

OPINIONS

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TECHNIQUE

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Quote of the week:
"If the dream is a translation of waking life, waking life is also a translation of the dream."
—René Magritte

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Got Gailey?

After weeks of speculation about football Head Coach Chan Gailey's potential future with two different professional football teams, the Tech community should be relieved to hear that he will be staying with the Jackets. That does not just mean avoiding the headache of a new head coach search; Tech will also have the added benefit of keeping a head coach for more than a few years—Gailey is the ninth head coach since Bobby Dodd retired in 1966.

The Jackets have been consistent, and even improving, during the six years of Gailey's tenure. Currently, Gailey can claim the 12th ranked recruiting class in the country. The fact that Gailey has been at the top of several coaching searches without submitting his own name suggests that he is in high demand in the coaching world, and the Jackets should be thankful to have such a prolific figure at the head of the coaching staff.

While every team in the Atlantic Coast Conference may strive to be the best team, Tech's expectations remain reasonably well-founded with Gailey's continued improvement in recruiting and season records. In fact, Gailey is only the second coach in Tech history, following John Heisman, to never have a losing season.

If the Jackets had to lose Calvin Johnson to the NFL, at least we can look forward to some continuity next season and to better things ahead for the future of Tech football.

Split proposals

Though the Mandatory Student Fee Allocation Committee postponed the vote about the proposed Athletic Association (AA) fee increase, the postponement seems pointless and the outcome seems inevitable. As a whole, the undergraduates favor the initial flat-rate proposal, while the graduates favor the second proposal, which would require an additional fee for students who wish to attend football or basketball games.

The graduate position is a reasonable one. Most graduate students lack the time for or interest in sporting events and should not have to pay for something that they do not use. The second proposal would benefit those graduate students who have the interest but lack the time required to camp out for tickets by guaranteeing them tickets to the desired events when they pay the \$100 fee. Additionally, the graduate students who do not attend sporting events would be saving money.

However, the first proposal is better for the Tech community as a whole, a majority of which is undergraduate students, after all. It will also prevent a drastic decrease in event attendance.

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By Derryl Carter / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Construction dominates life at Tech

The more I think about it, the more I wonder why grumbling about construction and the inconveniences of campus improvement projects has not been officially sanctioned as a Tech tradition, or, at the very least, a popular pastime. Just making a list of all of the projects and their related inconveniences that have gone on since I started at Tech would take awhile, and that list would be merely a fraction of what has happened in the past 10 or 15 years.

What really got me thinking about this was working on the Tech WikiProject on Wikipedia, the purpose of which is to create, expand and improve Tech-related entries on Wikipedia, including its history. Part of the discussion regarding the article's expansion has revolved around the physical expansion of the campus itself. How did the campus come to occupy the whole of the area that it currently does? What were the impetuses for various leaps forward in development? When did significant expansions and developments occur? These are just a couple of questions that examining campus development in a historical context can answer.

We all grumble about construction, and it's a pain, but to anyone who has studied at Tech (especially in recent years), it seems to be a fact of life. I quite literally experienced the effects of campus improvement from day one—the renovation of Woodruff Dining Hall was behind schedule, and for the first several weeks of my first semester at Tech, all of campus had the option of using their meal plans in the Student Center food court as well as Brittain Dining Hall. This was a decidedly positive consequence of a delayed project. Unfortunately, subsequent projects and delays haven't provided me (or the rest of campus) with acceptable "inconveniences."

Despite the disruption of foot



"Of course, the coolest part of [campus improvement] is realizing, 'Oh, hey, it's done!'"

Hillary Lipko
Advertising Manager

and automobile traffic throughout campus and the seemingly quantum parking zones that construction and improvement seem to inevitably cause, there is also a certain "cool-factor" of watching a huge structure like the Klaus Building rise up out of the ground or seeing a total transformation of a space, like the renovation of the Bookstore Mall into the Student Center Commons or even the current renovations in the Student Center. Of course, the coolest part of all is realizing, "Oh, hey, it's done!" Because, let's be honest, construction wears out its welcome pretty quickly.

One place where it seems to be doing just that is the intersection of Ferst Drive and Atlantic Drive. The Klaus building, following several road closings, bus re-routings and delays, has finally been completed, but right on its tail comes the Nanotechnology Research Center, located more or less on the opposite corner of the same intersection. Both buildings are mammoth structures, and they each promise to bring another aspect of uniqueness to the campus. Personally, I look forward to seeing what comes about following the completion of a building with the largest clean room space in the region.

However, that doesn't negate the fact that I'm also looking forward to the day where the construction fences come down, the mud is replaced with grass and sidewalk, the roads re-open and the bus stops permanently return

to their original locations.

Tech Square is an area that is currently experiencing the exhilaration that follows a long stretch of construction projects. The completion of the Fifth Street bridge expansion has (at least for awhile) capped off a construction marathon that began with the Spring Street pipe replacement over the Summer 2005 semester. Even though these weren't specifically Tech construction projects, they still decidedly inconvenienced the campus community for the duration, and since their completion, the same community that was inconvenienced is now reaping the benefits of the improvements. This eventual outcome is what we all need to keep in mind about the perpetual work-in-progress our campus seems to be.

However, that doesn't mean that I plan to quit grumbling, nor does it mean I'm suggesting anyone else should. Grumbling and complaining are among the things Tech students do best, even when our logical side knows that whatever we're complaining about is likely to work out for the better in the end. Of course, our logical side also nags about inefficiencies that cause delays, which cause more inconveniences that cause us to complain more. It's a vicious cycle.

But it's also part of that love-hate relationship that we all seem to have with the Institute—a relationship, which, if you haven't cultivated yet, you probably haven't been here long enough.

Liberal arts can be useful to engineers

Engineers are like squares. They can't help it; it's just the way they are. But the world is round. So how does a square peg fit into a round hole? You have to make the square well-rounded.

Tech is an Institute known for its engineering and science, and that distinguished reputation has held for well over a hundred years. Therefore, the liberal arts classes such as history, economics, psychology and philosophy tend to get overlooked in the broad plan we know as graduation. While here, we tend to only be concerned with getting our required courses and getting out as fast as possible.

One of the biggest complaints I hear from other students is that each major requires so many electives, which have nothing to do with their respective major.

But it's not all bad that we have to take these non-major classes; it's actually one of the best things the Institute can require us to do while pursuing our degree.

For an engineering student such as myself, it doesn't hurt to take something different from my other four classes. It expands the mind. It breaks the rut. It teaches thinking from a new perspective rather than thinking in terms of formulas.

Besides, if every class I ever took was about engineering, then I think I would have gotten



“[Liberal arts] teach the scientist, mathematician or engineer to think outside of their TI-89.”

Matthew Winkler
Managing Editor

burned out by the end of my second year. Humanities, social science and ethics requirements let the student get the much-needed breather from time to time.

Even though these classes are anything but a cakewalk, it still gives the student a different method of learning. These electives help make a (hopefully) more interesting and multi-faceted graduate.

Every semester, I look forward to my elective class the most, not because I want to switch majors but because there are no equations or repetitive calculations.

That extra class gives my mind a detour, which is good when the possibility of burnout is so prevalent. I get to choose the history class I want or which psychology will interest me the most.

It is one of the very few times I get to choose which

class I want rather than having it recommended to me from a flow chart.

Every year *Princeton Review* says that Tech is one of the worst places for in-class discussions. That may or may not be true; but when the majority of classes are science and math classes, there isn't much room for discussion.

All facts and formulas are established truth. How much discussion can be brought up about possible changes to Newton's Laws? The derivative of "x" with respect to "x" is always one. There's no way around these established principles.

These engineering classes only teach in terms that are black and white. Granted, there may be multiple ways to get the right answer, but there's only one answer.

These elective classes help teach that not all answers are black and white but rather shades of gray. So the problem

of that much-needed discussion is addressed in these liberal arts classes. They teach different solutions to the same problem. Subjects with no clear-cut right or wrong answer are addressed constantly. It helps teach the scientist, mathematician or engineer to think outside of their TI-89.

So embrace the fact that a class actually requires reading a book to do your homework instead of staring at a computer screen.

This variety that is forced on us will also help in the future. Your future employer may want you to write a technical report or maybe present the company's grand new idea.

If the only thing you know to do is punch a calculator, then you are up the creek without a paddle—or even a boat. But if you've taken some classes that teach writing and you've done a few discussions in front of the class, then these tasks may not seem so difficult and you may be moving up the promotional ladder quicker than you expect.

The world no longer requires just one-dimensional people. To be successful you need all types of skills. And a majority of these skills are not taught in engineering courses.

All in all, Tech may be one of

See **Electives**, page 8

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Cold relief

Being healthy is always hot—nobody finds runny noses or hacking coughs attractive. The Health Center's recent proposal to penalize students who skip their appointments is a great idea. Students who make appointments on a whim and later change their minds will no longer be able to monopolize appointment times that other, sicker students could utilize. A healthy campus is a happy campus.



Ice, ice baby

UGA hockey officials at the Jan. 20 matchup threatened police action to keep the Tech pep band from performing at the game, claiming it would hurt their home ice advantage. While the threat was "cold" and decidedly juvenile, it failed to help the Ice Dogs, who fell to the Jackets 7-4. Once again, UGA gives us a prime example with their petty tactics of why we keep such a strong rivalry going.



I'm walkin' here!

If we've said it once, we've said it a million times—construction on campus is a huge pain. And while the Instructional Center sidewalk may still not look like much, at least it's open again. Our standards are pretty low around here, and just being able to walk on the sidewalk again is a small thrill.



Another goodbye

Crit Stuart, the library's Associate Director for Public Services, is leaving for D.C. at the end of the semester. Stuart has made extensive contributions to the Tech community, including heading the East and West Commons renovation projects. His influence on the library will be greatly missed.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alternatives to honors program exist

In response to the Jan. 19, 2007 article "Life with honors," I think that while an honors program is a good thing to explore, the feedback its participants have given should be taken with a grain of salt. They didn't describe anything that every other student at Tech can't experience.

Extracurricular activities are there for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to a musical group I joined, I've performed for Institute President Wayne Clough several times and have gotten to talk with him personally, not just student-to-president. It didn't take an honors program.

If you want to meet faculty members, just go introduce yourself. Knocking on professors' doors was how I found a job when I graduated without one lined up.

I don't care how good they made English II, it won't hold a candle to some of the classes in your major (unless you're STAC).

All the classes I liked best were in my third and fourth (and fifth) years.

Anybody can have a good experience at Tech. Don't let the honors students' rose-tinted glasses fool people into thinking their way is the only way to do it.

Peter Budny
gtg655b@mail.gatech.edu
CS '06

Airport security present for citizen safety

In the five years that have passed since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, it seems that the horror and tragedy of that day have faded in the minds and hearts of many people. Arcadiy Kantor's article on the alleged ineffectiveness of airport security ("Airport security still ineffective, Jan. 19, 2007) seems to illustrate this fact.

See **Letters**, page 8

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 Amanda Dugan, 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 reserve the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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BUZZ

Around the Campus

What's your favorite class this semester?



Alecia Jefferson

First-year Undecided Ivan Allen

"Race, Space and Architecture."



Albert Whiteside

Fifth-year ME

"Senior design, my only class...ha ha."



Lynn Sarcione

Fourth-year ME

"Probably EAS because of my friend Beth."



Matt Peebles

Third-year ChemE

"Coding theory, for sure."

Photos by Jon Drews

State of the Union address restates obvious with new twist

Tuesday night's State of the Union address showed how little has changed in the past year in this country. President Bush took the stage and rattled off a speech that appeared to have been carefully cut and pasted from last year's version—almost down to the tie, which appeared to be a slightly lighter hue of blue, but still strikingly similar.

It seems that he took the route that most students select when they have the opportunity to write a paper on the same topic in two different classes in a semester; he changed it up a bit to keep it interesting, but the President did not make any large scale alterations.

As Senator Webb pointed out in his rebuttal, Bush actually made it seven in a row when it came to talking about alternatives to oil, which still sounds like a terrific idea.

So, the real question is this: what did this year's speech do to spice up last year's version? Well, there were a few major differences that should be pointed out from least to most important.

First of all, Bush changed up the order on everybody. He started



"Instead of closing with actual, vague policy statements [Bush] decided to finish like a big-time celebrity at an awards show."

Kyle Thomason
Columnist

out with domestic policy, instead of his Sept. 11 segue into the War on Iraq, which he saved for later. This seemed to be a good choice. Everyone started off in a much better mood, with Bush speaking on things that Americans seem to be able to agree upon. Education is good. Medical insurance is great. New jobs and low inflation are super, and I'll tell you more about that one next week. All of it was a rousing success, kind of like it was last year.

Secondly, his sole new topic addition to domestic policy—putting an end to earmarking special interest funds that no one actually approves—was a winner, as well. Most people tend to think that special interests other than their own

are bad and do not need any money. After all, most of us only reside in one of the 50 states and a single one of the 435 house districts. Chances are, if there is a special interest being funded, it is somebody else's.

The third major change was the fact that Bush was speaking to a Congress controlled by the Democrats this year with Speaker Nancy Pelosi over his shoulder. He probably could have picked a better crowd, as things did get a little chilly when he launched into his annual segue from the attacks on America in September 2001 into an unrelated war.

Although the fact that this was the first State of the Union address with a female Speaker of the House may be the most historically relevant

note, this addition was nowhere near the magical choice that Bush made for the end of his speech.

When he switched up the domestic and foreign policy order, I thought he might have lost it. The State of the Union preview, which was actually a press conference longer than the State of the Union itself, made it seem like Bush was going to have no other material, and I was sure the speech was going to have to end on a down note, with a closing about the War on Terror.

But then, Bush made a brilliant move. Instead of closing with actual, vague policy statements or intentions, he decided to finish like a big-time celebrity at an awards show—he reached deep into his arsenal and pulled out "the shout out."

That's right, the President decided to give not one, not two, not even three but *four* shout outs to end his speech in magnificent fashion. It was like his speechwriter watched last year's State of the Union, a few lame awards shows and a couple of rap videos with entertainers "hollering" out to some obscure friends and decided that this could be a perfect

time to try to put them all together at once on national television.

Of course, if I had the choice between watching *Boston Legal* at its regularly scheduled time or listening to Bush give props to Dikembe Mutombo, I'd obviously opt for the latter every single time. What better time is there to start talking about profiles of random people than in the President's one prescribed speech to the nation for the year?

Instead of hearing five more minutes of concrete plans on how this country is truly going to address the Social Security problem or why the new plan in Iraq is any better than the current, underperforming one, I obviously wanted to hear Bush "holler" out to the founder of the Baby Einstein Company.

The stories were entertaining, but I just think they might have been slightly out of place. Of course, everyone was probably so thoroughly confused after hearing four surprise stories—all of them quite interesting—at the end of the Address, they probably forgot that the President did not tell them anything else that was new or improved. Brilliant.

Letters from page 7

Not being of Middle Eastern descent, I can't claim to know what it feels like to be subjected to extra security based upon my appearance. But soon after 9/11, I had to take several one-way flights, and as a result I was subjected to extra security

checks every time I flew for the next year. Was it an inconvenience? Yes. Was it a "monumental" one? Not by any means.

I urge Arcadiy Kantor and anyone else who finds themselves delayed or inconvenienced by airport security to try to remember how you felt on Sept. 11. Imagine how you'd feel if

it happened again, because we didn't do everything we could to keep it from happening again.

The simple fact is that whether it's security at the airport, Times Square on New Year's Eve, on the border or here on campus, these people are doing the best they can to keep our country safe and strong. Perhaps

there are missteps at times, and perhaps their methods don't make sense to some college journalists. But we should all be rooting for them to succeed in keeping us safe.

Robert Thompson
gte945v@mail.gatech.edu
AE grad student

Electives from page 7

the best places to receive an overall education, because it stresses credit hours outside of each student's respective major. This in turn gives the Institute more credibility when their engineering students are also well-rounded in the liberal arts.

Center for the
enhancement of
teaching and
learning

Tell us how your TAs are doing!

Make a difference...and possibly WIN an iPod Shuffle!*

Georgia Tech's Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL) is conducting a short survey of undergraduate students about Teaching Assistants (TAs) and would like your opinions. The goal of this survey is to assist faculty and administrators in understanding what impact TAs are having on your educational experience here at Georgia Tech. To take the survey and register to win, please visit the website below:

www.cetl.gatech.edu/tasurvey

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