The Best of Tech

(and worst)

A Special Edition of

TECHNIQUE

“The South’s Liveliest College Newspaper”
The Best of Tech will become a tradition that involves the entire campus, where members of the community will submit their picks for various categories, and the Technique staff will offer theirs as well. For this inaugural installment of “The Best and Worst of Tech,” however, the staff presents its selections. We would love to hear your feedback on our choices, so email us at editor@technique.gatech.edu.

**Best Changes**

1. Renewed student life emphasis
The most tangible consequence of the administration’s renewed emphasis on student creation of a Student Life Fund—$250,000 to improve the student life of a campus that was ranked the second unhappiest student body in the nation. Increasing and improving events, such as Ramblin’ Nights and Student Appreciation Day, with bigger events and bigger name bands gives students something fun to do on campus. Vice Provost Robert McMath’s “Speak Up” campaign is another example of good administrative response to student needs.

2. Collaboration in CS
It was the change that rocked the Tech academic world in 2002. The CoC announced that it would allow collaboration among students when completing homework in introductory CS classes. Although some that took CS this year complain of much harder tests than ever before, in the end we applaud the CS department for actually making changes; another example of response to student demands.

3. Library West Commons
Since August, this has been one of the premiere spots on campus. Oh, ok, so maybe it is not something that strikes excitement into most students, but you have to admit the changes to the Library West Commons area are among the best renovations in recent memory. Gone are the individual cubicles where students slaved away for hours without getting to see another living soul. These cubicles have been replaced with what is now known as “Tech’s best computer lab.” On many college campuses, the library is the center of academic life. With these changes, and those planned for the future, perhaps Tech’s library will soon be that type of place.

**Worst Changes**

1. Alcohol-free sports bar
First of all, having a place for students to watch sporting events along with the introduction of cheap food is a good idea (especially for freshmen who can’t drive to an actual sports bar). However, calling this new establishment a sports “bar” or “pub” was just downright stupid. The idea is decent, but it represents a public relations blunder on the part of the bookstore planning team. But hey, it was good for a laugh!

2. Increasing campus crime
Although sometimes crime is to be expected since we are located in the center of a major metropolitan area, this year has seen an increase in crime that has some students worried. In the month of March alone, over 30 cars were either broken into or stolen on campus. Numerous assaults have been reported near the center of campus, and students have been kidnapped and shot right across the street at the GSU Village. Although Tech administrators never meant for this change to occur, it’s still a problem they have to address. Thankfully, they have taken steps to do so, including Clough’s safety walk around campus last week.

3. Daily change of class routes
Granted, construction is for the advancement of the Institute and is largely working out for the better. Nonetheless, the resulting almost daily change of routes to find classes, especially at the beginning of each semester, could have been announced and dealt with better.

**Best Looking Majors**

There is no doubt about it, when one asks this question to most Tech students, the reply is usually the same: Management. Let’s face it—any time you see an attractive person of the male or female gender on a Stinger, you know the IC Building is their final destination. Hats off also to...
go to architecture students. Their creativity in their work carries over to their appearance. No wonder George on Seinfeld always wanted to be an architect.

The Best Sorority House
The nicest looking sorority house belongs to Alpha Gamma Delta. What is great about this house is, despite its small size, it almost sparks a warm and fuzzy feeling when looking at it. The yellow house, with its white shutters and porch and petite stature, reminds one of a dollhouse. This sorority house stands out because of its downright cuteness.

Fraternity House
Sigma Chi has the most attractive fraternity house. The regal columns and wide front porch lend a stately atmosphere to the building; the balcony on the side of the house is a great touch, too. Just walking by makes most of the Technique staff want to rush there.

Best Construction Project
Best construction project goes to the Hightower demolition. We could have picked the Stadium, Technology Square, or SACII, but they’re not done yet, and we like to judge finished products. The Hightower demolition has accomplished its objectives, removing an unsightly, decaying building from the heart of campus. Yes, a squalid mud pit remains, but only temporarily, and even that is an improvement. And heck, it was a lot of fun to watch.

Worst Construction Project
What is going on with the walkway near Junior’s? Anyone who has been at Tech longer than three years realizes that the walkway in front of Junior’s has got to be one of the most reconstructed areas on campus. It seems that no matter how complete it looks at the end of spring, the next fall will bring yet another detour around Tech Tower. We feel really sorry for the class of 1976, which sponsored the walkway; it must be costing them a fortune by now.

Best Megamod Email
This prize goes to President Clough for his holiday greeting. How often is a megamod email accompanied by a soft jazz interlude? This classy holiday message from the bosun himself gave us all a warm, fuzzy feeling inside. If you’re reading, Mr. President, this is definitely something that beats repeating next year.

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Best elected official
Although most of the work has been behind the scenes, Tiffany Massey has worked to accomplish many of the goals she set out to obtain in her election. Massey helped in the establishment of the spring break referendum and the brick project that led to the Student Life Fund. She managed to do it and maintain humility; indeed, it is her down-to-earth style that makes Massey such a great student leader.

Best place to park without a pass
The student center visitor lot has a gate that goes up at 10:30 p.m., when you can retrieve your car without paying the fees. This lot is in the heart of campus, making cars parked here easily accessible from anywhere. It is also safe, since there is a guard on the lot during the daytime hours, and at night, the lot is well lit. Just make sure to get your car out of the lot before 2 a.m., when Parking enforcers have free reign over the area to issue tickets.

Worst place to park without a pass
Anywhere! But especially reserved spaces and the meters along McMillan Street. Metered spots are almost ticketing machines for parking enforcers, because people forget to feed the meters often enough, or figure that if they’re only away from their car for a few minutes there’s no use in putting money into the meter; but, it’s in the exact five minutes you leave your car that a meter maid will find your miscreant car.

Best Campus Life Event
String Break, an annual event that brings music, food and free stuff to students during the day. This year’s event, themed “Buzz, Beads and Beignets,” featured a free evening campus concert by The Mighty Mighty Bosstompers. Of course, only the weather had better cooperated with the event’s planners.

Worst FASET lie
That the “ratio” is not really that bad (as evidenced by the numerous number of women FASET leaders), and that there are plenty of cute girls at Tech. Once freshmen walk around campus their first couple of days of fall semester, they quickly realize that this FASET lie stinks. Every spring a few lookers seem to pop up with the flowers, but where do they go for the rest of the year?

Easiest major
The obvious choice here is to proclaim management the easiest major, but when you take the M-train off the track, the next-easiest major that is a relaxing ride to a degree from Tech must be international affairs. Both MGIT and INTA degrees mean graduating without experiencing the psychologically demeaning intro to physics classes here, and more recently, without being able to commiserate about the true evil inherent in Scheme.

Best Class for an Easy ‘A’
Any class taken as part of the Oxford program (or any study abroad program). What could be hard when you’re surrounded by some of the most historic and beautiful sights in the world? Although the classes might be easy, who wouldn’t want to learn about European composers (one course that will be offered this summer) and be able to visit those composers’ birthplaces? So while the classes may be easy, that doesn’t mean they aren’t valuable.

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Best Beard
We created this category just so we could praise President Wayne Clough once again on his handsomely groomed facial hair; his beard is well-manicured, stately and fitting of the true leader. Wayne Clough once again on his handsomely groomed facial hair; his beard is well-manicured, stately and fitting of the true leader.
tal blue eyes. No wonder the capital campaign was so successful—who could refuse a man with a face like Clough’s?

**Best Bathroom**
The bathrooms in the Student Success Center are worth the trek across campus. They combine a great view of the stadium (on the walk into the bathroom area, not from the stalls) with plush carpeting lining the walk to the restrooms and supreme cleanliness in the facilities.

**Worst Bathroom**
One would think that in a building like the library, which is open 24 hours to students, there would be decent facilities but sadly it’s not true. The library’s bathrooms are in appalling conditions for both men and women. Students are more likely to break into the sub-par Skiles bathrooms than risk using the cramped and grimy library bathrooms.

**Best Makeout Spot**
College students frequently have to get away from the pesky roommate and find other places for private one-on-one time with their significant other. By far the best place for that on campus is the Skiles garden. Not only is it secreted away from the inquisitive eye of the general public but it has a gorgeous landscape and design. There are plenty of park benches to cozy up onto as well.

**Worst Makeout Spot**
Though we’ve never actually seen people makeout anywhere on campus, theoretically the worst place would have to be the College of Computing commons. Nothing gets you out of the mood like seeing a bunch of CS dorks that bath in Red Bull Energy Drinks.

**Best on-campus dining**
Ferst Place is the closest thing to a four star restaurant on Tech’s campus. A bit pricey for most students ($7.95 for the buffet or $6.95 for students) compared to the low-end fast food at the food court, it’s generally only frequented by faculty and staff. But if you get a chance, it’s worth trying especially with its friendly service.

**Worst on-campus dining**
Before this year, Brittain’s redeeming quality was its quality ice cream machine. Now the wise people at dining services have replaced it with one that serves such hideous concoctions as “Peach Passion” and “Alpine Strawberry” that really taste nothing like peach or strawberry, just spoiled milk. Woody’s and Brittain are intended to be the same caliber but there’s no comparison when Woody’s gets two showtimes a day and people who make the pasta for you versus Brittain’s one showtime and a pot of skanky water for pasta. If you must use a meal plan, make the journey over to the West Side.

**Best thing the bookstore sells**
Nothing says school spirit like a navy blue hooded Tech sweatshirt or the booty shorts with Tech along the butt cheeks. Georgia Tech’s bookstore has by far the best collection of
apparel for students in the state because the rest of the state tends to sell merchandise from that school in Athens. Just avoid the “Game Day Gold”—or is it orange or mustard?

Worst thing the bookstore sells
We may be in the South but do we have to sell trailer hitches with Buzz on it? C’mon! the school should resist the temptation to exploit the Buzz logo before we start seeing tractors with a GT logo slapped on their hoods. Really, does anyone care what the hitch attaching your trailer to your car looks like? Save the money and get a Tech license plate cover or bumper sticker instead if you want to show school pride.

Worst Lecture Hall
Whose bright idea was it to have almost every introductory computer science course lecture in the Old Architecture Building’s lecture hall? With dark lighting, cramped seating and uncomfortable chairs, all it does is induce students to go to sleep and leave them with a massive crick in their neck afterwards. The few times you can stay awake, it’s impossible to take notes on a desk smaller than your actual notebook. At least provide a masseuse or something to victims of the Old Arch building if you’re going to keep subjecting students to unnecessary pain and suffering.

Best Lecture Hall
Honorable mention goes to the big lecture hall in DM Smith, because of the numerous left-handed desks available in prime locations around the room. The MRDC and MARC, however, both offer students the chance to learn while being cozily seated in modern desk-chair configurations; both buildings also let natural sunlight brighten their rooms with ample glass paneling installed.

Best Places to Study
1. Student Services, aka “the flag building.” A favorite spot. It has comfortable couches—but not comfortable enough to induce sleep right away (as is the case with the leather couches in the Student Center). The building’s convenient location in between East and West campus makes it an easy spot to meet friends for group projects. And if you get to the part where you can’t study anymore and need someone to talk to, the counseling center is right upstairs.

2. The Love Building has got to be one of the coolest buildings on our campus. It’s got “Tech” written all over it, but in a cool way—unlike dorky periodic-table shaped Boggs. The building has by far the most amount of natural light to help you study on campus. Not to mention the comfortable new furniture inside it. Plus it’s the closest wireless network location to West Campus.

Worst Place to Study
The Student Center may seem like the ideal place to study due to its comfortable furniture and central location on campus, but it’s not. For one reason, it’s impossible to study with all the frequent noises and talking from people around you. If you do manage to find a quiet couch away from the crowd, you end up waking up two hours later realizing that you accidentally fell asleep when you were supposed to be studying. Even groups have trouble meeting and concentrating on the tasks at hand with the frequent distractions.

Best Grass
The grass in the quad surrounded by the Tech Tower, Savant Building and Student Success Center. Lush and green, it’s great for playing barefoot frisbee, or sitting on and studying, whichever you prefer. In addition, it’s located in a less-frequented area of campus, so you can play in the grass more or less unbothered by passersby.

Worst grass
Yellow Jacket Park. (Where is it!?)

Best Computer Lab
Though the French Building computer lab is the best in terms of not having to wait in lines, the LWC’s new computers more than compensate for the long lines. The screens every flat monitors, the mini lamps by station, and the big glass window overlooking Fowler Street make the LWC both technologically and aesthetically beautiful. And who wouldn’t want to switch after using the iMacs? This computer lab is really more than a computer lab.

Worst Computer Lab
With old computers and keyboards that desperately need cleaning, OIT’s formerly busy lab has lost most of its patrons to the LWC. However, during prime time there’s always still a line—perhaps because the printers are always either on PowerSave mode, spitting out one page every ten seconds, or just not working altogether.

Best Dining Hall Meal
Though nothing special, breakfast at Brittain, our overall loser for on-campus dining, wins by virtue of consistency. You can always count on there being pancakes/french toast, eggs, grits, bagels and cereal. And for those who have time to wait in line, there are Diane’s omelettes... Mmm. And since most people don’t get up early enough for breakfast, the dining hall is quiet. You don’t have to make conversation in your half-asleep morning state, and you can read the paper or study for that morning quiz in relative silence.

Worst Dining Meal
Note to chefs: just because something has soy or sweet and sour sauce does not mean it is Asian. The fried rice is soggy, the sticky rice is too sticky, the noodles are flavorless, everything is drenched in entirely too much sauce, and the stir-fry vegetables have all the life cooked out of them. It’s all the calories of takeout Chinese food without the good taste of MSG.

Best Campus Walking Route
It is great to walk from the edge of East Campus (near North Avenue) to Skiles Walkway. For a block or two, you have to
walk along North Avenue with the cars whizzing by, but as soon as you head up the steps to the area by Tech Tower, you’re walking through one of the nicest and most well-groomed parts of campus. Though you do run into Coon building construction up by Cherry Street, it’s a true pedestrian route. Best of all, you get to bypass the Hill.

Worst Pedestrian Area

The intersection of Bobby Dodd and Techwood Drive on east campus is a death trap. There are just too many people occupying the intersection all the time: people trying to get into the cars that are parked along both sides of the road; students on the way to class, crossing the road at anywhere but the crosswalk; and of course, clusters of students waiting for the Stinger, students running to catch the stinger, and cars trying to get past the Stinger.

Worst Smelling Area

The steps outside Harrison dorm, East Campus, where there is always a big vent spewing steam, mixing with the food odors from nearby Brittain Dining Hall. Running a close second is the Athletic Association ticket office, where steam also comes out near the sidewalk and mixes with the smell of mud and construction.

Best Movie Theater

When you first drive up to the Regal Hollywood 24 at night, you may laugh at its initial gaudiness. Decorated with neon lights, the massive theater stands out along Interstate 85. The theater also stands out as one of the best in Atlanta. With 24 screens, it is sure to be playing the movie you want to see, and you’re almost sure to get in. The theaters are the main asset at Regal Hollywood – all have stadium-seating and are extremely spacious. But beware Coke fiends – this theater serves Pepsi products.

Best Concert Venue

While a converted Baptist church may seem an odd place to go for something like a rock concert, the Tabernacle is a venue that simply cannot be missed. While other locations in Atlanta also have a lot to offer, such as Earthlink Live, nothing can quite beat the atmosphere you’ll encounter in this setting.

Best Neighborhood Restaurant

Like the signs at Wingnuts say, it’s easy to be nuts for Garlic Palm Ranch and Buffalo Insane. The heavily sauced chunks of chicken are easily the best thing anyone can get on Eastside. They have the best values as well; 10 dollars for a pound of chicken, fries and drinks split between two people is one of the best deals around. To top it all off, they are open until 2 a.m. and give a student discount. Make the trek across North Avenue.

Worst Neighborhood Restaurant

At The Varsity, there exists a hot dog called the “Naked Dog,” which is just the plain hot dog on a bun. I wonder if people eat that to avoid eating the ‘fresh, made-from-scratch’ chili. This place may be a landmark for people looking for the Tech campus, that’s about all it should be. Go once for the novelty—or a Varsity Orange.

Best Cheap Food

Whether you’re in the mood for jerk chicken or an Italian dish, Eats has it. Although the two cuisines Eats offers may seem unrelated, they are both cheap and quick dishes to prepare, which makes for Eats’ appeal. You order at the counter, and your meal is placed in front of you within five minutes. Eats also serves several varieties of beer, and last year added a soda machine, which was a much-needed accessory. Just remember to bring cash—no cards accepted.

Best Mexican Restaurant

If you are looking for a restaurant with authentic south-of-the-border cuisine, it is hard to find a better place than Nuevo Laredo Cantina. With a menu that features numerous Mexican specialties not found at other establishments, charming decor, fresh margaritas and a great selection of Mexican beers, Nuevo Laredo is definitely worth the confusing drive up Chattahoochee Avenue to find it. Go when you have time to wait, however, as the small dining area is often crowded.

Best Asian Restaurant

Located just a short drive from Tech on Highland Avenue in Morningside, Doc Chey’s offers up large portions of noodle dishes that are also reasonably priced. The dishes consist of...
very basic Americanized Asian cuisine, but they are filling and delicious. The atmosphere is friendly and laid-back—perfect for a college student. The seating inside is set up similarly to a cafeteria with long tables, but outside there is a quaint patio perfect for dining when the weather is nice.

**Best Bar**

It’s like a bar that should be across from campus got picked up and moved to Buckhead, Moondogs is the bar where everybody knows your name. Thursday is the night when you’ll see the most college students, but Moondogs is packed with Tech students even on the weekend. If you don’t visit Moondogs at least once in your Tech career (if not every week) you’re definitely missing out.

**Best Ice Cream**

In one of the easiest decisions made by the Technique staff, it chose Jake’s Ice Cream as the best. No where else can match the combination of unique flavors, excellent service and intimate atmosphere found at Jake’s. Though many Tech students still frequent “the original” on Highland Avenue, a second location, near the intersection of Tenth Street and Piedmont, and a third one nearly completed on Howell Mill Road, make these frozen treats even more accessible to Tech students.

**Best Coffeeshop**

Despite its “chain” status, Starbucks takes the award for best coffee—based purely on the delicious hot beverages served up at its nearby locations. Caribou Coffee, however, may rival Starbucks in terms of atmosphere, especially for Tech students who seek a sanctuary for studying. Both of the nearby Starbucks’ locales are comparably noisy.

**Best Day Trip**

A mere two-hour drive from Atlanta will take you to the wilderness and the Ocoee River, which was the site of the 1996 Olympic whitewater events. Rafting is rather affordable—you can find a trip for around $35 to $45, and most companies offer group rates also. The river offers various levels of difficulty, so even if you’re inexperienced at rafting you can find a course that suits you. Finish off your day by staying at a nearby campsite or cabin.

**Best Neighborhood Shopping District**

In one of the easiest decisions made by the Technique staff, it chose Little Five Points as the best. This delightfully quirky and eclectic part of town has a lot to offer with it’s bohemian feel and wide variety of stores selling everything from vintage clothing to imported furniture to incense. The atmosphere simply cannot be matched by other shopping districts in metro Atlanta.

**Best Sports Stories**

1. **Chris Bosh**

For the second straight year, Tech has had a player represent the Jackets as the top rookie in the Atlantic Coast Conference with Chris Bosh earning this year’s honors and sophomore Ed Nelson seizing last year’s award. Bosh has greatly impacted his team, turning them into a conference competitor from a mediocre squad by becoming the locker room leader many recruits hoped he would become. Here’s hoping the future lottery pick stays for our sake.

2. **Tony Hollings**

This story is bittersweet; it would have likely climbed to the top spot had the most inopportune injury of the year not struck perhaps the most surprising player of the year: knee ligament tears to junior tailback Tony Hollings. Before the fateful injury, Hollings led the nation in rushing with 633 rushing yards on only 92 carries and also led in scoring with 11 touchdowns in just four games. Considering the fact that Hollings was neither a household name around Tech campus nor within his own football organization before the season started, those four games were truly an amazing journey for the ex-defensive back.

3. **Tech baseball squad**

The Jackets baseball squad started the 2003 campaign higher thanks to the maturation of their best players ace pitcher Kyle Bakker, second baseman Eric Patterson and right fielder Jeremy Slayden, as well as the addition of outstanding freshman catcher Micah Owings.

**Best Place to Watch a Game**

According to rumor, it’s possible to take in a Tech football game from the balcony of the Wardlaw Center, a view that would certainly make Tech’s success look more spectacular. But the Technique appreciates tradition, and it believes the best place to watch a Tech sporting event is sitting along the old brown wall in the outfield of Russ Chandler Stadium while that Jackets swing the bats.

**Best Place to Watch a Game**

The women’s volleyball team puts on a better show than any of the other non-major sports. This year the ladies routinely destroyed the competition in an electric O’Keefe Gymnasium that shouted “point Tech” whenever possible. In taking the ACC title, the women’s volleyball team proved it puts on more than just entertaining games.

**Best Intramural Sport**

This year’s best intramural was definitely the spring basketball leagues, with the soccer league coming in a very close second. The basketball leagues had large crowd support.