OUR VIEWS

Tech tragedy

As colleges across the nation reach the most stressful part of the semester, the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Va. was ravaged by the worst shooting spree in U.S. history. In what will be remembered as a national tragedy, 32 people were killed this Monday morning in a seemingly random act of horrific violence.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the Virginia Tech community, sympathies that are felt across the Georgia Tech campus as well as the nation. As a sister school in the ACC and a fellow “Tech” school, Virginia Tech has always had close ties to our school. Notwithstanding these personal ties, as an entire college community we still feel the loss experienced by the Virginia Tech community.

There has been a great surge of support from the national collegiate community following Monday’s shooting. Here at Georgia Tech there has been an admirable outpouring of support on our campus. The memorial held at the Campanile Tuesday afternoon was quickly and efficiently organized for students, faculty and other members of the Tech community as an outlet for their grief and to show their respects.

However, this demonstration of solidarity has been inconsistent. For instance, the College of Management canceled the scheduled filming of the television show Mad Money on Tuesday, citing that it would be “incongruous with the pain that our peers and colleagues at Virginia Tech and their families are experiencing.” On the other hand, the Student Center Programs Council (SCPC) held Sting Break Student Appreciation Day as planned—demonstrating that Georgia Tech cannot stop because of a tragedy outside of both our campus and human control.

Though we have heard so often in the past few days that this tragedy could just as easily have happened here, it is important to remember that it did not. The tragedy in Virginia seems to have called attention to the lack of emergency response systems in place on college campuses across the nation.

In light of this realization, it is natural for students to begin to worry about safety on our own campus, but Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech, while similar institutions, have different campuses. Blacksburg is a college town with a vast campus. If a similar event were to happen at Georgia Tech, this campus is far smaller and would be easier to secure, and GTPD would be able to rely on the assistance of the Atlanta Police Department.

While we sympathize with the Virginia Tech community, we must realize that life goes on. We will keep them in our memories, but we cannot let thoughts of the tragedy overwhelm us.

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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Thanks for great year, Technique

They didn’t throw me in the fountain. That was all I could think of as I went home from my last Technique meeting last year. It certainly isn’t normal to be upset at not being thrown into a very shallow area of water, but it had become a tradition at the Technique to surprise and dunk the incoming Editor-in-Chief at one of the last few meetings. I’m not quite sure why, but I care a lot about traditions and I’m not like I’d been shafted. There I was, excited about the editorial board I had just chosen and full of ideas about where to take the Technique next, but all I could think about was that fountain.

After mulling irrational thoughts around in my head for a few hours of what message the previous editor was trying to send, I got a phone call from him. Of course the explanation was simple: he forgot and didn’t really understand why anyone would want to be dunked in the fountain to begin with, but he said not to worry—it would happen sometime. I didn’t understand at the time anyone could be consumed to the point they forget such an exciting tradition, at least not until the next week, when she doused me as I left the office after my last Technique staff meeting ever that I had just forgotten to throw my successor into the fountain.

Luckily it turns out my successor is more sane than I am and was not affected by my mistake (although no doubt, it will be corrected in the near future). Still, as the fountain every year illustrates, leading the “South’s Liveliest” this year has changed me—and not just to the point that I have so much going through my head that I forget traditions. Serving as News Editor last year taught me a lot about campus politics, AP style, student government budgets and campus crime, but nothing compares to my experience this year heading a staff that earnestly tried to represent your student voice every week.

I started out the year with ambitious goals, as every leader should, and laid them out in my editorial in the freshmen issue: “Even more than just continuing to provide a distraction from your Friday lectures as much as always, I hope you see innovation in the paper, and I hope that the Technique always contains information you want to read.” I am proud to say that there was innovation in the Technique this year, as editors experimented with new layouts and the first issue of spring introduced a new, centered flag on the front page that highlighted the paper’s long history at Tech.

By no means were we perfect, and believe me I still remember every time the crossword puzzle had been messed up this year, as well as hundreds of other little errors. However, looking back it isn’t the product that we put out each week that I remember, it is the amazing time that I had producing it with a staff that made my life crazy but kept me sane.

The Technique came out every Friday afternoon only because of the dedication of this year’s staff. They are a diverse and incredibly talented group that gave the paper the spirit it had this year through their individuality.

To everyone involved with the newspaper this year, who accomplished amazing things by not only following my direction but by challenging me when necessary, I thank you.

By Tom van de Wall | Student Publications

Quote of the week:

“Dream as if you’ll live forever. Live as if you’ll die today.”
—James Dean

To Tech, thanks for three amazing years. I am leaving with a phenomenal education, but more importantly a better person full of memories of my time here—including that dunk in the fountain.
The only reason anyone had a problem with what Imus said is because he was old, rich and white.

Jamie Howell
Photography Editor

He still thinks that if we can just eliminate white-on-black racism, all of black people’s problems will be solved. That ideology is firmly stuck in the early- to mid-1900s. That fight is over. We’re now and much more serious problems to face here in the year 2007. Such problems include broken famili—

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The only reason anyone had a problem with what Imus said is because he was old, rich and white.

Jamie Howell
Photography Editor

When news of the Don Imus debacle broke last week, I'd go to check it out for myself. I very well know that anything you get secondhand—especially from the news media—is
to
giving to have on it. So I went straight to Youtube and watched the original, unedited audio clip so I could understand what was said—and in what context.

My initial reaction is that I thought it was funny. The actual words in and of themselves really weren't that funny, but the context

It's obvious everyone saw the humor. Due to the internet-driven amplification machine, which includes pretty much all video and media websites, this was all over the news in less than two days. Shortly thereafter, the vultures of political correctness promptly swooped in and picked Imus’ bones clean of any sort of career he could have hoped to have after that point.

Now before I go off about how incredibly stupid and hypocritical this is, let me just say I thought his remarks were rude and certainly uncalled for. That’s it. No race, but rude and uncalled for. But also keep in mind that Imus is paid to be offensive. He’s been paid to be offensive for many years. If he’s been clean-cut and middle-of-the-road, no one would know his name.

The only reason anyone had a problem with what Imus said is because he was old, rich and white. In a way, he was a symbol of old school racism. On the other hand, due to his 20 years old and black, you can very easily become a millionaire rapper by calling someone a “nappy-headed ho.” If you’re old, rich and white and call someone a “nappy-headed ho,” you’ll find yourself out of a career and on your knees begging for Al Sharpton’s forgiveness within 48 hours.

That’s just how the machine works. In America today, it’s not entirely inappropriate to use derogatory, degrading and otherwise racially and ethnically offensive language—you just have to “buy” the right to use it with some sort of perceived vulnerability or humility. This means that if you’re black, it’s not inappropriate to use degrading language against black people. If you’re a black comedian, you can get away saying almost anything.
I remember my first Technique meeting like it was yesterday. I walked into the office with a (cute) friend, who had brought me along with her on that spring day. And it was terrifyingly empty. Only one person from the staff was around. It just happened to be the one Tuesday that the Niquë decided to skip the regular meeting in lieu of attending a basketball game as a group.

The girl that drug me along never went to another meeting. I, on the other hand, never missed another one and ended up serving as Sports Editor my sophomore year and Editor-in-Chief last year. In two weeks, I graduate. This is supposed to be my space to give grand tales to fill in all of the boxes on the applications. I closed my eyes and picked a few of the Tech community to take made my decision for me.

Spring of my freshman year arrived, and I was absolutely miserable. Class was all too easy and making new friends seemed all too hard. If it weren’t for a cool roommate and college basketball season, I probably would have been in a new place the next fall.

Then, on a whim (well, I had a bunch of free time at this point), I started reading about graduate organizations that sounded fun. I ended up tutoring in local middle and high schools, and I absolutely loved it. I started writing for the newspaper, and I finally felt a bit invested in the campus.

At the start of my sophomore year, luck struck twice. I received an email just a few days before classes started that a professor with whom I had taken two classes the previous year needed a teaching assistant. His original TA had problems getting into the country.

Three years later, I have been a TA for nearly a dozen classes, written a supplement for an Economics textbook, assisted with published Economics research and worked as a consultant.

So as I leave, I would like to say, “Thank You Tech!” Thanks to all of my friends, professors, advisors and family for making the last five years of my life, the best five years of my life. I’m going to miss Tech, but take pleasure in knowing that it will always be here to come home to.

Josh Mallett
Fifth-year IE
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TV violence affects reality

My wife asked me how someone could even think of performing the atrocities of April 16 at Virginia Tech. Without a clue how someone thinks so graphically, I didn’t answer.

Instead, I turned on 24, which happened to be on that same evening. Through no coincidence, on 24 that night, the TV ads for the movies Vacancy, Grindhouse and The Condemned showed plenty of violence—and far more graphically than does 24. I’m informed of a new TV show, Drive, about people forced to race cars for fear that a loved one will be killed or hurt.

A seemingly interminable experiment, 24 is an American TV show produced by Brian Grazer and John Singleton and written and produced by Joel Surnow and Robert Cochran. The show follows the fictional life of the secret service agent Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland). Each episode is 24 hours in the life of Bauer as he tries to prevent large scale disasters and crimes that happen all over the world. The Condemned is a hit show that has been successful in its ratings for the TV network ABC.

Go somewhere and feel what it is to be lucky. It’s not too late to get started. If you never walk outside of your comfort zone to give anything a try, then Tech’s semesters will remain seemingly interminable.

I’ve worked to live and write your own story, I would love to hear it.

Shawn Buckley
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common for students to complain about a bad professor or a hard exam. I, myself, am guilty of this on many occasions. I suppose one is more likely to take the time to complain about the few bad experiences rather than relish in the numerous good ones. Therefore, I encourage all members of the Tech community to take the time to consider how lucky we are.

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