



# Students lack personal responsibility

While it's true that I enjoy most aspects of this community, there is one practice that I simply abhor: the tradition of stealing Ts.



**"I utterly fail...to [understand] students who act stupid and purposefully destructive."**

**Joshua Cuneo**  
Online Editor

Now, before angry alumni start sending me hate mail, give me a moment to defend my position. T-theft, by definition, is vandalism, and it's defacement of university property.

Tech went to great expense and effort to decorate our campus with these beautiful building markers to aid navigation and improve our professional image.

But packs of students have gone around scraping the Ts off, so many of these brand-new signs now look ugly and unkempt.

As a result, it detracts from the overall cleanliness and respectability that is supposed to create a positive impression on our visitors.

And consider the costs to the Institute. Sure, the stick-on letters are much cheaper to purchase and much easier to replace than the older letters that were drilled into the buildings' outer walls. However, they're also easier to steal, and with enough Ts missing, the costs add up. Money is taken from other necessary campus improvements because students just won't demonstrate a little respect.

Which brings me to the crux

of my editorial: I will never understand students who intentionally do stupid things.

I consider myself to be someone who tries relentlessly to understand another person's point of view before I express my own opinion. I try to put myself in the minds of my fellow classmates and students to understand their motivations, strengths and attitudes toward the world.

With most students, I can achieve this with some degree of success, but I utterly fail when it comes to students who act stupid and purposefully destructive: they're completely beyond my comprehension.

They steal Ts. They break off the wooden gates of the parking garages. They smash pots and shatter doors. They carve engravings into desks.

They tear down the bulletin board strips mounted in the hallways. They toss cigarette butts onto the ground. They stick

chewed gum under tables.

Students are even worse when they're extremely drunk.

Last year, I walked in on my roommate and three of his friends who had drunken themselves into a frenzy in some sort of perverted St. Patrick's Day celebration, and they were tossing empty beer bottles out of the half-open living room window.

Needless to say, one of them bounced off the furniture and collided with the window, which shattered all over the floor.

Yes, it was an accident, but it never would have happened if they hadn't been acting recklessly in the first place. Even if the window hadn't broken, someone in the courtyard below could have been seriously injured by a flying bottle.

And when they're not smashing furniture, they're insulting others.

I have personally witnessed students in an alcoholic stupor making caustic remarks that are

overtly sexist, racial or homophobic, and they are not the slightest bit amusing.

I find these conversations bigoted and demeaning, demonstrating a clear lack of intelligence, maturity and self-control.

Why, I want to ask them, would you do this to yourself? Why would you drink to excess? Why would you allow your own inhibitions to be so low that you find yourself destroying property and disrespecting your classmates? What motivates you to be so callous and cruel?

I have nothing against alcohol, but all things in moderation, man. Where is your sense of dignity and self-respect?

I'm rarely one to file a complaint without proposing a solution, but in this case, I'm at a loss. This is a strictly personal issue. I cannot influence whether or not students have self-respect and a sense of gratitude toward others.

I cannot raise maturity levels. I cannot sit next to every sign 24 hours a day fending off every lunatic with a paint scraper.

What I can do is encourage people to stop and consider the consequences of their actions.

I can persuade them not to take any aspect of their college experience for granted and to

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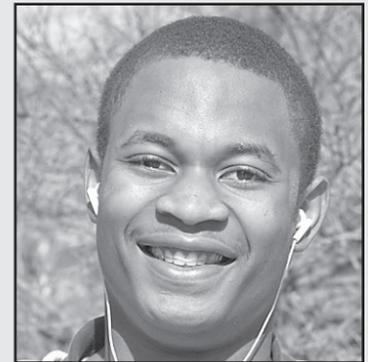
## BUZZ Around the Campus

**How did you spend your Valentine's Day?**



**Angela Baker**  
Fourth-year STaC

*"I took my mother to lunch."*



**Chinedu Ezeamuzie**  
First-year MGT

*"I went to dinner with a friend."*



**Christine Dreas**  
Second-year AE

*"I watched the Winter Olympics."*



**Jack McPherson**  
Second-year IE

*"I hung out with my girlfriend."*

Photos by Chris Clarke

### OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

## HOT- or -NOT



### Sim-world

The Living Game Worlds Symposium swept through campus yesterday, bringing along many leaders in the field of game design. The keynote speaker of the symposium was game designer Will Wright, the man who created The Sims and SimCity, and the man who started the genre of living game worlds. His presence alone made this event a must-attend for game enthusiasts and aspiring designers.



### Hoops up, down

Men's basketball almost made this week's "Hot" for snapping their longest losing streak since the 1980-81 season by winning against N. C. State last Sunday. But the Jackets were unable to hold a big lead on Wednesday. Despite a 13-point lead at half-time, the Jackets managed to lose 82-75 by allowing UNC freshman Hansbrough 40 points during the game and scoring only 20 second-half points.



### Baseball rocks

Baseball season and hopefully the sunny weather that goes along with it are here. The Jackets are ranked no. 3 in the nation with a 3-0 record. Wednesday, the team beat Georgia State 11-9. The baseball team plays a three-game series at home this weekend against Kennesaw; admission is free with a BuzzCard.



### Pricy flowers

The out-of-the-blue landscaping project in front of the CRC is costing the school \$134,000...all for some new dirt and a few flower beds. While it's nice that this money is being invested to one of the nicer, more highly trafficked and visible buildings on campus, the grass that previously was there wasn't that bad.

## Kindergartners gone wild

**Cole Dowden**  
*The Shorthorn*

(U-WIRE) UT Arlington—We all remember being six years old, right?

We played the "cootie game" and chased each other around on the playground. Our biggest worries were getting picked last for a kickball game and eating too much paste.

Can you imagine worrying about sexual harassment at the age of six? Chalk it up to another sign of the apocalypse, maybe.

In Brockton, Mass., a six-year-old boy was suspended from school for sexual harassment. He probably can't even spell sexual harassment and he was suspended for it.

What could this kid have done?

An Associated Press report in Friday's issue of the *Star-Telegram* stated that he put two fingers inside a classmate's waistband. That's it. That's all folks.

The boy's mother said she can't explain the suspension to her son

because, "she can't even tell her son what he did wrong because he's too young to understand."

The boy said he touched the girl because she touched him first. Man, where's instant replay when you really need it?

Here's why this is absurd -- if you haven't got a pulse—he's six years old and in kindergarten.

The politically correct bulldogs' invasion into our lives is appalling. Not even childhood is safe from excessive incriminations of the politically correct.

This kid will live with the stigma of sexual predatorship.

School officials have since apologized to the boy's family saying "they learned a lesson" and will change things, but his classmates won't forget that he was suspended for touching a classmate's waistband. His mother won't forget either. Chances are, he'll be the proud owner of an intimacy problem well into his 30s. Thanks, political correctness—yet another deviant child is hammered into submission.

### 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](mailto: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.

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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, email [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu).

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express thanks by leaving campus property intact. I can even suggest to Facilities drill clear plastic coverings over each marker or to the GTPD that we need more nighttime drive-bys.

But so long as students continue to disregard themselves, others and their Institute, these actions will only be so effective.

Now, despite all that I've said, I do believe in the inherent kindness of the students here.

Most of them are intelligent, wonderful people who would never hurt a fly. They represent a huge cultural and philosophical diversity that I brag about to my friends and family all over the country. I really do enjoy being a member of this community and wouldn't trade it for anything.

Unfortunately, there are a few rotten eggs that give the entire Institute a bad image.

I hope that the majority of us that do respect ourselves and our environment will not be disheartened by the actions of a few vandals, and I hope that we will be willing to reach out to our friends if we ever see them start to go down that road.

**Olympics** from page 8

year-old Chinese snowboarder Sun Zhifeng to 54-year-old American curler Scott Baird. The diversity is astounding.

And while not every person in those 84 countries watches the Olympics, those who do, even those

**V-Day cure: limit exposure to fuzzy mushiness**

This February brings the most recently invented holiday: Single Awareness Day (SAD).

SAD will now occur every February 14. The Centers for Emotional Management (CEM) recently began this day as a public health measure to decrease rates of depression, stomach aches and vengeful thoughts associated with what was formerly called "Valentine's Day."

Not all people are aware of this new day of awareness. Items worn or exchanged such as red shirts, flowers and tiny puppies are definite suggestions of a person's unawareness of SAD. Unfortunately, such displays also occasionally indicate a rebellious attitude toward SAD.

Such rebels, officially called "SAD Renegades" also exhibit behaviors of prejudice against those persons who are single. Such behaviors include kissing, hand-holding, late-night dining rituals and other forms of physical expression not mentionable in a single person's company.

The CEM has issued the following advice to persons who wish to celebrate SAD in peace:

In the case of items such as red lipstick, cute pets, etc., run as far



"The CEM has issued the following suggestions...wear lots of black clothing to both fool and calm SAD celebrants."

**Alexandra Pajak**  
Columnist

away as possible.

If a single person encounters the anti-SAD behaviors of physical intimacy on February 14, it is recommended that they spit in the people's general direction, then drop to the ground and roll furiously. This will allow the fumes of anger and jealousy to safely be extinguished.

For SAD celebrants, the CEM also issues the following recommendations as types of self-therapy. Find a support group of SAD fellows. Gather in a group, ideally in a bar or apartment porch, cursing the concept of romance and love in general. The CEM recommends that single persons watch as many Woody Allen movies as possible, especially *Annie Hall*. *The Graduate* featuring Dustin

Hoffman is also recommended. Both films have therapeutic effects due to their emphasis on the dysfunctional aspects of romantic relationships.

Stay clear of any film involving John Cusack, Meg Ryan or Julia Roberts.

If someone celebrating SAD does not follow the tri-fold methods of avoidance, confrontation and self-therapy, the following severe effects may occur: fever, nausea, blistering of the skin around the upper-left chest area, back pain, headaches, pelvic cramps and/or anal leakage.

Hallucinations involving a former lover in a bed full of scorpions being set on fire by the dumpee have been known to occur in extreme cases. If hallucinations occur, the

CEM recommends drinking lots of fluids, eating chicken soup and taking some aspirin.

If anyone reading this is a celebrant of the formerly dubbed "Valentine's Day," please be considerate of those around you. Groups of people participate in various holidays involving their emotional and psychological well-being. Please respect those around you who may be single.

The CEM has issued the following suggestions for those dating, married or recently attached to another in any way. Wear lots of black clothing to both fool and calm SAD celebrants. Black lipstick for both men and women may prove helpful. Keep physical expressions of intimacy to an extreme low. Ideally, such displays ought to be kept in the proper location: the kitchen or the bedroom.

Finally, the CEM has asked SAD renegades to limit their use of Valentine's Day paraphernalia including anything soft, fuzzy, furry, shiny, mushy or otherwise dopey.

The CEM thanks everyone for their participation in this important public health concern.

who just happen to catch an event they hadn't planned to watch cannot help cheering for their countries' athletes and feeling a shared pride if they take a medal.

I was proud when Texan Chad Hedrick won the 5000-meter speed skating gold in his first-ever Olympic event. And when Frode Estil of

Norway fell at the start of the men's cross country 30 km pursuit, yet miraculously took a silver medal after starting the race in last place, far behind the others, I could barely contain my excitement.

I felt the same about China's pair skaters Dan Zhang and Hao Zhang. When Dan took a hard fall following

a throw, she skated off the ice in obvious pain; their music stopped. But after her trainers looked at her, they finished their program from where she had fallen; like Estil, they won the silver medal for their event.

These are just a few examples of athletes who embody the spirit of the Olympics. To come together with

other athletes from around the world, to overcome all manner of challenges and persevere...amazing.

I guess the Olympics just make me proud of the world. I feel that everyone should try to watch at least an event or two—spend some time with your national, or international, pride!

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