

OPINIONS

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TECHNIQUE

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Quote of the week:

"When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before." —Mae West

OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Accessibility

Due to the pervasive construction going on around campus, many students have noticed that it is very difficult to move from place to place. What many people may not have considered is that these difficulties have presented some insurmountable obstacles for disabled students. The administration's response to these students' situation has been egregiously inadequate.

To cite one example, a disabled student reported that she was forced to drop classes due to an inability to get to the building. When the professors of the class and administrators were made aware of these situations, their response was one of excuses rather than accommodation.

If any disabled student wants to take a class in a building that is inaccessible or that the student cannot get to, it is the responsibility of the administration to find a way for the student to attend the class.

The simplest way to accomplish this is to move any classes that are held in inaccessible buildings or places. Another solution could be not to declare buildings fully operational until the areas around them are also fully constructed.

Regardless of the path the administration chooses, it is its responsibility to make sure our campus is fully accessible to disabled students. To not do so, besides being possibly illegal, is unfair to those students who pay the same fees and tuition as every other student. To deny them the opportunity to fully partake of the opportunities that Tech offers is unacceptable.

SGA Bill

A proposed resolution regarding national immigration policy and its effects on Tech students was killed this week by the Undergraduate House, a week after it passed the Graduate Senate. While the issue may or may not be an appropriate consideration for SGA, any bill that a representative takes the time to write deserves full consideration, at least until such time as UHR finds itself so overwhelmed with resolutions that it is unable to complete its required financial functions.

The move to kill the resolution without a vote was insulting not only to its authors but also to GSS, which obviously felt the resolution was worthy of consideration as they passed it overwhelmingly. Even if the reps feel that this issue is outside their purview, that sentiment is best expressed by voting down the bill, not by postponing it indefinitely. Student Government is always looking for ways to be of more service to the student body; perhaps helping Tech students address national issues that affect them is one way SGA can do this.

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

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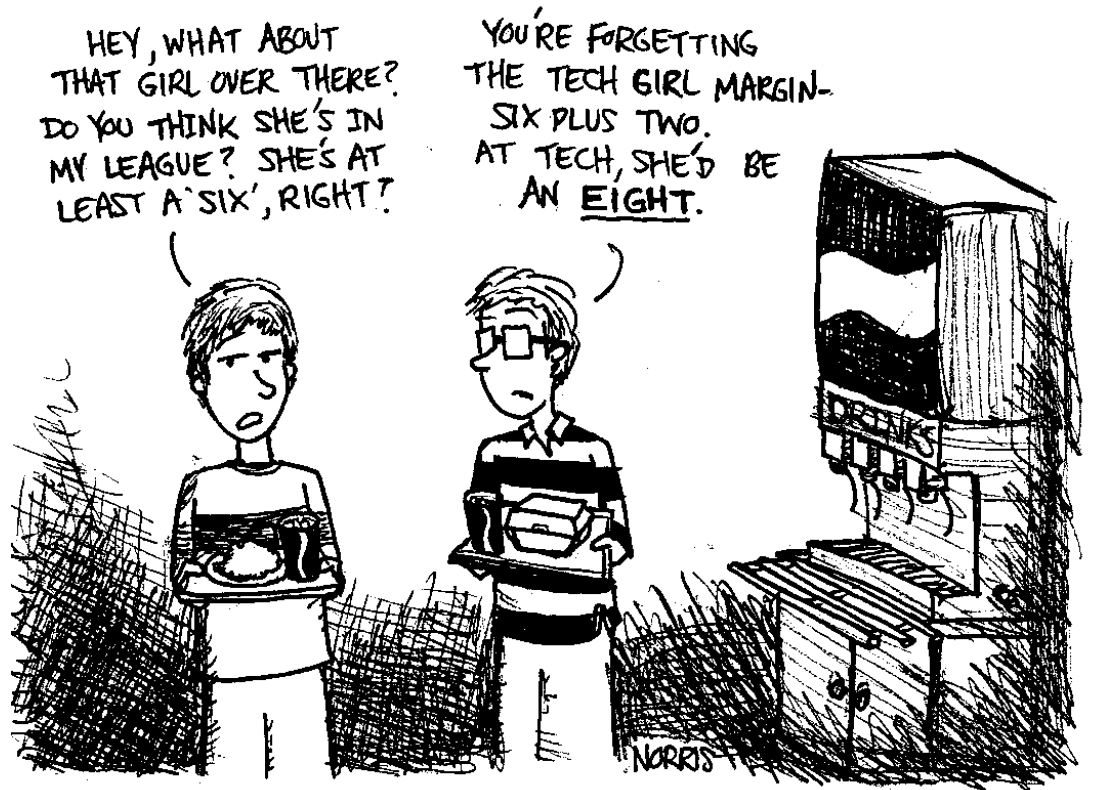
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By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Newspapers not best advice source

It's that time of year again: Valentine's Day. Everyone is doing something special for that special someone in their lives, and everyone else is sulking about not having a significant other. Everyone—yes, everyone—seems to have a problem, whether it be not having someone, having someone, not knowing if that person likes you, if they like that suit you have, or maybe something more serious. Where is one to go to solve his or her problems?

I can think of no better place to look than cracking open your local college newspaper and looking for that love, or sometimes even sex, advice column. What better place to look for advice about something as personal as love and relationships than from the words of a complete stranger?

Of course, I am kidding, but it seems like advice columns are popping up everywhere in college newspapers. I have a feeling most of the authors of these columns are genuinely trying to help the people that are asking for advice. Other columns seem to serve a more light-hearted purpose: to entertain us with a kind of parody of everything related to relationships or sex.

However, these columns don't seem like they really help all that much. As far as relationship and love advice, it seems like it would be very hard to give such advice without even knowing the person who is having trouble, much less not ever having even met them.

And even if advice could be given, do you want to get advice from someone who probably has no expertise in the area? I don't see how any advice that is written in a column can be that helpful.

For an example of a generally unhelpful advice column, see my colleague's effort on the facing page. Although her effort is intended more for humor, I doubt anyone is going



"What better place to look for advice about love and relationships than from a complete stranger?"

Scott Meuleners
Photo Editor

to read her column and feel enlightened about their love lives.

Not to be hypocritical, but here is my advice. First of all, if you are having trouble in your relationship, the best place to go to get advice is to consult the people you know best: your friends and family. These people might actually know what it is that you should do.

Talking to your special someone is a great option also because he or she is going to be able to help you out the most if you are having problems with your love life. If you can't talk to that person about your mutual problems, how long is your relationship going to last?

All of this reminds me of the wide variety of advice and talk shows that are on the television and the radio these days. While not anonymous, the situation is very similar. Most shows are less about giving advice and more about attracting viewers. They are not usually the best place to get real advice; instead, they usually just get a good yelling at.

I am reminded of Dr. Laura, who hears someone's problems and every time seems to have the answer. Usually, however, she just ends up chastising the people on her show rather than really helping them out.

If it's sex advice you want, you're probably not going to get much worthwhile content out of reading a column, especially one from a college newspaper. The people writing the articles can't have much experi-

ence, if any at all, with the subject. Many have only been alive for 20 years, having just left high school a few years back. How can they have any meaningful advice to give on the subject of sex?

I, for one, don't like seeing things as lewd as I've seen in some of these "advice" columns. Techniques for sex are just something I don't want to see while reading the newspaper and is something parent's wouldn't want their kids to read, either. Tips on sex practices belong in less freely distributed mediums.

I think that sex is something special and should be kept between you and your significant other, not something that should just be thrown about like confetti. It seems like I myself am willing to wait for that special someone before having sex and would prefer not to read about it in the newspaper beforehand.

So, if you're lucky enough to have someone, do something special for him or her today, but if you are having a problem, don't write in to your nearest advice columnist. Your answers can probably be found much closer to home. You may not like the advice, but it is probably the best solution for your problems.

Besides, if it is something serious, do you think your better half would like to see your problems with him or her in a newspaper article? With these considerations taken into account, it may be easier than you think to talk about your problems to people you know.

Have a (man) crush? Here's some advice

I realized recently that I have something in common with an editor of *Shaft News*; that is, I also have a man crush on Tech's swoon-worthy basketball coach, Paul Hewitt.

The man's got style, flair, integrity, presence, intelligence and the butt of a squat lifter. Or...that's what I read in CA's editorial anyway.

The man crush seems to be a trend of late, and with it being Valentine's Day, and since I've experienced a bit of my own man crush, I feel the need to analyze this new fad and try to impart some (unsound) advice to all you star-crossed lovers wandering around campus.

Let's start with the meaning of a man crush. I would define it as a crush from afar, in which no physical contact has ever, or will ever, occur. It is even better if the most you know about the object of your affection is their name and any other information garnered from doing a google search.

For example, one of my friends has a man crush on his international affairs professor. He said, "You go to his website, you'll see how dreamy he is. There's pictures of his kids; they're just so cute!"

This man crush seems to have stemmed from severe intellectual admiration. My advice is to exploit this crush in order to do



"I encourage all you Tech guys who think you might be nerdy to send flowers to the girl you're crushing on."

Jen Schur
Focus Editor

well in class; it's not only encouragement to go to class, but also to go to office hours. Any further than that, though, and I don't think we'll be friends.

As for the popular Paul Hewitt man crush, the solution is to go to every basketball game and drool. Maybe the Ramblin Reck Club could start the "Paul Pack" to go along with the basketball Swarm, strictly dedicated to supporting Hewitt.

Next, let's consider a young lassie who has a crush, rather than a man crush, on the *Technique* news editor (who, rumor has it, is tremendous in bed). I would recommend that she come to a Tuesday night meeting (held at seven p.m. in the *Technique* office, Student Services building room 137) and profess her love in a setting that prevents Tony's immediate rejection. Or, she could pronounce her feelings for him to the world in the Sliver box (www.nique.net/sliver).

If a female engineering major had a crush on, let's just say, an international affairs major, then I would recommend that she first find the right wardrobe to woo him. This wardrobe would need to include slip-on shoes of some sort (i.e. Birkenstock clogs), a multi-colored sweater with an appealing looking texture, and faded jeans. It would really push him over the edge of attraction if you could talk to him about regime changes and trade flows—in a foreign language.

My next advice goes to the girl athlete with the crush on her computer science TA. First, what are you thinking?! Okay, now that I'm over that, here's a great pick-up line to use: "I'd really like to collaborate with you..." Or, if you just can't wait until the class is over to hit on him (which would be the ethical thing to do), then maybe leave him a sweet Valentine's message in the collaboration statement of your next homework.

What recourse is available for that youthful freshman who frequents the BP on North Avenue at strange hours? She said of the attendant she sees, "He always fills me up, even when it's not full service!" Well, sounds like her Valentine's plans should be pretty easy to arrange; this is a perfect example of the anti-man crush.

While I'm no expert, I think that this advice can be interpolated out to apply to almost anyone at Tech. The first thing to do is to identify whether your feelings are the product of a harmless man crush.

I argue that the man crush deserves no action, except for maybe the occasional smile and a wave in passing (or cheering at basketball games in order to be closer to the dreamy Coach Hewitt). In most other cases, I'd say that honest communication or sweet actions are best employed.

I encourage all Tech guys who think you might be "nerdy" to forget for the day the stereotype you've been stuck with, and send some flowers to the girl you're crushing on. Who knows what could happen? Just don't ask her where her mouse and keyboard are when you pick her up.

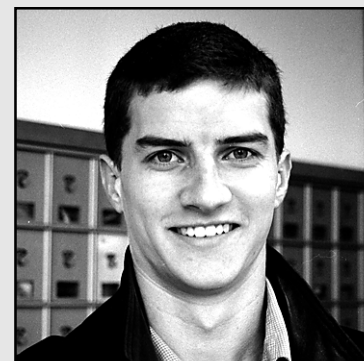
Today is for revealing your feelings—though I recommend *not* doing it over instant messaging.

BUZZ Around the Campus What do you get in your GT mailbox?



Itai Eden
EE Junior

"An apology for a nine-month late package."



Nathan Graybeal
AE Junior

"I got something about the Sex Olympics."



Shoy Allison
TXTM Junior

"An invitation to participate in Hare Krishna activities."



Justin Gray
AE Freshman

"A flyer entitled 'Jesus told me to come to Atlanta and find a bed.'"

Photos by Andrew Saulters

OUR VIEWS Hot or Not

HOT-or-NOT



Goodbye class

This Friday marks another Drop Day—the time where all of us sit down in front of OSCAR and decide to which one of our classes we should say goodbye. Dropping classes provides all of us at the *Technique* with a nice relief. In fact, we think it's one of the 99 things you should do before you graduate. So drop a class. And then go drink a beer on us!



ATL avenues

Last weekend saw an amazing amount of automobiles fill Atlanta's streets, shutting down streets, malls and virtually the entire city. *Technique* editors trying to navigate from the many All-Star game parties to which we were invited were stuck in traffic for countless hours. Next time the ATL hosts such an event, hopefully the mayor will seek the advice of some Tech CEs.



Sightin' stars at AMC

Salley. Harpring. Anderson. Scott. Legends of Georgia Tech basketball managed to find their way back to the Thrillerdome to watch Paul Hewitt's youngsters upset the eighth-ranked Maryland Terrapins. Even Stephon Marbury managed to find his way back to the place he once called the "University of Georgia Tech." Though the celebs provided fun for the fans, the current Jackets stole the show.



Bosh boltin' to NBA

Last week the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported that Tech basketball's freshman phenom Chris Bosh may be considering a jump to the NBA after only one season wearing the white and gold. While we know Bosh can succeed on the next level, we also know he can be a legend on this one. We at the 'Nique have never been too good to beg, so here goes. Chris, please stay. Please. Pretty please.

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Bill not treated properly

"First they came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew... Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, but by that time, no one was left to speak up."
—Pastor Martin Niemoeller, Nazi Germany

Scores of immigrants are being required to register with the federal government because the Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) has passed a decree, requiring specific international visitors to go through "special registration."

Among the scores of immigrants, Georgia Tech students are greatly affected by new rules designed to fight terrorism. At Tech, students from 15 different countries are being affected by the new INS policies. The eventual goal is that most for-

eign students will be catalogued and tracked by 2005.

Yasser Bhatti and Eman Kirbah have proposed a resolution in SGA, expressing concern over the required special registration of immigrants and how it will adversely affect Georgia Tech economically and socially. The Graduate Student Senate passed this resolution unanimously, with only two abstentions.

However, after I saw the politics behind mere discussion of the bill in the Undergraduate House of Representatives, I was reminded of the quote above by Pastor Martin Niemoeller. The expressions on the faces and comments of some representatives, along with downright, dirty politics, made it clear that people feel that "they came for the [Muslims], and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a [Muslim]." For weeks, the master(s) of *Robert's*

See Bill, page 10

Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Jody Shaw, Editor-in-Chief.

All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 400 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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Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, visit <http://nique.net/stuorgguide.pdf>.

Writing skills essential to success; Tech must do more

Bill

from page 8

When I saw the new plans for the Undergraduate Learning Center (ULC), I admit I was quite impressed. President Clough has done a remarkable job of promoting undergraduate academics, from research opportunities to plans for the new ULC.

However, one area still remains untouched, and to truly improve Tech's undergraduate experience, it needs to be addressed. The undergraduate experience at this university fails to recognize the importance of writing and communication to students in all disciplines. This shortfall must be remedied before Tech can move into the top tier of American universities—in short, Tech needs a Writing Center, and it needs one fast.

I've been surprised in recent terms to find more and more engineering students in my international affairs classes. This semester, a mechanical engineer is taking an advanced level INTA class so that he can improve his writing and communication skills. Most engineers I know run away from writing papers. Kudos to those who are trying to fix this hole in their Tech education.

For the engineers who think learning to write is nonsense, I hope that you're not planning on getting a fantastic job anytime soon. Writing isn't just about final essays. Effective reports, cover letters, and subtly persuasive emails will be the tools that get you through the real world.

Just ask my dad—he's a mechanical engineer who has to write bid

proposals and business letters every day, though he rarely solves equations at work.

I've heard INTA professors refer to the writing at Tech in terms such as "pathetic." Even more disappointing than the general de-emphasis

out advice and counsel from their professors on their writing abilities. Without some efforts from us students, we will never improve.

Through the Undergraduate Learning Center, Tech has an awesome opportunity to solve this prob-

"The Undergraduate Learning Center needs to include a Writing Center on the scale of other major universities."

Jennifer Hinkle
Technique columnist



on writing is that students who *want* to write can't find classes to challenge their skills.

In high school, I constantly struggled to write better, and I often lost out to my classmates. At Tech, my classmates ask me to proofread their papers, and I write a column for the *Technique*.

Only two or three professors here have ever challenged my writing skills. I feel as if my writing abilities hit a plateau when I came to Tech and have only regressed since then, while my peers at other universities have been constantly challenged and consistently improving.

Even within the Ivan Allen College, true challenges to one's writing ability are hard to find. Many Tech students, including Ivan Allen majors, could stand to take more writing-intensive classes. Besides a Writing Center, students should seek

lem once and for all. Writing might not be popular at Tech, but it is absolutely crucial. The Undergraduate Learning Center needs to include a Writing Center on the scale of other major universities. ("You don't have a *Writing Center*?" asked my sister, a freshman Penn Stater.)

Tech regularly provides math and science tutors—why not writing coaches? Tech must make room for a Writing Center in the new ULC.

We should hire a competent director who has taught undergraduate writing at a major university and possesses exemplary teaching and administrative skills.

Most importantly, we need to find graduate students from any discipline whose teaching assistantships can come in the form of helping fledgling engineers, scientists, international affairs students and the rest learn how to communicate.

The proposed Writing Center needs to be available to all, and those who staff it need to be proficient in teaching writing from the bare basics to an advanced and challenging level. They need to be more than proofreaders—they should be writing coaches who instruct in grammar, construction and style on a one-on-one basis.

While we can't buy every frosh a copy of *Strunk & White* and make it required reading, we can surely stock a mini-library of writing resources and find people to help our students use them.

Is Tech out to produce *good* engineers or *great* engineers? If the answer is the latter, we need to be graduating people who can communicate as well as compute. This path starts with a campus-wide awareness of the importance of writing.

The effort can come from professors and students, but without permanent structures for helping students improve their writing skills, it can't get very far.

Give us a Writing Center with a competent staff and wealth of resources, and we will reap the rewards.

Help Tech students move to the foreground among their peers—help them publish more and earlier, help them communicate effectively, and help them find their own distinct voices.

The result will be a well-prepared, well-educated and well-rounded Tech student body in all of the best ways.

Rules, trapped the proposal through parliamentary procedure (and "secret" messages).

While it may be easy to overlook minorities, the fact remains that in the long-run these INS policies will affect the diversity and different viewpoints that make Tech a world-class school. According to some reports, schools have already reported an eight percent drop in foreign-student-enrollment since Fall 2001. These trends show that we need to encourage immigrants to come to Tech—not make it more inhospitable.

These are law-abiding people that have to submit to everything from rigorous interrogation to strip searches in cold, crowded rooms. Immigrants who are students have been detained and imprisoned for taking 11 hours of class instead of 12 hours. Was this what Emma Lazarus envisioned of America when she proclaimed, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...?"

These actions bring shame to the symbol of the statue of liberty and the fundamental values of democracy. Through this short letter, I strongly urge all my fellow representatives to reconsider the facts and to allow this proposal to be considered. Furthermore I urge all students to persuade your representatives, through email, to consider the proposal.

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