Editorial

A landmark volume—one hundred years...almost

This issue of The Tech marks the beginning of our one-hundredth volume of publication. The start of this centennial volume does not coincide with the one-hundredth anniversary of the first issue due to a change to a trimester system in 1916 and subsequent return to the current calendar 10 years later. Exact dates are not important, however, when considering the implications of The Tech during the last century—or the next.

Any journalistic endeavor—whether a school newspaper or a respected national daily—carries with it a heavy responsibility to present news in an unbiased intellectual fashion. This obligation may be easily forgotten in the chaos of a news room as deadlines near and then pass; it may often go unnoticed for indeed it does. Any journalistic endeavor—whether a school newspaper or a respected national daily—carries with it a heavy responsibility to present news in an unbiased intellectual fashion. This obligation may be easily forgotten in the chaos of a news room as deadlines near and then pass; it may often go unnoticed for indeed it does.

To the Editor:

The editorial, “Some Observations of our Capital City,” by Stephanie Pollack (The Tech Jan. 25, 1980) is such a hodgepodge of slick Cambridge librarianship and confusing ramblings that one wonders what kind of paper The Tech will become when Miss Pollack becomes its Chairman. Her analysis of the city of Washington, DC shows she, in common with too many others around here, a deep contempt of, and the almost maniac desire to pull down, anything she has little or no power over or anything she has no responsibility for. She seems not to have an open and flexible mind which can move towards positivism, but one which is determinedly set for negativism only. There seems to be a contest of sorts around here to see who can be the best (or worst) critic of our society (quite possibly a reaction to our loss in the Vietnam War.)

I was on the same three-day IAP trip to Washington that she was on, and I did not find “the city’s latest disaster (so, not Carter’s election)” to be one at all; Washington’s subway system is the best, fastest, cleanest, and quietest system I have ever seen or can imagine with the technology presently available to us. That is not a good reason to lambast it, though. Of course there are bugs in it, like there are bugs in any new car. Give it a chance! Miss Pollack also failed, no doubt on purpose, to compare Washington’s subway with Boston’s (of which there is no real comparison, in my mind) because that would be saying something good about our nation’s capital and what it has done to try to impress foreign and American tourists like me. (I was impressed.) But typically she says of the metropolitans, “Someone who really hates tourists must have devised this system.”

Miss Pollack’s most blatant stepler and the least called for is found in the second paragraph: “the city is designed so that even a politician can figure out how to get around.” It is not made clear whether this is another insult to Washington or its politicians or both; probably both. If the former, I find it a “basically simplistic” street layout, as she calls it, one based on a rectangular coordinate system, much preferable to one in which there is no system at all, as in Boston. Her quite unoriginal and too often used slur about politicians being simple-minded is about as stereotypical a view as those about blacks, women, and Jews, groups which I am sure she neither dislikes nor stereotypes as those simplistic” street layout, as she calls it, one based on a rectangular coordinate system, much preferable to one in which there is no system at all, as in Boston. Her quite unoriginal and too often used slur about politicians being simple-minded is about as stereotypical a view as those about blacks, women, and Jews, groups which I am sure she neither dislikes nor stereotypes.

We cannot look far into the future. We cannot know what kinds of genius may be unfolded in these columns. But even if genius does not bloom; even if the beauties of rhetoric and poetry are not developed here; even if this paper becomes, like the school it represents, only a field for plain honest work—we shall nevertheless be sure that the efforts we make are stepping stones to further attainments, helping us all to the higher and nobler uses of our lives.

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Volume 100, Number 1
Tuesday, February 5, 1980