

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Tuition masked as fees

Increasing fees hurt student body more than tuition

The Board of Regents recently imposed an increase of the Special Institutional Fee, better known as the Academic Excellence Fee, upon the universities in the University System of Georgia, including Tech. While this course of action is reasonable in these budgetary times, the methodology in which it was executed could prove to be problematic in the long term. The current format of many scholarships, including HOPE, and waivers for graduates provide no coverage for fees. The expansion in the SIF will end up coming straight out of the students' own pockets. The Board of Regents' decision is an underhanded way of making up for the budget cuts in the form of a raise in tuition through fees, hurting the student body.

Given the questionable nature of the fee, it is necessary for the Institute to clarify the specific purposes of the fees imposed. The Board of Regents' action is an attempt to increase fees but not tuition in order to keep the HOPE scholarship

sustainable. While the graduate SGA audibly voiced their displeasure with the Board of Regents' action, undergraduate SGA was disappointingly quiet about the issue. The increased fee is a collective liability that ultimately leaves the student body feeling powerless and, as a result, apathetic to the issues that affect them. Both branches of SGA must take a leading role in the opposition to any more increases to the SIF, as is their job as representatives of the student body.

The fees being charged at Tech are currently climbing into the top percentages of the Institute's peer schools. This action by the Board of Regents will leave a negative impression on both the Institute and the University System as a whole from the perspective of prospective undergraduate and graduate students. Such taxing trends should be rolled back as soon as possible, and a more traditional structure should be reinstated when charging students.

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

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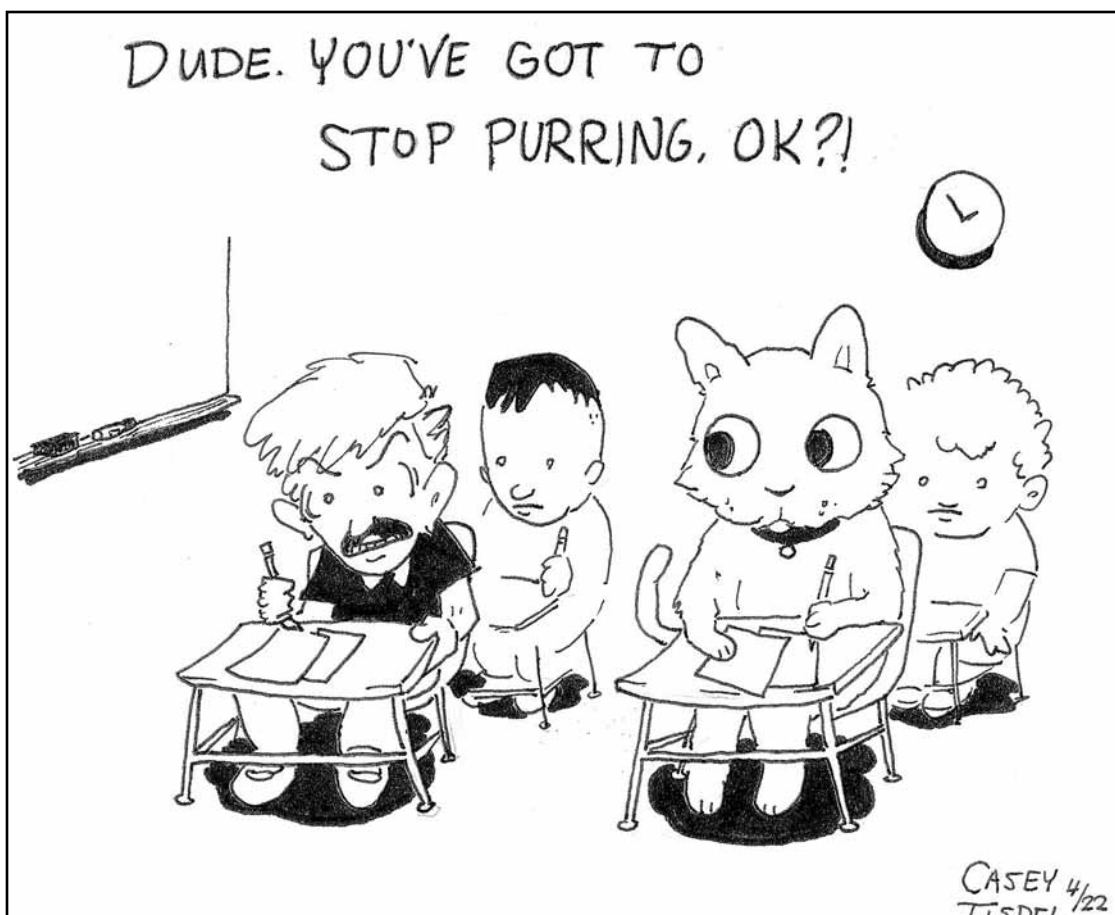
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EDITORIAL CARTOON BY CASEY TISDEL



YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BoR deceitful with fee increase

As a graduating senior at Tech, tuition and fee increases largely don't affect me anymore. I also recognize the budget constraints and difficulties of the State of Georgia. Even so, the deceitful manner in which the BoR raised fees and tuition is insulting. Tuition is only increasing by three percent, but a \$350 fee increase on top of that (at Tech at least) equates to an effective tuition increase of more than 12 percent.

These fees go toward "academic excellence"... isn't that what tuition is for? If it walks like a tuition increase, quacks like a tuition increase and looks like a tuition increase, it ought to be called a tuition increase. So, next time tuition needs to be increased, please call it what it actually is. We're still students, and we're still learning, but we can definitely hold our own when it comes to elementary mathematics.

Matthew Redmond
Fourth-year ME

Medical advice should come from doctor

I find it horrifying that a student at our Institution is offer-

ing medical advice in a column ["Medication" printed April 15]. Simply hopping on the "we are over-medicated" bandwagon without any facts or research combined with vague half truths about Albert Einstein is a horrible disservice to everyone who reads it. Many take medication because they actually do need it, and discussed the matter with their DOCTOR, not the editor of the *Technique*. Perhaps a more relevant article would have been about the issue of blatant abuse

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Time to give back to Technique



"The *Technique* should serve as a voice for the student body and ask tough questions on its behalf to report the truth."

Vijai Narayanan
News Editor

When I take over as editor-in-chief of the *Technique* in the fall, I will have the tremendous honor of leading the organization during its 97th volume of publication and its 100th year of existence as a student organization. While I am sure that I am deserving of such a great privilege, I look forward to tackling the challenges and opportunities that present themselves over the course of the year.

The *Technique* plays a vital role in informing the student body about important events affecting the students' lives on- and off-campus. This includes important decisions taken by campus administrators and student leaders, as well as changes undertaken at the local, state or national level. As the current news editor, I have worked with an extremely dedicated staff to provide the most accurate and unbiased information to the Tech community. Whether I have accomplished that goal is something for you, the reader, to

decide.

Looking ahead, I hope to implement a series of changes within the organization that will help us improve the quality of the content published in the paper each week. It is also important that the *Technique* serves timely and relevant content to its readers. Lastly, the *Technique* should serve as a voice for the student body and ask tough questions on its behalf to report the truth about major campus issues. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can accomplish those goals, please stop by the *Technique* office in the Flag building to share your thoughts.

Working at the *Technique* has been an extremely rewarding experience—far more than what I could have ever imagined when I attended my first staff meeting three years ago. I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to an organization that has given so much to me during my college career.

Criticism leads to objective self-reflection

I have never loved Tech. While I might have come close to jumping the threshold from “really like” to “love” a couple of times, I have also been between “dislike” and “hate” an equal number of times. What can I say: it is just part of my personality to not feel too strongly about anything. That is why in this space, the last editorial I will ever write for the *Technique*, I will not do what other students and even my colleagues always do: write about how even though Tech was tough, it taught me a lot, and I love the school for all it has given me. I will be frank; right now, that editorial would be a lie. In five, 10 or maybe 20 years, I am sure my perspective will have changed. For now, though, it is what it is.

But I would also be lying if I said the school has not taught me a couple of life lessons. I feel as though one lesson in particular is important to share because— even more than my technical knowledge or my writing skills—this is what I have taken away from my five years at the school.

Do not take criticism personally, and do not be instantly dismissive of it. If there is one thing I have seen over and over again, it is that smart people assume negative critiques of their work equate to negative critiques of them as people. Those people need to take a step back and think about



“Admiring one’s own work that is praised is of infinitely less value than reevaluating the work that is criticized.”

Hahnming Lee
Editor-in-Chief

something: is it even worth it to criticize something if you do not want to see improvement? I have frequently chosen not to say something about poor work because I felt as though it is a waste of time, but I am always vocal about things that matter. Criticism requires a bit of reflection, but I have seen so many people respond unfavorably whenever presented with a view that is unlike their own.

As a student, I have weathered a fair bit of criticism from teachers, and it usually amounted to having a worse grade. But isn’t that the whole point of a teacher: to evaluate, criticize and provide feedback in order for you to become a better student? I accepted this, and the criticism they leveled against me was almost universally fair and constructive. I never thought of myself as a lesser person because I got a B instead of an A in that one class. The grade is a reflection of how well you did relative to the rest of the class, not how dumb or smart you are. Students

who allow their work to define them at Tech are likely the unhappiest people here.

Now as editor-in-chief, I have heard even more criticism. I have also heard a good deal of praise, all of which I am extremely thankful for, but that is not what usually sticks with you. It is the negative comments. I have been told that I have published “stupid” articles, that articles were unfair and that even my tenure as editor-in-chief has made the paper worse. Some have been true, some have not been, but I was always interested when people would at least give me feedback. In a personal email to me a couple of months ago, I was told about a certain mistake I had approved in an issue of the *Technique*. I was told that my mistake was a part of “... a legacy of incompetence that will follow the *Technique* forever.” It was an anonymous email (as many of the emails with the most extreme language are), but it was fair and required me to take a step back

and think about many of the mistakes I had made through the year. Admiring one’s own work that is praised is of infinitely less value than reevaluating the work that is criticized the most. Do not delete those emails saying ugly but truthful things; instead, use it as bulletin board material.

Still, one of the most basic ways to get criticism is to surround oneself with a group willing to express it. I luckily have a support group that will always be honest with me. When I approve something unwise in a part of the newspaper on deadline night, someone on my newspaper staff will always call me out and tell me what I am doing is stupid, and that, honestly, it is the wrong decision. I am lucky to have people tell me that what I am doing is wrong, and I know that what they tell me will make my work better.

The criticism that was given to me by everybody, including the people who sometimes used four-letter words as adjectives, verbs and nouns in the same sentence, helped shape the work I do. So as I part from Tech and the *Technique*, I want to thank everybody who said anything to me about what I do, anything at all. It is what helped me get through my five years here, and hopefully, it will be what helps me create those positive feelings for Tech...eventually.

HOFY Awards: An evaluation of Tech

With my time at Tech coming to an end, it is time to hand out the first—and probably final—Honorable Observances From Yours-truly Awards, or simply, the HOFY Awards.

HOFY Award for Restraint by a Group: the faculty. The fact that faculty-on-student violence is non-existent at Tech amazes me. I will concede that, by nature, I am not a very patient person, but dealing with some of the students on this campus takes the patience of Job. Year round, professors have to deal with such ignoramuses as the lazy idiots who cannot seem to realize that scoring in the single digits on a test is justification for failure. Worse, they have to deal with those obnoxious kids who nearly have an aneurysm for getting below an ‘A.’

HOFY Award for the Obnoxious Major: Architecture. After four years at Tech, I can safely say that there is not a group of people more filled with self-pity than Architecture majors. I stress “self” in the sense that I doubt anyone else really cares about them whining about studio classes and reviews. To all the Architecture majors out there that complain to friends about the stress they are under, think about this: if you screw up and design an ugly building and it gets built, you make an eye sore. If an engineer screws up and has a bad design that gets built, people could die. The



“...The thing I will miss the most is sharing my thoughtful, ground-breaking ideas with the Tech community.”

Matt Hoffman
Opinions Editor

only Architecture majors who have a reason to be stressed all the time are the out-of-state students, since it is going to be impossible for them to pay off those student loans making barely above minimum wage.

HOFY Award for Most Overvalued Group on Campus: ANAK. I have no idea what this secret society does.

HOFY Award for the Dumbest Spectacle on Campus: I Less-than-three GT Week. Isn’t reminding students that they should love their school right around the time of spring midterms counterproductive? The people saying that they love Tech that time of the year are either lying or majoring in Management. Speaking of which...

HOFY Award for Best PR Stunt of the Year: the College of Management changing the name of the Management degree to Business Administration. Fear not Management students; while they may have changed the name of the degree, you will still be the butt of jokes across campus. For

those management students reading this in the back of their “really hard” class and planning on sending an email to me about how there are substantive changes to the degree, save your time. I don’t care. And for those grumbling to yourselves that one day you’ll be the boss of all those engineers that make fun of you, I will concede that there is strong evidence that Management majors do climb high on the corporate ladder: the economic implosion of 2008.

HOFY Award for the Biggest Waste of Time and Money: the 25-Year Strategic Plan. With such thought provoking goals as “Sustain and Enhance Excellence in Scholarship and Research,” I am curious as to what Tech was doing before. I missed the line in the previous strategic plan where it planned to “Strive for Mediocrity and Occasional Failure in Scholarship and Research.” Considering the budget situation, wouldn’t it make more sense to chart a path to solvency?

HOFY Award for People

Who Want to Look Fashionable but End Up Looking Like a Clown: bow-tie wearers. While I admire their ability to actually tie a bow-tie, I feel that their skills could be put to more use making a YouTube tutorial than actual use of the skill on a daily basis.

HOFY Award for the Course Most Likely to Get People to Drop Out: Senior Design. Few things have caused me to spend a Saturday in the Library, and one of those things is Senior Design. Group projects suck, but they really suck when they are at the end of the semester. I realize that engineers will need to work in groups, but people can be fired for incompetence.

HOFY Award for the Group of People Who Most Freak-Out Others: Humans vs. Zombies. When people walk around L.A. wearing a bandana on their arm or head, it’s considered a sign of social revolt and disorder. When people do it at Tech, it is a sign of social awkwardness. This game is proof that some Techie jokes do have a legitimate founding.

So end the first and final HOFY Awards. I would thank all those who gave me plenty to write about over the years. I will miss many aspects of Tech, but I can say the thing I will miss the most is sharing my thoughtful, ground-breaking ideas with the Tech community.

BUZZ Around Campus

What do you think about Junior’s closing?



Grace Abshire
Second-year CM

“It would have been nice to have more warning.”



Matthew Ramsey
Fifth-year CM

“It sucks that such a long standing tradition will be no more.”



Katie Baker
Fifth-year BME

“It doesn’t really matter either way.”



Ansley Grantham
First-year EnvE

“They are closing Junior’s?”

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT^{or}-NOT**Bountiful budget**

After months of planning and debating, SGA finalized the budget for the next academic year this week. While many student organizations may not be overjoyed by the outcome of their proposed budgets, the overall process proved to be equitable and reasonably efficient. The graduate and undergraduate bodies deserve applause for their ability to find compromise even during the toughest of times.

**Adieu to you**

With Brittain failing health inspections and Woody's being struck by lightning, many thought that the on-campus dining situation could not get any worse. Then news came of the sudden closing of Junior's. This Tech tradition that has been beloved by generations of students cannot be replaced. It goes without saying that the Tech campus wishes Tommy and all of the Junior's staff the best going forward.

**Green spree**

Tech celebrated Green Week on campus this week. The Institute's continued dedication to sustainability has allowed it to grow into a hallmark of an environmentally contentious campus. The Green Week activities allowed students, faculty and staff alike to learn about the benefits of living a greener life through basic conservation efforts and interactive learning.

**Let there be fees**

By many standards, on-campus housing is overpriced. For people living in the west wing of NAA South, it became even more overpriced. Students were informed late last week that each resident living in the section of the apartment complex would be assessed a \$50 surcharge for vandalism associated with a fire exit door. The fee has since been cut in half to \$25.

Tech celebrates past feats while embracing an innovative future

As we approach the end of the semester with final exams and commencement, it is appropriate to pause a moment and reflect on what we, as members of the Tech community, have been able to accomplish together this past year, and to highlight some of the challenges that lie ahead.

This year we celebrated Tech's 125-year anniversary and launched our new 25-year strategic plan designed to lay a foundation for global leadership and position Tech to "define the technological research university for the 21st century."

I have been pleased with the engagement of the entire Tech community—including our students—to develop and implement strategies and initiatives that will help to bring the five overarching goals of the strategic plan to life.

Just a few of the many initiatives undertaken were exploring the X-College concept and launching an undergraduate leadership program with multidisciplinary minors and a graduate leadership program in biomedical engineering. We also laid the groundwork for the formation of the Center for 21st Century Universities, the Institute for People and Technology (IPAT) and the Institute for Electronics and Nanotechnology (IEN).

Finally, this year we expanded the co-enrollment partnership with Emory and fostered new partnerships, including an agreement with the Woodruff Arts Center to allow students unlimited access to the arts at a deeply discounted rate.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the matriculation of black students at Tech, we are



"The solutions to some of society's most pressing problems will be developed at places like Tech."

G. P. "Bud" Peterson
Institute President

reminded of how far we've come, and how much more we need to do to recruit, develop, retain and engage a diverse cadre of students, faculty and staff to create a campus community that exemplifies the best in all of us and fosters inclusive excellence.

I am particularly proud of the leadership role Tech students have taken during the past year. From serving as the lead for the student-focused gubernatorial debate to providing input into the statewide discussion of how best to preserve the HOPE scholarship program. When our students spoke, leaders across the state listened.

It is no surprise that students took the lead in Tech's response to the Japan crisis and have reached out to the campus community through the TechCares initiative. I am pleased to see SGA formalizing these outreach efforts through TechCares that have included activities such as blood drives and fund raising.

On April 19, the University System Board of Regents set tuition and fees for its member institutions, taking into consideration the needs of institutions, declining direct state support (now at less than 17 percent for Tech), the overall economic condition of the state and the nation, and the many financial challenges our

students and their families are facing. The regents voted to approve a three percent tuition increase for resident students as well as an additional \$350 special institutional fee per semester for Tech. We realize any increase presents challenges; however, our first priority is to ensure the quality of our research and educational programs and preserve the value of your Tech degree as you prepare for an increasingly competitive and global job market.

We plan to use these funds to hire additional faculty to accommodate our enrollment growth, continue financial aid for our neediest students and support our important academic initiatives, including critical programming for the new Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons.

The solutions to some of society's most pressing problems will be developed at places like Tech, and we believe that creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship are the engines that will drive economic development in the state and the nation. To this end, we are working to provide even more opportunities for students to foster innovation, such as the InVenture Prize competition for undergraduate students and the

See **Future**, page 12



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Fee increase, much more to tackle in coming year



"But then again... logic wasn't a deciding factor in this decision. Simply put, they played politics with money to the detriment of Tech students."

James Black

Graduate Student Body President Elect

I knew coming into this job that no matter the course plotted for next year, the issues that will influence our journey have not yet been fully defined. I knew that due to the nature of financial support for Graduate students, fees would be an issue we would surely focus a large portion of our time on. The Institutional (Academic Excellence) Fee was poised to be a contentious issue as the Board of Regents prepared for their April meeting to set tuition and fee levels for next year.

Of all the scenarios discussed and concerns raised, Grad. SGA never thought the Board of Regents would be so short-sighted as to essentially deny Tech's request for a tuition increase and instead place the burden directly on the backs of students by raising the Institutional Fee. But then again, one must realize that the Regents are governed by politics, and unlike the future engineers and scientists that we will be, logic wasn't a deciding factor in this decision. Simply put, they played politics with money to the detriment of Tech students.

All students recognize the need for fees as they pay for essential, well-defined services. Our Health Services Fee funds the Stamps Health Center. Our Student Activity Fee funds the CRC, Student Center and countless student organizations that add to the diversity of the Institute. I cannot count the number of times I've been asked what service the Institutional Fee goes toward. As was released in President Peterson's message to the campus this week, the Institute will "plan to hire additional faculty to accommodate our enrollment growth, continue

financial aid relief for our neediest students and support our important academic initiatives, including funds to operate the new Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons." The President is in a tough position.

Due to a \$100 million reduction in the state's appropriation over the past few years, Tech's financial ledgers are challenged. The Institute is starving for revenue to make up the difference so departments don't have to make cuts to stay out of the red. It makes sense to ask the Regents for a significant tuition increase to work towards filling that budget gap. Yet instead of raising tuition, the Regents decided to raise the "Tuition" Fee, as I will refer to it. To Georgia voters, the state legislature and the governor, a fee increase is more palatable than a comparable increase in tuition.

The Regents are aware of that. What they obviously didn't consider is that this fee will come directly out of the pockets of graduate students. Graduate funding covers tuition but not fees. The increase in the fee represents a 5.8 percent pay cut for the average Grad. student and the total Tuition Fee (\$1632 per year) represents a 9.1 percent reduction in pay. The Tuition Fee is an unacceptable burden on Tech's students and Grad. SGA will do everything we can to clearly communicate the burden it places on grad. students to the people with the power to change it.

Aside from dealing with the Tuition Fee, the incoming Grad. Executive Board hopes to accomplish many initiatives. The size of

See Fee, page 12

Conquering apathy needed for future success of SGA



"It is up to each of us, individually, to take ownership of our campus and ultimately of our world. Find something to care about and pursue it wholeheartedly."

Elle Creel

Undergraduate Student Body President Elect

I couldn't be more honored and excited to be representing, getting to know and working with each of you over the next year as your Student Body President.

While I have the experience and have made a plan for addressing next year's challenges, I can't help but consider, "How on Earth did I end up in this role?"

After giving this question some thought, one obscure, half-forgotten memory from my freshman year keeps coming to mind.

Sometime in Oct. of 2008, I remember sitting in a Matheson study lounge discussing with three other freshmen our evolving impression of Tech, our new home.

We were all relatively well-adjusted here, having gotten involved in Freshmen Leadership Organizations or other organizations, acclimated to college-level classes and begun to make lasting friendships. Yet, there was something that we weren't quite satisfied with, an ideal that was not a reality. I had an image in my mind of the idyllic college campus, where there are frequent protests, daily philosophical conversations and tie-dye clad students lying in quads listening to acoustic guitar. As you have probably noticed, these images are not frequently seen at Tech.

As we further delved into this discussion, we concluded that it was not the specifics of this vision that were disappointing us, but the culture of youthfulness and vitality that they implied. It seemed to us that Tech students simply didn't care about our campus world as much as we had hoped.

The four of us decided it was our duty,

or rather, our calling, to address this issue. We were going to incite our fellow students to action, reinvigorate Tech's culture and leave a lasting impact on our campus—all of this through the creation of The Apathy Council.

At most, eight of you reading this article will ever have heard of The Apathy Council, so you probably realize that our efforts did not amount to much. In many ways, it was a typical freshman endeavor—full of passion, lofty goals, late-night meetings and little actual plan of action. Eventually, our energy fizzled, and we each moved onto other involvements and initiatives for the remainder of the year.

Since then, my impression of Tech has continued to evolve. I've met innumerable students who are not just complaining about problems, but contributing to the solutions. Students like Melissa McCoy, who started Enterprise2Empower, an organization that seeks to create centralized resources for student social entrepreneurs. Students like Laurie Bracaglia who is researching improvements to children's heart surgeries. Students like Sarah Vaden who is innovating modern music technology with the invention of a drum that can change tones on demand. Many Tech students clearly care about our campus and our world, and I couldn't be more proud to be a Jacket.

And yet, room for progress undeniably remains. Although The Apathy Council did not come to fruition, I think there is something to be said for the Council members'

See Apathy, page 12

making friday lectures more interesting

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Letters from page 8

and misuse of the same drugs discussed in the article by Tech's own students. Please do not use the *Technique* to push your own anti prescription medication agenda. It is offensive to the many people who do actually have a need to take such drugs.

Josephine Nord
MGT '10

Junior's invaluable part of Tech

I attended Tech from June 1977 through September 1982. During that time I ate breakfast at Junior's 5+ days a week. I was a dedicated user of the \$25 dollars worth of food for \$22 chit book.

Fee from page 11

the Graduate Senate was the largest in its history this past year, and we hope to continue to fill empty seats as we reach out to departments across campus to communicate with students. The Board of Governors proved to be a crucial tool in this endeavor last year and we will be developing it further to reach students at the departmental level.

Graduate SGA is the only campus-wide student organization that provides programming targeted to graduate students and we need more students involved within the organization to improve our programming capacity and sustainability for the high levels of outreach that we provide. If

I can safely say that had it not been for Junior's, I would not have graduated. There were many days, when that breakfast for \$2.08 was my only full meal of the day. At the end of a school quarter, Tommy would let me continue to eat on credit—I just had to pay him back when I got paid.

In later years, Tommy and I talked about the fact that he could no longer extend credit—student's stopped paying him back. In my day, when the list of non-payers went up on the wall, simple peer pressure forced them to repay Tommy. More's the pity that that changed.

I loved the old counter service in the "original place" on North Avenue. I really didn't like set-up when they moved to Engineer's Bookstore or later to Bradley—

but it was better than nothing.

The spirit of Tommy's and Junior's went far beyond the food that was served. Tommy—and his staff—had true affection for the students that they served. I graduated in 1982. In 1999, I proposed to my wife (ME '83). Tommy saw Anne's engagement ring before she did.

Two years ago, we attended the ANAK Centennial dinner. One of the best aspects was that Tommy and his wife were there.

All in all, Junior's had a good run and I hope Tommy has a great retirement. However, I will always regret that I can no longer get a "French Strip, single country on the side, hold the dust."

Douglas Fuller
ISyE '82

Future from page 10

Tech Research and Innovation Conference for graduate students.

As we look forward to the opening of the G. Wayne Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, as well as beautiful surroundings due to renovation on the Campanile, the redesign of Skiles Walkway and a new transit hub, we also celebrate the past, saying goodbye to the Alexander Memorial Coliseum. We will all look forward to seeing the first

Apathy from page 11

first impression of Tech. A culture of apathy is still present.

We see this apathy regarding our city's problems. English Ave., just one mile west of our campus, is plagued by the highest rates of crime, prostitution and illiteracy in the city. Yet, many Tech students are unaware of this, and fewer are striving to improve it.

We see this apathy through an on-campus leadership vacuum. Organizations across campus have seen a lack of interest in leadership positions, most visibly in the recent SGA elections. This lack of interest in taking on our campus's issues is a poor reflection on our student body and worrisome for the future of effective student leadership. The *Technique* said it aptly in stating, "Harmony may be good for music. In student government, it only means apathy." It is up to each of us, individually, to take ownership of our campus and ultimately of our world. Find something to care about and pur-

sue it wholeheartedly. That something for me has been SGA. As I consider what has motivated my involvement in SGA, I've realized that my motives are very much the same as those that drove the creation of The Apathy Council. As such, I will be working for the next year to improve the Tech student experience. But I am by no means equipped to do this alone. Many of SGA's most effective projects and initiatives have been inspired by ideas, not from the current leadership, but by students who took the time to share their opinion.

So whether you want to get involved formally by applying to an Executive Branch position, or would rather simply share your opinion on how to better our campus, contribute to making Tech a university where incoming freshman immediately see how incredible our students are. The environment in which we live, study, work and play profoundly impacts us—only together can we better Tech.



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