

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, September 29, 2000

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Just say 'yes' to dating

Sometimes we simply run out of ideas for consensus editorials. So, in lieu of a news-based consensus this week, we have decided to print something completely different. However, this topic is still of profound importance to the everyday lives of Tech students. Why should you date? We know what you're thinking, but this *is* a school publication. Anyway, think of your own ideas, read ours, and then go have some fun. The *Nique* Editorial Board proudly presents why *you* should just say "yes" to dating. And remember, this is only a joke.

- I've got better things to do than being naked with Irwin
- now that the beds are securely lofted, shacking is no longer a safety issue
- there are a lot of single people at Tech
- if all else fails, import from another campus
- if you're dating, you have an excuse to give up those LAN parties
- it's better than taking your chances on AOL
- OIT knows you're looking at porn all day, anyway
- it's hard to type with just one hand
- it's dumb to admire from afar
- you know your CS TA is hot
- the homecoming formal is next weekend
- they might like you, too
- making out is awesome... wait, you don't have to be dating for that
- because you didn't have anything better to do with your money, anyway
- because I need a date

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

Quote of the week:

"If you can't be with the one you love, honey, love the one you're with"—Stills

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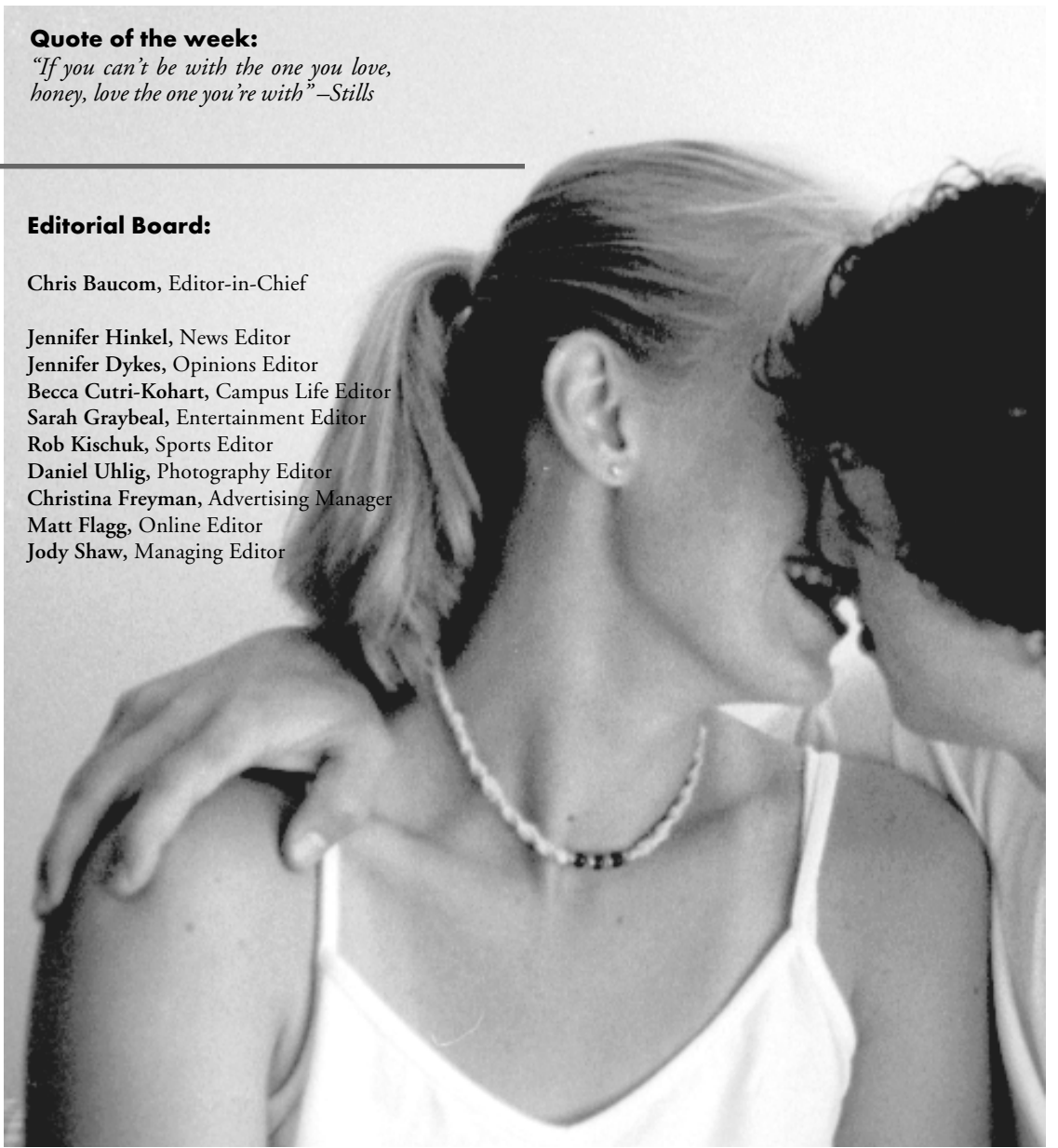
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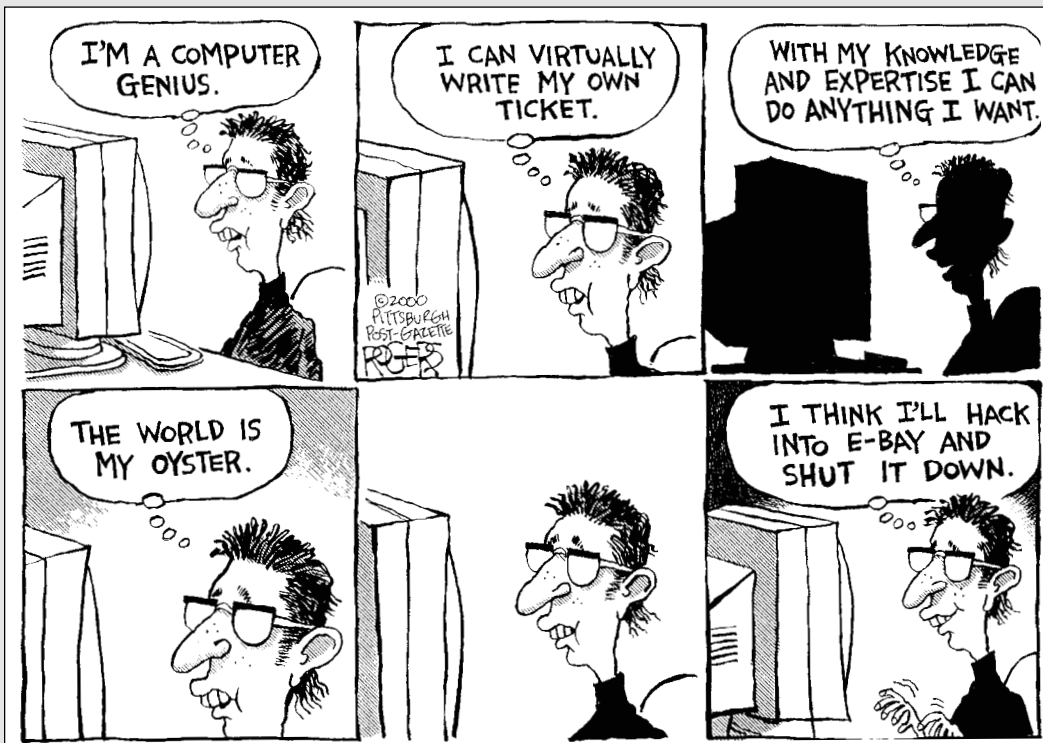
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Letters
to
the Editor

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Support flashcard section

As the Ramblin' Reck Club's Flashcards Chair for this year, I felt compelled to reply to the criticisms of the flashcards block printed in last week's edition. The flashcards section is a block of student seats in the east stands of the football stadium where people in this section receive flashcards at halftime to hold up in specific patterns to spell out various words. The author of last week's letter to the editor wrote that flashcards was much better in the past, with pictures from 1977 and 1997 to prove it. Having seen these pictures, I would like to make a few comments and clear up a couple misconceptions in Mr. Hardigree's mind.

First of all, the pictures from 1997 are a bad representation of recent flashcards because there was not an official flashcards section that year. Instead, the shows were done sporadically and in the Swarm section, which is not as conducive to the show. Furthermore, in 1977, the block was approximately twice the size of the current block. As a result, we are pretty much limited to spelling words out one letter at a time so it can be readable. In addition, from my understanding, the show in the photographs from 1977 was well-rehearsed, with each pic-

ture taken after everybody held their cards up and the incorrect cards were fixed. Unfortunately, we are not afforded that luxury today. We have a total of eight minutes to get everybody seated, flashcards distributed, the show performed and the flashcards returned. Rehearsals are simply not feasible, given that many of the flashcards seats are sold in pairs and some people bring different dates each game. Therefore, there are new people introduced to the section for the first time each game.

Finally, I would like to note that Georgia Tech is still one of a small handful of schools in the nation who have a student-run, student-participant flashcards section. It takes huge cooperation among the 50 members of the Ramblin' Reck Club and the 280 enthusiastic students who make up the block each home game to continue the wonderful Tech tradition of the flashcards section. In each of my three years helping out with flashcards, I have seen the block continuously improve, and I think everybody who works hard to make it successful deserve to be applauded, not criticized.

Melissa Matassa
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Support Tech students' need to make and hear music

"Without music, life is a journey through a desert," wrote Pat Conroy.

And if life is so dry without music, then how enriched could life be with an abundance of music, of its performance, and of its aesthetics?

Before I came to Tech, music daily enriched my life. Growing up in a musical family, silence in the house was rare, choir rehearsals and piano lessons filled my time away from school.

During my career playing handbells and singing in my church choir, our director offered constant musical challenge, encouraging us to "sing like a college choir." As we toured throughout the US and Canada, I yearned for the day when I would be part of such a university ensemble. I eagerly anticipated the challenge, the discipline, and the camaraderie that comes from the creation of beautiful music.

Too bad for me, I guess. Tech's music department doesn't own a set of handbells. The school shows such poor support for the Chorale that the musicians don't even have an acoustically appropriate rehearsal space, let alone funding for annual tours in the US or abroad.

While I practiced piano on an upright Weber, I imagined how much I would love playing a baby-grand Steinway; my piano teacher fed me tales of college practice rooms where pianos are tuned weekly.

Whoops, my mistake! Those facilities don't exist at Tech. If I want to practice, I walk across campus to the Wesley Foundation, where I am graciously allowed to practice on their upright piano.

Are students at Tech not talented enough to have adequate rehearsal facilities and enriching musical ex-

"Here, every day in the Music Department is a struggle as musicians and directors fight to excel in conditions that are not conducive... to their work."

Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor



periences? Maybe Tech doesn't have enough money to spend \$500,000 renovating a beautiful, acoustically ideal space for the Chorale, or maybe they need it to store some surplus furniture and boxes. Or, possibly, I'm the only Tech student who gives a darn about whether or not I ever perform another musical note in my life. Maybe I'm the only student who isn't obsessively and singularly working towards "getting out" with a marketable degree.

These arguments, neither compelling nor realistic in nature, can not justify the continued ignorance of the Music Department's pleas for funding, support, and recognition. Administration, faculty, and students alike need to wake up to the reality of what a Music Department can provide.

I doubt many people at Tech would say that Tech students aren't talented. Maybe the funding is nonexistent, but the Capital Campaign, which could have provided millions for the arts, solicited funds primarily for other ventures. While athletics will receive over \$100 million in earmarked funds, finding \$500,000 for a much-needed church renovation seems nearly impossible.

My life would be devoid of many things without the performance of

music. I know that a few hundred of my friends in the Marching Band and Chorale agree with that statement. Most likely, the 950 students enrolled in music classes this semester think similarly.

At such a renowned institution, I should not be listening to recordings of the church choir I sang with in grade school and wishing that I could sing again in such a high caliber group. While friends from that choir went on to sing in great ensembles at Princeton and Penn State, I came to Tech. Here, musicians and directors struggle daily, fighting to excel in conditions that are not conducive, and are at times completely adverse, to their work.

I admit that most Tech students will not go on to be concert violinists or operatic Prima Donnas, but our devotion to other disciplines is all the more reason that we should be provided with excellent conditions for self-enrichment now. We need to follow the example of Princeton's music department; their information Web site reads: "For many of these students, their time at Princeton is all the more valuable in that it is the last chance to devote themselves fully to musical studies before plunging into demanding careers that leave little time for mu-

sic." (www.music.princeton.edu/dept/ugrad.html)

Will many of our careers upon graduation not "leave little time for music"? Is college not "the last chance to devote [ourselves] fully" to anything outside of the work and family responsibilities that will surely descend rapidly upon us once we reach the "real world"?

If Tech wants to graduate truly successful students, she will stop trying to cut off their artistic limbs. Apparently, music doesn't fall into the "five-year plan" people keep talking about.

For me, music is not simply another discipline to which I can choose to devote my time. Music, in its performance and appreciation, lights my life with passion, enrichment, and excitement. Moreover, the lessons of life that have stood the tests of time and college transition are those I learned through music.

I recall Michael Kemp, my church choir director, sitting down in front of our 40-member group and giving us a serious speech on passion. "Do *everything* you do with passion," he would say. Under his direction, we learned of discipline, leadership, devotion and dedication.

I remember that Kay Peterson, my now deceased piano teacher, acted as my mentor in both life and art for almost ten years. She taught me how to strive for and reach excellence. In her ancient wisdom, she guided me through adolescence with meaning and love, all coming back to what we shared in a piano and a passion for musicianship.

Sadly enough, I have had no such profound experiences at Tech. Although I am learning from great

See Music, page 11

There's more to the world than the United States: go see it

Have you ever noticed that Americans are extremely secluded from the outside world? Have you ever wondered why we live on a planet with hundreds of countries, millions of people, but sometimes we never take the time to notice anything that's happening outside the 50 states?

Look at the news. How often do you see news broadcast that concentrate on anything other than events happening in the US? Do we not care? We have been brought up in a culture that simply does not take the time to pay attention. What do we care if other countries are doing well or not?

People in other countries, however, are much more educated about world events and know what is going on around them. They are aware of the impacts that their country has on world events and realize that the world works more like a system of countries working together. It's like Americans are cooped up in a little box composing of 50 states and we never take a moment to look outside of the box.

This apathy has seeped into the American culture. We have been made to believe that our self-sufficient economy runs well enough on its own and we don't need to pay attention anything else.

You had no choice in being born in the US. You could have just as equally been born in Malaysia, Kenya, Egypt, or any other country that stretches the globe. Why then do people only think about America?

It baffles me to think that many

"To think that we are number one in a world of so many other wonderful countries is simply ignorant."

Alisa Hawkins
Assistant Photography Editor



people do not really care to visit another country. Why would they want to travel that far to go to some foreign country that doesn't have all the conveniences, legal protections, and social conventions of what they have comfortably grown up with? Many people do not realize that these differences are what make other countries so beautiful.

A friend once told me he would never go to another country that didn't speak his own language. He didn't want to be bothered by the inconvenience of having to speak another language, and he didn't want to feel like a "foreigner" in an unfamiliar place. Do you know how many intricate people, phenomenal countries, and wonderful cultures this mode of thinking knocks out? And to think that someone would be so narrow minded to completely block out the rest of the world without even giving it a chance!

This kind of thinking is typical of American culture. Americans like to stay separate from others; feeding on the redundancies that make our lives consistent and comfortable, and we continue to think our country is the "best" country on the

planet. And "best" is an ambiguous term meant to sum all the millions of things that one can appreciate about a home. I'm not trying to sound disloyal or non-patriotic—what I am saying is that maybe the rest of the world is playing the game, and we aren't.

Once while traveling with a friend in Italy, we met a couple of Italian men who chatted with us for a bit. My Australian friend asked them what they think of Americans and one of them responded with, "Americans think too highly of themselves. They think that they are number one with no consideration any one else." I was embarrassed when I realized the truth to this statement. Is this the image that we truly want to portray to people outside of the US?

American culture is too isolated. To think that we are number one in a world of so many other wonderful countries is simply ignorant. I have met so many amazing people while travelling for whom I have much respect. They baffled me at all the places they had gone and things they had seen. Their education level was far more superior to my own and I understood and appreciated

that. I knew I could learn and grow from their knowledge.

Having an experience abroad is a huge epiphany in terms of world awareness, or at least it was for me. It gives you a completely different view on life and yourself.

Travelling teaches you a great deal about the country in which you are trekking through, but also equally as important it teaches you about yourself. You realize what's really inside yourself. You realize your potential as well as your limitations. It lets you look inside and find what you truly believe in and what matters most to you.

It also allows you to look at America from the outside. It gives you an appreciation for the US and lets you see what it has provided for you. It's like taking a step back when you have grown up and realize all the things that your parents have done for you to make you the person you are.

I can not begin to explain how traveling has changed my views and how I have been affected by it. Travelling is such an indescribable experience. I have learned to love traveling so much from vacations that I promised myself that I would not graduate from Georgia Tech without having studied abroad. Take advantage of one of Georgia Tech's study abroad programs. It's at your fingertips, so don't ignore it.

Get off your butt and go travel the world! Go see what is really out there and don't be stuck in the closed mindedness that is characteristic of American society.

TECHNIQUE

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MORE VIEWS Letter to the Editor

Do not blame Napster for illegal useage

Personally, I'm a little concerned over how far this Napster court case has gone. Napster, in its essence, is no different than a tape deck. Using a tape deck, I can copy my best friend's band's performance and share it with a friend, all perfectly legally. I can do the same thing with Napster, only with more friends and less hassle. Napster is nothing but a device that enables us to accomplish something. Just because you are able to use it to participate in illegal activities does not make the device responsible.

Tape decks have allowed millions of people to copy CD's and tapes illegally for years, but you don't see any court cases going after Sony, JVC, or other manufacturers. And what about CD-ROMs, which allow you to record without any loss in quality? No one has been sued by

the music industry for the invention, despite the piracy that occurs. And what about other things you can use to do harm? You can use a butter knife to kill someone, but butter knives are still quite legal.

So why should we hold Napster responsible for creating a system that allows people to engage in something illegal? Sure, the inventors of Napster knew that by making it easier to illegally share MP3s that their service would make a lot of money; but don't you think that the inventor of the CD-ROM or tape recorder might have had similar thoughts?

Now the music industry wants to hold others responsible, such as Georgia Tech, for allowing Napster traffic to flow through their network. This has already been tried with pornography over the Inter-

net, and every case I've heard about has found the network providers free from any liability.

In a way, I think the music industry deserves what it's gotten lately. When CDs first came out, the promise was made that in a few years they'd be far cheaper than tapes. That is true, it costs less to make a CD than a tape, but prices sure haven't fallen. The music industry also fails to acknowledge some reputable studies that show sharing MP3s actually promotes CD purchases.

If we hold hold Napster responsible for being a tool through which illegal actions can occur, then we might as well outlaw tape decks, VCRs, and butter knives too.

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Register bicyclies with Tech police to protect from theives

During the first week of classes I went through the always discouraging experience of having my bicycle stolen. I was fairly annoyed by the experience especially since I had just registered my bike with the campus police. I reported the theft without much hope of ever seeing my bicycle again. Much to my surprise, however, I recently received a phone call from the campus police that it had been found by the Atlanta police and was instructed to call a detective on the Atlanta police force for the details of what I had to do. I had to go to a hearing and when the legal proceedings are complete I will get my bicy-

cle back. I urge the many Tech students who use bicycles to register it with the campus police and to use u-bolts. I also recommend reporting any stolen bicycles to the campus police, you never know, it might just get recovered. In related news, a number of other bikes were recovered at the same time is mine. If you have had a bicycle stolen recently, you might want to call Detective Sutton of the Atlanta Police at (404) 853-4478 ext. 5576 see if your bike is among those that have been recovered.

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MORE VIEWS Letter to the Editor

Move for more discussion of faith

You would be surprised to hear the frankness with which vice presidential candidate Joe Lieberman speaks about the matter of faith from his current position in the national spotlight. Hopeful that his election to office will make citizens “more free to talk about their faith,” Lieberman even claimed that “there must be a place for faith in America’s public life.”

Is the senator beguiled with a wanna-be Moses syndrome, attempting to lead his nation to the promised land of religious living? Didn’t the Anti-Defamation League’s warning to cease the extensive “expressions of faith” bring Lieberman back to reality?

Furthermore, isn’t this old man out of touch with America’s contemporary spirit—nowhere more prominently endorsed than on university campuses like ours—which accepts all ideas as equally legiti-

mate and discourages efforts to discuss and compare beliefs? Doesn’t he know that faith is a subject to be reserved for private life—if voiced at all?

The answer to each of these questions is simply “No.” Contrary to being disillusioned, Lieberman in fact has his finger right on the pulse of America. His contemplation of our culture and history—not his ignorance of them—has informed his invitation to a public discussion of faith.

It is precisely the individualization of belief and the privatization of all matters of faith that has driven us to become “the modern nomads,” as the [Utne Reader] recently dubbed members of our generation. Without dialogue on the faith that informs our thinking and living, we will remain directionless citizens in a republic without purpose.

We all live by faith—that is, we

place confidence in certain unproven and unprovable assumptions about the nature of reality—even if those views are not ostensibly “religious.” Science, let us not forget, is also a faith that rests on indemonstrable assumptions. Since our presuppositions influence all our subsequent thinking, we should certainly count them worthy of discussion.

I do not claim that Lieberman’s personal religious view is correct, but I do affirm that he is wise in calling for us to join in a more public discussion of faith. So let us talk about our faith in God, Brahma, naturalism, Marxism, ecofeminism, or whatever. But let’s at least talk.

And if no one else cares to listen to your notions of faith, don’t hesitate to call me.

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Music from page 9

musicians and teachers in the Music Department, the seeming apathy of administration and students alike casts a dark shadow over my pursuit of musical challenge and enrichment. My passion for music, which I would love to follow unfettered, feels tainted by the lack of resources and support from those outside of the Department. I fear that these years, which could be marked by challenges musical as well as academic, are being squandered in mediocrity.

The first paragraph of our course catalog uses phrases such as “well balanced college education” and “rich professional and personal lives.” Apparently, Tech provides “one of the best educational experiences available anywhere in the world,” and “what makes a Georgia Tech education uniquely valuable is the comprehensive college experience that comes with it.” The course catalog wants students to know that, as well as helping them all become “highly marketable professionals,” Tech will also mold them into “well rounded human beings.”

I cannot change the attitudes and

beliefs of those who discount the pursuit of musicianship as a waste of time, but I can encourage my peers to take up a banner that will not stifle their passions, whatever they might be. The lessons I learned from music have been invaluable to me, and I wish that everyone could have such enriching experiences.

If Tech continues to refuse funding and support to such programs, the Institute is effectively undermining its own mission of graduating capable, excellent, “well-rounded human beings.” Immediate funding for the Chorale’s church would be one step in the direction of pro-

Balance computer with real life

Computers causing social problems? Normally I would not be the one to harp about such matters other than nag once in a while to some of the serious tech heads I know to see the world instead of quietly rotting away behind a computer screen. After reading about the computer dependency article in the Technique, I thought I would finally put in my full two cents worth on the matter. Being a former CS major, I know that it is very possible to spend countless hours in front of the computer trying to beat deadlines for projects, etc. I also understand how someone could spend countless hours doing nothing more than wearing out a keyboard and mouse playing games. The question becomes when does it go too far? The answer is simple, when you do not have an identity outside the computer and/or being a student at Tech. It is one thing to play around with the computer from time to time. However it is something else all together when something better comes along (especially women, considering that they are in short supply around here) and is ignored because the computer is still functional. The problem with this is that if you do it long enough you will find it difficult to thrive in the outside world.

In all of this the hard part of hiding from the world comes when you do decide to “rejoin the living”, mainly because it takes time to get familiar with things and know how to handle them (quite a while for some of us). Get too impatient in this endeavor and it will be like doing 0 to 60 in under a second; its not pleasant and usually causes a lot of trouble for all involved. Also temptation is always a heartbeat behind waiting to show itself, especially when you crash. So keep in mind that some things will always be around, but there is no pause feature on life.

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viding a “comprehensive college experience.” Future and continued support of the Music Department could even create a truly “well balanced college education.”

Tech is no stranger to excellence; I have seen that this school has a superb ability to excel when and where it desires. If Tech truly desires to achieve excellence and stand

behind its mission, the administration and students will do what is necessary to support enrichment programs. Without such opportunities, we are not well-rounded, Tech is not uniquely valuable, and every student in this school is being cheated of what could truly be one of the best educational experiences available anywhere in the world.