**Wreck relocates**

Tech needs to find a place to keep Wreck on campus

It is disappointing to hear that the Ramblin’ Reck is still without a new home. While we understand that the Athletic Association needs the space to complete renovations, they should do everything within their power to find other storage options.

The administration at large should have a greater sense of urgency about working out a location for the Reck to be stored in the future. Currently, the issue is not being sufficiently addressed. It is absurd that the campus does not have a more permanent location to store and take care of our mascot. If we can find space for other student organizations like GT Motorsports to have garages on campus, surely the Wreck has a place.

We understand that the responsibility of taking care of the Wreck is entrusted to the Ramblin’ Reck Club, but the added problem of having no space in which to do so is a bit much to expect of a student organization. Although the AA did give the Reck Club two years to find a new place to park the Wreck, this period of time is still short, especially with the amount of inevitable turnover within student organizations. Without the cooperation of the Institute, the Reck Club will not be able to keep the Wreck on campus. This is unacceptable. Tech should put a large priority on finding a new place to keep the most important piece of machinery and tradition at Tech.

The Wreck deserves to stay on campus. Tech should do whatever it must to address this problem and give the Wreck a place to stay.

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

**OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion**

**YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor**

Lighten up to help stop the rain and other helpful tips

I’m not sure if you’ve noticed, but it’s been raining more than usual of late. I mean, parts of the interstate had to be shut down because of it. I haven’t really thought anybody about it, but I’ve been seeing this coming for months.

To be honest, I could have stopped it, but I wanted the Tech community to see the wrongs it’s been committing so that it can have some incentive to correct itself.

The following is an incomplete list of adjustments the Tech community must make if the rain is to stop in the form of helpful, easy-to-follow tips:

**Tip 1:** Wear more waterproof clothing and PFGs. If this rain continues (which it will), people will have to start buying everything waterproof, so why not start now?

Besides, velcro’s the new button. Zippers were never in.

**Tip 2:** Stop wearing cargo jeans that zip off to become cargo capris that zip off to become cargo jorts that zip off to become cargo rights that are made of denim material.

The ground is convinced you’re soaking up at least 20 percent of the rain that it should be getting.

**Tip 3:** Either reinstate the old ticking system or get a better one. Nah… but seriously, no one likes the new one, including the rain.

**Tip 4:** Say ‘Nah… but seriously’ more often. It’s funny, and maybe the rain would lighten up if more people used that phrase. See what I did there?

**Tip 5:** Start replacing the word ‘serious’ with ‘serial’. There’s really no relation between the two words except that they sound similar, but it’s still kind of funny.

Maybe the rain would lighten up if people replaced the two. See, I did it again. Nah… but seriously.

**Tip 1:** Write the phrase, ‘donezo-bruno’ when you feel like you’ve either accomplished something (as I did in the previous point) or one-upped somebody.

It’s annoying to the people you do it to, so maybe the rain would lighten up if it saw other people angry. I just did it again. So what? It’s called a play on words, friend.

**Tip 7:** Annoy other people by using the same jokes over and over again. It’s funny to you and that’s all that matters.

Plus, similarly to my previous point, perhaps the rain would lighten up if it saw multitudes of people getting mad at other things besides it. Nah… but serially.

**Donezo-bruno.**

**Tip 8:** No more Nickleback. Nah, but in all serial-ness, I would rather be captured by Somali Pirates on an owner-belonged by a North Korean executioner, locked in said ship’s freezer for three days, thrown into the Red Sea with no clothes on, sunburned over 90% of my body, caught in the net of an Egyptian fishing boat, only to be recaptured by Somali pirates, sold into slavery and forced to denounce my own religion than listen to any Nickleback song.

**Unforgivable.**

I’m not 100% sure the rain will stop if these measures are taken, but they can’t hurt, can they?

And that’s something to think about.

Seamus Coleman

Third-year BC

Leadership editorials needed

Campus Leaders,

If you would like to write an editorial in the Technique on your leadership experience, or any aspect of Tech, please contact Kaitlin Goodrich at opinions@nique.net. Please include your name, leadership role and the dates that you would be available to write. All campus leaders are welcome to apply. Each submission should be approximately 600 words and be submitted Monday before publication on Friday.

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Write to us: letters@nique.net

We welcome your letters in response to Technique content as well as campus topics. We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. For information on our publication schedule please see our advertising brochure at nique.net.

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, an brief explanation of your Tech affiliation. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed per term.
Information overload floods students

This past week, the city of Atlanta probably got the most rain that it has in a long time. The monsoon-like conditions caused flooding, traffic and general havoc all over the city. The crazy torrential downpour was in stark contrast to the drought that characterized the weather of the city over much of the past year—apparently Sonny’s prayer for rain worked.

“When it rains, it pours” seems to apply well to the city’s weather situation. It also happens to apply well to the city’s information overload problem. It’s not new; Alvin Toffler coined the term in the 1970s in his book Future Shock. Toffler defined information overload “as an attitude or feeling that occurs when one is overwhelmed by copious amounts of information, to the point that one cannot differentiate between what is important and what is irrelevant. He described a time when people become desensitized to information and cannot utilize it effectively.”

Just as the rain has inundated the city and brought many of the city’s operations to a halt (except Tech, of course; we never close down the school or cancel classes), information overload has the area can be replaced with a space, that future students will appreciate. It’s part of the transformation of the center of campus, the centerpiece of which is the Chipper Student Learning Commons (CULC).

“Take the simple task of managing an e-mail inbox, for example. In this day and age, we receive so many e-mails in one day and have to sit down and manually sift through each message to extract the important ones from the in-box. That little number in parentheses that enumerates how many unread messages we have often multiplies in a matter of minutes. It becomes a hopeless task that takes a lot of time-consuming daily task.

The reason why situations like these often arise is because of the age in which we live. We no longer have to go to a library, look over a book and talk to a live person in order to find the things that we need. Only a few decades ago information was largely a passive resource. Now, it’s an active resource that is being pushed onto us every second. Because of this very fact, we cannot afford to be passive about managing information anymore. We must actively manage the information that comes our way in order to maintain its usefulness or otherwise face a flood of superfluous information.

On a small scale, means organizing our digital lives by using little things like folders, bookmarks and filters, to name a few small things. Taking a bit of time to sort through things out will definitely make our digital existences a bit more productive. However, thinking about things on a larger and broader scale, information overload is a problem that will continue to grow fast into the future unless we start thinking of ways to control it now. While we will never be able to stifle the growth of information, we can come up with ways to make it more effective at utilizing it.

This is our generation’s unique challenge: to manage the incredible influx of information that has been made available in the past two or three decades. I’m pretty sure that information overload is just a type of growing pain that we have to deal with until some genius comes up with a way to streamline and optimize the way we get our information.

Until then, we should actively be taking steps to deal with the issue, instead of letting our inboxes explode.

Don’t cry over library fountain demise

Two attributes seem to stand out about our campus community, I have found. One is that it is full of people who love to complain, which I find kind of ironic given that we are supposed to be a school full of engineers and innovators are supposed to develop solutions to problems rather than stand around and whine about them. The second is that it is stuck in many of its old ways, eschewing change for the sake of familiar tradition and what is familiar.

So given the above, when it is announced that a campus fountain has a wrecking ball headed its way you can expect some people to be more than a bit upset. Such has been the case with the proposed demolition of the library fountain so that the area can be replaced with a new set of stairs, reminiscent of the outside of the Student Center. It’s part of the transformation of the center of campus, the centerpiece of which is the Chipper Student Learning Commons (CULC).

The fact is that this fountain will not be missed. Don’t get me wrong; I like the library fountain. I’ve spent more than one afternoon doing homework penciled on its ledge. I’ve seen people bathe their dogs in it and I’ve seen it turned into a foaming volcano via the power of dishwasher soap. When it has water, it’s an asset to this campus. But that doesn’t mean it’s not expendable.

Let’s start with the simplest reason. We have a beautiful fountain in the middle of campus. It has spacious, easy-to-access amphitheater-style seating surrounding it. Best of all, it contains a towering monument to Tech’s most time-honored “The Shaft.” It’s all located less than 700 feet from the library fountain. Do we really need two fountains that close to each other?

Just wait for the CULC to be completed. The middle of campus will have undergone such a tremendous transforma-
Get off campus and get to know the rest of Atlanta

Tech’s legendary heritage is intricately woven into the fabric of Atlanta. In 1885, just 38 years after Atlanta was officially established, the Georgia School of Technology was chartered to provide an education based on the principles of leadership and industrial expansion. The city was growing rapidly, and Tech was vital in helping to support and encourage further development.

Today, Atlanta is the largest city in the Southeast, home to the third-largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the nation and the birthplace of major media networks such as CNN and TBS. Many of Tech’s faculty, staff, and students have been integral to the growth and development of iconic Atlanta-based companies such as Waffle House, Delta, UPS, and Coca-Cola were all founded, led or significantly influenced by Tech graduates.

The 1996 Summer Olympic Games helped to focus the world on Atlanta with Tech serving as both a venue for events and the Olympic Village.

Thirty years earlier, all eyes were on Atlanta, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the civil rights movement, converging on the very streets we travel today. And in 1961, Tech was the first school in the Deep South to peacefully integrate, following a student vote that offered exposure to qualified applicants regardless of race.

Today you can not only walk in the paths of former Olympians and Dr. King, but also enjoy events hosted by our Ferst Center, exhibits featured at our Robert C. Williams Paper Museum and a broad range of athletic events.

As you embrace the many opportunities on campus, I also want to encourage you to become acquainted with your surrounding community that extends far beyond our traditional boundaries.

The Atlanta History Center will give you a great overview of our city. You can also tour the Margaret Mitchell House, where “Gone with the Wind” was written. In addition to the rich history of Atlanta, the city has an abundance of parks, music and theater venues.

The Woodruff Arts Center houses the Atlanta Symphony, the High Museum of Art and the Alliance Theater. The Fabulous Fox Theater, the Atlanta Ballet, the Martin Luther King Historic Center and The Carter Center are among the many other attractions within a short distance of campus that offer experiences that will broaden your perspective of Georgia’s capital city.

Tech is only a short distance from Piedmont Park, which offers plenty of green space for picnics, social gatherings, concerts and other events. Valor and I walked there from campus last month to the Paul McCartney concert.

With views of skyscrapers, a pond and trees, it reminds me of Central Park in New York City.

Not far is the Atlanta Botanical Garden, where you can explore an exhibit by Henry Moore and check out what’s blooming. Or visit the Fernbank Science Center for a different perspective on science!

Atlanta is also home to a wonderful zoo and a world-class aquarium. If you want to see animals in their natural habitat, take a walk at the Chattahoochee Nature Center.

For those of you who like to spend your free time at athletic events, Atlanta has plenty of those to offer, too, from the Georgia Dome where the Falcons play to Turner Field, home to the Atlanta Braves.

The Varsity is a cultural icon, but just for a change try Mary Mac’s Tea Room for a taste of home-cooked southern food. You might be tempted to say that some of this is very expensive, but be sure to check out the student rates and volunteer opportunities!

The Atlanta we know today would not be the same without the presence of students like you. So, while I challenge you to study hard, I also encourage you to seek out opportunities that expand your horizons by taking advantage of the many experiences that are right at your fingertips.

Embrace the many opportunities available on campus, but also look around for other new experiences in the city you now call home.

“Embrace the many opportunities available on campus, but also look around for other new experiences in the city you now call home.”

G. P. “Bud” Peterson
Institute President

ATTENTION FACULTY, GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND POST-DOCS!

Join us as we cover the “basics” of mentoring undergraduates in research in this interactive session. We’ll discuss timely tips, provide a set of key resources, and hear directly from students and experienced mentors. This workshop is geared toward faculty, graduate students, post-docs, research scientists, and others who mentor undergraduates in research.

When: Tuesday, September 29, 2009
Where: Student Center Piedmont Room
Time: 11am-1pm

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