Apathy doesn’t have to be part of Tech

Although this may be one of the most overused editorial topics on the face of Tech’s campus, without being able to think of any better ideas, I felt it was an appropriate time for its further discussion. The subject of which I speak is, of course, that extreme apathy of a majority of students at Tech.

Yesterday, I heard that only six percent of the graduate student population voted in the graduate Student Government Association (SGA) elections, and although the under-graduate percentage was much higher, it still didn’t come close to reaching 50 percent. Some would argue that SGA election turnout in no way represents the degree of apathy on campus since everyone knows “SGA doesn’t really do anything, so there’s no need to vote.” However, the problem became even clearer when we at Technique were unable to run a timely story about the run-off. In the future, the Elections Committee should coordinate both the schedule and the advertising in a way more conducive to informing all students about the election’s results.

Elections

The scheduling of this year’s SGA elections made it difficult for students to discover the results of the election. Usually, the elections are open from Monday to Wednesday, allowing the Technique to run the results. Because the elections ended Friday, the deadline of the paper had passed, making it difficult for the student body to find out the results. Even the SGA webpage did not post the results until Tuesday morning.

This year the scheduling was even more of a problem because the presidential election ended in a run-off. The fact that there was a runoff was not well advertised, and, once again, because of the timing of the election, the student body was unable to run a timely story about the run-off. In the future, the Elections Committee should coordinate both the schedule and the advertising in a way more conducive to informing all students about the election’s results.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

Editorial Board

Jody Shaw, Editor-in-Chief
Derek Haynes, Managing Editor
Tony Kluemper, News Editor
Jennifer Schae, Features Editor
Julia Trupk, Entertainment Editor
Sara Cames, Opinion Editor
Katie Neal, Sports Editor
Scott Meuleners, Photography Editor
Karl Guettin, Online Editor
Justin Partlo, Advertising Manager

Copyright Notice

Copyright © 2003, Jody Shaw, Director of Tech and the Board of Student Publications. The Technique is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. No part of this paper may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the Editor or from the Board of Student Publications. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Student Publications, the students, staff or faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University System of Georgia.
Tech lacks adequate education technology

Over the past several years, technology has dramatically changed how we do almost everything. Every industry has been infiltrated by technology to such a degree that without it, the world would cease to function. Why, then, have our colleges and universities, which should be on the forefront of technology, fallen so far behind?

Don’t misunderstand me here. I realize that we have entire schools and departments devoted to studying and advancing technology, especially here at Tech. I’m not saying that the education process as a whole.

For example, classes are still taught using outdated books, notes are often presented using ancient overhead projectors and chalkboards, and students must be at certain places at specific times in order to take a class.

While Tech is better than most of the nation’s universities regarding the implementation of information technology (IT) in the classrooms, there is still a lot of room for improvement. I believe Tech needs to encourage more integration between its education process and technology.

So, what are the reasons for the IT lag at Tech and in the higher education arena in general? I believe many professors and administrators have gotten too comfortable with the tried and easy methods that enable them to do their jobs with less effort. A university cannot successfully implement a change if its workers are resistant to change.

Instead of merely teaching the concepts behind technology and developing students that will one day help advance its boundaries, Tech needs to utilize the technology it possesses to its fullest potential. I realize that this would require a major financial and administrative commitment, but can Tech really afford not to keep itself on the forefront of technology?

Think of the possibilities that would arise if IT were allowed to fully enrich itself in higher education. Students would no longer be bound to one university. Theoretically, a person could take part in a discrete mathematics class at MIT, a biology class at Harvard, an English class from Vanderbilt, and an agriculture class at UGA, all without leaving the comfort of his or her own home. Distance learning already allows students to do this to some extent, but it’s not nearly as utilized and advanced as it should be.

I still believe there are times when on-campus learning is required. For instance, it would be difficult to teach the history of the Mighty Mighty Bosstones in the lab with 30 off-campus students. Students will probably always need a physical campus for some classes, but with other less location-sensitive classes, IT could allow the technology to transform them completely.

The business world has already changed how IT is used in almost every aspect of business. Consumer products are tracked all the way from their production runs in the manufacturer’s facility to the point-of-sale scanners at the checkout counters. Proctor and Gamble knows exactly how many boxes of Tide laundry detergent are on the shelf at any given Wal-Mart store in the country. When a box is purchased, information is sent directly from the checkout counters to P&G’s computer system. When inventory gets low, a new shipment is automatically scheduled.

BMW uses just-in-time manufacturing to reduce its parts inventory. When parts are needed for a production run, the suppliers are notified electronically, and the parts are scheduled to be delivered right when they are needed.

If the business world has embraced technology so fully, why hasn’t higher education? In business, customers demand performance and satisfaction. They take their business to places that provide them the products and services that they require at the most reasonable price. Businesses try to outdo one another and win customers’ business by making things as streamlined and cost-effective as possible.

As students, we are the primary customers of our school. Unless we demand performance, what incentive does Tech and other schools have to implement these changes?

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 addressed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0190, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Jody Shaw, Editor-in-Chief, Georgia Tech.

Advertising Information
Information and rates can be found online at www.technique.net. The deadline for reserves ad space and proofs must be in by noon Friday, one week prior to publication. For more information, call (404) 894-2830. Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved online, please print and mail it. All letters must be submitted to Jody Shaw, Editor-in-Chief, 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 on a Word document. 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 on a Word document. Letters must be submitted to the Editorial Board of the Georgia Tech newspaper; failure to do so will result in non-printing.

Coverage Requests
Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, visit http://nique.net/stuorgguide.pdf.

Molly Ivins
A liberal political columnist from Texas (seems like an oxymoron), Molly Ivins, the speaker at the Ivan Allen Founders Day, fit right into the persona of the speaker, the woman who writes this part of the paper, are Greek. That being said, Greek weeks is no longer an event. Our house is all Greek. That being said, Greek weeks is no longer an event. Our house is all Greek. Greek Party! Have you heard the keg before every event.

OUR VIEWS
Hot or Not

SAD

Despite the unfortunate acronym of SAD, Student Appreciation Day is next week, and it’s about darn time. This event shows students with free food and gifts; no one can argue with that! This year’s event is even better than last year’s, complete with a concert by a known band, the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, in the evening. This one alcohol free event that is definitely worth making to into a tradition.

Dirty campaigning

Although the candidates themselves seemed to refrain from muddling during most of the campaign, the runoffs overcame normal students’ ability to be like decent people. An email circulated to the music list supported one candidate while bashing another, seeming with no evidence. Fair, correct information is needed to make a good choice; such muddling cheapens the SGA elections.

Geek Week

Half of the Technique editorial board, the people who write this part of the paper, are Greek. That being said, Greek weeks is no longer an event. Our house is all Greek. Greek Party! Have you heard the keg before every event.

“Tech needs to encourage more integration between its education process and technology.”

Justin Partio
Advising Manager

“People really like Molly Ivins.”

Molly Ivins

Half of the Technique editorial board, the people who write this part of the paper, are Greek. That being said, Greek weeks is no longer an event. Our house is all Greek. Greek Party! Have you heard the keg before every event.

GEEK WEEK

Buzz

Around the Campus
Will the stadium construction be done for next season?

Kirk Glazer
ME Freshman

“They’ll stop working whether it is finished or not.”

Sherwin Lee
PHY Sophomore

“Maybe by the 2004 season opener.”

Ming Hsu
EE Freshman

“I hope not, because I like to watch the cranes in action.”

Aneesa Ali
EE Freshman

“It will still continue, but it will have to be done enough to have the games.”

 çözüm: 

Tech lacks adequate education technology

Over the past several years, technology has dramatically changed how we do almost everything. Every industry has been infiltrated by technology to such a degree that without it, the world would cease to function. Why, then, have our colleges and universities, which should be on the forefront of technology, fallen so far behind?

Don’t misunderstand me here. I realize that we have entire schools and departments devoted to studying and advancing technology, especially here at Tech. I’m not saying that the education process as a whole.

For example, classes are still taught using outdated books, notes are often presented using ancient overhead projectors and chalkboards, and students must be at certain places at specific times in order to take a class.

While Tech is better than most of the nation’s universities regarding the implementation of information technology (IT) in the classrooms, there is still a lot of room for improvement. I believe Tech needs to encourage more integration between its education process and technology.

So, what are the reasons for the IT lag at Tech and in the higher education arena in general? I believe many professors and administrators have gotten too comfortable with the tried and easy methods that enable them to do their jobs with less effort. A university cannot successfully implement a change if its workers are resistant to change.

Instead of merely teaching the concepts behind technology and developing students that will one day help advance its boundaries, Tech needs to utilize the technology it possesses to its fullest potential. I realize that this would require a major financial and administrative commitment, but can Tech really afford not to keep itself on the forefront of technology?

Think of the possibilities that would arise if IT were allowed to fully enrich itself in higher education. Students would no longer be bound to one university. Theoretically, a person could take part in a discrete mathematics class at MIT, a biology class at Harvard, an English class from Vanderbilt, and an agriculture class at UGA, all without leaving the comfort of his or her own home. Distance learning already allows students to do this to some extent, but it’s not nearly as utilized and advanced as it should be.

I still believe there are times when on-campus learning is required. For instance, it would be difficult to teach the history of the Mighty Mighty Bosstones in the lab with 30 off-campus students. Students will probably always need a physical campus for some classes, but with other less location-sensitive classes, IT could allow the technology to transform them completely.

The business world has already changed how IT is used in almost every aspect of business. Consumer products are tracked all the way from their production runs in the manufacturer’s facility to the point-of-sale scanners at the checkout counters. Proctor and Gamble knows exactly how many boxes of Tide laundry detergent are on the shelf at any given Wal-Mart store in the country. When a box is purchased, information is sent directly from the checkout counters to P&G’s computer system. When inventory gets low, a new shipment is automatically scheduled.

BMW uses just-in-time manufacturing to reduce its parts inventory. When parts are needed for a production run, the suppliers are notified electronically, and the parts are scheduled to be delivered right when they are needed.

If the business world has embraced technology so fully, why hasn’t higher education? In business, customers demand performance and satisfaction. They take their business to places that provide them the products and services that they require at the most reasonable price. Businesses try to outdo one another and win customers’ business by making things as streamlined and cost-effective as possible.

As students, we are the primary customers of our school. Unless we demand performance, what incentive does Tech and other schools have to implement these changes?

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 addressed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0190, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Jody Shaw, Editor-in-Chief, Georgia Tech.

Advertising Information
Information and rates can be found online at www.technique.net. The deadline for reserves ad space and proofs must be in by noon Friday, one week prior to publication. For more information, call (404) 894-2830. Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved online, please print and mail it. All letters must be submitted to Jody Shaw, Editor-in-Chief, 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 on a Word document. 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 on a Word document. Letters must be submitted to the Editorial Board of the Georgia Tech newspaper; failure to do so will result in non-printing.

Coverage Requests
Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, visit http://nique.net/stuorgguide.pdf.
Advisors can help with more than classes

I’m sure that some students picture their academic departments as spending time behind doors plotting ways to give their students the shaft. I found that, instead, the INTA school came up with a fantastic way to help its students not only academically but also in finding internships and good career ideas. After all, academic preparation is only half of the preparation for the “real world”—the other half comes from developing skills and gaining work experience.

The INTA school now has an advisor who offers more than academic counseling, but also helps students find internship opportunities as well. Every department needs this type of advisor. While Career Services and the Co-op/Internship Division are useful departments for working with employers and helping students develop job search skills, an advisor who personally knows students and is aware of the many career paths available within a major can offer what students need. The STAC career advisor is aware of the many career paths personally knows students and with an endless variety of jobs or internships that they could be qualified for. Moreover, Career Services and the Co-op/Internship Division are mainly focused on employment within the state of Georgia (as it should be, as the vast majority of new grads stay nearby, and local companies have always been quick to hire Tech grads.)

When the economy is rough and opportunities are better prepared for the real world. Career advisors at the school could fill a missing link in the career services chain—they could match students with positions, helping students find the opportunities that they need and want. Career advisors at the school could match students with positions, helping students find the opportunities that they want.”

Jennifer Hinkel
Columnist, Technique

Health Center not worst building on Tech campus

You may wish to reconsider your opinion on the new Tech Health Center published in the March 21st issue of the Technique. While it isn’t exactly the greatest building on campus, it is also not complete. They have moved in early in order to accelerate the construction of the CoC expansion.

It is likely that the “jungle gym” which you may have observed on the south side of the building will be a shading device of some sort to cut energy costs and to keep you from melting in the waiting room. A more suitable target for your column may be the deplorable design of the buildings on the campus in general. If we have tons of donated money, why not put it to good use and hire more notable architects? Only two buildings on campus have won awards for their architecture and design in recent years (and one was only for lab design).

Although another campus building has shown up on a cover of a book about lab design, surely Georgia Tech, home of some of the best architectural and civil engineering programs in the country, can do better than that.

David Goodman
gte793u@prism.gatech.edu

No jokes about war

I am writing in regards to an article titled “Clough gives squirrels 48 hour ultimatum” in the April 1, 2003 issue of the Technique.

First of all, I’m not even sure what this article is about. Second, I am an American who supports our troops, but I also realize the sensitivity to the situation that is going on in the Middle East right now. I find this article very disturbing for this reason. I can only imagine what the Arab people at this school think of this.

Are you trying to make a mockery of war, death of our troops, and death of innocent civilians? This article is distasteful and ugly.

I want to remind you and your writers about the memo that Dr. Clough sent a few weeks ago. In paragraphs four and five, Dr. Clough encourages us to be considerate of others and sensitive to diversity during this difficult time. I feel that this article demonstrated a lack of those qualities, and ask that the Technique improve.

Blair Smith
gtg141b@mail.gatech.edu