OPINIONS

Our Views Consensus Opinion

The new changes to the structure of the House hierarchy announced earlier this week signal a new era for the department—one in which professionals with at least bachelor's degrees will constitute a larger percentage of its staff.

These changes were the result of a comprehensive review led by Auxiliary Services; groups including faculty, staff, students and professionals outside of Tech examined the existing practices and how to improve them. Although it was good that students were even included in the review, many more should have been consulted; a large portion of these students should have been staff members of the Housing program. With their familiarity with the beneficial and detrimental aspects of the inner workings of Housing, student staff opinions would have been valuable and, for the most part, accurate.

The choice of review board members notwithstanding, Auxiliary Services must be applauded for its efforts in continually re-evaluating its programs to ensure their pertinence and effectiveness. It must be questioned, though, what the exact goal of these latest changes were—to improve Freshman Experience (FE) or to create more professional positions.

If the goal is to improve FE, then these changes may not have their intended effect. Granted, a certain number of excellent and dedicated peer leaders (PLs) do their job because they love it, not for the perks. For the rest of the moderately successful PLs, the incentives and chances to move up the hierarchy make the difference between wanting to stay on campus for another year in a freshman dorm and moving off campus. Eliminating the entire incentive program of moving up the Housing ladder to better positions including better rooms will turn away many qualified, good PLs who need compensation to make them willing to push aside some of their school work and other friends in favor of Housing responsibilities. Furthermore, the new 12 week class that PLs will have to take starting next fall will create an even bigger deterrent to qualified students applying for positions.

If, on the other hand, the goal of the changes is to create more professional positions within the Department of Housing, then the restructuring will most likely be successful. Since Housing is a typical starting ground for people with aspirations of eventually moving up into Student Affairs, then having more professionals in the department will give these new hires better job-growth opportunities. But if this was the true goal of the reorganization, then it should have been clearly stated, instead of the modifications being ushered in under the auspices of improving the FE program.

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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**OUR VIEWS**

**Hot or Not**

**Mmm...donuts**

Hoorah for Krispy Kreme! The haven of glazed goodness has finally reopened its doors on Ponce de Leon, and not one day too soon. With the new renovations, the Kreme boasts a donut theater in the viewing area where patrons can watch the donuts being produced. It will be nice to once again see the “Hot and Fresh” 24 hours a day sign glowing brightly and invitingly from the store’s front window.

**Zoom zoom**

The bikers on this campus are getting crazy and daring. It seems as though there are more bike riders on campus this semester than ever before—and they like to ride rapidly down sidewalks, disobeying traffic laws and weaving throughout pedestrians as if they made up a constantly moving calom dodge. Perhaps these daredevils need to be reminded of the importance of signaling their intentions in advance.

**Los Bravos**

Cry a solemn tear for the baseball team Atlanta has almost always been proud to call its own. The Braves’ loss to the Cubs earlier this week means that they have upheld their sad tradition of losing quickly in the postseason. Maybe the Braves should take note from Tech—at least we beat Auburn this year.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Auction on eBay exciting**

Imagine my surprise to see my company on the front page of the September 12, 2003 Technique. I receive the Technique by snail mail so it usually late.) I am the Manager of the Usability Group at eBay and was excited to see that Georgia Tech would be offering auctions on eBay. This gives alumni from around the world an opportunity to bid on Georgia Tech items to which they would otherwise not have access.

I was saddened to see your depiction of eBay in the consensus editorial. I was surprised at your lack of understanding of what the eBay site is about. The example you used (a kidney being sold on the auction site) happened four years ago and was halted the moment eBay became aware of it. eBay is currently the sole source of income for over 100,000 people. There are over 16 million items up for sale today and not one of them is a kidney. We are also one of the few companies who had both the technical and business insight to successfully (and profitably) use the Internet. Fortunately, I will not be deterred from my desire to hire Georgia Tech graduates this year. I will not let one thoughtless editorial sully the name of what I believe to be one of the greatest

**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 9200, submitted to online@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Trayn Klaupper, 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 4 p.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday’s issue. Any letters received after these criteria will not be published. Letters to the editor are welcomed for publication.

**Advertising Information**

Information and rate cards can be found online at www.technique.net. The deadline for inserting ads in space and submitting finished artwork is noon on Friday, one week prior to publication. For rate information, call Terry Miller at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space is located in rooms 137 of Student Services Building, 355 Fred Dims, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0269. Questions regarding advertising should be directed to Marietta Kwick at (404) 894-7507, or Randy Hulsey at (404) 894-2830.

**Coverage Requests**

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief to individual section editors. For more information, visit http://www.technique.net/more.jpg.

**BUZZ**

**Around the Campus**

**What are you doing for fall break?**

**“Going to the beach and having ‘good wholesome fun.’”**

Vickie Cherry

INTA/AML Junior

**“New Orleans, baby!”**

Esinam Glakpe

ChemE Sophomore

**“Going home and sleeping in a comfortable bed.”**

John Story

Undecided COE, Freshman

**“Hanging with my brother in Atlanta.”**

Jananze Ahmed

CE Sophomore

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**Assuming HOPE is to remain merit-based, eligibility requirements must be raised.”**

Daniel Amick

News Editor

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Engineering world peace: take a hint from past efforts

A global trek with view from Tech

As Israel’s Jewish population celebrated its holiest holiday 30 years ago, Egypt and Syria launched an unanticipated invasion of the Jewish state. Though surprised, Israeli forces repelled the attack and advanced into Syria by the time a cease-fire ended the conflict.

On Monday, as Jews around the world again celebrated Yom Kippur, Israel’s forces crossed into Syrian territory, using F-16 jets to bomb what its government called a terrorist training camp. Syrian officials, of course, claimed the site was merely a refugee camp and nothing more.

Regardless of the target’s legitimacy, and whether the killing of 19 civilians by a Palestinian suicide bomber the previous week justified the strike, its occurrence leaves the latest hope for Israeli-Palestinian peace derailed.

Events of the previous weeks already had made the so-called “road map” backed by the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia look like a dead-end street.

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Furthermore, in casting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as part of the global war on terrorism rather than as a battle for land and legitimacy as it has often been viewed, the Bush administration abandoned its ability to act as a neutral arbiter in the conflict.

When combined with the administration’s doctrine of preemptive strike, Israel now finds itself with considerable room to operate.

Still, the Camp David experience reminds us that we cannot allow the perceived hopelessness of today to be an excuse for failing to act.

Georgia Tech students can react better than most to this type of issue. As engineers, (and by the way, I consider everyone at Tech a quasi-engineer, or at least an analytical problem solver) we can often see a problem’s solution and what we need to arrive at it before we actually see the process by which we will reach it. We start working, start over, and then restart again—each time proceeding with a sense of hope that this latest attempt will be the one that finds success. So goes the craft of engineering.

Regardless of whether or not Carter was thinking like an engineer when he initiated the Camp David Accords, this type of thinking is exactly what the current standoff requires and exactly the type of thinking that members of the Tech community employ. Hopefully the situation can be resolved before we actually see the problem’s solution and what we need to arrive at it before we actually see the process by which we will reach it.

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