Generalizations are often made about Tech students. They range from caricatures of calculator-carrying nurds to images of drunken, horny S.O.B.'s. "The engineers" are often thought of as being coldly intellectual, formula-spitting automatons. "Rambling Recks" are sometimes regarded as totally unresponsive to other people, caring more for intellectual constructs than for human emotions. None of these generalizations are true. "Techmen" are often women, and the girls are not always out for husbands, as myth suggests. "The average Tech engineer" is almost never average, and often not an engineering major. Sometimes, even the Friday night picture of a drunken, staggering party-goer from Tech is false. A Tech person is, first of all, a person. Life has its joys and troubles on and around the hill, just as it does anywhere, and Tech students respond to them just as anyone else would. People at Tech can seldom be put into any broad, generalized category. Each is a unique individual, with unique wants and desires, and unique ways to express themselves as individuals.
Techmen: No Two Are Alike
Unique Outlooks
The Student Center, completed in 1970, has already become one of the most vital parts of the campus. Almost every student visits the center at least once a day, and undergraduates probably find it inconceivable that the school ever functioned without it.

The Student Center encompasses a great variety of cultural, organizational, and leisure activities, so to different people, the center is many different things. To the commuter, it is a place to relax between classes. To the dorm resident, it is a post office to which he makes a daily pilgrimage. To the athlete it is a bowling alley; to the artist, a music room; to the hungry, a cafeteria and to all, one of the few structures on earth with both a chapel and a pool hall.
The Student Center
A Building for Many Purposes
Center Provides for Campus Cultural Needs
In an attempt to make the Tech community more aware of the diplomatic and cultural world beyond the boundaries of Hemphill and North Avenue, several groups presented lecturers and performers during the year. Tech's International Affairs Lecture Series included such men as the Honorable Nicos Dimitriou and the Honorable Osman Olcay, Cypriot and Turkish Ambassadors to the United States, respectively. The Atlanta Forum on National and International Affairs (AFNIA) held conferences concerned with Latin America and U.S.-Soviet Relations. The latter forum featured such notables as Senator Edmund Muskie, the Honorable Anatoly Gromyko, and Professor Dean Rusk.

Several artists performed on the Tech Campus during the year, including world-renowned pianist Michael Ponti.
The Georgia Tech FASET program is a very useful program for "breaking in" incoming students before the quarter starts breaking them down. Freshmen meet new people and really get a good first impression of the school, but little do they realize that the Kentucky Fried Chicken picnic may be the best meal they get until the holidays. All in all, though, FASET is informative and lots of fun.

One of the highlights of spring quarter is the Tech 200. Here, the Andrettis and Fittipaldis of each fraternity can display their skill and daring in a grueling go-cart race. Both before and after the event, the teams work together in fellowship, but at the drop of the flag, the deafening roar heralds a raw, reckless battle for first. Excitement is the reward for winner, loser and spectator alike.
Techmen are sometimes thought of as apathetic, and in many instances this generalization seems to be very true. However, this is not always the case. Whenever the Red Cross shows up on campus with their questionnaires and needles, their pineapple juice and electronic thermometers, Techmen turn out en masse to donate a pint of blood. Giving blood means sacrificing a little time and discomfort, but it is well worth both. The critical shortage of blood in the nation sends the Red Cross out looking for the vital fluid. Tech responded well this year, giving up an unexpected 663 pints for indigents and people caught in disaster situations.

Techmen are not totally virtuous, however. Winter Quarter, the Co-op Club stages the annual Casino Night, and students display their prowess at wheeling and dealing. As things get going hot and heavy, the temperature invariably rises. Techmen inevitably find that between classes, nurses, and card sharks, there is more than one way to get bled dry at Georgia Tech.
Field Day:  
An Interlude to Summer Routine

Summer always seems to be one of those quarters when months speed by unnoticed, yet days creep by imperceptibly and uneventfully. Classes are more relaxed and informal; calm pervades the academic world, but free time issues desperately urgent demands to be filled with fun. The Co-op Club schedules their Field Day with perfect timing.

Free hotdogs and cokes, pie eating contests and watermelon cuttings appeal to the general lust for victory. Students enjoy volleyball, foot-races, and the faculty vs. freshman baseball game, featuring such celebrated umpires as Mrs. Mary Brooks and Dr. Vernon Crawford.
Tech Hosts Varied Events

Various and sundry events occur at Georgia Tech from time to time, and all help to take students' minds off their books and calculators. These happenings range from a sports car slalom to a professional puppet show, and from G. P. Burdell's birthday party to an arts and crafts fair. They are unified by the fact that any unusual event such as these breaks up the routine of daily life on the Tech campus.
No matter how a schedule of courses is designed, a week of school is five days of school. Lacking an institution such as Emory's "Wonderful Wednesday," Techmen have traditionally had to wait until the weekend for relief from academia. No more. With the coming of the mid-day concerts, students are now able to relax, listen to music, eat lunch, and soak up some rays on the Student Center steps. Featuring local talent, the concerts have been a welcome addition to the middle of the week around Georgia Tech.

Just as the concerts provide relief from the pressures of the week, Cabaret Night puts students in a festive mood with a fireworks display, hotdogs and popcorn, free bands and folk singers, and even a coed belly dancer. Together with Homecoming events, Cabaret night reminds Techmen of Tech's good sides.
Concerts and displays, lectures and unusual activities are integral parts of life at Georgia Tech. These are, however, not typical of the everyday existence of a Tech student. "School" is full of classes and labs, long hours of studying, and as many moments as possible of rest and relaxation. In the next few pages these various aspects of campus life are portrayed, beginning when the student signs in, and concluding when he checks out and heads for home.

It has been noted in the past that Registration is a portent of things to come. This is still true, even with (or because of) the computerized registration process. Modern technology means that we now stand in one very long line to pay fees. All in all, Registration is one of the hassles and frustrations that every Tech student must face. As such, it truly foreshadows some of the more frustrating facets of a Tech education.
Registration: A Short Course in Chaos
Future Scientists Show Their Stuff
Despite the fact that Georgia Tech students are people who supposedly have dedicated their lives to research and technology, Techmen find it difficult to imagine a more undesirable way of spending an afternoon than in lab. The lab is a tradition that can even make liberal art schools seem attractive. After three hours of rushing procedure, recording data and fervently hoping for the results to come out well, a weary experimentalist will stagger from his dingy laboratory, amazed that the Kinetic Theory of Gases actually worked — almost. Mentally exhausted, and emotionally drained, the poor fellow breathes a sigh of satisfaction and walks away; he thinks that he has just overcome the ordeal of his life. But, he will be back next week. Yes, knowledge demands sacrifice, and once again, as always, the engineers, managers and scientists of the future will bow their heads over their graph papers in search of academic progress, universal truth, and the ever-present fudge factor.
Classes Display Longest Fifty-Minute Hour
Traditions, athletics, various types of intramurals and activities — all are integral components of life at Georgia Tech. Contrary to what many students will confess, however, academics are the backbone of this school, and the basis for Tech's national reputation. The classroom is an often-discussed and much-maligned, seldom appreciated facet of college life. Lecturers range in quality from superb to tranquilizing, and facilities run the gamut from Physics lecture theatres to Skiles classrooms. Usually, the final opinion of a class is not expressed until the final grade is received. The smiling professor that is great all quarter and hands out that fatal "F" is a "shaft"; the professor that seems such a bummer for three months and surprises you with an "A" is a "great guy" and a "really good lecturer." It seems that G.P.A.'s tend to color students' hindsight, and make them wish they had pre-registered for fewer hours of the coming quarter's classes.
A Man's Dorm Is His Castle

One often hears the quote, "A man's home is his castle." If this statement can be applied to students and dormitories, then Techmen probably end up someplace in the vicinity of the dungeon. But, conditions are improving; Tech housing strides forward each year. Now students can decorate their own rooms, and dorms are becoming more personalized expressions of individual taste. Moreover, the scenery has improved greatly in Area I and Area II with the migration of coeds to Hopkins.

The primary purpose of coming to a school like Tech is, of course, classes and preparation for a career, but simply living on campus can be a major factor in a student's education. Dorms are excellent teachers in this category. Any student who can live with roaches, firecrackers, a host of competing stereos, and other residents deserves his degree more ways than just intellectually. Often the student may look back on home life with a wistful eye, where quiet, nutrition, comfort and security were taken for granted, but he knows that home was never so well, interesting. Yes, dorms are often the first step toward complete independence, and the dorm resident receives an opportunity to mature a little; his own suffering, his own joy and his sharing of a little life with other Techmen build stories he will never tire of and memories he will never forsake.
From its central position on the very top of the Hill, the Price Gilbert Memorial Library gazes benevolently over the Georgia Tech campus. Well-equipped, well-staffed, and architecturally beautiful, this structure is truly one of the school's highlights.

From his uncomfortable position midway up the Hill, the Tech student gazes malevolently at the Price Gilbert Memorial Library. Tired, restless, and two weeks behind in every course, he knows that this night will be truly one of the quarter's low points.

Pushing through the stiff turnstile, absorbing the thick silence and the peculiarly sweet smell, the student knows he will accomplish something tonight. He does. Three hours later, he wakes up from a delightful nap on one of the sofas on the third floor. Oh well, two weeks and one day behind in every course. At least the return walk is downhill.
Quite often during the span of a typical quarter, the Georgia Tech student finds that he cannot remain in his dormitory and preserve his sanity simultaneously. The oppressive silence of the library is little improvement; neither is the busy rush of the Student Center. The Tech student must go out and experience nature.

Unfortunately, however, the Tech student must also undergo testing, and no matter how loud the beckon of nature, the student knows that any environment he chooses must include a textbook. So, in the spirit of compromise and ingenuity, the Techman simply finds a tree and begins to study.

If this scholar possesses an unreasonable quantity of will-power and love for his books, he will discover how rewarding such an experience can be. Soon, however, the activities of others, the daydreams of the weekend, or the welcome, though distracting influence of friends corrupts his mind. When the student realizes he is getting little done, he gets up refreshed, and slowly walks back — perhaps to the Student Center, perhaps to the library, or even to the dorm, there once again to insure his grade and risk his sanity.
Ma Tech and Mother Nature Join Forces
The New Tech 8:1 Ratio: Cars to Parking Spaces
With the coming of the automotive age, parking took its place right up there with food, air and water as a basic necessity of life. The Georgia Tech student discovers this when he spends half a day hovering around the campus, waiting vulture-like for someone to leave their parking place. If he is particularly adept at this sort of competitive driving, the Techman may often find himself within fifteen or twenty minutes walking distance of his next class. On-campus residents allegedly move their cars only between quarters, for fear of never seeing an open space again. Commuters forget about studying in order to plot stratagems for tomorrow's competition. Altogether, parking at Tech means more than simply finding a place for cars; it is part of the total educational experience, preparing the student for the cruel world to come.
Tech Students Forage in the Concrete Jungle
Perhaps one of the most interesting examples of human survival is a college student trying to live on a college student's budget. He becomes a gourmet of the vending machine, a master chef of the hot plate, and a knowledgeable connoisseur of local short-order grills. The Techman has his choice of a number of quick food spots. He becomes well acquainted with Burger King, Hardee's, Junior's, Campus Corner, Arby's, and of course, the Varsity.

At first it may be difficult for the novice to distinguish between the types and qualities of food offered by different establishments. As his career at Tech progresses, however, the student realizes that each food place is suited to a particular, combination of time, taste and money.
Attending Georgia Tech has been known to be somewhat frustrating. As a school that is constantly trying to turn out top-rate graduates; an institute that is almost, but not quite co-educational; Tech can build frustration as surely as it can destroy intellectual and emotional ego. One time-honored method of easing this pent-up tension and pressure is to go out and drain all remaining energy from your body in one of the informal sports around campus. Some people jog, some shoot baskets for hours on end, and some, on better days, toss frisbees lackadaisically around campus. Whatever the game, and whoever the competition, sports always offer a welcome relief from the pressures of the Hill.
Sand-lot Athletes Rise to Glory
"Quarter Break" means the end and beginning of many things. It signals the end of a quarter that began years ago with Registration, and has been filled with long hours of class, laborious lab sessions, and numerous shafts, hassles and frustrations. It means, especially, the end of Exam week. More importantly, the Break means it is time for rest, relaxation, and recuperation. Some go to Florida and New Orleans, but many go home. It is with a great sigh of relief and sense of expectation that Techmen pack their suitcases and hit the road: going home, at last.