OUR VIEWS  CONSENSUS OPINION

Playing to Rankings

When U.S. News & World Report posted its rankings of best colleges for 2006, Tech again came up on top as one of the top 10 public schools in the nation, with some of the best academic offerings in the country. Industrial Engineering was again ranked at No. 1, and Biomedical Engineering rose to No. 4.

While we at the ‘Pine are thrilled that Tech continues to be recognized as a top tier school, and we recognize the important role rankings play in shaping the public’s perception of us as an institution, we feel that the administration should focus on making changes for the sake of improving the school, not for the sake of improving ratings. Good ratings should be the result of the positive impact made by well thought-out changes; changes should be not the result of an effort to improve ratings.

On that note, we would like to bring attention to the article in U.S. News & World Report, which called Tech a “Nerd Nirvana,” an accurate description of a place where geeky people find their niche.

U.S. News & World Report also describes Tech as a technical, but balanced place, and compares us as rivals to institutions such as MIT, Emory and Duke.

While flattered by their comparison, we feel that there is still much work to be done at Tech to truly bring balance to the curriculum. We aren’t there yet, but we are heading in the right direction.

Evidenced by our consistently high rankings in engineering, Tech’s academics are solid on the technical side. However, we need to be solid all around. We are in the position to make this leap, thanks to the continued efforts to gradually improve non-technical aspects of the Institute.

Thanks to aggressive recruitment, enrollment in the Ivan Allen College is up 46 percent this year. But bringing more students in is only part of the game.

In order to make the school better rounded as a whole, social science and history classes should be made accessible to all. In the current situation, the liberal arts class offerings are so scant that waiting lists often exist for those who want to get in.

To alleviate this issue, more sections of existing classes need to be offered, and a greater variety of classes need to be offered to interest a greater portion of the student population. This means hiring more professors, especially for the hard-to-get-into foreign language classes, and offering a greater breadth of classes.

Tech should offer courses that take advantage of the its location in a large cosmopolitan city with rich diversity. Atlanta is a world-class city that provides great opportunity in its location in a large cosmopolitan city with rich diversity.

The pulled quote style can also be used to the curriculum. We aren’t there yet, but we are heading in the right direction.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

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Entertainment options dwindle

“The entertainment industry, both local and global, should look for inventive ways to appeal to our need—cheap, quality entertainment.”

Amanda Dugan
News Editor

[Editor’s Note: This article is reprinted, with modifications. From the July 1 issues of the Technique.]

I have a lot more free time on my hands duting summer and less cheap ways to have fun.

With student organizations hibernating and most people learning how to cohabitate with their parents again, the campus seems dead. So, turning outward for entertainment, I have realized that it’s gotten expensive to have fun.

Last summer a friend and I bought decent tickets to three great concerts for less than a hundred dollars, total. Even if there were great concerts in town, the prices have increased out of my budget.

The price of Music Midtown tickets jumping up thirty dollars this year had to take even before all of the rain.

I can only hope that 99%’s Downtown Rocks series at Underground makes up for my current shortage of live music.

Entertainment and eating options close to campus are often out of a student’s budget.

I recently went to Tech Square to check out the newest restaurant. However, one glance at the menu left me eating elsewhere.

Thanks for posting the menu and saving me the embarrassment of coming inside, but I can’t help but see a miseducated student desperate for good food close to campus but with a limited budget.

Rib and Blues finally reopening gives students another option for food nearby, and it also is quite convenient.

It is one of the only affordable, quality restaurants on campus that accepts the BuzzCard. So many students have money on their card, but there are only limited avenues to use it. If more places followed their lead, everyone would benefit.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel—or at least alternative routes nearby. Technology Square’s free outdoor summer film series, Films on Fifth, offers a nice opportunity to use the newer part of campus.

Free admission to popular movies starting at dark helps bridge the community across the interstate and make Tech students feel that they are not really in a bubble, but a part of the Atlanta community.

A few places off campus are responding to the needs of students, also.

I spent Tuesday night watching Whole World Theatre’s live improv show. Thanks to a ladies night and student pricing on Tuesdays, ten dollars bought my four best friends and me two hours of laugh-out-loud comedy only two minutes from campus.

Businesses gain an audience and students gain more relaxation outlets from discounts like this. It is a win-win situation more places close to campus should try.

Sadly, the cost of entertainment itself just keeps increasing. The Supreme Court ruled Monday in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios v. Grokster that internet file-sharing services will be held responsible if they intend for people to use their software illegally.

Whether or not you feel that downloading is illegal, this decision will have an impact on the cost of music.

I am sure that the industry hopes this will increase the use of legal file-sharing services that sell songs, but since foreign programs won’t fall under the new ruling the traffic will most likely only move.

Still, this new ruling may save students from being prosecuted as it gives the entertainment industry a legal alternative to individually going after illegal file-sharers.

The ruling, whether or not it deters illegal downloading, does not solve the industry’s problem of figuring how to effectively reach consumers who rely on digital music.

My friend just bought the new Acceptance C.D. not realizing it came complete with copyright protection. Unfortunately for him, this means he can’t put the songs he paid for on his i-Pod. And really, how many people have you seen carrying around portable C.D. players, lately?

Record companies moving in this direction are only alienating their legal customers.

Adding copyright protection to more CDs will only push people into downloading, such as my friend who had to illegally download the songs he owned.

As students we are always needing opportunities to relax and having to search for inexpensive options often ends in frustration.

Whether it is the newest obnoxious Gwen Stefani single you are trying to download or just a place to have lunch, more often than not college students as a consumer audi-
Find place to truly belong in college

As the sun rises on another semester, it sets on the first half of my college career. As the editor of the school’s newspaper, I am supposed to give an elephantine quantity of advice in this piece to help freshmen combat the strange new world called college that they are encountering.

Well, if you want a surplus of that advice, you can find it by looking elsewhere in this issue—there happen to be countless helpful morals scattered throughout its pages.

The advice I am giving you though is not just for getting through your first few weeks of school. It may never apply to you, or it may fit your situation perfectly. It probably will not answer any of your questions either, but if you follow it, you will find your time here infinitely more enjoyable.

You absolutely must want to be here at Tech. This may sound silly, but if you do not have any desire to be a student here, then your life is going to range from being unpleasant to dreadful. It is always easy to find a reason to complain your classes are too hard, the social life is just not of an acceptable level; you are not allowed to have your car here your first semester; and when you actually get a parking permit it costs way more than here it does for your friends at other schools.

It is absolutely fine to take a minute to reflect on the fact that college is rough. You are not going to get an ‘A’ here just for showing up in class and being smarter than everyone. But remember, if you were not capable of doing the work, you would have not been accepted to this school in the first place.

Every year, statistics are released exalting the new freshman class for its ridiculously impressive high school record and splendidly high average GPA. Well, guess what? The average GPA of Tech students is nowhere near that range. Everybody is not going to have as high grades as they did in high school. It is just not possible.

With all of those things said, it is pretty easy to go through the motions in an attempt to make it to the end of another semester, constantly wishing you were somewhere else. In this case, you have two options—you can either find something that makes you want to be here or you can leave and save yourself the misery.

I was at this crossroads before I even arrived. I never really thought I would be going to college here until the day I showed up to move in. I just did not really sink in with it.

During my freshman year, my grades were fine, my roommate and I got along terrifiedly and I was even lucky enough to get a parking permit midway through the first semester. However, I still simply did not want to be there.

I spent the first entire semester and the beginning of the spring semester in some sort of pretend world. I imagined that Tech was a camp that I would be at for a few weeks, and then I would go home and get to pick somewhere else.

The thought of transferring was not an uncommon one for me.

But thankfully, that changed. One day, when I saw an advertisement for the volunteer tutoring programs in local schools led by Tech students, I decided to go to a meeting and give it a try.

A week later, I was headed to Benjamin S. Carson Middle School and Grady High School. I finally started to feel like I had joined a community and that I was at my college and that I was not going anywhere before I had a degree.

About a month later, a friend pulled me into a Technique meeting, I had no idea how to write for a publication before, but I figured it would be a good resume booster, and the first meeting was undeniably appealing. I gave it a try and could not get away from it all.

My liberal arts side that had been pulling me away toward another school had found a home. It led me to do writing for a publication before, but I was at my college and that I was not going anywhere before I had a degree.

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On behalf of the strongest and most diverse student body in the history of Tech, welcome to the 2005-2006 academic year.

My name is David Andersen, and I am honored to have been elected to serve as your Undergraduate Student Body President.

In this role, it is my responsibility to represent you—the students—in all institute and administrative affairs.

In the class of 2009, I am very excited to welcome you into the Tech community.

I had the pleasure of meeting many of you during FASET Orientation and Freshman Convocation, and I am convinced that you are one of the smartest and most dynamic classes ever to enter this fine institution.

While you are ethnically diverse, you should also be proud to know that you are a class which is very diverse in thought, and this is critical to Tech’s continued growth as we position ourselves to become the leading research institution of the 21st century.

Today is truly a great day to be a student at Tech. For the seventh year in a row, and the eighth time in the past decade, U.S. News and World Report has ranked us as one of the top ten public universities in the nation.

While this is something to be proud of, I feel confident that you—as incoming freshmen—will bolster Tech’s academic prowess to even higher levels in the coming years.

While the institute prides itself on its academic excellence, it also offers its students many great opportunities outside of the classroom.

We have a nationally renowned athletics program, and we saw great success from Men’s Golf and Women’s Volleyball—among other sports—last year.

In addition, Georgia Tech prides itself for having one of the strongest Greek communities in the nation.

But even if you’re not a sports fan, and even if you chose not to go there, there is a place for each and every one of you on this campus.

Whether you have a desire to march in the band, write for the Technique, perform in Drama Tech, participate in intramurals, or join Student Government, there are over 300 student organizations and clubs at this great institution.

Many of us don’t realize how lucky we are to be at a school that cares about—or empowers—students as much as that of Georgia Tech.

David Andersen
SGA President

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Guest Editorial: Student Government

Take advantage of this year’s opportunities

Music

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ence are overlooked.

The entertainment industry, both local and global, should look for inventive ways to appeal to our need—cheap, quality entertainment. The demand for this kind of recreation will certainly make up for the potential losses from lowering prices.