

OPINIONS

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TECHNIQUE

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Quote of the week:
"Make sure to be in with your equals
if you're going to fall out with your
superiors."
—Jewish Proverb

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

We'll miss Clough

As President Wayne Clough officially leaves campus in the hands of Provost Gary Schuster, we'd like to take this chance to say thank you and goodbye. Clough did Tech a lot of good during his fourteen years here and we wish him good luck at the Smithsonian Institution and all his future endeavors.

The official loss of Clough on our campus leads us to imagine who will be his successor. The new president will be chosen by the Board of Regents with a recommendation from the President's search committee, which will include representatives from the Board of Regents, faculty members, and only one student representative.

It is slightly depressing that with 18,000 students on campus that only one student voice is allowed to be heard. There isn't even a division made between the interests of graduate students and undergrads, even though in almost all other ventures on campus each are represented by different people.

We don't necessarily doubt the Board's ability to choose a good president, but it is important to include students in a decision that will affect them the greatest. We hope the student voice will be considered and a new president will be chosen who can live up to Clough's legacy here and move us into the future.

Don't demolish 771

The Georgia Tech Foundation's desire to demolish the 771 Spring Street building is unwarranted and a little upsetting at this time.

While it is important for Tech to move forward and develop Tech Square, it is absurd to tear down a building without a distinct plan for what would be put in its place.

Since the 771 Spring Street building is also historical in a city where most of its history has been torn down, this becomes even more important. The 771 Spring Street building isn't an eyesore whose elimination would be a noble pursuit; it is a pretty building that adds character to a less attended-to area of Midtown.

While the building is abandoned now, it has been used as office space in the past and could be put to use again. Not only are a lot of current students upset about the prospect of razing a piece of Tech's legacy, many alumni and members of the Midtown community are up in arms as well. Flattening this building without any better plans lined up for the space could cause roll calls to be significantly lowered. The Foundation would be doing Tech a disservice if they can't find a creative resolution.

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 Blake Israel / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Adapt, don't complain, over oil

Every week it seems gas prices continue soaring to heights never before seen, and every jump in the price is accompanied by a mixture of outrage and panic. What's surprising to me is not that prices continue to rise, but that many people are taking it so personally and displaying such angst when we've known for months, even years, that gas prices would be climbing, and we've been given plenty of advance notice to adjust our lifestyles to minimize the harm to ourselves.

For decades, capricious mobility has been an American tradition, and now it's time to reconsider that. While citizens of other countries have packed themselves into dense cities and relied on walking, biking, and taking trains to all of their destinations, we Americans have been content to spread ourselves all over this continent, prepared to drive for miles at the slightest whim.

I personally have not been waiting for gas to reach \$10 per gallon to start taking control of my life back from OPEC. When a car accident (not my fault) put my vehicle into early retirement, I decided I didn't want to get a new one. I was barely using it anyway. I was already quite happy using my bicycle to go most of the places I needed to go, and the main use of my car was for spur of the moment trips that weren't worth the exertion of a bike ride. It turns out that lacking that option (more like, an excuse for laziness) is not quite so bad as one might think.

So I ride my bike almost everywhere I need to go, and supplement that with MARTA and ZipCar as necessary, and things have been working out pretty well so far, although Atlanta surely could stand to improve the number of roads with bike lanes. When I'm riding on 10th Street I'm usually thinking about things like how effective my helmet would be in protecting my skull should I get mowed down.



"For decades, capricious mobility has been an American tradition, and now it's time to reconsider that."

Craig Tabita
Editor-in-Chief

(The simple solution, not to deter would-be bicyclists, is just to avoid 10th Street.)

I only see the effects of rising gas prices indirectly, as the price of various goods and services which entail the use of gasoline at some point have been rising. While there's not much an individual can do about that, the collective reduction of demand will allow prices to come down and will allow a better, more efficient allocation of resources. While an individual might have the option of driving or biking to work, there is no option for a shipping company to haul cargo by bicycle.

I understand that biking is not an option for everybody. While there are those who perhaps physically cannot handle traversing distances greater than a mile in anything lacking a motor, there are others who simply don't want to endure the inconvenience. That's totally fine. Another great American tradition is the ability to use money to deflect inconvenience from oneself. For the luxury of personal motorized transport, with the timing and destination of your choosing, you will pay a premium that grows every day as the cost of crude oil rises.

The important part in that last line is that word "luxury". In my opinion, the time has passed to feel like every American is entitled to their own set of motorized wheels and the means by which to fill it up with gas as often as they would like. That might have been a right

when gas was under ninety cents a gallon ten years ago, but that's over. Maybe someday we'll make it back to that price level, but it seems quite doubtful to me.

For instance, citizens of countries like China and India are now increasingly buying cars and consuming oil, permanently jacking up demand. This is a necessary consequence of globalization, and in exchange for the ability to employ Chinese workers at miniscule wages so they can make us cheap toasters and televisions, we have to accept that over time that infusion of cash into their economy is going to give them the ability to start to raise their standard of living. That's a good thing and I welcome it, but the consequential increase in demand for things like oil has to be accounted for. To make up for this, we have no choice but for our oil consumption to come back to reasonable levels, and that's just to maintain prices where they already are.

All this time I've discussed the monetary cost of frivolously burning gasoline, and that's not to mention the externalities that don't get taken into account when you pay at the pump. This means the harmful effects of emissions. This also means the domestic security costs inherent in sending half your paycheck to a group of countries whose relationships with ours range from shaky to downright hostile.

See *Adapt*, page 6

Summer heat makes people insane

Though summer just officially started, the heat of the past month would have me believe otherwise. Even if it's not nearly as stifling as last year (though I'm sure we're on our way to getting there), the heat has still done its duty by turning people insane. To illustrate this point, I'll recall a story from a few weeks ago.



"The heat must be making people crazy or at least bringing the crazy people out of wherever they were hiding."

Daniel Spiller
Entertainment Editor

It was a Saturday morning around 10:30 or so, and it was already plenty warm outside. My buddy Tyler and I had decided the night before that it would be a good idea to go to the CRC the next morning and play some racquetball. Considering we live off campus and down North Avenue, we hopped in Tyler's Jeep to make the short drive.

Along the way, we noticed a few people wandering through the middle of the street looking completely dazed and oblivious to the threat of moving cars.

Once we realized that we had not accidentally driven onto a George A. Romero set for some new zombie movie, we concluded that these people had lost it to some degree. Tyler and I began a semi-serious discussion on how the heat must be making people crazy, or at least driving the crazy people out of wherever they were hiding.

Fast-forward two hours later, and Tyler and I are back in the Jeep after a few rousing games of

racquetball. We're on 10th Street waiting at a red light, chatting about this or that, when suddenly we hear incoherent mumbling coming from behind us.

Tyler turns around to find a man – mid-30s, cargo shorts, T-shirt, backpack, bald except for an awkward crew cut – leaning on his Jeep and asking him something. After multiple attempts, we finally understand that this man is demanding for us to "take him to the station." Tyler tells him no and inches the Jeep forward.

The man begins to walk back to the sidewalk, but not before informing us that we can "rot in hell." Once back on the sidewalk, he again reminds us of our new task and points to us and then to the ground – an informative and appreciated gesture that cleared up any confusion about the location we needed to report to. The light turned green, and we drove away.

Wait, what? Rot in hell? The escalation of the situation was so severe and sudden that initially all we could do was laugh.

When the sequence of events is stopping at a light, being demanded of some task by a stranger, refusal of the task and finally the stranger's command to rot in hell, it would normally seem that there are at least one or two events missing between the third and fourth events. Had we insulted or threatened the man, his response would have been understandable and justified, but as it stood, what he said was ridiculous.

I find it easy to blame the heat for these delightful moments of temporary insanity because I empathize with the effects that it has on people.

Summer in Georgia can be downright miserable, with temperatures well into the 90s and humidity that will likely drown you. It's not exactly fun walking

around outside and thinking you have a hot, wet blanket wrapped around you the whole time. Constantly being stuck in such a universal sauna is enough to make anyone a little bit irritable, so I can understand the man's frustration.

Also, I don't live in the most rational-thinking part of town anyways. The farther one seems to head down North Avenue, the less likely it is that people you meet will rely on mental power. It is not uncommon for me to regularly come across people who don't seem to be playing with a full deck.

On the contrary, it can be difficult to get out of my parking lot without seeing someone who my parents would have likely told me to avoid when I was younger.

So I'm already used to witnessing loose screws in action, but as of late, they just seem to be far greater in number. The supply is greatly outnumbering the demand in this case, and the city seems to have somewhat of a surplus.

If the heat is in fact to blame, as I fear it may be to some degree (pun intended), it unfortunately will be getting much worse before it gets better. Come August, our sunburns might be the least of our worries; it seems as though our mental stability is at stake.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



All Americans

Two Yellow Jacket track athletes received All American honors at the NCAA Track and Field Championships last weekend. Senior James Lemons competed in the long jump and Senior Shantia Moss ran the hurdles. Both won awards and made it into the finals of their respective events. While Tech sports has had a disappointing run in the past month these Tech athletes have made us proud.

Goodbye Demillo

CoC Dean Richard Demillo is stepping down from his position to go back to teaching. While it is exciting that he will be teaching again, he will be greatly missed as dean. Under his direction the College of Computing came out of debt and to become as fiscally responsible as it is today. He also integrated the program with Emory's programs and increased the department's diversity.



Save space program

Two Aerospace students intern with NASA went to DC to talk to Congressmen about funding for their programs. They hope to raise enough support from Congress to be able to sustain the space program and bring attention to the program's current efforts. We hope their journey will lead them to success.

Deadly Smog

Smog levels have reached an all time high here in Atlanta. Recently we have been moved to code red smog alert, indicating levels unsafe for breathing. Tech students will soon have to research new ways to rid our city of deadly smog or we will simply have to learn to get along without breathing.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Policy misrepresented

In your correction on page 2 of the June, 13 2008 issue of The Technique, you write "the (*Sklar v. Clough*) ruling stated that case law does not support Tech's current policy."

That is misleading and one could say incorrect. The judge's comment was regarding the policy in effect at the time the lawsuit was filed (March 2006). That policy was no longer in effect beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year.

In Fall 2007, SGA formally adopted a revised policy which the judge in *Sklar v. Clough* declined to review since he found the plaintiffs failed to demonstrate that the defendants were at fault for any potential flaws in the policy.

As an author of the policy now in place, I think it is important to point out that, after extensive consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs, SGA feels confident that the current policy

does meet the appropriate legal standards.

Mitchel Keller
MATH graduate student
Graduate student body president,
2006-07

Blunder against Obama not caught

I enjoyed Vivian Fan's column "Doomsayers spam pre-election," (June 13, 2008), which focuses largely on rejecting a hateful and fearful email criticism of Barack Obama. While I found the article well-supported and overall on point, Fan overlooks a striking blunder the spammer makes.

She cites his closing argument "And now: for the award winning act of stupidity of all times, the people of America want to elect, to the most powerful position on the face of the planet-

See Obama, page 6

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 Craig Tabita, 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.

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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

How will you remember Clough?



Malek Bessaad
Second-year CHBE

"I liked his beard."



Zahra Sotoudeh
Graduate AE

"He was well liked and we were proud to have him."



Kyle Thomas
Third-year CE

"His direction and where he wanted to take campus."



Sahan Jayasumana
Third-year BMED

"I really liked what he did for student life."

Photos by Robert Combier

U.S. airports leave travelers lost without translation

By Monday morning I will have traveled through five airports in eight days. Aside from jet-lag and an extreme appreciation for comfortable waiting room chairs, the first half of my international airport tour has taught me that we here in the states are almost insultingly self-centered. Tourists to our country arrive under the false impression that they will be treated with the same level of respect as tourists to their home nations are afforded.

The Mexican airport is full of attendants fluent in English, Spanish and I have no idea how many other languages. Signs are clearly printed with multiple languages and most importantly, no one yells at you in a version of English only understood by one percent of the English-speaking population.

During my foray through the Mexican airport every airline attendant I spoke with automatically assumed that I spoke English (an easy assumption to make, as I was walking with at least six other obviously non-Hispanic persons, and we were feverously screaming at each other in English). They quickly instruct you where to go, how to get there and give you a lollipop



"I do not want to accuse the airline flight staff of being linguistically biased. They were equally rude to everyone."

Emily Chambers
Columnist

on your way out.

However, the second you get on the plane, the atmosphere changes. The flight crew, based out of Atlanta of course, was rude at best. Only one of the four flight attendants (not stewardesses, as I have been told that the word stewardess is a derogatory term at this point) spoke any Spanish, leaving well over 1/3rd of the passengers stranded.

However, I do not want to accuse the airline flight staff of being linguistically biased. They were equally rude to everyone. One poor girl flying home from a city called Cuernavaca had to relive just about every meal that she had eaten in the past three days. Normally, she would have been the most hated person on the plane but we all felt so bad for the poor girl that we were

simply thrilled for her when her friends found her bags and a blanket and started giving her a neck-rub. So engrossed were we in her wellbeing that the entire back of the plane let out an audible sigh of relief when she finally gathered the strength to sit up onto her tray-table.

It was in the midst of this digestive train wreck when the flight attendants sealed their fate as hated. The poor girl's friends were leaning over her, one of them from the row before her, attempting in vain to nurse her back to health. As it is physically impossible to rub the back of the person behind you while staying in your seat with your seatbelt securely fastened, this stalwart friend had forsaken her safety in her efforts to nurse. This prompted the rudest and most pointed loud-

speaker announcement that I have ever heard.

"The seatbelt light is definitely still on, so if everyone could remain in the seats with their belts fastened, we could do our job and help out others on the plane". Not only was it incomprehensible to half the plane, it basically only served to insult the poor sick girl and her friends.

When we did land in Atlanta, the egocentrism continued. The signs for what to do with your declaration forms were again, only in English. Now, I understand the "English-only" movement, but airports don't count. In order to convey a positive impression, and more importantly, in order to keep our airports moving smoothly, it helps to give foreign tourists a positive impression and easy experience throughout the airport (not just in the underground train, where thankfully the stops are explained in roughly 200 different languages). Forcing them to stand awkwardly in line without any information does not help achieve that goal.

Of course, never fear, if you can't read the small signs written in only one language there is still help. Standing behind the signs

are six men very willing to yell at you in the same language you don't speak.

Atlanta is not the only culprit in this game. My time in Miami was also filled with entertaining and incredibly inconvenient twists.

The Miami airport security system is the main idiocy present in the building. The security system is really just a suggestion. If you walk past it to the right and walk quickly it is highly possible that you would be able to breeze past the metal detectors entirely. I of course, being a responsible American citizen who adores standing in lines, did not choose this option. This meant that, being allergic to bees and traveling with an epi-pen, I was stopped roughly every three feet so that I could sign my life away in exchange for carrying my life saving medications back home.

That probably sums up my experience with the international points of entry that are airports. You sign your life away in exchange for the right to read small signs, get sick into a bag, and be yelled at in a language that you most likely don't speak. I find it amazing that anyone would want to vacation here.

Adapt from page 4

We put all our metaphorical eggs in one basket in forming this dependence on foreign oil and now we need to break it. We've been hearing lots of unique approaches lately, including

people holding prayer vigils at gas stations (just like our governor did for the drought) and otherwise harassing the stations' owners and employees, even though they aren't responsible for more than a tiny percentage of the overall pump price.

There is only one answer: collectively reducing demand, starting with the individual. The benefits go beyond cost savings. You'll be in better shape for the added exercise, and you'll have taken control over your life.

Obama from page 5

presidency of the United States of America -- a Muslim male male extremist between the ages of 17 and 40."

Hmm... Not only is Barack

Obama not Muslim and therefore necessarily not a Muslim extremist, he was born in August 1961, making him 47 come Election Day. How did she miss that?

Daniel Hicks
Third-year BIOL

MS STOPS PEOPLE FROM MOVING

**WE EXIST
TO MAKE SURE
IT DOESN'T**

Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information between the brain and the body and stops people from moving.

With the help of people like you, the National MS Society addresses the challenges of each person whose life is affected by MS and helps them stay connected to the great big moving world.

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jointhemovement.org

Carole, diagnosed in 2005
Geoffrey, diagnosed in 1987

MS

National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society