



OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Cuts wound quality

The latest budget cuts suggested by the University System of Georgia's chancellor, Tom Meredith, merely highlight the financial struggles Georgia's universities have had to face in the past two years. These new cuts, currently proposed to be a five percent decrease in the operating budget, follow the 2.5 percent cut to the current fiscal year's budget with which Tech and the other universities around the state are already being forced to cope.

The myriad of challenges Tech must now overcome include figuring out where the cuts should come from. Around the state, the cuts have resulted in a decrease in the number of classes taught by full-time professors and difficulty in registering for required classes, which has led to some seniors having to graduate later than they expected. Additionally, class sizes have increased.

While some effects of the cuts are being seen at other schools around the state, few noticeable changes have occurred at Tech thus far. The pain of the financial pinch has yet to trickle down to the level of the students; perhaps this is a positive indication that the administrators and financial planners at Tech have been effective in their efforts to handle the budget squeeze. If this trend were to continue despite additional fund reductions, and educational quality is maintained, then a call to action would not be necessary for Georgia Tech.

If, however, Tech found it necessary to begin looking for places to slash financial support, it would be beneficial to look at places other than academic programs; instead, perhaps this situation would provide the perfect excuse to consider yet another raise in tuition (for both in- and out-of-state students) and to re-examine the Hope scholarship at the state-wide level.

The preservation of the school's academic reputation is of the utmost importance: if Tech is to be able to continue recruiting top graduate students, especially considering the weight the quality of our graduate programs has in the school's national rankings, then financial support for research and fellowships must be available.

The bottom line of these budget cuts is that the Institute has less money to dole out. If we are to protect the integrity of a Georgia Tech education and all that it stands for, then we must be willing to pay now, perhaps literally, by paying increased tuition fees, in order to secure the school's long-term success. It would be better for the individuals of the Institution, including the students, to make sacrifices now, to prevent having to pay in lower rankings and larger classes in the future.

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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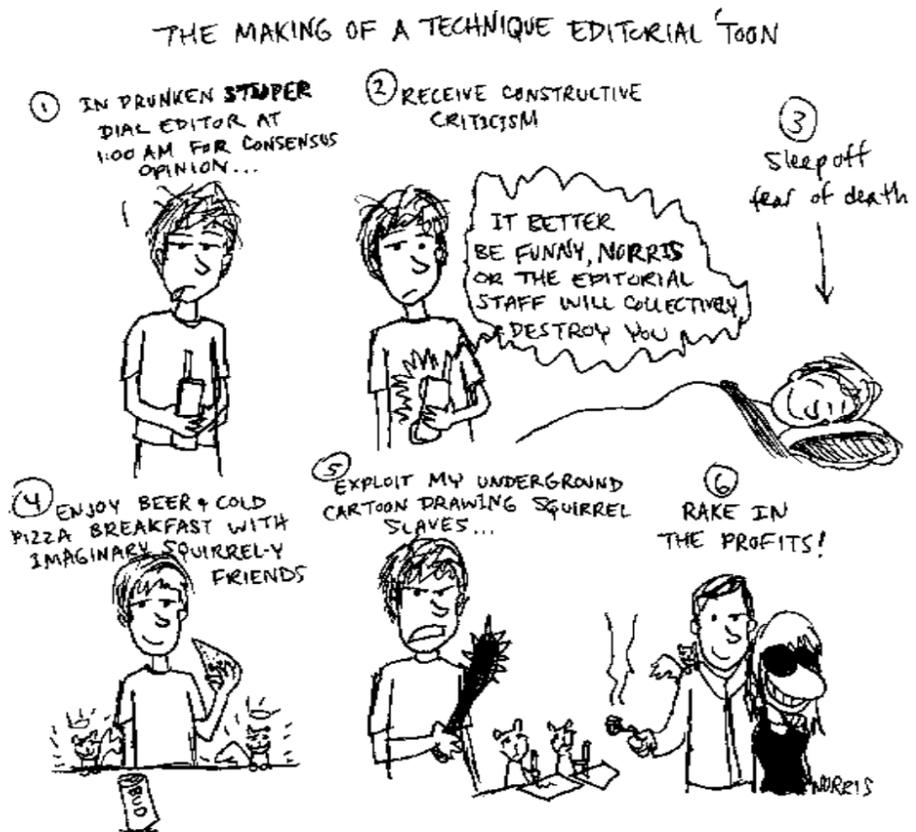
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By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech Square brings city closer to home

After over four years at this school, I finally feel like I'm in college. Well, at a college, that is. Technology Square has finally given Georgia Tech the college feel, albeit a little too late for old folks like me.

Growing up in Pittsburgh, I frequently visited campuses such as the University of Pittsburgh and Penn State to see my older friends or to hang out. These campuses had retail stores, restaurants and bars all within walking distance of the dorms and academic buildings.

When I visited Georgia Tech my senior year of high school, it seemed like the campus from a college in the middle of nowhere had been transplanted into downtown Atlanta. When I was on campus, I didn't feel like I was in a large city—all I saw were trees and old brick buildings. I didn't see a "college town" atmosphere, like at Penn State or the University of Georgia. I wasn't bothered by this—I just figured I was choosing city life over college life. I didn't think you could have both.

But this year has changed my perspective on things. Tech now offers a campus in the middle of a city and the friendly feel to go with it.

Not being a Management major, I made my first trek over to Technology Square last week. I had driven through it many times, but had never made the walk from campus to get the true experience. I felt like I was in another world.

Across the highway, there was an ice cream store, a phone store, a bookstore, a copy store and, of course, a Starbucks—with many more stores are on the way. When I was a freshman, all I could walk to were the Varsity and the Wendy's that used to be under the Georgia State apartments.

When Technology Square was first proposed, many students were opposed to the idea. They didn't want the campus to spread out, es-



"Technology Square is the most beneficial construction project I have seen while I have been a student at Georgia Tech."

Julia Trapold
Advertising Manager

pecially across the highway. They liked the campus contained safely on the west side of I-75/85, and they didn't want to walk to Midtown to get to class.

As usual, student input was ignored, and plans for the construction continued. But I'm sure anyone who complained is happily partaking in the many benefits of Technology Square.

Although Tech has always been only blocks from Midtown, expanding the campus across the highway has made us seem closer. Now Thad and Joe's is a mere three blocks from the Management building, so a quick drink is easy to obtain after class. Also, walking to restaurants and bars on Peachtree doesn't seem quite as far anymore. Once Moe's and the other restaurants are added to Tech Square, there will be even more walking-distance options to choose from.

The new Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center will likely attract more parents who are visiting their children, as well as attract businessmen visiting Atlanta. The increased business in the Midtown area can only help Tech. Plus, did you know that there is a bar in the hotel? Unfortunately, it doesn't open until three o'clock.

Besides the obvious benefits for current students, the new addition will likely draw many more prospective students, and maybe affect students' decisions to attend Tech. Tech has integrated the college campus with the urban atmosphere, as well as the small-town atmosphere,

which is an unusual combination.

The new Management complex also highly benefits several academic departments. Before this year, the School of Management was stuck over in the triangular complex that also contained the Instructional Center and the ISyE department. Moving across the highway has not only given the Management department new facilities, it has doubled the ISyE space, since they have taken over the old Management building.

Although the distance between Tech Square and campus has caused some concern, the transportation options available seem to be handling things rather well.

The addition of the Tech Trolley has helped move students from one campus area to another. Plus, we get the added benefit of seeing an "old-time" trolley driving around campus, which—you've got to agree with me here—is definitely more visually appealing than the old Stinger buses.

Technology Square is the most beneficial construction project I have seen since I have been at Georgia Tech. It was completed rather quickly and efficiently, and without much disruption to students, which you definitely can't say about the SAC renovations. After completion, it opened fully functional and in time for the fall semester. I'd like to applaud the people who coordinated this project, for surely everyone on this campus will benefit in one way or another.

Be proactive in the protection of your privacy

This week, while working in a computer lab which was snuggled into a shoebox-sized room in a campus building that will remain unnamed, I unintentionally overheard a conversation transpiring between two people.

I was busily click-clacking away on my keyboard when I caught interesting snippets of the conversation, so I stayed for more; turns out, the two people are Teaching Assistants who were in the said lab grading lab reports and lab quizzes.

The interesting part of their talk, and what inspired this editorial, was the freeness with which they were discussing the stupidity and slowness of the students in their lab sections. With two other people sitting not three feet away from the pair, in an *undergrad* (as in, the kinds of students who take the lab for which these people are TAs) computer lab, why in the world would they feel so comfortable ragging on students?

Sure, I got a kick out of hearing their complaints, in between comments about how hard *The Lord of the Rings* is to read in Spanish, and, yeah, I made a point to remember exactly what they said since I knew my roommate is in the class they were talking about, but at the same time I felt strangely burdened with knowledge of their conversation—as if it was now my re-



“This hour-long, forced foray into other peoples’ lives reminded me of points we all need to remember.”

Jennifer Schur
Opinions Editor

sponsibility to tap them on the shoulder and, speaking for undergrads worldwide who are oppressed by up-tight TAs, say, “Scuse me, but I don’t think you’re being very nice, and you never know who’s listening. *Ehem.*”

But I held back. Eventually, they moved on to other topics of conversation (did you really want me to know that this weekend was the first time you had ever been *that drunk* and that you hurt yourself but you don’t remember how?) and I was no longer treated with rants about making lab groups smaller because they all just copy each other and why the students who ask all the questions still do the worst grade-wise. This hour-long, forced foray into other peoples’ lives reminded me of a few points we all need to be reminded of, especially living in this increasingly small world in which everyone knows practically everyone else.

You never know who is around

you. My experience with the TAs proves that you may think you are in a safe place to talk about anything, when in actuality there are ears everywhere. Those ears belong to people who might know the people who are the subject of the conversation, too—I took the TAs’ words back to my roommate for a good laugh (and to wonder if we were ever some of the “stupid ones”). Not only can talking about a sensitive issue with lots of people around be dangerous for the subjects’ reputations and feelings, but can cause innocent bystanders to have possibly undesired, but negative, views of you.

For example, my roommate was sitting at the Campanile the other day when she overheard two girls talking about a boy one of them had just met. My roommate quickly realized that the boy they were talking about was the ex-boyfriend of one of her good friends. Had the chatting girls realized who was sitting next to

them, they probably wouldn’t have been as free in sharing what a bad kisser the boy was. With the small population that makes up our Tech community, combined with the fact that everyone is a part of so many different groups of people, it’s beneficial to think about how many of your friends (or random people sitting next to you in public) you think don’t know each other, when in reality they do.

If you are in a public setting and talking about private information, at least try to be inconspicuous and quiet for the sake of the people around you (I don’t really want to know about that time you got caught not washing your hands after using the bathroom).

Most importantly for this school, you never know who’s looking over the shoulder of the person you’re talking to on Instant Messenger. When you’re telling one of your friends an embarrassing story about your latest escapades, remember that you never know whether her friends are all peering over her shoulder and laughing.

For the sake of those around you and if you don’t want to be laughed at, made fun of or thought of as mean and crass, be conscientious about what you’re saying and where you’re saying it. Thanks, from the girl in the second row.

OUR VIEWS Hot or Not

HOT-or-NOT



Topping V-ball

For the first time ever, a team from the Atlanta Coast Conference is in the top five of the NCAA’s national rankings for women’s volleyball. With their win Sunday over Nebraska, Tech’s volleyball team rocketed into the No. 5 spot on the rankings, bumping the Cornhuskers back to Tech’s former place at No. 10. It’s great to see a Tech team ranked so high nationally. Way to go, girls!



“Buzziness”

Not only is the title of the new DVD/VHS featuring the latest pairing of Georgia Tech and Auburn football cheesy, it also sounds like the title for a bad porn movie. *Open for Buzziness* is the newest offering from ramblinwreck.com and promises the ability to “relive one of the most memorable games in Tech history!” Great concept, but couldn’t the PR people have thought of a less goofy title?



“It was good...”

Better Than Ezra hitting the Ferst Center this Monday is good. Kudos to the Student Center Concert Committee for scoring a top act with low prices for student tickets at an on-campus locale. Hopefully this is a sign of great events to come this year—first Six Flags, now this—can it get Better than Ezra?



“Old Blue Eyes”

Apparently, Frank Sinatra is a huge underground hit on the Tech music scene, and so the Ramblin’ Nights committee feels it worthy to pay a lot of money for an impersonator to play at tonight’s event. Sure, some of the activities they have planned sound cool, but others make us wonder what they’re thinking.

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Six Flags an unnoted success

As one who was involved in the planning and funding for the GT at Six Flags night as well as one who attended, along with 7,200 other Tech folks, I was looking forward to the *Technique* coverage of this major event. In fact, I believe it was the largest gathering of Tech students at any event other than a football game in the history of the Institute. All I found was a photo with a negative reference to waiting in line for a ride.

This event wasn’t just about numbers, although that alone would justify a story. Six Flags was a wonderful example of student initiative, Institute support—both financial and advisory—and student follow-

through to a wildly successful conclusion. And all this in a context where complaints about the fun side of Georgia Tech are often heard. The SGA, Ben Lawder in particular, and the GSS deserve major credit for pulling this off. We used the recently established Student Life Fund to subsidize the event. Parking and Transportation offered free shuttle

“[Six Flags] was the kind of collaboration between students and the Institute that we all seek.”

Overall, this was the kind of collaboration between students and the Institute that we all seek. I am disappointed that the *Technique* did not give it the coverage it deserved.

Lee Wilcox
Vice President, Student Affairs

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 Tony Klumper, 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 reserves the right to edit for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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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>.

BUZZ

Around the Campus

What do you think about the new Woodruff dining hall?



Kim Cooper
AE Sophomore

“How the food sections are separate, unlike in Britain.”



Manu Raghavan
EE Freshman

“Tray return looks like it’s something out of Star Wars.”



Jimmy Ouyang
MGT Junior

“The looks and the new conveyor belt.”



Ricardo Wardlhave
ISyE Freshman

“It’s below my expectations.”

Through the looking glass California's latest shenanigans recall *Julius Caesar*

Before now, we knew the otherworldly place called California as a melting pot of diversity and questionable values. Where else can you find acceptance of legalized marijuana, power brownouts and at a minimum the marital infidelity of Gary Condit?

Now the state teetering upon the edge of the San Andreas is seeking to redefine the face of modern American politics. A recall vote for Governor Gray Davis has given us the most recent example of how absurd politics has become. A statesman such as Davis required no less than 13 years as governor or lieutenant governor to help completely wreck the state economy, destroy the state's ability to power itself and support legislation that makes the rest of the nation wonder if the San Andreas is actually a black hole. Okay, so they finally decided to get rid of the guy. Congratulations!

In today's society, the amazing thing is not only that Davis is being recalled, but also how California is deciding to elect the next governor. From an initial applicant pool of over 5,000 candidates vying for the simple plurality election, the leaders in the race turn out to be the Terminator and Lieutenant Governor Bustamonte. Schwarzenegger is doing quite well at winning the mock high-school popularity contest, while Bustamonte's daily schedule for the last few weeks has been to support Davis one hour, followed by a polit-

ical rally promoting himself as the next state leader. Davis has at least been spared an "Et tu Brute" since the backstabbing takes place on public television.

While we're there, whatever happened to the good of the Republic? Brutus was willing to sacrifice his dearest friend for the benefit of the

Empire, but politicians today overwhelmingly portray Cassius's role. Here's an image to consider: two men (or women for that matter)

running for President in a close contest. The winner emerges victorious, and the loser licks his wounds, agreeing to become the Vice-President because that is the best thing for the nation. The two fierce opponents then work together over the next four years for the benefit of their countrymen. Sound like a fairy tale? Just open up a history book to the first fifty years of the United States and you shall see how magnanimous the early VPs truly were.

Perhaps the era that also beheld Hamilton and Burr's duel is not the answer, but it is a hell of a lot more productive than the mudslinging, scandals and culling opposition

through refusal to participate. Honor and integrity are rapidly disappearing from the political scene—state legislators in Texas are willing to leave the state they represent in order to obstruct a vote, and the Senate Democrats have repeatedly shown their jackassness in the months-long filibuster over Estrada's appointment. Even Strom Thurmond would be rolling in his grave, crying out for Constitutional due process once his 24-hour vigil was concluded.

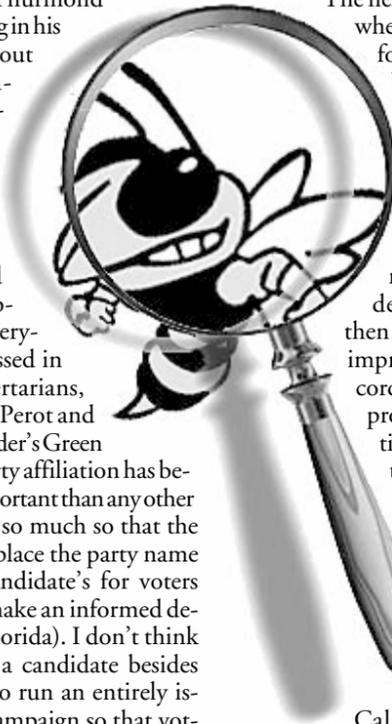
Today, we have two firmly entrenched political establishments—everybody else is tossed in with the Libertarians, odd ducks like Perot and Ventura, or Nader's Green marauders. Party affiliation has become more important than any other consideration, so much so that the ballots clearly place the party name next to the candidate's for voters too stupid to make an informed decision (sorry Florida). I don't think I've ever seen a candidate besides Perot willing to run an entirely issue-oriented campaign so that voters knew where their potential representatives stand. No doubt you can tell I fall on the more conservative side of the political spectrum, and yet the modern politician

I respect the most is our past governor and current Senator Zell Miller. I disagree with many of his social views (and, hey, the guy went to UGA), but I respect the man for his willingness to often disregard the imaginary political divide, following his beliefs rather than an invisible yoke.

The next time you vote—whether the election is for President of the United States or a representative of your student organization—learn each candidate's strengths and weaknesses and make an informed decision. Perhaps then we can focus on improving society according to the original provisions and intentions of the Constitution rather than watching the sexual perversions of a disgraced Rhodes playboy or a two-month limbo while attempting to recall a California governor. And with the Twilight Zone-feeling to this modern crapshoot, Davis may very well remain at the helm on October 7th; if so, I'd be ready to hear the subtle threat: "I'll be back."



ALAN MICHAELS
COLUMNIST



YOUR VIEWS

Letters to the Editor

Key piece of goalpost history forgotten

I enjoyed the piece covering the history of Georgia Tech's goalpost tearing tradition, but one important instance of this tradition was omitted in the recent edition of the *Technique*.

On Thanksgiving weekend in 1999, Tech beat the University of Georgia 51-48 in overtime at Grant Field after UGA got greedy and 'fumbled' on the two yard line, while going for the game winning score in regulation. Tech ran out the clock, kicked a winning field goal over Georgia, and for the second straight time in two years, the goalposts came down in celebration.

I hope that some mention will be made in an upcoming edition of the paper, since the Georgia victory was the sweetest one of all.

Ben Swain
gte703j
GT alumnus and proud owner of a piece of 1999 history

