Tech Spells Out Student Life

When approaching Student Life at Georgia Tech, many considerations were made. But what seemed to be most important was what Tech means to her students. She means many things, some good, but unfortunately, some bad as well. In her name, Tech revealed major categories that separate the kinds of encounters students experience. These experiences categorize themselves naturally into four major divisions: Traditions, Entertainment, Campus Life, and Headaches. In these four divisions, life at Tech has been investigated, experienced, and reported.

But what everything at Tech really revolves around is the people. They are young men and women from all corners of the world, yet they are like young people everywhere, curious, contradicting and full of life. It is this combination of nationalities, personalities and abilities that makes Tech what she is and supports the deep pride and commitment her students feel about Georgia Tech.
Friends Make Out With Limited Time

Tech offers students a varied atmosphere of fun, hard work, and friends. It’s easy to make friends at Tech, maybe that’s because everyone is in the same predicament. So much of a student’s time is spent in classes, labs, and studying, that one learns quickly to make excellent use of what little free time remains. Even if the only time available is enough to grab a beer or go to a Saturday football game, Techmen always round up their friends and make it a party.

Activities play an important role in the consumption of free time. Some students become avid members of one or more of the many organizations on campus. While others prefer to relax, play with a favorite friend, or start up a game of softball, volleyball, or whatever.
Spirit and Pride at Tech Abounds

After all is said and done, there's one thing upon which everyone at Tech will agree. Tech students know how to have a good time. They can make the best of any situation, and that usually means a party; whether for two or two-hundred. Perhaps that's the reason why when Tech is mentioned it brings a rush of emotion to so many. Memories of the good times seem to linger longer than the memories of the bad ones.

With the exception of finals week, every day offers many ways to spend free time. Participation in activities for the many events brings out pride and spirit in Tech students. Give them an excuse to support their school and they will show the world how proud they are to be a part of the school called Georgia Tech.
Traditions

The student body of Tech is a diverse mass of people who have converged from various parts of the globe to a small area of America known as Georgia Tech. And yet with all of their individualities and idiosyncracies, these students are joined by a common bond — the rich heritage and traditions of their chosen institute of learning. In fact, Georgia Tech as it stands today is the reflection of its students of past years, the traditions they established and the contributions they made, both spiritually and intellectually.

The manifestations of Tech's heritage in everyday life are as varied as the factors which contribute to it. It's hard to imagine what life at Tech would be like without George P. Burdell, Rats, Homecoming, and Greek Week. Not to mention how empty and boring campus would seem without the Tower and its ever absent "T".

This year was like any other at Tech. With a victory over Florida, hopefully the Jackets started another legendary Homecoming winning streak. Greek Week was the usual bash, and a new crop of rats scurried around campus, wearing their hats and exploring their new found freedom. George P. was rather quiet this year, but he was no doubt hind in the shadows thinking up devilish pranks to spring on Tech sometime in the near future. The tower remained intact, with no thefts of the "T" and the yellow "T" remained on the wrong side. Although the Tower was not plundered, the whistle was. During summer, quarter a group who called themselves "The Phantom Five" somehow managed to steal the steam whistle which sounds on every five minutes to the hour announcing the end of the classes in session.

Aside from the old traditions which seem to occur with the regularity of the changing of the seasons, the student body witnessed the breaking of an old Tech tradition, and took part in helping establish a new National Foreign Policy.

The state legislature changed a law which had been on the books for years, making it possible for Georgia Tech to bestow upon Jimmy Carter, the first United States president from Georgia, the honorary degree of Doctorate of Engineering. This was the first honorary degree ever awarded by Georgia Tech.

Meanwhile, as the world looked on, the Vice Premier of China Deng Xiaoping and other dignitaries of the Peoples Republic of China, made an historic visit to the United States. The trip not only included a brief stay in Atlanta, but also a short stop by the Vice Premier of Science and Technology, Fang Yi, to Georgia Tech to hear about LANDSAT, tour the Solar Energy facility, and see the CYBER 74 System at the computer center. This visit involved the Ramblin' Recks in one of the most monumental diplomatic events of this decade.

It is an interesting group of traditions that shape student life at Tech. With the constant influx of new ideas and customs brought by Tech's international student body, old ideas and values are changing, constantly being replaced with new ones. This year at Tech, students proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that spirit and pride have not changed along with social mores and values. Their support of the Yellow Jackets during their awesome football season proved this to all who may have held any doubts. When it came time to show Notre Dame how they felt about their team, there was proof positive of their support when they packed the coliseum at the pep rally which was held expressly for that purpose. Even though the score showed defeat, the students refused to give in. Predictions around campus insist that the Tech-Notre Dame rivalry is destined to rank right up there with the best. Only time will tell if a new tradition began in athletic rivalry this year. It should prove interesting to see what the future may hold.

Rats, Homecoming, the "T", and all the rest of the traditions that Tech revolves around are truly a reflection of the students at this school. Without these students, these legends would never have been started. And without the student support and interest in them, they could never have lasted as long as they have, nor continue into the future.
Homecoming 1978: Tech Goes B.C.

Every fall quarter, Tech students experience one of the longest standing traditions on campus, Homecoming Week. During Homecoming this year, the activities on campus were reminiscent of an earlier age, prehistoric in fact, as the theme for this year was “Tech B.C.”

Starting off the week’s festivities was the Caveman Olympics, which gave the organizations and Greeks a chance to display their neanderthal tendencies in such events as rope climbing and the spear throw. As usual, attendance and participation in these events was excellent, as all the organizations were trying to accumulate points for the desired prizes.

On the following day, the Tech Chorale and Jazz Ensemble combined their talents to present a “Togafest” in Peter’s Park. The outcome of that performance will probably be remembered for a long time, as a festive Dean Dull was clouted with a whipped cream pie for the finale.
Caveman Olympics Bring Out Neanderthal Athletes

The Neanderthal Technology Contest, allowed Tech engineers to put their talents to use, without the use of modern advantages. While the Cave Painting Contest held in front of the Student Center brought out the creative abilities of numerous cavemen and women on campus. The Fred Flintstone Look-Alike-Contest was well in keeping with the theme and attracted several very realistic participants, some appearing with their families.

Aside from the specific contests and activities relating to the theme, “Tech B.C.”, the other traditional Homecoming events also took place. The Pep Rally and Parade were held on Thursday Night this year, while as usual, the Freshman Cake Race and the Wreck Parade were held Saturday morning.

Homecoming was a successful and well attended event. It came at a good time, as it brought some playful relief from the tedium of the mid-quarter blues.
Carter Gets First Honorary Degree

During winter quarter this year, Tech students had the opportunity to witness an auspicious occasion — an address from the President of the United States. When Jimmy Carter spoke on the Tech campus it was to accept an unprecedented granting of an honorary degree, the first ever offered by Tech.

Before a capacity crowd at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum, Jimmy Carter accepted his honorary Doctorate of Engineering. Thousands of students, press, and fellow Georgians watched and listened as the President was also honored with the Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

Students cheered and listened with interest as Carter accepted his honors. To many this was an awesome occasion, and the President took full advantage of the situation by joking and laughing with the students. After delivering a short acceptance speech and a long lecture on his foreign policy, he re-emphasized his position on Iran and China, drawing obvious approval from the crowd.
Chinese Delegation Explores Tech During U.S. Tour

When President Jimmy Carter announced that the United States had normalized relations with the Peoples Republic of China, no one realized exactly what it would mean to the City of Atlanta and Georgia Tech. Early in the plan making for the official visit of the Chinese Delegation a stop in Atlanta was mentioned. When Atlanta was officially chosen, Georgia Tech was included on the list of attractions. Fang Yi, The Vice Minister of Science and Technology, made a trip to the Tech campus to observe the solar tower LANDSAT and computer installations. In keeping with the diplomatic agreement to exchange knowledge and culture, the delegation's trip proved an educational experience for the Chinese. Not only did the Chinese benefit, but Tech students as well, as they experienced first hand, what the rest of the world could only read in newspapers and watch on television.
Georgia Tech Central Campus Declared National Historic Landmark
One of the most significant events which occurred in the year of 1978-1979 on the Georgia Tech campus was the declaration, by the Department of the Interior, which made ten acres of the Central Tech Campus a National Historic Landmark. The buildings center around the part of campus known as "The Hill." Included are the Administration Building, built in 1888, The Carnegie Building, Tech's first library, Lyman Hall, known to all who ever took a chemistry lab at Tech, and the Knowles, Swann, Savant, Dean of Students, and the DM Smith Building, along with the ISYE and ME Schools.

This old section of campus is an important historical representation of architecture, engineering, and science. This declaration prohibited the destruction of any of these structures, but in no way affected the plans for renovating them. This award also made Tech eligible for some badly needed federal funds and tax benefits for the preservation of the area. It not only should prove financially rewarding, but will undoubtedly encourage tourists and sightseers to look over a historic part of Tech's campus, which has long been overlooked by those who haven't had the opportunity to see them. The students too will benefit, as now that Tech is eligible for these funds, perhaps the renovation of these buildings will be speeded up, and it's nice to know that the beauty and history of the buildings will remain intact as the insides are made more comfortable.
I'M A RAMBLING WRECK FROM GEORGIA TECH

And a hell of an engineer—
A helluva, helluva, helluva, helluva, hell of an engineer.
Like all the jolly good fellows,
I'll drink my whiskey clear,
I'm a rambling wreck from Georgia Tech
And a hell of an engineer.

Oh! If I had a daughter, sir,
I'd dress her in white and gold
And put her on the campus
To cheer the brave and bold.
But if I had a son, sir,
I'll tell you what he'd do,
He would yell: "To Hell with Georgia,"
Like his daddy used to do.

Oh! I wish I had a barrel of rum,
And sugar three thousand pounds,
A college bell to put it in,
And a clapper to stir it 'round
I'd drink to all good fellows
Who come from far and near.
I'm a rambling, gambling,
Hell of an engineer.
"Ramblin' Wreck" Is Symbolic of Tech Spirit

The Ramblin' Wreck is a long time symbol of Georgia Tech. The Wreck itself is seen during many important occasions on campus. It leads parades, carries distinguished passengers, and leads the football team onto the field at both home and many away games. The Wreck is not only a symbol of Georgia Tech, but its care and maintenance is a symbol of the pride felt by the Tech student body.

The Ramblin' Wreck is not only a car, it is also a song which immortalizes the spirit of Georgia Tech. Set to the tune of an old Victorian Tavern Song, "Son of a Gambolier". This famous Tech fight song is also a popular drinking song of both the students and alumni. Many an unsuspecting crowd has been treated by a group of fervent and loyal Tech fans standing up and pledging their allegiance in song to the "Ramblin' Wrecks of Georgia Tech."
Entering college as a freshman can be an unnerving and traumatic experience. Most schools have their own gimmicks and traditions to make the new arrivals feel at home. Georgia Tech has a rather unique way of welcoming their incoming students, and it all starts with a rat hat.

It used to be that a rat hat was required attire for all rodents on campus. Back in the days when engineers were always male, and the only women at Tech were maids and secretaries, if a freshman was discovered without his head gear, a head shaving was in order, and there was always some "loving" upperclassmen more than happy to administer it. Always wearing a hat made it hard to take a shower, but a rat usually only had to be showed once what disobedience meant.

Being a rat has changed considerably since those days. Headshavings have disappeared, and freshmen need no longer fear for their curly locks. But rats are still a tradition fondly remembered on campus. They still sit in the crummy West Stand bleachers at the football games, and make a "T" on the field for the football team to run through. They still wear the rat hats and print the football scores on it. They still protect the 'Reck and instill fear into anyone who dares to touch it.

Rats face many problems on campus. The first few days can be a nightmare: 8:00 classes, hunting for classroom buildings, and trying to find out what "The Hill" is, are a few. But all in all, most treasure the memories of their first quarters, especially if they eventually manage to make it past them and on towards graduation. But that is another story.
Rats Retain Hair, but Remain Well Loved Tradition
Entertainment

The academic life of a student at Tech can be an exhausting endeavor at times, and everyone needs to take some time off now and then for some entertainment. Whatever form it may take, from a walk in the park to a night on the town — each person has his own way of spending the small amount of free time available to him.

When the weekend comes, classes are over for the week, and the pressure is forgotten for a few short hours, Tech students begin the search for that elusive entity known as fun. Some find it at the bottom of a glass, some in the pleasure of having friends around, and a few in the back row of a movie house.

The small amount of free time available to students at Tech necessitates that each person must develop a list of priorities as to how this time can be used to the fullest. The personality, hobbies, and interests of each individual influence such decisions as "Spiro’s or Pippins", "Pizza or hamburgers," "Disco or home?"

The extroverted types around campus, manifested as the fraternity brother or the jock, tend to congregate at well known bars and establishments around campus for a few beers in the afternoon or a serious drinking session. Others choose dancing, hence the present disco craze, and still others enjoy the quiet solitude of staying home to watch T.V.

The average Tech student attends about two movies a month while in school. And if he’s lucky he gets to go to one of two concerts a quarter as well. These events offer a fantasy "get away from it all" vacation from reality and relieve some of the tension the average week at Tech causes.

But whatever the method, the motive is the same, to find a means of entertainment that allows one to forget Ma Tech, and escape from the problems of life.

Contrary to popular belief the favorite sport on and off campus is not football, but sex. Sex, however, is at least as hard to find at Tech as an easy "A" in Deformable Bodies. So when there isn’t a favorite girl or guy to "Spend the night with," some choose a bottle and a few buddies instead.

An evening on the town can be just what the doctor ordered. But sometimes things just don’t work out. But even so, students never give up their search for that big party in the sky. A city the size of Atlanta has an almost endless array of activities to stimulate the mind and dazzle the senses — the proverbial something for everyone. Museums, galleries, theaters, and superb restaurants are only a few of the wonders that can be found in the City of Atlanta. Whatever a person could desire in the way of entertainment can be found somewhere in the city that is home for Georgia Tech.

Some people find the need to be around other people from time to time. An evening out dancing or sitting home chewing the fat with buddies can be equally fulfilling because of the comfort of having others there to share in the experience while helping to enrich it. At other times, it is enjoyable to be alone — to reflect on the events of the past or anticipate those of the future. For some students, especially dorm residents, these times are rare and to be cherished as a part of life that is important and if not carried to extremes, can even be fun.

The more athletically inclined tend to look to sporting events whether as spectators or participants, for their entertainment. There’s nothing better to melt away the frustrations of the day than a few laps around the football field or a strenuous tennis match. Sports are a major part of college life, and in the years after graduation, memories of the football games in the fall, playing softball on a Saturday in the park, or rafting down the river with good friends and a cooler full of beer, enrich those feelings and remain fresh in the minds of Tech students.

What it all boils down to is that everybody needs a little fun from time to time. At Tech the choice is almost as stimulating as the event. The variety and abundance of entertaining activities both on and off campus will no doubt grow and expand in the future, and the students at Tech will always be there to experience each new moment as it is offered up to them.
Tripping the Light Fantastic

When Saturday Night Fever was first released, a chain reaction was set off that touched young people across the country. Flashing lights, silk shirts, bars and the pounding rhythm of the music ushered in the new "Disco Age." Not since Frankie Avalon and the beach craze had a dance fad so captured the imagination of students. Georgia Tech, with its backyard in Atlanta, was definitely in the mainstream of things.

Tingles, Pogos, and Flanagans, to name a few of the hotspots, offer every disco fanatic a variety of different "hangouts" to choose from. If one wants, he can hustle all the way from New York to Los Angeles in the same night. Not only this but when one tires of dancing, other opportunities present themselves. Drinking, girlwatching and just plain "music listening" are a few of these extra options. In fact, some of the best times are had partying at your own table.

Whatever the case may be, in about two years time discoing has become one of the best and easiest ways to socialize for college students. The high school crowd has trouble learning the steps, and the "adult" crowd has trouble mustering the energy, but the in between years seem tailor made to this newest rage. Though few are true masters of the art, almost all can have a good time trying and if there is one thing that Tech students are good at, it is trying!
"I Had How Many Beers Last Night?"

The song says, "Like all the jolly good fellows, I drink my whiskey clear..." and it was definitely talking about one of the favorite pastimes at Georgia Tech. Chugging the suds, usually beer as opposed to whiskey, however, is one of the simple pleasures and also a near necessity of life in college. It's an activity that's always well attended and usually fun for all.

It doesn't matter whether it's Spiros or Pippins, The Beer Mug or One Eyed Jacks; it's the drinkers that are really important. All the Tech hangouts have their regular crowds, but what they all have in common is guzzling.

Beer is not only a beverage, it's a way of having fun. Sharing a few mugs with the boys can easily turn into an all night bash.

Chugging contests, seeing who can last the longest without a trip to the john, or just finding out who can stay conscious for the longest, are only a few of the amusements true beer drinkers enjoy. Sharing "I was SOOOO drunk" stories with favorite pals who never fear to chime in "HOW DRUNK WERE YOU???" makes the evening even more enjoyable.

Unfortunately, the night before seems to invariably lead to the morning after. These are the times when the last word anybody wants to hear is beer. After a night of hugging the toilet and crawling around on all fours, getting drunk isn't nearly so appealing. While moaning loudly, holding one's head in one's hands, and generally feeling rotten, beer drinking is sworn off forever. Forever? Not on your life.
Kansas Rocks
Tech Coliseum

Early summer quarter Tech students were treated to a spectacular rock concert. Kansas, kicking off their "Point of No Return" concert tour celebrated their move to Atlanta by opening their national concert tour in the Georgia Tech Coliseum. The loan of the facility to the group for a week's practice prior to the beginning of their tour was returned by Kansas donating the proceeds of the concert to the Georgia Tech Department of Music, to help supply greatly needed new band instruments.

The concert was well attended by both the student body and fans from all over Atlanta. Although faulty air conditioners made it blistering hot, the performance was excellent. The audience was treated with old favorites and also heard cuts off Kansas' new album, "Point of no Return."
Sports are not only fun to watch, but they are also fun to do, something some of us forget from time to time. But sports at Tech take on a variety of meanings. They are without a doubt one of the most entertaining aspects of fall quarter, but they also represent a large part of entertainment which students seek in an attempt to express their own talents.

Everybody knows football games are fun. With a pint in his pocket, his girl on his arm, and the Yellow Jackets on the field, what more could a body ask for? How about Eddie Lee Ivery and Don Bessilieu? Eddie Lee broke rushing record after rushing record, including the NCAA record for the most yards in one game. While this was drawing capacity crowds of funseekers, Don Bessilieu was making his name known as well. Chosen first string All-American and most valuable defensive player in both the Senior Bowl and the East West Shrine Game, Don Bessilieu exemplified what true athletic ability and excellence really is all about. These players were excellent models of sportsmanship and encouraged student attendance at both home and away games, adding to everyone's fun on the flats and spirit for Tech.

But watching isn't the only sporting entertainment available to students. The Student Athletic Complex, SAC, affords students a chance to entertain themselves by exploring their own athletic potentials. Would-be gymnasts practice for hours on the rings and bars, testing and improving their talents. There is another breed of SAC jock, too; he's the weightlifter who enjoys sweating for the fun of seeing just how much he can press or lift. Racquetball players fight for court reservations to improve their game or just get a little exercise. And all this takes place at SAC, which was designed for the use of the students and not the athletic teams of Georgia Tech.

All in all Tech is a school which seems to revolve around sports. Whether it's watching, drinking and cheering, or quietly proving hidden prowess, sports abound and make up a good part of recreational pastimes at Georgia Tech.
Guitars and Gambling Add Spice to on Campus Entertainment

Entertainment is something everyone needs from time to time. And it’s nice to know that the students at Tech don’t have to go off campus to find it. Tuesday mornings from 11:00 to 12:00 there’s a wonderful occurrence somewhere in or around the Student Center. It’s called a “Tuesday Happening.” During this hour, when there are no scheduled classes on campus, touring talent and local Tech artists thrill and entertain the students. Guitarists have a chance to sing their favorite tunes while friends and fellow classmates look on and listen. Original songs, and old favorites resound through the Student Center giving pleasure to those who are in dangerous need of a little distraction. Mime artist caused waves of giggles on the Student Center steps, while hundreds looked on and participated, and even a national touring group of professional frisbee throwers gathered crowds around the quad. These activities are purely for the entertainment of the people on campus and are well appreciated and always well attended.

Another on-campus recreation is the fall and winter quarter extravaganza called Casino Night. Sponsored by the Co-op Club, students have a blast amassing and losing billions in funny money, redeemable at the end of the evening in an auction for various prizes. Students flock to this event with high hopes of coming out a winner. Some dream of lavish sprees in Las Vegas or Atlantic City after coming home winners, but even the losers have fun. Maybe it’s because gambling is a no-no and it’s a form of rebellion, but more than likely, it’s just for the excitement. For the gamble, however small and insignificant, brings with it a thrill of not knowing just exactly what will happen next.

51
For Those of Us Who Dare — The Great Experience

For a few people, Georgia Tech is not all books and classes. Believe it or not, young men and young women do enjoy each other's company on this campus. At times, in fact, they even have the good sense to spend time with one another instead of a calculus or physics book.

These instances, however, never seem to occur enough. More often than not, Tech men hide behind the excuse that there is no one to date and Tech women complain about not being asked out. The circle is vicious, and the only thing that ever gets accomplished seems to be homework.

A situation like this is not good to begin with, but at a school like Georgia Tech, it becomes almost unbearable. The "academic rigors" at this school make a social outlet like dating almost a necessity for some people. Guys and gals need a companion, and when you get right down to it, a book is no substitute for the opposite sex.

For those brave few that risk rejection and ask, the dating possibilities are unlimited. From the Double E to the Memorial Arts Center, from a bar to a disco, the options are as varied as the men and women who participate. Whatever the case may be, Atlanta offers all types of entertainment.

Not everyone is successful in all aspects of life. However, engineers must remember that the trial and error method is only as effective as its persistent user. After all, not everything fits the first time.
Campus Life

Each year Tech beckons a myriad of students from all corners of the globe. It is not unusual to walk around the campus and see all of these people; people from the Middle East, the Far East, even the East Coast, often in their traditional garb of robes, sarongs and buttondowns with khakis. They come thinking about Tech’s high standards of education, her strong fraternity system, a wide variety of clubs and organizations, a diversified student body, and the potential of Atlanta as a never-ending source of entertainment.

Their education is two-fold. It stems from endless classes, labs, lectures, quizzes and exams. Students torture themselves by waiting in long registration lines, only to suffer through the classes they signed up for. With the classes, the mandatory part of coming to Tech, comes long and tedious lectures, and the ever present and never ending homework. Labs and hours of seemingly irrelevant experimentation are also involved. Exams and quizzes must be taken, but in order to make taking them worthwhile, studying is a must. Studying is every Tech student’s enemy, it gets in the way of enjoying life.

The second part of a student’s education is a learning experience that has no equal; living at Tech. When he arrives, the freshman is often unprepared for the new experience awaiting him. Living in close proximity with a stranger is a new and horizon widening experience. Living in a dorm involves him in impromptu bull sessions, hall parties, and dorm councils. This experience of communal living often takes much to adjust to, and some never manage to fully do so. For those who do not live in the dorms, apartment life is a totally different challenge.

About one third of the student body belongs to one of the thirty-three fraternities or sororities. Tech’s Greek system, is one of the strongest in any university, and it’s popularity will never be worn out on campus. Even those who don’t belong benefit from the many parties and functions sponsored by the Greeks. The fraternities are a home away from home and provide a new source of friends for the brothers and sisters who are involved in the system.

Tech boasts about eighty-four campus clubs and organizations. Through these, a student can explore new hobbies, expand old ones, or just relieve the everyday tensions by putting his mind somewhere else. These organizations cater to the diversified interests that abound on any college campus, and are well supported at Tech.

Even though Georgia Tech is a state school, the students come not only from Georgia and the United States, but from all over the world. Walking around campus, strains of foreign languages are often heard. These students are well informed of U.S. Politics, and will often be found voicing their opinions, either through demonstrations, speeches or handouts. They add to the uniqueness of Tech, and help to add an international flavor without destroying the down home hospitality of the South.

Through these diversified interests, nationalities, customs, and principles, Tech has become a melting pot of ideas, philosophies, and experiences. The international flavor that presides over the campus from time to time helps involve the students in some of what is happening throughout the world. Because Georgia Tech’s campus is so self sufficient, the students often forget that there’s a world out there with problems and social distinctions that affect their very lives. The presence of so many people from so many countries, both large and small, has become an educational experience that cannot be taught in school. It teaches a lesson invaluable to our futures; how to understand, tolerate, and truly appreciate the customs and philosophies of peoples whose lives are different than our own.

With all the lessons that one must learn before leaving college, it is impossible to say which is the most important. But what is important and can be recognized as so, is that when one graduates from college and enters the “world outside” that he be prepared for what he will face. Campus life at Tech, with it’s variety, education, and experiences does just that for the students at Tech.
Dorm Life Is Filled With Happiness and Heartache
Almost every student who enters Tech as a Freshman spends a part of their college life living in the dorms. Dorm life is not only a living experience but a learning one as well. One of the lessons it teaches is how to get along with others. The best example of this is the roommate to roommate relationship. From the very beginning, life with a roommate is a series of compromises. Co-existing means learning when to give in and when to demand your rights. This give and take must apply to everyone in the dorm if life there is going to be bearable.

Dorm living is not only educational, it can be fun too. Dorm sponsored parties and activities are frequent. This makes the atmosphere in the dorms much more congenial and also helps promote friendships between residents of different dorms.

Another advantage, or sometimes a curse, is the fact that one need never be lonely. There's always someone available for a card game, to watch T.V. or to just talk. If the company gets to be too much, and a restless resident needs to get away from it all, the dorms are centrally located to the rest of the campus, so there's always somewhere else to go.
Life in the dorms can be an excellent experience. College roommates often remain friends for life. But the people whom one lives with and the dorm sponsored activities make up only a small part of life in the dorms.

When a student lives in the dorms he or she is thrust into the center of campus activities. Living on campus helps make students, especially freshmen, feel more a part of their school because they are there when things are happening. This helps to instill a sense of belonging to many who go off to college not knowing anyone at all.

Campus facilities are another good reason for living in the dorms. A student who lives in the dorms is only a short walk or Stinger ride away from the Library, Student Center, cafeteria, and the Student Athletic Complex, all of which are excellent facilities which seem to cater to resident students.

Dorm life has its advantages and disadvantages to be sure. Ask those who live in the dorms, and they'll tell you they'd rather have the luxury, space and privacy of their own apartments. But ask those who live off campus and they have their own list of gripes, and probably say that they'd give their eye teeth to have a convenient dorm room right on campus.
When choosing a place to live while attending college, many things must be taken into consideration. The pros and cons of dorm life have already been discussed, but there is another breed of students in college, those who choose to strike out on their own.

Giving up mom’s home cooking for the meal plan is one thing, but giving it up for Chef Boy-ar-dee and Swanson’s is something else all together. One can only eat TV dinners for so long before he forgets that all dinnerware isn’t made from aluminum foil and plastic.

It seems that the comforts of home are usually taken for granted until they’re taken away. Living rooms furnished in “early attic” and “contemporary poverty” just never compare with dad’s old arm chair and grandma’s feather bed. Aside from the food and furnishing, apartment living offers a crash course in managing a budget; many who sign up for this course fail miserably, others are forced to drop it after a month of skipping class, while still others, as is always the case, pass with flying colors.

Even with the austere conditions, there is still much to be said for having one’s own pad. Freedom to come and go unquestioned and a sense of accomplishment from “making it on your own” are only two of them. All and all, apartment living is still a popular mode of living and will undoubtedly remain so.
Greeks Show Lifestyle of Their Very Own

There are many different styles of living at Georgia Tech. One popular mode is offered by the many fraternities and sororities on campus. These groups offer fellowship and a congenial living atmosphere for those who decide to "Go Greek."

When Greek life is mentioned many images come to mind. The strongest of these is probably the parties for which Greeks are famous. The wild Saturday afternoons on the flats are long remembered, not to mention the bashes and competitive festivities of Homecoming and Greek Week.

Greek Life is not just parties and carefree fun. The fraternities and sororities are also commendable service organizations. A week doesn't go by that there isn't some Greek sponsored charity drive canvassing the campus. These activities are meant to support the premise of Greek Life — fellowship and brotherly love. This work does not go unnoticed by Tech or the community of Atlanta, as many of the Greek organizations have received awards for their efforts.
Dorms, classes, labs — sleep, lectures, and more labs. An endless procession of necessary but dull activity. At times, Tech seems to be nothing more than a sprawling mass of dormitories and classroom buildings, built for the edification and education of a numbered, classified and coded person. The cold mass of structures, for the most part, tend to fold, spindle and mutilate this carded creature called a student.

At times it seems that these buildings use us, but there are two notable exceptions. There are two creations of stone, steel and glass that are strictly “for” us. The library and the Student Center. True, the library is a house filled with endless volumes of knowledge, but it is worthless without people. People seeking that one well hidden fact that will dissolve a mysterious problem or mystify a stubborn old prof. It is a place of quiet where the mind can expand to its greatest limits or the body can relax in luxurious silence. Exams often strike terror in the hearts and heads of most Techmen, but the library seems to lessen this fear, just by being there. Her study carrels, when filled with people, become private worlds, providing security and solitude. The stacks of books and miles of microfilm are worthless when her walls are empty, but filled with students, this building becomes Tech’s reason for being — knowledge.

The Student Center is indeed “Ma Tech” at her best and most humane. Its a place purely for the student to enjoy. A place of escape. Battered minds can be soothed in comfortable lounges with private headphones and soft music, eyes dulled by reading endless charts, tables and printouts are soothed and mystified by works of art in the gallery. Hands may be busied with macrame or pottery, rather than sliderules and calculators in the crafts area, and games abound in the rec area for no other reason than to let burdened minds lose themselves in friendly competition among friends. The Student Center “is” people; people doing what they want to do, not what they have to do.
Rec Area Attracts Leisure Minded Students
Colleges always have certain places that attract their students. At Tech, one of the favorite gathering places on campus is the Student Center Rec Area. God only knows how many classes have been cut for the sake of one more bridge hand, or because somebody won a free game on a pinball machine.

The Rec Area has attractions for anyone seeking entertainment, stimulation, or competitiveness.

Summer quarter, a major transformation took place in the Rec Area. Returning students fall quarter found things entirely different than they'd left behind.

New carpets, paint, tables and chairs freshened up the area of the student center greatly enjoyed by so many. Backgammon, pool and billiards, bowling, cards and pinball are only some of the attractions offered. Friendship of all kinds have developed in the gamey atmosphere, many of which have lasted so long that the first place some alumni head when they visit campus is straight to the Rec Area to drum up a card game and visit old pals.
Jackets Turn Out 6000 Strong for Irish Pep Rally

If football games were won on spirit, the score of the Tech-Notre Dame Game should have been Tech 69 — Notre Dame 0. All week, emotions ran high . . .

T-Shirts, hats, stickers and buttons were spread all over campus telling tales of certain havoc that the Jackets would inflict on the Irish. It was to be the biggest pep rally in Tech’s history. The public was invited — all eyes were focused on Tech and the coming contest.

Then Friday, November 17, 1978 finally arrived. It hadn’t rained all quarter, but it poured that night. However, a little rain couldn’t put a damper on the students’ spirit. Led by the yellow Jacket Band, over 4000 screaming, frenzied fans, complete with banners, marched through the rain to join some 2000 more already waiting inside the Coliseum.

In the midst of a blur of shakers and a hail of toilet paper, the football team was introduced and Pepper Rogers, clasping a box of “Lucky Charms” led everyone in a chorus of the “Ramblin’ Reck”. Some of the football players talked to the crowd, and the entire team did one of their locker room cheers for the fans.

The climax of the evening came when representatives from the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and the Governor’s office read proclamations declaring Saturday, November 18, 1978, Georgia Tech Day in their respective municipalities and Mr. Hugh Carter brought a message of good luck from President Jimmy himself. Eddie Lee Ivery was made an honorary citizen of the City of Atlanta.

It was a magnificent display of Tech spirit at its highest. Even Dr. Petit’s words brought a standing ovation. The fans wanted a victory; the football team wanted to avenge themselves in front of the home crowd; it was the last home game of the season. For anyone who missed it, they could never imagine the chill and thrill of hearing 6000 hysterical fans, screaming in unison, “I Love The Yellow Jackets, How ‘Bout You?”
One of the advantages of going to school in a big city is that when the refrigerator is empty, or the idea of cooking just isn’t appealing, one can always find a good restaurant serving just what the tummy ordered.

Around Tech, there are lots of spots that through the ages have become favorites of the student body.

One of the all time hot-spots is Juniors — well known for its breakfast. Juniors is the perfect place for students who are usually in a hurry, because of their quick service and friendly atmosphere. The oldest Tech hangout is the Varsity, an institution maligned by many but loved by all.

One of the first things a freshman becomes familiar with, especially if he lives in Area I, is the menu at the “Greasy V” which includes such delicacies as chili dogs and the world famous F.O.

Across the street from the “V” is Steverino’s where students go for a big sub or just a little fun. Pinball machines and a pitcher of brew provide a diversion from the daily routine.

After a grueling day of classes, or a tough test, many students head for Spiro’s to drown their sorrows or meet some friends for conversation. With its diversified offering of palate pleasers, Spiro’s has something to satisfy every kind of appetite.

Whatever his taste, the Tech student will never be at a loss for ways to tantalize it. With the myriad of restaurants and emporiums in the Atlanta area, even the most discriminating gourmet can find a satisfying meal at any hour of the night or day.

But amazingly enough no eating establishments in the area are better patronized than the campus food facilities. This year the campus food service was under the new management of ARA, and although the food was just as bad, the service and variety is better than in recent years and with the institution of the traveling carts this year, more students are being served than ever before.
Headaches

A headache is usually brought on by tension. It starts as a small irritation and if it's well nourished, supplied with the necessary frazzling of nerves, it grows into a full grown migrain. Such is college life at times, when nothing seems to go right and everything that could possibly go wrong does.

A typical day at Tech is usually a combination of highs and lows, but a bad day is just like a headache, starting small and slowly snowballing into a national disaster. Mornings are usually the worst time of day, especially after pulling an all-nighter. When the twenty minute cat nap turns into two hours, and one wakes up at 8:45 for a 9:00 class, the headache starts to grow. There's no hot water for a shower, the paper due for English is nowhere to be found, and the Stinger takes off leaving a tired body chasing it down the street.

Upon arrival in class, five minutes late, it becomes painfully obvious that the prof is giving a pop quiz on the material assigned for the day — which didn’t get done because of the English paper. The quiz is taken, and failed, dropping one’s average dangerously low. At this point the head begins to pound and a mild discomfort has become a painful throb.

Classes continue painfully slow, while one hassle follows another. Once again, the cafeteria is serving what looks like horse meat stew, and there's no time to get off campus for lunch before pre-registration forms have to be handed in. Filling out the necessary papers only bring back devastating memories of last quarter’s registration. Even though the initial forms were correctly filled out, with the dream of a complete computer schedule, one was left with the nightmare of a 12:00 time card instead. The lines seemed longer than ever before, while classes were few and hard to get. While lines grew longer and longer, it became exceedingly difficult to discern which one to get in, resulting of course, in spending two hours waiting in the wrong lines. And when it was all over, with a schedule that looked like a patchwork quilt, it was time to pay Ma Tech the large sum of money called fees, a painful experience all in itself. This memory increases the tension, intensifies the headache, and adds one more misery to an otherwise “perfect day.”

While riding the Stinger back to the dorm, it is suddenly remembered that tomorrow is Dad’s birthday. A card and small token of appreciation for the “small allowance” he sends every month is a must. Jumping into the car, it's off to town, only to be held up by MARTA construction and all of the traffic jams it causes. After fighting the mayhem there and back, it’s back to the dorm and start all over again. The only difference is that this time it's with a full blown migrain that's causing so much pain it's hard to see straight, let alone read chemistry or work calculus problems.

After spending forty-five minutes looking for a parking space, and finally settling for the coliseum lot, it's time to wait for the Stinger again. Stinger II that is, the one that comes every thirty minutes instead of every fifteen. Of course it's started to rain and the temperature has dropped, but only to thirty-five degrees, depriving the campus of a possible snow storm and closing of classes.

When one finally gets home, the Drop Week pile up of assignments, lab reports, and term papers is waiting on the desk. It's reached the panic stage, with more coming in every day. Not only is there no end in sight, but the headache has now reached the danger stage. Suddenly there's a small light at the end of the tunnel. Out of the corner of the eye is spied a bottle of rum, sitting on the desk propped up somewhere between calculus and English. The decision is a hard one, but tomorrow is Friday and maybe things could be put off until the weekend. What the decision really comes down to, is which pain killer is more effective? Can the cure for this monster of a headache be found in a bottle of aspirin, or in a bottle of rum.
MARTA Tries to Build Subway but Settles for Mess Instead

Well, "They're tearing up Peachtree again, again," and this time it was MARTA. And they're tearing it up to build a subway. Most of the students at Tech aren't the slightest bit interested in a subway, but its construction certainly screwed up a lot of their lives this year.

Commuting across town is a big enough hassle all by itself, and it certainly doesn't need any added headaches. But as painful as it is, MARTA has succeeded in making it even more so. Peachtree and West Peachtree have had sections closed repeatedly, causing major hassles not only for commuters and students driving off campus for other reasons, but the entire city of Atlanta as well.

Unfortunately, ripping up the surface streets wasn't enough. Not to exclude those who commute from the suburbs, MARTA also chose, at the same time, to detour a portion of the downtown connector on I-75/85. This detour slows traffic to 40 miles an hour and causes major traffic jams at all hours of the day.

What it boils down to is this — those who used the surface streets sought solace on the interstate, while those who usually took the highway flocked to the streets. Result — major confusion, furious students, and two traffic related migraine headaches a day.

When the subway is completed, no doubt a few Tech students will make use of it. But, during the year when students were fighting countless hassles at school, hassles getting to school were an added burden. And, although when finished, most will appreciate the ultramodern rapid rail system, it will be easy to see that it was worth the trouble.
Commuters Spend Hours in Search of Parking Spaces

There is much that can be said about parking on campus, and none of it is favorable. Finding a place to park a car at Georgia Tech is like trying to find the proverbial needle in the haystack. The students who must wait up to an hour and drive all around campus just to find a parking place are the same students who must also fight rush hour traffic, congested surface streets, and crowded expressways just to get to school.

As if the problem weren't bad enough to begin with, this year it was made considerably worse when new construction on campus took up a good portion of the EE Parking Lot, taking away necessary spaces for student parking. The problem seems to get worse every year, and this year was definitely no exception. Students can only hope that the administration will come up with a just solution, and come up with it quickly.
Sometime between football season and Greek Week comes that bleak and dreary monster known as winter quarter.

When the cold winds begin to blow and the everpresent rain sets in, an air of boredom and laziness settles over the campus. Suddenly, the simple things of life, like getting out of a warm bed for an 8:00 class become extremely difficult. Nothing sounds better on a cold winter day than to stay home and curl up with a good book, or a good friend.

To make it worse, it seems as if the frustrations and pains of living only become more numerous when the temperature drops. Taking a cold shower because all of the hot water is gone, spending twenty minutes trying to start the car, and battling a fierce bout of the flu, are only a few of the joys of the winter season.

But despite all of its bad points, even winter has its advantages. Studying suddenly becomes a more inviting prospect than being outside — even gazing out the window isn’t interesting anymore. And what can compare with the spontaneous joy inspired by an afternoon snow flurry? Most important of all, though, winter quarter’s miseries gives one bad times to make the good times seem even better.
Registration: A Day of Lines, Pains, Tears, and Frustrations

Registration day has become one of the most dreaded times of the quarter for Tech students. Fear grips the heart of everyone who receives an incomplete computer schedule after pre-registration. Just the thought of hours spent standing in line and fighting for courses sends chills up one's spine. And then, the day before the big event, comes the "time-card," the key to success at registration. The value of this card rests solely on the time printed on it, anything past lunch-time on the first day of registration being totally worthless. After acquiring one of these cards, by whatever means necessary, a student is entitled to enter the arena to wage battle against closed classes, time conflicts and a myriad of other obstacles in the way of the objective -- a complete schedule, for a quarter at least.
Headaches Descend on Campus in all Shapes and Sizes

Hassles and headaches are just a part of life; there's just no getting around them. This year brought new hassles and old ones continued, all of them causing pains and frustrations for students.

The SAC pool which has been empty since last year due to rust problems remained empty, and its repair was delayed so many times no one believed it would ever again contain water. No one was willing to take the blame for the problem, and contractors passed the buck back and forth for an eternity, but none of them solved the problem. There were no cooling dips to relieve sweltering students spring, summer, or fall quarter, and winter swimmers had to find other methods of exercise.

The housing problem has gotten more severe over the last years, and the situation reached an all time low this year. Tech's solution: rent the downtown YMCA and use it for dorm space. Result: Less than satisfaction. There was no "ten minutes from bed to class" for males forced to live at the Y. They experienced all of the disadvantages of dorm life — lack of privacy, cramped conditions, etc. — and all of the headaches of commuting students — planning extra time for getting to and from campus, dealing with bus schedules, and not having the convenience of on campus living quarters.

Unfortunately one of the age old hassles of college life is getting sick. Mom's not there to spoon feed homemade chicken soup and fluff the pillows. The only answer is to trudge over to the infirmary and take "pot luck." Two aspirin and "call me in the morning" just isn't mom's tender loving care, and seeing a different doctor every visit can't compare with the family doctor who supplied sympathy as well as prescriptions.
Emotional Intercourse Unifies Student Life at Georgia Tech
The many aspects of student life at Tech interact with one another to create a balance of experiences and memories. Each part of how a student spends his time helps to explain what makes him tick. Every student has his own desires, needs and goals and his own reasons for choosing Tech to educate him. Even though everyone's reasons are personal and individual, they with the feelings and experiences of his fellow students, are all part of the development of life in college.

Life at Tech is a pleasant combination of work and play. An institute like Tech, in order to survive must have built in releases for the students. The traditions that have developed here have survived because they supply those releases. Entertainment, like traditions also relieves the tense academic environment. But entertainment allows a little more personal expression. One can choose how to spend his free time, and opt for whatever form of fun he likes. If he can’t find it at the many campus activities, he still has the entire city of Atlanta at his disposal. Campus life is a conglomeration of activities, classes, studying and living space, each allowing individual expression and necessitating a lot of hard work. Unfortunately the last group of experiences that make up campus life is the headaches all students face. The pains and hassles are an everyday part of life, but somehow through the balance achieved by the good times, most surmount the obstacles and leave Georgia Tech with memories to build and last a lifetime.