



### OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## Promising future

Tech Promise, the new financial aid plan unveiled by Institute President Wayne Clough yesterday, should be an invaluable asset to in-state students in the position of being especially dependent on financial need. The opportunity to attend a public institute of higher education and to graduate debt-free is one that has been lacking in Georgia until now; the only comparable program in the state is that at Emory, a private school.

Though the program will be limited to in-state students from families with annual incomes of \$30,000 or less, the potential plan to eventually increase the income limit in the future and expand the program to include out-of-state students indicates that the Institute is committed to the program, which will help allow a larger number of applicants to Tech.

By providing this opportunity to low-income students, Tech will be able to recruit better students, which will improve the quality of the Institute as a whole by raising the admission standard. In addition, the future research and teaching assistants within this group will be a positive addition to campus.

While several private schools, including Emory, offer comparable programs to Tech Promise, few public schools do. This program will both enable the Institute to compete with those private schools while setting itself apart from other public schools.

Obviously, while Tech Promise will be a good program for Tech as a whole, none will benefit more than the aid recipients. The HOPE Scholarship and many need-based scholarships are available to potential Tech students, but none cover as much as Tech Promise commits to.

The minimum 3.0 GPA required to keep HOPE is difficult to maintain at Tech; Tech Promise's 2.0 minimum is good for low-income students who may be going through an especially difficult transition period from their previous environments and are more likely to be working part- or full-time jobs to help cover their expenses.

Atlanta is an expensive place to live, and even students with the best scholarships may not be able to afford the cost of living, from renting an apartment to eating every day. Tech Promise's built-in stipend for living expenses will take that variable out of the equation altogether and further expand the potential applicant pool.

The factor that speaks best for Tech is that this initiative is its own; the Board of Regents is not forcing it upon the Institute. Once again, Tech has clearly demonstrated how important a quality education is and how far it is willing to go to provide the opportunity for one to many.

*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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Pranksters take "T"-stealing to a whole new level...

By David Chen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Perdue misuses elected position

First, I will start off by stating that I am a Christian and more closely identify myself with Republicans than I do with any of the other parties. That being said, I am appalled by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue's attempt to teach me "time management."

The Georgia General Assembly is currently in session for their annual 40 days of work. One of the proposals that is under consideration would allow for state voters to have a chance to vote on whether they would approve a local option on Sunday beer and wine sales.

Georgia is one of three states that has a ban on all Sunday retail sales of alcohol, and all of the indications coming from the General Assembly make me believe that they will pass the proposal. The bill does not have a provision to allow liquor sales on Sunday.

Unfortunately, Perdue will not give Georgia voters the option of voting on whether the various municipalities around the state can determine whether or not they want Sunday alcohol sales. Perdue was recently interviewed by radio station Q100 and let the state know where he stands on the proposal. "I don't support [Sunday beer and wine sales]," he said. "I don't know whether it will pass the Legislature or not, but it will have a pretty tough time getting the last vote."

As with the national government, the executive branch, Perdue, has the last vote, and it appears he will use that vote to veto the bill when it lands on his desk.

When the state was voting on whether to ban gay marriage and civil unions, all I heard was how we should let the people decide what they wanted. Now this time around, Perdue has no intentions of letting the people of the state decide what they want. He is not under threat of losing a bid for reelection, as the



"The government is not in place to be a moral authority, but it is in place to abide by the will of the people."

**Michael Clarke**  
 Sports Editor

state of Georgia has a two-term limit. Therefore, he is passing his own morals on the rest of the state.

The current law in Georgia encourages individuals to drink and drive rather than consume alcohol in the comfort of their homes. Why is it acceptable to go out to a bar or a restaurant on Sunday but illegal to go to a grocery store to bring the alcohol back to my apartment?

It's legal every other day except for Sunday, but something is different on this "special" day. On Sunday, it is okay for a person to go to a bar or restaurant and consume all of the alcohol that they wish.

Then, they get to drive home while being intoxicated. These same people could go to a grocery store and become just as intoxicated in the comfort of their homes without having to drive afterwards, endangering the lives of other citizens.

If the law is passed by the General Assembly and allowed to go to a vote, that does not mean that the entire state will be "wet," but it does mean that the cities and counties around the state would have the option to decide for themselves whether to allow Sunday sales.

The only argument against Sunday sales in the state has to involve religion. However, nobody can agree upon what the "day of rest" or Sabbath should be.

There is a very large percentage of the state and nation that observes the Sabbath as beginning Friday at sunset and lasting until Saturday

at sunset. Most Christian churches observe a Sunday day of rest.

If we are not allowed to purchase alcohol to drink while resting comfortably in our homes on a religious day of rest, then we should not be drinking on the weekend at all. We also should not be allowed to eat pork or beef on the weekend because of the same religious standards around the state. That is why it doesn't make any sense to not allow individuals to exercise their rights in making a decision on their personal choice.

The government is not in place to be a moral authority, but it is in place to abide by the will of the people. If the people of the state want to allow Sunday sales of beer and wine, the governor should allow that to happen. If the state votes against allowing Sunday sales of beer and wine, then that should be the decision by which the state abides. Perdue should allow the state to vote on what they want instead of deciding what he wants for them.

In a final insult to his voters' intelligence, Perdue added a non-religious justification to why Sunday sales should not be allowed. "Think of it this way," he said. "It really helps you plan ahead for the rest of your life—buying on Saturday, rather than Sunday. Time management."

The only time that I want Governor Perdue, or any government official, thinking for me is when I have a tag on my big toe, and then there is only a miniscule chance I would approve.

# Shafting prepares future engineers

As a third-year engineering major, I know all about the shaft. Every semester, it seems like people talk about the shaft more and more—Tech students love to complain about professors giving out bad grades, classes being too hard and social lives at Tech being far from fulfilling. A certain amount of this is bearable, but it seems to be getting worse and worse every year.



“Tech doesn’t spoon-feed you and change your diapers while you’re in college.”

**Nikhil Joshi**  
Development Editor

It’s infectious. People always complain about how other people at other schools have it so easy, and how those students have it easy. It’s gotten to be so bad that the average Joe is forgetting what he came here to be: a Ramblin’ Wreck and a helluva engineer. Engineers aren’t supposed to be whiners and quitters; they have to deal with the situations they are given and make things work. Tech engineers should be proud of Tech; they shouldn’t belittle the school just because of the handful of times that they got shafted.

Unfortunately, I’ve been hooked too many times into that useless state of mind, filled with hatred for the shaft.

But it’s important to take a step back and look at the situation more objectively after the initial shock and pain have faded: is it really that bad that you’ve been shafted? (I’m not talking about the shaft in regards to things like

parking fines and unbearable construction, which are bad without a doubt—by shafted, I mean in terms of one’s academic career.) Chances are that you probably learned a useful lesson from it, about yourself or about how hard you need to be working. For instance, maybe you’ll learn that most professors are cutthroat; they won’t give you an A if you get an 89.4. But that’s how life is going to be after you graduate too—sometimes you’re going to be on the edge, and you’re going to fail. There’s no point in complaining that you got shafted; the best thing to do is to try your best the next time. Complaining only spreads the negativity and probably will make you more depressed than will trying to put the situation in a more positive light.

And consider the absolute worst-case scenario of shafting: if you fail, you’ll have to

take the class again, in which case you’ll not only learn that lesson, but you’ll learn the material again. And a couple of bad spots on an otherwise good record won’t weigh you down too much. If you’re getting shafted consistently (i.e. failing all of your classes), that is likely to bring you down, than maybe you need to reevaluate your reasons for coming to Tech. You can’t claim that you were shafted if you weren’t putting enough effort into something. But all in all, people need to be less negative about shafting.

Judging from the experiences of most working engineers, most jobs require the ability to adapt to new situations and think on your feet, so it’s a good thing that Tech doesn’t spoon-feed you and change your diapers while you’re in college. Compare Tech grads, for instance, to those of comparable high-ranking schools who boast about how the majority of

their classes graduate with honors. Sure, a grad from one of these places might get recognition for graduating with straight As, but when it comes down to survival, it’s not your GPA that is going to come in handy. It’s the shafting that will serve you well: classes where you had no idea what was going on and you had to figure it out without the help of professors, hours spent poring over unfamiliar formulas and learning to accept that you might not be amazing at everything.

People here have a better grip on reality; good grades and success don’t come easily, even if you are smart. One of the first things you learn here is to swallow your pride, forget about the fact that it’s cool to study less and work really hard if you want to have any chance of doing well in a difficult class. And for doing that, for dealing with the shaft, there is a considerable reward. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and for Tech grads, that light is really bright.

A lot of people say that Tech grads have been through everything and are ready for anything that is thrown at them. Our experiences and our perseverance are things that we should be proud of; we shouldn’t just complain about the shaft. More people need to be uplifting and spread cheerfulness and optimism instead.

## BUZZ Around the Campus

What’s the best study spot on campus?



**Leonard Neely**  
Third-year CompE

“The IE building because it’s really secluded.”



**Leanna Wilson**  
Fourth-year ID

“I like to mix it up, but I make sure it’s always quiet.”



**Brian-Paul Gude**  
First-year ISYE

“The Learning Center inside my dorm.”



**Val Uyemura**  
First-year EE

“I love the Music Listening Room because it’s comfy and tranquil.”

Photos by Gilbert Cha

### OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

## HOT- or -NOT



#### Fee finalized

The Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee has finally made a decision on the Athletic Fee—we get that flat rate, 75 percent increase from last year’s fee. While we may not be happy that we have to pay more, the fact that we would have to was inevitable. We’re just happy we don’t have to debate it anymore and that we won’t be paying an arm and a leg to see even one basketball or football game.

#### Missing crosses

Maybe you agreed with the College Republicans’ pro-life display on Skiles Walkway this week, and maybe you didn’t. In any case, someone took this disagreement too far when they stole the organization’s 48 crosses on Monday. This theft was both immature and ill-advised, as it only served to give their opponents more publicity. Perhaps next time the thieves could take it to Tech’s free speech area.



#### Batter up!

The Softball season starts next Saturday, and it looks like a promising one. Tech was picked fifth in an ACC preseason coaches poll, while first baseman Whitney Haller has been named to the Amateur Softball Association’s “Watch List” for USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year Award. Go Jackets!

#### Airball

Men’s basketball extended its losing streak to four games this past Tuesday to Wake Forest, giving the Demon Deacons only their second conference win this season. Tech fell to 11th place in the Atlantic Coast Conference with the loss. We can only hope the Clemson Tigers will put up less of a fight tomorrow.

## Fiction becoming reality

By Jake Meador  
Daily Nebraskan

(U-WIRE) U. Nebraska—In the words of Neil Postman, we’re all watching for 1984. Ever since the 1949 publication of George Orwell’s nightmarish *1984*, there has been a steady paranoia in the West about anything remotely resembling Orwell’s Big Brother.

In recent years, Americans have become even more aware of Orwell’s work due to the passing of the USA PATRIOT Act and the strong reactions to it among many *1984* watchdogs. But as we eagerly watch for any sign of Big Brother, we forget about another nightmare, perhaps even more dangerous, sneaking up behind us. We’re a safe distance from *1984*, but we may be living in a *Brave New World* instead.

*Brave New World* is a novel by British philosopher Aldous Huxley. Most of us are familiar with the premise of *1984*: an oppressive, totalitarian regime

comes to power and crushes all opposition using whatever means necessary. *Brave New World* is more insidious than that. And if you want to know what they look like, put this paper down and look around you, then come back and start reading the next paragraph.

What’d you see? If you’re anywhere on campus, I bet you saw at least one of the following: someone watching TV, listening to an iPod, checking a Facebook account or playing a video game. Last week, results of a study by Nielsen Media Research were published in *USA Today* about how much time the average American watches TV daily. As a nation, we average four hours and 48 minutes every day.

However, the population that spends the most time in front of the tube is not children or teenagers. It is adults. Women 18 and older spend, on average, five hours and 28 minutes

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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](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 reserves 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).

# Student teaching brings back memories of ludicrous days

After being out of high school for three and a half years, more than a few of my friends have decided to go back. One of them even decided to return to middle school. No, they are not completely insane—they are only half-way there. They have entered the world of student teaching.

A pair of these—one middle school music teacher-in-training and a high school math teaching trainee—are the most interesting to me. Both were extremely successful throughout high school and have fared exceptionally well in completing primary majors that do not have the word “education” affixed to them at top-tier colleges.

They are the kind of people that never seem to find their way to teaching for a variety of reasons, starting with the fact that they could make a lot more money elsewhere. As such, I found my friends’ decisions to be quite refreshing. They are exactly the kind of intelligent, amiable people



“I expected to hear tales of lesson plans...Instead, I was reminded just how ridiculous middle and high school can be.”

**Kyle Thomason**  
Columnist

that I would want to teach the next generation of America’s youth.

A couple of nights ago, I happened to speak to both of them about their student teaching experiences thus far. Since neither has even been in action for a month, I expected to hear tales of lesson plans and a few kids misbehaving. Instead, I was reminded just how ridiculous middle and high school can be.

The music teacher-in-training informed me that the other day one of her students called her “Stalin.” The reason—the student did not

think that as a student teacher that she should make the kids do any work whatsoever. At least it was a creative choice of dictator. But that was just the start of strange behavior she witnessed.

Earlier this week, an eighth-grade girl “started jumping around the room chanting ‘bouncy, bouncy, bouncy, bouncy...’ for nearly five minutes,” according to a formerly aspiring music teacher now reconsidering her career choice. The girl then proceeded to claim that “she was too tired to stand up for choir.”

Of course, the ridiculousness did not stop with the students. The administration at the school has shortened the break between class periods to an astounding two whole minutes.

My student-teaching musical friend noted that this was in response to the administration wanting students to spend more time in class and have shorter breaks. Of course, the administration also has informed teachers to be lenient on tardies—since it is physically impossible to get between some classrooms in two minutes and there is not enough time for students to go to their lockers or the rest room, which they need to do.

The math-teacher-in-training is still set on teaching high school kids how to do all things algebraic; however, he has also determined that college made him forget how bizarre things could be back in high school.

Apparently, his high school’s principal starts off each day with a five-minute rant over the intercom, mostly focused on the dress code.

My friend’s personal favorite of the performance is that the principal seems to have been taught incorrect meanings for a variety of words in the English language. He reports that the best example of this is when the principal warns students that they are not to be late for class “unless they have excruciating circumstances.” But I mean, wouldn’t most teachers excuse a kid for being late if he cut off his hand or something of the sort anyway?

All jokes aside, I must note that teaching is one of the most admirable, under-compensated and challenging professions out there, and I applaud anyone going into the field of education.

Now if y’all can just make sure the girl chanting “bouncy, bouncy, bouncy...” is not left behind.

**1984**

from page 7

watching, while men 18 and older spend four hours and 54 minutes. And it is exactly that kind of world that both Huxley and Bradbury describe in their books. Bradbury describes a world in which people do not have a single silent moment. Huxley’s world is equally terrifying. The lives of the characters consist of basically three things: Games, sex and drugs.

But is that really what we want?

Maybe some of you read that last sentence in the above paragraph and thought, “Sounds fine to me,” but are you sure about that? Are you really content to live a life of trite pleasures? I think we’re all looking for something more. Something bigger than ourselves that makes us feel like we matter. And you won’t find that in TV, online games, iPods, one-night stands or drugs.

I think the basic thing we all long for is a relationship. That’s why all the stories we tell, in literature and film,

center around relationships. We want to love and be loved. That’s it.

But reality TV doesn’t teach us how to love. Nor does *Halo 2*. Nor does going out and getting wasted every weekend. Of course, there is a relational element in all of these.

In reality TV, you see real characters, good and bad, and you get to know them pseudo-intimately. Have you ever seen some of the confessions in *Big Brother*, *Real World* or *Survivor*? Fault the people for being self-absorbed or overly dramatic,

but you can’t fault them for a lack of honesty. But normally you need to really get to know someone before they’re that honest with you. Reality TV tries to deliver intimacy without any work. Same with *Halo 2*. No one plays it alone, but millions play online “together.” Or look at parties: You’re in a room full of people, having a great time. But how many meaningful, long-lasting friendships begin at keggers?

So what do we do? We can start by turning off the TV, unplugging

the internet, turning off the cell phone and putting the iPod away. Then we can start sitting down and really getting to know each other. Huxley wasn’t as optimistic as I am about our culture. In the 1950s, he said we were 50 years away from the *Brave New World*, and his prediction has proven tragically true. Huxley’s story ends in despair. I don’t share his hopelessness. It is never too late to start over, to begin again. We can start by pulling the plug on our media addiction.

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