



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 *Nique* 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 be 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 have 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 for the long-term development of the school.

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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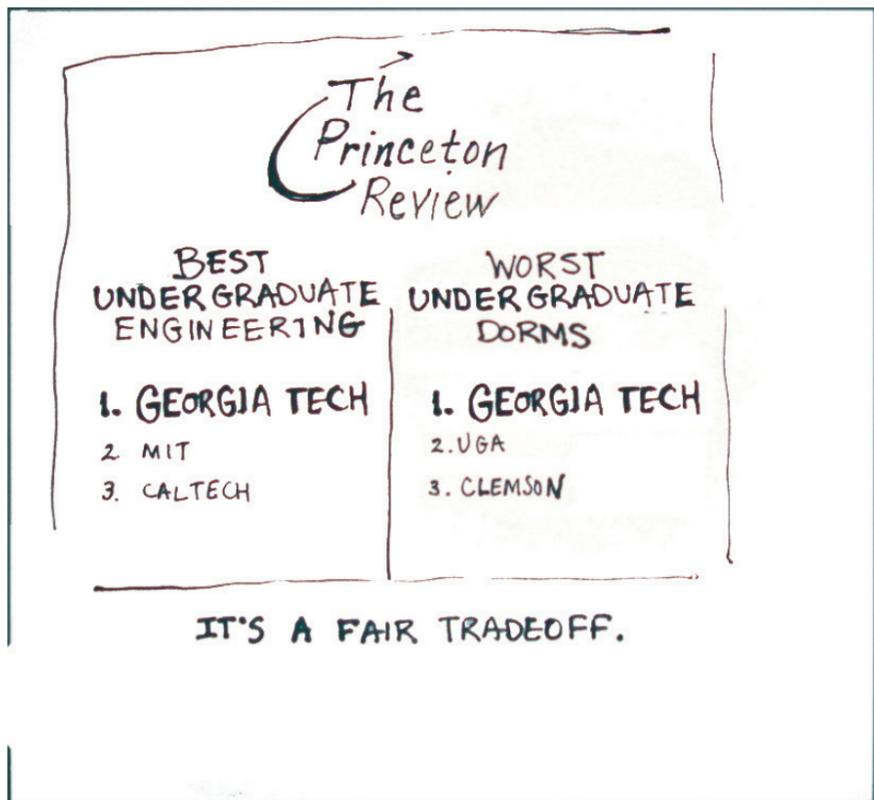
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By Ting Cheng / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Entertainment options dwindle

[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 during 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 was hard to take even before all of the rain.

I can only hope that 99X'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 misled audience of students desperate for good food close to campus but with a limited budget.

Ribs 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



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

Amanda Dugan
News Editor

tunnel—or at least alternative routes nearby. Technology Square's free outdoor summer film series, Flicks 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 CD, not realizing it came complete with copyright protection. Unfortunately for him, this means he can't put the songs he paid for on his iPod. And really, how many people have you seen carrying around portable CD 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-

See Music, page 19

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.



"You can either find something that makes you want to be here or you can leave and save yourself the misery."

Kyle Thomason
Editor-in-Chief

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 morsels 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 first semester; and when you actually get a parking permit it costs way more here than it does for your friends at other schools.

It is absolutely fine to take a minute to reflect on the fact that college is tough. 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 not have 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. It just did not really sink in with me.

During my freshman year, my grades were fine, my roommate and I got along terrifically 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 here. I spent the whole first 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.

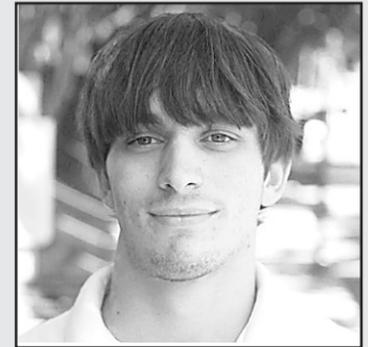
A week later, I was headed to Benjamin S. Carson Middle School and Grady High School. I finally started to feel like I had joined a community and that I was at my college and that I was not going anywhere before I had a degree.

About a month later, a friend pulled me into a Technique meeting; I had never written for a publication before, but I figured it would be a good resume booster, and the free pizza was undeniably appealing. I gave it a try and could not get away from its allure.

My liberal arts side that had been pulling me away toward another school had found a home. It led me to where I am today—happy to be here and the Editor-in-Chief of the *Technique*. Of course, it would make me quite happy if a few members of the new class were also led in this direction.

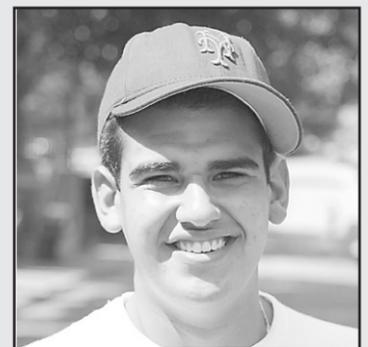
But more than that, do not let the day-to-day inconveniences get to you and make you want to leave; involve yourself in the community and find some reason that will truly make you want to stay here.

BUZZ Around the Campus What do you most look forward to this year?



Matt Frichtl
Second-year ME

"Tailgating for football games."



Mitchell Alvarado
Second-year MGT

"Going back on academic probation."



June Puthaprasert
First-year BME

"Meeting new people!"



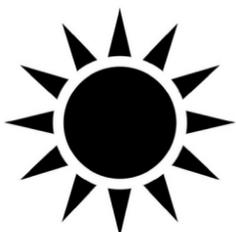
Natalya Dahmen
First-year MGT

"Pass all my exams and have enough time"

Photos by Jon Drews

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



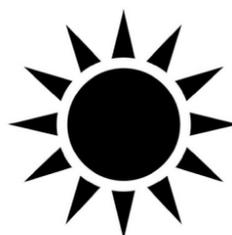
A Safer World

Thanks to the constant vigilance and hard work of our police officers, campus crime decreased by 22 percent over the summer, as compared to last summer. The police are often criticized when crime goes up, but never commended when crime goes down. We'd like to take this opportunity to extend a thanks to our police officers for their contributions to the campus.



Bad Reviews

Since the inception of the Princeton Review rankings, Tech has consistently scored highly on its negative rankings. True to form, we ranked on six lists this year, from least happy students to class discussions rare. To add icing to this bitter cake, we did not score on any of the positive rankings. At least we've improved from No. 2 for least happy students in 2003 to No. 17.



Onwards to Mars

Congratulations to Jarret Lafleur and Isaac Penny for being named Astronaut Scholars for the 2005-2006 school year. Tech has the special distinction of having both of its nominees named as scholars. These scholars are excellent examples of combining engineering know-how with visionary applications.



Show Me the Money

Busy students rely on the student center ATMs to be there when they need cash fast. But with the ongoing student center renovations running into fall semester, our dependable ATMs are no longer there when we need them. What's a poor student to do when the BuzzCard balance reaches zero?

Where is the real news?

Michael Huston
Iowa State Daily

(U-WIRE) Iowa State U.— Ever heard of Natalee Holloway? Of course you have. Greta Van Susteren from Fox News' and Nancy Grace from CNN News have made it their apparent personal missions to find Natalee Holloway and to use their broadcasting abilities to bring her killers or abductors to justice. We haven't seen this kind of a dogged chase after the perpetrators of a crime since 9/11. Oh, wait.

Why does the Natalee Holloway case get so much attention while other, more important stories drift away? Well, there are two groups to blame.

The first group is the journalists who will cover whatever story will get them the most ratings and the second group is all of us. We need to do our part to turn away from the car crash and try to ignore it.

This kind of sensational news reporting leads to a collective

tunnel vision in our society where the story that has the best ratings gets the best coverage, regardless of the importance or validity of the story.

When was the last time you read or saw a great piece on anything going on that wasn't in America or Iraq? There is plenty of world news out there to cover that never reaches American homes because it simply isn't "sexy" enough for us, no matter how pressing the news might be. If it lacks the kind of human drama that Americans crave in their news, the cable news shows won't air it.

Now, African debt relief may not be as compelling television as a drama like the Holloway case, but we feel we can do better. If the advertising executives at companies like Coca-Cola can make a sugar based beverage "sexy" or desirable, then CNN should be able to do more to make the world news more compelling and relevant to American

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Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Kyle Thomason, Editor-in-Chief.

All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserves the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at www.nique.net. The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is noon on Friday, one week prior to publication. For rate information, call our offices at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved over the phone. The *Technique* office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 353 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Corey Jones at (404) 894-9187, or Rose Mary Wellsat (404) 894-2830.

Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the Editor-in-Chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email editor@technique.gatech.edu.

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audiences.

Bob Costas has recently entered our good graces because, unlike Van Susteren and other cable news hosts, he refused to host a show for CNN in place of Larry King that would have primarily covered the Natalee Holloway case. Costas missed out on a show that included 10 guests—seven of them talked about the missing girl and the other three talked about the BTK killer. Costas said in a statement about the decision not to host, “I didn’t think the subject matter of Thursday’s show was the kind of broadcast I should be doing.”

If by “kind of broadcast,” he means the kind of broadcast that offers us punishingly redundant speculation on the Holloway case by overpaid “experts,” then we couldn’t agree more with him.

Costas may not have explicitly stated why he was uncomfortable with the show’s subject matter, but we are all grateful that at least one broadcaster has the sense to know which news stories really matter to the nation.

Music from page 16

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.

GUEST EDITORIAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Take advantage of this year’s opportunities

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

To 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



“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

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 Greek, 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 DramaTech, 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 Tech.

Our Student Government Association is a prime example of the value and trust that the administration places in its students.

I am proud to say that we have one of the most influential SGAs in the nation, as Tech entrusts its Student Government Association to oversee a Student Activity Fee budget of more than \$3.5 million, annually.

In addition, SGA is given a seat at the table anytime an institute-wide decision is made that will impact students.

From the Tech Executive Board to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, your SGA has a spot on those committees whose decisions will impact your everyday experience at Tech.

In the past year, SGA’s accomplishments have included the prevention of a mid-year tuition increase, moving drop date back

to the eighth week, and bringing about a grade substitution policy for incoming freshmen.

This serves as an example of SGA’s continued commitment to improving student life and student services on campus.

There are many other pro-student initiatives that we are working on for the coming year, including an effort to establish an online ticketing system for varsity basketball.

SGA is a great way for students to have a large impact on campus, and I would encourage anyone interested in joining to visit our website at sga.gatech.edu.

If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns, please don’t hesitate to send me an email, give me a call, or drop by my office, as I am here to serve each and every one of you.

We have a great year ahead of us, and I am looking forward to working with all of you to make this an even better Tech.

David Andersen is a fifth year Management major and the 2005-2006 Undergraduate Student Body President.

Last year Andersen served as Joint Finance Committee Chair, dealing with budget constraints.

He can be contacted by email at president@sga.gatech.edu or phone at 404-894-9114.

You can find David in the SGA office located in the Student Center Commons across from Einstein’s Bagels.