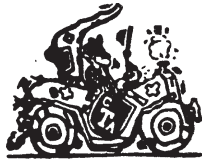


# OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, October 14, 2005



"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

## TECHNIQUE

Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

**Quote of the week:**  
*"Sex takes up the least amount of time and causes the most amount of trouble."*  
 —Murphy's Laws

### OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## Bomb effect

The event that has now become known as "the bombing" on campus will be continue to be controversial for weeks to come. The way that the incident was handled by the various parties involved: the student, the administration, the police and the media, brings up many concerns and issues concerning the execution and punishment of campus pranks.

The culprit behind the bombs, now identified as Theodore Hollot, a freshman Nuclear and Radiological Engineering major, made several crucial mistakes to cause the incident. People can debate on whether or not he should have played with explosive materials in the first place, but it is undeniable that the unexploded pressure bombs should have been disposed of properly and not simply left lying in a public area.

Placing oneself in danger is one thing, but placing the public in danger is substantially more serious. It does not appear that Hollot had any malicious motives, but he is guilty of being negligent and should be punished in some manner.

Hollot is facing charges for possession of a destructive device, a felony, and reckless conduct, a misdemeanor under Georgia law. Currently being held in a Fulton County jail, Hollot could possibly face up to five or ten years in prison if convicted. A felony record and prison sentence will scar and possibly ruin the future of a young man just entering adulthood.

Prosecutors should take into consideration the fact that Hollot turned himself in promptly after realizing the damage his actions had caused, and accepted full responsibility for his actions. If he hadn't done so, many resources would have been wasted in the investigation that would have spread panic and doubt regarding the safety of our community.

As for the media response, in the over-hyped post 9/11 world, the bombing was immediately blown out of proportion by the news media as a "terrorist attack." Three soda-bottle bombs caused more media uproar than muggings, bringing undue worry to the many friends and families who saw that a "terrorist attack" occurred at Tech. Such coverage also makes Tech appear unsafe to the eyes of potential students and their parents.

In fact, the Tech response to the bombs was very prompt, professional and efficient. All the necessary precautions were taken, and campus advisory emails kept the community informed and kept panic and confusion at a low.

In the end, hopefully a lesson can be learned by all on the severity of playing pranks and the consequences of negligent behavior without completely compromising a young man's future as a result of a single mistake.

*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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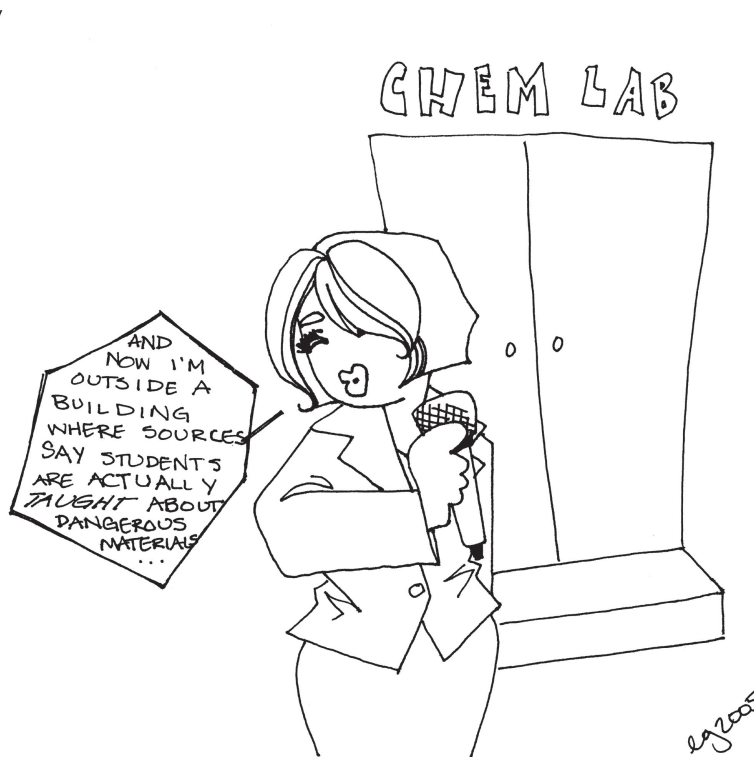
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By Erin Gatlin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Residents should always evacuate

Every person has been given the reason "it is for your own good" at some point in his or her life, whether it be your mom explaining why she screamed when you placed your toddler hand near the hot stove or your friend's advice on staying away from your current crush.

We have all heard it, and self preservation seems pretty instinctive. But apparently some people did not choose to act on this instinct when they stayed in their rooms after being told to evacuate during the explosive scare this past Monday.

Six male residents from Glenn hall and two female residents from Cloudman hall decided to catch more sleep rather than leave their rooms when the fire alarm went off.

They all left the residences only after someone came around, door-to-door, to make sure students were safe and out of the building.

Fortunately, in the end no one inside the dorms was endangered because of Monday's incident.

Had the situation been worse, however, their decision not to leave the building would be in retrospect not lazy but very deadly.

Housing's fire safety policy says that you must leave the building during a fire alarm. It is actually against the law to remain in your room.

This policy is meant to protect students. Granted, fire and safety drills had just finished at these dorms and a few of these students thought it was another related false alarm. However, the students should have left the building no matter what.

Leaving the building during every alarm ensures that no true emergency is ever ignored.

The safety drills exist so that residents can prepare for an emergency. They should not be announced, but they have to be performed. Students need to take every alarm seriously and leave their rooms as soon as possible.

I spent a summer at Texas Tech



**"Walking outside during a drill cannot hurt you, but staying inside during an actual emergency could cost you your life and puts others in danger, too."**

**Amanda Dugan**  
 News Editor

several years ago and almost ignored a dorm alarm during an actual fire. I did not fully wake up until I smelled smoke and at that point, being on the 10th floor, it could have been a problem.

But I was hardly the last one out. There had been several false alarms that summer, but this time it was a real fire from the trash chute.

It took over two hours for the rescue workers to clear the building, going door-to-door to get people up.

Remaining in your room during an actual emergency, like so many of my fellow residents did at Texas Tech, puts rescue workers and housing staff in danger as they have to risk their lives to protect yours.

In the event of an actual emergency people want to survive, so no one should chance it just for a few extra minutes in their room to get a few more minutes of sleep.

False fire alarms are frequent on Tech's campus and often inconvenience students. Housing needs to ensure that only the necessary number of drills is performed so that students do not become desensitized to alarms.

Following the same thought, students cooking in buildings need to watch what they are cooking so they do not cause the entire building to evacuate. An alarm should never be pulled as a prank.

This episode and the conse-

quences that the student is now facing should teach all of campus the seriousness of what many consider just "pranks."

Remaining safe in the case of a real emergency negates the inconvenience of leaving your room for a few minutes just in case.

I was told that the girls who stayed inside were visibly alarmed when they saw the fire trucks outside (once they made it there) and realized they could have harmed themselves. Chalk it up as a lesson learned, but do not miss out on learning from their experience too.

Walking outside during a drill cannot hurt you (although I broke my nose in sixth grade from tripping during a fire drill, so do be cautious), but staying inside during an actual emergency could cost you your life and puts others in danger too.

Hindsight is always 20-20. Understanding there could be a real danger and following instructions that are meant to protect you can ensure you will have the opportunity to reflect on the next real or obnoxious alarm.

So, next time an alarm goes off please act instinctively and do what could save your life. Calmly and quietly leave the building.

If it is just a drill, relish it and meet some of your dorm mates that you do not know—we could all use a few more minutes of friendly conversation to break up the day.



# Take time to discover, explore sexual identity

Let's talk about sex.  
Do I have your attention?  
Good, because there's more.

Most of you reading this are college students only a few years out of high school, which means you're now independent adults who are learning to live up to the responsibilities of adulthood. And that means it's time to make some decisions about your sex life.

The first thing to know is that Tech promotes a message not of abstinence but of sexual responsibility.

That's why there's a bowl of free condoms in the waiting room of the Wellness Center and cheap birth control available at the school pharmacy. That's why the Counseling Center offers couples counseling and a library on human sexuality.

That's why there's a wealth of programs and literature around campus on sexual behavior, sexual diseases, sexual violence and a variety of other topics. These resources are there to help you make your own informed decisions about your sexual practices.

This isn't some abstinence-preaching high school. There are no parents or teachers hovering over you and your date. Tech wants your behavior to be healthy, consensual, legal and well-informed, but otherwise, it doesn't concern itself with what



**"You are now independent adults... and that means it's time to make some decisions about your sex life."**

**Joshua Cuneo**  
Online Editor

you do behind closed doors.

The second thing to know is that the human sexual desire is a perfectly natural, biological craving—just like hunger and fatigue—that must have a means of satisfaction for the sake of our health. When we're hungry, we eat. When we're tired, we sleep. And when we find ourselves sexually aroused? Well, there are literally hundreds of ways to respond, including everything from full sexual intercourse to simple meditation.

Every one of us thinks about sex on a daily basis. The vast majority of us have at least tried masturbation at one point in our lives. Most of us sit up and pay attention whenever the topic of sex arises. There is no shame or sin in this simple truth. We must have a satisfying outlet for our sexual energies, or we end up suppressing our sexual tendencies, which can lead to stress, distraction, emotional turmoil

and a deadened sex life.

Unfortunately, I think many students are guilty of this suppression already. The problem is that sex has been marginalized and condemned for a long time by mainstream social and cultural influences. We don't talk about sex as openly and freely as we should, and most forms of sexual exploration are often romanticized as a highly private affair reserved only for married couples.

Granted oral, anal and vaginal intercourse carry risks. STDs and unexpected pregnancies are very real dangers, and it's your responsibility to remain informed of the possible consequences if you choose to engage in any of these. All other options, however—ranging from masturbation and games like strip poker to exercise and prayer—are perfectly safe, and you only have to concern yourself with which options fall within the bounds of your moral

and ethical guidelines.

And that means taking the time to learn just what options are available. I've already mentioned masturbation. Pornography and sex toys can provide a healthy stimulus for your fantasy life (there are a couple of decent sex shops within walking distance of the campus). Some people flirt. Some dress provocatively. Some touch their friends affectionately. I've even discovered that merely talking about sex can be a satisfactory release.

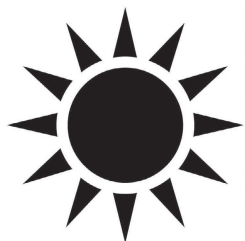
The third thing to know is that sex influences many facets of our lives. It affects the way we act, the way we dress, the way we communicate. It's why raunchy humor is so prevalent on this campus. It's why students often behave differently toward friends of the opposite sex. It's why I've advocated more than once for a sex column in this newspaper. Chances are some aspect of your behavior demonstrates your sexual desires, even if it's on a subconscious level.

The fourth thing to know is that you should respect the sexual decisions of their classmates, regardless of whether you agree with them. And everybody has his or her own unique sexual philosophy. I've met students who are adamant about remaining chaste until marriage and students who

See Sex, page 10

## OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

### HOT- or -NOT



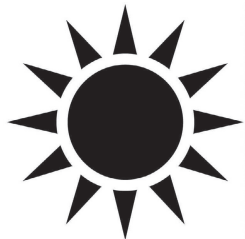
#### Fall break

Beleaguered students finally have a chance to breathe, eat and sleep like normal people. And with no conflict with homecoming this year, students have the freedom to go where they like. Bon voyage to the altruistic participants of Geaux to the Gulf who will be spending their break helping to clean up after the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It should be a good warm-up for the winter break trip.



#### Unplanned planners

The dumping of the original 8,000 planners printed through SGA's efforts is most unfortunate. Thanks to the "questionable" ads placed on Wednesday and Thursday of each week, the second round of planners won't come out until more than halfway after the start of the semester. By then the organized kids will already have their planners. Besides, some of us don't mind weekly reminders about pitcher specials.



#### Making it count

Another natural disaster has hit the world, and Tech students are once again sharing their concerns. The Pakistani students have diligently tabled Skiles throughout the week to raise money for their fellow countrymen. Though this disaster didn't arrive at our front door, it is a great cause nonetheless.



#### Unmodel behavior

While Tech fans were understandably disappointed with the football team's performance against N.C. State, disappointment is no excuse for the behavior fans exhibited after the game. Trash was thrown at players on the field on national television. Tech students are expected to be classier than this.

## YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Professors speak out on Ashby

Ashby clouds scientific judgement with faith

In an Oct. 7 article on his recently published book, Dr. Eugene Ashby insinuates that some of the top biological scientists in the world are very disillusioned with Darwinian evolution. He is either badly misinformed or is allowing his faith to cloud his judgment.

Virtually every professional society of biologists has come out with a strong endorsement of Darwinian evolution including the National Academy of Sciences. The disillusionment that Ashby imagines is among creationists masquerading as scientists who oppose Darwinian evolution on religious grounds.

We have to wonder why a chemist like Ashby believes that tens of thousands of biologists have misinterpreted over 145 years of data supporting the basic paradigm of Darwinian evolution.

This paradigm is so convincing that it is now the principal explanatory theory for all biological phenomena, and has been successfully applied to problems from the prediction of the dynamics of plagues to the green revolution in agriculture. The tiny fraction of scientists who reject Darwinian evolution do so based on their religious beliefs, not a critical analysis of the data.

Undersigned:  
Dr. Terry Snell; Dr. Julia Kubanek; Dr. Todd Streelman; Dr. Mark Hay; Dr. Mike Goodman; and Dr. Jung Choi

### Creationism not scientific theory

We are writing with regard to Swathy Prithivi's interview with our colleague Emeritus Prof. Eugene Ashby concerning

See Letters, page 10

#### Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu) or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Kyle Thomason, 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](http://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 Grant Schissler 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](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu).

## BUZZ Around the Campus

**What is the best Atlanta location for a first date?**



**Ben Kirk**  
Second-year ME

*"Maggiano's"*



**Ashley Cameron**  
Third-year MGT

*"The Cheesecake Factory"*



**Talha Khan**  
Second-year ECE

*"This is Tech, man! You can't get a date, there are no girls here."*



**Megan Heaphy**  
Third-year BIOL

*"Dinner at Tin Drum and dancing."*

Photos by Ben Keyserling



## Letters from page 9

his new book. We are dismayed by certain comments attributed to Prof. Ashby, which could be interpreted as attempts to discredit evolutionary theory in biology and to support the teaching of creationism in American public secondary schools.

As concerned citizen-scientists and educators, we categorically disagree with current efforts to introduce creationism into science curricula.

Alternatives to evolutionary theory that invoke the supernatural cannot be accepted as scientific. The foundations of modern biology are being misrepresented or banished outright from science classrooms in many parts of the U.S.

We are deeply disturbed by the small minority of scientists that knowingly contribute to these efforts, efforts that represent long-term threats to the science infrastructure and security of our nation. All people of this nation have the right to their own religious beliefs, but the supernatural has no place in science instruction.

Evolutionary theory is the foundation of modern biological sciences. It is supported by the fossil record, comparative anatomy, biogeography, developmental biology, molecular biology and genomics sciences. Without

evolutionary theory, biology loses rational basis. Over the last several decades, the concepts, methods and results of evolutionary theory have transcended biology and are now of tremendous importance to other fields as well, including medicine and the chemical sciences.

Undersigned:

Dr. Loren D. Williams; Dr. Nicholas V. Hud; Dr. Donald F. Doyle; Dr. Haskell W. Beckham; Dr. Jean-Luc Brédas; Dr. Uwe H. F. Bunz; Dr. David M. Collard; Dr. Robert M. Dickson; Dr. Facundo M. Fernandez; Dr. Stephen C. Harvey; Dr. Jiri Janata; Dr. Nils Kroger; Dr. Christine Krantz; Dr. Julia Kubanek; Dr. Andrew Lyon; Dr. Seth Marder; Dr. Boris Mizaikoff; Dr. Thomas Orlando; Dr. Joseph Perry; Dr. James C. Powers; Dr. Laren M. Tolbert; Dr. Marcus Weck; Dr. Paul H. Wine; and Dr. Z. John Zhang.

### Bomb incident blown out of proportion

Why is there such big hype surrounding this bomb scare story?

When I was a freshmen, two fraternity members tried to bomb another fraternity with probably similar soda bottle bombs. One blew up in a cop's face as he was chasing the perps. This was a month or two after 9/11, and yet there was not a

big deal made out of the situation. The two kids got suspended for a semester. This case is clearly much worse than the current case at hand, for there was actually a target, and a cop was injured.

This poor Theodore guy probably just likes chemistry and was interested in some chemical reactions. Forgive him, maybe one day he would have solved global warming. Not anymore.

There is no reason why my mom, who lives in Montana, should have called me to ask if I was okay, while I was puzzled at what the hell she was talking about. Now, I don't know if it is the media or Tech administration that blew this whole thing way out of proportion, but it is certainly not helping out our school any.

Jordan Beckler  
gtg639b@mail.gatech.edu  
Senior EAS

### "T" stealing exudes school tradition

To the student responsible for stealing the replica "T" recently, well done. Complaints from a couple of associate deans notwithstanding, it was taken after the celebration, without posing any danger to the student or others, and was returned within a couple of days.

Who can't appreciate the irony of

the administration buying an extra "T" in case the one on the tower is stolen, and having the replacement stolen?

Apparently the two aforementioned associate deans can't. Students have been stealing the "T" for decades. You can say it's illegal, you can say it's dangerous, you can say it will no longer be tolerated, but you can't say it's not a tradition. When it's carried off in a way that's safe and causes no harm, lighten up.

David Fahey  
dfaheyReply@carolina.rr.com  
Alumnus, ME 1980

### Online information leads to "e-stalker"

In conjunction with "Online information often misleads viewer," it should be noted that your personal information can also be used for harassment by an "e-stalker." I've had the wonderful experience of dealing with this twice.

The first was a fifty year old woman from New York; we'll call her wishmoo because that's her internet alias. Wishmoo, along with her son, ran a quite popular website. Either way, I made enemies with wishmoo somehow. Soon enough, she was searching to get my name and my phone number. She called my high

school after figuring out where I went and requested the information from the attendance office, which turned her down. Eventually, I posted my name on my personal website, two years after she had called my high school. I came home days later to hear that she called my house to tell my mom about how "sinful" and "mean" I was. That was nothing, however, to the next woman.

Terri is the jobless mother of someone in my graduating class. She found pictures of a high school fight and girls-kissing-girls on my website, and went on a moral crusade to stop my freedom of speech. From calling the school to tell them about the fight pictures to calling my house three times in a night to talk to my parents, this woman was serious. She even went so far as to call my dad's work to talk about my "sinful" actions. My dad hung up on her.

Terri has threatened lawsuits against me, attempted to shut down my website and threatened to contact a "friend of [hers] who works [at Tech] and is very good friends with Zell...as in Miller."

The lesson is to watch what you give out on the Internet. It's been over a year since Terri started harassing me, yet she's still quite persistent.

Eric Sembrat  
gth758g@mail.gatech.edu  
First-year CS

## Sex from page 9

are ready to hop into bed together at the first available opportunity. Those are the extremes, of course, and many students fall somewhere

in the middle.

So feel free to explore, to invent, to be creative, and to find your own means of sexual expression. If you want to browse the web for popular masturbation techniques, if you're

ready to go pick up your first dildo or vibrator, or if you're simply content to cuddle with a friend in front of a movie, go for it. You'll feel better because of it.

Now, I'm not suggesting that

Tech is—or should be—some sort of free love utopia. What I am saying is that it's unhealthy to deny your sexual desires and to suppress them outright until marriage or even until you enter a romantic relationship.

Now is the time to discover which outlets are best suited for those desires, regardless of your relationship status.

Besides, why should romantic couples get to have all the fun?

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