

# OPINIONS

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"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"  
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**Quote of the week:**  
*"A discovery is said to be an accident meeting a prepared mind."*  
 —Albert von Szent-Gyorgyi

## OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

### A good sign

The Student Government Associations of Tech and the University of Georgia have put aside traditional rivalries and joined forces to fight the budget cuts that are plaguing higher education. The two groups are collaborating on an effort to get students from across the state to sign a petition that will ask Governor Sonny Perdue to re-evaluate the budget. While the Board of Regents has yet to make a final decision, the budget cuts could result in a midyear tuition hike, along with cuts to faculty and staff. The SGAs plan to make a trip to the state capital in early October to let Perdue know about the students' concerns before the budget cuts are officially sanctioned.

We applaud the efforts of SGA to make sure the student body's voice and concerns are heard at the state's highest levels. This is precisely the reason student government exists in the first place. SGA's actions at this juncture will send a message to the governor's office and the state legislature that higher tuition rates and job cuts in the education system will be detrimental to students' welfare across the state.

To get the maximum number of student signatures possible, we have a few suggestions. SGA should form a grass roots campaign to get the word out. Students should be able to sign the petition at numerous tables on Skiles Walkway and inside the Student Center. Representatives should email their constituents personally to let them know when and where they can sign the petition. SGA should use this effort as a springboard to increase overall communication between the student body and the organization itself. SGA should, for example, advertise the appearance of important speakers at its weekly meetings.

We should all embrace this petition drive. We at the *Technique* encourage all students to sign on the dotted line as soon as SGA calls us to action.

## Bio rocks the boat

The School of Biology is implementing significant changes to the format of its labs this semester. Instead of rehashing labs from previous semesters, students in the first two biology courses will conduct unique experiments. By fostering this kind of experiential learning, professors will enable their students to begin questioning their surroundings and get hands-on research experience early in their Tech careers. It's a positive development for all parties involved. However, the school should realize that this experiment may not yield ideal results at first. Thus, organizers should closely monitor student reaction and adjust accordingly.

*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 Erin Gatlin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Ivan Allen students deserve respect

Let's get two things straight here: 1) You shouldn't talk about something you're not well-informed about. 2) You shouldn't say offensive things about people, because you never know who's listening. We're all around you. We *can* hear you. And we're sick of it.

That's right, the students of Ivan Allen College (IAC) have had enough. We're not engineers, but we are people.

I just can't tell you how many times I've heard that we don't belong here or that our majors are easy, usually before the speaker learns that I'm a Science, Technology and Culture (STaC) major.

Both of those assumptions bother me, especially because they're so far from true. (Now, I'm willing to bet that Management students feel the same, but I'll let them fight their own battles.)

Let me tell you about a little girl who was born to be a Yellow Jacket. There are pictures of this young cherub as an 18-month-old wearing a Tech warm-up suit. Her favorite Barbie ever was the Tech cheerleader Barbie. Her daddy is an alum; her mother's father is an alum; her twin cousins are alums.

So you could say it runs in the family. She once wanted to be a rocket scientist, or something that would prove (with the same effectiveness) that she was not "girly," because she hated that label with a passion. So she came to Tech.

Even if she hadn't originally intended to go into Aerospace Engineering, where else could she go?

She didn't want to go to a small school. She didn't want to deal with MARTA daily at Georgia State (because she's not *that* much of a city girl). An all-girls school was out of the question, for obvious reasons. She couldn't afford a private school or an out-of-state one.

As for the University of Georgia, she'd rather go to hell. Quite literally.



"...the students of the Ivan Allen College have had enough. We're not engineers, but we are people."

**Kristin Noell**  
 Copy Editor

And that left Tech. So here I am.

I realize I should have done all I could to find financial aid to go out of state for a B.A. in English (as my high school English teacher, bless her heart, frequently tried to tell me), but I couldn't bear the thought of not being a Yellow Jacket. So instead, I'm getting a Bachelor's of *Science* in STaC, a rather obscure major not offered anywhere else in the world. (And in answer to your question, we still have a fairly extensive science and technology curriculum in Ivan Allen.)

STaC is a good major, with lots of science, computing, history and, of course, literature.

We also have an impressive media studies option—a nice mix for someone who has no set plan for her life.

Now I don't have to worry about the pressures associated with finding a job after graduation and choosing a career. Instead I can apply to grad school and worry about that particular life-altering decision later.

Make no mistake. Being in IAC is hard work. It used to be mildly amusing when people told me I had no room to talk about my work load, but now it's just moved straight into irritating.

Because I do work hard, and so does everyone in the college. (Just a word of warning: what follows may start to sound like complaining, but I do have a point here.)

This semester, I'm taking one HTS and three LCC classes. Last week I had 280 pages of reading just

for one class plus a couple hundred for my other classes and three papers to write.

So engineers, do you think you could handle it? Chances are, you couldn't. (And if you could, you probably hide it from your other engineering friends.)

My classes are full of engineering seniors scrambling for humanities credits.

From what I've seen, their writing often leaves something to be desired. From what I've heard, many don't even do the reading. They would never survive in IAC.

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing but the utmost respect for engineers. I know my solutions to thermodynamics equations would leave something (or more accurately, everything) to be desired as well.

All I ask is that we all show a little mutual respect. IAC majors are not girly. Nor are we taking the easy way out.

We're simply doing something we feel passionately about. (Maybe it will make us less money than engineering in the end, but at least we'll enjoy our careers.)

You know, in a school with such universally accepted diversity, there sure is a lot of discrimination based on majors. We should recognize that we all have different strengths.

And while Tech may not be the best place to play to mine, there's always grad school. I wouldn't give up my time as a Yellow Jacket for anything. I do belong, and I do have a "real" major.



# Recruiting changes showcase best of Tech

Football recruitment is something that no college takes lightly. Especially in Division I schools, the athletic association pulls out all the stops. Introducing recruits to current athletes, showing them the facilities and providing them with personal guides are some of the ways universities showcase their programs.

However, some schools didn't stop there. The University of Colorado allegedly took recruits to strip clubs, bought them prostitutes and provided them with alcohol in an attempt to persuade high school football stars to choose their university. While it is believed that this is not isolated to the Colorado campus, incidents such as these have unfortunately forced the NCAA to reform its recruiting rules and impose stricter, clearer regulations.

Prior to this incident, the NCAA allowed colleges to use their own discretion, assuming that they would use a little morality when interpreting the existing rules. Unfortunately, some schools were unable to do so.

The new regulations prevent the use of chartered planes to fly recruits to the campus, force the schools to use their own vehicles to drive the recruits around and ban parents from being lodged in anything but basic accommodations. In addition, schools must



"I believe these new rules will be nothing but beneficial for college football."

**Lauren Griffin**  
Advertising Manager

come up with their own penalties for any violations they may commit. Of all these changes, the most visible one deals with the recruitment hosts.

Recruitment hosts can no longer be a part of the athletic association and must be students or student-athletes who are currently conducting visits and tours. For Tech, at least for the time being, this means that there is no more Solid Gold. As a result, Tech Tour Guides will take over recruitment.

In my opinion, this change should be virtually seamless at Tech. Whether we move Solid Gold to admissions and let them join the Tour group or do away with the organization all together, I do not see where this change in policy will affect Tech.

Not only will Tech be unaffected, but I will venture to say it will only negatively affect a few schools in the country. These

new rules will streamline recruitment and prevent any unfair advantages that may have existed before. I believe these new rules will be nothing but beneficial for college football.

Some initial questions that came to mind when I heard about these new developments were: how will the Tech Tour Guides compare to the Solid Gold squad? Will the switch from a completely female football recruitment organization affect the football team?

I believe the tour guides will be comparable to Solid Gold and I seriously doubt this change will affect football recruitment. While I'm sure it is nice for these high school football players to be greeted by pretty, smiling faces, I seriously doubt that sitting with a Solid Gold member or a male tour guide for half of a football game is going to make much of a difference in the players' decisions to come to Tech.

Now I may be underestimating the persuasive powers of women, but I hope that there is much more thought going into such an important decision. Our academic and athletic reputations should be the primary deciding factors when choosing whether or not Tech is the right school for you.

Now if Tech had a recruitment program like UC, I would have a different opinion altogether. I can see how an impressionable high school senior would easily be persuaded to commit to Colorado over another school with such perks as they allegedly provided.

But Tech is a school with a much higher moral standard. Although women are few and far between at Tech, they are regarded with the same respect as their male counterparts.

Maybe it's because we are located in the South, or maybe it's because we are intelligent enough to know better, but I can't imagine anyone on our campus, let alone an entire organization, behaving the way Colorado did.

I firmly believe that Tech will not see any drop in prospective football recruits, and if anything, these new NCAA regulations will benefit universities such as ours that have always followed these rules.

## BUZZ Around the Campus What tunes would you like to hear the Campanile play?



**Chris Kelly**  
ME Fourth-year

*"How 'bout the Malaysian National Anthem on repeat?"*



**Jonathan Low**  
AE Fourth-year

*"Classical music and chimes on the quarter hour."*



**Shawn Yeager**  
MGT Fourth-year

*"Whatever, Techno is good."*



**Tatum Conner**  
MGT Fourth-year

*"The Beatles!"*

Photos by Derrick Ma

### OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

## HOT- or -NOT



### Happy birthday Mr. President!

We would like to wish President Wayne Clough a happy birthday today. You wouldn't know he was a year older because of the way his beard has remained impeccable over the years. It's Clough's second big day this month, as he celebrated his 10th anniversary at Tech Sept. 1. Students should email him birthday wishes today, as he really does read all of his emails.



### Ramblin' wrecked

Just when we were on the verge of going into the Miami game with a 3-0 record, those pesky Tar Heels had to go and crush us for the first time since 1997. The loss to UNC has destroyed the positive momentum the team had accumulated. Instead of proving the prognosticators right, Tech has only given college football fans a reason to believe that something other than basketball exists in Chapel Hill.



### Fifth St. makeover

While we typically despise all of the hassles that come with campus construction, we're digging the expansion of the Fifth St. bridge. However, it's still unclear if a park over the Downtown Connector could possibly be peaceful. But since the money isn't coming from us, we'll gladly take the DOT's gift.



### Internet goes AWOL

As we all know, Tech students cannot live without constant access to a high-speed internet connection. But Tuesday night, internet goodies were suddenly taken away. You can imagine our surprise when we were welcomed with the START page upon the internet's return. Please OIT, try not to let this happen again.

### YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Group aims to curb alcohol abuse

*[Editor's note: This letter responds to Jamie Howell's editorial in the Sept. 7 issue]*

As the project director of GT SMART (a project within the Dean of Students office), I want to say that I agree with you that mandating a no drinking policy only challenges those determined to drink to be more creative in how they get alcohol.

We also agree that there are better ways to curb alcohol abuse than banning it as a reaction to a tragic incident.

Tech is one of the 10 campuses nationwide (Colorado at Boulder is another) that were selected to participate in a program managed by the American Medical Association called "A Matter of Degree."

As an AMOD site, Tech (through the GT SMART project) has been trying to identify various methods to enact change on and off campus relative to drinking to excess. This includes

students, residents of Atlanta and visitors too.

On campus we have developed a Campus Alcohol Policy and a Parental Notification Policy. Greeks have taken the initiative to adopt guidelines for monitoring parties.

We distribute brochures with safety tips when going to or having a party with emphasis on the symptoms of alcohol poisoning and what to do if someone becomes ill.

Off campus we have secured grant funds to provide (free) Responsible Alcohol Sales and Server training to persons in the hospitality industry. A comparable training program could cost as much as \$150 per person.

We work with the City Council to review existing alcohol ordinances and recommend revisions that might address reducing the incidence of high-

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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 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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### 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).

# Compassion, awareness keys to preventing suicide

Last week I received the call that all college counselors dread. The voice on the other end of the line told me that there had been a suicide on campus. As I rushed to campus and the impact of this tragedy sank in, I began to ask the same questions we all have when something like this happens.

A suicide is a terrible waste of human potential, of hope, of possibilities. Unfortunately, suicides always bring more questions than answers. We may never know what makes a person choose death over life. What has happened has happened, and there is nothing that will bring

someone back.

There are things, however, that we can do that will help diminish the possibility that others might choose the path this person chose. Maybe we can contribute to the development of a community that supports those who are hurting, heals those who are wounded and illuminates a brighter future for those who are giving up on their future.

Sometimes it is the small gestures from day to day that can make a difference. Smiling at someone who is afraid to make eye contact, reaching out to the shy student who sits behind you in class, making an effort to help

the lab partner who seems confused or overwhelmed. In this way, we may individually make the Tech campus different from so much of our world. By showing human compassion we can bring about a change in our sphere of influence, and if others do the same, our smaller spheres can combine and grow to make an ever-wider change.

Suicide claims the lives of more than 1,000 college students every year. It is the third leading cause of death among 16 to 24-year-olds, and the second leading cause of death among college students. Over the past 60 years, the overall suicide rate

among teenagers has tripled. In a recent survey by the American College Health Association, 50 percent of the respondents reported feeling sad, 33 percent reported feeling hopeless and 22 percent felt so depressed that they could not function. These statistics are a wake-up call that we need to help restore hope in a world that too often is perceived as cold.

As we move forward and work on recovering from this terrible loss, let's reflect on how we will be different. Let's not let this happen to anyone else. Life is precious and fragile.

As we focus on how to help each other, let's not lose sight of how we

can work to improve our own lives. Seek ways to serve others. Seek ways to make the world better. As the brightest and the best, you need to find the special purpose you have in the world. This is where hope lies.

Our campus is filled with people who care and who are willing to help. All you need to do is talk to the PLs, CAs, professors, deans, counselors and others in departments all over campus if you need help or are concerned about a friend.

Mack S. Bowers, Ph.D.  
Interim Dir., Counseling Center  
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## Brown leaves behind lasting example for community

My grandparents' generation grew accustomed to checking the daily casualty list from Europe and the Pacific, praying and hoping that each trip down to the courthouse would not bear the unbearable news.

My parents, likewise, opened the small-town weekly newspaper to see the names of their high school classmates who were killed or wounded in a far-off place called Vietnam.

However, I had been spared that pain... until Tyler Brown. For everything else Tyler was to me—a colleague, a patriot, a friend—he became the first person I ever knew to die in combat.

I am certain that no matter how long I live, whenever I hear of a soldier falling in service to his or her country, I will think immediately of Tyler. And that's a silver lining... for Tyler's life was a life well-lived.

Tyler Brown wasn't supposed to be president of the student body. And I wasn't supposed to be vice president.

But there we were, two Ivan Allen majors in a sea of engineers. In some ways, we appeared to be the odd couple—Tyler, in his crisp polo shirts and perfectly creased khakis, behind an immaculately clean desk; and me, in a T-shirt and whatever jeans I thought were clean, behind two cluttered tables.

At first we talked exclusively about student government issues, about the budget or even parliamentary procedure. As the weeks progressed, though, we spoke of why we came to Tech. Tyler certainly possessed the pedigree; his father served as student body president, as well. But he never rested on those laurels.

Tyler wanted to leave something

meaningful, something tangible behind... not as a legacy to himself, but as a thank you to the Institute.

Many will contend that the running loop will be that legacy. I prefer to think of the astounding number of new students, particularly freshmen, who Tyler involved in SGA.

Tyler truly had a long-range leadership vision: involve freshmen early, train them and stand back and watch the good things they will do both at Tech and beyond. They were and continue to be his living legacy.

Eventually as winter turned to spring, Tyler and I discussed his impending commission. He held no obligation to serve in the U.S. Army, save for the moral one he placed upon himself.

He truly, fervently believed that his country—her ideals and her people—were worth defending.

Tyler never expressed to me the first qualm about donning the uniform.

He knew the inherent dangers, but as he said during one of our late-night conversations, "I feel called to serve my country."

For no matter one's opinion on this war or war in general, no one can rightly argue that Tyler did not serve his country well. He believed in his mission and in his men. In his mind—and in mine—he died fighting for our liberty and our freedom.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "When Duty whispers low, 'Thou must,' The youth replies, 'I can.'" When duty called, Tyler raised his hand above the pack and said, "Send me."

Chris Young  
SGA vice president, '99-'00  
[CYoung@gov.state.ga.us](mailto:CYoung@gov.state.ga.us)

## Alcohol from page 11

risk drinking and the second hand effects without penalizing the entire community.

We don't delude ourselves into thinking that only people 21 and older drink and that everyone stops before they have too much. Nor do we believe that strict laws will never be broken. What we do believe is that through trial and error we will find ways to change an environment that encourages abusive drinking and misconduct to one where people will obey reasonable laws and still have a good time. It's hard work and we always appreciate volunteers! For more information about GT Smart please visit our website at [www.gtsmart.gatech.edu](http://www.gtsmart.gatech.edu) or call 404-385-1396.

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