

# 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 homegames 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. After all, 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.

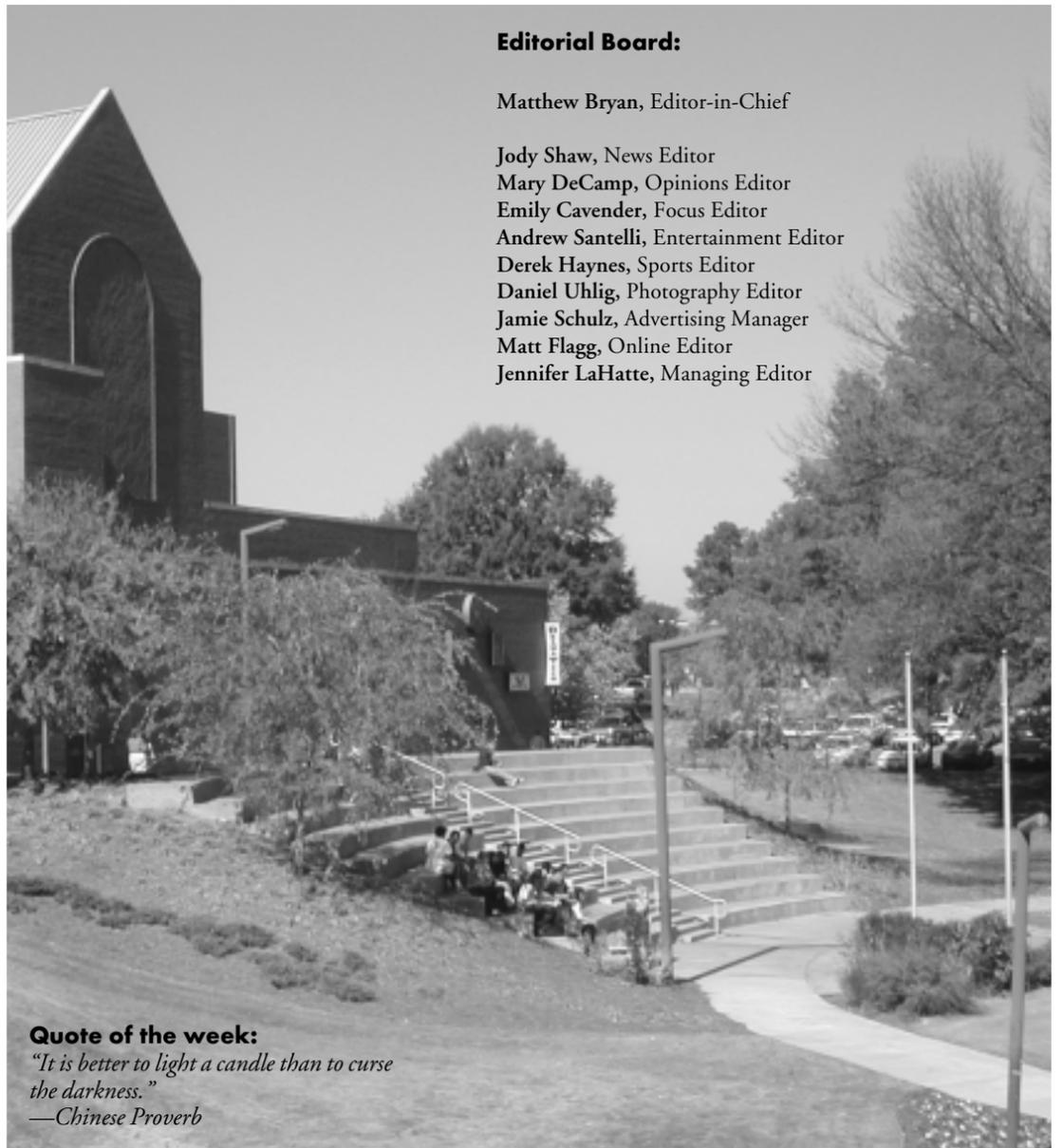
### No time for pranks

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.*



#### Quote of the week:

*"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."*

—Chinese Proverb

## Sexual comments at games must stop

I am a recent Georgia Tech alumna and member of the Greek community. I've 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

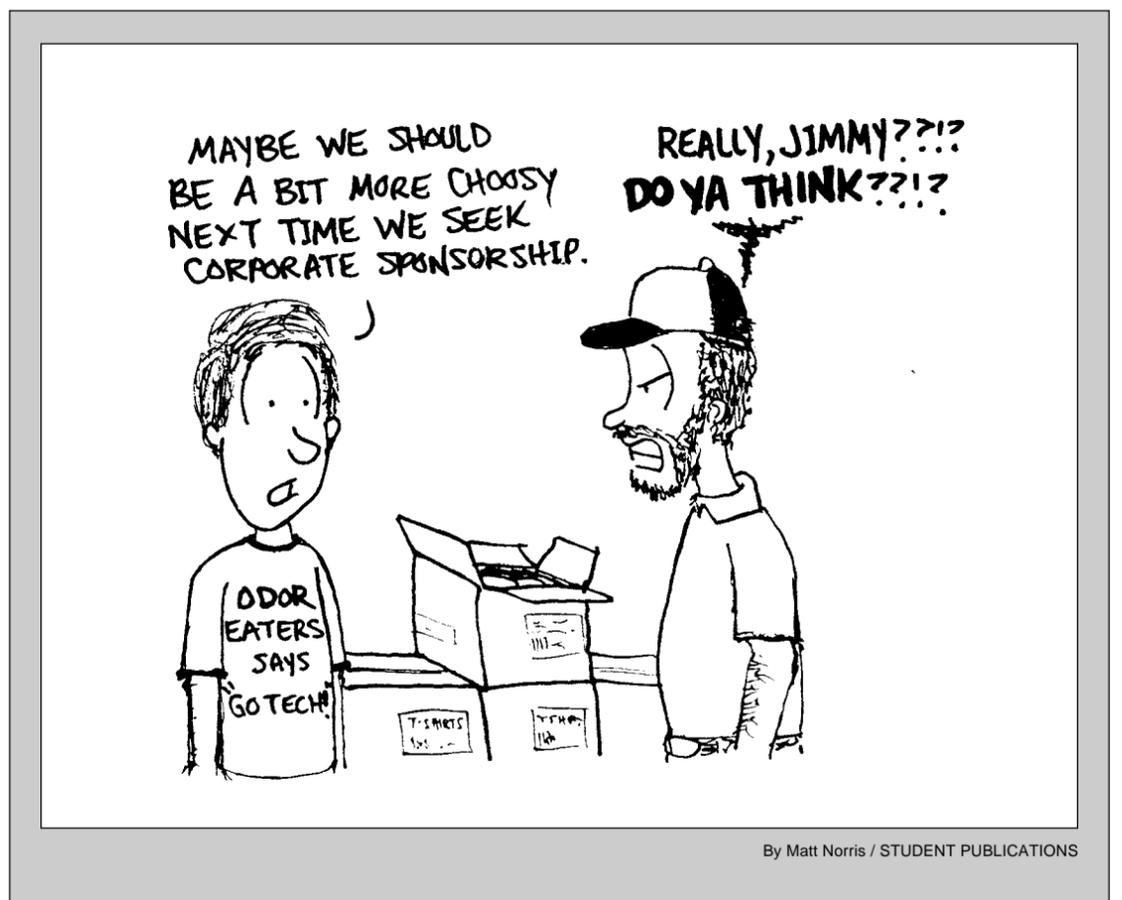
false. A fraternity had chosen to use Buzz, one of my favorite Tech symbols, to display the most disgusting hand gesture I have ever witnessed. I wish I had been ignorant to its meaning, but I have had one too many fraternity members make and describe the gesture at football games. The only reason why 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 defini-

tion 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



By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

# New student seating in coliseum a major improvement

How will Jason Williams feel? He'll prepare to shoot a free-throw, then look slightly to the left of the hoop. He'll see a group of students dressed in old gold t-shirts. *Wow, what a bunch of dorks* he'll think to himself.

He'll be right, and he'll be talking about a bunch of happy dorks. Happy because the administration has just taken a large step in creating the atmosphere that the Alexander Memorial Coliseum lacks. From August til October, the Coliseum was a flurry of activity as construction crews worked to tear out the plushy seats on the floor behind the two basketball goals and to install risers for new student seating.

The seats, which were occupied by season ticket holders, rarely got a break when their users visited them during the games. Yesterday I got a chance to talk with one of the seats about the situation at Emory Little Hospital where he was undergoing therapy.

Derek: Row 1, Seat 14, nice to finally meet you.

Seat: Like you could tell the difference between the other seats and me. Go ahead, pull up a chair.

*Derek sits in chair.*

Seat: Not so hard! Gently place your bottom on the chair; pretend you are sitting down on bed of nails.

Derek: Could you give me a little background on how you ended up in this situation?

Seat: Situation? You call this a situation? This, Derek, isn't a situation. This is a story of one seat among

"With the installation of risers, students...will be even more active because they are on the floor."

**Derek Haynes**  
Sports Editor



many that has received constant and unrelenting abuse. This is a story of a promising beginning, a fall from the top, and a promising future. This...

Derek: ...is *VH1 Behind the Music*.

Seat: Good one. You college kids with your wit. Anyway, when I first got on the floor many years ago, I knew I was lucky. I was a young, fashionable seat with a full seat of cloth and a physique that looked like it was molded out of steel. I had the best view in the house; I got to see Stephan Marbury make moves only a Laz-E-Boy could, I got to see one of the greatest college teams ever assembled when Grant Hill, Christian Laetner, and the Duke Blue Devils came to town. I was young... I was naive.

Derek: What sparked the change?

Seat: The thrill of being court-side fades. I mean think about it. Half the time I can't see anything in the first place because the guy in my seat might as well be cast in stone as much as he moves.

Derek: So are you retiring; are you just going to go on auction and

wait for some Yellow Jacket fanatic to buy you on eBay?

Seat: Derek, how I wish that was the case. I'd love to find a nice home to go to where I could sit back in the den or the sports bar and be a nice conversation piece. Think about it. In a home I'm unique; I stand out. Here, well, nobody thinks about me.

Derek: So, you are going back in?

Seat: Yes. From what row 2, seat 12 told me the other day, we are being moved to the old pressbox area. So actually, I'm going to have a better view.

Derek: Row 1 Seat 14, I feel there might be some humiliation inside of you. After all, you are being replaced by basically a bunch of steps.

Seat: On the seating and walking totem ladder, the step is just above the ramp at the bottom. Me, well, I don't like to brag, but you couldn't step on me because I'm above that little warning on the last step you can put your feet on. Let's give credit to steps though, they were instrumental in the building

of Rome, Greece and many other noble cities. But it's time to stop looking in the past; escalators are the wave of the future. Steps got us going in the right direction, but now in today's lazy life style, my kind is dominant.

Derek: I think you might be missing the point. With the installation of risers, students will be standing the entire game and will be even more active because they are on the floor. It should be a great atmosphere.

Seat: My publicist said you weren't going to ask me these questions. Look, I'm happy for the students. But let's face it, as much as I've grown to dislike this job, I'm old and I don't like change.

Derek: Be honest though Seat 14, you must be looking forward to seeing the place filled with students intimidating the opposing teams.

Seat: Intimidating? I haven't heard Tech students called that in all my years screwed to the floor of the AMC! They will be distracting, I'll tell you that. Yes, though, I think it will make it more enjoyable for the students and the Tech players.

Derek: Well, that about does it. How's therapy going for you?

Seat: I'll be honest...I hate the exercise they put me through here. They open me up and close me about a hundred times a day. They did put padding implants in me; it has made me a bit bigger.

Derek: I thought something was different about you...they've done wonders for your figure.

# 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 MPs are now racing down the street toward my building. I remember when the world changed, 9-11-01. It happened when I was in college.

I told my Jasmine this morning that I was at the Career Fair as live television showed the attacks. I am glad I to help the McRaes out since Jim was killed a few months ago. I tried to explain to her that there was a time before terror.

I tried to explain to her that there was a time before terror. Personal 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 wanted revenge. They had seen 'America Under Attack' then 'American Unites.' The populace was ready for 'America Strikes Back.' The blood of Americans had been spilled in New York and DC, and Americans wanted their pride back. Bombing was Step One of America's revenge. Bombs were going to weaken the enemy, maybe even force Osama Bin Laden out. Anthrax showed up shortly thereafter. Jasmine was vaccinated at seven; everyone is. The source of the attack was never found, just stacks of letters in mailrooms after people got sick. The causes of the hostilities were hardly looked at. Fear just brought more togetherness and support for George Bush.

Flags flew, and Americans were finally willing to take a few punches to get their enemy. Everyone thought American air power was so strong. The ground forces were supposed to walk through the bombed sands. There were cheers in the Student

"There's a flash, and I remember how America would stand united against the terrorists that brought down the World Trade Centers."

**Daniel Uhlig**  
Photography Editor



Center when CNN reported that columns of Marines poured into Afghanistan. People were glad that America was going to find the terrorists. Then Al-Jazeera started showing pictures, and it slowly trickled into the western media. The caves were too strong for the bombs. Taliban fighters encircled and pinned the Marines for weeks. Finally, Bush announced that massive assaults had freed the trapped Marines; America would 'punish those who do not believe in Justice.'

A couple of weeks after ground troops started looking for Osama bin Laden, the first person that I knew was killed. He stepped on a landmine. I could not make it to the service; I just sent flowers.

I was able to graduate and find a job before the draft started. I was lucky. I have been lucky in America until now. The numerous smaller attacks have never occurred close to me. As the war started to go well in Afghanistan, Attack Two came.

There were few survivors in the first few towns. The water flooded downriver slowly. It took almost a week to do its damage. High water moved from one town to the next. Each had more time to prepare than the one before. Shortly thereafter power was rationed in much of the country. With the lost generators, power had to be derived from other

places. Opinion polls demanded a swift and powerful strike. America 'grew stronger' as crews searched for bodies downriver. Pakistan finally destabilized and the US military stepped in to keep a friendly government in power. America wondered why the rest of the world could not see their reasoning. Protests occurred regularly overseas, particularly in the Arab world. Flags were on all the license plates now. America implemented a new level of security. Rights were clamped down more and more with each new terrorism law.

Walking down the hall I saw the plum of smoke on TV. New York was downwind. The grainy flicker images showed masses of people fleeing the radioactive dust.

I turned my back to the TV long enough for the view to change to San Francisco Bay. It was full of cars and without its bridge. It happened a total of five times before the sun finally set on that horrible day. No one knew where Bush was for a week. MPs became a part of daily life as Military Police set up numerous security posts and checked cars. It was impossible to enter a city without a purpose, photo ID and background check.

I went through three security stops on the way to work the next day. America wanted to feel more

protected. Bush finally reappeared after the media started 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 war birds chanted 'Nukes!' 'Nukes!' outside the White House and the ranch in Texas. Finally, after more warnings and messages to the people of Afghanistan it came, mushroom and all.

The riots broke out in Indonesia hours later. That Embassy was the first to be evacuated. By the end of the day I believe almost ten embassy 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 swing in America's favor.

It now seems the northern front will meet parts of the southern front before winter sets in. Finally, this will all end, and life will continue, hopefully.

Another explosion startles me. I continue to watch the MPs and wonder what is happening. They duck behind their Humvees. Ashrapnel cloud races towards them from above me. The next explosion is huge. Something is falling. There's a flash, and I remember how America would stand united against the terrorists that brought down the World Trade Centers. I look back and wonder if somewhere war could have been avoided. Maybe it can stop with this attack. Will the roots of the problem be discussed? Can peace and justice be achieved without this death and destruction?

# TECHNIQUE

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**Contacting Us**

[editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu)  
[news@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:news@technique.gatech.edu)  
[opinions@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:opinions@technique.gatech.edu)

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## 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 away 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

"When we're suffering from Tech burnout, just how far do we have to go to find a tranquil heaven?"

Jen Hinkel  
Columnist



late 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 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. I would reserve the Brewhouse for those moments when you give up on the homework and throw your physics book vio-

lently into the nearest wall, because you might not be in the mood to study once you stumble home. I've also heard that the Highlands and Crescent Avenue have some good late-night venues.

If 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 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 hous-

ing. Amidst the growing pains of über-urbana, 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. Then, master the hangout excuse. 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.

## Harassment from page 6

en men yelling the same things to your sister? Your mother? You men wonder why "there are no girls at Tech." Did you ever stop to think that possibly no Tech girl would want to associate with someone who regularly promotes the objectification and molestation of women? And don't even try to throw "freedom of speech" my way. Would you yell racial slurs across Grant Field? No? Then why is it "ok" for you to yell sexually offensive comments throughout all four quarters?

I can imagine the reaction this letter will get if it gets printed. I can imagine how many people will be thinking, "She's trying to ruin our good time. Why can't we have any fun?" But before you start sounding like a five year old, think about how your girlfriends, your sisters, or your mother would feel if you said the same things to them.

If you don't have enough respect for the female students and alumnae of Georgia Tech to stop making lewd comments, at least stop out of respect for the woman who raised you.

GT Alumna  
gtalumna99@hotmail.com

# Buzz Around the Campus



## Question of the week

“What do you think about midterm grade reports?”

Feature and Photos by  
Matthias Shapiro



**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**  
IntA Freshman

*“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.”*



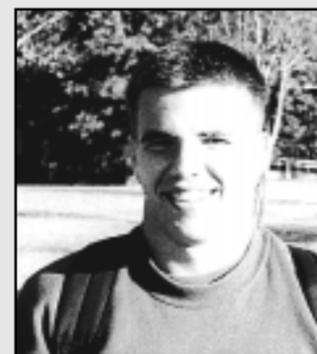
**Bill Lockwood**  
MGT Senior

*“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.”*

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## What's News—

*In Business and Finance*

### Slump Batters White-Collar Jobs

White-collar workers, among the biggest winners of the 1990s boom, are feeling an unusually heavy share of the pain now that the economy is slowing.

During the past year, the nation's pool of unemployed managers and professionals has swelled 63% 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 last week, the Labor Department reported that the jobless rate leapt half a percentage point in October to 5.4%, up from a low of 3.9% 13 months earlier. 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 recent boom.

The unemployment report erased almost any doubt that the country is in recession, which could jolt politicians in Washington to move more quickly on a package of measures to stimulate the economy and aid jobless workers.

### Boston Market, KFC Heat Up Rivalry

With chicken outdoing pizza and burgers in fast-food sales growth, two of the top poultry players are vying for the bigger part of that wishbone.

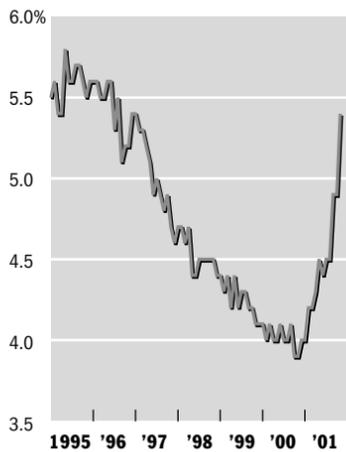
Boston Market, owned by McDonald's Corp., is remodeling all of its 680 stores and later this month will begin opening new restaurants for the first time in four years. The company plans to open as many as a half-dozen new stores in the U.S. by the end of the year and 40 more by the end of 2002.

KFC, a unit of Tricon Global Restaurants Inc., recently started a \$200 million ad campaign and is giving its 5,300 U.S. stores a facelift. In September, it rolled out nationwide its "Hot and Fresh" program, in which it tosses chicken that has sat for more than 90 minutes. Before, some restaurants would fry batches of chicken and let it sit for several hours.

The other big change is eliminating paper boxes and serving

### A U-Turn

U.S. monthly unemployment rate



Source: Thomson Financial/Datastream

food on black plastic plates—similar to what Boston Market does. KFC's signature bucket, however, will remain.

### For Tech Spending, A Bleak Outlook

Corporate spending won't rescue Silicon Valley anytime soon.

Executives polled by CIO Magazine, which is aimed at chief information officers, expect their information-technology budgets to increase an average of 4.7% over the next 12 months. By comparison, poll respondents said their budgets had grown an average of 7.2% in the past 12 months.

Moreover, only 35% of the executives expect budgets to increase at all. Nearly one-quarter of the respondents expect budgets to shrink, while 39% expect budgets to remain flat.

### Is Overhaul Needed On Student Visas?

The Bush administration announced plans to overhaul student-visa procedures as part of its response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

In a recent presidential directive, the White House said it wants to "end the abuse of student visas," as well as to "prohibit certain international students from receiving education and training in sensitive areas."

Please turn to Next Page

## Losing Altitude

### Selective Air Fare Cuts Tempt Few Fliers; Safety Measures Stall

By Wall Street Journal Staff Reporters

Have 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 25% 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

### A Wing and a Prayer

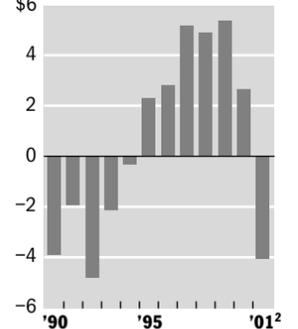
Revenue didn't come close to covering expenses for airlines in the third quarter, in millions

	REVENUE	OPERATING EXPENSES <sup>1</sup>	PRETAX GOVERNMENT CASH
American	\$4,816	\$6,183	\$809
United	\$4,107	\$6,132	\$391
Delta	\$3,398	\$3,820	\$171
Northwest	\$2,594	\$2,749	\$249
Continental	\$2,223	\$2,379	\$243
US Airways	\$1,989	\$3,070	\$331
Southwest	\$1,335	\$1,242	\$169
America West	\$491	\$590	\$60
Alaska Air	\$583	\$571	\$29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,537</b>	<b>\$26,736</b>	<b>\$2,452</b>

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Nine U.S. majors only for first nine months

Sources: Fitch Inc.; Air Transport Association, company reports

Net earnings/loss for U.S. scheduled airlines, in billions



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

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## Ads For New Cigarette Create Stir

By GORDON FAIRCLOUGH

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

Issues of People magazine hitting newsstands 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, 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 the 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."

## Losing Altitude

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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 booking 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 Booz-Allen & Hamilton, points out that cruise ships have slashed fares as low as \$399 for a seven-day cruise. "The industry is just scared to death now that people will now think \$399 is the price for a cruise," he says.

## What's News—

*In Business and Finance*

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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 inoffensive 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:** World-wide 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**

How to contact us:  
Campus Edition@wsj.com