

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## WPFE policy weak

*New Dead Week policy holds none accountable*

We were disappointed to see the final version of the Dead Week policy (now to be referred to as the “Week Proceeding Final Examinations” (WPFE) policy) that was passed by the Faculty Senate. While we were excited to see a formal policy finally written down to be followed, it is disheartening to see such a weak policy as an outcome.

The new WPFE policy tells professors what they “should” do without backing it with enforceable mandates. Students were under the impression that a dead week policy would forbid large projects and assignments in the preceding week for classes with a traditional final exam. That week should focus on review and allowing students to prepare for the stressful week of finals ahead.

Stipulating that assignments are acceptable if on the syllabus ahead of time does not alleviate any stress. It simply informs students that they will not ever be given free time to study until the last min-

ute. At the very least, students have the right to know what their grades are by the end of dead week, to prepare for the final.

Once a policy is put into place, there must be a way to enforce that professors follow the rules set out. Currently, there is no way to hold professors accountable, fostering the same problems that people have always had with the policy. An appropriate punishment for violators should be determined and enforced.

Additionally, the practice of including “reading days” without classes before finals is common at other schools, and should be considered as an option here. If the goal of classes is to effectively learn as much material as possible, no one will feel the loss of a final day’s worth of cramming in last-minute material before exams.

We hope that a new policy will be created that actually supports the rights of students and alleviates finals pressure, because the one released will do nothing to help WPFE anytime soon.

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

### TECHNIQUE EDITORIAL BOARD

Emily Chambers, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Jonathan Saethang, *Managing Editor*  
Hahnming Lee, *Business Manager*

Jennifer Aldoretta, *Entertainment Editor*  
Vivian Fan, *News Editor*  
Nishant Prasad, *Sports Editor*  
Kate Comstock, *Focus Editor*  
Kaitlin Goodrich, *Opinions Editor*

Matt Hoffman, *Advertising Manager*  
Kelvin Kuo, *Photography Editor*  
Siwan Liu, *Layout Editor*  
Reem Mansoura, *Development Editor*  
Craig Tabita, *Online Editor/Editor Emeritus*

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Don't raise fees, get rid of parking dept.

Regarding your Consensus Opinion last week, I think we should set up a petition against these last-minute budget adjustment that scavenge on the financial remains of students at Tech.

What is being done by the SGA to protect our financial interests here? How are these funds being used?

There is nothing in these fees that warrant the name “Temporary” and “Academic Excellence Fees”. Its only purpose is to hide the fact that the Tech administration is unable to prepare balanced budget.

In crisis time, we need to shift our focus to core values and get rid of what is unnecessary. How many people are working in the “Parking and Transportation” agency at Tech? How many of them are loitering around campus to ambush, prey and scavenge upon the financial remains of students? I do not think these people bring any value to our diploma. I do not think they are making our campus any safer.

In addition, the “Parking and Transportation” agency is running a funny business. The transportation fees that are mandatory even for those who do not need them are constantly increasing. When fuel went down by 60%, our transportation fees increased by over 10%. What is the logic here?

Alex Sevy  
Grad AE

### Curving hurts students, not helps

How many times throughout college have you heard the sentence, “Oh well, thank goodness he curves!” Should we really appreciate it when a teacher curves? Or should we all stop and think about what we really gain? Professors justify curving grades based on the idea that each class should have around the same percentages of As, Bs, Cs, Ds, and Fs.

This bases one’s final grade, not on what one knows or don’t know, but on how many of their classmates know or don’t know it. If an excellent Calculus student exempts Calculus I to take Calculus II, does he deserve a lower grade because his class contains all the students who also exempted Calculus I? Should he wait to take it with kids who couldn’t exempt it in order to get a better grade?

Curving discourages the overall learning of the entire class. If a student knows that his grade depends on the performance of his peers, will he want to help or discourage his classmates from understand the material? This causes the standard of learning and knowledge to decrease for everyone. Most importantly, say a student takes a physics test and gets a 30 on it, but then the professor curves it to make a 30a passing grade: the fact has not changed

that that student still only knows how to do thirty percent of the material....it only changes the appearance.

Curving grades makes classes appear like students have learned the material for the benefit of the professor, at the expense of the student’s education. And by extension, the expense of anybody concerned with the knowledge of the students who will one day run the future.

What would happen if tomorrow professors at Georgia Tech could no longer curve grades? Would professors end up failing entire classes? No, because then they would go on academic probation and lose their jobs. Instead, professors would be forced to teach their students and make sure that their students understand how to do chemistry, statistics, calculus, thermodynamics, etc. If teachers cannot capably teach their material to a level students can master, then the school should replace them with someone who can, but the school should not allow a curve to hide behind.

Kate Bowen  
Fifth-year CE

### Healthcare bill tyranny

While I will not argue that affordable available health coverage is a noble goal, I ask you at what price does the pursuit of this goal come? It appears to me the costs are our freedoms, an immoral redistribution of wealth, and a massive government expansion which will only lead to more oppression and less freedom.

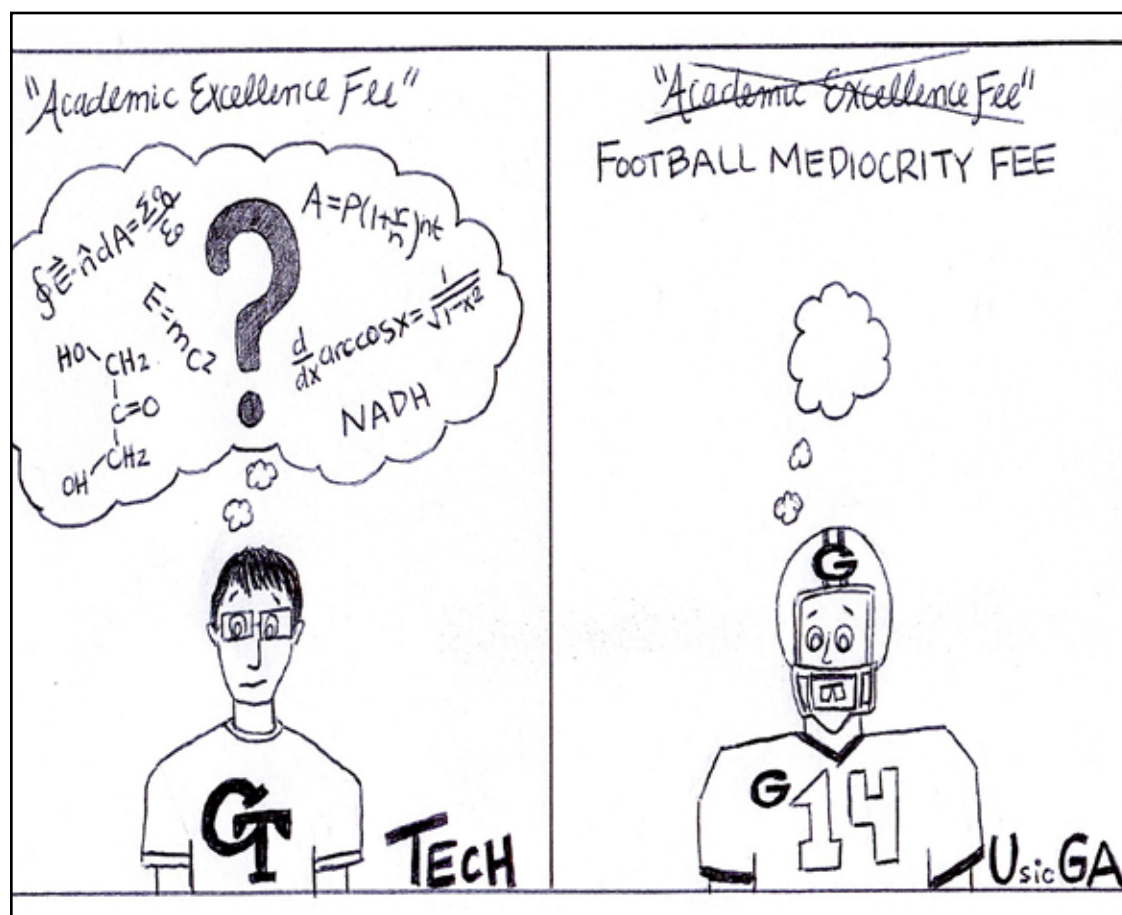
While I agree that you are supposed to support the majority of your constituents, you must realize there is a real need to protect from tyranny of the majority.

The healthcare bill costs \$1.2 trillion that has to come from somewhere and half of it admittedly is going to be from taxes on the wealthy, who already pay a disproportionate amount of taxes to fund other massive entitlement programs.

I am a student at Georgia Tech, and I would love to hear a response defending your vote.

Josh Blade  
Fourth-year CS

### EDITORIAL CARTOON BY MAGGIE SMITH



# Saving money avoids economic turmoil

While many argue that the economic difficulties we are currently experiencing do not even compare to the difficult times of the Great Depression, those of us that are looking to start our future will tell you that this day and age brings about almost as much uncertainty and anxiety about the future as those held during the dark times of the early 1930s.



**“It is true that if more people would save more money, their futures would be more secure.”**

**Kate Comstock**  
Focus Editor

Careless spending and irresponsible lending practices have created an economic situation that has cost many their jobs and their homes. Many families are struggling in ways that perhaps they would have believed to be inconceivable two or three years ago. For many the downturn has brought the value of material goods into a distinct separation of what is truly important in life.

But I believe the biggest question for our generation is what we can do to prevent any future economic downturns of this magnitude from affecting us on a horrific personal level and so that we so that we may be prepared to be able to “bounce back” from such a difficult financial time.

“Save half of everything that you earn,” is my grandmother’s personal financial motto; I believe it is very sound advice and it has worked very well for her.

She lived through the Great Depression and saw some of the gloomiest times this coun-

try has ever seen, and she never forgot how important it is to save for when you need your income the most.

While I know it is very difficult to save half of everything that one makes, and especially more difficult for a college student to save anything, it is true that if more people would save more money their futures would be more secure.

While saving money is not a foolproof plan for financial protection, it does provide some security to ease the anxiety that the volatile markets like today often bring.

It is going to be difficult for some of us to learn how to save money. While I have many friends whose parents started savings accounts for them when they were born, I have just as many friends that do not know the first thing about saving for the future because their parents are equally ignorant of the subject.

We also live in a culture that up until recently had largely supported the habit of spending more than we can

afford and using our credit to buy things that we otherwise could not afford.

I also recognize that it is increasingly difficult for recently graduated students to think about saving money when trying to pay off student loans and credit card debt that was acquired in college, but it must become and integral part of our future to help ensure that when hard times come again we are better prepared.

By starting with small steps to save money I believe that our generation can teach themselves to save money even if their parents were not active in the process or even believe in saving themselves. There are plenty of resources that can help students and recent graduates make sense out of their budget, or even create a sensible budget to work with.

It also might be a wise idea to buy things only when you can afford to pay for them in cash and avoid at all costs putting things that are not necessities on credit.

While I am well aware that

many of us believe that we will land that six-figure dream job right out of college, that is simply unrealistic for most of us in this job market.

Historically, Tech graduates have done very well financially because we tend to be very bright, but in order to continue doing well it’s up to us to save for our futures in hopes of avoiding some of the current hardships that many of our parents and older peers are experiencing.

Even if you do score that awesome six-figure salary right out of college you should still have the forethought to contribute your superfluous funds to a savings account.

Saving can be difficult to do when there are so many different indulgences that our culture offers. In order to save money many of us will have to actively resist the temptations that the advertising industry spends billions of money on every year to try and attract us to spend our hard earned money on the products they are trying to sell.

The recently difficult times should be a strong learning example for the young adults of today. While we all want nothing more than to spend money on what we want right now, we can be examples of restraint for everyone.

Let our generation take this as a call to action as opposed to a deafening blow to our financial futures.

# Deeper friendships would improve lives

You see it all around you. You witness its effects while walking to class, eating in the Student Center or trying to survive your Thursday and Friday lectures to embrace the joy of the coming weekend. Heads are hung low, eyes are locked on the ground and minds are deep in thought about any number of countless events in our lives. The cinematic experience overwhelmed me while walking to class one day; it was a brisk autumn morning, and as I watched countless people exit the building alone with their gaze fixed on their own feet, Eleanor Rigby surfaced on my iPod’s shuffle.



**“There is an incredible feeling of joy and purpose when you truly know someone and they completely know you.”**

**Jarrett Skov**  
Assistant Photo Editor

People flocked in the same direction at an arm’s length and spoke no words to each other as McCartney’s lyrics streamed through my headphones. “All the lonely people, where do they all come from, all the lonely people, where do they all belong?”

It’s no question that Tech is a campus plagued by loneliness. Statistics set aside, it only takes a look in the faces of the people you pass by between classes or a brief scan of slivers to find there are high numbers of Tech students who seem depressed, a condition for which loneliness is a powerful catalyst. I wouldn’t go to say this means that lots of Tech students don’t have friends. In fact I’m confident that they all do: we couldn’t survive this place without people to kick

back with and forget about that test you just bombed. After all, walking to class alone does not mean you’re lonely or friendless. It’s that we rarely take those relationships we already have and move them deeper than surface level.

We live in a world where personal independence is held in high regard and any reliance on others is viewed as a weakness. We are told to conform to a culture where we isolate our feelings and can’t open up to others from the fear of vulnerability. We’ve been conditioned to understand that anytime we step out and become vulnerable, someone will take advantage of it. Even worse, cultural norms convince us that our substitutes for deep relationships with others are better and more advanced than the real thing. Social networking sites and high tech devices that promise to do more to connect us with our friends and families ironically isolate us and widen the gap. The ease of communications has conditioned us to be satisfied with

140 character updates on the status of people’s lives.

These pressures coerce us to grow content with the state of our friendships, rarely moving past a surface level relationship based on humor and mutual desire for association, and I don’t think that’s how we were meant to live. People need a close-knit community of friends they can trust, care about and open up to, while knowing they are trusted, cared for and respected in return. There is an incredible feeling of joy and purpose when you truly know someone and they completely know you as well. Until you’ve experienced what that’s like, it’s impossible to know what you’re missing out on. I’m afraid that many people have yet to realize the void we’ve created.

One of the obstacles in moving to this level of a friendship is apprehension. As I mentioned before, allowing other people to really know you requires vulnerability. You have to be able to trust your friends with both the excep-

tional and uncomfortable moments of your life. It takes the courage to show the skeletons in your closet and the problems you deal with that you aren’t particularly proud of. However we so often find that when we finally open that door, the fear of being humiliated and ostracized is quickly replaced by a comfort that you aren’t the only person facing those struggles. This realization brings the freedom from having to face the hardest times of your life alone.

Not only does it require vulnerability, but a deep relationship takes commitment and time—the latter being something Tech students seem to lack. It can also necessitate giving your relationships precedence over other areas in our life. Yes, even schoolwork. Unfortunately, Tech has done a decent job of convincing students that an education is the only useful thing you can take away from here. This pretense has skewed our priorities away from things that matter more. Yes, your degree is important. But the way you impact people’s lives can make a much bigger difference in our world.

The greatest outcome of deepening relationships is that you grow selfless. As you learn more about your friends and begin to know them on a deeper level, you learn how to love them. I think a little bit more love is something everyone on our campus needs.

## BUZZ Around Campus

**Where is the best place to study on campus?**



**Katrina Lawrence**  
Fourth-year CE

**“Einstein’s Bagels in the Ford Building.”**



**Amanda Davis**  
Second-year ChBE

**“The garden in front of the library.”**



**Elias Crist**  
First-year MGT

**“3rd floor library cubes.”**



**Patrick Bone**  
Third-year STAC

**“Empty management building classrooms.”**

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT-or-NOT



**GALILEO grows**

The library reserves just got a little bigger. The Institute of Museum and Library Services just gave the Library and Information Center at Georgia Tech a grant of \$857,000 to create an expanded repository service. Students will be excited to hear that now more articles can be accessed online at midnight when writing that pesky research paper at the last minute.



**ACM eliminated**

Tech has decided to withdraw from the Academic Common Market for undergraduates in 2011. While the economic necessities of this decision are apparent, majors like PTFE and NRE will lose the pool of candidates in surrounding states that might otherwise not consider Tech due to the costs of out-of-state tuition. Hopefully, scholarships will make up the lack.



**Coastal clinched**

After our rousing defeat of Duke, Tech has clinched the ACC's Coastal Division. For the second time ever, Tech has secured a spot in the ACC championship. This is a nice lead-up to an exciting game against UGA. We are sure that this is a sign of good things to come, both in the upcoming show of good, clean old-fashioned hate and the bowl game. Football hasn't been this exciting in years!



**Darwin defiled**

The people handing out books titled *The Origins of Species* around Skiles confused students who upon opening the text discovered it's foreword has been added to promote Creationism. While we respect their rights to their opinion, the "Origin of Schools" project is misleading to students who want the original and treads on highly unethical grounds for groups that claim Christian values.

Going green worth unseen return

In our instant gratification culture I can understand why environmentalism is not reaching the scale that we had hoped when the whole green fad started. We think short term here in America. This may be because we are such a young nation, or pop culture and media may cause it. Whatever the reason, we are who we are. We like free stuff, bigger is better, we think in quarters (not years), and we like to be comfortable and entertained. Though we may not think of these as our cultural values, they are part of our national personality.

How do you get a nation that does not like change and thinks very short term to make uncomfortable adjustments that they will probably see no return on? For many of us there is no prize for being green. There is no party when you become fully sustainable. Those of us who use the most resources have to make the biggest changes, but we feel the smallest payback. Those who use the least resources will often be strongly rewarded for small changes or the changes made by us privileged folks. The problem is, we are not in Bangladesh to see the flooding getting worse as sea level rises. We don't know that less rainforest is leveled because we buy less beef.

As a modern girl, I think of these things in the context of a diet. I am not going to go on a diet and stick to it unless I see results. If my love handles are not going to get smaller when I am denying myself, then yes, I will have that piece of cake. By recycling, you do not see our trash dumps getting smaller. We don't hear, feel, taste, touch or see the results of being green. We are making uncomfortable changes in the name of this abstract idea of "sustainability."

How do you convince people to change when all you have to convince them with is "Well, this



"A lot of important issues are buried under layers of science most people don't understand. Luckily, at Tech we... do."

**Nell Fry**

Students Organizing for Sustainability

stuff is super important and you may really regret it if you don't." I don't know about you, but I am not too excited to join a team if all you can do is threaten me with what could happen if I don't join your side. How do we make people understand their impact?

The truth is that this is a potentially catastrophic problem and we are going to need everyone to help fix it. We are playing with fire and blindly dousing ourselves in oil with our backs to the flame while we argue about whether or not we really started the fire. You have heard what could happen if we don't cut our emissions, and if you have not you should pull out your phone or computer and look it up. We need to stop thinking short term, demanding more than we need and resisting positive changes. We need to be willing to learn.

This is another big problem with climate change. It is freaking complicated. I spend quite a bit of my free time watching **TED.com** videos, reading articles and books about climate change issues and my comprehension of the subject is still sadly lacking. A lot of the most important issues are buried under layers of science that most people do not understand. Luckily, at Tech, we are educated and do have lots of scientists who get it. Unfortunately, however, we are not the majority. Most people in our world are not educated and do not think in terms of aerosols,

fertilizer run-off and LEED certifications.

We understand this stuff. We are geniuses. We need to lead by example as an institution, and educate at every opportunity. We need to support sustainable initiatives whenever we can and take our environmental impact into consideration in all of our systems and organization around campus from Greek houses to closing fume hoods.

We are doing great job of this already. The administration in this school wants to give the students what we want and they want to be environmentally responsible. All we have to do as students is ask them to make changes. You would be surprised how often what you want is delivered. This campus is so receptive to positive changes. Tech is already starting to set the bar high for green educational institutions in Georgia. But how do we further this movement? How do we convince people that recycling is important enough to wait to throw away that coke until you find a plastics recycling bin?

Some things are working, but they are moving us forward to slowly. We need to pick up the pace. We need to innovate and think outside the box. We can and will solve this problem, but I personally have not come up with the best way yet. Most of you reading this are smarter than me, so if you have any good ideas, and I know you do, let me know.

It had the **students** that I wanted to study with, the **places**

I wanted to study in, and the **professors** I wanted to study under.

- Kaitlyn Whiteside, Junior, HTS

**WHY OXFORD?**

**Georgia Tech**

**OXFORD2010**  
STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM  
www.oxford.gatech.edu  
oxford@oie.gatech.edu

\*Take LCC 3401\* and Ethics as well as Social Science, Humanities, or Engineering electives while seeing major cities in Europe, studying in the UK and expanding your global perspective. May 17-August 8, 2010.

(\*LCC 3401 Technical Communication offered this summer on our program is a special section designed for Management students, but will also meet any LCC 3401 requirements for other majors.)\*

**sliver**  
www.nique.net

Since when are boys more dramatic than girls at Tech???  
rd...get a life. leave me alone. go hook up with rw  
cb, that is awesome.  
hg I wwant your vagggg  
mmmmmmmmmmmm.....bama's chest cavity  
cs- youre the biggest hole i've ever met- lg  
Giorgio Armani has nothing on me  
I'm at the combination pizza hut and Taco Bell  
Maggie, I think you're awesome. I just wanted to say it again.  
SGA PLEASE UPDATE COURSE CRITIQUE, last time you updated it was spring 2008  
Thank you for representing my wanting to not get academically violated  
I wish I didn't procrastinate so much.  
Wake Forest got PAUL JOHNSON SMASHHHEEDDDDD!!!  
All my life, I wanted to learn how to play an instrument. I never thought I'd be the instrument.  
Using orbital data for a Galilean moon of your choice, calculate the mass of Jupiter.  
if course registration went as it should, it would suck...generally, however, the system screws up and it sucks even harder.  
tsquare down AGAIN? Dangit!  
Guy at SF talking about how lame all the roller coasters were- get over yourself. It's okay to enjoy something once in a while.  
please do not take a piss in the sauna. who would do such a thing?  
newly single, already mingled, made em jingle  
...listen to the wind...  
why so many ugly redheads at tech?  
climbing wall douches: climbing isnt about ratings. you suck!  
Beards are hot!!!! Ow! Ow!!  
'Jeffrey is my hero' ...I try :)  
I'm trying to teach cleverbot the GT fight song. It's more productive than studying for Diff Eq. :\  
CPJ your so awesome, you make watching our games fun!  
I just noticed, on one of the Adult Swim RL model adverts they show a sign that says Georgia Tech on it! Woot!