OPINIONS  
Technique • Friday, February 2, 2001

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion
Crash into...the pole?

Tech is very lucky that last week’s Stinger crash did not end in disaster. The accident occurred at a time when few students were around and only a handful of passengers were on the bus. If brake failure actually caused the accident, the driver’s expertise avoided a situation that could have been more serious—or even deadly. If negligence by the Stinger driver caused the accident, however, he needs to be disciplined.

Two people were injured, and it reflects poorly on the three uninjured passengers that they fled the scene and went to class instead of staying to record their names as witnesses and tending to those with bruises. In the future, hopefully passengers will continue to realize the importance of staying behind the white line and out of harms way. If someone had been in that location, the injuries would have almost certainly been much worse.

Fly the new flag

Since the previous Georgia state flag was instituted as a backlash against desegregation movements of the 1950s, it was time to change the flag to represent the history of the state without alienating and offending a significant percentage of the state’s population. While the new design is unatractive, it is still an improvement over the old one. Since the members of the public had already picked their sides—and were not likely to change their opinion—the swift action by the Georgia legislature eased the change. The flag legislation was the General Assembly’s most elegant action in recent memory.

Our condolences

The Technique sends its deepest sympathy to the friends and family of student James Banger and to other students in the Tech community who have passed away this semester.

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

Parkings is also part of gate vandalism problem

Once again, parking makes it’s way to the front page of the paper. This time, it’s vandalism attacking the equipment in the Peters deck. The director of Parking services (how many have it been since ’95?) can’t understand why students would do a thing like this. In his own words, “it not only hurts students in terms of half of our spaces are open, unauthorized people are in there.”

Yeah, great. It’s really sad that parking can’t seem to fathom this backlash against them. Maybe it’s the fact that people no have to pay nearly $200 per semester for the “privilege” to park in Peters. For those of you that don’t know (facul-ity with real parking spaces) Peters is basically uncontrolled, as if a security gate is going to stop someone from breaking into your car. Those of us that have paid the parking fee are subject to the con-stant frustration of having to deal with unauthorized people parking in our spaces that rarely get booted or towed.

Motorcycle owners have it even worse, with less than 10 easy to access spaces around campus, usually having half of them blocked by another vehicle, which is, more of ten than not, either owned by the parking office, or by some other campus department.

The truth is, students are sick and tired of a department that makes decisions without the input or the considerations of students. The entire system of parking on this campus needs to be removed and a new system put in place. The department has proven time and time again that they are incompetent, and therefore should be removed.

Ryan Fernandez
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State flag celebrated history

With the passage of the bill to change the Georgia state flag, heated discussion on campus has sprung up. I would like to comment on this discussion.

When will people realize that this flag serves as a memorial to those who died in this state fighting for a cause that they and many others in the state believed in? It is the “battle flag”, the flag that men fought under and died for. If Georgia wanted to honor the principles that the Confederacy stood for, it would fly the Stars and Bars, but it doesn’t.

Rather, it strives to provide a memorial to those who died fighting for the state; therefore, it flies the Battle Flag instead. This is in memory of those who died, not the principles they died for.

Show some respect for your Southern heritage if you are from the South. If you are from the North...bear with us as we work out our state issues. It is really none of your business anyway.

We McNutt
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Academics at Georgia Tech are often times overlooked. In today’s world, everything is business. Our school is no exception. Students need to get that straight. It is apparent that our school is trying to become the best. This is an excellent goal. One which everyone here will ben-efit from.

President Wayne Clough said, “We are now entering the 21st century, and we want to make it our century—a time when our collective eff ort lifts Georgia Tech from the ranks of the good, solid schools and establishes us as a center and source of innovation.”

Well, I hate to break it to you but this is probably the least innov-a tive and creative school ever. Sure we are extremely advanced in Microelectronics, Pulp and Paper En-gineering, and Electronic Design to name a few, but how does this research make me a better person? How does it better my college experience? We are no longer the state school that is extremely hard as is not neces-sarily a school where much is learned. I am not saying to make the school any easier. I am just saying that facul-ty and administration need to be working valiantly to teach us, the student body, how to be the best we can be. We need to be well-round-ed individuals when we are handed our diploma, but instead this is far from the truth. This school is an engineering machine. Just pump-ing out the engineers. A school that

Psych 1000 wastes time

To be short, in my opin-ion, for anyone who researches jobs, Georgia Tech, and At-lanta on their own, Psych 1000, the class, is a waste of time. I do believe, though, that the book is a valid source of good information to base success. If we were only re-quired to read the book, the “class” would be a lot better. The class is a good idea and should not be canceled, yet students should not be treat-ed like kindergartners in some instances.

Michael R. Joyce
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We want to hear from you!

Send letters to the editor to editor@technique.gatech.edu or opinions@technique.gatech.edu. Limit 400 words.
Academic environment deserves more serious focus

The students of the Bill of Academic Rights...are measures that will only improve retention and learning.

Jody Shaw
Managing Editor

The court’s decision was a necessary step forward in the arena of race relations, especially considering the perpetuation of stereotypes that are still present today. The issue of race should be front and center in the national dialogue, and we must continue to work towards a more just and equitable future.

Chris Bauchum
Editor-in-Chief

The Sharpton case raises legal issues with mandatory fees

“Remember to pick up both the quote and the picture box when moving this onto your layout.”

Chris Bauchum
Editor-in-Chief

Not based on the ideologies of the groups seeking funding. SGA has a responsibility to allocate student fees in a fair, consistent, and transparent manner that will ultimately further this community's educational and social potential—for it will not only improve the overall learning environment at Georgia Tech, but it will also attract more students and foster a healthy teacher-student relationship.

The Student Bill of Academic Rights will reach its ultimate glory. When teachers and students want to interact with each other on academic, social, and personal levels, the Institute will have fulfilled its educational potential—for it will not only produce excellent academic learning, but also lifelong relationships. The adoption of the Student Bill of Academic Rights will ultimately further this ideal of an academic utopia.

Sharpton case raises legal issues with mandatory fees

Al Sharpton is a race-baiting, di- verse, anti-semitic demagogue. In case you haven’t heard, the African-American community has invited him to speak at Georgia Tech—and has sought funding from the Student Government Association in order to finance the speaker’s fee. Regardless of his intended message, we are all entitled to discuss ideas, even those that are offensive or controversial. However, we must be encouraged to engage in dialogue about these issues on our campus in a respectful manner.

The Student Bill of Academic Rights, which was authored by the community, provides two qualifications: a restriction to students regardless of the course or instructor. If adopted by the SGA, the Student Bill of Academic Rights will provide a mechanism for the Student Senate to finance the speaker’s fee.

I’m not only calling for the adoption of the Student Bill of Academic Rights, but also for the creation of a new Student Bill of Academic Rights that will include the right to access to information and to information about appeals, the right to access to facilities, and to reasonable protection against harassment.

The Student Bill of Academic Rights is a step in the right direction. By proving to students that they are not the enemy, the faculty will aid the transition towards a more comfortable learning environment on both sides. On the other hand, a comfortable learning environment is the perfect setting for students to learn about the importance of critical thinking and open-mindedness.

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editors@technique.com

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Focus on dating ignores bigger picture

I was completely discouraged by Chris Rockett’s letter in the January 26 issue. His letter makes it clear that the majority of students feel that they are in a position where they can do no wrong. Whether that is just griping to friends, or just noting that about any student (or approving of it) in any way but what they feel is right, is up to them. Many have worked hard for four years to eradicate the stereotype of the infamous MRS degree, the notion that women attend college for no other reason than to find a husband. Now we’re attending college in larger numbers than ever, and we have BETTER THINGS TO DO. I’m certainly not speaking for everyone here, but this is a discussion that many people value other aspects of the college experience more than they value a “random” thing. Writing by his letter exclusively to women, he was implying that men have other “things in life that matter,” that perhaps those other aspects of the college experience are more important to them. Rockett was not only being arrogant in believing that he would be a natural choice for a companion but also old-fashioned and sexist in thinking that dating/companionship is so important to college women.

Lastly, I would just like to say that this has very little to do with dating and much more to do with gender issues/problems. Don’t approach dating/companionship with stereotyping and generalizations that eventually exhaust us all.

Katie O’Connor
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Parking fails to understand frustration

I am writing this in response to the “Parking takes steps to curb deck vandalism” article that appeared in the January 26 issue. There are a couple of parts of the article that just strike me as plain idiocy and I’m just tired of just griping to friends.

The first problem concerns the statement they made about the stolen car and the vandalism that occurred the night that the gates were ripped up. They state that the gates were protecting the cars and because they were ripped up several cars were vandalized and one was stolen (page 2). How can those small pieces of wood in any way prevent vandalism much less a stolen car? I think just about everyone in Atlanta can walk around those gates at Peters. And anyone who has been on campus before knows that you don’t need a card to get out of the parking deck with a car. I fail to see how those gates are stopping someone from walking into the garage, stealing a car and driving out.

Also, the quote from Rod Weiss just shows that the parking office has no care or knowledge of how the students feel about things. He says that he doesn’t understand why students would want to vandalize parking. Obviously this guy has never parked on campus before. Or had to argue with that annoying committee about getting a ticket when you were parked perfectly legally. I’m not condoning the vandalism (or approving of it) in any way but just noting that about any student on campus can relate to why these people were angry at parking.

The Technique is supposed to be a paper for the students. Why then, would you all not question the parking office about such obviously inaccurate or misled statements?

Jared Parsons
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Women are people, not simply a thing to ‘date’

Reading last week’s letter by Chris Rockett, I couldn’t help but feel pity for him. His statement he made about the students feel about things. He follows this statement with, “I couldn’t possibly be doing everything wrong.” I find it hard to believe that this has very little to do with gender issues/problems. Don’t approach dating/companionship with stereotyping and generalizations that eventually exhaust us all.

Katie O’Connor
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Academics

is truly established as “a center and source of innovation,” a.k.a. a Harvard, Stanford, and Princeton, are much more well rounded and students focused on Georgia Tech. We are very lopsided and everyone truly needs to realize this.

Students need to say something if their professors suck. Telling his/her friends does nothing. Tell the people that matter. We all have to work together to make this school the way we want it. On SGA’s FO-CUS that surveyed big issues on campus, Academics was second on the list. I don’t understand why it isn’t first. Why are you here at Tech? Hopefully, to learn something. Do you think the goal of Georgia Tech is to educate? Then why is our school so focused on research? Geor- gia Tech has successfully campaigned for almost 600 million dollars, 50 of that is going to students. Tech is a business. If you want a better, more well rounded education, you are going to have to demand it. Edu- cation needs to be the unarguable number one goal of this institute.

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