



OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Wreck needs help

Just in case you haven't heard, the Ramblin' Wreck was in an accident last Friday. The Wreck was being towed to a wedding when the trailer hitch snapped, pulling the trailer, Wreck, and the SUV towing them off the road and into thousands of dollars of repairs.

Fortunately, the Wreck's engine wasn't damaged, and what was damaged can be repaired. Even more fortunately, members of the Ramblin' Reck club and alumni believe that they will be able to do the repairs themselves, as neither the insurance on the SUV nor the Wreck will cover the damages done in the accident. It is instead up to the support of organizations that use the Wreck, such as the Alumni Association and Athletic Association, as well as individual students and alumni, to fund the repairs.

It is also up to the Reck Club and the Alumni Association, who purchase and pay for the insurance policies of the Wreck and its faithful towing rig, to rethink the policies they use. The Wreck rarely drives to off-campus events, and is instead towed. Logically, then, either the Wreck needs to be insured while it is on a trailer, or the SUV needs to have its insurance extended to vehicles that it tows. Should anything like this happen again, insurance would eliminate many of the worries being dealt with now.

Royalties rise

This Tuesday was the National "Day of Silence" for online radio broadcasters, who chose to protest an act that would increase the royalty rates paid by Internet broadcasters and potentially shut down this invaluable source of music.

The increase in royalties is a somewhat misguided attempt to limit piracy and help music artists that may instead end up ceasing the circulation of many obscure or older groups. Streaming radio is a great way to legally listen to music, and is often the only way to become exposed to lesser-known artists.

The fight to stop the increases is being led through the Internet Radio Equality Act. This bill would let smaller webcasters and public broadcasters use cheaper rates, keeping many broadcasters on air that wouldn't survive with the new fees.

The bill is not at the front of most Congressmen's agendas, however, and as consumers of the valuable product offered by internet radio, students should give it the attention it deserves. This is a perfect opportunity to get to know your representatives by writing in and showing support for what could be the only way to keep your favorite online broadcasters online.

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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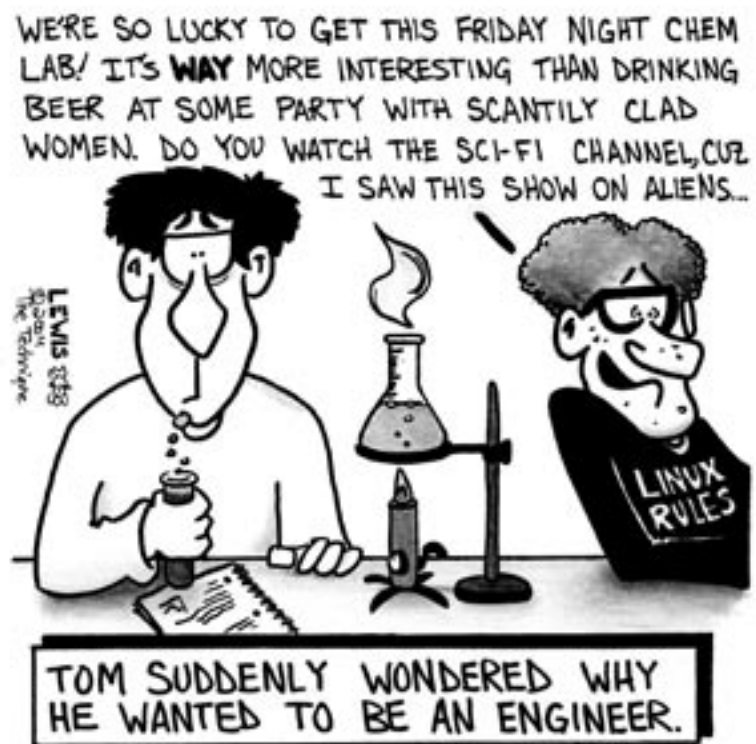
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By Brian Lewis / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS ARCHIVES

Health plans merit discussion

For the past few years, a duck has been professionally enlisted to sell a service that is quickly becoming one of the most debatable issues in American domestic policy. The Aflac commercials have become so commonplace that they have managed to monopolize the advertising capabilities of an entire species of animals. Who really thought monopolizing a white duck would be so valuable?

The product the duck is selling also happens to be a major domestic issue that is all too often cast aside in everyday conversation for more chic topics such as immigration reform and gun control.

Insurance is something that I rarely think about as an invincible and immortal college student, but I'm sure that invincibility is a beneficial and temporary symptom of still being listed on my parents' plan.

Those of you who currently are, or ever have, lived in a dorm, have most likely seen an ambulance pull up to one of the entrances, or at least heard about the notorious incident in which so-and-so drank too much and had to go to the hospital, or so-and-so passed out in their room and had to head to the emergency room.

The part of the story that you probably didn't hear was when the bill came, and that ambulance ride became a \$600 joy ride. Or when the three-hour stint in a hospital bed transformed into a couple thousand dollars, plus the cost of medications. For an uninsured student or young adult, that could be tuition or months of rent gone.

Supported graduate students at Tech are required to have proof of insurance to enroll, but, when I enrolled last year there was no corresponding rule for undergraduates (although this is something that has been considered recently).

As an institution, it is not Tech's place to dictate how the students here



"...Almost 16 percent of American citizens are uninsured—that's over 46 million people."

Emily Chambers
Opinions Editor

must invest their money. However, they should encourage students to have health insurance and make an effort to better educate the undergraduate populace.

Choosing a plan, leaving a parent's plan, and making sure you have adequate coverage are complicated decisions, but unlike the other mature life choices we are faced with, finding insurance is a topic that is rarely to never discussed on campus.

I've used the Student Health Center multiple times and have never once seen any information on health insurance outside of the forms asking for mine in exchange for certain medications.

Fortunately, as I said before, I am still happily on my parents' insurance plan and was able to fill out the blanks on the form about insurance. Not everyone can, though. Tech is not the only institution that has inconsistent policies on health insurance, nor the only organization where there are members running the risk of major losses should they have any sudden medical expenses.

For example, if one considers the United States of America an institution or organization, the following fact is somewhat alarming: almost 16 percent of American citizens are uninsured—that's over 46 million people.

If that number didn't floor you, consider the fact that the population of the state of Georgia is expected to reach slightly short of nine million

people by 2010. As we are all Tech students, I will assume you have done the math on that.

Medical insurance is quickly evolving out of the political sphere of the AARP crowd. Government insurance policy is not limited to just Medicare and Medicaid, although the two are complicated enough to take an entire bureaucracy to sort them out. Programs like Peach Care for Kids, a state program designed to provide free or low-cost healthcare to low-income children and state employees, also constitute a large portion of health care aid programs.

Government sponsored insurance is just a stalling mechanism for many of its beneficiaries.

Programs like these might provide a necessary service, preventing families from sinking into debt, and helping make sure that the medical industry gets paid in a more timely manner than a bankruptcy attorney can provide, but in the long run, they are not helping people obtain insurance. They are insuring people for free for a limited period of time—two largely different things.

Insurance is a commodity that has to be paid for by someone. Eventually the children who are covered by state and federal funding will outgrow the programs, and will simply join the already daunting 40-plus million people who live with their fingers crossed that they remain healthy.

See Insured, page 6

Wreck repairs present an opportunity

It's been a tough week for our beloved mechanical mascot, the Ramblin' Wreck, after an accident on I-75 last Friday came quite close to destroying it.

That the damage was mostly to the exterior of the vehicle, and that the motor and drive train seem to remain intact are truly fortunate for the Tech community. Likewise, it is remarkable that the driver, John Bird, and his brother Matt escaped serious injury as the Expedition they were using to tow the Wreck was totaled.

Another incredible thing coming from the accident is the support that has been pouring in from people in the Tech community who have an attachment to the Wreck.

Particularly, support has come from concerned alumni who want to ensure the trusty 1930 Model A Sports Coupe will return without a hitch for this fall's home games, where it will undoubtedly roll onto the field to even more thunderous applause than it typically generated before.

Normal school pride has a lot to do with this outpouring, but the Wreck has a special appeal that is like no other school's mascot. It's not another guy jumping around in a costume (with sincere apologies to Buzz, who is fantastic as our other, more



"Right now, the Wreck is a wonderful link to Tech's past, but can we use it to symbolize Tech's future?"

Craig Tabita
News Editor

conventional mascot).

It's something more real and meaningful; its history on wheels, owned, celebrated and meticulously cared for by the same students who experience its charm, not just on game day, but for all kinds of events from building dedications to alumni weddings, as was to be the case on the Wreck's recent ill-fated journey.

Now it's up to those student and alumni caretakers from the Ramblin' Reck Club to take the wrecked vehicle apart, identify the extent of the damage, and get it back into game shape in just a few months.

Instead of merely restoring the vehicle to its original condition (or coming as close as possible), perhaps those builders could consider exercising some latitude with their restoration project and exploring new ways that the Wreck could exemplify what Tech stands for.

Mess with the Wreck? The mere suggestion of changing anything about our school's most recognizable icon might sound like blasphemy.

After all, the current Wreck has served our campus faithfully since 1961, freak trailer accidents notwithstanding, and in doing so has represented Tech as a place deeply rooted in tradition and honor as well as being a school with an attitude (ever read those flags in the front?).

If the Ramblin' Reck Club can return the Wreck to its original splendor, it will be a true testament not just to the abilities and work ethic of those individuals involved with the restoration but to their school spirit as well. That achievement alone would be as much as anybody could really ask for.

But imagine if it were possible to utilize this opportunity to give a new dimension of character to the Wreck, allowing it to

represent not only who we the Tech community are, but also what we do.

Right now, the Wreck is a wonderful link to Tech's past, but can we use it to symbolize Tech's future as well?

I have this idea of the Wreck doing its usual routine, storming onto the football field or occupying a prominent position next to top administrators during some official ceremony, and at the same time being a tangible and conspicuous symbol of the kind of cutting-edge research and innovation that happens on our campus all the time.

Now I don't propose that we put wings on the sides and try to make the Wreck fly. On second thought, if that is in any way possible, I'd really love to see that. But let's start a little smaller.

Take the Wreck's motor for instance: an original combustion engine from the 1929 production line. Miraculously, it went undamaged in the accident.

I'd like to see it pulled out and placed in a history exhibit somewhere. A fuel cell could take its place, or maybe a biodiesel engine, and suddenly the Ramblin' Wreck runs cleaner and doesn't promote domestic dependence on foreign oil. That's a significant improvement, I think, and the

See **Repairs**, page 6

BUZZ Around the Campus

What is the best place to eat on campus?



Lucas Richardson
Second-year ME

"Junior's."



Christian Williams
Fourth-year NRE

"Jackets and Junior's."



Gregory Kinsey
Sixth-year CM

"Einstein Bros. Bagels."



Elyse Walston
Second-year ME

"Einstein Bros. Bagels."

Photos by Brian Casey

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Robots take over

This coming week Tech will be come the robot capital of the world. The robotics conference, Robocup, and Junior Robocup will all be held on our campus. The Robocup teams bring a new level of athleticism with robotic soccer teams designed to play, and hopefully beat, human teams. Now, if only they could automate a parking system designed to handle all the extra cars they will be driving on campus.



Not serving

Last week Spectrum sent out an email to certain unlucky students, informing them that a server was down and their email wouldn't be accessible for a few days. Because if the email system is what is broken, that is obviously the best method of communication available. Although really, unless Spectrum starts posting their problems on Facebook, they don't have too many options at this point.



Major League

Ten Jackets players were selected in the Major League Baseball draft this year with two players, Matt Wieters and Danny Payne, both going in the first round. Wieters went No. 5 overall to the Baltimore Orioles. We won't be missing all of them though, with three of the 10 players picked by the Braves.



Slow leak

Just in case you didn't receive the spam about the downed server, Tech sent more, informing some unfortunate student's that their demographic information had been accessed. Its good to know that we have laws protecting data like that, so that when the data isn't protected, we can get spammed about it.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wasteful water use

Over the past couple weeks, Atlanta and residents all throughout Georgia and probably elsewhere in the southeast have been subject to water restrictions. The municipal governments have stated that they are in effect to preserve water in cases of emergency need, such as the recent Riverdale motel fire.

While Atlanta itself is not beset by forest fires, its residents, especially members of the Georgia Tech community, should be at the forefront of informing people why we are limiting our water use (i.e. lawns & gardens, cars, etc.)

However, this does not appear to be the case for the maintenance crews at Georgia Tech or their supervisors. On my way to Tech this week, I saw crews digging up the sod on the 5th Street Bridge, that, from my vantage point, looked like perfectly healthy grass. And it was healthy-looking

because they had been watering it sometime during the previous weeks.

My main concern is with the continued development of the grounds around the Klaus building. Sometime during the middle of last week, I saw crews planting more shrubbery and such around the front of the building and proceeding to water it during the middle of the day.

Though Georgia Tech may not be technically considered a residential plot and subject to watering only on Saturday or Sunday evening, it still does not make sense to water during the middle of the day, because a large portion will evaporate before it sinks into the soil. And this is the same Klaus building that is supposed to be our shining example of sustainability and re-usability.

As further concern of water

See **Water**, 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 Arcadij Kantor, 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.

Insured from page 4

The system needs an overhaul. According to the Centers for Disease Control, over 70 million Americans live with heart disease, but open-heart surgery can cost over \$60,000, a price that is unfathomably steep for the uninsured.

As long as it is not required that Americans obtain insurance, huge portions of the population will remain without it. Unfortunately it is the responsibility of the government to stress the importance of medical insurance and encourage people to obtain it and to provide incentives for companies to offer it.

It's time for health insurance to become a topic for discussion somewhere other than elections, instead of allowing it to become a much larger problem without a word ever being spoken.

Repairs from page 5

kind that would get people's attention pretty easily.

This, of course, makes the Wreck something other than an authentic classic Ford Model A vehicle, but as an Institute whose stated goal is to use advanced science and technology to improve the human condition, isn't that the kind of sacrifice we can make?

Actually, given the short time frame they have to work with and extremely scarce funds, maybe that's no more feasible than a pair of wings.

I hope that in putting the Wreck back together, the Ramblin' Reck Club can figure out some small ways to make it extra special and even more of a symbol of Tech pride, though just to be able to get it back up and running, given the uphill battle ahead with donations still needed and the repairs just starting, will be a wonderful demonstration itself of what the Tech community is able to accomplish.

Campaign costs cripple

Melissa Garber
Massachusetts Daily Collegian

(U-WIRE) AMHERST, Mass.—The 2004 presidential campaign cost a whopping \$1.2 billion, according to the *Washington Times*, and the 2008 presidential candidates are well on their way to exceeding that. **Opensecrets.org**, a Web site operated by The Center for Responsible Politics, reported that Hillary Clinton, the leading spender so far, has already raised \$36,054,568.

In the first three months of campaigning alone, the presidential candidates have raised \$150 million.

But just where is this money coming from? Every election season, candidates shell out billions of dollars. In 2004, John Kerry and George W. Bush each received \$74.6 million in public funds.

These are public funds that come from general tax revenues, which mean they are coming out of your pocket.

Several candidates running in 2008, like Clinton and John Edwards, have turned down public funds for their campaigns to avoid the financial limitations imposed by receiving the taxpayers' money.

For the most part, campaign finance reform is a joke. For candidates to spend over a billion dollars on their campaigns is a gross example of excess. Billions of dollars do not need to be wasted every election year. The presidential race has become a business, with only those who can afford it in the running.

Edwards told USA Today that he wasn't going to receive public funds because he needed "to have the funds to be competitive."

Broadcast television and radio airwaves are publicly owned and regulated by the FCC. FCC network news stations are all operating on the public airwaves. Instead of candi-

dates spending obscene amounts of money to advertise, why can't they each be allotted an equal amount of time to state their case on the public airwaves?

Even cable news should concede. It is in the public's interest to hear what presidential candidates have to say without being influenced by how often they can afford to say it.

A candidate's financial status should not be a determining factor in their ability to run for president. The fact that Clinton can raise the most funds and therefore has the ability to sell herself as a candidate with the least funds, is an abuse of our country's democratic process.

We as Americans are supposed to believe that any citizen can run for president, not just the wealthy. It would be a small step in legitimizing our country's presidential race to give candidates equal time to campaign on the public airwaves.

The money spent on campaigning should be used to improve education or healthcare. It should be used to help rebuild New Orleans and the towns in Kansas and Oklahoma that were recently devastated.

What is more important to the American people: a successful campaign or a campaign to treat diseases all over the world? Do we want healthcare for all Americans and funding for education or do we want to see the wealthiest presidential candidate plastered everywhere?

Candidates could use this allotted time on the public airwaves to show Americans what they have done and explain what they will do for our country instead of wasting time and money to demonize their opponents.

Presidential candidates should prove their ability not through how successful their commercials are; rather through what they commit themselves to.

Phones, bees at odds

Johnathan Kroncke
Daily Titan

(U-WIRE) FULLERTON, Calif.—Recently my remote control broke. I was a little upset because even though my television is only 12 feet away from me, I didn't want to have to get my lazy self up and hit the switch every time I wanted to change the channel.

I began to think about what it would take for me to accept a life without remote controls? What if it meant I could solve a world problem?

Would I be willing to give up the luxury of having a remote for the rest of my life? What would any of us really be willing to give up?

It seems like a fairly obvious question, but it isn't really. It was recently found that the honey bee is disappearing at an alarming rate. Now that may not sound like a national crisis to you, but think about it.

Albert Einstein once said that if the honey bee disappears, the human race will become extinct in four years. Here is why: Honey bees pollinate plants and without them, those same plants are not able to propagate. They wither and die. Without the plants, we are not able to feed livestock. And without livestock, meat and dairy products go out the window, along with the vegetables that we will lose as a result of the loss of pollination.

We would be reduced to bread and water, according to the Discovery.com article. Scientists have tried other methods of pollination, and none have worked. For all our technological know-how, we are lost without the honey bee.

And here's the kicker: nobody knows why the bees are disappearing. However, we do know that bees cannot fly near cell phones because the signal disrupts their navigation. This may be true about other electri-

cal signals as well.

So, if scientists cannot reproduce an effective pollination method, would we give up our cell phones?

If the survival of humans depended on giving up those addictive machines, we would all probably die. Call me a cynic, but people would sooner put the human race in jeopardy than not be able to text.

People love to talk about what they would do to change the world if it were up to them. But I doubt they would give much up.

We all say we would give up something as trivial as a remote if it would end global warming. But it's easy to say something like that because it's only a hypothetical situation. We say it because it sounds good.

But when it gets right down to it, if the question were no longer hypothetical what would we really do?

We are so attached to the minor conveniences in our lives that we can't imagine living without them. What would it take for us to give up our remote controls and cell phones?

So think about what is really important in life. If your cell phone or remote control have become more than just conveniences, then we are all lost.

Water from page 5

usage, I have noticed several residents of midtown Atlanta, where I live, washing their cars to a spotless shine and even pressure-washing their driveways.

Cannot the residents of the Georgia Tech community and Atlanta live for a couple weeks with a dirty car, wilting grass, or a dusty driveway instead of powering up their pressure-washer hose to clean it off? Last I checked, people still use brooms and rakes and watering cans.

Ben Clark
ECE Graduate student



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**sliver**

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Mark Twain said: "There are several good protections against temptation, but the surest is cowardice". Now I know why I cannot score with chicks!!!

cawabungaguy

Hmm... Curious... Not much going on.

You must be crazy if you still think after 4 years that Bushie is going to win you the debate on the Iraq war.

My picks for Prez & VP: Obama + (Edwards/Richardson), Gore + Obama, Gore + Nader, McCain + Romney. Order of names = priority. "/" = same priority. Prez + VP.

Just stirrin' the pot to get the slivers going XD hehe lol.

Why do the urinals in the Klaus building have Yellow Jackets as "targets?" We're peeing on our freakin' mascot.

Graham jealous of Obama? McCain jumped the gun? Calm down!!!!

You three remind me of SGA debating budget ammendments!!!

Flame On!!!!

you know what really grinds my gears...

...idiots in ECE bldgs who don't know how to log off computers

How does killing a dozen forty-year-old elm trees provide "green space" next to Van Leer?

j.w. why dont you love me?

I am back in da A-T-L. :)

I have been saying the Ramblin Wreck club is a joke for a while now and needs to be done away with, now the dumb asses wreck the Wreck in a one car accident....this should be the last straw

Ok, whoever just wrecked the Wreck needs an immediate expulsion....now

Does anyone else submit Slivers besides me?

No, no one else does.

Your section has been Zhanged!

Summer work sucks. I can't wait to be back at Tech!

So, can anybody tell me what the hell our 'Wreck was doing at a wedding?

See page 15 for more Slivers!