OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, November 9, 2001

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Free for all

The addition of new risers on the floor of the Coliseum will benefit many student basketball fans if they can get their hands on the right T-shirt.

In order to be able to stand on these risers students must be sporting a shirt designed specifically for this event. These T-shirts will be given out for free at the first two home games to the first 200 students. Any student who wants this T-shirt after that will have to pay for it.

This is a good idea that will get more students involved in the basketball season. However, these free T-shirts should be given out at more games than just the first two. All students who wish to support basketball by standing on the risers should be allowed to obtain a free T-shirt.

In an attempt to make these T-shirts free to more students, the AA is working to get corporate sponsorship for the shirts. With the benefit sponsors receive from placing their logo on the shirt, more companies should be forthcoming. As a result, most of Tech’s basketball games will be televised, and, just as Swarm gets ample TV coverage during football games, this group of eager student fans should also get plenty of airtime, publicizing Tech basketball as well as potential T-shirt sponsors.

Let them go

Many seniors planning to graduate next month are getting a rude awakening late in the semester. They are discovering that they are .33 to two hours short of graduating due to the semester conversion two years ago. Tech administration will decide next week whether or not to let these students go ahead with graduation or make them stay on one more semester.

First, if a student was two hours or less short of graduating he or she should have been notified soon after the semester started. No one should have had to wait until one month before graduation to find out that he or she may not get to receive a degree in December.

Second, because of the special case, any exception that can be made, should be made. This shortage of hours affects a small number of students and is only a temporary issue. With such minor discrepancies, these students should be allowed to graduate this semester.

No time for pranks

Last Sunday a 2-liter plastic bottle with chemical contents exploded in the face of a Tech police officer. It appears as though these chemicals were mixed as some sort of a joke. While a stunt like this might have been considered funny as recently as six months ago, it is no laughing matter in the uncertain atmosphere that comprises the world that we live in today. All people, not necessarily just students, need to be more wary of their behavior and make better decisions as to what constitutes a funny joke.

Bye Bye Bucky

Bucky Johnson, Tech’s band director for the past nine years, announced that he will be retiring at the end of this semester. We would like to thank him for his contributions to Tech’s music program and wish him a happy retirement.

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

Sexual comments at games must stop

I am a recent Georgia Tech alumna and member of the Greek community. I have attended several football games this season and visited campus on several other occasions. I thought that it might be because I was getting older that I noticed how vulgar and degrading some Tech students could be.

Sitting in section 123 along with other alumni, we have to constantly listen to students in the flashcard section not only taunt the opposing team with crude remarks but also yell sexually degrading comments to the cheerleaders.

Then at Homecoming my fears of getting “too old” were proved false. A fraternity had chosen to use Buz, one of my favorite Tech symbols, to display the most disgusting hand gesture I have ever witnessed. I wish I had been ignorant to its meaning, but I have had one too many fraternity members make and describe the gesture at football games. The only reason why I don’t describe it is because it would make this letter unfit to print.

I asked a fraternity member who I thought was a friend of mine why they made this gesture and whether or not they knew it could be classified as sexual harassment. I was told, “It’s all in good fun.” Unfortunately, I did not have a formal definition of sexual harassment on hand or I would have told him that Webster’s Dictionary defines it as “the making of unwanted and offensive sexual advances or of sexually offensive remarks or acts.”

Making lewd hand gestures and screaming that you want a table dance from the cheerleaders may be your idea of “good fun.” But your good fun is ruining my good time. I should not have to stand and listen to sexually harassing comments for hours just to attend a football game. You may think you’re funny, but you’re not. Would you want some drunk...

See Harassment, page 8
New student seating in coliseum a major improvement

How will Jason Williams feel? He’ll prepare to shoot a free-throw, then he’ll step back and to the left of the hoop. He’ll see a group of students dressed in old gold t-shirts. Happily because the administration has just taken a large step in creating a better place they are sitting on the floor. They are students in the Student Union. The floor has been vacuumed, the carpet has been laid and the plants are growing. The students in the Student Union have been waiting years for this day. Today they are going to open the arena and we’ll see how well the students like the new seating.

A look at the next few years in a world full of terror

I just heard three explosions. Is my luck running out? Hopefully it is just a small attack. I will have to call and let my family know I am not hurt. The M.P.’s are now racing down the street toward my building. I remember when the world changed on 9-11-01. I was in college.

I told my Maryland this morning that I knew there was going to be a terrorist attack. The televisions showed the attacks. I am glad I helped the MaCs out since I now have a job. I am lucky to be alive. My mail was allowed. I still have the last letter I mailed before the ban in late 2002. I tried to explain to her how people want people revenge. They had seen ‘American Under Attack’ then ‘American Unitive’. The populace was ready for ‘American Stricks Back’. The blood of Americans had been spilled in New York and D.C. and Americans wanted their pride back. Bombing was Step One of America’s Strick Back. It was a way to weaken the enemy, maybe even force Osama Bin Laden out. Alarich showed up shortly thereafter. Jamil was a little late, but he showed up. Everyone is the source of the attack was never found, just stacks of letters and a contact to the media. The situation of the hostilities were hardly feared. Fear just brought the city to a breakdown. Look how quick we went from a world of peace to a world of war. The government did not do enough for the peace to war.

There were few survivors in the first few to die. So the water flooded and the downtown slowly. It took almost a week to do its damage. High water came from different directions. Each had more time to prepare than the one before. Shortly thereafter power was rationed to the city without a purpose, photo ID and background check. I went through three security stops on the way to work the next day. American wanted to feel more protected. Bush finally reappeared after the media was reporting on a Taliban peace offer. Some people finally saw the war as costly. On live television Bush shot down the peace offer and demanded ‘an end to terror’ or the Taliban will pay. ‘No one took the offer seriously after that. The draft started and war was finally declared on the fifth anniversary of 9-11-01. The people who live the ‘Nukes’ outside the White House and the ranch in Texas. Finally Osama Bin Laden and his mates to the people of Afghanistan it came, mushroom and all. The riots broke out in Indonesia in the Philippines. The war was first to be evacuated. By the end of the day I believe almost ten embassies staffs frantically boarded helicopters. Soldiers stood guard over most of the embassies for the next few months. The world was outraged. The war took a sudden turn in America’s favor.

It now seems the northern front will meet parts of the southern front before winter sets in. Finally, this will continue, war and life will continue, hopefully. Another explosion starbes me. I continue to watch the MPs and wonder what the next attack will be. They duck behind their Humvees. Ashper- nel cloud races towards them from above. It’s an attack on their daily life as Military Police set up numero- us security posts and checked cars. It was a terror attack and the security stops on the way to work the next day. America wanted to feel more heaven. America wanted to feel more secure. America is a great country.
Techs and the City: Break from studying and find a hot spot

By Jen Hinkel
Columnist

Last weekend, I went home. I sat in my bedroom and did nothing. I drove to my high school, passing cornfields, green hills, and vibrantly colored fall foliage. Life slowed for a day, but back in Atlanta, I find that I have even more things to do and few means of escape. Tuesday night I stole away at midnight for a cup of coffee. As I sat in a dark café trying to regain alertness for the night of studying ahead, I wondered if I really like fast-paced Atlanta after all. When we’re suffering from Tech burnout, just how far do we have to go to find a tranquil haven?

Despite Atlanta’s harried pace, the city has some hidden jewels, and places I mention embody the nerd-chic concept, because not only are they chic, but they are also open to the “perfecting nerd-chic” list. The nerd-chic beauty of a good hangout is that once you become a regular at some Atlanta hangout, becoming a favorite places to procrastinate the things to do and few means of escape. Tuesday night I stole away at midnight for a cup of coffee. As I sat in a dark café trying to regain alertness for the night of studying ahead, I wondered if I really like fast-paced Atlanta after all. When we’re suffering from Tech burnout, just how far do we have to go to find a tranquil haven?

Despite Atlanta’s harried pace, the city has some hidden jewels, and so I will list with relish my favorite places to procrastinate the life of Tech academics. The best havens aren’t far, and becoming a regular at some Atlanta hangout should be an imperative item on the “perfecting nerd-chic” list. The places I mention embody the nerd-chic concept, because not only are they chic, but they are also open enough to accommodate, you guessed it, nerds. Everyone knows Tech students don’t go to bed early. How preposterous!

My current favorite is Café Intermezzo on Peachtree, followed closely by the Brewhouse Café in Little Five Points. After that, I would pick the standard diner fare, choosing the Majestic on Piedmont because it hasn’t changed in 80 years and the City Café on 80 percent of its classic menu because it hasn’t changed in 80 years and the City Café Diner because I can walk there. For pretending to study and seeking a meal, choose the diners. For sleep deprivation marathon preparation, don some black and go to Intermezzo on Peachtree, followed closely by the Brewhouse Café in Little Five Points. After that, I would pick the standard diner fare, choosing the Majestic on Piedmont because it hasn’t changed in 80 years and the City Café Diner because I can walk there. For pretending to study and seeking a meal, choose the diners. For sleep deprivation marathon preparation, don some black and go to Intermezzo.

Tech were nestled among rolling green hills in a place with no traffic and ample parking, our non-academic stress would vanish. The suburbs generate as many thrills as our non-academic stress would vanish. The suburbs generate as many thrills as driving up 400 in rush hour traffic and ample parking, our non-academic stress would vanish. The suburbs generate as many thrills as driving up 400 in rush hour traffic. In the city, we sacrifice a little bit of scenery for a lot of good fun. Part of what makes Tech and Atlanta such an interesting couple is their constant attempts at exponentially compounding each other’s problems. I wonder if Tech mirrors Atlanta, or vice versa. Start with parking, and then try housing. Amidst the growing pains of über-urbania, the city provides its own cures in our favorite havens and places of refuge.

On a sunny day, go to Piedmont Park. If you find yourself at your wits end and you’re failing all of your classes, find a quiet church or a museum. We don’t have to live at the mercy of stress, and even if escapism seems like running away, the moments of peace and relaxation we’ll steal will be worth the reduced stress. The nerd-chic beauty of a good hangout is that once you become a regular, no one will care if you bring your calc book with you. You need Intermezzo coffee to stay up. Sitting in a green field will inspire your INTA paper. Take a deep breath, and brace yourself for next week’s tests. You’ll survive, even if you spend all Friday night at Fellini’s. Free Coke refills keep you (studying) all night, right? Forget time management for stress reduction. I would rather drink caffeine with my friends and pull a study marathon. After all, we’re college students.
Question of the week

“What do you think about midterm grade reports?”

Ali Kamil
CS Junior
“It’s a good idea; it helps us to know where we stand.”

Noah Schellenberg
IE Senior
“I don’t care. It really doesn’t apply to me.”

Molly Wilshire
UEC Sophomore
“It’s good for students to know how they’re doing ahead of time.”

Kim Bucciero
ImA Freshman
“They’re pretty useless. You pretty much know if you’re failing anyway.”

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Kim Bucciero
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“They’re pretty useless. You pretty much know if you’re failing anyway.”

Sherida Heath
MGT Sophomore
“They’re OK. It helps us to know what we need to do in class.”

Bill Lockwood
MGT Senior
“It’s not the best idea because it doesn’t give you a grade.”

Kelly Durski
MGT Senior
“It’s nice for freshmen.”

Ben Benoy
UEC Freshman
“I wish they were more detailed. There’s a lot of range between an A and a C.”

Feature and Photos by Matthias Shapiro
**What’s News—**

*In Business and Finance*

**Tougher for Minorities**

During the past year, the nation’s pool of unemployed managers and professionals has swelled by 4% to 1.2 million. A former software manager who was laid off twice says he has gone from Plan A to Plan B to Plan C, and is now on Plan E: delivering pizzas for one-tenth his former salary. Employment held up surprisingly well in the early stages of the slowdown. But now, the Labor Department reported that the jobless rate leapt half a percentage point in October to 5.4%, up from a low of 4.3% in March. Service industries, usually less volatile than manufacturing, were especially hard hit as companies realized they had hired too many people in the late stages of the recession.

**Boston Market, KFC Heat Up Rivalry**

White-collar workers, among the biggest winners of the 1990s boom, are feeling an unusually heavy sense of share that the economy is slowing. During the past year, the nation’s pool of unemployed managers and professionals has swelled by 4% to 1.2 million. A former software manager who was laid off twice says he has gone from Plan A to Plan B to Plan C, and is now on Plan E: delivering pizzas for one-tenth his former salary. Employment held up surprisingly well in the early stages of the slowdown. But now, the Labor Department reported that the jobless rate leapt half a percentage point in October to 5.4%, up from a low of 4.3% in March. Service industries, usually less volatile than manufacturing, were especially hard hit as companies realized they had hired too many people in the late stages of the recession.

**Selecting Air Fare Cuts**

**Tempt Few Fliers; Safety Measures Stall**

By Wall Street Journal Staff Reporters

Airlines cut fares enough to win travelers back to the skies? Not according to the latest passenger figures. So will the airlines slash prices even further? Probably not. The sharp decline in demand for air travel after Sept. 11 has reversed a bit, but domestic flights still flew only 65% full in October, according to preliminary estimates from the Air Transport Association, the U.S. industry’s trade group. That applies to flight schedules most carriers had already cut 20%. Some carriers, including United, American and Continental Airlines, have introduced discounts of 20% to 50% on business fares in the weeks since the Sept. 11 attacks. But many of those discounts come with 10- to 21-day advance-purchase requirements, making them of little use to road warriors who don’t like to plan that far in advance. In addition, many of the discounts are non-refundable or require one- or two-night stays.

In leisure fares, consumers have been offered a hodgepodge of price reductions, many of which are no different from the ones offered before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. Many of the discounts are scattered and somewhat difficult to find, as carriers ratchet up yield management systems that selectively reduce fares in various markets.

Airlines say cutting business fares usually doesn’t stimulate a lot of new demand, and much of the downturn is the product of the economic slowdown. “Until we see some uptick in the economy, we think we’ll continue to see lower business travel,” says Continental Airlines Chairman and Chief Executive Gordon Bethune.

The financial carnage for the airlines is so bad that the industry could be headed for a major restructuring, with well-capitalized carriers already sizing up faltering rivals for their gates and facilities. Delta Air Lines Chief Executive Leo F. Mullin has suggested that government regulators will now have to lose their aversion to airline mergers. Airlines will have to address long-standing and now worsening problems with labor costs and the shortcomings of the hub-and-spoke system.

We’re losing millions of dollars... Please turn to Next Page

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We’re losing millions of dollars... Please turn to Next Page

**A U-Turn**

U.S. monthly unemployment rate

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<td>1996</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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</tbody>
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**Executive Gordon Bethune.**

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**The Bush administration announced plans to overhaul student-visa requirements, making them of little use to road warriors who don’t like to plan that far in advance.**

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We’re losing millions of dollars... Please turn to Next Page

## Losing Altitude

**A Wing and a Prayer**

Revenue didn’t come close to covering expenses for airlines in the third quarter, in billions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airline</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
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</table>

| Total | $99.3B | $246.7B | -$147.4B |

*Excludes government cash, which at most carriers was booked under operating expenses, not revenue, because it was money offsetting expenses, not income earned by an airline’s business.

*More U.S. only, except for first nine months

Sources: Thomson Financial/Datastream

**Executive Gordon Bethune.**

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We’re losing millions of dollars... Please turn to Next Page

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**College?**

College真是全然不同的世界。上课，做作业，参加课程，甚至还要支付高昂的学费。但是，这里的生活远比你想象的要丰富。

**Rigors of B-School**

Tax a Liberal-Arts Mind

Columnist Nancy Rosen reports on returning to the classroom after six years in the working world. She shares her strategies for balancing tedious M.B.A. coursework material with that which she says is more interesting but beyond her grasp.

**Finding Welcome Mat Is Tour for Minorities**

Economic recruiting and recruitment cost-cutting mean minority candidates will face a more difficult job hunt this year. We have
Ads For New Cigarette Create Stir

By Gordon Bahrleitner

Vector Tobacco Ltd. is about to become the first cigarette maker to market a potentially less hazardous smoke nationwide.

Issues of People magazine hitting newstands this week contain a two-page advertising spread from Vector that touts the new cigarette, called Omni, with the slogan: "Reduced carcinogens. Premium Taste."

The ad says that Omni was created to "significantly" cut levels of chemicals that are the "major causes of lung cancer" in smokers.

"Now there's actually a reason to change brands," it says. Vector's strategy already is drawing fire from antismoking activists and public-health experts and some of its larger rivals in the cigarette business, who say the ads are misleading. "Everything is designed to imply this cigarette is safer, with Vector having no proof whatsoever that this is the case," says Matthew L. Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, a Washington advocacy group.

"That has the potential to cause serious harm to consumers."

The whole notion of a less hazardous cigarette is controversial. Proponents say it would be wrong not to try to reduce the harm caused by smoking, which contributes to more than 400,000 deaths a year in the U.S. But some antitobacco activists worry that the newfangled cigarettes will discourage smokers from quitting and possibly entice nonsmokers to light up.

The tobacco in the Omni cigarette is treated with a combination of chemicals, including palladium, a metal most commonly found in catalytic converters of cars. Vector says that treatment, combined with a new, carbon-filled filter, has resulted in a cigarette that tastes as good as competitors' brands but has lower levels of a number of toxic and cancer-causing compounds.

Vector, which is owned by Vector Group Ltd. of Miami, acknowledges there is no scientific proof that these reductions will make its cigarettes any less dangerous than the average Marlboro or Camel.

In an open letter to be published in magazines and newspapers, Vector's chief executive, Bennett S. Lebow, writes that "there is no such thing as a safe cigarette, and we do not encourage anyone to smoke." But, he adds, "We strongly believe that if you do smoke, Omni is the best alternative."

Continued from Previous Page

Losing Altitude

Continued from Previous Page a day, and I don't see an end in sight," says Tom Horton, chief financial officer at American Airlines. "Costs have probably reached a level, at least in the near term, that is unsupportable."

Including last week's grim results from United, the industry's third-quarter losses totaled $2.4 billion--after looking half of the government's $5 billion bailout, less taxes. Without that money, losses would have reached $4.2 billion.

Many travelers are still too afraid to fly, faced with airport security breaches and confusion in Washington over how to staff airport checkpoints. Proposed safety measures either have barely moved past the discussion stage or are still many months away from becoming reality. So far the only security enhancement all the major airlines have completed is installing deadbolts and crossbars on cockpit doors. Other stronger measures, such as replacing the current flimsy partitions with bulletproof materials that can't be kicked in, have been undertaken by only a few, mostly small, carriers. The few changes implemented so far merely provide "a semblance of security that's not real," says Stephen Luckey, a retired Boeing 747 captain for Northwest Airlines who is chairman of the Air Line Pilots Association's national security committee.

"We need to change that."

Some argue that in addition to beefing up security, the industry needs to cut fares more sharply. Desperate though the airlines may be, however, they are walking a collective tightrope. If they don't do something to stimulate traffic, they will continue to rack up mammoth financial losses. But discounting fares too deeply carries the risk of permanently devaluing air travel in consumers' minds, David Newkirk, a senior vice president at consulting firm Bore-Alen & Hamilton, points out that cruise ships have launched fares as low as $38 for a seven-day cruise. "The industry is just scared to death now that people will now think $390 is the price for a cruise," he says.

What's News--In Business and Finance

Continued from Previous Page

But many education officials say some of what the White House wants to accomplish already exists. The State Department, whose consular officers issue visas to prospective students, maintains a "technology alert list" that includes 16 sensitive fields of study. Students face careful scrutiny if they want to study in those fields.

"If you are from Pakistan or India, it's futile to try to come here and study nuclear engineering," says Terry Hartle, senior vice president for the American Council on Education, a Washington-based association of colleges and universities.

"The State Department routinely denies those visas."

A Bond's Demise Could Aid Recovery

The Treasury Department halted sales of 30-year bonds, and financial markets reacted by sending long-term interest rates tumbling--something Alan Greenspan hadn't been able to achieve despite the Federal Reserve's many cuts in short-term rates.

With no new supply of 30-year bonds coming from Washington, investors scrambled to buy up the remaining securities, pushing up their prices--which pushes down interest rates.

The move also effectively forces investors to buy up shorter-term investments such as 10-year Treasury notes, which help determine mortgage rates, and corporate bonds. More buying demand means lower rates on these securities as well. And lower long-term rates could provide a powerful stimulus to the economy.

Magazines Rethink Flour Power

After years of using cornstarch-based products to help ink dry faster and reduce static cling, magazine publishers have a problem: Cornstarch is one of the many formerly inexpensive products now being regarded with dread in the wake of recent anthrax events.

Most publishers have told their printers to stop using cornstarch. "Before we sell a magazine, we have to convince consumers it's not going to kill them," says Thomas O. Ryder, chief executive of Reader's Digest Association Inc.

Odds & Ends

Hands Down: Worldwide shipments of hand-held computers fell 9.5% in the third quarter...Slow Going: An emergency government plan for terrorism insurance is bogging down in Congress, raising concerns about whether legislation will be approved before the Thanksgiving break...States are now free to tax Internet-access charges, but they're holding off while they pursue a higher priority: congressional authorization to tax e-commerce transactions.

By Don Arbour

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