



OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Déjà vu

The Campus Recreation Center (CRC) and the Student Center have once again put the Student Government Association (SGA) in a difficult position by requesting an additional \$283,680 for next year's budget. This brings their combined request to \$2.6 million out of the total \$3.2 million available from the Mandatory Student Activity Fee (MSAF). The increased requests could jeopardize funding for Tier 3 organizations, which include sports clubs, cultural organizations and academic clubs. As a laudable first step toward increasing awareness and gauging student opinion, SGA has scheduled a Town Hall meeting at the Campanile on Nov. 18.

This situation is all too familiar. It was just one year ago that the CRC asked SGA for an additional \$500,000 to cover the increased operating costs and salaries it faced due to expanding the facility. In addition, organizations moving to the Student Center Commons asked for more money to cover moving expenses. SGA faced a \$600,000 deficit and the likelihood that it would be unable to fund any Tier 3 organizations. Ultimately, the budget crisis was averted at the eleventh hour by the Board of Regents' decision to grant a \$12 increase in the MSAF and the unexpected increase in freshman enrollment. Even so, the increased requests caused major headaches for SGA and organizations alike during the budgeting process.

At the time, SGA promised to investigate long-term solutions to handle both the increasing financial demands of the CRC and the needs of Tier 3 organizations. Proposals at the time included the idea of splitting the CRC portion off from the MSAF, which could insulate Tier 2 and Tier 3 organizations from CRC budget increases. Apparently, when the immediate crisis was averted, these proposals were left on the shelf to collect dust.

This year the solution should not be to lobby for another fee increase. The time has come for SGA and administrators to find a permanent solution, not just settle for a quick or easy fix. It is time to face the painful, but very real possibility that students in SGA, with their short terms and limited financial experience, lack the expertise, the time and the power to scrutinize budget requests from such large organizations. An independent auditor, outside of SGA, the CRC and the Student Center, should be responsible for evaluating requests and expenditures. An administrator with real authority must be in a position to judge these requests and force cost-cutting measures when appropriate. Before the student body is asked to pay any more money, it must know with certainty that requests are justified, in the same manner that a public company has a system of checks and balances in place for its stockholders.

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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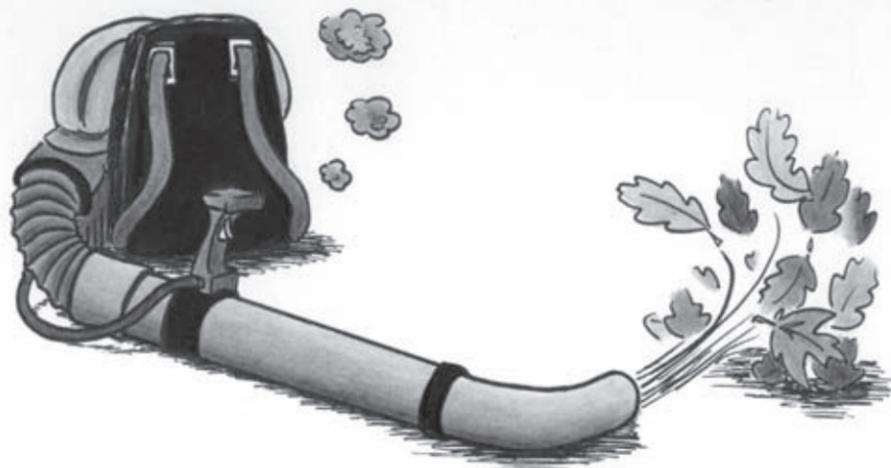
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TECH'S NEW ALARM CLOCK

By Brian Lewis / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Pop music in sad state nowadays

I was browsing through some music headlines the other day and came across a rather disturbing piece of news: Britney Spears, after only five years in the public eye, is releasing a "greatest hits" album. Pardon my naïveté here for a moment, but don't people usually release greatest hits albums after they've been around for a very long time, or is five years about the limit for a successful music career these days?

Actually, don't answer that question. Now that I think about it, with the way that record labels churn out pop confections these days, I guess five years is about the limit for anything so cheaply made. I mean, when you release an album every 10 months or so and are constantly in the public eye for one stupid publicity stunt or another, five years can encompass for today's pop princess what 25 encompassed for the great artists of yore.

Before I go any further though, I feel that I must at least give a nod to the artists out there who refuse to be placed in a mold and who are single handedly upholding the little integrity that popular music has left. They are the reason why I haven't forsaken the mainstream completely and relegated myself solely to obscure bands no one has heard of.

Now that I've gotten that lovefest out of the way, I'll get back to my regularly scheduled indictment of the rest of pop music. The trouble is that, I have so many grievances, I hardly know where to start. At the risk of boring everyone, I suppose I'll start at the easiest place—the beginning.

I grew up listening to what many people consider the classics as far as music goes—the Beatles, the Beach Boys, Creedence Clearwater Revival, the Rolling Stones—the list goes on. Sure, I had exposure to the popular music of the '80s and early '90s, but with only a few notable exceptions, I much preferred the local oldies radio



"Pop music still comes off an assembly line packaged in blonde lip-synching tarts and publicity stunts."

Hillary Lipko
 Entertainment Editor

station over MTV.

As I got older, I became more immersed in the pop culture of my own time and started listening to more and more popular music. At the time, most of it was good stuff, or at least it didn't repulse me. Over time I became a veritable fountain of information regarding pop music.

As time wore on, however, the music I heard on my favorite radio stations became less diverse and I began to like fewer songs.

According to the music industry, it was the era of the teen pop fan. According to me, it was hell. I tolerated it for a while, switching between radio stations any time a song came on that I didn't like and soon not listening to the radio at all. I took refuge in my ever-growing CD and MP3 collection. I had a great system where I'd hear about a band, download a few songs and then add their CD to a list of ones to buy as soon as I got money. It worked pretty well until I got banned from Napster. I didn't like Metallica too much after that.

That was a good five years ago. Fast-forward to the present and things haven't changed too much. Pop music still comes off an assembly line packaged in blonde lip-synching tarts and publicity stunts. What has changed, however, is that there is once again an alternative.

Slowly, bands that break the mold are emerging and bringing hope to those of us who feared that their kind was gone forever. Sadly, however, the mainstream was and

continues to be slow in embracing these bands. On the bright side, however, it seems that somebody, somewhere is becoming wise to the fact that the 15 minutes for the prefab pop confections is nearly up and it's time to cash in on their prior success one last time—hence the Britney Spears "greatest hits" album.

While I've only really addressed my own disenchantment with the music industry, there exists so many other issues that are contributing to the decline of the music business as we know it. The industry's refusal to embrace advances in technology hurt them greatly for years after the emergence of the MP3.

Combine those with an economic recession, an end to the need to replace an analog music collection with a digital one, a flat out decline in the release of good new music and a refusal to change an outdated business model and you've got a pretty clear picture of how bad things are looking right now.

The cure, it seems, is a sort of revolution within the industry. Artists are breaking away from major record labels and forming or joining independent ones. In a way, an industry that started out as many small record labels and eventually evolved into a few huge conglomerates is coming full circle.

To musicians and music fans alike, I hope the revolution is successful. To the pop acts who are more product than substance, compile your "greatest hits" now, time is running out.

Decades later, Tech wrestles over same old issues

Things are always changing. Things never change. Can these lame philosophical clichés coexist? Answering this question is easy when you have an entire library of *Technique* archives at your disposal. So let's take a trip back in time and look at the headlines from this month in 1973.



"So let's take a trip back in time and look at the headlines from this month in 1973."

Art Seavey
Development Editor

Page 2, Nov. 16. "SAC-70 committee makes plans." For all of you upperclassmen who fondly called their old workout facility the SAC, then subsequently made repeated sexual jokes using the name, here we find the acronym's genesis. The name SAC-70, or the Student Athletic Complex 1970, referenced the target-construction date. Keep in mind this article was printed in 1973. Like our current CRC, it too had major setbacks and carried a hefty price tag that would greatly affect campus finances.

Page 10, Nov. 9. Here's an advertisement for an abortion. They appeared regularly in the paper. Granted, this is right after *Row v. Wade*, but could you imagine seeing an ad like this in the *Technique* today? Despite being totally legal, such an ad seen by our alien-to-me conservative student body would certainly cause uproar.

Page four, Nov. 9. "Alumni exert power again, push for easy 'jock' major." This editorial,

although admittedly not supported with numbers or hard facts, claims that alumni, faced with a losing football season, were putting pressure on the Institute to lessen requirements for the School of Industrial Management.

It reads, "The alumni who support these changes say that since Tech recruits from the academically depressed South, we cannot expect to find smart jocks." The editorial resulted in two lengthy letters from professors in the Biology and English departments, denouncing any attempts to dumb down the curriculum. Tech's sports teams are always said to embody the "student-athlete ideal." Yet repeatedly we hear the barrage of insults against non-engineering majors or the uttering of the M-train slur. This divide didn't just appear overnight.

Page six, Nov. 9. Here I found an advertisement for what looks to be part of Sally Rickett's

campaign to become a freshman representative. "SHE WILL REPRESENT YOU!!!" it reads. Perhaps things have changed on this front. The lackluster campaigning of both the graduate and undergraduate senators and representatives, respectively, this year and the last has left much to be desired.

Now, reading the current *Technique's* council clippings we see that the undergraduate house's attendance is greatly slipping. As we saw with the recent tuition hike, the student body had to rely solely on the student executives in the house; our representatives were nowhere to be seen.

Page four, Nov. 9. A catchy consensus editorial entitled "Santa Claus" begins the opinions section. The column reads "Garry Williamson, council treasurer, said recently that the council usually 'does not bat an eyelash' at any expenditure of less than \$10,000. The council

simply is not equipped to decide whether the organization's proposals deserve the money requested... Santa Claus should only be seen on Christmas Eve." We don't need to bring up this year's sign issue again. But the column does have a helpful, timeless piece of advice, "The *Technique* suggests that the council screen the organizations requesting money after the regular yearly allocations a little more carefully."

Page 9, Nov. 2. Here's a column in response to a posting on a complaint sheet tacked on a bulletin board. The original complaint read, "The guys on the Tech campus always go off campus to get dates. Why dammit? There are a lot of coeds, if they would just take the time to open their eyes." Tech guys complained about the same things back then, "...all girls at Tech just want to be friends," or "...all girls at Tech are on the make for potential husbands," said the column. But even then, the girls had a quick comeback, "Most of [the guys] look like refugees when they come to class."

Human drama supposedly never changes. Just taking a short look back, it seems in many ways, we're not so different from our funkier counterparts 31 years ago. Hey, somehow the Varsity is still around.

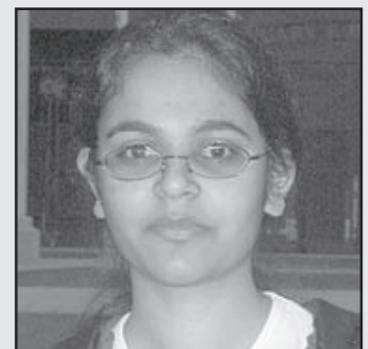
BUZZ Around the Campus What's your favorite place to go off-campus?



David Blanton
MGMT Fourth-year
"Rocky Mountain, they have \$1.50 woo-woos and Mellon-balls everyday."



Dhaval Patel
EE Freshman
"Regal 54 because its one of the places I get to lose the woes of school."



Karishma Jiva
CMPE Freshman
"Centennial Olympic Park b/c it's nice, quiet and the water show is amazing."



Erin Ramsey
ME Second-year
"Waffle House because they put the cherries in the cokes."

Photos by Lauren Griffin

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Ballers in the media

Finally after years of being dismissed in the media in favor of other high-profile ACC teams, the men's basketball team is getting the respect it deserves. Luke, B.J., Jarrett and crew are becoming media darlings, appearing in national print & television media outlets from ESPN to Sporting News. We hope that the preseason spotlight doesn't spoil these talented athletes and make them feel overconfident.

Parking Vandals

Our campus parking decks have been the persistent victim of broken parking arms. But this time vandals have gone too far in Curran Parking Deck. Not only has the wooden gate been broken off, but the gate's mechanical frame is ruined. These acts only hurt students in the form of increased fees and parking squatters. Maybe the time has come for metal arms or tire spikes.



President Red Zone

Defying the odds, Dan Richard has won his campaign to become the next president of Old Spice's Red Zone Bodywash. As part of his "presidential" duties, Richard is appearing in national commercials for the product, and he will also receive a free trip to Hawaii. Now if only we could all tag along on the trip.

Blowhards

As if getting enough sleep wasn't enough of a challenge already, students now have to deal with obnoxious leaf blowers before 10 a.m. with increasing frequency. Now that winter has arrived, it is time for the leaf blowers to stop blowing leaves in the early morning. The gas guzzlers frankly are just rude.

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Broadcasting sexuality a must

[Editor's note: This letter is in response to the Nov. 5 article on the College Republicans letter to GTCOW]

In their letter to GTCOW, the College Republicans write that the gay community "broadcasts" its sexuality while straight people do not, but the Republicans never stop to wonder why.

Let this, as the College Republicans call it in their letter, "radical homosexual" tell you why. We "broadcast" our presence because if we do not, we will never gain the equal rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution.

Consider the two largest civil rights movements in United States history: women and blacks. Neither group gained equal rights until they made themselves noticed, until they "broadcast" their presence. Only after years of public, organized struggle and protest did these groups gain equal rights in law, if not in fact.

We must make ourselves

noticed if we want America to recognize our plight and take action against the bias that we face today in society and law. We must be loud and proud just as women and blacks were so many years ago.

Heterosexuals, despite what the College Republicans claim, also "broadcast" their sexuality. From the moment we are born until we die, we are surrounded and indeed bombarded by straight sexuality. We accept it as the norm only because it is so deeply ingrained.

Every American in this country is entitled to equal protection under the law. Until gays have the same rights, including civil marriage, as those enjoyed by heterosexuals, we will continue to "broadcast" our existence in our effort to fight and defeat the agenda of injustice promoted by the Republicans wherever they may be.

William Robinson
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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 or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Daniel Amick, 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

Information and rate cards can be found online at www.nique.net. The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is noon on Friday, one week prior to publication. For rate information, call our offices at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved over the phone. The *Technique* office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 353 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Corey Jones at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary Wells at (404) 894-2830.

Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email editor@technique.gatech.edu.

Arguments against GTCOW unfounded

In last week's article about the College Republicans' letter, Britton Alexander of the College Republicans was quoted as saying that GTCOW's Sex for Ramblin' Wrecks sex trivia event included "an instructional course on how to masturbate."

This is completely false, absurd, and wrong for Alexander to be making such claims. The trivia event covered sexual health issues and was meant to be educational.

Such inaccuracies just go to show how much some people want to undermine Pride Alliance's legitimacy.

Now why is this? I am not one to simply call someone a bigot, but ignorance suits some of these people much better.

It's the most offensive thing for

me to have to hear homosexuality compared to bestiality or even for someone to assume that because I am a homosexual, I must therefore be promiscuous. Please, for such intelligent people as the students at Tech, use some judgement.

The so-called valid arguments against our community can be used against any other group of people in this country. And then 99 percent of the rest of the arguments are inaccurate and false.

No, we didn't choose to be gay. Why would we? No, we don't convert people. People try to convert us "back to the light." No, we're not all promiscuous. But if we're continually repressed into a state of second-class citizenship, some of us resort to alternative means of happiness. Again, this is not unique

to the LGBT community.

Those who make these ridiculous claims about LGBT students at Tech have absolutely no idea what they're talking about in regard to our community.

To anyone who seems to think that Pride Alliance is some bogus "Sex Club" as Alexander has so elegantly labeled us, I challenge you to attend one of our general meetings. Get on our email list. I dare you to try to understand who we are. Because I guarantee you have no idea.

By the way, the heterosexual masses need not be afraid, because Pride Alliance does, in fact, have straight members.

Felix Hu
Chair, GTCOW 04
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For the sake of your brain, pick a job carefully

By Matt Gillum
The Chronicle (Duke U.)

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C.

Before deciding what to do with your time on earth, you ought to see statistics that relate lifetime happiness to job choice.

While career counselors work tirelessly to place you in graduate schools, consulting firms and corporations, they are less disposed to reveal data that reflects levels of insanity among the different professions.

Considering that you will be working in that field for many years, it pays to be informed about its psychological consequences. And with the looming implosion of Social Security, having a satisfying career until death do you part becomes a necessity.

And if you want to maximize your chances for happiness, one career offers the best shot.

In a study of high achievers, researcher Anthony Ludwig found definite trends in the risk for mental disease associated with different career paths.

"Poets have the highest rates for any emotional disorder (87 percent), followed in descending order by fiction writers, actors, nonfiction writers, artists, musical composers and musical performers (68 to 77 percent). Explorers, military officers, politicians and natural scientists have the lowest rates (27 to 35 percent). Overall, 72 percent of artistic types, 49 percent of social types, 41 percent of investigative types and 39 percent of enterprising types suffer from

some form of mental illness over the course of their lives."

But even if you are not a budding poet, there remains a 32 percent chance that you will develop a mental illness someday. And this bitter statistic holds for every profession—except one.

Within this astounding group, Ludwig recorded no cases of anxiety, depression, melancholia, mania, schizophrenia-like psychosis, pathological anxiety, somatic dysfunction or stress reactions. Indeed, explorers enjoy superb mental health relative to members of other fields.

Since sanity largely depends on living in accord with human nature, it is reasonable to suggest that they behave in ways more compatible with our evolutionary heritage. And, in fact, this seems to be the case.

Primitive hominids blessed with a taste for novelty, discovery and adventure gained an advantage in prehistory by finding superior environments, technologies and buxom virgins.

Consequently, this legacy endures in us today. If we ignore it, we do so at our own peril, doomed to become like caged animals, neurotic and pacing our cubicles.

But considering the absence of expeditions recruiting on campus, you must satisfy your primordial need for discovery and new knowledge in other ways. And while it may not be possible to find new continents, the frontiers of possibility remain wide open in other fields.

In the end, we live on this bizarre planet together, and will sink or swim as a single breeding unit.

Flawed voting system damaged election

I am about to graduate in December. As one of my last acts as a student at Tech, I cast my vote for president.

Did it count? I don't know. I am registered to vote in precinct 2p. I showed up at the poll at Tech, precinct 2x, to cast my vote like I did four years ago.

In 2000, I had no problem. This year, my name was not on the registered voters list.

Why? I have no idea. I showed up with my voter registration card, driver's license, passport, birth certificate and social security card.

I was ready to vote and my vote may not be counted. They even checked the master list and I wasn't on that, either. I then went to my precinct to see if I was on their list,

and I wasn't.

Since I was not on the "list," I had to fill out a provisional ballot. This is much like an absentee ballot.

However, after doing some research, I found out that these ballots are usually highly contested and can be thrown out on technicalities.

I also found out that I was supposed to get information on how I can check to see if my provisional ballot was counted and why it may have been thrown out, but I didn't. They were nice enough to supply me with a voter registration application, but that really didn't do me any good.

We have been told that every vote counts in this very close race for president, but is everyone's vote really being counted?

There have been accusations thrown back and forth about people being intimidated into not voting. They are even allowing political parties to send in people to challenge voters' eligibility at Ohio polling places.

There is also the issue of votes of the dead counting and technology problems nationwide. Never have I seen an election that has turned into such a circus.

So with all this going on, will my vote actually count? I may never know. I can only hope that the system will work and my vote will count, but how can you have faith in a system with so many issues?

Ronald Bush
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