

# OPINIONS

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## Quote of the week:

"To be confident that you are ignorant  
is a great step towards knowledge."  
—Benjamin Disraeli

## OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

# Negotiate

School administrators recently informed the Barbell Club that it would have to vacate its facilities in the O'Keefe building to accommodate the women's varsity volleyball team.

According to a review performed by independent consultants, the volleyball team needs to have locker rooms in their practice facilities in order to remain in compliance with NCAA rules and regulations.

Currently, the volleyball team practices and plays in O'Keefe but uses the locker facilities in the coliseum. The Athletic Association (AA) plans to convert the Barbell Club's space into locker room space for the volleyball team and away teams. The AA and administrators have told club members that the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) will be a suitable fitness alternative for its members.

However, administrators have failed to recognize that the CRC is a poor substitute for the club's current facilities. The reason hundreds of students pay an additional \$50 each year is because the CRC is unable to accommodate the fitness needs of the club's members. Members are unable to workout 24/7 at the CRC. They can at O'Keefe. The organization has invested over \$150,000 in equipment to insure that its members have access to the weightlifting equipment that the CRC lacks. It is also the most easily accessible facility to East Campus.

The administration is wrong to view the Barbell Club as an ordinary club that could easily shift operations to the CRC. It is an unique organization defined by the facility. If O'Keefe becomes off-limits, the Barbell Club will cease to exist in anything like its present form, and members will have lost their power of choice on campus.

The administration has callously dismissed the club by not including them in the decision-making process from the beginning. While we recognize the need to support a nationally-ranked volleyball team, the club should have been an active participant in all discussions regarding the future of O'Keefe. They should have received warning about a possible move before any decisions were finalized.

Unfortunately, there does not appear to be an easy solution to this problem. The AA cannot easily or cheaply build more space onto the gym. While hosting volleyball matches in the coliseum would accommodate more fans to the sold-out games, the team prefers to play in the more action-packed gymnasium setting. Scheduling would also be difficult, as both men's and women's basketball hosts games in the coliseum.

While there may not be a quick fix, representatives of the various groups involved have to sit down and negotiate. Only by working with the club can an equitable solution be achieved.

*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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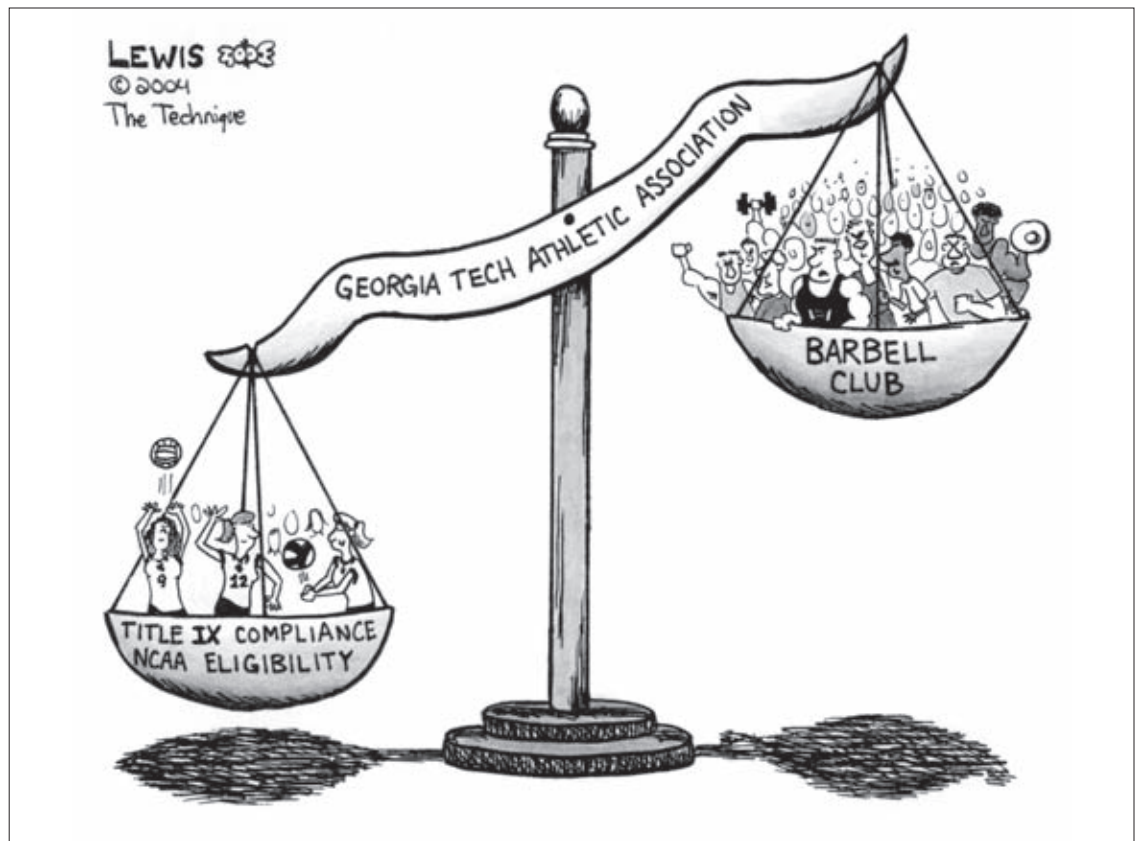
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By Brian Lewis / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

# Base your vote on cold hard facts

"Bush is the worst president ever!"

Boy, have I heard *that* comment tossed around a lot. I respect the free expression of opinion, but try as I might, I cannot fathom why Bush should incite this level of wrath from so many people. I think it's a little unfair to condemn our president in this way without a proper analysis of his 42 predecessors. A quick glance at my high school United States history book reveals that, yes, past presidents have done things worse than Bush has.

This is but one example of how people tend to draw quick conclusions based on insufficient or biased information, and this year's election is a fertile breeding ground for that sort of ignorant behavior. With America in one of its more polarized eras and the outcome of the election hinging on a few key states, you can bet the level of mudslinging and propaganda over the next month will be especially high. The Tech community is an intelligent bunch, so I'm probably preaching to the choir here, but it's vital, especially with so many hot-button issues at stake this year, to really do your homework and put both candidates under the microscope. What have their accomplishments and failures been so far? What evidence is there that they will be an effective leader for the next four years? Most importantly, where does each candidate stand on the issues most important to you?

What's critical is to ignore much of the misplaced emphasis from both parties and concentrate on the facts. For instance, I don't care about Kerry's war record. I'm interested in what his policies are and how he will go about implementing them if elected into office.

I also urge you to look for this information from unbiased sources of news, such as Reuters or PBS. Don't let some conservative cable news station explain to you how Kerry is



"But I want hard evidence why I should support your candidate, not insults hurled at the opposing party..."

**Joshua Cuneo**  
Assistant Online Editor

the devil incarnate or a liberal one state that he's a godsend. Most of the media attempts to attract customers with entertainment and shock value at the expense of objective journalism, and it's often one of the biggest sources of misinformation in this country.

I hasten to add that I do support the rigorous campaigning by both parties this year, even here on campus. I applaud that kind of political involvement, especially from students, and if supporters of a particular candidate want to sit and explain to me why one candidate is a better choice over the other, that's fantastic. But I want hard evidence why I should support your candidate, not insults hurled at the opposing party or prophecies of doom should the other candidate be voted into office.

That being said, I do understand how frustrating it can be at times to sit and frustrate to an opposing point of view. Many feel that their opinion is the correct one and the one the government must follow to keep the country—and in some cases the international community—intact. It's especially difficult this year, with so many voters claiming that the future of our civil liberties, our jobs and even the lives of our soldiers are on the line with this election.

Nevertheless, I have faith that Tech students, at least, will vote for the candidate whose platform and party best gels with their own philosophies, not against the candidate

who propaganda has told them will mean this country's demise. There are a number of key issues in the election that will directly affect college students nationwide, and I think Tech is keenly aware of this. Whereas others may argue that the relative lack of political activity on campus compared to other colleges is a sign of apathy, I say that members of the Tech community are simply a little more thoughtful and introspective in evaluating their own stances on the issues.

In the end, though, we have two candidates who will lead America in two very popular yet very different directions, and it's up to the public (including this campus) to decide which one.

That's how the democratic system is designed to work, and if November's results match the common sentiment at the time regarding Kerry and Bush and their respective politics, then the system will still be functioning as intended. Whether your candidate wins or loses in November, it's important to remember that and maintain your faith in our government.

Maybe you'll vote for Bush. Maybe you'll vote for Kerry. Or maybe you'll just do what my grandmother does and vote for Abraham Lincoln as a write-in. In any case, just make sure your vote is well-informed.

As for me, I'll definitely be mailing in my absentee ballot this year. It will be for either Kerry or Bush, but I won't tell you which one.



# Explore on-campus forms of entertainment

As the entertainment editor, it seems only fitting that I make my opinion known about something related to what I work with on a daily basis. I'll be candid here for a moment and confess that a very large part of what convinced me to come to Tech had to do with the great music scene here in Atlanta.

I've always been really into seeing bands live and discovering new types of music. Living in Atlanta, I felt, would increase my opportunities to do so.

There are several places within a reasonable distance of campus where any entertainment junkie can get his or her fix. Whether you're into live concerts like me or art films, visual art or something else entirely, there is someplace that caters to your interests.

However, it may come to a surprise to some that you don't even have to leave campus to get an occasional movie or music fix. There are all sorts of cool events that go on all the time. Take, for example, Live Lunch. You've probably seen the signs advertising it in the Student Center, but you've probably never checked it out, right?

Okay, I hadn't checked it out until about halfway through my second semester at Tech, either. My excuse probably is the same as most of you; I had class. One Wednesday, though, my 11 a.m.



"If you really think that nothing fun goes on around here, you need to be more adventurous..."

**Hillary Lipko**  
Entertainment Editor

class was cancelled and instead of hiking back to my dorm, I decided to check out the Music Listening Room in the student center.

I'd forgotten entirely about Live Lunch; I was just looking for a place to relax for an hour before I had to head off to another class. While I relaxed in the MLR's rather cozy environment, a local musician treated me and the few others present to a pleasant acoustic performance.

There is a plethora of other regular entertainment events on campus as well. Movies are shown in the Student Center almost regularly, and while most of the movies are already available for purchase, there is still a certain element of fun seeing it on a big screen. Occasionally, art and foreign films are screened as well. Last year Buzz Studios, a student filmmaking organization, premiered its first feature-length film, *John's Blender*.

Quite possibly some of the most exciting events that happen on campus, however, are those that only happen once a year or once in your entire time at Tech. Annual events such as Sting Break bring big-name bands to Tech. Last year, Fuel headlined the Sting Break concert that was held in Yellow Jacket Park. Several other smaller performances were held at the Campanile throughout the week.

There is of course a good share of pretty lame events here on campus as well. The organizers of these events mean well I'm sure, but these events just don't manage to grab the interest of students as much as they could have hoped. Fortunately, the extent of the lameness of most of the events I've been aware of has been in the name only.

Take for instance the long-awaited and much delayed grand opening of the Student Center Commons. CNB Seen? Say what?

The festivities that I was able to partake of were a lot of fun but the turnout really left something to be desired. I think that people saw the signs but really had no idea what was going on.

I have a slight edge when it comes to the entertainment goings-on around campus. Regardless of poor choices in name or obscurity in scheduling or placement, I get pretty good insight into events before they occur.

However, since I doubt that the general student body wants to wade through the volume of email that I have to wade through regarding every little event on campus, there's not really any way that everyone can have that sort of insight.

Sure, most of that information is readily available online as well but only the most hardcore of the entertainment junkies on campus are going to hunt that down.

So what do I suggest, you ask? I say check out some of the random stuff you see chalked on Skiles Walkway, wander by events set up outdoors and see what's going on. Check out the board at the box office every now and then.

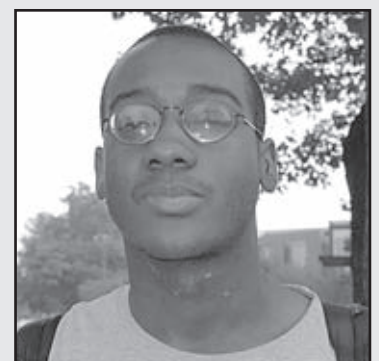
If you really think nothing fun goes on around here, you need to be a little more adventurous or pay more attention. You'd be surprised.

## BUZZ Around the Campus What's your favorite on-campus pastime?



**Nick Sherman**  
ChemE Third-year

"Sleeping."



**Stephen Congo**  
CS Fourth-year

"The Music Listening Room."



**Hannah Muchnick**  
ME Fourth-year

"Sitting by the fountain."



**Anees Mawani**  
PSYCH First-year

"Going swimming at the CRC."

Photos by Richard Wright

### OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

## HOT- or -NOT



### 'Canes blow into ATL

While the rest of Atlanta was braving the effects of Hurricane Jeanne, Techies braved the ticket lines for tomorrow's Miami game. Student tickets sold out by Monday afternoon. Even Good Day Atlanta is getting in the action, hosting a pep rally this morning. Hopefully when Brock Berlin and crew roll into town tomorrow, this week's excitement will carry over into the game and lift our boys to victory.



### Voter apathy

In a shocking display of voter apathy, only a handful of students voted in this week's Graduate Student Senate elections. With over 5,200 graduate students on campus, it is inexcusable that GSS leaders could not get more of their constituents to vote. GSS has great power and responsibilities. Leaders need to advertise GSS meetings and encourage its members to assume a more visible role on campus.



### Rock the vote

The clock's ticking—only a few more days until the Oct. 4 deadline for registering to vote in this year's presidential election in Georgia. If you haven't registered yet, we encourage you to head to the library or visit one of the many groups' tabling for the cause and register. As the MTV slogan says, choose or lose.



### No nap for you

According to an email sent out to over 1,200 IE students, curling up under a blanket in the second-floor lounge gives a negative impression to visitors and prospective donors and is not encouraged. If students lose their right to power nap in the lounge, what's next? No more sleeping in classes?

### YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Faculty not motivated to teach

[Editor's note: This letter responds to a Focus article on faculty tenure in the Sept. 17 issue]

While it may be true that tenure is denied to "monstrous teachers," it seems to me that tenure is granted to mediocre teachers who do well in research. Herein lies part of the reason why students are dissatisfied with their professors' teaching: professors have virtually no incentive to become excellent teachers.

An excellent teacher is one who does more than just deliver information to students in lectures and tests their ability to recall and imitate that information on exams.

An excellent teacher prepares creative lectures and carefully designs challenging assignments and exams that engage students in active learning and lead them to the joy of true understanding of a subject.

Such teaching requires extra time that many professors will not sacrifice because of the intense pressure to perform in research. As long as their teaching is tolerable, a professor is not compelled or rewarded to improve.

Under such an incentive system, the quality of our education suffers.

Jeremy Noonan  
jnoonan2000@yahoo.com

### 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 Daniel Amick, Editor-in-Chief.

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

### Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at [www.nique.net](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 Corey Jones at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary Wells at (404) 894-2830.

### Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu).



## Barbell Club decision prompts anger, sadness

I have been a member of the Barbell Club since I've been at Tech and continue to train there. It is a 900 member club of students, faculty, and alumni. It is 25 years old this week. The barbell club has already raised over \$27,000 since Aug. 9 and continues to grow and give back to the students and school.

The B.C. recently renovated the basement of the O'Keefe building out of its own funds and now the Athletic Association has ordered the Barbell Club out with no place to relocate, effectively destroying the Barbell Club.

This is to allow the women's volleyball team of a dozen or so girls to have the entire facility for showers, etc. They already have facilities in the Coliseum. The Barbell Club has offered free memberships to the entire women's volleyball team but the Athletic Association is relentless in their pursuit to destroy the Barbell Club. Here are the reasons why I train at the Barbell Club over the CRC/SAC:

- Dumbbells go up to 150 as opposed to 120 at CRC
- B.C. has olympic bars on squat racks & cages, CRC has short bars
- B.C. has rubber insulated 45 pound plates for snatch, cleans etc. CRC does not (we were told we could use a machine)
- B.C. has a pull-up bar, CRC does not (various angled handles only)
- CRC has banned the use of climbing/gym chalk
- CRC is overly restrictive.
- CRC is overcrowded.
- CRC is in my opinion unsafe due to the low levels of experience and situational awareness among the large numbers of patrons at the CRC
- I have seen people lose control of their weights and drop the plates off of both sides of the bar on 4 separate occasions at CRC, but never at the B.C. (chalk would help but it has been banned at the CRC)
- 45-pound plates crashing and olympic bars flailing wildly is not an unexpected event at CRC but simply reinforces my disdain for training there.

The unnecessary closing of the Barbell Club to please a small few at the expense of a great many will weigh heavily on my decisions to donate money back to GT as an alumnus. I cannot state my position any stronger than this. I love Tech and I did not come here to work out at the Barbell Club, but I would like to come back here to train there. Please save the Barbell Club.

John Bunya  
Southai@aol.com

Closing the Barbell Club would be a huge loss for Tech and its students. The Barbell Club gives students who are serious about their health and fitness the chance not only to have an uncrowded 24-hr gym but also gives them the ability to participate in the selection and purchasing of new workout equipment for the club.

Barbell Club is one of my favorite perks available to students at Tech and I believe that all other possible options should be exhausted before it is closed to Tech's students, alumni and faculty.

Brandon Melton  
bmelton@na.ko.com

It would be with a very cold heart that the AA would try to annex the Barbell Club right after the Barbell Club opened up its doors to all Tech students for the past two summers while the CRC was being constructed! This voluntary act of kindness should not be repaid to the members of the club by unilaterally shutting them down without even consulting them first.

If the AA thinks that the women's volleyball team deserves better dressing rooms than the ones they already have in the Coliseum, then they should build them! But don't shut down one of the oldest and best clubs at Tech to do it.

What's next, the AA evicts all the freshmen from their dorms to give the football team an indoor practice facility? Are they going to take over the Greek houses to give the women's softball team the dressing rooms they deserve?

Chris Vale  
gte979v@mail.gatech.edu

I began working at Tech just over three years ago and joined the Barbell Club as a faculty member shortly thereafter. The facility is convenient, well equipped and provides me with the type of workout facility I am looking for.

In the time I have been a member I have been able to meet students, faculty and alumni that are there for the same purpose...working out. I have come to appreciate the club for that.

While the facility is not fancy by any means, the atmosphere is all business. It is a shame that on a such a fine campus as this we cannot find an alternative to save a campus institution such as the Barbell Club. The benefit that this club provides to faculty, students and alumni over the years cannot be overstated.

Jim Howry, research associate  
Jim.howry@gtri.gatech.edu

It is ridiculous to think that a club that has been around so long and has such strong support should be asked to disband for an unreasonable and illogical request.

The women's volleyball team already has better facilities in the coliseum.

If they want locker room facilities in the same location of their games, they can simply move the games to the coliseum, only use the locker rooms in the Barbell Club and not take the whole facility, or they can build locker rooms directly onto O'Keefe for the volleyball team.

Trippe Wilkes  
gthaus@hotmail.com

## Tuition increases hurt Georgia

[Editor's Note: This letter responds to Stephen Baehl's editorial in the Sept. 17 issue.]

The potential 10 percent mid-year tuition increase is an abomination. The reason that this has never happened before is because it is blatantly unfair to students and families. Car payments and house payments don't go up in the middle of the year, why should tuition?

It is estimated that this increase will have a \$10 million impact on the HOPE Scholarship Program, hurting the program for future generations. \$10 million is no small cut; it could pay tuition for at least 700 students to go to Georgia Tech for four years.

Beyond unfairness, this represents a policy shift that abandons decades of commitment to higher education. Historically, governors in Georgia have put a strong emphasis on education at all levels. HOPE was brought to Georgians specifically to provide a chance for a quality, affordable education. After all, having only high-priced options for education is like having no options at all. The vision of HOPE was about affordability, self reliance and equal opportunity. Therefore, HOPE was Georgia's way of making that dream possible for everyone.

The most disturbing part about

this increase is that the blame *does* lie at the door of the Capitol. However, not at every door. The 2005 budget included a \$179 million payroll shift, proposed by Gov. Perdue. Essentially, the shift moved one period of pay (two weeks or one month, depending on the agency) for every agency into the next fiscal year.

Essentially, it was putting off the inevitable. Many argued that this smelled a lot like Enron accounting. A budget that included the gimmick passed the legislature and was signed by the governor in April.

A few weeks ago, the governor changed his mind and automatically created the \$179 million hole in the current operating budget, \$68 million of which must be absorbed by the University System. While I do not think our state should be borrowing chapters out of Enron's accounting manual, this is an enormous financial bait-and-switch that will be



Mark Taylor  
Georgia Lt. Governor

devastating. It's hard on students, and it creates a huge dilemma for universities because many professors are hired on a contract basis. Those contracts have already been signed, classes have begun and exams have been taken. I have been a fighter for both HOPE and affordable education because I personally believe this is the right thing to do—for our state and our families.

Mr. Baehl hit the bulls-eye last week when he urged students to become more active and more vocal. I have been a fighter for both HOPE and affordable education because I personally believe this is the right thing to do—for our state and our families.

As a network of concerned students, you have the ability to make change happen. You can do this by signing the petition that is circulating among all Georgia students. You can do this with your vote in November. You can do this by calling and engaging your legislator. You can do this by calling and engaging Gov. Perdue. He needs to hear from students and families and he needs to be told that car payments and house payments don't go up in the middle of the year and neither should tuition.

Mark Taylor, Georgia Lt. Gov.  
404-656-5030

## Taxpayers should not bear tuition burden

In last week's *Technique*, the editors raised the topic of Governor Perdue's increasing the portion of the total cost that students pay. While I agree completely that Tech is a first rate place for higher learning, there are a couple significant aspects of the issue that the editorial did not cover.

First, from a global view, in this rich country we sometimes lose perspective that a university education is a real luxury. Even in Europe, only about 15 percent of the people attend a university in the largest economies, while I have heard figures of about 30 percent in the United States.

Second, we need to keep in mind the source of the dollars that make up the government's budget. These dollars are

paid from the incomes of people who are working hard to support families and who have important needs of their own. Thus, there is definitely a sacrifice involved here. Furthermore, these are forced payments. If someone who earns an income doesn't pay taxes, he or she will be locked up in jail and/or be kicked out of his home onto the street so the house can be foreclosed. Thus, from a basic rights perspective, these dollars come at a very high cost.

While some may argue that this is an excellent cause, there are a lot of other people who have causes of their own that they believe other people should fund. As a result, this country has started going down the slippery slope where government spending has increased from less than 10 percent of the GDP pre-1930

to about 45 percent currently.

Now we have a huge government debt, a social security scheme that is projected to be bankrupt, out of control medical spending and countless wasteful programs.

As future taxpayers, we will likely have to pay large chunks of our income to cover other people's expenses with little to show for afterwards. There is also a very real risk that the poor spending ability of the government could bring about a financial collapse in this country. There is no question that Tech is a great deal. However, we also need to remember the bigger picture.

Chris Waldorf  
gtg446t@mail.gatech.edu

## Resnet, OIT deserve more credit

[Editor's Note: This letter responds to the Hot-or-Not "Internet goes AWOL" in the Sept. 24 issue.]

I believe it is necessary to set the record straight about the great job ResNet and OIT did in restoring network services on the morning of Sept. 22. ResNet works hand-in-hand with OIT to provide the best residential internet service at any public university in America. Although we strive to have uninterrupted network service, problems do occur. It is how these difficulties are dealt with that defines the customer service provided by ResNet and OIT. At approximately 12:40 a.m. the registration database failed in a way not seen before. The failure caused network components to incorrectly route network traffic. Dedicated ResNet RTAs who live and work in campus Residence Halls responded immediately to the problem and contacted the 24-hour OIT staff. Once it was clear that the outage was disturbing network access across campus, a Scanning

Technology for Automated Registration, Repair and Response Tasks (STAR<sup>3</sup>T) developer was contacted by phone. By 1:33 a.m. the problem was resolved and full network access was restored to all

**"Resolving a problem of this scope and nature in the middle of the night...is what I consider great service."**

residents shortly thereafter. The following morning the problem was recreated in the STAR<sup>3</sup>T development environment and a solution to prevent a reoccurrence was found and implemented. To imply that our residents' "internet goodies were suddenly taken away" was inaccurate reporting. This outage was not the

result of a planned downtime. It was not ignored but resolved as quickly as possible. Resolving a problem of this scope and nature in the middle of the night in less than an hour is what I consider great service.

The devoted response of student ResNet employees and the willingness of a fast asleep OIT employee helped restore academic and recreational network access for the remainder of the early morning hours. Each person did their part better than anyone could expect. When outages occur, we respond and resolve the problem as quickly as possible. ResNet and OIT did that, and I am proud of the job each person did. ResNet remains committed to providing up-to-date details about outages past and planned on our website ([www.resnet.gatech.edu](http://www.resnet.gatech.edu)) for the benefit of our residents.

Adrian Smith, ResNet Program Manager, B.S. EE '02  
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