



OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Hidden costs

Yet again, the Student Government Association has found itself in the unenviable position of having to seek a \$15 increase to the mandatory Student Activity Fee (SAF) to cope with increased requests. This increase is overwhelmingly driven by the Campus Recreation Center and, to a lesser extent, the Student Center, with the CRC requests amounting to 87 percent of the \$15-per-student proposed increase.

If the Board of Regents (BOR) approves the latest increase, the SAF will reach \$113 a semester, having risen 45 percent since fall 2002 when it was at \$78. By comparison, in the same time, tuition for in-state students has risen 20 percent and out-of-state tuition has risen 27 percent, according to the Institute Research and Planning's factbook. Simply put, it is unacceptable for the fee to increase that much in such a short period of time. Just as an employee could not reasonably expect a 45 percent increase in salary over a 4-year period, the CRC should not expect a similar increase.

Since the BOR approved a \$12 increase last year, there is no guarantee that it will prove so accommodating this time. However, if the BOR does not approve an increase, it will not be the CRC that suffers. As Tier 1 organizations, the CRC and the Student Center have the highest priority in Student Activity Fee allocations. Ultimately, student organizations, in particular the Tier 3 cultural, sport and academic clubs, will be negatively impacted and lose funding.

It is unacceptable that the continuity of student organization funding be perpetually at the mercy of Tier-1 requests. This uncertainty is a hidden cost that far exceeds the \$15 increase. The time has come to develop a long-term solution to handle the increased budget requests from the CRC.

The CRC's proposal to expand hours, meet demand and continue its high quality of service have merit, but it is unacceptable for students to continue to pay higher fees every year without a guarantee that the requests will stabilize. It is time for students, SGA and administrators to decide whether funding for the CRC should be split from the Student Activity Fee budget into its own separate fee.

While splitting the fee would risk giving up some student oversight of the center's finances, that may be a price worth paying to create stability in Tier 2 and Tier 3 organizations' budgets. The current limits of student oversight and control over the CRCs requests have already been demonstrated. A separate fee would put a greater incentive on the CRC to trim the fat and operate as efficiently as possible, and while students would still have to pay the increased fee, it would isolate and protect student organization funding.

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Daniel Amick, *Editor-in-Chief*

Jennifer Schur, *Executive Editor*
Stephen Baehl, *News Editor*
Jennifer Lee, *Focus Editor*
Hillary Lipko, *Entertainment Editor*
Kyle Thomason, *Sports Editor*

Kimberly Rieck, *Opinions Editor*
Jamie Howell, *Photography Editor*
Joshua Cuneo, *Online Editor*
Lauren Griffin, *Advertising Manager*
Art Seavey, *Development Editor*

Copyright Notice

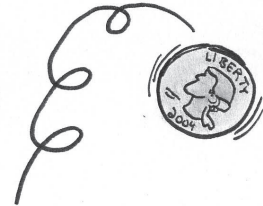
Copyright © 2004, Daniel Amick, Editor-in-Chief, and by the Board of Student Publications. The *Technique* is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. No part of this paper may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the Editor or from the Board of Student Publications. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Student Publications, the students, staff or faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University System of Georgia. First copy free. Subsequent copies \$1 each

WHO WANTS TO BE... A MODERN STUDENT?



PHONE A FRIEND

50-50



ASK THE AUDIENCE

LEWIS
© 2005
The Technique

By Brian Lewis / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Grandma's lessons apply today

Ah, the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Or something like that.

The time has come for me to stir up trouble again, and I would like to take this opportunity to put in my two cents, or at least the two cents I inherited from my grandmother.

So bear with me while I climb up onto my soapbox, and keep in mind that I'm just trying to make the world a better place in my own small way.

Many of the things that my grandma taught me when I was little seemed stupid at the time, but I did them anyway to avoid her wrath. These things were drilled into my head, and I never understood them. As I've grown older, however, I've recognized both their common theme and the reason for their application.

The theme was respecting other people; the reason was to make the world a better place to live in. I know that sounds cheesy, but you would be surprised how much simple, common courtesy can change the course of your day.

So, without further ado, lessons that I learned from my grandmother:

Walk on the right side of the sidewalk or any other pathway. This would mean a whole lot less bumping into other people. Many people don't like it when strangers touch them, and such collisions are a needless annoyance.

The same goes for going through doors. Don't be lazy and go through the left-hand door just because it's open, because you may run into some poor unsuspecting guy going the other way.

Also, if you know there's someone behind you, hold the door open for them or at least give it a push so it will be open long enough for them to get up to it. (Side note: in middle school, I had a door dropped in my



"You would be surprised how much simple, common courtesy can change the course of your day."

Kristin Noell
Copy Editor

face and it smashed my nose hard enough for me to see stars. That was a very bad day—if only he'd held the door for me...)

Along those same lines, if there's only one door (like an elevator), let people out before you go in. There's no need to be crowding into such a small space, and you're in the way of those trying to get out. Besides, you'll have to wait for them to get out anyway, won't you?

The whole right-hand side thing may seem a bit ridiculous to some, but think about this: we drive on the right-hand side for a reason—to avoid accidents.

If you're in England or anywhere else in the world where they drive on the left, maybe you should walk on the left too. I'll have to research that one.

Driving is another area that could benefit from common courtesy. Use your blinkers, don't cut people off and don't park in more than one space. (Another side note: according to my mother, although I don't remember this, my grandma used to threaten to key the cars that took up more than one space, although she never acted on her threat.)

Grandma wanted to know what made some people think they had the right to take up more than their share of spaces, and I wonder the same thing. We're all equals here, and we should treat each other as such. Other people benefit when you observe such simple courtesies, and you benefit when they observe

them.

Two more things to think about when you're in that parking lot: First, parking in handicapped spots when you are not handicapped is not cool. Really.

Having a shopping cart put a dent in your car is also not cool. If everyone put their carts away, there would be no more dents. Don't think to yourself, "Hey, nobody else does it, so why should I?" Because if everyone thought like that, there would just be more dented cars and more unhappy people.

Sometimes the world is just not a very happy place, and while these lessons from my childhood may not turn that around, they can at least prevent unnecessary unhappiness. I learned all of that from my grandma as a child, and though she passed away almost 10 years ago, her lessons are still with me.

From lessons on common courtesy to how to play with my food (holding a straw with your forefinger rather than thumb gives you more control, so says the laboratory biologist), my grandma has had a profound impact on how I think about things, and I hope her words give you something to think about too.

So here's to hoping that you'll be quiet when people are sleeping (shout-out to my roommate), throw away your trash in the proper receptacle, refrain from slamming doors, and avoid cutting in line. And until next time, my soapbox is now safely stored in the cupboard.

Avoid common sliver misconceptions

The sliverbox is a fun service that the *Technique* offers and it gives students a forum in which to vent their frustrations. They were first run in the newspaper in the late '90s as funny sayings the editors had heard through out the week. Slivers were placed at the bottom of each page, and only a single sliver ran per page.



"There is a place for everything, and if you have a lot to say, write a letter to the editor."

Lauren Griffin
Advertising Manager

Later the slivers moved online, and the student body was able to submit their own. The newspaper began printing the students' slivers to give them an outlet for their day to day Tech stresses.

It is certainly interesting to see what other students have to say.

Each week I read through the slivers, and I've noticed several misconceptions. I hope this editorial will clear a few things up.

Misconception #1: The purpose of the sliverbox is to rant and ramble for pages upon pages about whatever it is that's gotten you all hot and bothered. No, it is a sliver, a short phrase that sums up your feelings, and therefore it should be brief. To enforce this key characteristic, there is a maximum character count per submission.

It's not intended to restrict your freedom of speech, but simply to keep the slivers short. There is a place for everything, and if you have a lot to say, write

a letter to the editor.

Misconception #2: Slivers are discriminated against, and I pick and choose which ones I like the best. No, the number of slivers that run each issue is dictated by the available space. I cut and pasted starting from the top of the list working down. It does not mean anything if your sliver is not printed except that there wasn't enough space.

Misconception #3: Everything will be printed in the newspaper. No! There are certain words, expletives for example, that will not run. Sometimes, only these bad words are cut out and other times the entire sliver is cut out. It simply depends on the nature of the statement.

Other things that will not be printed are people's full name, phone number, websites, especially vulgar statements and others. The others category is loosely defined to handle special cases that do not fall into any

categories.

An example of an "other" sliver would be a statement submitted in some unfamiliar language. If it can't be easily edited, it will be cut. There are too many other slivers waiting to be printed to spend time figuring out what you're saying.

Misconception #4: Repeatedly submitting a sliver over and over again will increase your chances of getting printed in the paper. This misconception probably falls under misconception #3, but it is the most annoying misconception and therefore merits its own number. Repeated submissions of the same sliver only make me mad. I do not care if you are the most plain, boring man alive, or if you are lieutenant saggy shorts, or you are having some party planned on a big green lawn, you are annoying and need to find a hobby.

On a similar note, repeatedly heckling individuals because of

their physical characteristics only shows that you are shallow and insecure. I'd bet 20 bucks you're not any more attractive, so grow up.

Misconception #5: Repeatedly confessing your undying love for a boy/girl you've never met in the sliver box is not stalking. No matter what the other slivers say, this IS stalking. Not only that, but it's incredibly creepy. It will get you no where with them, if for no other reason than they are probably already dating an athlete or greek.

Misconception #6: Your unfortunate dating situation is a result of the lousy Tech ratio. No. Chances are you would have a hard time dating at the College of Charleston, so don't blame your shortcomings on the lack of girls. We have a hard enough time sorting through all of y'all to find the datable ones, the last thing we want to hear is your whining.

Misconception #7: The slivers are/should be posted online. No! They are a special feature that is unique to the printed paper. Those of you who have figured out how to read the slivers online can consider yourselves either very smart or very bored, which ever you prefer.

Misconception #8: Everyone at the *Technique* is a Democrat. Enough said.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Web-stalkin' laundry

Tired of hauling your laundry across campus and finding the machines filled? Those dark days may soon be behind us once the new online laundry tracking service is implemented. The service will let students check their laundry's status, and detail how many free washers and dryers exist. Plus you'll get an email about when your laundry was ready, thus avoiding squeezy people touching your socks.

Panthers play ball?

For the first time since 1986, the No. 13 Yellow Jackets baseball team lost its home opener to the unranked Georgia State baseball team, 5-2. Out of 55 previous meetings with the Panthers, Tech had only lost on five other occasions. We can only hope that the loss to the crosstown rival was the kick in the pants that the team needed to start the season and get back to its former winning ways.



Making a splash

Not only does the new-and-improved CRC get to host the Women's ACC Swimming & Diving Championships through tonight, but next week Tech can look forward to the men's championships as well. Stop by and check out some of the best competition the pool has ever had, and support the Jackets!

Midterm blues

All over campus, students are pulling sleepless nights to get ready for the dreaded midterms and first tests of the spring. The honeymoon period in the semester has sadly past and now it's time for students to get down to business and start studying. For those of you pulling long nights—good luck, you'll need it.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't "coolify" library

[Editor's Note: This letter is in response to the Feb. 11 article "Library plans to upgrade."]

It seems as if the "powers that be" want to "coolify" anything and everything on campus. The "Tech's no fun and students are miserable" rap really got to some people, and they are hell-bent on changing that, which is cool. The Student Center Commons is probably the coolest thing I've seen this place do since I've been here.

However, opening a coffee shop and putting couches on the first floor of the library has got to be the least thought out plan I've ever heard and will surely lead to stressed out students getting more stressed out and possibly even shooting people.

When people go to the library, it is because they can't study in their dorms/apts/houses because their roommates/hallmates are socializing too much and they need to study. It's bad enough

that dorky kids are already turning the first floor of the library into "warcraft critique open-mic night" when I have a test in the morning. I can't imagine what it will be like if the first floor starts having more people hanging out and socializing. The first floor is the only one with computers and printers; therefore it is the most important of the library's resources.

I had a horrible experience last week on a Thursday night when I went to the library to get my six hours of homework done. I found myself a computer and I got to work. Less than an hour later, I'm smack in the middle of a heated debate about the world series of cricket, and it went on for hours. Needless to say, I moved, sans confrontation. But if you make the library more like the Student Center Commons, wouldn't these types of situations happen on

See Library, 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 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.

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 sent to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email editor@technique.gatech.edu.

BUZZ

Around the Campus
Which band would you like to see perform at Sting Break?



Andrew Marshall
ME Second-year

"Franz Ferdinand."



Hillary Harris
CEE Second-year

"Keane."



Sean Hitchcock
AE Second-year

"Incubus."



James Alex
ME Second-year Freshman

"Nirvana Cover Band."

Photos by Amanda Thomas

'Nique shows liberal bias Canseco sets wrong example

By Josh Katz
Cornell Daily Sun

The extreme liberal bias of the *Technique* this year does not adequately reflect or well serve the Georgia Tech community as a whole. Every other week it seems, we see articles proclaiming gay/lesbian rights while trying to showcase how the "straight" population persecutes and imposes horrible injustices by not legally recognizing these unnatural pairings.

The Georgia populace overwhelmingly proclaimed their preference for the Biblical definition of marriage (87-13 percent if memory serves) as a union between one man and one woman.

Artificially disobeying this clear precept at a public school (e.g. blatantly restructuring "married housing" to permit homosexual pairs) is a mistake and should be grounds for dismissal for any employee(s) paid with public funds. Moreover, the Tech population is traditionally a very conservative group, even within Georgia, so I find this misguided preoccupation

with homosexual articles and slants to be an unnecessary waste of paper (my student activity fee) and an embarrassment to the external community.

No doubt that the vocal minority will cry foul to my comments based on their overextended ideas of acceptance and tolerance. Honestly, I don't care since they have no legitimate grounds for anger.

I am not advocating that we discriminate or treat persons choosing a homosexual lifestyle harshly, but I strongly believe that people choosing such a lifestyle should not have any undue benefits like married housing when they are not in fact a married couple. I do believe in, and will strongly endorse, our constitutionally guaranteed freedom of speech, but I regret being forced to support someone else's political agenda.

Alan Michaels
ECE/Math Ph.D. student
gte421f@mail.gatech.edu

Library from page 9

a daily basis?

Where are people going to go to study? The second floor is for group meetings; if they insist on building a coffee shop and adding furniture, please do it there.

"Coolifying" the library to try to make it seem like we're having fun (or force-feeding it to us in the

most inappropriate of places) is like UGA putting computer labs in the football stadium to make them seem smart.

Nobody goes to the library to have fun; nobody goes to football games to learn. The coffee in the basement is fine for people to get their caffeine fix.

Michael Hershkowitz
gtg264i@mail.gatech.edu

(U-WIRE) Cornell University—Jose Canseco was that baseball player who, back in the day, hovered over the plate as if he owned it, and then usually smashed through the ball like it was the kid in elementary school who beat him up—even though he was probably the kid who did the beating. It was always a pleasure to watch him play the game. This Monday, his new book—fraught with specious steroid charges toward prominent baseball players probably will only further heighten that image.

However, no matter how much we believe or disbelieve what Mr. Canseco has to say, this incident further serves to illuminate what is wrong with baseball and many sports today.

I'm not about to argue with the claims made by Chris Mascaro of *The Sun* in his column last week, "Jose: An Untrusted Source," where he claimed that Canseco is an idiot and shouldn't be trusted by anyone.

I would further agree with him that, "if a player took steroids, it should be up to Major League Baseball and any other proper authorities to find out." But Major League Baseball isn't doing a damn thing about it, simply because they are too stubborn to take Canseco's words as containing a grain of truth. Sandy Alderson, the executive vice president for baseball operations in the commissioner's office, said the league is probably not going

to look into Canseco's allegations because, Alderson said, "Jose made statements before that haven't been entirely true." Yes, Canseco's an untrustworthy buffoon, but that doesn't mean the league should completely disregard these incendiary charges.

If there is any significance to Canseco's book, it is that this former baseball player is bringing an extremely controversial matter to the forefront with the public. If Canseco's claims are libelous then he'll eventually pay for that. The reason the league is ignoring this is probably because the league has no desire to become involved in something that will probably end up hurting its image. If this is the case, then MLB is looking out for its own immediate self-interests, and not the interests of the public—a public that consists of millions of children and teenagers who look up to these players as role models, and who will see the home-run records of potential drug-users displayed publicly without the slightest bit of scrutiny. Is that the image that we want?

Baseball is probably the greatest cultural symbol of America in sports, and for that symbol to be corrupted with images of cheating and performance-enhancing drugs is not something that this country, or the league, should want. Therefore, MLB, if it cares about its long-term interests, should try to nip this image in the bud as fast as possible.

According to *The New York Times*,

in Canseco's book, he calls himself the "godfather of steroids."

He almost seems to brag that he introduced steroids to certain players and taught them the benefits of the drug.

As a whistleblower, Canseco alleges drug abuse by such players as McGwire, Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi, Juan Gonzales, Ivan Rodriguez and Rafael Palmeiro. The *Times* says Rodriguez, Palmeiro and Gonzales have already denied the charges in the book. The "godfather" reportedly talks about how steroids are, when used carefully, "an opportunity, not a danger."

That's not a statement millions of young baseball fans should be hearing from a former Major League ballplayer. For him to express to the world his acceptance of steroid use, even if only in small doses, further serves to prove his senselessness.

Unlike baseball, the Olympic officials are very stringent on the use of performance enhancing drugs. For the first positive test, the athlete is banned for two years. In many cases, for the second offense, the athletes are banned for life. In baseball, the penalty is a 10-game suspension for a first offense—a grain of sand in the baseball season. In addition, the Olympics have a semi-independent commission to judge these matters, whereas baseball takes care of it all by itself.

Maybe Jose Canseco isn't the best role model for kids. It's still up to Major League Baseball to make sure the rest of the players are.