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# Opinions

## Mailbox

E-mail and letters from our readers

### Illegal downloaders still receiving notice

The lede — “Although the Recording Industry Association of America is no longer keeping track of students violating copyright infringement laws, the University’s Enterprise Information Technology Systems still is.” — is not accurate in the Wednesday, February 17 article, “University on the lookout for online pirates.” The conclusion that we are “no longer keeping track of students” is not the case.

Apart from the music industry ceasing to file new lawsuits, the process for universities and colleges has not sufficiently changed. That means the RIAA is still sending an increasing number of copyright notices to schools based on the number of students getting caught for illegal file sharing.

We have always employed a multifaceted approach when it comes to universities, which includes educational programs (such as the campus downloading DVD available at campusdownloading.com), participation in school speaker forums and other forms of outreach; working directly with schools through our involvement in the Joint Committee of the Higher Education and Entertainment Communities; and sending DMCA notices upon detection of illegal file-sharing activity on campus networks.

We continue to be proactive in all these ways. Over the course of the past couple of years, as the technology to detect online theft has improved, we have sent an increased number of notices to universities.

Thank you for your interest in our issues.

**LIZ KENNEDY**  
 Deputy Director  
 Of Communications  
 Recording Industry  
 Association of America

### Proud of writers on PETA issues

My appreciation goes out to Ward Black for his Wednesday, Feb. 17, response to PETA Vice President Bruce Friedrich’s column. After summing up everything I’ve been thinking, he stated true scientific facts, something PETA has yet to do.

As for Basil Syed’s Mailbox response, have you ever thought about majoring in an agriculture-related program? I’m more than impressed with what you’ve said. And really PETA? A robotic Uga? Please try again.

I’m very proud of the two agriculture staff writers. The staff is very large and my scholarly field is horribly under-represented. But why weren’t they allowed to cover the debate?

The paper is supposed to present both sides of an issue but after finding out the debate, which I’m sure proved to be a joke, was not covered by any staff members, including the agriculture-background ones, I was shocked.

I’m very displeased with the coverage agriculture gets. Where are our weekly articles about what is going on in South Campus? Where are our representatives of our sides of the story?

The Red and Black is obviously not a school paper, but rather a North

Campus and athletic paper.

If Mr. Friedrich wants our side of the debate to be vocalized, it could start with you, The Red and Black. You have to be willing to utilize the only staff members that have access to real facts about what goes on in the agriculture industry.

**LYNSEY JACKSON**  
 Senior, Covington  
 Animal Science

### Pizza places not in pie challenge

You left out some really great Eastside pizza joints! Mama Sid’s and Peppino’s both have really delicious pizzas and might have scored at the top of your Primo Pie Challenge. As a big pizza fan, I think a sequel may be in order.

**DONNIE SUMMERLIN**  
 Alumnus, Grovetown  
 Digital Projects Manager  
 University of Georgia

### Scooters a fix for campus problem

It was with great concern that I recently read a piece in the Flagpole saying that Parking Services is looking at the problem of scooter parking on campus, and their solution is to ban them!

Even more outrageous is that they point to scooters as a source of pollution as a justification! Scooters are growing in popularity because they solve a very real transportation problem for their riders in an economical and efficient manner.

I live in the Five Points area and ride a scooter to my office every day. It takes half the time of driving my car to a distant lot and then walking a mile to my building and I spend about \$2 a month on gas as opposed to over \$50 in the car.

Parking Services should institute a small permit fee for scooter riders and dedicate the money towards the construction of more on-campus scooter parking where it is needed. Parking Services should not push scooters to the fringe of campus and expect their owners to ride already overcrowded buses.

As state employees, we are all part of the Governor’s initiative to improve service and responsiveness to our clients. Somehow I don’t think Parking Services must have seen that memo.

**JAMES DANIELS**  
 Faculty, Athens  
 Agricultural Economics

#### CORRECTION

Wednesday, Feb. 16’s letter to the editor, “Hard to organize civil discussion with PETA” was incorrectly attributed to Jerry Jackson. The author’s correct name is Ankur Mathew.

#### VARIETY POLICY

Letters must include name, year in school, hometown, phone number, major or job title or other appropriate identification. Letters are edited for spelling or grammar and are subject to editing for length, style and libelous material.



## Teach for America to change country

Consider the Gwinnett County School System in metro Atlanta. The graduation rate from public schools in Gwinnett county has been increasing steadily over the past 3 years — almost 80 percent of students graduate.

On the other hand, only 63 percent of students in the Clarke County School District will graduate from high school. That’s more than 10 percent less than the state average.

These sobering statistics aren’t unique to Athens and metro Atlanta. When students in low-income communities are 9 years old, they’re already two to three full grade levels behind their wealthier peers.

While fourth graders in middle and upper income communities are reading books like “The Diary of Anne Frank,” fourth graders growing up in poverty are reading “The Cat in the Hat.” This educational inequity is called the achievement gap and dramatically affects the life prospects of 14 million children today.

Though education is supposed to be the great equalizer, the unfortunate reality is that all too often, a child’s zip code shapes his or her educational success.

Teach for America is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the achievement gap by recruiting passionate and high-achieving college graduates to commit to teaching for two years in one of 35 of our nation’s low-income communities such as New York City and the Mississippi Delta.



**GEALES GOODWIN**

All corps members receive an Americorps Education award to help pay off past student loans or to put towards future education. Teach for America covers all training and certification, so no matter what your major is, you can apply.

Business Week also named Teach For America one of the top 10 places to launch a career. Corps members are actively recruited by top business, law and graduate schools, including Johns Hopkins, Harvard and other schools of that caliber.

Brian Bordainick is a UGA alum and third year geography teacher in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans. In his second year at G.W. Carver High School, he was made Athletic Director and proposed to build a \$1.85 million community space with a football field and track open to the public. This was a feat unlike anything New Orleans has ever seen and sparked a citywide rally to bring a “field of dreams” to the poverty-stricken Ninth Ward. He received grants from Nike and the NFL, among others, raising \$1.28 million to date.

According to Carver football coach Shyrone Carey, “Athletics play a major role in getting students from the Upper Ninth Ward out of poverty and into college.” Brian remarked, “My whole

goal was to relate to the kids ... I thought sports could be an avenue to do that.”

Monique Moore, the current Recruitment Director for Teach for America at UGA, taught at an Atlanta elementary school. When her principal gave Moore the choice between 1st and 3rd grade, Moore chose 3rd grade, knowing it’s a high-stakes test year and was ready to embrace the challenge.

After working relentlessly with her students before school, during lunch, and after school to prepare them for the CRCT and progress to fourth grade, Moore’s principal called her into the office to share with Moore her students’ test results.

For the first time in school history, all 3rd graders passed all sections of the CRCT, equipped with the skills and confidence to continue the path of success in the 4th grade.

So what’s next? If you’re a senior, apply online at [www.teachforamerica.org](http://www.teachforamerica.org) by Feb. 19. If you’re a sophomore or junior and interested in getting the word out to UGA’s campus, you can apply for the Campus Campaign Coordinator position online.

We can all do our part to affect change in our nation’s schools by mentoring or volunteering for an after-school program. Let’s be part of the movement that’s changing things.

— Geales Goodwin is a junior from Alpharetta majoring in history and sociology

## ‘Rock star’ president weakens confidence

He’s not the next American Idol, but he is our American President.

Despite Barack Obama’s rock star persona — he smokes, he tweets, he’s got a hot wife — what has the president really done to garner such idolatry?

We need to stop worshipping the president as if he were “The Situation” and join the many who see what he really stands for and how he will negatively affect our generation.

Just like smoking is only cool until you are diagnosed with lung cancer, the president is only cool until our country is filing for bankruptcy, the unemployment rate is higher than ever before and American leadership ceases to exist.

I know, I know. It’s all Bush’s fault. But every president has entered office having to clean up messes from his predecessor — Reagan anyone? — and Obama is no different.

We need a leader, not a whiner. We need someone who still has confidence in our nation and will make decisions to protect us. And most of all, we need someone who cares about our generation and will take steps to secure not only our future, but our kids’ and grandkids’ futures, too.

So let’s take Obama out of the spotlight and put him under the microscope. At the start of February, Obama presented a \$3.8 trillion fiscal budget plan for 2011, with \$100 billion in additional stimulus spending — as if we didn’t



**KATE PARHAM**

already spend \$787 billion — and higher taxes for the rich in an attempt to lower the deficit.

However, it seems as though his plan will do the exact opposite. According to the projections, the 2011 deficit is predicted to be a record-breaking \$1.3 trillion, with deficits remaining above \$700 billion for the rest of the decade. That’s a lot of zeros.

So what do all these numbers mean? Well, for starters it means that Obama’s promises to cease spending are totally bogus. In terms of spending as a percentage of GDP, even Clinton only spent 8 percent and Bush 3 percent (including 2009). But Obama? A whopping 24 percent — the highest since World War II.

Furthermore, entitlement expenditures, like Medicare and Social Security, are growing faster than tax revenue, which means that discretionary spending, like military, health and transportation, will require borrowing.

And who do you think the government is going to borrow from? China (it’s called debt) and you (it’s called taxes).

Raising taxes does not raise revenue, as we — or at least our parents — saw in the Carter years. It slows economic growth, limiting opportu-

nities and increasing the unemployment rate. We’re already averaging 10 percent unemployment, and about 2.1 million jobs lost during the recession won’t be coming back, according to a Wall Street Journal survey.

You may not care about that now, but you will most certainly care about it when you graduate and have to find a job.

So, Obama’s spending is leaving our generation with an enormous, unsustainable amount of debt. But at least we’ll have free health care and universal college, right?

Wrong. Somebody has to pay for these things and who do you think it’s going to be: homeless Joe Schmo with no job, or you, college-educated working-man? You’ll be better off on the streets.

And here’s the worst part — we are now perceived as a weak nation in terms of economic, political and military resolve. As Nile Gardiner for the UK Telegraph put it, Obama has appeased Iran, surrendered to Moscow and sided with Marxists in Honduras. He’s bullied Israel, called for a nuclear-free world, and talked of a climate change deal. And now terrorists and host nations see themselves as having carte blanche to hit us, and our allies.

Bankruptcy, reckless spending and lack of role model qualities. Maybe Obama is a rock star after all.

— Kate Parham is a senior from Roswell majoring in magazines and consumer journalism

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