OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, June 8, 2007

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"
TECHNIQUE
Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

Quote of the week:
"Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do."
—Jean-Paul Sartre

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Tennis a Tech first

Two weeks ago women's tennis became the first Tech sports team to win a recognized NCAA Championship. After winning the indoor championship in the fall, a title not recognized by the NCAA, they continued on to end the season with a 21-match winning streak. The team, coached by Bryan Shelton, has risen from being mired in mediocrity to the first spot in just four short seasons, a stunning improvement. This ascent reflects the phenomenal work put into the women's tennis program, Tech's most successful this year.

An athletic program as outstanding as women's tennis deserves our support. While Tech tennis fans turned out to support the team at the championship this year, as a school we need to be aware of teams throughout their seasons, not only to encourage the players, but also to show that the Tech community appreciates all of our athletic teams, not just the "major" ones like football or basketball. Appreciation for the athletic program as a whole will lead to stronger recruitment and better teams.

The women of the tennis team should be congratulated for their hard work, and the best form of thanks we can give them is our continued support for their program.

Overdrawn

In an embarrassing oversight, state auditors informed Tech that 25,000 dollars in fraudulent charges were made on a Tech purchasing card, and were missed by Tech's internal audits.

Tech employees or organizations can use a Tech credit card, called a procurement card. The cards provide a necessary and valuable service, allowing for increased convenience and purchasing flexibility that could not exist with a simple reimbursement system. However, Tech failed to meet its responsibilities in the handling of the procurement cards when a series of non-business purchases slipped by the Institute's oversight procedures.

The personal expenses were not noticed until an annual statewide audit called attention to the fraud. While it is applaudable that Tech administrators responded so quickly after they were informed of the expenses, immediately firing the person responsible, the fact that Tech's own expense reviews did not catch the discrepancies highlights a huge flaw in the procurement card system.

Whatever loophole was used to slip these expenses by Tech's auditing department, it is one that Tech needs to immediately close. Not only does it reflect poorly upon our school that this incident occurred, but it is an embarrassment that we were unable to correct the problem on our own.

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

By Jenny Zhang/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Internet lexicon gains acceptance

" [L337] speak has become so ingrained into the internet that it is impossible to ignore its effects on society itself."

Hahnming Lee
Sports Editor

"U ben pwn3d!!11~~~" What does that mean? It may be gibberish to some, but it carries heavy significance for others. It is 1337 speak.

Before we get to why this is important, a little background information is necessary about the intarwebz. The information superhighway allows tens of millions of people connecting to each other at any given moment. New sites pop up every day, sure to satisfy at least some users' desires.

People log on and instantly have access to sites like **stuffonmycat.com**, **arcadefirestolemybasketball.blogspot.com** (and the exciting **arcadefireDIDNTstealdudesbasketball.blogspot.com**) and **dontdownloadthissong.com**. I don't know about you, but I think all of those sites explain themselves quite nicely.

The internet has become a place of advancement, one where information is democratized (as evidenced by the insanely popular Wikipedia). People are free to post their opinions regardless of background, age or any other factor that could possibly make them seem less capable of stating such an opinion in the real world.

It seems as though the internet is truly revolutionary, a step forward and a necessary forum for people to feel significant in the world. Of course, not everything is going to be advanced by the internet, most obviously language.

Language on the internet, often referred to as 1337 speak, has devolved into something in the form of baby talk. It's not only accepted, but also encouraged in some groups for people to write in ways that would seem nonsensical to any person with even a slight grasp of the English language.

People add an article where no article should be, then misspell the article, then misspell the word after the article, all for comedic effect. If my 9th grade teacher knew about this, I am sure she would have rued the day the internet was born.

It would seem logical that the highly informed and ever increasing online population exposed to this kind of language would shun it and see it as highly impractical and even ludicrous. But the opposite has happened; knowledge of the language has become a membership card to become a part of an exclusive community of people who are truly in the know about the internet. People have adopted this language as though it was a language with history, just like English, Chinese or any other form of spoken word.

And in a way, it is. This language has become synonymous with the internet, the native tongue for any true elite, or as most users would say, "the 1337." How did the name come about? Well, you first just say the word elite which kind of sounds like leet and then 1 is put in for… never mind. It's not important.

People on the internet have slowly become more accustomed to the language and use it on a variety of sites. On the appropriately named **icanhascheezburger.com**, text is superimposed on an image of an animal, usually a cat, with a caption in the form of the language.

The idea seems a little out there, but the site has soared in popularity since its launch in January, even creeping into lecture slides of certain professors at Tech for no other reason than their humor value. Where else would so many people find it funny when a cat is stuck under three pillows supposedly screaming "HALP!!!"?

The language has even become a form of social criticism. Using the concept from the last site, a site called **lolpresidents.com** uses pictures of presidents instead of animals in the images and the pictures often carry a political message.

Images display topics as far ranging as the possible racism that exists in administrations to the absolute corruption displayed by former presidents. A powerful message can be conveyed with "nooo dey be stealin my prezidency."

In a way, 1337 speak has become so ingrained into the internet that it is impossible to ignore its effects on society itself. Commercials from corporations as large as Verizon base commercials on terms like "LOL" and "OMG" with the assumption that the majority of people know what it means. And in this day and age, most people do know the meaning.

While the language itself seems crude and sometimes just plain dumb, it has become linked with how many of us communicate with each other on the internet.

It is a fun diversion for most, so what's stopping it from gaining at least some semblance of credibility? It has people who speak it, a history and it is constantly evolving. Even if that evolution may sometimes appear to be a devolution.

New bill offers amnesty to the educated

"People come to the U.S. believing that they can make a better life, whether they started out as janitors or doctors."

Jenny Zhang
Focus Editor

Last month I received a letter that I've been waiting the last 15 years of my life to get, ever since I immigrated to this country as a wide-eyed toddler from China.

The page-long letter is printed on thick gray government-issue paper, with the "United States of America" across the top and Lady Liberty's famous torch watermarked in the center. It begins: "You are hereby notified to appear for an interview on your Application for Naturalization..."

I've not actually been naturalized yet—I have to get tested on civics and such at my interview—but it's close. Hopefully, after just a few more months of red tape I can be officially sworn in as a U.S. citizen.

Hurrah. I should be more excited, but after watching my parents battle through lawyers, work visas, green cards and paperwork for so many years, the only thing I really feel near the end of our quest for citizenship is relief.

Especially since I'll no longer be classified as an "alien," a label that always made me feel like I was supposed to have three eyes and green skin.

Don't get me wrong, though. I grew up here and America is my home. I may not agree with everything in it, but I love this country and my family still believes it is their golden land of freedom and opportunity. Communist China was no picnic for them, and America shone in their eyes as a beacon of hope and promise.

So when I heard about the new immigration bill that is under consideration in the Senate, I was far less than thrilled.

At the heart of the bill is a point system that sets the criteria for who can get into America, though it feels more like admissions criteria for an Ivy-league school.

Out of a max 100 points, an applicant can earn 75 points based on job skills and education, 15 for proficiency in English and 10 for family ties. The criteria favor people with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering and math or who work in "high demand" jobs like healthcare and food service.

For anyone who isn't the foreign equivalent of a Tech grad, it's bad news. Not to mention a far cry from "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." The whole thing smells suspiciously of social engineering and class bias.

What about starting out poor and uneducated and working your way up, the whole pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps approach to life that is so distinctly American? People come to the U.S. believing that they can make a better life, whether they started out as janitors or doctors. It's the same American dream the first Americans had when they immigrated to Plymouth Rock.

Of course, if the point system had existed then, they probably wouldn't have made it over, and I'll bet that most of the forebears of the current Congressmen crafting this immigration bill wouldn't have either.

I understand the new bill is designed to help stem the problem of illegal immigration and offset immigrants competing with homegrown Americans for jobs by selectively allowing people in who fill employment gaps. But illegal immigrants won't be discouraged by stricter immigration requirements—they weren't getting in by meeting the old ones anyway.

Also, the job market is far from static. The current bill will set immigration criteria for the next 14 years, so if science and engineering jobs dry up, there could be a lot of highly educated taxi drivers floating around in the next decade.

I won't pretend to be qualified enough to solve everything that is wrong in immigration today, but I know there must be alternative solutions. America is a nation of immigrants, and I just don't see the value in such a biased system.

After all, what's inscribed on the Statue of Liberty isn't "give me your smart, your skilled, your well-connected professionals toting graduate degrees."

Once, the U.S. was the country people immigrated to when they had no hope elsewhere. If this bill passes as stands, the U.S. could very well become the country people have no hope of immigrating to.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT– or –NOT

Free Flicks

Flicks on Fifth started this Wednesday, closing off Fifth Street at Tech Square to show movies. The free movies are a great way to add some extra relaxation to evenings on campus, without adding in the price of a ticket. Between these shows and Screen on the Green, those of us choosing to stay in Atlanta this summer might as well be earning three free hours in film appreciation.

Baseball falls

After losing to North Carolina State in the ACC baseball tournament to finish their season, the baseball team failed to advance to the NCAA Tournament. This was a controversial outcome, as fellow ACC member Wake Forest was invited to the tournament despite fewer conference wins and a lower overall winning percentage than the Jackets. Tech's 32 wins were the fewest since the 29-victory 1982 season.

No. 1 Scholar

The College of Computing's software engineering program was ranked No. 3 in the nation, with professor Mary Jean Harrold named the No. 1 Scholar of Software Engineering in the world by *Communications of the ACM*. Good for Tech showing we have more than the stereotypical male computer scientists.

SGApathy

The Student Government Association has had to extend the deadlines for committees after lackluster application rates. Seriously, as good as the newly elected SGA members might be, they can't do it all, and committee members and leaders are needed to help keep SGA effective and involved on campus. So apply!

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Firearm bans unsafe

The lesson we should learn from the Virginia Tech shooting is that even if an institution bans firearms it will not stop killers on an unarmed campus.

If a student can carry a firearm and never get checked, what does this institute ban accomplish? Do we have this ban so after a Cho kills 32 people we can charge him with bringing a firearm on campus? Absolutely not! The rule is intended to protect students by keeping guns off campus, but as there is no way to check and make sure this is ever accomplished, we are turning students into victims. Would a killer rather go on rampage at an NRA convention or a campus that restricts firearms?

We have seen statistics of what happens when gun control is not implemented. Consider Washington D.C., which banned handguns in 1977 and in 13 years saw its murder rate triple. It is so bad now that a D.C. citizen is 33 percent more likely to be killed than a U.S. soldier in Iraq.

The editor made the point that guns should be banned on campus because accidents could ensue where guns and alcohol are mixed. Since 1930 the number of gun accidents has dropped 74 percent despite the population doubling and gun owners quintupling. Alcohol and cars do not mix either; should we ban students from having cars?

I support a firearm registry program because at Tech we have so many qualified students that have extensive formal training with firearms. To not utilize them as a security resource begs history to repeat itself. It is time to stop being complacent with a security system prevailing in mediocrity and grant students the right to self-protection.

David Hotle
3rd year CompE
gtg123y@mail.gatech.edu

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 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 reserves 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 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Nancy Romero 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**.

BUZZ
Around the Campus

What is the best movie you have seen this summer?

Gigi Murad
4th year Management
"Blood Diamond."

Lizzy Smith
3rd year Biology
"Knocked Up."

Julie Fariss
3rd year ISYE
"Shrek the Third."

Jackie Hicks
3rd year Management
"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End."

Photos by Robert Combier

Have Some Fun

What's On?

WEEK OF 6.8- 6.14

fri. 6.8

12:00	The Holiday
2:30	Marie Antoinette
5:00	UVA Newsmakers
5:30	Poetry at Tech
7:00	The Holiday
9:30	Flyboys
12:00	Marie Antoinette
2:00	The Holiday

sat. 6.9

12:00	Flyboys
2:30	The Holiday
5:00	Marie Antoinette
7:00	The Holiday
9:30	Marie Antoinette
11:30	Flyboys
2:00	Marie Antoinette

sun. 6.10

12:00	Marie Antoinette
2:00	The Holiday
4:30	Flyboys
7:00	The Holiday
9:30	Flyboys
12:00	Marie Antoinette
2:00	The Holiday

mon. 6.11

12:00	The Holiday
2:00	Flyboys
4:30	Poetry at Tech
6:30	Campus Calendar
7:00	The Holiday
9:30	Marie Antoinette
11:30	Flyboys
2:00	Marie Antoinette

tue. 6.12

12:00	Classic GTCN
2:00	Flyboys
4:30	Campus Calendar
5:00	Poetry at Tech
7:00	The Holiday
9:30	Flyboys
12:00	Marie Antoinette
2:00	The Holiday

wed. 6.13

12:00	Flyboys
2:30	Marie Antoinette
4:30	Cars That Think
5:00	Poetry at Tech
7:00	The Holiday
9:30	Marie Antoinette
11:30	The Holiday
2:00	Flyboys

thur. 6.14

12:00	Classic GTCN
2:00	The Holiday
4:30	Sandwiches You Will Like
6:00	Campus Calendar
7:00	The Holiday
9:30	Flyboys
12:00	Marie Antoinette
2:00	The Holiday

cable television digital media video production **gtcn**

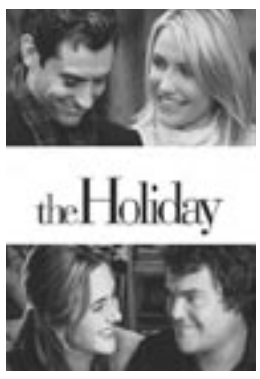
the georgia tech cable network

June Movies On GTCN!

Flyboys

It's 1917 and England and France are slugging it out in the trenches with the Germans when the airplane becomes the newest war weapon. A group of young Americans then joined the war effort as the first U.S. fighter pilots known as the Lafayette Escadrille whose exploits and heroism became legend.

Starring: Jean Reno and James Franco



The Holiday

Amanda is an American woman with the same man troubles as Iris who is across the pond. When they meet online they decide to swap houses for the Christmas holiday and discover that a change of address really can change your life.

Starring: Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law and Jack Black

Marie Antoinette

Marie Antoinette became a symbol for the extravagance of the monarchy, but eventually was stripped of her riches, imprisoned and beheaded by her own subjects during the French Revolution.

Starring: Kirsten Dunst, Jason Schwartzman and Molly Shannon

GTCN 20 Get Your School On

mon., tue. & thurs.

6:00	ECE 6322

wed. & fri.

6:00	ISYE 6413
8:00	Math 6701

Read any good books lately?

Nationally acclaimed poet and poetry teacher, Thomas Lux, leads the Georgia Tech campus through all the passion and joy of discovering poetry.

Watch *Poetry at Tech* weekdays on GTCN 21!

The Georgia Tech Cable Network

www.gtcn.gatech.edu

Georgia Tech