

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## Megamod improvement

*There are still issues that need to be resolved*

While we are excited to see modifications to the megamod policy finally enacted, there are still ways that the megamods could be improved. Since megamods will now only be sent out once a week on Mondays, the emails have the potential to grow to ridiculous lengths. We hope that the Dean will have the foresight to imitate twitter and have a character (or at least word) limit.

If we are not careful, the megamods will be so long that no one will attempt to read them, which would defeat the megamod purpose of disseminating information. In order to help prevent this, the layout of megamods should be as readable as possible. There needs to be a clear delineation between entries so they do not blend together. The entries should have parallel structure with only plain text and not images.

Perhaps most importantly, all announcements on the megamods should be content rich and straight to the point. It is not necessary to announce your event with seven exclamation points and three colors. You can editorialize your announcement in other av-

enues, like chalking. Just give the basics and a link to a website with more details.

We are also disappointed that the opt in-opt out policy was overturned by SGA last Spring. We liked the idea of being able to filter topics and receive a customized megamod.

Students would be more likely to read the important announcements on megamods if they knew that announcements about organizations they are not interested in hearing from could be opted out of. By allowing students to choose what megamods come their way, Tech would provide students a sense of control over their inboxes.

Now that this megamod policy is in place, we hope that this policy will be permanent for the immediate future. If the policy is constantly updated, we will never know if the students are satisfied by the current policy.

If the policy is not given a fair chance, it will feel as though promises are being made and then taken away. We hope that with this policy, this is not the case.

*The Consensus Opinion reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.*

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YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Concealed carry reduces crime

The article “Gun Control Debate Continues” raised a number of interesting points, including the deterrent value of concealed weapons, the safety of other students and the defensive use of firearms. I would like to add my own two cents to the debate.

There is considerable evidence documented by John Lott at Yale and Gary Kleck at Florida State that liberalizing concealed carry laws reduced violent crime by varying amounts—8.5% reduced murder, 5% reduced rape, etc (see “More Guns Less Crime” by John Lott and Kleck, 1997).

These same studies indicate that the rate of violent crimes committed by permit holders was well below that of the average population, suggesting that permit holders are less likely than people drawn from the average population to commit violent crime.

Gary Kleck’s own survey suggests that defensive gun use is much closer to 800,000 times annually and a Department of Justice survey (“Guns in America: National Survey on Private Ownership and Use of Firearms” 1994) suggested that defensive gun use is on the order of 1.5 million times annually.

I wonder if GT students are aware that the police have no legal obligation to protect them? Courts have repeatedly held that police cannot be held responsible for failing to protect someone from harm, even if they appear to be negligent in their duties. Tech police are not obligated to protect any individual on campus, nor can they be held responsible for failing to do so. According to virtually every court in this country, people are responsible for defending themselves.

So, if you don’t want to hope that the police feel like protecting you (in at least one case I cited, a 911 call to the police was not answered for 45 min resulting in a woman’s death) then get a concealed weapons permit and some training and protect yourself. No one else will.

Brady Aydelotte  
MSE Grad

### GFL holders on campus

As a holder of a Georgia Firearms License (GFL) and someone who lawfully carries a firearm for protection wherever he goes (where legal, of course), I just wanted to address some points in the recent article titled “Gun Control Debate Continues.”

The gun control mantra for years has been that gun violence can be reduced by legislating on firearms. The major weakness of this approach, of course, is that only the law-abiding choose to obey these laws. As a graduate student I have a lot to lose, and a felony for possessing a firearm on campus would be career-ending for me. This is the case for all law-abiding people on campus. Crim-

Write to us:  
[letters@nique.net](mailto:letters@nique.net)

We welcome your letters in response to Technique content as well as topics relevant to campus. We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. in order to be printed in the following Friday’s issue. Include your full name, year (1st, 2nd, etc.) and major. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed per term.

inals, however, really don’t care about laws and “gun-free zones.” In fact, to them a “gun-free zone” is equivalent to “victim-rich zone.”

An undergraduate student in the article was quoted as saying, “I just wouldn’t feel safe with guns on campus.”

The problem here is, like an ostrich with its head in the sand, this student only feels safe not knowing about the guns already on campus in the hands of criminals. Her fear should rationally be of these criminals, not of the tools carried by lawfully licensed GFL holders to protect themselves and others from said criminals.

On the idea of licensed GFL holders, someone with enough motivation to acquire a GFL also has the skills and training to handle firearms safely and use them competently. Taking responsibility for one’s own safety and that of their loved ones holds great gravity and is something few take lightly. Any abuse of this responsibility is punished.

This brings me to my next point. The article quotes the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence with a statistic pointing out the small percentage of gun deaths that are ruled as justifiable homicides. This is such a dubious and misleading statistic in that it ignores that fact that most defensive firearm uses do not even involve shots being fired. To understand this, you have to take a quick look at the criminal state of mind. They do not want to deal with an armed citizen and risk their own lives.

As for specifically banning guns on campus, firearms can already be concealed on public campuses in Utah by properly licensed individuals. Why haven’t we heard of the horror stories from there? Because there are none.

As someone who was legally approved by a judge to obtain a GFL, abides by the law, and takes his own safety very seriously, what exactly changes when I cross that 1000 ft barrier around campus property? The answer is nothing, except that now I have to disarm myself and be prepared to be a victim.

Jonathan Maikisch  
ECE Grad

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY A CARTOONIST



Tech students adapt their social scene to H1N1 precautions

# Be considerate to sick classmates

For good reason, no one wants to get sick, especially in a time when a “national pandemic” such as H1N1 is affecting thousands of college students across the United States.

Thus this morning when I woke up with a bad headache, a strong cough and a flushed face, the words “swine flu” were the first to pop into my head.

After a call to the Stamps Health Services Center and waiting for the fever to break, it was simple to ascertain that it was nothing more than a bad cold.

However, at that point, the damage had been done. My strained, groggy voice and disheveled appearance was enough to signal the immediate label “SICK” like it was stamped across directly against my forehead.

From then on out, my day became a pattern of anxious glares and self defenses every time I coughed.

Each mention of “I’m sick” caused people to dart away, followed by my own swift yell of “I don’t have swine flu. It’s just a cold!” The feeling was horrendous. Just because someone has a cough doesn’t mean you have to run from her as though she has the black plague.

For victims with only the common cold or even sinus problems, it’s been a hard time



“Just because someone has a cough, doesn’t mean you have to run from her as though she has the black plague.”

**Vivian Fan**  
News Editor

to get better when consistently being classified as someone with H1N1. One of my friends who has a respiratory problem got pulled out and asked to leave class for fear of swine flu.

Even for those with swine flu, people around them should be treating them with the same consideration as normal, instead of reducing the ill to the topic of silly gossip stories.

I’ve heard countless gossip asides like, “Did you hear a whole floor of Delta Delta Delta’s have swine flu after going out on Saturday night?” It’s hard enough to be sick, whether it’s an allergic reaction or the flu.

Being treated like a walking and talking hazardous material feels even worse and definitely does not make the situation better.

In the worst case of poor H1N1-related manners I’ve heard, a girl in a blue mask is riding down 5th Street in a golf cart driven by the Health

Services Center to Tech Square. Just as she passes by the baseball stadium, a baseball player exiting sees her. At the sight, he points and yells, “SWINE FLU!”

The street, which is already filled with people walking to class, goes silent as its pedestrians stare wide-eyed at the golf cart passing by. Imagine how that girl felt being isolated in a crowd of people, and being treated like a circus freak just because of one silly mask and one silly virus that is no worse than the common flu.

Although I recognize the value of keeping healthy by staying away, doing so to the extent of treating the ill person like a zoo animal is taking precaution too far. It makes sense that no one wants to get sick.

In any case, it is the third week of school, and Tech classes are hard enough. However, precaution should not mean a complete lack of respect and good manners.

Common courtesy and

consideration should still be extended in any case. After all, this is Georgia Tech, not the Salem Witch Hunt.

According to the New York Times, about 60 to 120 million people are projected to have symptoms of the swine flu in the United States alone. Even so, those with mild symptoms (such as all the cases at Tech thus far) are predicted to have a full recovery after a couple days.

This is said not to belittle the problem of swine flu, but to allay concerns and jokes. Taking care of oneself by using hand sanitizer, taking vitamin C and keeping healthy is of the utmost importance at this time. Rather, it is to show that we are no different, sick or not sick.

I’ll be the first to admit that I have joked and teased friends who have or had swine flu. However, now from the other side, I realize that these jokes are terribly immature, and reduce the morale of even those without H1N1.

Truly, if it were the tormenters who were afflicted by swine flu or any other kind of sickness, they would not necessarily appreciate being the subject of H1N1 jokes.

After all, with 50% of Tech’s student population being projected to have or have had swine flu by October, karma can come back and give anyone a taste of the swine flu.

# There is a program at Tech for you

Growing up, my parents told me that I could be anything that I want to be. Flash forward to my college career, and I have reached the sad reality that it’s just not true.

I cannot do absolutely everything that I want to do, and Tech had no problems letting me know that very quickly.

The influx of freshmen on campus always brings me back to my own days when I was naïve enough to still believe that I could do anything that I set my mind to at this school. And it makes me think back to when I had my entire life set on one specific major at Tech.

I knew, almost as certainly as that I wanted to be a Yellow Jacket, that for the rest of my life I was going to be an architect. From the age of 12 on, I was set that I was going to be a fantastic architect that would love every minute of my career. I just knew that I would be a great architect. I mean, I really wanted to be an architect so the talent would be there, right?

Then the realities of the College of Architecture set in. My studio instructors had no qualms about letting me know the status of my mediocre design ability, yet I still pushed through the program.

Perhaps I thought some of the other students’ knack for designing beautiful spaces would rub off on me and I would somehow be as good as them or maybe one day I



“You will not be good at everything you do here at Tech, but I guarantee there is a program here for you.”

**Kate Comstock**  
Focus Editor

would discover some hidden talents that I had yet to tap into.

No such luck, and it was becoming painfully obvious that my talents were much better suited at other things. I belonged in a different program. However, I was so determined that I had set my path in life that I thought it would be embarrassing if I quit.

After many conversations with parents and friends, I finally had a revelation that I would not be happy with this career choice and moved on to a major that better suited my skills.

But yet again I still felt that I did not belong in that program either and just recently changed my major in the summer after my third year. That’s right, my third year.

If anyone would have told me that I was going to change my major twice at Tech, I would have told them that they were crazy. But really the only crazy thing is that it took those two different majors to help me decide what I really

want to do with my career at Tech. My change of majors helped me find my “home,” if you will, and now I know that I am in a situation that makes me feel like I am using all the talents that I was given, and I am being challenged to become a better student.

Don’t get me wrong, I do believe that many great things can be accomplished with sheer determination. I also believe that sometimes it is more difficult to realize that you don’t belong somewhere than to continue with a program that you are already involved in at Tech.

I congratulate those who came into this school knowing what they wanted to do for the rest of their college careers. As it turns out, I am unlike the lucky small percentage at this school that picks one major and sticks with it. And even though there are many of us that ultimately change our majors multiple times, it is still a difficult decision that requires a great deal of thought.

I do not regret changing my

major so many times; however, I do regret that I did not have an open mind when I came to Tech. I put myself in one category thinking that I was set for life, and I never should have done that.

I should have researched more colleges to see what else I was interested in pursuing. Perhaps then I would have had a less difficult time finding where I should focus my studies at Tech.

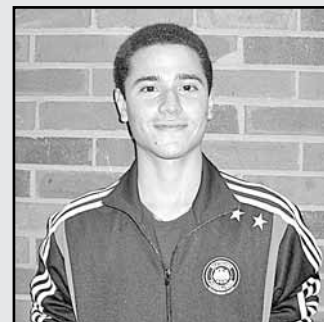
So freshmen, this is my plea to you: keep your mind open when it comes to your path of education at Tech. This is the perfect time to explore all the different opportunities available at this school. Go walk around other colleges and talk to their advisors to understand the marked differences in other curriculums. Talk to other students that are in different majors and ask what they’re studying.

Even if you do not switch your major, this simple act of research will keep you from guessing about what else is out there in the years to come. After all, aren’t we all here to get the most out of our education? We all know that Tech has a lot to offer, so why not explore every possibility here?

Most importantly, keep in mind that much like I painfully learned, you will not be good at everything that you do here at Tech, but I guarantee that there is a program here for you.

## BUZZ Around Campus

What are you excited about for football season?



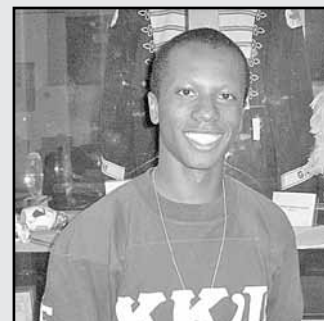
**Ian Lopez**  
First-year BME

“To watch my first game.”



**Sarah Reed**  
First-year BME

“Beating Georgia... again.”



**David Clay**  
Fifth-year Bio

“The gameday atmosphere.”



**Taylor Guffey**  
First-year BCHE

“Winning.”

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

# HOT-or-NOT



### Football kicks off

It is finally time for football season to start up again. After an exciting season culminating in Tech's defeat of Georgia, we have high hopes for an even better season. Added bonus: football games mean the start of tailgating complete with hot dogs and corn hole again as well, so get out your game day gold and get ready for Tech's first win against Jacksonville State.



### Dry fountain

While students have been thrilled to play in the Campanile fountain since the start of the semester, the library fountain has stayed conspicuously dry. While it can be speculated that the fountain stays empty due to the construction of the Clough building, it is sad to see the empty fountain and remember past years when people would layout in the fountain with lawn chairs.



### Investiture inspires

The investiture ceremony for President Peterson officiated the start of President Peterson's term at Tech. The investiture marked the start of a new direction for Tech in the coming years. Peterson is now without any doubt is the new leader on campus. Plus, with everyone missing class for illness lately, it is nice to have a positive reason to be out of class for once.



### WPA holes

Students using GTwpa have been frustrated by the spotty coverage around campus. As Tech students lifeblood is the internet, it is exacerbating to have it disappear midway through trying to do something. While we could switch back to regular GT wireless, now that we are spoiled by not having to log in every time we open our laptops, and we like the security of wpa.

# Feel safe at Tech, but make sure to take proper safety precautions

Walking along the Tech campus with all the trees, green space, sporting facilities and housing one often forgets that you are in the heart of Atlanta. Being a campus located in a metropolitan city presents itself with unique challenges. With the decline of the economy, crime has become an increased concern for both parents and students. Having lived in Atlanta and worked at Tech for ten years, I thought I would talk about some practical safety tips that I try to every day.

### Clean Car Campaign

According to the Atlanta Police Department (APD) the two predominant incidents in Zone 5 are panhandling and larcenies from autos. The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) has partnered with the APD and launched the Clean Car Campaign. By removing all valuables from your car, such as iphones, computers, change, jackets, bags, etc. you reduce the odds of your car being illegally entered by nearly 95%.

### Duty as a Tech Citizen

If you live, work or play at Tech you are one of its citizens, and as such we all have a responsibility to one another. Therefore, if you see something that does not look right, it is your responsibility and right to contact the GTPD (4-2500) immediately. If it is an emergency though, call 911 immediately and they will route you through.

### Be Aware of Surroundings

Criminals look for easy targets, such as those not paying attention to where they are and what is going on around them. Being distracted can mark you as a potential victim. When walking alone at night, take out the ipod ear-



"I hope you will join me in raising safety awareness and sharing this information with your peers."

**Linda Harley**

Graduate Student Body President

phones, end the cell phone conversation, walk upright and with determination and pay attention to where you are going and what is around you. At your car, simply taking a moment to look around and see what is going on can deter a criminal from attacking you. Be mindful of what you see and what you do.

### Appreciate GTPD

They are here to protect and serve.

### Lock your doors

Lock your car doors. If you feel unsafe in any room, lock the door. Do not open the door to strangers. Do not keep front doors to buildings propped open after hours.

### Best defense is a good offense

There is safety in numbers. If you need to be out on the streets at night, make sure you walk with a group of people. If you want to go out at night, plan on going to events that draw large crowds, such as a football game or the movie theaters.

### Make some noise!

Carry a whistle, pepper spray or a personal alarm with you at all times. Personal alarms will emanate noise and let everyone in the vicinity know that you need help. Criminals rarely want to be seen and will run away once you start making a noise.

### Don't leave belongings alone

First of all, this is a sure way to lose your laptops and other belongings. Secondly, by leaving your bag unattended, you only raise suspicion. No one knows what is in your bag, and one should always assume the worst and call GTPD to come check it out.

### Ride Home

Need a ride home to Home Park or Centennial Place after 6pm and before 6:30am? No problem, Parking and Transportation has launched a pilot program this fall semester where you can purchase a 5 ride or 10 ride voucher for \$4/ride. The Stingerette will pick you up anywhere on campus and deliver you directly to your front door.

### Report Problems

Have you noticed a street lamppost that is out? Call the telephone number indicated on it. Facilities will come out and replace the lamp right away. Notice any other safety problems on campus, then notify GTPD SGA immediately so that it can be addressed.

These are all practical tips that we can each practice everyday to make Tech a safer environment. I hope you will join me in raising safety awareness and sharing this information with your peers.

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