

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, September 15, 2000

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Say 'no' to Metallica

Tech administrators are in a position to affect Internet history. By saying "no" to the attorneys' request to block student access to Napster, we would send a clear message that universities should not be in the business of content control with respect to campus networks. Policing students' use of the Internet is not the responsibility of schools or Internet service providers. Students pay for unlimited Internet access, and that is what they should receive.

If the courts eventually rule Napster illegal, use of the software should be stopped at the source. The record company lawyers should not use scare tactics against the top universities in the country. If the attorneys have such a problem with Napster, they should go through the proper legal channels. Using Napster is not illegal, and therefore we should remain free to use it.

Ranking our retention

U.S. News and World Report's method of considering retention rates in their yearly ranking of colleges and universities continually keeps Tech from attaining the higher rankings we deserve. A ranking formula that includes retention rates encourages universities to sacrifice academic integrity in favor of higher rankings.

Freshmen at M.I.T. take all courses pass/ fail instead of for letter grades. Consequently, freshmen cannot fail out; they must wait until they have poured more money into the school to find out if they have what it takes to graduate. By not practicing this attitude, is Tech a lesser school? Hardly.

Student programs, starting with Freshman Experience and

Quote of the week:

"He's so old, he's preOlympic." —Jody Shaw

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FASET, focus on retaining students who will work hard to leave Tech with a degree in hand. The Institute should not try to increase its ratings by retaining people who should not be here. Graduate school recruiters rank Tech second in the nation. That accolade is a far more important achievement than the *U.S. News* ranking, and we should not lessen its importance for the sake of higher retention numbers.

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

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

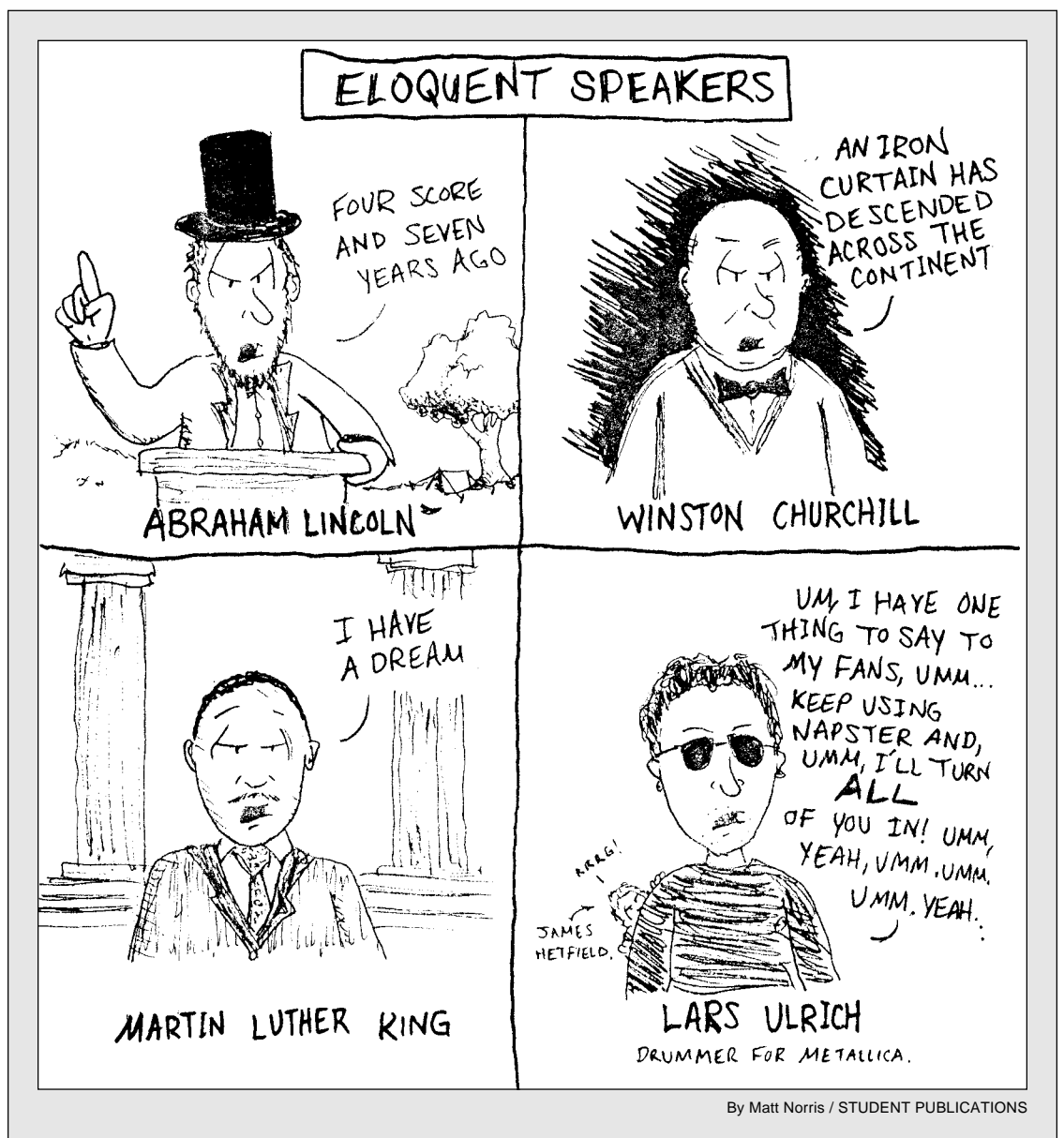
Communicate past e-mail

This story is about a person who came to the United States to take an English course. When he decided to come to Atlanta, he had spent the previous six months looking for an excellent program in English As Second Language. He chose Georgia Tech, because of its great advantages. It is a prestigious school in an important city with affordable tuition, and prospective programs for Business Master Degree and Ph.D. Before coming, he sent e-mails to get information about Georgia Tech and its Language Institute. Everything looked OK, so he made the decision to come. That decision was based on the kindly treatment from the people in the e-mails. All the answers were quick, and with enough information to answer the questions. He thought, "If it is in this way by e-mail, in person it must be better." But Oh what a surprise! There is no more kind treatment. He has been here for one month, but he still has not met the Language Institute Director. When he needed to do something in the library, nobody told him what to do. He tried to contact somebody about his master's degree, and it was impossible. When he wanted to exchange a Traveler Check, nobody knew where a bank is. It is more than the problems of one student. It is a story about Customer Service. Have you ever tried

to get information about the Stinger? Have you ever tried to ask a department about their programs? Have you ever heard about a program from the Student Association for Language Institute's Students? The best way to do it is sending an e-mail, even if you are in the same building. So, personal communication is not necessary. Let the computers do their job.

Maybe, it could be a perception problem, or it could be a cultural shock. But certainly, it is a communication problem. He is not worried about the program, or about the teachers. Both are excellent. But, he is worried about his future. He is worried about his human condition, and about his feeling of being accepted. His future depends upon today's situation. He doesn't want to talk to a computer. He wants to talk with people, even with his language limitations. The problem is how we are using today's technology. Computers, telecommunication, Internet, e-mail are necessary to improve communication, but it is not to replace the people. It is about inclusion, not about elimination. Right now, offering human relationships could differentiate you from others.

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By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Record companies should adapt and keep Napster

Tech should ignore letter from Metallica and Dr. Dre asking to help them with their lawsuit, we should change with the times instead of trying to stop new technology

Let me start with a story. I go to blockbuster, and rent the new Braveheart DVD because Sarah said how good it was. And I enjoy it with two friends. Well I thought it was good and lend it to a guy down the hall. He watches it with his girlfriend. Now, she takes it back and shows it to a few friends. In the end, 20 people have watched it, and I take it back to Blockbuster and say thanks, and continue on my way. Upon returning home I learn Georgia Tech had received one more honor. We are listed with Columbia, Harvard, Stanford, the University of Virginia, Boston University, M.I.T., Princeton, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

What was it? National ranking of our Management School, Chemical Engineering, or SAT scores? No, it was a polite, but blunt request by the Metallica and Dr Dre to help them enforce their lawsuit. You see, Napster has been making it easy for users to trade MP3 music files. The lawyers for Metallica and Dr Dre are in the process of suing a few colleges over this, and have asked us to help them enforce their laws. THEIR laws. The recording industry has pushed through multiple laws to enforce an old sense of copyright. These laws quietly slipped through a number of years ago and have stripped musicians of rights to their songs, and set up a flawed business model. Now the industry that fought VCRs and cassettes is fighting the next new invention. Now as the industry milks artists dry they ask the courts to hold up their fading business.

"Did LP companies sue cassette companies? No, the LP factories retooled for CDs and screwed the cassette people."

Daniel Uhlig
Photography Editor



Have you been to a CD store lately? Well prices are up and so are sales. Yup, the poor 'starving' artists are selling more than ever. Now, how could they be starving at \$15-20 dollars a CD? Well, most of it goes to the record companies. And not in expenses of studio time, or managers. The artists pay that out of their 35-75 cents per CD. Not percentage, CENTS! The rest goes to the limos and banquets and lawyers and lobbyists for the record companies.

Now you say multiply \$.50 by one million and the answer is a lot of money, right? Well yes, unless you are the artist, they have their managers, lawyers, music videos and concert tours to fund. The record companies are selling us pieces of plastic for the price of gold, and the people working for it don't receive much in return, not even the rights to their songs. Just a few strike fame and make significant money, at least for a time, before going broke. The rest stay poor the whole time.

So Napster must be really screwing the artists then? Sure, I guess it does. They sell less CDs (even though sale are up, makes me wonder) and don't get their 50 cents. But I must ask, why does the US government have to support the recording in-

dustry's monopoly? Did LP companies sue cassette companies? No, the LP factories retooled for CDs and screwed the cassette people.

Here we stand on the verge of a new age of data. Gutenberg invented the press and it become possible to print many copies, and now thanks to magnets we can make thousands of perfect copies of anything in seconds. Want a movie? Copy it, Want a song? Copy it, Want a book? Copy it. Hundreds of years ago they decided to give the writer, musician, and scientists patents and copyrights so they could work and still be paid as well as letting publishers take the financial risk of publishing a work.

Now since it costs no one anything to publish on Napster we must come up with a new system to protect one man or women's work. This system should give the artists a real wage, and let them work and enjoy their work. The flaws in the recording industry's system are crying for change, and they refuse to change. The consumers are dying for a cheap and easy way to get music on-line. The industry has decided it would rather pay politicians and lawyers then employ a few bright web developers to come up with a system to satisfy customers as well as pay the artists.

Why not live with the same old same old? Worked for years, why not a few more?

Well first, as much as I would love to listen to some Creed or Hole, I don't want to pay for their managers and record companies caviar and limos. But more annoying then paying the wrong people way too much is the steps this could lead to in protecting copyrights. As technology grows, the monitoring power grows. Recently, the RIAA decided to attempt to regulate the ability of HDTV to be recorded. So you would only be able to record what they let you, when they let you. All in the name of protecting the artists, or shall we say managers. Next they will make us watch the commercials if we want to watch the show. We get up for the bathroom during a commercial, sorry, the rest of the show is blackout with a lovely text message 'We have to pay our bills just like you.'

Second, RIAA will get Napster banned in time, the way it should be done is through the courts and justice system. We have a justice system for a reason. So once Napster goes, smart engineers and management majors will simply use the technology that existed before Napster was created or latest programs that are becoming available daily. There will be Gnutella, AIMster, FTP, the web, e-mail and thousands of other ways to pass on these illegal 1s and 0s.

Must Georgia Tech ban technology before the courts have ruled it illegal? This lawsuit is far from finished and why should Tech en-

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Get outside and enjoy college before midterms hit

When it came time for me to write an editorial this week, my mind went blank. I couldn't think of anything. Usually I would complain about something, and explain how it could or couldn't be fixed. But I really don't have anything to complain about (well, except for school work and parking, but those topics are overdone).

So I decided to write about positive things. Although I'm extremely busy right now with school, the *Technique*, and my sorority, I'm having a great time.

Fall in general is just a great time of the year. The weather is warm enough for shorts during the day, but it's nice and cool at night. The leaves change color, although you can't see much of that here in the city. And, last of all, school starts.

After co-oping all summer in Alpharetta, I couldn't wait for school to start again. Not just because I didn't really like my job, but also because I missed the people and the atmosphere that are around during the school year.

Living on campus was nice in the summer. Everything was laid back—you could even park almost anywhere on campus without getting a ticket. It was a nice, quiet break, but I definitely missed all my friends that had gone home for the summer—and all the activities. But now fall has arrived, I'm no

"Fall is full of exciting things to do, and pretty soon it will be midterms and finals and you won't have time to do anything but study."

Julia Trapold
Assistant Campus Life Editor



longer a freshman, and everything is great.

First of all, there's football. I love football, especially going to Tech games. I even don't mind dressing up to go to them. The games are always great, no matter whether we're winning or losing. Everyone said how bad Tech was going to be this year since Joe left, but the games are still sold out, which shows the dedication of Tech fans. And look how great the team has been doing. They came from behind to beat UCF, and they almost (and should have, if it wasn't for the stupid referee) beat FSU. Now that would've been awesome.

Even though we didn't win last Saturday, I think it was the greatest, most fun game I have ever been too. Everyone around me was so excited—I almost got knocked down several times. Just the atmosphere of football games excites me. I don't see how anyone cannot like football.

Besides football, there are tons

of other things going on. Fall is the time of year when everyone is refreshed from their summer break and motivated to do things. Every organization on campus has some sort of fall recruiting event, which usually has free food and giveaways—especially along the Skiles walkway. Take advantage off these—I have gotten many cups and lots of free food from these events. Also take them seriously—you may just find the one organization that you really want to be involved in.

Also, if you ever walk by SAC on Sunday or on weeknights, you'll realize it's intramural season. These games are always exciting. I just really started going to these games last week, and since then I've been to four. They've got everything: flag football, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, and whiffleball. The games are great because even though they are competitive, you can still have fun and goof around with your friends. And you always know someone that's

playing, which makes it more exciting and gives you a reason to cheer. Right now I'm not an actual participant—I just like to watch. Although that will change when soccer intramural season rolls around...

Besides daytime activities, there are also tons of parties in the fall. Last weekend after the football game I think there were at least six band parties. It's fun to walk around and take advantage of all the free live music. Plus you always run into some friends or classmates that you haven't seen in a while.

So my advice is to go outside and enjoy yourself, whether it's to go play sports or to walk to a party. Fall is full of exciting things to do, and pretty soon it will be midterms and then finals, and you won't have any time to do anything but study. It's all right, you can leave your computer for a couple hours now—you'll make up the lost time during finals week. In a few months this nice weather will have turned cold and dreary, and the abundance of activities will disappear, and you'll wish you had spent more time enjoying the early fall.

This is an example of stream of consciousness writing. Try it sometime. Like Julia. Because she's good at using the stream-of-consciousness Technique. Like William Faulker. Like Technique. Like, wow.

TECHNIQUE

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Contacting Us

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Napster

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force a policy of the RIAA even if it is not ruled illegal yet? Who else does not like something? Wants something banned? Write Clough! Don't like porn? Well maybe Tech should ban it. Trying to research how Neo Nazism uses technology in modern American for English or History class. Sorry, it was banned because someone sent a letter. Don't like liberals? Maybe we should ban access to Gore's site. I wonder how much harder free thought will be when half of the information is banned. Where will the line be drawn to still allow free thought at our institute?

Finally, I ask Clough and OIT if it really wants to ban Napster, because if it does, why not FTP? Nothing but warez on it anyway. Why not AIM? Friends just trade files and waste time. Why not the web? How do you think people downloaded and heard about the napster

program? Why not e-mail? You can send them as attachments. Why not take *On the duty of Civil Disobedience* by Thoreau out of the library? Obviously such a book encourages us to disobey the government and established rule and order. Why not Gnutella? It will let you trade anything. Well, that could only be done one way. Start digging up our fiber optic and trashing it. We don't need it any more. The record companies refuse to see the new paradigm and so should we. Psuedo Code is all our CS majors will learn because computers make people criminals by opening up new possibilities, and allowing different thoughts.

Remember my story at the beginning. Well, allow me substitute in a slightly different piece of plastic with the newest songs on it. I bought it instead of renting it. I lend it to a couple of guys in the same fashion. Now I come up with an idea, why not rip it to my computer. This will be even more convenient for me because now I can put the large case

in some box in the corner of my room, and I am using my computer so much anyway. Now why not let a friend log in and listen to it? Much easier then walking down the hall. Now my friends decide just to put a copy on their computers. Now in both cases 20 people enjoyed the CD or DVD, but which one is considered piracy?

How can you tell me showing my rented movie to 20 people and letting 20 people listen to my CD is that different? What morals and legality makes it ok to lend your new Harry Potter hardback to all of your friends. But make it a \$150,000 felon to e-mail your girlfriend your copy of the new Stephen King e-book?

So if Howard E King, attorney for Dr Dre and Metallica, asks how I plan on making a living with MP3s in existence. Tell him I will roll with the punches and figure out the new paradigm and its ways out while he rides in his buggy that the automobile could have replaced.

MORE VIEWS

Letters to the Editor

Attending a single-sex school is a decision not to criticize

I was deeply disturbed by the article in the most recent Technique. I highly agree with Miss Hinkel's summation of single-sex education in the September 1st edition. I, too, attended a single sex school. I received my undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. I found that attending a women's college gave me excellent preparation for my studies at Georgia Tech. I do not believe that a single sex education (male or female for that matter) makes a person any less qualified to attend this institution. Furthermore, I feel that the academic

preparation and self-confidence I received at my institution were essential to my success at Georgia Tech. As you said, Georgia Tech has a 7 to 1 ratio. I have many friends that have succeeded at engineering schools despite odds such as these. Some women find a single sex education a more nurturing environment. Yet whether or not Miss Hinkel or I are in support of single sex education should hold little relevance to our respective decisions to attend this institution.

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