Suicide last summer raises disturbing questions

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One day last summer, a woman called me at home to ask why The Tech hadn't run an obituary for a student who had died. Because, she said, we hadn't run one, there could be no call for one. The Tech hadn't run an obituary for a student who had died of a suicide.

First of all, I think any writer who hopes for the death of a young man in a coma has abdicated the right to be consulted human. Garfinkel's statement is a symptom of society's disease, but that doesn't excuse it.

Second, I challenge the assertion that "one of the things that made this country great was individual taking the law into their own hands." Many of America's ills can be traced to this tendency. When the leaders of the Confederacy declared in 1861 to circumvent the democratic process with violence, they precipitated the greatest threat ever offered to our country's existence. Lincoln's use of force to support the law of the land was intended to lay large-scale vigilantism to rest.

Perhaps a few more examples of what Garfinkel thinks made America great will illustrate my point. The Ku Klux Klan entered the early 20th century South with admirable efficiency. However, the Klan's persecution of Blacks, Jews, and Catholics has helped keep much of the South impoverished and uneducated. In other parts of the country, the American Nazi Party gained its foothold by promoting the storm trooper style of combating lawlessness. Hitler gained control of Germany using this style of vigilante action. The SS trooper style of combating lawlessness, the ones Garfinkel advocates, punished the guilty and uneducated. In other words, they kept much of the South impoverished and unstable.

We should not exacerbate this problem by letting the gun nuts run wild.

North Delate G

opinion

Gun use will create problems

To the Editor:

Simon L. Garfinkel's column in the Jan. 16 Tech ("Terror stalks city subways") was highly offensive and disturbing to me for a number of reasons.

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