

## OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

### So long to summer SAC

This summer's closure of the Student Athletic Complex seems to be a divine act—or just bad luck; it is no one's fault that asbestos was found in the buildings, forcing the restriction of student use of the building. At the same time, it seems strange that no one knew of the existence of the dangerous materials in the structure. Perhaps in the future it would be possible to be more prepared about the challenges that different construction sites will present before building begins.

The benefits that the new SAC facility will bring to campus far outweigh any of the difficulties that this construction will cause to campus. The new Health Center, to be located near this facility, will be completed in February. The part of SAC that will be completed this summer will be reopened in the fall with facilities roughly equal to the old space while also including new equipment, including a more accessible indoor track. When the final facility is completed, Tech will have a higher quality and a higher quantity of recreational activities to offer its students.

Although we have found ourselves in a situation with no good solution, it does seem that Tech is attempting to make the best of it. While many alternate plans have been put forward, the administration's major focus should now be on securing alternate plans that are as convenient as possible, while still offering most of the same options that SAC does. Using the Athletic Association, the O'Keefe Gym, the Barbell Club and the athletic facilities at Georgia State University are the best options. Hopefully, the administration will soon cement plans with all of these facilities.

Accessibility is a major issue, and if the Georgia State recreational facilities are utilized, administrators should either provide an efficient shuttle service or give students MARTA passes. If transportation services are not provided, then the student activity fee that pays for recreational activities should be optional—or at least reduced—as some students would find it too arduous to use the alternate facilities.

SAC Fields will be open for the summer, allowing intramural sports to continue unabated. The planning for continuing as many student recreational activities as possible is heartening, showing the Tech administration's concern with helping students to be healthy and happy. The completion of this project, along with the many other construction projects around Tech, will result in a better quality of life for all Tech students. The minor inconveniences and problems we will all experience as a result of this construction will be worth it in the long run.

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

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WELP! HOPEFULLY WITH  
PERDUE IN OFFICE WE CAN  
RETURN THE BATTLE EMBLEM  
TO THE STATE FLAG SO  
PEOPLE CAN BE REMINDED  
OF ANOTHER PART OF  
OUR RICH HERITAGE.

WHY?  
I THINK MOST  
PEOPLE REMEMBER  
THE SOUTH LOST  
THE WAR.



By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Court opinion on citizenship flawed

Last week, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, which is one level below the Supreme Court, handed down a decision in a case against a US citizen who had been classified as an enemy combatant after being captured in Afghanistan. Yasser Hamdi, an American-born citizen, has been detained without access to a lawyer and without an explanation of the charges against him.

The court ruling this week found that his confinement was legal and that because of the "times of war," citizens captured on fields of foreign conflict have no expectation of citizenship rights. The court did, however, graciously afford Hamdi a right to challenge "executive detentions that are alleged to be illegal" while also stating that it would be unlikely to ever evaluate the claims of such a case.

While this case may not seem instantly relevant or important to you, the implications of the decision this court made are staggering. For the first time in modern American legal history, a United States citizen is being denied basic citizenship rights during a trial for criminal behavior.

The irresponsibility of the Circuit court in handing down this decision is overwhelming. Consider the constitutional reasoning that the court uses to justify its decision: "The war powers thus invest 'the President, as Commander in Chief, with the power to wage war which Congress has declared, and to carry into effect ... all laws defining and punishing offenses against the law of nations.'" The court goes on to clarify that "these powers include the authority to detain those captured in armed struggle." The first and most salient point I can think of the respond to this argument is, what war? The United States has yet to declare a war in any country since 1942.



"For the first time in modern American legal history, a United States citizen is being denied basic citizenship rights."

Sara Cames  
Opinions Editor

Despite this vital and seemingly overlooked piece of information, I don't believe that it would matter if the United States had declared war or not. No one can deny that the President and military officials must be given a wide berth in the movement of troops and in the control of military actions during war. The connection is not evident to me between that wide berth of action and the right of the military to deprive US citizens of their Constitutional rights. Suddenly courts and our political leaders are finding connections between decreasing our personal freedoms and increasing security. I for one would like to see more proof behind that connection before I give up my rights to an attorney and a fair, open hearing.

The weight of the evidence that the government is using to hold this man is also disturbing. The only proof of this man's "enemy combatant" status that has been offered is a two page report from an assistant to the undersecretary of defense. The court stated in its opinion, "To inquire ... whether Hamdi actually fired his weapon is to demand a clarity from battle that often is not there." So, despite the fact that the government is unable to offer compelling evidence that Hamdi acted in a hostile manner, the court believes that he does not even deserve a trial to determine the facts. What is the point of being a US citizen if our basic rights are not protected?

Once again, however, I must pro-

test that it wouldn't matter if the government had reams of evidence showing that Hamdi was planning a massive attack against the United States. Treating foreign terrorists, much less our own citizens, this way is appalling and disgraceful. There are other methods that could be used that would protect this man's rights while still allowing the government to protect this country. For instance, in what possible way could it compromise our national security by allowing this man access to a lawyer? There is no excuse for this type of flagrant dismissal of our guaranteed rights. Charging someone in this situation with treason also seems like a more reasonable and fair option than treating them as an "enemy combatant."

Imagine this scenario at Tech: you are in a student organization, and you are accused individually of a major violation of hazing regulations. Without any evidence against you, the Dean of Students Office expels you from Tech while summarily closing off any option you have at appeal. You cannot talk to anyone at Tech or recruit any witnesses to give evidence on your innocence. Such treatment would be an outrage, and the situation only gets worse as it is moved onto a national stage. The circuit court should reconsider its decision in order to protect the rights of all Americans and to preserve the liberties that set this country apart from the rest of the world.

# Delayed rush system would bring benefits

I couldn't sleep the night after I took my bid freshman year. I made the decision to join a fraternity after only two days of classes. Before I'd read a single page in a textbook. Before I'd taken a single exam. Before I knew what I wanted out of my college experience.

After a few weeks, I wanted out of the fraternity, and, ultimately, I got out. I decided that fraternity life was not for me—at least not during the first semester of my Tech experience.

I was not ready to rush a fraternity my first semester, and I believe that few students are ready to make such a major commitment so early in their college careers. Since that fateful decision freshman year, I became Greek again, rushing and accepting a bid last spring.

Spring is known as a time of renewal. While January is not spring per se, it falls into spring semester—a semester that should be a Tech student's first opportunity to join the Greek system. With the end of spring rush last week, now seems like a good time to evaluate Tech's system, and see how an alternative system might work.

At Emory University, and a number of other universities in the country, freshmen cannot join fraternities and sororities during their first semester. Emory



"Spring recruitment would benefit both the chapters and their prospective members."

**Jody Shaw**  
Editor-in-Chief

uses a delayed rush system; one in which the Greek houses can only recruit new members during the spring.

Throughout the fall, IFC Rush Captains and ISC (Inter-Sorority Council) Rho Chis educate freshmen men and women about the Greek community—one is assigned to each residence hall. Greek community recruiting events—rather than individual chapter events—are also held. Then in early spring, formal recruitment occurs.

A recruitment system similar to Emory's might be a good alternative to the current one used by the Greek community here at Tech, as it would benefit both the chapters and their prospective members.

Current Greek students would have a better chance to get to know the prospective rushees. The various houses would also have the entire fall semester to give those students a reason to

rush and to display the distinctions and differences that make each unique.

Ultimately this system could increase the number of individuals who rush, which would benefit the entire Greek system. Some students, who would never have considered Greek life upon arriving at Tech, may give it a shot after having a semester of classes under their belts. A positive academic experience first semester often leads freshmen to want to expand their social activities during the next semester.

Positive experiences with the Greek community during the fall can also affect freshmen and increase the number of spring rushees. They may study with some older sorority girls in one of their classes. They may participate in TEAMBuzz with a group of brothers. Or they may be impressed by the fun and excitement of Homecoming in the Greek community. The fall se-

mester offers numerous opportunities for the Greek community to collectively impress and encourage new freshmen, and new ones could be created based on the Emory model.

In addition to benefiting the system as a whole, individual fraternities and sororities would also benefit. With more of an opportunity to get to know each other, the chapter would be able to make better decisions about its membership. The rushees would also be able to make better decisions about where they might want to join. Overall, less disassociation would occur, and ultimately, an environment would emerge where every man or woman who took a bid at a Greek house would be eventually initiated.

Right now freshmen who rush during fall semester must make decisions based on a superficial week of recruitment in which they get to know only a little bit about a fraternity or sorority, and a fraternity or sorority gets to know only a little bit about them. Both take huge risks. Given the nature of the current system, it is surprising that it manages to work at all.

*Spring recruitment takes place this month at Emory University. For updates on the process see [www.emorywheel.com](http://www.emorywheel.com).*

## BUZZ Around the Campus What did you think of Ramblin' Nights?



**Rob Kuhn**  
AE Freshman

*"I'd like to see it come back. Sounds like a good thing."*



**Michael Malluck**  
CompE Senior

*"I wish it was better advertised. Oh well."*



**E. Tamar Neumann**  
PHYS Sophomore

*"The jazz band was awesome and so was the oxygen bar."*



**James Gaines**  
NRE Freshman

*"They should integrate more culturally diverse aspects into the program."*

Photos by Andrew Saulters

### OUR VIEWS Hot or Not

## HOT-or-NOT



### Late night library

Triggered by student requests, President Clough worked with Auxiliary Services to change the after-hours parking policy in "A" lots near the library. Now students may park there to access the 24-hour facility. This progress is a definite example of the sort of cooperation between students and administrators that President Clough is advocating in his editorial in this issue of the *Technique*.



### Toilet bowl

The Georgia Tech football team made Fresno State, a team that finished third in the WAC, look like Ohio State in last month's Silicon Valley Football Classic. Instead of serving as a building block for next season, Coach Gailey's troops will enter spring practice with even more questions—like who is going to play quarterback. Perhaps Dave Braine will learn that some bowl trips should not be made.



### Latest Shaft online

In the tradition of the *Michigan Every Three Weekly* and the *Harvard Lampoon*, Georgia Tech now has its own parody newspaper website that has been the talk of Tech. *Shaft News*, which calls itself "The South's Most Awesomest College Newspaper," published its first issue on Monday this week. The *Technique* can appreciate a joke and hope you do too. See [www.shaftnews.com](http://www.shaftnews.com) and decide for yourself.



### Go big orange

We at the *Technique* have never been the type of folks to stand in the way of progress, but the amount of construction going on around campus is approaching ridiculous. At this point, it is impossible to maneuver around Tech without driving on either Tenth Street or North Avenue, on which construction is also occurring. At this rate, we should add "construction orange" as a new school color.

### GUEST EDITORIAL President Clough

## Communication important

I read with interest a series of recent editorials in the *Technique* about improving student life at Georgia Tech, several of which called for enhanced communication between Tech students and the administration. Any suggestions for creating a more informed and positive dialogue are encouraging, and I am ready to do whatever is needed to make things better.



From the students' perspective, "the Hill" can sometimes be seen as a monolithic power base that is uncaring or unconcerned with student interests. The administration also wrestles with how to best communicate with 16,000 very busy and engaged students. Frustration can arise from both sides.

Yet, I would suggest that the editorial comments—and the average student—underestimate

the ability for student voices to be heard. For starters, we listen carefully to Student Government representatives, both through Lee Wilcox, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Bob McMath, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, both of whom serve on my cabinet, as well as by direct contact. My senior administrative officers and I appear before the SGA when requested and are ready to discuss any issue.

In addition, students actively serve on all major Institute committees and help make decisions that touch Georgia Tech every day. These include standing committees, search committees for senior administrative positions, budget and fee committees, parking and transportation committees and planning

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### Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu) or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Jody Shaw, Editor-in-Chief.

All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

### Advertising Information

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### Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, visit <http://nique.net/stuorgguide.pdf>.

**Clough**

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committees for all major facilities. No major appointment is made, nor any building constructed, without input from student representatives.

Beyond these avenues, any of us in the administration stand ready to respond to any inquiry that comes our way. Unlike administrators at other universities, each of us has only one email address, and it is on the web for anyone to use. Every email to my address is answered. We consider it our duty to either have an answer or provide assistance somewhere in the Institute.

Does our system work? To a large extent it does. Examples of major projects to improve student life that were collaboratively developed with students include recreation facilities like the volleyball courts in Alumni Park, the West Side Diner, the West Information Commons with its 24-hour operating hours, our recycling program, construction of \$147 million in new housing and housing improvements and the student leadership initiative. Shortly, we will see further results of this collaborative approach in the form of the new Recreation Center and the space in the Houston Building.

There is no question that there is room for considerable communications progress. I'm glad to see the *Technique* take a constructive approach to the issue, and I stand ready to work with any group and listen to suggestions, not only to improve communication but also to improve the overall conditions that help our great students succeed.

## Diversity more than skin pigment

In response to Eboni Fenel's letter in the last issue of the *Technique*, I would like to ask when did we get so wrapped up in group identities that we forgot that going to school is about learning and growing?

Because education is the most important part of the college experience, Tech needs the most qualified candidates to be teaching.

We should be colorblind in our approach to education, and all qualified candidates should be encouraged to apply for faculty positions. If the best candidate to impart knowledge and experience is a person with more pigment in his or her skin, then there should be no barrier to bringing the person into the fold.

It is a fallacy that students cannot have role models outside of their own race. If this were the case, why has there been such a large increase in Indian, Oriental and Hispanic professors over the past 30 years?

And why do I, a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) of Scottish decent, have role models of an Ecuadorian immigrant, a long-haired hippie and an Indian immigrant? Let us as Georgia Tech alumni or students take personal accountability for our actions and our futures.

Steven R. Thompson  
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## Jennifer Hinkel Classroom Controversies

# Professors are people, too; talk to them

As another semester begins, many of us are counting down days (or semesters) until our graduations. One column in the *Technique* is hardly enough space to share all of my acquired wisdom from nine semesters. However, I would like to think that I did one thing well. I wasn't afraid to talk to my professors.

I'm amazed that some students find this concept totally difficult. I agree that in a class of 300 students, finding time to talk to a professor is difficult. Many professors are starving for their students' attention. Even if they can hold an audience during class time, the illusion dissolves the second the whistle blows.

During Dead Week, the mirage reappears, as students try to get last minute help or negotiate higher grades. Imagine your professors during the rest of the semester, sitting in their offices for hour after hour, waiting for students to arrive when none ever do. Students should almost feel guilty because of the way they go around neglecting their professors. Contrary to beliefs held by the "Tech is the shaft" school of thought, your profs are not out to get you. They actually like it when students pass their classes.

But dashing into a prof's office

for a three second conversation won't get you any benefits. Crying for a grade change after finals when you've been The Invisible Student all semester won't help much, either.



"Meeting your professors will enrich your college experience and help you make good choices on the road to graduation."

Jennifer Hinkel  
Staff Columnist

The keys to getting to know a professor well are to choose someone who shares your interest and to visit their offices early and often. If office hours aren't your style, ask a professor to lunch. If you're lucky, your prof might pick up the tab, being as you are an impoverished college student and can hardly afford a burger basket.

Don't wait until you are trying to put together grad school applications or job references before you realize that you never met anyone who can provide these things. If you don't know at least one prof in your department who shares your academic interests, make time to meet them before you're pressed for time and applying for your PhD.

Knowing your professors well will make you feel smarter. You'll have more intellectual conversations and gain insight into class material that

everyone else won't be privy to.

Best of all, when your professors know you well, they will act as your advocates in the vast world of academia. If you let your profs know what projects you're working on, they will point you in the direction of relevant journal articles and pertinent books. When an interesting job opening or scholarship opportunity arises, your name will come to

mind. When you mention what classes you plan to take, they will gently advise and offer suggestions on courses and professors to help your academic plans. (In other words, you'll get shafted less.) If you maintain good relationships with your profs after graduation, you will always have a resource to call upon, whether you're going back to graduate school or switching jobs.

Meeting your professors will enrich your college experience and help you make good choices on the road to graduation. Professors are an integral part of the support group students need to reach full collegiate potential. Like academic parents in the often confusing world of Tech, they can guide you through getting your degree. If you haven't met any professors yet, the beginning of the semester is a great place to start. Have you talked to a prof today?