OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, August 30, 2002

OUR VIEWS

Consensus Opinion

UHR meeting changes

The Undergraduate House of Representatives finalized plans this week to vote on financial bills using a slate system and to center meetings around discussions of topics about which the undergraduate student body is concerned. The slating of financial bills will be based heavily on the Joint Finance Committee’s recommendation about the bill. The JFC is composed of both undergraduates and graduates and gives a recommendation to the legislative bodies on whether or not to pass bills. The new policy of slating puts the JFC, a body which is appointed, not elected, in a position of great power as their approval will be used to slate the bills. Many of the responsibilities that SGA representatives have under the Constitution relates to the disbursement of money. This policy moves the representatives away from this duty and makes them less accountable for their votes on individual bills.

Additionally, it may be inappropriate for nonelected officials to have such power over the workings of the House. SGA elections are held every Spring so that the student body can have some say over the process of how Student Activity Fees are spent. This new process may reduce the value of the elections if students feel that their elected officials have less power over the legislative process.

Even if all of these obstacles are overcome, the current policy sets the monetary limits for inclusion in the slate much too high. $2000 is a significant portion of student activity fees. Any group requesting such a large sum of money should be required to justify their costs not only before the JFC but also before the UHR. This system of individually considering each bill will help the student body to evaluate whether their funds are being spent wisely or not.

The other portion of the UHR’s plan, to hold issue-based meetings, is questionable in many ways. What issues will be discussed? How will they be determined? What action will UHR take on these issues? What will be the tangible product from this change? The main concern that arises from this new system is what sort of results can be expected from these conversations. Constituents must be able to see some benefits from the new system for these changes to be successful. The new system is highly confusing, and without more information, it will be difficult for students to communicate to their representatives their opinions on both the issues covered and the new format of the meetings.

Tennis Center policy harmful to students

I have a problem with the Tennis Center policy of holding the student IDs while using the courts. Currently, at the entrance to the Center a student has to leave his or her ID on a table with the attendant before gaining access to the courts. Almost every time I have been to play over the last few weeks, either on my way in or out, the desk was unattended, and the student IDs were laying in plain view. My concern is that anyone can just walk in and steal the IDs. This would result in a personal expense (cost to replace it), a potential loss of funds (I have a lot of money on the ID), and a security risk since the ID acts also as a key to get into secure buildings/research centers and parking.

When I spoke with a member of the tennis center staff, I was told that the policy was established because causes students pass the ID through the fence and non-Tech people get in. When I asked why not compare the picture with the person, I was told that many times it’s hard to tell. What’s the role of a picture ID if it can not be used as identification?

As I continued to complain, I was told that if I don’t like the policy, I should go play at the courts on Peter’s parking deck; why are those available to non-Tech people?

While I understand why the center’s staff implemented this policy, I still think that the risks and potential losses outweigh the benefits of this policy. Since the booth was unattended so many times, non-Tech people can still just walk in, while Tech Students can have their IDs stolen.

The Tennis Center could fix this problem in many ways: have the booth attended continuously, or ask for the student ID and another picture ID (at least one of the pictures should match the person!).

Tudor Palaghita
tsys084x@mail.gatech.edu

CoC and Housing tutoring

The move to place tutors for the introductory Computer Science courses in the freshman dorms is a truly monumental step in the right direction. This policy will allow more students to get help on their own time table while also improving undergraduate education through Computer Science courses; hopefully, the effort that Tech is putting into improving undergraduate education through initiatives like this one will show up in significantly better retention rates.

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

Tennis Center policy harmful to students

While I understand why the center’s staff implemented this policy, I still think that the risks and potential losses outweigh the benefits of this policy. Since the booth was unattended so many times, non-Tech people can still just walk in, while Tech Students can have their IDs stolen.

The Tennis Center could fix this problem in many ways: have the booth attended continuously, or ask for the student ID and another picture ID (at least one of the pictures should match the person!).

Tudor Palaghita
tsys084x@mail.gatech.edu

CoC and Housing tutoring

The move to place tutors for the introductory Computer Science courses in the freshman dorms is a truly monumental step in the right direction. This policy will allow more students to get help on their own time table while also improving undergraduate education through Computer Science courses; hopefully, the effort that Tech is putting into improving undergraduate education through initiatives like this one will show up in significantly better retention rates.

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

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, August 30, 2002

OUR VIEWS

Consensus Opinion

UHR meeting changes

The Undergraduate House of Representatives finalized plans this week to vote on financial bills using a slate system and to center meetings around discussions of topics about which the undergraduate student body is concerned. The slating of financial bills will be based heavily on the Joint Finance Committee’s recommendation about the bill. The JFC is composed of both undergraduates and graduates and gives a recommendation to the legislative bodies on whether or not to pass bills. The new policy of slating puts the JFC, a body which is appointed, not elected, in a position of great power as their approval will be used to slate the bills. Many of the responsibilities that SGA representatives have under the Constitution relates to the disbursement of money. This policy moves the representatives away from this duty and makes them less accountable for their votes on individual bills.

Additionally, it may be inappropriate for nonelected officials to have such power over the workings of the House. SGA elections are held every Spring so that the student body can have some say over the process of how Student Activity Fees are spent. This new process may reduce the value of the elections if students feel that their elected officials have less power over the legislative process.

Even if all of these obstacles are overcome, the current policy sets the monetary limits for inclusion in the slate much too high. $2000 is a significant portion of student activity fees. Any group requesting such a large sum of money should be required to justify their costs not only before the JFC but also before the UHR. This system of individually considering each bill will help the student body to evaluate whether their funds are being spent wisely or not.

The other portion of the UHR’s plan, to hold issue-based meetings, is questionable in many ways. What issues will be discussed? How will they be determined? What action will UHR take on these issues? What will be the tangible product from this change? The main concern that arises from this new system is what sort of results can be expected from these conversations. Constituents must be able to see some benefits from the new system for these changes to be successful. The new system is highly confusing, and without more information, it will be difficult for students to communicate to their representatives their opinions on both the issues covered and the new format of the meetings.

Tennis Center policy harmful to students

I have a problem with the Tennis Center policy of holding the student IDs while using the courts. Currently, at the entrance to the Center a student has to leave his or her ID on a table with the attendant before gaining access to the courts. Almost every time I have been to play over the last few weeks, either on my way in or out, the desk was unattended, and the student IDs were laying in plain view. My concern is that anyone can just walk in and steal the IDs. This would result in a personal expense (cost to replace it), a potential loss of funds (I have a lot of money on the ID), and a security risk since the ID acts also as a key to get into secure buildings/research centers and parking.

When I spoke with a member of the tennis center staff, I was told that the policy was established because causes students pass the ID through the fence and non-Tech people get in. When I asked why not compare the picture with the person, I was told that many times it’s hard to tell. What’s the role of a picture ID if it can not be used as identification?

As I continued to complain, I was told that if I don’t like the policy, I should go play at the courts on Peter’s parking deck; why are those available to non-Tech people?

While I understand why the center’s staff implemented this policy, I still think that the risks and potential losses outweigh the benefits of this policy. Since the booth was unattended so many times, non-Tech people can still just walk in, while Tech Students can have their IDs stolen.

The Tennis Center could fix this problem in many ways: have the booth attended continuously, or ask for the student ID and another picture ID (at least one of the pictures should match the person!).

Tudor Palaghita
tsys084x@mail.gatech.edu

CoC and Housing tutoring

The move to place tutors for the introductory Computer Science courses in the freshman dorms is a truly monumental step in the right direction. This policy will allow more students to get help on their own time table while also improving the ability of the College of Computing to teach Tech students the essentials of computing.

The tutors selected would ideally be Teaching Assistants for the course already, but as this will probably be impossible given the demands that are already placed on their time, the tutors should be as qualified as possible. These tutors should be trained to give consistent information so that all students will have equal opportunity to excel.

This policy will help Tech with more than the grades in its Computer Science courses; hopefully, the effort that Tech is putting into improving undergraduate education through initiatives like this one will show up in significantly better retention rates.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.
Ethics education essential to becoming a leader

This past year Georgia Tech has featured prominently in the national media in the debate about ethics. From the College of Computing, where a scandal involving a student’s graduation from a course that he had not taken, to the University of Georgia, where a former student's email was leaked online, the debate about ethics has been intense. The issue of ethics is one that affects us all, and it is important for us to be aware of it.

As a student, you must be aware of the importance of ethics and integrity in your daily life. From your personal life to your professional life, ethics are a crucial part of your decision-making process. The importance of ethics cannot be understated, as they play a vital role in shaping our future leaders.

In the classroom, ethics education is essential. By teaching students about the importance of ethical decision-making, we can instill in them a sense of responsibility and accountability. This is why many universities have introduced ethics courses into their curricula.

As a leader, you must be aware of the impact that your decisions can have on those around you. The ethical decisions that you make can have far-reaching consequences, both positive and negative. By having a strong ethical foundation, you can be more effective in leading others.

Finally, we must recognize the importance of ethics in business. Many companies have faced major setbacks due to unethical practices. By being aware of the importance of ethics, we can ensure that our businesses are successful and sustainable.

In conclusion, ethics education is essential to becoming a leader. By teaching students about the importance of ethics, we can instill in them a sense of responsibility and accountability. This is why many universities have introduced ethics courses into their curricula. As a leader, you must be aware of the impact that your decisions can have on those around you. The ethical decisions that you make can have far-reaching consequences, both positive and negative. By having a strong ethical foundation, you can be more effective in leading others.

In the classroom, ethics education is essential. By teaching students about the importance of ethical decision-making, we can instill in them a sense of responsibility and accountability. This is why many universities have introduced ethics courses into their curricula.

As a leader, you must be aware of the impact that your decisions can have on those around you. The ethical decisions that you make can have far-reaching consequences, both positive and negative. By having a strong ethical foundation, you can be more effective in leading others.

Finally, we must recognize the importance of ethics in business. Many companies have faced major setbacks due to unethical practices. By being aware of the importance of ethics, we can ensure that our businesses are successful and sustainable.
I cannot believe that it is almost September again. I know that due to the semester conversion, most of you do not remember starting Fall in the middle of September. Bear with me while I remember the good old days while I pathetically try to recapture my youth.

Back in '92 Smith Hall was just a little bit different than it is today. To begin with, the rooms were baby blue painted cinder block with a concrete floor. The furniture was not the nice wooden lofts of today. They were metal bunk beds.

There were times as I lay in bed that I thought about how many people had gone through what I was going through in that very room. The dorm was built sometime in the 1930's, some 60 years ago (well 60 years ago in '92). Funny how the 1990s and the 1930s could not be any more different, but the students who inhabited the dorm then worried about the same things that I was worrying about. Will I fail Calculus I? I miss home. I think I made a mistake; I don't really want to be an engineer.

The dorm was built sometime in the 1930's, some 60 years ago (well 60 years ago in '92). Funny how the 1990s and the 1930s could not be any more different, but the students who inhabited the dorm then worried about the same things that I was worrying about. Will I fail Calculus I? I miss home. I think I made a mistake; I don't really want to be an engineer.

Back in 1992 Smith was across the street from Techwood, which was both a dorm and a crack neighborhood. It was not uncommon to find used crack pipes outside the dorm and to hear gunshots at night. But of course you wouldn’t know anything about that now that they have torn down the dorm and the neighborhood.

Everyone in the administration used to love to talk about "Green Spaces" on campus and how we needed more of them. Where the fountain and concrete amphitheater are outside the Student Center, there used to be a very large grassed hill. It was perfect for lying around in the sun getting some sleep or a tan. But hey, they gave you nice, cold concrete seats around a fountain with a huge, ribbed shaft. Nice. What exactly is their definition of "green space?"

I say all this to remind you that all glory is fleeting. One day you will look back and realize that it has been ten years since you left home for Atlanta and Georgia Tech. Enjoy your time and learn what you can. Trust me, you will eventually finish and get your diploma. It may take a while but you will finish.

Mike Talley
CE 1998
mtalley@speng.com
**Buzz Around the Campus**

**Question** of the week

“What would you improve or change about parking?”

Caroline Burnet
ARCH Senior

“Have a better way of determining who gets permits…”

Caroline Seabrook
PSYC Sophomore

“They could give me a spot!”

Daniel Arnett
ME Senior

“They should assist us rather than just making money off us.”

H. Joon Jang
ISYE Grad

“I don’t see a problem.”

Jinwoo Kang
ECE Grad

“More parking lots!”

Kah-Mun Low
ECE Grad

“Make it cheaper!”

Lauren Piper
STaC Junior

“It’s not right that the parking people work on commission.”

Meg Monaco
CE Sophomore

“Why can’t they make the buses run on time?”

Feature and Photos by Christopher Gooley
Opinions

Responsible college drinking starts while still at home

By Jessica Veliz
Daily Texan

(U-WIRE) University of Texas at Austin—Recently, the American Medical Association asked The Princeton Review to eliminate their “Party Schools” list from the Best College series. Not only did this list provide an easy reference for worried parents (now why did Johnny choose that school?), but it also showed prospective students at which universities one could find both an education and a social life.

But this sort of view is not one that educators joyfully endorse. They want to present parents with the image of a pristine center of education where their child will diligently study for hours and make straight A’s with little effort thanks to the academic atmosphere.

A wake-up call is in order. To believe a student will go to a university and not attend at least one party with alcohol is naive. Colleges have earned their alcoholic reputations, but college life is not a 24-hour binge party unless the student makes it so. Responsible drinking can be part of an academically rewarding college career.

Parents need to wake up and take responsibility for their child’s potential actions. If the student was raised in a home where alcohol was assumed and respected for what it is, what it could become, not fear it or see it as something that must be learned and acquired. But to think that parents will take a more tolerant view towards drinking, especially with the incessant drunken-driving murders that occur, is also naive. Because of social taboos, alcohol has become a dirty word is far more likely to indulge him or herself than a student who was raised in an alcohol-tolerant environment.

The ability to drink responsibly is not something that magically materialized on one’s 21st birthday; it is something that must be learned and acquired. But to think that parents will take a more tolerant view towards drinking, especially with the incessant drunken driving murders that occur, is also naive. Because of social taboos, alcohol has become a dirty word is far more likely to indulge him or herself than a student who was raised in an alcohol-tolerant environment.

The ability to drink responsibly is not something that magically materialized on one’s 21st birthday. It is something that must be learned and acquired.

For many who have been refused the seeming privilege of drinking previously, their first time drinking heavily can be a terrible, even scary experience, complete with binging and eventually passing out. The risk is far greater for these types of people than for a person who has been taught from an early age to respect the potential effects of heavy drinking, and even come to realize their drinking limit.

First-time drinkers can make it a nightly habit, having suddenly discovered the lazy joy of being drunk. Some can even become addicted to this sensation, and this is far more fatal to one’s academic life than an occasional drink. For those who have imbomed before, alcohol has lost much of its mystery, making it an almost commonplace experience. The more one has experienced hangovers, the less eager one is to do so again.

A responsible drinker is taught to respect alcohol for what it is, what it could become, not fear it or see it as something that must be learned and acquired. But to think that parents will take a more tolerant view towards drinking, especially with the incessant drunken-driving murders that occur, is also naive. Because of social taboos, alcohol has become a dirty word is far more likely to indulge him or herself than a student who was raised in an alcohol-tolerant environment.

The ability to drink responsibly is not something that magically materialized on one’s 21st birthday.

For many who have been refused the seeming privilege of drinking previously, their first time drinking heavily can be a terrible, even scary experience, complete with binging and eventually passing out. The risk is far greater for these types of people than for a person who has been taught from an early age to respect the potential effects of heavy drinking, and even come to realize their drinking limit.

First-time drinkers can make it a nightly habit, having suddenly discovered the lazy joy of being drunk. Some can even become addicted to this sensation, and this is far more fatal to one’s academic life than an occasional drink. For those who have imbomed before, alcohol has lost much of its mystery, making it an almost commonplace experience. The more one has experienced hangovers, the less eager one is to do so again.

A responsible drinker is taught to respect alcohol for what it is, what it could become, not fear it or see it as something that must be learned and acquired. But to think that parents will take a more tolerant view towards drinking, especially with the incessant drunken-driving murders that occur, is also naive. Because of social taboos, alcohol has become a dirty word is far more likely to indulge him or herself than a student who was raised in an alcohol-tolerant environment.

The ability to drink responsibly is not something that magically materialized on one’s 21st birthday. It is something that must be learned and acquired.

For many who have been refused the seeming privilege of drinking previously, their first time drinking heavily can be a terrible, even scary experience, complete with binging and eventually passing out. The risk is far greater for these types of people than for a person who has been taught from an early age to respect the potential effects of heavy drinking, and even come to realize their drinking limit.

First-time drinkers can make it a nightly habit, having suddenly discovered the lazy joy of being drunk. Some can even become addicted to this sensation, and this is far more fatal to one’s academic life than an occasional drink. For those who have imbomed before, alcohol has lost much of its mystery, making it an almost commonplace experience. The more one has experienced hangovers, the less eager one is to do so again.

A responsible drinker is taught to respect alcohol for what it is, what it could become, not fear it or see it as something that must be learned and acquired. But to think that parents will take a more tolerant view towards drinking, especially with the incessant drunken-driving murders that occur, is also naive. Because of social taboos, alcohol has become a dirty word is far more likely to indulge him or herself than a student who was raised in an alcohol-tolerant environment.

The ability to drink responsibly is not something that magically materialized on one’s 21st birthday. It is something that must be learned and acquired.

For many who have been refused the seeming privilege of drinking previously, their first time drinking heavily can be a terrible, even scary experience, complete with binging and eventually passing out. The risk is far greater for these types of people than for a person who has been taught from an early age to respect the potential effects of heavy drinking, and even come to realize their drinking limit.

First-time drinkers can make it a nightly habit, having suddenly discovered the lazy joy of being drunk. Some can even become addicted to this sensation, and this is far more fatal to one’s academic life than an occasional drink. For those who have imbomed before, alcohol has lost much of its mystery, making it an almost commonplace experience. The more one has experienced hangovers, the less eager one is to do so again.

A responsible drinker is taught to respect alcohol for what it is, what it could become, not fear it or see it as something that must be learned and acquired. But to think that parents will take a more tolerant view towards drinking, especially with the incessant drunken-driving murders that occur, is also naive. Because of social taboos, alcohol has become a dirty word is far more likely to indulge him or herself than a student who was raised in an alcohol-tolerant environment.

The ability to drink responsibly is not something that magically materialized on one’s 21st birthday.