



OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Campaigns begin

The return from Spring Break marks a new season—the beginning of SGA campaigning season.

Firstly it is important to clarify the fact that the *Technique* policy does not allow the paper to endorse any candidates, as it is the only weekly campus student publication, and there does not exist another campus publication to provide opposing viewpoints.

So what is all this campaigning fuss about? What is it exactly that SGA does? SGA's primary function is to make decisions regarding the spending of the Student Activity Fee. Members of the executive board also sit on a variety of campus-wide boards and committees that affect campus policy.

Thus unlike many high school student governments, SGA members have great potential to impact campus. When considering each candidate's goals, it is important to note that each candidate will only be in office for one year, and to keep that in mind when evaluating the feasibility of the goals.

Also realize that SGA elections are not a popularity contest. Candidates should be picked for the quality of their platforms instead of the aesthetic appeal of their campaign posters. The platforms of each presidential and vice-presidential candidate will be published next week's issue of the *Technique* and are available online on each candidate's website.

Often neglected during campaign season in the midst of all the presidential and vice-presidential campaigning is the race for departmental representatives and class representatives. Unfortunately there is often little to no campaigning for these positions, due to the lack of competition. However, one must note that it is these representatives who have the real voting power in SGA. These representatives are the ones who determine which student organizations get their bills passed and which don't.

Communication between representatives and their constituents has often been poor in the past—many students are completely unaware of who represents them. Communication is a two-way street; however, and candidates for departmental and class representatives should make efforts to contact their constituency, while students should make a point to figure out who the candidates are and for what they stand.

Those who are elected as representatives should also strive to improve the sometimes tense relationship between the Graduate Student Senate and the Undergraduate House of Representatives. Communication and cooperation between the bodies are necessary to stay away from the problem of useless duplication of efforts and strengthen SGA's impact.

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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IT'S SGA ELECTION SEASON...



By Erin Gatlin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Ready to return: Tech tops job

I've spent enough time at Tech to know that most students here have a love/hate relationship with the school.

I mean this in two ways: either sometimes you love it and sometimes you hate it, or it loves to torture you, and you hate it. The two aren't mutually exclusive.

I've experienced both.

I don't think I need to go into details, as I'd simply be rehashing experiences that I hold in common with just about every student at Tech.

So why do I bring this up at all? Well, I've recently gotten a whole new perspective on the whole "hate" aspect of the love/hate relationship I have with Tech—and maybe a little on the "love" part, too. I've spent this semester working a full-time internship, trying to get a feel for what I might want to do with my life once Tech is through with me.

Internships, as a nebulous concept, are terrific for getting work experience, discovering your strengths and learning what you like to do. On the flip side, they're also highly useful for devising new and innovative ways to waste time, discovering your weaknesses and learning what you hate doing.

In other words, they inspire a love/hate relationship all their own.

I've spent my internship exploring both sides of this coin, though I would say I've gained more from the latter side than the former in this particular experience.

Don't get me wrong, it hasn't been an entirely negative experience—quite the contrary, in fact. The people I worked with on a daily basis are a great bunch and have helped me on many levels with how I relate to others.

I also found that I'm good at research and providing useful information to others and that I enjoy providing technical support a lot



"In the end I find myself walking away from my internship with a nice entry on my resume and a great sigh of relief it's over."

Hillary Lipko
 Advertising Manager

more than I ever realized.

Unfortunately, very little of that had any bearing on the actual responsibilities of my job. In fact, I would say that my job didn't particularly involve many responsibilities at all, which strangely made me bristle a little.

Here's where I get to the philosophical nitty-gritty of this whole love/hate relationship thing.

At Tech, I love it when I take a class that doesn't hold me to a high level of responsibility (they happen...occasionally...)—it's a nice break from the rest of my classes, which are often the intellectual equivalent of hitting my head repeatedly against a brick wall.

At my job, on the other hand, I hate being held to a low level of responsibility—it provides me with absolutely no motivation to do, well, anything really.

It could be said that responsibility in the classroom provides motivation just as responsibility on the job does, and I can't argue with that.

It just happens to be that in one setting I enjoy being able to slack off and in another it bothers me to no end.

During my stint working in the "real world," I've also discovered that some of the things that I really dislike about Tech look pretty insignificant next to some of the things I really disliked about working in the setting that I have been for the past

few months. I never thought I'd say this, but at this point I'd take a TA who doesn't speak English over an out-of-touch bureaucrat any day.

As much as I'd like to boil this down to specific gripes and examples, I won't.

For one, they aren't pertinent to the greater lesson I've learned (which is, for those of you who don't read between the lines, that as bad as I think Tech can be sometimes, the real world can be worse), and for another, they'd be a dead giveaway as to where I worked, and I don't want to do that because for as much as I know that the kind of work I did is not for me, there are others who know just as much that it is for them.

That said, I wouldn't want to put anyone off from trying it if they were thinking about it.

In the end, I find myself walking away from my internship with a nice entry on my resume and a great sigh of relief that it's over.

I would recommend taking an internship (or a co-op, though I can't really speak much to that) to anyone.

It not only provides opportunity and direction but also a huge shift in perspective—so much so that I'm actually looking forward to taking classes again. In fact, I think I might put off graduating for awhile because staying at Tech is looking a lot better now than being an office monkey.

Students should follow safety guidelines

Ever heard these phrases? "Don't go out alone late at night." "Make sure that you have your cell phone and it is charged before you leave." "Make sure you know what is going on around you." "Call me when you get there so I know that you are okay."

I'd wager you've heard them all more times than you'd like from your mother or another guardian who, believe it or not, isn't trying to smother your new found independence with their suggestions. Their nagging comments are just their way to make sure you do not forget such simple things that you have to do to stay safe.

You'd think with all that nagging every student on campus would listen, but it never fails that students leave themselves vulnerable by being at the wrong place at the wrong time so that they become a crime victim. Although it is never the victim's fault, why put yourself in harm's way when you don't have to?

The crime rate on campus has decreased two years in a row. The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) reported a 22.3 percent reduction in overall crime from 2004 to 2005.

Statistics like that make it is easy to forget that while in the "Tech Bubble" we still have to be careful. However, there are plenty of statistics that should



"At the end of the day it all comes down to not acting recklessly and listening to your mom."

Amanda Dugan
News Editor

remind students to be careful. Incidents of robbery, aggravated assault and burglary all increased by at least 50 percent this past year. You do not even have to look that far back to realize that there is still crime on campus, as earlier this month a student was robbed at knifepoint near Quizno's.

Additionally, vehicle break-ins and burglaries have increased at the CRC, and there have been two sexual assaults reported on campus.

The point of bringing these crimes up is not to scare you, but to make sure you have the facts to realize we don't live in Pleasantville or next to the Cleavers.

The GTPD does an excellent job of patrolling campus and working to prevent crime. In fact, the entire campus community should be very grateful for all that they do. I was recently stranded in the center of campus

one early morning because my parking lot was full and I had to move to another one. All it took was one call to GTPD and they were willing to escort me back to my dorm safely. However, had I not called they would not have known I needed help and GTPD cannot keep students from acting irresponsibly.

So while it may not be too imperative you eat your vegetables or drink eight glasses of water a day like your mom tells you to, it is imperative that you heed the following basic safety guidelines to protect yourself on and off of Tech's campus.

Bikes and cars are frequent targets for crime on campus. Bikes can be registered for free with GTPD, so that they can be tracked if they are stolen; they should be secured with an U-lock to a bike rack.

Students need to make sure to always roll up windows, lock car doors and park in well-lit

areas. Thieves only want in your car if there is something worth having, so make sure not to leave anything valuable in plain view.

Although it seems the most obvious, make sure you lock your dorm room when you leave and to never leave your valuables unattended. Also, make sure to record the serial numbers of valuable items such as laptops, televisions and stereos in case they are lost or stolen.

In terms of personal safety, make sure to walk in well lit areas, be aware of your surroundings, report any suspicious people on campus and keep a cell phone with you that has GTPD's number, 404-894-2500, programmed on it.

If you are ever approached by someone who has a weapon or claims that they will hurt you if you don't give them your purse or a wallet, you should comply and not resist. If a crime does happen, make sure to report it to authorities as soon as possible and to get a good description of anyone involved.

If the above guidelines are followed, then crime will continue decreasing on campus simply because there will be less opportunity for crime to occur. At the end of the day it all comes down to not acting recklessly and listening to your mom.

BUZZ Around the Campus

What did you do during spring break?



Hal Reid
Fourth-year CompE

"I sat on my ass."



Elliott Holland
Fourth-year ME

"I went to South Beach."



Sabrina Sharifali
First-year PSYC

"I went home...went shopping and slept."



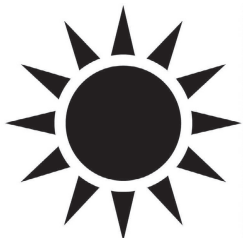
Courtney Black
First-year BIOL

"I went home and taught fifth grade with my mom."

Photos by Haining Yu

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Need help?

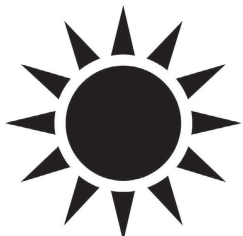
The Resource Center on the bottom floor of the library is scheduled to open next Monday. The center will bring together various academic resources, including offices of academic advisors and 1-on-1 tutoring. The opening of the center brings Tech closer to the realization of an Undergraduate Learning Center and gives confused freshmen a centralized location to look for help.



Cut utilities

The road construction on McMillian is causing more than just a detour. Thanks to the road work, West Campus housing has experienced disruptions in water and electric supply.

Losing the water supply won't help with the roommate's stinky feet problem. And as typical Tech students constantly glued to electrical appliances, cuts in the electrical supply are even more detrimental.



Service in the Gulf

We'd like to say kudos to the many Tech groups that headed down to the Gulf Coast to participate in Katrina relief. The number of students that went far exceeded any expectations. You guys performed a valuable service to the gulf community and helped to boost Tech's national image.



Bracket busted

Just about everyone's local office pool has been thrown for a loop with the surprises of this year's NCAA basketball tournament, which has no No. 1 seeds remaining in the tournament and eleventh seeded George Mason still alive. The ACC had a particularly poor showing, placing no teams in the Elite Eight.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ad policy concerns

I am writing in reaction to the ad published on p.32 of the March 10 edition of the *Technique* titled "sometimes good fences stop bad neighbors," which apparently echoed the "Fence event" that had taken place on campus in front of the Student Center.

One may wonder whether this kind of highly controversial advertising has its place in a college newspaper like the *Technique*.

I want to stress that this question is absolutely not motivated by my personal opinions on the situation in Middle East.

An equivalent ad from a Palestinian perspective would have caused an equal shock.

First of all, while most *Technique* articles deal with the day-to-day concerns of the average Tech student, this ad clearly presents a biased opinion on a 58 year old geopolitical issue.

Bringing the reader's attention on this matter is certainly honorable, but might require a well documented article reporting facts, balanced point of views, and respecting elementary deontology.

This is all the more surprising since the editorial board usually abides by these principles.

As a photographer for the *Technique*, I know that the publication of the article related to this particular event was delayed by one week since only one picture of the two parties was available at that time.

The editorial board judged the article unsuitable for publication until both sides were equally represented.

Are the articles and the advertising section subject to two contradicting rules? Allowing this kind of advertising is a clear

See Fence, page 10

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.

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 Corey Jones at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary Wells 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.

Fence

from page 9

denial of the work done by the other *Technique* contributors and damages their whole credibility...even if they are not professional journalists.

The weekly target is approximately 15,000 people who hail from many different countries around the world and live in good harmony, even through difficult times.

As President W. Clough said in his post Sept. 11 announcement, we are educated people, and external events should not jeopardize our community as it was the case in some other places in the U.S.

We should be intelligent enough to live together, not to fight against each other.

Was the impact of this advertising properly assessed before allowing it to be printed?

If such ads are to be published, do we have to expect future advertisements lobbying for Chinese policy regarding Tibet or Taiwan, Russian policy in Chechnya, American policy in Iraq or French policy on its nuclear testing campaigns?

This seems somewhat far away from the initial *Technique* purpose.

I hope that financial considerations did not prevail when accepting the publication of this ad.

The opposite could be both subversive and very dangerous: eventually who decides what is acceptable for publication?

David Boivin
ECE Graduate Student
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Visiting alien receives mixed responses

MacroMinkus, an inhabitant from Neptune, traveled to Atlanta the week of March 26, 2006. MacroMinkus rode the tail of an Earth-bound asteroid. The space alien recently toured Hotlanta but then left unexpectedly. Members of Atlanta's local chapter of Aliens 'R' Us are tracking him using their spy software and mad Googling skills. Members say Google can track anyone down within a ten planet radius.

"I traveled to Earth after hearing so many delightful things on your radio programs," MacroMinkus said in an interview. "Steve and Vikki's morning show on Star 94 makes everything sound so nice. I especially like the 'Quickies with Vikki' Getting more information about Simon Cowell is exactly what our universe needs. He's a gas in Neptune and is becoming quite popular on Pluto too."

MacroMinkus, 16 in Earth years, traveled to Earth against the discretion of his parents. "He's just a young pup," his father said over a broadcast television interview. "But we love him and had to let him make his own decisions."

In a highly publicized event, MacroMinkus waved his purple fingers—all six of them—to a cheering crowd as he hopped onto I-285 in a green Mini Cooper donated by a local member of the Democratic party. The alien promised to report to local journalists his opinions of the world, based on his impressions of Atlanta.



"He was whisked away by some invisible force, which I assumed was the dust behind an asteroid."

Alexandra Pajak
Columnist

MacroMinkus reported the following events to me personally at Marietta Square following the conclusion of his trip.

"I drove in my Mini Cooper in circles, nearly getting run over many times," he told me. "Everyone seems to be in quite a hurry."

MacroMinkus did manage, however, to exit I-285 at the northeastern part of the loop.

"Once I reached Gwinnett County," he said, "My car stopped running. These large beasts started roaring at me! I hear you people call them horns."

According to MacroMinkus he stepped out of his car at a local L.L. Bean.

"I asked people for help, and they ignored me. Then I asked for some money for gas, and they kept calling me 'alien!' and 'purple alien!'"

I asked MacroMinkus why that offended him.

"I suppose I am from another planet," he said. "But using your identity as an insult is strange. Very hurtful. I could come up with a better insult. Me and my friends call each other 'wormholes' all the time. But

'alien' is kind of hurtful, since that's what I am here on your planet."

A man gave MacroMinkus five dollars for gas, telling our Neptune friend that it is his duty as a man of God.

"That was very nice of him," said MacroMinkus. "But another woman asked me if I was saved. When I said no (I thought she meant do I have gas yet), she just walked away."

MacroMinkus used the five dollars to purchase a jacket at LL Bean after a store worker accosted him outside.

"He seemed so friendly," said MacroMinkus. "He offered me a free...what do you call it...card of credit. But then all I had was a North Face jacket in 70 degree heat and a piece of plastic. I tried to return both to the man, but he said business is business."

MacroMinkus then made a long walk to northeast Atlanta, where he knew an asteroid would land soon.

"I told people I wanted to get to their Mecca. No one seemed to know what I meant. Then a small human named Rex suggested I find the great beacon of Atlanta, the Big

Chicken."

MacroMinkus traveled all 24.4 miles from Norcross to Marietta.

"The beak was so shiny," he said. "At first I was afraid he would eat me, but as I saw many people enter into and out of him, I was no longer afraid."

As I spoke to MacroMinkus he shook his head and told me he was going to leave for Neptune again.

"Some of your people are very nice. Most of them, in fact," he said. "But it is very hot here, and very busy. I don't feel that welcome, although Earth seems to have potential."

MacroMinkus spoke to me last, just before suddenly disappearing on Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at midnight.

I asked MacroMinkus if he would ever return to earth.

"Probably not," he said. "Color of aliens' skin, money, large mechanical animals. I do not understand Earth."

He added, "Also, who is this God you keep speaking of? Based on my experiences, I swear there must be two Gods, one that helps and one that condemns. I like the one that helps better."

He then reached into the sky and grabbed hold of something I could not see. But he was whisked away by some invisible force, which I assumed was the dust behind an asteroid.

After he disappeared into the sky, his North Face jacket and credit card landed by my feet, falling lifelessly onto the grass.

Undergraduate Research Spring Poster Session

Thursday, April 20, 2006

4-6pm IBB Atrium

Why should I participate?

Share your research work with other students and faculty from all over campus.

Learn about research in an informal atmosphere.

Gain valuable skills and experience in presenting your work.

Make an impact on other undergraduates who may be wondering what research is all about.

Deadline for submission of application forms:

Monday April 10th (no exceptions)

Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top poster from each college (\$250 each) and an overall popular choice category (\$50). The top overall poster will receive an additional \$100. Refreshments will be served!

For more details and application forms, visit: <http://uop.gatech.edu/institute-wide.htm>

Questions? Contact: Dr. Karen Harwell, Director Undergraduate Research
(404) 385-7325

Email: uop-director@carnegie.gatech.edu