

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Balance with the arts

New partnership brings needed options to students

The unique alliance between the Woodruff Center for the Arts and Tech opens up new entertainment and cultural options for students and enhances the relationship between two important institutes in the Midtown area. This new program is a benefit for all students, allowing them to experience the arts through an affordable and plentiful platform. The Woodruff Center offers world-class exhibitions and performances that could not be hosted at Tech and experiencing these attractions will enhance the overall education of students.

This program must also be fully promoted to students to maximize utilization. Partnering with the Student Center Programs Council, which run Tech's nights at the Aquarium and Six Flags efficiently, to support the new Tech nights at the Woodruff Center should prove to make the events just as popular. Transportation for these special events should also be provided to maximize

attendance by all students. Students must also embrace this opportunity and appreciate the work of SGA and the administration to facilitate this worthwhile program.

This new partnership between Tech and the Woodruff Center should also be the first of many steps to enhance the arts culture at Tech and throughout the city of Atlanta. In order for Tech to grow and create students ready to solve the problems of the future, the student body must be well versed in many facets, including the arts. Tech needs to shed its stigma of being a campus solely of rigid numbers and embrace a melding of arts and science. There is no place for narrow education in a modern world. The Institute must also work to develop partnerships with other art and cultural establishments in the Atlanta area to create a vibrant intellectual community that spreads throughout the surrounding urban area and attracts talents of all fields.

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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EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ROSE PENG



SGA should not fund newspaper program



“Even this reduced amount is too much to spend on a service which simply does not provide enough of a benefit.”

Mike Donohue
SGA Editor

Both the UHR and GSS should defeat the bill pending in both houses providing continued funding to the *USA Today* Collegiate Readership Program. The representatives and senators of last academic year wisely decided to cut the program from the SGA budget, and this year's members should prudently follow their predecessors' example.

The Collegiate Readership Program has provided the *New York Times*, *USA Today* and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* to approximately 700 readers each weekday since 2007. The papers are not limited to just students, but instead can be accessed by any member of the Tech community. Previous levels of distribution cost student \$40,000 per year, although the current bill before SGA would halve the program to a funding level of \$20,000.

Even this reduced amount is too much to spend on a service which simply does not provide enough of a benefit to justify the cost, especially after the efforts last year to adjust the budget for the financial difficulties being felt by the entire university system. All of these publications are freely available on the internet, and, considering the prevalence of notebook computers and mobile devices among the student body, few are unable to access the day's news anywhere, anytime.

Proponents will point out that such spending is not unprecedented. SGA often spends much more money on programs that benefit fewer students. For example, SGA will consider a bill next week that would provide the Rowing Club, a group of several dozen members, with nearly \$45,000. Supporters will claim that distributing these newspapers will help “break the Tech Bubble” and expose students to the goings-on of the outside world. These people would be mostly correct.

However, the fact remains that the Collegiate Readership Program does not do enough for what students will pay in. Large capital bills like the one to be discussed concerning Rowing Club are crucial for clubs to continue their activities and directly benefit the students who participate in them. Providing free print newspapers to students while the exact same content is available for free online does not provide nearly that same benefit, despite the fact that the program reaches more people. The few (as a percentage of the student body) that do pick up the paper each day will not be unduly inconvenienced by the absence of these publications around campus

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each day.

Claims that the program will expose students to new ideas and current events likewise do not tell the entire story. Students that do not regularly read the news will not be swayed to change their ways by seeing a copy of the *New York Times* or the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in a display each morning. If students were indeed influenced to read the paper by seeing a physical copy, then the highest areas of student traffic would see the most copies taken, such as the library or the IC. In fact, the most popular distribution location by far is the CRC, a place frequented by a large proportion of non-students.

Members of the Executive Cabinet of both the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Governments should be commended for working hard over the summer to attempt to find an alternative solution, but the issue is now solidly in the hands of the UHR and GSS. Both houses will discuss and vote on the bill next week.

The members of both houses must carefully consider this bill. The UHR in particular should endeavor to have a robust discussion about the pros and cons of funding this program. Although it is still early in the year, the representatives should not continue their thus-far standard procedure of listening to the sponsor of the bill, asking perhaps one question, and then voting without any further discussion. Such a practice does a disservice to their constituents, the students of Tech.

Representatives and senators should take the weekend to contact their constituencies and determine what the students want to do with this program. I am confident that these elected officials will find there is not enough support for this program and will decide to defeat the bill during their next session.

Education reform needed, not simple

It's considered the American dream, it's what drives immigrants come to this country for: education. According to one long-ago politician, "education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army." Now, I believe that our country is so strongly rooted in its beliefs that it would be impossible to control its ideologies. Instead, I take this quote to mean that without education, we lose the liberty of scientific advancement, the gratification afforded by the luxuries of entertainment and perhaps, most importantly, the status symbol of our country's power.

According to the Comparative Indicators of Education in the U. S. and other G8 Countries statistical report produced by the National Center for Education Statistics in 2004, the percentage of teenagers receiving formal education in the U.S. lags behind those of France and Germany and ties with several other countries. The golden merit for the U.S. in these pages of overwhelmingly low statistics for the U.S. is that the per-student funding of primary, secondary and higher education is significantly higher in this country than in others. Despite the time that has passed since the publication of this report, it speaks volumes of our educational progress in the past couple of decades in comparison to the rest of the world. Unfortunately,



"The biggest problem is that education gets the specific interest it needs from neither politicians nor citizens."

Kamna Bohra
Focus Editor

ly, regardless of the trillions of dollars that are afforded to us, our educational system is comparatively tanking.

One key fault of the current educational system is the lack of accountability attributed to teachers. Teachers' pay should be directly proportional to the progress of their students—not the scores compared to students across the country or even the county, but compared to those of previous years. Marked progress deserves recognition. In my time in the public school system of Georgia, I had many fantastic teachers who invested themselves in their students' achievements; I also had many terrible teachers who invested themselves in their daily soaps, not their students.

The worst part? Their salaries, benefits and even just public recognition were exactly the same. Our desperate need for teachers may cause schools to hire less-than-adequate educators, but that does not mean their progress should not be tracked the way jobs in

other industries are.

The biggest problem is that education gets the specific interest it needs from neither politicians nor citizens. While government is responsible for enacting effective educational policy, families must also be actively engaged in their children's educational futures, and without a home-based influence, even the best of educations can pass through one ear and out the other ear.

One suggested solution has been the issuance of vouchers for students to leave their public school district and attend public schools elsewhere or enter charter, magnet and private schools instead. In cases of extreme degeneration, shifting students to other school systems works best as a short-term solution; however, it seems that in most cases, vouchers are being established as a long-term solution.

As a result of more students moving into the private sector, charter and magnet schools will experience the overpopulation associated with high stu-

dent-teacher ratios and poorly distributed resources, eventually causing these schools to tank. The government needs to take responsibility for the schools it more directly funds instead of dumping its educational problems on institutions of the private sector for an overhaul that cannot happen.

Another possible solution is the localization of funding; attempts at federal and even state, funding causes a strain on the spread of money across the nation. Additionally, local governments are more in tune with what is necessary to create educational progress in their communities. However, if not funding, the state and federal governments need to set academic standards and checkpoints for their component governments to achieve; without marked progress within each school district, education obviously cannot proceed.

In the face of the massive economic crisis and the turmoil of global relations, the dipping educational system will only extend the domestic problems and reduce progress in international relations. A stagnant educational philosophy fosters a generation of huge potential and vast opportunities, but minimal capitalization of those benefits. It will only perpetuate a habit of taking things for granted.

Movie trailers deserve independent credit

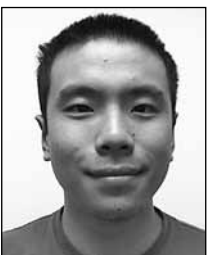
Movie trailers are, in their own right, an art form.

While originated as nothing but a simple corporate marketing scheme, movie trailers have grown to so much more over the decades of movie productions, evolving and perfecting itself alongside film's history as a whole. Just as acknowledged films will be remembered for centuries after their debut, film trailers have the potential to last in the minds of its viewers for months, if not years.

A great and relevant example of this was the "fake trailer" for Robert Rodriguez's *Machete*, first seen preceding the film *Planet Terror* back in 2007. Instantly receiving critical praise at the time, the trailer had a wide fan base who realized right away that they had seen something special. As time passed by, the idea grew stronger and stronger, and the aspiration for the full title was finally achieved three and a half years later, present day.

As such, a successful movie preview should not only captivate the attention of the viewers, but will leave them with a taste of curiosity, discovery and wonder that they cannot fulfill 'till further pursuit into the unknown.

If film as a whole can be compared to relationships, then the movie trailers introducing it are equivalent to falling in love. It is that first step, that first kiss. It is those first few unforgettable moments



"The movie trailers introducing [the film] are equivalent to falling in love. It is that first step, that first kiss."

Zheng Zheng
Entertainment Editor

that give you a hint of what is coming and have you wanting more.

If film can be made into a box of new Ben & Jerry flavored ice-cream, then film trailers might just be those first few delicious bites that will lead to you inevitably finishing half a box in one setting.

Of course, just as relationships wither and great flavors eventually become familiar, great trailers might not always lead to satisfactory end results in the form of the movie. Vice versa, great films could also be introduced by poorly constructed trailers, although it is, in my personal opinion, significantly more difficult to achieve than the previous case.

Because of this nature of the relationship between the trailer and the film, movie previews should be speculated independently as an art form from the film it is associated with, largely due to the differences in their values. While one is to entertain, the other instills an idea.

One perfect example of

this, perhaps, is the film trailer for M. Night Shyamalan's latest work, *Devil*. Aside from the fact that the credit of the director's name immediately spurs laughter and mockery from the audience in nearly every theatre across the nation, the movie trailer itself, independent from how the film might actually be according to Shyamalan's latest track records, is very impressive.

The idea here is that a group of people are stuck in an elevator and one person among them is the Devil himself. This trailer promises potential mind-games and twisted schemes which all peaks my curiosity. My feelings towards the director and the film aside, I am very captivated and want to find out the answer. Because of this new found curiosity, the trailer has done its job.

That being said, one of the greatest faults a film trailer can make is to take away that sense of wonder and discovery discussed above from its viewers by providing more content than necessary. Sadly, this

has become a common practice among today's film trailer production, all for the sake of making the film appear more interesting.

While this might work for films trailers such as those of the *Twilight* series, which need to reassure its audience that there certainly will be built teenage males taking their shirts off on screen, it is sadly an unfortunate discussion for another day.

Comedy film trailers have also historically been repeated offenders in that they frequently show off possibly some of the best one-liners from the actual film. As a result, when these same jokes that people have heard thousands of times before appear in the actual movie, they become significantly less amusing. The people will be stuck in an uncomfortable situation where they know they are expected to laugh, and maybe will out of courtesy, but simply no longer find the jokes entertaining. Of course, on the other side of the spectrum we have those trailers that overcome this obstacle. From *Despicable Me* to *Inception*, the examples are plenty.

I'm a man who enjoys my fair share of movie trailers, maybe even more than films themselves. I encourage you out there to really challenge yourselves and evaluate what a movie trailer presents to you the next time you visit a movie.

BUZZ

Around Campus

What would you like to have seen from the strategic plan?



Candace Mitchell
Fifth-year CS

"It is a great plan for Tech to become a global leader."



Ryann Kopacka
Grad. IE

"I think it's great. Very comprehensive."



Kelly Love
Third-year NRE

"I think it is good already."



Lauren Tanguay
Third-year ARCH

"I don't know much about it."

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT⁻or⁻NOT**Bulldog take down**

While they aren't the bulldogs most care that much about beating, the win over South Carolina State was a great start to the season for the Jackets. The Jackets should have another easy victory this weekend when they travel up to Kansas to take on a Jayhawk team that lost to North Dakota State last week, 6-3. Still, North Carolina is looming on the horizon for Tech.

**Lil' to thrill**

Lil' Jon fell short of satisfying students in the parking lot of Howey Physics last Thursday. Lil' Jon, limiting the performance to playing on his laptop, was disappointing, and the venue, of course, was lacking. Still, Lil' Jon's brevity was appreciated. Shwayze and Kelley James, however, put on performances worthy of recognition and should be role models for Lil' Jon.

**Freshly elected**

The fall elections are next week, which will allow freshmen to elect four representatives for the second year to represent them in the UHR. There is also an amendment before the student body to amend the SGA constitution to change the arrangement of the prior year account and the capital outlay account. Students should take a minute and exercise their right to vote.

**Flare warning**

The test of the emergency notification system by Tech last Thursday created quite a confusion when it was sent out to campus stating that there was a solar flare warning. In the future, sticking to a simple "this is a test" warning would suffice, but it is reassuring that if a solar flare does threaten the well being of the Tech campus, we all would be well informed of the situation.

RHA works to enhance campus culture, represent residence

With over eighty officers enabling in excess of 1100 events and voicing the opinions of numerous residents in the past year, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is brimming with enthusiasm for the coming months. Over the past two weeks, a new set of officers representing residents from all 20 hall councils were elected. Upon the swift conclusion of training, these 20 executive boards will be ready to take the campus by storm as they tackle many of the nebulous issues facing residents, employing both representation and direct action, while alleviating the strains of a rigorous school year through quality social programming.

This year, RHA aims to direct its energies to greater campus-wide programming and representation for the resident population while continuing support for the grassroots social activities the hall council structure affords. This unique dynamic exists primarily through the incredible dedication of all RHA officers to ensure that residents are involved and aware of what their governing body can do for them. Their efforts are facilitated and bolstered by the immense support of the Residence Life staff which is exemplified by the close interactions between hall council boards, the student staff members, hall directors and campus administration.

As an organization that considers itself an enabler, this year we are looking to further allow every resident the opportunity to tap into the collective resources of more than 8000 fellow members of the Tech community. In order to do this effectively, every resident must have the capacity to



"RHA aims to direct its energies to greater campus-wide programming and representation for resident population"

Parul Kapur

Residence Hall Association President

have their opinion heard. RHA plans to cater to this need through a concerted effort to promote the voices of individuals and carry their message forward. Over the past year, RHA members have exemplified their dedication to activism, with respect to the resident population, by tackling a host of issues around campus.

RHA has been involved with the design of the North Avenue Dining Hall since its inception, and our efforts have paid off in terms of the services that have ultimately been secured for the student population. Additionally, the organization has provided input and resources dealing with numerous campus issues from parking and transportation to the Student Center renovations and promotion of campus spirit. These targeted efforts are coupled with service on a variety of campus advisory boards. All of these initiatives are on track for continuation in the semesters ahead of us here at Tech.


RHA's organizational role is not limited to representation of the resident body. RHA officers and volunteers facilitated fall move-in and then held multiple welcome-home events for all GT students. This programming will escalate following the officer retreat with Music and Mocktails on Oct. 1, a hall-council based

mocktail competition and party at Tech Rec. Following Music and Mocktails, the RHA will turn its attention to Towers Haunted House, a charity event that regularly draws several hundred people from across campus.

During the spring semester, RHA will take time to advance special initiatives on campus while continuing programming efforts. In prior years, the organization has looked into electrical conservation through a program known to campus as Wasted Watts.

This year, the organization would like to look into developing alternative sustainability programs that have a broader scope with even more tangible results for the participants. RHA will also be collaborating closely with several the Student Center Programs Council, SGA, and Auxiliary Services to put on GT Night at the Aquarium. This theme of collaboration will be continued through an expansion of last years I <3 GT project, which dramatically improved campus spirit outside of the football season.

As our plans for the year unfold, I would like to mention, on behalf of all RHA officers, that it is our honor to be entrusted by the residents of Tech to ensure that their needs and desires are catered to during the upcoming school year.



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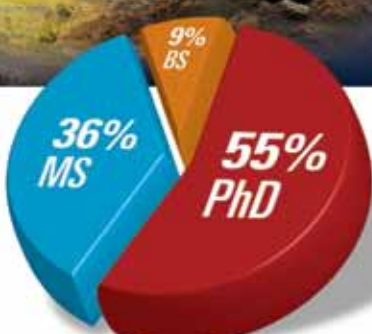
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