



OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Capital Building

Approximately once every ten years, the Capital Campaign starts afresh and makes plans to develop projects using funds from donors. The goal is to raise \$1 billion, with some of the funds going toward improving student life. This could involve funding the building of an Undergraduate Learning Center and an East Campus Learning Center, expansion of the Student Center, spending more money on landscaping and creating a Student Life endowment fund, among other possibilities.

The creation of an Undergraduate Learning Center would be beneficial for the entire student body by bringing together essential resources. It would also be much more easily marketed to donors wishing to leave a lasting legacy on campus because it will be a physical building. However, placing a learning center near on east campus in addition to having one next to the library (both of which are possibilities) is unnecessary if both centers are built to serve similar purposes.

While money appropriated to landscaping keeps Tech beautiful, the current budget is plenty. Flowers are changed out several times a year, lawns are well kept and leaves are blown, raked and swept away shortly after falling. This money should be put towards more student life activities, with a Student Life endowment fund being an excellent possibility.

The endowment fund would be established to sponsor concerts and other social events. While "Help Ludacris come back again," may not appeal to older generations of alumni, it is a good way of encouraging younger alumni to become regular donors.

At this time, it is important to SGA that the student body express the type of Student Life improvements they desire to be considered. It is essential for students to act quickly and cohesively because the submissions for the Capital Campaign have been rumored to be due early in the fall semester.

Building frustrations

The construction on and off of campus has become a major, yet understandable inconvenience. At times, it seems worse because the DOT is also working on the Fifth Street bridge in addition to the Klaus building construction down the street. While construction is not favored at any time, it is better for the majority to be going on during the summer rather than fall when more people are around campus.

A nice side effect of the construction has been the Trolley and Stinger being temporarily re-routed to actually go through the campus instead of circling the perimeter.

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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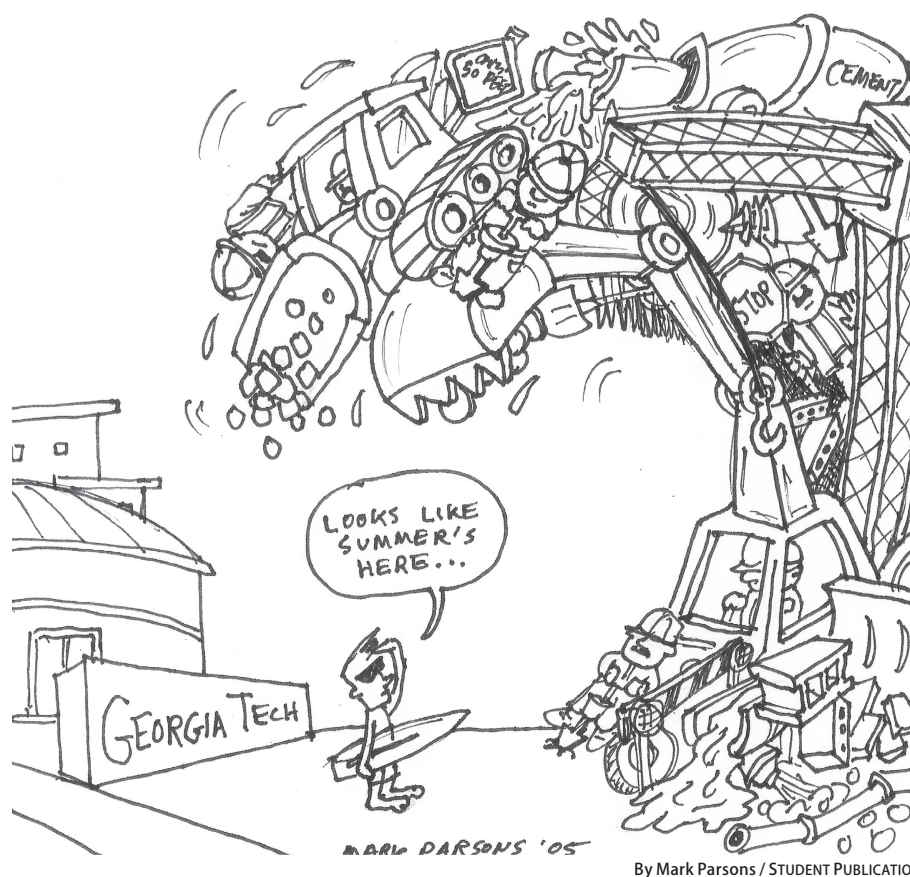
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Physics dept. needs chemistry

There aren't many schools in the country better than Tech when it comes to engineering programs, and even our non-engineering programs are gaining credibility. But what is Tech's selling point?

"Look at the person to your right and the person to your left," they tell you during orientation. "Only two of you will graduate from here."

At first, this might seem to be quite an impressive statement; Tech is a public institution whose classes are as rigorous as those taught at well-respected Ivy League schools—not bad, you might think. But after attending a class filled with over 200 students (take introductory chemistry classes, for instance) with an instructor who is brilliant in every aspect besides teaching, you begin to wonder what exactly Tech is selling. Is it beneficial to the school to fail a quarter of a class and pass three-quarters, who may or may not have a solid background on the subject being taught?

Instead of focusing on "weeding out" as many students as possible, it is better to encourage professors to work harder on getting through to students. Certain students may know how to study—or use exams from previous semesters—and pass a class, whereas other students who may be much more skilled in the subject may fail because they missed a few more multiple-choice questions on a multiple-choice only exam.

Currently, this is the problem with Physics 2211. Imagine taking an exam with ten questions worth ten points each. Only a scientific calculator is allowed, making long computation difficult (many of the questions require more than a dozen steps to solve completely). On two questions, you forget to divide by the final term because there is hardly enough room on your paper to see your work—this delays your progress and leaves you to guess on two



"The solution is not to standardize exams...but to establish better standards of teaching."

Nikhil Joshi
News Editor

questions. Your score is a 60. Your neighbor, on the other hand, knew half as much as you but scored higher thanks to random guessing.

Although the School of Physics has made numerous changes in the structure of this course over the past few years, these changes have not been reflected in a significant manner in terms of average GPAs. Physics 2211 has had surprisingly low average GPAs over the last couple of years. For instance, according to SGA's Course Critique, GPAs were as low as 1.97 in spring of 2003, 1.81 in spring of 2004, and 2.27 in spring of 2005.

Admission standards are getting stricter every year, with average SAT scores and high school GPAs of admitted students on the rise. According to an article posted last June on Tech's website, "...Tech is admitting one of the smartest classes in its 119-year history. Students who've committed to becoming freshmen this fall [of 2004] currently boast an average grade point average of 3.75 and an average SAT score of 1337."

It is evident that administrators need to take a closer look at how professors are teaching the class. Not only should administrators change the format of the tests to check conceptual understanding rather than just computational skills, they should also take into consideration the fact that oftentimes professors are just not getting through to students. This is true not only for physics, but for other

classes as well. Take calculus classes, for example. Some professors who teach calculus classes allow students to use notes and books on their exams and let students exempt the final exam (such as a Calculus II class last semester), completely omitting certain concepts. In one Calculus II class last semester, students who had an "A" in the class before the final exam were given the privilege of exempting the exam. As a result, they were not tested on eigenvalues and eigenvectors, among other linear algebra concepts fundamental to advanced mathematics and engineering courses.

Uniformity is another problem. The solution is not to standardize exams, which has proven very unfortunate for some students in introductory physics, but to establish better standards for teaching. After being in a class taught by more than one professor and hearing experiences from fellow students, it is easy to see that some professors copy-and-paste the textbook onto slides and recite from them, while others explain concepts with a different approach, making it easier for students to grasp complicated, abstract ideas.

As a whole, Tech needs to set a stronger and more uniform standard for teaching introductory classes. Administrators need to take a closer look at how professors are teaching introductory classes; the focus needs to be on learning concepts, and learning them thoroughly and completely.

Summer entertainment sings the blues

I have a lot more free time on my hands during summer and less cheap ways to have fun. With student organizations hibernating and most people learning how to cohabitate with their parents again, the campus seems dead. So, turning outward for entertainment, I have realized that it's gotten expensive to have fun.



"The price of Music Midtown tickets jumping up thirty dollars this year was hard to take..."

Amanda Dugan
Sports Editor

Last summer a friend and I bought decent tickets to three great concerts for less than a hundred dollars, total. Even if there were great concerts in town, the prices have increased out of my budget.

The price of Music Midtown tickets jumping up thirty dollars this year was hard to take even before all of the rain. I can only hope that 99X's Downtown Rocks series at Underground makes up for my current shortage of live music.

Entertainment and eating options close to campus are often out of a student's budget.

I recently went to Tech Square to check out the newest restaurant. However, one glance at the menu left me eating elsewhere. Thanks for posting the menu and saving me the embarrassment of coming inside, but I can't help but see a misled audience of students desperate for good food close to campus but with a limited budget.

Ribs and Blues finally reopen-

ing gives students another option for food nearby. It is one of the only affordable, quality restaurants on campus that accepts the BuzzCard. So many students have money on their card, but there are only limited avenues to use it. If more places followed their lead, everyone would benefit.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel—or at least alternative routes nearby. Technology Square's free outdoor summer film series, Flicks on Fifth, offers a nice opportunity to use the newer part of campus. Free admission to popular movies starting at dark helps bridge the community across the interstate.

A few places off campus are responding to the needs of students, also.

I spent Tuesday night watching Whole World Theatre's live improv show. Thanks to a ladies night and student pricing on

Tuesdays, ten dollars bought my four best friends and me two hours of laugh-out-loud comedy only two minutes from campus. Businesses gain an audience and students gain more relaxation outlets from discounts like this. It is a win-win situation more places close to campus should try.

Sadly, the cost of entertainment itself just keeps increasing. The Supreme Court ruled Monday in *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios v. Grokster* that internet file-sharing services will be held responsible if they intend for people to use their software illegally. Whether or not you feel that downloading is illegal, this decision will have an impact on the cost of music.

I am sure that the industry hopes this will increase the use of legal file-sharing services that sell songs, but since foreign programs won't fall under the new ruling the traffic will most likely only move. Still, this new

ruling may save students from being prosecuted as it gives the entertainment industry a legal alternative to individually going after illegal file-sharers.

The ruling, whether or not it deters illegal downloading, does not solve the industry's problem of figuring how to effectively reach consumers who rely on digital music.

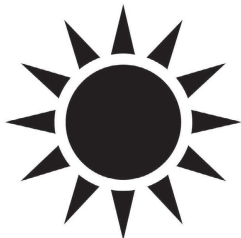
My friend just bought the new Acceptance CD, not realizing it came complete with copyright protection. Unfortunately for him, this means he can't put the songs he paid for on his iPod. Record companies moving in this direction are only alienating their legal customers.

Adding copyright protection to more CDs will only push people into downloading, such as my friend who had to illegally download the songs he owned. As students we are always needing opportunities to relax and having to search for inexpensive options often ends in frustration.

Whether it is the newest obnoxious Gwen Stefani single you are trying to download or just a place to have lunch, more often than not college students as a consumer audience are overlooked. The entertainment industry, both local and global, should look for inventive ways to appeal to our need—cheap, quality entertainment.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Sign language

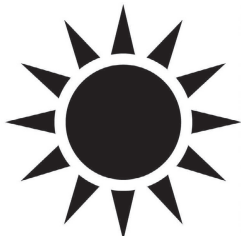
All around campus, new signs can be seen in major locations. With massive amounts of visitors present during the summer, the signs are a welcome addition to those who are lost (and those who used to give them directions).

Whether it be prospective students, businessmen or campers looking for directions, the new signs make getting around campus easier.



Woody's woes

The one advantage to campus dining halls used to be the ease in getting rid of dirty dishes. However, for the past couple of weeks, the tray return at Woodruff's dining hall has been broken. This would never work in the fall with more students using the facilities. Even if less students use the area, it is still an inconvenience and needs to be repaired as soon as possible.



No. 1 for No. 1

Chelsea (Chip) White III has recently been named chair of the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

With Tech's ISyE program ranked as the highest in the nation, it is important to have a strong leader like White to maintain the high rankings for the school.



Houston has problem

Projected starting cornerback Reuben Houston was arrested last week for allegedly conspiring to sell 94 pounds of marijuana worth \$60,000. Not only is it saddening for the Tech community to be associated with such a large-scale criminal act, it is also sad to lose one of our star football players.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farewell to Barbell

This is indeed a sad day in the history of Georgia Tech. Today marks one of the final days in the history of the Barbell Club at Georgia Tech as a student run organization with on campus facilities. The club, in this form, was a Georgia Tech institution for 50 years. Generation after generation of Georgia Tech students—tens of thousands—men and women—were members of the Barbell Club. Many have written fondly of this very special Georgia Tech institution.

It took the administration only one year to completely and knowingly destroy this club in its current form. Time after time officers of the Barbell Club tried to meet with the people in the administration who were authoring the memos charting the destruction of the Barbell Club. From October until May, these people refused to meet with the officers. Meanwhile members of the administration were writing

back to other students [with] platitudes: "The Barbell Club is alive and well," "The Barbell Club will be moved into what is undoubtedly one of finest recreation centers in the United States." The Barbell Club was not offered an even remotely comparable space in the CRC, nor anywhere else on campus. These statements of the administration were disingenuous and misleading. Every time the club answered some objection, the administration changed their arguments. This has never been about Title IX. There are a thousand and one ways to satisfy the volleyball recommendation of the "Daniel Report." Many of these have little or no impact on the Barbell Club. So goodbye to the Barbell Club as we know it. Started by students in 1955, and killed by administrators, for reasons unknown, in 2005.

Tom Morley
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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 Kyle Thomason, 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 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 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 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Corey Jones at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary Wells at (404) 894-2830.

Coverage Requests

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BUZZ

Around the Campus
Where is the best place to see fireworks?



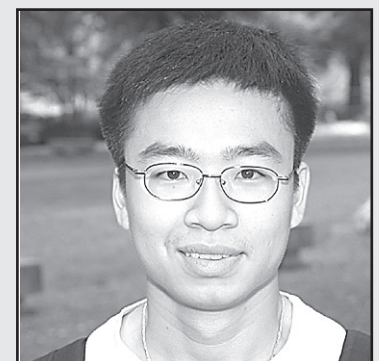
Teena Carroll
Math Graduate

"Nashville, TN"



Claudia Jones
IE Third-year

"The best fireworks are in Savannah."



Phuc Dao
ME Second-year

"Campanile Plaza"



Chris Fehn
IE Third-year

"Lenox Square"