Hacking unfortunate, inevitable

A group of hackers broke into a server at the Office of Information Technology over Spring Break and proceeded to download files that contained credit card numbers and other personal information belonging to some students, faculty and staff members. The hackers also placed contraband files onto the computers leading to additional consumption of network bandwidth.

While it is unfortunate that things like this happen, high-profile research institutes like Tech will always be a target. Employees should obviously work to defend against these imminent attacks, but more critically they should treat the storage of sensitive data with special care. If the storage of credit card and social security numbers cannot be avoided then they should be placed on servers that are unreachable from an outside network.

This attack only adds to the laundry list of embarrassments the Institute has suffered in the past year. The AA resume debacle, the large number of students accused of cheating in computer science classes and the condemning of the North Campus Parking Deck each played a role in darkening Tech’s reputation.

While each incident may not have been the fault of the Institute, the sum of their impact could prove to be more than fodder for UGA fans and have an enduring impact in places like quality of in-state applicants, athletic recruiting or even national rankings.

Vote for the best candidate

Student government elections will be held next week, and, clearly, to encourage a democratic election, all informed students should vote.

But the role of President is really more than campaign promises and agenda items. The student-body president you choose should strive to build and continuously strengthen healthy relationships with administrators and student leaders.

The president is automatically appointed to various committees throughout the year, and having and maintaining these relationships with other student leaders and administrators will help to increase the student body’s input within these various committees.

An ideal student body president will also be present or well represented at all important meetings and events that take place throughout the academic year. This person is the main voice for the entire student body of Georgia Tech and should be prepared to represent that collective voice wherever possible.

When choosing a candidate to vote for, these important qualities should be taken into account. It will only benefit Tech students to elect a person who can fulfill these and other important duties.

The most effective voters are those that are informed of each candidate’s platform and stance on issues. To learn more about each presidential candidate, students should visit their websites and determine for themselves who they believe is the best candidate for the position.

Andrew Keen: www.votekeen.com
E.W. Looney: www.ewlooney.com
Tiffany Massey: www.masseyforpresident.com

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

Out of the twenty-one companies represented at the Institute of Industrial Engineers career fair, we have got problems with only one: Philip Morris. Does anybody see them as the “evil doers” that they really are?

We could say that Philip Morris, together with R.J. Reynolds and U.S. Tobacco, make up the real “axis of evil.”

Philip Morris is the world’s number one tobacco company, and they were on Georgia Tech’s campus last week to recruit bright, young Georgia Tech students to come to work for them to help kill people. Seriously, Philip Morris (the maker of Marlboro cigarettes, as well as Kraft and Miller Brewing products) is an entity whose mission is to kill its consumers. As Philip Morris loses customers (1,500 smokers in the U.S. die each day and 3,000 quit smoking), they must find new smokers in order to remain profitable.

Young people are the most promising “replacement” market: 90% of adult smokers begin before age 18 and 60% before age 14. In order to reach this group Philip Morris develops their advertising campaigns to target children.

For example, free packs of cigarettes are given out to teenage girls at rock concerts in Eastern Europe by “cowgirl” costumed American models. Philip Morris also develops their products with young kids in mind. They add licorice and cocoa, which sound innocent enough, except that when they are burned they help the nicotine get further into your body.

Cigarettes kill more than 450,000 Americans every year, which is more than those that die from AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, murders, suicides, drugs and fire combined. And Philip Morris needs you bright Georgia Tech students to help make a
Phasing out sports deprives children of life's lessons

Mary DeCamp
Opinions Editor

This story proves that there is no guarantee that a Good Samaritan will emerge when an actual emergency presents itself.

Story from the past should inspire us to be better citizens

Last week marked an interesting and very shameful anniversary in the modern history of America and its citizens. Thirty-eight years ago, on March 13, 1964, a young woman named Kitty Genovese wasstabbed to death as she was walking home from work just after 3 a.m. in Queens, New York. If that were the end of the story, it would be tragic enough; but hardly unique; people are murdered in this country every day. It is much easier to teach children how to behave when they are mad than to teach anger management to adults. The truth of what might have or could have been done to save Kitty Genovese's life is important, perhaps even dire, lest we forget she was exactly what we should not and hope fully don't want to be. Did they regret not helping her? Hopefully at least some of them did.

No one should ever be so self-absorbed and indifferent to the suffering and distress of others that they neglect one of the most fundamental aspects of humanity. We must always look not only after our own needs but also at the needs of others. Our society would not have lasted as long as it has if every person had not always taken the time to look out for himself or herself and not others, especially during times of need or disaster.

A woman lost her life because her neighbors could not be both hers. This truly was a dark day in American history reflecting the most selfish and distressing part of the American character.

We should recognize and learn from the story of Kitty Genovese and remember to strive for kindness and consideration towards each other. It is plainly and simply the right thing to do.

We know how our time of need will come; it helps to know that those around you will not ignore you or abandon you when you need them.

Kitty Genovese's death. Perhaps as people are too busy and are too wrapped up in our actions if we hope to survive.

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Women continue fight for equality

We both call ourselves feminists. We both define what that means differently. But one thing remains, we both believe a woman is no less a person than a man. We each, as individuals and as men or women, have unique contributions to the world around us. All we want is our chance to provide our uniqueness regardless of our gender.

Cassandra Showell insists that the choice is family or career. Many fathers have both. Showell says that mothers give up hours to care for family. This in turn justifies lesser pay, fewer promotions. Instead of this penalty for mothers, why not give the same rights to fathers? Instead of using a mother’s time off spent with family as an excuse for lesser pay, use it as a reason to give men paternal leave and family sick days. Most employers do offer them.

And Showell asks about international feminism. Go to the National Organization for Women or the Feminist Majority website. See how these groups have been fighting for Afghan women way before September 11 or how they are working to combat the atrocities suffered by women abroad. Rather, it is working both at home and abroad to secure basic human rights and change social norms that inhibit our gender.

The US has come a long way—just eighty years ago, women couldn’t vote; prior to fifty years ago, women weren’t allowed to attend Tech. Women of today owe our first- and second-wave feminist predecessors so much. Their struggles afforded us the rights women have today. In respecting their pursuits, women must ensure we maintain the rights our foremothers fought for.

We won’t put up with our rights being denied or challenged and we won’t shut up until our goals are reached. In conclusion, a question, why can’t women have it all?

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By Jennifer Hinkel  
Focus Editor

As an out-of-stater, I heard about the HOPE scholarship for the first time from my Georgia cousin as she decided between attending Clemson and a Georgia school. The idea sounded great—maintain a B average, and the lottery helps pay your tuition. At the very least, the idea sounded better than Pennsylvania’s plan, where the lottery benefits “older Pennsylvanians.” I haven’t yet figure out who those people are or how they benefit. College scholarships, on the other hand, create a tangible investment in a state’s future.

On the other hand, if Tech administrators worry about grade inflation here, how much more should they worry about high school grade inflation? HOPE may benefit Georgia by keeping the smarter students in-state for college (and, hopefully, for post-college employment), but what if incoming students don’t actually have the prerequisite education college requires? A high school B is deceiving and unreliable; the HOPE scholarship makes high school grades less consistent.

Losing HOPE after one or two Tech semesters seems to be a common occurrence. I know few students who have “held on” to their funding by their third year, and even fewer regain the scholarship after falling below a 3.0. I fear that in an effort to retain the best and brightest, the HOPE scholarship has actually achieved a lowering of standards for in-state admission and an elevation of standards for those applying from out-of-state.

Many factors can influence a high school grade, and coming from a Northeastern Catholic school, I’ve become well aware that all high school educations are not created equal. While some students fare well in college calculus after taking the course in high school, others struggle miserably. No national scale exists to compare high school grading systems. Is a B in Georgia the same as a B in Pennsylvania? Are private school A’s the same as public school A’s? If a student from a Georgia school has an “inflated” B average, whether from non-competitive curriculums, pressure on teachers to award higher grades or other grade inflation factors, Georgia schools might admit that student only to find him or her unprepared for college curriculum.

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While HOPE might benefit employers in Georgia looking to keep the best and brightest in state, it can equally hurt Georgia’s universities by lowering their admission standards and selecting bright Georgia students rather than promising out-of-state students. The only way to remedy the issue is to reevaluate admission standards and, if necessary, make adjustments that allow non-Georgians to be evaluated on the same basis as those applying with HOPE. If the HOPE scholarship was all it cracked up to be (and if Georgia high school grades were truly predictive of college performance), more Tech students would be keeping HOPE past their freshman year.

Instead of catering to the HOPE crowd, Tech should institute more programs that attract the brightest out-of-state applicants. Such programs could bring in students who, instead of choosing Tech, might choose MIT, UVA, Duke or Harvard. These students are the ones that Tech needs to recruit and retain.

Tech will always have a significant draw from the in-state applicant pool, and the student population will always have a larger number of Georgians; such facts are trademarks of state universities. However, this university’s admissions should not have a double standard. Whether in-state or out-of-state, applicants should be evaluated on the same terms. If grading discrepancies may exist, the admissions board needs to look further into applicants’ high school curriculums and performance to ensure that promising applicants do not miss out on the Tech experience.
difference.
All Philip Morris employees work toward their mission whether they’re designing buildings, programming computers or working on the cigarette assembly line.

To the Georgia Tech chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineers: you should hand over these bright students to a finer line of work, rather than guide graduates into the grips of such a malicious company.

As for you students interviewing with Philip Morris: you still have the opportunity to be true to your own ethics and morals. Give Philip Morris the shaft! You’re too good for them anyway!

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Question of the week
“Why do you think there was such low candidate turnout for the SGA elections this year?”

Macho Brantley
CE Senior
“If they’re like me, they’re too busy doing work.”

Vladi Vidakovic
ME Sophomore
“Maybe the involvement oscillates year to year.”

Amanda Driskell
Bio Senior
“Everyone’s in their own little world.”

Zachary Keebaugh
STAC Freshman
“Nobody really cares about voting.”

Cindy Phillips
ME Grad
“It’s because of a general apathy resulting from the last presidential election.”

Alex Cook
IDT Grad
“Maybe people have finally figured out how worthless student government is.”

Buzz Around Campus

Feature and Photos by Andrew Saulters