

OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, September 1, 2000

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Placing the arts 'Ferst?'

Auxiliary Services' decision to cancel eighteen shows at the Ferst Theatre reflects poorly on Tech's supposed dedication to the arts. The cancellations have damaged the center's reputation among national booking agents, and could have repercussions for several years to come.

While Tech is busy collecting money for other campus issues, administrators should also consider an endowment to keep the Ferst Center financially viable. Without that support, we might as well not have the Ferst Center at all.

Physics detention

Physics 2211 professors have crossed the line with a recent decision to schedule out of class tests on Monday evenings. While faculty members have promised to work with students who have time conflicts, creating an additional, mandatory meeting time not listed in OSCAR is a poor precedent to set.

All compulsory meeting times should be listed in the OSCAR, and appropriate semester-hour credits should be given for extra hours spent in class. Some professors occasionally schedule meetings apart from regularly scheduled classes. However, this usually only happens with smaller classes and on a limited basis. To implement such across the board requirements for hundreds of students is simply unacceptable.

Kudos for parking

With each day Rod Weis spends overturning a legacy of parking office incompetence, more and more of parking's customers are finally being protected. Enforcement personnel are ticketing and towing illegal parkers *en masse*, which means those who actually paid for parking are more likely to find a space.

Of course, occasional ticketing and towing mistakes have been made. But students can no longer assume it is another

Quote of the week:
"Write me letters. Please!" —The
Opinions Editor

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example of the administration working against them. After all, even President Clough's car was towed last week. His usual ride was in the shop, and parking enforcement thought an imposter was taking the President's reserved space.

Display vandalized

Intolerance, whether it be religious, sexual, racial, or otherwise, has no place on the Georgia Tech campus. It is absolutely reprehensible that acts of intolerance still take place in our own Student Center, as demonstrated by the recent theft of the Jewish Student Association's banner.

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

Warning:

These pages contain opinions that could possibly conflict with your opinions. If you are easily offended, please refrain from reading the opinions printed in these opinions pages. As always, you are encouraged to send your opinions to us via e-mail to editor@technique.gatech.edu.

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

So what's up with the Stingers this year? The first day of class I thought I would ride the bus to the IC (I live on east). So I waited next to the stadium opposite Brown where the Stinger has always stopped. Just as I hoped, a bus turned on to Techwood from North Ave. (I call it the backward loop, they call it the "south loop") However, I was on the wrong side of the street, so it didn't stop. "No big deal", I'm still early, I will just go over there for the next bus. Sure enough, another bus turned on to Techwood (south loop). I checked both ways, then jogged over to meet the Stinger. (I jogged because only freshmen run for the Stinger). But to my dismay, it stopped twenty yards before it got to me and dispelled its patron onto the street. I started up towards the bus, but it had already closed its doors and was driving towards me. I tried to flag it down but to no avail, instead, the "driver" shook his finger at me as if to say "NO

STINGER FOR YOU!" This discouraged me greatly as I am now late to class. Eventually a Stinger did come and I arrived 15 minutes late.

Now don't get me wrong, I love the Stinger. It takes me across campus. I can deal with the unreliable schedule and the slow drivers, but how about some kind of notice like a sign or an email or something. And to complicate things, some "drivers" stop at the old stops, some at the new stops, some at both, and some at none! We are Georgia Tech students, and we have enough to worry about without chasing (by running or jogging) Stingers.

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By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Single sex education prepares women for future

Lucky for us girls, Atlanta has finally caught on to one of education's greatest secrets. On Monday, August 28, Atlanta Girls' School opened, heralding a new era for the education of women in this city.

Having an all-girls school in Atlanta is lucky for Tech, too. No, I'm not talking about the ratio, but rather about the kind of students that graduate from single-sex institutions, and why they are the type of students that can succeed at Tech.

I graduated from Mount Saint Joseph Academy in the spring of 1998. I walked down the aisle of a church with my 134 classmates, all of us dressed in white gowns and Juliet caps and carrying a dozen roses. That graduation ceremony was the culmination of four years that taught us the truth about womanhood: that we could be whatever we wanted, and we could do that as women.

I hear tales from friends about what they dealt with as teenagers. They complain about harassment from male classmates, fashion wars and status symbols, and teachers who never called on the girls.

The worth of my single-sex education was more than the fact that I walked the halls of my school in peace, never had to worry about what to wear, and the teachers always called on the girls. My high school was a haven, where we could be mature, feminine, and smart without worrying what the boys would think or say. We didn't have to wear makeup, we could be ourselves, and no one thought it was funny when somebody skipped gym class because she had cramps.

"The fruit of our future, both at Tech and in the greater scope of our lives, is in the successful education of women."

Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor



I learned more from my time at "the Mount" than how to be a good leader, how to do calculus, and how to express myself through writing. Competing with the boys for attention, for leadership, and for grades was a non-issue, and we prided ourselves on the difference.

The premise of Mount St. Joseph's mission statement is that "on the education of women largely depends the future of society." Here at Tech, where we are trying to create leaders and form the greatest technological minds of the future, we should embrace what single-sex education is doing for girls, and hope that we are lucky enough to have more of these women want to spend their college years here.

According to a Monday AJC article about the new Atlanta school, experts believe that between ages 15 to 16, only 27 percent of young women have positive feelings about themselves, compared with 67 percent of their male counterparts. I speculate that this lack of self-esteem comes from an education system where adolescent women, who are already exhibiting mature behaviors and attitudes, are placed in classrooms with their male peers,

many of whom are not as mature at that age.

"It's really very selfish. I wanted a school for my daughter," said Emily Ellison, the school's founder. "I started reading about what happens to adolescent girls... Some who had been strong and confident when they were eight years old start to become unconfident, quiet, and well-kept. These were girls who, at eight, dreamed of being an astronaut or botanist, and at 15 or 16 they realized their options had been narrowed."

Attending an all-female academy helped me preserve my confidence and learn to speak out. My classmates who graduated in '98 and '99 went on to universities such as Duke, Stanford, MIT, University of Penn, and UVA, to study engineering, sciences, math, pre-med, pre-law, business, and liberal arts. My sister, who is a junior, wants to work for NASA.

Sadly, I have seen a growing rift in her group of friends between those that went on to girls' schools and those that decided they couldn't live without sitting next to boys in class.

My sisters' classmates have grown more mature, poised, and hopeful,

nurturing the seeds of career plans and future dreams. Her other friends are wrapped up in "typical adolescent girl stuff," as I call it, and display growing disinterest in school.

My heart breaks to realize that I had a unique opportunity, and that I seized upon it, although I did not know its implications for my future. Single-sex education meant acceptance into prestigious universities, offers of scholarships from various institutions, and most importantly, the academic, social, and emotional skills I needed to succeed once I arrived at Tech.

The motto of the Mount is *Spes Messis in Semine*, or "the fruit of the harvest is in the seed." Likewise, the fruit of our future, both at Tech and in the greater scope of our lives, is in the successful education of women.

Women who matriculate at single-sex schools have a unique and beneficial outlook on the world. I don't feel threatened by sexism or fearful that I will be passed over in life because I'm not a man. I see only benefits to womanhood, thanks to my adolescent role models.

Strangely enough, I've realized that the self-confidence that was fostered over those four years allows me to become "one of the guys." I can be a friend instead of trying to constantly impress the opposite sex.

Educating women is different from educating men. If Tech could do one excellent thing for its future, it would be to take a cue on female education from those institutions that do it the best. Oh, and who knows what could happen to that ratio?

Believe it: Auxiliary Services is doing a good job

I stood in a line for a parking pass for ten hours (the great wait of 98!). This summer I had to room swap 4 times to finally get my roommate preference. I lived in freshman dorms for three of my five years here, and yes, I had a meal plan. Nevertheless, I look around me and am surrounded by ways that Auxiliary Services has made life a little more livable at Georgia Tech.

Before you ask... I'm not kidding. In my many years here, I have seen great things come out of Auxiliary Services. Although parking has caused many headaches in the past, I would list that as the winner of the "most improved" award this year. Housing has had many kinks, but I have to hand it to the student employees—their spirit and helpfulness makes move-in as smooth as it can be under the circumstances. Many also forget that maintenance and gardening also fall under Auxiliary Services, and they consistently do a great job. The Student Center is perhaps the shining star in the whole department; The building was designed for significantly fewer students, and yet fulfills or surpasses expectations. The post office is housed in the Student Center, and by all rights should be struggling given the space and equipment they have to work with, but there are few complaints thanks to the hard working people there.

Since the Rod Weis has been on board, parking has been a whole new ball game. Due largely to the fact that we went online with the parking permits this year, I had my permit in my hand when it came time to use it. There was no long

"I look around me and am surrounded by ways that Auxiliary Services has made life a little more livable."

Carter Green
Assistant Photo Editor



line, no month long delay, no need for inconsistent ticketing. I've seen tickets all over campus from the beginning of the semester. Parking enforcement is the key to making spaces available to those who pay for them. Getting the permits out in a timely, organized fashion is the key to good enforcement. Thumbs up to parking this year.

Housing is an enormous organization, and it would be difficult to say that Housing as a whole is flawless. However, when I have experienced difficulty with housing, the front line employees have always been surprisingly willing to help. Now, there are many employees, and much diversity, but I feel Central Housing should be recognized for the sheer number of fires they are able to extinguish. Perhaps they can't meet everyone's need, but it isn't because they are not trying. In addition, most student employees I have encountered have been willing to see what they could do to improve my situation. Thanks largely to the enthusiasm of the Freshman Experience, move-in runs as well as can be expected. It amazed me the first time I came to Georgia Tech, and it amazes me every year, to see the Housing staff standing in the

street ready to greet everyone and keep things moving at the beginning of the school year.

Furthermore, we live in downtown Atlanta. Look around the next time you are walking to class. If you have to, drop your book bag and take off your shoes. There is foliage everywhere. There are trees all around, and honestly a surprising amount of grassy areas. And there are flowers everywhere! That blows me away. If there is one thing that should remain a priority on this campus it is on campus green space. It's one more thing that makes campus a bit more like home.

Things always seem neat and clean even when we venture indoors. Granted, college students can make a mess anywhere, especially on weekends, but by Monday, your local custodial and maintenance staff is working extra hard to keep Housing looking sharp. When I moved into my apartment this fall, the place was a wreck! But I didn't get a chance to complain because the maintenance crews were so quick to respond to any request I put in. Meet the custodian and maintenance employees in your building. In fact, meet them, offer them a soda, and bake them something. They keep

Tech looking great. I'll miss them when I'm gone!

You've probably walked through the Student Center a million times. Have you been bowling there? Played pool? Watched a movie downstairs? Crashed on the couches? Met friends for lunch? Picked up your tickets for the First events? Used the computer lab? Met with a study group? Slept in the MLR? Danced in the ballroom? Taken an Options class in the Crafts Center? Chaired a Programs Board committee? Reserved meeting space? Tagged along on a volunteer project with the MOVE office? I rest my case. The opportunities packed into that building are countless.

If you haven't done all of those things in the Student Center, you have at least you've checked your mail there. It sounds small, but when I go to the Post Office, my mail awaits me 99% of the time. Despite being overwhelmed with e-business, this corner of the Student Center still performs. Even when the lines are long, when you get to the counter, the person there is still in a good mood! How is this possible? It is only possible because of the hard work of each employee there.

The next time you want to rant and rave about the shaft, or how you got a ticket for illegally parking your car, or how you had to stand in line for something, take a deep breath. Realize that you will graduate (eventually), classes will slip your mind, and you'll be on your own to provide your own Auxiliaries. Considering everything, I know that Auxiliary Services is doing just fine. Hey! I'm not kidding!

TECHNIQUE

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The *Technique* welcome all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters should be hand-delivered, mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, or E-mailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu. Letters should be addressed to Chris Baucom, Editor. All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 350 words and should be submitted by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserves the right to edit for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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More Views Letters to the Editor

A few readers may believe that the Parking Office has some dim understanding of the way students live and work here. They don't.

On August 10, I arrived at the P01 lot (for which I have a permit) to find that my car had been towed away the day before to make room for a special event. In the days leading up to this occurrence, I had been putting in very long hours on my graduate research and did not make a special trip out to the lot to check for "NO PARKING" signs. The only notification I received was an e-mail telling me to move my car by a specific time. However, it did not come until the morning of August 10, a full day after the deadline.

Upon appeal, I was told that Parking had no obligation to notify students in the way they contacted me. They were hoping to be able to implement such a system in the future, but for now it was only an experiment. The fact that their at-

tempt failed miserably in this case had virtually no effect on the appeals board; the citations were upheld and I was refunded only \$20 of the \$120 fine.

Many students at Georgia Tech work the equivalent of double or triple shifts to deal with their classes or research. Is it fair to require them to hike out to wherever they happen to be allowed to park, even if they may have just come off a swing shift in the lab or library and need to get to class in half an hour?

In the real world, if a company tries something new and ends up harming people, ethical obligations dictate that the company take responsibility and do whatever it can to repair the damage. Maybe at some point in the distant future, Parking will be ready to enter that real world and own up to its mistakes.

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We want to print your letters to the editor!

The *Technique* opinions page isn't just a forum for staff opinions—we want to publish students' views, as well. Do you feel that your voice isn't being heard? Then write a letter to the editor and be read by a potential audience of 11,000 students, faculty, and staff. Running short on ideas? Here are a few to get you started...

- diversity issues
- the shaft
- air pollution
- housing
- dining services
- classes and professors
- the presidential election
- RATS instead of RAT

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(join the Technique)
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