



### OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## Sting bling

Every spring semester, students look forward to Sting Break as an opportunity to enjoy fun, and often free, events on campus. For the past several years, Sting Break has included a concert as the central highlight of the week.

Many students, especially graduating seniors, will be disappointed to hear that the Student Center Programs Council (SCPC) has booked a rapper for the fourth year in a row. T.I. will perform this year, succeeding acts that have included Bubba Sparxx, Ludacris and Big Boi. Though students have enjoyed these concerts, there is always something to be said for variety. We would love to hear someone in a different genre than rap for a change.

SCPC claims to want and value student input for Sting Break, which is supposed to be for the students, even making a poll available online several months ago for students to rate which bands they would like to see and what they would be willing to pay if necessary. However, the final choice, T.I., was not even on the original list. SCPC should get students' opinions for Sting Break, but they should then also utilize those opinions.

SCPC should make sure they only include viable choices on the poll they present to students. They could also start the process earlier, as most artists have their schedules set long in advance and become more difficult to book closer to the date.

If SCPC cannot get any of the students' choices for a Sting Break band, they could easily put together a concert of smaller bands from different genres, which would therefore appeal to a greater percentage of students on campus. Ideally, a concert with three or four bands would have at least one band to appeal to each student.

A Sting Break concert with smaller bands would work much more smoothly than the current setup. Not only that, but SCPC would have the option of using Yellow Jacket Park as the concert venue like they did for Sting Break 2004, since smaller bands would not have the security issues that performers such as Ludacris have with Yellow Jacket Park.

Also, Yellow Jacket Park has a much more intimate, outdoorsy feel compared to the Coliseum, where the Sting Break concert is currently held. The Coliseum is difficult to fill anywhere near capacity for the concert and subsequently feels empty and far from festive. It is also much less central to campus so students are less likely to just drop by and stay for the event.

SCPC is on the right track for Sting Break, but it seems they have gotten stuck in a rut. In the future they should add variety, plan earlier and try to use student input in their planning as much as possible.

*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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Sting Break 2007 - Party with your 89

By David Chen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Community service requires heart

It would be too much of an understatement to simply say that community service is a good thing. The power of individual civic action, undertaken in the spirit of philanthropy and in the hope of improving some part of the world, is inestimable.

Nowhere has this been more apparent than in past and current Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, as FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency, or "Failure to Effectively Manage Anything" as it has been nicknamed by the disillusioned) has proven inefficient at best and useless at worst, and government aid has largely petered out into broken promises and lethargic bureaucracy. Ask anyone in New Orleans or Biloxi, and they will tell you that volunteers are the main force of outside support behind community reconstruction. The disaster seemed to especially touch a nerve in the younger generation—ours. At the time of the report, 18 million 18- to 28-year-olds had donated to or volunteered in Katrina relief and recovery, and over 10,000 college students had sacrificed their spring breaks to volunteer in the Gulf region.

Tech itself is no stranger to service but has been an active leader in the philanthropic arena. In response to Hurricane Katrina, students and student-led organizations have been sending volunteer teams to disaster-stricken areas continuously over the last two years. However, the Gulf Coast is far from being the only place where Tech students are making a difference.

This week's Focus section highlights community service on campus and spring break trips that students have taken all over the country and all over the world to help the less fortunate. That, combined with the plethora of volunteer opportunities available on campus, makes it clear that the spirit of service is alive and



"It seems that public image and self-promotion are the real concerns, and service is only a...means to those ends."

**Jenny Zhang**  
Focus Editor

well among Tech students.

Interest and action in service has generally increased in America, with the number of recorded volunteers jumping from 59.8 million in 2002 to 65.4 million in 2005, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service. However, awards and impressive statistics aside, it is still action that comes from the heart that matters, and increasingly, that is just what seems to be missing from service—heart.

Last week, the *New York Times* published the community service article "A better society? Or a better resume?," the title of which seems to perfectly capture the possible drying up of a true humanitarian impulse and the movement towards a more compulsory service. The article focused on the unspoken mandate that high school students need to show community service on their college applications, and some philanthropic endeavors have become window-dressing for resumes rather than real efforts to improve and build a community.

It would probably not be too much of a stretch to see this trend extending beyond the realm of high school applications. How often have a celebrity's philanthropic actions been suspected of having less than the best intentions and being more of a publicity stunt? Or a business giant's much-touted commitment to service been called a public relations ploy to woo more investors into its pocket and to quiet community

outcry against another commercial eyesore? It seems that public image and self-promotion are the real concerns, and service is only a convenient means to those ends.

Some would undoubtedly argue that any service, even if undertaken for the wrong reasons, is still a step in the right direction. That may be true, but I am of the mind that any act of volunteerism, if missing true passion and dedication, will not make much of a difference in the end.

This is not to say that there are not people out there, as well as students on campus, who genuinely care about and are committed to any number of good causes. The tremendous support that volunteers are bringing to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts is one example of where heartfelt service is having an impact—nobody dons face masks and hazmat suits for hours of exhausting work in smelly, water-logged enclosures if they're not dedicated, and the results of their service can be seen most clearly not in annual reports, but in the grateful faces of Katrina victims.

However, I have little patience or sympathy for anyone trying to polish up a resume with a few lines of empty service. In an interview for the aforementioned *New York Times* article, a guidance counselor named Scott White described the most giving man he knew: "He devoted his life to others and demanded no attention. That's community service." And that's the kind of service I hope to see more of.

# Legislation hurts birth control users

Two years ago or so, Congress devised the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. It was meant to reduce the government's spending, primarily by cutting funding for programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Bush finally signed the Act in February, but it didn't take effect until this January.

Personally, I tend to be against any reduction of money allocated to helping those in lower income brackets, especially when this money is used for medical care. I mean how many billions of dollars have gone to funding war in Iraq? But luckily for you, that's not the point of this editorial.

I'm not going to go on an überpolitical rant about how this country's government could better spend (or save) their dollars. Instead I will touch on a part of this act that is most likely to directly impact college students.

In the past, drug companies have basically given away their products to college clinics knowing that, through government incentives, they would recoup much of this cost. Through this act the government is essentially penalizing pharmaceutical companies for offering their products to low-cost health centers. In doing so, the Act makes it highly improbable that any college health center will receive drugs



"[Do] you...think Ramen Noodle Girl is going to fork out another 20 bucks a month to stay on [her] pill?"

**Lindsay Deal**  
Entertainment Editor

at discounted prices. Now that the government-funded incentives have been removed, drug companies see no reason to continue offering their products at little or no cost. Though the Act eliminates the incentives for all types of medication, the prices of oral contraceptives, or birth control pills (BCPs), have undergone the most drastic increases.

The drug companies' decision to discontinue offering greatly discounted drugs to college campuses is very short-sighted. We all know that college students tend to live on a budget. Often a very tight budget. (Think of those friends who, despite all odds, have thus far consumed only ramen noodles and Dr Thunder soda since stepping on campus and have miraculously avoided any vitamin deficiency-related complications, at least thus far). Students like these may not

be from low-income families, but their parents are likely not paying for much more than the basic room and board fees associated with a dorm. Their funds are limited, and the increase is likely to really hurt them.

One can see how increased drug costs could easily dissuade potential BCP users. Instead of purchasing the pricier pills they will likely choose condoms or other less costly alternatives (pull & pray, cycle beads and coat hangers, to name a few). I mean do you really think Ramen Noodle Girl is going to fork out another 20 bucks a month to stay on the same pill? That's like six weeks worth of dinner! And even if she could, would she?

Those currently on the pill will likely switch to the less expensive generic forms (when available), and in an ironic twist, the drug companies, in their attempt to be spending-savvy, will lose more money.

## OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

### HOT- or -NOT



#### Vote or die

It's that time of year again, when SGA campaigning begins and posters advertising various candidates pop up all over. It would be great if SGA would put together a website with links to all the candidates' sites so that students could be well-informed voters—just as they should be in the upcoming presidential elections. SGA elections are a great opportunity for students to be heard on campus.



#### Yellow fever

Very rarely do you hear us wish for rain, but this week we're desperate for it, as a blanket of bright yellow pollen coats every surface, including a particularly vibrant and impressive layer on the three floors of Skiles. Everywhere we turn on campus, someone is sneezing, coughing or rubbing runny eyes because of allergies—it's beginning to feel like one big Health Center waiting room around here.



#### Women's hoops

The women's basketball team continues to make Tech look great. The Jackets won their first NCAA Tournament game in school history, though they then lost to Purdue in the second round. Now senior point guard Stephanie Higgs has been invited to the WNBA Pre-Draft. She shoots, she scores!



#### Losing control

The cost of birth control has increased at the Health Center thanks to Medicaid funding cuts. Let's do a simple equation. College students are poor. College students have sex. College students are not ready for parenthood. Does this sound like it adds up to a need for expensive birth control? We didn't think so.

## YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Asian community should contribute to society

Having chaired and been president of over 16 non-profit organizations in my lifetime and being Chinese, I can proudly say I paid my dues to society without any Asian organization affiliation. Asian awareness promotes division, not diversity. All the Asians that live in America are part of the American environment, and though they should not forget their heritage, they certainly should not flaunt it either.

I made a conscious choice early in my lifetime that I would not be a part of any Asian-oriented group. Asian events are rarely well publicized to the general populace and rarely attract anything other than minimal diversity.

If you had a better understanding of the politics behind Asian organizations, you will find a level of greed unparalleled in the Caucasian community.

The Vietnamese community

is split amongst two political factions, and the Chinese community has few organizations that truly benefit society.

There are few exceptions, such as Pandemonium, which was held by the Emory Chinese Student Association and had a diverse mixture in the crowd, and the North American Chinese Association, which works with the U.S. government.

Both these groups hold true to their Asian heritage and promote diversity through many open events, but the only event that you will see the title "Asian" or "Chinese," is potentially Chinese New Year.

Ethnicities should promote awareness through providing events where they benefit society. How about India Club and VSA help build houses for Habitat for Humanity? Why do we not hear of those events?

If even the Greeks have a council that won awards for their charitable events and contribu-

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 7 p.m. Tuesday 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.

#### Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at [www.nique.net](http://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 First Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Nancy Romero at (404) 894-2830.

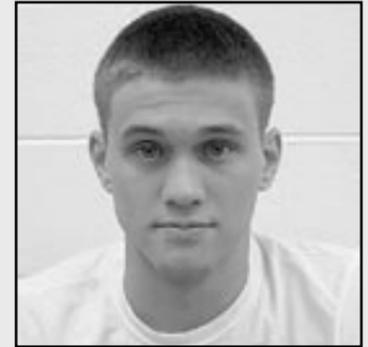
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# BUZZ

## Around the Campus

### What did you do for Spring Break?



**Chase Bradley**  
Second-year CS

"I went rock climbing."



**Cindy Chen**  
Fourth-year ARCH

"I went on a crazy adventure around Florida."



**Kane Bonnette**  
Fourth-year CS

"I went to Savannah for St. Patty's Day."



**Sankan Nyanseor**  
Third-year BIO

"I went to New Orleans with AASU to help clean up the Ninth Ward."

Photos by Blake Israel

## Letters from page 11

tions to society, the Asian community should have the capability and capacity to combine forces to make a stand and contribute more.

Thanks to Asian Awareness Week and Miss Asian Atlanta, we know you exist, but now do something for society. Put your manpower, your organizational skills and your motivation to good use.

I want to see Asians sponsor a blood drive or sponsor a charity for underprivileged orphans in America.

The Asian community needs to unify and get together to do beneficial for society other than awareness before I ever join any Asian group. America contributes millions to disaster relief in your native country and has provided you with opportunity that you would otherwise not have.

How about we make America aware by contributing back to it? After all, we live here.

Kai Ouyang  
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## CultureFest's focus on fashion disappoints

The CultureFest last year was beautiful—a great way to learn about other cultures. I took my seven-month-old daughter with me and she enjoyed it.

So this year I took my 18-month-old daughter, who loves music and dancing. I told her all day that we were going to see people dancing and hear a lot of music. I even invited my sister and her boyfriend. I told them that we would see folk dancing from many different cultures.

I was completely disappointed, even offended. I knew that there was going to be a fashion show, but sincerely since it was CultureFest I just assumed it was going to show traditional outfits of different countries or cultures. The first two designers (with Hindi and African-American influence) were okay, although too lengthy for my taste. If I had known we were going to have to sit through so many designers, each lasting around 15 minutes, and there were going to be so little traditional dancing, I would have never gone.

In the first half I saw other mothers with small children that were there to show their children something that you can hardly see anywhere else during the year: a mixture of the different cultures on campus showing their grace and talent.

Some of us left after the intermission. I wanted my daughter to see the people dancing salsa, because I'm Hispanic. That's why I didn't leave before. After that performance came another designer. I was just mad, so I took my daughter and left, and to my amazement the last model I saw had her behind pretty much naked. I felt shame for having invited my sister and her boyfriend, and for them having to see that.

We left after two hours, and my daughter had only seen two groups dancing. If the reason behind these is that there were too few performers, I wouldn't mind having seen a 45-minute show, rather than three hours something that you are not expecting. I don't have anything

against fashion, but not if it's shoved into my face when I'm expecting something different. They should do a FashionFest, where they could show all the talent and beauty of their designs, but not on CultureFest.

I was not the only one that felt that way. The people in the audience decreased substantially after the intermission. That didn't happen last year.

Lina Merchan  
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## Technique censors opposing viewpoints of readers

Last month, the editorial board rejected an advertisement from the Terrorism Awareness Project ([www.terrorismawareness.org](http://www.terrorismawareness.org)) entitled "What Americans Need to Know about Jihad."

In the Feb. 23 edition, the *Technique* published the news article "Islamic Awareness Week promotes understanding."

The *Technique* has clearly chosen to promote one particular viewpoint and censor those views not in line with its own unbalanced agenda. The *Technique* seems to doubt students' intellectual ability to come to their own conclusions when given complete information. Worse, the paper believes its role is to review, filter and censor, in order to entrench a single narrow ideology as the only one worthy of expression on campus.

I'm sure the *Technique* would describe itself as a marketplace of ideas. Too bad there's only one item on the shelf at this marketplace. Buy it and like it.

While bodies pile up in every corner of the globe, the Muslim community and opinion-makers on college campuses refuse to even consider the possibility that the Islamic community is, if not to blame for the slaughter, complicit in its silence.

How much more killing needs to happen in the name of Islam before its stateside advocates demonstrate against terrorism, instead of against the free society that stands to crumble should that which they deny exists triumph?

The ad simply calls attention to the oft-stated goal of jihadists—the establishment of a global Islamic state under Islamic law. The article chose to whitewash the truth about how Islamic terrorists themselves have advanced, through words and deeds, jihad.

The exclusion of this vital but inconvenient information is representative of how the Institute and the Muslim community also chose to deal with the chilling news that one of "our own" was a terrorist—pretend it never happened.

The *Technique's* biased coverage is not new. The *Technique's* coverage since the Sept. 11 declaration of war by radical Islam has been repulsive. The *Technique* claims to be "The South's Liveliest College Newspaper." But that can only be true if one considers a career in Soviet-style propaganda a worthy pursuit.

The *Technique* is receiving approximately \$60,000 a year from the Student Activity Fee. It's time that the *Technique* is held accountable and either changes how it operates or seeks a new source of funding. If it chooses not to present the news as objective and impartial, students should be permitted to choose to

stop funding it.

Orit Sklar  
Fourth-year CE  
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## Technique decision demonstrates maturity

I was pleased to hear the *Technique's* refusal to publish the advertisement by the Terrorism Awareness Project.

I was glad to know that the *Technique* rejects biased and misleading ads.

It gives the students an opportunity to truly understand each other through proper and direct communication, rather than relying upon external sources. These misrepresentations create tension amongst the student body. The *Technique's* initiative shows the Institute's maturity and integrity. I hope the *Technique* continues to support proper representation and clear communication away from bias and misleading ideas.

Thank you for your support for honest representation and promotion of understanding.

Ali Lari  
First-year ARCH  
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## Students confuse goals of jihad and Islam

I wish to express my gratitude to the *Technique* in its decision to not print the ad "Terrorism Awareness Project." It brings me a great deal of happiness in knowing that the editors of the *Technique* realized the faults of this ill-intentioned project.

It also makes me that much more proud that I have the opportunity to attend such a great educational establishment that hosts the *Technique*.

It saddens me to see such projects exist just to take shots at a religion that they do not completely understand. The word jihad in Arabic means struggle. The greatest struggle is that to fight one's inner desires and by doing so improving oneself. All human beings should take part in this.

It should be our goal to improve our characters and evaluate the actions we perform so that they are just.

In no way does Islam condone terror or any form of terrorism that these extremists practice. I am sure that you are completely aware of this belief of Islam.

Once again on behalf of the entire Muslim Students Association at Georgia Tech, I would like to say thank you and show our willingness to support your newspaper in any way necessary to increase the awareness of Islam not only at Tech but across the Atlanta community.

Umair Masud  
President of the Muslim Students Association  
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## AASU play received unsatisfactory coverage

By no means do I want this to come off as vitriolic or vindictive. If by any chance this lends itself to that tone, attribute it to my utter confusion and disappointment regarding the current situation. On Feb. 27, Diversity Programs and the African

American Student Union (AASU) for the first time in at least the last 10 years put on a historically black play, "Miss Evers' Boys."

This play was a gift from Dean Stephanie Ray to the entire student body and campus. Dean Ray, who is approaching almost 10 years of service to this campus as an Assistant Dean of Students, Dean of Diversity, dedicated not only her free time, but a generous amount of her own personal money to make this play a success.

While everyone is allowed to be human and make mistakes, an egregious wrong was rendered to not only Dean Ray and AASU, but to the entire African-American student body on campus. After such a historic and marvelous performance, the *Technique* was obliged to attach a picture and a meager sentence that was inaccurate to pay tribute to this event.

One sentence is most certainly not long enough to edify the campus about the significance of the serious subject matter that the play addressed, nor the dedication of the people that put it on. To the best of my knowledge not a single member of the cast was interviewed.

I was almost placated by the thought that the next week's issue of the *Technique* would contain a retraction of the incorrect statement. However the correction did not even mention the name of the play, but rather referred to it as "the event." I was even more hurt when in the same *Technique* Arcady Kantor said that the DramaTech production of "The Assassins" was "outstanding, particularly in light of the limited resources of a student theater troupe."

No such statements were directed towards Dean Ray, Diversity Programs or AASU who have no theater resources and still managed to produce a quality play, a statement I'm sure any audience member would attest to.

Joshua Wilkerson  
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## Housing has changed for better over time

What a great way to start my last week at Tech! After nearly 16 years of working in Housing, and specifically with the finest first-year students, I was delighted to read Nikhil Joshi's article "Freshman year makes best memories."

Proclaimed the "history guy" on freshman life at Tech, I know it was not always as Nikhil described. I will not resurrect the old culture that was latent with negativity and aimed at freshmen, but I know I hear fewer terms of disparagement these days.

Those old statements can set the stage for defeat even before Convocation. Thank you, Nikhil, for describing the kind of first year adjustment that was void of euphemisms and was genuinely heartfelt. You describe the type of college freshman experience that was intended by the 14 people that gathered in January 1992 to improve the first-year experience.

When I came to Tech in 1991, first to second year attrition varied between 18 and 22 percent. Since the Freshman Experience Program, participating freshmen return for their second year at a fairly consistent rate of 92 percent. While Tech is just as academically challenging today as

it was 16 years ago, I hope students will continue to find it more social, friendly and supportive; there are certainly more student life professionals on campus that care. I know Nikhil's article was not about how the administration gave him "this momentous year" but many of these people will take note of what was described as the "magical year never to be forgotten."

While I am often credited for creating the FE, it was students from SGA, Freshman Council and RHA who initiated the cause. This is what makes Tech such an awesome place to work. Student representatives from these groups partnered with adjunct and tenured faculty, counseling center, residence life, CETL, registrar, student services and admissions.

My supervisor and I worked tirelessly to keep up and implement the committee's suggestions. For example, we were to create a job for students who LOVE Tech (at the time we temporarily called these students "sunshiny people" until the "Peer Leader" job title emerged) and would deliver a positive environment for incoming first-year students.

My supervisor at the time was instrumental in helping me keep up, taming my creativity and channeling my passion for solving the issues. She is often overlooked as having much influence on the FE. Upon my departure today, she will be the only remaining person working at Tech from those days of developing what has become an award-winning, nationally recognized program for first-year students. (Thank you, Page.)

So, for all the future Nikhils, I hope you will continue a new tradition of creating positive memories of adjustment during your first year at Tech.

From eating Johnny's pasta or Diane's omelets in Brittain, learning (a quiet) guitar, feeling awkward at a social, frolicking up and down the freshmen halls of open doors or negotiating the shower stalls of Towers (in 1991, they did not have shower curtains), the freshman year is for you to create because it is truly your year—and I hope it is magical.

Robert Morton  
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## Tech guys have social interaction problems too

I was just reading the *Technique* from March 9 and the article about the women on campus kind of irritated me, especially regarding the TBS syndrome. True, a lot of women have TBS, but what about the guys on campus? From personal experience, the guys are worse than the girls.

I was trying to talk to one guy before our Physics class and when I asked him a question, he looked at me and backed up against the wall! You should definitely write an article bashing guys with their RPGs and their inability to carry on a conversation with anyone who has boobs!

I thought it was unfair to concentrate solely on the women and not mention how scary and, for lack of a better word, "geeky" these guys are.

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