



OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Let's be constructive

Construction has been called the "worst new tradition" at Tech, and with at least one major construction project in progress throughout the past decade, students have become desensitized to the annoyances it brings.

The Marcus Nanotechnology Building, which broke ground in 2006, is expected to open in 2008, but by this point the new Innovative Learning Resources Center construction will have kicked off and students will again find themselves having to take long detours around the heart of campus.

All this construction is not only inconvenient, but occasionally unsafe. When the sidewalks on major pedestrian thoroughfares are abruptly closed, students are forced to make dangerous street crossings.

Despite all this, when looking at the buildings constructed in the past decade, it is impossible not to appreciate the benefits of the new construction. Facilities like the Environmental Science and Technology Building, the College of Management and most recently, the Klaus Advanced Computing Building exemplify the spirit of technological innovation at the Institute.

These new buildings are not only attractive, however; they also play a major role in Tech's commitment to the environment and sustainability. Both the Klaus Building and the College of Management are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certified, a prestigious designation that highlights the buildings' environmentally-friendly design, construction materials and operations.

The biggest issue with all the new construction, however, is that students are almost never sufficiently notified about plans and goals of new construction projects. Most recently, the plaza in front of the College of Management was unexpectedly fenced off and deconstructed last week. It wasn't until Friday that Management majors received a notice explaining the plaza was being beautified as a result of a large donation from a corporate sponsor; the rest of the campus remained in the dark.

When students don't know what's going on, they inevitably begin complaining. Administrators should better inform the campus about new projects if they want to retain positivity.

At the same time, Tech should not place all of its emphasis on new construction when several major campus buildings are beyond dilapidated. The Instructional Center, Skiles, Boggs and Howey Physics, among others, are all in poor condition and could use extensive improvements, and the Swann building is a great example of a renovation success. If we want to truly beautify the campus, older buildings need to get a little love, too.

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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By Tim van de Vall / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Halloween ought not lose spirit

I remember growing up in the suburbs of the Midwest. Back then, school used to start in mid-September, and first days always felt like walking into a tangible presence of autumn.

Classroom walls brimmed with not only the usual handwriting diagrams and Scholastic ads, but also with leafy decorations in varied hues of red and gold amongst other seasonal pin-ups. Pumpkins sat in every corner, cornhusks and cornucopias were dumped in disarray all over the teacher's desk, and chilly winds blew cackling autumn leaves across unbarred windows. The best books to read around this time of the year were the *Scary Stories to Read in the Dark* series by Alvin Schwartz. With its nastily gory graphite illustrations that seem to ooze off the page, the *Scary Stories* series still terrifies me to this day (five out of five stars!).

I remember when being a kid used to be about anticipating the little things in life, like Halloween, which was always the holiday that was right around the corner from the first day of school. It was also the one holiday of the year that seemed to rival Christmas on the festivity meter.

We used to spruce up the front yard with posh commercialized spider-webs-in-a-bag and dangle little black spider rings from the fibers. Scary music full of moans, groans and eerie trills played over the outside stereo system. Kids and adults alike used to dress up as monsters and angels and everything in between on this one day of the year. You'd get to see the grim reaper walking alongside a little mermaid, and all sorts of excitement went down on that one night of the year.

The best neighborhoods to trick-or-treat in were either the huge ones with the most houses (quantity) or the smaller neighborhoods with the huge houses (quality). If you happened to live in proximity to both



"I remember when being a kid used to be about anticipating the little things in life, like Halloween."

Siwan Liu
 Entertainment Editor

types of neighborhoods, you were in absolute luck, got the best of both worlds and got to gobble candy to your heart's content at the finish line (always ending in tummy aches).

And of course, trick-or-treating was always a lesson in political economy. We'd barter our candies away to each other like time-tested business professionals: it'd be three of my these for four of your those, and if you didn't like it, no deal. Each and every one of us was an accountant that night, counting and sorting through a myriad of sweets, and our parents played the overseers, trying to limit our intake.

So what happened to trick-or-treating on Halloween?

The past few years, I've stocked up on piles and piles of candy—everything from M&Ms to candy bars to Sour Patch Kids, eagerly anticipating the arrival of all sorts of ghoulies and princesses. Last year, no one came to my door at all. The year before, I had two groups of children show up. The downhill trick-or-treating trend is totally making movie Halloween scenes obsolete. Kids don't trick or treat anymore, which means more candy for me. How horrid!

I also deplore the minivan trick-or-treaters—the groups of kids who all pile into mommy or daddy's minivan/SUV and get driven around neighborhoods. Because it is so hard to walk around a neighborhood. Does taking a minivan make the experience safer? Or does that sort of carpooling help the environment?

I don't really understand the parents that would go along with the idea. What ever happened to holding your kid's hand and walking with them around the neighborhood?

Kids are getting lazier and lazier these days. They don't walk, ride bikes or play outside as much as they used to. If you're going to go trick-or-treating, I say do it right and walk the night away.

Instead, if the holiday isn't straight out forgotten, adults and children alike just sit at home after purchasing their own bags of candy to munch on (defeating the purpose of Halloween), or maybe they go to costume parties with friends or colleagues, which is always fun and exciting. If I weren't too old for trick-or-treating, I'd go out and do both, one after the other.

Maybe the standing perception of Halloween nowadays is that it's dangerous—it puts us and our children at risk. But those reports about how children bite into candied apples with razor blades in them and poison-laced sweets are mostly urban legends. The last I heard, children are still relatively safe on Halloween. Crime doesn't skyrocket; in fact, the worst thing that happened (at least in my day) was the occasional candy-mugging, where one kid might steal another's bag of hard-won goods.

Anyway, for the sake of preserving this tidbit of American culture, I hope Halloween returns to life. Maybe next year.

Music tracker shutdown misguided

Last week, OiNK, one of the most popular music torrent trackers, had its servers raided by the police and was subsequently shut down. The administrator of the members-only site was arrested at his workplace and law enforcement stormed into his father's home.



"The music industry destroyed the equivalent of the Library of Alexandria of music."

Hahnming Lee
Sports Editor

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) and the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) had been investigating the site for nearly two years before its shut down. When the police were pushed for a reason for targeting the site, a spokesman cited that OiNK was an "extremely lucrative" business for the administrator and was key in distribution of prerelease albums, with the estimate being 60 or more per year. The site was replaced with a message detailing the investigation of the owner, also stating that all members were under criminal investigation.

Though it does seem like just another day in the music industry's war on piracy, it was an especially sad and scary day for music lovers. Up to that point, only individual users and public torrent sites had been attacked by the RIAA, the MPAA and the other groups. And just like most of the other music sharing programs/sites that were shut down, OiNK survived on the administrator's own dime and

donations. He was, after all, arrested at his work place and not in some mansion sipping wine. With the shutdown of OiNK, it became clear that no site was truly safe from the watchful eye of these organizations.

The site recorded around 180,000 users before its shutdown. Despite its large size, the community thrived because its users' top priority was always to share music. It was a place where people went to download some of the least accessible and highest quality music in the world.

The site did not have DRM on their files, unlike iTunes and company. Furthermore, the site mandated that the quality of the music was always at a high level. The new Radiohead album was restricted from being uploaded there because it was below their strict standards. Users were punished when they uploaded incomplete or poor quality albums, sometimes getting banned

from the site.

While this may seem a little extreme and even excessive to those unfamiliar with the site, it was the reason why many of the users continued to use OiNK. It ensured that the quality of the music was not being compromised when it was shared with others and that even the artists were not hurt from a poor recording of the music.

But the scope of the shutdown goes beyond just its members; the site's shutdown also hurt artists. Sure, Justin Timberlake, Kanye West and other mainstream acts are not exactly crying with the death of the site, but they are in the minority. Most artists have neither the resources nor the label support to have constant radio play, worldwide tours and merchandising afforded to the bigger names. Instead, they rely on word-of-mouth, hoping that the quality of their music will be enough to get them to the top.

Sites like OiNK provided a great outlet for these lesser-known groups. The site had arguably the largest library of music on the internet. Bands that sold CDs out of the trunks of their cars after shows on their lawn could log on and find a rip of their CD available for download. Often, the question was not what was on the site, but what was not.

The site was by no means perfect. It was, after all, a place where one could illegally download music. While many artists were helped by the exposure they received, others could have easily suffered from the decrease in record sales. Numerous users claimed to have purchased the CD after they listened to it and liked it, but it is likely that just as many, if not more users never had the intention of spending any money. There is no way to defend the morality of stealing, which OiNK freely and openly allowed. It was, like most torrent trackers, another place for people to download whatever they wanted.

But labeling OiNK "just another music site" would be incorrect. The music industry destroyed the equivalent of the Library of Alexandria of music. The music may still exist today, sure, but it may become impos-

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OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



TEAM Buzzworthy

Tech's largest community service initiative, TEAM Buzz, took place last Saturday, bringing together over 1,500 volunteers to work on 35 projects around the Atlanta area. Not only does the annual event promote a spirit of giving and service among students on campus, but unlike more campus-oriented service efforts, it allows Tech to build and maintain its rep within the wider Atlanta community.

Out of the race

Tech's entrant into the DAR-PA Urban Challenge, Sting Racing, was one of the first six teams eliminated from the competition this week. It is a shame to see the autonomous Porsche Cayenne, the product of over a year of development and significant investment, eliminated so quickly; Sting 1 failed to live up to our expectations. Still, we commend the team for their impressive first-year accomplishments.



Keep it honorable

The Honor Advisory Council gave out sweets and asked students for feedback on the Honor Code while tabling along Skiles Walkway this week. The efforts were intended to remind students about the importance of following the Code and get new ideas. While we all know the code, a little reminder never hurts.

Party time (or not)

Halloween fell on a Wednesday this year, and parties moved to the weekend, leaving people to get extra-ridiculous. As such, the police busted quite a few people for underage drinking. Halloween should be celebrated responsibly and GTPD already have their hands full protecting campus from threats.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bill threatens learning

The University System of Georgia is under attack by the General Assembly (again) with House Bill 154.

House Bill 154, or the "Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education Act," insinuates that Georgia colleges and universities have "political and ideological bias in hiring" of faculty and accuses professors of "indoctrinating" students and using punitive grading measures against students who disagree.

The bill furthermore insults students by telling us we're too immature to be exposed to controversial topics.

Every student here knows that all of these accusations are untrue. Tech students understand the profoundly negative effect House Bill 154 would have on the ability of schools to educate and the ability of students to learn.

No one in the classroom would benefit by wasting time

presenting 'diverse' opposing viewpoints to scientifically substantiated subjects such as global warming or evolution, especially when the opposing views have little scientific evidence and little relevance to either a technical or liberal arts education such as that offered at Tech. Top-of-their-field faculty will refuse to come to a school in a state that threatens their tenure and corrupts their curriculum with political mish-mash.

The people supporting this bill are trying to push their own cultural agenda by compromising the education and development of Georgia's future leaders, and they distract this state from dealing with real educational issues, like rising tuition, campus safety, and facilities improvement.

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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 or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Matthew Winkler, 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 reserve the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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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 First Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to D. McCall "Mac" Pittsat (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

What great Halloween costumes have you seen?



Jessica McDonald
Fifth-year INTA

"The dude from The Big Lebowski."



Kelly Fay Jones
First-year BC

"A homemade shark costume whose head is a pillow."



Matt Lynch
First-year BME

"Mine!"



Rachel Chamberlin
Fourth-year MGT

"Sexy sexy or sexy lobster."

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tech actively responds to state drought

Northern Georgia is experiencing an unprecedented drought with no imminent end in sight. Atlanta is so close to running out of water that Gov. Sonny Purdue declared a state of emergency on Oct. 20 and asked President Bush to issue a Federal Disaster Declaration.

Within Atlanta, Tech is the second largest consumer of city water, using approximately 350 million gallons per year to serve 23,500 students, faculty, and staff—more than the population of Forest Park or Decatur.

As such, we need to lead the way in reducing our water consumption in the short term and implementing a long term approach to water conservation. We also must use our technological knowledge and talent base to assist both the city and the state.

To lead our efforts, I have appointed a drought working group that will tap the considerable expertise of our faculty, staff and student body to review our water conservation efforts to date, find ways to dramatically reduce our short term



“We...must use our technological knowledge and talent base to assist both the city and the state.”

G. Wayne Clough
Institute president

water consumption on campus and develop an outreach plan to assist Metro Atlanta in water conservation. I have asked Marcia Kinstler, director of campus environmental stewardship, to lead this group and report initial recommendations within two weeks.

It is important to note that Tech has been implementing sustainable practices for more than a decade. Eleven of our newest facilities are built to sustainable architecture standards. Our new LEED buildings are approaching water neutrality. Recycling water wherever possible, selecting drought-tolerant plants, implementing water-efficient de-

signs and equipment and planning for water conservation in all new construction and renovations are integral to our efforts.

Since 2001 we have increased the square footage of our campus facilities by approximately 25 percent while holding our water usage at 2001 levels. This accomplishment resulted from low flow shower heads in 80 percent of our residence halls and low flow toilets and faucets in 75 percent of our bathrooms. We also eliminated leaking cooling towers and improved steam line efficiency by up to 80 percent during this period.

As the drought deepened we have

taken additional measures. This summer we began collecting air conditioner condensate to irrigate critical landscape areas. We're also switching to well water for use in our central heating and cooling plants, which may allow us to reduce our consumption of city water by up to 30 percent. Of course we have complied with state restrictions to turn off our fountains and plant irrigation systems.

Our situation is serious and each of us needs to take personal responsibility for conserving our precious water supply. Our remaining use of city water is within our laboratories, bathrooms, laundries, and kitchens. I urge each of you to reduce your personal water usage.

In the lab, limit water usage to the maximum extent feasible for research-related activities. In the restroom, limit your time in the shower and do not leave the water running while washing hands, brushing teeth or shaving. Operate dish and clothes washers with full loads only. Every drop of water we save matters.

Students confuse policies

The Oct. 26 edition of the *Technique* featured a letter from William Welch, who referred to the federal civil rights lawsuit Orit Sklar and I filed last year as “the frivolous actions of others.”

Welch's letter demonstrates the

pervasive and profound misperception of the lawsuit on campus and the general lack of understanding about the law when it comes to the issue of student fees. Under the Institute's current student activity fee policy, “partisan political” or “religious” activities cannot be funded, while “cultural” or “social” ones can re-

ceive full funding. This distinction is arbitrary, selectively enforced and susceptible to viewpoint discrimination. Time and again, the courts have upheld the right of students to have equal access to mandatory student fees and have ordered that universities distribute funds in a viewpoint neutral manner. Perhaps if Tech

focuses on following the law rather than upholding unconstitutional policies, students will no longer be compelled to file lawsuits in order to reclaim their fundamental rights.

Ruth Malhotra
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INTA Grad student

Music

from page 9

sible to find some records without calling artists directly and asking for a copy. In its unending quest to stop the internet from basically being the internet, record companies have decided to take down sites that were even mild threats.

The recording industry has resorted to instilling fear in everyone in order for them to stop downloading and start buying music. They are delusional to think that shutting down a site on the internet will lead directly to sales. Is it possible that they will have each user investigated? Yes, anything is possible. But is it likely? Absolutely not. If the record industry decides to spend its resources to pursue a group that spans five continents, it would certainly go the way of OiNK (which, now that I think about it, would be awesome).

Of course, as proven by Napster, Morpheus, Suprnova and even Kazaa, when one outlet disappears, another one will always take its place. Still, there is little chance that a following as large as OiNK's will ever be seen again. Other sites have already started to emulate what OiNK had, but the site thrived on its users and their willingness to upload anything and everything, something that will not be easily replicated elsewhere. The recording industry will continue its pointless crusade and take a couple more good sites down with it, inevitably losing sight of its main goal: helping artists and encouraging people to listen to their music.

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