OUR VIEWS

Consensus Opinion

VPSA recommendations

Although the Tech Technique has not been comprehensively educated about the details and full histories of the two candidates being considered for the recently vacated vice president of student affairs (VPSA) position, there are several characteristics that we feel should be heavily weighted in President Clough’s final decision. These attributes include the candidate’s personality, experience, leadership style and vision for the position and student affairs at Tech.

In the past year, the Dean of Students office (DOS) has made great strides in becoming proactive, instead of reactive, about issues like integrity, honor and disciplinary action. The new vice president’s ambitions need to be in line with the DOS’s progress and end goals. Additionally, the new person for the job needs to offer support for his department’s current successful programs, while providing innovation and change for lagging and underdeveloped programs.

At the same time, the new administrator should be personable and student-focused, traits that generally indicate that he will be effective and efficient in making his office more visible to the graduate and undergraduate community. In doing so, the actions of the DOS and other departments governed by the VPSA will become more transparent to the students.

The leadership initiative, which has been taking shape for the past two years, is at a crux right now, and the next head of student affairs will need to be capable of guiding the further development of this effort. Hierarchy will include defining factors of the initiative, such as the leadership transcript that is currently in development, in such a way that students take it seriously.

Experience is a fundamental backbone of what makes the best contender; specifically, the applicant should have knowledge in overseeing a campus with a Greek population that comprises nearly a third of its student body, an on-campus residential population that includes a third of all students, a large student recreation center, and a large intramural and club sport program.

Above all else, the new VPSA must be a champion for the students. When sitting down at a table with the rest of the members of the president’s cabinet, the VPSA’s top priority must be expressing the concerns of and protecting the interests of his primary constituents, the Institute’s students.

Thus, while we are not recommending one applicant over the other, there are specific qualities Clough’s choice should exhibit to ensure that our next VPSA will succeed in all of the arenas in which his job will demand service.

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

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**OPINIONS**

**GTCN needs to “Dish” up Jacket cagers**

I have a complaint about Georgia Tech basketball; accumulating facts that anything to do with the Athletic Association and its ticketing policies. In fact, my problem is often faced by those students who choose not to stand in the lines with the hope of possibly getting a good seat in the Thriller Dome. Instead, these groups decide to watch games in the comfort of their own cheap apartments and dorm rooms.

For most, this sounds like a simple solution to the ticketing dilemma, and if the game happens to be nationally televised by the ESPN networks or ABC, fans can watch it on TV all they want. However, if this game happens to be broadcast over the local Atlanta PAX station, fans are left watching the wonderful prime-time offerings of PAX instead of the No. 16 Yellow jackets. I’m sure most of you who have faced this problem have bombarded GTCN with emails and calls concerning about the problems, only to receive a simple answer regarding the current D-I N network system and its inability to show the programming of the local Atlanta station instead of the programming of the ESPN networks or ABC. For most, this seems like a reasonable answer. However, I believe this is erroneous.

GTCN has been set up for pedestrian safety and the comfort of those students who choose to sit in the stands. I believe that by having fans watch games on TV, GTCN is only recouping the cost of showing games. However, I believe that GTCN should have the fiscal power to bring a recognizable band to campus. A recognizable band to campus is a recognition of all the students and the efforts in increasing the amount of offerings but this is a clear lack in quality versus quantity. If Tech students are not given the opportunity to watch their teams on campus, the cable service as a whole is lacking in quality. This lack in quality is not made up for with the large quantity of channels.

However, a renegotiation is not likely to happen before the end of the jackets’ great season. Therefore, GTCN should make an effort to inform students about the possibility of games being shown on-campus. Perhaps the Tech could announce the weekly schedule of the games in the schedule ad they place every week in the Tech athletics, and they should definitely at least put up information on the GTCN webpage. This will give students enough time to plan for another viewing site, instead of being disappointed at having to watch PAX TV instead of ESPN.

GTCN initially made the Dish Network decision to improve the cable service on campus. Now it’s time for GTCN to reevaluate how effective this system really is in providing Tech students with what they really want. But hey, we can all look at the brighter side of things. At least M Arch M adness is on CBS and not PAX TV.

By Andrew Janik

**Our Views Hot or Not**

**Sting my break**

Kudos to both the graduating and undergraduate branches of the Student Government Association (SGA) this week for their efforts in increasing the amount of money allotted to pay for a band to play at this semester’s Sting Break concert. The Student Center Programs Council Concert Committee now has a whopping amount of money and we will hopefully use this money to bring a recognizable band to campus.

By Andrew Janik

**Tech don’t-Parkway**

Later people have taken parking on both sides of Tech Parkway in front of the RC, meaning that a dangerous obstacle course has been set up for pedes- trians trying to cross the street. Cars must slow down from the speed limit of around 35 m.p.h. to 15 to ensure that they make it through the narrow tunnel of bénéfic so smoothly and safely with a large, portable living room. If an agreement cannot be reached between the two parties, I would recommend going back to basic cable. It may not have the wide amount of offerings but this is a case of quality versus quantity. If Tech students are not given the opportunity to watch their teams on campus, the cable service as a whole is lacking in quality. This lack in quality is not made up for with the large quantity of channels.

By Andrew Janik

**Jam in the deck**

The inefficient use of the wall-mounted parking deck at Tech Square caused quite a commotion last Thursday, when 100 cars tried to park in the deck at the same time through the one-way. Why weren’t all of the deck’s exits put to use? Instead, drivers were forced to wait 45 minutes before getting out.

By Andrew Janik

**Letter Submission Policy**
The Technique accepts all letters to the editor and will print articles by a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Student Paper, 375 Circle, Atlanta, GA 30332, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu, or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Center Services building. Letters up to 400 words are guaranteed to be published. Letters up to 150 words are guaranteed to run in the following Friday’s issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria are not considered. The Technique reserves the right to edit any submitted material. The Technique reserves the right to edit any submitted material. This lack in quality is not made up for with the large quantity of channels. **Coverage Requests**

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made by the student-in-chief or individual section editors. For more information, visit http://technique.gatech.edu/tgguide.pdf.

By Andrew Janik

**Hot or Not**

**Our Views**

**Pizzagra whets appetites**

By Andrew Janik

**O verpriced, and they really should accept meal plans too.**

By Andrew Janik

**Their smoothies suck. They’re all watered down.**

By Andrew Janik

**BUZZ Around the Campus**

**What do you think about the food at the Student C enter?**

By Andrew Janik

**For the price, it needs to be better.**

By Andrew Janik

**“The prices keep getting higher whereas the salad keeps getting more diluted.”**

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American hegemony no excuse for lack of language

Hidden at a quiet end of the O'Keefe Building in an area that seems miles away from the volleyball gymnasium and workout facility also housed in the building, sits a set of infrequently-used doors with the words “Language Institute” inscribed above them.

A trip inside reveals a world unknown to most Tech students, a place where the Institute opens itself to students from around the world to provide them with their own golden ticket—an opportunity to learn English.

Around the world, 450 million people speak English, 300 million of which speak it as their first language. English is the official language of some 45 nations, it serves as one of two working languages at the United Nations and it is the de facto language of international business. For many, learning English is the way to make themselves competitive.

Given these statistics, hundreds of students from around the world come to Georgia Tech’s Language Institute every year to become part of the world’s English-speaking community. They attend classes taught by instructors and professors trained in teaching English to speakers of other languages, and they immerse themselves in the Tech community and the city of Atlanta, which provide them with innumerable opportunities to expand and refine their language skills.

These students work away anonymously in a corner of campus, unknown to many Tech students, with the hope that their acquisition of a new language will provide them greater opportunities. They undertake the task of learning English in a process not unlike those that occur around the country and around the world.

On the other side of campus, one can find the reciprocal of this process. Each semester, Tech undergraduates fight and claw to obtain spots in classes taught by the resource-stripped School of Modern Languages. With two joint-degree programs created in the last six years and a budget racked by cuts from the state and institute level, the school does its best to meet the needs of all its Institute’s students who desire to learn a language other than English, with the hope that it will give them a competitive edge in the global economy.

Tough modern language classes are among the most sought after at the Institute, thus leading to a language other than English does not extend throughout the Tech community, and certainly not very far outside of it or other institutions of higher learning.

Just last week in one of my classes, the old joke came up: “What do you call someone who only speaks one language?” The answer, of course, was “American.”

It’s true that few Americans take the time to learn the languages of others, while people around the world who seek to participate in international endeavors must learn others. This fact stems not from American isolationism, xenophobia, laziness or stupidity but rather from American dominance of global economics and politics because of policies and market in many ways drive the political and economic life of the rest of the world, we lack the economic necessity to learn another language in order to compete. On the surface, there is little incentive to expand our language capabilities.

Should we use this dominance as a reason not to challenge ourselves in the process of foreign language learning, though? I say no. The process of learning a foreign language provides benefits beyond the ability to communicate with new people; it also improves one’s ability to communicate knowledge in a global economy.

Though modern languages classes are among the most sought after at the Institute, this desire to learn a language other than English does not extend throughout the Tech community, and certainly not very far outside of it or other institutions of higher learning.

We should lead the way in this practice. Though it may be difficult, because of resource shortages and other factors, the School of Modern Languages and engineering curricula with little room for electives to study another language during our undergraduate time at the Institute, we should commit to make the acquisition of a foreign language a fundamental life goal.

If one considers Webster’s definition of technology as “the practical application of knowledge,” the emergence of written language must be considered one of the most revolutionary technological developments in human history. Knowledge provides power, and the ability to communicate knowledge in a written form allows this knowledge to diffuse with greater breadth and with greater degree of accuracy.

Language, then, can be viewed as a technology, and as students who will graduate from a technological university, we ought to master this fundamental application of knowledge in something more than just our native tongue.

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Pizzagra

From page 9

get, chocolate, bananas and strawberries.

An Iceland press release stated that the ingredients were chosen because of their traditional value as natural aphrodisiacs, but I have a hard time believing that anyone who tries to choke down those toppings is going to return on by the experience. It may turn out to be too unpalatable for even the British. All things considered though, I guess I’m too shocked at the United Kingdom’s turning such a great idea into an inevitable failure.

After all, these are the people who lost the biggest empire in history, in addition to inflicting such atrocities as the Spice Girls upon an unsuspecting world.

But the marketing potential of such a food, if done properly, cannot be denied.

I wouldn’t be surprised if American restaurants and supermarkets are already working on their own versions of the Pizzagra. And I can guarantee they won’t have any artichokes, asparagus or any other sort of healthy vegetable. I just can’t imagine ourselves doing something like that.

We like our pizzas with greasy, meaty toppings and our sexual stimulants in pill form.

The sheer genius and universal appeal of such a product is self-evident; I’m surprised no one thought of it earlier.

It would undoubtedly become the most popular junk food in the country, even if they can’t get Bob Dole to do the commercials.