

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, October 6, 2000

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Uphold the Honor Code

Although students appear to be more aware of the honor code, we often fail to challenge violations when we see them. Simply put, students must confront cheaters. The honor code relies on peer enforcement and without such intervention its benefits will never be fully realized. Honest students are penalized when cheaters break the curve.

Furthermore, many professors remain uninformed about honor code specifics. Students must take initiative and insist that professors provide sample questions for tests and quizzes. Greek organizations provide access to such “word” to their members, so the code’s stipulation gives all students an equal opportunity to excel. Most professors who fail to fulfill this obligation are not trying to shaft students in new and creative ways; they are simply ignorant of the requirement.

Students can no longer wait for professors to enforce the honor code. We need to hold our peers and our professors to a higher level of responsibility. Only then will Tech realize her full potential as a true academic community.

What is hazing?

Social Greeks are held to a different standard when it comes to hazing violations as evidenced by recent proceedings against Pi Kappa Phi. Greeks receive a disproportionate amount of criticism and suspicion in regards to hazing simply because a sanctioning model exists within IFC but not for other organizations. Why is what is considered tradition and teambuilding in some organizations considered hazing in others? These discriminatory standards cannot continue—they need to be addressed. Hazing is a growing issue on campus that every student must contemplate. What do you consider hazing? Where do you draw the line? These questions have gone unanswered for too long—it’s time to take a stand.

Give us condoms!

A freshman hall council’s recent initiative to distribute free condoms in Glenn and Cloudman dorms deserves praise. While the Health Center and Women’s Resource Center currently provide free condoms, more convenient distribution centers will allow students to obtain them in the heat of the moment. The housing administration’s rotten attempt to stifle such creative problem solving is eclipsed only by its attempt to stonewall the *Technique*.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

Crusade apologizes for confusion over Foxworthy show publicity

Since last Thursday’s Jeff Foxworthy event, Campus Crusade for Christ has been questioned regarding some of the materials used for publicity. It was an unintentional mistake that the organization’s name was not placed on some of the publications surrounding the event.

Though the oversight was not made on all publications, the banner at the Student Center and the fliers in the undergraduate dorms did not have the organi-

zation’s name. Some students felt that Crusade deliberately misrepresented the nature of the program. This was not our intention. In the attempt to publicize the event to the masses, these were unfortunate oversights. We would sincerely like to apologize to anyone who felt deceived by attending this event.

Christy Wright
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Quote of the week:

“If you can’t be with the one you love, honey, love the one you’re with” —Stills

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YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Student fees not here to fund religion

The SGA has recently approved funding for the Campus Crusade for Christ to host Jeff Foxworthy for a testimonial at the First Center. This is a misuse of Student activity funds, and I want to encourage students and their elected representatives in SGA to oppose similar future efforts.

Mr. Foxworthy has been invited to campus to give this testimonial which is religious in nature. I do not have a problem with religion on campus, and in fact I encourage religion in general. However, I believe we should oppose using mandatory fees to promote religious views, especially at a public university. Even though the Supreme Court has affirmed the use of student fees to support political and religious cam-

pus organizations, we should say no. Separation of church and state was an integral issue to the founding fathers of the United States.

There are many worthy efforts that increase the intellectual climate on campus. This is not one. A testimonial for any religion (or political cause for that matter) is an inappropriate expenditure. Rather than offend one student through a provocative grant, SGA should carefully spend its budget, which is a budget that we all have to pay for in order to register for class. Our ever-increasing student fees are being wasted on inappropriate activities. I was unable to convince my colleagues in the Graduate Student Senate to vote against this bill.

If Campus Crusade wants to hear

Mr. Foxworthy speak, raise money. The same should apply to every religious or political organization. But please do not use our fees to support an event that is obviously meant to promote religion.

Georgia Tech is not affiliated with any religion, and mandatory fees should never be used to promote it. The intelligent students here have many options of where to attend school, and there is no shortage of religiously affiliated institutions of higher learning they could have gone to if they wanted to pay for religious programs. We should strive not to exclude or alienate large groups of students.

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Editorial Art Condom Distribution

FRIDAY NIGHT AT GLENN DORM...



By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Pay teachers better to improve education profession

Low income of educators causes people to shy away from the field into careers with less potential to improve the nation; increase pay to increae teacher quality and quantity

A recent local news headline proclaimed, "Raises top teacher groups' requests". Further digging into this "\$1 billion plan" revealed that the raises were ridiculously skewed towards the upper end of the experience scale. How surprising—the proposal was set forth by the Georgia Association of Educators, which is presumably comprised of experienced teachers. While several categories of experienced teachers were given proposed raises between 25-80%, the lowest category, the beginners with an education degree received a proposed raise of 10% to \$29,800 a year. Who's looking out for what's best for the system instead of their own best interest?

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Education is being treated as a third class profession, when it is easily one of the most vital jobs in ensuring the continued prosperity of our country. Engineering professions boast starting salaries of nearly double the figure for teachers, and for what? Engineers simply design and improve products to make our lives marginally easier. We could arguably do without many of these products and never know the difference. My life would probably be MORE enriched had I not had a Nintendo to suck up my time as a child. On the other hand, we entrust an entire year of our children's lives, a year of their intellectual development to these people, and pay them scarcely enough to live on. With just one bad year of education, the course of a child's life can be changed forever—failure to learn fundamentals of

"Poorly funded education will produce poorly educated students... setting a cycle of mediocrity into motion."

Rob Kischuk
Sports Editor



math or English can carry a ripple effect to cripple a child's potential in adulthood. It would seem we would want the countries brightest and best teaching our children in schools, and some still do out of heart-felt conviction to dedicate their lives to proper education. Still, undoubtedly, many potential educators are turned off to the field because of sub-standard compensation.

The choice is to set in motion an upward spiral, or continue a downward spiral, and the determining factors will be money and a commitment to excellence. Money without commitment is a waste, and verbalized commitment without funding is an empty promise. In Hillsborough County, Florida, there were no new high schools opened between 1981 and 1998, with nearly a 25% increase in public school enrollment in the same period. The result is overcrowded schools and experimental programs such as "split sessions", where juniors and seniors attend school in the morning and freshmen and sophomores attend in the afternoon. If being done by lunch is a good program for students, then move the schedule ear-

lier for all students, don't use its merits as an excuse to gloss over poor growth planning. While many students enjoy the freedom of getting up late or being out of school by noon, it is destructive to extra-curricular sports and clubs, removing role models from the view of younger students, inconveniencing clubs that have members from both groups, and hampering the athletic progress of exceptional young athletes. Recently, two new schools were opened, and they are already overcrowded as well—they are now paying the price of not growing the school system with the population, having to build even more schools, but students are paying the real price.

Poorly funded education will produce poorly educated students. These students become the teachers of tomorrow, setting a cycle of mediocrity into motion. While exceptional students will still rise to the top, and some of them will go into education with the desire to better society, this will be the exception rather than the rule. Schools should aspire to be the employer of choice for graduates, with more aspiring teachers than there are jobs

to fill. By making the job more desirable, schools will have their pick of the top talent, with no need to hire anyone who is less than qualified. Only then can we reverse the current trends of declining test scores and begin to raise the quality of education in our country. Students will graduate smarter than the generation before them, and if education continues to lure the brightest and best, the path to excellence is obvious.

On a less drastic note, it is also important to pay attention to the situation of current teachers, who report job stress levels at all-time highs and feel more under-appreciated than ever. Current pay raise opponents demand results before they sign off on bigger checks. Any monkey with an industrial psychology will tell you, however, that performance is strongly correlated with feelings of job satisfaction. As long as our teachers are underpaid in poor working environments with their hands tied from being effective by funding and policy, asking this from them is adding insult to injury. Work studies have shown that people who feel underpaid are more likely to also underperform. Is the classroom supposed to be some exception case? Hardly.

The problem is neglect. As populations have grown, funding for new schools and school programs have not increased as is necessary, and teacher salaries have increased at a rate well below that of other

See Pay, page 12

Evaluating our responsibility as a college newspaper

Dedication, difficult decisions a daily part of serving the Georgia Tech community

At the *Technique*, we are faced with legal and ethical decisions on a weekly basis. What news stories and items are appropriate to print? How should we cover sensitive issues? How do we decide what is important—and what's not important—when we allocate coverage? How do we balance coverage requests from campus groups given our space limitations and overall coverage goals? On a fundamental level, how do we decide what information to print and how to portray it?

The answers to these questions rarely come easily, but by repeatedly asking ourselves what motivates our coverage we—and our readers—are better able to understand the decisions we ultimately make. We set high standards for ourselves and diligently strive to reach those goals. Each week, we believe that the paper provides timely, accurate, and important news to the Georgia Tech community.

But we don't always live up to our aspirations. We're all too human in that respect, and it's easy for us to simply overlook an important angle or take the easy way out by not digging as deeply as we should. But we try. We constantly critique ourselves, and we enjoy hearing your ideas for improvement. In fact, feedback from students is something we take quite seriously, but it's something we rarely receive. Students almost never write to tell us what they think of the paper.

"What precedents are being set by something as simple as an evening physics quiz, or by something as complex as SAC II?"

Chris Baucom
Editor-in-Chief



We want to hear from you. We can't possibly canvas every inch of this campus and the wealth of diverse and interesting events that make Tech such a great place. So, tell us what types of issues you want to see covered in news and campus life. Tell us what types of movies, music, and features you want to read in entertainment. Tell us how to liven up the sports section. After all, we're supposed to be "The South's Liveliest College Newspaper." Help us live up to our name, because we can't do it alone.

A newspaper's most basic function is to provide information about the community to the community. The community can be a global one or a local one; in our case, the community is the Georgia Tech campus.

Our coverage should be neutral. All stories should present all sides of the issue, and opinions should be strictly reserved for the opinions section.

Good news writers don't make value judgements. Statements on

the "goodness" or "badness" of an issue are made in the form of quotes from members of the Tech community, and if different perspectives are available then all should be represented in the story. Any factual information contained in a story should be completely accurate.

Furthermore, writers who have a potential conflict of interest do not write stories where such a conflict could cloud their judgement and be manifested in their article. While we completely trust our writers to report news fairly and free of personal biases, we also are highly sensitive about the integrity of our work. We don't want any reader to question our coverage because of who covered it or the perceived slant a reporter took.

Daily we strive to ask difficult questions and probe deeper into the heart of campus issues. Why are certain decisions made on campus? How do they affect students? What are the long-term ramifications of the actions we take today? What precedents are being set by some-

thing as simple as an evening physics quiz, or by something as complex as charging students for the capital investment in SAC II?

We don't have all the answers, and we never will. But we attempt to bring such issues into the campus consciousness by simply asking the questions and presenting what answers we do have.

Even though we strive to be fair and accurate in our coverage, the fact that we make discrete decisions either to cover or not to cover certain events introduces an element of editorial control. As editors, that's part of our job description. First, we attempt to decide what's important on campus, and then, to the best of our abilities, we cover the issues we feel are important.

Because Tech is a diverse environment, the issues we find important may not necessarily be the same issues you, other students, or the administration find important. If this is the case, let us know. Send an e-mail to a section editor letting her know how you feel. Send a letter to the editor for publication in the paper. Or better yet, come get involved and make changes from the inside.

We are a work in progress. We are motivated by an intense desire to make Tech a better place, because we see the great things Tech is and the wonderful things Tech could become. And, in the end, we are honored to serve you.

TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"
Established in 1911

Editor-in-Chief
Chris Baucom

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The *Technique* welcome all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters should be hand-delivered, mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, or e-mailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu. Letters should be addressed to Chris Baucom, Editor. All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 350 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.

Contacting Us

editor@technique.gatech.edu

MORE VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Keep consensus for serious issues, not fluff

“Jokes” do not belong on the Editorial page. Neither does your September 29 consensus opinion. Your personal lives should not be masquerading as the newspaper’s official opinion.

Furthermore, while the idea of running “reasons for dating” as editorial opinion is crass in itself, the *Technique* crossed the line into unprofessionalism by printing names as part of their consensus.

Did the Editorial Board really have nothing else to consense about? Your definition of what is worthy to appear as your editori-

al opinion makes me question the credibility of your editorial opinion. I would have much preferred to read the *Technique*’s thoughts on a bus to Buckhead (article on page 13 of the same issue) than the phone numbers of the unattached members of the Editorial Board.

I could even have stood to read a consensus about dating had it been handled in a mature, professional manner. The *Technique* is not a high school publication, so please don’t treat it like one.

As part of the student newspaper, you are in an incredible

position to influence changes on campus and bring important issues to light. You really can serve as the voice of the student body. Instead, you chose to reduce the heart of your newspaper to something cheap.

Please take your responsibility as Georgia Tech journalists seriously. Please use the Editorial page for its expressed purpose and leave your inside jokes, your love lives, and your slams at exes to your sliver boxes.

Huda Kazi
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Pay

from page 11

professions since 1995, even as the results of this neglect were increasing at an alarming rate. With already below-par salaries, we are worsening the problem by allowing the pay discrepancy with other fields to widen. This money would be a fine investment as well. More educated adults will lower unemployment and decrease the need for entitlement programs, as a greater percent of the population is enabled to provide for themselves and even plan for their own medical care and retirement, without the assistance of the government.

Let me sum it up. We are doing our nation an inexcusable disservice by allowing our education system to falter. Effective teachers should be our most valuable commodity,

as their impact on today’s youth drastically affects the potential of an entire generation. We should make the field so appealing that there are more qualified, aspiring educators than there are jobs to fill. Industry should be filled with the leftovers, after education has hired away all of the top students. Facilities and curricula should be supplemented similarly, providing educators with top-rate equipment and facilities to work their craft. Until the ignorance and neglect are peeled back, our future will continue to slip downwards, further and further from our amazing potential.

As a future teacher, the Opinions Editor totally agrees.

Send letters to the editor to opinions@technique.gatech.edu

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Depart from the norm, carefully

Just say “yes” to unconventional consensus editorials. I say bravo to the intrepid editors who chose to depart from the standard commentary on Tech administration and politics, often beyond the comprehension and cares of us students. Now, dating (or the absence thereof) is something to which I can relate! However, the execution of last week’s editorial leaves much to be desired. When I do something risky, I am more careful to do it well, so as to avoid disaster. Before taking the risk of skydiving, I would put tremendous effort in doing it well because the consequence of sloppy execution could be fatal. Likewise, before diving into an offbeat editorial for the first time, you should have simply done a more solid and creative job in writing it well. In this case, the consequence is

nowhere near fatal, but your reputation is on the line. I suspect many *Technique* fans were disappointed in last week’s consensus opinion. After all the yelling and screaming has stopped, you are still a well-written and knowledgeable voice of the students. Yet, like you said, you are a school publication. And school publications, especially editorials, have the obligation to break the mold. During my five-year tenure here, the *Technique* has gone from a lighthearted, shallow newspaper to a respectable, but over-serious publication. On that note, perhaps a happy medium would be to weave some fun, yet true social commentary into your standard editorials.

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MORE VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Foxworthy “performance” misleading

I was mildly interested upon seeing the flyers advertising Brett Butler and Jeff Foxworthy. It seemed that they’d paid two talented comedians to perform at Tech. I was obviously not alone in my interest as the advertising campaign managed to fill up most of the First Center. Then I was blindsided; it seems that whole part about “sharing talent and lives” actually meant preaching for Jesus and God. The Campus Crusade for Christ had just pulled a fast one on an entire auditorium of people, and they’d done it using SGA funding. Not that it was vitally important to use SGA funding, part of the performers’ before mentioned “talent” was to point out frequently that it was by mission of God, and not pay, that they were there. But thank goodness! They were quick to let us know all that personal doubt

and insecurity we felt was not normal teenage angst, but lack of Jesus Christ in our lives. Well this must have come as quite a shock to all of the non-Christian students who had come out to enjoy a night of comedy. Jeff Foxworthy was still hilarious for the 20 minutes he actually performed, even though I kept hoping he wouldn’t break into the religious message that he ultimately did. He at least seemed considerably more down to Earth than the previous speakers. I’m not protesting the message sent by the presenters, but it was offensively misplaced. This event was very directly about religion, and was not at all considerate of students with different beliefs. The presenters addressed us like we’d answered a “save-my-soul” hotline when in actuality a great deal of us had just been tricked into attending

via clever marketing. My objection is that a Student Government funded presentation insulted a large part of the student body while trying to recruit any that weren’t disgusted out-right. It was a school sponsored event with a direct message about why each and every one of us should heed this “divine appointment” and “take Christ into our lives.” I thought that funding from the Student Government wouldn’t be used to masquerade something onto campus as potentially offensive as a Klan rally. But what’s worse is that by virtue of being school endorsed it appeared as something intended for general consumption. Georgia Tech has been commended many times for its minority relations, but it’s a shame that religious minorities can’t get the same respect. James Hays
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OPINIONS
share some

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