Hocus-Focus takes a very special look into the ancient and secret rituals of initiation into the real world.

What is “graduation?”

“I really want to graduate and be initiated into the real world and all, but I just can’t deal with all this hazing. One of my profs gave me a D last semester. That’s totally unfair. And the way that some people get early graduation, or priority housing makes me feel left out. I’ve been totally hazed as a student and I’m two entire years away from even being considered for graduation, he or she must complete a certain number of classes. However, these classes must be in specific order and have specific names. Even those who have completed the classes they think are correct may be kept from graduation from things such as bad grades and running out of money. Changing majors, taking semester off for fun, and failing a whole lot of classes has been known to keep people from graduating when they want.

See Graduation, page 10

Organizations Notepad

By Tortured Psychic

“Sometimes it’s like, you just gotta drop the bow on something, or someone. I think people need expression that need a little more.”

Phrases such as “I’m gonna drop the bow” have been common at Tech for quite some time. Now, students will have the chance to put their ‘bows where their mouths are.

“The first rule of the Drop the Bow Club is that you can’t talk about Drop the Bow Club. That’s kind of a problem for me, because I kind of have a big mouth. The other rule that’s really important is that you can love your brother, but you can’t love your brother. These rules form the basis of my entire philosophy,” said Juice.

The club has already been flooded with applications for membership. Freshman Donny Blunt was among the first to apply.

“I think the Drop the Bow Club is a great idea. I’ve been trying to figure out what the ‘bow’ is for weeks, and maybe now I finally will,” said Blunt. “It’s really important for me to be involved in this kind of organization. I think it will look nice on my resume.”

The club has already printed t-shirts with their slogan “Do that, and I’ll drop the bow on you” and is distributing them around campus.

“I think that a club supporting the whole idea of dropping the bow can really bring some valued diversity to campus,” said Stephanie Ray, Dean of Diversity and Associate Dean of Students. “We need students who are willing to stand up for what they think is culturally acceptable, even if you and I find it totally strange and, at times, appalling. These kids make me want to drop it—I mean, I don’t agree, but who am I to judge?”

The Drop the Bow Club is still taking applications at www.dropthebow.com.

By Whiteboard Delinquent

Sweeping changes planned by new SGA crew

- Free parking for all Cadillac Escalades in centrally located, reserved spaces
- Everyone on campus wears new nametags bearing first initial and first syllable of last name. Dean Gail becomes G. Di. Nate Watson? N. Wats.
- TBS officially recognized by executive branch
- SGA members join ANAK and administration for First Place speakasy drinking parties
- Exec. desk chairs replaced with toilets to handle influx of red tape BS

INTA prof opens sports bar, invites class

Clough becomes a Broadway starlet

Chasing his childhood dream, Wayne Clough moves to New York City and auditions for Phantom of the Opera. Does he succeed? Read the Technique’s exclusive coverage on Page 21.

Nerd Awareness Month kicks off

Nerd Awareness Month begins today with a motivational speech by Bill Gates. Other activities will include a LAN party in the CoC, a visit from MIT compadres, and a social interaction tutorial.

East campus FE dorms condemned

Following in the trend of campus construction and dorm closures, all of the FE dorms will soon be replaced with a trailer park. Of course, people will continue to live there as housing props up caving ceilings with large metal bars. However, entry is limited to windows on the second floor.

SGA schedules step show, stars Watson

In response to great demand to see Nate Watson shakin’ that ass, SGA has agreed to schedule a step show starring Watson. T-shirts will be available during the event. The shirts, available for $5, will read “I see you Nate...” on the front and “shakin’ that ass” on the back. In response, Watson said “I don’t have the player, hate the game” and “damn, it feels good to be a gangsta.” He also plans to endorse a new slogan for SGA: “Take it to The House.”

Although many students may have heard of something called “graduation,” many do not know what it is. The Technique had the opportunity to attend what is called a “commencement ceremony.” Last year, and now plans to make the details of this previously secret ritual available to the public.

Apparently, “graduation” refers to a time when a student stops attending classes, yet no penalty is then imposed on the student. Also involved in the ritual is “crossing over” to the “real world.”

Though confusing, most professors help coach students through the process, saying that everything the students in the graduation process will experience has been experienced by graduates before them.

However, the process can be extremely scary, and at times, expensive.

“The problem with having ‘graduation’ has raised controversy.”

Willbur Dell, a recent “graduate,” said “I really want to graduate and pay to have my degree petitioned. The problem is ‘graduation’ has raised controversy.”

He also plans to endorse a new slogan for SGA: “Take it to The House.”

The Drop the Bow Club is a great idea. I’ve been trying to figure out what the ‘bow’ is for weeks, and maybe now I finally will,” said Blunt. “It’s really important for me to be initiated into the real world and all, but I just can’t deal with all this hazing. One of my profs gave me a D last semester. That’s totally unfair. And the way that some people get early graduation or priority housing makes me feel left out. I’ve been totally hazed as a student and I’m two entire years away from even being considered for graduation, he or she must complete a certain number of classes. However, these classes must be in specific order and have specific names. Even those who have completed the classes they think are correct may be kept from graduation from things such as bad grades and running out of money. Changing majors, taking semester off for fun, and failing a whole lot of classes has been known to keep people from graduating when they want.

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He also plans to endorse a new slogan for SGA: “Take it to The House.”
The Greek Community is in an uproar this week after the announcement of the dates for this year’s IFC/Panhellenic Greek Week, a yearly competition involving the Fraternities and sororities of the Georgia Tech Greek System.

The controversy seems to stem from claims that members of IFC/Panhellenic really aren’t “Greek.”

“I don’t know who these guys think they are!” Pairodies, president of the Greek Heritage Coalition said, “I bet these guys don’t even know how to pronounce Gyro!”

“What do you mean?” Fratto, a member of Sigma Sigma Fraternity said, “After a while, we started throwing beer cans at them! It was great times man!”

For instance, during the week, they have a chariot race! The Romans had chariots, not the Greeks! It’s these kinds of stereotypes we’re trying to stop.

“The Greek Heritage Coalition protesters have laid siege to every Greek House on campus, wielding signs, banners, and disrupting parties with hours of chanting, calling for their demands be met. IFC/Panhellenic has yet to give in.

“I don’t see what these guys freakin’ deals a man,” Suzie Sister said, “They need to like chill out! When I was on the way to Buckhead Friday, one of those punks bumped into me and made me smear my makeup up. And then he had the nerve to ask me out!”

“If they have a complaint, they can file a Greek Week violation form just like everyone else,” Tom Anyrules chair of the Greek Week Rules Committee said, “They need to remember that every organization only gets two protest forms, so they need to use them wisely.”

Despite the controversy, IFC/Panhellenic plans to proceed with Greek Week. Although the Greek Heritage Coalition is not recognized by either IFC or Panhellenic, representatives from both organizations stated that when it comes to Greek Week, the Greek Heritage Coalition will have to play by the rules.

“We’ve received a relatively long list of demands, but hey, it’s all Greek to me.”

After one week of protests, the Dean of Students office admitted that all attempts at compromise thus far have failed miserably.

“These guys are really pissed off,” a spokesman from the Dean’s Office stated, “This could go on for weeks. I think the protesting will go on until their demands are met. We really don’t see and end in sight.”

By Yougripides Nuts
Greek Affairs Correspondent

Greeks protest Greek Week—“They aren’t real Greeks”
Administrators hold more drinking parties

ICPA releases results showing that with new definitions of binge drinking, several administrators can be labeled as “regular binge drinkers.” Suspicions that Ferst Place hides a speakeasy, however, are unfounded.

By Tae rice Hero
Hand me another beer

Last week, the administration released a new definition of binge drinking, calling those who consume more than three alcoholic beverages per week “regular binge drinkers.” However, under this new definition, almost every administrator can be labeled as a “regular binge drinker.”

“I think we need to start a support group,” said Gail DiSabatino, Dean of Students. “The first meeting could be at Manuel’s Tavern.”

Related to findings that, under their own rules, administrators have almost unanimously decided that they can all be called “regular binge drinkers,” allegations that the Ferst Place restaurant may be a front for a speakeasy have not yet been proven true.

“Obviously, the only way such an endeavor, especially run by Auxiliary Services, could possibly make money would be to charge exorbitant prices for low-quality illegal booze,” said independent investigator Justin Cider. “On the other hand, the dining halls charge exorbitant prices for low-quality legal food, and they seem to turn over a profit.”

Roz Meyers declined comment, but as she left the interview, she was heard to say, “I really need a drink. Let’s go to the Ferst.”

“She could have been referring to the Ferst Center,” said Cider. “But everyone knows that food and drink are not permitted inside the theater. Most likely, the Ferst Place restaurant is harboring a speakeasy for administrators. Members of ANAK and past editors of the Tech- nique may also be allowed through the doors, but only after paying a high annual membership fee.”

Members of ANAK, as usual, could not be found for comment.

“Allegations that the Ferst Place restaurant is harboring a speakeasy for administrators. Members of ANAK and past editors of the Technique may also be allowed through the doors, but only after paying a high annual membership fee.”

The administration plans to address this issue with several new initiatives. First of all, salaries of GT Smart employees will be dramatically cut.

“We want to be sure they don’t have any extra cash to spend on beer. Instead, those funds will go into a new endowment to pay Ferst Place expenses of administrators’ lunch bills,” said Meyers.

Statistics showing a rise in administrative drinking have also pinpointed the most important events throughout the academic year for administrative alcoholics. The President’s Dinner ranks first on the list, followed closely by “Wild GaIl’s St. Patty’s Day” hosted by the Dean of Student’s Office.

Pre-football game parties in the Alumni House, centering around the “Reck Club Booze Closet” also rank in the top ten.

Events that did not make the list were Techwino deadlines (by since the late 1990’s) and parties at any number of dry fraternity houses.

“I’m just so glad that we can all have a discussion about regular binge drinking now,” said DiSabatino. “Before, everything was in the closet. Everyone kept their drinking habits a secret. Now, I can enjoy a good cabernet or merlot and accept the fact that, if I drink a glass of wine three days a week, I am considered a ‘regular binge drinker.’ I can deal with that.”

Several other administrators were too mired to coherently comment on the situation. More administrators were unavailable. Their appointment books simply read “lunch at Ferst Place, five dollar drink specials.”

Graduation

Some students do everything in their power to stall graduation.

“Graduation is scary,” said student Holden Lieker. “I really am not sure that I can do it, the whole real world thing. I’d rather just stay here, where we have things like Dance, Dance Revolution and burger baskets.”

Administrators have not yet found a solution to the graduation dilemma.

“Zee classes, yes, they could be easier, no! It is only un peu de le knowledge de classes that zee student uses in zee real world. In zee real world, people need to know other things, not how to compute integrals, but how to communicate. Zio thing, though, is not taught at zis school. I call zia a petite problem, no? said Provost Jean-Lou Chameau.

Chameau wants to initiate a plan for graduation, called “Le Plan,” to help ease the transition between Tech and the real world.

“IT is only un peu de le knowledge de classes that zee student uses in zee real world.”

Jean-Lou Chameau
Provost

call his plan “Plan 17,” but he heard from someone in the Ivan Allen College that the name was already taken.

Despite convincing evidence that graduation exists, some are not buying into the idea.

“Graduation is so fake. If it exists, why haven’t I ever seen it? Why haven’t I tasted it? I want graduation on a platter. When I eat it, I’ll believe it,” said Noah “Fat Bastard” Bingo.

“Graduation is real, and eventually, students will have to face up to that fact,” said Clough. “In the mean time, I’ll make sure that commencement ceremonies are scheduled for early in the morning on a Saturday, way before any Tech students wake up. Hopefully, we can keep graduation under wraps until the undergraduate population exceeds that of any other university. I wonder why they don’t rank retention of seniors as highly as they rank retention of freshmen? Who says that a good college education should last four years? I say gone,” said Clough.
By Joshua Cuneo
Contributing Columnist

Assorted Pies: a man’s attempt at writing something humorous

“Hey Jethro, he don’t know she’s a guy. Haw haw haw.” —The Gradually Gathering Guffaw

By Joshua Cuneo
Contributing Columnist

I approached this assignment with some hesitation. I had to write a column that parodied my own column, yet how do I farce a running feature that’s only three weeks old? [Editor’s note: Use your sense of humor.] I’m still learning the ins and outs of proper journalism, establishing my tone and my philosophical style. This [Editor’s note: What does “this” refer to? Your high school English teachers are crying right now.] is roughly equivalent to parodying Star Trek when one knows little more about the franchise than “Beam me up, Scotty” (in which case we get some weird perversion of Scottish laser tag). Furthermore, I’m not a naturally humorous fellow (that’s not to say I don’t immensely enjoy the company of other funny fellows). My wit is subtle, and when I do spout off the occasional pun, it’s generally accidental and a little idiotic, spurred by my subconscious (i.e. “This snow is cool”). [Editor’s note: Brevity is the soul of wit. Who said that?]

So I had to come up with something that would spark a smirk. I mean, I certainly could philosophize that democracy is somehow connected—through a twisted metaphysical maze known only by a few offbeat peasants in southern Iran—to CAT scans [Editor’s note: You must mean CT scans... Computer Tomography] and the International House of Pancakes, or that victims of multiple personality disorder can hide their own Easter eggs, but I’m trying to be taken seriously here.

Then again, maybe I’m taking the assignment too seriously. [Editor’s note: Yes, you certainly are.] This [Editor’s note: What does “this” refer to?] is designed to be a simple farce, after all, with no great effort required, a clever gimmick designed by the Technique staff. (It also provides them with a break from the usual factual research, but they won’t admit to that for obvious PR reasons.) [Editor’s note: Our humorous cuts on administrators and Auxiliary Services require not only research, but also wit.] Besides, maybe readers would appreciate the playfulness that is this week’s column, even if my writing isn’t established.

Then again, maybe I shouldn’t just write anything. I could skip a week and never be noticed. [Editor’s note: Maybe you could. Want to try?] Besides, if I try too hard, my paragraphs may start becoming formulaic. Then again, maybe I shouldn’t just write anything. Readers of this week’s issue are likely to glance at the headlines, skim a few interesting articles, and treat it with the appropriate level of respect by trashing the whole bit, save the collectors of offbeat paraphernalia. [Editor’s note: Everyone loves the April Fool’s issue, except Roz.]

Maybe I could just be clever and type with my left hand.
Tech Up Yours

e-mail: focus@aol.com (this week only)

Winner of the Tech Up Yours contest wins a yellow Lamborghini Diablo for this week only. (Car may not be to scale of an actual person.)

Last week’s Tech Up Close:

ODK plaque located in the flower bed next to Tech Tower

Last week’s winner:

Lauren Stark
Students in his comparative politics class fully support their professor’s desire to follow his dreams and sell Creedal Passions by the coconut-load.

“I think that Dr. Ireland should definitely open a bar. He has such a creative and crude mind; his talents are perhaps being wasted on us. Plus, I think that he would be much happier hanging out with Swedish porn stars. And he has such a funny laugh. He does such a great fake British accent, as well,” said student Scotty Crowe, named as "The Most Popular INTA Major Ever Born."

Ireland’s secret recipe for Creedal Passion can’t be printed, but rumor has it that the beverage contains equal parts liberty and equality. The contents have to be kept under constant pressure to create the Creedal Passion.

Ireland looks forward to a “Revolution of Creedal Passion all across the United States. Forget political culture—this is American alcohol culture at its finest.”

Ireland has invited his class to participate in the grand opening of the as-of-yet unnamed bar. Creedal Passions will be on the house. Other INTA professors have also expressed interest in seeing what Ireland can do.

“Ireland’s bar will rise to hegemonic greatness,” said INTA prof Robert Salomone. "As long as he serves up a fresh, bubbly Diet Coke, I’ll be happy."

The Ivan Allen College will miss Ireland, but looks forward to the new watering hole where International Affairs majors can speak freely on the cosmopolitan vs. communitarian debate without the threat of too many engineers.

“The engineers have the library. We’ll have Ireland’s sports bar. I couldn’t think of a better idea. If only this whole thing fit in with my study master plan,” said Crowe.

“The real key to Ireland’s success will be taking a realist perspective. Opening a bar needs careful planning and good strategy—we don’t need another example of diplomatic failure here. I have to admit, though, that without good bars, life would be brutish and short,” said Salomone. “Now, I’ll have a good place to go when I let my classes out twenty minutes early.”

“I’m just so glad that after he opens his bar, Ireland will never again give us a multiple choice test where each question can have one or two correct answers.

We’ll study for Salomone’s tests while we drink coconuts full of Creedal Passion. Being an INTA major sure is the life," added Crowe.

According to Ireland’s students, his immense talents of telling dirty jokes and impersonating a deranged British student are wasted in the lecture halls of D.M. Smith. He plans to open a bar and serve Creedal Passions.