**YOUR VIEWS** Letters to the Editor

**Thieves need punishment**

I read your consensus editorial last week with a mixture of surprise and disgust that the Technique seeks to condone felonies committed in the name of tradition. Students who attempt to steal the “T” from atop the Administration building are no better than felons and should be treated as such. Under OCGA 16-8-12, the appropriate punishment is imprisonment for a term between 1 and 10 years, and these thieves should be made to serve every minute of that. The Technique is always complaining about crime on campus, yet it publishes editorials advocating lesser punishments for the perpetrators. I fail to see the logic in this set of double standards.

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**New grade reports**

The new midterm grade reports, recently passed by the Faculty Senate, are a good idea, but in their current form they will only provide a limited benefit to the students. Classes at Tech are not generally taken pass/fail, so grade reports should not be similarly ambiguous by stating only satisfactory/unsatisfactory. The grade reports should be more indicative of a student standing in relation to the rest of the class so they have a valid perspective on their performance. But, ultimately, it is a student’s responsibility to determine how they are doing academically.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of The Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.
LAST WEEK, a Los Angeles court ordered the Philip Morris Compa-
y to pay more than $5.5 million in punitive damages and $5 billion punitive damages Richard Boe-
ken, who had smoked two packs a day for the past forty years. But
July, the company had to pay more than $1.5 billion to about 700,000 Florida residents (a rough average of $20 million per person) in the Engle class-action lawsuit. Once again, we see the cost of taking the brunt of the responsi-
blity of smokers and their illnesses.

We are faced with the problem of tobacco com-
panies being solely to the blame? Granted, they do offer a product that can cause health problems, and there are documented facts that the industry knowingly included chem-
icals in their product to make it more addictive. But are the tobacco industries to blame for a person’s decision to start smoking? The courts certainly think so, and the excess-
table amounts they award to the smokers are evidence enough.

What has happened to a person taking responsibility for his or her actions? We live for the sympa-
thetic ear; we want others to pity us. These lawsuits against the tobacco industry are drawing the line. In Mr. Boeken’s case, he not only ad-
mitted drinking too much, but he also joined in the law, but all the same as to alcohol is a federal law. But how far should the media go into the President’s – his fam-
ily’s life?

On May 29, Barbara and Jenna, Bush’s twin daughters, were arrest-
ed at Chuy’s restaurant in Austin, Texas, for underage drinking. The manager called 911 when he real-
ized the girls were underage, and the police officer called Barbara, after the girl was cited for using some-
one else’s identification to try to buy alcohol. Barbara’s – life?

Besides the Bush’s – life?es, life?

Although it may be worse to be a
user. Mr. Boeken is not going after
use, two other activities that un-
likely’s – life?

The blame game continues in the smoking war

It is bad enough for the Bush
daughters that they have to be es-
corted by the Secret Service 24 hours a
day, 7 days a week. This brings up
another point. Should the Secret
Service agents have intervened when
the girls attempted to buy alcohol?
They are federal law enforcement
agents, so it is their duty to prevent
the law from being broken. Tech-
ically, they are supposed to only pro-
tect the President’s children, but if
they were to do something illegal, shouldn’t they be held
responsible? It is the nice of the agents to let Barbara and Jenna do their own things, but
they could have prevented the whole
media mess by not allowing them to
purchase, or attempt to purchase, alcohol.

Although I feel bad for the Bush twins having to live public lives, I also think they should be more cau-
tious. If I was the President’s daughter and everyone knew my name, what I looked like, and my age, I don’t think I’d be driving. That’s just common sense. So think
Jenna and Barbara should use a lit-
tle more caution, and they should
device a better strategy for getting their alcohol.

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