

OPINIONS

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TECHNIQUE

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Quote of the week:

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."—Henry Ford

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

A sour note

Music is a vital part of the educational and cultural enrichment for many Tech students. This nearly indisputable fact is a component of the power struggle that has arisen between the Student Government Association (SGA) and the administration over who owns the fiscal responsibility to ensure the continued life of the Music Department.

SGA announced at this week's meeting that they will no longer provide the \$50,000 that is usually given yearly to the Music Department. Instead, in an effort to relinquish their support of the department and force the administration or another entity to pick up the tab, the senators and representatives have agreed to fund \$26,000 to float the department through the fall semester.

Through this dispute, it is the Music Department that stands to lose the most, and it is unfortunate that it was put in the middle of a budgetary battle. It was, however, considerate of SGA to fulfill their previously assumed financial promise for at least one more semester, instead of following the Joint Finance Committee's recommendation to slash funds immediately. Delaying the cut will at least give the department time to find alternate sources of funding, without leaving them suddenly with no options.

The uniqueness of this situation, though, makes any solution a difficult one. The administration should pay for more of the Music Department's needs, especially since the department has been transforming into more of an academic entity, moving away from its early structure as a collection of music-related student organizations. Since a component of the department is still geared towards students who are not in music classes but want to pursue their interest in music as an extra-curricular activity, similar to a sports club, then SGA should be willing to shoulder a limited amount of financial responsibility for making such opportunities available.

Furthermore, SGA is currently funding things like sheet music and instrument repairs, items that students and schools are required to pay for in other areas—for example, Modern Languages students buy their own language texts. In order to make the music situation equitable, while still addressing the ambiguous position and role of the Music Department, the majority of its funding must be allocated from a resource other than SGA.

The administration must recognize how important this issue is, and use this time to create a monetarily sustainable plan that will allow the Music Department to survive and continue to grow, adding to the diversity and culture at the Institute.

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 Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Travel, work, *live* your way through college

When I attended my first class at Georgia Tech on August 23, 1999, I could not envision my graduation date. I was fresh out of high school (when some of you reading this were just starting high school), missing my friends back home terribly, and I had at least four years at Tech ahead of me. I knew what my goal was—to graduate college—but I had no idea what path I would take to get there.

College is a great middle ground—you have more independence than high school, but you're not thrown out to live completely on your own. I absolutely loved that when I started college. No parents to tell me when to be home, no one forcing me to attend classes—it was great! Of course, the novelty wore off quickly and I discovered that I could more greatly benefit from my new found independence.

Late in my freshman year, I decided to try out the cooperative education program because my dad had co-oped in college. It was a decision I made on a whim, but it turned out to be one of the best decisions of my college career. While I disliked my first job, I absolutely loved my second job, and it provided me with invaluable industry and business experience.

I got a much-needed break from school every other semester, and I earned much more money than I could have earned at a part-time job. I was able to live independently, without much assistance from my parents, which was a great feeling, and was also great preparation for the real world. Most importantly, my co-op experience helped me get a great full-time job for after graduation.

I also took advantage of the freedom by traveling as much as possible. I studied abroad during the spring of 2002, which was undoubtedly the best experience of my life. I trav-



"Enjoy your freedom. Take advantage of your independence by experiencing everything possible."

Julia Trapold
Advertising Manager

eled to Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Hong Kong with 50 other Tech students.

Not only did I get to visit these incredible places without having to plan a single thing, I earned 12 course credits. I also made many new friends, some of whom I still remain close to. Besides the study abroad program, I took trips to Boston, Miami, Las Vegas, Washington DC, the Blue Ridge Mountains, Pennsylvania and northern Florida at least eight times.

Sometimes I didn't have the time or money to travel, so I explored Atlanta. Unlike most schools, we are blessed with a beautiful campus in the middle of a thriving metropolis, so I took advantage of the city around us.

Many Georgia residents overlook the plethora of opportunities that Atlanta provides, simply because they grew up here. But there are endless restaurants, shops and neighborhoods to explore.

When I wasn't working or traveling, I dedicated free time to organizations and activities that I enjoyed. Obviously, I enjoy working for the *Technique*, which I joined my freshman year. I have been an editor four different times and have loved every minute of it. I have made great friends through the newspaper that I may otherwise never have met. Also, working for the newspaper has given me a creative outlet from the technical rigors of Tech.

Now, here I am, almost five years

after I first set foot on Georgia Tech's campus, getting ready to graduate. I have survived the numerous shafts at Tech, and I've actually enjoyed most of my time here. And while it is exciting to move on and begin my life in the real world, it will also be sad to leave everything and everyone at Tech behind.

In a mere 15 days, I will be a Georgia Tech graduate; I will become officially independent. Luckily, I have had lots of practice, so I should be fine. But I'm not quite ready to end my freedom, so I'm taking several weeks off before beginning my job.

I will travel to Rhode Island with my mom, Italy with a friend and Pittsburgh to visit friends and family. Once I return, I will be a "real person," as my roommate says. I will earn income, and I will have to pay for health insurance and do my taxes and handle all those things that I've let my parents do for the past 23 years. It's scary, but it's also liberating, and I feel that I'm prepared.

My advice to you is to enjoy your freedom. Take advantage of your independence by experiencing everything possible, which I feel I've accomplished. Make the most of your time here at Tech, because once you graduate, everything will change. College provides us with an alternate universe in which we're adults but without the responsibilities, which provides endless opportunities.

Friendships key to good college experience

So here it is, my last *Technique* editorial, my swan song, if you will. And as is true with most of my previous trips down this editorial route, my mind is full of things I want to say without any idea of how to say them. Therefore, much like I did four years ago when my journey with the *Nique* first started, I'll just jump right in and see where my thoughts lead me.



"Don't let class (or anything, for that matter) get in the way of your education."

Tony Kleumper
Editor in Chief

At this point, not only is my life as the editor of the *Technique* coming to an end, but before me lays one of the greatest changes I have faced in my young life. In less than 15 days, I will be a graduate of Ma Tech and yet this realization hasn't quite hit me. With the numerous tests and major projects that are currently breathing down my neck (who decided to make graduating senior take finals?), I haven't had time to honestly sit down and process the fact that my life is changing and I won't be returning to familiarity of campus in the fall.

Thankfully, this editorial has given me the chance to take this time to sit back and reflect. When I started the path that led me to Tech, I had no idea how far it would lead me. I was the typical naïve freshman who thought he knew it all.

School was first and foremost and everything else came a distant second. I came to Tech to

gain the skills needed for employment, and now I leave Tech with the skills needed to become a better person. This school and my experiences have changed me in ways I never expected.

For me relationships had little impact on my life as an incoming freshman. At the time I was leaving behind all of my friends, my family and everything familiar, and yet the changes only affected me slightly. But now as I begin to embark on a similar journey to everything unfamiliar, I am almost scared to leave behind the friendships and relationships I have gained in my time here.

I've come to the realization that relationships are essential and make life a little more bearable. Of course, in my time at the *Technique*, it became clear that relationships, with both fellow students and administrators, were necessary to keep the entire Tech community informed with fair and balanced reporting. However, the importance of relationships extends far beyond simple reporting.

In the end, it's all about the people who make up the relationships. On the surface, making contacts and "networking" appears superficial—basically using people to get what you want. This is the way I looked at things before coming to Tech. Now I realize that it's important to know the people and develop these relationships even if there is no obvious initial benefit.

In the end, the working relationships I have acquired with the people I interviewed through reporting for the *Technique* are no more important than the ones I have gained through getting to know my staff and my friends. The closeness exhibited in these relationships have enabled me to grow as a person and give back to those same people. And therein lies the benefit to putting relationships first.

Often the outgoing editor uses

his last editorial to offer advice to the student body, and if I was to offer my wisdom it would revolve around making relationships and putting people first. Grades are important but they shouldn't be what your life revolves around. Grades can't cheer you up with a late night trip to Waffle House or listen to you when you just need to talk things over. Your friends are the ones who are there for you in this situation, and therefore it's important to develop these friendships.

And even if you fail to get involved in student organizations or strike out on that attempt at a 4.0 (or even a 3.0), if you take the time to make relationships and invest the additional time it takes to develop them I can almost guarantee you won't be disappointed with your college experience. Because in 30 years you probably won't remember what grade you made in Fluid Mechanics, but you will likely remember the friends you made.

And now it all comes to an end: my life at Tech, my experience with the *Technique* and this editorial. To end I would like to offer a piece of somewhat clichéd advice that summarizes my experiences and lessons learned in the past four years: don't let class (or anything for that matter) get in the way of your education.

OUR VIEWS Hot or Not

HOT-or-NOT



Jake's is joggable

With a new Jake's opening across Tenth St. from West Campus this summer, students should watch their waists. The irresistible draw of Chocolate Slap Yo' Mama on a hot day is sure to cause many to make the quick trip, even from East Campus. Even better, Tech students were given the opportunity to help plan the layout of the store. We'd give up the Howell Mill location anytime for this locale.



GT Messages

Getting several official-looking "GT Message" emails in the span of a few days is not hot, especially when the emails are about events that should be sent out through organization lists. Official-looking Georgia Tech email should pertain only to news items like school closings, messages from President Clough and Final Four celebration information. We get enough spam, please stop the email abuse!



Hemphill opened up

No matter the reason, it's hot that Hemphill Apartments has been opened up for undergraduates to live in next year. The recent change marks the first time in the building's history that undergrads will be given the opportunity to live in the traditionally grad-filled apartments during the regular school year.



Sparxxx is nasty

When Bubba Sparxxx played at Yellow Jacket park last week, he took his shirt off (but did not whip it around his head like a helicopter); this was definitely not hot. This lowlight in an otherwise excellent Sting Break caused most concertgoers to shield their eyes and let out a collective, "ewwww."

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Sorority encouraged to lie

By Britt Heck
The Maneater

(U-WIRE) University of Missouri—After a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority at the University of Missouri sent an email demanding that members lie about their health history for the Greek Week blood drive Wednesday and Thursday, Greek Life coordinators discussed changing future drives and planned to place sanctions on involved chapters.

Greek Week spokeswoman Lauren Tischler said Greek Life coordinators and administrators will form a task force this summer to plan ways to improve blood donation education.

She said Greek coordinators will place sanctions on the chapters involved that will affect the results of their participation in this year's blood drive.

She said she thinks Greek students have lost the true meaning

of blood donation because they focus too much on the competition.

The email, sent by sophomore Christie Key, emphasized the importance of chapter participation for the sake of winning the Greek Week competition.

"I don't care if you got a tattoo last week—LIE," the email stated. "I don't care if you have a cold. Suck it up. We all do. LIE—Even if you are going to use the 'Do Not Use My Blood' sticker, GIVE ANYWAY."

A news release issued Monday from Gamma Phi Beta's international headquarters apologized for the email, which it said Key sent without the approval of chapter leadership.

"Gamma Phi Beta does not condone misleading health officials or pressuring sisters into donating blood," according to

See *Blood*, page 10

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 Tony Kleumper, Editor-in-Chief.

All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at www.nique.net. 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 should be directed to Marcus Kwok at (404) 894-9187, or Rosemary 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, visit <http://nique.net/storguide.pdf>.

BUZZ Around the Campus

When do you plan to start studying for finals?



Ravi Lachhman
STAC Freshman

"We have finals again?"



Raghav Kohli
EE Freshman

"I should probably start studying this second if I want to be at Tech next semester."



Purvi Patel
ChemE Freshman

"Ummm...next week?"



Michelle Lightfoot
BME Sophomore

"Dead week or finals week, haven't thought that far ahead."

Photos by Scott Meuleners

Through the looking glass

Reminiscing on beginnings, endings and the in-between

When I walk around Georgia Tech this spring, I am amazed how different the campus is than when I arrived six years ago as a college freshman.

I still see bright-eyed pre-freshes walking around for their tours, sulen sophomores who have clearly learned some of Tech's harder lessons, the ebullient seniors who are on their way out, and graduate students surfacing from their labs for a breath of fresh air.

I see the never-ending construction that tries to keep up with the elusive master plan, and I even see the same guys working at Junior's. Somehow, though, everything is different.

The room where I learned freshman psychology has been demolished in favor of green space and an ethereal Undergraduate Learning Center; the professors who taught my father are quickly retiring; and every class I now have depends on technology that was developed in the last three years. My fellow students have gone from being older, to the same age, and now are younger than me.

Parking and housing now try to charge me nearly double the original fees (despite the slow inflation of past years!) and even Varsity chili dogs come at a premium.

I've spent the typical time developing as an engineer, dropping in many of the common pitfalls along the way. Experiencing each of the

opportunities at school was my goal coming into college—I have learned some neat stuff, shared some with others as an instructor, helped guide the changes on campus via campus organizations, and gained many friends along the way.

More distinct than a feeling of being in different surroundings is the realization that I am viewing Georgia Tech through a much more acute set of lenses.

My experiences while at Georgia Tech have shaped how I view the campus, my friends, my career prospects, and most importantly, myself.

Looking into the mirror, I see a different person staring back at me than I knew before: replacing indecision and inexperience is a sack full of knowledge and many more questions than when I began.

To complete this swan song, I'll give a few random bits of advice that are summarized in a all-time top 10 list.

10. Learn quickly about humility and don't let it bite you on the backside. There will always be someone smarter or better at whatever

you do, so you should simply be happy with the fruits of your effort.

9. Open your eyes to new experiences with not only interest and tolerance, but also a measure of personal restraint. Trying random things can be worthwhile, and yet some lines can never be uncrossed.

8. Take your classes seriously. An easy 'A' is worthless except in padding an already inflated—and ultimately meaningless—G.P.A. figure. A good education beats resume fodder any day.

7. Spend at least one semester overseas. Learn the language, explore the culture and find out how the rest of the world ticks. Gain some understanding for world affairs and why a drought or seasonal disease on another continent does affect you directly.

6. If you don't like something at Georgia Tech, speak up! Policies are reasonably easy to change with a little constructive forethought.

5. Work at least one semester as an intern or co-op. Don't wait un-

til you already have a degree to find out you don't like your discipline.

4. Learn to deal with and effectively fight the system. Educational politics are just a stepping stone into the real world, so gamble with these low stakes, building experience for the real game.

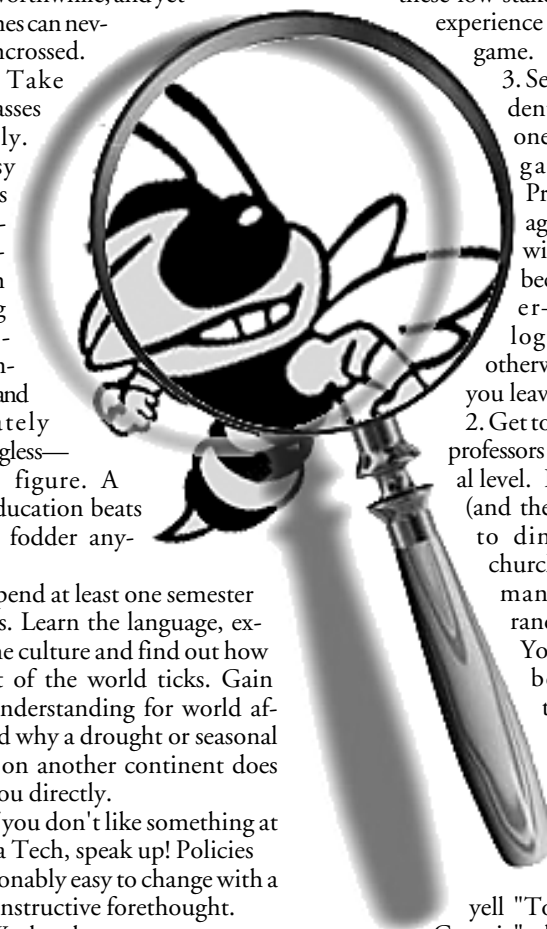
3. Serve as president for at least one student organization. Practical management skills will help you become a leader—technological or otherwise—when you leave.

2. Get to know your professors on a personal level. Invite them (and their families) to dinner, your church, a performance or just random chats. You will learn better and they will (usually) teach better as a result.

1. Proudly yell "To Hell with Georgia" whenever you feel the urge.



ALAN MICHAELS
COLUMNIST



Blood

from page 9

the news release.

Gamma Phi Beta President Shannon Wisniewski said Key had not attended chapter meetings that discussed donation safety. She said as soon as Key sent the email, she sent a follow-up email rectifying the first. Wisniewski said Gamma Phi Beta will make a financial contribution to the American Red Cross and conduct a meeting for its members to emphasize the importance of donation.

American Red Cross spokesman Jim Williams said the donated blood undergoes testing at a national lab to guarantee its safety.

"Even if someone was a little dishonest on their health history, the blood will not be affected," Williams said.

"That is our mission; to make sure there are adequate units of blood."

He said such situations can occur at any blood drive, not just during universities' Greek Weeks, which promote healthy competition among chapters.

"College-age students are typically in good health anyway," Williams said. "It is kind of being blown out of proportion."

"We are in this for a life-saving mission, not a competition," Williams said. "If we save just one life, it is worth it, even if (donors) are dishonest."

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs said, "I am sure there are students who looked at that email were disappointed with it."