Opinion

A Letter from the New Editor in Chief

Rush week, 1980: After a week of putting off joining The Tech, I finally entered the office. I would like to say that I became a staff member because of a desire to enter the world of journalism, to effect some change in the medium that I liked to read. Actually, I must confess less idealistic motivation - I followed the example set into the office. By way of introduction inside W20-483 was an organization in disarray. Fresman year alone, four staff members served as editor in chief. The Tech seemed to lack direction - issues were published, but there was no heat to it, no spirit.

The Tech has changed greatly since then. By the conclusion of Volume 103, the depth of news coverage has increased significantly. A few dedicated editors provided that spark that had been missing. They rebuilt the organization from the ground up. Of course, it was possible to maintain the quality of The Tech, and work even harder to improve it. As a result, we can report that the largest in the 105-year history of The Tech is out.

The late-breaking announcement of the selection of the commencement speaker resulted in a complete redesign of the whole issue. We lost sleep on the day before classes to provide our readers with a readable and interesting newspaper. We see this redesign as the first step in a larger project of rebuilding the Tech.

This is where The Tech is coming from. We see ourselves just trying to have some fun while putting out a first-class college newspaper. Visual splendor might give you a better idea of where we are, and where we may be headed.

(Editors note: The attractive freshman left the staff shortly after 8/20 issue.

Column/Thomas T. Huang

What Will The Tech Do Now?

Where is The Tech heading?

Listen. After working on the newspaper for three years, I thought I might have something profound to say about journalism, about writing, or about MIT. But I can't say anything about those subjects that would fit in a short column.

I just want to make a simple statement.

Four months ago, I received a letter from a graduate student named Simon C. Petersen, who would like to commend you for your effort in reporting on the "Of all MIT Black Students' Conference on Science and Technology," she wrote. "However, I was disappointed with your coverage of the speech given by Professor James H. Williams Jr. 67."

"Your edited narration did not capture the full intensity of William's speech, diminished its clarity and failed to reflect the emotion with which it was delivered.

It is unfortunate that the reporter neglected to mention the thoughtful tone that was present throughout the speech, because tone is so important in interpretation of the written word.

I hope that in the future you will be mindful of intensity, clarity, and tone as you edit and rewrite speeches."

Her letter struck a chord in me. Although I'm not black, I'm a minority. I, too, had been a victim of the same type of desensitization. The Tech has the opportunity to be first with the obvious. We must provide the spark that will ignite the fire of awareness.

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-- The Tech

Media Miss Meaning of Challenger's Crash

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The Tech, I

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Listen:...

This is a story about human life today. It is a story about the courage of the people who put out a newspaper.

We've got some mean people and some nice people, some soft spoken people and some selfish people, some optimists and some pessimists. We're just like you.

We did what we did in the past volume because we thought it was the right thing to do, never because we wanted to attack anyone, never because we were trying to be sensationalists.

Where is The Tech heading? In the right direction, I think.

Column/Roberta Malachman

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