

# OPINIONS

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## Quote of the week:

"Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side, a dark side and it holds the universe together."  
 —Carl Zwanzig

## OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

### Fair priorities

Over 300 companies with more than 1,400 representatives participated in Career Fair this year. The fair is an excellent opportunity for students to explore their post-graduation opportunities. This year, Alexander Memorial Coliseum was more crowded than usual with students and employers, a positive indication of how dedicated students are to actively seeking employment and how marketable a Tech degree is to major companies. However, the increased crowds can prove troublesome for smaller recruiting companies with booths near huge names such as GE, Siemens or Microsoft, because students may not want to fight the crowds surrounding these large employers to talk to other companies. Those responsible for organizing the event should look into further increasing the amount of space available for the fair. Moving the bigger companies onto the court is one solution; students will still seek out those companies and see others on the way.

Clearly, students come to Tech to earn a degree that will eventually help them find employment after graduation. Some professors seem to have forgotten that this is why students enroll in their classes, as many professors continue to not excuse students who miss class for the Career Fair. Graduates finding jobs is also important to the Institute, as it factors into rankings and the value of a Tech degree. Therefore, the Career Fair is good for students and the Institute as a whole. As such, it would benefit the Institute if the dates of the Career Fair were published before the beginning of the semester and professors were alerted that it would be an excused absence and scheduling tests during the Fair would not be appropriate. On the other hand, the Career Fair should not become a student holiday; some proof should be required that the student attended the fair, perhaps by clocking in and out with a BuzzCard. Students should be applauded, not punished, for seeking employment.

### Remembering 9/11

The memorial held for the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks was orchestrated by a variety of groups in a touching display of campus unity. We set a good example for the community by holding a non-partisan commemoration rather than turning the anniversary into a political launching pad. The 9/11 attacks were a defining moment for our generation, and we should continue to remember them every year, not just on the fifth or tenth anniversaries. In future memorials, however, better advertising for the service accompanying the 2,996 flags would be beneficial for bringing together even more members of the campus community.

*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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By Derryl Carter / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Industry restrictions promote piracy

Several weeks back, when SGA announced that Tech would be participating in the Ruckus music service, I was apathetic at best. I have become accustomed to music downloading services having a poor selection, costing too much and being encumbered by annoying digital rights management (DRM) that makes it impossible to listen to the music the way I would like. To be honest, I was ready to slam Ruckus for all these faults before I even tried it.

In reality Ruckus is not immune to these problems, but because it is free for the school and for its users I am not so concerned about the shortcomings. It suffers from the same DRM problems as all the other popular music services and requires a local client for downloads and license validation. This client also shows an annoying Flash banner ad at all times, but I recognize that this is the only way the service can remain free. Of course, "free" does not hold completely true since the service still charges 99¢ to allow the track to be played on portable devices. If any download service wants to achieve the ubiquity of the compact disc, major changes must be made.

For one, even the most popular music sharing service, iTunes, does not offer tracks by artists like Radiohead or The Beatles because those bands refuse to move forward with internet-based sales. Some artists cite the inability to maintain the integrity of the "album" since most services allow downloads by track; others are not convinced that piracy can be controlled.

Like iTunes, all of the legitimate music stores that offer the most well-known artists restrict downloads with DRM, which limits the devices and players that are capable of supporting those downloads. iTunes downloads, for one, only play in the iTunes software and on iPods



"If any download service wants to achieve the ubiquity of the compact disc, major changes must be made."

**Ethan Trehwitt**  
 Online Editor

because Apple has shown no interest in licensing their FairPlay DRM technology to other manufacturers. It's hard to blame them when the iTunes Music Store is by far the most popular download service and the iPod is the most popular standalone player. However, I've known people who previously bought music on iTunes and were surprised to find that it would not play on their Creative-branded devices, which only support PlaysForSure, a DRM standard created by Microsoft. These little surprises send people running back to illegitimate sources that offer files that are not held back by such restrictions.

Unfortunately for all download services, the record industry (RIAA) refuses to support services that are not encumbered by DRM. They seem to believe that all music listeners will be ready to make millions (no, billions!) of pirate copies of downloaded music if they are allowed to purchase unrestricted MP3s (which do not contain DRM). In some ways this is probably true in the present day, but I think there is a solution.

Most music downloaders can be grouped into one of four categories: 1. People who only download music legally for moral reasons. 2. People who only download legally because they fear the RIAA's lawsuits. 3. People who download illegally but feel somewhat guilty. 4. People who download illegally and see nothing wrong with it.

The RIAA would like to move us

into one of the first two groups, but it is clear that their immediate goal is to move everyone into Group 2. However, I think that group 1 would have much stronger staying power. In an ideal world, all users would be in Group 1 and DRM would be unnecessary. In this world, music downloads play on any device or player without annoying license renewals.

I think this utopia is attainable if the recording industry would simply take all the cash it spends suing its potential customer base and instead put it toward an advertising campaign that explains where all our money goes and how piracy hurts the artists. That assumes, of course, that the musicians actually benefit from our purchases. If that is not currently the case, then the music industry has other issues to solve before it can convince its customers that piracy actually hurts artists. Otherwise, the users will all move into Group 5: people who download illegally just to spite the recording industry itself.

Two weeks ago Ruckus president Mike Bebel thanked the student body for participating in the service's record day of music downloads. I am happy to participate in this experiment, and I encourage others to do the same. Until the recording industry learns to trust its users, DRM is here to stay, so I will use Ruckus to check out new artists but will keep buying those great used, DRM-free CDs on eBay.

# Healthy lifestyle does not exclude good food

Anyone flipping through the Focus section lately might righteously accuse me of becoming obsessed with food. A research article on eating portions here, a story about the “freshman 15” there and this week Tech’s newest chefs... What’s going on? Is Focus losing its focus on anything that cannot be chewed, eaten and swallowed? Or am I turning into a food fanatic, and the biases of my appetite are spilling into my poor, unwitting section?

Readers, I can assure you, the answer is a very definite no. I am not obsessed. I do not measure every morsel I eat, nor do I TiVo the Food Network and dream of crème brûlée...wait, crème brûlée...caramelized sugarglaze, delicately flavored custard and delicious sweet goodness...where was I? Right, not obsessed.

As for that first accusation, Focus might have veered a little off course from its standard commitment to “the most interesting trends and issues on campus”—but what am I talking about? This is college, where any organization or event has to promise free pizza for any hope of a turnout, where ramen and late-night Chinese are even more necessary staples than calculus and physics. Is there any student at Tech who doesn’t care about food, and if there is, where is he and when can we start breaking



“When can we stop pretending we don’t like food and start eating like normal people?”

**Jenny Zhang**  
Focus Editor

him down with a fast?

Food isn’t just a concern for hungry college students, either. Seriously, do you even have to think about it? It’s food—that catch-all item everyone learned to list under “needs” back in the first grade; it qualifies quite literally as the stuff of life. Food is everywhere. Turn on the TV and seven times out of 10 there’s some commercial flashing images of sizzling steaks and slow-roasted potatoes. Walk outside and there’s a McDonald’s or Starbucks beckoning on every corner. We define entire countries by the foods they offer; we pepper our language with any and every palatable metaphor.

More than that, food brings people together. Meals are social occasions to catch up with family and friends or ice-breakers for meeting strangers. There’s nothing like bonding over a favorite dish (“You like

peanut butter and banana sandwiches too? But everyone else thinks it’s gross! I know, aren’t they crazy?”), and boys, there’s a reason why we girls enjoy being wine and dined. It’s called not having to pay for our own food, which, come to think of it, isn’t exactly on topic but still works as a dating perk. Ahem, just be a man and pay the bill. If we like you, we might just cover the tip.

The point is that no matter what the circumstance, whether you love it or hate it, we all eat. We are all food-obsessed. We only run into problems when we start to believe that food is bad for us, or more correctly, bad for our waistlines. There’s nothing wrong with being health-conscious and watching what we eat. After all, it’s important to take care of ourselves, to get decent servings of fruits and vegetables and not clog our arteries with fat.

However, there’s a big difference between eating smart and

eating crazy. In our skinny-models-obsessed culture, the pressure to be thin can be heavy. Every year a new dieting fad takes hold, every month a once-harmless and tasty food magically transforms into a dangerous enemy. First the protein in meat is bad, then the carbohydrates in bread. From everything that the experts are telling us, we might as well give up and eat grass. Oh drat, doctor so-and-so just announced cellulose causes exponential weight gain.

And the sad thing is, people listen. They run from one diet to another, take the newest “drop 10 pounds in a day” miracle pills, have their stomachs cut open and sucked out. They feel guilty about eating that extra piece of cake and starve themselves until they can’t take it anymore and binge, after which they feel guilty and starve themselves again. Vicious, vicious cycle. How did we come to this? When can we stop pretending we don’t like food and start eating like normal people?

Just think about all the food you’ve been giving up lately because (officially) you want to be more fit, but (honestly) you want to fit into that new dress. Chocolate truffles drizzled with more chocolate. Prime rib that melts in your mouth. Hot buttered

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## OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

### HOT- or -NOT



#### Order up

Most Tech students have had painful experiences eating the food served in the two campus dining halls. A new head chef each for Brittain and Woodruff is exciting news for dining hall diners, especially when those chefs come from award-winning, five-star backgrounds. We don’t know what made them pick us, but we sure are thankful, and we look forward to the positive change in our diets.



#### Stalkerbook?

It seems to be a common theme recently, but **facebook.com** is an integral part of any normal college student’s life these days, and we are becoming increasingly disturbed by the feeling of our privacy slipping away. The move to open Facebook to the public is just the icing on the cake; Facebook is supposed to be a college network. Sure, we could just erase our accounts, but we’re addicted now!



#### Presidential address

Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia’s president and first female head-of-state, addressed Tech students and faculty on Wednesday. Tech continues to draw such esteemed global personalities, an indication of the Institute’s prominence not just in the U.S. but also around the world.



#### Six Flags confusion

Georgia Tech Night at Six Flags is a great event, but advertising for the event seems to be weak. We get so many mass emails from the Institute that we sometimes manage to skip the important ones—like the one about Six Flags. And while we’re on the subject, why do tickets cost \$2 more at the box office?!

## YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Athlete apologizes

In your Sept. 8 edition, I made a comment in the Buzz around Campus column that was inappropriate. I falsely expressed my feelings for classes here at Georgia Tech. Not only did I embarrass myself, but also my fellow teammates, our coaching staff and, probably more significantly, all of our past players.

While my comment was said in jest, I should have known better, because as a student athlete I take very seriously my role as a representative of the Institute. After making my silly comment, I did immediately thereafter mention to your reporter that I am in fact enjoying my classes, and I’m looking forward to completing this semester.

Again, I regret what I said, and I offer my deepest apologies to my family, my teammates and the entire Georgia Tech community for making such an immature statement.

I look forward to seeing all my fellow students at our home

games this season!

Jeremis Smith  
Men’s Basketball  
gtg401u@mail.gatech.edu

### Campus commuters

In his article “Campus commuters beware,” Nikhil Joshi commendably makes the point that pedestrians, bicyclists and automobile drivers need to be cautious and considerate of each other.

However, Mr. Joshi (along with most of the Atlanta population, I believe) is ignorant to Atlanta bicycling laws.

Atlanta city code Sec. 150-210 addresses riding on sidewalks and states, “No person 13 or more years of age shall ride a bicycle upon any sidewalk in any district.”

Thus, even if sidewalks on both sides of the street are without pedestrians, it is illegal for bicyclists over 13 years of age to

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### 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](mailto: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 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](http://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 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](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu).

## BUZZ Around the Campus

### What do you know about the Student Code of Conduct?



**Justin Harper**  
Fourth-year MGT

*“I’ve been threatened about it a few times.”*



**Allie Blessing**  
First-year INTA

*“I haven’t heard anything about the Code.”*



**Ryan Fuller**  
First-year NRE

*“I know [it] recently changed its policy towards freedom of speech on campus.”*



**Justin Lee**  
Third-year ME

*“I know you can’t cheat.”*

Photos by Gilbert Cha



# Georgia's students struggle



"I guess the message is this: 'If you're not at the very bottom, you're one of the best and brightest.'"

**Kyle Thomason**  
Columnist

It seems that, as a country, America is absolutely fascinated with rankings, and this past month has been a gold mine. *U.S. News* published their annual university rankings, the College Board released data on states' scores for the "new SAT" and, most importantly, everyone has started to pay attention to college football rankings with the season kicking off on Sept. 2, but I'll leave that to the Sports section.

Consistency at the top seems to be common in the *U.S. News* rankings. For the ninth time in the past 10 years, Tech has found itself in the top 10 of the country's public universities. It is great to see the school keep its high stature.

However, one thing that may shake up the rankings a bit is that "new SAT." You see, this might be especially tricky for Tech, as the new writing section does not contain math, which seems to be one of those things that really helps us out.

Furthermore, the new SAT seems to have closed the "gender gap," which may also affect the Institute. Last year, with only two sections, males scored an average of

42 points higher than females. This year the gap is down to 26 points. It will certainly be interesting to see if this leads to Tech making any adjustments over the next few years. Of course, all of the guys around here are probably hoping the "necessary adjustment" will prove to be what every Tech guy has wanted for the past century—more girls.

Sadly, there was also great celebration around Atlanta because of the new SAT's state rankings. Everyone around seems to be thrilled with the state's "great improvement."

"For too long our rank overshadowed the truth—that Georgia has some of the best teachers and brightest students in the country. Today's results are just another example of the great work that is going on in Georgia's classrooms," said State School Superintendent Kathy Cox in a press release on Aug. 29.

Cox made it seem like Georgia has burst into the upper echelon of SAT scores. In reality, we made the massive jump from dead last to 46th. That still seems to be the bottom 10 percent of the country, if I did my math right. Of course, I went to a

Georgia high school, so who knows. I guess the message is this: "If you're not at the very bottom, you're one of the best and brightest."

But there has to be a good explanation for this, right? I mean Georgia houses two of the top 25 public universities in the nation—only six other states in the nation can make that claim, and we fill a majority of these universities with in-state students. As a result, I went on a search to find the "better truth." I was sure it was out there. The more I looked, the more I found that the statistics lie a small bit, but not all that much.

One thing that is often overlooked is that a whole bunch of people in Georgia take the SAT. Other states only send their best and brightest to take this test, with most of the rest taking the ACT. In fact, 17 states have 10 percent or less of their students taking the SAT, and all of these states outperform us. Conversely, we only outrank one of the 10 states, Pennsylvania, that has a higher percentage of students taking the SAT. Well, that is not quite the truth, either. We happen to be ranked 46th in ACT scores, too. At least we are consistent.

I guess I'm left with a simple conclusion: thank you out-of-state students for coming to school here and making our state a bit less dumb, and thank you HOPE Scholarship for keeping whatever smart kids we can find around—we certainly cannot afford to lose them.

## Letters from page 9

ride on the sidewalk.

Although bicyclists may travel more slowly than cars, the next time you see someone riding a bike on the street, give them a break and resist the temptations of rude gestures, name-calling and unsafe driving. These bicyclists are obeying the law.

Rachel Post  
CS grad student  
rpost@gatech.edu

## Ruckus not rockin'

The recent announcement of Ruckus seems to be getting a lot of good reviews lately, but I believe someone needs to come out and say it—it's not the end all solution. How many students are explicitly excluded from the benefits of this service because they choose to use a Mac or have one of the ever-popular iPods?

I don't know if there is an arrangement for Georgia Tech to pay for the service. The impression given has been that it's entirely "ad-supported," but other schools (according to the Ruckus website) are charged

## Food from page 9

biscuits fresh from the oven. Lemon pepper chicken fried to perfection. Anyone else hungry yet?

Forget about being a size 0. It's not nearly as important as getting enough to eat and being healthy. Anorexia isn't a good look these days anyway. As long as every meal

anywhere from three to six dollars per student a month from what I can gather. This would come out to a large chunk of money if GT had many students signed up, a chunk of money that wouldn't even benefit every student equally, one that would discriminate against Mac users and iPod owners.

The worst part is that nobody owns anything with this service. If the school is paying for this in some way, as I suspect they are, they aren't even buying anything. They're paying so that we can do the same thing we do at a library—borrow things. Why not eliminate the middle man?

I think Georgia Tech's efforts to stop downloading would be better focused adding to the collection of CDs and DVDs available from the library and the collection in the Music Listening Room. This way, students would not be restricted in the way they chose to listen to the music, and any money spent would be on real, tangible items that would actually exist outside of a contract with some company.

David Haslem  
Second-year CS  
haslem@gatech.edu

doesn't consist of french fries and hamburgers, there's no reason why you can't enjoy eating (if that word induces bathroom scale panic and fear, think of it as not starving). Grab a friend and cook dinner or go out and try a new restaurant. Savor all the flavors that life has to offer. Like the good book says, eat, drink and be merry.

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8:30 AM.

(Run), 8:45 AM (Walk)

Starting at Student Center, Georgia Tech

Proceeds benefit: **MAKE-A-WISH**

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### REGISTRATION

Before Sept 20: \$12 (Adult), \$10 (Student w/ID),

Event Day: \$ 15 (Starts 7:00 AM)

### PRIZES

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