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When a farsighted group of Georgia legislators created the first technical university in the Southeast, they established a trend of innovation for the school that has lasted almost a century. Georgia Tech has produced some major innovations both in education and research. The school received more research grants from non-government sources in 1982 than any other public college in the United States, and was also one of the first universities to establish a co-op program that allowed students to alternate school and work quarters.

An innovative spirit permeates everything related to the school, from the neon-lit tower to the new Advanced Technology Development Center. As Ma Tech teaches her young the latest advances in technology, the students adopt the spirit of the school in their study habits and even in the way they spend their free time.

*TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT:* Students at Tech have always benefited from experience in lab. The Tower, completed in 1888, was the first building on campus. *BOTTOM:* Georgia Tech has a beautiful campus even though it is located in downtown Atlanta.
Some of Georgia Tech's most novel innovations have become school traditions. What other school requires a drownproofing course? Many students dread the infamous PE 1010 for four years before taking the traditional plunge. What other school has a Ramblin' Reck mascot? Tech's entire homecoming is unique, from "rats" racing for a cake to a "mini 500" tricycle race. And if the football team wins the game, the celebration begins not with a ringing bell, but with a blow from the steam Whistle.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: The Reck leads the parade. A welder assembles a wreck. MIDDLE: Freshmen run for the cake. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Rats have been wearing yellow hats since 1915. A fitness course was recently added to the PE requirement.
Novel Ideas Become Tech Traditions
Methods of Study Offers Chance for Innovation

The most innovative aspect of Tech students' study habits was the amount of time put into the effort. No matter where you went on campus, there was probably someone studying there. The library, of course, was the most common place for the pursuit of knowledge. Other buildings, such as the Architecture Building and the computer center, were open twenty-four hours for students who needed to study all night.

More innovative students sometimes found more imaginative places to study. Campus beautification projects produced many small park areas and benches that offered sunshine and relative quiet. Grant Field, often called "Grant Beach," was perhaps the most popular spot in the area to get a tan while concentrating on the books.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Students study wherever they are. The Beach attracts the studious. Library tables are usually crowded. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Cyber vexes a student. Small parks were created around campus. Architects design for long hours.
Students Seek Diversified Ways to Spend Free Time

The best example of the innovative spirit of Georgia Tech was the way students spent their free time. Because of academic demands, spare time was rare and not to be wasted. Some students found new means of entertainment, often raising money for charities and helping the needy. Others tried new approaches to common diversions such as spending time with friends and pets. Almost everyone relaxed by the fountain and watched the crowds go by.

As the technical leader of the Southeast, Tech encouraged its students to always be innovative. From the influx of rats each fall to spring graduation, the Tech population sought the extraordinary.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Betas hold a mud slide in Peter's Park. March winds hold a kite. Theta Xi's sit on a pole to raise money for charity. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: A coed enjoys the sun. A puppy gets a drink after a swim in the fountain.
BLUEPRINT is Dedicated to Horticulturist Sara Groves

It has been many years since the last dedication of the BLUEPRINT. The 1983 staff revives the tradition of the dedication in order to recognize extraordinary service to the student body.

As horticulturist for Georgia Tech, Sara Groves is in charge of all the turf and flowers on campus. Since retiring from the Air Force and running her own business for sixteen years, Mrs. Groves has brightened the grounds of Tech for five years. During her busy life she has worked with such personalities as General George Patton and Paul "Bear" Bryant, and anchored her own T.V. program for the University of Alaska extension service. Her work at Tech has touched almost every student almost every day. They seem to enjoy the color she adds to the campus, as she has never had her work trampled or destroyed. "Tech students are a great bunch of kids," she says.

The staff of the 1983 BLUEPRINT proudly dedicates the book to Sara Groves.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Sara Groves checks the growth of flowers in one of her projects. The greenhouse is where many of Tech's gardens have their beginning. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Mrs. Groves travels around campus by truck or tractor. Students enjoy the scenery Mrs. Groves helped to create.