

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, September 6, 2002

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion Hall Council changes

The changes to upperclassmen hall councils will not be effective without even greater efforts on the part of Resident Hall Association and the Department of Housing. The lack of participation in these Hall Councils cannot be solved by mere changes in the administration of money distribution. The real problem behind the apathy in these dorms is the lack of community that exists in these dorms.

Freshman dorms do not have similar problems with Hall Council participation because residents want to spend time together and do activities through the halls. Additionally, the differences between the roles that PLs and CAs play make a dramatic difference in how much cohesion exists within dorms. It is this cohesion in freshman dorms that draws residents to participate in Hall Councils; without such an effort on the part of CAs, upperclassmen Hall Councils will never flourish.

Beyond these substantial obstacles, this plan may also fail with lack of communication of the vision behind the changes. One of the most basic failures of upperclassmen Hall Councils is their inability to convince residents that their activities can be funded through Hall Council. These changes will produce no results if this lack of communication is not fixed. Upperclassmen must be given information to facilitate the use of Hall Council resources.

Chi Phi situation redux

President Clough's meeting this week with some of the national leadership of Chi Phi reveals some of the deeper problems facing that fraternity. The irresponsibility of Chi Phi's actions are setting many dangerous precedents at both Tech and in the national fraternity system. The Tech administration is right to stand firm on this issue; allowing Chi Phi to flaunt the sanctions given to it would undermine Tech's entire discipline system. Chi Phi's actions also have the potential to damage the Greek community at Tech. By continuing to pretend that they are a fraternity, they threaten to harm the community that has formed around Tech's Greek system.

Beyond these effects at Tech, this situation could have negative results on the national level as well. The national branch of Chi Phi is sending a clear signal that they condone hazing by continuing to support this chapter in its irresponsible behavior. Will they support every chapter in the same way, leading to an organization that does not care about the safety and health of its members? The precedents that both the local chapter and the national organization of Chi Phi are setting are both foolish and dangerous.

September 11th events

The decision of the Georgia Tech administration to not cancel classes during the "campus-wide" remembrance ceremony shows a lack of commitment to their stated goal of campus community. Presented with a clear opportunity to host an event that could potentially attract large number of students, the administration passed up the opportunity to both remember the tragic events of last year and to encourage connections between diverse areas of campus. Tech wants students to get an education both inside and outside the classroom; they are missing an opportunity for students to attend an event that is worth more than any single lecture could be.

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:

"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good." - Samuel Johnson



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Tech football cheapened by match

I am a proud Tech alum, avid sports fan, and supporter for all seasons. However, I was extremely perturbed when I read in a Connecticut newspaper (The Hartford Courant) that Tech had signed to play a three-season series with UConn (sic) in football. I am steeped in Tech tradition (Football Letterman 1972; maintained (tuned) the Wreck in the mid-80s) and was disgusted at the prospect of Tech tradition being used as "payback" for ol' time buddies!

The Hartford paper reported that Tech A.D. Dave Braine (non-Tech alum) and UConn football coach Randy Edsall (non-Tech alum) were

friends, having once coached together. Now Braine is rewarding the UConn football program and their Coach Edsall by scheduling Tech. UConn has been Division I for two years, a fledgling program looking for credibility. In fact, UConn will not be allowed into the Big East until 2005, ostensibly to demonstrate its worth. So Braine, using the Tech name, is helping to elevate the program. Are we now the farm team for the Big East?

It's embarrassing and insulting to have Tech walk onto the playing field of such a dinky program, an indignant affront to our long history of winning football. How can

this be allowed to happen?

Why not schedule Auburn or Alabama? The Tech-Auburn match had been one of the oldest and longest running rivalries in the country until former A.D. Homer Rice (non-Tech alum) dropped the series. So instead of re-igniting one of the old rivalries, Braine gladhands Tech tradition to a friend. Is that now the lot of Tech tradition?

Tradition means being proud of our heritage. Why has the Athletic Board been allowed to prostitute the rich Tech past? It may sound snobbish, but we are talking about

See *Football*, page 14



By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sept. 11th should be remembered appropriately

It is a little hard to believe that it has been almost a year since that fateful day changed the lives of so many Americans. Immediately after viewing the images of the collapse of World Trade Center's twin towers, it was hard to imagine that life would ever return to the normalcy that existed only a day before.



"Hopefully, we will realize the importance of these events by taking a step back from the normalcy of attending classes."

Tony Kluemper
News Editor

Yet here we are looking back on the event a year later, and in most respects for the majority of Tech students, life has largely returned to the norm. We go to class, worry about that huge assignment due next week, and curse the professors who assign three WebAssigns in one week—all without giving a second thought to the events that transpired on September 11.

However, no matter how much our lives have returned to normal, everyone across the nation as well as in our own community here at Tech, will be forced to at least acknowledge the attacks next week as the nation prepares to remember the victims on the first anniversary of the events. The World Trade Center attacks have often been characterized as this generation's version of the assassination of JFK. Everyone, from five-year-olds to the elderly, will forever remember exactly what they were doing and who they were with when they first heard the news.

I, myself, was coming out of a sleepy daze when I first heard, recovering from a late night of Physics II homework. I can remember hearing the news announcer's voice replace the music on my alarm clock

as he reported frantically that the second plane had hit the towers. It took me a while to realize exactly what was happening and even longer before the possible results of these horrific events actually hit me. In fact, it wasn't until I actually saw the events transpire on the television screen that I was even able to process the information I was being given.

Throughout the past year, we, as a national community, have experienced a wide range of emotions. First there was shock, then anger, followed by a need for revenge, and now finally we have almost reached a state of normalcy in dealing with the events. The events are no longer forced fed to us by every news media imaginable, and therefore we have, in a way, pushed them to the back of our minds.

However as we approach the one year anniversary, I challenge everyone within the Tech community to take a step back from this normalcy next Wednesday in order to remember those who were taken in the attacks as well those who died in the rescue. Now that's not to say that everyone should take this step in

the same way. Instead, everyone should remember in their own individual way, whether it be attending a memorial service or reflecting in a moment of silence.

Members of the Tech community will have every chance to take a step back and remember through numerous events being held over the next week. The major ceremony will take place at noon on Wednesday at the Campanile and will resemble the campus wide assembly held last year after the attacks shocked the campus. President Clough and numerous student representatives will address the crowd gathered for the ceremony. However, this year's ceremony will focus more on the recovering spirit of the American citizen and less on the aftermath of the attacks themselves.

For those students looking for a more individually led remembrance, two of the First Center galleries will be open for quiet reflection for most of the day on Wednesday. And in an attempt to reach the students who want to reach out and actually do something in remembrance of the attacks, MOVE hosted a blood drive in conjunction with the Amer-

ican Red Cross over the past week.

I would like to applaud Tech administration for providing the Tech community with a variety of ways to express their remembrance of the victims of the September 11 attacks. Furthermore, the idea of looking towards the future and focusing on building the spirit of the American citizen is a perfect way to remember the events without being forced to remember the horror as well. However, I do question the decision not to cancel noon classes on Wednesday, thus punishing those students who choose to attend the ceremony instead of attending class.

Hopefully, these students will realize the importance of remembering these events by taking a step back from the normalcy of attending classes.

Although I have challenged the Tech community to take this step by expressing their remembrance and remorse for the victims of the attacks, I would like to expand that challenge to relating the importance of remembering these attacks in our normal, everyday lives and not only on the anniversary of the attacks themselves—because it is in this way that we can truly remember those who never made it out of the World Trade Center.

So when the whistle blows at 8:46 a.m. and 10:29 a.m. this Wednesday to mark the exact times that the twin towers fell, I hope that all members of the Tech community will take a step back from normalcy and remember those victims in a way that continues on beyond September 11, 2002.

TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"
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The *Technique* welcome all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters should be hand-delivered, mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, or emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu. 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 reserves the right to edit for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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Shaft mentality starts with administration, not profs

The high unhappiness rating at Tech reported in the Princeton Review (see last week's issue, it's online ;-), despite their dubious sampling techniques, got me pondering on just why Tech students are so unhappy. The obvious answer is the Shaft.

The not so obvious answers lie along the lines that Techies, on the whole, are a rather ant-social lot that put a lot of effort into doing stuff but not much effort into enjoying themselves. I will, however, take the estimation approach where (mindshare dedicated to shaft) >> (mindshare dedicated to other issues) and address the issue of the Shaft. By addressing the Shaft I can ignore the other issues and still approximately cover everything my audience cares about.

The Shaft as a concept seems to date back to ancient times or at least to the construction of the Campanile (which in lecture-years amounts to the same thing) and seems to be invoked as a convenient object to throw at whatever ill befalls the subject. Using this definition, it would imply that a large portion of the Tech population is continually set about by Bad Things.

Many who haven't experienced the Shaft first hand assume that the problem is people making poor grades. I beg to differ. The Shaft only lightly correlates with poor grades, and the association of it with grades dilutes the solvency of the Shaft-concept. The Shaft is most accurately and truly invoked when dealing with the frequent no-win and impossible to avoid situations that nearly every Techie runs into during their academic career at this



"I claim the shaft occurs much more frequently when dealing with the administration than with professors and classes."

Karl Guertin
Online Editor

fine Institution.

I claim that this occurs much more frequently when dealing with the administration than with professors and classes. I bring forth my own anecdotal evidence from my misadventures with the Tech Bureaucratic System to back up this claim. I've heard similar stories from more people than I can remember.

As a Tech student, I consider myself fairly typical: a 3rd year CmpE, former coop, with a GPA just below a 3.0 who works for the *Technique*. I mean these stories to be representative of the average student experience rather than just complaints about the Bad Things that have happened to me. I submit the following stories for your consideration.

Consider: I've been paying my bills to Tech online for the three years I've been here. What's wrong with this? I hear you ask. Nothing! Online is great, but not when you have three conflicting amounts of what you owe Tech. It's both frustrating and confusing to have a \$300-\$500 disparity between the lowest and highest numbers. Do you pay the lower amount, come up short, and not be able to take classes or pay the higher amount and lose access to a couple hundred dollars for a

month or two?

The answer is pretty obvious, always pay the highest amount. You can then wait and receive a couple-hundred dollar check a month or two later with just a tinge of chagrin. I actually didn't have this problem this semester. It is my sincere hope they've reformed, but that doesn't make up for the previous five times I've had it happen.

Consider: It's Monday after this Spring semester finals week. I'd brought up my truck that night to help a friend move out the next morning. I wake up the next morning, eat, and walk outside to find that my truck has been towed. The lot was empty the night before, which was expected, so why tow my truck? There were no signs. I'd been parked there for eight hours.

Why did they tow my car? They were paving the lot. They actually started paving it five days later. To top it off, I needed the vehicle to move out my buddy and had to wait for three hours in the parking office while they filled out paperwork and charged me \$110 for the honor of towing my car 1/8 of a mile down the street.

How is this a catch-22 situation? It's not really, but I consider it the Shaft because I was given no warn-

ing and could do nothing about it when it happened. The email about it didn't get to me because I don't usually have a car on campus.

Consider: I spent the fall of 2001 in a co-op job where I learned nothing and did nothing. Not anxious to repeat the experience this summer, I scanned the co-op job listings and saw that several semiconductor firms (read: good jobs for CompEs) were hiring.

After exchanging emails with the companies, I found that the firms wouldn't hire me without the blessing of the co-op office. My advisor insisted, however, that I couldn't get a new job while working for my previous employer. I called in and resigned that same day.

I told my advisor this next time we met and was informed that it was against co-op policies to allow students to quit without co-op department approval and was kicked out of the program. Continue in a job you hate or forego the benefits of the coop program? Any way you look at it you lose.

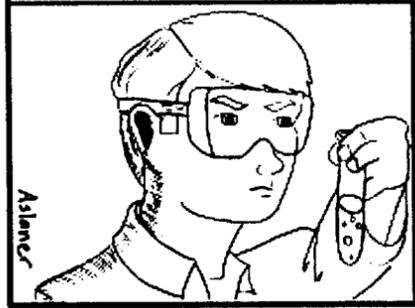
These are my most recent shafty anecdotes. I consider them to be excellent examples of the Shaft in action, though not the best I've heard. There are some in Tech Recruiting that throw up the smoke screen of "There is no Shaft."

I think the stories here, not to mention countless more like them, prove that false empirically. There is a Shaft and it is real. Therefore I encourage you, the Once and Future Shafted, to please not use the name of the Shaft in vain, but to instead reserve it for those painful situations in which it lives up to its full meaning.

Original Comic Freshhmen

Freshhmen By Billy Aslaner

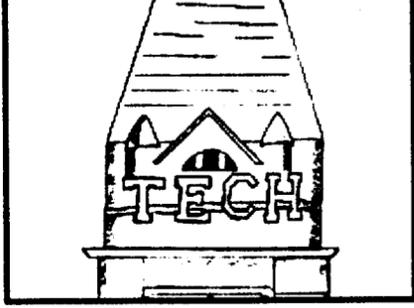
SOME OF THE GREATEST MINDS FROM MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES COME TO LEARN AND WORK AT GA TECH.



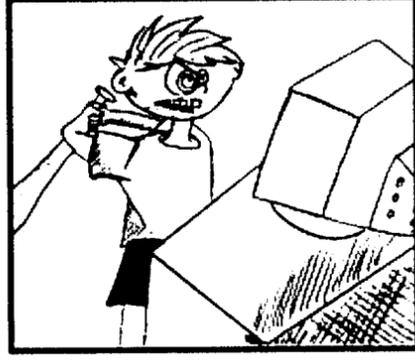
ON CAMPUS YOU WILL FIND SOME OF THE MOST ELITE PEOPLE FOUND IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL REALM.



INDEED, THE LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGICAL SOPHISTICATION IS AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD.



AND I STILL CAN'T GET MY COMPUTER TO STAY CONNECTED TO RESNET!!



Buzz Around the Campus



Question of the week

“What do you think about Georgia Tech’s alcohol policy?”

Feature and Photos by Charles Frey



Philip Bradley
INTA Junior
“What alcohol policy?”



Erin Griffin
MGT Senior
“You shouldn’t drink until you’re 21 anyway!”



Pat Woodruff
MGT Sophomore
“Do away with it!”



Bill Brown
BC Sophomore
“If you’re sneaky enough, it doesn’t matter.”



Stephen Popick
ECON Senior
“If Tech thinks higher fines will stop underage drinking, they’re smoking something.”



Laura Smiley
CEE Freshman
“I’m a freshman; I don’t know anything!”



Dave Sauer
ME Sophomore
“Are people going to class drunk?”



Bill Tice
CS Senior
“I’ll drink to that!”

Parking causes difficulties for student commuters

I am a commuter, and what follows is my rant. I will start by posing a simple question: what is the most important resource that someone who is driving to campus every day requires? A spot in which to park, obviously! So, it would follow that commuting students would be given the highest priority (after commuters of higher status such as the Faculty, of course) when parking permits are allotted each year. The actual situation is first-come, first-serve. People who are renewing their passes get first dibs, and freshmen are unilaterally denied access to the queue.

Time to get ready for my 1 p.m. class. I make it to the student center after half an hour of noxious driving. Half the "visitors" parked in the full lot are students! The average student rolls out of bed half an hour before class and meanders over,

whilst I am forced to scavenge for a spot. I drive north to the new visitor's deck, which incidentally only lets visitors in through the back entrance!

If this situation is brought to light before the illustrious Parking Office, it would surely give us commuters the highest priority possible, right? Wrong. My family and I were in contact with the office since the beginning of summer, explaining my situation and expecting to receive a permit in the fall. As of this moment, my avatar is still standing in a virtual line of undefined proportions. I have lost faith in the common sense and decency of the parking department, and this is not conducive to being a successful student.

Sebastian Becerra
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Football

from page 10

national pride, with a provincial opponent! Many high school football stadiums in Georgia are larger than the UConn "stadium" (seating capacity: 16,000) in which Tech will compete Saturday.

Will Tech come to Connecticut and run up the score by 50 or 60 points (I hope!)? Or is there another deal under the table where Edsall is not made to look too bad against a national power? A few years ago the UConn Women's basketball program gave an injured player a free

lay-up at the start of a Villanova game to allow her to set a record. A free lay-up! That's Big East sports at its best.

Is this the type of silly competition that Tech is now looking for under Braine? I prefer that he be given his walking papers before allowing him to pimp anymore Tech tradition.

Ronald J. Parise
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Bolton reprimands UHR for slating financial bills in meetings

Last week, the Student Government Association passed a new rule that, in effect, gives the Joint Finance Committee the power to pass or fail a bill. Of course, if you ask the author of the bill (Nate Watson), he will claim that you don't have a fundamental understanding of parliamentary procedure if you believe the Technique, myself, and the other representatives that resigned over this fiasco.

I am well acquainted with parliamentary procedure, and I have been in SGA for several years now. I can tell you, without a doubt, this new rule takes power out of the hands of the student body and places it into the hands of a committee that students cannot hold accountable (the JFC). It also places undergraduate issues in the hands of many graduate students.

The new system works on the assumption that SGA representatives will "do their homework" before each meeting, that they will be informed on the issues from all perspectives. However, in my experience, it is the free exchange of ideas on the House Floor that allows the representatives an opportunity to look at a bill in a way that they otherwise may not have. By listening to your fellow reps, you are given the opportunity to see things from a different perspective. I cannot tell you how many times debate on the House Floor has changed my mind, and the minds of other

representatives. No longer.

The House must now achieve a majority to pull a bill from the slate for discussion. You may think that of the members is not very much, but I assure you it is. In a body where students are anxious to get home to study, play games, or simply relax, or where many of the reps

"The student body has been so far removed from the allocation process that students are virtually powerless."

are simply seeking resume fodder, the representatives are not likely to want to "extend" meetings any longer than they have to. After all, if the bill is less than \$5,000, it isn't worth the time to analyze it, right? Just to put things into perspective, \$5,000 is more than enough to cover in-state tuition, but it isn't worth the scrutiny of SGA. How sad.

SGA has thrown its responsibilities into the wind by adopting this rule. Essentially, it is as if the House has elected its own representatives to represent themselves. So, what has the student body of Georgia Tech gotten out of voting for the

current members of SGA? A House that doesn't want the responsibility with which the student body entrusted them. A House that wants to defer that responsibility entirely to another committee.

Now, the student body has been so far removed from the allocation process that students are virtually powerless. The student body will elect representatives who, in turn, elect representatives to make decisions over the students' money. In other words, the student body can no longer hold responsible those who make the decisions over student activity fee allocations.

If you think this rule is ludicrous, email your rep and let him or her know. After all, it is your money that is being wasted. I tried to fight this rule, but I failed. I could not, in good conscience, pretend to represent my constituents when, in fact, I have been turned into nothing more than a figurehead by an ill-conceived rule. Perhaps what the House needs more than these new rules is a good kick in its complacency.

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For more information on the changes to the UHR format, check the SGA site at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sga. To contact the executive officers or your representative, see the list on the SGA website.