

OPINIONS

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Quote of the week:
"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment."
 —Barry LePatner

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Sustaining honors

The details of the Honors Program are continuing to unfold as its inaugural semester is fast approaching. A total of 115 freshmen have committed for the initial year. They were accepted based on the criteria of leadership, scholarship and potential as demonstrated in their applications. Honors students will live together in Howell Hall and have opportunities to foster a community outside of dorm life. We hope that these students build a close community as well as integrate into the institute.

Furthermore, a section has been added to this year's admission application for those wishing to be considered for the Honors Program and the President's Scholarship. The new optional section will require students to pick two additional essays from five choices. This addendum brings both positive and negative consequences.

A separate application is a good way for the Office of Admissions to pull more information about similar applicants and distinguish who best fits the criteria for the programs. Additional essays will allow the Office of Admissions to target students who are interested and likely to enroll in the Honors Program, thereby reducing the percentage of students who choose not to accept offers.

However, some valuable applicants may be discouraged from filling out the optional section because of the additional effort it requires when balanced against the time required to apply to other schools of interest. In the past the President's Scholarship has been an excellent tool for drawing bright minds from a pool of open applications. The President's Scholarship program gives some semifinalists and all finalists the opportunity to come for an interview and get a sense of the Tech community which has helped attract students that otherwise might not have considered taking the visit and ultimately choosing Tech over other institutions. Narrowing down the applicant pool may cause Tech to miss some of these students.

Additionally, the optional section being used for both the Honors Program and President's Scholarship limits the possibility of looking at distinct attributes for the respective programs because information is being drawn from the same questions.

Moreover, with so few students in this year's Honors Program, Tech must make sure they uphold their commitment to these students and the program's future by providing diverse honor class opportunities through graduation. Tech must honor its strong tradition in engineering and science by challenging the incoming honor students in these fields as well as liberal arts classes.

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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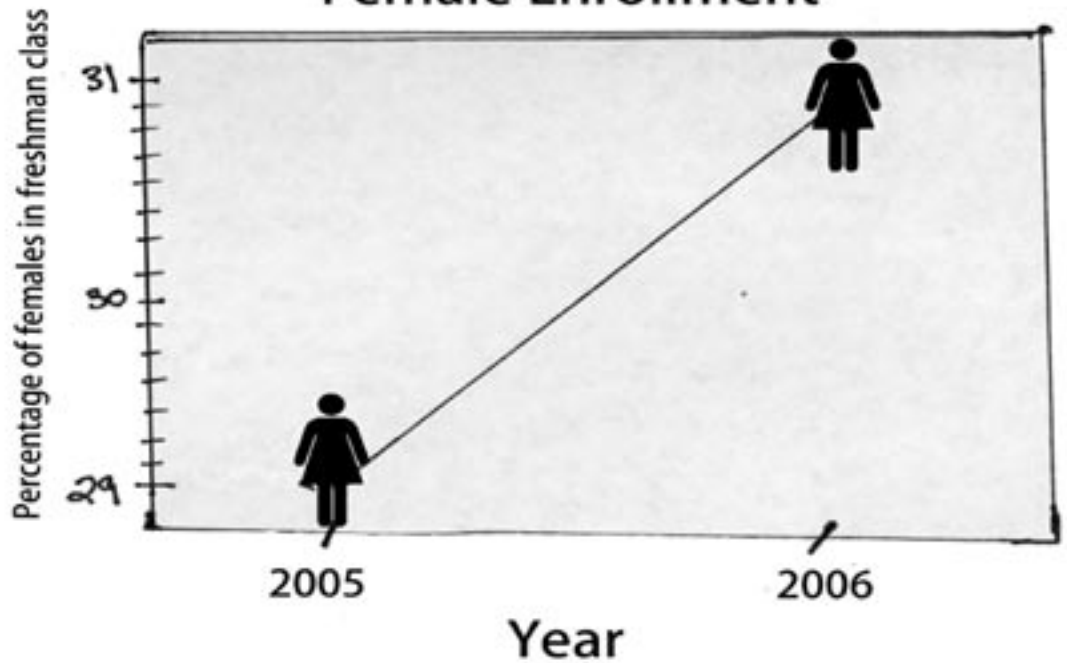
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Figure 1: Huge* Increase in Female Enrollment



By Staff/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Consumers must demand choice in cable

Most of us probably only vaguely remember the days when the words, "I'll take my business elsewhere," actually had meaning and power when used against a business that was not meeting our expectations. Somewhere along the line, those words lost their power. Many reasons can account for this loss, but the reasons can still all be summed up by a single observation: that large portions of that great, nebulous 'market' you hear about in economics has shifted from being consumer-driven to being producer-driven.

Now this editorial is not meant to be some deep economic argument, nor is it meant to indict "big business" for being greedy and uncaring. However, it does raise the point that many consumers feel the systems for providing certain goods and services are broken. For example, anyone who has tried to get any kind of cable television service in the area around campus has probably realized that their options are quite limited. While there are many nationally recognized service providers potentially available, only one company provides service to the area around Tech campus.

This is not uncommon. Most regions are severely limited in their cable options. It would seem reasonable to hypothesize that limited options are due to technical and physical limitations of the infrastructure, but these limitations are only, at best, marginally the reason. Most cable companies hold legal geographic monopolies in which, either by law or agreement with their competitors, they divide up large regions into areas where only the controlling companies will provide service. The notion seems outrageous, and the situation created for consumers only becomes worse.

Anyone who has ever subscribed to a cable service in the United States has been faced with two options:



"But did any of these providers ever ask the consumers if they wanted to pay for...extra channels?"

Hillary Lipko
 Ads Manager

purchase a programming package with about 10 wanted channels and about 50 unwanted channels, or do not pay for cable at all.

Cable companies assert that packaging channels for their customers gives the consumer a better deal. However in the last two years, the price of cable service has increased at twice the rate of inflation. Cable companies counter that with that price increase, they are providing the customer with even more channels. But did any of these providers ever ask the consumers if they wanted to pay for these extra channels?

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) believes that someone should ask. On June 7, he presented the Consumers Having Options In Cable Entertainment (CHOICE) Act on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

In an editorial published in the *Los Angeles Times*, Senator McCain and FCC Chairman Kevin Martin wrote, "the solution to high cable bills isn't price controls or additional government regulation. It is more competition and more choice... [The CHOICE Act] would allow cable companies to compete nationally for your business (rather than only at the local level) in exchange for agreeing to offer channels a la carte, either individually or in smaller bundles."

According to the Government Accounting Office, consumers living in areas where two or more cable companies compete for their business have cable bills which are

an average of 15 percent lower than consumers living in an area with only one company. The FCC further found that consumers could save up to 13 percent on their monthly cable bills with an a la carte system.

An a la carte cable system has been available in various forms in other countries for years. McCain's and Martin's editorial provides the example of a system in Canada which offers either individual channel selection or a "pack" option where customers can enjoy significant savings by choosing their own bundle of five, 10 or 15 channels.

Unfortunately, McCain's bill has not yet garnered much support from his fellow lawmakers. However, the bill may be added to a much broader, sweeping telecommunications bill, to be considered later this month. Also McCain's bill has received praise from telecommunications firms such as AT&T and Verizon, companies that have been poised to compete with cable companies by providing either an a la carte cable programming or internet-based video systems.

But do not label these telecoms as wholly progressive just yet. It seems that telecoms only like competition when it favors them. AT&T and Verizon, among other telecoms, along with several cable companies that provide internet service, such as Comcast, are strong opponents of network neutrality: a concept that

See Cable, page 5

Club sports break up the daily grind

I love the smell of chlorine in the morning; and waking up to the smell of coffee too. This summer I am enjoying waking up to both, coaching a neighborhood swim team and taking some time to enjoy my summer break.

My experience at Tech has taught me that I cannot survive the rigor of academic demands without some way to break out of the monotonous routine: club sports and intramurals at Tech allow a healthy outlet to channel the stresses Tech students face; athletics provide the opportunity to meet new people and continue competition in college.

My addiction to the pool and love for coaching is fueled by my passion for the water. The cool rush of every dive, the slice of the water with every stroke, the drive of competition, the spirit of a team, the daily commitment: I love competitive swimming.

As a child, I grew up where summer meant swim team and hanging out at the pool after practice every single day; and yet summer never grew monotonous, as I loved swimming and playing games at the pool everyday.

From summer league swimming I transitioned to year-round competition, where I lived, breathed and dreamed about swimming. The dedication to competitive swimming in the club team environment



“Swim Club, complete with a pirate and palm tree...certainly grabbed my attention.”

Halley Espy
Opinions Editor

demanding drive and commitment, with practice six days a week and holidays meant two practices instead of one.

Despite the grueling toils of competitive swimming throughout my high school career, I enjoyed the hard work and cherished my close friendships that arose out the team atmosphere.

Senior year capped off an incredible farewell season, with my best times and some of my favorite memories. I continued my buzz beyond the winter season and into spring semester with graduation excitement and my decision to go to Tech.

In the midst of all my excitement as an incoming freshman to Tech, I was actually sad to leave my Swim Atlanta commitment behind and the intensity of my usual daily grind. I was a former competitive swimmer joining the ranks of the Tech student body: without a team and facing the reality I was no longer a varsity

athlete.

The first few whirlwind weeks brought new priorities of class and meeting new people; swimming slipped to the back of my mind. But soon after I was adjusted into a new routine, and I was ready to get back in the water.

I had looked into club sports during the first week of fall semester as I was bombarded with solicitations to join all kinds of organizations on campus.

It was the time of year when Skiles Walkway becomes crowded with a sea of students frantically waving fliers to reel in the new freshmen class. Swim Club, complete with a pirate and palm tree set up on the sidewalk, certainly grabbed my attention.

With practice times and friendly faces, I decided to join the club team; I was skeptical at first, not sure if I was ready to handle a transition of such a dramatic jump from strict, intense competition to a more laid back frame of mind.

It was a slow start; I showed up to practice intimidated by all of the students already outfitted with friends and the swim club routine. But slowly my intimidation melted away as I met new people and began to practice every available evening I could spare with the team.

My first Swim Club meet was

on the road, hosted by Tulane. The meet was so much fun with several teams travelling to compete; through the road trip experience to New Orleans and weekend together with the Tech team, I really grew close to my teammates and truly felt a part of the team.

From then on out it was nothing but swim club love, with practice, a shared dedication to working out, friendly competition, crazy road trips, parties, team unity, spirit, and a chance to constantly meet new people. Swim Club really fused together my favorite parts of competitive swimming: a close-knit team driven by competition and the love for the sport.

My experience and background led me to be a part of swim club; this is not my banner statement to reveal how great Tech's swim club team is, but rather encourage students to step outside the classroom and get involved on campus: club sports and intramurals are just one facet of the opportunities available to enrich your college experience.

The CRC teamed up alongside student leaders to invite students to participate and get plugged into an athletic outlet.

Recently, organized summer intramural leagues were formed to extend options for summer semester students.

From water skiing to ultimate frisbee to flag football to soccer to break dancing to crew, club sports and intramurals offer a wealth of opportunity for students on campus.

With sports ranging in all levels of commitment and intensity, find an activity right for you. Try something new or stick with your passion, but become involved and have some fun.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



World Series bound

Heading into the College World Series, the Jackets are one of four ACC teams rounding out the top eight in the finals of collegiate baseball. The Jackets look to continue their winning streak from post-season play, going up against top-ranked Clemson in the first round. The Jackets made their last appearance in the World Series in 2002, finishing fifth overall. It should be a chipper time in Nebraska.

World Cup fizzles

Huddled around the TVs in the Student Center, a crowd of students watched the rumors of a supposed strong U.S. team fall short; United States suffered a World Cup defeat by the Czech Republic in Germany. The U.S. needs a convincing win over Italy to make it past the first round. Disappointed, the U.S. cannot complain of a surprise with a track record of World Cup losses.



Seeing double

Though far from the beach in the midst of summer semester, Atlanta churned up some aquatic excitement by recently doubling their whale shark population this week. The new whales are generating a lot of buzz, giving Tech students a reason to visit the aquarium for a second time or have an excuse to finally make it out for the first time.



Not much time off

With summer session in full swing, students hardly catch a break with the upcoming July 4th celebration. Professors who do not cancel class on Monday should expect to see a low turnout as students plan around the school calendar of class to be held Monday and taking time off for the official holiday on Tuesday the 4th.

Cable from page 4

a network's only purpose is to move data – not to choose which data is privileged to get a higher priority of movement.

Simply put, the opponents of net neutrality own the networks through which all data passes, and they want to control what data moves faster based upon whether the originator network has paid them a “toll” to get priority service.

On the day after McCain introduced the CHOICE Act in the Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement

(COPE) Act without its provisions to keep net neutrality.

It is reasonable to suspect that these provisions were left behind under pressure from the telecom giants who oppose it. The internet is the final frontier where consumer choice still reigns. With the destruction of net neutrality, these telecoms are no better than the cable companies.

It has become a dance of one step forward, two steps back for the reestablishment of the consumer's right to choose and the consumer's right to “take my business elsewhere.” Hopefully consumers who are tired of their limited options will finally assert their freedom to choose.

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 Amanda Dugan, 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 reserves the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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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 First Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Nancy Romero 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

Will you participate in organized campus activities this summer?



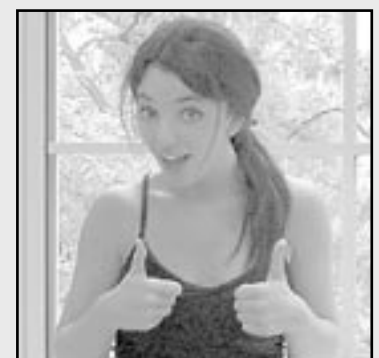
Rolieria West
BIO 3rd year

“Yeah, sounds exciting.”



Rory Sims
AE 3rd year

“Yeah, of course! Intramurals.”



Hillary Schwarb
PSYC grad student

“Sure, I like movies. I like games. I like summer....”



Phillip Tang
ISYE 2nd year

“Sure, games at the Rec Center are very amazing.”

Photos by Angela Kelling

Have Some Fun

GTCN
21



What's On?

WEEK
OF
6.16 - 6.22

frí.
6.16

12:00	National Lampoon
2:00	Campus MovieFest
5:00	Phat Literature
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Rumor Has It
9:00	Classic GTCN
11:00	Aeon Flux
1:00	Planet X

sat.
6.17

12:00	Aeon Flux
2:00	Campus MovieFest
4:00	National Lampoon
7:00	Rumor Has It
9:00	Classic GTCN
11:00	National Lampoon
1:00	Planet X

sun.
6.18

12:00	Campus MovieFest
2:00	Aeon Flux
4:00	National Lampoon
7:00	Rumor Has It
9:00	Classic GTCN
11:00	Zilo Network
1:00	Planet X

mon.
6.19

12:00	National Lampoon
2:00	Phat Literature
4:00	Film In Italy
5:30	GT Sweat
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Rumor Has It
9:00	Classic GTCN
11:00	Aeon Flux
1:00	Planet X

tues.
6.20

12:00	Zilo Network
2:00	Phat Literature
3:00	Outlook Video
3:30	National Lampoon
5:30	GT Sweat
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Rumor Has It
9:00	Classic GTCN
11:00	Aeon Flux
1:00	Planet X

wed.
6.21

12:00	National Lampoon
2:00	Aeon Flux
4:00	WTF Wrestling
4:30	Clips and Quips
5:00	Atlantic Station
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Rumor Has It
9:00	Classic GTCN
11:00	Aeon Flux
1:00	Planet X

thurs.
6.22

12:00	Zilo Network
2:00	Invisible Children
3:00	Film In Italy
4:30	GT Sweat
5:00	Get Used To It
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Rumor Has It
9:00	Classic GTCN
11:00	Aeon Flux
1:00	Planet X

Georgia Tech Baseball Is a Hit!



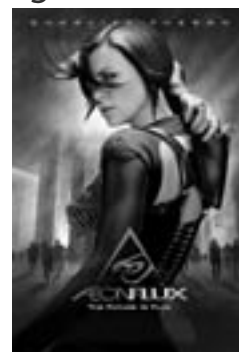
The Jackets have made it to the 2006 College World Series! Don't miss the action as Tech faces Clemson in the 1st Round on Friday! Check local listings for time and channel.



Don't miss these exciting GTCN movies every night at 7:00 and 11:00pm!



Rumor Has It



Aeon Flux



Get Your
School On

GTCN
20

mon, tue. & thurs.

6:00 ECE 6530

wed. & frí.

6:00 ECE 6323

8:00 AE 6220

10:00 AE 6050

So, you think you
know sports?

**GTCN is looking for
someone to host our new
GT sports program this fall.**

**If you are up to the
challenge, e-mail Scott
Sergent at scott.sergent@housing.gatech.edu and you
could be Tech's next great
sportscaster!**



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