OUR VIEWS

Hacking

Recently, a Tech student managed to hack into the BuzzCard system, revealing some of its security flaws. This appears to be the latest in a string of security breaches of Tech’s electronic systems, ranging from the FCH Center’s credit card records to Georgia Tech’s payroll accounts.

In this instance, the student was apparently trying to help Tech, revealing these weaknesses before someone with less humanitarian motivations cracked the system. Instead of showing any interest in his findings, Tech ignored the situation, and the student is now facing criminal charges from Blackboard, the company that makes the system used by BuzzCard.

While Tech can do little to change federal law, it should run its own check of the security of the BuzzCard system, which would serve both to protect students’ money and information and to keep Tech from being considered negligent if a hostile hacker should get into the system. Ignoring the problem will not make it go away.

Study abroad

Although it is disappointing that some of the study abroad programs had to be cancelled, the Tech administration made the right decision in cancelling the programs when they realized there was a significant and foreseeable threat to student’s health.

The Office of International Education has also done an excellent job explaining these decisions and being flexible with students in many ways. Many students have commented that the refund policy has been more than fair, and that OIE has also been willing to allow students to transfer into other trips where there were openings, despite the fact that most deadlines passed long ago. This type of reasonable, tractable response should be an example for other departments to follow when unforeseeable circumstances force the cancellation of events or programs.

New majors

Although the new majors that Tech is establishing will help attract a diversity of students, Tech should make sure it has the resources to support these programs so as to have as much or more as the degree that Tech already offers. Especially in terms of the School of Modern Languages, more money, more professors and more course offerings for current Tech students should be implemented before new programs are implemented.

End of college brings ruminations

Sara Cames, Opinions Editor

So, I have reached the end. There were times when I thought this thing couldn’t have come quickly enough, that I couldn’t wait to get to law school. Now, that I’m confronted with graduation, however, I find totally different strings of thoughts going through my head. What am I doing? Where am I going? While I know what I am doing immediately after I’m done, I feel like the rest of my life is a big mystery.

I remember coming in as a freshman and knowing exactly what I wanted to do with my life and where I wanted to end up. While that may have changed a bit over the years, that feeling of conviction, that ability to see my life as a foregone conclusion (for person like me, that is, googling didn’t happen until the end of my junior year). At this point, that certainty is gone.

I guess that what Tech taught me the most has been how much more certain I am in every sense of the word. In the beginning, I was uncertain about how to deal with college, with freedom, and with lifestimes. Who was I going to meet? What was I going to accomplish? Anything seemed possible in those first few semester. After four years, my life has become much more stable. While at times I long for the crazy excitement of experiencing many things for the first time in my freshman year, I’m going to miss the comfortable and predictable nature of my existence here. I’m going to miss Tech.

Looking back, I can’t help but wonder— as I’m sure many people do— where all the time went. I feel as if I’ve barely been at Tech for two years: freshman year and then everything after. My upramessen years seem to blend together, probably a consequence of being too busy for reflection. Will law school be the same? I have no idea. While I’m moving across the country, away from the South where I have lived for my whole life, away from my family and my all my long-term friends. Another source of anxiety lies in the fact that what I will be studying after Tech gearing up to be much more of a perpetual influence in my life than my Tech degree will be. While I leave Tech with minimal debt, I will leave law school with debt like any other graduate education. Because of all these grown-up concerns, I feel like the real world is closing in … and I’m not ready for it yet.

In this sea of uncertainty about the future, I do not have solid advice to cling to. Rather than being proof and becoming all I feel like I can do is wander and make my way. I can’t say things like: “Don’t go to college too seriously; remember to have fun,” or, “Be sure to get involved in some extracurricular activity.” Not only am I not sure about the efficacy of such adages, I don’t believe that we all live according to the same rules. Maybe, just maybe, you are different from me, so I feel unqualified to offer you swapping advice that may or may not apply to your life. So, if you were reading this hoping for some brilliant or inspired words of wisdom, you’re not going to get them.

In the end, the only question I am left with is (do I do everything I could?) If I accomplish what I wanted? Am I finished here? I am still too close to the whole Tech experience to have an answer, and whether or not the answer to all those questions is yes, it is time to move on. I guess all I can really say with any sincerity is that Tech is a place I love where I found people I love and a place that I really hope for any more than that.
**OPINIONS**

**HOT or NOT**

**Our Views**

Grad school is hot, white hot, especially since the job market is so, so cold. Given the days when you have to look for and find more applications or even just the mundane that you must do just to keep up appearances, I found myself wondering whether I was doing the right thing.

Tree Sex

The amphibians around campus are a visible demonstration of one of nature's greatest miracles reproduction. When amphibians are displayed in my room, their actions are often very surprising, usually as a result of their unseasonable, and often unpredictable, interactions.

**Your Views**

Letters to the Editor

**Return to the start** of developing a vision and developing relationships with people around you.**

Jody Shaw

Editor-in-Chief

**What do you think the most dangerous place on campus is?**

Aaron Lovitz

NTA Senior

**“Behind the apartments on West Campus, next to Northside D rive.”**

Chris Tanner

AE Senior

**“There isn’t one.”**

Rohan Kale

CompE Junior

**“The walk from the CoC to any place on campus is dangerous.”**

Jackie Jones

IE Sophomore

**“I don’t feel safe walking back from the IC at night.”**

**BUZZ Around the Campus**

**What do you think the most dangerous place on campus is?**

**HOT or NOT**

**Read School**

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**Letter Submission Policy**

The Technique welcomes letters from the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech, 784 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, GA 30332-0290. Letters should be no more than 600 words and should be typed double spaced with a 10-point font. All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 600 words and should be submitted by email to jellyshaw@technique.gatech.edu. Letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editor-in-Chief. Letters may be edited for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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I am quite sad that this will be my last column to run in the Technique. I have enjoyed writing these columns over the past two years, and I hope you have enjoyed reading them, or at least, that they sometimes gave you something to think about. Thank you to everyone who took the time to let me know what they thought about something I wrote, whether it was in a letter to the editor that disagreed with my point of view, an email, or just a kind word.

I am also quite sad to be leaving Tech, which is very funny for me. I never planned to come to school here—often times, I think I came in kicking and screaming, but I’m definitely going out the same way.

A few weeks ago, I had an interesting moment at home. While I was looking through a journal I had during high school, I found a page that asked the writer to make a list of goals. Of over 100 lines, I had filled only twelve. Each line had a box next to it so that goals could be checked off as they were reached. To my great surprise, many of these goals were actually things I had either achieved or was very close to achieving. Things that had seemed the most far-fetched goals in high school were not only possible, but even reachable. I checked off the boxes that needed checking, and I added about ten new goals to the list. Most likely, I won’t look at that journal again for several years, but I hope I find the same thing the next time I look. Already, I’ve forgotten some of the things I wrote down, but I have faith that many of them will come to pass.

“I am in complete awe of so many of my peers for the things that they have achieved to make this campus better.”

Jennifer Hinkel
Columnist, Technique

When I started at Tech, I only had the faintest idea of where I wanted to end up in the future. Even now, I haven’t the foggiest idea where I will live or what career I will have. But many things over the past four years have given me small nudges in the right directions. Each person with whom you come into contact at Tech can impart both small gifts and great wisdom— it is our responsibility to figure out how to use these things and what they mean.

I’ve never been an advocate of strictly mapping out one’s life. The future is too unpredictable for that. But I think it is important that we all have a horizon—goals for what we want to achieve, the faith that they can be achieved, and the perseverance to achieve them. Every day at Tech, I have seen people doing things they didn’t think were possible, whether they were trying to get an A on a final in order to pass a class or they were making a long, impossible pass down the field. I am in complete awe of so many of my peers for the things that they have achieved to make this campus better, I, along with the rest of Tech, thank you.

Set goals that are high, mighty, and even impossible. Hang them on your fridge or tuck them away to check on in five years. Have the faith that your goals are achievable, no matter how unattainable they seem. If you believe in your goals and have faith, you will be able to persevere. The last two parts—faith and perseverance—are certainly the hardest, but they are what distinguish people who just want to do something from those who actually do it.

I have no closing speech to Tech about the things I’d like to change or what career I will have. But many things over the past four years have given me small nudges in the right directions. Each person with whom you come into contact at Tech can impart both small gifts and great wisdom— it is our responsibility to figure out how to use these things and what they mean.

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