Sex column has no place in Technique

In answer to Jen Schur’s question “If a school steeped in tradition like Yale has sex… in their paper, why doesn’t Tech?” maybe those in favor of a sex column should consider the priorities of a newspaper.

Traditionally, newspapers have served as a means to present information and opinions about the happenings in the world, whether these are large-scale like in the NY Times, or on a smaller scale like the Technique or any other college newspaper.

Many other options are available to find discussion of sex; Tech students may certainly make use of these if they so desire; however, a newspaper is not the correct place to find these discussions.

Aside from these points, maybe the reason for the absence of a column discussing sex in the Technique results from a maturer mindset in Georgia Tech students than in colleges that do publish a sex column. Our Institution has a reputation for attracting responsible, capable students, the type employers seek after graduation.

Schur writes, “now it’s Tech’s turn to take our shirts off responsibility off…and jump on the sex-craze bandwagon.” If we as students want to truly benefit from the Tech reputation, we should do all in our power to enhance our image of responsibility, not decrease it, as Schur suggests. The pages of the Technique may be used in many more mature and responsible ways than discussing sex.

During my first semester here at Tech, I have been very pleased at the quality of the Technique and hope to see this quality continue in future editions.

Dawn Parker
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Make temporary improvements permanent

I would suggest using the improvements we make during these events as a guide to how things should be all of the time.

Scott Meuleners
Photography Editor

OPINIONS

It’s Homecoming again, and if you have been on campus for a while, you have probably noticed when it changes for Homecoming. The first thing you’ll notice is all of the decorations that make up part of the Homecoming festivities, but these activities are not the biggest thing going on around campus nowadays. Everyone is cleaning up their act and cleaning up the campus for when the parents and alumni arrive.

This is not unusual for Tech; there are many times in the year that Tech leaders go around the campus end, rush week and Connect with Tech. We cover up things so that the people on the outside, whether they be parents, alumni, or incoming freshmen, see Tech as a great place.

During these times of the year you will notice that the food quality in the dining halls gets better, flower beds are filled with yellow and purple blossoms, and the campus gets a general polishing. Not that there is anything wrong with this, but it would be nice if we could maintain this appearance around for the rest of the year so that when the alumni, parents and friends leave, those of us who are here can still enjoy these benefits.

This is not to say that we shouldn’t try to improve Tech in this manner. This is why I believe that we should try to use these temporary improvements on campus as an example for what things should be like all the time. It also makes sure that when being visited we still show who we really are and don’t hide behind Homecoming or Parent Weekend because we are embarking on a fresh effort to show who we really are.

Having been on both sides of student government, I believe that it isn’t always good to put forward an image that differs from the way it really is.

When first visited Tech, I came through the Connect with Tech program, and they definitely do everything they can to make Tech look like the best place to be in the world to spend for years. Granted, all college do this, but it does make it hard for kids coming out of high school to choose where to go when all they see is a highly polished view of everything.

Since coming to Tech, I have not really been what I expected, but I have enjoyed my time here and would do it again if given the choice. That is not to say that I believe Tech is anything but great with SGA leader last year. While I did help perpetuate the image of a polished Tech, I tried to be as honest and truthful with everything I said to the prospective students as possible.

As for rush, I think the images that people put on can be both good and bad for Tech. It is nice for fraternities and sororities to clean up their houses and do their best to keep the students who have friends in those houses feel welcome when visiting, but sometimes they go too far and portray themselves as something they are not. While it is good for getting new people to join your organization, it does not always get the right people to pledge and causes people who would be great assets to the fraternity or sorority to look elsewhere.

It’s hard enough to find a place to fit in as an incoming freshman, most of whom haven’t really figured out what college life is really about when we arrive. If people are not themselves when welcoming freshmen during rush, and after they are in the hazing practices, it would make a sound decision on where to go.

What I’m saying is that it is fine to clean up your act and put on a pretty face when influential people are visiting, but it would be nice if we could maintain this appearance around for the rest of the year so that when the alumni, parents and friends leave, those of us who are here can still enjoy these benefits.

SGA needs clearer mission, better communication

Ever since the SGA policy changes regarding funding took place in the spring of last fall, I have been left wondering what exactly our Student Government is about now. Really, does anyone know?

Historically, SGA has been an over-complex organization where student organizations beg for more funding from a body that, like a boss, tries to contain an SGA representative who would then propose a bill. This house would then discuss the bill and then decide what the organization would receive the funding for. While this system would ensure that the organizations would receive the funding they need, it would be nice if we could maintain this appearance around for the rest of the year so that when the alumni, parents and friends leave, those of us who are here can still enjoy these benefits.

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Page 9

FINISH
**Original Comic** Fresmhmnen

**FrEsmHMen** by Billy Aslaner

WHAT HAPPENED? DID SOMEBODY PULL THE FIRE ALARM AGAIN?

ACTUALLY, I’M PRETTY SURE IT WENT OFF BECAUSE MY COOKIES WERE ON FIRE.

HOW ON EARTH DID YOU DO THAT?

WELL, I THOUGHT THE DIRECTIONS MEANT TO COOK THEM AT 450 DEGREES CELSIUS, WHICH IS ABOUT 850°F.

WHAT?? THOSE OVENS CAN’T GO OVER 500°F!

AND THAT’S WHY I HAD TO SET THEM ON FIRE.

JUST GOT BACK FROM CHEM-LAB
Question of the week
“What do you think about all the construction around campus?”

Alison Baker
ID Junior
“It’s never-ending and annoying, but the improvements are necessary.”

Jake Moore
MGT Junior
“Looks like it’s gonna be done just in time for me to graduate.”

Eric Fessler
AE Senior
“My money’s going toward it, but I never get to use it.”

John Lin
BMED Sophomore
“I think it’s good for the progress of Tech.”

Caitlin Crum
ChemE Sophomore
“It’s noisy, but it’s for a good cause, right?”

Matt Collins
MGT Senior
“I think it sucks.”

Melanie Marshall
PSYCH Junior
“Let’s just say I like to call it destruction. The poor squirrels.”

Rebecca Reitman
BMED Sophomore
“Construction is a royal P.I.T.A. because students have more obstacles on campus.”

Feature and Photos by
Chris Raabe and Tim Cailloux
Undergrads, students endured only ten weeks of class and could drop classes until the end of the fifth week—or halfway through. Under semesters, the term grew by six weeks of class, but Drop Day moved back just one week, landing well within the first half of the term.

Drop Day exists for several reasons: it lets students get out of a class they hate or are failing, lets people change their schedule if it turns out to be too demanding, and gives stu-
dents a chance to learn what a course is really like. Oh, and of course, it gives us a reason to throw Drop Day parties. But while Drop Day offers a good way to pre-
serve GPAs and sanity while giving students a chance to “try out” a course, it only works when professors cooperate with the stu-
dents and assign them grades be-
fore it’s too late to drop.

This semester, I had three classes with no grades before Drop Day. In two of those classes, we had taken tests during the sixth week, but they had not been graded. Curiously enough, the professors that wait until the last possible minute to test also show mercy, as they don’t give any grades, they also seem unwilling to have a significant grade determin-
ed by that date. Provide real recourse to students whose profes-
sors fail to do so, either by allowing a late drop without penalty or by guaranteeing a passing grade.

Drop Day is another situation where Tech needs to take a step back and see what other univer-
sities are doing. Some of them allow drops until the last day of the semester. Others provide rules so that Drop Day is fair and decisions are informed. The sixth-week Drop Day is a dinosaur left over from the Quarters Age. It needs to be reex-
amined, revamped, and rewritten as a policy that helps students and guides professors rather than lead-
ing to stress, dissatisfaction, and misleading grading practices.

Game intros need Buzz

This year I have been very disap-
pointed in the starting introduc-
tions of our home football games. I mean the whole video graphic with Buzz flying by the Varsity is pretty neat, but that doesn’t make me want to jump up and down for my team. I feel sorry for our cheerleaders and the Ramblin’ Rock Band because they have to get the crowd peppe-
red while everyone is watching an avi on a big screen that is located on the opposite side of the field of where our team enters.

Over the past several years our home games had a wonderful start-
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low Jacket fan on his/her feet in no time—the introduction of Buzz.”You know what I am talking about. The hand on the field, the tension of the upcoming game fills the air, when you hear that familiar announcer welcome “America’s number one masonry… BUZZZZZ!” This, of course, was followed by our beloved Buzz running full steam to the center of the field and doing some crazy stunt at the middle of the field. After-
wards, Buzz would proceed to run full speed into the goal post. I don’t know about you, but when I heard that introduction, I was on my feet screaming like a maniac. Now the game starts up and I am not quite sure what is going on.

I am a true Tech fan and I love my team, but even a true Jacket fan needs a little inspiration to get the blood boiling. I’m sure that some people think that it is near for Buzz to ride in the back of the Ramblin’ Reck, but I think it restricts Buzz from performing his primary re-
sponsibility: getting the crowd ready to cheer on our Yellow Jackets. I’m ready for Buzz to start my games off right.

Joey Woodall
get061j@prism.gatech.edu

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