

OPINIONS

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Quote of the week:
 "Anyone nitpicking enough to write a letter of correction deserves the error that provoked it."
 —Alvin Toffler

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Rec rebudgeted

The annual operating budget for the Student Government Association (SGA) was passed this week after it went through a conference committee to resolve differences between the versions passed by the Undergraduate House of Representatives and the Graduate Student Senate.

Much of the budget requested by Tech Rec to fund renovations to the bowling lanes had been restored and passed in the final version.

These renovations will serve as a beneficial update to an area that attracts many potential students to campus. Over the past 30 years since the lanes were installed, the pin setters and scoring machines have fallen into complete disrepair. Tech Rec has been forced to close the lanes frequently, decreasing the center's profits and turning off customers.

While it may be hard for student organization leaders who saw their own budget requests fail to rationalize the preference given to Tech Rec in the upcoming year's budget, it is important to remember the truly campus-wide appeal of Tech Rec. It is unfortunate that SGA was forced to cut many organizations' budgetary requests, but the budget is limited, and far more students will be affected by Tech Rec than by any single organization.

Alumni have been enjoying the center for decades, and it is the responsibility of each generation of students to ensure that the facilities remain functional well into the future. The allocation given to Tech Rec is a very reasonable price for the large benefit that the improvements will make. The increased revenue expected from the improvements will help pay back the students' investment in hopefully as little as 13 years.

While the Undergraduate House's efforts to trim the budget were commendable, the funds for Tech Rec can be considered money well spent. Students should look forward to the opportunity to use the improved facility in the future.

Sting success

This year's Sting Break celebration, or Student Appreciation Day, was an impressive success. The event was relocated to the Burger Bowl, which while less central than the traditional location of Skiles, helped the overall feel of the event. The extra space afforded by the Burger Bowl helped accommodate the larger crowds drawn by Cartel and OK Go. The planning committee is to be congratulated for coordinating such a successful Sting Break, and many of the changes made this year should be looked into as potentially permanent enhancements to the event's overall structure.

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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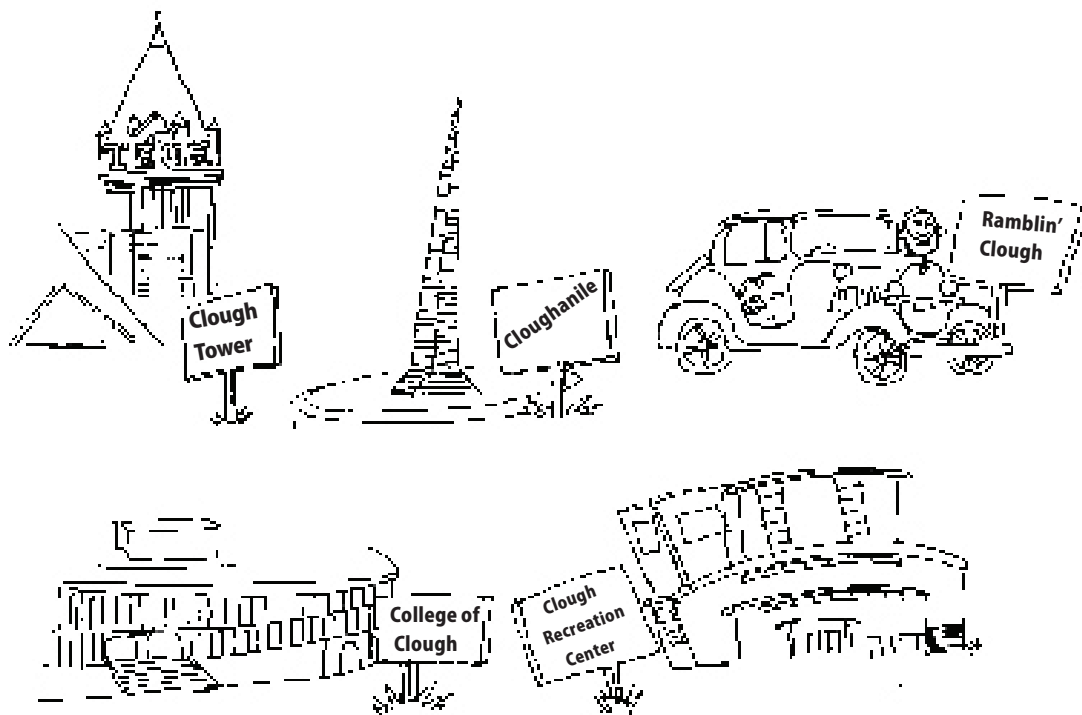
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Tech considers options to honor Clough

By Abhishek Jain/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Provide a newspaper for the students

With the printing of this issue, the *Technique* is done for the semester, and starting this summer I'll be taking over as editor-in-chief. For those who swear I've already been at Tech forever and wonder why I haven't graduated yet, I should mention that I'm staying for grad school.

I applied for the editor-in-chief position having accumulated in the back of my mind over my time with the *Technique* a collection of things I would do if I were ever entrusted with power. These include changes to the way we do things in the office as well as changes to the final published product. But although I haven't officially started yet beyond doing a couple administrative tasks, I've already discovered that with all the behind-the-scenes work that comes up it's going to be challenging to keep chasing all the extra ambitions that made me want to be editor-in-chief in the first place.

That's why I'm asking the readers of the *Technique* to help me. This newspaper, which was already great enough to win a first-place award in General Excellence from the Georgia College Press Association a couple of months ago, can still improve more with your feedback. So right now I'm going to list some of my top goals, and I want you to also keep them in mind over the upcoming year. If you find next year that I'm not taking steps to live up to these promises, submit a letter to the editor and call me out.

The first thing I want to do is establish greater trust with the Tech community. We want to work for you, so always feel free to contact us about any issue facing campus, big or small, and know that we'll handle it with the utmost accuracy and responsibility. The *Technique* is an office full of people who would love to do some real investigative reporting and pull the blindfold from Tech students' eyes with regards to some issue on campus. Our problem



"We want to work for you, so always feel free to contact us about any issue facing campus, big or small."

Craig Tabita
 News Editor

is that we're not always aware what those issues are, and the people that are aware might not trust us enough to talk to us about it.

Related to that, one of our secrets here is that some of our stories contain not much more information than you could have figured out just by going through the most recent campus-wide e-mails in your inbox. On one hand, it's true that part of our job is to summarize information from multiple sources in order to simplify your life, but if we're not giving you anything new then we're not doing enough. I want you to count on us to provide you with knowledge that is relevant to your lives—not just scratching the surface on issues but finding out the truth at the heart of the matter, as well as asking people the hard questions to which we as journalists have a responsibility to find the answers.

Another way we can get better in touch with the student body is to diversify our staff. Diversity is not just a buzzword; it's a genuine advantage to an organization such as ours, which depends on having access to as many perspectives and facts as possible. It's also an area where we stand to improve quite a bit. Whatever perceived barriers there are to involvement here, whether they're due to us not reaching out enough or due to misconceptions, I hope to tear down.

Furthermore, connecting to the student body means taking advantage of the power and convenience

of the Internet. You might have noticed that this year our web site finally took a step into the twenty-first century, but we still have work to do. Besides the fact that some of the functionality is still broken, we plan to incorporate new features to provide additional value compared to the print publication. I want you to eventually come to rely on niquen.net as much as you rely on the printed version.

I also want to improve our newspaper's physical presentation, continuing the progress this year in making our newspaper more engaging from an aesthetic standpoint, with creative and attractive layouts, beautiful photographs and informative and eye-catching charts and tables. One of the realities of writing for a newspaper is knowing that not everybody is going to read your entire article from start to finish, so when it comes to delivering important and necessary, but possibly boring, information to you we will work hard to capture your attention and then effectively and efficiently inform you before your mind wanders someplace else.

This is not an all-inclusive list, but it encompasses many of the major areas where we could use improvement. Please feel free to send me an e-mail anytime at editor@technique.gatech.edu, whether you're giving feedback, making a suggestion, or chewing me out a year from now for forgetting to do any of these things.

Credit for success due to readers, staff

It was my first story ever. I was covering women's basketball and had been left alone to interview the coach. The Lady Jackets won due in large part to their rebounding. So I asked the coach if rebounding was something that had been stressed recently. "We've been rebounding great all year... if you had been following us," she quickly informed me.



"When students told me an article was informative to them, that meant the world to me."

Matthew Winkler
Editor-in-Chief

And with that I offended my first interviewee and committed the cardinal sin of not studying my topic. My journalism career was not off to a good start, but something told me it was a rookie mistake. So instead of calling it quits, I stuck with the newspaper and somehow ended up being editor, and I never again conducted an interview without researching my topic, top to bottom.

I thought my writing skills were deplorable and needed improving. After the little rebounding fiasco, I continued writing, eventually moving on to Managing Editor and on to my current role. Of course I never set out to be editor, it was more of a situation of being in the right place at the right time.

The *Technique* has been an integral part of my Tech career, but it all seems fresh every day. I still get that proud feeling when I see someone pick up a copy on Friday. Of course, I get nauseous at the thought that someone will

find an error on the front page, but all I had to do was stop watching people read the papers. Once I got past that, every minute has been a joy.

I hope the Tech community has enjoyed the paper we publish every Friday. More time and effort goes in to a paper than most people ever realize. I never knew I could function off three hours of sleep for two days every week, but I adapted.

My staff is really to credit with this year's success. Without them the *Technique* would be non-existent or my name would be in every byline. I can not begin to explain how truly grateful I am to these fine individuals. From the writers and photographers, all the way up to section editors, my job has been made easy.

My greatest fear was that all the editors would perform a coup one deadline and walk out. Not much I could have done to stop it, considering they don't get paid

that much to be here. They all stuck with me, though, because they care just as much as I do about this organization and its purpose. The staff continues to put out great issues week in and week out.

The *Technique* wasn't perfect though, and I take all the blame for it. We started off the semester by having to run a correction in the first four issues. Trust me, every error haunted me when inevitably someone brought it to my attention. Contrary to popular belief, no error was done intentionally and I regret every single one. I thought we would never get it right, but finally we hit a stride.

No matter, I feel we had a great year and this publication has an even brighter future ahead. We got to report on some of the most important stories to happen to Tech in years. From Clough's retirement and Gailey getting fired all the way back

to the near destruction of the Ramblin' Wreck, this year's staff witnessed events that would have been enough for one year. I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to cover all these stories.

The feedback and suggestions are always welcome as well. The majority of all stories started out as an idea from someone outside the organization. So thank you to those that kept us informed.

There will be some things that will be missed next year. I won't miss the sleepless nights, but I will miss the friends and the acquaintances. Being able to actively contribute to campus society was a great feeling as well. When students told me an article was informative to them, that meant the world to me. I won't get that feeling much past this issue.

So as I draw to a close I want to give my very best wishes to next year's staff. I was always told that my success as an editor would be gauged by my successors and I feel confident in their ability to take the newspaper to new heights. The credo of the *Technique* is to be the voice of the students and next year's staff will be just that.

Thank you again, especially to the readers, for making the *Technique* a success. You have truly made this the highlight of my Tech career.

BUZZ Around the Campus

What is your best Tech moment?



Cait Meree
Second-year PTFE

"When I brought a baby snake to Chemistry."



Jonathan Go
Second-year ME

"The giant dirty snowman in front of Tech Tower."



Anita Chau
Third-year ME

"The campus evacuation notice—I was taking a quiz."



Joanna Catraias
Third-year Bio

"The dry-ice bomb scare of 2005."

Photos by Ben Keyserling

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Clough Day

In celebration of his 14 years of outstanding service to the students of Tech and the Institute as a whole, campus will hold a President Wayne Clough Day on April 21. The event will include a speech by Dr. Clough, ice cream, photo opportunities and a final chance for non-graduates to shake the hand of the man who did so much to shape and improve Tech. The event will be held at the Campanile.



Hell Week

The past week, lovingly referred to by many Tech students as "Hell Week," was a perfect storm of stress, due dates and general confusion for many. The final week in which professors could administer tests and quizzes and collect homework assignments collided with the finale of Greek Week as well as tax season, overloading students with responsibilities, scheduling conflicts and panic attacks.



Track and Field

Thursday marked the start of the ACC Outdoor Track and Field Championships, the first time Tech has been given the honor since 1997. The event is being attended by all 12 conference teams, and will conclude Saturday evening. Admission to all of the events is free throughout the weekend.



Professional Fraud

Tech released information this Wednesday alleging that two tenured professors have been involved in at least \$100,000 of potential fraud and theft, centered on false employment data. The professors are having their tenure revoked and have been referred to the State Attorney General's office for investigation.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Earth Day

How are you going to spend Earth Day? You can go to all of the events on the Tech campus that are going to be held in honor of it. You can take part in planting trees somewhere, bother to miss that squirrel running across in front of your car, or use only one paper towel in the bathroom.

All of these are great, but one thing I would like to see people take away from Earth Day is just a strong fundamental sense of appreciation of the wonders of nature. The Tech campus itself is blessed with many natural wonders. We have probably all enjoyed the springtime flowers and birds singing, but then there are also the trees.

Because the trend over the past 50 years has been for most development to occur in the suburbs, the trees of downtown Atlanta (including those at Tech) have been spared and allowed to actually grow to old growth proportions in many cases. Keep

a keen eye out around Tech's campus and you can find oak trees which must have stood in their places for the last two or three hundred years.

That would mean they were already of shade tree size when cows and barns still dotted the hillsides around where Tech and Midtown stand today.

The two champion trees may be the water oak near the Student Center and a giant white oak that is located in a small parking lot along Dalney Street (there's even an old farmhouse next to it).

Being that they each possess about a five-foot diameter, it is likely that both of these trees were alive when people were still riding horses through the streets of Atlanta. We should thank the campus grounds workers for taking good care of these trees and many others over the years here at Tech.

Will Lance
Architecture Grad

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 Matthew Winkler, 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 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. Editors reserves the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at www.nique.net. The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is noon on Friday, one week prior to publication. For rate information, call our offices at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved over the phone.

The *Technique* office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 353 First Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billings should be directed to D. McCall "Mac" Pittsat (404) 894-2830.

Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the Editor-in-Chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email editor@technique.gatech.edu.

Online social media sends multiple messages

At one point a few weeks ago, I received a Facebook message from a friend that I found frustrating and upsetting. In fact, I was so upset by this message that I thought it deserved a somewhat brusque, limited reply.

But just answering with a curt message didn't seem like enough to me. In an occasional fit of acting like an angsty drama queen, I briefly contemplated responding to this person via Twitter and responding with a message containing a link to my response there.

For my less geeky readers, Twitter is basically a "micro-blogging" service that aims to answer the question "What are you doing?" Since its launch in 2006, however, it has far outgrown its humble roots. Rather, on top of its original (and somewhat narcissistic) purpose of telling everyone all the glorious details of the tedium of one's daily life, it has evolved into a platform for people to converse with one another and share valuable information.

The nature of Twitter as a social communications platform isn't what made me contemplate using it to communicate my response to said friend, however. The "feature" that did was in fact perhaps Twitter's



"The web has an interesting way of making previously anonymous people overnight 'celebrities'."

Arcadiy Kantor
Columnist

most limiting one: a post to the service, regardless of the source, cannot exceed 140 characters.

In my twisted little mind, I momentarily thought using such a limited medium would be a fantastic way to snub my nose at my friend for the frustrating message. It would be like saying, "not only do I want to write you a curt reply but I'm going to do it in a medium that won't let me answer in any other way. You know, for emphasis."

While eventually I came to my senses and realized this would be (a) childish, (b) lame and (c) be significantly weakened in purpose by the fact that said friend would entirely miss the significance of me replying via Twitter, the sheer existence of this idea in my mind has made me wonder: what message, intended or not, does our choice of

communication tool send to the people on the receiving end?

In the days of user-generated content, and not long after "you" became Time's man of the year, we have more different ways to share our feelings and opinions than ever, whether with a specific individual or a broader group.

If I have an issue, I can twitter or blog about it; at the same time, I can set up a public forum to discuss it or write a column in a newspaper drawing attention to the concern. But this is just scratching the surface. I could post a meaningful photo on Flickr, Digg a link, or share a bookmark with a group of friends at Ma.gnolia. And Facebook itself has about 30 different ways to disseminate information to everyone from a single friend to vast quantities of strangers.

The increased choice in communication mechanisms is bound to be a good thing for most people; the number of ways for an individual to get his or her message out to large groups in particular has increased vastly since the advent of the web.

The wealth of ways to spread a message may briefly seem exhilaratingly liberating, but between the power of search engines and the fact that more and more of our interaction is moving online, all public and some private communication is logged and can be linked back to you. As a result, the unconsidered, unintended consequences of choosing a specific medium for a given message could carry a surprising amount of weight.

Granted, for the everyman user of a given service, it's perhaps not as likely that a little spat with another might-as-well-be-anonymous user will really come back to haunt him or her. But the web has an interesting way of making previously anonymous people overnight "celebrities"—just ask Star Wars Kid.

At the same time, a flippant response to an individual can hurt a person regardless of the medium used—but choosing a public one

like a blog or Twitter is only likely to amplify the extent of the offense. Despite what this column may seem like, I am not full of doom and gloom on the matter of these new communication tools. I most certainly do not intend to scare anyone away from using Twitter or anything else; in fact I believe people should do the opposite and actively participate online. Indeed, to some extent this comes down to a topic I wrote about some months ago: the increasing need to actively manage one's online identity.

At the same time, one hardly needs newfangled online websites to shoot themselves in the foot. An unwise phone call or letter to the editor can be just as, if not more of a disaster. Sometimes it isn't even up to you: earlier this year I got a scare when the article syndication service The Technique participates in decided to carry a column I wrote under the headline "Holy Bible is a book that makes you dumb."

That doesn't mean you shouldn't be honest, frank and transparent in your conversations. Rather, next time you're about to hit that "send" button, stop and think if the method you're about to use is really the right one.

Farewell from a real legend of "Biblical" proportions

Anthony "Red Jesus" Coulter
Guest Columnist

I don't know how to put this, but I'm kind of a big deal. I have a 600-member fan club. At least five Facebook groups have been created in my honor. People have dressed up as me for three consecutive Halloweens. I'm told I got riotous applause at last year's talent show in spite of the fact that I wasn't there. I am the one and only Red Jesus.

The R.J. phenomenon amazes even me with its scope. Red Jesuits have spread my notoriety to places as distant as Canada, Spain, Japan, and North Avenue Apartments. What's the appeal? Half a dozen Barefoot Guys and that kid who looked like Frodo all faded into obscurity. How did I succeed where they failed? I honestly don't know. I can't even tell you why "Red Jesus" outlasted my other monikers from 2004: "Homeboy Red," "Leif

Ericson," and my mother's favorite, "The Crimson Clipper."

Actually, I can think of one reason Red Jesism commands such devotion: the miracles. I've heard some fantastic stories: that I always take 21-hour semesters, can turn water into beer, have a 4.0, can leap off Skiles bridge without getting hurt and (quoth a creepy guy who says he saw me at a Student Center urinal) "have a loaf of bread miraculously multiplied by ten." While none

of these tales are true (except the last one, about Big Red), this faith might not be misplaced. I did walk to Stone Mountain and back three times; can someone write an epic about that?



There are perks to being Red Jesus. I don't have to introduce myself at parties and before I started grooming my beard, hobos never asked me for money. But the asset I really want—sex appeal, remains elusive. True, I briefly dated a girl

who had me in her phone as "Red Jesus." But in general, the celebrity-hood frightens girls away.

Fortunately, Big Red may get another chance to shine: I'm leaving in May. For the first time in four years, Georgia Tech will have no Red Jesi and poor Anthony will have no nickname. Maybe one day R.J. will reappear on Wikipedia or if he's lucky, on Family Guy. But until then, he and I both wish all you Techies the best of fortunes.

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