

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Football ticketing

In the absence of other changes, BuzzCard scanning at football games remains another attempt at solving the same student ticketing issues that seem to come up every year.

Swiping BuzzCards is not a perfect solution, but it does address the problem of tickets being sold or given away to people who are not Tech students and thus have not paid the athletic fee. Not only does this practice hurt school spirit, but it also affects Tech students who have paid the athletic fee and are unable to obtain tickets.

At the Gardner Webb game, five percent of student tickets did not have eligible BuzzCards—a small but significant number. While only about 2,000 student fans came out that day, both the proportion and number of student tickets being used by people who do not attend Tech could vastly increase at sold out games against rivals like Georgia. This precludes fee-paying Tech students from attending games and showing their school spirit. Students wishing to invite a friend along can purchase a discounted date ticket.

However, ticket scanning brings new problems while leaving others unresolved. There are not enough resources to scale the program at games with higher attendance where it would most be needed. While new solutions are being considered, no specific plan is in sight. In addition, many of the complaints about football ticketing stem from block ticketing, under which any group can arrange to sit with hundreds of their closest friends, often leaving small groups with no chance of securing tickets to the most popular games.

The block ticketing system, in effect, is often abused. The cap for the number of seats that can be obtained in a given block should be lowered to no more than 100; anything more is unnecessary. At the same time, the minimum—currently set at 20—should be done away with. Football games are inherently social events, and every student should be able to conveniently arrange to sit with his or her group of friends.

The 1st and 10 program for students and young alumni allows groups to sign up in advance at the beginning of the semester and secure blocks in which GTID numbers are matched to each set of vouchers turned in, minimizing abuse and maximizing the benefit to large, dedicated groups.

A complicated scanning procedure may not be the answer to all of the complaints that exist against the football ticketing process, but the bottom line is that the rules should be enforced. The few who take advantage of the system should not be allowed to infringe on the rights of the larger student body who paid the athletic fee and expects to have an equal right to show its school spirit at any football game.

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Player 1: Ed Life: ♥♥♥♥♥



By Blake Israel / Student Publications

Tech should dump ACC for SEC

Almost 76 years ago, a group of 13 universities decided to form a new conference named the Southeastern Conference (SEC). Of the 12 current members of the SEC, 10 of them were part of the original 13. Tech is one of three schools that have left the SEC, including Sewanee and Tulane.

It is undeniable that the history of Tech athletics and the SEC are heavily intertwined. Tech has played 429 football games against SEC schools, which accounts for almost 38 percent all games played in the history of Tech. Tech's biggest rival, the University of Georgia, is a member of the SEC.

Auburn is still a traditional rival whom we have played 92 times. Over 2,000 more fans showed up to watch Tech play a bottom-of-the-barrel SEC team, Mississippi State, than did to watch Tech play a bottom-of-the-barrel ACC team, Duke. The upcoming nonconference games in the near future against Ole Miss and Alabama will likely follow suit.

Geographically, the SEC is situated much more favorably than the ACC, with schools within a one-day drive and the SEC Conference Championships in football and basketball most often played just over a mile away from campus at the Georgia Dome.

So with all of the obvious reasons, why has Tech not rejoined the SEC?

Although the SEC said it didn't want us back about 30 years ago, I think it is ready to bury the hatchet. The SEC is probably not in the market to pick up a 13th team, so let's get rid of one of the SEC teams. I propose Arkansas. Arkansas is the *de facto* reject of the SEC. It joined the conference after jumping from the sinking ship of the old Southwestern Conference.

Logically, Arkansas would move to the Big 12, but that is



“The advantages of rejoining the conference we helped to found greatly outweigh the losses of leaving the ACC.”

Matt Hoffman
Sports Editor

monkey wrenched by, again, the 12-team conference setup. So Baylor, or maybe Iowa State, would need to get kicked out of the Big 12, and go to...I don't care. One of them just needs to go.

Next of course you will get people complaining about weakening the basketball schedule with the move to the SEC, but let's not forget Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky and even an occasional spurt of greatness from LSU that would help the loss of Duke and North Carolina on the schedule. Besides, as last year showed, you can go out of conference to make a ridiculously impossible basketball schedule.

Then out of the woodwork come the irrational people who will say the SEC is academically inferior to the ACC, and we fit better into the ACC for that reason. I will concede that a significant portion of public high schools would probably be considered academically rigorous by SEC standards. However, I believe we should play them in football and basketball games, not adopt their core curricula.

Next comes the big question: can we be competitive? All in all, Tech has a pretty impressive lineup of sports. Baseball, golf, tennis and men's basketball are all well established programs which would likely compete toward the top of the SEC.

Women's basketball, softball, volleyball and track and field,

along with swimming and diving, have all risen through the ranks in their respective leagues and would most likely also be competitive. Tech would also probably need to get a gymnastics team, but who is going to actually say that we couldn't use a few more girls on campus?

That leaves football. With the reputation of the SEC, recruiting would most likely improve since publicity for the SEC, with new long-term contracts with CBS and ESPN, greatly outweighs that of the ACC's, which consists of getting regional coverage on ABC or dealing with the Einsteins on Raycom who cannot figure out Roddy Jones's name.

The football team would also have the advantage of playing for real bowl games. The team as a whole would continue to improve, and Tech would probably contend for a conference, and maybe even a National Championship, every couple of years.

The advantages of rejoining the conference we helped to found greatly outweigh the losses of leaving the ACC. Who knows, maybe we could even sell out more than two football games per year. But the only way this could happen is if Tech took more than just a passive role in the process.

The Athletic Association would need to start shaking things up and probably step on some toes, but the ends would truly justify the means.

Vandalism of Buzzes defaces school spirit

The Buzzes around campus were a great addition to the community. Representing the tradition, creativity and overall spirit of Tech, they eventually came to represent the immaturity, lack of spirit and overall disappointment certain Tech students should feel for themselves.



“The experience of Tech is of rigor, but partying as well; of despair, but laughter all the same.”

Hamza Hasan
Assistant Online Editor

These generously donated and colorful additions to the campus reminded me of the various reasons I like Tech. A personal favorite was the one on the 5th Street interstate bridge. Sponsored by the College of Engineering and designed by fellow Industrial Designers Society of America members, it was goofy, charming and representative of what we saw in Tech.

It was great because it was even better than the sum of its parts. The nerd sandals with socks, the incredible metal Mohawk, the hilarious pocket protector and the general “bling” attitude of this Buzz were all reflective of the reason why I can appreciate Tech.

Unfortunately, this edifice was one of the first and most prominent installations to go through a series of vandalisms. From breaking the antennae to essentially disfiguring the design, I saw the immaturity most Tech students seem to possess.

I would like to mention some new directions in reasoning and logic. Just because you failed your last calculus test doesn't give you the right to get angry at this school. Stealing the Ts around campus, slipping out silverware from the dining halls and talking smack about UGA are all inappropriate but traditional activities that are perfectly within reason. Destroying these enriching and well-crafted statues because you can is not.

I'm not asking whoever did these acts to come forth, confess and seek redemption—I'm asking you to feel sorry for yourself, because if there's anything wrong with Tech, it's usually your types that are causing the mess.

School spirit at Tech is difficult. A form of school spirit for me is to get angry and say “I hate Tech, it's too hard.” But this phrase is a symbol of Tech, and I don't go spray graffiti on

Skiles or quicklime Yellow Jacket Park. I simply vent and then go on with my work, and later come to enjoy the wonderful traditions that shape Tech into an experience that I have come to enjoy.

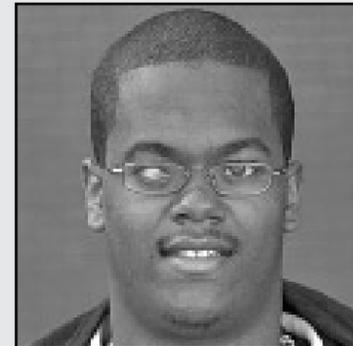
I can take pleasure in the numerous and detailed traditions and stories that make Tech different, like George P. Burdell and Clean Old-Fashioned Hate. I started a tradition with my roommate from freshman year to throw our ice cream cones at Towers since we lived in Glenn (it looked pretty disgusting).

These mundane and arbitrary tasks, like the Cake Race or the Triple Play, are there not to make us miserable, but to make us laugh at our misery. I pulled an all-nighter for the Cake Race, for example. These are all aspects of tradition, and they're not easy to do or keep up with, but they're part of our college experience.

BUZZ

Around the Campus

What is your favorite place to eat on campus?



Stephen Phillips
Third-year CE

“Chick-Fil-A because it reminds me of home.”



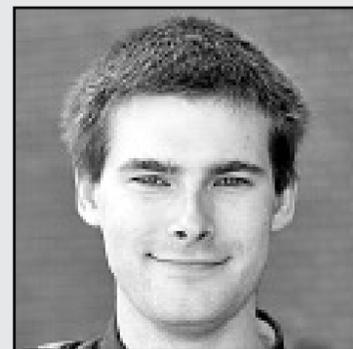
Ailien Vuong
Second-year ARCH

“Tin Drum because the pad thai is pretty good and it's not very far away.”



Michael Lane
Third-year PHYS

“Brittain Dining Hall because Woodruff doesn't have provolone cheese.”



Warren Van Nus
Second-year ME

“Rocky Mountain Pizza because it is a great place to eat and socialize.”

Photos by Joey Cerone

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT or NOT



Football ranks

After beating Clemson last Saturday, Tech has become a legitimate contender for the ACC, greatly exceeding the shoddy expectations based on last year's performance of a 7-6 overall record. Tech is now ranked lucky number 18 in the first Bowl Championship Series of the season, becoming the highest ranked team in the ACC just in time for a happy Homecoming.



Funding falls

The economic crisis continues to rear its head into all parts of the country, including Tech. The Institute has expressed concern over the possibility that donors will make fewer, smaller gifts at the same time when the library faced losing some of its online journals. A drop in fundraising could mean a return to doing research the old-fashioned way for students.



Publications print

Tech has been flooded with newly printed publications recently. New ones, like T-Book, a collection of Tech traditions, and Firewall, the CoC's new newsletter, join more familiar publications like the North Avenue Review and the Blueprint. It's good to know engineers can also be creative.



Recycling trashed

Tech recently cut the recycling program at the Graduate Living Center, sending an email that explained that students trying to recycle cardboard were abusing the service. If too much recycling was the problem, Housing should have let students know before trashing the program.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Technical communication

Thank you and the Editorial Board for highlighting ECE's in-house technical writing program in the Oct. 10 Opinions piece [“Writing Woes”].

We have worked very hard over the past eight years and have taken a proactive approach to teaching communication skills to our engineering students. ECE is proud of its Undergraduate Professional Communications Program and its communication faculty.

These faculty are employed by and are part of the School of ECE, and this program has been developed and operated by these ECE personnel independent of the School of LCC.

The article states that “Tech's writing curriculum is failing to prepare [engineering] students” to communicate effectively and to compete on an international level, which

is misleading. The College of Engineering has made a concerted effort for almost two decades.

The School of Mechanical Engineering, the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering all have well-developed, in-house technical communication programs, and the communications faculty who coordinate these programs are all hired by their respective Schools and are not affiliated with LCC.

An informative article would go a long way in raising awareness of the successful writing programs at Tech.

Douglas Williams
Professor and Associate Chair, School of ECE

See Letters, page 10

Letter Submission Policy

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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. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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Letters from page 9

I am writing in response to the "Writing Woes" editorial in the Oct. 10 edition. Your focus on technical communication skills at Tech is much appreciated.

The engineering societies have long recognized this need and have actively promoted communications instruction within engineering programs. In fact, most of the larger schools in the College of Engineering have successful, long-standing in-house technical communications programs directed by a full-time faculty member housed within the school.

In particular, the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (CHBE) has had an in-house communications program for both undergraduate and graduate students since January 1994; I have directed the program since 2002. It was the first such program on the Tech campus, and arguably among the first ones in the country.

We first decided to implement this program because we recognized the growing need for technical communication skills, both at Tech and in the workplace, and because of the encouragement and feedback we received from our external advisory board, alumni, students and employers.

Several years after we started our program, the engineering and technology accreditation board (ABET) adopted communication skills as one of the ABET 2000 criteria, and the Tech campus began discussions on how to address

this issue. After a series of meetings, our in-house approach came to be called the CHBE (or CHE) model and was eventually the approach that was adopted.

Having an in-house communications program allows a greater focus on CHBE-specific communication practices and standards. One key aspect of the program is its integration of communication instruction into the core curriculum. Rather than simply teaching a stand-alone course, I collaborate with other CHBE faculty to incorporate instruction on written and oral communication into required courses such as the Unit Operations Lab.

I also co-teach, with tenured CHBE faculty, elective courses on effective communication for professional engineering at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Our communications program has consistently been ranked as effective or very effective in surveys of graduating seniors and alumni.

I'll end with an anecdote that speaks to the success of the program. Last week, one of our research groups met with sponsors from American Pacific; at the end of the meeting one of the company leaders, Dan Clough (yes, brother of), made an unsolicited comment: "I always enjoy these meetings because the students are so good at making presentations."

Jacqueline Mohalley Snedeker
Academic Professional
Director, Technical Communications Program
School of CHBE

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Election time brings party loyalty, discord**

Until that fateful [Election] Day, citizens, flattered by the candidates' attention, respond with intense party loyalty and create a "nation divided." Friend decries friend, family turns upon family.

Indeed, when you look at each candidate's primary views, there is little difference in their opinions. Both McCain and Obama claim they are against abortion; both claim the economy is in shambles. Yet, this election is the most partisan of recent years.

If we are going to live up to the ideal of being politically knowledgeable and active citizens, we must concede that most of the reasons—the candidate's background, sex, and personal history—that we have used to create our partisan views are moot.

If we are to vote intelligently, we must base our views on the candidates' views and voting histories. And in this election, following this principle makes us realize that it does not make a significant difference who we vote for.

Rather, if we are to fully respect our rights and responsibilities as American citizens, we should focus not only on electing our favored nominee, but also on engaging with all of our elected representatives, including our president, throughout their terms to ensure that our views are being fairly represented in our democracy.

What is more vital is that we

improve our level of civic commitment throughout the terms of our elected officials. Save for a few dedicated citizens, where are the people lobbying at the grassroots level for less government corruption, better attention to health care [or] more U.S. aid in crises like Darfur?

More important than our representatives' party affiliations is the fact that they are our elected officials. Without us, the citizens of America, they would be without a job, so we must hold them accountable for our needs and desires.

Swetha Krishnakumar
Second-year IE and INTA

Two weeks ago I turned in my absentee ballot for the upcoming election. I voted for Ralph Nader, an independent, for President.

When I tell someone I voted for a third party candidate, they elicit a puzzled, jeering, or even hostile reaction. "Way to throw your vote away!" "A vote for Nader is a vote for McCain." Only one person left it at "cool."

How can such an attitude be adopted in the U.S., where we claim to bleed and breathe democracy? What kind of a "free country" do I live in when I am verbally abused for my choice in any election?

People are unable to see the whole picture or relate the ide-

als of our country, and even their own beliefs, to a more relativistic, free and truly choice-based electoral system. Even the question "Are you voting for McCain or Obama?" reinforces the false notion that there is only a binary choice to be made.

Nader is derided by Democrats for "winning the election for Bush" in Florida. Why is Nader the bad guy? It is because he is the easiest person to target as the most prominent third-party candidate. As true party loyalists, those Democrats were and still are unable to put responsibility on Gore.

They are representative of a huge, loud swath of voters (and non-voters!) who cannot or will not escape the two-party paradigm. Because people do not understand the third party candidates, it is their propensity to fear them.

A more representative voting system like range voting is the key to breaking the illiberal monopoly held on power in this country. Until such progress can be made in our systems, I call on all Americans to vote the way their heart tells them, not according to Party lines.

Meanwhile, respect your fellow citizens' right to choose their leaders for themselves. Freedom begins with you.

Preston Rhea
Fifth-year CMPE

Fourth graders from low-income communities are already three grade levels behind their high-income peers.

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