

OPINIONS

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TECHNIQUE

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Quote of the week:
"Assumptions are the termites of relationships."
 —Henry Winkler

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Movin' on up

After five years of overseeing MOVE and other community service programs on campus, David Prophitt, the assistant director of student involvement and community service, will leave Tech this week for a new position with the American Cancer Society. We congratulate Prophitt on his new job, but his presence will be sorely missed on campus.

Prophitt has made a significant impact on campus since his arrival in 1999. Before he began his tenure, MOVE only had four volunteer committees and now has 13. MOVE has expanded to include Hunger and Homelessness Week and Into the Streets, among others. Prophitt was instrumental in helping students bring Relay for Life to Tech. He has also served as the volunteer advisor for Pride Alliance, the Safe Space program and GTCOW.

Prophitt's efforts, coupled with President Clough's move to integrate service with Tech's leadership initiative in 2001, have clearly paid off in a big way, facilitating the growth of volunteer activities on campus.

In this case, the combination of a talented, motivated individual and the creation of a supportive administrative environment unleashed student potential. The popularity of the aforementioned programs along with Team Buzz and Tech Beautification Day are evidence of this.

We hope that servant leadership will only continue to grow on campus after thriving under strong leadership for the past few years. As long as the underlying support structure remains in place, there are no limits for volunteerism on campus.

Don't tune out now

The nationwide elections are only days away. Throughout the campaign season, students and campus political organizations have made herculean efforts to encourage their peers to vote. The College Democrats and College Republicans have hosted dueling screenings of *Fahrenheit 9/11* and *FahrenHYPE 9/11* and have held mock debates. Both groups spent a considerable amount of time registering voters on Skiles Walkway and in the post office.

And student interest could not be higher. The poll on Tech's homepage asked respondents to pick their choice for president. Over 11,000 votes responded. A similar *Technique* poll in this week's issue garnered over 1,700 votes. But voting in an online poll is easier than standing in line at the polling station and casting your ballot. Don't let something like a calculus test, something so trivial in the long run, keep you from exercising your right as a citizen of the United States.

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 Brian Lewis / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

It's okay, not everyone has a plan

I'm graduating this spring, and it's that time of the year when most of my peers are busy taking the GRE, finding professors to write recommendations, filling out grad school applications or dressing smartly for interviews with prospective employers.

Me, I'm clueless. But you know what? *I'm okay with that.*

I just wish that others were okay with it, too.

My current internship with WSB-TV requires that it count for academic credit. Since the internship isn't related to my major, when I was applying this past summer I went desperately from one office to another to see if anyone could help me secure the credit I needed. I tried my departmental advisor, the Division of Professional Practice and Career Services. All of them basically shrugged their shoulders and told me there was nothing they could do to help.

I finally received credit (though it doesn't even count as a free elective) from the LCC department in a very pleasant meeting with the STaC advisor.

I like to think that maybe, since STaC is generally an unfamiliar major to employers, the advisor was so helpful because she understood the feeling of being uncertain about your career.

But I remember that trip to Career Services—my first and only visit to date—particularly vividly. All I was looking for was a yes-or-no answer: can you help me or can you direct me to someone who can help me get credit for this internship? After the career advisor shook his head, I was ready to get up, thank him politely and leave.

But he didn't let me leave. He asked the dreaded question, "Have you thought about what you want to do after you graduate?"

The visit turned into 30 minutes of well-intentioned but unhelpful



"Out of the 15,000 students... I am pretty sure there are plenty who are just as unsure about their future as I am."

Jennifer Lee
 Focus Editor

career counseling. When I explained, "I'm not sure, I'm looking into science journalism, that's why I'm applying to this internship," he didn't seem to know how to deal with my answer—especially with me being an EE.

He could have suggested that I take some LCC classes, look into some liberal arts-oriented graduate programs, or suggested some other careers that might incorporate science and writing.

Even just being more open-minded and encouraging would have been a good start.

But instead, he started talking jobs. "The reality is, your parents won't want you living at home mooching of them after you graduate!" he laughed, only half-jokingly.

I wanted to tell him I was pretty sure my parents cared more about my finding a job that I *enjoy*, but instead I sat there in miserable silence while he reproached me for not having my resume up on monstertrak.com.

Career Services is just an example, though.

I get so many emails from my major school and professional organizations for luncheons with big-name companies like IBM and GE. "Bring your resume," the invitations proclaim, "Dress appropriately."

But what if I just want to come by and see what that company is all about? There's no room for curiosity; there are too many students hungry for the job.

Grad school info sessions can be

equally as single-minded, focusing on admissions requirements rather than describing what kind of students their program might appeal to.

Out of the 15,000 students at Tech, I am sure there are plenty who are just as unsure about their future as I am—and not just freshmen, either. So why do I always feel so alone in my uncertainty?

This school is often so driven, so intent on making sure that its students graduate with good jobs and high honors, that there's little room for exploration.

Granted, many students are career-focused; many do come to Tech and find their passion in classes and research.

As for me, I have yet to take any definitive steps toward a post-graduation plan. There are so many factors, personal and academic, that I don't know how to take into account.

But here is what I do know: I have good grades, a well-rounded resume, great communication skills and work experience both in my major and otherwise.

I am a passionate, caring individual, and if Tech has taught me anything, it's how to work my ass off.

I am confident that I can be successful, whether it's in engineering or journalism or *whatever*, whether it takes me a few years after I graduate or another 20 years.

I just wish everyone else here—my school, my department, even my coworkers and friends—could have some confidence in me, too.

Strengths of the candidates not the only issue

Unless you've been isolated in a locked room with hours of work piled on you for the last several months, you likely know what this Tuesday will bring.

So...most of you probably have no idea what's happening. No worries. I'll tell you. One-and-a-half-hour classes. And what's worse, some of them start at 8 a.m.

In all seriousness, however, the presidential election is something not to be taken lightly—and, judging from reports of record registration and expected high turnout in the 18-25 age group, it seems more and more people realize that.

However, this particular election seems to pose a problem for many that still keeps them away from the polls: the strength of the candidates.

The dilemma is often described in such glowing terms as “choosing the lesser of two evils,” or, as Conan O'Brien's Triumph the Insult Comic Dog charmingly put it, “America again attempts to figure out which toilet to drink out of.”

I have heard several peers express their desire not to vote at all in the race since neither choice is desirable to them.

However, it's important to realize that the presidential election is about more than just the candidates, as recent announcements regarding Chief



“A vote for Bush, or for Kerry does more than put either man in the White House...”

Stephen Baehl
News Editor

Justice William Rehnquist's health demonstrate. Rehnquist was hospitalized last weekend with thyroid cancer—he said he will return to work, but the development emphasizes the very real possibility of a major judicial appointment coming in the next four years.

And Rehnquist isn't the only justice who may be nearing retirement; the High Court is generally expected to be due for appointments fairly soon, as it has been roughly 10 years since a justice stepped down from the court. This is the longest time period with no retirement from the Supreme Court in 180 years.

In addition, Justice John Paul Stevens is 84; Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is 74—both near or well past typical retirement age. Rehnquist himself is 80.

As such, voters should keep in mind that while they may or may not entirely agree with either candidate or may not even agree with half of what either

candidate says, where President Bush and Senator Kerry stand on the political spectrum will heavily influence their appointment choices.

This fact in and of itself could serve to bring to light an issue considered heavily divisive, but which has not taken front-seat consideration alongside issues such as the Iraq war during the election: abortion.

Kerry, as a pro-choice candidate, would of course tend toward selecting pro-choice judges. Bush, in turn, has already demonstrated his willingness to put pro-life judges into the courts. Many on both sides of the issue of abortion see establishing judges who agree with their stances as the best way to bring about the policy most suitable to them.

As such, a new issue not related to how well one candidate speaks or how many times a candidate changes his mind has cropped up, and it is one voters should take carefully into consideration.

Abortion and the Supreme

Court's future composition aren't the only matters aside from the candidates themselves that deserve attention. The Supreme Court situation only serves as an example to illustrate the point; a vote for one candidate or the other extends well beyond just who the candidate is and what his own beliefs are.

The election allows for voters to indirectly choose what kind of people they want appointed to numerous government positions, ranging from lower federal court judges to high-level positions—a point highlighted by the recent nomination of CIA Director Porter Goss.

The high-profile, almost in-your-face campaigning that has plastered television sets and media of all kinds with each candidate's faces and words for the last several months tends to focus on voting records, on the candidates themselves and on their particular stances. It is then easy to become lost among all those factors—not that they aren't valid and important in the election—and forget a whole range of other decisions that are indirectly, but still meaningfully, impacted by the voters' choice.

A vote for Bush, or for Kerry, does more than put either man in the White House. It is important for everyone to bear that in mind when deciding whether or not either one is worth voting for.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Rockin' Eclipse

Dozens of Techies huddled together around their telescopes at the Yellow Jacket Park to watch Wednesday's total lunar eclipse, though some students chose to watch the end of the Red Sox “curse” instead. For those of you who missed out on the astronomical festivities, here's a brief recap—the entire moon passed through Earth's shadow and the result was a cool red moon.



Flu woes

The national flu vaccine shortage has hit close to home. The Student Health Center failed to receive any of the vaccine shots. While college students typically are not at a great risk of developing a serious flu case, students need to take precautions to fight the flu. Since we all live in close quarters on-campus and off, if you find yourself sick, do us all a favor and stay home with plenty of chicken soup.



Trick-or-Treat

Not only do we get an extra hour of sleep on Sunday, but it means we have one more hour for trick-or-treating on Halloween when we reap the rewards of Daylight Savings Time. With so many ways to put it to good use, what could be better than procrastinating and checking out the Towers Haunted House?



Poor Nappy Roots

Yet again an on-campus concert has been a bust, with less than a 100 tickets sold for Saturday's Nappy Roots concert, not unlike last year's Better than Ezra show. The pitiful lack of student support suggests that organizers need to hold out for a bigger draw or find a way to offer lower ticket prices.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tuition coverage valuable

I would like to commend the *Technique* in their diligent coverage of the tuition hike issue. I think I noticed more people reading the *Technique* while it covered the tuition hike than ever before.

I believe that the *Technique's* coverage of this issue helped garner support against the tuition hike.

It helped to mobilize students to take a stance against the hike.

The widespread resentment against the tuition hike was a cause that was taken up by a large portion of the student body (in the form of signing petitions and having student government reps talk to important officials).

That response was, what I believe, prevented the Board of Regents from making the tuition hike.

This example just goes to prove what people can do by making a little noise and having

their views heard.

Along the same lines, students can have a real impact on the world around them just by making themselves heard.

This is all the more reason for college students to get out and vote.

The people that we help to put into office are the ones that will in some way or another impact our education, the scholarships we receive and the jobs that are available to us once we get out of college.

Thank you, *Technique*, for showing the student body what happens when we take a stance on something.

Hopefully, people will take from this an inspiration to get out and vote in November and take a more active view on the policy decisions that impact us college students.

Sabrina Hassanali
gtg010h@mail.gatech.edu

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 Daniel Amick, 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.

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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 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Corey Jones 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 plan to dress up as for Halloween?



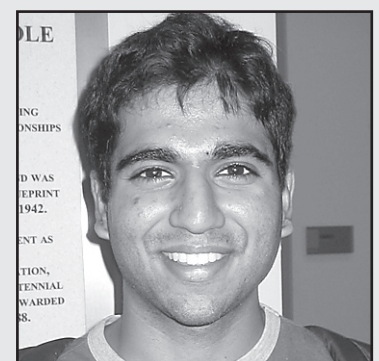
Teja Kadire
IE Second-year

“Apu from the Simpsons.”



Modupe Edogun
BMED Third-year

“Lil' Kim.”



Rajiv Bhateja
EE Second-year

“Chet's mom.”



Chet Gutwein
ME Third-year

“Luke Schenscher.”

Photos by Hari Trivedi

Milli Vanilli: Lip-synching victims

By Josh Mullins
The Daily Athenaeum

(U-WIRE) MORGANTOWN, W.Va.—So did anyone see “Saturday Night Live” this weekend? I didn’t, but boy I wish I had. It turns out that musical guest Ashlee Simpson had a hilariously embarrassing mishap.

When Simpson came out for her second musical performance, she was supposed to sing her song “Autobiography.” Unfortunately, the song that played was “Pieces of Me.” Now, this wouldn’t be too terrible, but the problem is Simpson’s voice could be heard even though she had her microphone at her hip and wasn’t singing.

Say it isn’t so. Ashlee Simpson lip-synchs? I have to tell you all I was devastated when I heard this news. Devastated by the realization that people needed a track slip to find out that Ashlee Simpson lip-synchs, that is.

Come on people, wise up a little. Pop music isn’t about talent; it’s about an image. Acts get signed and then they get sold according to the image that their manager or record label honcho dreams up for them. Ashlee plays the punky, passed-over little sister. Though I’m sure she’s had practice for part of that role, you’ll never be able to convince me she is in any way punk.

People have been lip-synching

for years, and they’ll continue for many more. I don’t like it any more than you, but you better get used to it. But the good news doesn’t stop there folks. Studio magic can make almost anyone sound good. With the technology they have packed into recording studios nowadays, producers could make Roseanne sound like Whitney Houston, who, in actuality, probably sounds like Roseanne.

So what you have here is a situation where singers aren’t singing live, and may or may not be as talented as they sound on a record. And do you want to know who the real losers are in this tawdry, pseudo-karaoke affair? I’ll tell you, it’s not the music-buying public. No, the real losers here are Milli Vanilli.

Those poor souls are not an ounce guiltier than any top 40 pop artist of the last 20 years. But no, they had to give back their Grammys because they got caught lip-synching. And I’m sure everyone will say, “But they didn’t sing the original songs themselves.” To which I would reply, “Haven’t you been listening?” If it is OK for pop artists to doctor their voices during the recording sessions and subsequently lip-synch to it on the road, shouldn’t it be all right for Milli Vanilli to have someone else sing their record in its entirety? I say heck yeah.

BLINDED BY SCIENCE

Candidates differ in science policies

As I’m sure everyone who is reading this is well aware (I don’t think that the Tech bubble is quite that thick), our nation’s presidential election is Nov. 2. I will be voting for John Kerry. I don’t really see how anyone could vote to re-elect President Bush without having some kind of doubt as to his ability to lead this country. There are many issues on which I don’t agree with this administration.

As an environmental scientist, one of my main concerns is of course, the environment. As a simple matter of practicality, I think it is in our self-interest as a species to preserve and protect the environment that we depend upon. And I don’t know about you, but I’m not too keen on breathing in all that smog when I walk outside in the city either. It is my opinion that the current administration has been detrimental to the attempts to protect the environment.

For instance, President Bush pledged in his 2003 State of the Union address to cut air pollution from power plants by 70 percent over the next 15 years. Which would be well and good except that the provisions of the Clean Air Act would do a much better job at reducing pollution, would accomplish this over a shorter time span, and...they’re already in effect. So Bush’s proposal would mean smaller reductions in air pollution over a longer time span than would occur with the current policies. Understandably, a lot of



“The current administration has been detrimental to the attempts to protect the environment.”

Andrea Thompson
Columnist

people weren’t too wild about this plan, and the attorney generals of 12 states and several cities blocked the proposed changes to the Clean Air Act.

And not only has this administration attempted to weaken our attempts to fight pollution, they have also hampered certain fields of scientific research. The administration’s limit on stem cell research has been a highly controversial subject, with scientists saying that the limit is hindering a line of research that could help cure debilitating diseases. I’m certainly not insensitive to the potential moral conflicts inherent in this issue, but if there’s a chance that this research could help people who have to live with these diseases, we should by all means look into it.

That being said, I’m not just voting for Senator Kerry because I don’t agree with President Bush. I believe that John Kerry understands the importance of encouraging scientific research and listening to the advice given by scientists. I think that he would reverse the limits placed on stem cell research

because he understands the potentially groundbreaking results it could produce. I also think he understands the importance of safeguarding our environment and reducing pollution levels. I believe he has a commitment to researching alternative fuel sources that could both aid the efforts to reduce pollution and end our dependence on oil.

And I am certainly not alone in these opinions. According to an August Associated Press article featured on CNN.com, over 4,000 scientists, including 48 Nobel laureates, have signed “a statement condemning the Bush administration for misusing, suppressing and distorting scientific advice.” In fact, several of the scientists have endorsed John Kerry for president. As scientists, I think we are all dumbfounded by the disregard displayed by this administration towards science and would like to see a president who understands the importance of listening to scientists and using their advice in an objective and constructive manner. And I believe John Kerry is the person who will do this.