



OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

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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DEAD WEEK AT TECH



By Tim van de Vall / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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 tradition and felt 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 how anyone could be consumed to the point they forget such an exciting tradition, at least not until last week, when it dawned on 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 story 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.



"[It] isn't the product we put out each week that I remember, it is the amazing time that I had producing it...."

Amanda Dugan
 Editor-in-Chief

I started out the year with ambitious goals, as every leader should, and laid them out in my editorial in the freshman 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 has 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.

To next year's editors, I know you will continue many of the traditions of the *Technique* while at the same time innovating your own to take the paper to the next level. Always remember that first and foremost the *Technique* is a student paper. The only way we can keep the *Technique* lively is to infuse it with student life.

To my successor, I know that you will make significant progress next year as you continue the tradition that started in 1911. Remember to not be afraid to ask the hard questions and defy traditions when necessary. Also, it doesn't hurt to take a walk and get out of the office every now and then, either when you need perspective or just a break from deadline insanity.

To the readers, thank you for allowing us the privilege of representing your voice every week. I appreciate every email and letter that you sent this year whether it was praising the staff or condemning us. By the end of the week, every staff member spends hours working on the paper to entertain and inform you, so it is great to hear from you. I encourage you to continue giving the paper your feedback. Next year's editors will value your comments and be better at their jobs because of them.

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.

Imus incident highlights double standard

When news of the Don Imus debacle broke out last week, I had to go check it out for myself. I very well know that anything you get secondhand—especially from the mass news media—is going to have spin 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.



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

Jamie Howell
Photography Editor

My initial reaction is that I thought it was funny. The actual words in and of themselves really were not that funny, but the context in which he used them was. Here we have two elite collegiate basketball teams competing for a national title, and he calls one team a bunch of nappy-headed hos. Note that this is a college team and that it's likely at least half the girls on the team had at least as much education or intelligence as Imus himself. All of this made the context of his words so outrageous and so over the top that I couldn't help but find humor in it.

It's obvious not 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's 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. Not racist, 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 were 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, if you're 26 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. Go listen to some of Chris Rock's routines for reference. Here's the kicker: when this self-generated, hip-hop culture driven, hate language against black people is spewed, where is Al Sharpton then? Is it only considered offensive, harmful and derogatory if a white person says it?

The problem with Al Sharpton (and to be fair, many others) is that he's fighting the wrong fight.

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 have new and much more serious problems to face here in the year 2007. Such problems include broken families, neglected and illegitimate children, lack of education and lack of proper role models.

Part of the problem with addressing these issues is that they are not popular fights to pick. When crusading against white bigotry, everyone loves you. When blaming your problems on other people, everyone loves you. However, when you turn things around and start laying a lot of the responsibility and blame at the feet of your own people, all of a sudden you're not so popular.

So which is more damaging to black progress in America—some washed-up old geezer with a radio show calling someone nappy-headed or thousands of rap songs (produced by rappers that many kids these days worship) that glorify drugs and violence, degrade women and mock education? Where is the outrage? Where are the protests? Where are the people getting publicly shamed, then fired? Talk about not being able to see the forest through the trees.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Remarkable Relay

Tech has a strong tradition of community service, and the annual campus Relay for Life event is an important part of this tradition. The Tech community raised \$65,000, an amount which was matched by a Tech alum at the Atlanta Cancer Coalition. This \$130,000 will go toward cancer research at our own Institute. It's great that Tech can contribute both money and research to fighting cancer.



Dead week?

It seems as if we were just thinking this four months ago, but dead week sucks. It's about time that we stopped calling dead week “dead,” because it's the busiest week of the semester. Professors can't enjoy frantically grading assignments any more than we enjoy completing them. So why bother? With tests, papers and group projects galore, nothing will run a student ragged quite like next week will.



Sting 'em!

During this stressful time of year, nothing could cheer up the most loyal Yellow Jackets more than once again proving our superiority to our rivals from Athens—as if there was ever any doubt. The baseball team crushed the Bulldogs on Wednesday with a score of 8-2. How 'bout them Dawgs now? Go Jackets!



Failed policy

SGA has once again failed to pass the Student Activity Fee (SAF) policy, which means it has been over a year since the last revision. A new policy is important to ensure that Joint Finance Committee policies are more than just guidelines, making the SAF allocation process fair to all students.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Malhotra misguided

In her Letter to the Editor published on April 13, Ruth Malhotra claims to have had “so many death threats against me that I now need police escorts to go to class.”

As a conservative who has listened to Malhotra for the last four years, the time has come to speak out and say, “Enough is enough.”

While Malhotra continues her quest for “intellectual diversity,” it becomes clearer and clearer that she is more interested in advancing her own political aspirations than she is in neutralizing what she calls a “toxic environment here in terms of the marketplace of ideas.”

In the past, many have argued that Malhotra should be silenced because she is embarrassing Tech by airing our dirty laundry in court rooms. But I have never and will never buy that argument—if there is bias, it should be exposed.

But as someone who has spent

four years at Tech, I can't say that I've seen many examples of the bias Malhotra claims to be prevalent.

Instead, what I see is a student who desperately wants to play the role of victim and conservative crusader, perhaps so that she can prove her conservative credentials as she pursues a career in politics.

Is this who conservative Tech students want leading them?

Peter Rosegger
Fourth-year CS
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Be thankful for Tech

As I approach the completion of my fifth year and prepare for graduation, I have begun to reflect on my time at Tech. Unfortunately, recently I have been upset by an increase in the negative attention Tech has received.

I know it has always been

See Letters, page 12

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 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. 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 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Nancy Romero at (404) 894-2830.

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.

BUZZ

Around the Campus

You know you've been at Tech too long when...



Anthony “Red Jesus” Coulter
Third-year ME

“...everybody recognizes you.”



Liz Foster
Fifth-year CE

“...you remember that Yellow Jacket Park used to be a building.”



Vincent Palacios
Sixth-year EIA

“...your professors move on before you do.”



Jing Li
First-year IE

“...you're no longer embarrassed to run after the Stinger.”

Photos by Sam Morgan

Fill Tech career with experiences worth remembering

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 *Nique* 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 advice and spectacular reflections about the Institute, but instead I leave this paper telling a very familiar story—mine. And there is a point at the end, maybe.

I never wanted to come to Tech. I refused to visit it before I decided to attend. But the HOPE Scholarship



“...campus has a lot more to offer than what can be picked up to fill your schedule during registration.”

Kyle Thomason
Columnist

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 schools and realized I needed to acquire some extracurricular activities to fill in all of the boxes on the applications.

I closed my eyes and picked a few

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.

I had also registered for a class called “Mock Trial.” I thought it would be an easy “A” without much work. Instead, I ended up hooked into a ridiculously competitive activity—one in which I'm proud to say that Tech just finished tied for 11th in the country and is one of a small number of teams to make it to the National Championship Tournament all of the past four years. And I got the “A.” (If anyone's wondering—Mock Trial will once again be a class in the fall—look it up under Public Policy.)

Four years ago, I attempted to guarantee myself misery by trying to prove the fact that I never wanted to be at Tech in the first place. Then, I realized that the campus has a lot more to offer than what can be picked up to fill your schedule during registration.

But my advice to you is that you do not necessarily have to do a million

things around campus to be happy. “Get involved” sounds great, but it just does not work for everyone.

Instead, my advice is simple—do something and give yourself a chance 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.

Go somewhere and feel what it means to be a Tech student outside of Atlanta. For me, that meant trips to Durham, N.C. and Lawrence, Ks.—the Mecca and Medina of college basketball. It meant spur-of-the-moment trips to Indiana University and Bethel College (St. Paul) as well as a spring break at Harvard where I found myself incredibly proud that I went to a school where I have so many opportunities to lead and make a difference.

This is my story. If you have made it this far, you probably are the kind of person who likes to hear terrific tales. Make the effort to live and write your own; I would love to hear it.

Letters from page 11

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 to be a part of such a great institution. We are fortunate enough to attend one of the best (in my opinion, the best) universities in the country. The opportunities and experiences that are laid in our laps are truly remarkable.

Realize that worldwide there are millions of people who would jump as such an opportunity; please don't take it for granted.

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 of those things, I didn't answer.

Instead, I turned on *24*, which happened to be on that same evening. Though no one died 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.

Suddenly, the answer to my wife's question seemed obvious.

Shawn Buckley
Third-year CE
sbuckley3@gatech.edu

ympathetic
ibrations

georgia tech's all-male a cappella group

spring concerts: friday, april 20th 7:30 pm
saturday, april 28th 7:30 pm

@ lecrow auditorium in tech square
buy your tickets online at www.sympvibes.com