

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## Construction closures

The announcement that starting this month, the stretch of road between Atlantic Drive and Fourth Street will be closed, initially should not be viewed as an unnecessary inconvenience. The Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons promises to be a state-of-the-art facility, and while drivers may find the closures bothersome, the six-month wait is worth the project at hand. However, given Tech's history with construction projects, some warning is due. Residents of the North Avenue Apartments still complain of loud construction in the mornings, despite announcements that drilling would stop, and many drivers have noticed that the parking lot by the library has been fenced off since the beginning of the semester—despite no signs of construction. Tech should make sure to stick to its announced schedule and not draw out the inconvenience.

## Ads on T-Square

For the first time, the main page for T-Square was used to display an advertisement for a campus event. While In-venture is a fun competition appealing to many students, by making T-Square's main page a venue for advertisements, a new precedent is established that risks misusing an official source of communication to flood students with information they do not need or want (much like the mega mods spamming student inboxes do), as campus organizations request to advertise in this highly visible spot. If the main page for T-Square could so easily be edited, Tech should have made a real improvement by placing the log-in box in the place of this advertisement. This latest move indicates that Tech is in need of an established policy for campus communication.

## Newspaper numbers

The College Readership Program has become a staple around campus, making 1,300 issues of three newspapers available to students each day. However, we have increasingly noticed that by the middle of the day newsstands are empty, suggesting that readership is outpacing the number of newspapers being offered. The recent decision to increase the number of distribution points does not seem to be the best solution to the problem since the circulation rate will remain the same. Further, the proposed idea to make Junior's Grill a new point of distribution in addition to the D.M. Smith Building does not make much sense as the two are only a few yards away. A more thoughtful evaluation of the program is needed to ensure that all students can stay informed.

*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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First copy free. Subsequent copies \$1 each.



\* - "Robotic service dog replacement in development", p.9

By Abhishek Jain / Student Publications

## Historic win empowers America

"We're watching history unfold."

These were the first words my friend said to me over the phone Tuesday night, mere seconds after Barack Obama was named the projected winner of the 2008 presidential election, becoming the first African American to be elected to the White House. In that moment, I felt my spirits soar, and I dropped the phone to join the chorus of screams, chants and car horns that seemed to instantly fill my surroundings.

By using the nifty "live feed" feature on Facebook, I was able to keep up with the flurry of updated statuses from both Obama and McCain supporters. Many students welcomed the new president and embraced the change that would evidently come under Obama's presidency. Others were vehemently opposed to our new president and expressed their sentiments quite vividly. Among exclamations of "GOBAMA!" were extreme statuses that included statements about leaving the United States and championing Santa Claus as president for 2012.

Although I am an avid Obama supporter, I respect McCain, who fought hard for our country and just as hard for the presidency. It was heartwarming to hear that in his gracious concession speech McCain vowed to work with Obama and to help him better the country they both love. It reminds me that while Republicans and Democrats disagree on almost everything, we share a common theme in wanting what is best for our nation.

The past two years have been as nerve-racking as they have been fulfilling for Obama and his supporters. From watching him declare his candidacy and become the Democratic presidential candidate, to watching him struggle against negative campaign ads, Obama has come a long way from



"Change, much like history, cannot be made in a single day...there is still much that needs to be done."

Reem Mansoura  
Focus Editor

being the long-shot candidate. From making meager campaign donations of \$5, \$10 or \$15, to standing in line for hours waiting to cast a ballot and anxiously watching the news as the votes came in, Obama's supporters have come together to bring about the change we so desperately need.

'Ecstatic' could not begin to describe how absolutely wonderful I felt. For the first time in a long time, I felt truly proud to be an American. It seemed like only yesterday that I contributed my \$15 to Obama's campaign to stand 20 feet from him while he spoke at the World Congress Center. It felt like just yesterday that I stood with other like-minded individuals, collectively shouting "I'm fired up! Ready to go!" I was inspired and convinced that he would be the one to change our broken government.

Although my last editorial discussed the apathy that plagues so many of us, including myself for a short while, my faith in the power people possess has been restored. We have shown that as a generation, we are not as apathetic as we think we are. Though we may have sometimes been ridiculed for having so much faith and hope for any one politician, we stood firm for what we believed in and we opted for something different.

But change, much like history, cannot be made in a single day. Although we cast our ballots and voted for change, there is still

much that needs to be done. The momentum and energy which carried Obama to the presidency should not die with his election.

We should continue to let our voices be heard in this presidency and the presidencies to come. Through our actions, we can stand united behind our president and together tackle the problems that face our country. Whether it be improving our economy, changing our healthcare and social security systems, striving to make education affordable or continuing to push for equal rights, this election has taught us all that we can do anything. We rallied together, nagged our neighbors to the polls, debated our ideas and, in the end, we were victorious.

It is our duty as Americans to follow up with our representatives, our senators and our president. Our responsibilities as citizens do not end with simply electing these individuals into office. Whether we decide to write letters, make phone calls or send emails, we should never be happy with just the status quo. We should always strive for improvement.

This election is a significant one for the history books. We not only elected the first African American to the presidency, but also showed that we as a people have the power to do anything. Never should we lose hope, but stand together and declare in one voice the slogan that has become so famous in this election: Yes we can.

# Irrational laziness plagues student body

Frankly, I am quite tired of talking about the election. It's the only thing the news stations have been broadcasting for most of the year—which candidate has the better tax policy, who chose the worst candidate for vice president and who has more experience.



**“I will never be able to understand why some prefer to take the Stinger or Trolley over walking...”**

**Jennifer Aldoretta**  
Assistant Entertainment Editor

Barack Obama is right, we do need change. The change I'm looking forward to most is not hearing about the election every time I turn on the TV or the radio.

So instead of doing the “expected” thing and writing an editorial about who won the election and how excited or upset I am about it, I am going to write about something that has been plaguing our campus for as long as I can remember: laziness.

I know that as college students we are expected to be pretty lazy. I am just as guilty of letting my room become a disaster-zone and letting those dishes pile up in the sink as any other college student. We all have things to do and cannot always put time into things like that. But I am talking about a different kind of lazy. Not the I-just-don't-feel-like-cleaning-up-right-now lazy. The lazy that I am talking about is downright confusing and is on an entirely different level.

Have you ever been walking to class, minding your own business, and then out of nowhere practically gotten mowed over by someone running by to try and catch the Stinger or Trolley before it leaves? That is the kind of lazy I am talking about.

I am astounded that these people can't muster the energy to wake up ten minutes earlier so that they can walk to their class like most of the student population, but they somehow manage to find the energy to sprint half a mile when they see a Trolley or Stinger that is threatening to leave them behind.

This unusual form of laziness is one that I simply cannot wrap my mind around. The classic engineering mindset tends to drive the engineer to either find the shortest route on foot or to get to class in the shortest amount of time.

I am not sure whether peo-

ple are just unaware, but I'm fairly certain the Stinger and Trolley get you to class in the same amount of time (or more) than walking. I will not judge those of you who use the Trolley to go long distances, but for those students who hop on the Trolley to travel from Tech Square to the corner of 5th and Techwood, shame on you. You are making the Trolleys far more overcrowded than they should ever be and are simply causing more of a headache for the drivers.

Trolley and Stinger drivers are far too underappreciated. The few times that the door gets shut in someone's face because one more person could not possibly fit (even though they certainly try), it is absolutely justified, and I feel not one bit of pity for that person. Stop being so lazy. Walk sometimes. It's good for you.

The worst part about this weird form of laziness that so

many Tech students seem to embody is that the people who do exert the energy to run a marathon to get to the bus in time are the people who could no doubt use a little time outdoors.

I will never be able to understand why some prefer to take the Stinger or Trolley over walking or biking, especially since it does not really save any time. At this time of year when the weather is generally so beautiful and pleasant, the best part of my day is getting outside and walking to class.

So if you find that you are reading this article and thinking, “I wonder if she's talking about me,” I am talking about you. Do something different. Do something that might actually be good for your body. Wake up a little early, get outside and walk to your class. You might actually find that you enjoy it.

But whatever you do, do not go from being one of those people who run to catch the Trolley or Stinger to one of those mindless sheep who crosses the street when you should not cross only because the kid in front of you decided it would be a good idea (let him get run over).

Give the poor drivers a break. Use your legs instead of your butt.

## BUZZ

### Around the Campus

**What is the most important issue the new president should address?**



**Rohan Nagarkar**  
First-year EE

*“For me the biggest issue is the war in Iraq and preventing terrorism from happening. I want the U.S. to withdraw and find a good solution.”*



**John Bestly**  
Third-year BME

*“The most important issue...is the economy. It worries me that I'll be graduating in the next year and I want to be able to find a decent job.”*



**Sarah Steves**  
Second-year PTFE

*“The most important issue...would be the energy crisis. [He] needs to look more into alternative sources of energy, like green sources of energy.”*



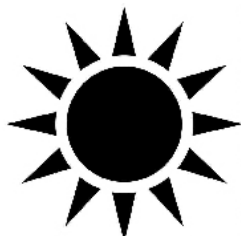
**Derek Doroski**  
Grad BME

*“The most important issue is abortion. We have 1.2 million abortions every year...and I hope we can come together and agree that that is too many...”*

Photos by Sharad Gopal

#### OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

## HOT-or-NOT



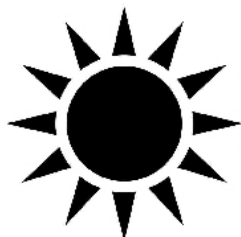
### Online Tower

Tech's new undergraduate research journal is publishing its debut issue after over a year of recruiting and publicity. *The Tower* is an important step in the direction of encouraging undergraduate participation in research and cementing Tech as a premier research institution. The journal's first issue will be published online on the library's website starting today, and a print issue will follow.



### Snaking lines

In what was anticipated to be a historical election with record turnout, voters still found that waits at precincts exceeded their expectations, even during early voting. At Tech, long lines snaked around the Student Center as students waited for hours to cast their vote. Precincts should have been better prepared to make this election go as smoothly as possible.



### Football streaks

Tech football broke a different kind of streak this weekend. Following the first Homecoming loss in 13 years, the Yellow Jackets managed a slim victory over Florida State, marking the first win against the Seminoles in 33 years. Tech is now back in the BCS rankings and leading the Coastal Division.



### Social zombies

A recent Tech report shows that social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace have become top sources of malware, increasing the number of “zombie computers” infected. While sometimes humorous, these viral Wall postings can make keeping up with friends a little risky for users.

#### YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Electoral College works

A recent piece calling for the abolition of the Electoral College [“Electoral College should be eliminated,” Oct. 31], while admirable in discussing a matter of national import, gives puzzlingly short shrift to the reasons for which our nation's founders included this critical underpinning in the American system of government.

It is an often forgotten fact that the United States are exactly that—a federation of independent governmental entities, each responsible to a well-defined populace, united around a common purpose. The government best able to protect its citizenry from unjust interference and from infringement of their individual rights is that which is most closely connected to them.

This was a fact well understood by the framers of the Constitution, who valued highly the maintenance of a distinction between decisions

and authority vested on a national level, and those where local customs, values and motivations were the best guide for action. In electing a President, we are acting not as the people of a nation, but as the nation itself.

Our system of checks and balances was constructed because of a fundamental distrust of the empowerment of groups with authority over others: “ambition must be made to counteract ambition,” in the words of the Federalist Papers. The framers were concerned with the protection of minority viewpoints, with countering the possibility that the will of the majority would restrict and suppress the ideas and rights of groups with less popular opinions, many of which have been vindicated by history.

By vesting rights in Electors we put trust in them that they

See **Letters**, page 12

#### Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor in response to *Technique* content as well as general topics relevant to campus. We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Send your letter to [letters@nique.net](mailto:letters@nique.net) and please use your official Georgia Tech account if possible. Make sure to include your full name, year (1st, 2nd, etc.), and major.

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.

#### Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at [nique.net/ads](http://nique.net/ads). The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is Friday at 5 p.m., one week prior to publication. For rate or billing information, or to place an ad, please e-mail our Advertising Manager, Hahnming Lee at [ads@nique.net](mailto:ads@nique.net). You may also reach us by telephone at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The *Technique* office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 353 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290.

#### Coverage Requests

Requests for coverage may be made to the Editor-in-Chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email [editor@nique.net](mailto:editor@nique.net)

