

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Sharing the blame

The Athletic Association's decision not to renew its football and men's basketball broadcasting contract with WREK radio may be justified, but the way in which the change was handled by both sides is not. While the Athletic Association exhibited a lack of concern for timing and communication, WREK also failed to adequately plan ahead.

At the heart of the matter are the opposing statements made by both actors. Director of Athletics Dan Radakovich's claim that the reason why WREK was not notified of the decision—which would strip it of around \$30,000, or one one-third of its budget—any earlier was because he did not know who to contact at the radio station seems weak, to say the least. There is no good reason to explain why either WREK or Student Publications had no inkling of the decision until one day before a press release was announced.

Given that WREK had to submit its yearly budget to the Student Government Association in October and that it was not given a chance to renegotiate or state its case, the Athletic Association's communication efforts seem like too little, too late. Even though the decision may be financially smart for the Association, its actions showed little savvy and respect in treating a Tech student organization as a sub-par business partner. We doubt that a commercial partner would have received the same treatment.

However, the Athletic Association has also explained that when it first began broadcasting with WREK, it clearly expressed that it would continue to look for a commercial broadcaster. While WREK's staff may have changed during this period, organizational leaders should have ensured that such an important piece of information would have been transmitted from year to year. In addition, WREK should have taken care not to rely too heavily on what was never a permanent source of funding. Careful planning might have eased the difficult transition into the next year that the station is now experiencing.

SGA now has to fill in WREK's budget for next year, taking twice the usual funds from the Student Activity Fee to make up for the \$30,000 loss. The large budget cut was unexpected, and we understand that WREK needs these emergency funds, but the station should look to the future to make sure it does not come to rely too heavily on the student body for funding.

WREK offers a creative musical alternative to metro Atlanta. As it continues to grow, we challenge it to use this same creativity in figuring out a way to be sustainable in the future, with or without the Athletic Association.

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By Abhishek Jain / Student Publications

A new generation of do-gooders?

Imagine you're in a tent in the heart of the Africa. With you are three prostitutes, a couple of local businessmen and a two-time Pulitzer winner, whom you have to thank for bringing you along on this surreal trip.

For a third year in a row, *New York Times* columnist Nick Kristof is offering U.S. college students this rare opportunity. One lucky winner will get the chance to accompany Kristof on his travels through the developing world and gain first-hand exposure to some of its tragedies, including extreme poverty, famine and war, to name a few.

As I excitedly read about the contest, I reached a quote by Bill Gates that made me stop: "I left Harvard with no real awareness of the awful inequities in the world," Gates said in a 2007 commencement address. Thousands of dollars and four (or five, maybe six) years later, have most U.S. graduates fallen victim to what Kristof labels "one of the failures of the American education system?" Have we really learned next to nothing about the vast world that lies outside these borders?

Yes and no. On the one hand, it is all too easy to obtain a degree in the U.S. without hearing about the tragedies mentioned above. It is as if the U.S. isolationist dogma of yesteryear has infiltrated American schools and minds (if not our actual foreign policy).

It may be true that while most students abroad learn at least two languages, U.S. students are generally complacent with a basic knowledge of English. It's also known that even though traveling is a habit for foreigners with similar means as ours, less than a third of Americans even own a passport—but this does not mean that our generation is comprised of inward-looking dimwits.

At Tech, President Clough



"Is Generation Y really willing to look beyond the materialism, individualism and isolation that were so in vogue last century...?"

Naihobe Gonzalez
Opinions Editor

hoped to increase the proportion of students who study abroad to over half—a realistic goal given current participation rates—and despite being a technical university, we offer a terminal degree in international affairs, a diverse environment at International House and a holistic global experience through the International Plan.

In fact, our generation is part of a growing "internationalist" movement, a direct result of the powerful forces of technology, globalization and what I hope is also a shift towards greater public responsibility. While this movement marks progress, one of my fears is that although we will know more about the rest of the world, we will not *do* more.

All in all, is Generation Y really willing to look beyond the materialism, individualism and isolation that were so in vogue last century? Can we lead the transition into a new world order in which real change (to use the word *du jour*) is possible?

In the past few years, for example, the spotlight has been shined on the Darfur crisis. My guess is that most people in our age group are familiar with the genocide taking place and want the U.S. government to help make it stop. I see this issue pop up in Facebook profiles, celebrity interviews and movie theaters, but I don't want Darfur to just become a pet cause for young America if we're not going to do something about it. I

also don't want to see other crises be relegated to the back burner because they failed to reach the same iconic status in our popular culture.

But what to do? Maybe it's just me, but there is a certain futility in passing out flyers, attending rallies and listening to lectures that I find both frustrating and disheartening. This futility can lead to cynicism (and inaction), but there are many things that our generation can do to make a palpable difference.

From joining the Peace Corps to choosing a career that touches others' lives (the developing world is in dire need of technological, scientific and engineering know-how), the possibilities available to our generation are boundless.

If making a big commitment seems like too much, sometimes just becoming a mentor to a child, going on a short volunteer trip abroad or writing elected officials about neglected issues can achieve great results (and from experience, I can affirm that the personal pay-offs are often greater than what you put in). Or, as a fun alternative, you could even enter Kristof's contest.

I'm not arguing that the U.S. should be the watchman of the world. But as privileged, educated individuals, we should stop being so shortsighted and measuring our success by how far along we get on the rat race. The world—and its injustices—are ours to change.

Resolutions aren't the way to a new 'you'

This year, I have resolved to eat a little bit healthier and exercise a little more often. Both are things that I have pretty easily attained and will be able to continue doing—nothing too unreasonable.

Some people, however, go slightly overboard with their resolutions. It seems as though many people believe that once the New Year rolls around, they are suddenly reborn and become this whole new, better person: "I am going to go to the gym every single day and lose 100 pounds in three months!" This is a little absurd considering this person has likely not used their gym membership since they bought it.

People always say, "This is my year; this year I'm going to stick with it." And while I certainly admire the perseverance and determination of these over-the-top resolutionists, most of them can't seem to stay with their goals for more than a few weeks.

After years and years filled with millions of broken resolutions, one would think that people would have realized that always setting such extreme goals for themselves will likely result in failure. What is it about the New Year that tricks people into thinking there is no other time of year they could possibly improve



"Changing habits is not something that can be done overnight, which is why resolutions often fail."

Jennifer Aldoretta
Assistant Entertainment Editor

things about themselves?

The same can be applied to the holidays. Why is it that people always start a diet *after* they have gorged themselves with calorie-packed foods for weeks on end? It seems far more logical to begin a diet before the holidays when all of those extra pounds haven't yet been packed on. This will result in less work on the dieter's part.

That being said, if your resolution is to exercise more, why didn't you get a head start before the holidays rolled around? You would have had the leg-up on all of your friends and wouldn't have had to work twice as hard to shed those holiday love-handles.

While I understand the draw of starting the year on a new foot (because I am also guilty), New Year's resolutions have unfortunately become more of a competition between friends or family

members than a personal self-improvement project, as they should be. "I am going to work out every other day," says Suzy. "Oh yeah, well, I am going to work out *every* day," says JoJo.

Don't resolve to do better than your friend. Resolve to do better than yourself. Just make sure to resolve within reach.

Extreme resolutions will get you resolutionists nowhere. Why not just make it your goal to walk more during the day? Or even eat more fruits and veggies instead of that bag of greasy potato chips? Or cook more of your own meals instead of going out to eat?

Little changes like these are the ones that will lead to goals being attained. These are the resolutions that you will actually stick to, and you'll feel better about yourself knowing that you are doing something that is better for you. It is the small changes that will lead to bigger, long-term ones. Huge,

sudden lifestyle changes very rarely end up being long-term.

Changing habits is not something that can be done overnight, which is why resolutions often fail. You have to start out small and progressively go bigger as you feel you can handle the change. Resolve to eat less junk food. This may lead to eating more fruits and veggies which may, in turn, lead to becoming more active. As you get used to living a healthier lifestyle it becomes easier to make more small changes for the better.

Now, I will certainly not sit here and claim to be a health expert or dieting expert, but everything that I have mentioned seems to be common sense. And yet, so many people keep making resolutions they know they cannot keep.

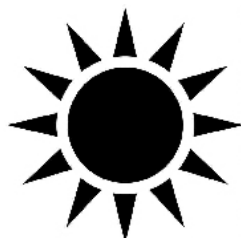
Statistically, only about ten percent of resolutions are actually kept. About 80 percent of people who resolve have already failed by Jan. 20.

The point is, what is the point of New Year's resolutions? Most of them fail. So why not resolve to resolve in a few months or on a smaller scale? All of these would statistically yield better results.

Don't resolve just to resolve. If you want to make a change, it shouldn't matter the time of year.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT-or-NOT



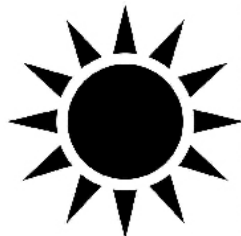
Making history

This week's Inauguration marked an extraordinary moment in our nation's young history, sending a much-needed jolt of invigoration throughout the country. About 1.5 million people flooded the streets of Washington D.C. to celebrate the swearing in of the country's first black president. No matter who you voted for last November, why not take this week to celebrate?



Basketball blues

Tech men's basketball lost its first five conference games this season, making the team the last-ranked team in the ACC (and 327th out of 330 Division I teams). At this rate, even if the team made 140 straight free throws, it would still be dead last in free throw percentage in the ACC. Despite all the recent talk of "hope," we're starting to lose hope in our own team.



Super alum

Even though the Arizona Cardinals killed the Falcons' slim chances of making it to the Super Bowl, the Tech community still has one reason to cheer for the Cardinals. Ken Whisenhunt, CE '90, will try to coach the Cardinals to victory against the Pittsburgh Steelers.



Tasty?

Peanut butter lovers beware: a recent salmonella outbreak has affected cookies, crackers and ice cream, killing up to six people. Even worse, the outbreak was traced to a plant in Georgia. We can only hope the Nutter Butter cookies sold in Tech vending machines have been removed.

Extending change to Israel and Palestine

Staff Editorial
The Daily Iowan

(U-WIRE) For the last 40 years, every U.S. president has had one common foreign-policy concern: peace in the Holy Land. After witnessing a 22-day bombing campaign in Gaza, President Obama enters the Oval Office with more pertinent matters to attend to than the banal promise of a fresh paradigm for a peaceful Israeli-Palestinian existence.

The unilateral ceasefires by Hamas and Israel may have ended the current campaign during the end of the Bush administration; however, it will fall on Obama and his Cabinet to effectively deal with the bloody aftermath in Gaza.

While Obama went to great lengths during his campaign to confirm that he, like almost all American politicians, is de-

cidely pro-Israel—largely in response to ridiculous arguments that somehow his Arabic middle name directed his foreign-policy views to be inherently against Israel—is administration cannot afford to be blindly pro-Israel in its reaction to the Gaza campaign.

A realistic resolution in the Holy Land is going to require an administration that is capable of publicly, not just privately, admonishing the military decisions of the Israeli government and its continued second-class treatment of the Palestinian people.

Inevitably, the subject of Israel foments extremely polemical and emotional reactions. A sharp criticism of Israeli policy is often prone to a hasty accusation of anti-Semitism. Many equate a disapproval of governmental policy as a direct threat

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

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Coverage Requests

Requests for coverage may be made to the Editor-in-Chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email editor@nique.net

BUZZ

Around the Campus

What will you remember George W. Bush by?



Eric Zaniga
First-year AE

"He said many awkward things, and he got us into a war."



Andy Wu
Second-year CHBE

"I will remember him most by the Iraqi war and how he destroyed the American army and cost many American lives."



Elizabeth Whiting
Second-year ME

"Maintaining his composure even when he was unpopular. He stayed with his position even when times were tough."



Nikhil Kadle
Third-year BME

"I will remember him by his failed policies that put this country in financial turmoil."

Rethinking Facebook: social networks could educate

I first opened my Facebook account roughly three years ago. At that point, as hopefully we all remember, Facebook was for college students only. I had waited diligently to get my Georgia Tech e-mail account set up instead of cheating the system and using my DeKalb County provided email address instead, as so many of my impatient friends had done.

Barely six months later I came to terms with the fact that Facebook, that far off land of social networking that my older cousins had tormented me with and excluded me from for years, was no longer so exclusive. High school users were allowed to join and create profiles, and even more depressingly, my own sibling's friends' profiles popped up in my friend request box daily.

Needless to say, I was not a big fan of Facebook's first foray into social inclusion of those not burdened by college tuition, and much less so by the eventual universal access to Facebook. For one thing, how could non-college students, otherwise known as "people with real lives," possibly have the hours of endless free time needed

to keep an up-to-date profile and entertain me?

Thanks to extreme self-control I was able to resist joining one of the "1 million strong against the new Facebook" groups, which is fortunate because I am sure that my inclusion in the Facebook group would have had huge consequences, such as convincing Facebook management that traffic through their service had at least a million people who were willing to use their product, despite hating its very format.

Recently though, Facebook has been bucking its trend of creating improvements that annoy me. In fact, this week's partnership with CNN to help broadcast the inauguration was downright convenient. While I cannot express to you how annoying it is to see an easy-to-find streaming news source show up just after I got back to the country (not in time to save me hours of tears and hassle), the function was definitely one of the most useful applications released lately.

For those of us not brave enough to stand out in Centennial Park to witness the historic



"The mix of social media and news networks on Inauguration Day...is the next obvious step in news broadcasting."

Emily Chambers
Outreach Editor

swearing-in ceremony yet still stuck without a TV (no, I don't own a TV), the application was, in a word, perfect.

Not only did it capitalize on young American's combined obsessions with Facebook and the Obama family in a brilliant money-making scheme, but it also was actually educational. By watching the scrolling status updates of my friends and fellow viewers I was able to confirm that yes, Dick Cheney looked like an evil mastermind being wheeled around by his minions, as well as my suspicion that it was Roberts, not Obama, who messed up the Oath of Office written into the very constitution that both of them specialized in as attorneys.

Most importantly, I found universal affirmation to my belief that the poor, innocent poet who read after President Obama probably should have memorized the poem she wrote for the occasion if she wanted to even appear competent when speaking after a man who has been declared one of the greatest orators of our age.

Watching the status updates from my friends in Europe, other lazy students still in bed like myself and those brave few actually in Washington D.C. with their iPhones, I realized that the mix of social media and news networks on Inauguration Day, although only temporary, is the next obvious step in news broadcasting.

Modern America's compulsive

need-to-know nature requires us not only to hear news that is updated constantly, but also to know what our friends think about it. To quote the video "Twitter in Plain English," sometimes people just need to know what is happening *between* daily blog posts, or in this case, between sentences in any given news broadcast. The combination of instantaneous user-generated content with "hard news" is a revolutionary step in that direction.

While news stations becoming too involved in social media poses obvious risks (mainly, that I will lose the ability to claim that I ever check any other websites, or that desperation to generate hits and commentary will drive the media to even new lows of partisanship), this sort of partnership could be what is needed to keep America informed.

Consider it like a mental vitamin: every morning when you check to make sure your significant other hasn't posted on their ex's wall, you could instead choose to check the state of current affairs, without even having to navigate away from the page.

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to the right of the state of Israel to exist.

Others quickly jump to protect Israel's right to defend itself, usually framed in the playground accusation of "He started it." Meanwhile, the initial critique or examination of policy is lost in finger pointing and red-herring indictments of character.

In examining the fundamentals of Israel's response, we would be hard-pressed to find a majority of any population that would argue with the premise that a

country doesn't have the right to defend itself when attacked.

However, the Obama administration cannot focus on who started "the fight." Both Hamas and the Israeli government are equally to blame for the needless deaths of more than 1,250 Palestinian civilians. Nevertheless, a nonviolent solution will not be found in assigning the appropriate percentage of responsibility to each party.

A peace process in the Holy Land must focus on the underlying causes of Palestinian angst and long-term stability in the region. If Israel can give the Palestinians

a reason to live, self-annihilation tactics should subside; Palestinians aren't predisposed to embrace suicide and the murder of Israelis.

Anger and despair breed terrorists; military incursions and air strikes only breed more anger and more despair. Killing Hamas officials is nothing more than placing the violent cycle of reprisal in abeyance. Hamas needs only go down to the most recent neighborhood destroyed by Israeli rockets to find recruits willing to trade long-term peace for immediate retribution. Defiance is victory for Hamas.

If our wars in Iraq and Afghan-

istan have taught us anything, it should be that military might is a temporary remedy. Trickle-down peace accords don't work. As former President George W. Bush pointed out, this is also a "war of ideas."

Defeating terrorism requires a war on ideologies and perceptions. Israel should use its position as a democracy in the Middle East as an opportunity to promote the values of a democratic society: equality, social justice, and pluralism. Creating a culture that treats Muslim and Jew, Israeli and Palestinian as equal, instead of seg-

regated, members of society will go much further to assuage the threats to Israel's security than yearly military campaigns against Hamas or Hezbollah.

Obama must push to redefine "victory" in the Holy Land. Long-term stability in the region is going to require major shifts in military, social and economic policy by Israel and the Palestinian authorities.

Obama must do the same with Israel and Palestine as he did in America: win over the people with a message that hope does exist and change is possible.

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