**Study results no guarantee**

The Georgia Tech Office of Institute Communications and Public Affairs announced that the results of a recent study that shows the rate of binge drinking at Tech has decreased since the last time such a study was conducted. However, this may not be the entire truth.

The Harvard group that produces this study warns that if the confidence intervals in the study overlap then the results must be deemed inconclusive. Since the confidence intervals in Tech’s study did, in fact, overlap, the best that can be said about the rate of binge drinking at Tech is that the results are inconclusive.

With inconclusive results, it is inappropriate for ICPA to laud GT SMART for promoting an apparent decrease in binge drinking at Tech. Since there is no way of knowing that this is absolutely the case, it is deceptive to tell people that there has been an improvement in this area.

Aside from that the fact that there is no way of knowing just how reliable the information is that was obtained from those who participated in this study.

Before jumping to any conclusions it is important to find where the problem in this situation lies. If ICPA was not shown the confidence intervals by GT SMART before it announced the results of this study, then there was no way of knowing that the information it was announcing was not credible. Whatever the cause, better precautions need to be taken in the future to ensure that Tech does not release information about itself that is not necessarily true.

**Fresh start for Ferst**

Jay Constantz, former Director of the Fox Theatre, has just been appointed Director of the Ferst Center. This, along with placing the Ferst Center under the direction of the Office of Student Affairs, should be very progressive and beneficial for the Ferst Center and the Tech community as a whole.

Hopefully Mr. Constantz, along with the other members of the Ferst Center community, will be able to bring the focus of the Center back to one of the original goals that was proposed when it was built over a decade ago to make the Ferst Center available and affordable to Tech student groups that host events that will draw big crowds as well as be able to draw major international talent that will bring in audiences from all over Atlanta.

Ideally the Ferst Center will be able to accomplish both of these things at once. Ultimately student groups, such as the band, should be able to enjoy this sophisticated facility that exists right on campus on one night, and a world-famous performer, such as Jose Carerras, could draw people from different parts of Atlanta to the Ferst the next night.

**Time to vote again**

From April 17 to 19 the polls will open once again, and students will be asked to re-vote on some referendums proposed by SGA.

Although they may not seem as exciting as electing a student body president, these are important referendums that deserve consideration. Please take the time to research them, and cast your vote.

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**Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.**
Health Center needs to improve policies toward patient care

Jennifer LaHatte
Managing Editor

"If a student is extremely ill, or she should not be forced to wait more than two or three hours to see a doctor."

Andrew Santelli
Entertainment Editor

Tax credit for obesity ineffective, smarter solution needed

Everyone’s favorite government agency around this time of year, the Internal Revenue Service, is mailing headlines with a ruling handed down in favor of people with obesi- ty. It is a resolution to give a tax break to those with obesity, to pro- vide a credit for weight-loss pro- grams ordered by a physician, stating that these are legitimate medical expenses that qualify as deductions. I recognize obesity as a growing problem. Being overweight can lead to heart problems, diabetes, and even cancer. However, I do not believe that this tax credit will fix the problem. In fact, I believe it is a band-aid on the bigger picture surrounding the obesity epidemic.

While this tax credit may be a quick fix, it provides a challenge, but if managed correctly, can serve similar amounts of patients around the nation produce better, or even more productive re- sults, why can’t the Student Health Center staff at Georgia Tech do the same?

Additionally, what if my room- mate woke up Saturday instead of Sunday morning in exerting that much energy? Then the Health Center is not open on Saturday and only sees emergencies from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. She doesn’t have a car; she’s from New Jersey; she can’t exactly call home and get mom to take her to the doctor. The Student Health Center does not and should not be able to provide care 24/7, seven days a week, but extending week- end and daily hours would be one way of getting more people to the treatment and care they de- serve.

All this staff competency was another issue my roommate was plagued with in her recent illness. She visited the Health Center four times in that one week, and almost every time was forced to fill out a new chart because the personnel behind the desk could not find the chart she had so carefully filled out just the day before. It’s like mistake that costs both sick students and the Health Center valuable time and money. Just as any other doctor’s office or healthcare facility is responsible for keeping records vital to patient care, so, too, should Tech’s Health Center exhibit the same competency and seriousness needed to successfully achieve this task.

I am very thankful and apprecia- tive of having a Health Center right here on campus, but one of the main reasons I am so apt to complain is that I have seen and experienced that the Health Center does not and should not be the place to go when you are feeling very sick or experiencing a severe medical problem. The health fee is the response, then the Health Center should be held ac- countable for the funds to help solve this appointment-sched- uling nightmare.

So, what is the cure? What can be done to improve the situation?

First of all, let me tell you about the situation in my town. We have a $100 fee to get a tax write-off for my new eating habits. I’m excited that changes to the health center will change this. Why? Because we need to do more to get our health under control.

America needs stronger empha- sis on nutrition, a more effective way to get people active, and an entirely new way of looking at things if we are going to stop this problem in the future. We have to try to become one filled with people who never leave their houses except to go to their cars or sit at their desks.

Obesity can be beaten. You can see it almost anywhere, at those whose weights previously ballooned are now getting smaller and smaller, though with much more work than it took to increase their weight. You don’t need to be paid by the government to do this. You don’t need to have a little more calories than you consume, you’re going to lose weight.

The government officials behind this are wrong. This tax credit can serve as an effective incentive for those with obesity to work to- wards being healthier. They will make it seem like there’s millions of overweight Americans who are saying, “if I only had a little more money, then I’d want to lose weight.” If you’re going to make a change in your life, it’s going to be more difficult than you thought because you want to, not because you are being paid to.

A tax credit for obesity guidelines can serve as a break for themselves, so they can step back, take a good look at the bigger picture surrounding this problem. While the government believes they think can be solved over- night with a little bit of tax credit need a new solution that can be a quick fix.
ing the grades slightly? It would be wrong to apply this line of reasoning only to teachers in the state of Georgia.

There are also many other indicators used to determine if a student is Georgia Tech material. Standardized tests like the SAT and ACT are great mechanisms that are currently in place to help Tech objectively see the difference between what might be a “B” average at one school compared to an “A” at another.

This school also looks at extracurricular activities, leadership records and requires an essay while determining the possible acceptance of students. These are all apparatus used by Georgia Tech in order to choose the most promising students, and, as many students who were not admitted found out, it takes more than a high GPA in high school to get into Georgia Tech.

I would just like to say that all who have passed the rigorous admissions standards set forth by this excellent school belong here. All of us have spent thousands of hours studying and working so that we will have the chance to reach our full potential based on the quality education we are receiving. Yes, many might not make it the whole way; things happen, but to use HOPE as an excuse might not make it the whole way, but we rarely see more.

The only time I truly see hundreds of regular Atlantans on Tech’s campus is when the Ferst Center offers a show (that I probably didn’t even realize was happening) and I have to pick through a crowd on the way to the Technique office. Whether we notice or not, the Ferst Center is one of the few things on campus that has the potential to truly connect Tech with people from the greater Metro Atlanta area; however, it can only fulfill that role if its new leadership carefully considers what students need and what the community needs.

The Ferst has great potential to help Tech improve its programs and enrich campus, but these ends can only be achieved if student performance groups can use the facility with no—or minimal—charge. Why should students who already pay band dues and instrument rental fees (not to mention tuition for a band or orchestra class) also have to fork over cash to help rent a performance venue? Why should a department already strapped for cash, such as the music department, have to pay a rental fee for the only possible band, orchestra, or choir performance venue on campus? Obviously, a music performance class holds no meaning without a performance venue. These student groups, and arguably the entire academic department comprised of the music program, need a place to perform where students and Atlanta residents alike can attend.

As for catering to the students, I rarely hear about a Ferst Center performance until I stumble upon the newspaper deadline. I am sure that the Ferst advertised in the Student Center to some degree, but when I have noticed a show, it has sold out before I’ve realized I actually want to buy tickets.

One problem arts centers often encounter (or actually, always encounter) is a continuous lack of revenue. Performing arts may never be able to support themselves. However, structures can be put in place to ensure the Ferst’s continuation and growth as a very unique Atlanta venue. I see no problem with the Ferst offering student-friendly small-scale and cheap-ticketed plays and concerts a few nights a week and operas that run in the $150 ticket range on weekends. Moreover, the Center needs to develop a more comprehensive giving program that allows subscribers to have preferred seating and admission to special events and fundraisers. The program that exists obviously has not brought sufficient funds, and so time should be spend analyzing what else might be more successful.

Close to campus, plenty of Atlantans are willing to become patrons of the arts—the Ferst Center needs to find these people and figure out how to steer their generosity towards the Ferst. We should also look at performance venues at other universities and find out how they support their programs. Hopefully, with the experience of Jay Constanz, these kinds of goals can be established and quickly reached.

Although the mid-sized auditorium of the Ferst Center (it seats roughly 1,200) has been used as an excuse for its inability to financially support itself, such an excuse should be thrown out by the new leadership. They say it’s not big enough for the really big acts, but it can’t be filled by smaller performances. But the building has been built, and no one can change the seating capacity now. We have to work with what we have.

I can think of several mid-sized acts that, if advertised properly, might be able to fill the Ferst Center without incurring huge fees. What about musicians that come to the Variety Playhouse, the Tabernacle and the Roxy, such as John Mayer, Angie Aparo, and the Dave Matthews Cover Band? Although they aren’t currently the biggest names in pop music, they have become immensely popular among college students. The Ferst Center could draw audiences from Athens and Emory as well as Tech if such performers came to campus.

The size of the Ferst Center might actually be an advantage—I would pay more to see a performer in a closer, smaller setting than in a huge auditorium where binoculars are necessary. The Center should capitalize on its intimate size and its amenities such as the galleries (perfect for hosting a pre-event cocktail party for patrons or a post-concert CD signing for those who pay for backstage passes).

I wish the new Ferst leadership the best in achieving for the what the Ferst’s potential holds. The Center could become a vibrant venue and successful interface for campus and the city, or it could remain in its present state. I hope the former comes true.
Help fix disciplinary system

This year has seen a dramatic increase in the number of disciplinary cases that has come to the Dean of Students’ Office for adjudication. The extraordinary number of academic misconduct cases in Computer Science has received the most press, but non-academic misconduct cases have also increased.

One of the results of this growing work load is that the length of time necessary to complete the adjudication of cases has increased. This has had a negative impact on a number of individual students. With respect to academic misconduct, Provost Chameau has appointed a committee to review the process and procedures we have been using. Dean Boyd and our legal staff have also reviewed our entire conduct code and procedures for both academic and non-academic misconduct.

This is an invitation to students to offer suggestions for improving the way our disciplinary system works. The current rules and procedures are in Sections XVII-XX of the Rules and Regulations. Please e-mail me with your suggestions.

Dr. Lee Wilson
Vice President of Student Affairs
lee.wilcox@vps.gatech.edu

Email us with your views. Send mail to opinions@technique.gatech.edu or editor@technique.gatech.edu

Question of the week
“What did you do for April Fool’s?”

Jorg Stromberger
ME Grad
“Nothing. This is a big custom in Germany, but here they are really lame.”

Jeremy Varner
CE Freshman
“I passed around a website about Bill Gates’ death.”

Cori Gilman/Danielle Dees
IE Senior/CS Junior
“Studied and played.”

Benoit Goyens
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“My girlfriend made me think she broke up with me.”

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“My legal counsel has advised me not to disclose anything.”

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“I didn’t think about it. I was at work all day.”

Feature and photos by Kimberly Hinckley

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