

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, November 13, 1998

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Parking Forever

Despite the recent uproar over parking problems, the Parking Office has taken little apparent action to correct its own deficiencies. In light of this surprising inactivity, the *Technique* Editorial Board thought it appropriate to provide a clear, informative laundry list of parking critiques. To maintain a sense of fair play and journalistic objectivism, we have supplied both "good" and "bad" aspects of the current parking situation.

GOOD

New parking signs
Efficient towing
Terry Sichta: Someone *else* to oversee parking
John Nolte's hairdo

BAD

Those orange "violation" stickers
Overly-efficient towing
Increasing permit prices (every year)
Poor customer service in parking office
Nine-hour long lines
No parking spots left past 9:00 a.m. in most lots
Overly-enthusiastic ticket distributors
No lot gates yet
No parking meters yet
Administrative incompetence
Poor customer service in parking office
A-19 lot
Wrong-zone ticket prices
Poor customer service in parking office
Archaic registration process
Um, customer service?
John Nolte's ties

Quote of the week:

"It's like rain on your wedding day, it's a free ride when you've already paid...isn't it ironic, don't ya think?" -Alanis Morissette

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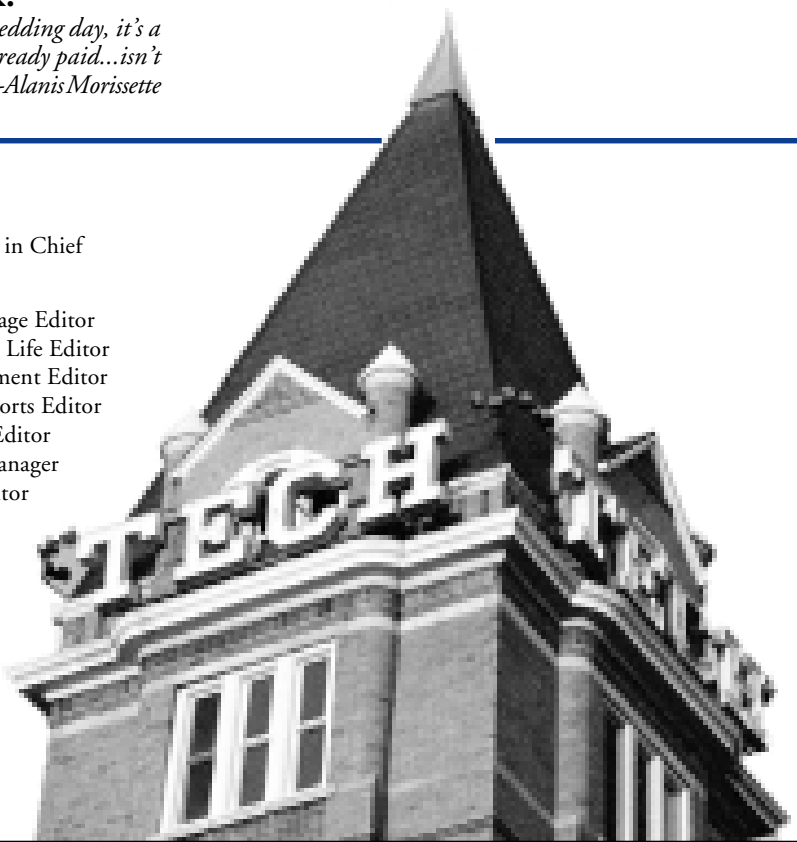
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Good-bye, Leanna

Leanna Piver died last Saturday, November 7, following her early morning car wreck. Leanna was driving southbound on I-85 at the merge of Ga. 400 when she swerved and ran into the back of a U-Haul truck. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the Alexander Tharpe Foundation for the Leanna Piver Scholarship Fund. Please contact Mindy Hyde at 404-894-5414 for donation information. Our best wishes are with Leanna's family and friends.

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

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Hey, Georgia Tech Band: Leave the SAC fields to the real athletes

The other day, some friends and I walked briskly out of my apartment, football in hand, getting pumped up for our little three-on-three game. We joked and threw the ball to each other on our way to the SAC field, which, to our dismay, was quite crowded. The usual people were there participating in constructive, athletic events like throwing frisbees, baseballs, soft-

balls, footballs, and jogging. No problem there. Then, on one entire half of the field, we noticed the entire band, not doing anything athletic, but just taking up space and creating a general nuisance. This angered me as I was under the impression that the SAC fields were for student athletic use. I have heard other people complaining about this as well. Why can't the band play somewhere

else? They don't need all that much space and there are plenty of suitable places on west campus. Think I'm wrong? Well, they never used to use SAC fields before this year. What's wrong with their Couch building or the Burger Bowl?

In any case, I found out that the band is authorized to use the SAC field. When did this happen and why weren't the regular students

who pay for the field informed? Doesn't the band have their own budget? If the field is too crowded one day, can we invade the Couch and play football in the halls? I sure hope so. As far as I know, I am paying for this school and all its facilities. I have paid for a lot of senseless things. But an athletic field, complete with padded turf and yard lines, being used for the band's un-

athletic exercises in annoyance rather than student athletic activities, is a tad bit insane.

*Chris Culbreth
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The SAC athletic field is the second-largest astroturf field in America. For more information on astroturf athletic fields, see www.astroturf.com.

Brittain should make room for smokers

I read last week's front page article on the re-vamping of Brittain with avid interest. "Renovations?" I asked myself. "Perhaps it's coming true..."

Reading on, however, I was distressed to learn that these so-called renovations are mere obstacles in the path of remedying the true disease which gnaws upon my Brittain dining experience. In my time of enjoying Brittain's tasty chicken patties, frosty Surge Ices, and nutrient-enriching fruit, I have never been showered with leaking water, nor crushed by the falling plaster which seems to frighten Auxiliary Services so much.

Indeed, the only qualm I have with Brittain's service is evidenced by the sad, pathetic pile of half-smoked cigarettes in the outside ashtray: The inexcusable, dare I say reprehensible, lack of a smoking section!

What complements one of Alvin's toothsome, hand-grilled cheesesteaks like a hand-lit Camel non-filter? While I sip my morning's coffee and contemplatively chew my toast, why should I be forced to forgo an equally important morning ritual, a delicious, "toasted" Lucky Strike? In Georgia Tech's quest for tolerance, diversity, and embracing less-mainstream culture, surely the vanishing culture of Lucky Strike smokers, long an American tradition, should be protected and appreciated on campus. Indeed, smoking on the whole could be embraced, as a proven stress-reliever, and perhaps subsidized

during finals week, but that's an issue for another editorial.

In any case, Brittain, and the student body as a whole (if not the actual physical body, at least the student soul) would be greatly benefited by the redirection of funds to installing a partitioning wall for a smoking section. Or, if the upper room is to be opened, as suggested, perhaps it could be directly instituted as this Holy Grail of campus dining. Indeed, the rich clouds of smoke would then intermingle and be shared amongst the upper-level diners, building a communal personhood of smokers, whether they be consumers of Newports, Marlboros, or even my own beloved Luckys. To see another East Campus smoker, and know that my smoke had blended with his or hers, would surely foster a sense of campus unity.

Even nonsmokers would benefit, as the thick clouds would surely reduce the evil stench of the dumpsters behind Brittain, leaving a olfactory-pleasing mixture of fine tobaccos. And to appease the more militant nonsmokers out there, if those plaster chunks ever do come falling down, at least there'll be a bunch of evil smokers to absorb most of the initial blow—although we'll have the pleasure of a final puff before we go.

*Nick Black
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PS program not flawed

I would like to clarify for your readers a couple of statements made in a consensus editorial from the November 6, 1998, issue of the *Technique*.

The editorial stated that President's Scholars from Georgia could make money from the stipend. While it would certainly be an appealing incentive for applicants, this is not the case. Students who exceed the cost of attendance have their President's Scholarships reduced to ensure that there is no "money-making opportunity." The total estimated cost of attendance for in-state students is over \$11,000 per year. The highest PS award for in-state students is less than half of this amount. Even when the HOPE Scholarship is added, a student receiving the maximum PS award would still need to contribute about \$3,000, which is clearly not "full." By not offering full-ride stipends, we are able to offer more scholarships than we would otherwise be able to give.

The editorial also seems to imply that since 16 percent of the PS's

lose the scholarship because of grades that the excess money could be made available for other scholarships. In actuality, PS's are placed on grade probation when they fall below a 3.2 GPA, but their stipend is reinstated if and when they bring the GPA back up to 3.2. We know historically that some students will fall below the GPA limit and consider that in our cost projections as we determine how many scholarships to offer each year.

While we could simply recruit students on the basis of academic performance and virtually ensure top grades, we instead place emphasis on well-roundedness, seeking those students who have demonstrated leadership qualities as well as academic skills. By selecting this type of student, we are adhering to the mandate of the President's Scholarship while bringing to Georgia Tech students likely to make a difference in campus life.

*Randy McDow,
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EDITORS' VIEWS Staff Editorials

Last man standing: Sadly, Gingrich falls, Clinton survives

A week ago, two men were at the helms of their respective political parties in this country. One of the men had spent the last several months doing nothing but trying to explain away lies he had told under oath in a court of law. The other had spent the last four years reinventing the American political process. He turned a budget situation most considered unsalvageable into a surplus, cut taxes for the first time in seventeen years, and found a way to make Congress abide by the same rules the rest of the country lives by.

Can you guess which one was forced to resign?

Think back to 1994. Bill Clinton was in the middle of his first term. He had run on a platform that included promises of a middle-class tax cut, welfare reform, and a balanced budget. Sadly, but not surprisingly, he hadn't acted on any of those promises, instead choosing to focus his attention on socializing medicine and instituting a retroactive tax-hike.

Newt Gingrich offered something different. He proposed the Contract with America.

Gingrich made ten specific promises, wrote them down, and signed his name to them. Along with the hundreds of Republican congressional candidates who followed him, he gave his word to the American

people that if they chose a Republican Congress they would get a vote on those ten issues in the first hundred days of the new session.

It was unthinkable to Washington analysts. There was no way the Republicans would win the House for the first time in four decades. Even if they somehow did take control, the GOP would never keep their promises. After all, Clinton had been in office two years and not done anything to act on several of those same promises.

But Newt was different. The Republicans kept every single promise in the contract and did it in the first ninety-three days. They passed nine of the ten bills, and made certain that Congress would operate under the same rules as the rest of the country to boot.

Today, the projected federal budget for the next eleven years has gone from a \$3.1 billion deficit to an astonishing \$1.6 billion surplus. Bill Clinton had two years with his party in control of Congress and did absolutely nothing to slow the rapidly ballooning deficit. Newt took over and erased the deficit in one fell swoop.

As one might expect, the nearly unfathomable magnitude of the accomplishments of Newt's Congress brought a huge response from the country. The booming economy has

"It isn't often a man like Newt Gingrich comes along. Without him, we would still be without welfare reform, without a tax cut, and still facing that ever-growing deficit."

Scott Lange
Assistant News Editor



brought a level of satisfaction with government that America has not seen in decades.

However, even as the country basked in the glow of Gingrich's accomplishments, the media was marshaling its forces for a counter-attack against this politician who had dared keep his promises and actually accomplish goals the American people wanted to see.

The media labeled Gingrich a radical, an extremist, and a hate-monger. They told their audiences he was out to harm the poor, prevent the elderly from obtaining health care, and make sure school children starved at lunch time. The yellow journalism ranged from promoting every Democratic lie about Newt "cutting" Medicare (media lingo for "increasing the Medicare budget by

an amount the 'objective' journalists deem inadequate") to running news magazine cover stories entitled 'The Gingrich Who Stole Christmas.'

And we bought it. Hook, line, sinker.

Given the choice, we decided to throw to the wolves the one man in our lifetimes to bring meaningful change to Congress, the man who reversed the budget deficit single-handedly, the one man in the entire American political process who had a vision that ranged beyond a sound bite.

For a while, Newt ignored the hatred spewing from the media establishment and pushed forward.

See *Newt*, page 11

Honor Code important for everyone, even professors

To make the Honor Code a successful and meaningful institution at Georgia Tech, students must uphold its ideals. But how can students be expected to follow the Code's word when professors consistently fail to uphold its principles?

If you haven't noticed, the campus has been in a big discussion about honor lately. It is excellent that we are talking about the Honor Code. When I entered Tech last year, I was made to sign the Honor Code. I did not know squat about it. I have learned 2,346,853 times more about the Honor Code because of the coverage lately then I knew about it when they made me sign the Honor Code. I didn't think much about the piece of paper that I was signing. I saw that it was the Honor Code, I really didn't read it, I must admit that I was much more interested in registering. So I dismissed it. I just assumed it was reinforcing the notion that cheating is bad. Duh.

Now that I have learned much more about the Honor Code, I have a much more vested interest in the part that says: "Faculty members are expected to create an environment where honesty flourishes. In creating this environment, faculty members are expected to do the following: ...Provide copies of old exams to the Georgia Tech library for students to review" (<http://www.gatech.edu/honor/honorcode.html>) then any other part. Now, I am not involved in any Greek organization and neither is my best friend/sister/brother/dog/legal guardian/Dawson's Creek partner. So I don't have the access to the vast word files that 33 percent of this campus has. That leaves 67 percent of students that have a very limited access to word and for the majority of that group their only access is to the word on file in the library and whatever their profes-

"We should all try to follow our end of the Honor Code; students should not cheat, and professors should provide old/sample tests in the library."

Christina Freyman
Productions Editor



sors dole out. A quick sweep of the library word files reveal that one of my classes this quarter provides old exams: Statics. Granted one class doesn't have exams, just papers. So that leaves me with the two classes that everyone experiences, and most people spend more time in those schools than any other school besides their own: Physics and Math.

Over my life at Tech, I have had two of my five calculus professors provide old tests. Remaining are three professors that did not hold up their end of the Honor Code. The physics department has NO sample test on file in the library for any of the three main physics classes. I know for a fact that there are extensive reserves of old physics tests for all of the classes existing the various places that word lives. But not in the library. The physics test question database is only so large. At some point, questions will repeat themselves. It is not fair to the students who don't have the kind of access. Not to mention that the physics department is not holding up their end of the Honor Code. A quick survey of my past classes only brings to mind four classes out of the 16

that I have taken at Tech so far that have provided sample exams to the class at large. How can our professors and their departments expect that their students hold up their end of the Honor Code if they aren't going to hold up theirs? It is easy to do something wrong, like cheat, and justify it out to yourself when you feel like everyone has an unfair advantage over you. And there are a lot of people at this school that are at a disadvantage.

The fact does remain that cheating is bad and in no way am I advocating cheating to get back at the professor that hasn't followed the Honor Code. We should not not cheat just because we signed a piece of paper that said we would not. We should not cheat because our honesty is one of the most important things that we possess as we enter the job market. We are all well educated and will be taking on jobs that we provide the answers, not just carry out someone else's orders. In this freedom that we are all working so hard for, comes trust: The trust of your boss; the trust of the client. I heard a story from an architect that graduated from a school that is not

this one, about how during his first architecture lecture class test, the professor made everyone turn over their calculators to make sure that there weren't any cheat sheets on them. If you had a cheat sheet you were kicked out of the school. Sounds a little harsh for the first offense, but, he explained to me, honesty is very important in architecture, you are usually dealing with people who have little idea about what you are doing. It would be really easy to cheat them, so honesty is imperative. Many of us will be in the same position of knowing much more about what we are doing then they person that we are doing it for.

The Honor Code dialogue might go on for a while, or it might die down tomorrow, but the Honor Code is a much-needed thing. We should strive to make it more than a piece of paper that freshman sign during FASET and make it a part of our community. Trust and honesty are the things that should be valued more than grades. This school is hard. It should be equally hard for everyone, not harder for some. We should all try to follow our end of the Honor Code; students should not cheat and professors should provide old/sample tests in the library, Maybe the Honor Code will become more than a piece of paper for people to write about in the *Technique*.

Christina "The Lesser" Freyman insists on a variety of nicknames. First it was "The Greater"; now she wants to be known as "Roses." Come on, she's not fooling anybody.

TECHNIQUE

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Newt

from page 9

Despite the vicious attacks, he tried everything in his power to move America toward his vision of a freer and more prosperous future.

Sadly, we were so content with what Newt had brought us that we sat back, fat and lazy, and passively believed what the media establishment told us. We ignored the incredible string of accomplishments Newt had brought us, ignored the prosperity, ignored the openness of the new Congress, and instead sat around soaking up every spiteful word Dan Rather and his cronies had to say about the Speaker.

It isn't often a man like Newt Gingrich comes along. Without him, we would still be without welfare reform, without a tax cut, and still

facing that ever-growing deficit. During Newt's tenure as Speaker, we have experienced four of the happiest, most prosperous years in recent history. As his reward, we kicked him to the curb.

We now face the prospect of a Congress, and a country, with no vision and no sense of purpose. We had a choice, and what we chose is a return to the days of deficits, burdensome entitlements, and unresponsive big government, and that is exactly what we are going to get. Brother, we asked for it.

Scott Lange, the Technique's Assistant News Editor extraordinaire, is not a Sophomore. Or a neo-Nazi.

Happy Birthday, Junior's!

The *Technique* Editorial Board would like to wish Junior's a very happy 50th birthday.
Good job Tommy!
 Now, keep it up for another 50 years!

Flannery is a hero, should be rewarded

Enough about Professor Ray Flannery giving his 2121 class the final exam questions! As someone whose husband teaches physics, I, too, was initially disgusted by Flannery's apparent contempt for education, but I've since seen the light.

First, nowhere does the honor code state; "It is wrong to give your students the final exam questions before the final exam." So how was he to know? And if he has done this before without being caught, isn't it wrong to hold him accountable at this point? The administration apparently thinks so, saying that Flannery's students outscored the rest because they were brighter to begin with, or because other classes had "harder graders," or some other reason. Assuming any correlation between being given the questions beforehand and doing better on the test is simplistic.

Flannery said he gives students the exam questions in order to encourage them to attend the review session; it isn't cheating, it's his teaching method. Plus, doing his job by making up his own questions

would've been inconvenient. Wouldn't we all like to blow off our responsibilities? Yes. Therefore, who are we to judge?

Craig Forest complained that being Flannery's student hurt him because he didn't learn anything. I urge Mr. Forest to step into the

"Assuming any correlation between being given the questions beforehand and doing better on the test is simplistic."

Karla Jennings Wiesenfeld
 Wife of Tech Physics Professor

nineties. High schools, especially inner city high schools, have long been criticized for drilling students on how to pass tests rather than on learning the material (teachers have been fired for doing less than what

Flannery did). What critics don't realize is that "understanding" is obsolete. Passing tests is what it's all about. Flannery saved his students valuable time otherwise wasted on having to actually "learn" that stuff. He didn't hurt Mr. Forest, he helped him by making life just a little easier. Every Tech instructor should be required to give students the test questions before the final. It makes the diploma process more efficient.

Though Prof. Flannery has not yet received the Tech teaching medal for inventiveness, he has been rewarded by being relieved of a heavy 2121 teaching load. This establishes an excellent precedent for future instructors whose innovations might raise ethical questions. They can declare Flannery their guiding light, and demand similar rewards. And they'll be right to do so.

Georgia Tech remains on the cutting edge of education.

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