Criminal intent

The recent string of burglaries on West Campus reminds us all of the importance of crime awareness and prevention, even in a presumably safe location such as one’s residence hall. Leaving doors unlocked is common practice for college students, and it is this practice that makes us especially vulnerable to theft. While we all wish that we lived in a world without crime, we need to be aware that living in a large urban center has its pitfalls.

It’s difficult to be on guard at all times, and often it’s just a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time; however, sometimes common sense is all that is needed in avoiding crime. So lock your doors at night, and if you hear strange noises in the other room, don’t just assume that it’s your roommate coming in late.

Sustainable aid

The Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) is beginning a project to help train workers in the hurricane disaster areas. Tech is one of six entities receiving funding from OSHA to do this kind of work.

Focusing on the safety and health of hurricane response workers, the project will bring GTRI researchers to the areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. On top of holding conventional classroom training sessions on occupational safety, the researchers will take a hands-on approach to give on-site assistance to workers, from advice on chainsaw safety and debris removal, to exposure to mold and silica dust.

It is important to realize that many of the thousands of workers involved in hurricane reconstruction are untrained in construction work, and considering the affected regions, may have education or language barriers to following “how-to” booklets on reconstructing a city.

So instead of donating funds, or going directly to provide labor (both worthy actions) to help in hurricane reconstruction, the GTRI team will be helping the affected help themselves. This innovative approach to hurricane relief work is a great way to see widespread results from aid efforts. As they say, “give a man a fish and he’ll eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he’ll eat for a lifetime.” Such an approach to aid is self-sustaining and will far reap greater benefits in the long run.

It’s great to see Tech once again at the forefront of an altruistic effort. So instead of donating funds, or going directly to provide labor (both worthy actions) to help in hurricane reconstruction, the GTRI team will be helping the affected help themselves. This innovative approach to hurricane relief work is a great way to see widespread results from aid efforts. As they say, “give a man a fish and he’ll eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he’ll eat for a lifetime.” Such an approach to aid is self-sustaining and will far reap greater benefits in the long run.

Inequalities still exist in society

In the modern world we live in, one would think that discrimination, especially racism, would be considered a thing of the past. However, in my introductory sociology class, our professor has been lecturing on inequality, and I have been reminded how current it really is.

According to my professor, inequality is socially constructed, which means that through society, people essentially generate inequality through interpretation. No one characteristic makes a person, or group of people, inherently better or worse than others. The meanings that we attach to certain characteristics—race, gender, age, socioeconomic status, etc.—are socially derived.

I don’t claim to be an expert on the subject of racism, and I recognize that my opinions may be far from the truth, but these are a few thoughts I’ve had based on introductory sociological conversations with friends.

Genetically, the human race is more similar than any other species on the planet. Two penguins, which appear identical to us, are more genetically diverse than two humans of different races. Yet we wrongly assume that skin color is an exterior marker of interior differences, indicating everything from increased athletic ability to the reserved character to criminal tendencies.

Historically, there was actually one main biological difference between Europeans—disease. In Alfred W. Crosby’s Ecological Imperialism, which I read for a European history class, the author argues that Europeans were only able to conquer the far reaches of the globe with the help of pathogens.

Ironically, Europeans developed immunities that other populations did not have from living in such close proximity with their animals. Hardly what we’d call “civilized,” but it did allow them to conquer other continents and enable them to enforce their “superiority.” (A random side note: this is an abso-
lutely fascinating book that I would highly recommend. Thank you Dr. Bullard!)

Racial discrimination in this country started with the first Europeans who set foot here with their pathogenic advantage. It began with Native Americans and continued with imported African slave labor and various immigrant groups through time.

Despite the modern world we live in, equipped with advanced technologies that prove we are genetically indistinguishable, racism still haunts us. It is not the unique term some may believe it to be. The fact that we’re still talking about racism in sociology classes tells me that it still there, although I rarely notice it as a white woman living in an elevator with an elderly lady. Neither of us knows what it is like to be yelled at like that. Nor have I ever stood in an elevator with an elderly lady, made herself as small as possible, and told the friend I sit with every day this. He told me that I wouldn’t be able to know. “You’ve never walked into Applebee’s and had it go completely silent,” he said. Nor have I ever stood in an elevator with an elderly lady trying to stay far away from me and make herself as small as possible. And he’s right, I haven’t.

But I do know a thing or two about being judged—a few weeks ago as I was walking home, a man in a passing truck yelled “Fatty!” out the window at me. I may not know what it’s like to have an old lady cringe near me, but my friend from sociology doesn’t know what it’s like to be yelled at like that.

Neither of us knows what it is like to be a grade-school disabled child not picked for the team in gym class. Neither of us knows what it’s like to be mocked for our sexuality. Skin color is not the only way people judge and discriminate against their fellow Americans, although it is the most obvious.

One recent increase in racial discrimination is noticeable, Be honest with yourself now—have you been in an airport, or anywhere else for that matter, and seen a Middle Easterner and thought the word “terrorist” to yourself? This in itself could be its own separate editorial, but here’s a quick outlook—nor all Middle Easterners are terrorists, and they suffer from that label. Additionally, many terrorists are your typical white guy. (Think Oklahoma City, 1995.) And that’s my short treatise on race.

My sociology professor would tell you that inequality is supported by those doing the persecuting as well as those being persecuted. The persecutors feel superior by belittling others, while those being persecuted begin to feel inferior and therefore to behave as if they are inferior. It is a vicious and seemingly endless cycle.

Actions hold only the meaning we give them, and our response is based on our interpretation of the other’s action, rather than his or her intent. For instance, my friend in sociology may have been offended by the elderly woman in the elevator retreating into a corner if he believed she was acting in fear or revaluation. However,
American media, public lack attention span

I was watching *The Daily Show* the other day and there was this one segment about the Aflac nomination that got me thinking about something that has gotten me on the screaming-at-the-TV soapbox more times than I can remember.

The piece, as those on *The Daily Show* are wont to do, was of course satirizing this huge pet peeve of mine, but it still made a little of that proverbial steam come out of my ears because of the truth that was firmly seated within the satire.

The segment went something like this:

Stewart states that his show is the only one that day to mention Scooter Libby (the man indicted on charges related to the CIA leak, in case any of you have forgotten) because there was a new story.

He then cuts to a montage of clips from various media outlets all saying that no one is talking about Libby anymore because Bush has nominated Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

Stewart then throws it over to “Senior White House Cor-respondent” Rob Corddry (who is, for those of you not familiar with *The Daily Show*, actually standing in front of a green-screened background of Washington D.C.), to elaborate on the story.

Instead of being focused on the story, Corddry appears to be fascination with something that has to do with his right; off-screen.

Stewart asks his correspond-ent if he believes that the an-nouncement of Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech, the events become more about less and less of an all-compassing event. Fewer and fewer non-greeks are involved in homecoming events, and the events become more about competition between chapters.

Let’s work to make homecoming attractive to all once again.

Letters to the Editor

Letters should not exceed 400 words and include a campus box number or other valid billing address. All letters must be signed and must be directed to Kyle Thomason, Editor-in-Chief.

The Policy is confusing to the non-money-minded reader. It is daunting than kids doing pranks. What I am really taking about is that to happen.

What was front page news yesterday, while it may still be pertinent, often gets pushed to page six and beyond the next day, replaced by what is sometimes more important but is often meant to be a distraction.

It is possible to focus on two big stories at once. To abandon a still-hot news item for some-thing more recent plays into the hands of public relations coordinators who want exactly that to happen.

Call me idealistic and old-fashioned, but I feel that the news media still has a responsibility to chase an issue until it’s cold.

Hillarity Lipko
Copy Editor

Keep sexual discussions private

Controversial on several points, Joshua Cuneo’s edito-rial in the Oct. 14 edition of the *Technique* expresses two disturbing opinions: first, that “pornography and sex toys can provide a healthy stimulus for your fantasy life,” and second that sexual desire “must have a meaning of satisfaction for the sake of our health.”

If pornography provides the claimed healthy stimulus to viewers, it does so at the ex pense and exploitation of others. Though women claim that pornography has a logically-unknown number of women and children worldwide are forced into becoming subjects for the insatiable desires of addicts feeding a “healthy stimulus” to their fantasy life, it creates unrealistic images and destroys the concept of what is truly beautiful, both for men and for women.

Secondly, Cuneo equates the sexual desire to hunger and fatigue by claiming that it must be satisfied to maintain health. Modern society is becoming increasingly sex-crazed, but by no means are we as dependent on the sex-drive to sustain health as we are upon food, water and rest.

The sexual desire is indeed a positive component of human nature, and it is also a very special part of our being. By widely broadcasting a discussion of what is intimate between two people, as Mr. Cuneo’s advocated *Technique* sex column would do, we reduce the subject to the ordinary and commonplace.

Dawn Parker
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Revisions needed for student ticket policy

You know you have a bad student ticket policy when the document detailing it is seven pages long. The policy is confusing, but I feel that the news media still has a responsibility to chase an issue until it’s cold.

Hillarity Lipko
Copy Editor

钱管理

Tech students got some free financial help from the Student Financial Planning and Services during Money Management Week. Workshops covered useful information on various topics of ten confusing to the non-money savvy, such as HOPE, student loans, graduate school financial aid and identity theft.

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Letters from page 9

ing, poorly timed and has issues.
The policy is also a major hassle. It’s a hassle because we have 16 home games.

That’s 16 dates and deadlines to remember. That’s 16 times to pre-register and potentially 16 times to print out your ticket.

I’m not going to waste my printer’s ink on a ticket, so I’ll be going to the library to print my tickets (that is if I’m lucky enough to get one).

The policy states that a student can pre-register six days in advance of a game. At some point during the season, we have three home games within a week’s time. All of those pre-registering and printing off ticket deadlines will overlap so that it will confuse us all. Also, the whole loyalty point deal, when you get points and when you don’t, is as confusing as the BCS (Bowl Championship Series).

Section 6.1.2 states, “Student tickets are non-transferable.” This is ridiculous. It will cause poor attendance from students and lead to a less than capacity crowd in the student sections. This will happen because there will be students with tickets in their possession that won’t attend the game (have a test to study for, sick, etc.).

I am aware of the clause in the policy that states that students will have loyalty points deducted if they do not cancel their ticket in time, but seriously, this won’t have any affect on students canceling their tickets.

Students have numerous deadlines for homework, lab reports and tests that remembering to cancel a ticket “12:00 Noon one day prior to game day” just simply will not be a priority.

It’s a men’s basketball game, not a dentist appointment. Students should be able to give their ticket to other students. It should be interesting to see how the new ticket policy plays out, for I’m sure revisions will be necessary.

Trent Samples
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SGA disappointed with planners, too

After reading Oct. 14 article, “SGA reprints planners without disputed ads,” we realized that the reasons behind the decision not to distribute the original planners were not fully explained.

Despite some misconceptions, no student fees were used to print the original 8000 planners, and no student fees have been used to reprint the other 2500. Every planner that has been and will be printed has been done so at no cost to the student body.

Tech signed a contract with the publishing company, and the company failed to meet the terms of that contract. The agreement specifically stated that Tech would be able to review and approve all of the planner’s content, including all of the ads. But when the planners arrived, over a week after the date specified in the contract, they contained recurring ads that had not been approved.

The decision not to distribute the planners was ultimately made by the administration.

SGA began working to bring free planners to Tech students almost a year ago and has done everything possible to make that idea become a reality.

When we all realized that the planners could not be distributed, SGA was just as disappointed as all of the other students looking forward to the arrival.

However, when the company broke their contract with Tech, they took that decision out of our hands.

Even though things did not go as planned this year, SGA does not intend to give up on this idea. We are going to do everything we can to bring this service to Georgia Tech students, and students can pick up this year’s planners outside the SGA office.

Mary Clark
SGA Chief of Staff
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Racism from page 8

he may have concluded that the action had nothing to do with him at all—perhaps she needed the wall at all. If it is something she needed, if it is something that can change her life, then she is a victim. She is not projecting an image of being someone who is persecuting others.

There are little things that I feel should be changed, such as not being required to specify race when filling out forms or taking standardized tests. By requiring that we give that information on everything—from our birth certificate to our SATs, they are telling us that race matters; science tells us it doesn’t.

Another change that needs to happen is the eventual elimination of racial-oriented professional organizations. By creating a separate organization for a specific race, that race is projecting an image of being different, different or unequal.

It is an extreme example of how inequality is supported by those engaging in persecuted. Don’t get me wrong—I understand the need for and benefits of these professional organizations.

This presents yet another challenge to the elimination of racism; although disbanding such organizations could be beneficial in the long run, it would be detrimental in the near future. So what do we do?

Still, I think that it could entirely disappear one day, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Most of us currently assign a racial identity, at least subconsciously, to everyone we come in contact with, if only because skin color is so easy to see. Perhaps one day this will change throughout society, but the change must begin on an individual basis.

Nobody really has the power to make us treat each other a certain way.

At the risk of sounding cliché, I believe that we should celebrate our differences and learn to appreciate our own heritage and that of others.

But we should remember that our heritage is in the past, and we should embrace our present—and future—together.

Media from page 9

of pressing issues before they have played out.

Now, I can’t blame all of this on just the media because, let’s face it, the American public has the attention span of a fruit fly. They demand new and exciting and they want it now. As the American public has the attention span of a fruit fly, they demand new and exciting and they want it now. As the American public has the attention span of a fruit fly, they demand new and exciting and they want it now. As the American public has the attention span of a fruit fly, they demand new and exciting and they want it now. As the American public has the attention span of a fruit fly, they demand new and exciting and they want it now. As

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Not too many people are going to want to know about something that, while pertinent, is pretty dry as far as news goes. (For example, and let’s be honest, who actually reads "Council Clipping?" For that matter, who watches C-SPAN?)

Who wants to hear about the

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DO YOU HAVE A SPRING INTERNSHIP?

RIAA and the MPAA trying to attach broadcast flag riders onto a budget reconciliation bills when an Argentine newspaper just learned what President Bush keeps in his pockets or when Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles are making their first visit to the U.S. together?

I discovered yesterday that some people don’t even know what the Motion Picture Association of America, by the way, let alone anything about what President Bush keeps in his pockets or when Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles are making their first visit to the U.S. together?

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