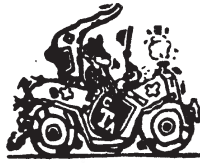


# OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, October 28, 2005



"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"  
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## Quote of the week:

"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."  
—Abraham Lincoln

## OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

# Leadership Seed

Tech is taking a step forward towards a new Certificate program in Leadership with the inception of a new class entitled "Foundations of Leadership" (PUBP 4803) taught by Tech's new Director of Leadership Education Dr. Phil Thompson.

According to Thompson, the course will cover leadership case studies, theory, labs, guest lectures and include a cap stone project that would allow students to apply leadership principles to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Similar classes, such as Dr. Arnold Stancell's (previously Tech's Servant Leadership Chair) popular servant leadership course, have been around since the inception of the Leadership Initiative.

Tech students are not unfamiliar with the concept of a leadership class, but many still harbor a certain degree of skepticism toward leadership education. This new course needs to prove that it is more than just an easy course with a buzzword in the title—especially if the program aims to reach out to the general student population and not just to those students who are already involved in leadership activities.

There will always be those who are born leaders who only want the certificate to legitimize their position, and there will always be those who think that leadership is not worth their time. But the creation of a leadership certificate has the potential to help those already in leadership positions to take their leadership to a more cerebral level and to give less-experienced students the confidence to take on new responsibilities.

This course plants the seed for the next chapter of leadership at Tech. We want to produce students who are comfortable speaking in public, who have the ability to share their visions to others, who care about the world around them and who are responsible citizens of their communities. Let's hope that the instructors and administrators are planting the right seed.

# Basketball star dies

Jason Collier only played at Tech for a year-and-a-half after his highly publicized transfer from Indiana, but he certainly earned the love of fans and team members alike during the time that he was here. Known as a superior person off the court as well as on the hardwood, Collier was a role model to many.

Collier's sudden death at such a young age, combined with this weekend's dedication of the flagpole memorial in honor of Tyler Brown, former undergraduate student body president who was killed in action in Iraq last year, reminds us all that life is sometimes all-too-short and fleeting.

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

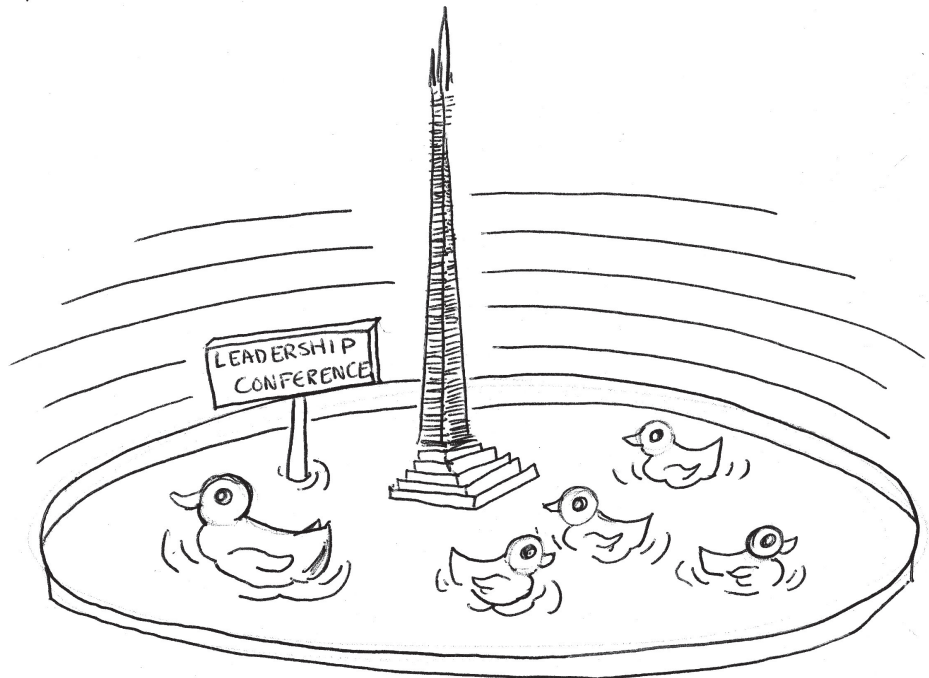
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I WONDER IF WE CAN GET OUR DUCKS IN A ROW...

By Ting Cheng / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

# Media distorts, sensationalizes

It was just a few weeks ago that headlines flashed across major news outlets about "terrorism" at Tech. With the nation's heightened security concerns after the Sept. 11 attacks, it is understandable that investigators would treat any incident with a bomb involved in such a manner.

However, as the media uncovered the facts about this so-called attack and realized that it was no more than a dry ice bomb, something that probably would have resulted in a mere slap on the wrist a decade ago, the headlines seemed to remain intent on making it look like Al Qaeda infiltrated the Institute.

Under the impression that the Institute was under serious attack, concerned friends and family frantically attempted to reach students; parents' worried cell phone calls crowded the airwaves as they tried to ascertain the fate of loved ones.

Why was this a "terrorist attack" before any facts had been uncovered? Why were parents across the country needlessly worrying about the well-being of their children? The answer is what has become commonplace in today's media, what sells stories and grabs attention—sensationalism.

We truly hoped that this instance of sensationalism would be the only case of this nationwide epidemic to hit this close to home.

But it wasn't.

Scanning through the popular press and perusing [townhall.com](http://townhall.com), we have found that we are once again the victims of the media jumping to conclusions to write an attention-grabbing story.

Now, if you already know what we're talking about, you may think this piece is another example of Tech's "liberal bias." However, one of the authors of this editorial is a moderate independent, and the other is a card-carrying member of the Republican Party.

For those of you lucky ones still in the dark, Mike Adams, a columnist at the aforementioned website and a UNC-Wilmington professor, has decided to lambast the historically conservative Institute for a perceived



**Stephen Baehl**  
Development Editor



**Kyle Thomason**  
Editor-in-Chief

trend toward intolerance of conservative beliefs—highlighted by a personal vendetta in "Colleges to avoid, part II" and his followup, "The Rambling Exec of Georgia Tech."

Of course, you wouldn't know it was a personal vendetta the way it was presented. In the article, an unnamed (and noticeably third-person) guest speaker at Tech (actually Adams) was supposedly unjustly ousted from a large room to accommodate a small number of "future homosexuals" being counseled on coming out of the closet, according to Adams. He was left to speak in a room that was "too small...in fact, it [was] almost like a closet."

These "future homosexuals" were in fact a group of seventh graders from around Atlanta participating in a program called Power Over Prejudice. The program, according to a study at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, is highly successful in achieving its objective of teaching students to understand their own prejudices and be positively affected in their attitudes toward people different from themselves. This is also a group that had reserved the room in question several months in advance.

Another example of the Institute's liberal bias, according to Adams, can be seen in the school funding of the "Arab Student Association," which protested U.S. policy toward Israel in October 2000 (Adams referenced this in his article). However, a cursory search of the 2005-2006 SGA budget revealed no such organization as the "Arab Student Association" receiving school funding—perhaps

Adams meant to refer to the "Muslim Student Association," which also participated in the protest five years ago. However, they did not receive a budget for this year either.

Additionally, Adams forgot to mention the "Students for Israel" organization, which does receive funding from SGA.

Speaking of funding disputes, Adams cited the inherent unfairness in a school that "enforces a rule that allows funding for all groups except for those classified as 'political.'"

This statement is true—if you replace the word groups in the preceding sentence with the word activities (see <http://sga.gatech.edu/finance>). The distinction is important. This is what allows cultural groups such as the Pride Alliance and Students for Israel to get funding, even if they do at times advocate a particular political viewpoint. The group can apply for funding for an event as long as the event is not political in nature and is open to anyone.

This also allows a group such as the College Republicans to apply for funds for such an activity through the bill system, which is available to all groups.

Adams, apparently unaware of this fact, said the policy unfairly allowed a "politically correct" group like the Pride Alliance to receive funding over a conservative student group. He even referenced (out of context) a story written by one of this editorial's authors, saying a College Republican's take on the funding issue was definitive proof

See Media, page 8



# Good relationships require effort to maintain

While reading over last week's relationship issue in the Focus section, I felt that there was one important relationship topic missing: what makes a relationship work?

Now by no means am I putting myself forth as an expert on the topic—in fact I've recently come out of a long-term relationship—but short of baring my soul to the world, I'd like to share a few nuggets that I learned from the two years I spent with my ex.

The first nugget of relationship knowledge is that relationships take work.

Nothing happens simply by chance or luck—in relationships, as in real life, you get out what you put in.

When you first meet that special guy/girl that captures your attention, the world is new, exciting and wonderful.

I remember when my ex and I first met, though neither of us was specifically looking for a serious relationship, the relationship simply progressed magically. We shared our pasts, discovered similar interests and found out all there was to know about each other.

But finding that special someone does not guarantee that couples will live happily ever after.

Inevitably, even in the best of relationships, the so-called "honeymoon" period ends and



**"Relationships take work. Nothing happens simply by chance or luck—in relationships, as in real life, you get what you put in."**

**Haining Yu**  
Opinions Editor

the relationship matures into a state of calm, or as some may say, a state of latency.

Couples can grow too comfortable with each other...to a point where neither party feels the need to impress the other. Their friends start calling them an "old couple," and finding something exciting to do on a Friday night becomes increasingly difficult.

This period of blah is not a sign that things should end or that the spark is gone, but many couples mistake it as so.

What they don't realize is that the relationship isn't going well not because they aren't compatible, but because they aren't putting forth enough effort to keep the relationship going.

Guys, just a hint, girls like to know that you are thinking of them. (And girls, I'm sure guys like to know that you are thinking of them too, though I'm

sure we think about them more than they think about us simply because we can multitask better). It doesn't take grandiose gestures to get the point across; a single rose, a nice voicemail or a back massage will do the trick. It really is the thought that counts.

The second nugget I'd like to share is one that people have heard over and over again: communication is key in a relationship. I know there were things that I didn't say in fear of hurting my ex's feelings, or damaging the relationship, without realizing that my ex shared the same concerns as I did.

I now realize that not communicating one's concerns is the biggest mistake one can make in a relationship. And taking a passive role in the relationship is just as bad.

Of course, certain trivial things can be left unsaid. A boyfriend doesn't need to make it

known each time he feels that his girlfriend's pants make her butt look big (it would unnecessarily upset her,) but one should never hold back on things that really matter, especially if it is a doubt about the relationship itself.

Suppressing doubts accomplishes nothing, and hoping that the problems just go away is just wishful thinking.

It is worth the risk of upsetting one's significant other a little in order to talk about potential relationship hazards—only then can the issue be resolved.

I can't promise that talking can resolve everything. It's possible that talking about the problem will lead to the dissolution of the relationship.

But at least the issue won't come up as a surprise somewhere down the line, and it won't blow up into something much larger and more hurtful.

Last of all, it is important that couples retain their identities as individuals.

Each person needs to maintain his or her own life in order to have something to bring to the table, to have something to add to the life of the relationship so that it doesn't become mundane.

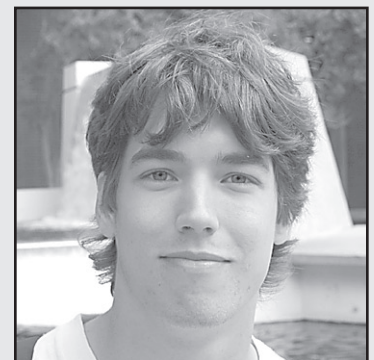
No matter how great the relationship is, it should never reduce an individual into "half of a whole," a dependent person whose "I" cannot stand alone without "we."

## BUZZ Around the Campus

### What are you dressing as for Halloween?



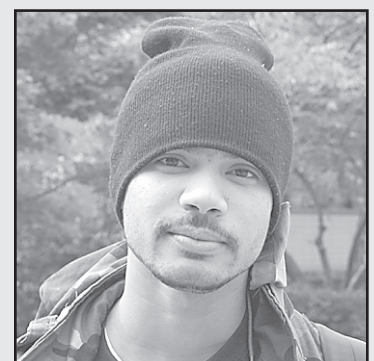
**Hee Jin Cho**  
Third-year IAML  
*"A British newspaper boy."*



**Shane Poland**  
Fourth-year ME  
*"Guy in a towel and a funny hat."*



**Sanjana Mammen**  
Third-year IAML  
*"Jessica Rabbit."*

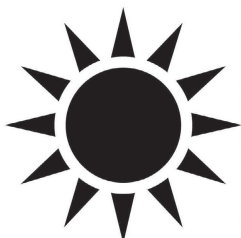


**Nicholas Brown**  
ECE Grad Student  
*"Nat Turner."*

Photos by James Holder

### OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

## HOT- or -NOT



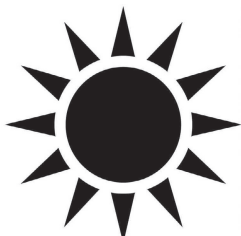
### Buyer's Heaven

Shoppers rejoice, fashion has arrived just down the street with the long-awaited grand opening of the shops at Atlantic Station. Everything from designer clothing to milk and cell phones can be found now just a short way from campus. Did we mention that Atlantic Station is pedestrian friendly? All this could only be bad news for compulsive shopaholics—a bad test could too easily turn into a pair of shoes.



### Cry Wolf

Tech received yet another visit from the bomb squad last Thursday when a "suspicious item," which turned out to be a fake hand grenade, similar to the kind used during military training, was found outside of the MRDC. Pranks involving potential explosive devices are just a nuisance to the city's emergency response personnel. Hopefully we've seen enough fake explosives for a while, now.



### Flags restored

The Smithgall Student Services Building has once again regained its right to be called the Flag building. And not only are the flags adorning the atrium ceiling brand new, but they are updated as well to represent the entirety of the current student population. Thanks Dr. Schafer for keeping a tradition alive.



### BOLO

To the guys riding around in a Ford Explorer abducting college students and stealing the contents of their pockets: college students are generally poor. These days, not only do Tech students have to worry about constant bomb threats, but we have to be suspicious of everyone who asks for directions, too.

### YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Ashby replies to peer criticism

I am replying to the two letters published in the Oct. 14 issue of the *Technique* concerning the interview of my new book, *Understanding the Creation/Evolution Controversy, A Scientific Evaluation Consistent with Both Modern Science and the Bible*.

I believe that if the authors of the two letters had read my book, they would not have argued the two points they presented that one, I have attempted "to discredit evolutionary theory in biology" and two that I "support the teaching of creationism in American public secondary schools." Nothing could be further from the truth.

The first letter by Dr. Snell et al states that I was "badly misinformed" when I suggested that "some of the top biological scientists in the world are very disillusioned with Darwinian evolution." In my book (see pp. 24) there are extensive quotes by three Nobel Laureates expressing skepticism about Darwinian

evolution.

His second point arises as a result of the use of the terms Darwinian evolution and evolution, interchangeably. The evolution of microorganisms and viruses that he infers are examples of microevolution or limited macroevolution.

This is distinctly different from the concept of Darwinian evolution which relates all species to previous species and eventually to the same single cell (or cells).

Such a process would take a very long period of time and is referred to as the theory of Gradualism. Darwinian theory (the theory of Gradualism) is in contradiction to the observations of the Cambrian Explosion which occurred 540 million years ago producing all major phyla of marine life and birds within a relatively short period.

There is no concrete proof that

See Ashby, 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

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### 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).



**Ashby** from page 9

the theory of Darwinian evolution (not to be confused with evolutionary theory) is valid, although the phenomenon of evolution (micro) has been well demonstrated. Darwinian evolution cannot even account for the often suggested evolution of birds from dinosaurs when one tries to equate the cardiovascular systems, the respiratory systems, the reproductive systems etc. of the two species.

The second letter in the Oct. 14 issue of the *Technique* does not make a distinction between the terms creationist and Scientific creationist although the difference between the two terms is clear in the interview article and elaborated in more detail in my book. I have made it clear that I am very much opposed to the teaching of Scientific creationism (6,000-10,000 year old universe created in six 24-hour days) in the public schools because it has been shown scientifically to be incorrect (see pp. 28-30 in my book).

However, in a general discussion

**Media** from page 8

of its unfairness.

Now, are we here to say that Tech is a utopian civilization that includes not a single person with any biases? Or even this newspaper? Of course not. And we fully support any individual that has been unfairly treated because of their beliefs speaking out to stop any injustices through constructive means.

However, it is not our belief that this can be accomplished through a

of the origin of the universe or life in school not to include creation would be to ignore the positions of two of the greatest scientists of all time, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking, who have concluded that a "Super Intellect" is responsible for the origin of the universe.

They came to this conclusion as the only reasonable explanation based on all of the scientific observations available. The writers of this letter say that they are "dismayed by certain comments" that I have made. I too am dismayed that many scientists are so adamant in holding that God should not be allowed in scientific discussions even when the scientific observations lead one to do so, as in the case of Einstein and Hawking.

In the real world spiritual and temporal matters do cross paths as suggested and discussed by many learned men (including several of the icons of chemistry) since the time of Aristotle.

Eugene Ashby  
Professor Emeritus  
ecashby2@hotmail.com

mass, unilateral statement intended to discourage attending this school. Sending a press release to a mass mailing list trying to support this kind of statement and implying that it paints an entire, unbiased picture does not accomplish anything either.

Moreover, what is even more egregious is supporting this kind of blanket statement and trying to make an entire group of people feel victimized, even if they have never encountered such unfair treatment.

**TV allows for break from real life**

Tech is a fortunate campus: the cable connection is absolutely amazing. Over 100 channels. Over 100 ways to procrastinate. Who needs to do homework when there are people on TV who are much more messed up than you.

For those few minutes (or hours, depending on my mood), no more do pages of text blur my vision or equations boggle my brain. My television entertains, enlightens and allows me to escape the demands of normal life.

PBS has some interesting stuff on in the mornings. Mostly boring stuff, though. I've even watched *Antique Road Show*, once or twice... that I'll admit to. I haven't watched a complete episode of *Sesame Street* since I was about eight, but it's nice to know it's still on. Kudos for Cookie Monster who's recently become quite health-conscious, or so I hear. It's never too late for a person—or blue, furry monster—to change his or her eating habits.

Sometimes I watch a bit of the telly in the afternoons over some lunch. As I gulp down my food there's always something gripping on Lifetime and A&E. *Unsolved Mysteries* and *City Confidential* are always on. *Unsolved Mysteries* is so old, though, most of the mysteries actually are solved now. Besides, it's almost always the close friend or family member. Either that, or the person moved to California. Same thing with *City Confidential*. The town seemed so normal, but it wasn't! A horrible crime happened there, even though only rich white



"My television entertains, enlightens and allows me to escape the demands of normal life."

**Alexandra Pajak**  
Columnist

people lived there, so how could you possibly be safe?!

*Lost* is a favorite primetime show of mine. Sand, ocean waves, sweaty people with perpetually clean and styled hair despite their desperate situation—tends to catch the eye. And what wouldn't be cooler than being on a deserted island with a hobbit? You know you'd like it too!

Then there's the bizarre twist of cable networks that is the evening news. Assuming television news accurately portrays daily events, I'm convinced we're all living the same day again and again. Like Bill Murray's character in *Groundhog Day*, only minus the Sonny and Cher (we're in more of a Jesse McCartney phase, unfortunately.)

Every night, following terrifying stories about war, natural disasters, crime rates and angry liberals, there's some blond woman screaming legal questions at a grieving mother and father or stunned police representatives. Always Nancy Grace and Greta Van Susteren...and their clones.

Then after the damsel in distress coverage comes strange stories with Donnie Deutsch of MSNBC who

recently had in-depth interviews with people who really matter—sort of. Hulk Hogan's entire family was on once with their teenage daughter whom they are currently promoting as a singer and dancer. They gave insightful suggestions on raising teenagers. Mr. Deutsch also had a real-life psychic medium who says spiritual powers are genetic. She wasn't too convincing, although I will say that, amazingly, she did wear a jean jacket promoted on MSN's shopping page earlier that morning, so she just might be legit.

The scary island is no more a place of an isolated plane crash, but reality everywhere? but reality everywhere?! I must lock myself in my house to keep safe! I feel the compulsion to continue watching. I feel the compulsion to buy things.

That's when I realize it's time to turn my TV off for awhile. Stretching my brain for class isn't too bad after all. I think I'll stick to morning and prime time shows. Beaches and old stuff from grandma's attic and some pop culture inundation are ok once in awhile. Kind of like Cookie Monster's "sometimes foods."

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