

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Construction Communication

Skiles detour causes frustration for students

The construction on for the new Clough Undergraduate Learning Center expanded this week, spilling outside of the library parking lot and engulfing Skiles walkway with torn up pavement and green fencing. This new construction has forced students to reroute their paths between East and West campus, following only the notifications of small green signs stating “detour”.

This construction is evidently due to delays installing the underground utilities for the new center, which were originally expected to finish during spring break. While it is understandable that construction delays happen, especially in the face of soggy spring weather, the fact that the main artery of campus pedestrian flow was closed without so much as a poster board is inexcusable.

The facilities apartment was made aware of the delays in the utilities work early last week, yet did not take any steps to send out emails to the student body,

despite many venues to do so through. Every day we students receive emails informing us of cultural events, lecture speakers and even parking changes. The construction projects on North Ave. have update emails sent out to the students affected, as well as a website with thorough explanations of exactly what is happening when and why.

There was even an email sent out Wednesday evening about construction, with no mention as to the origin or length of the disturbance to pedestrian traffic in the center of campus.

It is the responsibility of campus administrators to communicate crucial information, and the lack of notification to the students about this blockage represents a failure for both the facilities department and the new communication systems put in place. This breakdown in the flow of information must be remedied if administrators want students to feel included in campus development.

The Consensus Opinion reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

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EDITORIAL CARTOON BY CRAIG TABITA



YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students and visitors face parking problems

I normally try not to complain about stuff like this but the Tech parking system has enraged me enough that I just had to vent somehow. Recently they replaced the perfectly good pay as you leave parking system at the physics building guest lot with a prepay machine filled with problems for no apparent reason.

Well there is one obvious reason: so they can write more tickets and further screw over their students! They probably make more money on the tickets than the actual parking charges. In the old system no tickets were issued and students would simply pay for their parking as they left.

Now they write \$25 tickets for any car whose time has expired and sometimes even write tickets when the cars have paid for parking, such as this morning when I got a ticket despite having paid for more time than I spent in the spot. Half the time the machine either doesn't accept credit cards or cash and sometimes it just quits accepting all forms of payment causing more people to go unpaid and thus letting them write more tickets.

When it breaks you can call the help line but they just say they'll send someone to check on it and hang up on you leaving you with the option of missing class to wait around or risk getting a ticket by leaving and going to class. The machine usually doesn't give any change but it will happily accept your \$20 bill for \$1 worth of parking.

They should be able to find ways to make money without purposely screwing their students over like this.

John Hankinson
PHYS grad student

More than forty years ago my first job was at Tech selling Wink and peanuts at Grant Field. Unfortunately, even though I am a native Atlantan and lived here all my life, I can't say I have spent too much time on North Avenue. And that may continue. Last week I treated my family to a baseball game and what a game it was for Tech. Our son pitched for the visitors and clearly the Yellow Jackets have a chance to win the College World Series this year.

Our concern and the reason for writing is my wife, mother and father are physically challenged. As we approached the baseball stadium, there was no handicapped parking for visitors. There were a couple of spots for faculty/students with permits.

I could not find a police officer to ask, only a couple of workers driving golf carts who simply shrugged their shoulders. I circled around and dropped them off at the gate where the buses pick up and after a couple of honks by the bus driver, headed off to find a parking place. The closest handi-

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letters@nique.net

We welcome your letters in response to Technique content as well as topics relevant to campus. We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis.

Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Include your full name, year (1st, 2nd, etc.) and major. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed per term.

capped parking places without a “permit only” sign was at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

We had talked about coming back the next day to watch Tech play again, but, without the necessary convenience, we decided it was too much trouble to go through again.

The twenty dollars or so from lost revenue would break neither the athletic program nor us. But, it begs the question: is Tech risking the loss of potentially millions of dollars by ignoring simple and straightforward federal laws that require a certain number of handicap parking places be set aside at federally funded institutions? I'm not sure if the Americans With Disabilities Act covers this issue at college athletic venues, but my guess is that it is a strong place to start looking.

For all the students, especially those student athletes, best of luck this semester!

Edward Randall
bymybootstraps@gmail.com

OSCAR requirements stifle humanity

Colleges are supposed to be places of thought. They are a source of teachers and teachings, sources of the possible. We are stifled by the bureaucracy of administration and this bureaucracy constantly tries to categorically describe what it considers to be beneath it: in our case: by major, year and now by race.

I encourage every student to not answer the “race and ethnicity” question which currently is being forced upon us by OSCAR. No one should be forced to classify themselves as other than human.

I will share that my ethnicity is “American”, which is not even an option in the survey. I appeal to the student body, the administration and the government to accept that we are human, and that any classification of race or ethnicity marginalizes achievements made our pursuit of the possible, and for that which makes us human.

Brian Degnan
EE grad student

Tech academics, sports and salaries excel

My past 5 years at Tech have led me to believe that our institute truly has the right stuff, and other schools, for the most part, don't. This "right stuff" was also discussed in the recent book "The World is Flat" by Thomas Friedman, and has been the topic amongst other journalists looking for another good campus example to cite.



"Above all Georgia Tech sports a vast portfolio of research, publication and a network of successful alumni"

Michael Schneider
Photography Editor

Let's go over some of the basics first. Tech generally has high admission standards, both to undergraduate and graduate school. SAT scores remain high, and for most of Tech's graduate programs, students need a GRE math score in the high 700's.

Tech's engineering programs rank amongst the highest in the country, including a #1 ranked Industrial Engineering program and my #3 ranked Biomedical Engineering program (US News and World Report).

Recently on The Tonight Show, President Obama stated that "instead of -- a smart kid coming out of school, instead of wanting to be an investment banker, we need them to decide if they want to be an engineer, they want to be a scientist, they want to be a doctor or a teacher."

Well, let's see what just comes out of Tech. Tech has increased the number of engineering degrees awarded by 29% in the past decade, and has seen an 75% increase in

the number of Ph.D.s awarded. Programs like Teach for America are grabbing many Tech students, and our nanotechnology building is nearly finished.

Looking back at Tech's past 30 years, Tech has produced two Nobel laureates in two distinctly different categories, Peace & Chemistry (Jimmy Carter and Kary Mullis).

Those that didn't even finish their degree at Tech have been successful. Christopher Klaus of Klaus College of Computing fame founded Internet Security Systems (later acquired by IBM), and Jeff Foxworthy swept across the country telling us what we might be had only our house been on wheels.

Within Tech's past 60 years, the school has produced 14 astronauts, of which 3 were in space at the same time this past fall. Astronauts! Our school features ROTC programs from all three major branches, and alumni military service reaching as far back as

the Spanish-American War. Even a GI Joe action figure went to Tech.

Above all, Tech sports a vast portfolio of research, publications and a network of successful alumni working high demand jobs. While we know the economy is slowing down, Tech has prepared students with real skills and the tools for success. According to **payscale.com**, the mid-career salary for Tech alumni is \$106,000. Our in-state rival, University of Georgia, lists under "top party schools" at \$86,000. Tech graduates are being rewarded for entering challenging and valued careers.

Amongst all this success, Tech manages to have NCAA Division I teams across all of the major sports. Tech's success nationally and internationally makes it difficult to get alumni back to Atlanta to fill the seats of a regular football game, but with last year's scintillating season, things could change for the upcoming fall.

At a Tech Executive Round Table dinner meeting, I got to hear Coach Paul Johnson speak this semester about the role of the football team at a technical school such as ours.

He noted that unlike other schools, we could not hide our student-athletes in easy programs. His final question to the audience was, "Why should Georgia Tech win?" Tech should win because good schools should have good football teams.

The ACC, which boasts 7 schools in the top 35 public or private colleges according to US News and World Report, hasn't seen the BCS national championship game since 1999.

On the other hand, athletic power-schools like Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio State and Georgia all fall near the bottom of the NCAA in terms of graduation rates. I believe it has been a privilege to attend a school that both boasts rigorous, rewarding academic standards and Thursday night football games featured on ESPN.

I love Tech and being a helluva engineer. Although I'll be going across the street to attend Emory for graduate school, I will always be ready to brag about how Tech is better than the rest--better than the MITs and better than the party schools.

BUZZ

Around the Campus

What is the first thing President Peterson should know?



Travis Horsely
Fourth-year IAML and PUBP

"Understand the Tech traditions and values of the students."



Nisha Godbole
Third-year ISYE

"That the No.1 ISYE program in the country deserves a better building."



Raphael Rose
Third-year ISYE

"To hang out with the students at Wingnuts on Wednesdays."



Vicky Ostovar
Second-year BCHM

"That the 'T' on any building named after him will be stolen."

Photos by Michael Schneider

Getting lost isn't always such a bad thing

Life, I have observed, never works like you were expecting. Among the events in my life that I would at one point have thought impossible are going to Tech, actually graduating from Tech, going to Tech for grad school, becoming the editor of the Technique—by now you may get the picture that I tend to fly by the seat of my pants through life.



"Some use vacations to relax; I prefer to use them as a chance to learn things that won't be found in any reference book."

Craig Tabita
Editor-in-Chief

This is the approach I advocate for vacationing as well and I recently put it to the test. As part of a research project I'm involved with I just spent 12 days in Italy. While much of that time was spent working, I was able to precede that with two days on my own in Sicily. Why Sicily? It's the land of part of my ancestry—including my surname. I had never left North America in my 23 years of life and I'm not sure if I'll get the chance to do it again anytime soon with my student loan debt soaring to new orders of magnitude, so I needed to take advantage of this special opportunity.

The conventional approach would probably have been to buy a travel guide and make an itinerary of destinations. With only a couple of days, you need to be efficient and effective, right? To the contrary, I decided it was hopeless to try to cover all the so-called essentials in that little bit of time.

So rather than just hitting a fraction of the sights, I needed to immerse myself and experience

the place in the most genuine way—by detaching myself and abandoning any sense of comfort and familiarity. Some use vacations to relax; I prefer to use them as a chance to learn things that won't be found in any reference book.

To be fair, I didn't go over completely unprepared. I did read the Wikipedia pages for the places I was going to. However, I stuck to my plan. With my only navigational assistance being a crude map I sketched while looking at the city of Palermo on Google Maps, I arrived by train from the airport to the center of the city and attempted to find my hotel.

Everything was going great until I spotted the bicycle capital of Palermo—a side street filled with hundreds of bicycles hanging up on display for sale and dozens of bicycle repairmen. Being kind of a bike nut I had no choice but to walk over. Thus marked the beginning of a several hour long journey of being lost in a new land, by the midst of which I

couldn't have told you where I was in relation to anything else if my life depended on it. Of course, it all worked out in the end when I stumbled upon my destination, but simply wandering was more interesting than paying an entrance fee to walk through some historic building.

The next day I took a train to a city called Enna 100 miles away in the center of the island. This, my relatives told me, was where the original Tabitas came from, so of course I needed to give it a look.

I arrived at the Enna train station where I was greeted by the exciting news that the train station is several miles outside the actual city, which itself is up a mountain. After a few moments of panic I deciphered a bus schedule posted on a window and managed to make it onto a bus and communicate to the driver, who spoke approximately two words of English, that I just wanted to be dropped in the city someplace. After successfully getting lost there, as well as seeing

and climbing the castle which is the main landmark of the city, I embarked on a quest to get back to the train station.

I found a sign indicating a taxi stand, which surely means that all I need to do is stand there and transportation will magically manifest itself, right? Apparently not. With thirty minutes until my train was scheduled to leave, the consequences of not being on board were that I would be stranded in this strange town, 100 miles from my hotel which I needed to check out of the following morning, and with no chance of making my flight the following afternoon to meet the rest of my group and actually work.

Feeling as desperate as I have ever felt in my life, I enlisted the help of some *Carabinieri* who summoned a taxi that took me to the station thirty seconds before my train left. My desperation was replaced with the greatest sense of relief I have ever felt in my life.

Since I made it back to Palermo I was able to make it onto my flight to northern Italy, meet up with my group, and do our work while seeing beautiful cities like Florence and Venice that are more typically associated with Italian vacations. But the most memorable part of my trip will be my aimless exploration of side streets in Sicily that will never be found in a travel guide.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT-or-NOT

**InVenture finals**

Monday will be the InVenture Prize final competition. Tech will host such distinguished judges as Pete Petit, Steve Dickerson and Chris Klaus. The competition has been an intriguing highlight of Tech's most promising student inventors. The winners will have the opportunity to take a trip to Hong Kong for international competition. A worthy prize for their efforts.

**"Gold" depreciates**

Amidst a dwindling state budget Tech was dealt yet another blow. The Tech endowment announced that it lost 22% of its value due to depreciated assets, totaling over 200 million dollars lost. This will limit the amount of money available for student organizations and scholarships. Apparently the only "old gold" campus had invested in was on the uniforms.

**Summer school**

Summer registration started this week with more classes than ever. With summer job prospects hard to come by, the more extensive class options available will give many Tech students a viable summer opportunity to work more quickly towards a degree and the search for a permanent job. Wait...

**Crime wave**

Over the past two weeks campus saw five armed robberies as well as a violent attack. The armed robberies were committed at gunpoint, attacking both automobiles and individuals. GTPD has been working to deter these crimes, but as weather warms up criminals are more encouraged to brave the cool Atlanta nights.

Burning AIG executives in effigy will not fix the economic crisis

Over spring break I managed a feat I thought was impossible for me. I went a luxurious seven days without once opening my laptop. I did not check my email, type a word document or scan **nytimes.com** for a week. It was blissful, but I am now facing the grave consequences of my decision.

No, I did not fall behind on my life, nor did I have so many messages in my inbox that it became a list of never-to-be-opened documents. The calamity was much more grave. I missed out on a perfect opportunity to become righteously angry about AIG. By the time I did catch the news the US Congress had already gone farther in the name of disproportionate responses and pointless ranting than I ever could.

Apparently the international insurance/banking/world domination firm AIG received \$170 billion from the recent stimulus bill, and end of year terms showed 165 million of those dollars went towards bonuses. The American public, in their unending wisdom, decided to react more violently to the news that AIG had spent .09% of their budget on bonuses than the rest of that week's headlines combined.

Mexico is on the brink of war at our southern border? Darn. Canada announces that it has not had a single bank failure? Big deal. But gosh darn it. The stimulus bill that our government was pushed into passing without any oversight clauses spent money on discretionary expenditures! Burn them at the stake!

After this display of rage, Congress at least had the courtesy to act. By the time I got back to the civilized world of the information



"The idea that an... executive at a firm on the verge of collapse has done work deserving of a bonus is a bit ridiculous."

Emily Chambers
Outreach Editor

super-highway there were already bills introduced to tax the bonuses given out by AIG by 90%.

I agree, the idea that an upper-level executive at a firm that is on the verge of collapse has done work deserving of a bonus is a bit ridiculous. They deserve to be fired immediately and let go with as few benefits as the company can get away with. However, the people in charge of those decisions are the boards of directors of those companies, or any internal auditing or management powers within the firms.

The US government had the opportunity to put constraints on the money handed out in the stimulus bill before they passed it. Instead of dealing delicately with the financial allocation that openly presented the US people with billions of dollars in federal debt, Congress choose to rush through a bill without through checks and oversight measures.

When AIG handed out bonuses to their employees they did so with no notification that this standard business practice was not permitted under the contract they assumed when they accepted the federal aid. While it was not entirely ethical, there was no legal restriction on them doing so.

Taxing AIG executives 90% of their bonuses is punishing

"criminals" for actions that were not crimes at the time they committed them. It goes against the concept of innocent until proven guilty which is the base of our legal system. Furthermore, the idea of setting up a different system of taxation based on professional affiliation is blatant discrimination.

Congress needs to come to terms with the AIG debacle as an example of the multi-faceted origins of the current economy. The executives of the firms that received federal aid are human beings, with devaluing homes and growing debts.

Keep in mind, this taxation would not just be taxing a few individuals, but every single bonus handed out under the umbrella of AIG. Regional managers, bank managers and sales directors would have money they received in January taken away on the premise that Congress is not happy with the decision to reward their work.

Instead of blowing the numbers out of proportion and blaming the entirety of an economic crisis caused by the unwise financial decisions of an entire country on a small community of financial professionals, Congress should use this case as an example of the need for overall reform of both the economic and political system.

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nuovofiore!! infostrada!! gotta get my fix!!

I don't think the people who know what that means read slivers, not only can I not get to the center of campus b/c Atlantic is closed, but now I can't get to the center of campus b/c the center of campus is closed.

damn those nique editors and the censoring of my "that's what she said" comments

that's what she said

my roommates are polar bears. cant gt just have ac for individual rooms??

why does my roommate talk to himself all the time?

I love red heads!

KJ I think you are cute -c

OAR and Augustana? That's awesome!!! Oh wait...i'm not a 14 year old school girl living in the suburbs.... at least you tried SGA Hmm...Gatech is a predominately male campus in the middle of ATLANTA. Who should we bring to sting break? Oh, I KNOW!! Augustana!!

Gotta hand it to McEntyre - the man knows how to put up signs, fast

Just remember: I believe in you. That's +5 right there.