



## OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## Wanted: compliance

In the midst of preparations for the first football game of the season, Tech announced it had certified 17 athletes as academically eligible to play when in fact, the athletes were not. The student-athletes had various violations, ranging from not taking the correct courses for their major to not completing the NCAA-required 24 credit hours during the academic year.

Tech uncovered the violations after it completed a one-year review of its student-athletes' academic transcripts over the past five years. It bodes well in Tech's favor that the Athletic Association(AA)'s academic advising office, not the NCAA, discovered the problem and reported it to higher-ups promptly. However, we feel the AA should have issued a press release about the situation sooner instead of right before the Samford game and Labor Day weekend, as the report was sent to the NCAA Aug. 24.

Although only 17 out of 864 athletes in the past five years were affected, the violations have serious consequences. Tech has recommended its punishment include the loss of scholarships, fines and disciplinary actions for the staff involved in what it views as "secondary violations." The AA is not alone in misinterpreting NCAA rules, as there have been 94 cases of similar secondary infractions at other universities in the same time period.

However, the news could not have come at a worse time. The past two football seasons had been overshadowed by the fallout of ten football players flunking out of school last summer and "Resume-gate" from former Head Coach George O'Leary in 2002. Last spring, it appeared that those ugly days were behind us, when Tech received heaps of praise for being the Cinderella story of the Final Four. Unfortunately, scandal is tainting our athletics program a mere five months after we said goodbye to the Alamodome. We can only hope that the improvements to our academic advisement system will prevent any future problems and improve our student-athletes' education.

## Much better, thanks

After braving large crowds and lines at last year's Six Flags event, we are pleased that the Student Government Association (SGA) listened to student feedback and made several improvements. The lines were substantially shorter, in part because the rides operated at full capacity this year. SGA solved the logistical problem of transporting students to the event by issuing time tickets to ride the Stinger buses and shuttles. With 5,000 tickets sold this year, we hope to see Tech Night at Six Flags evolve into a sustainable Tech tradition.

*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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By Erin Gatlin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Collaboration needed to fight terror

This past week the world played witness to the unfolding of a series of horrific events in the southern part of Russia.

The story began with the announcement that terrorists had taken over a school in the small divided region of North Ossetia and ended last Friday with the storming of the campus facilities by the Russian military after the terrorists set off explosives.

As pictures of the children, victims of the event and estimates of dead came in from major media outlets, the world, and Americans in particular, began to question the advances in world security following 9/11.

Terrorism has been a major source of world violence since before the attacks on the Twin Towers. Bombings at federal buildings and embassies, both domestic and foreign, have dotted the news throughout the last decade.

But it was only after the tragedies in New York that the U.S. and other nations around the world began to consider terrorism as a serious threat to the safety of our world.

Early action on the part of the White House led to the exile of the Taliban from parts of Afghanistan and later to the occupation of Iraq.

But the events of both 9/11 and North Ossetia reveal a more serious and complicated threat than the guerrilla-style warfare that Americans have come to expect in a post-Vietnam era.

Capitalistic and individualistic forces around the world have conspired to empower people like never before and provide them with the means by which to "voice" their opinions.

Groups and organizations now find themselves at a disadvantage when adapting to this new world dynamic.

Warfare is no longer an accept-



"The idea of individual organizations protecting themselves from this kind of force is impossible."

Edward Tamsberg  
Sports Editor

able term to be used when describing these conflicts.

The idea of individual organizations protecting themselves from this kind of force is impossible.

Every day millions of people, pounds of mail and cargo containers, driven by the international markets, move throughout the world. This plays into the simplest principle of terrorism: get close enough for them to see you, just outside their reach, and blow something up.

No amount of law enforcement could ever be employed to search everything; nor would it be allowed. The amount of layover, waiting time and money spent to employ such policy would be too large for any company or nation to bear.

That is why today America faces the largest deficit in a generation after having a surplus only four years ago.

The other side to this is the depth to which these terrorists are willing to go in an effort to "voice" their cause.

The events in Ossetia underscore this, as children were the main targets and victims in a conflict that did not involve them. The group of children, completely innocent, were held by only a few ignorant people.

The answer for this problem is, at best, not clear. But what is certain is the direction in which it points: the beginnings of new international law.

Most law today exists in the form of international treaties and

accords.

This new frontier of law asks for an international body with the power to pass judgment on the actions of individuals in a world scope and the ability to enforce punishment.

The need for international support in future world action was the driving force behind the creation of the United Nations.

A new governing body of this magnitude would be the next step in that direction.

Without support from at least three from the group of France, Great Britain, Russia, China and the U.S., any world policy of this level can expect significant resistance and imminent failure.

This is also a dangerous and difficult path to take, wrought with mistrust and backstabbing that has characterized conflicting interests between nations in the last decade.

Thousands of stunned, sad and angry Russians held a demonstration in Moscow Tuesday, protesting and mourning the massacre of hostages in the events of North Ossetia.

Even though Chechen rebels were believed to be behind the school tragedy, Russian authorities believe the hostage-takers were part of an international band. Officials have said 10 of the terrorists were from Arab countries.

"We couldn't adequately react," Putin told the nation in a televised address. "We showed weakness, and weak people are beaten."

# Water slide brings out Tech's best qualities

The first time I did it, I must admit that I was nervous. I didn't want the emotion to show on my face though, because my friends probably would have made fun of me. After all, I was getting jumpy a mere 15 feet in the air, about to take my first ride on a benign plastic half-tube. As I whizzed down the Campus Recreation Center's (CRC) recently completed water slide, I found myself thinking, "Wow. This is Georgia Tech?"



"I've never seen so many of my peers genuinely smiling in one place on campus before."

**Jennifer Schur**  
Executive Editor

That first Saturday of the semester, when I visited the new water recreation area, the slide was busy. We had to wait in line for our turn to zoom through the rushing water and earn a forceful wedgy upon splashing into the pool. My roommate and I felt like we were at a resort in Florida, that a man dressed in black overalls with an oversized mouse's head and large white gloves was going to emerge from the locker room at any moment.

Feeling far from the stress, worries and insanity that normally defines average student life at Tech was incredible; I've never seen so many of my peers genuinely smiling in one place on campus before.

Forsome, the new recreational pool might be another way to stave off the Freshman 15, but for my roommate and me, we decided to make it our healthy

escape—a way to remind us of the bigger picture of life and all that entails (including happiness). So now we have a pact to do the slide at least once a week.

During our latest visit to our very own water wonderland, we ran into one of my roommate's current professors, who was with her husband and son.

There's nothing like seeing your teacher's thighs (and noticing that they're more toned than your own) and a cherubic child play with the pink inflatable ball while daddy tries to act as coach.

This sort of experience does wonders for humanizing the educational process, for hitting you with the realization that you aren't just a number, part of a self-working system.

Instead, you're being educated by real people who have real lives and real families and real hopes, dreams and beliefs of their own.

I wish more faculty and staff would make use of this opportunity for aquatic amusement. This would give both students and professors the chance to see each other the way my roommate and I saw her purveyor of knowledge last weekend—as real people. Incidents like these are what transform Tech from a school of academic achievers into a true community. Seeing profs in the food court or in passing on the street with a smile on their face is nice, but just doesn't manage to affect the same impact.

As wonderful as the slide and seeing the professor were, there are a few aspects of this new service that don't quite live up to the hype they were given. The coolness of the slide far exceeded my expectations, while the "lazy river" vastly undercut what I had been hoping for.

Granted, the CRC did begin to call the river a "current channel" the closer the new facility

was to being open, but it seemed like a very low-key change.

"Current channel" is definitely a more accurate descriptor of the extremely short water conduit that struggles to push along its passengers. It'd be very easy to get dizzy riding the river for any period of time.

The provided pool toys are a nice touch, except for when more than five people are interested in playing toss or when more than two people want to float (lazily) on the channel (maybe that's the logic of the short river, that students will be able to easily share the inflatable inner tubes).

Worse yet, when I took a spin around the babbling brook, it appeared as though I was gassy the whole time, since my Johnny Bravo inner tube had sprung a leak and was blowing conveniently unsightly bubbles.

The best part about a trip to the CRC now, though, is that after a hard workout (or too many trips down the slide) you can be rewarded by the new hot tub. The hot tub is practically motivation in and of itself to work out.

Even with its few disappointments, the new recreational aquatic center still does more to delight and has made it easy for my roommate and me to keep our weekly-visitation pact. The current channel is even growing on us.

## BUZZ Around the Campus What did you like about Six Flags?



**Kelly Anderson**  
MGT Second-year

"I flew like Superman."



**Scott Kim**  
EE Fourth-year

"The short lines."



**Taylor Narewski**  
PUBP Second-year

"I cried on Monster Plantation."



**David Kessler**  
ID Second-year

"It was FUN! WOO-HOO!"

Photos by Michael Kraus/Lauren Griffin

### OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

## HOT- or -NOT



### Ball for President

Following last year's hit "Luke Schenscher has a posse" T-shirts, the Industrial Design Student Association has created a clever "Reggie Ball for President" campaign. The T-shirts and stickers debuted at the Samford game. We at the *Nique* strongly applaud rare shows of creativity at Tech. Now if only the IDSA can work its magic to get more fans to the actual game to see Reggie in action.



### Frances' wrath

While Atlanta did not feel the brunt of Hurricane Frances' force this week, our campus did suffer because of the storm. We have a large population of out-of-state students from Florida whose families and homes were struck. Hitting closer to home, the hurricane's wind and rain drenched campus during the early part of the week, downing several power lines and trees around campus.



### AD-Private Eye

Finally, in the wake of increased crime on campus, a culprit has been caught. Earlier this week a member of ADPi sorority reported a car break-in to the GTPD, leading to the police apprehending the criminal. Maybe starting a campus neighborhood watch wouldn't be such a bad idea after all.



### Where's Buzz?

Most campus maps let visitors know where they are. But Tech has taken a different approach. On the new campus maps, Buzz is supposed to show your current location. Instead we ended up playing a hopeless game of "Where's Buzz" when Buzz was nowhere to be found. What's wrong with a little direction?

### YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## SGA should reconsider sign

As I usually do after a Georgia Tech football game, I picked up a copy of the *Technique* to see what is going on with SGA, an organization I was proud to serve for over four years and loved so much.

I was taken aback that SGA had allocated almost \$3,000 to itself for a sign that says, in essence, "We Are Here." A selected representatives, SGA should set the example for campus and fiscal leadership. This bill is outrageous and does not set a good example.

President Amy Phuong is correct that SGA, "...is not a typical student organization." SGA officers receive special perks, including tuition stipends and individual offices. In my opinion, these are warranted, given the service SGA provides and the time required to provide these services.

A \$3,000 sign lessens SGA's credibility and sets a bad precedent about what SGA should receive because it is "...not a typical student organization."

Before writing this letter, I looked on the SGA website for minutes from the last meeting or details around this bill ([sga.gatech.edu](http://sga.gatech.edu)). Neither were posted.

I don't think Ms. Phuong's focus is in the right place by assuming students will seek out SGA. The biggest opportunity for SGA year after year is to take its leadership and communication from the Student Center Commons out to the entire campus.

In accordance with *Robert's Rules*, I would encourage any representative that voted "Yea" to reconsider this bill at the next meeting and reverse your decision on this bill.

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### Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu) or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Daniel Amick, 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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### 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](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu).

## BLINDED BY SCIENCE

# SciTrek deserves another chance to serve Atlanta

I was saddened to learn the other day that after 16 years in operation, SciTrek has officially closed its doors.

If you never had the chance to visit it, or if you are new to Atlanta, SciTrek was a science museum with interactive exhibits geared at teaching children about the basic theories and laws of science.

I remember visiting the museum on a school field trip when I was younger, and I was fascinated by all the experiments and demonstrations it contained. Even on a return trip as a teenager, I still found the exhibits entertaining.

A lack of financial support prompted the decision to suspend SciTrek's operations. The science museum was also forced to close for the same reason two years ago, until the state came through with money for it to continue operating.

Even with the aid from the city and state governments (they lease the building they occupy for \$1 a year), as well as from a few corporations and patrons, there wasn't enough to keep the science museum alive.

The insufficient support surprises me, because it seems like a worthwhile investment in the future for companies that employ scientists and engineers. And we certainly have quite a few of those in Atlanta.

The number of students interested in pursuing careers in these areas has been on the decline in recent years. It is imperative that we encourage children to explore the world of science.

The practical, hands-on approach employed in these facilities is invaluable to a scientific education. The



**"We don't want to lose a facility that has such an opportunity to teach and inspire..."**

**Andrea Thompson**  
Columnist

demonstrations really help the ideas and theories "sink in," and kids can have fun while they are learning. It's one thing to learn about the refraction of light and the Doppler effect, it's another thing to experience them first-hand.

Visiting science museums when I was younger helped to develop my own interest in science. I lived in the suburbs of Washington D.C. until I was eight, so I spent a lot of time exploring the Smithsonian Museums as a child. I especially loved the astronomy section of the Air and Space Museum. The pictures of the other planets in our solar system captivated me.

In high school I interned for a semester at Fernbank Observatory here in Atlanta, and in that short time I learned so much about the planets in our solar system and the stars and galaxies beyond. These experiences were invaluable in shaping my view of science as something interesting and worthy of further exploration.

We don't want to lose a facility that has such an opportunity to teach and inspire, especially in a city that is developing as rapidly as Atlanta is and that has so many companies focused on technology.

Fortunately, there are plans to

possibly reopen a similar facility in a new location and with a new plan of operation, and I for one certainly hope that this plan comes to fruition.

Officials would like to shift the focus of the facility from that of a museum to more of an education center that would be used to train students and teachers.

In a venture related to this new plan, a new public charter school, Tech High, was specifically created to focus on science and technology. Not coincidentally, it is currently leasing space from SciTrek, though it is only expected to stay at the site until May 2005.

SciTrek officials hope to relocate the future museum and education center to a more high-traffic area, such as Centennial Park, which I think would be a wonderful addition to the area.

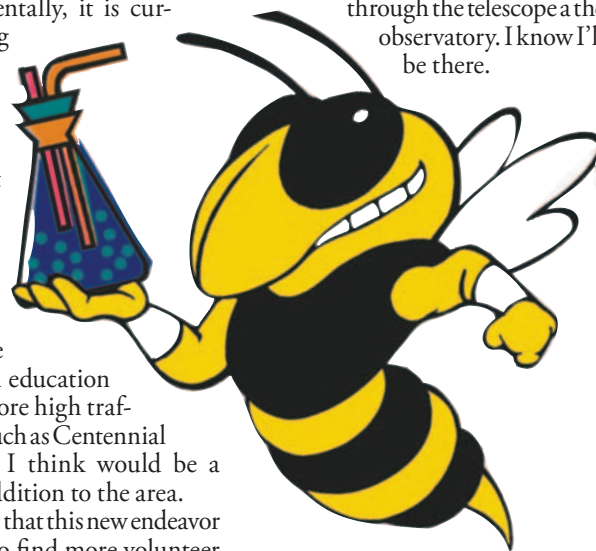
I also hope that this new endeavor will be able to find more volunteer

support and funding from the local business community—it certainly deserves it.

It would be nice to see Tech students and faculty take an interest in the venture and volunteer to share their knowledge of science with children. And if you have ideas for interesting exhibits or teaching methods, contact SciTrek officials, as they are looking for public input. I'm sure they would at least be glad to know the local community supports and appreciates their endeavors.

SciTrek was the only museum of its kind in Georgia, and it will be missed by those of us who had the pleasure of visiting it.

But in the meantime, I suggest exploring some of the educational places Atlanta still possesses, like the Fernbank Museum and Science Center. Go to a show at the planetarium and learn about the constellations, or see what planet might be visible through the telescope at the observatory. I know I'll be there.



## Review unfair to young performers

On Aug. 27, the *T-Book*, Tech's on-line student survival guide, put on comedy open-mic night at Under the Couch to raise funds and awareness for this growing student organization.

Min Pastorelli, author of the *Technique* review of this event, reported "Tech's aspiring comedians got in their share of laughs..." which was the goal of this fundraiser.

Having participated in scores of comedy open-mic nights around Atlanta, I thought this event went quite well. It was an open-mic event, and as such there was a diversity of talent levels.

Despite what I perceived as a negative review by the *Technique*, I was most impressed with the comedic talents of our students who are too often stereotyped as humorless nerds.

As faculty we constantly push them to improve their oral presentation skills and it was uplifting to see such motivation to take on stand-up comedy, the most challenging of all oral presentations.

On Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. the top finishers of this open-mic event will be performing in a second *T-Book* benefit at Under the Couch. This show will feature other local comics.

Hopefully you will join us for a few laughs, learn about opportunities to work with *T-Book* and help us convince people that nerds are funny too.

Pete Ludovice  
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