

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Taking Ts troublesome

Tradition warped into vandalism of Tech campus

The recent popularity of scraping and stealing Ts off of campus signs has made people across Tech experts at reading T-free alphabet soups. While some see this prank as an extension of the famous “Stealing the T” tradition, pranks like these ultimately siphon funds away from the already cash-strapped Institute. The current estimated cost of repairing signs around campus is at \$50,000 per year. That wasted money could instead be spent on improvements to the campus, hiring new faculty or reducing the cost being placed on the student body.

From an outsider’s perspective, the vandalized signs reflect poorly on the Institute as a whole. Without knowledge of Tech’s traditions, a vandalized sign gives potential students and parents the impression that the campus is not well-maintained. Moreover, this vandalism perpetuates an inaccurate reputation of Atlanta. Tech is constantly fighting the stereotypical image of a crime-ridden

urban campus, and blatant vandalism does not help that fight. While students might know that the people breaking the signs are unlikely to cause any kind of big trouble, it is hard to convince others of this fact.

This misconstrued tradition hurts Tech and in no way enhances it. “Stealing the T” on Tech Tower was an engineering feat that would have students talking for days. It was creative. It was impressive. And the T (until the most recent incident) always found its way home. Pranks should be mischievous, not malicious. There are examples of Tech traditions that represent the Institute in a positive light while still being exciting and enjoyable. The Mini-500 and the Ramblin’ Wreck Parade allow students to participate in tradition that does not harm the reputation of the Institute. Good pranks should be clever and playful, but ultimately respectful of property and the law, while still showing a spark of ingenuity.

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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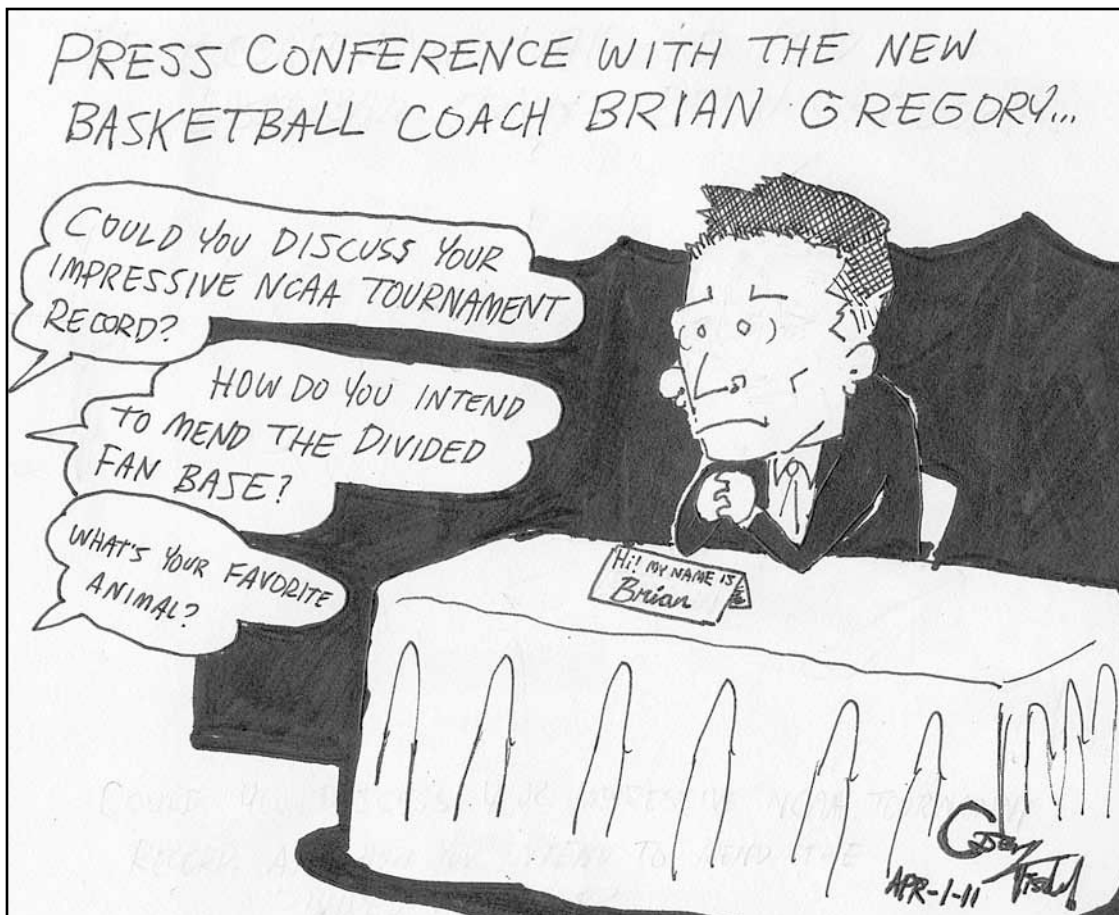
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EDITORIAL CARTOON BY CASEY TISDEL



YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tech lacks adequate study spaces

Tech may be highly ranked in all departments, but there’s one area that it seriously sucks: study space.

Tonight, I was kicked out of a classroom in the College of Management while quietly studying because according to the rather rude administrator kicking me out, “All of the classrooms are now closed.” While the reasoning behind the closure—’dirty’ classrooms in the morning from late night study sessions—is a point to consider, Tech and now the College of Management have succeeded in taking away most of the available study space we have on campus.

Past 7 p.m., the 12,000 or more undergraduates on campus now have the following options: the probably 100-200 total person capacity breakout rooms in the College of Management, the library (which is always completely crowded whenever serious studying needs to be done), a few rooms in Klaus if they are not full, and small niches around campus here and there.

As it stands now, the amount of students at Tech needing a place to study grossly outnumbers the available spaces. My challenge to each and every Tech department? Grow up, get into the 21st century and give all students general Buzzcard access to all buildings on campus that have legitimate late night study spaces that are not being fully utilized. And while you’re at it, get rid of the purported sense of elitism (I’m looking at you especially College of Management) that you are trying to culture. We’re all part of Tech, so let’s stop acting like children and share the space resources we have.

Nicholas Sondej
Third-year ME

Green fee will improve campus

The response to state budget shortfalls has been to increase education costs for students. Meanwhile, rising energy costs continue to increase campus operating budgets. It is obvious that environmental and economic sustainability go hand-in-hand, yet the primary barrier to clean, renewable energy on campus is a lack of funding. Investments in sustainability on campus will save Georgia Tech money long-term via reduced energy and water bills, reducing future operating costs. Because of this I support the proposed campus Sustainability Fee.

Increasing investments in sustainability will most certainly have a direct impact on students. By improving sustainability on campus we will improve the health and well-being of everyone on campus. We should also consider benefits to people and ecosystems around the world, as well

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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.

as future generations. For just \$3 per student, we would raise about \$60,000 each semester for sustainable initiatives. These investments will decrease our utility bills and also help reduce waste, pollution and our dependence on foreign oil. Many colleges have already adopted a sustainability fee, and I am disappointed to see Tech falling behind its peers in this regard.

Some argue that we are doing well at promoting sustainability on campus and don’t need further investment. I beg to differ. We are a technological institute, yet the only form of renewable energy on campus comes from 15 year old solar panels on top of the CRC. We should invest in renewable energy on campus and fund innovative solutions to energy and environmental challenges we face.

Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS) and the SGA Sustainability Committee have submitted a poll to be voted on in the April elections to gauge student sentiment towards increased sustainability investments on campus. We are considering making the Sustainability Fee optional and have researched many options for how to distribute the raised funds, but are open to new ideas. We want this to be designed by students, so that the student body is proud of it. It is clear that Georgia Tech students care about environmental and economic sustainability, and we are working to create an easy, inexpensive way for us to positively impact both.

Molly McLaughlin
President, Students Organizing for Sustainability

Nuclear tragedy put in perspective

In response to Japan’s recent endurance of one of the highest-magnitude earthquakes ever recorded, followed by a massive tsunami, the situation at Japan’s nuclear reactor facility, Fukushima Dai-ichi, needs to be placed in perspective.

This accident was the result of one of the most devastating natural disasters in human history and should be categorized as a worst-

U.S. should reconsider role in Middle East

The revolutionary wave of protests across the Arab world present an unprecedented opportunity for the U.S. to redefine its relationship with Middle Eastern and North African countries and take significant steps towards winning the war on terror. The U.S. must champion the spread of democracy across the region and help create economic prosperity by forging trading partnerships with those countries.

For decades, the U.S. has supported authoritarian regimes in the Middle East for a variety of reasons, including keeping the price of oil low for American consumers. As a result, public opinion regarding the U.S. has been extremely low, making it difficult to implement the cultural and societal changes necessary to win the war on terror.

Unlike conventional warfare, the war on terror cannot be won using military might alone, because terrorist groups transcend geographic and political boundaries. This fact is painfully evident in Afghanistan, where American troops have remained for more than 10 years in order to identify and eliminate terrorist groups in the region.

The protests that began earlier this year are unique for several reasons. They were organized by networks of young people as grassroots events, without the help of any external organization or political group. They were also



“By choosing to remain silent...the U.S. will seem hypocritical and uncommitted to its core values.”

Vijai Narayanan
News Editor

organized against their own governments with the goal of toppling corrupt and authoritarian political systems that have been in place for years.

Mass protests in the Middle East are not a new or unique occurrence, and they are almost always directed towards the U.S. and the West. This time, the process was carried out almost without any reference or vilification of the U.S. Finally, the protests in the region have never occurred on such a large scale. At current count, protests have occurred in every Middle Eastern and African country with the exception of the UAE and Kuwait.

Until now, the U.S. has pursued neither a clear nor consistent foreign policy strategy. During the Egyptian revolution, the White House dawdled to show support for protestors until it was absolutely clear that the government would be toppled. In contrast, the U.S. has committed military resources to neutralizing the “excessive” use of force by Col. Gaddafi’s military, while simultaneously turning a blind

eye to the brutal murder of civilians by the Syrian government. This approach will not serve America’s national interest and will further damage its reputation in the region.

The U.S. must refrain from participating in any military activity in the region. Doing so will be extremely expensive and threatens to involve the military in a prolonged campaign. By agreeing to send war planes to enforce a no-fly zone in Libya, the President has committed the U.S. to the removal of Col. Gaddafi from power. If Gaddafi does not step down, the U.S. will have further emboldened his stature and reputation in the region as a strong leader. Instead, the U.S. must work with regional partners to create a truly international coalition of partners working to stabilize the region. While the recent attack on Libya was carried out under the NATO flag, the U.S. bore the brunt of the effort and the loss of an American military jet on Libyan soil firmly branded the intervention as being American. The NATO coalition should have been led

Playoffs work for court, not gridiron

On March 27, the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Rams stunned the college basketball world by making it into the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament. VCU made history by being the first team to win five games to get to the Final Four and did so by dismantling Kansas, one of the best teams in the nation.

VCU was able to win five games instead of the traditional four because of a newly enacted rule that permitted 68 teams to enter the NCAA tournament. The Rams charged into the hearts of millions and became a great feel-good underdog story. Sports fans, however, have seen this fairy-tale before. In 2006 George Mason made the Final Four as an 11 seed by defeating a different number one seed in Connecticut. George Mason did not make the championship game but did excite the sports world and further showed how college basketball has the best postseason system.

Once the games are over on Monday, VCU’s story will once again add fuel to the already raging inferno that is the argument about college football’s postseason.

People will come out of the desert in Texas and the fields of Boise proclaiming that college football should have a playoff system instead of the BCS. They will cite that an 11 seed was able to beat some of



“With the parity in college basketball, every team has a star player that they can rely on heavily.”

Alex Mitchell
Sports Editor

the best basketball teams in the nation and that a playoff system will settle once and for all, who is truly the best team in college football.

My response to BCS naysayers is, to use a phrase by the highly entertaining college football analyst Lee Corso, “not so fast, my friend”.

After being an Auburn fan in 2004 and not seeing an undefeated SEC team make the National Championship game, no one has been a bigger supporter of a college football playoff system than me. Heck, I even did speeches in high school that explained my hatred of the BCS. However, college basketball is completely different than college football. The VCU story shows me how great a 68-team playoff can be, but it also shows me how a diluted tournament would not help college football’s postseason problems.

First and foremost, the games of basketball and football are almost completely different. In basketball, one player can lead a team to a champion-

ship. We see that all the time in the star-studded NBA, and we see it this year with Connecticut guard Kemba Walker. Really, though, rarely can a single player lead a football team to a championship, and when it really boils down to it, the only thing that matters in football is the line play.

Because any one player can lead his team to a championship, a 68-team playoff works for college basketball. With the parity in college basketball, every team has a star player that they can rely on heavily on to win games. Good basketball players come from every corner of the globe. With only about a dozen scholarships to offer, it is likely that a great player will slip through the cracks and land at a VCU or George Mason. This does not happen in college football. The big time teams have enough scholarships to scoop up all the best talent and leave the smaller schools with just crumbs to feed their programs.

There is parity in college football too, but nothing

by European partners such as the United Kingdom or Germany.

The U.S. must instead support the spread of democracy in the region by publically championing American values such as capitalism, free speech and equality of justice. Regardless of whether or not these revolts are successful, it is clear that over time these regimes will collapse and democratic systems must be put in place. By choosing to remain silent, as it did during the Egyptian revolts, the U.S. will seem hypocritical and uncommitted to its core values.

In countries where the revolts have led to significant upheaval, such as Egypt and Tunisia, the U.S. must work to establish economic partnerships that go beyond the trade of oil and expand further to include infrastructure projects and other commodities. Approximately 65 percent of the Middle Eastern population is under the age of 35, and the rate of unemployment in that region far exceeds that of the U.S. This in turn leads to chaos and dissatisfaction with the status quo, and encourages young people to join extremist groups.

By encouraging the spread of democracy and creating partnerships to spur economic growth, the U.S. can develop a clean moral conscience while also reducing the threat of extremism to American national security.

BUZZ

Around Campus

What did you do for spring break?



Tyler Piersol
Third-year AE

“Went home for spring break and built a balsa wood airplane.”



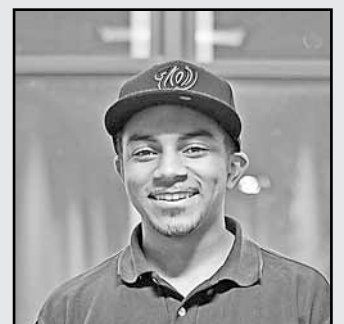
Savannah Cookson
Third-year BME

“Went to the beach, camping and then to Disney World!”



Weston Landis
Second-year ARCH

“Went to Germany, Austria and Switzerland.”



Taurus Brackett
Second-year ECE

“Had a milkshake at the Student Center Chik-fil-A.”

Photos by Will Folsom

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT-or-NOT



New court boss

Athletic Director Dan Radakovich announced Brian Gregory as the new head coach of the men's basketball team. While many fans may not be overwhelmed by the decision to hire Gregory, in time he should prove to be a worthy leader of the once prominent Tech basketball program and will hopefully reinvigorate the flagging interest of Tech fans in the sport.



One-horse race

A typical SGA election has little substantive difference between the main candidates. This year, however, there is no difference. Instead, only one ticket is running for both presidential races. Also, many seats in the undergraduate legislative branch are uncontested or unfilled. Harmony may be good for music. In student government, it only means apathy.



Simon says, you listen

Many projects at Tech tend to grab people's attention. Simon the robot, part of the Socially Intelligent Machines lab, in particular has enjoyed a great deal of press in recent weeks for his ability to get the attention of his human companions. Now if only he could teach that to some of our professors, we all might actually get through our afternoon classes without a short nap.



Spring leak

While most of Tech's population spent spring break soaking up rays on the beach, splashing in the surf or being showered with tasty home-cooked food, those left on campus did very little soaking, splashing or showering. Intermittent water shutoffs in housing units across campus left many without water for extended periods over the break. Just let it mellow.

Honor, or lack thereof, affects life before, after graduation

"Honor, however, is not something that you will leave behind after graduation. It is something that is a part of your everyday life."

Ravi Patel

Chair, Honor Advisory Council

As if Tech was not hard enough, apparently each exam is actually two exams. One is over whether you know the material or not. The other, the more important, one shows the character of a person. Failure in honesty will become a part of your reputation and will not be forgotten.

As the Chair of the Honor Advisory Council (HAC), I have come to know the most common violations of the Georgia Tech Honor Code extremely well. It's not plagiarism or stealing the answer key to a test, but instead collaborating with other students on assignments or projects.

It seems so easy. To stay out of trouble, just follow the rules. The only questions are, where are they posted? Who makes them? Who do I ask if I am still confused?

We here at HAC hold office hours [on the] bottom floor of the Flag Building to help answer your questions on various topics, including the Honor Code, the judicial process and provide resources for faculty and students to better communicate policies.

One of the many questions people often ask me is, "What is the best way to avoid Honor Code

violations?" Many issues could be avoided if there were better communication between students and professors. More specifically, better elaboration on policies and expectations. That's why we have developed a Collaboration Sliding Scale which will be distributed to faculty to use, so that they may better convey their expectations to students and give students a better understanding of each professor's policies. Do not assume that one policy applies for an entire major or even throughout one class. If you are ever in doubt, ask. I cannot stress the importance of this enough. Once a misunderstanding has occurred it will change the student-professor relationship, and most likely you will not be able to restore it.

On a side note, professors did not just accuse you of an Honor Code violation without just cause

or reason. The Office of Student Integrity did not just decide your case on a whim. Both parties had to have some kind of reason to think that the accusations made against you were at least somewhat justified. In university judicial systems the standard to determine if a student is responsible for a violation is 'preponderance of evidence', meaning that the violation is more likely to have occurred than not.

Honor, however, is not something that you will leave behind after graduation. It is something that is a part of your everyday life. Honor Code violations at Tech will also not be forgotten after graduation. They should be disclosed on every graduate school and job application you complete for the next five years, as employers can inquire about them for that long.

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case scenario. While any loss of life is indeed incredibly tragic, the American Nuclear Society's Nuclear Café Blog reports the current death toll from problems at Fukushima Daiichi as one; Chernobyl, the worst nuclear accident in history, resulted in 30 deaths as a direct result from the explosion and 28 deaths due to acute radiation sickness several weeks later (World Nuclear As-

sociation). Meanwhile, 48 people died in coal mining accidents in the U.S. in 2010 (U.S. Department of Labor), and approximately 13,000 more die each year due to coal-fired plant air pollutants in the U.S. (Clean Air Task Force). When considering loss of life caused by various energy sources, the worst day in nuclear history pales in comparison to an average day in the coal industry. And I strongly believe that nuclear power is the large-scale answer to

an exponentially growing need for clean and reliable energy.

It's neither with insensitivity nor nonchalance that I present this comparison of the effects of nuclear power versus its alternatives. Japan's devastation certainly will have lasting effects on its nation, but they will not be as a result of modern-day nuclear power.

Christina Neesen

President, American Nuclear Society

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my prayers are with all tech students who have family in japan!! love you all!!

my roommate spilled juice in his bed haha slivers hurt

our psych prof looks like Jesus!

The table I'm at in the library is awesome. Just sayin'.

Gatech OIT tried to put a cracked version of Window 7 on my computer and I get in trouble. Thanks again Gatech. Can't we get some people that know what they are doing?

i hate doing laundry

To the guy in Math 1711 with the Old Spice ringtone, you made my day! :)

See ya Paul Hewitt!

I don't have tbs, i'm just shy. promise.

I guess youre an xbox and I'm more an atari, but the way you play your game aint fair

GT band should play "Hound Dog" at the next UGA game

Anyone else notice the GTPD cruiser impaled on the cherry st road barrier? Classic.

dearest tech friends, i miss you all. NASA is fun but you guys are funner!

And so the "electrical angels" descended upon Lanterman's lecture slides...

Whoever dj's the baseball games, i adore you, you are hilarious!

Those who aren't in band still care about Tech traditions, even if Ramblin Wreck club doesn't.

The visual attractiveness of a woman is proportional to the amount of skin she is showing squared; i.e. doubling the amount of skin you show will make you four times more attractive.

Tech is kinda like prison... if you're here long enough, even the dudes start to look good.

Props to the alum who put up the 7.2 mil to fire Hewitt

Can someone explain why tech never lines our spring break up with anyone elses?

The guy next to me should stop slivering

BI WINNING