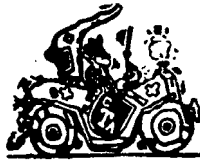


OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, June 13, 2008



"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"
TECHNIQUE
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Quote of the week:

"The future, according to some scientists, will be exactly like the past, only far more expensive."
 —John Sladek

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Campus precautions

Last week in a span of less than twenty-four hours, five fraternities were robbed, with the thieves taking away laptops, TVs and cash. With the increase in crime not only in Greek housing, but also all around Tech and the greater Atlanta area, students should act with greater caution. While Tech police generally keeps campus safe for students, as members of an urban community Tech students should not be lulled into a sense of security that stops them from taking precautions to keep themselves and their property safe.

Students should make sure to always lock their room doors even if there is supposed to be another outside lock to keep intruders out. Fraternities often have key codes on their houses to keep out people who don't live there, but this isn't enough protection to totally prevent someone from breaking into the rooms inside if all the interior doors are open. After all, door codes can be passed to other people, and sometimes the doors aren't even securely shut to begin with. While the blame for things stolen is not put on the people who were robbed, if the theft of something as valuable as a laptop can be avoided by simply locking a door, the lock is a precaution worth taking.

Also, Tech students should remember to be aware of their surroundings at all times. Just because students are on campus does not mean that they are immune from an armed robbery. Sitting anywhere alone at 3:30 in the morning is a pretty good way to get robbed even within the protective bubble of campus. Not only can thieves come onto campus from outside to slip into a building and take a laptop, but unfortunately some of these robbers could be Tech students with access already.

None of this is being said to scare students. At Tech, robberies are fairly uncommon and the campus is pretty safe. However, there is no reason not to take precautions and ensure that these isolated events don't become more common.

Welcome new dean

After the unexpected passing of the former Dean of Architecture Thomas Galloway in March 2007, it will be good to finally have a new dean. Alan Balfour looks like he will be a good fit here at Tech. Balfour was formerly the Director of the Architecture Program at Tech for ten years, so he is already familiar with the Tech community. He should be easily able to settle into the department and carry it forward in a positive direction. Also, with a focus on sustainability, he should be able to make the School of Architecture progressively better. Balfour has an interdisciplinary focus and it will be exciting to see him intertwine the elements of architecture and music.

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

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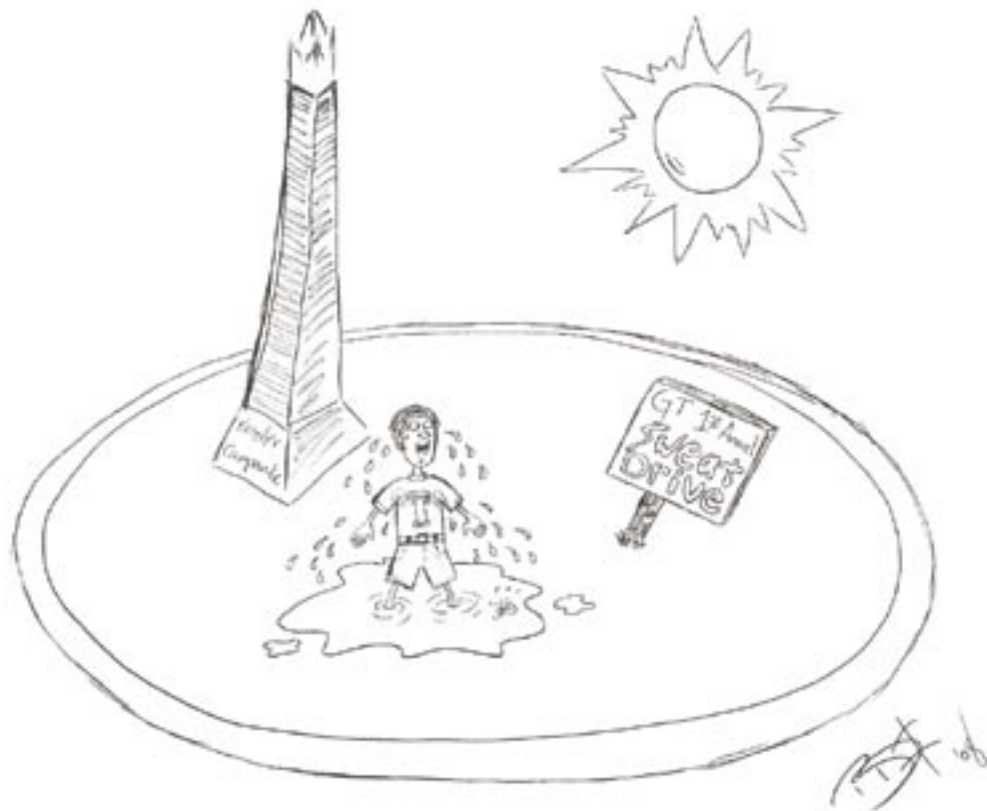
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By Blake Israel / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Doomsayers spam pre-election

As sure as there will be an American election every four years, there will always be the eccentric but ever-present apocalyptic doomsayers who take over one's inbox. In particular, these irrational pessimists spread the word one inbox or blog at a time with ideas that if so-and-so is elected to be president, then he or she would bring about the Armageddon. While the election is a good five months away, the irrationally fearful and terribly annoying emails and spam have already begun filling up my inbox.

Now, I would understand the purpose of a good, well-written email from at least a semi-intelligent source. However, when the only defense that the Anti-Christ or whatever claim that these doomsayers are trying to rouse emotion for is in the form of various racial tirades and badly misquoted Bible passages, it begs the question from my end, "What are people like this thinking when they write stuff like this?"

For example, following the news of Barack Obama's Democratic presidential nomination and my celebratory support of such news on Facebook, a good friend of mine, in a momentary lapse of good judgement, sent me an email under the misappropriated title "A Little History".

The email included a list of biased assumptions concerning historical events from the assassination of Robert Kennedy to the war in "Afghanistan against", as the writer so wonderfully puts it. The writer then makes the daring claim that the Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama is the bringer of the end of all time. Of course, the piece of spam culminated in this statement:

"And now: for the award winning act of stupidity of all times the people of America want to elect, to the most powerful position on the face of the planet — the presidency



"If going the speed limit will pose a safety hazard without exception, the limit ought to be rethought and modified."

Vivian Fan
 News Editor

of the United States of America — a Muslim male extremist between the ages of 17 and 40. Have the American people completely lost their minds, or just their power of reason? I'm sorry but I refuse to take a chance on the 'unknown' candidate Obama."

As terribly written and factually incorrect the email proved to be, it made me wonder, why would anyone waste his or her time on a bombast email that no one takes seriously? Personally, I find the zealots who send chain messages such as "IF YOU DON'T SEND THIS MESSAGE TO 8 PEOPLE, YOU WILL NEVER FIND LOVE AND GROW WARTS" or "Why Barack Obama is the Anti-Christ" very much annoying. I'm sure many others do as well.

If that's the case, then what's the point of swaying a person to a certain argument that way? If persuasion is the goal, there are much better ways to do so.

As a frequent receiver of badly written spam, I can point out many that could help detract from an attempt to persuade. One of the most glaring is an ill-thought out plan of attack. For example in the Obama spiel, the writer draws a string of instances when "Muslim [men]... between the ages of 17 and 40... destroy[ed] Americans" and then compared them to Obama. Nevertheless, if we are attacking a man and his affiliations based on what history says, can't the same argument be made with any other race or religion as well? Attacking

using examples of acts committed by "Muslim [men]... between the ages of 17 and 40" throughout "history" is a basic fallacy of hasty generalization, not to mention a horrid example of stereotyping and racial profiling. If that's the case, we can make the same argument about any single racial or religious group out there:

In 1941, Asian "male extremists" bombed Pearl Harbor killing 2,350 people.

From 1956 to 1975, America fought a war against Asian "male extremists" between the ages of 17 and 40.

In 2007, an Asian "male extremist" between the ages of 17 and 40 killed 32 students and faculty in the massacre at Virginia Tech.

Does that make any Asian American from 17 to 40 an extremist or unfit to take on a role of leadership in this great land we call the United States of America?

Well, as an Asian-American, I certainly hope not, and I certainly don't think that these three instances in history are able to sway the average American to believe that Asians will destroy the country. The same goes for any other race or affiliation, whether it be black, white, Hindu, and so on.

When everything is said, done, and read, it's obvious to see the trend in any of these types of emails. The writer fears what is unknown or what is different. While having such feel-

See Spam, page 6

CRC and library crowded as ever

Since it is now the summer semester, students are sparse around campus. This would naturally lead one to believe that usually popular areas such as the CRC and the library would now be a little more laid-back and a little less busy. Somehow this isn't quite the case.

Since I am a commuter for the summer, going to the CRC is one of the few things I enjoy doing to pass the time during the day. There isn't much for me to do while I'm on campus, so I want to get the most of my time.

I assumed that going to the CRC would be a much more enjoyable experience than during the rest of the year—not a lot of other people working out, plenty of open equipment, and no distractions.

But alas, there is plenty going on at the CRC even though it seems as though there shouldn't be.

When I work out, I don't like having to worry about which people are watching me, which are judging me, which think I'm judging them. Working out is a very personal thing.

This is why I now only go in the morning, between about ten-thirty and noon. Everyone is still asleep or hung over from the night before and there are few distractions.

It may be hard to believe,



"After finding out how dead the CRC can be in the morning, I haven't wanted to go in the afternoon since."

Jennifer Aldoretta
Focus Editor

but it's actually not busy in the morning.

It may have been a bad decision on my part to divulge this information about the perfect time to go to the CRC, but I'm sure there are many others as frustrated as I who will benefit.

I've tried the whole going-in-the-afternoon thing, but by that time it's so packed that it seems every student taking summer classes decided to work out at the exact same time.

Also, all of the local day camps bring the kids to campus on field trips, so it is usually inevitable that a herd of screaming seven-year-olds will appear in the middle of your workout.

I have nothing against field trips or the fact that other people take pride in trying to stay healthy.

I just don't like having to compete with hundreds of my closest friends for cardio equipment and weight machines as

children run around and scream in the lobby above me.

So needless to say, after finding out how dead the CRC can be in the morning, I haven't wanted to go in the afternoon since.

After realizing that the CRC isn't always busy, with that same mindset I decided to do some homework in the library.

Being a Tech student, the library is like a second home to me (as it is for many others). But it's usually a second home that gives you a panic attack the moment you walk in. Even during the summer, it's still impossible to find a computer.

The first time I needed to go to the library this summer, I was actually almost looking forward to it. I figured that since I don't see many people walking around on campus, there couldn't possibly be very many in the library.

Much to my dismay, it still took me a few minutes to find an available computer in West

Commons.

It astounds me that the computer issue doesn't improve during the summer. It feels like the entire student body goes to the CRC when I decide to go, then migrates over to the library to take all of the computers before I get there.

Now, I can understand that the library at Tech would be packed because, well, it's Tech. Even still, no offense Techies, some of us need to get out and socialize more. This might help solve the computer problem.

(Oh, and for those of you who sit at the computer in West Commons looking at Facebook while completely aware that there is a line of people waiting for computers, please either get a life or some common sense.)

Being on campus during the summer gives the impression that all students at Tech are either health nuts, or total nerds that never do anything but study.

But you would never get that impression just from walking around campus during the summer. It seems that everyone is away on vacation when, in fact, everyone is either in the CRC or the library.

So as I end my rant, it has been concluded that the best time to go to the CRC is in the morning, and the worst time to go to the library is all the time.

BUZZ Around the Campus

If you could have any superpower, which would you want and why?



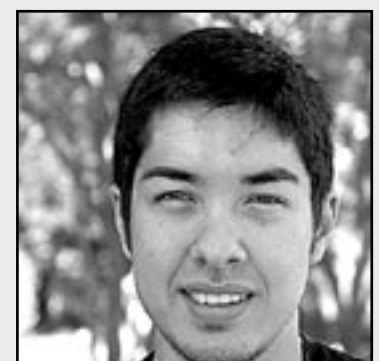
Elliot Mork
Third-year AE

"I would definitely fly, because I could go fast."



Saloni Desai
Third-year IE

"I would control time, so I can get through Tech."



Jason White
Fourth-year ME

"Telekinesis, because it's the ultimate lazy man's power."



Howard Zuo
Second-year CHBE

"The power to change the weather, since it's too hot."

Photos by Ben Keyserling

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT or NOT



Tennis champion

Women's tennis continues its trend of success, as team member Amanda McDowell won the NCAA singles championship. She is not only the first singles champion in Tech history, but also this year's winner of the Honda Award, which is the player of the year award for tennis. With 45 wins this season, McDowell now holds the Tech record for women's singles tennis. Go Amanda!



Sex on the clock

In the course of their P-card audits, investigators found that a woman formerly employed in the ECE department as an administrative assistant was broadcasting sex acts via webcam while at work, using a computer in her office. It's bad enough to buy yourself a personal laptop and a webcam with P-card money, but to use them for those purposes takes her crimes from despicable to downright disturbing.



Stadium goes solar

The solar panels that are to be put in the stadium will not only save Tech money, but will reduce carbon emissions. Normally the panels will only light the stadium at night in certain areas like along North Ave and Freshman Hill. We hope going green this July will be in place to save lots of green this upcoming football season.



UGA wins again

In their two recent baseball meetings, UGA beat Tech by a total landslide in each game. While losing to UGA is never fun, these losses are particularly biting, as UGA has been beating us all around in sports this year. Tech didn't help themselves as they committed six errors in the championship game. Hopefully Tech triumphs soon.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Coverage lacking

The May 23 *Technique* story, "Sklar v. Clough case resolves," regarding a federal judge's ruling in the case against Tech brought by co-plaintiff Ruth Malhotra and me purported to be a news piece, but fell well short of the mark. Not only did the article omit pertinent information, but at times was factually inaccurate.

The court did not "rule in support of Tech" as erroneously reported. In fact, Malhotra and I have prevailed on three of the four claims in our case. As a result of our lawsuit, Georgia Tech has 1) repealed its speech code, 2) altered its unconstitutional "speech zone," and 3) eliminated the unconstitutional portion of its "Safe Space" program.

The court ruled April 29 that provisions of the school's "Safe Space" program discriminate against religion and are therefore unconstitutional. The court already struck down the Institute's

"speech code" in August 2006 and prohibited Tech from changing the policy without court approval for five years.

The quotes from the Institute, implying that Tech has not been required to take any action and that nothing has changed are flat-out false. The recent ruling puts an end to discriminatory provisions of Tech's "Safe Space" administrator-run training program, which officials used to support religious viewpoints that disparaging those that oppose it. The court found that Tech officials, including President Clough and Dean Ray, "violated the Establishment Clause by favoring one religion over another in the state-associated Safe Space Program."

This is the first federal court ruling of its kind in the nation dealing with a university pro-

See: **Lawsuit**, page 6

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 Craig Tabita, 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.

Advertising Information

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.

Mexico brings new language and new adventures

For the past four weeks I have had the immaculately unique experience of studying abroad in Mexico. I have seen things I didn't think existed, learned words that I don't think I will ever use outside of the country, and this past weekend I had an adventure that would merit a novel, if I were that type of writer.

My study abroad group, lets call it the MexicoBAT, spent the past weekend in the mountain city of Taxco, a silver mining town famous for cheap prices, amazing views, and a huge statue of Jesus at the top of the mountain into which this town was carved. Our guide told us that there were waterfalls that we could risk our lives in, and a small town where the bones of Cuahemec (the last Aztec Emperor) were on display in a temple.

After four weeks here, I had become fairly confident in my ability to negotiate taxis or buses to venture to see these bones and waterfalls, so five others and I headed out. Our first step was to procure a combi, a.k.a. an ancient Volkswagen van re-vamped to hold up to 20 people.

After walking for roughly a mile,



"I have seen things I didn't think existed, learned words that I don't think I will ever use outside of the country."

Emily Chambers
Columnist

following directions that continually pointed us downhill and to the right, we found one of these legendary vans, and for the low price of a dollar per person piled in for a 20 minute drive to waterfalls. Conveniently, the driver understood our goals despite my inability to remember the word for waterfalls (cascadas, I have since been told), and drove us straight to a gorgeous rock outcropping that had the rough equivalent of a showerhead running down it. Apparently, the area has had horrible droughts lately, and the normal flow had died down revealing grottos and a large cave that our group, barefoot and stupid, crawled over and through for 45 minutes.

At this point in my mental plan we needed to leave and walk down

the highway until we encountered another combi headed towards the town of Ichcateopan, to find the bones of Cuahemec.

On our way we found a hole in the ground (not the wall, the ground) in which sat two women barbequing a goat with a bucket full of ice and a delicious drinks. This beverage cost us only 80 cents, so of course, even though we only had 1 minute to drink it before the next combi arrived, we made the purchase, tilted back our necks and chugged the most delicious 80 cents I have ever spent.

This combi, unlike our earlier one, was fully loaded. That meant that I did not get a real seat, but instead was suspended on a bench, wedged between the door and the end of the

real seat, leaning very awkwardly on the unfortunate program-member behind her, we shall call him Carlitos. I got to maintain this position for the next 45 minutes until we rolled into the town of Ichcateopan was a lesson in broken stereotypes.

Every man from age five up appeared to be dressed in classic Texas cowboy-gear, complete with snakeskin boots and hats. One lucky gentleman had even managed to procure a purple silk shirt with horses and thunderclouds on it. All of the girls were dressed in knock-off versions of New York fashion.

It was a very bizarre, very sexy combination. The market that lined the main street was so packed with people that in our race against the clock to see the bones, I nearly crushed five small children and an indigenous woman selling bugs that you eat live in your tacos (not a delicacy I plan on trying while in the country).

The bones themselves were brown, and impressively stored in a large whitewashed hall above the actual excavation site where the bones were found. I don't really know anything else about the temple, however, as

we had a grand total of five minutes to spend there before we had to run back down the hill to catch a combi going back.

On the way down we actually ran into the rest of the program, those who had opted against our nature walk through the waterfall.

This would have been a blissful occasion: a reunion between the six of us and our professors, a time in which we could have be proud of our ability to survive Mexico without them, were it not for the fact that our two parties combined were too many people to fit in a single combi. As such, yours truly and the ever-gracious Carlitos volunteered to stay behind.

We got to re-tour the town, look out over the views that after just one-day were being spoiled upon us. The rolling hills filled with farms and semi-straight lines gave way to mountains that on one side of the valley were covered in granite. On the other side, they were covered in emeralds that I have been told were trees, but I don't believe it.

It was amazing, and worth every other bizarre and hilarious thing that happened for the rest of the day.

Lawsuit from page 5

gram such as Safe Space, and sets an important precedent for universities across the country.

In addition, the court opined that the fourth claim, regarding Tech's Student Activity Policy, is unconstitutional. The court's only

concern was who ought to be held liable for the invalid policy. The judge did not rule that the policy is okay; rather, he specifically condemned the practice of not funding religious and political activities.

This is a victory for all students, but certainly not for Tech. Now that these policies have been changed, students have the right to speak freely

and the administration cannot take sides on religious matters. April's court ruling was a significant win for religious liberty on campuses across the country. We are pleased that as a result of our actions, Georgia Tech is closer to abiding by the U.S. Constitution.

Orit Sklar
CE '07

Spam from page 5

ings about change in the status of the world is normal, that does not mean that the person should rely on false accusations and racial profiling to express that fear. There are better, healthier, and more productive methods for that, especially ones

that don't involve my inbox.

In the end, if these rogue emailers want to be taken seriously in any light, I thoroughly recommend some thought and rationality before ranting. Better yet, just don't write at all. Inboxes of thousands of Americans, including my own, will thank them for not sending more pointless messages.

MS STOPS PEOPLE FROM MOVING

**WE EXIST
TO MAKE SURE
IT DOESN'T**

Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information between the brain and the body and stops people from moving. With the help of people like you, the National MS Society addresses the challenges of each person whose life is affected by MS and helps them stay connected to the great big moving world.

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jointhemovement.org

Carole, diagnosed in 2005
Geoffrey, diagnosed in 1987

MS

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