

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, March 22, 2002

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

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.

Quote of the week:

"I do not think there is any other quality so essential to success of any kind as the quality of perseverance. It overcomes almost everything, even nature."
—John D. Rockefeller

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DANIEL UHLIG

Tech grads can do better than Philip Morris

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 nobody 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

See *Morris*, page 13



By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Phasing out sports deprives children of life's lessons

I was listening to a talk radio program on the way to work the other day in my car, and they were talking about school districts around the country banning dodge ball. I was stunned; this was a game that I enjoyed when I was young, and it was a great way to relieve stress. Even in the school where I went as a kid, dodge ball is now banned. Fairfax County Public Schools banned this and other games because they felt that it made children feel as though they are "left out" when they can't play as well as other children.

Children cannot learn to feel good about themselves if they do not experience being left out once in a while. This builds character and also helps kids to get rid of stress. If we are to ban anything that makes children feel left out, why should we stop with dodge ball and athletic games? Why not just ban learning altogether? That can be considered "unfair" also. When kids learn to expect everything to be given to them and that they will be protected from unfair things at all times, how are they going to deal with real-life problems when they get older?

When I was first getting into photography, I really sucked at taking pictures. But I was really interested in photography and wanted to create something that I was proud of. I worked at it, and by taking a lot of pictures I learned a great deal. Now I am a much better photographer than I was before. I continue to learn more and more about photography every day. You learn things by trying them out, and if you can't

"When kids learn to deal with tough situations...it helps them to better handle more difficult situations when they are older."

Scott Meuleners
Assistant Photography Editor



do it at first, you try again until you can.

When I first got to Tech I was just thrown in here not knowing what to expect. High school was really easy compared to college. At first, I had no idea what to do when it came time to study in college. This, combined with taking too many hours, led to me failing two classes and having to retake them. By experiencing this and learning from my mistakes, I learned how to study, which is helping me get through Tech. When kids learn to deal with tough situations while they are young, no matter how hard this may seem to them at the time, it helps them to better handle more difficult situations when they are older.

If we are to ban dodge ball and other activities like it, why don't we ban other things like soccer or basketball? People can also feel left out when playing these sports. Furthermore, why not stop having children learn in school? They feel left out when they are not as good at a subject as someone else. That is ridiculous, you say? Well it is pretty much the same thing as banning dodge ball.

There have been many times

where I have felt left out. When I was a kid, there were times when I was chosen last to play softball or kickball. Admittedly, I did feel left out when that happened, but I dealt with it and I am now better off for it. I can deal with things without always saying that "it's not fair." If we ban all of this, who decides what is banned and what is not? Why should anything be the deciding factor for this?

The consequences of children having a fluff childhood is that they are not able to deal with real problems later in life. I read an article about a high school cheerleading squad in California that, instead of having cheerleader tryouts, accepted anyone who applied, so no one would feel left out. This does not teach a very good life lesson. Sure it is good for people not to feel left out, but it is also good for people to work at something and feel satisfaction for that accomplishment. At a modeling agency in the real world, you can't be expected to be selected unless you are the best applicant for the job, so why teach lessons different than that while people are growing up? If you say that children playing violent games like dodgeball lead to drastic events like school

shootings, I disagree. Games allow people to relieve stress and have fun instead of having to focus on schoolwork all day. It is better for children to find out that they are not the best when they are young, instead of having to deal with their inadequacies for the first time when they are older.

When people are given everything and everything is made completely fair they do not learn to deal with the reality of life. Kids learn things best when they are young, and they learn from experience. You cannot learn to fly an airplane overnight, just as you cannot learn to deal with people and situations overnight. Life is a series of trials and errors. If you take away dodgeball, you may as well take school away from them too, and then you are left with a bunch of dumb kids who feel bad about themselves because they have no accomplishments. Is this a better solution?

It is much easier to teach children how to behave when they are mad than to teach anger management to adults. Think of what a kid might do when they are really mad versus an adult; it can be a big difference. If you look over the last century, school violence has increased in the last two decades. Over the last ten years many things have been phased out, such as games like dodgeball and the Pledge of Allegiance. To this end, we have not seen a reduction in school violence. Children should be allowed to go through childhood without being treated so gently; this builds character and teaches children important life lessons. Life is hard, deal with it.

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 was stabbed to death as she was walking to her apartment 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.

What makes this event so unusual is that a total of 38 of Genovese's neighbors heard her screams and cries for help, some even looked out of their windows at the scene, and not one attempted to come to her aid. Her killer stabbed her three times over a 35-minute period, leaving her for several minutes at a time after the first two stabbings. This would have given her neighbors time to pull her to safety, but not one person went outside to save her or to even called the police.

Her killer finally fled for good after he stabbed her for the third time and saw that this was the cut that finally killed her. It was not until 3:50 that morning that one of her neighbors even attempted to call the police.

Over the years the name Kitty Genovese has become synonymous with the general lazy attitude and apathy that persist in the minds of many Americans, not just the people living in this Queens neighborhood.

Thirty-eight people, many of whom knew her on a first-name basis, heard her cries for help and continued to go on with their own lives, determined not to let her

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

Mary DeCamp
Opinions Editor



screams or their own consciences summon them out of their easy chairs.

Genovese's killer was caught six days later. But that didn't change the fact that a young woman was dead, and her neighbors had ample opportunity to stop that from happening.

Upon hearing that story I was, as most of you reading this probably are, shocked and repulsed at the lack of human kindness and decency displayed by Genovese's neighbors.

But that was a long time ago; I'm sure that people today would be much more helpful and compassionate towards their fellow human beings, especially a neighbor.

But that is probably exactly what someone would have said in 1964 if they had been commenting on a crime that had happened several years before. And, obviously, they would have been wrong.

It's easy to claim that you can be counted on to do the right thing when it comes to helping others in their times of need, but this story proves that there is no guarantee that a Good Samaritan will emerge when an actual emergency presents itself.

Before she was murdered, I wouldn't be surprised if Kitty Gen-

ovese would have said that she would be able to count on her neighbors if she were ever in danger. I would assume that my neighbors would come help me if I were in trouble, especially if they could see and hear any struggle I was going through.

The unfortunate truth is that many people feel that their own lives are too busy and are too wrapped up in them to interrupt their daily routines and assist someone in need.

If you had been one of Genovese's neighbors, would you have gone out to help her? It's hard to answer one way or another without knowing the exact circumstances. Maybe they lived in a rough neighborhood. Maybe people screamed all the time in the middle of the night and hers were hardly unusual.

We all like to think that we would do the right thing if we were summoned to help another human being, but Genovese's neighbors showed that when it comes right down to it none of us could be absolutely sure what we would do.

However, this country has been through a lot in the 38 years since Kitty Genovese's death. Perhaps as a nation we have grown more compassionate and considerate towards one another since then. If the last six months have taught us any-

thing, it has been that we all need to look out for each other and be united in our actions if we hope to survive.

Hopefully America has evolved enough since 1964 that no one today would ever have to go through what Kitty Genovese went through, having her helpless cries left unanswered as her life slowly ended.

The lesson that Kitty Genovese's neighbors taught this country should not be forgotten. They showed us exactly what we should not and hopefully 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 towards others that they neglect one of the most fundamental aspects of humanity. We must always look not only after ourselves but also each other. Our society would not have lasted as long as it has if every person that preceded us had only looked out for himself or herself and not others, especially during times of need or distress.

A woman lost her life because her neighbors could not be bothered. This truly was a dark day in American history reflecting the most selfish and disturbing 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 never know when our time of need will come; it helps to know that those around you will not ignore or abandon you when you need them most.

TECHNIQUE

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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 not 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 paternity 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 protect a raped woman from a stoning death in Africa. It's also important to remember that different regions of the world require different modes of feminism. While white, middle-class feminists may seek one thing, Afghan feminists are seeking entirely different objectives.

Showell says, "good work" to the first wave feminists who got us a vote, gave us the right to own property, and basic human rights. And we appreciate second wavers for equal

access to sports and education, for reproduction rights, to help end violence against women and much more. Now Showell says feminism is useless. How can feminism be useless, when we as women are not constitutionally equal?

So here we stand as the third wave of the radical notion that women and men are equal. Third-wave feminism aims to challenge current social constructs that would allow men what women get, such as child-care and paternity days—things we should all have right to, regardless of gender. It is not glossing over 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 afford us the rights women have today. In respecting their pursuits, women must ensure we maintain the rights that 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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Techs and the City: Could HOPE hurt Tech?

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 figured 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.

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 prom-

ising 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.

Morris from page 10

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 aim to hand over these

"In order to reach this group Philip Morris develops their advertising campaigns to target children."

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

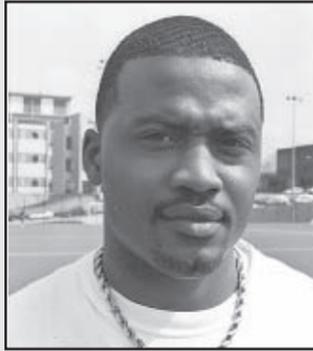
"Why do you think there was such low candidate turnout for the SGA elections this year?"



Buzz Around Campus



Feature and Photos by Andrew Saulters



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."