

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, November 2, 2001

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

No money more problems

November has only just begun and SGA is already worried that it will soon run out of money. It has been predicted by some members of SGA that if spending continues at the rate that it has been going funds could run dry by as early as February. This means that student organizations who will need money next spring semester might not have the option of approaching SGA. Steps need to be taken immediately to make sure that this does not happen.

SGA alone must not be blamed for the current status of its accounts. Georgia Tech has more organizations per student than most other colleges in the country. While this is a remarkable demonstration of leadership and diversity, it can also cause problems when the issue of money comes up.

Too many of these student organizations go directly to SGA when they need money for events, tournaments, and any other activities that arise. Before being allowed to ask SGA for money, all of these organizations should be required to attempt some kind of fundraising activity. In this way the organizations can obtain funding from outside sources, which would leave more money in student government coffers. SGA should be used solely as a last resort for funding.

Perhaps to encourage outside fundraising SGA could come up with some sort of matching system. For example, if a student organization raises so much money from a corporation or other sponsor, SGA could agree to match the the whole amount or part of the amount raised.

SGA members should be commended for recognizing and announcing the existence and urgency of this problem and being prepared to do whatever is necessary to make sure that its funds do not run out before the end of the year. It is important that they communicate this issue to the student body so that students know the status of their funds and how they are allocated. Student groups must start to look elsewhere for money before they beseech their student government.

SGA should always give money to those groups that truly need it, so we must make sure that organizations and events that need SGA funding this spring are not denied it simply because too many organizations asked for and were granted money from SGA in the fall.

Congrats lady swimmers

Congratulations to Georgia Tech's first-ever Women's Swimming and Diving Team, which had its inaugural meet last Friday against nationally-ranked Rice University. Though they did not emerge victorious in the extremely close match-up, they followed that up on Saturday with wins against Georgia Southern and North Florida in a triple dual meet. The team consists entirely of talented and promising redshirt freshmen who should be very satisfied with this impressive first performance.

Recognitions go out to Seth Baron, head Swimming and Diving coach for recruiting and and coaching an impressive debut team and to Cara DeVinnney who, with her first place finish in the 200 yard individual medley, became the first woman in Tech history to win a swimming event. We hope that these ladies continue to do well and wish them the best of luck with the rest of their season.

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

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Quote of the week:

"To sit alone with my conscience will be judgment enough for me."

—Charles William Stubbs

DOAS should have warned of change

While it was less than efficient for DOAS to announce the change in the insurance policy without a notice period, I am not at all surprised by their decision. What last week's article failed to take notice of is the changes that have happened in the last year in the world of insurance regarding 15-passenger vans.

In the last year, studies have found recently that fully loaded 15-passenger vans are significantly less stable than even the very least stable SUVs.

If you've ever driven one, especially while fully loaded, you know

that these vehicles are a bear to drive and require no small amount of skill to drive proficiently. They may putter along well enough on the interstate, but try swerving hard to avoid an obstacle or an accident. I hope you know how to control understeer and fishtailing because you have a lesson in store.

Dodge recently announced they were getting out of the business of making such vans. While they cited lack of profitability in that area, I doubt that these new findings had nothing to do with their decision. There is a huge amount of liability in this area.

Liability in this case isn't about the value of the vehicle— that's trivial. It's not even that much about the value of vehicles you might hit—the concern is the liability that occurs when you roll a 15-passenger vehicle and nine or ten of the passengers are killed.

When something like that happens, you do not want to read in the newspaper that the driver of the vehicle was barely eighteen and had never driven anything larger than a Honda Civic before or that they lost control when they swerved to

See DOAS, page 10



By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Government is probing too deeply into citizens' lives

Last Thursday, Congress passed a bill that allowed the monitoring of those who may be performing suspicious activities that may qualify the person(s) as a terrorist(s). The government says that it will do whatever is necessary to monitor these questionable persons. The monitoring may include line tapping, monitoring of Internet usage, mail checking, or to secretly search homes.

Many towns are now allowing the installation of cameras at busy intersections. These cameras will take the picture of any car that is running a red light at the intersection. The camera will take several pictures of the perpetrator, including the car passing through the intersection, a close-up of the driver, and the license plate of the car—all that the police can send to the person in question.

Is the government taking too far a step in "protecting" us? Is it infringing on our rights as a people and our right to privacy?

It is understandable that running a red light is dangerous to not only the person running the red light but also the traffic which has the right of way. However, the government should not have the right to take a photograph of the person driving the car. The picture of the car running the light and the car's license plate are enough to justify the fact that the person ran the light. But if the photo reveals the person not wearing a seatbelt or talking on a cell phone, this photo could open up more charges against the person. The town should not be able to photograph the driver simply to peek in and see if every-

"Is the government...infringing on our rights as a people and our right to privacy?"

Jamie Schulz
Advertising Manager



thing's kosher in the cabin of the car. Nor should it use this chance to apply any other charges to the driver.

The main argument against the intersection cameras is that the cities are deliberately shortening the time of the yellow light at intersections. Some argue that this is a flagrant attempt at generating revenue for the city. But doesn't it also compromise the safety of those these cameras are trying to protect?

Suppose that the speed limit for traffic along a particular road is forty-five miles per hour. And an average sedan takes roughly 130 feet to come to a stop from sixty M.P.H. under emergency braking. Rough math should have the car stopping in a little over three seconds if traveling 45 M.P.H. I have noticed that many yellow lights last about the same time. If a car is anywhere between the 130-foot mark and the white line to stop at the intersection once the light turns yellow, what should the decision be? More than likely, the driver will run the light, less he or she risks getting rear-ended by braking too fast too close to the light. And yet the driver will be hounded because of a light that is dangerously short.

Can the government also take liberties with its no-holds-barred pol-

icy of monitoring? Like the traffic cameras, what may seem like a good idea at the time, in the wrong hands or at the disposal of wreckless lawmakers, could undoubtedly wind up causing more harm than benefit.

Say a person has been making "questionable" deposits to his or her bank account. Should the government step in and see what's going on?

Should we place a giant bubble over Krispy Kreme because a questionable powder was found inside?

Suppose I'm talking about the movie *On the Line* to one of my friends over Instant Messenger. Will SWAT teams kick down my door because I mentioned the word "bomb" in a message?

While this may be taking it too far, I feel that we as a country still have inalienable rights. There will always be the chance for the government to abuse its power and declare that it was only acting in our best interest.

I have no doubt that we have paced ourselves extremely well in our decision-making after the events of last month and the previous week. A person alone may make sane decisions. But as that one person becomes several, the rationalization that each person has begins to break

down. Under great duress, the group will become flighty. The first alternative or decision to arise may be the one the group takes. But without weighing the consequences of the actions taken, the group may act out in the least beneficial way.

Several weeks ago, Derek talked about McCarthyism. While we may turn against our neighbors in times of great stress, should our government do the same?

Our government is supposed to be a group of individual, logical, rational persons. But can this group begin to develop the fickle characteristics of a group under stress? Will camps housing Pakistanis and Afghans follow in the shadows of the Asian camps from World War II? Shall we thank the government for arresting and rounding up those that may practice a different religion, follow a different way of life than the American norm?

I doubt that even with the anthrax scares and the terrorism threats the nation will fall into civil unrest. But with the opportunity to scare the American people at every corner, the government may not wish to take any chances.

Could a society mimicking that of 1984 be around the corner? We may not be far from having to check to a central office every fifteen minutes less we run the risk of having the local police knock on our door or set out a search bulletin in order to confirm our location.

While we have the right to remain safe and free from fear, we also have the freedom to run our private life. I have a feeling that Big Brother is closing in, and moving fast.

TECHNIQUE

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Contacting Us

editor@technique.gatech.edu
news@technique.gatech.edu
opinions@technique.gatech.edu

Online

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Students should strive to become more philanthropic

I was eight years old when I looked into the eyes of a homeless person and realized the overwhelming sense of gratitude present in a simple act of kindness.

It was Thanksgiving Day, 1988, and I was spending the holiday visiting some of my relatives in Augusta, Georgia. Early that morning, while most kids are still in their pajamas watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, my uncle took me and my cousins to a local church that was providing a Thanksgiving meal for the homeless.

I remember standing at the end of the serving line and putting dinner rolls on each person's tray as they came through the line. Not one person passed me without a smile and some words of thanks and appreciation. To me, the task seemed too easy to deserve thanks, but it was just this thought that ignited my philanthropic spirit and drove me to seek out more opportunities to serve others in the community.

Although I was just a little girl, the impact that this experience had on my life and the lives of those I served was profound. I was overwhelmed by the expressions of thanks that each person we fed conveyed to us.

The simple act of providing food to those in need made me realize the importance of serving everyone around us, not only because it helps the needy, but because it gives us a greater sense of what is important in each of our own lives.

Since then, I have been inspired to serve the homeless on countless occasions by serving meals during

"To me, the task seemed too easy to deserve thanks, but it was just this thought that ignited my philanthropic spirit."

Jennifer LaHatte
Managing Editor



the holiday season or packing lunches to deliver to local shelters. My desire to help others and improve the community around me has spilled over into other facets of service as well, and Tech nurtures this need by providing limitless opportunities for philanthropy.

Next week, our campus is celebrating Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week by providing daily activities and events that show participants what life is like without food or shelter.

Students have the opportunity to hear and participate firsthand in the aspects of this lifestyle by sleeping outside in cardboard boxes around the shaft all night on Wednesday and by eating at an economically-divided hunger banquet on Monday night. There will even be a Faces of the Homeless panel where students can converse with the homeless.

The week ends with a service day where volunteers can work on a variety of projects, including Project Open Hand, the Food Bank or the Georgia Citizens Coalition for Hunger.

Just this past weekend, 1750 students woke up in the wee hours of the morning on Saturday to partic-

ipate in Tech's fifth annual community service tradition, Team Buzz. Nearly 200 more volunteers participated in this year's Team Buzz compared to last year's numbers.

My project group shoveled mulch to help protect tree roots in Piedmont Park while others served indoors shelving library books or entertaining the elderly at local retirement homes.

It was a nice feeling to stand back from a tree probably three times older than I am and know that I helped to provide a more comfortable sitting place for park-goers that are after cool summer shade or on a brisk fall picnic.

On Monday, busloads of children from the all over the Atlanta community participated in Tech's first annual Run and Hide on Techwood Drive. This Halloween celebration included trick or treating at fraternity and sorority houses, a carnival and haunted house. All of these activities were thought up and carried out by Tech students.

It was wonderful to see so many students providing all these elementary school kids with a fun-filled afternoon and armloads of candy simply out of the kindness of their hearts and the willingness to donate

their time. The expressions on each child's face as they ran from house to house or tried to bite hanging donuts off a string were reason enough to come out and help make this event a success.

And these are only a few examples of the endless philanthropic possibilities that are alive on Tech campus, but they only continue to live because of the people that feel called upon to make philanthropy a part of their everyday existence here at Tech.

Words are incapable of describing the feeling that you get after serving your community or the emotions that you experience when you have helped to make someone's life who is less fortunate than your own a little easier.

The intangible gifts of service provide a constant inspiration to keep my spirit of philanthropy alive. Those that continually serve their community also act as a constant reminder of unmet needs, and they also work to show that others will always require our help and dedication.

The recent tragedies of our nation and the upcoming holiday season provide a perfect inspiration for community service—if you even need to be inspired.

Whether its making Halloween masks at Run and Hide on Techwood Drive, participating in Team Buzz or experiencing a night without shelter during a Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week event, we are all called to do our part to make the Atlanta community and the world a better place to live.

Buzz Around the Campus



Question of the week

“What do you think about the media coverage given to the anthrax issues?”

Feature and Photos by
June Zhang



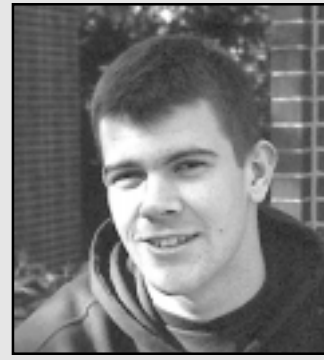
Lauren Biddle
IAML Freshman

“Annoying. I haven’t been watching the news because it’s ridiculous.”



Holly Lewis
ME Sophomore

“From what I’ve seen, they’ve covered it fairly well.”



Ryan Colton
ME Junior

“I don’t know. I’m too busy doing 2110.”



Nafiisah Muhammad
Math Freshman

“It has sensationalized everything and made people terrified.”



Barton Crist
MGT Sophomore

“Try not to inhale it.”



Amanda McDonald
CS Freshman

“All they’re doing is throwing tidbits at us.”



Candace Brown
CHEM Freshman

“They have blown all the incidents out of proportion.”



Nick Menegazzo
CHEM Grad

“They keep on talking about the same thing over and over again.”

Techs and the City: Get to know mayoral candidates and exercise your right to vote

By Jen Hinkel
Columnist

Last year, I stood in line for hours on Election Day. This year, I doubt I'll see the same, although Atlantans should be present en masse to vote for a mayoral candidate. On November 6, one of five Atlantans will be chosen as our new city leader.

Living in this quasi-isolated ivory (and brick) tower, we wonder if City Hall affects us. Some of us pay Atlanta taxes, but few of us own property or homes. The Atlanta city government rarely touches our lifestyle, barring a rare occasion or incident, such as the City Council's ban on opening bars and clubs to those under 21 legislated last year, but even that policy never seemed to materialize.

Therefore, why should we take the time to find out who's running, to investigate the issues or to visit the polls if we feel untouched by Atlanta politics?

I'm not advertising for any one candidate because I want each reader to take the time to examine the issues and the candidates. At this point, I'm not even sure who will

"As part of Atlanta's young constituency, voting is our right and our responsibility."

Jen Hinkel
Columnist



garner my vote. The qualifications and characters of Gloria Bromell-Tinubu, Shirley Franklin, Trudy Kitchin, G.B. Osborne and Robb Pitts should speak for themselves. Thankfully, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has a Web site features a guide to the issues and the candidate's stances. I would also recommend finding a non-partisan guide before finalizing your decision and possibly visiting individual campaign web sites as well.

We have many reasons to vote. First, voting buys you a legitimate claim to complaining. If you don't turn out at the polls, you miss the chance to change things before they drive you to the whining stage.

Some of the more complex

issues that these candidates will debate include urban blight, education, local business support and cleaning out the ongoing corruption and scandal within the city council, and if they go the wrong way, we could all be finding more things to complain about—as if the traffic's not already enough!

Decisions made by the mayor and the city council can affect all of us, and as part of Atlanta's young constituency, voting is our right and our responsibility. Some of the candidates' plans could even visibly change Tech's campus.

One candidate—you can figure out which one—has a development plan named "Advantage Atlanta" that would bring disadvantaged high school students together with career academics,

Atlanta's colleges and local businesses. Such a plan would almost necessitate the inclusion of Georgia Tech faculty and students to be successful.

Another candidate decided to run when her grown sons refused to visit a city with dirty air and water, bad traffic and low performance schools. Will we stay in Atlanta post-graduation, or will we move on because of these same reasons?

A third candidate wants to build showers for homeless people near MARTA stations. As we begin Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week next Monday, we should examine this issue with insight and compassion.

Two candidates can boast of extensive City Hall experience. One has spent 24 years on the City Council and wants to build the city's prosperity. Another's reputation for excellent conflict resolution and tactical diplomacy could help smooth over problems within City Hall. Like almost all of the candidates, these two want to increase City Hall's efficiency by cutting excess and bringing integrity and honor back to an institution that

regularly finds itself at the center of scandal. But how do we know if the city of Atlanta needs an experienced civil servant or a fresh face from the private sector to achieve this goal and propel Atlanta into an era of success?

Though we may not invite them in, Atlanta politics influence us. We should do our best to return the favor at the polls. Take the opportunity of the intervening days to examine the issues, maybe applying something that you've learned in your public policy or political philosophy classes to your decision. After all, you'll be calling Atlanta home for four (or five or six) years at the least. If you work in Atlanta and pay taxes, you have even more reason to help determine how it will be spent. Examine the candidate's visions for this city and find one that correlates with your own hopes.

In Tech's often apathetic milieu, this summons to the polls may not incite a strong desire to vote, but at least look at the issues. Something you see may hit a chord, rendering you suddenly less indifferent and instigating a strong desire to make a choice on Tuesday.

DOAS

from page 6

miss a tire tread in the roadway while going 90 mph in a 9,000 lb vehicle or that they had driven 900 miles that day on only five hours of sleep. That's where you start to see the claims in the several million dollar range.

When you start transporting people on that large scale, it is generally expected to raise the bar a bit with regards to safety. Just as we expect bus drivers to be better trained than drivers in general, it's reasonable to expect a bit more here, too. If you ask the Fed or most state govern-

ments, in fact, a 15-passenger van, Chevy, Ford, or Dodge, is considered a bus.

When I've travelled with student groups in those vans I've always been the one to drive because, in fact, I don't trust most people to do it. We try to forget about it; you put your life into the hands of the driver of a motor vehicle as soon as you get in.

As a student of the operation of government, I think it's silly, though, to call DOAS's action "red tape." They don't want to insure you to

drive state vehicles if you aren't a state employee. That's not red tape. That's just logical, and it's the kind of policy you'd find at any private institution. Insurance is expensive enough without having to insure anybody that walks up and wants to drive.

That being said, pushing everyone towards private vehicles is not a great choice either, and DOAS should have at least announced a future effective date to give all state institutions and agencies time to adjust their plans to comply with these new rules, not to mention substantial time to find ways to develop some new plans to make these

new regulations work for them.

As it is, everyone really is going to be scrambling to find solutions, and what's going to end up happening, as Katie Nicolatos said, is that students will end up using private vehicles.

Now, then, they have the double opportunity of using their vehicles at a reimbursement rate that doesn't even cover the majority of the real cost of operating a vehicle, and they get to shoulder an unreasonably heavy burden of liability should there actually be an accident. I, for one, do not look forward to bankruptcy and lifetime garnishment of wages to pay for

some million-dollar settlement of some lawsuit because I decided to be nice and help take people to a conference.

I hope that the Regents and/or Tech can come up with a quick solution to this issue because these insurance changes are undeniably a huge disruption to the operations of student organizations and teams. Shame on DOAS for acting so quickly without giving us time to work out solutions. But I can't fault the decision itself. It's just sound business sense.

Wes Younger
gte147t@prism.gatech.edu

Technique

It's a staple of the Georgia Tech Community.
Not food staple, so stop eating the paper.