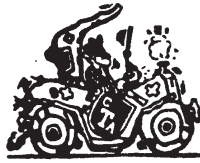


OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, September 2, 2005



"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"
TECHNIQUE
 Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

Quote of the week:
*"I saw what the governor makes.
 That's like four hands of blackjack."*
 —Charles Barkley

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Hurricane Help

As young adults in college, we walk around with a sense of invincibility. We are certain that there will be a tomorrow, and that tomorrow will be pretty much okay. We go on day-to-day without much thought to the instability that is life.

However, natural disasters and other personal tragedies bring us to a sudden stop, a stop that makes us wonder at the fragility of our existence.

The gravitas of such a devastating event such as Hurricane Katrina is impossible for most of us to imagine. But for our guests from Tulane, it is very much a reality.

We at the *Technique* wish to extend the warmest sympathy to the refugees fleeing the destruction of Katrina, especially to the approximately 80 international students who will be staying with us for an extended period of time. Your resilience in the face of tragedy is inspirational to us.

To all Tulane students and faculty, we know that your future is precariously uncertain at the moment. There are many unknowns in the aftermath of the hurricane that may take a great amount of time to resolve. But we do know that your spirit is still strong, and that you will return to New Orleans and facilitate its rebuilding.

To the Tech community, we are particularly proud of the way volunteers came out in support of our peers from Tulane. The volunteer effort was successfully pulled together at the last minute, with no appointed leadership. But it was successful due to the willingness of our community to pull together in aid of those in need. Volunteers came together from all segments of Tech, from graduate students to Greeks. People came out of the woodwork, neither vying for distinction nor recognition, but for true service and community.

The volunteer corps worked from 1 a.m. Wednesday morning to prepare for the buses of Tulane students and stayed throughout the day, helping them get hot showers, food and rest.

Perhaps it was the empathy we felt as fellow college students, or perhaps it was because many of us have friends and relatives from New Orleans. Regardless of its motivation the Tech community really pulled together. We showed that despite our many grumblings, we possess a strong community spirit.

Let us not forget that the Tulane community as a whole, and especially our long-term guests, will need continued aid in the weeks and months to come as they embark on the long rebuilding process. We need to keep them in our thoughts and continue with the momentum developed this week in the aid effort. If you see a Tulane student looking lost on campus, take the time to introduce yourself and help them feel welcome.

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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By Ting Cheng / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Study U.S. before going abroad

The recent wave of students who studied abroad this summer has returned home and has now readjusted to life on campus. Those students return with suitcases full of souvenirs, a lifetime of memories and a hard drive full of pictures.

After talking to many of my own friends, I've heard one comment come up time and again: the people of other countries can't stop asking about life in the United States.

Whether it's questions about American politics, inquiries about hometown life, talks about American sports, interstate, the internet, plumbing, blue jeans, religion, the English language, economics, movie stars, terrorism, tornados, Mark Twain, farming...

As a study abroad student, you will be the official representative of anything and everything American.

The question I ask is this: Do most students have a comprehensive understanding of this country?

Personally I answer no to that question. Just as people from the Atlanta area may be ignorant of what life is like in a small-town in the Midwest, I am ignorant of most regional cultures around the country.

The skirmishes I've seen between a friend from up-state New York and another friend from central Alabama highlight just how diverse the people of the United States are.

We live in a country that rivals the size of Europe and is renowned as being a melting pot of all cultures.

For someone to learn all of the intricacies of the United States requires intense travel and instruction in an academic setting—two things that the study abroad programs do very well.

That is why I would like to see a new study abroad program created, not one that ships kids off to a different hemisphere, but one that indeed explores our own country.



"Before students can truly understand another country, they must first understand their own."

Patrick Odneal
 Sports Editor

The program would fit in well with the Office of International Education's (OIE) mission statement to advocate programs of study that prepare students to be globally competent.

Before students can truly understand another country, they must first understand their own. As Socrates implored, "Know thyself."

I find it unacceptable that a student would cross the English Channel before crossing the Mississippi, that a student would explore the Swiss Alps without seeing the Colorado Rockies or that a student walk the streets of Beijing without strolling through avenues of Washington D.C.

This new OIE program could be perfectly tailored to freshmen. After completing the first two semesters of college, most first-years aren't comfortable spending the summer in a foreign land. But spending the summer months exploring the United States is a reasonable alternative.

Maybe the program's motto would be, "See U.S. First." The knowledge the students would gain of their own country with the "See U.S. First" program would substantially enhance the experience of later study abroad programs they attend.

The course load of the "See U.S. First" program could easily be tailored to the freshman curriculum.

For English requirements, students could read Twain while travel-

ing through the Mississippi Valley, Steinbeck while in California and so forth.

For history, students could be in Philadelphia, Boston, New York and Washington D.C. while learning about early American history.

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences classes could experience firsthand the climate and weather patterns they study in class.

For international students, the "See U.S. First" program would offer an excellent forum to see more of the United States than just the Atlanta area.

Upper level classes in geology, urban and regional economics and modern architecture, among others, could all be easily designed to a program that roams around the United States.

The "See U.S. First program", like the counterparts in foreign countries, could partner with other universities to provide students places to stay. Also, just as OIE partners with local residents and hotels in other countries, a similar system could be implemented in the United States.

As for travel plans, Amtrak offers discounts for all students, and Delta could be a natural ally.

A United States study program would enhance the study abroad experience for each student, and it would help complete an international education at Tech, because discovering your own nation is a prerequisite for discovering another nation.

Media loses sight of responsible reporting

The morning of August 8 was a momentous one for me. I ate breakfast and listened to the radio on the way to my summer internship just like I did every week, but inside, I knew that the end of an era had come.

I, along with the rest of the world, found out that morning that Peter Jennings had passed away due to lung cancer.

For those of you who don't watch the news, or perhaps watch only CNN, Peter Jennings was ABC's lead anchorman for the past 22 years.

An icon of American journalism, Mr. Jennings was also my personal hero. His eloquent voice and calm demeanor delivered the news into millions of households each night; mine was one of them.

I grew up watching Peter Jennings on an almost nightly basis. His was a familiar voice brought the world closer into my sheltered upbringing.

In that sense I feel like he played a critical role in shaping my world view and forming my political opinions.

But I mourn Jennings's passing not only for nostalgic reasons, but also as a journalist (albeit amateur) and an avid news junkie.

Jennings's passing marks the end of the era of the "big three" anchormen: a time when Jen-



"If journalists...took no risks to find the truth, there would be no reform, no social change."

Haining Yu
Opinions Editor

nings, Tom Brokaw and Dan Rather dominated the airwaves to bring American families the nightly news. His death also marks the fall of the last bastion of good news reporting.

More and more Americans are now getting their dose of current events in sound bites or short segments that play over and over on CNN Headline News.

Others turn to the internet, where a plethora of opinions bombard the reader.

Many call the media a circus, while I don't completely agree with that sentiment. The name of "media circus" is a moniker that becomes more and more appropriate each day.

During the Spanish-American War Americans were victims of "yellow journalism," in the 21st century Americans are victims of sensationalistic media.

Popular media nowadays, especially the around-the-clock

news channels like the one down the street, would much rather report on the misdeeds of celebrities than the misdeeds of African dictators.

Stories like Natalee Holloway and the Runaway Bride run rampant in popular media, while major revolutions in Nepal are largely ignored.

It seems that these journalists have forgotten that they are supposed to enlighten the minds of the public, not fill them with the latest gossip from Aruba or Duluth. Journalists play such a significant role in forming the public opinion on issues, and they seem to have forgotten that they have the responsibility to bring balanced, unbiased and pertinent news to the public.

I find it sad and ironic that I know more students who turn to Jon Stewart to find out what's going on in the world than they do to "real news."

Sadly, as much as I do love watching *The Daily Show*, it isn't real news. However, the very qualities that make Stewart so popular are the very ones that are missing in "real news."

If serious journalists had more of Stewart's frankness and his ability to provide perspective on the media's off-kilter sensationalism, the world of journalism would have a much brighter future than it does now.

Another journalistic responsibility that is often forgotten is the responsibility to play an active role in reporting the news. If journalists never dug for stories and took no risks to find the truth, there would be no reform, no social change. We never would have heard of Watergate or the Pentagon Papers.

Even here at the *Nique* we are guilty of not living up to all of our journalistic responsibilities.

We do our best to provide both sides of any story that we do, but we don't always go after the stories underneath the surface.

To be able to dig deeper, we need your help. Don't be afraid to express your opinion to us.

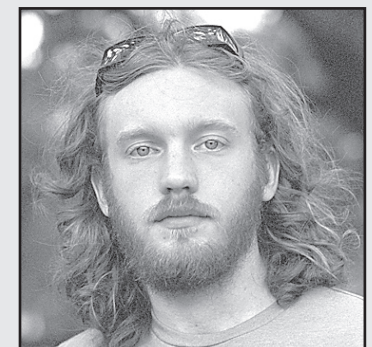
If something in the paper strikes you, write a letter to the editor. If something on campus bothers you, come talk to us. Together we can expose the pertinent issues on campus, and together we can address them.

BUZZ Around the Campus What do you think of your professors so far?



Catherine Gay
Second-year MATH

"They care about whether students pass or fail more than I expected."



Paul Clifton
Fifth-year ISyE
"My professors will be very entertaining this semester."



Justin Cooner
Fourth-year CE
"They'll have to do."



Ashley William
First-year BIOL
"You can tell that they like what they are doing."

Photos by Andrew Saulters

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Saturday night lights

Unlike last year, when we opened against the less-than-stellar Samford Bulldogs, the Auburn season-opener promises to be an exciting match up.

Not only are they an old rival, but the Tigers, with their 15-game winning streak, will present our Jackets with a worthy foe to start the season with. Having the game shown on ESPN will only add to the excitement.



Sky-high gas prices

The last thing cash-strapped college students need to worry about is scrounging up enough money to fill up our gas tanks. Not only is Katrina hitting our coastline, but it's hitting our pocketbooks by causing already high gas prices to increase. Prices around Atlanta were reported at above \$5.00 a gallon, while many stations capped purchases or shut down completely.



gt what?

Hooray for email personalization. While we can't get away with crude aliases like yourmom@gatech.edu, we can't wait till when our non-Tech friends can finally remember our email addresses. Tech students can now exercise their creative neurons to think of catchy aliases.



Invasion of the mold

You would think that housing would have caught the mold in 6th Street before students moved in this semester, especially after repainting and re-carpeting the building all summer. At least housing's response was quick, but a room check really should have been conducted before school started.

Cell policy merits change

Staff Editorial
The Daily Iowan

(U-WIRE) U. Iowa—Embryonic stem-cell research has long been the subject of heated debate, and last week Iowa became a main staging area. The Center for Reclaiming America, an evangelical group based in Florida, began an advertising campaign in the Des Moines area on Aug. 25 criticizing Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who recently announced his support for expanded embryonic stem-cell research. Frist has in the past stood quite close to the Christian right, but its members' ingratitude notwithstanding, he picked a good issue to dissent on.

Frist, whose views usually align with those of President Bush, deviated from the president's stance on stem-cell research by adding his support, with some reservations, to the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005, a bill that would provide a needed expansion of federal

funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

Embryonic stem cells, which can develop into any kind of tissue in the body, are important to the research and treatment of many diseases. Currently, federal funds cannot be used for research involving newly destroyed embryos or for the creation of human embryos for research purposes: Only the 78 stem-cell lines in existence on Aug. 9, 2001, when Bush's policy went into force, are eligible, and contamination has rendered them to limited scientific use at best. These restrictions must be loosened if scientists are to make any substantial progress in research that may lead to treatments for Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and a variety of heart conditions. Federal funding is needed to further this research, because private funding cannot do the job alone.

Private companies, such as

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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 Kyle Thomason, 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 Grant Schissler at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary Wells at (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.

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pharmaceutical and biomedical corporations, are not restricted on the money they can provide for embryonic stem-cell research. However, this type of funding is rare, because private companies want to see immediate results and benefits of the research they fund. This is not possible with embryonic research, because it often takes years and years to make the kind of progress private companies want instantly. As a result, embryonic stem-cell research is left underfunded and its potential unrealized.

Despite the possibility of treatment for numerous diseases as a result of expanded embryonic stem-cell research, Bush has vowed to veto such a bill should it reach his desk. A veto would send the bill back to Congress, and two-thirds of both the House and Senate would need to vote in favor of the bill to override the veto. Should it come down to that vote, Democrats and Republicans will need to come together in order to enact legislation that will potentially help millions of Americans suffering from debilitating diseases.

Frist's change of heart is a welcome development, and we hope that his leadership will help this bill become law. If scientists are to make the advancements needed in the treatment of such diseases as Parkinson's, they are going to need appropriate funds. Without help from the federal government in supplying these funds, the benefits of embryonic stem-cell research may never be realized.

It's been five years since I've been a freshman. Five years seems so long ago.

That's before iPods, before Georgia W., before Halo 2. Although five years have passed, I think I'm still young at heart and in touch with my inner frosh.

My brother started college exactly a week ago. I miss him a lot and I hope he has a smooth transition.

He asked me lots of questions about things I barely think about anymore. What will classes be like? Can I drop a class if I don't like it? What's it like having a roommate?

Lots of memories from my freshman year flooded back when I saw him, and I can't help but want to give every freshman out there plenty of encouragement.

Since freshmen hold a special place in my heart this year, I'm going to offer you some advice.

You're all bright young adults, so I'm sure you know all about Georgia Tech's challenging coursework and the struggle to maintain a strong GPA. But life's not all books and equations, my friends, although that might make life easier.

Today I'm encouraging all of you to work hard at having fun. Get involved in a club. Have a conversation with a person who's not your height or weight or who's from a different country than you. Don't be afraid to start small talk with someone in the elevator. And never stop yourself from asking out that guy or girl—they might be as scared as you are.

Take time to truly experience college life



“Meet new people. Get to know people who are different from you. You’ll learn something new about them and yourself.”

Alexandra Pajak
Columnist

The best experience in my freshman year took place over ice in just 30 minutes. This was not at a party or anything that involved dancing or drinking or loud music. It instead occurred while ice-skating at Centennial Olympic Park just days before Christmas.

I went together with three friends who were German exchange students at Tech and with my best friend who was also born in Germany who attended Agnes Scott College.

We arrived just as a rain started to drizzle down. We'd spent about an hour wandering around the darkened streets of Atlanta, from First Street to the Westin, before we finally found the ice rink.

As the rain came down, the attendant announced that the rink would only be open for another 30 minutes.

Time was short, so we strapped on rental skates and did what we could with the time given.

For that glorious half hour, I skated my heart out. Mind you, I'm a terrible skater and fell down several

times. The ice not only hurts when you land on your arm or bottom end, but the cold can sting. The skates gripped our ankles tight, and the ice glistened up at us from beneath the floodlights arranged around the rink.

The faster we skated the more the Christmas lights blurred together in pastels and red and greens. We fell into each other and helped each other up again. Our coats got wet from sliding on the frozen water, and my face ached from laughing.

I think I remember tossing ice flakes at my friends and then getting yelled at by a worker, which was a high of the evening in a third grade kind of way.

I could actually smell nature smells like pine instead of sewage and dorm stink.

Mind you this was the week of finals. I had an exam the next morning I should have been studying for.

I actually aced the exam, but I couldn't tell you a single question or answer on it today, or even the subject. (I think it was biology.)

Though it was raining, and frigid and our time was short, that was the most fun I've ever had.

After 30 minutes had ended, we stopped our skating for the time, un-strapped our skates, and made our way back home, disappearing into the glowing cityscape.

Falling down hurts, especially when it's on annoyingly cold things like ice. But real friends will be there to help you up, and maybe prevent you from falling at all.

Only if you keep getting up again can you begin to master the difficult craft of ice-skating.

Sometimes trying new things can seem as daunting as taking a stroll on water that threatens to swallow you up.

In an experience like college when everything seems so new and frightening and invigorating all at once, remember to have a blast.

Life's tough, but not impossible. Exchange students and boyfriends/girlfriends and college itself may come and go like winter rain, but the memories and feelings—both good and bad—stay with you forever and make you who you are.

So put on some rental shoes and try something new.

Don't be afraid of falling, because we all do sometimes. Meet new people.

Get to know people who are different from you.

You'll learn something new about them and yourself. And don't forget to notice the trees and the lights and the stars.