Housing changes positive

The Department of Housing is once again making changes to on-campus housing selection. This year, the entire sign-up process will be conducted online. As a result, juniors and seniors will be able to find out if they were assigned a selection number much quicker than in the past.

A completely online process will prove to be beneficial for students. It should be much more efficient, and it will be helpful for students to know their priority in the selection process.

It is also positive that the Housing Department will try to fill more block housing requests than in the past, to create a better sense of community in residence halls. Students should be given the opportunity to live with as many of their friends as possible. However, this focus on block housing could make students who have no one or only one person to room with, feel left out or be given less of an option when choosing a room.

Hopefully, the Housing Department has adequately prepared for the inevitable onslaught that will occur when students are able to begin signing up. By moving the entire process online, the department is relying heavily on the technical ability of its equipment. The system should be completely reliable and efficient so that there is no chance that students' important housing information could be lost.

Re-allocate representatives

There was a proposal in the Undergraduate House of Representatives this week to re-appoint the number of representatives in the House. Two of the problems that have been encountered are that freshmen do not have enough of a direct representational voice and that the senior class is under-represented.

A logical solution to the freshman class’ problem, is to hold elections for freshman class representatives in the fall. As it is now, the freshman class is represented by sophomores who were elected last spring.

If freshmen reps were elected after about one month into the fall of their first year, while they still had an entire year to be freshmen, they would be more likely to be students who are eager to be involved and learn about student government as they go. These students, being still new to the college environment, would most likely be the students who are serious about representing their class and who would not take such responsibility for granted.

The second problem is that the senior class has only three representatives, compared to five reps each for the three other classes. The number of senior reps should be increased to five so that all classes have the same amount of representation.

The senior class has always been large due to the number of students who stay for more than four years. Such a large group of students deserves the same amount of representation as the other classes. This would give all classes equal say in the matters that come before UHR, and therefore a more even playing field when it comes to important SGA decisions.

The Undergraduate House of Representatives deals with many important issues, not the least of which is the allocation of money. When so many important decisions are being made so that all groups of students is at a disadvantage.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.
Olympics not one event, need many broadcasters

The last couple of weeks I have watched the Olympics on and off. Every time my only choice is whatever NBC decides to broadcast at that particular moment. It’s a far cry from the option of CNBC, but that is mostly hockey. I sit down to watch a Special Olympics or a wheelchair basketball event, and 50% of America I have one choice. NBC brought exclusive rights to the Olympics bordering on a monopoly.

Exclusivity rights are quite common in the sports broadcasting business. Forbush bought exclusive rights to the British Open so that he could show the only station able to broadcast the big game. The same thing happens in other more major sporting events. Most major sporting events have only one event in one place at one time, and can easily be covered by one network.

With a single linear event it makes sense for one network to cover the entire game. The game is always on and the audience does not miss part of the game or anything else going on. There is unlimited space for camera crews, announcers and producers. Fox can deliver almost everything a person could want to see in the Super Bowl without wanting to see the entire game.

The Olympics, however, are not one single event. There are concurrent simultaneous events going on. Slalom, hockey and speed skating all happen at different times. There is a lot of planning and preparation that must take place. They end up giving each a few minutes in the spotlight, and then they must pack up their equipment and move to the next event. The network must pack up their equipment and move to the next event.

The Olympic games are not like the Super Bowl. They are more like college football. No network signs exclusive rights to the NCAA football games; it would be too much for them to do that. There are too many different games, and people do not always want to watch the same game with the same teams. If NBC bought exclusive rights to NCAA football, there would be three different networks broadcasting a game, with Georgia Tech having a very slim chance of ever making an appearance. Or maybe the SEC Networks could show time-delayed action from a dozen games. You would sit around the TV and hope that the network that interests you, just like you must now wait for three hours to find out how much speed skating will be covered.

If multiple networks could drive up the events, then a simple switch to the channel you prefer could give you speed skating for an hour. With an exclusive NCAA contract, there would be no regional broadcasts of a local popular team. If the biggest match up in the country was Nebraska-Colorado, there would be no way a low ranked Georgia-Georgia Tech game would make it on.

Luckily, since they are split up between stations, all NBC might have the big national game, but someone else broadcast the game of interest. Is the hometown hero trying to qualify for Super G at the same time it is racing finals on? A good luck finding anyone to cover the Games from being watched by as many people that would like to watch them.

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Tech allows students to learn and grow in many creative ways

Sir Isaac Newton claimed that he saw further because he stood on the shoulders of giants. Well that sounds nice, but to me it seems just a little too easy. You don’t just walk up to a giant and say I want to be raised up on your shoulders and let you see everything you can see.

I would expect a rigorous period of familiarization and trust building before I stood on anyone’s shoulders. I would learn to identify with and understand their strength and how I was using it. I would expect to slip and fall off the giant multiple times before I finally established upon him a secure footing.

In the lecture halls at Tech, it’s not uncommon for students to be numbed into a state of perpetual daydreaming. You mindlessly copy down notes in front of the professor’s voice buzzes in the distance. You retain a vague hope that you might see an occasional flash of understanding when you’re not busy daydreaming, you’ll revisit and actually learn the material.

And the problems that show up on your exams might be distantly related to the problems you went over in class and homework. You might even see a question in the homework that you didn’t hear in class, or that made no sense at the time you were being taught it.

Just to be clear, I am not picking on the professors. Many professors and workbooks seem to have had large segments of crucial information and explanations glossed over and even the simplest concepts seem to be explained in ways that are confusing, if possible, if they’re explained at all.

I am quite convinced that my chemistry lab manual was muddled and stripped of much of great importance. For me to really understand the chemical reactions at times it was almost painful. Instead of carefully absorbing formulaic foreign methods of problem solving, learning the hard way and then finding the fun and reward of the grand evolution of scientific knowledge. And you have to watch them split up between stations, now NBC might have the big national game, but someone else broadcast the game of interest. Is the hometown hero trying to qualify for Super G at the same time it is racing finals on? A good luck finding anyone to cover the Games from being watched by as many people that would like to watch them.

Following Friday’s issue. Any letters not delivered to the Editorial Board of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. No part of this publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. The deadline for reserving ad space and advertising information includes a campus box number or other identification of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, in the United States, is the Georgia Tech, or the University System of Georgia.
In the February 15th article concerning the Academic Misconduct Review Committee, Professor August Giebelhaus is quoted as saying that until ‘Word’ is "changed," there can be no addressing any other academic misconduct problems. I submit that this is a nonsensical view of the issue.

For example, the current rush of College of Computing cases is not attributable to Word, rather, it stems from inappropriate collaboration between students. To cite another example, in some courses, especially laboratory courses requiring extensive technical reports, use of Word often leads to clear signs of misconduct that make it easier to catch offenders. If there is a cancer at Georgia Tech that threatens the academic environment, it is a lack of respect, either of students for faculty or vice versa, or of students for themselves.

When a student doesn’t respect a class, the class becomes an exercise in getting a passing grade instead of a learning opportunity. On the other hand, Word is only “dangerous” when a professor doesn’t take the time to provide challenging assignments for each new term.

For example, in the College of Computing, a possible solution would be to make the first several assignments be more open-ended, with many solutions. Then it doesn’t appear to students that there is only “one right answer” and, if they don’t know it, that the only way they can get it is to get it from someone else. Of course, if a student doesn’t respect himself enough to believe that he can learn the material without resorting to cheating, then that student is a prime target for misconduct, Word or not.

There is no excuse for academic misconduct. Wherever there is choice, there is responsibility, and the decision to cheat is a conscious one. Likewise, the presence of Word is no excuse for faculty to throw up their hands and say academic misconduct is an inaddressable problem. Surely the faculty and students of Georgia Tech are intelligent and creative enough to tackle the issue of cheating in ways that will strongly enhance and support academic excellence.

Let us let this time of introspection and controversy be a time of opportunity and reform. Let us now choose to change and improve those things over which we have control and overcome those things outside our reach, like the existence of Word, with thoughtful and inventive new procedures and policies.

Nathan Cook
nec579w@prism.gatech.edu

Word is only ‘dangerous’ when a professor doesn’t take the time to provide challenging assignments for each new term

“Word is only ‘dangerous’ when a professor doesn’t take the time to provide challenging assignments for each new term”

Compared to many other American colleges, Tech can boast of relatively heavily “town gown” relations. Despite a few rifts in the past, such as last year’s disputes between Home Park residents and their student neighbors, Tech students have enjoyed a good reputation in Atlanta. At the worst, Tech students go unnoticed amidst the throngs of crowded humanity between Buckhead and Downtown, the perimeter and the airport.

If anything, Tech’s stellar academic reputation bestows a certain aura around Tech students that conveys diligence, discipline and dedication, regardless of whether these qualities hold true for individuals. In the Atlanta job market, Tech offers a seemingly endless supply of attractive hires for the city’s technology and engineering firms. Our reputation for excellence precedes us to the job market, and potential employers recognize the quality of Tech engineers.

While this seemingly fine arrangement may benefit engineers seeking local employment, what about the non-engineers at Tech, or those that look for a future farther from the arms of alma mater? Along with Tech’s reputation as a breeding ground of bright engineering students, Atlantans and those beyond the city can also associate Tech with the things it is not. Amidst the accolades, could there be a more...
**Question of the week**

In honor of Presidents’ Day:
“Who is your all-time favorite U.S. president, and why?”

**Stephanie Belcher**
MSE Junior
“Teddy Roosevelt because he’s very inspirational.”

**Michael Johnston**
IE Freshman
“I’d have to say FDR. He was a pioneer in international relations.”

**Arum Balasundaram**
ECE Grad
“Clinton—I think he is a good orator and seems broad-minded.”

**Caroline Seabrook**
Physics Freshman
“Lincoln, because he was the most honest politician that we had.”

**LaShawnta Beedles**
CompE Junior
“George Washington because he set a lot of precedents.”

**Qeiu Chan**
BC Sophomore
“My favorite would be Franklin Roosevelt; he greatly contributed to the U.S. economy.”

**Feature and Photos by**
Andrew Saulters

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**Facts**

From page 6

able to discern the identities of the vehicle’s occupants, he would have called in a suspicious person. Officer Ricker has received only compliments during his distinguished service at Georgia Tech.

Mr. Kehuti asserts that police departments are racist and thus his complaint would not be “heard.” He has no evidence of Officer Ricker’s actions yet he firmly concludes he’s a “House Negro” that is being persecuted. He has no knowledge of GTPD traffic enforcement statistics before/after the winter break robberies yet he can publish claims of profiling.

Such statements defile Black History Month’s recognition that persecution is deleterious. Simply declaring all investigations prima facie racial in nature harms the unity for which “our ancestors died.”

One of history’s greatest egalitarians, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., remarked, “The marvelous new (awareness) which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.”

Jonathan Friedman
gte861p@prism.gatech.edu

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Email us with your views. Send mail to opinions@technique.gatech.edu or editor@technique.gatech.edu