GT SMART lacks smarts

GT SMART seems to be spending too much of its grant on full page colored ads and personnel instead of directly addressing the problem of binge drinking. The leadership of the group needs to focus on taking action, not simply preparing maps of drinking hot spots and new ads. Right now, students perceive the GT SMART campaign as wasteful and ineffectual. Why? Is it because they do not recognize a drinking problem on campus, or because they do not believe GT SMART is taking the right steps to address it? That is the question GT SMART must first answer before it can be truly effective.

They have a tough task in front of them; they need to set realistic goals and take steps to achieve them. In some way, binge drinking affects everyone and so the actions, or inactions, of GT SMART should be a concern to all members of the Tech community.

Housing makes good move

The small change housing has made concerning postponing move outs and room changing to overlap on the Sunday after finals will really help students. The new clarification better reflects what students did all along; it’s good to see housing respond to what students want.

SGA advice and lessons

Congratulations to incoming SGA officers and representatives. The recent election and experiences over the past year serve as a reminder of a few key points:
- Trey, as GSS president, do not veto things by flipping a coin.
- Go to all the meetings you are supposed to.
- Find out what your constituents want and work towards those goals.
- Potential candidates for next year’s election, take note: a well-run campaign can and will win you an office. Of course, the cow helped too.

Atlanta: an American city with true sense of charm

I’d like to address Jennifer Hinkel’s article about Atlanta not being up to par with London as a “world class metropolis.” First, the comparison of Atlanta to London is not only unfair and absolutely ridiculous, but also shows that she obviously hasn’t been to any other major city outside these two, nor has she weighed the cons of living in a crowded, expensive city like London for more than one weekend. I mean, does she even know what a concrete jungle is?

Had she visited a city called New York, which is clearly more comparable city to London in the so-called “cultural sense,” she would maybe have the sense to know a) that Atlanta is clearly not a “concrete jungle” and b) one should not expect to find the same variety of European tourist attractions and eateries in the U.S. Of course you will find plays like The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Abridged in London, but many Broadway plays like Phantom, and Les Misérables can be found playing right here in Atlanta. There are theaters like the Alliance Theater and Symphony Hall to name a few.

As for dining, you can find many fine restaurants staffed with European trained chefs in Atlanta and I’ve found all kinds of restaurants offering authentic foods from New York style pizza at Ray’s to fine French cuisine at 103 West. Farmer’s Market in DeKalb has a wide assortment of foods from ALL cultures.

I’ve found all kinds of restaurants offering authentic foods from New York, London or anywhere else worldwide. So please stop spreading the false notion that Atlanta is not a major city and that it is only a stepping stone to London, or vice versa. Residents need to get to know their own city. We’re not saying Atlanta is better than London, but it is far from inferior. It has a true sense of charm.

See Atlanta, page 10

GSS shows lack of respect for undergrads

I would have agree with the Graduate Executive’s response to Melissa Matassa’s charge that the Graduate Student Government is inefficient. They are so efficient that they rarely extend their one-hour meeting time to consider bills of importance.

They are not to be faulted for their efficiency; but they should be faulted for their tradition, as a legislative body, for being divisive, insensitive and out of touch with the needs of the campus. Graduate President Grant Jenman’s own divisiveness was evidenced when he threatened to “veto” the Women’s Awareness Month bill and railroading his fellow graduate students into almost unanimously failing it. If Mr. Jenman was so concerned with obeying Robert’s Rules of Order, he would have raised his hand and waited to be recognized before spouting his disdain for the WAM bill during the March 13th Graduate Student Senate meeting.

Additionally, Ms. Matassa’s bill was “in order,” and not special consideration, as Grant’s letter to the editor last week suggests. No motion was taken in that meeting to waive the bylaws. No group was inconvenienced, as a result of GSS’s consideration of the WAM’s bill, with the possible exception of the representatives from Women’s Awareness Month. WAM sent representatives to every meeting for week on end, as they patiently waited for their bill’s consideration. Melissa Matassa’s letter a couple weeks ago was not “sour grapes,” as the Graduate Exec intimates, but instead a protest of the lack of respect shown to undergraduate students.
MIT recently announced plans to put all course materials for their entire curriculum online, complete with exams, problem sets, readings, and assignments. The project, called MIT OpenCourseWare, would allow anyone with a net connection to learn the same material as MIT students for free without course credit. Should Georgia Tech follow their example and launch a similar project? It's a great idea and that we should defi-

nitely consider doing something like this. However, some people would be bothered by the de-privatization of our precious education here at Tech. Launching this type of project has quite a few implications.

On Winning

“...Students should expect to have this type and amount of information available online, not just for the few who can afford it...”

Matt Flagg
Editor Online Reader

Enrolled. Suddenly those that can’t afford to go to Tech, couldn’t get accepted, or simply only care for a very specific topic can learn course material in a format that is extremely similar to actually attending. Think about it. The syllabus is there, so the topics at hand are available. The assignments that were the equal challenge is placed on the Net student, and the lecture notes are up for grabs. Everything is structured and style is also out in the open. Having the entire curriculum for a specific class packaged up and ready for free is quite a sweet deal for the wanna-be tech student. Georgia Tech would be high-

ly commended for providing such a civil service and improving the state of education.

Could providing a resource of this scope and value be perceived in a negative light? But, of course. People could construct this project to be a detriment to the value of their education. Those that consider ac-

cademic work to be a privilege could find this project to be a blow to all the hard work producing a curriculum that a textbook covering the mate-
r
rial isn’t available during the time of the course. In this case, similar courses at different schools could thrive off of the availability of this new content. This would be a key bene-

to those who don’t have the time or desire to read the academic jour-

nals that contain exciting new re-

discoveries. But is Georgia Tech’s course Web site a good example of a project that is important enough to include in a college course, but is only available in the journals, students and retired students could use this situation as an excellent opportunity to stay up to date in the subject matter of a particular course. They would have to wait for the publication process of textbooks to be released.

Offering something like MIT’s OpenCourseWare for Georgia Tech students would certainly put a strain on Georgia Tech staff. According to the New York Times, the project would cost MIT $100 million. The construction of this project involves developing the software and servic-
es needed to produce a standard course Web site. Hopefully, Georgia Tech could ride on the coattails of MIT and simply purchase the OpenCourseWare package from MIT after it has been developed, tested, and proven. But even af-

ter Georgia Tech has deployed this service, an extra burden would surely be placed on our staff. Is it necessary to maintain such of a site could be quite a time-consuming task. Plus, it would be necessary to maintain the Web site and change the course content from time to time. This could be a perplexing situation for the staff.

On Getting the Most

I have been disappointed too many times from the lack of structure and out-of-date textbooks that professors have. Planning out a course should already be a strong expectation of every professor. Georgia Tech has a great idea in the works. If it turns out to be a wild success and Georgia Tech still hasn’t considered launching a similar program after the next 5 years, then Georgia Tech could really fall behind in be-

Dena Jamieson, Advertising Manager

Don’t read this; no one will remember it in a year anyway

On Winning

If you are like me, you came to Georgia Tech a winner. Honestly, anyone enrolled has probably been pretty lucky, and pretty good to back that up. I fully intended to win here, as if a diploma was not a de-
ger.

On Friendship

Yes, as the parents predicted, the friends here are probably the best of our lives. What they do not say is that the reason they will be your friends is because they have seen the worst and the best in you. This is your teen angst (which I petition should now be called “twenties” angst). These friends have seen the torned, worst side of you, and have gazed into your eyes on some occasions with affection, and on other occasions with disgust. Nonetheless, they stick by. And a thousand years from now all those things will still be true for the rest of my life.

On Faith

I grew up a minister’s son. It’s something most people don’t know about me. I’ve seen all the extremes of faith since I’ve been at Tech. My friends range from never having be-

lieved in anything, to having be-

lieved as a child but no longer, to

happily the attitude I came in was destined for failure.

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lieved in anything, to having be-

lieved as a child but no longer, to

holding on to their faith but not at-
tending a church, to the few that are so in love with regular church at-
tendance during college. If it’s funny,

college is probably a time when church attendance would really help with stress and perspective, and at the same time it’s a time when we tend to lose track of our roots. If there is anything GE,” tech students say Georgia

On Making a Difference

I once heard Georgia Tech de-
scribed as an ocean. The waves beat down the students. The bold ven-
ture to the deep ocean of swarm-

ness or overhelmed by the strength of the wind. The slackers lay behind on the beach, and in the water. And our student leaders are often ordered to make a difference to this ocean. Can you fathom that? The whole philosophy is flawed. Don’t change Georgia Tech, friends. Spend time on your relationships. Serve Georgia Tech’s proud traditions. If you see something that you can do that might make life here more fun, give it a shot. It is definitely worth a shot. But changing Tech implies there is something inherently wrong here. There isn’t. It’s a fine school. I don’t try to fix everything. Just soak it all in.

On Student Amnesia

My hypothesis is that though we see different names on the diplo-

mas, the same body of students marches through Tech’s doors year after year, regurgitating and recy-

cling the same old story. It runs in cycles: “Parking is heinous. There is nothing new.” Having a standard of higher education.

Those that consider ac-

cademic work to be a privilege could find this situation as an excellent opportunity to stay up to date in the subject matter of a particular course. They would have to wait for the publication process of textbooks to be released.

Offering something like MIT’s OpenCourseWare could be an easy, useful, up-to-date textbook that makes accurate information available for anyone who wishes to use it regardless of student status.
Tech chorus sounds excellent despite hardships encountered

I would like to publicly commend the Georgia Tech chorus members who sang Carmina Burana with the Atlanta Ballet and Symphony during the month of March for their outstanding precision, sound, and overall performance.

Having seen Carmina Burana performed by the baller and other choruses in previous performances, I was dubious about how a chorus from a University without a music department would be able to carry off such a complex piece in a theater without great acoustics. I was very, very pleased to be proven wrong!

I understand from talking to a student in the audience that most of the singers join the Tech chorus as volunteers, earn little to no college credit for their work, and that Tech does not have a proper music facility for choral groups to practice. Under the circumstances, their work is not only to be commended but is phenomenal.

Kudos to every student who is willing to stretch Tech’s “community engineering image” and who is rounding out his/her college experience with a blend of the arts mixed in. You will carry those musical memories with you forever. I hope that all of you realize that you brought a number of your fellow students out to see their first ballet, as well as your fine choral performance.

Keep on singing!

Christiane O’Hara Brennan

GSS from page 8

who come before the Graduate Senate.

Furthermore, Institutions of Higher Learning such as Georgia Tech should be places where students are exposed to unique ideas and encouraged to engage in debate. WAM’s keynote speaker, Judy Chicago, is in line with the mission of such institutions. While she is considered to be controversial, her ideas are titillating and demand discussion.

If we at Georgia Tech are ever to compete with the likes of such institutions as Stanford and MIT, we must embrace the kind of speakers that Women’s Awareness Month promotes.

Becky Glatzer
Former Undergraduate Student
government Member-At-Large,
Public Policy Representative and
Committee Chair
gte385e@prism.gatech.edu

Great April Fools’ issue

I wanted to thank all of the writers who contributed to the April Fools’ edition of the Technique.

I thought it was the best written and funniest issue of the year, and used a lot of current events from which to take witty opinions on. Even the minor details were satirized accurately, and most articles showed a deeper understanding of the world around us than can be found in the Journal-Constitution.

Keep up the good work, staff, if they let you stay on campus that long.

John Rafferty
gte287e@prism.gatech.edu

Write letters!

Make yourself heard! Let people know what’s on your mind! Impress your friends and neighbors! Influence others! Fast cars and glamorous vacations! You may not get these, but you will get your name in the paper! Send your letter (400 words or less, please) to editor@technique or opinions@technique.

Join the Technique. All your base are belong to us.

sometimes I wonder if you really feel the same