

CAMPUS LIFE

Technique • Friday, February 23, 2001

Stylish cell phones

Psychology researchers find that some men use their cell phones in a desperate attempt to attract women. **Page 20**

INTA major?

The respondents to Buzz Around Campus weren't INTA majors, and it shows, because they couldn't figure out why we bombed Iraq. **Page 19**

CivEs make concrete idea float

By Jen Hinkel
News Editor

Jason Ideker calls Concrete Canoe an "untraditional application of a Civil Engineering building material."

Concrete may not come to mind as a natural choice when building a floatable vessel, but this spring, about 20 students are working to complete a canoe that will race in the American Society of Civil Engineer's Carolinas Conference.

Building and racing a canoe constructed from concrete is only one of many events in the competition, which includes categories from Steel Bridge building to technical writing. Of about 13 colleges and universities that will compete, roughly half of those will enter in the Concrete Canoe event.

Tech's team plans to compete for the first time in several years this spring, led by Ideker and co-captain Donna Nasher.

Whereas Tech's past participation in Concrete Canoe has been sporadic, the two hope to establish a team to compete annually. Most recently, a group built a canoe last year, but did not com-

"Compared to the other schools, I think we're on a good track right now."

Scott Simmons
Canoe Team Member

pete. Earlier teams competed in 1983 and '84, said this year's team members.

Completing the canoe is a complex process, involving the design of the structure as well as the choice of mortar and concrete mix. Team members have

been working on the canoe since August of last year, when they researched structural design ideas and planned how they would complete the canoe in time for the competition.

"[It] challenges you to think critically and creatively," said Ideker.

Currently, the team has constructed a wooden frame for their design, a flat-bottomed canoe called a "modified rocker." This weekend, they will complete a fiberglass canoe for racing practice, said team member Jonathon Hicks. The team will pour the concrete for the final boat after the fiberglass canoe is complete.

Together, the team has contributed more than 400 hours to the project. At least another hundred hours of work are expected before completion of the canoe. Ideker and Nasher each spend nearly 20 hours a week

See *Concrete*, page 21



By Carter Green / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Civil Engineering student Monika Mackey sands the wooden skeleton of Concrete Canoe's boat design. This weekend, the team will pour a practice fiberglass canoe.

FACES

Faces at Georgia Tech

- Profile on Jill Pollyniak -

By Matt Nuget
Word count king

"Here's a serious question," I asked half jokingly to Jill Pollyniak during our conversation, "What DON'T you do on campus?" I was utterly surprised when she had an answer.

Pollyniak became a Yellow Jacket in 1996. "When I came to Tech I was a little bit shy and that's probably the reason why I geared in on the freshman [later in my career] because my fresh-

man year I was out of place, and I didn't really do anything big," she said.

Luckily for the many people Pollyniak has helped over the years, she attended a study abroad program in England. She said, "I met a lot of people that were involved in lots of different areas, so when I came back from Oxford, I kind of jumped in."

The first place she jumped in was FASET. "I was extremely involved with FASET cabinet especially, which is the planning

stages of FASET—12 individuals who work about 40 hours a week on it for the whole year," she said.

She also joined Executive Round Table, which she said is "great, being a management major." With the Executive Round table, Pollyniak started off as vice president of student membership but eventually moved up to vice president of all membership, a position she still holds.

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By Kristi Odom / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Jill Pollyniak seems to be involved with practically everything on campus, especially programs to help freshmen. Her most recent challenge has been to organize the annual Women's Leadership Conference.

Black history programs

Reverend Sharpton urges students to remember sacrifices, move forward

By Jody Shaw
Not a protester

After weeks of anticipation, Reverend Al Sharpton, the often admonished yet often admired African-American political leader, delivered the keynote address for Black History Month last Thursday in Tennenbaum Auditorium.

The event, which was jointly sponsored by the African-American Student Union, the Society of Black Engineers, and the Student Government Association, drew a large, diverse crowd from Tech and the greater Atlanta community who came to listen to Sharpton. It also drew a small crowd of people who came to protest his presence and his message.

Prior to the speaking engagement, a group of four Tech students waited for Sharpton's arrival with handmade signs that criticized Sharpton for anti-Semitic comments he made in the past. Once inside the Instructional Center, however, the audi-

ence warmly received Sharpton, their thunderous applause frequently interrupted his speech.

Sharpton's speech did not contain the type of inflammatory language criticized by the protestors. Instead, he delivered an address that touched on a variety of issues — both historical and contemporary. He continually emphasized that the "struggle" started by African-American civil rights leaders in the 1960s is not over, and that it must be taken up by the current generation.

"If you're so smart, what are you doing?" Sharpton said. "Spectators don't win games... Get in the struggle and take real shots that will really make a difference in your time." He went on to say that the current generation should not be the first to go backwards in terms of racial progress. According to Sharpton, many issues on the civil rights agenda still remain unsolved, due in part to what he calls "the politics of dis-

See *Sharpton*, page 14

GTSBE helps black engineers find the tools they need for success

By Mercedes Harris
Black History Correspondant

The Georgia Tech Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (GTSBE) practices the national mission of the organization, which is to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers, who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.

They have organized a variety of events, including the recent career fair, college preparatory activities for high school students, and professional and leadership devel-

opment for their members. Their hard work is not going unnoticed by national organizations.

On February 5, 2001, GTSBE was recognized as the Region III Chapter of the Year at the Regional Conference held in Tuskegee, Alabama.

This award is based on events held throughout the entire academic school year. The categories were judged via the compilation of documents entitled the Chapter Development Program (CDP).

Every event held must be exten-

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Sharpton

traction.”

“One of the things students have to understand is...that there has never been a majority, ever, in these movements...There was always a minority that paid the price for the majority,” Sharpton said.

Aside from making rallying cries to continue the civil rights movement, Sharpton also commented on a variety of hotly debated political issues, including the recent election and its problems in Florida, the flaws in the criminal justice system, and the responsibilities of hip-hop artists.

“Bush was selected by the courts, not elected by the people...Anyone must concede that the vote in Florida was tainted and unfair,” Sharpton said. He then called for standard voting machines across the country and implied that the machines used to tally votes in lower income areas were second-rate compared to those in more affluent areas.

Sharpton also criticized Bush's recent initiative to transfer some social programs over to faith-based organizations. “Either you are for government or against government...I'm for faith-based; I'm against faith-bought,” Sharpton said, implying that the Bush administration may provide more federal dollars to organizations that support its policies.

When speaking about criminal justice, Sharpton said, “The criminal justice system is just as unfair today as it ever was — especially to



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Dan Stockum, Rob Schierholz, and Tim Miller were among the few protesters that attended the controversial Al Sharpton keynote address. Hesta Johnson, of the Concerned Black Clergy, stopped to confront them.

people of color.”

According to Sharpton, of the millions of Americans in jail today, “a disproportionate amount of them are black and Latino.”

He blamed part of this discrepancy on policies like racial profiling, which he called “as clear as segregation,” and mandatory drug sentences — specifically the minimum sentence requirements for crack, which he considers a “poor drug” when compared to the punishments for cocaine offenders, which he considers a “rich drug.” He said the policy is “based on economics, not justice that is fair and legal.”

In the question and answer ses-

sion that followed his prepared remarks, Sharpton commented on the issue of hip-hop artists and the role of whites in the movement.

“Hip-hop artists have a responsibility to be involved in the struggle that made them who they are,” said Sharpton. He believes that many artists are disconnected from the movement, that the African-American community must do a better job of lifting up those who are involved, and that the community must reject violence and other “trash” propagated by some artists.

Former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, who was in attendance, praised Sharpton and raised the is-

sue of whites in the movement.

“Your courage in speaking the truth...is the kind of courage it takes to be a leader today,” said Jackson. “White America is not going to let black America lead it — whites can help a great deal.” Sharpton went on to say that whites must take the issue of race to their communities where racism still exists.

He closed the session by calling for reparations for African-Americans who were enslaved, comparing them to those reparations paid to Japanese-Americans who sent to work camps during the Second World War.

please...

Join Campus Life!

Campus Life is looking for a few good writers. Topics range from the mundane to the magical.

To join, e-mail campus.life@technique.gatech.edu or stop by the Technique office in Student Services, Tuesday nights, 7 p.m. for a staff meeting.

Be there!

Campus briefs

TEAM Buzz applications for next year's committees

The TEAM Buzz is currently recruiting 2001 committee members to organize the event, which is held in the fall. Members are needed for the following committees: service project organization; celebrations; fundraising; student, faculty, staff, and alumni involvement; media relations; and web development and registration. Everyone is welcome to apply. For more information and to obtain an application, visit www.Teambuzz.org. Applications are due Friday, March 2, by 2 p.m., in room 141 of the Student Services Building.

"The Loop": an e-mail list for campus announcements

The Loop is a new e-mail list coming out soon. It is a project that Freshman Cabinet is working on through SGA. It is designed to inform students about campus events at Tech, announcements from various organizations, and community events for Tech students to get involved in. The Loop will be available for students to subscribe to off Cyberbuzz and will go out about every two weeks. If you have a campus event, organization membership drive, or other announcement you would like publicized, please e-mail it to Tarak Shah at gte866v@prism.gatech.edu or Melissa Oellerich at gte241v@prism.gatech.edu.

Ferst Leadership and Entrepreneur Award for 2001

The Alvin M. Ferst Leadership and Entrepreneur Award for 2001 is available to juniors and seniors with at least a 2.5 GPA. To be qualified, students must have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and/or entrepreneurial skills while at Tech. Students must be nominated by another student, a faculty member, or a staff member. The scholarship is for \$2,500. Applications are available in room 204 of the Student Merit-based scholarship available for engineering students

\$10,000 scholarship available to engineering students

The George Wingfield Semmes Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the memory of Mr. Semmes, a 1910 Mechanical Engineering graduate of Georgia Tech. It is a \$10,000 merit-based scholarship for juniors and seniors within the College of Engineering. The Semmes Memorial Scholarship is given to qualified applicants who demonstrate academic achievement, outstanding leadership qualities, a strong character, and a true love for Georgia Tech. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA and be a full-time student or co-op not graduating within the year. For more information and an application, visit <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/anak/semmes01.html>. Applications are due Friday, March 16, by 4 p.m.

Send your campus briefs to campus.life@technique.gatech.edu

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Pollyniak highly recommends the L.E.A.R.N. program, which she herself mentors in. "Basically they pair freshman and sophomores with juniors and seniors, and we do different activities throughout the semester like networking, organization, and we do one-on-one mentoring," she said. "Then they graduate from the program and hopefully what we've done with them that semester kind of gives them that successful attitude."

Top all of these activities off with maintaining a 3.96 GPA, 45 hours a week at two part time jobs, and seven terms co-oping with Delta, through which she has worked in over 30 countries, and one can see why Pollyniak is such a noteworthy Georgia Tech student. But all of the information above has merely been background.

Pollyniak's biggest achievement is the Women's Leadership Conference (WLC), which will be held this Friday and Saturday. "It's definitely the biggest feat that I've ever tried to tackle before in my life," she said, "and I've tried to tackle some big feats, but nothing like this." The conference is a two-day event tasked with the purpose of "inspiring and preparing the women of Georgia Tech to become equal partners in the leadership of our professions, communities and society," according to the WLC mission statement.

In Pollyniak's own words, "It's basically to strengthen current skills while you're in school, giving you that base in which you feel confident that you have the equal strength to go out there and conquer just like men do. I think especially on Tech's campus, with it being about 30% women, that it's a little bit more difficult for women to feel like they can succeed as much as men can. It's good to give them that extra boost."

"[Women's Leadership Conference is] the biggest feat that I've ever tried to tackle before in my life..."

Jill Pollyniak
Management Senior



But the conference is not just for women. Pollyniak said, "It's definitely not something that excludes men, because we actually actively invite men. A lot our workshops are basically personal investing and gender communication, and how to communicate with each other."

Pollyniak first got involved last year when she was nominated for an award and was "very impressed" with what she saw while attending the awards ceremony. No longer involved in FASET, she was looking for some other way to again be involved with helping freshman and the Tech community in general.

"I wanted to find something that I could kind of continue on with that freshman idea, helping them get acclimated," she said. "I thought this was an excellent way for freshman women to really feel like they have an opportunity to succeed here. So I really wanted to focus it towards them."

In order to further extend this opportunity to new Tech students, this year she has invited 50 high school students to attend the conference. "Hopefully that will give them more of that confidence they need to come to a school like Tech," she said.

Of course, Pollyniak acknowledges the many people helping her with this project, especially Yvette Upton, the director of the Women's Resource Center. "She's very, very helpful. She does everything when I'm not here," Pollyniak said. She also has 11 other chairs helping.

After five years at Tech, Pollyniak

is graduating and has accepted a job with Accenture's Strategy division in Washington, D.C., while also pursuing graduate studies. But before she sets off to D.C she plans to take a break. Her simple plans include visiting a "random Caribbean beach" and working in a bar to make enough for room and board. "I'm ready to just sit on a beach and relax," she says, and it's easy to see why.

She says to all who will listen "Stick it out, get out there and get involved... Tech is a school that's not too big, not too small it's just right. The tradition that we have here is one of the best in the world. And I hope the freshman will continue with that, get involved and grow to love it as much as I do."

"Hopefully when I come back in 50 years that the traditions that I grew to love are still here. Hopefully when I come back it will be the same...if not better."

Jill took all that she could from her years at Tech and also gave back whenever possible. Perhaps the best summation of her time her can be found in her response when asked her about her free time while in school, "My free time was spent doing things for Tech. People spend free time doing things that they want to do, whether its watch TV, or go to the gym, or go running, or whether its join the soccer club; mine was 'Make Tech better'. So whatever it took, my free time went towards that. I guess I still had free time; I just chose to put it towards Tech. It was good, I loved it, I don't want to leave."

Blueprint earns laurels with Gold Crown Award

By Chris Baucom
Editor-in-Chief

Blueprint, Georgia Tech's student-run yearbook, took top honors last week at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association meeting in New York City.

CSPA presented *Blueprint* with a Gold Crown award, ranking it as one of the top six yearbooks in the nation. A total of 436 annuals were entered in the competition.

The theme for the 2000 *Blueprint* was sustainability. "We didn't want to go with the cheesy, mun-

dane or overused clichés of the millennium or Y2K, but we didn't want to ignore the fact that this was an important year for students at a technology-based university," said Callie Whitfield, *Blueprint* Editor-in-Chief. "No matter what the momentous occasion, Georgia Tech will sustain."

Other yearbook staffs generally get course credit for the work they perform. *Blueprint* staff members do not receive such credit. Of the six Gold Crown winners, Georgia Tech is the only school without a journalism program.

Whitfield said, "That's why student publications are so important—they provide an avenue for students to be creative—to think outside of things other than friction factors and heat transfer coefficients."

"We took a very young, inexperienced staff—primarily made up of freshmen—and we all worked so closely together...we finished the year with the same staff we started," said Whitfield. "The core staff showed a dedication to the book and to student publications that I have not seen in my five years on staff."

E-Week Quiz Bowl



By David Ziskind / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Engineer's Week events seek to bring together engineers across campus for a variety of reasons. One of the most popular events was the Quiz Bowl, which was held on Wednesday at Juniors' Grill.

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sively documented in order to receive recognition from the region.

This competition is held in all six regions of National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), which is the largest student-run organization in the country.

This is not the first time that GTSBE has received this honor.

In addition, their Academic Technical Bowl and Pre-College Initiative Teams (Tower High School) both won the technical bowls for the region.

These competitions were held against other NSBE chapters from states in the Southeastern Region.

The Academic Technical Bowl team had to defeat chapters from University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa, University of Central Florida, and Vanderbilt University before their final victory.

The competitions will continue against the winners of all the regions at the National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, which will be held March 14 through March 18.

The chapter has many goals planned for next year; they will continue to work with Pre-College Initiative as well as have academic, social, and professional events for their members.

The treasurer, David Smith, suggests some advice for the upcoming year.

"(We) need more support from

the general body for the events planned by the Executive Board," Smith said. "These events are meaningless unless members participate."

According to participants, the events are dynamic, but are even more powerful when members participate; there is room for creativity for any member that would like to express their ideas.

"Join a committee in the GTSBE office on the 3rd floor of the student center," Darron Sargent, Academic Excellence Chair, said.

GTSBE is a small reflection of what the National Society of Black Engineers represents.

When asked how NSBE has benefited him, Smith said, "I have much more exposure to the 'movers and shakers' of

my field. It has also increased my trust and faith in Black-run organizations."

Many others agree that NSBE has truly impacted their lives.

Upcoming chapter events include elections, a talent show, and an entrepreneurship dinner.

Elections will be held on February 22 at 11 a.m. in the Student Center Theater.

After elections, appointed positions will be assigned.

For more information about this organization, visit their Web site at <http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/nsbe> and <http://www.nsbe.org>.



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Buzz Around the Campus



Question of the week

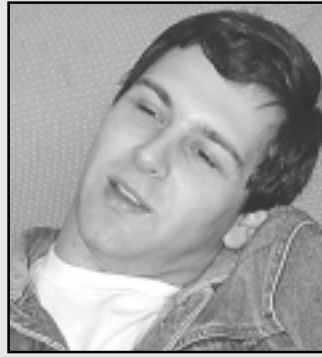
**“Why did we
bomb Iraq?”**

Feature and Photos by
Carter Green & Sarah Graybeal



Jason Hurly
CS Freshman

*“Where else would we
drop them?”*



Erik Gordon
ISyE Junior

*“Because Saadam
Hussein is being a
pain in the butt
again.”*



Courtney Spells
AE Junior

“We bombed Iraq?”



Daniel Chandler
EE Senior

“Damn Commies.”



Yi Shy
CompE Sophomore

*“To take Kuwait
back!”*



Marilyn Corn
CompE Freshman

*“To draw attention
from the submarine
crash.”*



SlimJim Price
ChE Senior

“Die, Hussein, die!”



Jim White
Mgt Senior

*“We were inspired by
the song ‘Bombs over
Baghdad.’”*

Men are like peacocks: using their cell phone for style

By Bernice Ng
Daily Californian

(U-WIRE) Berkeley—Forget the bulging biceps, monster sports cars or colossal bank accounts.

In today's world of advanced technology, a tiny cell phone may be all a man needs to land himself a date.

Or, so say researchers.

According to a study by Liverpool psychologists, men in England are more likely than women to use a cell phone, not for its conventional purpose—wireless, vocal communication—but as a visual tool to show off success and, in the process, hopefully snag that special someone.

And whereas the standard phrase “the bigger, the better” often applies to markers of male desirability, in this case, the smaller the sexier, may ring more true.

Men in England, researchers found, tend to more frequently display their high-tech talking devices in public in order to boost their attractiveness and show that they are socially connected.

Analysis suggested that there may be a psychological component in men that drives them to fidget and fiddle with their mobile phones.

Scientists likened the phone-flashing male impulse to the way a male peacock will fan its colorful feathers when surrounded by a crowd of potential mates.

The goal? To entice and captivate.

The tiny hand-held phones, they hope, will serve to impress.

But before making a mad dash to the nearest cell phone manufacturer, psychology experts warn that it is necessary to realize that the English study is only one of many

analyses of the science behind courtship.

The dynamics of how women and men communicate and inter-

“Are men different from women? On the average, sure, though there’s much overlap.”

Prof. Phil Cowan
UC Berkeley, Psychology

act with each other comprises a very broad field.

As a result, such a finding cannot be simply extrapolated to apply to all relationships, say UC Berke-

ley psychologists.

“Are men different from women? On the average, sure, though there’s much overlap,” says UC Berkeley psychology professor Phil Cowan, who studies couple relationships.

At UC Berkeley, located on an entirely different continent, and submerged in an entirely different culture, the English findings may not hold the same value.

Unlike England, where men seem to own more phones than females, the situation on campus seems to be flipped, students say.

Here, the common consensus is that females are more likely to be found chatting on their cells.

“I see more girls on cell phones than guys,” says UC Berkeley junior Masoud Javazoie as he points to females holding cell phones on Sproul Plaza. “Like right there. Case in point.

They talk on them much more.”

Students were willing to offer their own psychological analyses to explain the cell phone phenomenon.

Girls on campus may appear to have more cell phones because they are generally more chatty, says junior Lynn Guest, a third-year psychology major.

“I don’t think it’s a status symbol at all,” Guest says. “Girls have more of a tendency to talk.”

Sophomore Carlos Avila, however, proposes a different explanation for why he has noticed more females walking to class with cell phones raised to their ears.

“That’s annoying,” Avila says. “It’s annoying because it’s like they can’t adapt to their circumstances and they have to be attached to some-

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erato
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Be creative.

Express
yourself.

Don't fit the
stereotype.

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original:

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working on the canoe.

"It's a great experience," said Simmons, citing the social aspects of the project as well as the educational value. However untraditional, the group of Civil Engineering students is serious about the design and the upcoming competition.

"The trick is, the concrete is lighter than water," said Ideker. The concrete mix the team will use is manufactured by 3M and contains an aggregate of glass beads about 75 microns in diameter, rather than the stones found in common concrete.

Once the concrete is poured, it will take at least one week to cure. The team will then need at least another week to complete the canoe by sanding. "The biggest challenge of the whole competition is the flexural strength of the boat," said Ideker. To meet this challenge, the team has incorporated several strategies to their plan. A carbon fiber mesh, less than 1/8 inch thick and layered with the concrete, combined with 'ribs' on the inside of the boat design will help form the structure of the canoe.

Several faculty members have been involved with the project, including ASCE faculty advisor Dr. Leroy Z. Emkin, and Dr. Kimberly Curtis, who helped the team with the concrete mix design. Andy Udell, a Civil Engineering lab manager, has also been helping the team.

The team received \$4000 in donations to complete the project and



By Carter Green / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Monika Mackey and Scott Simmons work to smooth their design for the Concrete Canoe competition, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers and scheduled for the upcoming Carolinas Conference.

a budget of \$1500

Expectations for the competition at University of North Carolina, Charlotte are high.

"I've done the steel bridge in the past," said team member Scott Simmons, who will graduate in Civil Engineering this May. "I think [Tech's canoe] is going to do well. Compared to the other schools, I think we're on a good track right now."

"I watched the race last year, and that's how I became interested," said Monika Mackey.

Mackey, along with Nasher, Sim-

mons, and Ideker, will paddle the canoe in the actual races, which include men's, women's, and mixed heats in slalom and sprint courses.

The team has yet to devise a way to transport the canoe from Atlanta to Charlotte. Ideas include a large padded box or a hammock-like sling, as the canoe is susceptible to cracking while on the road. For the next few weeks, the team will concentrate on racing the fiberglass practice boat, either in the SAC Aquatic Center or at Lake Lanier, while working to complete the final canoe before the March 29 races.

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one else."

Most students say they find it difficult, and never even thought, to make the connection between a fancy cell phone and desirability.

"I don't think of it in the sense of the peacock thing," says sophomore James Yu, who owns a small silver cell phone manufactured by Sprint. "I don't think that's true. I just have (my cell phone) because it's convenient."

Despite their skepticism, many do agree with some aspects of the four-month study in which researchers monitored the relationship men had with their cell phones at an English pub.

Men do seem to exhibit a natural tendency to show off and mobile phones can, to some degree, impart an impressive quality, they say, adding that having the latest model in an array of colors is all part of the normal desire to keep up with trends and fashions.

"I think it looks cool," says sophomore Stanley Lee, who points out that he does not own a cell phone.

"It's the same thing that drives people to fix up their cars and put on make-up."

Although humans, both male and female, may frequently strive to

impress, it may not necessarily be with a nice cell phone, says Yu.

"I could see that when you buy nice cars to attract girls, but I don't think it really works with cell phones," he says.

So, if an itchy-bitsy cell phone cannot garner the "Wow, that person is socially connected and I want to date him" reaction, then what

can a man do to impress the women out there today? Instead of flashing the cell phone, use it for its real purpose—to talk, Guest suggests. Or, better yet, talk face-to-face.

"Talk to them, in person, intelligently," Guest says.

And, don't limit it to just Valentine's Day.

"Do something special every day," she adds.

Just look the previous month of articles, letters, and editorials about dating in your friendly Technique archives to see how desperate men and women on this campus are for a date. So, if buying a cell-phone will make you more attractive to the opposite sex, with the added bonus of a possible tumor, go for it. Just remember to turn it off when you go to class.

"I think its cool... It's the same thing that drives people to fix up their cars and put on make-up."

Stanley Lee
UC Berkeley Sophomore