

## OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

# Constructing chaos

*Construction plans are laden with problems*

Plans for the construction of the center of campus that is set to start at the end of this semester brings to light safety and timing concerns and a general disconnect with the student body. When Skiles Walkway was closed in the spring of 2009, a number of incidents arose from students being mugged in some of the darker alleys in the area. While some of those issues have been mitigated, the new construction sites will surely lead to others. The continued reduction of parking near the library will put more strain on an already overloaded Stingerette system. The Institute must direct more money into this transportation service or risk a possible increase in the number of crimes involving students forced to trek across campus at late hours.

While the remodeling of Skiles Walkway has long been made public information, the recent developments about fixing the plumbing in the Campanile and the construction of the

new turnaround could have been delayed as not to further strain the pedestrian routes around the center of campus. While it is understandable that trying to get all the projects done at once will allow the fences to disappear more quickly, the logistical issues may still spell nightmares for students trying to navigate through the already cluttered center of campus. The compounded noise factor will further hinder use of major academic buildings in the area like the library.

The media blitz informing students about this construction is also a little too late. Most students have already finished up the registration process. Attempting to redo a schedule to help better accommodate for increases in travel time is nearly impossible to begin with and even more so with such late notice. All campus departments need to be more aware of the academic calendar the Institute sets and plan so students have the ability to adjust to major events happening on campus.

*The Consensus Opinion reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.*

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## EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ROSE PENG



**BREAKING NEWS** **LIVE**

Collision at Georgia Tech just weeks after campus-wide construction forces closure of all but two paths. “These paths face closure as well” officials say.

# Executive session has rare need in UHR



“There is no compelling reason for UHR to hide its activities from the student body that elected it.”

**Mike Donohue**

SGA Editor

Write to us:  
[letters@nique.net](mailto:letters@nique.net)

We welcome your letters in response to Technique content as well as topics relevant to campus. We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis.

Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Include your full name, year (1st, 2nd, etc.) and major. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed per term.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Undergraduate House of Representatives escorted me out of the room. He did so because I refused to leave as UHR went into an executive session excluding all non-members. I did not leave because it is my firm belief as a student-journalist that all business of UHR ought to be public and open to the scrutiny of the student body.

This year, UHR has entered executive session several times to discuss the selection of certain officers including the three Members-at-Large, who are supposed to represent the entirety of the student body; the Secretary of the House, tasked with keeping a record of meetings; and the Treasurer, who keeps track of the finances of UHR. Each time, all non-members were asked to leave and wait until discussion and voting on the matter in question was completed. Tuesday night, the House entered executive session to discuss the impeachment of a senior AE Representative, and stayed in the session for the discussion on the articles of impeachment, the hearing and the discussion on expelling him.

Neither the undergraduate SGA Constitution nor the undergraduate SGA bylaws contain any justification for entering executive session for any reason, and, in fact, the only mention of executive session prohibits its use when in an “issue meeting.” Each time the House expels non-members from the room, that decision is entirely up to the body and made without any legal compulsion. This practice must stop immediately.

The first reason is that closing such meetings may very well be illegal. According to the Georgia Open Meetings Act, all meetings of a government agency, save for very specific circumstances, must be open. Although UHR on its face may not seem to be a government agency, the fact that it executes a duty that normally would be carried out by the Institute (i.e. distributing the student activity fee), means that it most likely falls under the law.

I do agree that meetings involving the discussion of the dismissal of a public officer do not fall under the law. However, the debate on whether to discuss the disciplinary action, the hearing involved and the final vote on whether to expel the officer all must be open according to the law. Also, the law does not prescribe that any meetings must be closed, only that the body has the option of closing meetings that fit the very specific circumstances outlined.

Second, even if the Act does

not apply to UHR, the body should not close any of its meetings. There is no compelling reason for UHR to hide its activities from the student body that elected it. UHR is in the business of representing the student body, and anything worthy of being discussed by its forty-five members is worthy of being known to its 14,000 constituents. Any secret discussion only weakens the trust the student body has in its duly-elected representatives.

SGA has a lot of power on campus, more power than nearly any other campus organization. By its decisions, organizations are funded or not. They allocate \$4.5 million each year to the CRC, the Student Center and most student organizations on campus. Just this week they decided against spending \$17,500 on LeaderShape and to spend \$12,500 on Campus Movie Fest. These are huge decisions by the representatives that have very real consequences. How those decisions are selected, disciplined and possibly expelled is knowledge students must have.

UHR should immediately amend its bylaws with language mirroring the Open Meetings Act. They should decide, by majority vote, to enter a closed session only in the most sensitive of issues. They should do all of this because they are both an agency of the state government, beholden to its laws, and representatives of the student body with a duty to its constituents to carry out its business in public.

Though the items discussed in executive session thus far seem inconsequential, the precedent established by such cavalier usage of closed meetings is dangerous. When it truly matters, in the possible case that a President or other high officer of undergraduate SGA is impeached, then we must hope that UHR has the convictions to conduct its grave business in full sunlight.



# Democrats must now regroup, hold firm

The Democratic Party suffered one of the worst defeats in Congressional history last week, with Republicans taking over the House of Representatives and almost gaining control of the Senate. I hope that the Republicans take it upon themselves to pursue a more centrist, bipartisan agenda in order to get things accomplished over the next two years. Sadly, GOP rhetoric in recent days indicates that we are in for a long and ineffective legislative session filled with political chicanery.

The most disappointing outcome of last week's election was the further polarization of Congress. The influx of Tea Party members will shift the GOP further to the right, while moderate Democrats across the country were purged last week for supporting historic legislation such as healthcare and the economic stimulus package.

For example, Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI), who was known for striking bipartisan compromise with Republican legislators, was voted out. Along with Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Feingold co-authored the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, which aimed to regulate corporate financing of political campaigns. The major provisions of the bill were struck down by the Supreme Court last year. Ironically, his opponent Ron Johnson received virtually all of the \$4



**"The party must restructure its leadership, develop a new campaign strategy and refocus on the economy."**

**Vijai Narayanan**  
News Editor

million that poured into Wisconsin from outside groups.

The Democratic Party must fend off Republican challengers in the next election cycle and regain control of the House of Representatives in order to enact legislation that will solve the most pressing issues of our time like social security, defense spending, energy policy and immigration. In order to accomplish this goal, the party must restructure its leadership, develop a new campaign strategy and refocus on the economy.

While Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has been one of the most effective Speakers of the House in recent years, she is ill-suited to remain the leader of the Democratic Party when in the minority. As Speaker, Pelosi was instrumental in making sure that the Democrats used their power while in the majority by tackling healthcare reform, finance reform and passing the economic stimulus. There are always those who highlight what was left on the table, but the current legislative session will rank as

one of the most influential in American history.

Unfortunately, Pelosi remains a controversial figure who is an easy target for criticism and whose rhetoric repels independent votes. By necessity, the Speaker of the House is a polarizing figure who is responsible for marching forward the party's agenda. On the other hand, the Minority Leader must be able to stand up to the majority on controversial issues and remain willing to reach across the aisle. Pelosi does not fit into this role in the eye of the public.

Democrats must also craft a more cohesive national campaign strategy. Among other things, a poor campaign strategy was to blame for the magnitude of the loss in last week's elections. Instead of standing behind their achievements, Democrats chose to distance themselves from one another, fragmenting their message and allowing the Republican agenda to conquer the news cycle.

Finally, the White House must show more forceful leadership in restoring the

American economy. While the economy has seen some job growth over the past few months, the persistent unemployment rate does not bode well for Democrats' future. Fortunately for the White House, it does not seem as though the Republicans have much of a plan on how to fix the economy. Shortly before the election, John Boehner (R-OH) released what he called the Pledge to America, which was nothing more than a gilded book filled with age-old Republican talking points on the economy.

Lastly, members of the House of Representatives must avoid getting into quarrels with Republicans who try to repeal past legislation. Legislative majorities come and go, but the laws that were enacted during the previous legislative session are here to stay.

How many Republicans would really rally to allow health insurers to rescind coverage when they discover that their patient had a pre-existing coverage? The likelihood that the GOP will repeal anything while there is a Democratic President and Senate is low.

It's imperative that Democrats turn the momentum against the Republicans if America hopes to move forward in the 21st century. It is imperative that they reinvent themselves in order to regain the public trust.

# College life too unpredictable for marriage

Whether you are in a serious relationship, casually dating someone or changing partners as often as you change socks, we have all thought about the commitment that binds you to one person forever. At least until death, or divorce, do you part.

Per usual, my inspiration for my editorial comes from a little obsessive Facebook stalking and my charming hometown.

As I have entered my fourth year at Tech, the number of times I have seen so-and-so went from being "in a relationship to engaged" has increased significantly. Let me define the phrase "increased significantly." I mean to say that that number has increased to be greater than zero.

Before you begin calling me cynical or jaded and accuse me of being fearful of commitment, let me provide further clarification. These couples are still in college. And, they will be married while still in school. College is one of the most tumultuous times in a person's life. It is a time to grow up, a time to move away from home or off campus and a time to learn how to cook something other than ramen.

It is a time to meet new people and maybe lose touch with old ones, a time to switch your major for the third time, a time to dye your hair pink, a time to support a cause you are passionate about and a time to



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**Reem Mansoura**  
Development Editor

experiment.

It is a time to figure out how to study since high school was so easy, how to apply for and then pay off loans when you are broke and how to get into graduate school when you do not know the first thing about graduate school. It is a time to make mistakes and then learn from those mistakes. It is a time of serious change.

The years we spend in college are supposed to provide a foundation for the rest of our lives. We are supposed to earn degrees and then take jobs that have nothing to do with said degrees or decide to spontaneously travel to Ecuador or decide to join the Peace Corps. The world is at our fingertips, and it is imperative to take advantage of the opportunities that are in front of us. We may never encounter these opportunities again.

In my last three and a half years at Tech, I've met more people than I can count and developed friendships I know will last a lifetime. I have switched my major twice, found new interests every

month and changed my mind about my future career path almost every week, much to the anxiety of my parents. And I am sure I am not alone. Rapid change is a theme in most college students' lives.

So, amidst all these changes, there are people who think it is a good idea to make a life-long commitment to someone. While struggling to maintain good GPAs and find jobs in this ailing economy, there are some young couples who think they can also handle the stress of marriage.

While I have never been married, I am confident in saying that the key to any successful marriage is stability. If I did not make my earlier point clearly enough, let me reiterate: college does not supply much stability. Furthermore, these changes in a young person's life do not stop immediately after college. We continue to grow and change for several years after.

I understand that for many young couples, love is one of the biggest factors in their decision to get married. But if

their love is as strong as they know it is, why rush into marriage during the most transitional time of your lives? College students should allow themselves to grow beyond college before committing to something so serious. Students should really know what we are getting into. If someone is already convinced their relationship can last a lifetime, what is so bad about postponing the ceremony that will bind them together? Where is the harm in waiting to establish financial stability before beginning a life together?

The honeymoon period of a relationship only lasts for so long, and love can only take you so far. With 50 percent of marriages ending in divorce and 60 percent ending for those who get married between the ages of 20 and 25, it might be a good idea to take a step back and slow things down. It may be beneficial to slowly build a relationship full of good memories to help you get through difficult times, especially when that honeymoon period is over. It would be helpful to see how the relationship works beyond the college years and to see how you deal with the stress of living together in the real world. If a relationship stands the test of "real life" stress, then it will stand the test of time.

And, as cliché as this sounds, it will always be worth the wait.

## BUZZ

### Around Campus

**How do you feel about the election results?**



**Michael Delinsky**  
Fifth-year ARCH

***"I'm worried about things not being resolved."***



**Angeli Patel**  
First-year PSYCH

***"I don't know. I really don't follow politics."***



**Daniel Snell**  
Fourth-year BIO

***"I'm glad to see that it will no longer be a one party government."***



**Angel Thomas**  
First-year BIO

***"I'm happy with the current political situation."***



## OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT<sup>or</sup>-NOT**Tip-off time**

The men's and women's basketball season tips off tonight for its last season in AMC. The women's team looks for a fifth NCAA Tournament berth, and the men's team switch to a four-guard offense should make for yet another memorable season at the Thrilledome. The need to take Clark Atlanta to overtime for the scrimmage victory is hopefully not emblematic of the season to come for the men's team.

**Hot Coco**

Conan O'Brien made his much anticipated return to late-night television this week. The new show retained much of the same charm and witty humor that his old late night show had. Hopefully, some guy with a big chin will not take away Conan's show again. Regrettably the new show is during the same time as Comedy Central's comic duo. Thank goodness for DVRs.

**Engineering lite**

What does UGA Engineering programs and late night promo products have in common? They are both of questionable taste and a waste of money. The Board of Regents decision to approve the program underscores certain bias that many feel the board has to one school in particular over all others. In the future the board should respect the academic boundaries and precedent set by their predecessors.

**No more Nesbitt**

The sad news that Tech's senior quarterback Joshua Nesbitt will be out for the remainder of the season with a broken arm only compounded the tough loss to Virginia Tech last Thursday. Still, Nesbitt may be able to make a return for the bowl game. As a player that has contributed so much to the team and program, he deserves a better final game as a Jacket.

# Capital Campaign next step in long tradition of philanthropy

Founded in 1885, the Georgia School of Technology was built upon a foundation that has, in the 125 years since, been shaped by the vision and the philanthropy of those who have come before us.

Philanthropy in higher education is an American tradition with roots that trace back to 1636 with the establishment of the first college in the American colonies. Three years after its founding, the Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony decreed that the college would be named in honor of its first major donor, John Harvard. Shortly thereafter, the young college sent three clergymen from the Massachusetts Bay Colony back to England in order to raise funds for the struggling college. It was a fateful trip for the three: one remained in England, never to return to America. So too, did another, who was hanged for crimes committed under British law. Only one of the fundraising clergymen returned to America, a year later, with £500 to support Harvard College.

The philanthropic traditions, begun in the 17th century, continued as colleges and universities were founded across the nation—traditions which have endured here on North Ave. since its earliest days. Philanthropy is inexorably intertwined with Tech's past, present and future, and fulfills the vision of the Institute. Generations of Tech alumni, parents, friends, foundations and corporations have provided the foundation for those who are here and for those who will come.

Philanthropy is alive and well today on our campus, linking the generations to each other. Next time you are walking on The Hill,



"We follow in the tradition of those who have come before us, who have laid the foundations for us."

**Barrett H. Carson**

Vice President for Development

look down and you will see the landscaping provided by reunion classes who have come before you. Look up at Tech Tower, and you will see that the building honors Lettie Pate Evans, Tech's largest donor whose legacy still provides the Institute significant funding.

Tech received its first estate gift through the Will of Julius L. Brown in 1910. In establishing the Julius L. Brown Professorship, he stated that only the income from his gift should be used each year, and the principal should remain untouched. "I wish [the principal] to be kept intact so as to do all the good that this fund will do, for I believe the Georgia School of Technology is worth all the Georgia colleges combined."

Now, there are multiple Brown Professors, including the 2007 recipient of the National Medal of Science, Mustafa El-Sayed. Other donors have followed the path of Mr. Brown, and today, one full-time professor in eight holds a named professorship or chair.

Philanthropy has fueled innovative research and provided integral support for students through scholarship programs such as the G. Wayne Clough Georgia Tech Promise program, which was developed to ensure that no qualified students from Georgia be denied a Tech education due to

parental income. Duane Carver, ECE '10, was among the first entering freshman class to receive a G. Wayne Clough Georgia Tech Promise scholarship when the program was founded in 2007. This academically gifted student from Brunswick, Ga. came from a family with limited financial resources. Thanks to Tech Promise, Duane Carver was able to enroll at Tech and complete a Computer Engineering degree in three years.

We follow in the tradition of those who have come before us—who have laid the foundations for us—leaders such as J. Erskine Love, Larry Gellerstedt, Jr., Ivan Allen, Jr., Charlie Yates, Pete Silas, Al West and John F. Brock III, the Chair of the current campaign effort. Brock, along with four dozen alumni and friends regionally, nationally and internationally, will join the ranks of volunteer philanthropists in keeping the tradition of philanthropy alive for the benefit of future generations.

Today, the next chapter of Tech philanthropists will come together for a public announcement of a \$1.5 billion campaign effort to run through December 2015. We invite all members of the campus community to join us at 3 p.m. at the Student Center Ballroom. Come and be a part of history.

## Be a part of the Campus-Wide Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Celebration : "Fulfilling the Dream" January 13-17, 2011



### Attention Potential Student Speakers!

Approximately 4 students will be selected to present an inspirational speech on Thursday, January 13, 2011 based on the theme: Fulfilling the Dream. To be considered, refer to: [www.diversityprograms.gatech.edu](http://www.diversityprograms.gatech.edu)

**Deadline: November 30, 2010**

### STUDY ABROAD IN GREATER CHINA

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Tech



**Summer Program in East Asia: 15 May-10 July 2011**

**Political Economy of Greater China**

*Information Session:*

**6:30 pm, Thursday, 18 November**

The Cypress Room, Student Center

(Pizza and soft drinks are provided)

For both undergraduate and graduate students

All majors are welcome!

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\*. Three weeks in Taiwan (Taipei and Kaohsiung), Hong Kong, & Macau

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Course I: Chinese Culture and Institutions

Course II: Economic and Political Development of the PRC

Course III: Survey of Taiwan and Hong Kong

Course IV (optional): Independent Study - research or internship

**For More Information, visit [www.eastasia.gatech.edu](http://www.eastasia.gatech.edu), or contact [fw@gatech.edu](mailto:fw@gatech.edu).**