

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Student indifference

Only about 30 of more than 13,000 undergraduate students were in attendance at this week's presidential search public forum, a laudable attempt by the Student Government Association and the presidential search committee to involve students in the process of choosing Tech's new leader.

Such a small showing speaks poorly of the student body, which should be more engaged and less apathetic about a decision that has important implications leading up to and beyond graduation.

However, reasons other than apathy lie behind the low attendance record. For one, information on the forum was primarily distributed through a campus wide e-mail, a method that has slowly lost meaning. Since classes started in the fall, over 25 messages have been sent on subjects ranging from CPR training to mystery theatre, leading many to click delete before bothering to read the content of the messages.

For many students who did read the entire email, they found they could not miss class or work to attend the meetings, which were held during the middle of the day in a less than visible location. Others felt confident enough in the process that brought Wayne Clough to Tech 14 years ago and thought they had no valuable expertise to contribute.

More importantly, however, this week's forum may have come too early in the process to incite enough interest in the student body, and it unfortunately appears that there are no future plans to introduce the final three candidates selected to the Tech community.

While at that point student and faculty input may not have much weight on the outcome, presenting these individuals would be an inclusive gesture that would make us all feel like part of the process. Bringing months of closed-door meetings out into the open and allowing everyone to put a face to the name of the individual who may become the future president of Tech would be appreciated by all members of campus.

Despite these reasons and the hope that we will be given a second chance in the future to be a part of the process, Wednesday's forum still succeeded in letting students in on the conversation, and the handful of engaged students who attended were able to ask constructive questions and make helpful contributions.

We should not forget that the new president, whoever he is, will have a direct impact during both our tenure at Tech and during the years following graduation when the added value of a degree from the Institute will matter most. We have a vested interest and cannot afford to be indifferent.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Craig Tabita, *Editor-in-Chief*
Jenny Morgan, *Managing Editor*

Hahnming Lee, <i>Advertising Manager</i>	Corbin Pon, <i>News Editor</i>
Siwan Liu, <i>Design Editor</i>	Blake Israel, <i>Online Editor</i>
Jonathan Saethang, <i>Development Editor</i>	Naihobe Gonzalez, <i>Opinions Editor</i>
Daniel Spiller, <i>Entertainment Editor</i>	Arcadiy Kantor, <i>Outreach Editor</i>
Reem Mansoura, <i>Focus Editor</i>	Michael Schneider, <i>Photography Editor</i>
Vivian Fan, <i>Layout Editor</i>	Matt Hoffman, <i>Sports Editor</i>

Copyright © 2008, Craig Tabita, Editor-in-Chief, and by the Board of Student Publications. The *Technique* is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. No part of this paper may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the Editor or from the Board of Student Publications. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Student Publications, the students, staff or faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University System of Georgia.
First copy free. Subsequent copies \$1 each.

A new spin on the Tech presidential search process...



By Abhishek Jain / Student Publications

Anonymity clouds common sense

If you've ever watched a YouTube video and then made the perilous decision to scroll down, you may have had your faith in humanity shattered by the phenomenon that is anonymous speech on the internet. While sometimes internet discussions can hover in the vicinity of intelligent discourse, YouTube commenters see that beacon of intelligent discourse off in the distance, turn their back to it, and run the other way.

If you don't know what I'm talking about, watch a random YouTube video, scroll down and observe the insults and death threats issued to anyone who liked or didn't like the video, as well as the crude sexual references and the chain posts which guarantee that you'll either meet the love of your life or die in the next three days, depending on your willingness to continue to spam that message.

Apparently, while the cloak of anonymity can occasionally result in great works (Beowulf, Common Sense), often it just eliminates 100 points from the speaker's IQ. (Google "Penny Arcade green blackboards" for a great depiction of this.)

Nevertheless, for over half a decade the *Technique* has proudly printed and distributed all over campus that same anonymous internet speech, to a slightly toned-down degree. I am, of course, talking about the beloved Slivers that you'll find interspersed with the ads in our newspaper. For the few who don't know, the contents of those Sliver boxes originate from anonymous submissions entered on our web site, www.nique.net.

Don't get me wrong. I enjoy reading Slivers as much as anyone else. Slivers are actually a great way to feel the pulse of the Tech student body. Judging by the current batch, the two most important things on people's minds are the noisy North Avenue Apart-



"While... anonymity can occasionally result in great works, often it just eliminates 100 points from the speaker's IQ."

Craig Tabita
Editor-in-Chief

ments renovations and the Facebook redesign, which is provoking the exact same outcry as the News Feed originally did, and I suspect will eventually be just as accepted. They can often be a good source of humor and wisdom on topics such as football games, the dining halls and physics lectures.

Unfortunately, if you were to browse through the original list of submissions before they make it into the newspaper, you would see that many of them aren't quite so valuable. Granted, there aren't so many death threats as on YouTube and, to my knowledge, chain letters have not yet invaded the space, but we have our own categories of intellectual vacuum to deal with.

The most annoying to me is the constant bickering we get about Greek organizations, presumably written by members of other, rival Greek organizations. Every week someone decides to type up some treatise on why some fraternity is full of pitiful losers who throw boring parties, or why some sorority is full of women of less than desirable virtue.

Those aren't going to be printed, so save yourself the keystrokes. Not only are they immature and cowardly, but they often tread pretty close to the line of libel, for which we as the publisher would be held legally responsible, and we at the *Technique* are not about to risk a lawsuit to further some petty feud.

Another activity we can reliably

count on every week is the flirting with or stalking of random people from classes, dorms, Stingers, etc. While those aren't necessarily automatically censored, they are really pathetic and I definitely recommend that you stop submitting them and consider actually talking to the object of your interest in real life.

Otherwise, we generally try to print the Slivers in their original and uncensored format, with exceptions only made for proper names (for the aforementioned libel concerns, mostly) as well as unnecessary obscenity.

But if I can persuade you to drop your cloak of anonymity while you air your comments about our campus community, may I suggest two other avenues? One is for you to join the dialogue we've been having through our Twitter account with other Tech students. Check us out at www.twitter.com/the_nique. Another is to simply email us. We love to hear from readers and you can type as many characters as you want that way.

One thing is for sure: Slivers are one of the most treasured parts of our publication and probably get read more than most of our articles. It's an unfortunate fact of life that most of us who work here came to terms with long ago. So keep submitting funny, witty and informative Slivers, but please, cut it out all the Greek-bashing and creepy stalking.

America should not ignore root causes

With the U.S. government's \$85 billion bailout of A.I.G., following the bailout of Fannie & Freddie, which in turn followed the bailout of Bear Stearns' bad credit, many experts like Columbia U's Joseph E. Stiglitz have brought back into light the underlying problems in our markets.



"We should not be in a debate...over offshore drilling to shore up our dependency on fossil fuels."

Blake Israel
Online Editor

Financial crises are nothing new to this nation. Take the 1990s savings and loan crisis that cost the U.S. \$124.6 billion. Though the circumstances were different, the end results are the same: bad, risky investments cause big corporations to fall, the Fed bails them out, the CEOs keep their big paychecks and the U.S. taxpayers foot the bill.

This is not a rant about the long-term invariability of our financial market. It is about the great American tendency to ignore the root cause of the problem and instead treat the symptoms, hoping everyone will look the other way.

This tendency affects all the activities that we as Americans engage in on a day-to-day basis: our health, our thirst for oil and the news media are just three of the multitude of broken systems in our time.

Pharmaceutical companies allow us to engage in one of the most detrimental of all these actions: prescription

drugs. "Big Pharma" has no reason to cure us of the illnesses that plague our time. By selling drugs that treat the symptoms and keep us happy, we keep coming back for more; and that means more money in their pockets. Getting cured of a problem means but a short burst of income; wouldn't *you* rather have those long-term financial guarantees?

Engaging in this sort of conduct jeopardizes the real health of our citizens and only encourages more destructive behavior, both by the companies and by the individual under treatment. The government needs to give "Big Pharma" more incentives to engage in searches for cures, a much worthier use of my taxes.

Another aspect of American culture where we come up short on a fix is our addiction to gasoline. American automobiles have been getting the same gas mileage since the

Ramblin' Wreck was a brand new ride (which was 1930, and it got 25-30 mpg).

If we are ever going to wean ourselves off our dependency on foreign oil, reducing intake is step one. We should not be in a debate in this country over offshore drilling to shore up our dependency on fossil fuels. Propping ourselves up on offshore petroleum simply prolongs the impending plight.

Instead, we should increase funding for public transportation options (subways, busses, and commuter railways). Not only will this lessen the gas bill for your average middle-class family, but you free up time to get things accomplished while you're not driving, you reduce your carbon footprint, and you dramatically decrease your chance of getting into a fatal traffic accident.

One of the worst of the untreated epidemics is our modern mainstream media. I

am referring to the news media, the talking heads of CNN or the front page of the *AJC*. Think of the recent coverage of the upcoming presidential election. Any time a candidate gives a speech, ten pundits appear on-air and blather on about the strategy of said candidate's recent actions.

It seems our media is incapable of simply conveying the candidates' stances on the actual issues. Instead we have devolved into a sort of meta-reporting system; reporting on the reporting, if you will. In part they do this because the candidates are truly so similar it is mildly sickening.

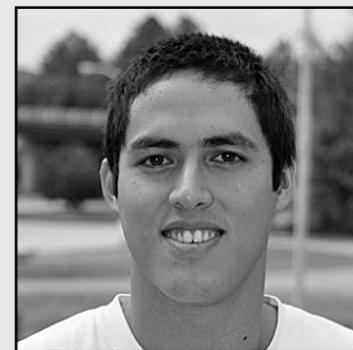
It has become taboo in our supposedly free country to suggest that there is some fallacy in the system upon which we rely for our safety, security, liberty and general well being; and when you do, you're greeted with cynicism, strange looks and general contempt.

Our great country was founded by men who questioned the why, not just the what, and didn't stick with tradition just because it had been done that way for a hundred years.

If we as a people do not awaken and fix the underlying causes of the problems that plague us today, we will be far worse off in the future.

BUZZ Around the Campus

What do you think of the new Tech Rec?



Mauricio Sousa
Fourth-year CHE

"I'd rather be lying on my couch at home."



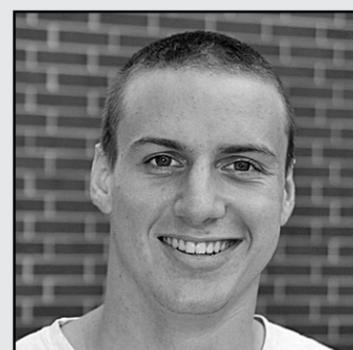
Sabrina Heath
Third-year CM

"It's awesome...new TVs, new games and more comfy couches."



Katie Bond
Second-year MGT

"I don't even know what Tech Rec is."



Michael Vredevel
First-year Undecided Engineering

"It provides a more conducive environment for pwning noobs in Halo."

Photos by Sam Morgan

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT or NOT



Voting drives

Organizations across Tech pooled their efforts to register students to vote in time for the November elections. Greek councils, SGA and the College Republicans and College Democrats independently held voting drives to register both new and absentee voters at Tech, helping to take a dent out of the apathy on campus and making it more convenient for students to cast a ballot.



Pump prices

Gas prices soared this weekend in response to Hurricane Ike's damage of oil refineries. The price of a gallon of regular unleaded gas increased by an average of 16 cents in Georgia, but the real pain was felt in Atlanta, where some gas stations were charging up to \$4.99 a gallon and others ran out of gas altogether, leaving commuters with either empty tanks or empty pockets.



Women's tennis

Women's tennis starts today with hopes of going for a third ITA indoor tennis national title. With NCAA singles national champion Amanda McDowell returning to the team and Irina Falconi, a five-star recruit, joining as a freshman, the mix of talent and coaching are a promising combination.



Bankrupt banks

Merril Lynch, Lehman Brothers and A.I.G. joined the ranks of Bear Stearns this week, buckling under pressure. The banking crisis has affected investments and left thousands jobless, signaling a weak economy and creating uncertainty for new graduates going on the job market.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cultural sensitivity

I was appalled to see the article about studying abroad and silence in the 'Nique ["Studying abroad teaches lessons in grammar, silence," Sept. 12] owing to the level of immaturity shown by the author in dealing with the differences in cultures when abroad.

That article starts relatively innocuously by mentioning how she feels socially pressured to stay silent because "it is far too simple to make a fatal colloquial error." Let me warn you that that is the case with every language. Mistakes can and will happen. From extensive personal experience, I can assure you that immersing oneself in an alien culture is (and should be) exciting and not intimidating.

The second part of the article was simply atrocious and I feel disappointed that the 'Nique is starved of better material. The author criticizes Spanish culture by complain-

ing about the horrors of being served the same breakfast everyday. She also proceeds to unnecessarily insult the appearance of Spanish men with mullets as "trashy" and the corresponding silence as "painful." I believe the appropriate response to these events in the author's life would be, "Grow up!"

In the current day and age where cultural boundaries are being traversed more than ever, it is important to respect and appreciate varying cultures (and that includes eating habits and fashion sense) instead of dismissing them as contrary to personal preferences.

[The] author delivers her piece de resistance by going on to tell us that nearly every European holds negative generalizations about America. After claiming that every Spanish family has toast and coffee for

See Letters, page 10

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@nique.net 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.

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 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@nique.net

Financial turmoil creates greater risks in job hunting

The magical power of 20-20 hindsight is a wonderful and yet tragic thing. The improved clarity that one gains somewhere between five seconds and 24 hours after acting can often lead to disappointment.

In my case, hindsight is informing me that spending an hour Saturday afternoon applying for a job with Merrill Lynch was probably not the best idea (Merrill Lynch was purchased by Bank of America over the weekend, for those not following the current trials and tribulations of Wall Street). The same day I also applied for a job at Hewlett-Packard (HP), shortly before that company announced it would be laying off 25,000 people—more than half of them in the U.S.

Everyone regularly checking CareerBuzz and applying for jobs, especially in the financial industry, is probably starting to wish the site featured built-in stock tracking for the companies listing positions. With huge companies reporting dramatic losses, performing acquisitions (or getting acquired) and in some cases even going out of business, job seekers

increasingly have to navigate an even more dangerous mine field than usual: this year, the threat isn't just that your job will suck. It's that you will go through the motions of interviewing, get an offer and accept—only to see yourself made redundant before your start date.

My original post-graduation plan was to travel and pursue some international opportunities until May, but I find myself having to reconsider in light of the turmoil. I suspect a company is less likely to get rid of a person once they have actually started working than while they are in that awkward Never-Never-Land of having accepted an offer but not actually started contributing.

I find myself seeking reassurance and trying to synthesize the so-called lessons for the job hunter that one can learn from the current situation. One of these lessons is that getting a job with a large company doesn't guarantee job security—in fact, it doesn't guarantee much of anything at all.

Lehman Brothers employed more than 26,000 employees prior to its bankruptcy filing, and



“Getting a job with a large company doesn't guarantee job security—in fact, it doesn't guarantee...anything at all.”

Arcadiy Kantor
Outreach Editor

HP just laid off nearly as many.

In the past, a cushy investment banking job was considered to be a relatively surefire way to accelerate a career and earn a lot of money. The events of the past few months have proven that is not truly the case.

The companies benefiting from this change in perception are largely the smaller, “riskier” firms that previously might have been looked upon as potentially unstable, startups among them. With proof that any company might just turn out to be unstable, these startups have moved to recruit more aggressively.

First Round Capital, a New York-based venture capital firm, even launched the website www.

[leavewallstreetjoinastartup.com](http://www.leavewallstreetjoinastartup.com), which encourages the thousands of employees on the market thanks to the financial bust to pursue startup opportunities.

Another lesson is that a company's financial performance, likelihood of ongoing success and probability of getting bought out by another company (that would presumably lay you off) have to be factors students take into consideration when picking their first employment opportunity. While factors like compensation, opportunity for advancement and quality of benefits must surely still play an important role, few things undermine your progression in a company like a bankruptcy filing. Finally, the third and most im-

portant take-away from the current financial crisis is that sometimes there's really nothing you can do to make the “right” choice. We as laypersons don't have an intimate grasp or understanding of company financials, nor are we kept in the loop on any potential interest in buyouts of one company by another. Many of us will join a company that will seem like a great opportunity and see that company downsize, get purchased or go bust within our first year.

Ultimately, we must be prepared for that scenario by keeping our options open, whether by seeking to immediately join a different company or by having enough money saved to afford a potentially lengthy new job search process. After all, it never hurts to make sure we keep our own finances sound even if those of our employer aren't.

The Tech experience ensures that all Institute graduates leave with the ability to adapt to challenges and stressful situations. In these uncertain times, it is crucial not to forget to apply that adaptability to the job hunt—and the real world—as well.

Letters from page 9

breakfast and that nearly every European is plagued with these anti-American sentiments, maybe the coffee pot is just as charred as the kettle?

I understand that this was an opinions piece, but the opinions expressed here were extremely im-

mature and demeaning towards Spaniards and Europeans. It reflects badly on the 'Nique to allow such blatant expressions of cultural intolerance and excuses for lack of adaptability to be published in the school newspaper.

Vigneshwar Kalyanasundaram
Grad ME

Politics of gender

I'd like to point out a few issues I have with Maria Carter's “hit” piece on Sarah Palin [“Palin pick won't fix gender gap,” Sept. 12].

Obama's female staffers on average make \$0.83 for every dollar his male staffers make while McCain's female staffers on average

make slightly more (the actual ratio is \$1.04 to \$1).

Either Obama likes to hire women only for the lower paying positions or he is not paying them equally. One side only talks about equal pay and wants to enforce it through heavy handed legislation. In contrast the other side actually has done the deed without any co-

ercion from the government.

Palin wants an abstinence-based education which is not “abstinence only” as Carter claimed.

When was Obama ever questioned on his ability to be a father [and] president of the U.S.?

Tim Wang
Grad AE



U.S. AIR FORCE
R·O·T·C

INTERNING WITH US ISN'T ROCKET SCIENCE. THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT IS.

The U.S. Air Force is looking for electrical, computer and environmental engineering students who want to work with some of the most advanced technology in the world and at the same time get paid well to do it. If all this sounds intriguing to you, contact AFROTC and learn how you can spend your summer on the cutting edge.

Pay is \$4,500 for 10 weeks

Round-trip airfare, lodging and living expenses

Rental car

Students who complete the program may be offered AFROTC scholarships.

Pays 100% of tuition and fees

\$900/year for books

\$400-500 tax-free monthly stipend

Call 1-404-894-7386 or visit AFROTC.com.

www.nique.net

**Come to our weekly
staff meetings!**

**Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
in Room 137 of the Flag Building**

**There will be pizza.
You'll have fun, we
promise.***

***Results may vary. We are not responsible for temporary insanity, uncontrollable laughter or indigestion.**