Football ticketing

In the absence of other changes, BuzzCard scanning at football games remains another attempt at solving the same student ticketing issues that seem to come up every year. Swiping BuzzCards is not a perfect solution, but it does address the problem of tickets being sold or given away to people who are not Tech students and thus have not paid the athletic fee. Not only does this practice hurt school spirit, but it also affects Tech students who have paid the athletic fee and are unable to obtain tickets.

At the Gardner Webb game, five percent of student tickets did not have eligible BuzzCards—a small but significant number. While only about 2,000 student fans came out that day, both the proportion and number of student tickets being used by people who do not attend Tech could vastly increase at sold out games against rivals like Georgia. This precludes fee-paying Tech students from attending games and showing their school spirit. Students wishing to invite a friend along can purchase a discounted date ticket.

However, ticket scanning brings new problems while leaving others unresolved. There are not enough resources to scale the program at games with higher attendance where it would most be needed. While new solutions are being considered, no specific plan is in sight. In addition, many of the complaints about football ticketing stem from block ticketing, under which any group can arrange to sit with hundreds of their closest friends, often leaving small groups with no chance of securing tickets to the most popular games.

The block ticketing system, in effect, is often abused. The cap for the number of seats that can obtained in a given block should be lowered to no more than 100; anything more is unnecessary. At the same time, the minimum—currently set at 20—should be done away with. Football games are inherently social events, and every student should be able to conveniently arrange to sit with his or her group of friends.

The 1st and 10 program for students and young alumni allows groups to sign up in advance at the beginning of the semester and secure blocks in which GTID numbers are matched to each set of vouchers turned in, minimizing abuse and maximizing the benefit to large, dedicated groups.

A complicated scheduling procedure may not be the answer to the all the problems that exist against the ticketing process, but the bottom line is that the rules should be enforced. The few who take advantage of the system should not be allowed to infringe on the rights of the larger student body who paid the athletic fee and expects to have an equal right to show its school spirit at any football game.

Tech should dump ACC for SEC

Almost 76 years ago, a group of 13 universities decided to form a new conference named the Southeastern Conference (SEC). Of the 12 current members of the SEC, 10 of them were part of the original 13. Tech is one of those three schools that have left the SEC, including Missouri and Tulane.

It is undeniable that the history of Tech athletics and the SEC is deeply intertwined. Tech has played 429 football games against SEC schools, which accounts for almost 58 percent all games played in the history of Tech. Tech’s biggest rival, the University of Georgia, is a member of the SEC.

Auburn is still a traditional rival whom we have played 92 times. Over 2,000 more fans showed up to watch Tech play a bottom-of-the-barrel ACC team, Mississippi State, than did to watch Tech play a bottom-of-the-barrel ACC team, Duke. The upcoming nonconference games in the near future against Ole Miss and Alabama will likely follow suit.

Geographically, the SEC is situated much more favorably than the ACC, with schools within a one-day drive and the SEC Conference Championships in football and basketball most often played just a few miles away from campus at the Georgia Dome.

So with all of the obvious reasons why has Tech not rejoined the SEC?

Although the SEC said it didn’t want us back about 30 years ago, I think it is ready to bury the hatchet. The SEC is probably not in the market to pick up a 13th team, so let’s get rid of one of the SEC teams. I propose Arkansas. Arkansas is the de facto reject of the SEC. It joined the conference after jumping from the Big Ten, and Tech would probably contend for the SEC’s top spots.

Logically, Arkansas would move to the Big 12, but that is monkey wrecked by, again, the 12-team conference setup. So Baylor, or maybe Iowa State, would need to get kicked out of the Big 12, and go to...I don’t care. One of them just needs to go.

Next out of the woodwork come the irrational people who will say the SEC is academically inferior to the ACC, and we fit better into the ACC for that reason. I will concede that a significant portion of public high schools would probably be considered academically rigorous by SEC standards. However, I believe we should play them in football and basketball games, not adopt their core curricula.

Next comes the big question: can we be competitive? All in all, Tech has a pretty impressive lineup of sports. Baseball, golf, tennis and men’s basketball are all well established programs which would likely compete toward the top of the SEC.

Women’s basketball, softball, volleyball and track and field, along with swimming and diving, have all risen through the ranks in their respective leagues and would most likely also be competitive. Tech would also probably need to get a gymnastics team up, but who is going to actually say that we couldn’t use a few more girls on campus?

That leaves football. With the reputation of the SEC, recruiting would most likely improve since publicity for the SEC, with new long-term contracts with CBS and ESPN, greatly outweighs that of the ACC’s, which consists of getting regional coverage on ABC or dealing with the Einsteins on Raycom who cannot figure out Roddy Jones’s name.

The football team would also have the advantage of playing for real bowl games. The team as a whole would continue to improve, and Tech would probably contend for a conference, and even a National Championship, every couple of years.

The advantages of rejoining the conference we helped to found greatly outweigh the losses of leaving the ACC.

Matt Hoffman
Sports Editor
Vandalism of Buzzes defaces school spirit

The Buzzes around campus were a great addition to the community. Representing the tradition, creativity and overall spirit of Tech, they eventually came to represent the immaturity, lack of spirit and overall disappointment certain Tech students should feel for themselves.

These generously donated and colorful additions to the campus reminded me of the various reasons I like Tech. A personal favorite for me is the one on the 5th Street interstate bridge. Sponsored by the College of Engineering and designed by fellow Industrial Designers Society of America members, it was goofy, charming and representative of what we saw in Tech.

It was great because it was even better than the sum of its parts. The nerd sandals with socks, the incredible metal Mohawk, the hilarious pocket protector and the general “bling” attitude of this Buzz were all reflective of the reason why I can appreciate Tech.

Unfortunately, this edifice was one of the first and most prominent installations to go through a series of vandalisms. Frustrated by seeing the antennae to essentially disfiguring the design, I saw the immaturity most Tech students seem to possess.

I would like to mention some new directions in reasoning like this. First because you failed your last calculus test doesn’t give you the right to get angry at this school. Stealing the Ts around campus, slipping our silverware from the dining halls and talking smack about UGA are all inappropriate but traditional activities that are perfectly within reason. Destroying these enriching and well-crafted statues because you can is not. I’m not asking whoever did these acts to come forth, confess and seek redemption—I’m asking you to feel sorry for yourself, because if there’s anything wrong with Tech, it’s usually your types that are causing the mess.

School spirit at Tech is difficult. A form of school spirit for me is to get angry and say “I hate Tech, it’s too hard.” But this phrase is a symbol of Tech, and I don’t go spray graffiti on Skiles or quicklime Yellow Jacket Park. I simply vent and then go on with my work, and later come to enjoy the wonderful traditions that shape Tech into an experience that I have come to enjoy. I can take pleasure in the numerous and detailed traditions and stories that make Tech different, like George P. Burdell and Clean Old-Fashioned Haze. I started a tradition with my roommate from freshman year to throw out ice cream cones at Towers since we lived in Glenn (it looked pretty disgusting). These mundane and arbitrary tasks, like the Cake Race or the Triple Play, are there not to make us miserable, but to make us laugh at our misfortunes. I pulled an all-nighter for the Cake Race, for example. These are all aspects of tradition, and they’re not easy to do or keep up with, but they’re part of our college experience.

I won’t pretend like I’m some huge fan of football or basketball, but I’ll always support Tech over the opposition, because that’s what spirit and commitment are. Going around and vandalizing campus, littering and supporting other schools isn’t a good way to appreciate this place.

If you’re unhappy with Tech, find something to enjoy. The experience of Tech is of rigor, but partying as well. If you don’t like Tech life, then you’re just as well. Because Tech life is difficult, we can learn to take ourselves less seriously and heedlessly Facebook until 3 a.m. or skip one class to go to Junior’s.

These are the aspects of Tech that make it more enjoyable because they’re not about hurting the school, but enhancing the overall experience. I simply want students to have pride in their school or at least not be as hard on themselves: that’s all they’re doing with Tech. So why sabotage tradition and ruin what little pleasant atmosphere we have? Why spoil the Buzzes?

All I know is that whatever kind of person does such things is no better than a dawg.

Hamsa Hasan Assistant Online Editor

Letter Submission Policy

The Technique welcomes all letters to the editor in response to Technique content as well as general topics relevant to campus. We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Send your letter to letters@technique.net and please use your official Georgia Tech account. Multiple attempts to include your full name, year (e.g., 2016), and major. Put the President should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by 7 p.m. Tuesday in order to be printed in the following Friday’s issue. Any letters not following these rules will be rejected. The Editorial Board of the Technique to be of valid interest will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Each letter will be printed on a single level, which is misleading. The College of Engineering has made a concerted effort for almost two decades.

The School of Mechanical Engineering, the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering all have well-developed, in-house technical communication programs, and the communications faculty who coordinate these programs are all hired by their respective Schools and are not affiliated with LCC.

An informative article would go a long way in raising awareness of the successful writing programs at Tech.

Douglas Williams Professor and Associate Chair, School of ECE

Stephanie Phillips
Third-year CE

“Chick-Fil-A because it reminds me of home.”

Michael Lane
Third-year PHYS

“How much do you have to eat and socialize.”

Ailien Vuong
Second-year ARCH

“Brittain Dining Hall because Woodruff doesn’t have provolone cheese.”

Warren Van Nus
Second-year ME

“Rocky Mountain Pizza because it is a great place to eat and socialize.”

Assistant Online Editor
Fourth graders from low-income communities are already three grade levels behind their high-income peers.