



### OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

## Summer session

The new summer school policies designed for next year's freshmen could greatly benefit the incoming class.

Dismal freshman year GPAs that result from students not being prepared for the academic rigor of Tech are an all-too-familiar story. At a school where students come from diverse academic backgrounds, it is inevitable that not all students can live up to the academic standards set by their peers and faculty members when they step on to campus. Also, adjusting to the college lifestyle can be a struggle for the time-management-challenged. Thus, it is understandable that many freshmen struggle academically, especially while taking difficult core courses such as calculus and chemistry.

The new short summer session is designed to help those students have an easier transition to the world that is college and Tech. It will also give ambitious students a proverbial leg up on their academic careers and allow them the possibility of graduating earlier or taking more electives throughout their college careers. Lastly, the program will also aid athletes in their transition to college, as athletes face more time constraints when selecting classes. Freshman athletes also face the added stress of competition and training on top of the normal college adjustment issues, while working to comply with NCAA regulations that are blind to the difficulty of the school they attend. This would aid in that process without compromising academic standards.

Having an option to begin their college careers early could be a great way to prepare students for college. A short summer semester would be less demanding of incoming students' time, and class offerings such as pre-calculus and the 22-week bridge course in chemistry could provide substantial help for promising students who need some extra attention to get up to speed with Tech's demands.

It's also great to see that administrators are doing their best to provide the full college experience to the freshmen who choose to come early. Forcing all those who enroll to live on campus and be a part of the Freshman Experience program means that those students will be put into a provably successful support network.

One valid concern is whether the program will be able to generate more student life activities during the summer session. A common complaint among students taking courses over the summer is that the campus is generally "dead." Throwing freshmen into such an environment would negatively affect their view of student life at Tech, which the administration is constantly working to improve, and may make getting involved in the Fall more difficult for these students.

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

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Kyle Thomason, *Editor-in-Chief*

Stephen Baehl, *Development Editor*  
 Joshua Cuneo, *Online Editor*  
 Amanda Dugan, *News Editor*  
 Halley Espy, *Executive Editor*  
 Lauren Griffin, *Advertising Manager*

Jamie Howell, *Photography Editor*  
 Patrick Odneal, *Sports Editor*  
 Swathy Prithivi, *Focus Editor*  
 Haining Yu, *Opinions Editor*  
 Evan Zasoski, *Entertainment Editor*

### Copyright Notice

Copyright © 2005, Kyle Thomason, Editor-in-Chief, and by the Board of Student Publications. The *Technique* is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. No part of this paper may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the Editor or from the Board of Student Publications. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Student Publications, the students, staff or faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University System of Georgia.  
 First copy free. Subsequent copies \$1 each.



By Erin Gatlin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Cultural bubble refuses to burst

At precisely noon every weekday, the second floor of the Student Center becomes a meeting place for 100 Indian-American students.

Perhaps that number is a slight exaggeration, but it seems that the place is teeming midday with my tan-skinned peers. They always take up at least half a floor.

These students, despite attending a diversely populated university, miss out on the benefits of diversity by limiting themselves to hanging out with friends of the same ethnicity.

Rarely can a non-Indian be found amidst the throng of subcontinentals. Although these people are all unique, the bottom line remains that they are not interacting with people of other cultures. They are not exposed to a diversity of viewpoints and philosophies.

I must confess that I have been guilty of staying within a cultural bubble in the past; most of my friends were Indian-Americans and I made little effort to break out of my own Indian bubble. Breaking out can be difficult.

Why is it so hard to befriend students of other cultures? Many would argue simply that because people from one ethnic group are so alike one another, they can relate to each other more easily. For instance, in the case of Indians, the argument would be that strict parenting, curry, rotis and festivals like Garba would be the binding forces.

Yet others, such as Dr. Beverly Tatum, would argue that racism keeps us in perpetual segregation. Beginning as early as elementary school, she argues that children belonging to minority groups separate themselves because they recognize that they are different.

In her book *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* she writes, "In racially mixed settings, racial grouping is a developmental process in response to an environmental stressor, racism."

Racism segregates us because not



"I must confess that I have been guilty of staying within a cultural bubble in the past... breaking out can be difficult."

**Nikhil Joshi**  
 Assistant News Editor

only are the oppressors racist, but the oppressed are also racist. The presence of racism against certain groups in this country is aided by the groups themselves.

For instance, the stereotype that women are less capable than men exists partially because these women accept the stereotype to some degree, asking for handicaps in the work force.

However, racism does not even have to be in the form of oppression to segregate us. For instance, assuming that all Indian people are vegetarians is a racist assumption. Within the country are different regions harboring a variety of traditions, some of those being non-Hindu or non-vegetarian (not that all Hindus practice vegetarianism, another misconception).

In one example, a white student makes the assumption that his new Indian friend will not eat beef and does not invite him to eat at a steak house with his other friends. The Indian also assumes that the white student would not enjoy Indian food that is vegetarian and does not invite him over for a home-cooked meal.

As can be seen from this example, another reason for the prevalence of racism is that people want to avoid confrontation.

Dr. Tatum points this out in her book. Out of the fear that they might make offensive comments, neither party tries to discuss what they assume as differences. It is quite possible that both students eat meat but enjoy vegetarian food as well.

Keeping this in mind, it is undoubtedly easier to befriend students of the same race; confrontation is avoided. Even though this is done subconsciously, the results are visible. Even worse, the creation of large racial groups furthers a harsher kind of racism. Because the group is so used to accepting members of its own race, members of other races find it hard—even intimidating—to attempt to assimilate into the group.

Such an experience is deeply impressed in my memory; it is this experience that finally made me break out of my cultural bubble. When I tried to bring a couple of my Korean friends to a party consisting mostly of Indians last year, the reaction of my Indian friends made me sick. Although they didn't do it on purpose, they stopped talking to my two Korean friends fifteen minutes after they were introduced.

Turning back to the other members of their group, they acted as if the Koreans weren't there. One of my Korean friends asked me when I was going home. Ashamed of my other friends, I vowed that I would try to break out of my cultural bubble.

In conclusion, missing out on the diversity of Tech heavily detracts from the experience that this campus could provide. Learning to step out of a comfort zone, if not learned in college, could be a skill that is never be acquired.

For someone who is about to

See Bubble, page 8

# Cliques prevent true understanding of life

Small, exclusive groups of friends or associates, affectionately referred to as cliques, are prevalent on Tech's campus—there are fraternity cliques, sorority cliques, organization cliques, coupled cliques, Indian cliques, Chinese cliques, Latino cliques, cliques within cliques and even anti-clique cliques.



**“Sticking to familiar terrain for the entire length of the trip is contrary to the core purpose of traveling.”**

**Swathy Prithivi**  
Focus Editor

Building support networks and healthy relationships is a very important part of success in college and in life. Finding “kindred spirits” and fun, interesting people on a similar wavelength is wonderful and spending time with them does provide security and an affirmation of your choices.

Cliques can create positive, stimulating environments and provide a family away from home. But more often than not, people in these cliques, due to a high comfort level and complacency they feel, become totally absorbed in their circles and stop pushing boundaries or ever stepping outside their comfort zone.

Aside from limiting personal growth this is dangerous because one falsely begins to believe that the world revolves only around one's chosen beliefs and opinions and it makes people unable to look beyond stereotypes. From being around a group of people who believe in the same ideals

and behave in the same ways, these people's beliefs are merely affirmed rather than questioned or analyzed. As a result they start looking at the world with the base premise that it rotates around them and begin seeing things solely through their viewpoint.

Dealing with differences really stretches your mental capabilities because you're dealing with something outside your understanding of the world and this challenges your views. Personal growth is not really possible without challenges of different sorts.

Globalization and technology has only added to the problem and in a way, made us falsely secure in our comfort zone. We drive Japanese cars, order Chinese food, watch French films and dance to Latin music—we're globalized, right?

This clique or sub-group phenomenon broadens on to

encompass an entire culture and results in a lack of cultural exposure in the world.

Thomas Friedman, the celebrated *New York Times* foreign affairs columnist was on campus recently to give a talk on how the world now is exciting and exceedingly connected, the argument he makes in his new book, *The World is Flat*.

He believes that the future will be driven not by giant multinational corporations or major international organizations like the World Bank, but by individuals.

To truly compete in this global economy one needs to understand the world from an international perspective. According to Friedman, the world is changing the plane on which it is operating from vertical to horizontal, meaning that you have to be able to reach out to your fellow man on the other side

of the world at the same level of understanding.

On a study abroad trip earlier this year, I had the opportunity to observe my fellow classmates take in a new culture. Understandably it is comforting to see people and landmark institutions from back home when in a foreign land. But sticking to familiar terrain for the entire length of the trip is contrary to the core purpose of traveling, which is meant to expand one's narrow view of life.

If you primarily eat at KFC or Pizza Hut in Singapore you're not experiencing Singaporean culture, you're experiencing local fast food in a seemingly exotic location. If you mainly visit drinking joints aimed at homesick expatriates in China for entertainment and never go the Peking Opera, you're not soaking in Chinese culture; you're just bar hopping in Beijing.

This way of travel ensures that you see this new exotic world only through your own shoes and not anyone else's, thus defeating the very premise of going to a new land, observing a new culture and broadening your horizons.

Well step outside your comfort zone, even if only in small baby steps, because in today's increasingly integrated world, if you don't you will eventually be eaten alive.

## BUZZ Around the Campus What are you doing for Thanksgiving break?



**Meoshe Williams**  
First-year Math

*“I'm going home.”*



**Myneeka Cook**  
CHEM Grad Student

*“Going to go home to Arkansas to visit family and friends.”*



**Derick Coogler**  
First-year CS

*“Probably going to a place called Checkers...it's a nice restaurant.”*



**Stephen Medina**  
PHYS Freshman

*“I am staying here.”*

Photos by Ben Keyserling

### OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

## HOT- or -NOT



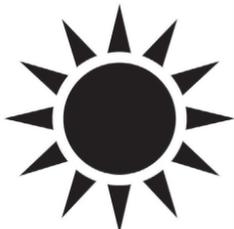
### Lights, camera...

Tech students have had continued success participating in what is now the largest student movie-making contest in the world (since 2001). This year we once again look forward to viewing everything from the completely asinine to the technically astounding to the deeply moving. iMovieFest gives Techies the chance to exercise our creative sides (and play with cool gadgets at the same time).



### Football falls again

National rankings have spelled trouble for the Tech football team, as it seems every time we make the elusive poll we lose a tough game. The Jackets went down 27-17 to the Virginia Cavaliers last Saturday, despite a spirited comeback in the third quarter. The remainder of the season is an uphill battle for the Jackets, as they face No. 3 Miami and No. 14 Georgia in the remaining two games.



### Hoop it up

The basketball team plays its first regular season game today, and this will be an excellent opportunity to see what the young talent is made of. The Jackets face the UNC-Asheville Bulldogs, who may not have the blockbuster billing of their Chapel Hill brethren but should still keep the game exciting.



### Library shakes

Whoa, did a small earthquake just pass through the library? No, never mind, that's just the construction in the East Wing. While we do look forward to the prospect of having convenient access to java while slaving away on our Java, the construction rumbles are detrimental to our studying.

## Avoiding Facebook okay

By Erin Mcracken  
Daily Collegian

(U-WIRE) U. Penn—I am a minority. Yes, I am a middle-class Caucasian female at Penn State, but sometimes I feel like part of a minority—I'm not on Facebook.

I have come to expect a certain type of reaction when I reveal this deep, dark secret. People usually seem confused/surprised and ask “Why?” with such alarm/horror that you would think I kicked a puppy. They call me a freak and say I'm “out of the loop”—but I think I'm okay with that.

I shrug off pleas and pressure to join Facebook because, really, I just don't understand why it's such a big deal.

I've always been a late-bloomer when it comes to communication technology. While most of my peers started using AOL Instant Messenger in seventh grade, I didn't start using AIM until I came to college, when the Ethernet hookups in the dorms made it possible to be online

24/7. I avoided sending e-mails until—lo and behold—Penn State gave me my own WebMail account. So, when Penn State's extensive Facebook community was created, I decided that, like sororities and country music, it just wasn't for me.

First of all, I have heard many first-hand accounts from Facebook users that it's addictive and distracting, which makes me wonder why it's so flippin' sweet. I know you can keep in touch with people, look at funny pictures and join groups. But would joining the “I like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches” group really make me more popular?

Facebook is funny and cute, sure, but I don't like to be associated with anything labeled “cute.” Maybe not joining is my own way to avoid conforming to societal norms. Or maybe I'm full of crap.

Honestly though, Facebook scares me. I don't fancy the thought of a complete stranger

See Facebook, page 8

### 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 Kyle Thomason, 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](http://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 Grant Schissler 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.

**Facebook** from page 7

reading details about my life and wanting to “poke” me.

Making my profile accessible only to my friends doesn't make me feel any more secure. There's always someone who will find a way around the system. And I've heard people admit that they use Facebook to “stalk” people. This kind of creeps me out.

I'm content in my anonymity. I value my privacy and considering that the police are now using Facebook to aid their investigation into those who rushed the field at the Ohio State game, I'm glad mine is not being violated.

People should have been aware that the government and corporations have access to people's Internet activities before they posted incriminating information.

For example, Echelon, a huge intelligence and analysis network, uses computers to sort intercepts such as phone calls, faxes and e-mails all over the world. It is important that people realize the stuff they write online is not as safe as they may think it is. Don't let this keep you up at night, it could be worse. At least we don't live in China where the government censors Internet access and content.

To all you Facebook-ers at large, don't think I'm hatin'. What you do in your spare time is up to you. Just know the risks involved when you join the “I'm under 21 and like to get drunk” group.

And if you ask me why I'm not on Facebook, don't be offended when I ask you why you are.

**Sept. 11 prompts introspection, thoughts of turkey**

Ah, Thanksgiving, the time of year we eat things we rarely ever eat, like turkey and cranberries.

The time of year we stuff our turkeys with croutons and our mouths with the turkey. We dress our kindergartners as little pilgrims and Indians, teaching them the importance of unity and love.

But in some ways, Thanksgiving can be a real pain in the wattle.

There's the sleepiness that overtakes you, caused by an essential amino acid called tryptophan, in turkey. That's what my sixth grade science teacher told us right before Thanksgiving break one year, though he may have been a vegetarian. I'm not sure.

And then there is the airport.

For those of you who live within driving distance of Tech, be thankful for your closeness to home on this occasion. The rest of us who do go home must travel by plane.

Traveling on Thanksgiving Day means your flight will most likely be delayed and very noisy children will be in the aisle behind you, kicking your seat throughout the



“The Thanksgiving after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center was the only time I was afraid to fly.”

**Alexandra Pajak**  
Columnist

flight. Not to mention the obligatory strip search now required at most security gates.

In all seriousness, except for holidays, I actually like flying. I like seeing the top of the Bank of America building as the plane departs, and I enjoy seeing Atlanta's skyline as I return from my parents' home in Maryland.

The Thanksgiving after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center was the only time I was afraid to fly.

I was flying into Washington-Dulles airport, which flight 77 departed shortly before it eventually crashed into the Pentagon.

I was very scared. Suddenly my world of coursework and trivial concerns became serious. Death, destruction, confusion, and revenge plagued the air. Fear was definitely a part of the equation.

That autumn semester of 2001 I served as a leader to freshman students just coming in. Many of the freshmen were also afraid of flying. Our faculty sponsor told us, “I know this sounds fatalistic, but just tell yourself, ‘If it's my time to go, it's my time.’”

She warned us not to let other people frighten us from living our daily lives with confidence. She encouraged us to still enjoy life and

to push onward.

I do not know enough about the details of the attacks to make any judgments, and I never intend to do so.

I do know that that particular November I grew. I grew in a way I had never really grown before, not upward or sideways or even intellectually.

Something happens when people realize they are part of something larger than themselves. The world seems very big very suddenly, and this can feel overwhelming.

After time, though, I think I've come to appreciate my place in the world, however small.

So I am thankful for the very large things I often take for granted: The freedom to speak as I wish, the freedom to vote and to drive a car, the freedom to write. The freedom to board that plane on Thanksgiving and choose to forgive the noisy brats behind me and acknowledge the place each of us has in this large, marvelous world.

I'm not saying it will be easy. But I'll certainly try.

**YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Shuttle coverage skims over issue of cost**

Your news item “Shuttle shifts to Atlantic Station Publix” dodges around the main issue of the Kroger-Publix debate: the prices.

There is only passing reference to students thinking the prices at Publix will be higher. Andersen's

comments justifying the move are totally bogus; shopping for groceries has nothing to do with enjoying movies at Atlantic Station. Also, your blurb of Meyers' statement is totally irrelevant to the discussion.

The “regular users” of the grocery shuttle interviewed are apparently not regular users as seen from their comments and own admissions.

The grocery shuttle is of critical

importance to me and others who don't own a car, so I appreciate your reporting this on the front page and highlighting the issue. But your reporting would be fairer if you did a more in-depth analysis and engaged real stake-holders for feedback.

Rahul Ranade  
2nd-year Graduate Student, CE  
gtg026w@mail.gatech.edu

**Bubble** from page 6

go into the post-university world, skipping this important lesson could have huge consequences. Some of the experiences that college should provide should be new ones, ones that force us to adapt. Lacking the ability to adapt, the progress of members of segregated groups is greatly hindered.

**DO YOU HAVE A SPRING INTERNSHIP?**

Come in and register with the  
**Undergraduate Professional Internship Program**  
before January 13!

Ensure you receive the  
**credit and recognition**  
you deserve on your transcript!



Stop by the 1st floor of the  
Savant Building, Room 103.  
[www.profpractice.gatech.edu](http://www.profpractice.gatech.edu)

**Georgia Tech** Division of Professional Practice  
Cooperative Education & Undergraduate Professional Internships