Hypothetical votes and lack of involvement alienates students

Recent sessions have been disappointing displays of conduct by the SGA’s Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR). With this past meeting’s action, we feel we must speak out. UHR has been hypocritically using loopholes in the rules for themselves but abusing student organizations that follow the rules and get things in on time. These abuses seem to happen only to the sense of power rejecting a bill gives them.

The Archery Club allocation this past week serves as a prime example. The Archery Club could not submit a budget this year to SGA because they were formed in March, months after the Oct. budget deadline. They instead went through the correct channels to submit a bill for funding. UHR, despite full bill approval in Joint Finance Committee (JFC) and Graduate Student Senate, denied the motives for denying it. It is not SGA’s job to submit a bill for funding. UHR, despite waiving that in order pass a bill to fund transportation of students to Grady. UHR has by standard JFC policies. Just because the freshman representative did not submit the bill far enough in advance to get it through proper channels of JFC does not justify accelerating it through new business and the side fund of ULR. It is unreasonable that the ULR can be used to circumvent JFC policy. This perverts the true reason for that fund.

UHR also chose to ignore the bylaw that explicitly forbids funding transportation to events within 150 miles of campus. They waived that in order pass a bill to fund transportation of students to Grady. UHR has by-laws for a reason and must follow them.

SGA exists to address the concerns of the students on campus. If UHR cannot pass their own bill requiring SGA representatives to attend two outside events a year to reach out to constituents, perhaps they are no longer even pretending to be our voice, but rather enjoying the position of power without responsibility.

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 Maggie Smith

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**OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION**

**UHR ineffective**

As a huge fan of the Yellow Jackets, I wanted to quickly make the student body and all fans reading the Technique aware of what Wake Forest has done. Many of you are aware, the football team likes to wear white jerseys when playing Tech.

What you may not know is that Tech must get a waiver from the visiting school to wear the white jerseys typically reserved for the away team. Wake Forest has refused to sign this waiver.

They have decided to slap us in the face in our own stadium. I say that you voice your anger this Saturday and yell as loud as your body will physically allow and make them regret that they wore white in our house.

Levi Warner
First-year AE

**YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Wake Forest must waive whites**

Jackets, I wanted to quickly make something I only have recently realized.

What you may not know is that Tech must get a waiver from the visiting school to wear the white jerseys typically reserved for the away team. Wake Forest has refused to sign this waiver.

They have decided to slap us in the face in our own stadium. I say that you voice your anger this Saturday and yell as loud as your body will physically allow and make them regret that they wore white in our house.

Levi Warner
First-year AE

**Global citizenship not just awareness but mutual understanding**

I read your article in the *Technique* “Be aware of the world outside of Tech” and I really liked it.

This is my last year of college and I have been looking back, noticing how I have changed, and your article furthers my nostalgic spirit.

Case in point, I have started semi-seriously dating an Asian girl and in explaining some of the simple details of Vietnamese culture to my parents and friends from home has really given me a retrospective look at the knowledge of different cultures, creeds, ethnicities, races and religions that I have gained as a result of most of my friends not being the same as me, something I only have recently realized.

George Melcer
Fifth-year CMPE

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**OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION**

**Reed poor choice for mayoral endorsement**

Your endorsement piece on Reed for this upcoming mayoral election is erroneously flawed.

It costs the city of Atlanta approximately 11 million dollars for 50 police officers. The ‘70 police officers he wants is not financially reasonable. Poor vision on his part.

Second, the last thing we need is a continuation of the corruption that has plagued Atlanta politics for years. Reed was Shirley’s campaign manager for both races which helped his brother, Tracy, get a job in the city working for Contract Compliance. He is already on the record saying he would not fire him if he became mayor! A recipe for nepotism.

The entire Technique staff has failed the alumni and the student body for such a poor endorsement.

Gary Anderson
BS ‘97

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**OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION**

**Write to us: 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.
In his farewell address in 1796, President George Washington once warned in the danger in the divisiveness of the two-party system: “You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heartburnings which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.”

More than two hundred years later, our nation’s government has only gone on to follow what our founding father once warned of—a nation of bipartisan dissenters.

The good professor, the United States has seen some of the harshest criticism against any American president through George W. Bush’s administration. At that point, left wing liberals spearheaded disaster in Iraq and the then scandal-laden Republican Party. With the election of President Barack Obama came promises of the end of bipartisanship and the creation of a more moderate government for the people.

However, more than eleven months after the election that the lines of division become more apparent with punditry bleating over our television sets and even mudslinging re- latest to this week’s elections. Although change has been promised on behalf of the president and his administration, the only dissent has revered from Democratic criticism of the GOP to the other way around. It begs the question at this point as to whether or not unities can be achievable within our supposed union.

Case in point, last Tuesday when Elections Day for governors, state legislature positions and mayors across the country. As with all election campaigns, candidates sought to receive support from a number of qualified organizations and high ranking people promised on behalf of the presidential campaigns. Some candidates received the endorsement of figures such as Andrew Young or Jesse Jackson. Others were honored with the endorsement of Alaska’s Sarah Palin. In such an example, Palin supported dark horse conservative candidate for New York Congress Doug Hoffman, and soon afterwards witnessed a surge in public popularity (albeit he eventually lost the election).

“This surge along with Palin’s ‘rare’ policies led analysts and political columnists to tout her as the “GOP establishment.” However, is it really a good idea to bring in a woman who, according to a CNN research poll, 71% of Americans believe is not qualified to be president?”

Even worse is the idea of a conservative extremist fulfilling a role as well, such as Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck and Bill O’Reilly, who currently make up the triumvirate of presidential condemnation present in today’s media.

If anything, their actions and words can only be re- duced to fear mongering or even extremism, a practice even RNC chair Michael Steele disapproves of. However, these people still continue to dominate the otherwise soft right-wing voices, taking any possibility of inter-party healing even possible.

Despite low voter turnout, the elections still made a positive step amongst the political turmoil in America today. The Republican representatives clinching wins in states such as Virginia and New Jersey. Although it is right for the GOP to change face in order to appeal more to the American public, it as well should not mean that the political affiliation should be looked at as a stigma, especially from the Democratic Party. Yet, elections across the country have been marked with finger-pointing to what political affiliation a candidate is. Does it matter?

In the end, the only way the U.S. can move in a positive direction is to work together in a cohesive, productive way.

The aim of government, as George Washington once preached, is to reflect the needs of the American people. Thus, we as citizens must vote at a candidate for what we or she can do for our country and put energy into actually listening and making a difference.

“Less obtrusive construc- tion.”

Andrea Benavides
Third-year CM

“The constant fear of vio- lence.”

Laura Jacobson
First-year ME

“Stingers wait times.”

Jacob McNamee
Third-year EE

“That the campus didn’t turn- into a river when it rained.”

Esther Estoff
Third-year CM

What would you most like to change around campus?

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**Motto of service should reach classroom**

What’s in a motto? It’s not very often that people really think about it. The word “motto” is Italian for “pledge,” and usually sums up the fundamental motivation and purpose of a group or institution. Tech’s motto is “Progress and Service,” a phrase that has been associated with the Institute for many years. The motto represents a pledge by all members of the campus community to work towards these ideals.

A motto is a component of service to a Tech education. A goal of the university should not be simply producing highly qualified graduates, but rather producing graduates who have the power to make an impact on the community, nation, and world. Service and learning do not have to be separate entities. By integrating service and learning, Tech has the potential to become an agent of change and progress for society. I know it sounds idealistic, but it is possible for students to have a positive impact when armed with knowledge and know how to use it.

Take the “Computing for Good” program in the College of Computing. The program is an upper level CS course that focuses on using cutting-edge computing techniques to solve problems ranging from public health to social activism. An exceptional example of experiential-based service learning at Tech is the “Semester in the City” seminar offered in the School of Public Policy, which brings students out of the classroom and into English Avenue to work on projects that center around the revitalization of the area.

These types of classes combine education and social activism to create a unique learning experience for students. The main thing that sets these classes apart from others is that at the end of the semester, there are concrete results that affect not only the students in these classes, but also the communities that they work with.

This makes Tech students a definite contingent for the campus experience at Tech. Integrating service into an experiential-based learning model kills two birds with one stone. Students are able to apply concepts and are more engaged and invested in their work. On top of that, society stands to benefit from the work that students do.

Moreover, the city of Atlanta provides an excellent locale for advancing a experien- dential-service-based curriculum. There are many problems that face the city that Tech students could potentially tackle, such as poverty, urban sprawl and crime. Tech has an opportunity to give back by harnessing the power of education and using it to improve the city. However, the potential for impact is not limited geographically to the city of Atlanta. There have been service-based classes and projects done by Tech students that have reached all corners of the world.

There are some things that can’t be learned in lecture. It’s hard to teach students how to generate positive change unless they can experience it first-hand. Hands-on learning integrated with service would add a refreshing and relevant component to the curriculum, making Tech students even more prepared for the future. This is something that is already being done on a small scale in select majors and programs, but more service learning experiencing an experience that all Tech students can participate in could have a profound impact on the Institute, both in- ternally and externally.

We, as members of the Tech community, take pride in being able to use knowledge and technology to make a difference. Now is the time, more than ever, for us to consider how Tech can be of service by beginning to solve some of the world’s toughest problems.
Giving is an important value of Tech we should not forget

Albert Einstein is considered by many to be one of the most influential scientists of the 20th century. Yet this preeminent physicist, whose research had a profound impact on things ranging from relativity to quantum theory, once said, "It is every man’s obligation to put back into the world at the least equivalent of what he takes out." This can be summarized in a single word: giving—giving of your time, your energy, your talents and your resources.

Tech has established a long tradition of service and philanthropy. During the seven months that I have been here, I have been impressed and moved by the selflessness exhibited by the people of Tech, who give to the Institute and the surrounding community.

The rewards of these types of activities are countless and whatever we do, no matter how small, impacts the lives of those around us. From our alumni to members of the Greek community, student organizations and student-athletes, the volunteer spirit is alive and thriving at Tech.

Giving of one’s time and talents is something that is personal and unique for each of us. However, as you decide where to focus your efforts, I ask that you consider what is important to you. For example, Val and I are passionate about children, education, sustainability, the arts and being involved in the community. Val recently accepted an invitation to serve on the Children’s Cabinet, established by Georgia’s First Lady Mary Perdue. This initiative is dedicated to stemming abuse and neglect, promoting foster care and adoption, and raising public awareness around issues impacting children throughout our state.

Here at Tech, we see a number of our students stepping up to make a difference. A number of local K-12 schools are benefitting from the generosity of Tech. More than 1,200 of our students volunteer as tutors, mentors and in other capacities at local elementary, middle and high schools.

A relatively new tradition on campus is “Tech Enhancing Atlanta Metropolitan,” aka TEAM Buzz, now involves nearly 1,400 students who volunteer for a myriad of projects ranging from serving at soup kitchens to planting trees, cleaning parks and building bridges and pathways.

Students, faculty and staff from the Language Institute recently received the President’s Volunteer Service Award from the White House for their work at the Atlanta Food Bank. Student organizations competing in “Can-Tortion” at this fall’s Homecoming combined a build with the Language Institute’s program of “Teach a Child to Read.”

Giving of one’s time and talents is something that is personal and unique for each of us.

Perhaps the most widespread way in which the Tech community gives back is through the Charitable Contributions Program, which benefits more than 1,200 local, state and international organizations.

For eight of the past nine years, Tech has received the Governor’s award for the largest “per capita contribution” for an organization of our size. Despite these challenging economic times, I am confident that our faculty, staff and students will meet the $335,000 fund-raising goal we have established for this year.

Perhaps the best time than the upcoming holiday season to get involved on campus and in the community?

Giving is a wonderful way to return the kindnesses that you may have received in your own life. In turn, you will find that everything you do creates a positive ripple effect that will not only enhance your college experience, but also the lives of countless others.

College is a time when you learn to be the person you will become for the rest of your life. Find your passion. In the process you will find that you will not only help others, but you will also be well on your way to achieving your own potential.

GPO "Bud" Peterson
Institute President

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