

OPINIONS

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Quote of the week:
"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."
 —William Arthur Ward

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Analyzing academics

The highest levels of Tech faculty and administration came together to explore issues related to the undergraduate curriculum over Fall Break. The weekend retreat saw administrators discussing a variety of proposals to dramatically change several aspects of the way undergrads are educated.

According to Anu Parvatiyar, undergraduate student body president, the last initiative with this sort of focus took place back in 1995, prior to Tech converting to semesters. In light of the vast time gap since the last time undergraduate education received a broad evaluation, it's good to see administrators commencing a review.

Unfortunately, however, administrators only saw fit to invite three students (two of them from SGA) to this brainstorming session. While Ray Vito, the recently appointed vice provost of graduate and undergraduate education, says student participation will be expanded as they "wind down," we hope more and more students become involved during the entire process rather than at the end. Wide student involvement must be encouraged from the outset, and the administration should make an effort to reach out to students with diverse majors and school experiences and bring them into the conversation.

At the same time, as administrators investigate the varied approaches to reforming the undergraduate degree, they must make sure they make changes that are actually necessary and beneficial, rather than blindly following buzzwords like "experiential learning" or "interdisciplinary education." Don't get us wrong—we support both initiatives—but a half-hearted implementation that serves no purpose beyond letting Tech add a line to its brochures helps no one.

Mission critical

T-Square's rollout hit a low point last week as the system saw a series of unplanned outages. Many of the problems were caused by a new tool created to automatically submit assignments causing repeated performance issues and security flaws. The tool was a poor replacement for a feature many were accustomed to from WebCT and WebWork: letting students submit an assignment multiple times prior to a due date. Despite faculty and students requesting the functionality from the earliest trial stages of the software, it is only now being worked on.

Professors will be hesitant to use a tool that sees frequent downtime, and students who are forced to rely on the system to do their assignments are left seething when it goes down. As such, it is crucial that T-Square's rough week is not repeated.

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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By Abhishek Jain / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Water woes require cooperation

The front page of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Thursday provided an easy and somewhat controversial topic when I was wondering what to write about for my editorial: water.

What's so interesting about water? The headline summed it up nicely: "Metro Atlanta's Need for Water: Three Months from a Mudhole."

The AJC's Stacy Shelton reports, "Lake Lanier, metro Atlanta's main source of water, has about three months of storage left, according to state and federal officials. That's three months before there's not enough water for more than three million metro Atlantans to take showers, flush their toilets and cook."

After reading the article and discussing it in one of my classes, I managed to formulate two predictions for the immediate future. The first is that instead of looking for a solution, the media, politicians and regular people will point the blame at each other in a desperate attempt to preserve personal images. Somewhat faulty facts will be thrown to and fro, and I am quite certain global warming will enter the dialogue at some point. The second is that the price of bottled water will go up despite it coming from sources other than Lake Lanier.

Notice something missing? A solution, perhaps? Or even a slight nudge in the right direction? No, of course not. That doesn't sell newspapers or make people watch the news.

Instead, I will act as a member of this media and point the blame. I could blame gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status; the list goes on. But instead of wasting space on every imaginable topic, my focus will lie on just one.

Being a member of the fairer sex, I take long showers. Perhaps that comment is not completely fair to all women, but let's be honest, ladies: it takes time to get our hair



"Humans are a wasteful species, so instead of blaming different groups of people, how about working together?"

Kathy Nagel
 Copy Editor

washed and conditioned, our legs silky smooth and our bodies clean and lightly scented.

A typical shower allows five to eight gallons of water to flow out per minute. For the sake of argument, six and a half (the average) will be used in all future calculations. So multiply six and a half times 30 minutes, get 195 gallons, times seven days a week, and the product is a lot of water. Thankfully Tech uses reduced-flow showerheads, so the actual output of water is cut by about 50 percent.

But do not blame me for the water crisis! At the very least, I don't exacerbate my water consumption by expending gallons upon gallons scrubbing my car or leave the faucet running throughout my morning routine. Leaving the water running for just a few extra minutes a day can add up to several thousand gallons a year, and on average, 50 gallons of water is wasted each time a car is washed at home.

Enough numbers. Now that the hopeless circularity of my logic is revealed, I will bring up my actual point. Men are as much to blame as women, so I am going to drop the gender card and instead place the responsibility where it belongs...on everyone. Humans are a wasteful species, so instead of blaming different groups of people, how about working together? Everyone learned cooperation in kindergarten, but somehow in the transition from crayons to laptops it became an

obsolete tactic.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Georgia Environmental Protection Division Director Carol Couch plan to give Governor Sonny Perdue a list of recommendations and actions to take into consideration within the next two weeks. But thus far, no one really knows what to make of the crisis. The article quotes Couch as saying, "We've never experienced this situation before."

But until then, those living in the Metro Atlanta area have no guidelines or suggestions.

Water bans are already in place, but the effectiveness is limited. In the past, water bans and minor restrictions have served to reduce the impact of drought, but nothing compares to the awaiting crisis.

I personally have no solution. Every article I've read concerning water conservation recommends things like changing the showerhead and reducing the water flow in the toilet, which I, like many other who live on campus, simply cannot do.

One of my teachers, however, offered this humble advice: find a good friend and shower together. That sounds like a win-win solution, but will it prove effective enough? Meanwhile, I am left only to wonder if three months from now, my shower will suddenly fizzle to a stop and Atlanta will break out in panic. I can only hope that a good solution turns up before then.

For now, though, anyone looking for a shower buddy?

Burma events show need for awareness

I must say, it feels great to have the right to say whatever the heck I want.

Admittedly, many people have issues when others speak their mind. The infamous University of Florida student was tasered while directing awkward questions at former presidential candidate John Kerry. He probably deserved it for being so obnoxious, but nonetheless, the situation prompted many Americans to question the validity of our First Amendment rights of free speech.

We as Americans have the right to say things like "Bush is a nincompoop, dunderhead, buffoon..." and so on. Even those half-wit "Homo sex is sin" protesters have the right to say and do what they want when they march around the Campanile with their children.

But just for a second, I would like you to imagine a society where those rights never existed. It is unfortunate that so many of these regimes still exist in the world, ones where a centralized government has absolute control over public opinion.

In some other countries, people are killed for expressing any of their thoughts that are contrary to the opinions of the ruling government, even to this day. Perhaps the most notable example of this in the present



"The junta succeeded in ridding the streets of the protesters within the span of a few days."

Jonathan Saethang
Focus Editor

time is the Burmese government's brutal repression of a peaceful protest.

To give a little bit of background, Burma (which is known officially as Myanmar because of the changes imposed by the ruling military junta) is a southeast Asian country that was a former colony of the United Kingdom, gaining independence relatively recently in 1948. An authoritarian military junta, which has been in power since 1962, controls the economy, the media and many other aspects of life. Many residents of the country have been forced into hard labor camps in dire conditions. The controversy generated by the junta has scared away foreign investment to the point where skyscrapers in Yangon (the largest city) remain empty.

In the past month or so, revolution has been brewing in Burma, led by an unlikely demographic group: the Bud-

dhist monks. Burma is a majority Buddhist country, and the monks are highly respected by the general populace. The junta's sudden removal of fuel subsidies in August caused a sharp increase in fuel prices, up to fivefold. This prompted a protest staged by the monks, known as the Saffron Revolution, named after the color of the monks' robes.

Tens of thousands of monks joined by the general public took to the streets in the largest stand against the military junta since it took power nearly fifty years ago. For many weeks the monks marched day in and day out in peaceful protest, demanding changes in the way the military dictatorship was treating the Burmese people.

This posed a serious dilemma for the military junta, for crushing the revolution would be controversial due to the highly respected status of the monks in the country. But rather than risk-

ing a loss in power, the military junta began violently suppressing the protests in late September, kidnapping, killing and torturing monks and protesters. Censorship of the internet and media began immediately, and the junta succeeded in ridding the streets of the protesters within the span of a few days.

In the United States, this would be a grave crisis: a non-violent protest being brutally suppressed by the government is in violation of everything that this country stands for. But sometimes, I feel that for being such a technologically savvy nation that arguably exhibits a higher level of connectivity than anywhere else in the world, we sometimes turn a blind eye toward events around the world.

I do not think that the majority of us Americans intentionally glaze over the severity of the problems that other nations experience, but I do think that happenings in the world such as the crisis in Burma deserve more attention and thought.

My point is that free speech here is so easily taken for granted when there exist other places in the world where expressing a thought could result in death or prosecution. We as Americans use our freedom of speech mostly

See Burma, page 10

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT or NOT



Autonomous auto

Tech's Sting Racing team will be fielding a fully autonomous Porsche Cayenne in the DARPA Urban Challenge semifinals in Victorville, Calif. at the end of October. The team is one of only 35 to advance to the semifinals. The victorious team will win a \$1 million prize and earn bragging rights as the top robotics program in the nation, and we know Sting Racing has what it takes to bring the award home.



Thieving at Tech

The Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts released a report on the fraudulent spending that took place at Tech in April, identifying a number of questionable practices related to oversight of procurement cards. It is crucial that Tech works to correct the issues swiftly so our ever-increasing tuition fees don't continue to fund diamond rings, gift cards and other extravagances for rogue employees.



Lama lecture

The Dalai Lama is coming for a three-day visit to Emory this weekend, having accepted a professorship at the university. In connection, the Dalai Lama will be giving a public lecture in Centennial Olympic Park at 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 22. This is a fantastic opportunity for students, and we're grateful for it.



Dried out

The Atlanta drought is threatening to turn Lake Lanier into Lanier Bowl in a matter of months, drastically reducing the city water supply. The increasing restrictions on water use may not be enough to prevent us from this sad fate, so students and facilities staff must work together to limit everyone's consumption.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drought devastating

The drought in Georgia is not over, so why did I see new flowers being planted recently? Here's a news flash, Georgia Tech: just because it's not as warm out as it was this summer (when Tech was extraordinarily wasteful in its watering habits) doesn't mean that water starts to magically appear in our reservoirs and lakes. Atlanta doesn't have the benefit of sitting on a large body of water like some other major cities.

Reports have come out that Lake Lanier has only three months of water supply left. And the news would tell you that Stone Mountain Park finally agreed not to make their huge Coca-Cola snow mountain. The million gallons of tap water it would have used would have been a complete waste of our life-sustaining resource. Now the city may turn to drastic measures; an AJC article says "only water for domestic and personal uses, for drinking, cooking, washing, sanitary purposes and all health related activities

will be permitted."

However, I still don't think that most of Atlanta understands what that means. Piedmont Park has attempted to take a step forward by digging up all the flowers in its bowls, but it still insists on watering parts of its acreage. Tech has made small progress by turning off its evaporating pools, i.e. the fountains.

As a community leader, Tech needs to take more steps to set an example for the surrounding metro area.

Tech should not be watering a single thing on campus, not even its athletic fields: if you get used to playing on dirt, you get more of a home-field advantage anyway. Substitute the silverware and dishes in the dining halls for paper and plastic to avoid dishwashing. If you and your roommates can stand it, follow the slogan: "If it's yellow, let it mellow; if it's brown, flush it

See Drought, page 10

Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Matthew Winkler, 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 7 p.m. Tuesday 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.

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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 First Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billings should be directed to D. McCall "Mac" Pitts 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.

BUZZ Around the Campus

What is your favorite show on WREK?



Chris Frendahl
First-year IE

"What if I never listen to WREK?"



Mike Zheleznyak
Second-year NRE

"I like it when they play the local bands."



Sarah Gilbreath
Second-year STaC

"Oh, that really cool sci-fi one."



Fanyi Zhu
Second-year CEE

"Classics."

Photos by Ben Keyserling

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Visiting evangelist criticizes “sinner” editorial

As one of the visiting campus evangelists at Tech (Sept. 26 & 27), I feel obligated to answer Will Morgan (“Protesters: hate sin, not sinners” - Oct. 5), hopefully giving Mr. Morgan and the Tech community a little better insight into God’s Word and our motives.

First of all, it wasn’t Jesus who said “Hate the sin, love the sinner.” It was Gandhi. God not only hates sin, but He also hates the sinner: “The boastful shall not stand before Thine eyes; Thou dost hate all who do iniquity” (Psalm 5:5). Try to explain that one in a politically correct way to your friends! The point is, however, to get out from under that hate, that wrath.

As for hell, once again your political correctness is lulling your fellow students to sleep vs. awakening them, Will! Nobody is going to worry over affirmations like “Heaven and hell are respectively a place where God is and a place where God isn’t.” Give them, like we’re doing, the whole truth about

hell: a well-deserved and eternal place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, of torment, of darkness, of agony; a lake of fire...and all because they refuse to abandon their sin.

You see, Jesus hates sin. Since Jesus hates it, we are to hate it too...and speak out against it wherever we find it. Why? It’s an offense to God, and it should be an offense to any true, Bible-believing Christian...unless he or she is playing with it too, calling into question the authenticity of his or her conversion (2 Cor. 13:5)!

So, do we practice “hate speech?” You bet—against their sin and against them, to wake them up to their agonizing future unless they repent (i.e., “abandon”) and trust in Christ to save them. But, as the father of the campus evangelist movement, Holy Hubert, often said to sinning students, “Bless your dirty little heart!” It’s not because we hate them, but because we love those little “Satan Slaves” at Tech that we face their mockery and even their violence to tell them the T-R-U-T-H,

no matter what it costs us.

Will, you would be wise to stop soft-selling the gospel and tell your fellow students what’s really awaiting them if they die in their sins! If not, I wouldn’t want to be in your shoes on Judgment Day!

Until next year!

Bill Hamilton
Bill.ions4Christ@gmail.com

“Nice guy” approach in editorial just as hateful

I am quite curious as to what happened to the Technique’s opinions board in the past year. Two weeks in a row, I am treated to blatantly racist and now homophobic comments in the Technique through its opinions contributors.

My gripes about the cumulative effects of the paper aside, I would like to address the “hate the sin” argument, or “hating like a nice guy,” as I would call it. I know there is an effort to draw distinction between the

Homo Sex is Sin group and a normal Christian view on homosexuality. Unfortunately, there isn’t much of one other than tactics.

In both viewpoints, homosexuality is a practice outside of God. In other words, it is on level with fornication, adultery, theft, murder and other grave sins. One cannot simultaneously view someone as a grievous and serial sinner and be fully welcoming of him.

A person should not be made to feel a need to constantly apologize for his or her chosen way of life. I think this is the ultimate insult of the “nice guy” approach to homosexuality, the passive-aggressive “I don’t think you are bad, but you shouldn’t be surprised if I do” line. Perhaps we should concentrate on the beams in our own eyes before pointing (but not pointing) to the motes in others’?

Bjorn Cole
gtg724n@mail.gatech.edu
AE Grad student

Burma from page 9

for expressing discontent for our country’s state of affairs. We enjoy the freedom to say what we want, so why not speak up for the peoples around the world whose voices are rendered silent by oppressive forces?

As heroic as it would be, we do not need to get involved militarily, because the last thing we want is another Vietnam, Korea or Iraq. I do believe, however, that knowledge is the strongest catalyst for change. It is our responsibility to remain cognizant of the global events that affect not only us, but also people on the other side of the planet.

I firmly believe that a sense of social consciousness is needed to fully appreciate and understand our constitutional rights, which should be used not only for our benefit, but also for the sake of others. Even if it is a small action, such as writing a letter to a legislator, joining a Facebook group that supports the cause or simply telling a friend about the situation, we as members of the human race can help improve the status of people in oppressed situations.

Drought from page 9

down.” And of course there’s always the “save water, shower with a friend” line. Take a minute to think about how your actions affect your community’s resources.

Ben Clarke
ben.clarke@gatech.edu
ECE Grad student

Games not for escapism

In regards to Hamza Hazan’s article about video games in the Oct. 5 issue of the *Technique*, the article seemed to echo that of several papers that I recall reading when I was in high school back in 2002. With the exception of a passing remark of *Halo 3* and the *Grand Theft Auto* series, all of the video games mentioned in the article are

of yesteryear; while still relevant to the gaming scene in some capacity, many gamers have since moved on to another generation of game systems. In a late-2007 article about video games, there is not one mention about any of the current-generation systems—the Xbox 360, the Nintendo Wii, and the PlayStation 3—which have combined for tens of millions of system purchases across the country. Additionally, gaming

nowadays has evolved past the simple “escape reality” undertones and now promotes interaction between players, sheer entertainment, and, in a few instances, exercise.

While there are still games out there that provide the escapism, gaming is back to the main reason that people continue to get involved in it throughout the years—entertainment. Overall, the message of the article seems to have good inten-

tions, but it comes a few years too late and seems ultimately irrelevant to the scope of today. This message is supported by its lack of references to contemporary games and gaming systems, both of which would give the message a contemporary feeling in its own right.

Christopher Vagts
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Second-year STaC



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