The newly implemented BuzzPort system (www.buzzport.gatech.edu), Georgia Tech’s web-based portal that aims to combine the services of webmail, WebCT and Banner/O-SCAR into one integrated system with one password necessary for access to almost everything, has been functioning since the beginning of summer and yet almost no one but freshmen seems to know it even exists.

One way for the project to be utilized by more students, including upperclassmen, is for the faculty to be encouraged to use the portal. If faculty used BuzzPort in their classes instead of WebCT (one of the Port’s original intentions) or personal pages, students, especially older ones who have never used the system before, would be forced to become more familiar with the site. In this respect, it was a good move to target the freshmen by make the entering class register for classes using BuzzPort—new students are introduced to the system right away, making BuzzPort all they know and preventing the need to transition even more students from older systems into the new one.

However, a downside to the new program could be the fact that email and all of the sensitive information included in the Banner/O-SCAR system will all be accessible using the same password. This begs the question of the site’s security and the possibility for problems if viruses were to run rampant again through our email system. Also, since email accounts are already so accessible, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email, the new portal site was not logged off when used on a public computer—the next person to use the said computer might come across the user’s email.

Additionally, many older students who are aware of BuzzPort and have attempted to use it have run into kinks in the program, without an effective help section available online for troubleshooting. Until these kinks are worked out and the portal is advertised so that its user base grows, it will never reach the potential set forth by its organizers.

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Commandments still relevant to laws

I have been watching with much interest and confusion actually by Moore, the Chief Justice of Alabama’s Supreme Court, has defined federal court orders to remove the 5,280-pound granite monument from the rotunda of the state judicial building.

In this land of tolerance where it has become unpopular to make someone uncomfortable in his beliefs, I cannot help but wonder if Judge Moore might be doing the right thing, even if I do not agree with his motives.

Does the granite have a legitimate place in our government buildings? I do not hold any historical significance for our country’s founding? Our nation’s first set of laws, the legal code Virginia drafted in 1607, contains twelve of the Ten Commandments complete with their biblical references, one right after the other. Subsequently, most of the other colonies adopted the Ten Commandments as the foundation of their civil codes.

These civil codes became the foundation of our Constitution and other state laws.

Several of the Ten Commandments are unquestionably accepted by most citizens—do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness, etc. But what about some of the other more religiously entrenched commandments?

The fourth commandment’s influence can be seen in Sunday laws, still valid in today’s culture. In 1950, the Supreme Court of Israel spoke of the Fourth Commandment’s influence government goes against the principles upon which this country’s foundations were laid. Justice Moore’s monument has now been removed from the public eye. It resides in a locked storage room off the first floor employee lunch room of the state judicial building. Aside from any political motives, Moore may or may not have believed the Ten Commandments played and should continue to play an important role in our government and the laws.

Justin Partlo
Managing Editor

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Seventy-six years ago, a young boy named Ben Affleck nervously walked onto the stage at Boston’s TD Garden to introduce the Student Body President. The boy later went on to star in movies, win an Academy Award, and become a household name.

Ben Affleck is just one example of how Hollywood can affect our daily lives. With recent events such as the 2020 Oscars, where the majority of the nominees were White men, Hollywood has been criticized for not representing a diverse range of voices and perspectives.

Hollywood’s influence is not limited to the silver screen. It also extends to the political arena. For instance, when the movie “The Irishman” was released, the opening weekend gross was $7 million. However, when the movie was released on Netflix, it grossed $40 million a year. This is just one example of how Hollywood can impact our daily lives.

But Hollywood isn’t the only industry that can influence our decisions. The fashion industry is another example of this. Take the case of Angelina Jolie. Her adoption of twins raised awareness about the need for more adoption in the United States. Jolie’s actions have also increased attention on the issue of maternal health.

Hollywood can also shape our beliefs about science. For example, the movie “Finding Nemo” featured a character named Dory, who was portrayed as forgetful. This portrayal has led to some people believing that people with Alzheimer’s disease are like Dory. However, this is not the case. Alzheimer’s disease is a neurological disorder that affects the brain.

In conclusion, Hollywood and other industries have a powerful influence on our lives. It is important for us to be aware of this influence and to make informed decisions that are in line with our values and beliefs.


does that make lying morally permissible? No, it does not. Lying violates the principle of honesty, which is a fundamental value in society. Lying also violates the principle of responsibility, which is another fundamental value in society.


doesn’t mean that the laws of government are irrelevant. The laws of government are still important, but they are not the only laws that matter. The laws of nature, such as the laws of physics and the laws of biology, are also important.


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A global trek with view from Tech

Computer doctors wanted: viruses show need for global security

How real are such threats? India and Pakistan, and the Israelis and the Palestinians, have already been involved in cyber skirmishes. Furthermore, experts estimate that over 20 countries, including the United States, are developing their offensive and defensive cyber warfare capabilities.

One can only assume that sub-national and trans-national actors, like terrorist organizations, are doing the same. These groups may be the bigger threats for such cyber attacks, as they are removed from global communications and financial networks. The damage that a nation-state (China, for example) would sustain through an attack on the U.S. infrastructure by virtue of its own linkages to the American system serves as an important deterrent. For groups the fringe of the global community, however, this deterrent does not exist.

SoBig.F and the Blaster worm caused major damage. According to the British Institute of Systems, at the peak of SoBig.F on August 19, it was responsible for one of the attacks generating over 1,000 messages that were sent through the email system. Though email distribution remained slow, the Institute’s main system remained undamaged by the worm and virus. The M.SBlaster worm caused between $5 and 10 million of damage to Microsoft alone.

Research Lab (Nachi) worm infected over 1,000 personal systems, blocking and disrupting network traffic. The SoBig.F worm infected only 28 campus computers, though it caused over 100,000 spam messages to be sent through the email system. Though email distribution remained slow, the Institute’s main system remained undamaged by the worm and virus. The M.SBlaster worm caused between $5 and 10 million of damage to Microsoft alone.

Technicians at Tech experienced only annoyances, the potential of such viruses and worms to wreak havoc with the world’s information systems is painfully apparent. These ways in which we defend our systems and manage such cyber crime, however, remain painfully unapparent, especially considering what might have been.

Rights to defenses against such cyber crime are primarily maintained at the individual user level; private businesses, government agencies and others defend themselves with firewalls, anti-virus software, intrusion-detection systems and other such tools.

Despite last week’s attacks, these defenses seem to function adequately against the variety of viruses, worms, trojan horses and other annoyances spread around the web.

What happens, however, when these attacks become bigger and when the attacker has a motive besides causing disruption and stirring it to Bill Gates—the apparent goals of the SoBig.F virus and Blaster worm respectively? What happens when a nation-state or terrorist group decides to employ cyber war or cyber terrorism with a goal of destruction rather than disruption? You can imagine yourself what might pass and how ineffective current defenses would probably be.

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Before you put in your hysteric, let me assure those of you who have missed the past several years of news that the current administration in Washington takes security very seriously. It has been working through the Department of Homeland Security to create a national response system, reduce threats and vulnerability, educate the public and create an environment of international cooperation.

Tech professors and researchers need to have the opportunity to contribute our intellectual capital to secure our country’s critical infrastructure. Our computer scientists and engineers will work to develop the next generation of security devices and systems. Our future CEOs will lead their firms into new security ventures; maybe Tech will head the first ISP to take responsibility to scan and secure all of its customer’s emails—giving it a new edge in the market and its customers a new level of security. Our international affairs experts will work to establish regimes of cooperation among actors. And our policy students turned lawyers will determine how to prosecute offenders.

In 2001, the world spent $6 billion on cyber security, and the Tech estimate this number could double by 2005 as governments and firms seek greater security. Clearly all of us at Tech have a role we could play in this growth. Let’s get started. Or let’s all buy Macs.

JODY SHAW
COLUMNIST

Editorial

There's really not a way to change the way entertainment news sources their business until the general public lets them know through decreased sales or declining box office grosses that curiosity doesn't sell and it is actually informative, real reporting that does.

Until then, we'll see more magazine and newspaper stories with mindless fodder about Ben and Jen’s latest scandal.