**OPINIONS**

**OUR VIEWS** Consensus Opinion

**More fraternity hazing**

In the last four years, five fraternities have been found responsible for major violations of Georgia Tech’s policy on hazing. The recent ruling on the Chi Phi violations continues this pattern, leading to concerns about why hazing keeps occurring.

Several trends can be inferred from the high numbers of hazing cases in the past few years. The myriad of reports show that more students have become aware of hazing and its negative effects. The administration has done an adequate job of ensuring that members of the Greek community, as well as the wider Tech community, understand what constitutes proper organization conduct.

The recent case also indicates that some segments of the Greek community have chosen to ignore the students’ and the administration’s message that hazing is harmful to our community and unacceptable. All organizations at Tech should avoid behavior that is coercive and harmful to its members.

Next year, let’s break the pattern of hazing convictions; no organization should participate in illicit activities especially those, such as hazing, that can often cause physical harm.

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**Parking changes not all good**

Although they have increased, the on-campus parking prices for the upcoming year demonstrate the Parking Office’s commitment to keeping costs as low as possible for students. The parking permits will still be cheaper than other comparable modes of transportation, such as MARTA and off-campus parking. Additionally, the online registration system implemented last year continues to improve and provide ease and convenience for students.

Despite Parking’s generally sound planning for this year, its proposal to implement a single-price for all spaces is not logical given the wide disparity in the quality of the parking facilities on campus.

Parking spaces that are in the decks or located in central campus locations should cost more because they are more convenient and therefore, worth more to some students. Without this dual pricing system, students parking in gravel lots or far away from the center of campus will be forced to pay for facilities that they are not able to use. Parking should follow a pricing principle that allows students to pay only for the services and benefits that they use.

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**Arab nations behind Palestinian-Israeli conflict**

The Arab nations are no friends of ours. It was Arab terrorists who perpetrated the atrocities of 9/11 which were greeted with jubilation in the streets of Palestine.

The Muslim despots who rule Iran, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia have no interest in helping the Palestinians achieve statehood. They fund terrorism and incite hatred of Israel, Jews, Christians and the West in general. They are using the smoke-screen of “the Middle East conflict” as an excuse to avoid helping us bring about a regime change in Israel.

The Arabs are responsible for the misery of the Palestinian people. They started the wars that caused the refugees to flee, and they have continued to keep the refugees’ descendants living in poverty. Jordan and Egypt controlled the West Bank and the Gaza strip between 1948 and 1967. Why didn’t the Arabs accept Israel’s offer to exchange land for peace in the years immediately following the June, 1967 war?

In contrast to black South Africans under apartheid, Israeli Arabs vote and have representatives in the Knesset. Arabs attend Israeli universities and have the same access to health care as any other Israeli. Palestinians lost their right to be treated like”martyrs” who have earned rewards of heaven. They don’t need to see Israeli troops to be radicalized.

I join Mr. Uhlig in decrying ethnocentric cleansing. Let’s not allow the Arabs to make good on their plans to push the Jews into the sea.

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**Give grades by drop day**

The proposal to move drop day later in the semester than the fifth week is designed to solve the problem of students not having an understanding of their academic performance before drop day.

Under the quarter system, students usually had at least one grade by the fifth week, which fell in the middle of the academic period. The semester system has not functioned well under the same timeline, with many students complaining that professors do not provide enough feedback by drop day for them to make an informed decision about their classes.

The solution to this problem is for professors to give students a meaningful grasp of their academic achievement prior to drop day, regardless of where it falls on the official calendar.
Four years ago I was 18 and I wanted to go to Georgia Tech. Now I’m not sure what’s changed, Tech or me.

I started as aeronautical engineering. I was a nine-hour-line person for parking and my inflated freshman GPA to the last theft of my ‘T’ and about a dozen other classes. I’ve seen a lot of things change, Tech for the better and me for the worse.

The Clough-Braine-Thompson-Chameau administration is steering this Wreck back to riches.

Matthew Bryan
Editor-in-Chief

Capturing the bear of life as the bull of progress reigns

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College goes by fast; enjoy your time here at Tech

It. Run up to a potential Tech student here at Tech. Harass the people on campus with questions. Get to know them. If you can, spend a few dollars on a coffee. Tell someone you’re interested in being friends. Do not ask them out. If they say no, think about it. You might want to do something different.

You can’t see it, but when some- body has it, it disgusts you. As soon as they open their mouth they feel better. It is a struggle, a battle, and it’s hard to keep up with. It’s a terrible way to live, because you have no reason to get up in the morning.

This must be the fall that the pride precedes the rain.

It is true, I am sure, and I am sure that pride is the label for this disease that I’ve been fighting.

Somewhere I passed from delight in the praise to delighting in myself. I see the compliments of others as unimpressive, something that I thought came from self-confidence or humility but really something that reflects how deep my pride runs.

A potential employer in my life will need to take a moment’s hesitation, I answered yes.

I realize that I have shared a lot, maybe too much, with you the reader. But these words reflect my journey here at Georgia Tech and I share them so that you might see my path and not make my mistakes but you might find what I have found.

Now, instead of being empty I am simply nothing, having disappeared.

I realize that I’ve discovered, or at least, like something about how much I’ve learned. I see my journey here at Georgia Tech and I share them so that you might see my path and not make my mistakes but you might find what I have found.

I stand before you empty, guilty of the pride I’ve suffered.

I’ve been given another chance. I hope that I have not pushed them so far that they cannot return.

But one does remain and he hears me. I feel love again, I’ve been transformed. I’ve been given another chance.

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Facts contradict editorial

In response to Daniel Uhlig’s recent editorial on Israel, I’d like to ask where Mr. Uhlig gets his anti-Jew/anti-Israeli-opinion from? I certainly isn’t from the facts.

Fact: There has never been a country called Palestine. The area called Palestine was part of other countries prior to the 6 Days War.

Fact: Arafat is not Palestinian; he is Egyptian.

Fact: Only one country has ever spanned the region Israel covers for a long period of time, and that is Israel.

Fact: Arafat began these bombings years before Israel controlled the West Bank and other areas “in question.”

Fact: They gained these areas in a war which they did not start.

Fact: Israel offered Arafat 98 percent of what they wanted in the year 2000; he said no.

The simple truth here is that Arafat doesn’t want a Palestinian state; he wants to remove the nation of Israel from existence. He makes demands as if that is all he has been trying to accomplish with his terrorism, but he has been doing this since long before he had the authority to make demands like these.

Why is it okay for the United States to respond to terrorism with force by destroying the terrorists but this practice is not suitable for Israel?

The Palestinians, after all, cheered and fake dynamite strapped to them and their children (I’ve seen the pictures to back this up too.)

Israel has been enduring this onslaught for 40 years. If they are sick and tired of seeing their people killed by suicide bombers, hijackers and terrorists marching into the athletes’ village at the Olympics and executing their athletes, I do not see how anyone could blame them for responding in the manner that they have.

While I disagree with many of Mr. Uhlig’s facts, I recognize both sides of the situation. I do not, for one second, believe that Israel is completely innocent either.

They have killed some innocent civilians, too. But then, if they did not have to hunt down terrorists all of the time, they probably would not have been in that situation to kill those innocent civilians, would they?

Yes, the body count is higher on the Palestinian side, but does that really justify them sending suicide bombers into marketplaces, bus stations and the like?

If the Palestinians truly want a Palestinian state, they should start thinking about not supporting terrorism and supporting a peaceful method toward gaining their demands.

Israel is not going to tolerate terrorism on their soil and I don’t see how anyone could blame them. If you support terrorism and aid terrorists, do you really expect them to just overlook you?

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T echs and the City: Make the most of T ech and Atlanta

By Jennifer Hinkel
Focus Editor

Since the fall, I’ve been writing about the relationship between Tech and Atlanta, examining the interactions between students and city dwellers, and contemplating the routes of exchange between campus and the outside world.

I have tried to express the interdependence between the campus and the city, and I have found that although some channels of communication exist, neither Tech nor the city take advantage of each others richness and potential contribution. Too often, campus appears to barricade itself within the proverbial ivory tower of academia, more concerned with the realm of board of Regent politics and competing universities than with the issues that literally invade the streets of Georgia Tech.

Although some of the issues are lightweight—how do students balance Tech’s “nerd” atmosphere with the chic city-dwelling Atlantan buzzle—and others have investigated the roles of particular Tech institutions and values, a partnership between Tech and Atlanta undoubtedly exists, whether we acknowledge it or not.

The Tech-Atlanta relationship has the potential of becoming mutually beneficial. Clearly, two sides must participate in order to form this beneficial and symbiotic relationship. Arguably, Tech students must be the ones to establish this link.

Only when Tech reaches out beyond its walls, will the city have the opportunity to respond in kind. The benefit that can result from interdependence is already found at the microcosm level in Atlanta. Several churches that border campus have developed thriving college ministry programs that incorporate the talent of college students into the church environment while supporting college students in various ways. Our places of work and play that take us far from campus exhibit our interdependence as well. But before the city can open its arms and embrace what Tech is and does, the Tech community has an obligation to share its talents beyond East and West Campus.

Often, we consider what we can do to “give back” after graduation. We want to give back to scholarship funds, the organizations that we enjoyed, the departments that fostered us and our sororities and fraternities. We plan to pave the way for more students to follow in our footsteps. But while giving back ten years from now will help the future, we also must look at what we can do to open pathways of interdependence and communication for the present.

While our wallets are far from bottomless, our ambitions, intellects, energy, and desires are much the opposite. In the present, I live in Atlanta, can give my time to organizations and causes I deem important and act where I see the need. In the future, I can only write a check and trust that someone uses the money for the best reasons. For the rest of my time as a Tech student, I can be an instrument of “giving back” in action.

While I admit that “inspirational” quotations may be overused and can sometimes seem trite, often the simplest adages are the ones that stay lodged in the brain and quietly guide us. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that “thought is the blossom; language the bud; action the fruit behind it.” Similarly, our thoughts may be worthless, and the printed word may coalesce a collective thought, but without some resulting action, the language fails to fulfill its purpose. I have gladly seen the viewpoints in the column contested. I applaud those who have the courage to challenge and question, especially those who take the time to write a letter offering their own opinions. The lesson is the same thing we have known for centuries but still hesitate to acknowledge. Taking liberties with the language, I would say that no campus is an island. Understanding the implications for that statement—and choosing to act upon them—should become our legacy.
ASO voices approbation

On behalf of the Arab Student Organization, we greatly commend you for your article in last Friday’s issue of the Technique entitled “Israel not completely innocent in battle with Palestine” by Daniel Uhlig.

What we see and hear concerning Palestine is not just a political problem but, more importantly, a humanitarian one.

It is important for the rest of the world to see that the Palestinians are human beings who just want to continue their daily lives and that of their children on the land they inherited from their ancestors. Those who have been driven out by aggression or by fear thereof just want to return home, live peacefully, and enjoy the God-given right of self-determination.

As long as the Palestinian population’s resentment of what it perceives to be the theft of its land is compounded with genuine fear and distrust of Israeli soldiers and settlers, security will never be a viable concept.

It is through your courage and valuable views on humanity, that leaves hope for justice and peace. Editorials such as yours are what begin to wake up the American people and allow them to realize that this is as much their war as the Middle East.

Again, from the bottom of our hearts we thank you.

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Feature and Photos by Christopher Gooley