SET EDUCATION TO LOFTY GOALS, NOT MONEY

By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Is your life planned out? Do you know exactly where you will be two to three years from this exact moment? If you are like most Tech students, myself included, you probably looked at that informative listing of the average starting salary and decided it’s an annoyance and almost a joke.

There should be a higher priority for engineering majors—it’s an annoyance and almost a joke. There is no way to teach ethics in a classroom. There is nothing wrong with making a profit. My recommendation comes in the form that Tech needs to do more than just have a superficial motto of "Progress and Service.”

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Swan song recommends campus involvement

“After all of my time at Georgia Tech I might have a little of advice for those just getting started.”
Scott Meuneners
Photography Editor

Well, it looks like it is finally time to escape from Tech. I’ve been here for five years now, and looking back, it doesn’t seem even like it has lasted a minute. I’ve seen friends come and go, and I’ve seen firsthand the beginnings of the semester system at Tech, and the campus seems like a different place with all of the buildings and all of the students that are going up and down everyday.

After all of this, you might think that I’d be tired of the goings-on of college life, but I’d do it over again day if given the opportunity. I have learned so many things and changed so much since coming to Tech, people who knew me beforehand would probably barely recognize me anymore. I think all of this has been for the better, though some may argue otherwise. My tastes in music, study habits and what I like to do have all changed since coming to Tech. In most cases they have changed in a direc- tion where I am more open minded about things.

So you might think that after all this time at Georgia Tech I might have a little of advice for those just getting started or won- dering what their next step should be. I suppose I might have a little.

My number one piece of advice for people just getting start- ed at Tech is to join the Technique photography staff (the pictures are really the only things you look at, aren’t they?) Well I guess if you’re reading this editorial that isn’t true, so maybe I’ll get the editors opinion to print this in really large print for the rest of you.) That plug aside, I will try to give you some real advice.

The most important piece of advice I would give to people at Tech is to get involved and meet as many people as you can, and then meet some more. The best experiences you have going to school probably won’t have anything to do with class or playing video games in your dorm room so meeting as many people as you can and getting involved with so many different things as you can is very important.

I know I’ve said this in most of my editorials (which, no doubt, you have become a great fan of) of my editorials (which, no doubt, you have become a great fan of), but it can be very important. Those just getting started or won- dering what their next step should be might have a little of advice for people just getting started or won- dering what their next step should be. I suppose I might have a little.

The other Nelson

The Yellow Jacket basketball team wasn’t big enough for two Nel- sons, so one left at the end of last year, only to meet his former teammates in the NCAA champion game—from the bench. Ineligible to play for a year, former Tech forward Ed Nelson watched the game from a seat in front of the “Nique’s sports editor. It can’t be hot to him, who would’ve been playing in the game had he stayed at Tech.

Voting turns out

The Institute traditionally reg- ister the highest of any voting percentage in the nation for SGA elections, with this year’s regu- lar registration numbers no different. A record number of votes were recorded for the general election, meaning that around one-third of the student body casted their vote.

Yellow pollen...

...it’s just school spirit! More like it’s just a nuisance to cars all across campus and allergic stu- dents. The annual cycle Tech residents can expect every seven weeks ago with smelly trees and has now arrived at the pollen portion of the process. If your eyes are red and puffy, we vote for a trip to the Health Center.

Mandatory insurance

Last week, the Office of International Education (OIE) sent a letter to all F-1 international students, announcing that begin- ning this Fall, the Institute is going to directly charge them premiums for health insurance plans provided by HTH World- wise Insurance, the official car- rier chosen by the Board of Regents. The HTH charge will be billed each term to the student’s bur- sar’s account, and no F-1 stu- dents can be exempt from this plan. This practice is an infringe- ment of international students’ freedom to choose health insurance carriers, and hence should be opposed by the student community at large.

Georgia Tech has a manda- tory health insurance require- ment for international students, which has existed for years. How- ever, this requirement has never been rigorously enforced by the administration, and as a result, some international students re- main uninsured, and sometimes meet great financial difficulties when faced with expensive med- ical bills.

Although forcing internation- al students to buy health insur- ance plans from the official Georgia Tech carrier is no doubt the most convenient way for the administration to enforce this requirement, depriving students of their freedom to choose health insurance carriers that fit their own needs best is not only rude and insensitive, but also even arguably illegal.

Yes, the official HTH plan is relatively cheap and comprehen- sive, which makes it a good buy for many students—in fact, I have had HTH as my own health insurance provider—but for some other students, insurance plans from other providers make more sense.

Letter Submission Policy

The Technique welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters must be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 9129, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu, or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Tony Klaerner, Editor-in-Chief.

All letters must be signed and must in- clude a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Let- ters should not exceed 400 words and should be double spaced. All weekdays involved in the following Friday’s issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not con- sidered by the Editorial Board of the Tech- nique to be of valid interest will not be printed. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found on our website at www.nique.net. The deadline for inserting, ad and changing ad copy is noon on Friday, one week prior to publica- tion. For details, call our advertising line at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising copy must be received no later than noon the Friday of publication. The Technique office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 555 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-5290. Questions regarding advertis- ing should be directed to Marcy Knecht at (404) 894-3157, or by email to techad@technique.gatech.edu.

Coverage Requests

Please submit requests for coverage to the editor-in-chief or to indivi- dual section editors. For more information, visit http://www.nique.net/niqueguide.php

“After all of my time at Georgia Tech I might have a little of advice for those just getting started.”

“Coliseum, second row!”

“San Antonio.”

“I then became the photogra-

Carol Girata AE Freshman

Andrea Rodriguez IE Freshman

“At the Coliseum”

Muhammad Yadudu EE Sophomore

“At home.”
Housing application process effective, reform not that simple

Last week’s editorial on the housing sign-up process by Karl Guertin is off the mark. While many points he makes throughout the article are valid opinions, Guertin should have done some research into the process before bashing it.

Each year in the fall, before housing sign-ups begin, a committee of students and housing officials meet to set up the housing sign-up process for the next year. This includes everything from how to sign up for housing to the priority each student is given. The Student Government Association, Residence Hall Association, Greeks and the average resident all have a voice on this committee.

Guertin’s suggested process of allowing students to sign up for housing in pairs and blocks is infeasible. By doing this, housing would be giving priority to students who sign up in blocks and pairs, thereby hurting the average resident. In other words, all one would have to do to increase their chances of getting housing is find one or three friends, when in fact a large percentage of those students who sign up for housing do so without a roommate or block preference.

While the $600 prepayment may seem steep, it is this fee that ultimately keeps housing prices from going even more through the roof. The $600 prepayment helps ensure that people who sign up for housing actually stay with housing the following year. If too many people sign up on a whim, housing will not be full the next year, which would mean higher rates the following year.

Guertin’s online system would be nice, but the current budget situation for Housing and the Institute as a whole does not allow for such a system. Most years, a senior design group proposes a similar system which is rejected for lack of quality. It was the committee’s decision to have students continue to physical- ly go and sign up for new rooms to allow students to see all possible options when their selection number is called. Any other feasible system would not allow this.

It is these facts listed above that Guertin should have researched prior to writing his editorial. While everyone is allowed their own opinion and many of Guertin’s concerns are valid, he should have researched his proposed solutions before complaining about Housing’s and the committee’s efforts to solve the problems. If you have any suggestions on the housing process and would like them discussed at next year’s Priorities Committee meeting, please send me an email.

Andrew Howard
president@rha.gatech.edu

Insurance

For example, some married students get benefits and health insurance coverage through their spouses; some other international students are eligible for cheaper and better health insurance plans available from carriers in their own home countries. Choosing a health insurance provider is such a personal choice that the administration should not force a blanket choice on all of us.

Whereas the administration can still choose a default health insurance carrier for international students to enforce the mandatory health insurance requirement, students should be allowed to opt out and choose a different carrier for themselves if the other plan meets the minimum coverage requirement set by the Institute.

Georgia Tech is a diverse university, which boasts of a strong and vibrant international student community. I have always been proud to be a member of the Tech community, and have enjoyed friendly assistance from the staff of the OIE in the past. I would like to see this effective cooperation continue.

To preserve the long-standing harmony between international students and the Institute, I hereby call upon the administration to review its health insurance policy, and our student representatives to take this issue up and fight for our rights.

Xuan Gu
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YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Replace students with robots, see support soar

In regard to Kimberly Rieck’s opinion article on Friday, March 26 concerning fan support for all Division I sports at Tech, I would first like to commend her for her loyalty and enthusiasm for all of our student athletes who sacrifice so much day in and day out.

However, I have a much better solution for any fan support woes: robots. Of course, this has been considered for several years, having already been implemented in the Student Government Association (SGA), but the solution holds special promise for less-popular Division I sports.

The first and most significant benefit found in filling the stadium’s seats with mechanical men and women is simply that robots don’t seem to have any susceptibility to the weak human desire of wanting to have fun. They can sit through days of swim meet action with nary a care, relishing the dead time between events and going through the motions of fan support.

The robots could even be programmed to seem like they’re enjoying events that no one really gets excited about, like Tech Beautification Day (this is why the robots should be modeled after freshmen). Then, we will show the world what great fan support we’ve got and our athletic programs will blossom like a wildflower in Wisconsin during spring. And all those other Georgia Tech students can get to their nighttime labs and study sessions like they’ve always done and won’t have to tote books to swim meets.

Don’t worry about that for long—no doubt the administration will soon transition to using robots for the entire student body.

Imagine a Greek System completely controlled by machine language! Imagine the class attendance figures and the retention rates! Picture the diversity our campus will enjoy, completely manufactured and controllable. Finally, Tech will be free of the trouble caused by innovative and free-thinking students who find in the Flats an opportunity to create their own college experience.

Mike Elmer
gte439v