

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Intercultural genius

New degree program complements global vision

The new degree program in Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies is a great step forward for the Tech academic community. Tech has long held goals of becoming an international institute with a globally recognized brand, and this degree will be the ultimate recognition of that goal.

This major, which will be the first time the modern language program will stand on its own as a degree option, has managed to create a curriculum that blends the traditionally known language major with a technical focus. Students at Tech will appreciate the technology-focused language development classes as well as the cluster options for expanded course loads. This major is flexible, answering many students calls for more personal expression in their course load.

The mandatory term abroad is also a brilliant fusion of Tech's already strong work and study abroad programs with the fledgling major. The administrators of

the new degree, however, should be aware of the intense amount of training and aid that the students will need. Directly enrolling in a foreign university is a time-consuming and stressful process. Students will need help acquiring visas, navigating enrollment, transferring credits and financing their adventures abroad. While the Office of International Education can help with these issues, dozens of new students a year enrolling all over the world will also need help. The new major, as well as the institute as a whole, must step forward to make sure that this visionary program requirement is a success.

The current iteration of the degree is only offered with Spanish and Japanese, and all resources available should be applied to expanding the options to include the other languages offered in the Ivan Allen dual majors. Broader study options are one of the key benefits of this new program, and language choice should not limit this great idea.

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

TECHNIQUE EDITORIAL BOARD

Hahnming Lee, *Editor-in-Chief*

Kate Comstock, *Business Manager*

Jennifer Aldoretta, *Entertainment Editor*

Kamna Bohra, *Focus Editor*

Matt Hoffman, *News Editor*

Eric Mansfield, *Photography Editor*

Alex Mitchell, *Sports Editor*

Matt Schrichte, *Opinions Editor*

Nishant Prasad, *Online Sports Editor*

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Graduate resources exist to help

We read with interest the recent letter to the editor regarding conflicts that might arise during the course of graduate research. Resources do exist for advisement and conflict resolution in such circumstances. The Graduate Student Ombuds Office is available to provide graduate students with informal, confidential guidance and advice on how to handle questions, concerns and conflicts that might arise through their graduate studies at Tech.

The Office provides advice and suggestions on how graduate students might seek to resolve their concerns constructively and avoid adversarial processes. If the informal Ombuds process does not resolve the conflict, however, the Office can advise students of the appropriate institutional paths to follow, including filing a formal petition or grievance.

The Office of Student Affairs also offers excellent guidance and counseling available to all students through the Tech Counseling Center and the Dean of Students. Information on both of these campus resources can be found at: www.provost.gatech.edu/units/ombuds/ and www.studentaffairs.gatech.edu. It is of utmost importance for all students to know that they are not alone, and help is always available.

Write to us:

letters@niquette.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.

Anthony Baldridge
Graduate Student Body
President

W. Russell Callen, Jr.,
Professor Emeritus, ECE
Graduate Student Ombuds

Privacy on Facebook

Daily Evergreen — Gavin Mathis (Washington State U)

I love Facebook. I just hate people who use Facebook. The social network phenomenon is doing damage control in response to complaints about sometimes cryptic changes to the site's privacy policy that lets third parties access users' personal information.

A Facebook user complaining about a lack of privacy is like a priest joining the church and complaining about the celibacy. Of course, Facebook is selling personal information. That is how they make money. Facebook monetizes your personal information and sells it to business partners to create targeted ad campaigns.

Those who complain about privacy on Facebook show they're almost as technologically savvy as the Amish. How did you think Facebook financed your hours of stalking friends from high school? Users complaining about this alleged breach of privacy do not care about privacy. They are some of the same self-centered hypocrites who willingly divulge—and sometimes over-divulge—every waking second of their pathetic lives.

The exodus of users fleeing Facebook and the hype surrounding the changing privacy controls is out of control. Congress was able to pass the Patriot Act, which granted the government unprecedented access, with little opposition. But when a social networking site fosters the kind of interconnectivity that will define the next era of the web, users over-react more than a teenage girl at a "Twilight" movie.

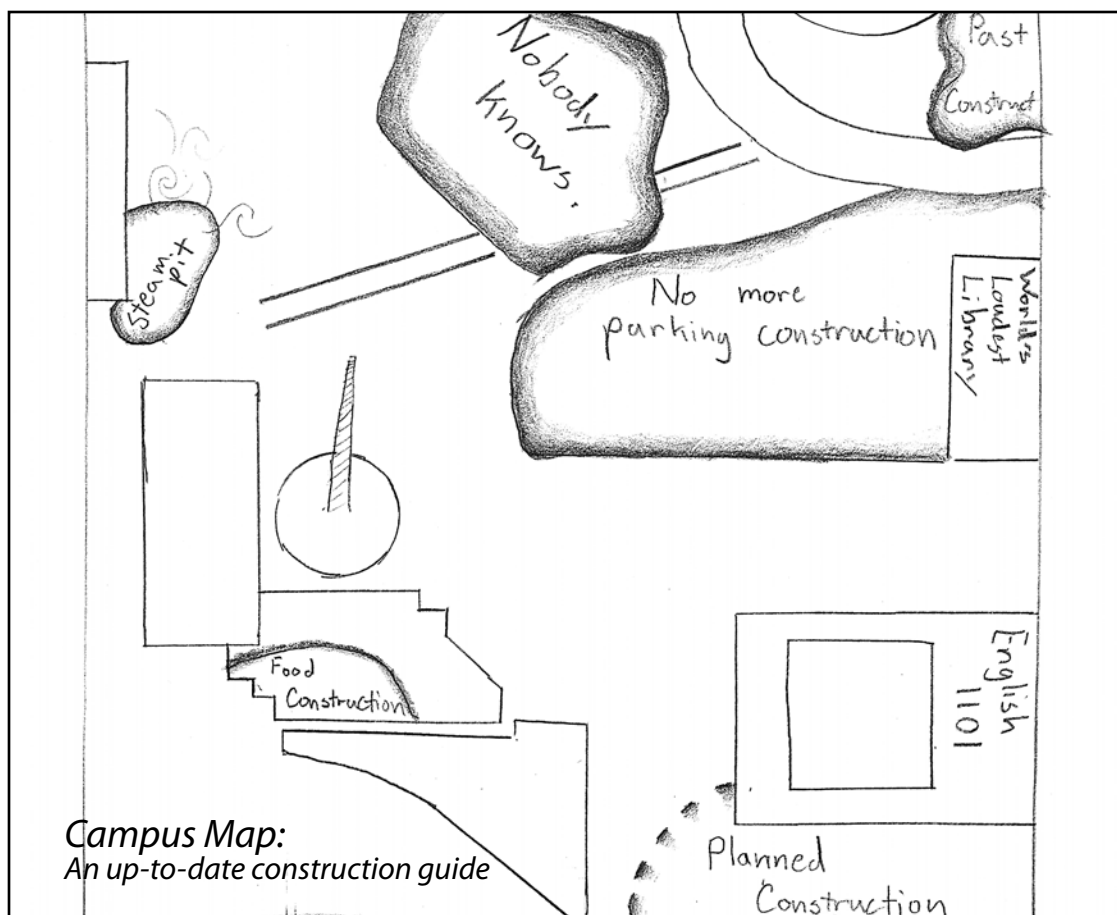
Facebook is expanding so fast they have been forced to navigate uncharted ethical waters as they try to remain profitable—a problem that has doomed so many other companies on the web. In a world built on the assumption that information has to be transferred at no cost, Facebook is challenging that paradigm, and doing it quite successfully. More online businesses, especially newspapers, should follow its lead.

Spending upward of four, five or even six hours a day on these sites, many people—whose fingertips must be bleeding—display why Facebook has become so successful: It is more addictive than crack.

A mere six years after Facebook's creation, the site is on the verge of eclipsing the 500 million user mark. If Microsoft made computers user friendly and if Google made the world's information easy to access, then Facebook and Twitter are making that wealth of information user friendly. The technology that propels social networking is redefining how people consume information and communicate in the process.

No matter what your personal settings on Facebook are, there is no privacy on Facebook. If you don't want someone to know something about you, don't post it on a website capable of disseminating that information to the entire Facebook community. Ultimately, you have total control of your online pseudo-self and how much information you choose to disclose. Facebook executives care about your status updates about as much as I do—not at all.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY MATT HOFFMAN



Intelligence of *Lost* lost in series finale

I watch *Lost*. Or rather, I watched *Lost*. I was one of those fanatical people who could never miss an episode and would not be able to function if I did not watch *Lost* the night it aired. Needless to say, I was pretty excited about the finale.

I realize that people get extremely irritated when you spoil what happens in the first season of a six season show because they have not had the “time” yet to get around to watching the series, so I will preface the next column with an all-caps SPOILER ALERT. While I know some people have legitimately not seen the episode that just aired on Sunday, I find it very hard to sympathize with those who try and avoid the spoilers from years ago. It would be like trying to not know who won the presidential election until you have the “time” to catch up. Guess what? Obama won.

The finale certainly provided resolution, but only for the characters of the show and not the mythology or the plot. And let me be the first one to say that it is idiotic. Maybe I am just an antisocial type of guy, but for me, the mythology of *Lost* was always much more appealing than the characters.

The mythology behind it all drove people to watch the show differently than anything else on television. It forced people to pose questions on the meaning of a certain object or why



“...for me, the mythology of *Lost* was always much more appealing than the characters.”

Hahnming Lee
Editor-in-Chief

a character is reading a particular book in one scene or what do a bunch of random numbers mean. It probably made half its viewers at one point look up a website on *Lost* theory and then spend an hour reading about Purgatory. At its core, it made its fans think and I loved the show for it. I know it sounds pretentious, but it is the same reason they make those math video games for toddlers: wrap something that does not seem interesting to a lot of people (philosophy, history) into an inherently entertaining package (television) and it will likely make both better.

But the producers and writers disagreed with me that plot was important and instead attempted to resolve everything for only the characters instead in the finale.

The characters were somewhat compelling, but I do not watch *Lost* because of the beautiful character development and actors. If I wanted that, I would follow a show

that actually advertises itself to be a character driven plot. In fact, I hated a lot of the characters, specifically Kate. What was the point of her on the show? She constantly argued and whined about any sort of authoritative action, she tried to act independent but had no identity without another male in her life and she had by far the worst back story. A criminal with a heart of gold who doesn't know how to live a real life? Definitely overdone.

That does not mean I ever wanted the show to have a neat conclusion which would resolve everything at once. It would betray the fundamental character of *Lost* if it was to pose all the questions and then give all the answers at the very end. Instead, I was just hoping that *Lost* would continue to be *Lost*-like. Give some answers while posing more questions and make the viewer think. The finale did none of those things. It gave the characters a happy ending and that was it.

I read that they keep a con-

tinuity guy, who keeps track of every little detail and makes sure that they do not screw up anything. For example, if a character was punched or kicked a couple of episodes back, this guy needed to make sure that the wound would appear in later scenes. When I read this, I thought the idea was ingenious; it minimizes the size of the section of inconsistencies page on the *Lost* Wikipedia, but now that the show has ended, I am just mad. They had this guy who probably had a file of all these loose ends that had to be tied up and they did not resolve the majority of them?

They left the show with a conclusion, but only for its primary characters. But another one of its main characters, the island, was completely ignored. We are left to believe that maybe there is this magical island out there with all this crazy stuff happening and that there is not really a meaning to any of it. No meaning behind it, no theory unifying the show, it was just a figment of some producers' imaginations. It was a device to have a bunch of romances that are probably better done on other shows. Great.

I almost wish that it had all been Jack's dream. There is something you can at least take from that. Instead I am feeling empty. Now it feels like kind of a waste of six years.

ACC tourney brings bittersweet reminder

Once upon a time, the ACC brass decided to hold its 2009 baseball tournament in Boston's Fenway Park.

It was a brilliant idea in theory. Setting the annual tournament at one of baseball's premier ballparks, even if it were only for one year, would make for a tremendous experience for the players involved and would draw plenty of fans.

The idea hit a hitch, though, when the Fenway Sports Group realized it had accidentally scheduled a Red Sox home series at the same time. No matter, though—the ACC simply moved back the Fenway date to 2010.

Naturally, that didn't work out either. About twelve months ago, the league made the decision to cancel, or at least indefinitely postpone (again), the idea of Fenway as a home site. And so, rather than having the ACC's top eight teams face off on a major league field, the 2010 ACC Tournament is taking place at NewBridge Bank Park in Greensboro, N.C.

In fairness to the city of Greensboro, the new host site is a top-notch minor league facility. As the home field of the Florida Marlins' Class A affiliate, the Greensboro Grasshoppers, it offers seating for roughly 7,500 spectators and has recently been ranked highly among minor league baseball stadiums.

It is not, however, Fenway



“From a fan perspective, this would have been the perfect reason to set a tournament at the edge of ACC territory.”

Nishant Prasad
Online Sports Editor

Park. It's unfortunate that the baseball tournament was a victim of cost-cutting measures.

First off, the biggest beneficiaries would have been the players of the eight teams to qualify for the tournament. The unfortunate truth is that many of them will not play professional baseball, much less reach the major leagues, and for these student-athletes to take the field at one of Major League Baseball's most historic sites would have been a rare and great experience.

It also would have been a great setup for Tech's lefty-heavy lineup. Several of Tech's left-handed sluggers are good at hitting to the opposite field, but the fact remains that Derek Dietrich, Tony Plagman, Matt Skole and the rest would have had the chance to target the Pesky Pole in right field, just 302 feet away from home plate.

Add in that they'd be using aluminum bats, and Tech could have put up some big numbers.

That same logic could apply to just about any power hitter from any team, though. Right-handed hitters would get to take aim at the Green Monster in left, tall but just 315 feet away from the plate at its farthest point.

From a fan perspective, this would have been the perfect reason to set a tournament at the edge of ACC territory. Whereas drawing fans to Tampa has proved difficult for football, the fairly new Raymond James Stadium is not a shrine to professional football the way Fenway Park is to professional baseball. With a tournament hosted at Fenway, it's likely the ACC would draw in a large fan contingent even in its northernmost city.

Would attendance be high enough to fill the 39,000-plus seats in the ballpark? No, but it's a safe bet that more fans would be compelled to make the trip than if it were held at some other, smaller site. Between the excuse to take a trip to Boston and the chance to visit a prominent MLB sta-

dium for (probably) far less than a ticket to a Red Sox game would cost, the tournament should draw a fairly large number of spectators, more than it would if held at a number of more centralized sites. Aside from individual schools' fans that make the trip, there would be decent attendance from Boston residents.

The ACC's cited reason for the change was to limit travel costs, which have also played a key reason in the conference's decision to centralize as much as possible.

It's a legitimate argument; certainly, moving the football title game from Jacksonville/Tampa to Washington, D.C. and then to the geographic heart of the conference in North Carolina can only benefit Tech and the nine other ACC teams north of the state of Florida.

Still, the situation is somewhat different for baseball. Temperature will (in theory) not be a factor, and the opportunity to increase the profile of the tournament and draw in new fans should be worth the risk and additional cost of holding the tournament at Fenway—but that cannot happen until 2014 at the earliest.

For the moment, at least one former *Technique* sports editor who has long wanted to visit the stadium will attend class this week severely disappointed that he is not sitting in the Fenway Park press box.

BUZZ

Around Campus

What are you doing for Memorial Day?



Jordan Massey
Third-year CE

“Going hiking, devotional at church.”



Ben Xia
Second-year BME

“Play racquetball.”



Sahithya Dinkar
Second-year CompE

“Sleeping, chilling and shopping”



Bradston Henry
Fourth-year ME

“Visit my parents, raise money for some kids.”

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT^{-or-}NOT**Rough Draft**

The first public draft of the Strategic Plan for the Institute was released, giving students the chance to see just what they have been working towards with all that survey information. The plan, which includes all those rumors of law studies, health and medical field expansion, increased global learning opportunities and partnered research, sets high goals in its bullet-points.

**Nickled and Dimed**

After months of evasion, desperate promises and pleas for funds, the Board of Regents announced a \$500 increase in tuition and a five-dollar increase to the Student Activity Fee for all Tech students. While it is great that the increase was smaller than those initially threatened, and most scholarships will cover the tuition, the trend of education-in-distress must end.

**Championship Bound**

The mens golf team advanced to the NCAA Championship after placing third in the NCAA Southeast Regional, earning their No. 24 finals attendance in 25 years. Tech has been seeded No. 14 in the tournament and will compete against ACC rivals Florida State, Clemson and Duke after earning the title of ACC champion, as well as in-state rival Georgia Southern.

**Suspending Sayana**

Four Tech employees have been suspended after Georgia Bureau of Investigation officers served warrants for more than ten computers, two homes and three cars in order to investigate claims they were misusing funds. The missing money may have been diverted into the private company, Sayana Wireless, of two of the employees, a humiliating charge during this budget crunch.

Great oil, great responsibility, great opportunity to regulate

It's been well over a month since the BP-owned Deepwater Horizon, suffered a catastrophic explosion 40 miles off the Louisiana coast. The resulting oil spill has now caused one of the largest environmental disasters since the Exxon Valdez in 1989, and is estimated to surpass the severity of that disaster.

Since the beginning, BP has tried an array of techniques from clamping the leaky line shut, throwing a large box over the leak and doing a procedure cleverly named the "junk shot". Everyday that passes, though, an additional 210,000 gallons spill into the gulf, with BP now taking stabs in the dark to solve the problem.

President Obama has assured the public that BP will pay for the disaster and the associated cleanup. Obama has also given BP notice to complete a viable solution soon, and sources close to him state he's furious over the lack of results and may intervene soon.

Of course, this is all a delicate balancing act for the President. Too much government intervention will lead to cries of "socialism" from the right and too little will lead to criticism from the left.

One fact remains, though; Big Oil calls the shots and is not held accountable to anyone except shareholders. Reports have surfaced of inspectors who let oil company employees fill out inspection reports or let oil companies draft rules and regulations. As the saying goes, this is letting the fox guard the henhouse.

At this point, President Obama should use all tools necessary to stop the bleeding. Tourism and industry in the gulf are already crippled, and the environmental



"One fact remains, though; Big Oil calls the shots and is not held accountable to anyone except shareholders."

Hahnming Lee

Editor-in-Chief

impacts may not be known for years to come. To quote recent radio ads, "Western Florida is now cheaper than ever." As legitimate and paranoid concerns about oil contamination spread throughout the southeast, the valve of tourism that funds the entire region is shutting off.

Equally tragic, and little discussed, is the direct loss of human life that this deadly explosion left in its wake. 11 men were killed in the explosion, burned and drowned in a workplace accident in this little-regulated field.

In order to eliminate the risk of horrific explosions like this one, harsh action must be taken. The EPA should be given more authority to regulate drilling off shore. Also, companies should have proven methods and protocols in place to prevent these disasters, no matter how deep or how complicated the well is.

This, of course, is a utopian idea, and probably won't come close to fruition. There will be some political grandstanding on both sides and in five years, the general public will have forgotten about and be fixated on the next quick-hit story.

The one positive of this incident is it has opened a much-needed dialogue on the issue of oil and what its future, at least in this country,

will be. Should we be looking for more viable fuel options, as oil will only continue to be a dying resource? Yes. Should we quit oil cold turkey? I do not think that's logical option, either. However, a serious discussion must be waged over our energy future.

But this solution will not come in the coming months or even years. It may take decades, but this country has to wake up. Unfortunately, instead of this discussion being logical, it has become political. If you drive an alternative fueled car or favor more renewable energy resource, you are labeled as a tree hugger and a host of other names, many less PC than a moniker for nature lover. The narrative has now become "To be a True American, you've got to drive a car that gets 11 mpg and support 'Drill, Baby, Drill.'"

At this juncture moving away from domestic oil is not feasible. But for politicians to respond that the only way to deal with this deadly, costly and un-ending crisis caused by deep-water drilling is to drill more, in deeper water, is insulting. It is insulting to the 11 rig operators that lost their lives, to the thousands of American citizens who will lose their livelihoods to the spill and to the billions of unknown environmental factors that will be impacted.

The economy sucks.
Free pizza rations on Tuesdays.

7 p.m., Flag 137, Technique

sliver

www.nique.net

Dear Girl on the Stinger: If your BFF is not only dating your ex but bragging about it, you need better friends.
Don't stare at me because i dress well...i co-op on campus!
I want to thank the Health Center to leaving us all condoms in our mailboxes that expired six years ago
Sebash, I'm begging you to call it off. I really want to lose a friend and a girlfriend.
where are the nique archives???
Yeah.... SLIVERS EVVVERYWHERE!!
I can fly.... short distances
I love pissing off people by switching to facebook while in the library when there's no seats.
slivering>studying
Thanks for everything Alex! I don't know what I would have done without you over the past three years!
cool! both my prez are black!
"where do you get a power stripper?"-me "from walmart"-him
>_O
DEATH-namics :(
I love you blond desk girl at INTA building.
please stop trying so hard.
my best friend only hits on the guys i like.
hey, telling me you have a boyfriend after i bought you 2 drinks and wasted 1.5 hours SUCKS
can we be in love until i graduate?
If only pizza and pancakes made your eyes pop out of their sockets
Chem 1311 is an official hopeless case.
Thank you roommate, for losing your keys and then blaming me for locking you out.
Pumped for Celebration V!!!
quadcatttt
im starting to think that my roommate was raised by wolves
I only have 5 final exams
I am the one who got hit by a car in front of Peters. Had an exam later that day. FML.

Write for us!

No experience necessary!

Just show up!

**Tuesdays @ 7
Flag 137**

Submit a Sliver!

**Be witty.
Be angry.
Be opinionated.
Be random.**

Your sliver here.

www.nique.net