

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, July 13, 2001

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

UJC expansion

In light of the difficulties the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet experienced throughout the summer, a proposal to increase the number of justices from 10 to 15 is being considered, which ultimately requires an amendment to SGA's Constitution. An amendment to the Constitution is proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Council, or by a petition of ten percent of the Student Body directed to the Student Body President. Amendments become part of the Constitution upon ratification by two-thirds of the votes cast in a special election for undergraduate students.

Increasing the number of justices would not only alleviate a majority of the problems UJC encountered while dealing with the theft of the "T" case, for example, but also infuse some much needed flexibility within the system.

Currently, quorum requirements are difficult to meet throughout summer semesters when student enrollment is low. This is of course especially problematic for cases that, under due process, must be heard from May through August.

Scrambling for quorum not only jeopardizes the integrity of the judicial system at Tech, it also does not guarantee that the most qualified and experienced members of the cabinet are hearing the case. More importantly, the availability of additional council members gives students the opportunity to strike justices who they feel are unfairly biased against their circumstance.

Justices not hearing cases provide an added benefit to students by acting as advisors and confidants. Advisors can instruct students on the complete process of the hearing, ensure that the charged students understand their rights and alternatives under the system and are informed and prepared on the appropriate procedures expected in order to defend and submit evidence.

Ticket Distribution

With the bankruptcy of JustArrive, the company responsible for organizing the ticket distribution for men's and women's basketball last season, Tech has reverted back to the old distribution method utilized throughout last football season.

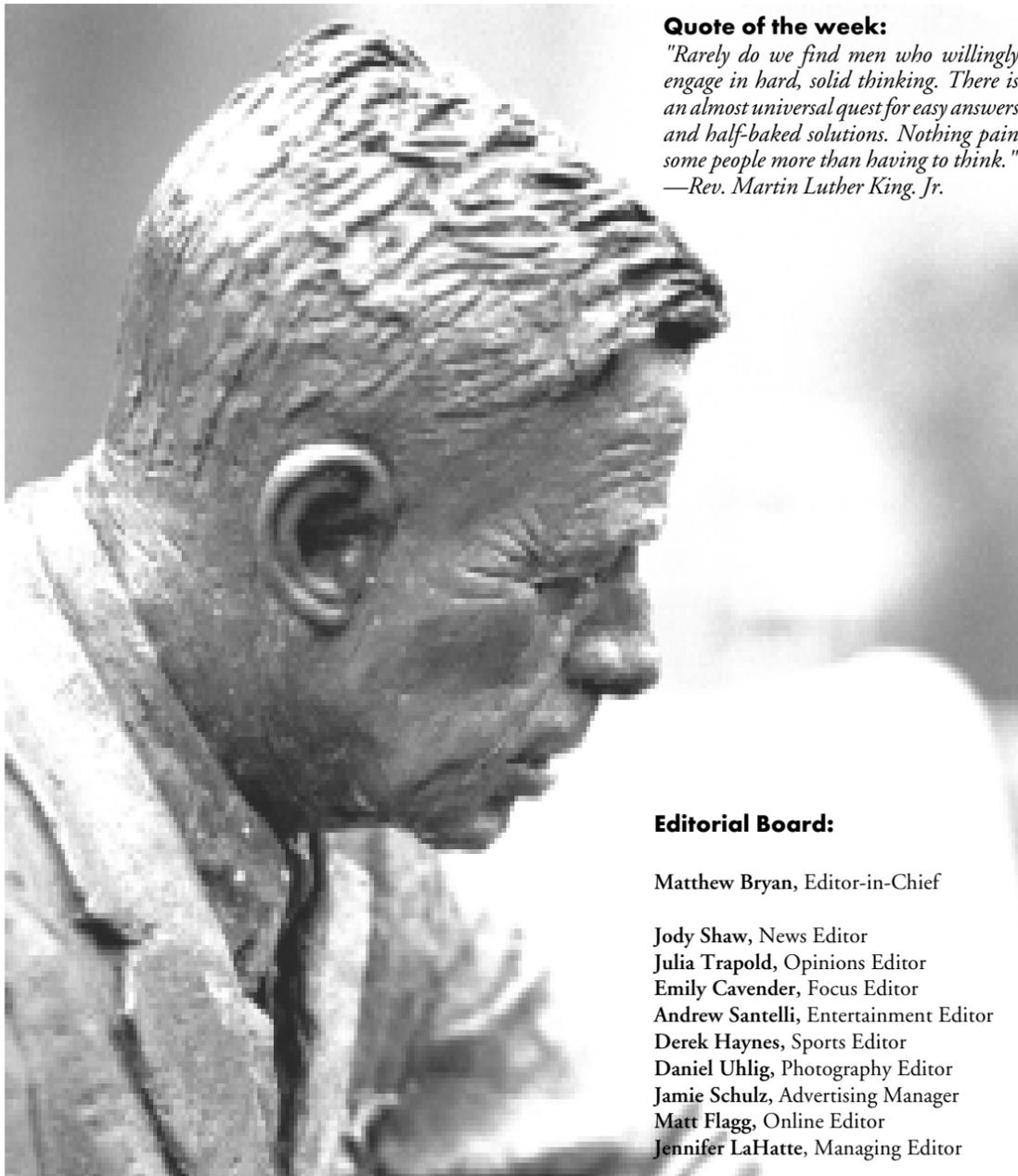
Students will once again have to stake their place in line and pick up their tickets the Monday before the game.

Although JustArrive provided an easier method to obtain student tickets, many preferred the "camp-out culture" spawned by ticket distribution and the sense of community it generated. "Line culture" ensures that those students who receive tickets use them. It also fills the stands with some of the most dedicated fans and increases the value of their tickets.

However, security procedures should be installed to protect students throughout the late-night camp-outs. As the ticket lines begin to creep around North Avenue, student safety and welfare are of imminent concern. Guidelines should be set up and enforced to promote an exciting yet safe environment for Tech fans.

Securing an electronic ticket distribution system is a time consuming and costly endeavor to Georgia Tech. Those resources could better be used to provide security and maintenance to an already loved tradition that fosters Tech culture and encourages community spirit.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors. Letters should be 400 words and should be submitted to editor@technique.gatech.edu.



Quote of the week:

"Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think."
—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

'Sexy' comment inappropriate, inaccurate

[Editor's Note: This letter refers to a photo cutline that appeared with the article "Fiber Optic Fantasy" in the July 13, 2001 issue of the Technique]

Today, my advisor, Dr. Thomas Gaylord gave me a copy of this week's *Technique*, in which an article was supposed to be published about our research group's work on Long-Period-Fiber-Gratings. We had spent already more than an hour last week to pause for a nice picture to support the article.

I opened the *Technique* eagerly to the page where the article was. What a surprise it was to read the caption under the great picture that we had carefully taken! First of all, we are four in the picture and six

names are given in the caption, which makes it particularly confusing and unclear. Second of all, which should really be, worst of all, it is stated that the people on the picture and in the group "find fiber optics sexy". Not only does this statement not belong to any of us in the group, but it is also very offensive. I also would like to add that we had provided your reporter's team with a caption explaining clearly who and where everybody was in the picture. As I started reading the article, I also realized that most of what was written about our research was inaccurate and that the article contained several misquotes.

I was offended by what was writ-

ten in the caption as a woman but also as an engineer. As a newspaper that is distributed to up to 11,000 readers, the *Technique* has the responsibility of being an example. To carry the message that "fiber optics is sexy" is not only misogynous and degrading but also very shallow. Georgia Institute of Technology, as a leading engineering school in the nation, has shown tremendous efforts in encouraging women to enroll in engineering programs. I would expect the *Technique* to write up to the standards that our Institution has fixed.

Georgia Tech is also a leading

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By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Heart of darkness should prompt change inside and out

College can leave you broken, take advantage of the opportunity and rebuild yourself

On the flight from New Hampshire, Marlow arrived. Behind him was his father who had purchased the tickets and his tuition.

They unloaded his weighty bags into the rent-a-car and drove up I-85 into the heart of darkness.

He came from a private school not unlike something you would read about in Irving or Salinger. He had been valedictorian of his school; his perfect GPA shone like the sun on a still lake. What had he heard but plaudits, what had he received but accolades?

He moved into his new home, a dorm off Techwood. He met his new roommate, a Macon native, and arranged his things as he had always imagined.

It was Friday so he had plenty of time before school started. He spent time collecting elements necessary for his new life, said good-bye to his father and had his first meal at the dining hall.

It was not long before Monday arrived and he attended his first classes, Freshman Chemistry, English, Calculus and Computer Science. Things seemed pretty straightforward. He thought back to something he had read in high school, Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*:

"I found myself back in the sepulchral city resenting the sight of people hurrying through the streets to filch a little money from each other, to devour their infamous cookery, to gulp their unwholesome beer, to dream their insignificant and silly dreams. They trespassed upon my thoughts. They were intruders whose knowledge of life was to me

"It is within the brick walls of this jungle that the truth is revealed. Somehow, things are stripped to their reality much faster."

Matthew Bryan
Editor-in-Chief



an irritating pretence, because I felt so sure they could not possibly know the things I knew. Their bearing, which was simply the bearing of commonplace individuals going about their business in the assurance of perfect safety, was offensive to me like the outrageous flauntings of folly in the face of a danger it is unable to comprehend. I had no particular desire to enlighten them, but I had some difficulty in restraining myself from laughing in their faces so full of stupid importance."

He imagined that his journey was like that of the character in the book. He had been molded, shaped into a new creation by his experiences in high school, by the constant veneration from his peers and those his elder. Now he felt somehow better than those around him, how could he even comprehend them? They seemed insignificant in his journey to the top.

But his boat had run ashore. His journey, which had only just begun, resulted in shipwreck.

A math professor he had once referenced with a humorous surname had left him with an 'F' on his virgin transcript.

How could he, perfect, create

something so vile. How could the people who had once showered him with praise accept his blunder? He was a fool to believe in his own perfection.

It is within the brick walls of this jungle that the truth is revealed. Somehow, things are stripped to their reality much faster and time passes relentlessly.

But what could have been done? How could Marlow have avoided such a tragedy? His hubris lies in his prevailing thought. The thought that he could somehow escape this heart of darkness without being changed, without becoming a different person.

I created this crass short story to illustrate a point: Everyone arrives at Tech a success but only those who leave with real knowledge and meaningful relationships leave a success.

Real knowledge, like the ability to discern your priorities and then act according to them or knowing how to trust your struggles with another person, comes from looking inward. These things involve taking a look at who you are, being happy with it, but also having the desire to improve. In today's soci-

ety, nobody is going to tell you that you are a self-serving jerk, you are going to have to figure that out on your own.

The other component of success is on the outside, your relationships with other people. When you work to have meaningful friendships with people at this stage in your life, you will see the benefits well into the future. Friendship is a learning process. How can you expect to be a friend to your wife if you have never been friends with a woman before? How can you expect to work with your boss if you have never taken orders from somebody before?

Georgia Tech will truly lead you into the heart of darkness, a place where your flaws are exposed and you will be broken, broken intellectually, socially or spiritually. But in this brokenness comes opportunity, opportunity to rebuild.

Although in this time of reconstruction you must avoid the temptation of being guided by wild emotions. Instead, your relationships and search for knowledge should come from your head as well as your heart.

It's ok to pursue friendships with members of the opposite sex in order to learn more about them. You don't have to turn off your brain and wait for your heart to leap with love.

Do these ramblings have a point? Yes. That understanding yourself is vital to your experience at Georgia Tech. There are two paths, build the knowledge of yourself and maintain your strength or face brokenness and rebuild.

Forgiveness of facilitator? Knowing when to say when

This year's entering freshman class demonstrates Tech's growing reputation in fields other than engineering. Significantly more students enrolled in non-Engineering colleges this semester, including Management, 37 percent, Science, 15 percent and Ivan Allen, 30 percent.

With the entering class more evenly distributed between qualitative and quantitative minds, the 2001 school year promises to expand an already diverse culture and challenge some of the more historical stereotypes that brand the Institute.

Many of the first-time students entering in the fall are clamoring to jumpstart their education, secure high paying careers, or parade their newly acquired independence. They are bombarded with choices, decisions and judgements they are expected to make within a minute window of time—and they're excited about it. What's your major? What organizations are you interested in joining? What career are you hoping to secure? Within which industry? What company? Britney or Christina?

Anyone recently separated from a known and comfortable environment can suffer from sensory overload and experience the mind's irritating ability to lose its once sound decision-making capabilities—in the most crucial moments, no doubt. The mantra "If you haven't failed at something, then you aren't trying anything new" was never truer than for a college student.

Yet practically all students are aware of and expect what is typically known as the "college experience." They have learned about the haz-

"Forgiveness is not condoning because it does not excuse harmful behavior, it merely handles it."

Emily Cavender
Focus Editor



ardous effects of binge drinking, they know the safety precautions to protect themselves against date rape and they are individualistic to a fault, scoffing at peer pressure and social facilitation.

Miraculously, students are harnessing and commanding their right to be extraordinary. They are also asking for help when needed and wearing their self-confidence like a merit badge on their scuffed up Beastie Boys' book bag.

Students at Georgia Tech are driven mercilessly to exceed even the most preeminent expectations. They thrive on Tech's rigorous academic requirements and commit themselves to excellence. They accept responsibility for their actions and refuse to risk that free ride of a scholarship or those super cool early registration rights.

What students fail to think about, however, are the consequences of the decisions that they do not make. More specifically, students rarely react to the decisions of their peers.

Understanding and predicting how to act in a social situation can be a frustrating and complex guessing game. Making a first impression is important, especially when you are just starting out, don't know

that many people and are lonely—loneliness being the motivator that brought you out of your dorm in the first place.

So you ask yourself, should you attempt to blend chameleon-like into the group, or be bright and unique, wowing them with your personality.

When you are the new kid on the block, you tend not only to be less discriminating but you also reserve judgement—settling for the best alternative available.

This is especially the case when students fail to respond to the negative actions of others (even when they disapprove)—"an inaction," if you will.

Take academic misconduct for instance. By witnessing a student cheat and deciding not to come forward, you have indirectly made a decision—the decision of silence. You are, in essence, a facilitator to academic misconduct, a bystander. Your inaction prompts a reaction. You send a message that academic misconduct is acceptable and that integrity has no worth.

If, on the other hand, you continuously pick up your alcoholic friend from the bar down the street because they are too drunk to drive

home, you're a good friend who forgives the indiscretions of the people you care about, right? You want to ensure that they get safely home. Yet are you still a facilitator to their vice? Are you providing the means to the demise? Specifically, what is your response to the web of cause and effect relationships that promote negative actions? Facilitator or forgiveness? When is enough, enough?

Let's backup. Forgiveness is the process in which one person renounces resentment about an offense and is freed to extend good will to the offender. Forgiveness is different from reconciliation and pardoning in that it does not involve punishment and deals with an offense in a helpful, positive manner.

Forgiveness does not require reconciliation. You can forgive an alcoholic parent without reconciling. Forgiveness is more a decision to let go of anger, aggression and resentment towards another and decide to no longer facilitate that which hurts both the offender and the offended. It does this by releasing the forgiver from the offense.

So why are we facilitators? That's easy, right? Who would let their best friend drive home drunk?

You see, forgiveness is not condoning because it does not excuse harmful behavior, it merely handles it. Yet there is a critical point when inaction (refusal to participate in the act itself, but providing a means for the actions to take place) jeopardizes your own integrity and you must sanction yourself.

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Optics

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research institute in the nation. It has among its faculty members researchers who are well-known and respected worldwide. Many of them spend their lives dedicating their time to their research. Characterizing any field of research as “sexy” is lacking the respect that all these researchers deserve. Publishing or patenting research work is a long and tedious process that requires much more than the primal reproduction instinct. Further, research and engineering require accuracy and correctness. Before being published, any work is thoroughly reviewed. The researchers seek truth and consistency in their results. Reporting wrong information about any research group’s work is lacking the seriousness and the rigor that accompanied the research all along its steps.

As far as the quality of the writing is concerned, I also believe that English offers so many more beautiful ways of expressing one’s opinion or feeling than those used in your article. Fiber optics is neither “darn cool” nor “sexy”. Fiber optics, like all research fields, is fascinating, is very impressive, has significant applications, transforms our lives, surprises our present, leads our future, is beautiful, is inspiring, is the next generation computing

technology, is the primary medium for telecommunication...etc

Last, but not least, Dr. Gaylord has earned a Ph.D. degree from Rice University. Since then, he has been the author or the coauthor of more than 200 journal papers. He was awarded on May 19, 2001 an Honorary Professional Physics degree from the University of Missouri which recognizes the numerous accomplishments of his professional career. Consequently, I would expect at least one title in front of his name when he is mentioned as being part of the picture because he is a well-known and respected man among Georgia Tech and among scientists.

I truly appreciate the effort of the *Technique* to spend some time on presenting the research that is carried on at Georgia Tech. I believe that this rubric could be even better if the seriousness and the rigor that the research requires are applied to the writing of the articles. This should render the material even more interesting and inspiring to all readers of the *Technique* and would be more suitable with the standards of Georgia Tech.

Carole Montarou
Graduate Research Assistant
gt0329e@prism.gatech.edu

Forgiveness

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After countless and endlessly forgiving, you eventually become vulnerable. You are allowing the behavior to continue and providing a means for its survival. Although it is always difficult to remove yourself from a situation in which you have a personal investment, your involvement could very well be the oasis in the desert.

As freshman arm themselves for the Tech experience, they must also appreciate the importance of what

they decide not to partake of. Removing yourself from what could ultimately be a disastrous situation, or rejecting apathy in favor of dedication and commitment, is not a cowardly action, but an action conducted with foresight.

The fact is that forgiveness and facilitation are often one in the same and in order to break the cycle of manipulation we must learn when to say when.

CSU student offers perspective on entering college

By Nicole Kucewicz
Rocky Mountain Collegian

(U-WIRE) Colorado State U.—The first week of school can determine how well one will do academically the rest of the year. For a lot of people, if the year is started with procrastination, it is extremely hard to veer out of that path and get focused.

Many students expect to party and have fun the first week of classes and then concentrate on academics for the rest of the year. However, the amount of people that actually follow through with this plan is entirely different.

Coming back to school is supposed to be about catching up with old friends and making new ones. While engorging in all of the fun and excitement, the thought of why we are actually here should always be imprinted in one’s mind. There is definitely nothing wrong with having fun and partying as long as the focus on school isn’t lost. However, many times it is.

Being a college student can be overwhelming and frightening. Fear of life and growing up intimidates people, and to deal with that fear, they ignore it by partying and slacking off.

It is normal to be scared in the first few years of college because it’s a new adventure that is to be explored individually. Everyone has to deal with the independence that comes with moving away from home and becoming an adult. But with age comes experience, and

after a short period of time, the fear goes away. “I’ve learned better time management because I’ve learned to balance everything out from previous years,” said Colorado State University senior speech communications major Elizabeth Brady.

A lot of risks are being taken when parties become a priority. Students risk doing poorly in academics. With that comes the threat of getting kicked out of school, and because of this, students risk their reputation with their parents and other family members.

“The most reliable way for freshmen to get into trouble is to miss class and party too much,” said Director of Judicial Affairs Anne Hudgens.

A lot of times, substance abuse addictions begin in college when the items are easily accessible. There is less involvement from parents in college students’ lives than there was in high school, due to distance and age.

When people depart for college, they leave the nest and are then forced to conquer the world on their own. They have to make their own decisions and face the consequences.

Many freshmen face these consequences during the first weeks of school. They get caught possessing alcohol and illegal substances.

“Freshmen don’t realize how strictly the rules are enforced, especially because they are dealing with a much bigger system than

high school. Because they are adults, there is much less leeway,” said Jim Weber, assistant director for the Center for Drug and Alcohol Education at CSU. Some consequences come from getting in trouble with the law. Whenever there is a party, a student risks the chance of running into the police. But students shouldn’t think of the police as monsters.

“The Fort Collins Police Department is cool,” Brady said. “They know what to expect because it is a college town.”

Incoming freshmen don’t really know what to expect during the first week or even during their first year of school. A lot of learning comes from going with the flow of what other people are doing and learning to adjust other people’s habits to fit your own needs.

“I’ve heard that the first week is the best because there’s a lot going on socially,” said Kacey Kiggins, a freshman open option major. “I’m not expecting to screw around too much but work on getting into the routine. I am going to have fun this week because there’s not a whole lot to do class wise.”

For people like Kiggins, having fun is part of the college world. As long as students don’t lose sight of why they are attending CSU and what they want to accomplish, then having fun shouldn’t pose a problem. So keep an eye out. When partying starts taking the place of studying, you may be in trouble.

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