

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, April 7, 2000

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Welcome Coach!

The *Technique* welcomes the new head basketball coach Paul Hewitt to campus. We are looking forward to next year's basketball season with high expectations for more energetic games. We applaud Coach Hewitt's intentions to keep the team focused on their academics while still playing successfully.

The new coach has big shoes to fill in the hearts and minds of the Georgia Tech community. We hope Coach Hewitt will give the team his whole-hearted effort. We hope his efforts will be a success, since he already has a proven track record with his former Siena team. We'll be there next year cheering on the new, improved Yellow Jacket basketball team!

Beware of Break-In

The stunning rise in car break-ins for the month of March goes to show that everyone needs to be aware and cautious with their property.

Make sure to lock your car door and remove all your valuables, so that you do not tempt a potential thief. Likewise, the campus police should be called on to be especially alert and take the extra time to carefully survey each parking lot during their patrols.

New, anti-crime protection on campus should be considered, including student patrols and more video cameras in the parking lots.

Though Tech is grateful to have a lower crime rate than the surrounding metro-Atlanta area, every student needs to be aware that their car is at risk and to take the necessary precautions.

Fraternity Tragedy

The University of Georgia community was recently struck by tragedy as the result of a fraternity pledge incident gone terribly wrong. The death of Benjamin Folsom should serve as a reminder that we must do everything in our power to prevent such occurrences from happening here.

Not only should Greek organizations continue to follow Tech's stringent anti-hazing policies, but pledges, brothers, and sisters must reaffirm their commitment to protect the well-being of their fellow students. Furthermore, Georgia Tech students should exercise good judgement and recognize the potential consequences of their actions.

Pledges should stand up for themselves and take a firm stance against hazing. Joining any social organization is not worth risking physical injury or death.

The *Technique* extends its condolences to Benjamin Folsom's family and friends.

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

Real news hidden in fools' issue?

[Editor's Note: The following letter to the editor refers the April 1, 2000 "April Fools Day" issue of the *Technique*.]

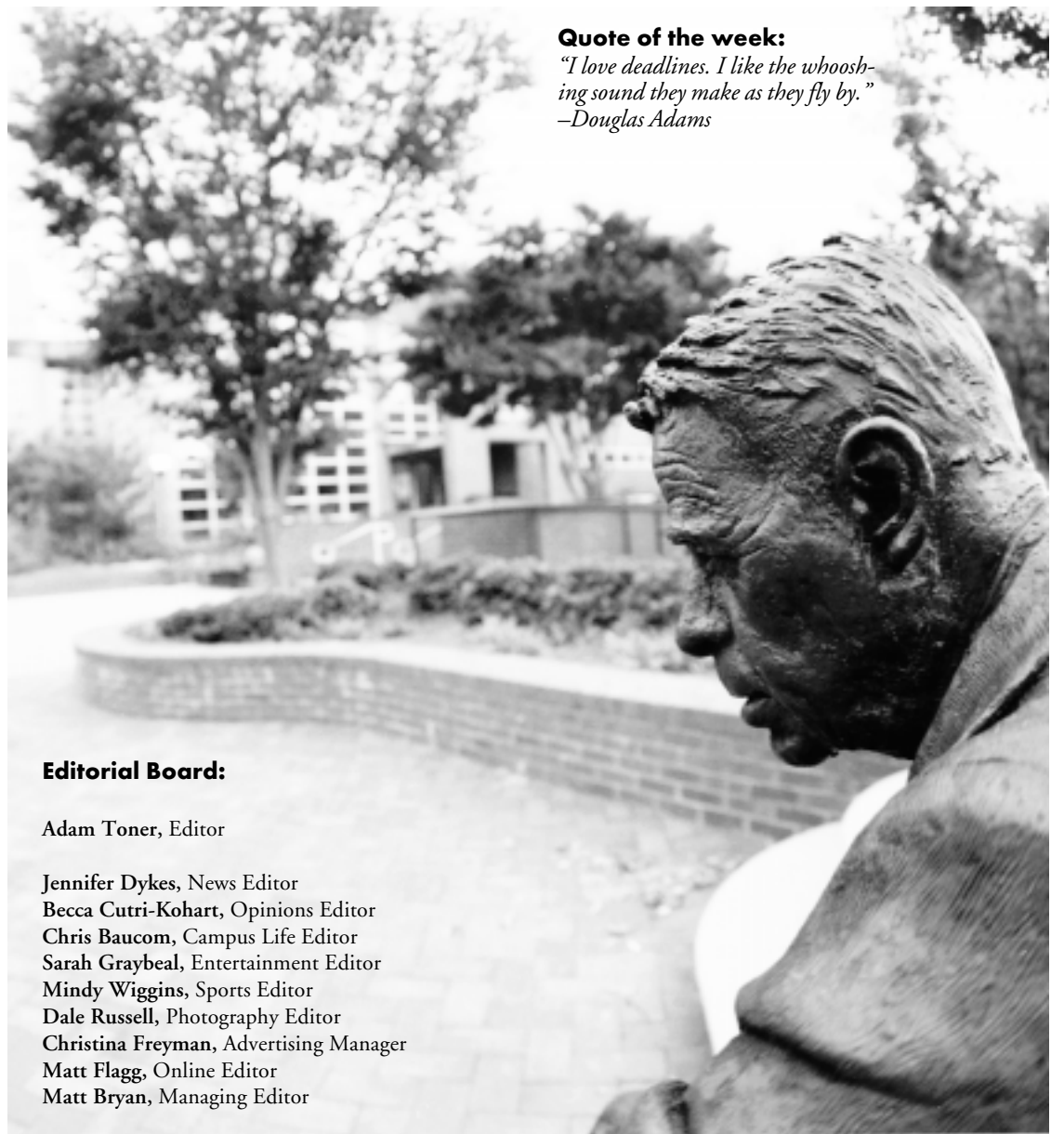
I just think it's pretty cruel of housing to slide in their newest announcement ("Housing office

plans to phase out housing all together") in the middle of what was otherwise an entertaining April Fool's issue of the 'Nique.

Matt Callaway
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Quote of the week:

"I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by."
—Douglas Adams



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YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Republicans expressing views are not offensive

[Editor's Note: The following refers to the letter to the editor "College Republicans offensive, disrespectful to guest speaker" in the March 31, 2000 issue of the *Technique*.]

In response to the letter to the editor from last week accusing College Republicans of being "offensive" and "disrespectful", we did show up to express our disapproval for the speaker but we were not offensive or disrespectful to Dr. Elders.

While we disapproved of her beliefs, we were not opposed to her speaking to express those beliefs.

Our members present were po-

lite and did not disrupt her speech. Certain members did take the opportunity to ask her very pointed questions during the Q/A to challenge her opinions.

To claim such expression is offensive and disrespectful is quite a stretch. Dr. Elders represents views that are on the fringe of the political spectrum.

Her mere presence on campus is a poor reflection on the Institute and Women's Awareness Month. Advocating the teaching of masturbation in sex education classes, as well as condom distribution in public

schools, are profoundly irresponsible solutions to the problems of sexual activity facing America's youth.

Furthermore, Dr. Elders claims to speak for women yet she supports abortion. Statistically, half of the aborted children are women. So who does she speak for? Women? Or the radical left? Next year maybe WAM should bring in a real champion of women such as Elizabeth Dole.

Shane Hix, Chairman
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Auxiliary services deserves respect not pranks

Response to comical attacks on auxiliary departments points out services provided to students and campus

Compliments to the writers and editorial staff of the *Technique* for its April 1st issue. The writing was outstanding and the topics were all of great interest to readers.

I was particularly pleased to see the extensive coverage afforded to Auxiliary Services.

In all, there were nine articles or editorials on Auxiliary Services, a reflection, no doubt, of the impact which Auxiliary Services has on the quality of student life.

It is gratifying, even exhilarating, to know that the efforts of the hundreds of Auxiliary Services employees who work hard every day to provide excellent service to our students are appreciated.

A less perceptive newspaper might not recognize the effort that goes into serving over 7,000 resident meals per day, or the challenges that go with keeping food for that many

people hot and fresh tasting.

Reporters who don't do their homework might not be aware that the average resident dining meal costs just \$4.88 for all you can eat.

Only through the careful calculation expected of an engineering student would a reporter recognize that 14,000 students can't sleep in 6,500 beds, or that Georgia Tech houses 46% of its students, among the highest percentage of any public college in the country.

On a higher plane, it is also rewarding to know that our planning for growth in Auxiliary Services is applauded by the astute staff of the *Technique*.

A student staff less interested in being forward looking might scoff at the changes being planned. They might be reactionary, rejecting an exciting new bookstore with an expanded array of merchandise, e-com-

merce, an extensive technical reference department, extended hours and a café because it represents a change.

They might even be so short sighted as to ignore the benefit that the change will provide the Student Center in freeing up space for expansion.

How comforting that the *Technique* staff has not fallen into that trap.

Then there's Parking and Transportation. Were the observatory skills of the *Technique* reporters less honed, they would be unable to see the dichotomy between vigorous enforcement of parking regulations to protect those who have purchased a permit, and the difficulty of satisfying the ire of those receiving the tickets.

See *Aux services*, page 13

EDITORS' VIEWS Staff Opinions

Good, old-fashioned sexism still sneaks its way into modern campus

Despite academic and leadership successes of women on campus and 21st century feminist progress, professors still exhibit sexist attitudes and stereotypes too often

A couple of weeks ago, I received one of those reminders and slaps in the face Tech women receive every now and then which make it clear we have a way to go. I'm referring to good, old-fashioned sexism. Right in the middle of Women's Awareness Month, it reminded me of how far we still have to go.

Sadly enough, the deliverer of the message was none other than one of my professors. He was explaining something (it's not important what) to a group of four: three girls, and one guy. Shortly into the mini-lesson, I noticed a strange phenomenon. Was the professor looking at the three girls, talking at the three girls, even noticing if the three girls understood (of course, we did understand just fine)? Of course not. He did not waiver from his pose: facing the guy, talking to the guy, and only moving on when the guy understood. One of us girls was practically standing behind the professor. In an instant I became aware of the glass box the women in that room were sitting in, in the eyes of the professor. We were quiet observers, seen as pests when we spoke up, but otherwise left alone.

When I pointed out my discovery to the girls, they had noticed the same thing. The guy had not, but he did once I brought it to his attention. It is not his fault; people often do not notice when they are given attention at the sacrifice of someone else.

"... there is still a strong population that might benefit from a reminder that we are in the twenty-first century."

Jennifer Dykes
News Editor



As I left class, I felt a severe sense of annoyance towards this professor, but I assumed it was a relic of several decades ago. Surely no one else at this school has the same attitude. Of course, my idealism was quickly shattered.

A girl I spoke to about the issue told of a time she went to her advising appointment while wearing a shirt denoting her Greek affiliation. The professor looked at her, noticed the shirt, and said something along the lines of "You're a ChemE? Why aren't you in management, with all the other sorority girls?"

Well, I can't print the words that man deserves to hear. Fraternity men do not suffer from any type of academic stereotype nearly that severe. Tech is a co-ed institute, and it has been for decades. It's too bad we are yet to flush the system of such backward-thinking individuals.

In addition, there are those sidewalk chalkings from a few weeks ago about "putting women in their place." Maybe that person was someone feeling the sting of watching a

woman do better than him.

It turns out the average Tech woman's GPA is higher than that of her average male counterpart. There is a higher proportion of women in leadership positions on campus. Tech now has two women deans. Sadly enough, in some departments it is still clear that when the professor has to choose, he chooses the men. The ratio is part of why this struggle continues at Tech. While female enrollment is growing, we are still very much a minority. Strength in sheer numbers is something we clearly do not have.

Of course, you cannot mention the struggle women face at Tech without people shouting out a chorus of "TBS." It is true, I have to admit, and I have run across more than a couple of cases in my couple of years here. One thing people overlook, however, is the cause of this strange disease. Is it really some mysterious bacteria that jumps into women shortly after their arrival on campus? Perhaps it is, in some way, attributed to the good old-fashioned

sexism or simple rants about the ratio women here before even stepping foot on campus.

I am not condoning the syndrome, or in any way supporting it. Girls have to put up with the afflicted as well. Everyone complains about it, but how about a cure? I have a hunch that if more sexual equality hit this campus, TBS would follow smallpox out of existence and return to nothing more than an occasional cause of one of its mild counterparts, PMS or GAEWS (Grumpiness After Encounter With Stupidity).

We are clearly not ready to rid ourselves of a Women's Awareness Month. Awareness, as in becoming aware of issues facing Tech women and trying to improve what can be changed for the better. While most people at Tech recognize that 1950 was not last week, there is still a strong population that might benefit from a reminder that we are in the twenty-first century. Women have more than proven that we can match men in countless ways. Perhaps the fear of being surpassed is why these select few shut out their female students. Then again they should be scared. It could happen.

To my dear professor, and the others like him I have not had the pleasure of meeting, maybe you have the right idea of being scared. Who knows? In ten years, I just might show up and do your job better than you do.

Don't blame politicians for sky-high gas prices, blame capitalism

Increased gas prices are a result of OPEC making a decent profit, not a result of politicians or taxes, there is no savior except the simple laws of supply and demand

Gas prices are high. Too high, people complain. In the beginning, I complained too. For like you, I remember a year and a half ago when gas was eighty cents a gallon.

Now it has basically doubled. One would think it was going to ruin our country, or at least our economy, with all the fuss people made.

Gas prices are no where near the levels that they were in the 1970s when the oil crisis did hurt the economy.

The Republicans cried foul and in this election year tried to blame it on the Democrats, on Al Gore specifically. The Republicans tried to be the saviors of the big "gas crisis" and started a movement to repel a 4.3 cents per gallon tax.

They called it the "Gore tax." Yes, Al Gore did cast the vote for a tax on gas that broke the tie. If it was a tie, then 50 other people voted for it too. This call for the repealing the tax made big news with big announcements from very public Republicans.

Oh wait, the tax pays for a lot of highway construction and improvements that all members of Congress like to hand out to their districts. All the sudden the tax was not so bad when it pays for things your constituents like to get.

So the movement died down quickly with very little mention. This is understandable, since it does not look too good to stand up and admit that calling for the repeal of

"Contrary to popular belief of the citizens of this country, we are not the most important people on the planet."

Christina Freyman
Advertising Manager



the tax was a stupid idea. The idea was not well-researched before announced, or it would have just dawned on them that this tax does good things, and it would be bad for us to repeal it.

So the repeal of the gas tax was forgotten and the Republicans still try to blame it on the White House with, "Oh, our diplomatic relations must be failing because oil prices are so high" or "We give all this money and aid to counties in OPEC and this is how they repay us."

Our economy is a capitalism, so companies will sell their products at a price the customer is willing to pay, and normally not a penny less.

We think this is good business practice. It is okay for us to do that, but not OPEC. Remember when gas prices were so low, they were low because there was a lot more oil on the market then was really needed, a simple process of supply and demand.

Countries lost money in the slump of oil prices. OPEC cut production to raise prices, there is little doubt about that. They wanted to raise

prices to get them to a more normal level and also to try to recoup some of their losses from the slump. OPEC is like a company with a product. They dropped production because of economic reasons, not because they were trying to stick it to the U.S.

People complain; politicians react. People said that the White House should do something to help lower prices. Clinton sent the Secretary of Energy to each OPEC country to try to convince them to raise production. Asking them nicely is no problem, but we did much more than that.

Last week, OPEC decided to raise production, in effect, reducing prices. Many members of the group cited the U.S. as the single biggest pressure to reduce oil prices.

OPEC members felt as though Washington was like "the largest boy in the playground ... pushing others around," said Paul Horsnell of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies at Oxford University.

Our job is not to bully the rest of the world around. Contrary to pop-

ular belief of the citizens of this country, we are not the most important people on the planet. The world should not be expected to cater our needs. This is exactly what we expected. Oh, gas prices are higher than normal, oh, we must talk to OPEC and they must do something to lower them.

People are not real happy with us right now. That is not a good part of the world to make unhappy with us. We already have several enemies there right now, like Iraq, which would love to convince more of the members of OPEC to take their anti-U.S. side.

If we lose any of our allies in OPEC, we risk losing any help we might get from them if a real oil crisis did appear. We did not even get the full production increase that we were lobbying for.

If we used everything we had now, what happens if our enemies in OPEC decided to cut us off from their supplies? We might not have anything left to bargain with.

We need to learn, as voters, as citizens of this country, that we a part of more than just the U.S. This planet is truly getting metaphorically smaller with technology.

The smaller and smaller the Earth seems, the more and more we need to work with the other members of this planet. We cannot strong-arm a country (or a group of countries) to do exactly what we want and expect them to cooperate for very long.

TECHNIQUE

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The *Technique* welcome all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters should be hand-delivered, mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, or E-mailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu. Letters should be addressed to Adam Toner, Editor. All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 350 words and should be submitted by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserves the right to edit for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each quarter.

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Aux Services

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Likewise, a less sensitive and responsible reporter would not recognize and sympathize with the Parking employees who daily receive extensive abuse, bad language and threats from irate students who have brought their situation on themselves by disregarding parking regulations with impunity, and without regard to their fellow students.

An even more subtle challenge met by the astute reporters of the *Technique* is recognizing the difficulty of keeping buses on schedule with the unpredictability of traffic, or the impossibility of providing bus service every three minutes.

Among all these congratulatory remarks there are, regrettably, some negative observations. There are eight Auxiliary Services departments.

While one could hardly complain about the deserved attention given the Bookstore, Housing, Dining and Parking and Transportation, some departments are feeling neglected.

The Student Center was given only token recognition in the article about Festival Behind the Fence, while the Student Health Center, the Buzz Card Center, and the Center for the Arts were not given so much as a mention.

While the server who serves your

food, the custodian who cleans your residence hall, the driver who drives your bus and the clerk stacking your textbooks on the shelves are reveling in the praise heaped upon them by the *Technique* staff, the other departments' employees are feeling that their work is not even noticed.

They all work equally hard. They all need the motivation that the *Technique* provides.

Everyone wants to know that the effort they are making each day on behalf of the Georgia Tech students is appreciated, whether they be janitor or manager.

They all want to feel that pride. Every Friday, every Auxiliary Services director and manager anxiously

awaits the *Technique*, to reap the praise and reward of their efforts in the staff's complimentary articles.

It's for exactly that reason that I'm writing this letter; to let all of you know how much your good work is appreciated.

So please, in future articles and editorials, don't neglect any department. Thanks again for an outstanding piece of positive, responsible and insightful journalism. Keep up the good work.

Rosalind Meyers
Associate Vice President
Auxiliary Services

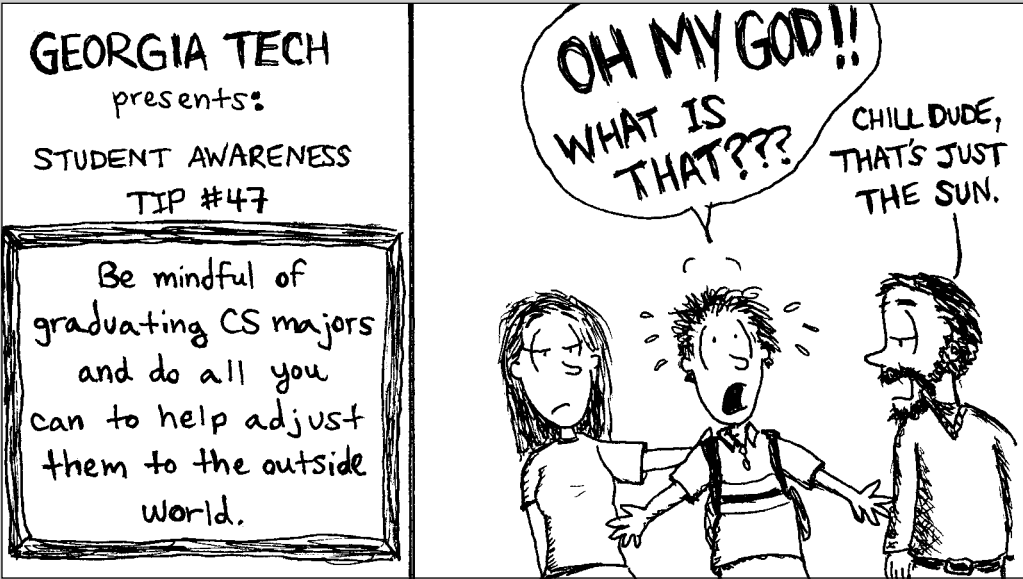
"Every Friday, every Auxiliary Services director and manager anxiously awaits the *Technique*"

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