OPINIONS

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OUR VIEWS

Hello, Boston College

The addition of Boston College to the newly expanded Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) means the conference now has a total of 12 members, including the recently added University of M Iami and Virginia Tech.

Despite the drawbacks this expansion will have on the Institute, including detrimental effects on the smaller sports that will now have to pay more for travel to schools farther away, a larger conference will ultimately be beneficial for Georgia Tech.

The first way many people are acquainted with a school is through the school's athletics programs; the more places the Georgia Tech name is known across the nation, the better it will be for the Institute as a whole in enhancing our profile. Another benefit of the expansion will be an improvement in Tech's recruiting power. We will now be able to tap into the lucrative northeastern talent pool, since athletes who choose Tech will now be able to play away games in their home region. Also, since Boston is the sixth largest television market in the nation and M Iami is also among the top markets, the ACC's television contract promises to be a lucrative one. The addition of a conference championship game will also add more money to the pot from which Tech will get to draw.

Forgive or forget?

The Student Government Association and several administrators have recently begun discussing the possibility of implementing a grade forgiveness policy at Tech. While the details are far from being set, and the project is still in the brainstorming stages, it is absolutely necessary for the decision makers to seriously evaluate what their motivations are for making these changes.

If the primary motivations are to increase Tech's rankings, then grade forgiveness is a policy that should not be implemented. If, however, the policy is being explored because of its possible benefits for students, then it should continue to be examined.

H OPE is another issue that needs to be brought up in the discussion of grade forgiveness—how will the effects of grade forgiveness will have on freshman GPAs affect the in-state scholarship, especially considering the dwindling financial support the scholarship is facing.

Motivations, the H OPE scholarship and the many other issues involved in implementing a grade forgiveness policy, must be explored before long-standing decisions are made.

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Grade forgiveness policy needed

In the last Undergraduate House meeting, representatives discussed a system of grade forgiveness whereby students could retake failed classes and then substitute the new taken grade for the original one. I feel that if properly implemented, some sort of grade forgiveness policy would make the adjustment to college life easier for freshmen, as well as making Georgia Tech a more attractive school.

This along with other changes would ease the transition of freshmen into college in such a way that would increase the freshmen retention rate while at the same time not reducing the quality of our education. I also feel that other changes should be made to make students' adjustment to college life smoother.

In order to create a grade forgiveness system, Georgia Tech would have to make the added benefit of increasing the institute a more attractive school.

Regardless of what type of forgiveness policy is implemented, it is implemented for upperclassmen, it makes a huge change in the way that Tech university is viewed. This does take a great deal of the pressure off of freshmen and makes the transition to college easier.

In instituting a grade forgiveness policy, students will have to learn more material in less time, having class only two to three times a week, while at the same time not being held accountable for showing up to class. While this is necessary for students to become independent, the added benefit of increasing the in-state scholarship is a huge plus.

I think that a policy limiting the number of hours that a freshman can take would also help out greatly. In high school, we were used to taking seven or eight classes a day, every day of the week and constantly being held accountable by teachers and parents to keep on our studies.

But in contrast, in college, we have to learn more material in less time, having class only two to three times a week, while at the same time not being held accountable for showing up to class. While this is necessary for students to become independent, the added benefit of increasing the in-state scholarship is a huge plus.

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I have mixed feelings about Mel Gibson’s newest movie, The Passion of Christ—especially regarding the fact that a human being will be trying to portray the feelings, thoughts and emotions that Jesus felt over 2,000 years ago. I do not believe any human can play the role of Jesus without contaminating it to some extent. However, I believe the message the movie represents will still be conveyed.

Gibson, 54, is expected to be released next spring, portraying the last 12 hours of the life of Jesus Christ. The film is a sequel to his 1995 movie, Braveheart, and is scheduled to open in theaters in March 2004.

The Passion of Christ will tell the story of Jesus Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection, focusing on the final 12 hours of his life. The film will be shot in Spain, with many scenes filmed on location in Jerusalem and other holy sites.

I believe the movie will be controversial, and I am concerned about the potential for negative reactions from some groups. However, I believe the film is an important opportunity to educate the public about the life of Jesus and the Christian faith.

The movie will be distributed by the Walt Disney Company, and will be marketed as a family-friendly film. However, I am concerned that the film will be marketed to children, who may not have a thorough understanding of the historical context of the story.

I believe that the film should be seen by adults, who can understand the historical and religious context of the story. I also believe that the film should be marketed as a religious film, rather than a family film.

I believe that the film will be successful, but I am concerned about the potential for negative reactions from some groups. However, I believe that the film will be an important opportunity to educate the public about the life of Jesus and the Christian faith.

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Give spammers a taste of their own free Rx

T hrough the looking glass

I buy almost everything with a credit card so that I don't have to carry cash, and as a result, my name and address are listed on all the preapproved lists sold under the table. I receive a stack of pre-approved credit card offers every time I visit home, and a bad side effect of earning four degrees is that I receive not one, but four requests from the Alumni Association for money I don't have. Not too long ago, my mother won a $400 men's suit in a community raffle—she clearly had no use for it, so I was quite happy when $30 dollars in alterations later, I had a nice new three-piece suit.

Even since, I have received email and mailed brochures telling me of bad prices, and why, as a poor college student, I need yet another dress suit. I simply protest by clicking the REMOVE button and trashing the written materials unread. Then there's a maker of old-fart cars that insists on sending me mail—seven though I have asked to be removed from their list three times.

Without too much work, you can trace back the origins of the mail—no work at all to figure out who sold my name to Visa for the REI Visa card or who made it their business to inform companies that I am a recent college grad. With email, more thought is required: use a list of aliases such as email_companyX@yahoo.com under bogus names and let them all funnel into your well-guarded private account—the next useless offer you receive, you'll know exactly who sold your personal data.

The bottom line is that the simple boycott and trash routine is no longer effective; it's time to unleash a can of cyber whoop-ass. There's no fun in boycotting a company when they don't know you're doing so, so let them all fun into your well-guarded private account—next useless offer, you'll know exactly who sold your personal data.

My personal favorite is to encourage my absent-minded student to inform companies that I receive not one, but four requests from the Alumni Association for money I don't have.

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