



"It's impossible to travel faster than the speed of light, and certainly not desirable, as one's hat keeps blowing off" —Woody Allen

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

A sad departure

Tech received sobering news during Spring Break when President Wayne Clough announced his resignation. Clough has been one of the Institute's greatest assets, overseeing a huge expansion in campus curriculum, monitoring successful capital campaigns and consistently improving Tech's national rankings for the past 14 years. During his tenure satellite campuses were established across the world, research expenditures more than doubled and Tech students from low-income families are assured a debt-free education through the new "Tech Promise" program.

As unfortunate as this loss is for campus, we should all be proud that the man who led us to such great heights for over a decade has been chosen to lead the nation's premier scientific institution. Clough will no doubt continue his path of excellence as Secretary of the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian has faced a recent history of financial mismanagement and the institution is in dire need of someone with Clough's abilities to both balance a budget and form successful personal relationships. The Smithsonian represents the state of American sciences and research, and it is an honor to the entire Tech community that not only our President, but also one of our alums has been chosen as its leader.

The next few months will be an exercise in patience on campus. Clough has set a high standard for whomever is chosen to follow him, a standard that it is crucial to be met by the next President. Students should be aware that the selection process could take quite some time, but if the results of this search turn out to be as illustrious as the last, it will be well worth the wait.

Clough's special status on campus as an alumnus made him stand out as a campus leader. Students must be able to identify with the administration, and knowing that even the President suffered through the same rigors during their academic career makes the administration's platitudes about the value of your degree seem much more genuine. In making their decisions, we at the *Technique* hope that the Board of Regents takes under consideration input from Tech students. The next President should be someone who will connect just as well with students, while still working actively to better Tech financially and as a research institution.

Tech will most likely never see identical leadership again, but the Institute will continue to grow. The construction projects and curriculum expansions begun by Clough will be lasting contributions that future leaders should build upon. We look forward to working with the new President, whomever he or she may be, in hopes of continuing Tech's tradition of excellence and wish Clough the best in his new endeavors.

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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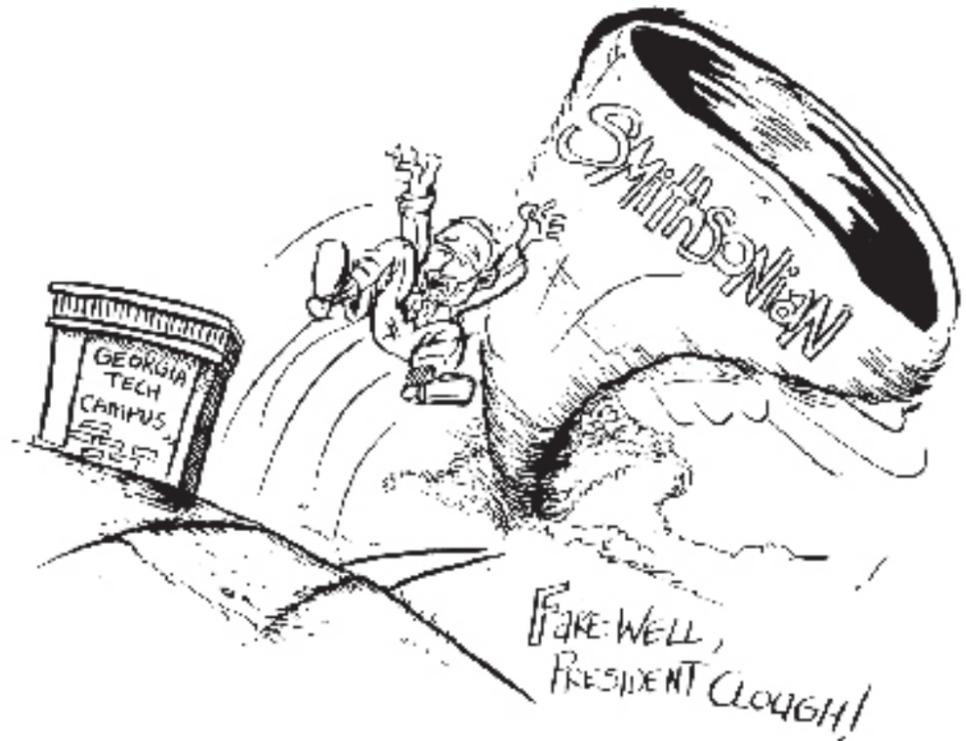
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By Tim Van de Vall / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Campus crime causes paranoia

I am a reasonably intelligent, healthy 20 year-old female living on campus. I don't claim to be a genius, nor do I claim any super human skills in the realms of self-defense. I have never taken a martial arts class, and all rational thought aside, I definitely would panic if I were ever attacked, so I take precautions. In fact, many members of this editorial board can attest to a lovely evening or 20 spent walking or driving my carless-self home.

That being said, the recent paranoia gripping so many females on college campuses is beginning to drive me crazy. The tragedies that have been inflicted on college students are horrific, and violence towards innocent students on campus is a terrifying prospect that does justify action, both on the parts of campus police and administrations, as well as individuals. But where do we draw the line?

Recently I have been warned not to do any of the following, out of fear for my precious safety and virtue: do not walk home unescorted, as you might be attacked or raped. Do not walk home with just one guy, as he might attack or rape you; do not call a taxi, as the service you get connected to might be false, and they might attack you; and do not drive home alone at night, as someone hiding in or under your car might attack you.

Unfortunately, I don't have an entourage of well-trained ninja-females willing to walk me home and guarantee my safety, so it seems I will just have to learn to sleep at the library.

But even the library isn't safe. Last spring in health I learned of a student (I don't remember if it was Tech or not) who was attacked by her study partner at the library. Furthermore, the library has elevators, which if you believe my mother, should be permanently added to the "root of all evil" list and avoided at all costs.



"Female students should be given teleportation powers so that they can swiftly and safely arrive in their rooms."

Emily Chambers
Opinions Editor

Because you see, much like getting home, elevators place one in a complete conundrum of danger.

Young ladies are never to ride in elevators alone, as you don't know what will happen on the floors between your origin and destination, a horrible person could get on and attack you (if there are no floors between you and your destination, then my mother's advice does not apply to you, as she would simply inform you to use the stairs, assuming they are well lit and occupied by the well-trained female ninja protectors mentioned earlier). You are also however, never to get onto the elevator with a man or group of men that you don't know, as again, they are dangerous.

In a final caveat to the elevator safety plan, one should never stand around in the lobby loitering waiting for the perfect elevator companions either, as you could be seen as easy prey and then... you get the picture. Basically, elevators should be removed from all buildings and female students should be given teleportation powers so that they can swiftly and safely arrive in their rooms without ever running the risk of encountering a male with ill-intent.

Now, assuming that a student of reasonable intelligence and health has managed to navigate the complexities of traveling across campus and using elevators, he or more likely, she, still faces imminent danger in locations such as public rest rooms (Oprah

did an entire episode a while back on the various ways that criminals can steal your purse while you use the ladies room, it was horrifying), busses and the most bizarre location of all, near shrubbery (thanks to the Marietta college campus police force for that one).

This is just a sampling of the litany of helpful advice that I am solicited with on a daily basis, completely uninvited I might add. Students of Tech, other women of Tech, I am just going to say it. Shrubby is not dangerous. Public rest rooms, the library and elevators are all not dangerous. The advice we are given on appropriate safe conduct has become ridiculous.

Campus safety is a serious issue, but rather than focusing on the steps that the victims should have to take to limit their lives so as to remain safe, campus safety should be an exercise in deterrence.

Walking home alone at night does not cause attacks, criminals cause attacks. Students, and yes, especially female students should be smart, and should listen to that internal voice of paranoia, but at the end of the day, you have to get home somehow, and you are probably going to walk by shrubbery, use elevators, or get in a car to do so.

So go. At the risk of sounding like G.W., don't let the scary bad men win. Be smart, but be rational, as really, if you followed all the rules of safety you would end up sitting alone in your room with a machete.

Courtship learned the hard way at Tech

It was all fun and games until my buddy quietly uttered, "Dude, just go for it."

I looked over at the two girls studying at the table next to me and a wall of fear hit me. I felt my ego shrink and the giggling duo seemed to grow horns and breathe fire. Somehow, I mustered the will to speak.

"Hey you guys. It looks like you two like to laugh. Th-that's cool. We like to laugh too," I stammered, instantly regretting my lame line.

The girls donned their best MTV 'whatever' faces and said nothing. I pressed on. "We should go out sometime. C-can I get your numbers?"

They looked at each other again and grimaced. Finally one of them said "Wow. Um..... NO."

It was one of the most awkward and uncomfortable moments of my life. But somewhere in the gloom I felt pride. Pride that I had just overcome immeasurable anxiety and hit on two sorority princesses.

That afternoon embarrassment marked the beginning of a wild adventure. My buddy and I each hated our lonely inner nerds and were on kamikaze missions to destroy them and become the ladies' men that we dreamed of being. It wasn't easy.

We came up with crazy plans



"Graduates leave this school like engineering-programmed robots, carrying the nerd flag."

Robert Combier
Assistant Photo Editor

to talk to girls. For example, we would voyage to Emory just to ride their shuttle for hours, forcing conversation on the unfortunate passengers. It was kind of like going to class, except with a new professor every fifteen minutes. Over time we went from being creepy to mildly charming, and the numbers and dates finally started to come.

In the 5+ years since that day in the library, I have managed to date some absolutely wonderful and gorgeous women. It has been mind-blowing, especially since I started out as a mumbling nerd who pointed out to girls that 'we like laughter too.'

Growing up, I identified with the logical side of life where math and science just makes more sense. But when it comes time to shop for a mate: it is clearly not about logic.

I thought of myself as a pretty normal Tech student. Most of my friends didn't have girlfriends,

nor did they have the slightest clue how to 'get' one. For the most part, talking to women was an exercise in pain and emotional wrath. Sound familiar?

What does this say about Tech students? Aside from the Greek community, it seems we are lacking completely in social training.

Graduates leave this school like engineering-programmed robots, carrying the nerd flag higher into the lonely future.

It doesn't have to be this way. We could be robots with cute girlfriends. Let's get started. First, we must decide to make a change. The definition of stupid is to do the same things over and over and to expect different results. We're not stupid yet we have no girlfriends, so we must change.

That means breaking out of the comfort zone we have around us. Explore who you are. Now is the time to grow out your hair or

pierce your ears or paint your fingernails...not when you graduate and work for that big firm.

Secondly, dress and hygiene are extremely important. Countless women have told meso. Wear nice clothes and take care of your hygiene. That means wearing deodorant, flossing your teeth, washing your hair and wearing cologne.

If you think you can't afford nice clothes, you're wrong. I just bought two genuine Giorgio Armani shirts from the Salvation Army across from Tech for \$5.00 (and there were more to choose from).

Thirdly, and most importantly, get out there and try. Believe it or not, Atlanta was just announced as the #4 best city in America for single adults by *Forbes*. That's higher than Chicago, San Diego, and Miami, to name a few. There's no reason not to capitalize on that.

Here's a good place to start: take two weeks, and for every single day, force yourself to speak to a girl you've never met before. Don't worry so much about the reason you are talking to her (that's a logical guy thing), it's really not important. Instead, pay attention to her comfort levels and to her emotions.

Embarrass yourself. Fail miserably. Who cares? This is not for a grade but it is for your life.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT - or - NOT



Poll-free elections

Student Government Association elections are next week for both executive and legislative positions, but this year's election ballots also contain a few even more permanent decisions for the student body. Up for vote are three amendments to the SGA constitution, and students should welcome the opportunity to help determine the policy that dictates their funds and representatives in the future.



Tornado watch

In a freak twist of fate, Atlanta was hit by a tornado over Spring break, damaging the CNN center, Tabernacle, and Omni hotel, while providing the campus alert system with yet another use, all without canceling a single class. Those of us away on vacation received seemingly random text messages warning us of our eminent danger, causing a massive tornado drill in Panama City Beach.



HD debut

The "Best Radio Station in Atlanta" celebrated its 40th birthday last week by debuting its new HD capabilities. WREK spent the day broadcasting from Skiles walkway, letting all of Atlanta hear in crystal clear detail the sounds of students trying to avoid solicitation on their way to class.



UGA wins in Atlanta

It is never good when UGA wins, especially when UGA wins at Tech, even if they are not playing Tech. Adding true insult to injury, after Atlanta was hit by a freak tornado, Tech was forced to turn over the Alexander Coliseum so that the Dawgs could defeat Arkansas after the Georgia Dome was damaged.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Islamic issues

I read your March 7 article titled, "Speaker series promotes Islamic awareness" with great interest. This year's Islamic Awareness Series certainly added to my understanding of the Muslim world view, especially its perspective on Christianity.

I was particularly intrigued by Hisham Mahmoud's lecture, "The Gospel of Jesus according to Muhammad," presenting the Islamic perspective of Jesus' role and story as a prophet. Tech's Muslim Students Association claimed that this Islamic rendition of the person and work of Christ "spells promise for mutual understanding among the faith traditions of Abraham... and is enough to treat centuries of conflict among his children."

However, in an attempt to establish affinity between Islam and Christianity, Mahmoud failed to acknowledge that on every doctrinal dimension, the Qur'anic view of Christ diverges

from the Biblical view.

With selective, often decontextualized references to the Bible (essentially "cut and paste" theology), Mahmoud took historical characters and events from millennia of Biblical history, and compressed the chronology to craft a seemingly impressive narrative, which lends Biblical credence, to demonstrate conformity between the two religions.

In addressing Christianity's cardinal doctrines such as the divinity of Christ or the Virgin birth, Mahmoud undermined every defining doctrine and posited a very different Islamic alternative.

Although claiming that the differences between the two religions are negligible, Mahmoud's presentation only accentuated the differences. The Islamic view of Christianity calls for a

See Islam, 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 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 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 First Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billings 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 did you do for spring break?



Kia Benion
First-year CE

"I went to a NSBE National conference in Orlando."



Ignacio Becerra-Licha
Third-year BioChem

"I went to see family and friends."



Elizabeth Whiting
First-year ME

"I won a 50 inch DLP TV."



John Vaughes
Third-year Chem

"I went to the Cheetah with some professors."

Photos by Blake Israel

International offices lack both cubicles and formality

When I spent five semesters working at a medium-sized software company in the Atlanta area as a co-op student, there were certain things that I came to take for granted. I think my company was pretty much the epitome of the generic business—even the name was evocative of Office Space—so I expect that my experience is a fairly good reflection of the business culture of the American corporation.



“At the same time, much of the social interaction in the U.S. is plagued by the constant rat race...for advancement.”

Arcadiy Kantor
Columnist

For nearly two years I lived the life of the cubicle-based code monkey (even though I was not a programmer but a business analyst) and grew accustomed to all the accoutrements that accompany it. I had the typical office phone, the typical office internet, and listened to snatches of the typical overheard conversations through which I grew to know much more about my neighbors than they doubtless wanted me to—or than I wanted to know about them, for that matter.

I had the standard office issue stapler (not even a red one I could care excessively about), the typical assortment of pens and pencils, the highlighter and the file folders. I blissfully lacked any tacky cubicle decorations (no Dilbert cutouts from the Technique for me), but my neighbors more than made up for my quota of kitsch with their cluttered cube walls and surfaces.

Before I went to work for a company in Kazakhstan, these were the things I most expected to be different—I didn't know quite what I thought I

would encounter upon reporting to work, but I certainly brought some extra pens and even a portable stapler just in case.

Now that I am actually in Kazakhstan, however, all of these expectations are being challenged. My desk has all the usual trappings of office “comfort.” In a different way, however, the business environment here is different in far more ways than I could have guessed.

A few of the things that I once accepted as an inevitable part of business life are now absent (with various degrees of conspicuousness), but even more than this, the sheer culture of the companies I have encountered here is a radical departure from what I was previously used to.

Sure, here I am working for a much smaller company than I was in the U.S.—the entire staff consists of only around 30 people, and the staff at my company has an average age somewhere in the vicinity of 23. But I've been to several customer visits and seen examples of similar differences in action at much larger (and more

senior) firms.

Perhaps the biggest difference that has struck me here in Kazakhstan compared to the average American company's business environment is the way employees interact with one another. Specifically, the key distinction between the two countries' employees appears to me to be a certain lack of superficiality to the relationships between people here.

Throughout my experience in the U.S. (and from what I have heard from others with corporate experience) it has oftentimes seemed that while the average employee maintained friendly relations with nearly everyone, and might even have had a few close friends in the office, the vast majority of the relationships that person had were utterly meaningless.

Essentially, I think that in the U.S. we place relatively low expectations of camaraderie and maybe even friendship on our coworkers—a fellow employee who asks you how your wife or kids are doing probably does not care about your answer, just about the ritual of asking. And you will certainly

be expected to ask the same in the appropriate social situation, also with no actual interest in the response.

At the same time, much of the social interaction at work in the U.S. is plagued by the constant rat race of striving for advancement in the company, and every conversation becomes an instrument to further one's case for that next promotion. In many cases that may lead to useful favors being exchanged, but generally speaking this exemplifies the sort of superficiality that tends to bother me.

The result of this calculating communication can often be a remarkably sterile workplace, where people are very careful to express their opinions on the most banal issues in the least offensive possible way just in case. After all, we know we could be passed over for the next raise if we inadvertently offend the boss by mentioning our secret gardening hobby and our preference for perennial plants versus annual ones.

Here in Kazakhstan, by contrast, people won't ask you how you are doing every time they see you, but the questions that they do ask they actually care about. In general, the relationships between employees are much closer—people feel as though they can actually rely on their coworkers, and the ties between individuals are fewer in number but much stronger in their utility. The entire staff of a company is much closer, and the connections between individuals are used in ways many companies in the U.S. would

probably frown upon.

This lends itself to a certain kind of nepotism, and the scenario of “it's who, not what, you know that matters” plays out much more frequently in Kazakhstan than back home.

These close, almost familial ties between coworkers, friends and associates are probably also one of the underlying causes of the corruption problems facing the countries that eschew the fierce individualism and “everyone plays by the same rules” attitudes popularized by Anglo-Saxon culture.

It also ties into the rather frank disregard most companies here have for government regulations and laws that they do not consider to be sensible. After all, according to the attitude many people here seem to take, the government is not your friend, and if you have to bend the rules a little to help one of your associates, why wouldn't you?

Certainly, from a purely objective perspective this is probably not an efficient way for the world to function. I am not suggesting that the system practiced in former Soviet states or other, “less developed” nations is by any means better. I don't think that we should drop our tremendously valuable principle of “justice for all” any time soon. In the meantime, however, the caring and camaraderie certainly make the work environment more pleasant. We could all gain from making our relationships with our coworkers more genuine.

Islam from page 11

radical reinterpretation of the Bible through the Qur'anic lens. Clearly, the Qur'anic view of Christ denies his deity, denounces his eternality, and defies his redemptive purposes as the Messiah.

I really believe that in our attempt

to find common ground and promote harmony on campus and beyond, we must be intellectually honest and not try to obliterate genuine differences between belief systems.

Regardless of personal allegiance to a particular religion, either by choice or circumstance, the differences between conflicting world views should be addressed candidly,

so that attempts at fusion do not result in confusion.

The test of mutual acceptance comes not through the denial of differences, but in our willingness to coexist peacefully in the face of irreconcilable differences.

Dr. Beena Bhal
Parent

Clough will be missed by students and alums alike

My wife and I came to know Wayne Clough very well during his tenure and that friendship will always endure.

He was always approachable and looking for ways to make GT

even better than it is. These will be big shoes to fill but I know Tech is up to the challenge. To Wayne and Ann, we wish you well at the Smithsonian and know they, like Tech, will be a better institution by your presence.

Bruce and Deborah Warnock
Class of 1958

WR 91.1 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12:00	Atmospherics					Coffee and Sushi	Hour of Slack
1:00	Overnight Alternatives					WREKage 2:00	Bob's Slacktime Funhouse SCORE
6:00	Classics					8:00	Weekend Cornucopia
9:00	Just Jazz						Public Affairs
12:00	11:00 Blue Plate Special	Live @ Skiles	Blue Plate Special	Live @ Skiles	Blue Plate Special	Weekend Cornucopia	Weekend Cornucopia
1:00	Rock Rhythm And Roll					Weekend Cornucopia	Weekend Cornucopia
				5:00	Country Classics	Broadway	
6:00	Hemisphericous	Underground Recordings	Sports Report	Tech Talk	Friday Night Fish Fry	Desoto Hour	Gharana
7:00	Kosher Noise	Gold Souncz	Moblus	Carwacks			Sunday Special
8:00	Indian Masala	RadioBomb		54-46			
9:00	Sub-Saharan Vibes	Longboard and Longhorns	Destroy All Music	Wreckroom Renaissance	Stonehenge		
10:00	French Caribbean	Live @ Wrek	Fricion			EDM Sound System	Personality Crisis
11:00	Continental Drift	New Farcas	Psych-out	Electric Boogaloo			

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