

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## Guns not welcome

### *Firearms pose greater danger than advantage*

The recent violent on-campus sword attack underscores the fact that the legislation currently going through the Georgia General Assembly to repeal the ban of firearms on campus endangers the Tech community. Allowing guns on campus will not fix the crime problems that plague the surrounding areas of Tech, rather it will only exacerbate the current problems, and potentially create new dangerous situations on campus.

This recipe for disaster could lead to a heightened level of severity in the crimes occurring. While the muggings are deplorable, they would seem trivial in comparison of a student being killed as result of the people of ill-intentions escalating their actions. Also, even if criminals “learned” that Tech students were armed, the lessons would be violent, and crime would likely get worse before it got better. An arms race between students and criminals will solve nothing.

Any arguments that guns might lower

the crime around campus are limited since a large percentage of the Tech community is under the legal age to carry a concealed firearm. Also, there could be the serious risk of students who live on campus being unable to properly secure their firearms in their rooms or dorms.

Speculation that students or faculty being able to carry firearms would deter or prevent an on-campus tragedy is ridiculous. Such acts are spontaneous and irrational, and suggesting that the average carrier without law enforcement training would somehow be ready to respond to such a traumatic and overwhelming incident is very shortsighted.

The college environment is already tense enough without literally throwing gun powder into the equation. Legality notwithstanding, recent events have demonstrated that mixing weapons with academic environments is too risky. Tech's campus has a volatile mix of alcohol and stress, without the presence of firearms.

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

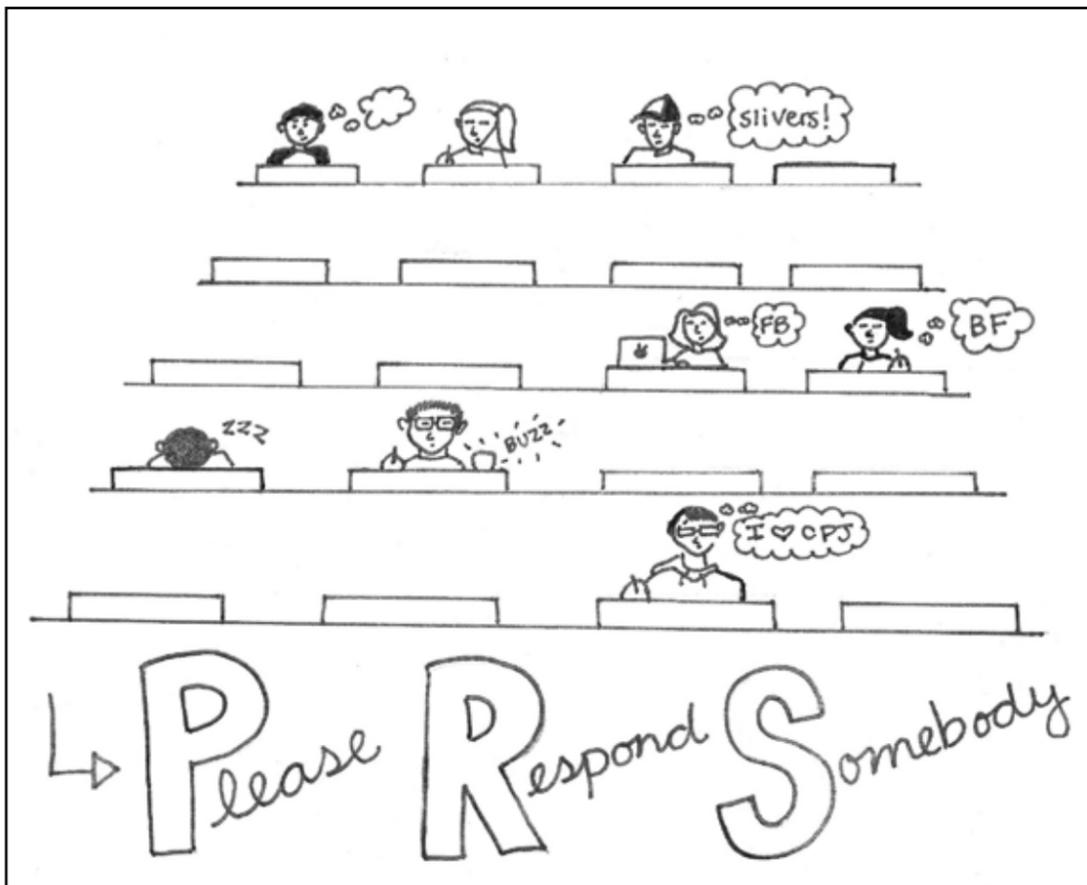
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### EDITORIAL CARTOON BY MAGGIE SMITH



YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Arguments against unions invalid

Most anti-union reasoning goes like this: “These are greedy workers, and the fact that they are unionized affects the profits of the companies they work for, and it is damaging to commerce. When these workers get fired or laid off it is a product of their own actions.”

This line is often recanted in one way or another, usually citing the American auto industry. It is also typically coupled with a reductionist argument that people who are pro-union are simply idealistic and not rooted in real economic issues. But these arguments ignore the whole tradition and history of labor in the US.

Since so many of you who wrote anti-union opinion pieces are so concerned with the economics of the situation, I will argue that the source of economic problems related to unionization stem from corporate greed rather than a worker's “sense entitlement” as one response put it. Even if you are pro-market, here are six economic reasons why you should support unionization:

1. When unions improve wages and benefits, they expand the middle class and make the wage market more competitive, thus creating a climate that benefits business in the long term on a local, national and global scale through increases in consumption.

2. Workers with higher wages also contribute more to the tax base, allowing the government to lower taxes for everyone.

3. The pensions that everyone fusses over were considered to be deferred compensation. In negotiating contracts, union workers often traded higher wages in return for a decent standard of living in their golden years. Instead of treating pensions as deferred compensation, companies passed the cost onto consumers and used the resulting profit for corporate sala-

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ries and returns to shareholders. The result of this greed was a debt that the government pardoned.

4. Companies who break union contracts will pass their debts onto consumers through price-raises or if the government absorbs the debt, through taxes.

5. As Abraham Lincoln said, “Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration.”

6. PBR [Pabst Blue Ribbon] is union made, and still cheap.

It is a down economy, times are indeed tough, as other responses have noted. But, if we are to get out of this economic crisis we must be focused on combating the corporate profit-mongering that considers only the bottom line in the short term. We cannot blame workers. We have to be focused on solutions that guarantee job growth and unapologetically demand a high standard of living for the workers that make up the backbone of our society.

Keefer Dun  
Second-year ARCH

## Robertson's remarks embarrassing to all

By John Doe  
Bowling Green University

(*The BG Views*)—You might not find this in any history books, but during the Haitian revolution the plantation slaves had an ace in the hole when it came time to revolt against their masters: Satan.

That's because they made a pact with the devil in which Haiti gets independence but is forever cursed. Or at least, that's how Pat Robertson tells it.

While developing a humanitarian concern for the long suffering people of Haiti is certainly a commendable trend, some people simply refuse to jump on the bandwagon. I've heard of people blaming the victim for things like burglary, rape, mugging and as-

sault—but an earthquake? Come on.

Pat Robertson is an inspiration to millions of Christians in the United States and abroad. His words carry a great deal of moral weight within this community, and he is by many accounts considered a wise Man of God.

But that doesn't stop him from being dead wrong about certain things. By connecting the Haitian earthquake with some fanciful “deal with the devil” he is not only implying the Haitian people deserved what they got, but he is also espousing a highly irrational and harmful lens through which to view the world. I am not a Christian, but as a fellow American, I regard Pat Robertson as an embarrassment.

# Creation of intellectual community vital

As the Institute continues its drive to develop a strategic plan for the next 25 years, the discussion should focus on how to develop an intellectual community with an atmosphere that encourages debate and enhances the flow of ideas across all disciplines.



**“This will mark a huge shift in the attitudes of the student body towards challenges and issues facing our generation.”**

**Vijai Narayanan**  
Assistant News Editor

Much of the conversation thus far at the town halls and during the “Days of Engagement” has been focused on creating smaller class sizes, incorporating more technology in the classroom and standardizing course content and grading schemes. While these improvements would be a step in the right direction, these initiatives alone will not make Tech a global leader for education in the 21st century.

When compared with peer institutions, Tech students lack opportunities to expand their knowledge beyond their major and engage in vigorous debates surrounding issues that affect the nation and the world. In order to provide such opportunities to students, the plan must focus on creating an “intellectual community,” where students are able to explore topics from outside their major and engage in a debate of ideas across all disciplines.

One of the ways to create such a community is to develop a lecture series whereby the Institute hosts influential speakers from a wide variety of fields, including politics and

world affairs. This will mark a huge shift in the attitudes of the student body towards challenges and issues facing our generation and create dialogue as to how to solve those problems.

The most common theme in the reactions of students following Gen. Petraeus’ speech two weeks ago was that they wished there were more high-profile speakers on campus. Receiving an update on Afghanistan from the CENTCOM commander was much more illuminating than hearing about it during class.

Several weeks ago the Provost’s Task Force for Intellectual Community (PT-FIC) submitted a bill totaling \$60,000 to SGA to host a high profile speaker on campus. Despite my belief, and that of my peers, that such an event is exactly what the Institute needs in order to garner a reputation for intellectual diversity, SGA representatives failed the bill. While I strongly disagree with the decision, I understand why SGA was apprehensive to fund

such a large amount to a committee that had little financial backing from the Institute.

For the long term, the Institute must take sweeping action in order to develop an intellectual community that can grow and sustain itself. Tech must shed its reputation as a technological university by definition and embrace fields from the liberal arts. Furthermore, the Institute must find a way to make these fields available to students from across different majors, and make it easier for students to explore them using free electives or pursue minors.

During college, students must be able to experience personal development, as well as professional development. In my experience, Tech has outsourced the former to extracurricular activities, on which most students have limited time to spend. Students should be able to explore courses that they feel are necessary to their personal development, such as public speaking and economics, while also focusing on their professional courses.

Expanding the liberal arts program at Tech will do multiple things towards developing an intellectual community. First, the Institute can draw from a more diverse pool of applicants, thereby increasing the intellectual diversity of the student body. Furthermore, this expansion will enhance interaction between students majoring in technological fields and other students pursuing a career in liberal arts.

Finally, it will also allow students to explore their interests and receive an education that equips them not only for their job, but also serves them well in their career and throughout life. In choosing a dean for the Ivan Allen College, the Institute must select a candidate who understands the role the IAC can play in enriching campus life and education across disciplines.

Overall, the town hall meetings and events geared towards the strategic planning have been well attended. Still there is more room for student input. Many of the recurring themes such as smaller class sizes and better technology are unfeasible and narrow-minded for such a bold initiative. Despite the fact that the plan aims to implement the ideas by the year 2035, it is a chance for students to leave a lasting impact on the Institute as a whole.

# Funding imbalance puts Institute at risk

The newly-released budget for FY 2011 contains a seemingly-devastating 12.3 percent cut to the University System of Georgia. As horrible as it sounds though, this cut should have been bigger. The 12.3 percent cut to higher education is a drop in the barrel compared to the 38.3 percent, almost seven billion dollars, pulled out of elementary, middle and high schools across the state.



**“The devastation being wreaked on K-12 education in the state of Ga. will come back to haunt us.”**

**Emily Chambers**  
Editor-in-Chief

Georgia already has dubious primary education credentials. In 2007 Morgan Quinto’s *Education State Rankings* gave us a rank of 41 out of 50 states, based on statistics like SAT scores, college enrollment and standardized achievement scores in elementary schools. Additionally, we are the only state in 40 years to have an entire county threatened with the loss of its accreditation, and it has happened twice.

Clayton county also lost its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, leaving its graduation seniors ineligible for HOPE scholarships and making them less competitive when applying to out-of-state schools. Recently, the 670 student-body of Warren county was threatened with the same punishment, given until July 30 to fix the problem. Meaning, that on top of dealing with a decimated state budget, the administrators of the unethical Warren County Board of Education get to work to

meet the nine recommendations made to the county.

Admittedly, not many Tech students come from Warren or Clayton county, and re-evaluating the budget recommendations to take another percentage from our budget could mean increased tuition and fees or decreased services and student-faculty ratios for students. But Tech does not exist in a bubble, and the devastation being wreaked on K-12 education in the state of Ga. will come back to haunt us.

Tech is a public school, and while its budget is in many ways independent of state politics due to federal grants, research funds and private donations, its student body is not. As a public school Tech has an obligation to enroll Ga. students, to make sure that they are serving children of the state that funds them. If those students are subjected to education systems that are underfunded or even worse, unaccredited, they will not be well prepared for the rigorous education we all do dearly en-

joy here.

Students at Ga. schools, under the proposed budget, will not have access to the best teachers, to the most up-to-date educational software or to expensive class options like AP or IB classes, because individual counties and schools just won’t be able to afford it. Those students, assuming they can get into Tech, are more likely to struggle, fail out or transfer to our easier counterpart in Athens, cutting deeply into Tech’s already low graduation rates (currently less than 80 percent of Tech students graduate in six years).

Think about it in terms of entrance statistics. In order for Tech to attract the best students it needs to have high SATs and GPAs for very entrance class. Regardless of your personal feelings on the usefulness of these scores, high school applicants and various ranking services look at them when evaluating just how good a school Ma Tech really is. If Tech is forced to admit Ga. students with lower scores, our

rankings will suffer.

Out-of-state students will be less likely to attend a school where their classmates are under-educated, and those that do attend will suffer from the deficiencies in their classmates’ educations. Imagine a calculus class where 20 of your classmates had never seen a graphing calculator because their high schools couldn’t afford them. Think back to your intro to CS class and imagine a student whose school system had never offered any technology classes because they couldn’t afford any software, or attract any qualified teachers.

The USG needs more money. Student-faculty ratios will rise in the face of the economic downturn, and there is a chance that tuition and fees will rise. But these cutbacks are nothing compared to the financial nightmare being visited upon Ga.’s already weak and struggling K-12 education system, a nightmare that will come back to life in a few years when those students enroll at USG schools and build classes of under-educated and uncompetitive students who will depress our entrance statistics and hurt the overall quality of education offered here. K-12 education has few options for funding, and the USG should mobilize to remind the state that before they can fund colleges, they must fund and support the students that will one day enroll here.

## BUZZ Around Campus

**What do you think about the Super Bowl?**



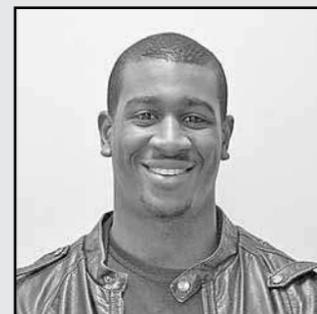
**Samuel Gil**  
Second-year CE

**“It’s a pretty good matchup, but I think the Saints will win.”**



**Sarah Grace Parr**  
First-year INTA

**“I’m fond of the Colts, but Brees’ articulation is refreshing.”**



**Darren Pottinger**  
Fourth-year ISYE

**“I don’t really follow football, but I would cheer for the Saints because of Reggie Bush.”**



**Isabella Micolta**  
First-year CE

**“I have no idea.”**

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT-or-NOT



**Vampires' delight**

The success of the blood drive at the Student Center show that the Tech community cares about people outside our immediate surroundings. With the ongoing military conflicts, the catastrophic natural disaster and the constant need from hospitals, it is more important now than ever for people to open up their hearts, and veins, to help others in need.



**Troubling attack**

The attack on the post doctoral fellow is an unfortunate and highly disturbing event. Such an attack shows the danger of having any weapons on campus, that irrational behavior can not be predicted or planned for. We hope that the fellow will be able to return to his post once he recovers from the injuries he sustained, and that all victims have speedy recoveries.



**Sign here**

Head Coach Paul Johnson brought in his third recruiting class to Tech on Wednesday Feb. 3. With four four-star recruits coming in, all on the defensive side of the ball, the young influx of talent should pay dividends for years to come. With a total of 18 recruits, the football program is continuing to improve its off-field performance to build upon its on-field success.



**Passing gas**

The new report about the gas leak in Bobby Dodd Stadium coming just a week after problems with the fire alarm system were reported heightens the need to ensure that the beloved facility is in proper order. It does not take an expert in combustion to figure out that the coupling a natural gas leak with faulty fire alarms will most likely lead to an inflammatory problem

Exploit opportunities to learn about something new, yourself

Captain Allan Price, a recent speaker at the College of Management's Impact Speaker Series, spoke about the qualities of leaders during his lecture about "crisis leadership." The former Delta Airlines pilot noted that above everything else, a leader is a life long learner. Someone who never stops seeking to know more about the world around them, to improve themselves and those who are with them.



"Explore yourself, explore other people, explore the city... there is nothing you do which will not teach you something."

**Sean Kolk**

ORGT Advisory Board President

What an amazing idea to run with.

Here at Tech, we get so focused on work, busywork to be specific, little things that don't inspire us, things that in 20 years most of us will forget. What we will remember, the experiences we had, the friends we made and the times we spent outside of class, exploring the world around us, is ignored, relegated to the off-days and side moments of our lives.

Become one of those students with a dream outside of a GPA, a life goal outside of a Dean's list letter. There are inspirations all over campus. Many students travel abroad, learning new cultures, studying different ways of life, sight seeing, and marveling at the extent of human kinds efforts. Other follow the Jackets to far away cities, watching our football team fight the good fight. And yet even more Techies sprawl out of Atlanta each weekend to find out what's in Chattanooga, to wake board on Lake Lanier, to compete in rugby, lacrosse and ultimate frisbee, even to jump out of planes with GT sky diving.

These students have realized that Tech, like any job, needs a work-life balance. In order to succeed at this Institute, you need to

leave it every now and again and learn things that no 30-person lecture could teach you.

We never stop, and if you have not begun exploring the world outside of your text books: Start. Grab a friend, attend an event, a random lecture, a meeting off campus! Yes, there are groups of people who do thing off campus. If you want a completely random group try Couch Surfing: All they care about is that you are friendly and come to their in-town events. There is Tree's Atlanta which helps out city stay green, and Critical Mass which forms a parade of bikes 300+ through the streets of Atlanta.

On campus you can join a dance club, ethnic group, get involved in Campus Movie Fest, involve yourself in your majors professional organization. There are random pursuits, and amazing paths to take. Look at the recent rise of "Only at Tech," which gave us a venue to vent. Why not go as far as creating your own solution to one of those complaints that comes up so often. The Humans vs. Zombie kids did; I know it looked odd, but I think they were having more fun than I was walking down Skiles.

Explore yourself, explore other people, explore the city, learn from it all, because there is nothing you

do which will not teach you something. There is never enough time to do everything, so try to get at least some of it.

Here, let's start now. Write down what do you want to change in the world, what do you want to do in the world. Now take what you've written down, and see how Tech can help. There is probably a mentor on campus who can direct you, a friend who has had the experience or an associate who can and will be a valued resource.

I recently made the goal to be proficient in five new disciplines by the end of the year. I take those awkward hours of the day (Tuesdays and Thursday's at 11 a.m. for instance) to pursue those goals. I've begun to run, swim, and try white water kayaking if the weekend permits. Nothing is stopping you; there is no way that there is no free time in your life, even if you are at Tech.

So learn about the world, explore it, and then keep on learning from your experiences. Tech might as well be a huge playground, because nowhere else are you allowed to jump from one activity to the next, having it be so enjoyable and so valuable at the same time. Do not let it pass you by while you were held up in your dorm room. Go out there and find something new.

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**sliver**  
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We got 1 wiener in the naked pool.. Juice Hermes break it down break it down  
 You know I like my chicken fried!  
 gables, gables, gables!  
 What's up with the lack of slivers? :(  
 If by design you take up 1.5 seats on the bus and you only have one to sit in. Don't sit on half of me.  
 moustache  
 friday afternoon slivering  
 when was the last time you heard someone use the word whom  
 what to do?  
 To the person who stole my detergent from the laundry room in maulding: you suck.  
 HAWKS WIN!!  
 gweedo party=epic  
 guys give your seats to girls on the buses!  
 and im not a student ;)  
 I saw the 7th floor of the library--it is heaven  
 how sliver isn't defined in the urban dictionary  
 I carry 3 calculators and 2 prs units everyday to class. is this normal?  
 i \*heart\* sinx  
 why do so many tech guys wear trenchcoats?  
 I woke up at 9.30 on saturday to watch the food network  
 I didn't know if I you wanted to be woken up Tom.  
 shone.  
 Girl in POL 1101, just tell me how you feel.  
 I don't do sudokus...I do SUDUKU's!!  
 going for broke. High risk, high reward.  
 whoever wrote that joke about the two Na atoms, you made me laugh!  
 I forgot how hard school here was  
 VPython, I loathe you entirely!  
 Ugh, forced to try and hook up with my ex on v-day cuz all the girls here have TBS  
 Kazoos 2.0 flippin rocked!