

# OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, November 3, 2000

## Quote of the week:

*"Imagination is more important than knowledge."*—Albert Einstein

## Bookstore progress

It's refreshing to see student input being sought for something before it actually happens. If the student center expansion task force lives up to its goal of taking all viewpoints into consideration, our campus will have a new centerpiece of student activity that will be fully used and appreciated by many.

However, Rich Steele's position as both student center director and task force chair represents a direct conflict of interest. Steele should not be removed from the committee; however, the chair should be someone who is less closely involved with a campus entity that could directly benefit from additional space. As with any specially appointed group, all members of the committee should be scrutinized for how they were selected and what campus interests they represent.

Indeed, the Student Center desperately needs more space, and it will likely administer some of the space vacated by the bookstore. However, student organizations and student affairs are suffering from equally dire space shortages and deserve equal consideration when allocating space.

Students, let your voice be heard by contacting members of the task force and telling them what you want to see in the space vacated by the bookstore. Without your input, how can your interests be represented?

## Sink or swim

Enforcing prerequisites for online registration may be well-intentioned, but the results cause far more harm than good. Most classes do require previous knowledge, but that knowledge does not always come in the form of a class number. Getting into classes you need to graduate is difficult enough; working around prerequisites that are only offered once a year is simply too much. Co-ops frequently have to take courses out of sequence because they are only offered once a year. Because of this new system, many students may have to delay graduation or go through the extra paperwork of getting a permit.

It is helpful to know what knowledge is expected when going into a class, but the Registrar's office goes too far when it takes the decision out of the students' hands. Part of the college experience is having the responsibility of picking out one's own classes. Listing prerequisites is important; enforcing them is not.

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

## Show more interest in space

I am writing to express support for Sarah Graybeal's column regarding the lack of interest in space exploration. I believe that it is humanity's destiny to explore space and that this type of exploration has a unique ability to bind people together as humans because it is the one pursuit in which all humans must look outward to see. It seems that whenever something terran happens, there are always people on either side of it but not so when we look to the stars because we are all on Earth together looking outward.

I was very young when Apollo 11 landed on the Moon and

later when the Apollo 13 scare occurred but from the accounts I have read and conversations I've had with people who experienced it firsthand I get the sense that the whole world together watched, worried, and embraced those moments which marked tremendous growth in the human condition. I feel that more focus on the growth of the human race would divert some of the energy that we now waste on "domestic" squabbles and that's something from which we would all benefit.

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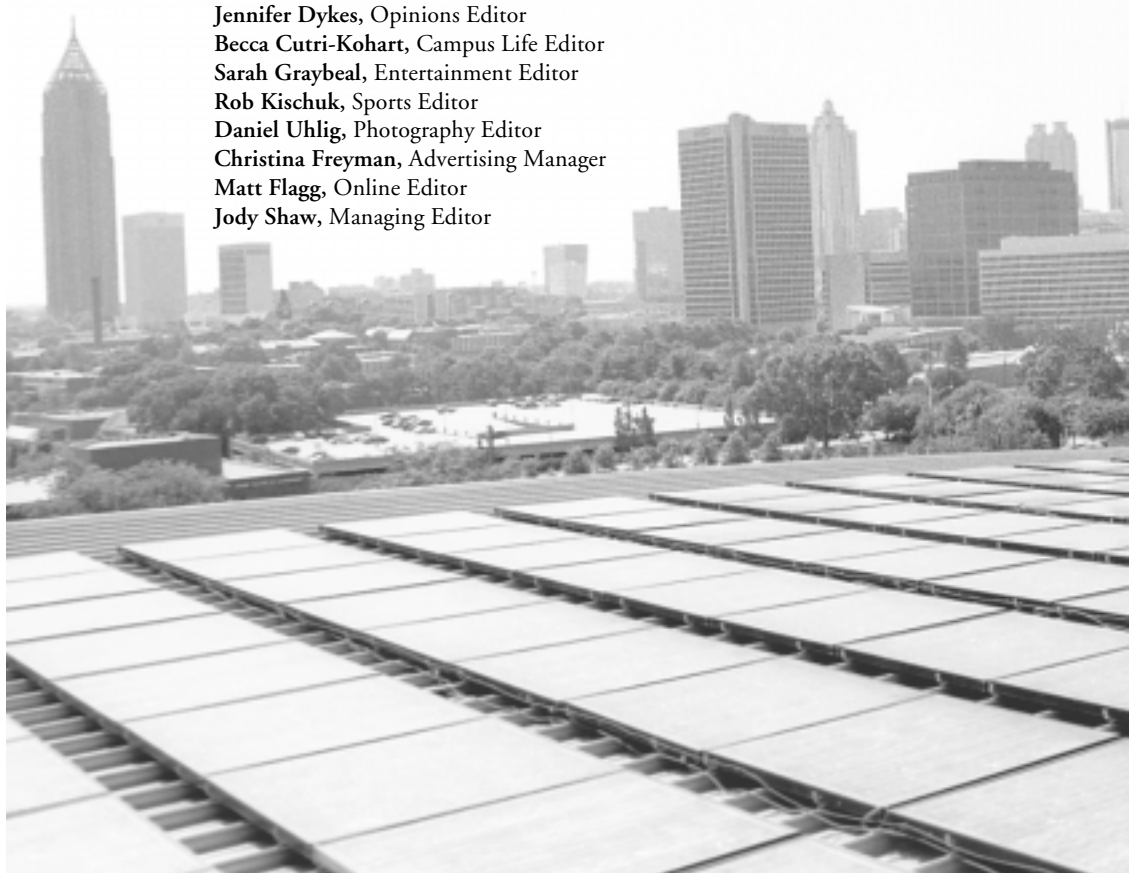
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## YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

## Marriott's modified food claims mislead

Just yesterday, when I walked into the Dining Hall for lunch, I found a flyer called "Nutritional Buzz". It concerned Biotechnology and specifically its application on food. The author poses the question "Are modified foods and ingredients safe?" and then declares without a scruple, a definite "Yes". I'm wondering how Marriott Services can throw such irresponsible information to students. This question is far from being answered. It is, actually, a great debate in the EU, which tends more to opposing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) in the market or at least require strict labeling. The flyer

mentions the approval by FDA, which "safeguards all foods in the market", as a proof of the positive answer.

Did the author know that the FDA is involved in scandals concerning approval of GMO's, such as the case of ex-Monsanto scientists being hired by the FDA to approve their own work on genetically engineered bovine somatotropine (BST). This hormone makes cows more efficient by increasing milk production. It also causes cancer to the cows, along with several other problems.

Also, the FDA let slip the fact that an amino-acid in the chain of

BST was incorrectly transcribed as epsilon-N-acetyl-lysine instead of lysine. That's how safe GMO's are right now. I don't want to be misunderstood here. I believe in scientific progress and research. But I don't accept non-scientific opportunists who want to gamble with our health to turn their millions into billions. This is not a drug which you can pull off the market if something goes wrong. Releasing new genes in the environment is irreversible. So, I suggest keeping them in the lab for a while longer.

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## Cartoon Corner Original Editorial Art

### BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE BUSH CAMPAIGN...



By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



# Research your vote to choose the candidate who matches up best with your beliefs (then pick Gore)

It is election time. I know we live in a little bubble here on Tech campus, but have you thought about your choice lately?

American politics are basically a two party system. Because there are basically only two candidates in this election, they are trying to pick up as many votes as possible—the goal being half of those voting voting for them. That is a lot of people to please. When you are trying to please millions of people, you have to start reworking your platforms to please everyone. You might want to outlaw hand guns, but only a third of the population wants to outlaw hand guns, and so you tone down your views just to not alienate the people that don't want to outlaw hand guns. Is this a compromise in a candidate's position? Maybe...but is it a necessary evil? Yes

The environment has always been my biggest concern. Most people at this point would ask what I am not voting for Nader, I do like Nader's position, but I think underneath it all, Gore is just as concerned about the environment, I just think that he has to make some compromises to please half this nation. I've been worried about a whole range of environmental issues over the past 10 years. I've worried about the rainforest in Brazil, the owls in Washington, the melting icebergs at the north pole. Now I've chosen to focus on a different kind of environmentalism than what most people think when they think of environmentalism. I'm now worried about the lack of clean water and air in our cities, the toxic wastes site that effect more poor people than rich, the lack of landfill space for all the garbage that we produce. These are

"As much as I want you to vote for my candidate because I want him to win, I want more for you to make an informed choice."

**Christina Freyman**  
Advertising Manager



vastly different issues than saving the rainforest. These issues most Americans don't pay attention to because they might actually have to change their lives. It isn't sending money to the save the whale campaign; it is recycling in our homes, and buying gas efficient vehicle and taking public transportation instead of commuting 30 miles every day to reduce the pollution in our skies and our dependence on foreign oil.

The big environmental concern of this election has been the drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Both Bush and Gore want to decrease our nation's dependence on foreign oil supplies. According to a Reuter's story, Bush proposes to increase domestic production of proven energy resources such as oil and natural gas, while Gore chooses to promote alternative energy sources like biomass, solar and other renewables. Bush wants to allow oil and natural gas exploration, and ultimately drilling, in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Alaska. Gore rejects that idea and argues the pristine lands should be kept safe for polar bears, caribou and other wildlife. Instead of drilling on more public lands, he prefers research into clean energy sources and tax credits up to \$6,000 to encourage consumers to buy more fuel-

efficient vehicles.

I am very against drilling in the Refuge, one, because of the fragile environment that exists, including caribou that are the life blood of the Indian tribe that lives in the region. It is does not make sense to open up those lands right now just because people are unhappy with gas prices. For one, what if in the future we get in a war with the oil producing countries and we really need our domestic oil supplies. We should save the oil for when we really are in need of it. Plus, the current gas prices should encourage us to look at ways to cut down our gas consumption, whether by buying fuel-efficient cars (i.e. not SUVs) or using alternate energy technology. Fuel Cells are the future.

The other issue that Gore and Bush differ on is the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol is which would place strict mandates on the level of all the world's industrial nations' greenhouse gas emissions. The United States has yet to ratify it. As of February, 84 countries had signed the treaty, including the European Union and most of its members, Canada, Japan, China, and a range of developing countries. Gore is for us ratifying it, Bush is against. The world is drowning in its emissions, just look at the Atlanta sky-

line. It is not fair for us, the world's biggest polluter, not too make a commitment to reduce our emissions.

So the environment the big reason I've chosen Gore.

I also have chosen him because he supports gun control. No, he does not want to ban guns, he wants to keep them out of the hands of criminals and children. He suggests reasonable limits on handgun purchases and requires safety locks on new gun purchases. These are reasonable measures to protect our nation from hand gun violence.

These are a few of the many reasons that I have chosen Gore, I've run out of room for all of them. Gore and Bush agree on a fair amount of things, so don't just look at one platform and decide you like it without looking at the other platform. Bush and Gore do differ on important issues. Both Gore and Bush will create big government, don't be fooled that Bush will not, he is just putting it in different places.

Do not believe the five second sound byte you watch on TV or what you hear from your friend. Research your vote. As much as I want you to vote for my candidate because I want him to win, I want more for you to make an informed choice. In my opinion, there is nothing worse than an uninformed voter that has made their decision off of TV ads and things they may have heard.

So get out and vote!

*Christina has lots to say on this subject, but had too little space and you have too little of an attention span. She just likes Al Gore as a person as well as agreeing with his views.*

# How to handle burn-out when not semester compliant

*Think the end of the quarter is near? There are ways to deal with stress and boredom*

I'm at Georgia Tech, and I'm a fifth year, and I am burned out. It is not the campus or definitely the people at Tech, and it is not campus involvement that is bringing me down, but nearly the daily grind of academics. My friends know it, my teachers will soon know it. Study? We've been at this for ten weeks already. Isn't there anything else to do now? Under quarters we'd be facing dead week. Under semester conversion, we are mired in the depths of second midterms and drawn out projects. What do I do to prevent burnout? I knew you'd want to know.

It is important for students to stay aware of the world despite being in the vacuum that is Tech. There is a whole world out there that doesn't know what week we are in this semester, doesn't anticipate school breaks, and doesn't care about our deadlines and grades. I believe that staying in touch—watching the news, keeping up with politics, and even staying up to date you my favorite and not so favorite sports teams—keeps life at Georgia Tech in perspective. If you have a "to do" list that keeps piling up, chances are you are out of touch. If you haven't decided who you are voting for (or already voted via absentee ballot) then you are out of touch. If you haven't dialed a phone number that required more than five digits all

"There is a whole world out there that doesn't know what week we are in this semester [and] doesn't anticipate school breaks."

**Carter Green**  
Assistant Photography Editor



semester, you are out of touch.

There are lots of ways to stay in touch with the real world. One way is a good road trip. A few of my buddies piled into a car and went up to Clemson for the game last weekend. I was busy with classes, and my friends had too much work to do to go (but went anyway), and it was definitely worth it. The game was incredible. It's an unforgettable experience to watch your team drive down the field in the last minute of the game, but it makes it somewhat sweeter to take a upset victory on the road. It definitely provides a distraction from those (yawn) classes back home. Other than the game, it was fun to see a new campus, visit a different Student Center, and sit in a different stadium. Granted, returning to school is always a let down after a great weekend, but that is not to say that the weekend wasn't just what I needed.

In more extreme cases of burn-out, it may be necessary to leave

the country. It was around this time last year that I was fed up with the United States. This place is great, but I got an itch to stretch my legs, and with a little planning, and after a meeting with my advisor, I was soon on a plane halfway around the world to Sydney, Australia on the Study Abroad Down Under program. That experience changed my perspective on everything. When studying abroad, you get many new experiences outside the classroom. I took a biology class in which half of the classes took place on the remote island beaches of Cook Islands and Fiji. That is major way to escape the every day work load of Tech. If you haven't already gone abroad, or haven't planned it into your college schedule, then you aren't getting your value's worth from Tech.

Of course, if getting off campus is not for you, try something new on campus. It is the perfect time to apply for a new position, or join a new organization. My second year

here, I found that I was simply drowning in classwork. I couldn't give any more brain cells to classes. It doesn't matter if you join student publications, or sign up with friends to play an intermural, getting involved on campus can break up the monotony of a long semester. Furthermore, it tends to be more difficult to be burned out when you are constantly surrounded by people encouraging you and supporting you.

Playing intermurals or working out at SAC serves a dual stress relieving purpose. Besides getting to hang out with friends, I find that going to SAC a few times per week greatly reduces stress. Even when I don't have enough hours in the day to finish all my work, it is still worth while to exercise. I feel better, and think better, and am a nicer person when I have gotten rest and exercise.

In the end nothing beats a good countdown to the end of the semester. My friends graduating in December have it down to the day—43 to be precise. I've tried lots of tricks in the past, perhaps one of these will help this time. Besides, after listing all the things I've done to overcome burnout from semesters past, I've realized that each semester's challenges have lead to some of the very best things I've done at Tech. So I'll keep on keeping on, and looking forward to the next challenge.

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MORE VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Ultimate frisbee should qualify as a true sport

In a recent sports commentary, Rob Kischuk wrote a witty and, for the most part, accurate article on what defines a sport but made an error by concluding that ultimate frisbee was not a sport.

First of all, ultimate meets the requirements that a sport must involve “two opposing sides facing each other in a head-to-head fashion” and involve some sort of scoring. Kischuk goes on to say that “basic physical components such as running should be involved, but should not be the focus of the competition—significant other skills should be the focus of the event.” Although ultimate does require a good deal of running, other skills are necessary to play the game. If a player can’t catch or throw, he is worthless. He can run around all he wants but he won’t benefit the team much. Ultimate requires skill in jumping, timing, catching, and, most importantly, throwing. Being able to handle the disc is not learned overnight; it takes years to master (if that is possible).

I would rather have a fat guy on my team that can handle the disk than a top cross-country runner that can’t. Possessing skill with the frisbee is not only a necessary component to the game but is an inseparable element of

the sport.

The final comment on the author’s requirements of a sport is “strategy is a plus.” Although people that haven’t played probably don’t realize this, ultimate has a myriad of offensive and defensive strategies and tactics, not to mention the plethora of ad hoc plays and moves that highlight every game. These strategies and plays would never exist if ultimate was not a whole lot more than “running with a frisbee.”

Continuing on his errant rant about ultimate the author says that “the throw-catch part of the game is not enough to overpower the fact that it is mostly running.” I have already pointed out the flaw in this statement but consider this: in the way Kischuk brushes aside the validity of ultimate, then soccer would be simply running with a sphere of leather, water polo swimming with a ball, tennis running with a racquet, hockey skating with a puck, lacrosse running with a stick, and football no more than running with a block of inflated pigskin. Yet all these activities are approved by the author as valid sports!

Obviously ultimate is a sport.

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send letters under 400 words to  
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Public access technology is improving

While reading Matt Flagg’s recent editorial in this paper (“Public Access Technology Can Keep Getting Better”), I was pleased to hear that students find the resources we make available valuable. We work extremely hard to maintain Georgia Tech’s computing and networking infrastructure equal to or better than our peer institutions, which are among the very best in the world. We believe that these investments have contributed greatly to Georgia Tech’s overall success, allowing us to attract the very finest students and faculty.

Matt and the rest of the students may be interested to know that some of the things on his wish list are already available on the Georgia Tech campus. We are in the final stages of building a wireless “corridor” across the campus that covers the Library, the Rich Building, the Van Leer

building, the College of Computing, and others. This wireless infrastructure will be expanded over time, as funding and support resources become available. In addition, OIT does, and has for several years, provide supercomputing cycles to the general campus population through our High Performance Computing Center. We currently provide access to an SGI Origin complex, along with an IBM SP-2 system. These resources are available by contacting the Educational Technologies Directorate.

Obviously, our ability to implement any of these technologies is constrained by available resources, which are becoming more and more difficult to find. And as demand for new and better services increases, we are going to have to take a hard look at which of those services offer the greatest value, and find alterna-

tives for the rest. Bandwidth demand, for example, is increasing at a pace that is beyond our ability to provide it. The network access enjoyed by students at Georgia Tech is among the best in the world, but it is neither free nor unlimited. We are going to have to work together to find ways to maintain this high degree of access in the future.

As for other items on Matt’s wish list, the OIT staff is constantly soliciting feedback from faculty and students about ways to improve the services and support we offer. We encourage all students to let us know how we are doing, and to offer further suggestions for improvements.

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Hazing happens beyond the Greek System

The recent articles about hazing within campus organizations and athletics especially hit home with me. I was the victim of hazing my freshman year while on the Georgia Tech varsity swimming team. Not only was the coach (Seth Baron) well aware that this was being done to the freshman on the team, he did absolutely nothing to prevent it - even going so far as to joke about it in general conversation during team meetings and practices.

I was attacked late in the evening by 6 fellow teammates that had intruded into my own residence hall (two of which actually lived there) and was wrestled down with brute force against my will as my head was completely shaved down to the skin. I had expressed to Coach Bar-

on on several occasions prior to the incident that I did NOT want my head shaved, but was told that what the team did on its own time was out of his control - that he was not a “babysitter”.

After the assault occurred, I quickly became infuriated about how hazing situations were handled by the Athletic Association and the coach. Ultimately I left the team a couple of weeks later as a result, a sport I had spent 12 years of my life competing in. I also had to remain living on the same residence hall with two of those involved the rest of the year.

I felt that although the hazing incident was recognized by the dean of student affairs and the coach at the time, I am convinced punish-

ment to those involved (including the coach) was not fair and just. I was told by the dean of student affairs that under the administrative rules of Georgia Tech I was not allowed to know the findings of the Student Judiciary Committee or the extent of the punishment carried out by the institution. It was explained to me this was in order to protect the “privacy” of the coach and the student records of the others involved. Sure the coach made them apologize for their actions, but how can that be considered a fair and just solution to such a serious crime as this? It quickly became very clear to me that this institution and its administrators go to great

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lengths not to protect the STUDENTS' safety and well being, but only those people that are inherently valuable to the athletic and academic goals of the future.

The question "What is hazing?" can sometimes easily be answered. It is the more important issue "who will take responsibility for their actions?" -that is far more pressing. Should the coach be the one to take the responsibility in preventing hazing from occurring in the first place, or look the other way as Seth Baron did? Do we need to change the policies regarding the due process of our institution rules concerning crimes such as hazing? The rules and regulations in the student handbook seem to represent a lot of funny smoke and magic when it comes to actually implementing them. Maybe a better solution resides in the REAL justice system our country was founded on, and not those of this school.

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*Georgia Tech at Clemson*



A WINNING SPIRIT was in the air after Georgia Tech's breathtaking, last-minute victory over Clemson in the last seven seconds of Saturday's game. Kerry Watkins caught the winning toss from quarterback George Godsey, who set a school record for passing yards in a game.