irresponsible, when the budget is such an issue for them. The routes are not standard like the set patterns the buses follow; therefore, GPS would not be of great benefit to the students on campus.

GRE changes

The recent alternations to the GRE format are a mixed bag for future graduate school hopefuls. The switch from an adaptive test to a linear test will make the test more standardized, less confusing and easier for which to prepare; however, the almost two-fold increase in duration will make the test-taking process much more strenuous.

Standardized tests are annoying enough to study for, without the ETS throwing in new rules. Like the recent changes to the SAT did to the undergraduate application and acceptance process, the changes to the GRE will throw a certain amount of confusion into the graduate application and acceptance process. The new, seemingly arbitrary grading scale will make it harder for schools to compare the scores of those who send in results from the old test to those who send it results from the new test.

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

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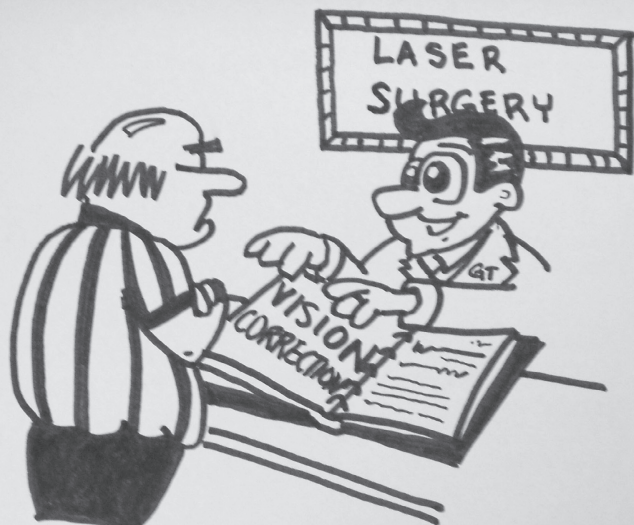
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GEORGIA TECH DOCTOR'S FIND
 CURE FOR BASKET BALL REF'S
 LACK OF POPULARITY.

02.02.2006

By Lynn Deaton / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Recognizing the unrecognized

Inspired by an editorial last week that encouraged people to praise rather than complain, I want to commend a few entities on campus whose successes often go unnoticed and whose faults are often exaggerated.

GT Police:

Crime is the lowest it's been in 10 years, according to Public Safety Sergeant Carla Cook, and she mentioned that the officers should be thanked for contributing to the reduction in crime.

I appreciate how the police force puts the protection of the student body as top priority, rather than trying to catch them in unbecoming acts. This is different from other campuses I've seen, and it's because of Tech police that this campus is a safe haven in the middle of downtown Atlanta.

Maintenance Requests:

How cool is it that when something breaks in your dorm room, all you have to do is log on to Housing's website and make a maintenance request. Within a couple of days, at a max, the problem is fixed.

I had a friend tell me about a time when her air conditioner broke in her dorm. She submitted a maintenance request at 5 p.m., and by 9 p.m. that same night the problem was fixed. Amazing.

Recently, the refrigerator light in my room burned out. I started to walk out of the room to go to the store to buy a new bulb, when my roommate said he would just make a maintenance request. I thought that they wouldn't bother with such a small, do-it-yourself task. The next day the bulb was replaced.

They'll change the height of your bed, unclog your drain, replace a leaky faucet, fix a garbage disposal, replace the air filters—basically anything you ask your mom or dad to do at home—and in a timely manner. That's impressive, if you ask me.



"I want to commend a few entities on campus whose successes often go unnoticed and whose faults are often exaggerated."

Patrick Odneal
 Sports Editor

And while we're talking about support, how 'bout those guys at OIT?

In an age when tech support for commercial products is unimpressive and often overseas, the guys at OIT individually respond to any problem you give them, like when I had a problem with my school email not forwarding to my Gmail account. Someone responded to me the next business day.

OIT is responsible for maintaining the computers on campus, and at a technology institute such as ours, this task is especially vital. OIT, perhaps more than any other group, rarely gets credit for a job well-done but is scolded when things go awry.

OIT does a great job of making sure that the myriad of software packages installed on computers is always up-to-date. It's no lie that when I visited a peer institution over the summer, the computer I used in a lab was still running Internet 5.0 and had no alternative browser choice.

The CRC and intramurals program: Few students in the nation have access to a pool used for the Olympics, but since I'm not a swimmer, I can't appreciate the speed of this pool. I find it rather empowering to swim in the same venue as some of the world's best athletes.

The intramurals program on campus is great for students from a

couple of viewpoints.

Students have a wide variety of sports to choose from and can compete on multiple skill levels.

The program emphasizes the importance of sportsmanship and camaraderie with the spirit of competition. Rankings are based on wins and losses as well on a "sportsmanship" score.

Also, the structure of the school championships this year is a welcome improvement over the A, B and C leagues of years past.

Students also have the opportunity to work as officials and supervisors in the intramurals program, and this often serves as a springboard for students who want to officiate in their careers later in life.

Tech's Tuition Policy:

Students pay for full-time status to enroll at Tech, rather than paying by the credit-hour. Thus a student pays the same amount if enrolled in 12 or 21 hours.

This policy rewards those who want to push themselves academically and perhaps finish ahead of time. At colleges that charge per credit hour, a student in essence pays more to take a tough, full semester of many classes.

Also, Tech's tuition policy is conducive to students who want to take "fun" classes, like foreign language, art history or music, because it's not going to cost you any more than normal.

Tech innovation can affect nation's future

On Tuesday night, I was unable to get in front of a television to see the State of the Union address until its conclusion—literally. All I heard was “Thank you, and may God Bless America.”

Since I do not happen to have a VCR on campus, and I was curious as to the speech's contents, I did the next best thing—I found a transcript of the speech online.

Actually, this is probably better than watching it because there is no need to stop for (applause) every time, but I digress.

As an Economics major, I tend to pay particular attention to any part of a speech that is prefaced by some sort of blanket statement that notes, “Our economy is good.” This year's version of that comment happened to be “Our economy is healthy and vigorous.”

Of course, this is just a cue for a portion, which will explain what we must do to become healthier and more vigorous.

This year's portion started off with the usual suspects—tax cuts, Social Security, health insurance, open markets and immigration.

I could write a whole separate series of editorials on that laundry list, but it was the next part of the list that made me think particularly of Tech.

Innovation, math and science



“We must continue to actively pursue our goals of being on the cutting edge of innovation.”

Kyle Thomason
Editor-in-Chief

were at the heart of the discussion, and these are three areas where we happen to stand out as a school.

In this portion of his speech, President Bush proposes a doubling of the budget for research programs in the physical sciences over the next year.

He adds, “This funding will support the work of America's most creative minds as they explore promising areas such as nanotechnology, supercomputing and alternative energy sources.”

It was just the other day that a friend told me that nanotechnology intrigued him because he believed it is where the next great innovations would be made. It seems almost surreal to be reading the State of the Union and seeing almost the exact same thing.

Plus, how can you hear the word “nanotechnology” and not think of Tech and its peer schools?

It is not exactly a common term tossed around in high school science class. In fact, the word processing program I'm using does not even recognize it as an actual word.

The logic behind this point is simple; our economy must improve through innovation, and the most logical place for innovation to occur is no longer in agricultural productivity or increasing industrial efficiency; we are a service-based economy looking for the next great technological breakthrough.

I do in fact have a point to this. This is a time of great opportunity for Tech with its resources and its direction; however, we must continue to actively pursue our goals of being on the cutting edge of innovation and not wait for “someone else to make the discovery.”

The other side of the coin—what can happen when everyone knows that something should

be pushed to the forefront, but nobody takes action—was also evident in the State of the Union.

“Our excessive dependence on foreign oil is a clear and present danger to our Nation's security. The need has never been more urgent. At long last, we must have a clear, comprehensive energy policy for the United States.”

“As you well know, I have been working with the Congress in a concentrated and persistent way over the past three years to meet this need. We have made progress together.”

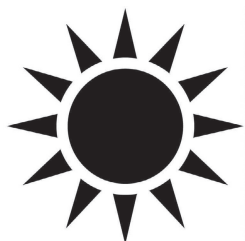
“But Congress must act promptly now to complete final action on this vital energy legislation. Our Nation will then have a major conservation effort, important initiatives to develop solar power, realistic pricing based on the true value of oil, strong incentives for the production of coal and other fossil fuels in the United States and our Nation's most massive peacetime investment in the development of synthetic fuels.”

The previous quote sounds like it could have been part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, doesn't it? When I place it side by side with last night's speech, I have a tough time telling a significant

See Speech, page 8

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Rising arts

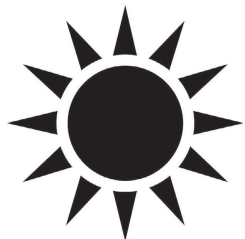
The receipt of the MacArthur Foundation Grant is a great boost for the Tech's INTA program and for Tech's liberal arts reputation as a whole. In terms of technology and security scholarship, Tech can now claim the same ground as Carnegie Mellon, Cornell and Princeton—quite a prestigious lot. Thanks to achievements such as this, we will soon become much more than “that engineering school.”



Bad calls

Tech men's basketball continues their losing streak thanks to a questionable last-second foul call on Jeremis Smith during the Virginia Tech game on Tuesday.

With both teams tied, the foul call nullified Tech's winning basket and gave the Hokies two free throws, one of which ended up winning the game for them. No physical contact was seen, and the over-the-back call drew the ire of many spectators.



Women's tennis

Congratulations to the women's tennis team for reaching the rank of number three in the country. This is the highest rank ever received by a women's team at Tech.

So Tech fans, go take the opportunity to support a non-revenue sports team next time there is a home tennis match.



CRC crime

It is saddening to report a string of car and locker break-ins at the CRC the week immediately after reporting on a crime drop on campus. It's especially terrible that CRC patrons cannot trust each other when leaving personal belongings in lockers. Hopefully increased awareness will help to deter future burglaries.

Why do we have so much?

By Jim Foreman
The Battalion

(U-WIRE) Texas A&M—Americans have a lot of stuff. It's not a bad thing. In fact, it's what separates us from the Communists.

Our capitalist economy demands financial sacrifices to fuel its increasing production of newer and better consumer goods, such as plasma screen TVs and pimped out Hummers.

At the same time, society convinces us that we must constantly replace our old and outdated stuff with fresh stuff. Through the miracles of modern television, the internet and tax deductions for donating used stuff to third world countries, we are convinced that the only use for an income is to buy more stuff.

According to *The Christian Science Monitor*, a study of the 2002 Census released in December found that, not surprisingly, even poor people have a lot of stuff. Not as much as the rich

people, of course, but they do have the bare necessities: air conditioning, refrigerators and color TVs. According to the Census, 98.2 percent of Americans own color TVs, surpassed only by the stove and the refrigerator at 98.3 percent and 99.2 percent respectively. Not even the poverty line can keep people from their daily dose of reality TV and *Desperate Housewives*.

Other Census curiosities include the desktop computers beating out the dishwashers.

Apparently some Americans opted for the Pentium 4 and a lifetime supply of paper plates rather than the expensive yet internet-incapable dishwasher.

Who can blame them? Especially when “why-buy-less-when-you-can-buy-more” stores like Sam's Club are popping up all over the place, turning a lifetime supply of paper plates from a satirical joke to a plausible purchase.

See Stuff, page 8

Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Kyle Thomason, Editor-in-Chief.

All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at www.nique.net. The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is noon on Friday, one week prior to publication. For rate information, call our offices at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved over the phone. The *Technique* office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 353 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Grant Schissler at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary Wells at (404) 894-2830.

Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the Editor-in-Chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email editor@technique.gatech.edu.

BUZZ Around the Campus

What do you think about the quality of campus cultural life?



Sarah Pathammavong
First-year BME

“There's always a bunch of little groups, but we never come together.”



Tiffany Curtiss
Second-year MGT

“It's very clique-ish.”



Kalpit Patel
Fifth-year CS

“There's no motivation to network with other cultures.”



Michael Phillips
Fifth-year IE

“It is everywhere, but exclusive.”

Photos by Ariel Bravy

Stuff from page 7

Economists claim the next Census will show an increasing trend in Apple iPods coupled with a decrease in the popularity of washing machines.

Between the Internet and info-mercials, it's no wonder computers and TVs are so popular. They're outlets to an even wider range of stuff people never knew they always needed.

Hair removal cream, hair growing shampoo, pet vacuums, LED screen belt buckles, ionic air fresheners, shiatsu massage chairs, accounting software and male enhancement pills are all examples of stuff made readily available to the public by technological advances which were funded by sales of products from previous technological advances.

And when our stuff becomes outdated it can be turned into funding for new stuff through the mother-of-all-websites: ebay.

Stuff like dog water purifiers and wristwatches with built-in remote are necessary, not only to satisfy our responsibilities as consumers, but also to feed the economy. And with the Dow Jones Industrial Average topping 11,000 points last week for the first time since 2001, it's safe to say we're doing a pretty good job.

However, don't let that slow you down. Upgrade your TV before it gets dusty, refresh your wardrobe for the new semester and purchase large quantities of caffeinated beverages for those late nights and early classes. Step up and show those Commies what free-enterprise is all about.

Ivan Allen experience leads to opportunity

My name is Alexandra, and I am an Ivan Allen student. (The first step is acceptance.)

I accept that I'm a liberal arts kind of gal. I prefer Marx over Einstein and worship Voltaire instead of Pythagoras.

Life as an Ivan Allen student is enjoyable.

I spend my nights swooning over Copernicus and cursing the isolation of modern life in class. I write original papers instead of following consistent mathematical formulas. I bravely ride the Green route Stinger to class against the path of the Red and Blue.

Yet this life of enlightenment, writing and rebellion is also filled with the constant threat of logic—like people asking me such logical questions as “What are you doing to do with a liberal arts degree?” and “How do you get a job with a history major?”

I have not yet completely conquered the fear that faces me when I meet such skeptics. Curse them for their skilled, mathematical brains! Curse them for their guaranteed salary of an average of \$50,000 per year immediately following



“I accept that I’m a liberal arts kind of gal. I prefer Marx over Einstein and worship Voltaire instead of Pythagoras.”

Alexandra Pajak
Columnist

graduation!

Last week I tried my hand at “passing” for what I assumed constitutes the average engineering major at Tech. I replaced my Hilegard von Bingen CD for Coldplay. I scrapped my latest copy of Robert Frost poems for a *Popular Science* magazine. I learned to cook.

But then I realized the average engineering student here isn't so easy to imitate. For example, music ensembles on campus sing and appreciate all kinds of styles, from traditional choral works to Green Day. Tech has a nice series of literary events each year to feed the artsy side in us all. And although it seems a lot of engineering students (especially chemical engineering students) I've

met are excellent cooks, I guess pasta's a good start for me.

Then I decided maybe if engineers were well-rounded, I can be too. I know several computer programs and know a little BASIC. Outdated, I know, but it's gotten me a date or two on campus. Plus the library has a way cool selection of programs to learn if Monstertrak listings command me to know Quicken or Photoshop or DreamWeaver.

And then I am also proud of what being a liberal arts student offers me. The opportunity to enter a variety of professions from education to law to government work to journalism. The background to open a good book and understand the historical context in which the author wrote. The intel-

lectual know-how to watch a rerun of *Frasier* and actually get all the jokes. (Or at least most of them.)

Studying history or international relations or a foreign language helps educate people to understand and sympathize with the world around them, from the evening news to your next door neighbor from a different culture than you.

So in the past week I've learned that probably a nice balance of liberal arts and techno-know-how is healthy. But I'm proud of where I stand on Tech's campus. (I usually stand at the Stinger stop just off Cherry Street.)

The final stage is to have a spiritual awakening in light of your journey and to carry this message to all Tech students as I practice all my affairs.

Well, maybe my week's journey into my vision of an engineering netherworld was not quite so dramatic as an addiction recovery (not that I would know), but I assume all personal journeys involve both steps.

And plus, I get to use my metaphor skills in the *Technique*. I love my major.

Speech from page 7

difference.

So, who was the speaker concerned about energy policy and wanting to make sure that we conserve oil, develop solar power and create widely used synthetic fuels? It

was Georgia's own President Jimmy Carter in his State of the Union address in 1980.

Of course, there has been little doubt since 1980 that this issue is one of great importance, and it is one that must be solved by scientists, engineers and the like.

However, it is such an obvious

problem that needs tackling, everyone has waited on someone else to tackle it.

I hope that 26 years from now, I will not see another President addressing the nation with these same issues.

I hope that some Tech engineer has solved the nation's oil depen-

gency.

I believe that some team of Tech scientists can make great advances in nanotechnology. And I, the Tech economist, will be waiting, so I can draw a plethora of supply and demand curves to model these innovations that no one in their right mind will be able to understand.



Congratulations to the 2006
New Candidates of The
Georgia Tech Student
Ambassadors!



- Ayodeji Aiyejorun
- Brandon Antic
- Margaret Burgess
- Stephanie Burton
- Jordan Bush
- Laura Croft
- Allen Dreschel
- Taryn Ericson
- Rebecca Guertin
- Tara Hedding

- Drew Hess
- Anu Parvatiyar
- Jason Pociask
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