

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, July 11, 2003



TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"
Serving Georgia Tech Since 1911

Quote of the week:

"If knowledge can create problems, it is not through ignorance that we can solve them." —Isaac Asimov

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

ACC expansion

The recent additions of Virginia Tech and Miami to the ACC have left the conference in a precarious position, even without considering the lawsuit brought on by the Big East. While the addition of the two new teams has sprouted several benefits for Tech and other ACC schools, it has also wrought a few cons.

While Tech's competition in conference football will dramatically improve, our hopes of improving our record have been deflated slightly. Our only hope is that the improved competition will bolster recruitment with the promise of playing such a high profile football team as Miami.

Unfortunately, with 11 teams now in the conference, every team cannot play against each other. Not to mention that there is now the same amount of money to spread over 11 teams instead of nine.

And while the national recognition of the ACC as a football conference has improved with the choice of Virginia Tech and Miami as the new additions, the competition in basketball has not improved as it would have with the additional of defending national champion Syracuse. However, these additions do keep the ACC in the same geographic region as it has been. Not to mention the added benefit of south Florida as a potential road trip destination.

In the end, the ACC should not be censured for desire to expand. The threat of FSU leaving to find a more competitive conference was certainly incentive enough. The expansion, though controversial, has kept the conference intact. However, the ACC must find a 12th team in order to qualify as a truly dominant football conference.

Ivan Allen, Jr. (1911-2003)

Both the Tech and Atlanta communities have recently experienced the loss of its former student and mayor Ivan Allen Jr. Serving two terms as mayor, Allen helped steer Atlanta through the turbulent '60s. Allen was a proponent of desegregation, despite its critics in the South. Allen also brought the first major league sports team to Atlanta.

Allen also left a mark on Georgia Tech. As a student at Tech, Allen was Student Body President from 1932-1933 and a member of ODK.

Allen's legacy will live on though through the Ivan Allen College which he funded to provide Tech with educational opportunities in the humanities and social sciences, which it once lacked.

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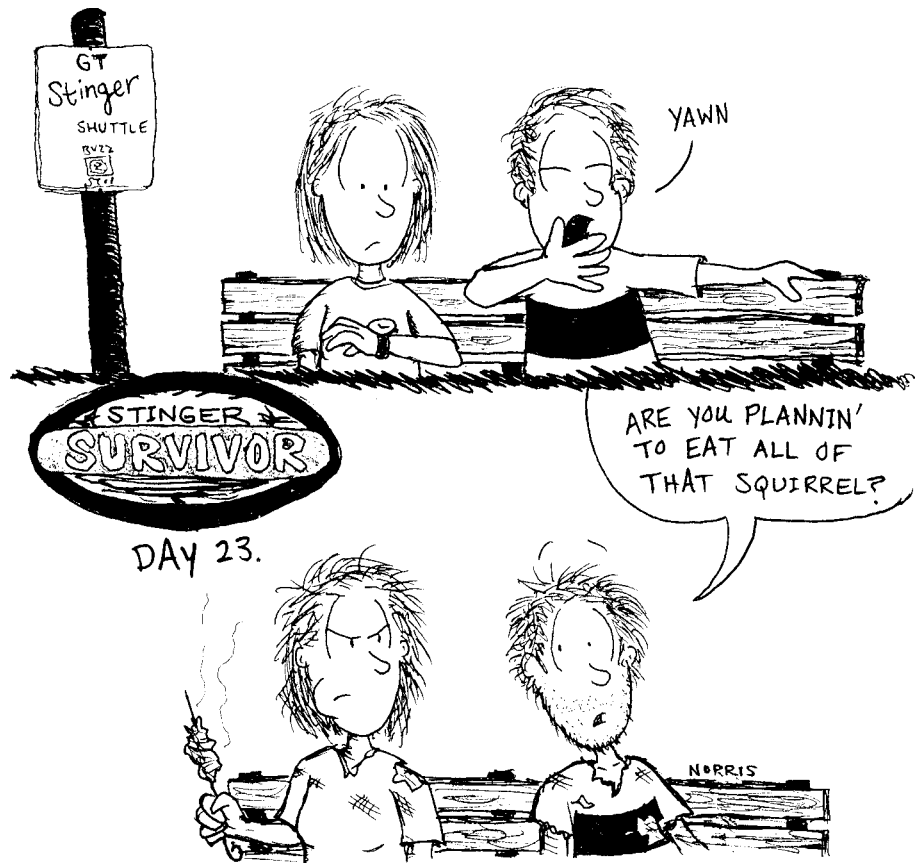
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By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Stop complaining, enjoy college

Over the past couple of weeks, I have noticed a real negative attitude from people towards Tech. I know it has its problems,

Ever since I began as a freshman here at Tech, I have heard people say over and over again how much they hate it here. I think most people like it here more than they realize, until they graduate. And the others are in the wrong state of mind and probably wouldn't enjoy college at any school.

Most everyone seems to enjoy their first semester at Tech, only to hate it from thereon out for one of many reasons:

"It's too hard;" "There aren't enough girls here;" "There's nothing to do around Tech."

Newsflash folks, what do you think you're going to get by going to one of the top engineering schools in the country, one with NO real liberal arts program (we have no "arts" majors). It's going to be harder, and there will be fewer girls, but that doesn't mean it has to be a bad experience.

I have had a great experience thus far at Tech. Despite all of these challenges I have managed to meet plenty of people, and yes, including some girls. You just have to be willing to get involved in other things besides schoolwork and sitting behind your computer to make all the hard work worthwhile.

I know many students who have left Tech after their first year because of one of these reasons, only to regret it later. They find out that other engineering schools, even ones at more well-rounded colleges, are just as hard, and if they are not, the quality of education often much lower.

Several of these people have since returned to Tech, either because the education at the other school wasn't very good, or because their impressions of Tech versus other



"You are in control of how much of a good time you have while you are at Tech."

Scott Meuleners
Photo Editor

schools turned out to be wrong. If it is too hard, maybe it isn't the right field of study for you, not a problem with the school.

The best way to enjoy life, especially at Tech is to get involved with as many things as you can that both challenge you and let you enjoy your college experience in addition to your studies. It's important to branch out and meet people, and once in a while, step outside of your comfort zone.

This is probably the most important thing for the average student at Tech to do, given the average personality of a Tech student. I have tried to get involved with as many different organizations as I could at Tech, stepping up and taking leadership roles, that in itself is stepping outside of my comfort zone, as I can be pretty shy sometimes.

I believe this has been the most important factor in my enjoyment of my time at Tech. I have met many people and had many good times, with only a slight affect on my GPA.

If you are too concentrated on keeping a good GPA that you have no time for other things in life, you're not going to have a good time at Tech, or any other college for that matter. While it may be a little harder here than at other schools, that doesn't mean that there isn't time to be found to enjoy yourself.

To those of you who complain that there is nothing to do around Tech, that is simply not true. For

better or worse, Atlanta has one of the most diverse populations of all the places I have ever been. This seems to be because not many people are "from" Atlanta, but seem to have moved here from somewhere else.

This type of culture allows there to be a wide variety of things to do in Atlanta, you just need to find out what is best for you. There are many people at Tech who will be more than happy to give you advice on where to go and what to do.

There are many different things to see and do in Atlanta including eating at one of the interesting eateries in Virginia Highlands or going to the bar in Buckhead or enjoying a professional sporting event.

While there hasn't been much of a "college town" atmosphere around Tech in the past, the new Technology Square complex should do a pretty good job of filling this hole, with shops and restaurants among the facilities opening there this summer. Next time you find yourself complaining about how terrible it is to be at Tech, try to think of things that YOU can do to make your time here better, these things are not always going to slap you in the face and make you get involved, though they may try their hardest to do so.

You are in control of how much of a good time you have while you are at Tech, try to step up to the plate and try some new things and Tech won't be such a bad experience.

“Chicken McNuggets made me obese”

So I've spent most of this summer doing full-time research, which doesn't leave much downtime. Working around the clock, even I, who can't stand fast food anymore, have just given up and gone to McDonald's on several stressful nights because it was the quickest solution to my hunger when I had only thirty minutes to eat. But if lawyers get their way, it won't be long before I can hold McDonald's responsible for the loss of my girlish figure on those late lab nights.

Apparently, Big Tobacco is so two years ago, and eager young attorneys fresh out of law school are now aspiring to be part of the next “obesity lawsuit.” Recently, veteran lawyers from the tobacco suits held a workshop on how to fight what is perceived as the nation's biggest health hazard: fast food. About a dozen attorneys and health advocates attended, signing an oath not to reveal what was discussed.

Susan Roberts, a recent graduate of Drake University's law school who attended the class, commented that “food is the tobacco of the 21st century.” I originally thought that this made a lot of sense, hoping that the statement was laced with a bit of sarcasm. That changed when I read next that Roberts's career goal is to get involved in a case that holds the fast-food industry



“Anyone who has the capability to read a menu should [know] that this isn't a healthy lifestyle.”

Madhu Adiga
Focus Editor

at least somewhat responsible for the nation's obesity problem. That's a really scary thought.

U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet dismissed a case filed against McDonald's by two obese teenagers in January. McDonald's attorneys described the lawsuit as “frivolous” and rightly so. The teenagers in question were obese to begin with, and they both made McDonald's food a part of their daily diet. One girl would start her day off with an Egg McMuffin and finish with a Big Mac. Anyone who has the capability to read a menu and order food should be able to figure out that this isn't exactly a healthy lifestyle. Judge Sweet did however, suggest that the plaintiffs could possibly re-file the case if they could prove that they were falsely or insufficiently informed about the ingredients in the food.

Samuel Hirsch, the attorney representing these teens, has done just that. He has narrowed the suit to fight false advertising

claims, saying that McDonald's has hidden the health risks of its main menu items such as Big Macs, Chicken McNugget and French fries, thus contributing to the obesity of others. This revised case is still in court.

So he's conceded that fast food isn't addictive in the same way that nicotine and other drugs are addictive. Great, I'm excited to hear that I'm not going to start putting away Chicken McNuggets like a crack addict. But Hirsch still wants to allege that his clients have the health problems they do because they weren't aware of how McDonald's processes their food and that they lead customers to believe that their food is healthier than it is.

Look at some of these plaintiffs. Jazlyn Bradley was 5'6", weighed 270 pounds and averaged two McDonald's meals a day, five days a week, for four years. Another, Gregory Rhymes, who ate at McDonald's every day for several years, is a 400-

pound diabetic. Yes, you read right, a diabetic. I would cringe if I were a nutritionist reading this. I'm cringing anyway.

Even in the worst case scenario, where Judge Sweet described the food as “McFrankenstein” and overprocessed, how could these plaintiffs possibly believe that a daily diet of greasy, cholesterol-laden food could be good for their health? The plaintiffs in question seem as though they weren't exactly trim and fit to begin with. If this was indeed the case, then what business did they have stuffing their faces with fried food and overprocessed meat? McDonalds claims that its food is reasonably healthy, but it also assumes that one's diet is well balanced and that fast food consumption is kept in moderation, which is the way it should be.

The revised suit claims that the chemicals used to process McDonald's food are unnatural and makes the food especially unhealthy compared to normal home cooked meals. But chemicals are used to process all foods! If they weren't, everything sold in the supermarket would be spoiled rotten and inedible. As Dr. Ruth Kava nutrition director at the American Council on Science and Health pointed out, “all foods are composed of chem-

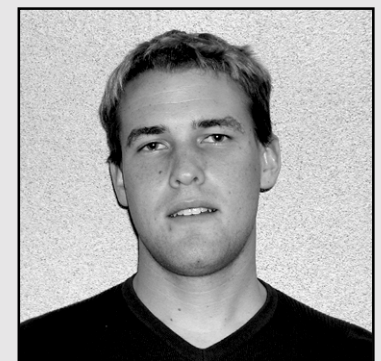
See *Obesity*, page 8

BUZZ Around the Campus What did you do for the 4th of July?



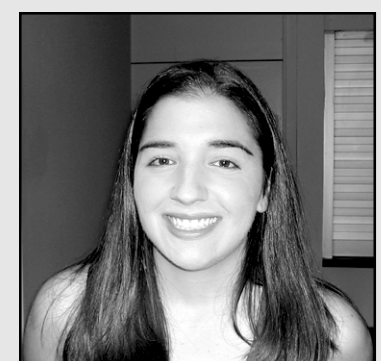
Jeff Yunes
CS Sophomore

“I was in Mexico, I went on a safari tour.”



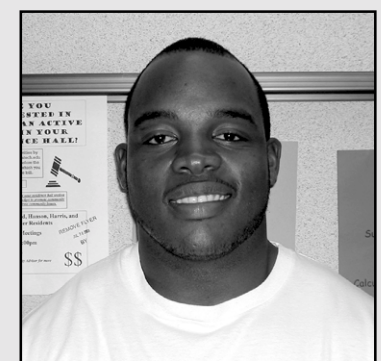
Ian Kappes
EE Senior

“I spent the evening watching fireworks and playing games with my girlfriend and her family.”



Jackie Jones
IE Junior

“I am the girlfriend mentioned above!”



Keith Hughes
IE Senior

“Chilled in the ‘Boro’ (Swainshara) and ate some ribs.”

Photos by Ayan Kishore

OUR VIEWS Hot or Not

HOT-or-NOT



Grand Opening

On Saturday, the doors to the long-awaited Georgia Tech bookstore in Technology Square will open. The store, featuring a full-service Barnes & Noble and Starbucks, will provide students a new place to study. Other stores are planned to open between now and October, with several restaurants slated to open before students return in the fall. Looks like we may finally have a semblance of a college town.



Campus Invasion

If you've been stopped several times this week to give directions to a lost middle-schooler, you know what we are talking about. These campers and other conference visitors seem to be taking over campus, from the dorms, to the dining hall, to the Student Center. While they provide a valuable source of income for Tech, we wish that they would at least be given better directions to get around campus.



Bosh Gets Big Bucks

Though Chris Bosh's departure from Tech basketball is still upsetting, congratulations are in order for his becoming the number 4 pick in the NBA draft last week. Bosh was drafted by the Toronto Raptors as their first round pick, and signed a three-year deal worth \$2.91 million per year. Best of luck Bosh!



Heat Wave

Atlanta finally got its first real taste of summer when the temperature hit 90 degrees Tuesday. This was the sixth latest occurrence of a 90 degree temperature on record. The latest occurrence was on July 28, 1961. Georgia has seen an unusually cool summer this year due to the unusually wet weather.

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Benefits of Fraternities

To all entering freshmen: I know you have a lot on your minds as an entering Freshman. I was in your shoes in the Fall of 1953. You have many things to consider - money management, girls, a rigorous study program, alcohol, and social life.

I was a member of a Tech fraternity, and want to express to you the importance of the Greek system in life at GA Tech, and the importance of being in a fraternity vs. not.

I was able to make more contacts, both among students (I was our IFC representative one year) and among graduates (alumni). It also helped me in money management, being a resident of a house for two years.

After graduation, I was actively involved in my fraternity and have been on the Board of Directors for 38 years. I still have strong relationships with active brothers still in school and alumni who have been out of school

many years.

We are proud of our lifelong friendships from the brotherhood; we have all personally benefited from the training we received from the fraternity with respect to our personal relationships.

The best way I know to relate to you the advantage of a fraternity connection is from a well-known alumnus of ours, Stephen Ambrose, who wrote such books as *Like No Other in the World*, *Building the Transcontinental Railroad*, several books on WWII from which the movie *Saving Private Ryan* was made, and *Undaunted Courage, A Story of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*.

“... I first discovered the joy of the most meaningful relationship man can have with one another, friendship. What fraternities do provide is the opportunity to go beyond the com-

See *Benefits*, page 8

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 Jody Shaw, 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 reserves 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 should be directed to Marcus Kwok at (404) 894-9187, or RoseMary 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, visit <http://nique.net/stuorgguide.pdf>.

Why do we stress about so many choices?

Choice. I use that word so often. I work with pro-choice organizations and am prepared to make any argument for choice. Choice. Why isn't it that easy?

I have been reading young adult fiction dealing with abortion for my senior thesis. Choice. I am graduating in a month. Choice. Sometimes I find it hard to decide what I want to eat for breakfast. How am I going to decide what to do with the rest of my life?

I have been wondering about all those choices I have made on a whim. Hey, Lauren, lets go to Washington DC when we graduate! This weekend the panic set in and I was planning my backing out speech. Then last night, as I tossed and turned from a summer cold, I realized that I really wanted to be in DC. Yeah, I do not want to leave Atlanta but DC is going to rock.

Making a choice to do something means making a choice to not do something else. I had forgotten that and when I remembered it, I cried to my mom. Remembering

that this might mean leaving Atlanta was hard, but I do end up in DC with one of my closest friends. Considering I want to do federal social policy, it seems like the right place to be as well.

We all make these stupid daily

I become? Where would I be? Did I make the right choice? My conclusion: both choices would have been right.

I would have become someone different most likely. I might have stayed with aerospace engineering

"I tend to think and harp on choices that I do not really have to make."

Ginny Bacon
Technique columnist

choices that add up to great big choices without our realizing it. I used to track my life back down to one little choice; maybe it was silly but it worked in my head. Even past that one choice, I had so many chances to step off that path but I stayed on it and am glad I did.

What would have happened if I had selected the Air Force Academy over Georgia Tech. Who would have

(they do not have a program like STaC), but maybe I would have ended up in something similar. I'm sure I would have been just as happy as I am now.

Those big life changing choices are not the be-all of our lives. Both paths will create a version of you that, if you live a life that you want every day, will always be the right version of you.

I tend to think and harp on choices that I do not really have to make. I have always been told that you cannot have your cake and eat it too. You have to give up something to get what you really want, in my case DC. But really sometimes we can have our cake and eat it too. Well at least until we drop it on the floor. That is usually what I do.

Our choices get so polarized sometimes. Everything is black or white, left or right, right or wrong. We find it impossible to make a decision because we do not want either; we forget to look for alternatives.

I am so guilty of this in moments of crisis. I so often get horribly upset because I think I have only two choices and neither satisfies me. I need to look for something else; make my own alternatives.

I must end with the law of the fictional Abby of Thelema of the sixteenth century: "fay ce que voudrais." Do what thou wilt. Make choices when you have to and make that choice wholeheartedly without looking back.

Didn't your mother ever teach you to share?

Staff Editorial
Daily Mississippian

(U-WIRE) University of Mississippi - In yet another example of blatant corporate greed, the Recording Industry Association of America is planning to track and sue individuals who download music using peer-to-peer software like Kazaa, Morpheus and Grokster.

The RIAA claims that file sharing is responsible for what it says are "sharply declining" revenues: a reported 6 percent drop from the previous year.

The industry's reasoning that people will not buy an album as long as

it is available for download may seem sound superficially. It is, however, deeply flawed.

Compact disc sales are dropping not solely because of Internet downloads, but moreso because of increased prices for a product of declining quality. Why should a listener be expected to pay close to \$20 for a pop disc with one or two good tracks? In their rush for sales and money, labels are forcing artists to crank out albums back-to-back-to-back, leaving little time for the oh-so-important planning, writing and composition stages.

People will buy CDs if the quality is there. Witness the recent blue-

grass "revolution": artists like Alison Krauss and Ralph Stanley have sold beaucoup albums with very little marketing or fanfare for one reason — they make good music. Additionally, artists like the White Stripes have ridden low prices on recent discs (see "White Blood Cells") to astounding sales and international acclaim and popularity.

Many artists (like Josh Kelley, locally) have even used peer-to-peer programs to spread their music and gain a large and devoted fan base. Programs like Napster have as much ability to save the music industry as they do to kill it.

The ability for artists and labels

to make money is still there. Concert ticket sales have skyrocketed this year. There are still royalties for radio and television plays. There are still T-shirts and countless other merchandising opportunities.

The only people who really have any reason to hate file-sharing are the owners of independent record stores, whose days seem frighteningly numbered.

Compact discs are just about the only technology to debut and then actually increase in price. There's no reason at all for this. The record industry is still getting rich. They're just mad that they're not getting richer.

Obesity

from page 7

icals and it is an excess of calories consumed relative to calories expended that causes weight gain."

Nobody can argue that obesity is not a problem in America. Obesity is the cause of almost 300,000 deaths a year, and there are a staggering 38.8 million adults classified as obese based on the body-mass index (BMI), not including the nearly nine million overweight youths. So instead of focusing on rational alternatives, we naturally deal with an American problem in the American way: suing companies for every cent they're worth.

Why, instead, aren't we pushing stricter exercise regimens? Why aren't physicians being trained more rigorously in nutritional analysis so that they can detect obesity risks in their regular patients and suggest dietary and workout routines for them? Why aren't parents more aware of what their children are eating outside of the house and advising them that a daily meal of Big Macs and Super Size fries may not be the best idea if they want a svelte figure?

I hope for the restaurant industry's sake that this revised suit doesn't go through and that future judges see through these lawyers armed with their newfound top-secret training. Otherwise, before we know it, we'll be signing waivers before we order a bucket of fried chicken.

Benefits

from page 7

radeship of sports or the battlefield, beyond the relationships of business and the professions, to form and enrich and sustain true friendship. Friendship can come at any stage in life, but there is a preciousness to friendships formed in one's youth that is special. [A fraternity] provides this opportunity, and along the way, provides a laboratory for leadership that is unmatched by other fraternities or organizations.