Vinyl sees unlikely revival

A couple of weeks ago, an article entitled “All hail the analogue revival” was published on CNet UK’s “Crave” blog. The article describes the resurgence in popularity that the seven-inch vinyl single is currently experiencing in Britain. “The last time things looked this good for vinyl was 1998,” the article says.

While this article was written from a UK perspective, vinyl has seen a similar renaissance in the United States as well. I recall that one of the biggest complaints that music collectors had about replacing their vinyl records with CDs (and then having to eventually purchase CDs in lieu of vinyl) was that the album art was so small. There are also a handful of analog aficionados still around who will claim until their deaths that vinyl has a superior sound. Then, of course, there are those who are luddites of sorts, or maybe they’re the overly-practical individuals, who never saw the point in “upgrading” their music collection when their records worked (and still work) just fine. All of these types are the people who have probably kept vinyl sales going these years, even when it now seems that the CD is slowly becoming obsolete.

It is not these people, however, who are responsible for the resurgence in sales that vinyl is currently seeing. It’s the iPod set, a generation that grew up seeing. It’s the iPod set, a generation that grew up seeing the small seven-inch vinyl single is currently experiencing in Britain. “The last time things looked this good for vinyl was 1998,” the article says.

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Regardless of what music generation you come from, there is always that desire for the album—disc, art and all."

"People that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history."

—Dan Quayle

By Danny Carter / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
**Adviser helps degree petition headache**

This week I began the wonderfully painful process of submitting my degree petition to graduate in May. So far, it has been little more than a reminder of the many headaches I have gone through during my years at Tech rather than a pleasant trip down memory lane.

Really, I shouldn’t have been surprised about the amount of work and, of course, paperwork that goes into graduating from our esteemed Institute. I understand the need for various departments to keep records of their people, but that doesn’t mean I have to enjoy it. There are so many required signatures to obtain—and when was the last time you tracked down a department chair with no trouble whatsoever?

Back when I changed my major sophomore year, the form I had to complete required the signatures of my previous major school and my new major school. Although the rest of the signatures—from the Division of Professional Practice, the Military Science professor, the Veteran Affairs Counselor, and the Dean of the Graduate Division—didn’t apply to me, that’s hypothetically a lot of running around campus just to change your major.

And in the end, the only reason you really need an official change is to have an official advisor, and how many of us really ever see our advisors unless we’re not in good academic standing or we’re graduating? My school has changed advisors since I’ve joined it, and I only meet with my first advisor when I switched majors and my new advisor to sign my degree petition.

It’s not that I have found either one of my advisors to be unapproachable—quite the contrary, actually. I’ve actually needed much more to see them, which I guess could be considered a good thing.

But I think that students should remember that their advisors are there for a reason, and while they may not have all the answers, they usually can find the person who does.

Don’t just meet your advisor when you’re ready to take that last step and submit your degree petition. Stop in to see if you’re still on track for graduation, so ask for class recommendations, to find out about research opportunities or just to chat. ‘They’re not that scary, I promise.’

But back to that degree petition, which I thought would be the most exciting reason for meeting with my advisor. Unfortu-

nantily, what came back was a short and relatively painless meeting ended up being an hour and a half of head-scratching frustration because of a discrepancy between Tech’s idea of my degree requirements and my College’s idea.

The primary source of the problem is from the fact that my College has changed requirements more than six hours of free electives than the Institute—and the always misleading CAPP advisement on OSCAR—seems to believe. Because of this discrepancy, I suddenly required to take yet another class in my major next semester in addition to the lab science requirement I have been putting off since freshman year.

I have never understood this seeming lack of communication between Institute branches, especially since it usually ends with a headache for the student, who should be the most important part of this equation, right? (Al-

though the very word equation is another reminder of the fact that I have had for years, that I’m just another number in the system rather than a name with a face that the system can ignore.)

And this student has one more complaint with the petition process—the $25 diploma application fee. After four (or five of six or seven) years at Tech, the amount of money that a single student pours into his or her education is absolutely astounding. The diploma fee is just a monetary kick while we’re down.

I guess that’s just the price you pay to escape. That’s not really fair to Tech though, because I do not that it has been nothing but horrible to me. I’m just tired of tests, papers, 8 a.m. lectures and irritating forms accompanied by never-ending rolls of red tape. I can’t wait to escape Tech’s pecky paperwork.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Forum disappoints**

On Sept. 29, the Techniquaran—a story titled, “African American groups speak out about diversity,” where African American Student Union (AASU) President James Holder called their recent Free Speech Forum “one of our most successful meetings of the semester.” I find this assessment very troubling and extremely inaccurate.

My colleague Ruth Mallotra and I were invited to participate and present our views on free speech, but AASU made several sudden changes to the event, including a last minute decision denying me a seat on the panel. There was a glaring disparity between the way the AASU administration believed and the reality of how it was perceived.

Among the seven panelists, most of them chose not to address the central issue or discuss the merits of the speech policy but brought up irrelevant topics and made inaccurate statements. I have never understood this lack of curiosity for greater intimidation by the administration.

The AASU forum was a microcosm of the atmosphere that the Institute is trying to maintain. They wanted complete control of the idea and discussions, so they stacked the deck in order to appear victorious; they selectively enforced the guidelines for the panel discussion; they invoked emotion rather than debating fact; they ignored constitutional law in favor of perpetrating myths of victimhood and oppression; they treated those who disagreed with them with contempt and disdain; and they disregarded any attempt to promote intellectual diversity.

Malhotra was the only one voicing an opinion in support of our basic First Amendment rights, and her statements were received with rude interruptions and jeers.

In addition, participants receiving applause called for stricter enforcement of speech codes and expressed the need for greater intimidation by the administration.

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**Our Views**

**Outranging UGA**

When the Jackdaws made the Associated Press’s Football rank-

ings a few weeks ago, we were, of course, thrilled, and reaching No. 16 was so exciting. However, nothing could make us happier than doing better than our long and bitter rival UGA for the first time since 2001—they are only ranked No. 16. At this rate, we’ll be eating dinner instead of turkey come Thanksgiving weekend.

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**Limited viewing**

This weekend’s game against Maryland was a nail-biter. By the end, and Bobby Dodd Stadium was louder than we’ve heard it in years. The crowd was electrified, it aired on ESPNU, a fairly limited channel. At least next week’s away game against Clemson will be televised on ESPNU for those stuck at home.

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**Letter Submission Policy**

The Techniquaran encourages letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to值得一技之长 Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 39700; emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu; hand-delivered to room 337 of the Student Services Building; submitted to Amanda Dugan, Editor-in-Chief; or hand-delivered to room 337 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be submitted to Amanda Dugan, Editor-in-Chief; or hand-delivered to room 337 of the Student Services Building.

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 6 p.m. on Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday’s issue. Any letter not meeting these criteria will be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing 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 should be submitted online at www.nique.net. Submit letters to the editor or requests for advertising space by emailing editor@technique.gatech.edu.
Letters from page 7

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gy is consistent with their mission. I urge all Tech organizations to oper-
ate with a basic level of intellectual honesty, professionalism, and respect
in order to successfully make the campus a marketplace of ideas.

Orit Sklar
Fourth-year CEE
orit.sklar@gatech.edu

AASU wrongly accused

In an article posted to FrontPageMag.com entitled “Free Speech
Matters through Georgia Tech,” Orit Sklar made a multitude of accu-
sations about the African American Student Union (AASU), several of
our meeting’s panelists and even the excess of 200 students, administra-
tors and staff members present at our Free Speech Forum. Please allow
me to start by saying that I do not typically respond to such unmerited
criticisms, but I would like to answer the actions of the IFC in a way that
will be reasonable terms.

This year, I have had the honor of serving as the president of the
AASU, which aims to improve the Black student experience by sponsor-
ing the creation of social and cultural channels. These are not entirely
new trends but mark the beginning of a partnership to improve our
community. Although we have not yet arrived, we are vigilant in our
pursuit.

The article went further in its attack but is rife with inaccuracies.
The quotes are misleading—out of context at best. There was no
transcript of the event but the 250 plus attendees, and those who
know me personally, understand my message and will see it has been
misconstrued.

IFC and I welcome constructive criticism and will always participate
in an honest dialogue on the issues determining the future of Tech.

Michael Moreland
Fourth-year INTE
moreland@gatech.edu

Better solutions available

This past spring, Ruth Malhotra and Orit Sklar filed a lawsuit against
the Institute and its top officials. Rather than making a concerted
effort to internally address each specific complaint outlined in the
lawsuit, the plaintiffs instead chose to address their concerns through
national press releases and legal action. These excessive measures
have caused the Institute to engage in expensive litigation, forcing Tech
to divert taxpayer resources away from our core mission of education
and research.

Last week, Ms. Sklar launched yet another political attack against
the Institute and its members when she submitted a derogatory
editorial to a national publication, PopularTechMag.com. In my opinion, these actions were
premature, unnecessary and damaging to Tech’s reputation.

I firmly believe the Tech empow-
ers students to resolve our issues internally, and therefore, if we as
students develop future concerns about the Institute or its policies, I
hope that each of us will make a genuine attempt to resolve our issues
through the appropriate internal channels.

At a school as internationally
and intellectually diverse as Tech, we
may never be free from conflict
between students or student groups.
However, it is my hope that we as
students will all choose to treat our fellow peers with the dignity
and respect that each of us deserves, regardless of our differences.

David Andersen
Fourth-year MGT
gtg34@bmail.gatech.edu

October 19
Thursday
11:00a to 1:00p
Student Services Building
(Flag Building)
Room 117

A presentation by Dr. Jeff Halper
Coordinating Director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, Jeff Halper, will examine the role of Israel in the recent political developments in the Middle East, followed by a question and answer session.

Sponsored by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the Student Government Association

for more information:
sjp309@gatech.edu; or http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sjp/

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