



OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

A mixed review

Standing up and forcefully presenting student viewpoints, SGA officials, including President Amy Phuong, have taken the fight against midyear tuition increases to the highest levels of state government. Phuong and other student government officers from across the state met with Governor Sonny Perdue last Saturday. While Perdue did not announce any plans to reduce the Board of Regents' share of the state's budget cuts, the fact that the governor called a meeting with our student body representatives speaks volumes about the power of student opinions and concerns. Campus leaders have succeeded in serving as the spokespeople in this fight and have represented us well.

Today student government officials will take petitions protesting the cuts to the state capital. While approximately 4,000 Tech students signed the petition, the actual figure should have been considerably higher. The issue affects 15,000-plus students. Although the petition may have garnered media attention from major outlets across the state, not enough on-campus publicity was devoted to the cause. While SGA's executive officers worked tirelessly to promote the effort, undergraduate representatives and graduate senators neglected their duty to their constituents by failing to promote the issue in the same manner. More publicity was devoted to Ramblin' Nights at Six Flags than to an issue that will affect tens of thousands of students statewide.

Representatives should have flooded their constituents' email inboxes, covered campus with chalkings and flyers, and tabled Skiles Walkway round the clock to let students know when and where they could sign the petition.

Instead, publicity was limited to word-of-mouth and club meetings. Only a fraction of the student body was well-informed. Representatives have a duty to the student body. They should learn from this experience by better reaching out to those they serve.

Must-see TV

During the presidential and vice-presidential debates, students flocked to the Student Center Commons to watch the events with friends. Housing staffs also planned various programs around the debates and some professors made it advantageous for students to watch the debates by offering extra credit. Students should keep up the good work and pay attention to the debates tonight and Wednesday, Oct. 13. It is critical for students to pay attention to national politics and make informed choices on Nov. 2.

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

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By Erin Gatlin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Take advantage of your voting privileges

"Vote!" say the College Republicans, "Vote!" say the College Democrats, "Vote!" says SGA, "Vote!" says MTV. "Vote!" You've heard it over and over again.

Well I am here to say again that magic four-letter word, but not as your student government, not as someone trying to influence your decision, I am saying it as a Resident Alien of this country who does not have the right to vote.

I cannot comprehend how someone who for the first 18 years of their lives has not been able to vote, and who has finally gained that right, can merely shrug it off?

To me, voting is not a responsibility, it's a privilege.

Whether it be a student election, a local government election, a gubernatorial election or a presidential election, voting is your opportunity to voice your opinion to someone who has large influence over what happens to your money (from school fees to taxes), the rules you live by (from bill allocation procedure to laws) and the future opportunities you'll have.

Ever wonder why social security is such a big issue in so many state and national elections?

It's because the elderly have the largest voting percentage of any age demographic.

Guess who has the smallest voting percentage of any age demographic? If you don't know the answer just take a look in the mirror and try to remember the last time, if ever, that you voted.

The last time this country was involved in a long term war, college campuses were hotbeds for political activism.

But in the many months since the Iraq conflict began, little stirring has happened on America's campuses.

Why is that? The days of flower power may be over, but the issues



"The days of flower power may be over, but the issues students protested about back then still ring true."

Haining Yu

Assistant News Editor

students protested about back then still ring true.

For one, I think that my peers ages 18-21 who are losing their lives in Iraq should be allowed to drink alcohol.

By the way, if anyone should have strong feelings about the war in Iraq, it should be people our age, because the majority of the soldiers dying out there are people our age, not the senior citizens who are going to be doing the most voting in choosing the candidate they think will best be able to handle the war.

The economy is another big issue in this election.

Well I ask, how many of you out there are looking to find a job in the next four years?

If the economy continues going downhill, the people not getting jobs will be us.

The people getting laid off when big companies need to squeeze their costs could also very possibly be our parents...who then is going to pay your bills?

I'm not trying to scare or upset anyone; I'm simply trying to show that the issues out there are indeed very pertinent to us.

It seems to me that one of the main reasons people don't vote is because they don't feel like the issues that candidates talk about really relate to them.

It's really a vicious cycle though, because the less a demographic votes, the less attention candidates are going to pay to issues that concern them.

Another reason that many don't vote is because they don't feel like their vote is going to make a difference.

First of all, as science and engineering people, we should understand very clearly that a small difference (say, a misplaced decimal point or a number rounded the wrong way) can make a huge difference.

Small calculation shifts in engineering can make a bridge collapse or an engine fail.

So why can't small shifts in voter turnout make a difference in election results?

In the last election, Ralph Nader received a tiny number of votes, but according to many democrats, it was enough to make Gore lose the election.

So if the decisions of legalize-marijuana supporters can make such a difference in a national election, couldn't the decision of college students make an even bigger difference?

I know this editorial comes a little late in the election season since voter registration is now over, but I implore that if you did register, please, please make your voice heard when Nov. 2 rolls around.

After all, if I am willing to consider changing my nationality in order to be able to vote, then you who already have the right to vote should be willing to make the effort to go to send in that absentee ballot or go to the Student Center to cast your vote.

Dating not impossible for average Techie

Dating at Tech is not like dating anywhere else. It is especially hard for those students who enjoy hanging out in their dorm rooms for endless hours, playing video games and doing other isolated activities.

Having spent a few too many late nights at the CoC, I have been able to observe many of these lonely students, and I think that I can give y'all some dating advice.

At some colleges girls look at a boy's "earning potential" before they agree to a date.

Here at Tech, no boy has to worry about being discriminated because of his possible future success.

You may wonder then why it is so hard for you to get a date.

While you have plenty of earning potential, you may not be living up to your social potential. This just takes some practice. Start small. Maybe strike up a conversation with someone in your favorite chat room before venturing into the real world.

But remember, a few conversations in a chat room DO NOT constitute a date.

Once you feel comfortable talking to new people, try your new skills out at the dining hall or in one of your recitations.

When you approach your girl of choice, make sure you have a few good, non-creepy things to



"While you have plenty of earning potential, you may not be living up to your social potential."

Lauren Griffin
Advertising Manager

say. Make eye contact, and just go with the flow.

Do not breathe abnormally or make strange faces, it will scare her.

Once you two have been talking for a while, ask her if she wants to study together or go to dinner. If she says yes, ask her for her phone number.

DO NOT ask her for her screen name, email address or for any other computer related means of communication.

Remember, you are working on your social skills. You should have already mastered your internet ones.

She may not give you her number. It's ok, these things take practice. Don't get discouraged and keep trying. Eventually you will find someone who is perfect for you.

After you have her number, wait a few days before calling. You don't really have to wait three days, but don't call her im-

mediately—it makes you look a little too eager.

After you have established a day and time, keep talking to her. Don't call her every day, but do talk to her whenever you see her.

It may make you seem immature if you avoid her in class or stare and point at her with your friends.

On the day of the date, make sure you shower, brush your hair and teeth, wear clean clothes and use deodorant. You will not get a second date if you don't.

Be on time even if you don't think she will be.

When you get to the restaurant, remember all the manners your mother taught you: open the door for her, pull out her chair, complement her in a normal, non-creepy way.

Again, remember to make eye contact when you talk to her and be natural. When you get to the table DO NOT sit on

the same side of the booth/table. Even if you end up dating for a long, long time, never do this. It's really annoying.

Try not to talk about the video games you played last night, the cool new program you are coding or any of the late night happenings of the CoC. I have been there and I have seen them, and trust me, they're not cool. If the date goes well, ask her to go on another.

Again, if she says no, its ok, keep trying. You will find someone who will want to date you.

On a similar note, you may have heard of the "two function assumption." This is also something that other colleges have, but Tech does not. Even if you go out with a girl twice, no matter how formal or serious you think the dates are, you are NOT dating.

At Tech, you should never make assumptions. After you and your girl have been dating for a while, you will be proud of yourself and you will probably want to show off your new social status.

This is great, you should be proud! But you do not need to walk around campus like a pretzel, holding hands with your arms around each other.

No one likes PDA, so please be courteous and keep the fondling to a minimum.

BUZZ

Around the Campus

Who won the first presidential debate?



Victoria Seigle
CE Senior

"Kerry definitely won the debate."



Jeff Ely
IE Freshman

"Bush—he seemed more confident and experienced."



David Swafford
ME Senior

"Kerry's a better speaker, but that doesn't mean he's the better candidate."



Nafisah Muhammad
CE Senior

"Bush—he stuck to his side on the issues."

Photos by Michael Skinner

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



Spicing things up

Adding to the tailgate craziness last weekend, three Tech students campaigned at the Miami game to become the Old Spice "Red Zone President," and will be featured in upcoming commercials. The winner will compete against other college students for a free trip to Hawaii. We can only hope that part of the presidential duties include getting rid of the funky smell in the CoC computer cluster.



Check yourself

A few professors across campus have decided to create a new type of midterm grade report—on themselves. We applaud them for taking the time to survey students on what they think of their class before the semester ends. But why should only a select few evaluate themselves before the mandated review at the end of the semester? Professors should take note of this new trend, and follow suit.



Signing off

Several weeks ago, SGA passed a bill to pay for a new sign to adorn the new Student Government offices. In a strange twist, the bill has failed in both houses on a technicality. We suggest the bill be permanently killed. After all, SGA hasn't had the sign up so far and yet it survived somehow.



Frozen substitutes

It was two years ago that Brittain Dining Hall made the unfortunate switch from normal frozen yogurt to Colombo frozen yogurt. Now the nightmare is beginning all over again as Woodruff has made the shocking switch to Colombo as well. Doesn't anyone realize how much yellow vanilla yogurt sucks?

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cut Parking a little slack

Students have negative perceptions of the Department of Parking and Transportation. We've all agonized over the evil yellow envelope slipped under our windshield wiper.

Most perceptions, however, are based on a lack of understanding of the actual rules and regulations that Tech Parking has instated, and most tickets can be easily avoided. Here are a few examples.

First, no one in the Parking Department works on commission for giving tickets. Enforcement officers are tasked with patrolling their zones and issuing citations to illegally parked vehicles.

Also, people always complain

about lack of available parking spaces in their normally assigned lot.

Overselling of lots is essential in the parking business, but the overselling is minimized in residential zones and maximized in lots where faculty and staff

park. If you can't find a space to park, someone is probably illegally parked in your lot. The solution: park in any adjacent legal space to your

normally assigned lot and submit an out of area reference request online on the parking web page under online forms. This signals enforcement to patrol that area immediately.

Then, Parking will send you

See Parking, page 8

"First, no one in the Parking Department works on commission for giving tickets."

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 mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Daniel Amick, Editor-in-Chief.

All 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 by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at www.nique.net. The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is noon on Friday, one week prior to publication. For rate information, call our offices at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved over the phone. The *Technique* office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 353 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Corey Jones at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary Wells at (404) 894-2830.

Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email editor@technique.gatech.edu.

Parking from page 7

a reply email confirming your approved request and containing a confirmation number exempting you from a ticket should one be issued.

If you are wary about this process, you can park in any nonresidential area (a zone lacking "R" in the name) or meter (look for signs) after 5 p.m. as long as you remove your vehicle by 7 a.m. the following morning.

These areas are also open on the weekends, but Monday at 7 a.m., normal zones are enforced. These are some of the major benefits of owning a permit.

Visitors who do not own permits can park at nonresidential meters and the visitor lots between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. and on weekends. Also, weekend permits can be sold for specific zones (call for details).

If you get a ticket, any ticket can be appealed online. The Appeals Board can uphold your request, dismiss it or reduce your fine by half.

The director of parking, Bob Furniss, is making a valiant effort to work with the students' requests to make parking easier. He has invoked a "Friendlier is Better" theme among the Parking Department.

We should all familiarize ourselves with the rules and processes on the Parking homepage.

Let's work together to keep ticket prices down, as well as permit costs for the upcoming year.

Meagan Spencer
SGA Parking and Transportation
Committee Chair
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BLINDED BY SCIENCE

Tech's on-campus technology lags behind that of peers

While we have many pioneering engineering and science research studies to boast about, it seems like we often find ourselves wondering why other schools have much cooler technologies that are used for simple, everyday tasks.

I know I've discussed this issue many times with friends while we were complaining about one Tech shafting or another. Now don't get me wrong, I love Tech and couldn't have imagined myself going to any other school, even working as hard as you have to here. But we're supposed to be one of the leading universities in terms of technology, especially in the southeast.

Take, for example, the hand-scanning machines that UGA has instead of keys to let students into their dorms. We should at least be able to get Buzzcard access into our own dorms. I was actually pestered about this issue several times when I worked for housing. And while I certainly understand the costs that would be involved in implementing such a system, it certainly seems like something we should be working towards establishing.

The whole key system seems antiquated now, and the keys often break in the door locks and then must be replaced. Even the locks themselves break with annoying frequency. "But what if someone loses their buzzcard? Anyone could get in to the building." Yeah, they could do the same thing if someone lost their key too. And having a key



"Let's face it. Those screens are really cool. But how long will we have to wait for the technology to reach the rest of campus?"

Andrea Thompson
Columnist

and a buzzcard means that you just have one more thing to keep track of, which seems like it would be more likely you'll misplace one or the other. Another complaint I've heard fairly often is in terms of the availability of the wireless network on campus. I think that the GT LAWN is wonderful and relatively easy to access, but it is only available in certain buildings on campus.

Admittedly, the number of buildings with LAWN access has grown and continues to do so, but other schools already have campus-wide wireless networks. Shouldn't we have been one of the first universities to accomplish this task? Shouldn't it have been accomplished a couple of years ago?

There are several recent examples of areas in which Tech certainly has used technology to improve our everyday college experience. For those of us who still remember the old cubicles in the library, the computer cluster that took their place is a good example of Tech's strides at improving the availability of everyday technology. But once

again, why wasn't such a useful tool implemented earlier?

The new classrooms in the ES&T building and Management building with ceiling projectors, automated screens and desktop outlets for students with laptops are also excellent examples. Even more impressive are the touch-screen computers and the daily room schedules listed on computer screens outside the doors of the classrooms in the Management building. Let's face it. Those screens are really cool. But now will we be left to wait and see how long it will take for these technologies to trickle down to the rest of the buildings on campus? Not before most of us get out, that's for sure.

I must make it clear that I am

well aware of the budget cuts the school has faced in recent years, and indeed, will have to endure again. And I understand that the limitations these cuts impose make it difficult to finance improvements in campus technologies.

But part of my point here is to back up the argument that taking money from education is only going to hurt the ability of this campus to effectively serve its students and provide them with the same excellent education it always has. It will also undercut efforts to recruit the best and the brightest students to our campus, especially from out of state, if they can go to another school that can offer more impressive incentives.

I don't know that I necessarily have a solution to these problems, other than to ask that improvements in technology continue to be considered in the school's master plan and to appeal to the state government to cease taking money from educational institutions, as it is one of the biggest investments in our future.

