

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Stalemate sustained

Student-Faculty Agreement comes up short

While the efforts made by members of SGA to form the Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement are laudable, the overall document lacks the strength it should possess, needs more student input and does little to bridge the large gaps between students and the faculty. Many lines in the document are vague and will allow many different interpretations from the members of the faculty. The language in many cases will shield the faculty as opposed to holding them accountable. In order to give the document true power, the administration must give its full support and pledge to enforce it. Currently a professor who violates the process is not punished; a student's grievance can simply be corrected.

The overall unilateral approach for the drafting of this document left many already disenfranchised students out of the process. The few students involved in this process are for the most part already well heard through their different forums

with the upper level of student leadership. Many students who have legitimate grievances with faculty behavior were never informed about the ongoing process. With an issue that affects so many students, a campus-wide survey would have been appropriate.

Looking forward, a better liaison between students and faculty is needed before any real progress can be made. As it stands now, neither the faculty nor the student body have any reason to compromise and try to improve the situation since a stalemate will cause things to continue functioning as they have for years, and national publications will continue to point to the disconnect between students and faculty as a major detractor for the Institute as they also have for years. The administration must force both sides to sit down for a discussion where they come to a more amicable agreement and the major issues can be addressed and remedied.

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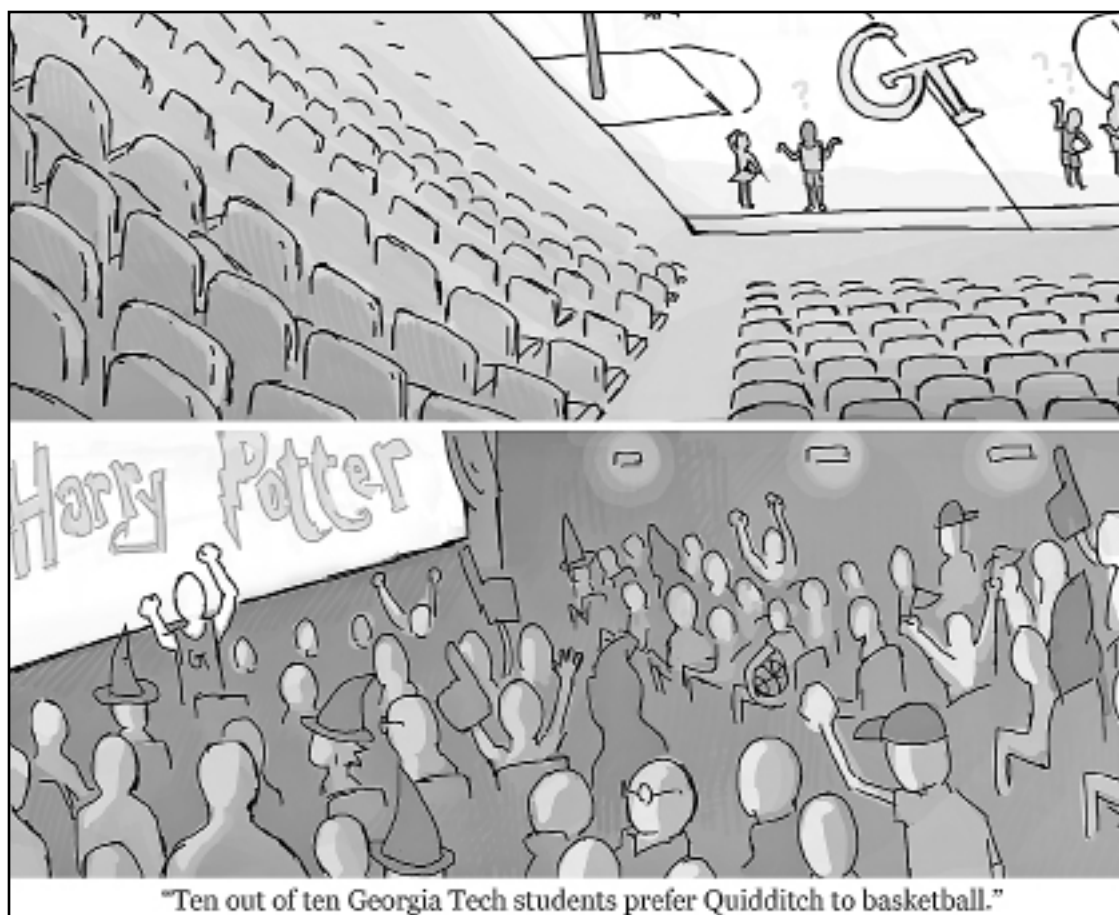
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YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tennis Center lacks accessibility

As a recent graduate of Tech, I cannot agree with the statement, "The Bill Moore Tennis Center is one of the only varsity venues that students have access to" ["Tennis Center demolition," printed Nov. 12] Access is so limited as to be meaningless. On paper, students are allowed to play on the weekends, but hours are restricted and contingent on a CRC staff member actually being there. If it's "too cold," then the gate will remain padlocked, and the only way to play is to jump a section of the fence that doesn't have barbed wire. During the weekdays, the courts are locked even when no varsity athlete is practicing. In fact, to play at all during the weekdays requires joining (paying) the Tennis Club.

When I asked the CRC if I could borrow the key to unlock the gate, I was told that I could not because I was not a Tennis Club officer. Yet, the CRC does not trust the officers any more than non-officers since they still require the officers to surrender their BuzzCards as collateral for the key. Furthermore, when I repeatedly contacted CRC management asking for increased flexibility regarding access to the Bill Moore Tennis Center, none of my messages ever received a response.

Some may ask whether this is even an issue given that there are courts on Peters Parking Deck. The attitudes of Tennis Club officers and CRC staff members say it all; if you come to Bill Moore without proper tennis shoes, they will redirect you to Peters Parking Deck. Translation: they do not give a crap about how Peters Parking Deck's courts are maintained.

I can only hope that the new tennis center will not be as restrictive as Bill Moore was.

Alex Young
MGT Alum 2010

Football season reveals larger flaws

For a lot of us here at Tech, this football season has been the biggest letdown in our time at the Institute. Coming off the school's first ACC Championship season since the Jackets won the National Title in 1990, we had high hopes in our team's ability to repeat as conference champions and send the Ramblin' Wreck faithful back to Miami for Orange Bowl redemption after last year's lackluster performance. I will admit to you all that I honestly thought we would be sitting pretty at 9-1 overall right now, boasting a solid Top-10 BCS ranking, our only loss having come at the hands of the Hokies.

The 2010 season has become what we must now defend as a rebuilding year (As will be the case in 2011 and 2012), words not even thought about 12 weeks ago when

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Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Include your full name, year (1st, 2nd, etc.) and major. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed per term.

we returned from break and began researching the best of Charlotte, N.C. But why did it come to this? You cannot point the finger at just one person, but problems on both sides of the football account for the Yellow Jackets' fall from the grace of the football gods.

Let me start with defense. I was one of the founding fathers of the "Al Groh Must Go" bandwagon, but have slighted my opinion, deflecting most of the blame from the man still on another ACC team's payroll (Conspiracy, anyone?). Undoubtedly, the 3-4 defense is not working at any level even close to what we expected. The stout, pre-2008 Georgia Tech defense of Jon Tenuta is lost and forgotten. We have forgotten how to be aggressive off the ball, creating pressure for the opponent's offense, forcing the mistakes that come along with the poor caliber of play that is synonymous with NCAA football.

It is hard to watch an NFL game and not see one of Jon Tenuta's Jackets making an impact on defense. Tenuta and Chan Gailey were brilliant recruiters, scoring a great recruiting class annually and churning out players into the NFL just as regularly. But Paul Johnson failed to pick up on the concept of the "pro-factory" that was Tech. Yes, he was able to take Gailey and Tenuta's players and coach them to an ACC Championship in only two years, but all those guys are gone now and Paul Johnson's subpar recruiting abilities are overshadowing his coaching excellence. That is why Al Groh is really here. The former NY Jets head coach is here to tell these high school seniors that Tech is the best place to be if they want to make a career out of football. Paul Johnson cannot do that. He runs an offense that is radically different than 96 percent of the NCAA-FBS and 100 percent of the NFL and has never seen the sunrise as a member of an NFL organization.

On the other hand, Groh is a former NFL head coach, running the defense of the best in the NFL. The fact the Groh hasn't had the time to recruit the players he needs to succeed is the reason

UGA Eng. program poses no threat

Armageddon is upon us. The Four Horsemen are riding. The calendar is off; 2012 came early. It's the end of the world as we know it...and I feel fine.

If a passerby were to ask people on campus about the new UGA Engineering program, they would most likely think after talking to people on Cherry Street that UGA was positioning itself to take over the world of engineering and cut off all funding to Tech using the evil, wicked powers of the Board of Regents.

Most of my fellow Techies who I have discussed these recent happenings with are blowing this situation way out of proportion. In doing so, they are not giving their own Institution enough credit while simultaneously giving those people in Athens way too much credit.

UGA is looking to expand its very modest engineering program of obscure (some, including myself, would say useless) degrees into a very modest, slightly more mainstream engineering program. Let me also say that when I use 'modest', I mean subpar and inconsequential.

Tech has a well-established College of Engineering and fights for the top positions for almost every engineering field in national rankings. MIT, Stanford, Berkley, Michigan and Illinois are our peer institutes in the world of engineering. We have around \$500



"I would like to give kudos to Bud and his buddies on the Hill for whipping up the storm they did over this episode."

Matt Hoffman
Opinions Editor

million in sponsored research every year.

So here is the question I pose to the people wanting to light torches and sharpen pitchforks when it comes to UGA Engineering: who cares? Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn. To even draw some far fetched conclusion that some how they are going to compete with us on any substantive level is ridiculous. UGA is the school that cannot keep its football players out of jail. It is also the same school whose reputation is most closely attached to the fact that it is ranked as the No. 1 party school in the nation. This is the same university whose math and science programs are considered by their own students to be jokes. Does any one really think they are going to compete for the same NSF Grants that Tech receives?

Member of Georgia Assembly are also none-too-pleased about the program. Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R- Powder Springs), chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, told *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "As long

as I'm chair of the committee, they [UGA] won't receive a dime for that engineering program." So now they are going to have an under-funded, modest engineering program. In all honesty, UGA President Michael Adams would have a better chance of brokering peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians than building this engineering program up to a nationally prominent level.

And who is going to attend this program? UGA says they are going after our rejects who can't get into Tech, but I think Georgia Southern will probably be more strategically positioned to take that angle. Besides, don't UGA grads and students always try to argue until they are blue in the face about how it is just as hard or even harder to get into UGA as it is to get into Tech? And anyone who gets into Tech and UGA and wants to be an engineer and decides to go to UGA has terrible judgment, and frankly, I would not want that person at Tech anyway or designing a bridge for that matter. So now UGA has an

under-funded, modest engineering program that is only attended by a select few with terrible judgment.

Get the point? This whole stink that has been whipped up by the students around here is pointless.

But I would like to give kudos to the Bud and his buddies on the Hill for whipping up the storm they did over this episode. They are politically savvy and understand that they can use the situation as leverage against the board in the future. If they are looking for suggestions on what they could lobby for, I, selfishly, recommend a new building for the Aerospace Engineering School.

This situation, however, should not be used to radically change Tech into a 'Mega-university.' While I believe there is a need for people who get degrees in French Poetry or Recreation Science, there is not a need to have those sorts of degrees at Tech. There might be some areas where Tech could be a valuable contributor that the Institute is not currently involved in, but any major expansion in academic offering should not be done in haste.

And on one final note, for those of you on campus that think Tech should use this situation to try to become a private school, I just want to say that I have heard some ridiculous ideas in the past, but that suggestion takes the cake.

Lack of trust fuels disrespectful behavior

Respect and trust are key elements of any successful relationship, whether it is between girlfriends and boyfriends, parents and children or, in our most relatable case, professors and students. Tech Provost Dr. Rafael Bras once said that one of the most valuable things one can obtain in life is the guidance of a mentor. However, it seems that the lack of trust in the current state of affairs between Tech faculty and its students makes this desirable mentor-mentee relationship somewhat hard to achieve.

Some of us who have been here for a couple of semesters might simply dismiss this fact by proclaiming that "it's just the way it is. Teaching was never their priority; research is their true passion and main goal." Whether this is true or not, if we keep thinking in this mindset, the current state of the situation will only continue, if not worsen.

I'm not saying I'm a model student, but I do go to all of my classes, even when they are early. I do all of my homework and projects and some more. Therefore, because I'm putting in all this work, I'm sick of being treated like I'm trying to trick the answers out of my professor when I go to office hours with a genuine question. I'm tired of being accused of cheating on a test when I get a good grade because my professor assumed that I was of the slacker and dishonest type.



"[Students] exhibit disrespect when we demand respect without making the effort to earn it."

Zheng Zheng
Entertainment Editor

Why is it okay for my TA to suspiciously question my motive for leaving class early when I indeed have to get across campus to another class, which is in itself more difficult due to the construction all around?

Why is it okay for me to say, "Hi" to a professor who taught me just the semester before and whom I interacted with on several occasions not have any idea of who I am?

Why is it okay that I had to provide an excuse to my professor when accused of missing class and tests, something I have never done either of, before he realized that he mistook me for someone else?

Why is it okay that this happens more often than it should?

I understand that most of the suspicion comes from the professors' attempts to catch cheating and to prevent unfair advantages in the class. However, doing so by taking away the very fundamentals of trust and respect between them and the students is achieving the

opposite. It is almost comparable to the strengthening of protection and security by taking away personal rights. What is the point when you are destroying the very idea you are protecting? There is a difference between being fair and over-paranoid.

I understand that respect must be earned and not demanded, but how is it when the rest of the world starts at a neutral zone, we students begin in the negatives? I feel like most of the time I'm too busy trying to prove to my professor/TA that I'm not a bad person and therefore not focusing on the learning itself.

Of course, not all the blame is on the professors and faculty. On the flipside of the coin, we students aren't all saints when it comes to reserving our judgment. It might be hard to see that sometime, because we are so accustomed to seeing ourselves as the victims, we never consider how disrespectful some of us are sometimes.

Just the other day, when I was teaching my recitation,

three random guys, none of who are in my section or class, just came in and sat down. They were loud and obnoxious and interrupted the entire planned lecture. Have some of our peers stooped so low to the point of randomly barging into a classroom and ridiculing the process of learning itself? Should we not be much more mature at this point in our lives? Those people, making us seem like irresponsible and untrustworthy fools, are the exact reasons why professors and TAs make certain assumptions about us.

We, as students, act the same way when we make assumption about and question the ability of a graduate student or elective faculty to teach their own subject. We exhibit disrespect when we demand respect without making the effort to earn it.

Nothing mentioned above is meant to point blame on anyone. Well, maybe the three interrupters, you know who you are. The points made here obviously do not apply to every single case and every single classroom as well. There are professors and TAs who truly care about their students. Respect is a two way street, and both sides just need to show a bit more enthusiasm and effort. Hopefully one day the relationship between a professor and a student will not have to spur from a mutually suspiciously dark place.

BUZZ

Around Campus

What do you think of the new UGA Engineering programs?



Brad Vanslyke
Third-year CS

"It's a joke. They are having budget cuts to fund a mediocre program."



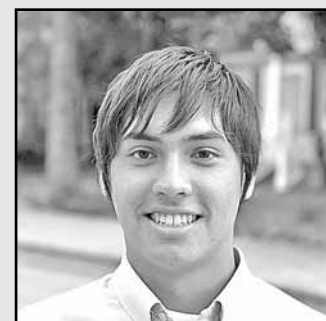
Shinjini Das
First-year IE

"It would take a very long time to develop it into a ranked program."



James Guthrie
Fourth-year MSE

"It is a really good idea because the U.S. needs more engineers."



Ivan Tibavinsky
Fourth-year ME

"It will make it harder for programs at Tech."

Photos by Douglas Kim

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT^{or}NOT**Managing success**

The College of Management's MBA program recently moved up the rankings of *Bloomberg BusinessWeek* for full-time MBA programs to the 23rd overall spot, up from 29th last year. The program ranked ninth overall for public schools. Fear not Management majors, you will still be hearing plenty of M-Train jokes from students in all the other colleges.

**Crime continues**

The two high-profile incidents around campus this week are yet another reminder of the major disadvantage of city life. While the one incident involving the deceased man is tragic, the other incident in Homepark involving two Tech students is disturbing. Regrettably, it seems people who even take necessary precautions may still fall victim to violent crime.

**Potter party**

The next installment in the Harry Potter movie saga is being released today. Thanks to great planning on behalf of the Student Center Programs Council, many students were able to see the movie last night before the midnight premier. Hopefully the fanatics will get the fix soon so the more normal population can go see the movie in peace without people dressed as Dumbledore.

**K-S-who?**

Losing to the KSU from Manhattan, KS would be expected and reasonable. Losing to the KSU that is generally regarded as nursing and teaching school just up I-75 and that is pretty new to the world of Division I is unacceptable and unreasonable. This will likely be a long season for the men's basketball team as the expected easy wins on the schedule are neither easy nor wins.

Video game case misrepresented

By Jason Krell
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Tucson, Ariz.—It has always been the responsibility of adults to shield children from that which might not be appropriate for them, but in the age of accessible technology it has become increasingly difficult. So then, what happens when one of the most popular forms of technology among children—video games—raises questions about violence? You get a case in the U.S. Supreme Court.

More specifically, you get *Entertainment Merchants Association v. Schwarzenegger*. The case deals with whether it should be illegal to sell violent video games to children, but it's not as simple as it sounds. It highlights First Amendment rights and how to determine what makes a video game "unacceptably" violent.

The hearing took place on Nov. 2, with Supreme Court Justices grilling both California Deputy Attorney General Zackery Morazzini, the attorney arguing against video games, and Paul

Smith, who is representing the video game industry's perspective. The issue with making it illegal to sell video games to children seems hardly debatable. But the reality is that such a ruling would impinge on developers' First Amendment rights, forcing them to self-censor and speculate whether their games might provoke a federal case.

From the looks of everything, it seems pretty clear as to what the big deal is: California is concerned for the psyche of children—a completely noble and understandable aim—and worries that playing violent video games will lead them down a path of degeneracy.

The video game industry, on the other hand, insists that video games are no more damaging than any other form of violent media and that they deserve full protection from the First Amendment, just like any other art form. This battle has been raging for over a decade.

Plain and simple, lawyers who don't play video games are trying to talk about them. And not just talk, but make important deci-

sions about their future. Either way, it's clear in the transcript of the hearing that not only does Morazzini have limited understanding of the real level of violence in video games, but the justices are also not experts.

That's to be expected to some degree, but when your argument is based off of a hypothetical game in which you can torture babies and "Postal 2," a 1997 game that was truly horrid, you don't have much. To be frank, while you can do some pretty twisted things in a small handful of games, it doesn't come close to infanticide. "Postal 2," which seems to be the only name California ever uses in its cases against video games, is nothing like any game made today. Since video games have become a respected medium of art and entertainment, people have formed standards.

The Supreme Court now has the power to change video games forever with one ruling. Here's hoping they see that video games should be protected by the First Amendment.

Letters from page 6

why we will see him in the White and Old Gold for the foreseeable future.

Other than a major upset in Athens, I cannot foresee anything positive coming as a result of this season. Al Groh is going to have to make promises he can be sure he can keep to players that probably don't want to join a losing team, while Paul Johnson is going to have to really be a man and admit that the double-wing set triple option is inherently flawed. If changes do not come, expect a new face on the sideline carrying the clipboard (Please give us Bill Cowher). Until then, the best we can do is hope that a new hero

emerges from the locker room and leads the Bad News Bees to some measureable success as a mediocre team in a mediocre conference.

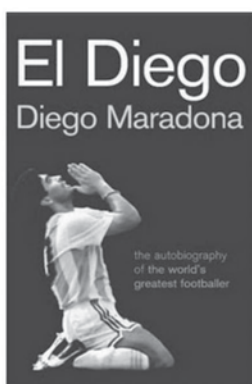
Robert Whelen
Fourth-year MGT

Partisan politics stretches beyond D.C.

The article in last week's paper regarding the Democratic party was enlightening ["Dems. must now regroup," printed Nov. 12], but a stark example of partisan politics. One of the greatest and gravest issues right now is that politicians, like the people they represent, are so focused on their own

parties that issues are ignored. The author calls for Republicans to "pursue a more centrist, bipartisan agenda" and complains about the "polarization of Congress." However, the author also states that the Democrats must regain control of The House in order to "solve the most pressing issues of our time" and move America forward into the 21st century. I don't intend to criticize the ability of the Democratic Party or the author's endorsement of them, but to point out that the very thing that poisons our government's effectiveness is just as much a problem at home as it is in Washington.

John Bartz
Fourth-year CS



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