



### OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## End in sight?

The search for a new Dean of Students, which began after Gail DiSabatino left the position last spring, may finally be nearing completion. The search began on a national level but became an internal search at Tech. After all the candidates from the first search were rejected, it is unlikely that new candidates would come forward, and another national search would only have been a considerable expense with uncertain results. The search seems to be taking an exceedingly long time, and it can only be a good thing for it to wind down and allow the new dean to get to work.

The sole finalist of the latest search is interim Dean of Students John Stein. Stein has been doing a great job of filling the position, and we are glad that he has decided he wants to stay. Keeping him will help maintain stability in his office. Additionally, he has had more than six months to assess the situation and recognize changes that he can make if selected as the permanent Dean. While he may not have been willing to make any significant changes while in the position as the interim Dean, making his appointment official will allow him to hit the ground running.

However, it is not as if the selection committee is just handing Stein the job on a silver platter. He is going through the same rigorous process that any other finalist would be going through, which will ensure that he really is the kind of person who should fill such an important position—not that we have any doubts.

## Changes decoded

The GT Listens forum at the Campanile Oct. 12, a Student Government Association initiative to help students understand the new Residence Hall Community Policies, is a great idea. Clearly, students want to understand the policy changes, which are much more limited than many students believe.

It is nice to see students taking this step in getting more involved with the Institute and understanding the laws that govern them as students and residents, and it's also commendable that the Housing administration is so willing to respond to confused students. The forum is also tied to future events which will continue the trend of promoting student understanding.

Though the revised policy now only forbids physical, not verbal, attacks of fellow students, students should remember that just because it's not against policy doesn't make it acceptable to hurt others and that they are still responsible for following the Student Code of Conduct.

*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 Tristan Daniels / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Stop smoking before it stops you

Abby Ellen Dugan, my aunt's third child, was born this past Tuesday. Unfortunately, Sallie Ellen Dugan, for whom baby Abby is named, will never get to know her grandchild since she died of cancer last March. My grandmother, a life-long smoker, died knowing that her years of ignoring the statistics and facts that were stacked against smokers cost her time with her life's work—her family.

Perhaps she had accomplished all she was meant to in life. But Sallie was only 63, and, as you can tell, her family was still growing. Sallie worked as an admissions secretary at Lon Morris College and spent a lot of time talking to college smokers once she got sick. She even told me that maybe that is why she got ill, so she could save people who were much younger.

In this day and age of "truth" television campaigns and public smoking bans, it seems absurd not to be anti-smoking. It is even hard to find a smoker who is pro-smoking. Yet almost every time I walk to class I end up behind someone who is smoking and fall victim to their smoke plume.

These are not 60-year-olds who have been smoking since before they knew it was harmful; these are our peers who have only known cigarette packages with surgeon general warnings on them. In fact, the majority of smokers begin before the age of 18 and 90 percent begin before they are 20.

An estimated 15 percent of college students smoke daily. Chances are if you are not a smoker, then you know several friends who smoke at least occasionally.

The 2001 Georgia Tech College Health Risk Behavior Survey showed that 49 percent of Tech students have tried cigarette smoking. Almost one quarter (22.5 percent) of students reported current smokeless-tobacco



**"...it seems absurd not to be anti-smoking. It is even hard to find a smoker who is pro-smoking."**

**Amanda Dugan**  
 Editor-in-Chief

or current cigarette use.

One of my friends recently told me that she just smokes at the occasional party and she never feels like she needs one or that she does it enough to impact her health. Unfortunately, her occasional habit is still dangerous; it is predicted that one-third of youth smokers will eventually die from a tobacco-related disease.

Smokers used to be able to deny that it was harmful, but then came the hard facts about its damage to a smoker's body and how quitting helps. Smoking puts you at a greater risk for cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease, heart attacks and strokes.

However, the damage can still be minimized. Only one year after quitting smoking, your added risk of coronary heart disease is cut in half and within five to 15 years of quitting, your risk of experiencing a stroke is reduced to that of a non-smoker.

Until recently, smokers were able to claim that they only hurt themselves, but now it is common knowledge that secondhand smoke kills. In the U.S., 50,000 people die each year from secondhand smoke-related disease.

Sadly, smoking has an impact before many children can even crawl away from it. Since 1964, there have been 94,000 tobacco-related fetal and infant deaths in the U.S.

No smoker plans to smoke forever, although it often ends up that way.

And every day that you choose to smoke is a day you choose to damage your body. Consider this almost ridiculous Brooke Shields quote: "Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

It seems obvious, but maybe she was onto something besides not letting anything get between her and her Calvins.

Sooner or later everyone stops smoking. Either choose to stop now and gain control or let the damage it is doing to your body force you to stop when you die.

Each year less than five percent of smokers succeed in quitting. Like most good decisions in life, quitting smoking is not easy.

Still, cigarette smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in the U.S. Do not let it prevent you from living the life you want or getting to hold every grandchild that you can.

If you should decide to quit, the Student Health Center and the Wellness Center have resources to help you. According to their website, the centers provide quit support to students through accurate information on behavioral quitting strategies, nicotine replacement therapies, non-nicotine medications and referrals to on-campus quit resources.

*Statistics for this article were from studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

# Career fairs lack fair job opportunity

There was a career fair a couple weeks ago, and a couple hundred upper-echelon employers crowded into Alexander Memorial Coliseum, sending good-looking, smooth-talking reps with shiny brochures to try to lure Tech's brightest and most talented to their companies. This sounds like a great opportunity to break into the work force and finally apply all of those equations that have been crammed down your throat for the past four years, right? Well it is, as long as you have a high enough GPA.

The fact is, a lot of these companies send these reps all over the country to career fairs, advertising their company and trying to lure in recent graduates. Also, there aren't many engineering schools with an undergraduate curriculum as difficult as Tech's.

What this means is that between two students of equal intelligence, accomplishment and determination, the one that goes to the easier school will have the edge in job hunting. It's better to be a big fish in a little pond than a little fish in a big pond. "That's a pretty bold statement," you say. "What about school prestige?"

School prestige is a very amorphous, abstract idea to nail down. A lot of employers would be very uncomfortable going on



"...a lot of people do not have a 3.0 major GPA. Where is the job fair for us?"

**Jamie Howell**  
Photography Editor

the record saying they would prefer to hire a 3.5 student from Tech than a 3.5 student from Southern Polytechnic. It's the same reason that we don't get a HOPE GPA adjustment here at Tech. Yes, our students are smarter and our school is harder, but how do you prove that? If you could prove it, how could you go about giving Tech a GPA adjustment for the HOPE grant without all of the other schools in the state crying about it?

Now off the record, I'm sure most employers would concede that Tech is a harder school than most and that a 2.7 student here is equally if not more capable than a 3.0 student at some other engineering school. However, that is not such a kosher thing to print in your company brochure. It's a lot more correct to just print "Minimum GPA requirement: 3.0." What a lot of people don't realize (and

what nobody is ever told) is that these requirements were formulated to cover a wide variety of schools that they consider hiring from—not just the most difficult ones. Out of the schools that a company considers hiring from, the students from the more difficult schools just cannot compete on a GPA basis.

So why am I complaining about all of this? Well, for me the job fair sucked. I got told to my face numerous times that my GPA wasn't high enough. One company rep even laughed! He chuckled and said, "Yeah man, everything looks great, but what about that GPA?" "It's a hard school," I said. "Well, you're going to need to get that GPA up." I'm a senior. I've got 15 credit hours left to take out of 126. Do the math—the GPA isn't coming up much. (As a disclaimer, my GPA isn't horrible. It's north of a 2.5, but south of the common 3.0 cutoff.)

It's not that I mind that some companies are only looking for a 3.0 or higher, but just humor me and take my resume without crushing my dignity. I realize that not all companies are looking to hire me, but rejecting me to my face is just depressing. I can't be alone either. Looking over the grade distribution for the upper-level engineering classes, it becomes obvious in a hurry that a lot of people do not have a 3.0 major GPA. Where is the job fair for us?

Bypassing the career fairs and job searching online doesn't make things any easier. Now, instead of having your resume mixed in with people who went to the same school and took the same classes as you, you have your resume mixed in with resumes from people who (for the most part) went to easier schools. If you have a lower GPA, the larger companies will likely just ignore you.

If you have an otherwise decent resume, smaller local companies are a more realistic way to go. As with most things though, the more you apply and the more effort you put forth, the better your chances are. To be perfectly honest though, unless you're in the top third of students here at Tech, the career fairs are largely a waste of time. There, somebody had to say it.

## OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

# HOT- or -NOT



### Behind the beard

Institute President Wayne Clough might just be the most well-known face on campus. But few students know more about Clough than his title. This week's interview with him in the library was a great way to change that. And let's face it, it gives all of us a bit more hope to know that our illustrious president was once on the verge of failing out of Tech, just like many of us are doing today.



### Foul play

Former Duke football head coach Fred Goldsmith did nothing more than illustrate unsportsmanlike conduct when he singled out Tech and two other NCAA schools for having low academic standards for athletes. Besides, when he coached at Duke, our players were second only to his academically. Really, there's no need to take it out on us if your football team struggles to win games.



### Football dominates

The Jackets are looking good on the football field this season, but we haven't looked better than this past Thursday against Virginia Tech, who was ranked No. 11 to our No. 24. With this victory, our chances of taking the ACC championship look good, and we're looking forward to more great games on the way.



### Parking spam

We hate email spam, whether it is selling us miracle weight-loss pills or mail-order brides. Now Parking is just filling our inboxes even faster. If they inform us every time there's a few extra cars on campus, we'll never have to worry about Parking again—we'll be parked at our desks reading their emails.

## YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Israelis also suffered

I was saddened by the events of the Lebanese Club and the *Technique's* coverage. I have a personal reason for this: my cousin was one of many Israelis killed in Hezbollah rocket attacks on the Israeli city of Haifa. He had been married just two months earlier and just earned an engineering degree.

He was not a soldier, he was not fighting, he was simply at work, just like the seven others that died at that same moment.

Hezbollah started the war against Israel when it crossed an internationally recognized border and conducted an unprovoked attack, killing several Israeli soldiers and kidnapping two.

The Lebanese government, of which Hezbollah is an influential part, cannot disclaim responsibility.

For decades, it turned a blind eye to Syrian and Iranian arms being smuggled across its

borders, allowing Hezbollah, an organization that before 9/11 was responsible for the most American deaths overseas due to terrorism, to use its country as a base.

Israel suffered greatly in the war. Over 1.5 million Israelis hid in bomb shelters, while 500,000 fled their homes. Many Israeli civilians—Jewish and Muslim—were killed. Hospitals, homes and schools were smashed. The total damage to Israel exceeded \$2 billion.

It is revealing that Hezbollah prevented civilians from leaving, even after Israel dropped warning leaflets to tell civilians to leave the area of battle. Hezbollah also did not allow civilians to use the fortified Hezbollah tunnels for shelter.

The civilian casualty toll in Israel would have been far higher if Israelis had not hidden in bomb shelters.

If Israel's reaction to an unprovoked attack on its homeland

See Letters, page 10

### Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu) or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Amanda Dugan, 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.

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### 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](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu).

# BUZZ

## Around the Campus What's the strangest thing you've seen in class?



**Ben James**  
Second-year EE and ME

"My male CS prof. put on mascara in front of our class to celebrate our good grades."



**Katie Sassaman**  
Third-year MSE

"I once saw a differential equations professor say one plus one equals three."



**Jeff Wei**  
Fourth-year CS

"Hamburglar came in and gave my professor a hamburger."



**Nate Pu**  
Third-year INTA

"Four girls listening to their iPods and bopping their heads in sync with each other."

Photos by Kirsten Kepple

## Letters from page 9

had been "proportionate," it would not have warned civilians ahead of time about coming attack. Israelis were unfortunately not afforded such a luxury.

I could display graphic photos of dead and wounded Israelis, smashed homes and hospitals. I could even put up pictures of my cousin's body riddled with shrapnel with my family grieving in the background. It's sad that the Lebanese Club took such cheap shots when the war was started by a Lebanese movement whose TV station, Al-Manar, was banned from France for airing "news" reports of Jews tainting Arab blood supplies with AIDS.

Your readers should imagine terrorists crossing the U.S. border, killing and kidnapping our soldiers and then firing 100-200 rockets a day on our cities. How should the U.S. react?

Tommer Ender  
Research Engineer II  
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### Conflict will continue

A recent letter to the *Technique* by the Lebanese Club president discussed the impact of the recent war (which he failed to state was begun by the Lebanese Hezbollah) on the Lebanese people in the hopes that "our fellow students see the magnitude of the war...."

I urge the writer to try to prevent further bloodshed and destruction

by convincing his countrymen to disarm Hezbollah and stop the smuggling of arms from Syria and Iran. Otherwise, the terrorists are sure to provoke another round of conflict and Israel will be forced again to defend itself against war criminals that use civilians as human shields and who shoot deadly rockets aimed at civilians.

Arnold Schneider  
MGT professor  
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### War has two sides

It is unfortunate that the Lebanese Club was so one-sided in its portrayal of the latest tragic war. They somehow forgot that the war was begun by Hezbollah, a fact confirmed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

They disassociate Lebanon from Hezbollah, ignoring Hezbollah's cabinet ministers in the Lebanese government.

The latter has allowed Hezbollah to run a state within a state, where (according to the State Department) major sources of their income were drug preparation and smuggling, counterfeiting of dollars and training of terror groups.

Israel also suffered a lot in this war—which, again, it did not start. Cities in northern Israel like Kiryat Shmona and Haifa were heavily damaged.

I am currently hosting a visiting professor from Haifa whose family was amongst the half million Israelis that fled the war zone. At least another million stayed in bomb

shelters. But for those, the casualty count in Israel would have been much higher.

There was substantial environmental damage in Israel. Forests will take 60 years to recover from the fires started by Hezbollah rockets. Communal farms have lost all their cattle and their crops. The shattered hospitals, homes and schools will cost up to \$2 billion to repair.

Local Israelis could also display emotive pictures of death and damage in northern Israel. Instead they look forward. This is reminiscent of the attitudes of Jewish refugees.

Millions of Israelis are descended from Jewish refugees whose parents fled, or were expelled from Middle Eastern countries like Iraq, Yemen, Syria and yes, even East Jerusalem. Despite losing everything after the failed 1948 Arab invasion of Israel, they looked forward and rebuilt their lives. Compare this to the attitude of oil-rich countries to their refugees.

Groups like Hezbollah or Hamas do not want to look forward. Until that changes, they will continue to start wars and claim victimhood when Israel fights back.

Doron Lubinsky  
MATH professor  
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### Still listening to WREK

Reading your article about the possible commercialization of WREK leads me to think of a fact that many people at Tech today may not know.

The Atlanta AM station WGST

began as a Tech-owned station, and its call letters refer to W Georgia School of Technology, which was of course the official name until we became an Institute. For many years WGST carried Tech sports. The station was sold years ago.

My own hope, as a 35+ year listener to WREK, is that it will not become commercial, leave 91.1 or lose its unique nature. Adding more Tech sports and/or NPR programming would be fine in that regard.

Bill Brockman  
MGT 1973  
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### Keep WREK with Tech

WREK should not go to a commercial business model. As a student DJ of Baylor University's KWBU, I experienced first-hand how detrimental the commercialization of a college radio station is for the students and community.

KWBU's system worked like this: students wanting to get on the radio had to take the "Telecomm 101" class. Conversely, anyone who took Telecomm 101 was required to operate the radio station for two hours every week.

We students DJed every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (12 a.m. on the weekends). We did the public service announcements, the intros and outros, the weather reports and most importantly, we played music. Music we wanted to hear, music we wanted to share. Every student DJ had their own show, with their own opinions, musical tastes and presentation.

There's a reason why the label "college radio" exists: it showcases interesting music that you won't hear anywhere else. The atmosphere was easygoing, friendly and helpful.

Things changed when NPR made Baylor an offer it couldn't refuse. When news of the negotiations got out, students staged protests against NPR, signed petitions in support of KWBU, and more—they did everything they could to stand against the change, but NPR eventually won out. NPR, upon securing the University's signature, immediately changed the entire operating procedure and thus the culture of the radio station.

Student broadcasts were limited to three to four hours a day. Instead of everyone getting a voice on the airwaves, students were literally fighting for airspace. Professional radio hosts were hired to introduce the never-ending stream of classical music. Enrollment in Telecomm 101 declined. KWBU, Radio Free Waco, became KWBU, NPR. It lost its spark and uniqueness and became another slick, corporate tool of industry, a hollow shell of what it once was.

I take exception to NPR squelching the independent voices of students for their own interests and agendas. NPR's colonization of college radio must not be allowed to happen at Tech.

To preserve the essential culture of college radio, students must be guaranteed an unfettered and non-commercial voice on the airwaves.

Jeremy Rogers  
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