

OPINIONS

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Quote of the week:
*"Everything happens to everyone
 sooner or later if there is time enough."*
 —George Bernard Shaw

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Indecent proposal

Last week, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue announced the possibility that the state may make changes to spending rules that will effectively cut \$68 million from Georgia's higher education budget. If the proposal is adopted, universities would have to use money from their current fiscal year budget to pay off the debts that otherwise could have been deferred into next year. Tech would undoubtedly bear a large portion of the cut because it is one of the state's largest institutions.

Higher education in Georgia has already suffered through several major budget cuts over the past three years. In that time, the legislature has decreased Tech's state budget allocations by \$40 million. If the new policy is approved, Tech may have to consider either raising tuition next semester or decreasing faculty and staff sizes.

The governor and the state's legislators need to search for more options before they take action that further squeezes Georgia universities, which have never approved midyear tuition increases. The state should not make this year an exception. An investment in higher education is an investment in the future. How can we continue to attract the best and brightest if our tuition continues to increase? Tech has built its reputation on being a bargain for the price.

Many students would be hurt by a midyear increase. Scholarships, financial aid and graduate student stipends are evaluated on a yearly basis, not semesterly. Co-op students, interns and families plan their budgets assuming tuition rates will remain constant for the entire academic year. Absorbing the cut by reducing faculty or staff (with resulting increases in class sizes and decreases of services) is equally unappealing.

We strongly urge state officials to go back to the drawing board on this issue.

Here's your sign

After urging student organizations to be frugal in their requests this year, the Student Government Association (SGA) forwent a simple banner and passed a bill for a \$2,875 sign that will adorn their new office in the Student Center Commons. How can senators and representatives deny funding for any organization with a straight face after making such an extravagant purchase? SGA should set an example for other student organizations by pinching their own pennies. New reps should learn from this experience and thoroughly question all bills before passing them, even bills proposed by their own executive officers. SGA's credibility with the student body depends on it.

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 Brian Lewis/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Officiating not an exact science

A Hungarian fencing referee was expelled from the Olympic Games and suspended for two years after making a flurry of errors during the gold medal match in men's team foil. He made mistakes regarding six separate scoring decisions, with each favoring gold medalist Italy. Italy beat Russia by only three points.

Germany was originally awarded the gold medal in the team equestrian event, but the judges changed their minds and made a large deduction due to a perceived rules violation by the Germans, dropping them to fourth. Moments later, the equestrian appeals committee once again reversed the decision, restoring Germany to the top of the podium.

Russian gymnast Alexei Nemov's score jumped from a 9.725 to a 9.762 moments after the conclusion of his performance. The score modification by the Malaysian and Canadian judges directly corresponded to the crowd's noisy ten-minute protest to the original score.

With television cameras rolling and capturing all of the events in Athens, judging mistakes are being revealed in great numbers.

Officiating is far from an exact science. Otherwise, there would be no need to employ seven judges to determine who is the world's best diver. Judges are human, and the above events prove that mistakes are inevitable.

It's much easier to catch a technical error with a host of slow-motion instant replays from the best conceivable vantage points than from a judge's box with thousands of fans providing a tremendous distraction.

Of the many errors, the most publicized of this Olympiad's judging mishaps has been the fiasco involving American gymnast Paul Hamm. In case you missed it, Hamm was awarded a gold medal for his performance in the men's



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Kyle Thomason
 Assistant Sports Editor

all-around competition, but the decision has been protested because Korean Yang Tae Young was given an incorrect start value for his parallel bars routine, dropping him from gold to bronze.

The mistake was admitted, and the judges responsible for the blunder were punished. There are usually a few motions that follow, but this is generally the end of the story. Unfortunately, in Hamm's case, it only marked the beginning of the controversy.

In a letter released to the public, the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) asked Hamm to voluntarily surrender his medal to his Korean counterpart. This is just flat out wrong on several levels.

First of all, there is no precedent for medals changing hands as a result of simple judging errors.

Next, FIG claims the letter was simply in response to a statement made by Hamm, when Hamm basically said he did not plan on giving up the medal, unless the governing body decided it was the right thing to do.

Hamm got this one right; it is the governing body's job to decide whether any changes should be made. FIG made absolutely no formal ruling, only stating that the starting value for Young was indeed incorrect, and put the incident back in Hamm's court, asking him if he would voluntarily relinquish his medal in an ultimate show of sportsmanship.

This is something that Hamm should not have to deal with after turning in the performance of his life. It is not his fault that the judging was flawed.

The "sportsmanship" comment is simply a method FIG is employing to deflect blame from the real issue of the judging and an attempt to make Hamm look like a bad guy if he does not cover for their mistake. It is blatant propaganda, attempting to imply that Hamm is a bad sport if he does not relinquish the medal.

Finally, FIG should have taken a look at the performance they backed for the gold medal more closely before putting a stamp on this letter.

Nowhere in the letter's contents will you find any mention that the judges failed to deduct two-tenths of a point, as they should have, for the bronze medalist Young having one more than the three allowed "holds" in his routine.

I'm no gymnastics expert, but this extra hold seems pretty clear when watching replays of the event.

It is something that Hamm is quick to point out after reviewing the event, and the deduction for this flaw would actually be greater than the addition from having the correct start value, so Young's score actually should have been a bit lower, and bronze would be the proper medal for him.

The results are in, and according to my calculations, Paul Hamm still deserves the gold, and the FIG is coming in dead last.

Tech doesn't always have all the answers

This semester I'm doing something a little out of the ordinary for most Electrical Engineering majors: I'm interning at a local TV news station.

Four days each week after my morning classes, I drive over to the WSB-TV/Channel 2 building on Peachtree Street where I'm working this fall as a news intern. Those of you who watch the local news may be familiar with the name.

I applied for this internship because I'm thinking about getting into science journalism after I graduate, but I didn't expect to be accepted.

WSB-TV is a local news station, so they mainly cover hard news; the closest they get to science are their occasional medical and health news segments. I do think, though, that my being an engineering major at Tech helped set my application apart from all the journalism majors at liberal arts schools.

Once I started working, however, I found that my Tech affiliation—normally so valued by graduate schools and prospective employers—really doesn't count for much in the newsroom.

Whenever I introduce myself to someone and tell them where I go to school, the response is along the lines of, "Tech? I didn't know they had a journalism program." And I say, "They don't. I'm an



"For once, I have a job where my Tech education isn't helping at all, and it's kind of humbling."

Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

engineer." They usually raise their eyebrows as I explain my tentative career plans, or worse, they just say "oh" and walk away unconvinced, uninterested or unimpressed.

This is totally different from the reaction I would usually get anywhere else when I say I'm majoring in EE at Tech: approving nods, people who whistle and say, "Wow, that must be tough."

So it's a change from the norm, in more ways than one. These first few weeks I've worked at the assignment desk. I'm constantly answering the phone, finding information for reporters who are out in the field, calming excited callers who are convinced that they have something we "absolutely need to investigate" and trying to differentiate between those who might have legitimate news tips and those who are just a bit wacky.

I've realized how Tech has made me dependent on email,

the internet and other passive forms of communication and information acquisition.

At Tech, email and instant messaging allow you to carefully plan what you're saying and talk without ever actually saying a word.

At WSB, I have to think fast and make sure I'm speaking clearly and loudly into the phone and to other people.

At Tech, if I forget some bit of information or write something down wrong, I have the luxury of the internet and Google. At WSB, working at the assignment desk is like a memory exercise—I have to remember names, places, numbers of people who call.

Most importantly, at Tech, I can still get away with not being proactive. One of the cool parts of this internship is that interns are encouraged to go out with reporters and live crews, and see firsthand how all that works. But in order to do this, you can't be

shy; you have to just go up to a reporter and ask if you can tag along.

I'm struggling with this, and it's for the same reason that I can count on one hand the number of times that I've gone to see a professor for help in my three years here. I've found that I can just call classmates, find someone who has word or, at the very least, just suck it up and hope to ride the curve.

For once, I have a job where my Tech education isn't helping me at all, and it's kind of humbling.

It's easy to become complacent, even arrogant, when your school has as good a reputation as Tech does. A typical Tech student would probably look down on my fellow interns, who are from schools like Georgia State and West Georgia University.

But in the newsroom, at least, what's important is how you conduct yourself. There is a certain grace, poise and communicativeness that makes the people with whom I work at WSB-TV entirely different from the esoteric professors and bumbling students that surround me at Tech.

So I'm hoping some of that grace will rub off on me. I'm sure, regardless of whether I become an engineer or not, that it'll help me in the future.

BUZZ

Around the Campus
Which fall sports are you looking forward to?



Keith Dunbar
ARCH Third-year

"Football and basketball."



Theresa Larkins
IE Fifth-year

"Football and volleyball."



Tan Minh Vo
BME Freshman

"Nothing."



TR Riney
ARCH Third-year

"Football games."

Photos by Andrew Saulters

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



We're not so sad

Last year, we were ranked the second-most unhappy students in the nation, according to the *Princeton Review*. This year, we've gone down to No. 16, proving that the waterslide really was a necessary purchase. Now, sadly, there are students at 15 schools that now look at Tech and said "Wow, I wish I was there." Now, if only we can get Housing to take the No. 16 "Dorms like dungeons" ranking seriously.



Samford campout

Camping out for UGA/Tech football tickets or Tech/Duke basketball tickets? Perfectly acceptable—they're hard to come by. But why on earth would anyone camp out for Samford tickets? Around 10 students did camp out for "coveted" Samford tickets. The only logical explanation we can come up with is that the poor souls thought we were playing Stanford University instead.



Labor Day weekend

Just when we started to get sick of boring classes, the upcoming weekend has given us a reason to smile again. Tonight we can check out rollercoasters at the GT @ Six Flags night, then tomorrow, our football team face the Samford Bulldogs i.e. the ones we should be able to beat. To top it off, no classes on Monday!



Parking changes

In a turn of events that has become all too familiar, the Parking office has made parking on campus harder and more expensive than ever. The rates of the SC lot, and the IC parking lot increased to \$1.50 per hour. The SC Deck won't even open till 7 p.m. Where was the student input in this decision?

Sport yellow for cancer

By Ashton Rogers
The Bulletin (Emporia State U.)

(U-WIRE) Emporia, Ks.—Presidential candidates wear them, musicians wear them, movie stars wear them, athletes wear them, students wear them... they're everywhere.

After only being on campus a few days and watching the Olympics, it's hard not to think that they are everywhere. It's amazing to think that all of these people I've seen are supporting a great cause by wearing a small, yellow rubber bracelet.

The Lance Armstrong Foundation launched its "Livestrong" campaign in May of 2004. In an effort to raise \$5 million for cancer research, the foundation began selling these bracelets with the words "LIVE STRONG" inscribed on them.

Sold for only one dollar, all proceeds go to the foundation. I think they're the cheapest fashion statement I've ever seen that

actually looks good. It doesn't look tacky, it won't break and it puts off a sporty vibe.

They are so popular, that since its debut in May, the foundation has sold more than 7 million of the bands. The largest increase in sales came during the Tour de France this summer. Nearly 25,000 bracelets were sold in Paris in only one day, and over the following three days, 400,000 were sold over the foundation's web site.

I think Lance Armstrong's personal story is enough to encourage people to support the cause he is fighting for.

In 1996, Armstrong was given a 50 percent chance of survival. He had been diagnosed with advanced testicular cancer, and it had spread to his lungs and brain.

Overcoming the odds, he went on to win six consecutive Tour de France titles. This is a feat unsurpassed by any other

See Yellow, page 12

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 Daniel Amick, Editor-in-Chief.

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

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 billing should be directed to Corey Jones at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary 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, email editor@technique.gatech.edu.

Yellow from page 11

athlete in history.

His story and love of cycling has everything to do with his "Live strong" campaign.

The reason the bracelets are yellow, is because the leader and champion wear yellow jerseys in the Tour de France.

"Live strong" is a saying that Armstrong lives by every day.

I found one of his quotes on the internet the other day.

"Yellow wakes me up in the morning. Yellow gets me on the bike every day. Yellow has taught me the true meaning of sacrifice. Yellow makes me suffer. Yellow is the reason I'm here," Armstrong said.

When I got the idea to write this column, I had no idea about the story that was behind it.

I knew that it supported a charity and that Lance Armstrong was behind it, but I had no idea the amount of people that had gotten involved in its underlying cause.

You don't have to be a huge fan of cycling to buy one of these bracelets. It's just a solemn reminder of the power of your heart and how determination and drive can get you through any struggle.

Imagine what it's like to be in someone else's shoes, where his or her struggle is such an obstacle, that it has taken 7 million people to help aid in research and there still isn't a cure.

When it comes to charity, every little bit counts. I know that I'm going to go get my own bracelet, and I hope that you will too.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Graduate community defies cultural boundaries

The graduate students are coming! Yes, whether you like it or not Tech is set to increase the number of graduate students to around 10,000 over the coming years.

In case you didn't know graduate students already make up one third of the students on campus, we are just really good at blending in.

This column is intended to introduce you to the plight of graduate students.

Okay, so maybe "plight" might be an overly dramatic term; let's say the world of this graduate student.

I went to Tech as an undergrad, and then left the United States to study in the United Kingdom for two years. Now I'm back at Tech studying for my doctorate.

Since returning to the U.S. and to Tech, I have been acutely aware of not quite fitting in anymore. I often feel caught between two worlds.

When I left for England, I thought that I could be at home almost anywhere in the world. After all, hadn't I lived in seven different states and moved every three years of my life?

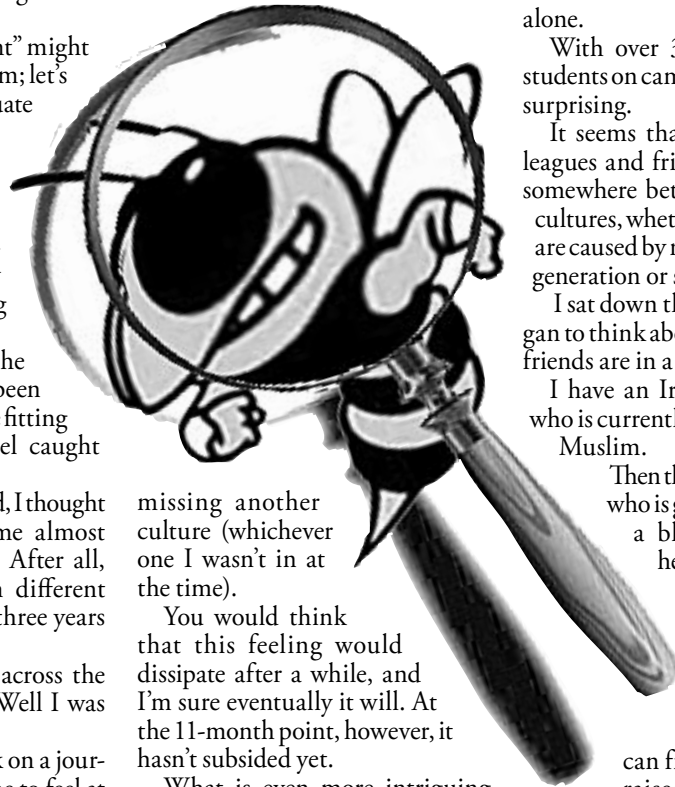
How would moving across the pond be any different? Well I was wrong.

I was about to embark on a journey, which would lead me to feel at home in two different countries, and yet simultaneously I found myself



"It seems that many of my colleagues and friends are also adrift somewhere between two different cultures..."

Karen Feigh
Columnist



alone.

With over 3,000 international students on campus, it hardly seems surprising.

It seems that many of my colleagues and friends are also adrift somewhere between two different cultures, whether these differences are caused by religion, nationality, generation or something else.

I sat down the other day and began to think about how many of my friends are in a similar situation.

I have an Irish Catholic friend who is currently dating a Pakistani Muslim.

Then there is another friend, who is generally considered a black sheep among her family of doctors and lawyers who see engineering as a less than noble profession.

Also notable is my Korean-American friend whose parents raised her American—only to face disappointment

that she continues to reject all of

their suggestions for her future husband.

Next is myself-proclaimed liberal friend, who has never had a kind word to say about anything associated with the U.S. government. After returning from a six month stint abroad, she found herself strangely conservative and patriotic.

Lastly is my friend who upon graduating with honors in engineering and working in industry for the past three years has rediscovered her sporty-creative side, leading to serious questions about her career path.

Everywhere I look I seem to see people caught between two or more worlds.

Which leads me to the question of whether anyone actually feels content with their culture. And more appropriately, should they?

Maybe it is just a part of life to feel torn or at least stretched. Maybe we are all better off because of the pull between these two worlds.

I'm beginning to feel that this juxtaposition is a welcome dimension of my personality and life.

I just wish it didn't leave me craving tea every afternoon.

Currently working on her Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Karen Feigh has been involved in numerous organizations, including *T-Book*, the Women's Leadership Conference, Graduate Student Senate and President's Council, during her undergraduate and graduate studies at Tech.