FOCUS

Technique • Friday, March 28, 2008

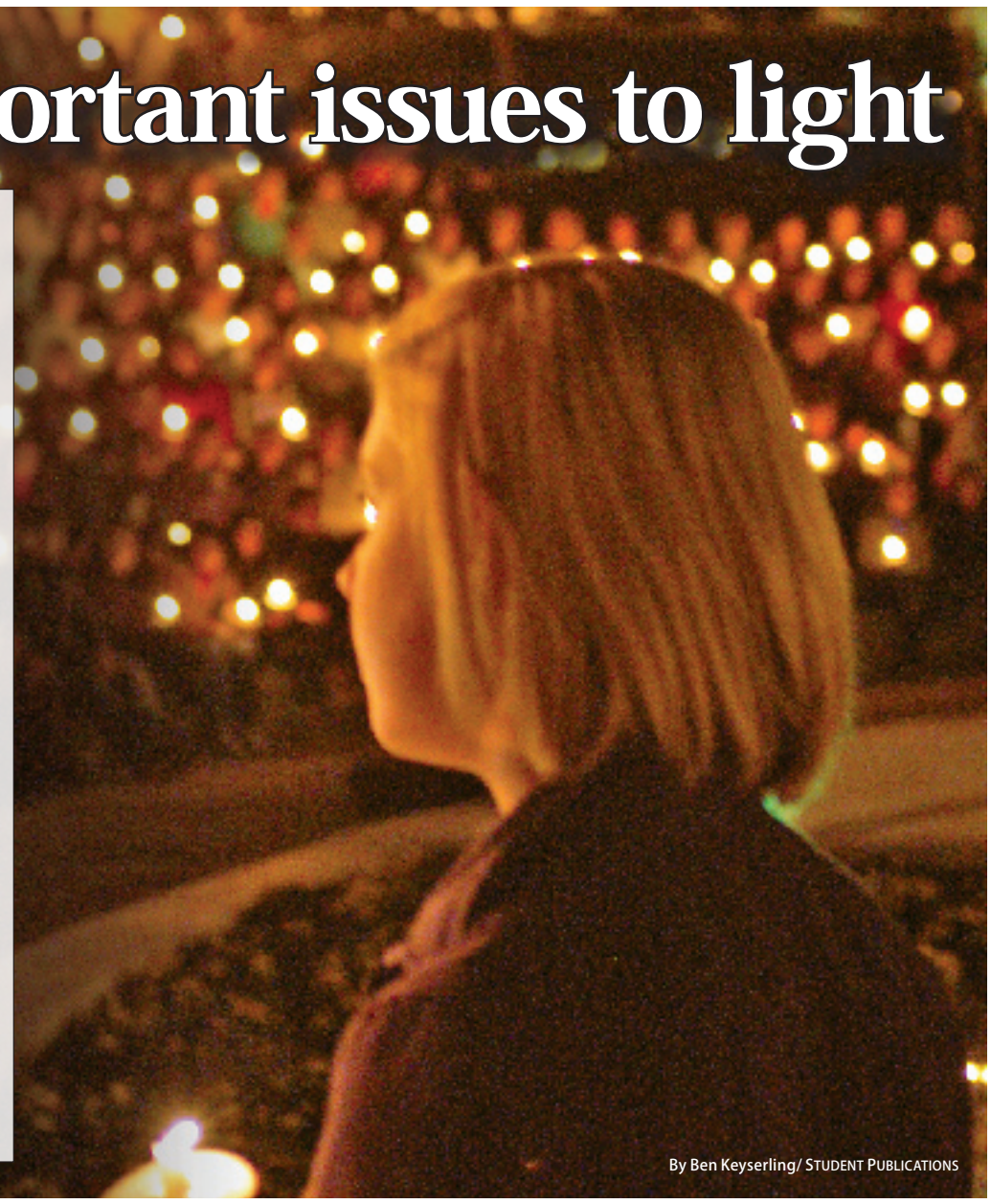
Basketball "Dukes" it out

The men's basketball team lost in the second round to Duke (82-70) in the ACC tournament in Charlotte during the break. **Page 36**

A long, long time ago....

10,000 B.C. whisks viewers back into prehistoric times with wooly mammoths and neanderthals rendered in advanced CGI. **Page 20**

WAM brings important issues to light



By Ben Keyserling/ Student Publications

By Vivian Fan
Staff Writer

This March marks both Women's Awareness Month (WAM) and the 11th year of the Women's Awareness program at Tech. Started in 1997 by Jennifer Orr, the former president of the Women's Student Union, the event was originally known as Women's Awareness Week and included a week's worth of programming to discuss and increase awareness of women's issues at Tech. Since its inception, WAM has grown to include community outreach, service and informational presentations.

WAM events kicked off on Feb. 29 with Women's Night on the Wall at the CRC. This year, WAM has been sponsored by Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, the Athletic Association, SmartLiving, the Women's Resource Center (WRC), Celestial Seasonings and sororities such as Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Gamma Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha. Events include outreach to local high schools, middle schools and Girl Scouts, a fashion show, a service day project and informational sessions about self-defense, sexual assault/abuse and stress management.

"I'm actually part of...the whole Women's Awareness Month group. I'm working on the [Red Dress Fashion Show]. I helped with the kickoff, day of service and international coffee night," said Stephanie Yang, third-year Computational Media major and WAM webmaster.

One of the most profound traditions of WAM every year is Take Back the Night. This year, Take Back the Night celebrated its 14th year since its inception on March 11. Organized by Zeta Tau Alpha, WRC and third-year Physics major and Programs Chair Caitie Gold, Take Back the Night is a candle-lit ceremony at the Campanile aimed at raising awareness and educating the Tech community about rape and sexual violence.

"I am the Women's Awareness Month advisor. I work as a program coordinator at the WRC. Zeta as well as Panhellenic has worked together to put on this event," said WAM faculty advisor and WRC Program Coordinator Colleen Peterson.

This year, Take Back the Night included survivor stories, poems, information about resources from the WRC, the Georgia Tech Counseling Center and Police Department, a performance by the GIFTED

See **WAM**, page 15

Students give back during break

By Hamza Hasan
Staff Writer

Spring Break offers Tech students a chance to get away from the stresses of school for a week. Students traveled to many different places ranging from home to the beach, involving themselves in a range of activities wherever they went.

Several Tech organizations took students on Spring Break trips. The Christian Campus Fellowship (CCF) journeyed to Juarez, Mexico where they helped build homes in an impoverished community.

"It was amazing how adequate a 220 square foot house was for the family, and how thankful they were for it, while most of us live in much larger houses and still want more space and more material possessions," said Morgan Chislett, a first-year UACA.

She also described how much fun they had while accomplishing community service.

"Seriously, we drove to freaking Mexico for Spring Break. How awesome is that," said Dean Landers, an ME undergraduate student.

The students also described their emotional experience in service and volunteer work.

"I definitely went into Juarez expecting to be the one doing the service, but I came away realizing that I was the one who had been done the greater service...the love that I feel when I am in Mexico is penetrating, straight to the heart," said Laura Sims, a third-year IE.

"Juarez was an eye-opening experience. It's easy to forget how privileged we are, but when you are presented with the extreme poverty there it forces one to appreciate where we are," Landers said.

This trip to Mexico was not CCF's first. They went last year as well and comparatively saw a difference in the community in the one year they were gone.

"This year's site was next to the site we did last year, so it was amazing to see the impact we had on the family...and now their neighbors. I hope that this change continues so that in the future I can come back to a completely different Juarez," said Stephanie Solis, a third-year HTS.

CCF was not the only Tech organization to go somewhere on Spring Break. Trailblazers also ventured outside Georgia, but went to three distinct places by going in different

See **Break**, page 15

Photos courtesy of Trailblazers

Left: Students work together to pull a log up the mountain in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. Center: Participants pose with their tools on the Pacific Crest Trail in San Diego, California. Right: Trailblazers get their canoes ready as they prepare to paddle down a river in the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge during the service project in Florida.

La Unidad Latina facilitates discussion on cultural identity

By Yoon Kim
Contributing Writer

Last Thursday, the library played host to a small but diverse group of students who gathered to discuss various cultural issues, such as conflicting cultures in life at Tech. The mood was very comfortable and mellow, a perfect environment for such a serious discussion.

Hosted by La Unidad Latina, also known as Lambda Upsilon Lambda, a Latin American fraternity on campus, the event was comprised of a diverse group of student leaders representing many segments of the Tech population. LUL aimed for a small but intimate setting where campus leaders could gather to discuss the issue of finding one's identity in such a homogeneous cultural environment.

The leaders of LUL, Michael Boyce and Andres Rodriguez, led most of the conversation, but the discussion definitely had its own flow due to the enthusiasm of the students who attended the event.

The brothers of LUL expressed the necessity of holding the event, especially after they discussed so many of the topics within the group. "A lot of issues [were] discussed…and we wanted to bring [awareness] to other groups on campus," said Andres Rodriguez, a third-year Mechanical Engineering major and brother of LUL.

> "A common issue is [experiencing a] cultural duality... some are caught in the middle."
>
> **Andres Rodriguez**
> Third-year ME

Many of the topics came from the experiences of multicultural students who find it difficult to balance life in America with their own culture. Often, peer pressure or family pressure can force students of different ethnicities to make a choice concerning whom to associate with and if they are in or outside of the individual's ethnic group. Sometimes there can be

See **Identity**, page 17

Renowned physicist discusses *Einstein's Dreams*

By Lori Kumar
Contributing Writer

On March 5 in the Management Building, Alan Lightman, a renowned physicist and novelist, gave a lecture to interested Tech students. The event was organized by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Honors Program.

Gregory Nobles, head of the Honors Program, and Paul Houston, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, delivered introductory remarks.

Many of their comments were relevant to Tech's budding scientists. For example, Houston spoke of the necessity of valuing the public's opinions and concerns in the scientific field.

Lightman is distinguished in both the scientific and literary worlds. He has won a National Science Foundation pre-doctoral fellowship and has written a literary bestseller, *Einstein's Dreams*.

Currently a humanities professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he is unusual in that he embodies both literary prose and high scientific caliber. Giving the audience some insight into his life, he spoke of some of his wackier scientific endeavors as a young boy including induction coil experiments and rockets with improperly made wings.

Lightman remarked that human beings and their behaviors would often confuse him and cause him tension.

> "I feel that the Lightman discussion will really enlighten me about different aspects of science that I wouldn't think about on a regular basis."
>
> **Sierra Schmidt**
> First-year Biochemistry

Caught at the crossroads of literature and science, he maintained that the contrasts between these two fields fueled much of his creative growth.

His lecture concentrated on how literature and science do not have to contradict each other and in many ways they actually support one another. Writers and scientists share common aims since both writers and scientists share the same unconscious desire for order and beauty.

He pointed out that for a long time, the scientific community upheld the notion that the orbits of planets were perfect circles rather than ellipses.

Many great scientific achievements have been creative and fulfilling forays plumbing the depths of human imagination.

Albert Einstein's theory of relativity was in many ways an eccentric, individualistic foray into a world of his own, which enabled him to perceive some truth to life.

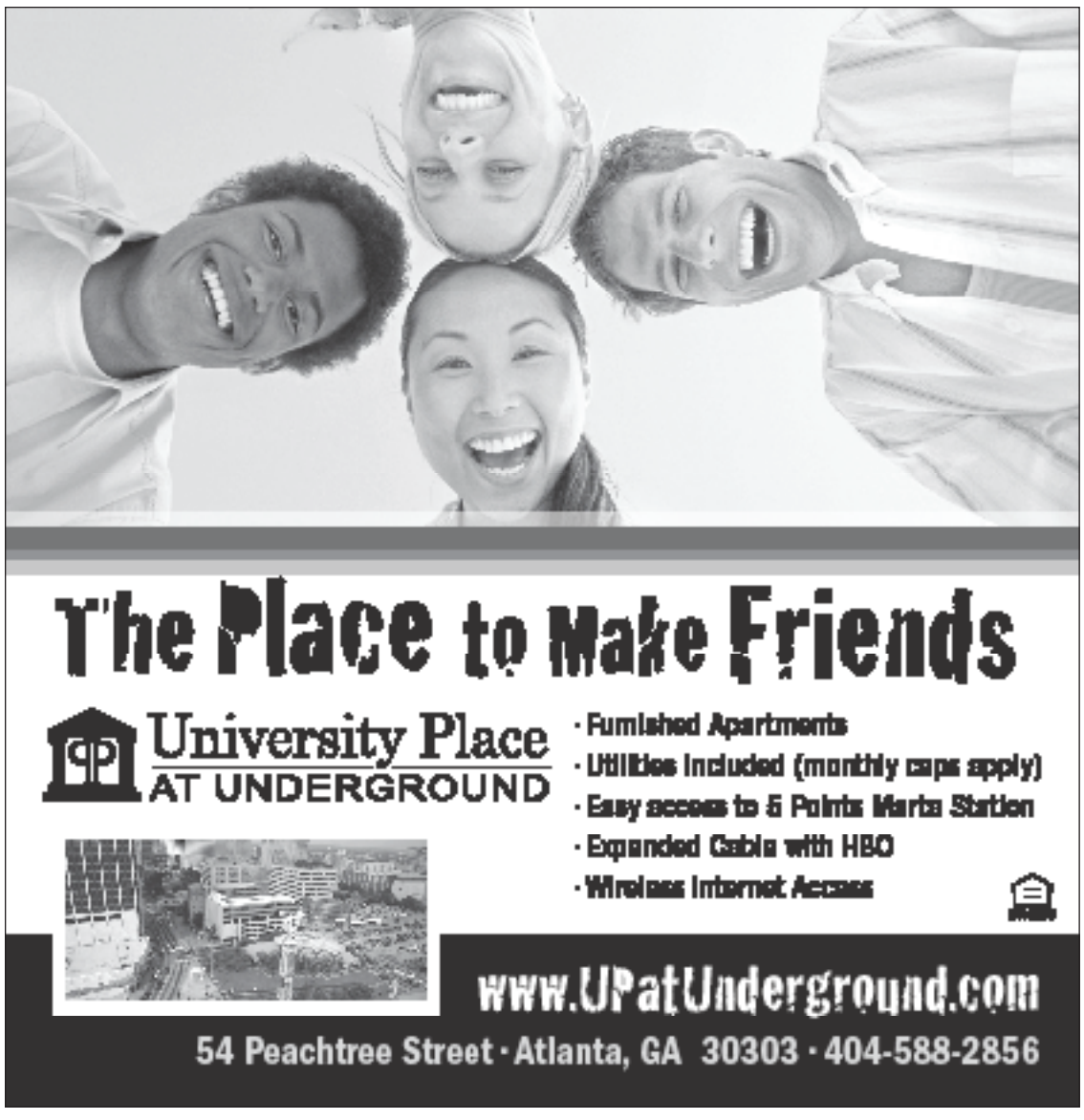
At the same time, there is no doubt that scientists and artists often differ in what they regard as most important.

Scientists like to stipulate clear definitions and theorems, a reduc-

See ***Einstein***, page 17

By Brian Casey/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Alan Lightman, an MIT professor and author of the best-selling book *Einstein's Dreams*, discusses the topics covered in his book.



Break

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groups. The groups went to Virginia, Florida and California. Members Tyler Pate, a second-year EE, and Sydney Shaffer, a second-year ChBE, went to two different locations with Trailblazers.

"On two of the nights we went bushwhacking to the top of some mountains...and took pictures from the top as the sun set on southern California. The climbs were really worth it and for those who braved the top of the mountains, it was a really memorable experience," Pate said.

Trailblazers is an organization for the promotion of outdoor service, exploration and adventure. They organize alternative breaks and local service projects to help facilitate outdoor activities.

The service projects over Spring Break included erosion control, creating water drains, working on rock formations, painting markers and cutting new paths, to name a few.

"The work was hard, but fulfilling," Shaffer said, noting that the service was both helpful to the community and fun for the participants.

Pate, who ran the trip in San Diego, California, told about the four days of work and subsequent three days of adventure.

The projects were on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) which runs from Mexico to Canada. Trailblazers worked on 20 miles of the PCT.

For the adventure part, members embarked on a 30 mile hike north on the PCT.

"From a holistic point of view, the best part of the trip for me was seeing nine months of planning and preparation come together to form such a memorable experience. The backpacking, the service, the surfing, the camaraderie—all the parts added together made all the time spent preparing for the trip pay off in a way that a salary or a paycheck never could," Pate said.

Shaffer was the leader for the group that went to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.

They worked with the Potomac Appalachian Trial Club in Shenandoah National Park. The group's service involved trail work as well as some time for adventure, just like the group in California.

"From skinning the wood to hoisting the logs with pulleys up steep slopes to digging the trenches for placement, we all earned are shares of blisters and the teamwork it took to pull this all off was amazing," Shaffer said.

Shaffer and Pate both emphasized the rigorous planning involved, but enjoyed the eventual outcome. One of the issues with planning was of course the itinerary, so that the Trailblazers would be doing something both unique and affordable for students.

"Each of the locations was simply beautiful with unique natural environments such as mountains, marshes, wildlife and beaches... that enhanced the adventure part of the trip. It feels so good to push ourselves to the max for something so worthwhile—other than our classes of course," Shaffer said.

These experiences are available to all Tech students and even faculty and staff. To learn more about CCF and Trailblazers, go to **www.gtccf.org** and **cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/Trailblazers**.

Photos courtesy of CCF

Top: Stephanie Solis poses with children near the worksite in Juarez. Right: Laura Sims holds an infant during CCF's trip to Mexico. CCF makes an annual Spring Break service expedition.

WAM

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Gospel Choir and a candle lighting ceremony. Participants attended a reception after the ceremony. Proceeds from sales of t-shirts at the event went to the Piedmont Rape Crisis Center.

"It's been a lot of fun. It's been really cool working with Caitie, you can really tell she cares about the event and what she's doing. It's been really exciting working with one of my sisters outside my sorority," said second-year Architecture major Rachel McLaughlin.

The presentations were geared toward statistics to educate the Tech community. For example, at Tech alone, one in four women may be the victim of rape. In addition, 15 out of 16 rapists will walk free of consequences.

"This event in particular is used to raise awareness of sexual violence through education, statistics [and] stories...One in four women...will be sexually assaulted at some time in their lifetime. Every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted," Peterson said.

"I've never been sexually abused, but I think that it's important to educate girls about sexual abuse and [that] it's a really important thing [to] know," Yang said.

Not only do these events incorporate the Georgia Tech community, but they also involve the participation of sponsors and guests from across the country. For example, at the first organized Red Dress Fashion Show event at Tech, WAM members and participants will be modeling dresses provided by Macy's as part of the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women." The initiative is a campaign against heart disease in women, which is the number one cause of death for women.

While the month of March is coming to a close, it is not too late to participate in WAM and its events.

Final WAM events this month include comedian Paula Poundstone at the Ferst Center on Mar. 28, a reading of *The Secret Life of Bees* by Dean Stephanie Ray at the Women's Resource Center on Mar. 29, Girl Scout outreach on Mar. 29 and Cap and (Wedding) Gown on Mar. 31.

Planning for WAM 2009 has also begun through the committee application process. If interested in joining the WAM 2009 committee, applications can be found at **cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/wam**, and are due at Women's Resource Center in the Student Services Building, Suite 131 by 5 p.m. on April 7.

For more information about WRC, WAM or any of WAM's events, visit **www.womenscenter.gatech.edu**.

Night of Diversity premieres at Tech

By Blake Israel
Online Editor

This past Monday, at 8:00 pm, the Student Center Theater hosted a diverse selection of entertainment performances from a host of different organizations. Diversity Night, an event celebrating the diversity of Tech's students, was hosted in honor of the first anniversary of the chartering of the Georgia Tech chapter of Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

Chartered at Tech on March 25, 2007, DPhiL is the newest member of the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC). The MGC was founded 2 years ago in order to "compensate for the lack of unity amongst multi-cultural Greek-lettered organizations," according to the group's website.

"[Even though DPhiL is an] Asian interest sorority...we felt the best way to celebrate was a showcase with our friends and other organizations that we work with and to be able to [show] the diversity of our school as well as our community including both greeks and non-greeks," said Alison Kao, DPhiL President.

In front of a crowd as diverse as the performers, the night opened up with the Fu Brothers, a hilarious guitar duo. The Fu brothers parodied several popular songs with humorous lyrics not leaving any culture safe from their satire. Next, the rock band AmPLiTuDe played a cover of a Red Hot Chili Peppers' song as well as some Indian rock.

Afterwards, the brothers of the Lambda Sigma Upsilon Fraternity, Inc. performed a "stroll." Much like a skit in essence, the stroll was part stomp, part sketch comedy and part dance.

The night then took an exciting turn as the members of the Georgia Tech Wushu Team took the stage to give a demonstration. Their fluid moves and daring acrobatics had the audience in silent anticipation of what was to come next. The front row spectators squirmed as the final performers for the Wushu team used traditional Chinese swords with even greater speed than before.

> "We felt the best way to celebrate [our anniversary] was a showcase...to [show] the diversity of our school as well as our community."
>
> **Alison Kao**
> Fourth-year IE

Next, the sisters of the Sigma Sigma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the brothers of the Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc. performed another stroll. Their choreographed moves received much laughter and cheering.

The Tech breakdancing team TekStyles also took the stage performing dazzling footwork and statuesque freeze moves that impressed everyone in attendance.

The sisters of the Lambda Theta Alpha Latina Sorority, Inc. then performed a "salute." A salute is similar to a stroll but without any music to dance to. The salute is also a more formal introduction of the members of a fraternity or sorority.

The acapella group Taal Tadka performed two very peaceful tunes in English and other languages. Their unique combination of beatboxing and ethnic singing made them a delight to the audience.

Coming close to the end of the night, the brothers of Lambda Theta Phi Fraternidad Latina, Inc. performed a long and intricate series of salutes.

Last, but not least, the sisters of the UGA chapter of DPhiL performed their stroll. And with much applause to their performance, the night ended.

"It was pretty successful, considering we filled [the theater] to full capacity. People came up to me and said, 'Wow! That was one of the most amazing shows I've seen.' [They] were really pumped up about it," Kao said.

By Blake Israel/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Tech chapter of Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. recently celebrated their one-year anniversary by presenting the showcase.

Photo courtesy of Delta Phi Lambda

The Wushu Club from Tech was one of the performers at the showcase, displaying gravity-defying acrobatics and smooth, fluid moves.

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Earning three Tony Awards before the age of 30 for *Carousel*, *Master Class*, and *Ragtime*, a fourth in 2004 for *A Raisin in the Sun*, and a 2007 nomination for *110 in the Shade*, Audra McDonald is often compared to Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand.

"Is there any performer with a more radiant combination of face and voice than Audra McDonald?" –The New York Times

Gilbert and Sullivan's
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"This is as good as Gilbert & Sullivan gets." –Australian Sunday Herald

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By Ben Keyserling/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Andres Rodriguez, a brother of Lambda Upsilon Lambda, leads the discussion. The discussion focused on cultural identity in America.

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no "in between" choice.

During the discussion, students talked about how hard it was to fit in with people outside of their ethnic group and the different obstacles they needed to overcome to fit in. There even seemed to be some boundaries between people of the same ethnicity who were unable to speak the ethnic language.

Many of the obstacles that come up between different ethnic groups are a result of the lack of understanding and communication between the groups. Sometimes, there is an unwillingness to understand the other side.

A lot of discussion stemmed from the idea of a cultural conflict. "A common issue is [experiencing a] cultural duality...some are caught in the middle," Rodriguez said.

Surprisingly for Michael Boyce and Andres Rodriguez, President and Vice President respectively of Lambda Upsilon Lambda, many others shared the same experiences.

"A lot of people have the same situation. When they travel back to their country, they are [referred to as] American. When they travel back [to the U.S.] they are called Colombian or Mexican," Rodriguez said.

Some students also discussed the derogatory names that people from their own ethnic group called them, such as Oreos or Twinkies. These degrading names sometimes come up when they are associated with other ethnic groups. There seemed to be a wall between groups that if crossed by an individual would result in alienation.

> "[Some people believe there is] a checklist of requirements to be Latino."
>
> **Andres Rodriguez**
> Third-year ME

At the discussion, both sides (the ones rebuking and the ones being rebuked) shared their experiences with this kind of misunderstanding. The discussion led to a common understanding between the two sides. The pressure to fit into a certain mold came from most ethnic groups.

"[Some people believe there is] a checklist of requirements to be Latino," Rodriguez said. This sort of checklist seemed to turn on a light bulb, as most people recognized a similar sort of experience where they too used a checklist or were check listed. The talk ended on a note of contemplation and understanding. Understanding was promoted as the take-away from the event.

A general sort of consensus was achieved in people who wanted to move towards a more understanding and united campus at Tech. The event that was originally scheduled to last an hour ended up lasting two. It was apparent that together everyone had struck a common cord.

Lambda Upsilon Lambda hopes to repeat it with future events to promote cultural awareness with other controversial cultural themes, such as dating.

Einstein from page 14

tionist approach.

Writers however, feed on the various thoughts, experiences and perceptions of their readers.

They write broadly enough to enable each to create his/her own masterpiece, a subjective experience.

Lightman also mentioned that in the early 20th century, subjectivity became a part of the scientific experience as well.

For the first time, Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle revealed how perception can alter supposedly objective reality.

Science and literature may have more in common than is usually realized.

"I felt that the Lightman discussion will really enlighten me about different aspects of science that I wouldn't think about on a regular basis," said Sierra Schmidt, first-year Biochemistry major.

Alan Lightman concluded the lecture with words from James Joyce.

After the event, students asked the esteemed professor questions regarding spirituality, the impact of perception on the scientific experience, the classification of economics as a science and the funding of the liberal arts and sciences.

Notably Professor Lightman did not give authoritative answers and seemed as curious and seeking of answers as the students themselves.

Some students were even fortunate enough to get a signed copy of *Einstein's Dreams*. Student reactions towards the book seemed generally positive.

Michael Lu, who shares Memphis as his hometown along with Lightman, also commented on the discussion.

"It's exciting to have a well-known person from Memphis to come to Tech. I'm really excited to hear another perspective about science and the arts," said Michael Lu, first-year Industrial Engineering major.

The professor agreed that the role scientists play in today's society should be one of humanistic citizens.

Lightman maintained that it is important that scientists do not wholly define their job or role as that of seeking abstract truths.

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