The Best and Worst of Tech

This week marks Technique’s last issue of spring semester. It is also a time when the staff takes a moment to look back on the academic year that is coming to a close.

The result is the Best of Tech issue, a continuation of a young tradition that began two years ago. Inside this issue, we hope to highlight the people and events that made the year memorable as well as areas that might call for improvement in the coming year. We also hope to entertain you with our staff’s and our readers’ picks.

Cover photo:
Undergraduate Student Body President Amy Phuong and her counterpart from Georgia State, Corey Thompson, march on the state capitol to fight against a midyear tuition increase in October. Technique is proud to name the student campaign this year’s “Best of Tech.”

Best of Tech: Student battle against a midyear tuition hike
Tech students proved they could make their collective voice heard in the uphill battle against a midyear tuition increase. The Board of Regents suggested it might raise tuition as much as 10 percent this spring in response to Governor Sonny Perdue’s budget cuts. The move prompted a student outcry and an unusual show of cross-campus unity. Thousands of students at Tech and across the state signed a petition decri- ing the proposal. Against the odds, the student movement prevailed. The success will force state policymakers to take future student concerns far more seriously.

Best Lecture Halls: Management Building
Reader Pick: Management Building

Known to most students as the part of Tech that doesn’t look like Tech, the Management building in Technology Square has by far the best lecture halls of any building on campus. Especially when compared to the drab and tiresome architecture which clutters the rest of campus, the Management building and its lecture halls seem godlike. With screens outside each hall that display the name of the lecture taking place inside, good acoustics, and a clean, modern feel, the building makes students feel like they are actually going to a public school that cares about the quality of its facilities.

Worst Lecture Halls: Boggs
Reader Pick: Howey-Physics

After a typical night’s sleep—usually about three to four hours—the least that one can do is have a nice nap in the day’s first class. In Boggs, this is impossible. Thanks to the highly uncomfortable desks, it is easy to get into that rhythm of falling asleep, waking up five minutes later, falling asleep again, and so on. A building like Boggs will leave one tired and grumbling after class, with little motivation to return.

Best New Building: Campus Recreation Center
Worst New Building: Campus Recreation Center

We love the new facility, complete with waterslide, but the building’s operating costs have turned out to be higher than anyone had been led to believe. The costs squeeze student organizations and are ultimately passed on to students in the form of higher activity fees.

Most Overrated Student Effort:

Tech Tsunami Relief

The massive tsunami that resulted in almost 300,000 dead or missing drew a massive outpouring of aid from around the world, and Tech was no exception. However, even after a month of fundraising, Tech fell short of its goal of $60,000, ending with only just over $20,000. While we certainly applaud the effort, the community was left to wonder whether the issue was students lacking the unity of purpose seen in October’s tuition battle, organizers setting an unrealistic high goal.
As liberal arts students, Ivan Allen College majors seem more adept at using their creative right brains, meaning that they dress more nicely and with more attention to style than most harried engineers. And if it’s true that a smile goes a long way toward making a person look good, then Ivan Allen students—who in general actually seem happy with their majors—may have an advantage there as well.

It isn’t hard to find something to turn you off from the Dining Halls. Woodward and Britain both serve barely warm food void of any flavor. Britain’s conversion to Woodward’s cook to order system this Fall only caused student’s to eat the same bland food as before but be stuck in line longer. Whether you’re forced to buy a meal plan or choose to, you always wish you could have had better food when you leave.

We’re not sure if construction workers exposed an ancient sewage passage underground or opened a freshman dormitory, but something in the course of Folk’s renovation has released a stench so horrid that even Tech’s squirrels avoid the general area. At times, anyone walking by must either retreat to the opposite side of the road or wear protective headgear to defend against the odor.

As the population on campus dwindles, it seems that the food quality in the dining hall decreases at an even sharper rate. The remaining campus dwellers are left with a limited selection of leftovers, and the chances of finding fresh, hot, intriguing options are limited at best. A few mushy vegetables or a sandwich are the best options.

As an incoming freshman overwhelmed by calculus homework and chemistry labs, it’s a tremendous relief to walk into a class where you can kick back and read resumes all period. As long as you complete the assignments and show up, it’s pretty hard not to get an A. In what other class are the instructors there to simply help you get through your first semester? The T.L.s are generally laid back as well. Too bad the class only counts for one credit hour.

As the spring semester ends, the combination of warm weather and finals stress (or relief) make the water at the Campanile look very, very tempting. Though the shallowness of the water makes “swimming” somewhat of an inaccurate description, there’s nothing more fun and collegiate than running through the Campanile fountain. Just beware the thick layer of dirt that settles on the bottom, and don’t be fooled into thinking that because the water’s shallow, it’s warm, too. Believe me, we have first-hand experience on that one.

**Worst bet for an easy A:** Physics 2
**Reader Pick:** Physics 2

Physics I was bad enough with its standardized testing system and unrelenting grading scale. Now we’re asked to do it all over again in the sequel, with topics that are even more obscure and seemingly less relevant to our major. How many of us really need to know the subtleties of the magnetic field of a solenoid inductor, anyway?

**Worst on-Campus Dining:** Dining Halls

It isn’t hard to find something to turn you off from the Dining Halls. Woodward and Britain both serve barely warm food void of any flavor. Britain’s conversion to Woodward’s cook to order system this Fall only caused student’s to eat the same bland food as before but be stuck in line longer. Whether you’re forced to buy a meal plan or choose to, you always wish you could have had better food when you leave.

**Best class for an easy A:** GT1000
**Reader Pick:** GT 1000

As an incoming freshman overwhelmed by calculus homework and chemistry labs, it’s a tremendous relief to walk into a class where you can kick back and read resumes all period. As long as you complete the assignments and show up, it’s pretty hard not to get an A. In what other class are the instructors there to simply help you get through your first semester? The T.L.s are generally laid back as well. Too bad the class only counts for one credit hour.

**Worst Smelling Place:** Folk renovation

We’re not sure if construction workers exposed an ancient sewage passage underground or opened a freshman dormitory, but something in the course of Folk’s renovation has released a stench so horrid that even Tech’s squirrels avoid the general area. At times, anyone walking by must either retreat to the opposite side of the road or wear protective headgear to defend against the odor.

**Best looking major:** Any Ivan Allen College major
**Reader Pick:** Management

As liberal arts students, Ivan Allen College majors seem more adept at using their creative right brains, meaning that they dress more nicely and with more attention to style than most harried engineers. And if it’s true that a smile goes a long way toward making a person look good, then Ivan Allen students—who in general actually seem happy with their majors—may have an advantage there as well.

**Best Tech tradition:** Swimming in the fountain
**Reader Pick:** Ramblin Wreck

As the spring semester ends, the combination of warm weather and finals stress (or relief) make the water at the Campanile look very, very tempting. Though the shallowness of the water makes “swimming” somewhat of an inaccurate description, there’s nothing more fun and collegiate than running through the Campanile fountain. Just beware the thick layer of dirt that settles on the bottom, and don’t be fooled into thinking that because the water’s shallow, it’s warm, too. Believe me, we have first-hand experience on that one.
It’s more than just his 12.5 points per game or his 76 percent free-throw shooting. What makes Bynum so special is his heart, something that inspired the team when this 5'11" senior took to the floor. His hard-work and dedication on and off the court helped him school some tough (and tall) competition.

Best Female Athlete: Jessica Sallinger

No other athlete dominates her sport like Jessica Sallinger. This All-American and future pro pitcher has a current record of 22-6 with a 0.93 ERA and has thrown 26 complete games. She’s the school record holder in almost every pitching category and also holds the ACC record for career strikeouts.

Most Underrated Sport: Women’s Softball

We give our salute not only to the women’s softball team, who is ranked No. 18 in the country and who recently beat No. 10 UGA, but we also admire the sport of college softball as a whole for its fast-paced and action-packed style of play.

Worst Student Seating: Men’s Basketball

Tech is one of the few remaining schools that don’t give students the opportunity to sit along the court. Instead Tech students are given the shaft and made to sit behind the baskets. Even more embarrassing are the alum season ticket holders who show up late and leave early.

Worst Sports Team Nickname: “Aqua Jackets”

Even Technique has succumbed to the temptation of calling the swimming and diving teams the Aqua Jackets. This oxymoron of nicknames should rest in peace along with such terms as “Cagers” to refer to a basketball team and “Beesball” to refer the Jacket baseball team. We certainly admire the team itself, but its nickname needs improvement.
Thanks to a constantly packed and always thunderous O’Keefe Gym, the Tech women’s volleyball team finished another amazing season with a 27-7 overall record, going undefeated (16-0) in the ACC, and making a Sweet Sixteen appearance where they lost a thrilling match to the eventual national runners-up.

O’Keefe Gym has become daunting to any team that plays the Jackets at home. The always-present pep band, dedicated fans, and throngs of students have packed O’Keefe to cheer the team. Whether it’s O’Keefe Gym or the fans, the team has spiked, set and dug their way to a 49-2 home record in the past three years.

During the recent renovations to the Student Center, administrators decided to make it more conducive towards students actually using it and gathering. Whether it’s been Cricket or the Final Four, Tech students can be found piled around the various seating areas or watching the games as they pass by the plasma screens. The decision to put TVs in the post office was a strange move, but students seem to have embraced it.

Women’s tennis skyrocketed into the spotlight over the past year, finishing the regular season tied for the ACC Championship. The team’s No. 1 singles player, freshman Kristi Miller, has burst onto the scene, breaking the top-20 in the national rankings. Baylor transfer Dasha Potapova has played well in a leading role for the Jackets, and the team’s depth has been a tremendous asset for the Jackets. Potapova, Miller and Alison Silverio were all named to the All-ACC team, and Coach Bryan Shelton garnered ACC Coach of the Year honors.

Down 17-7 with 5:56 to go in the fourth quarter in Death Valley, Reggie Ball led the Jackets on a quick touchdown drive, but No. 18 Clemson responded with one of their own. Ball threw two touchdown passes to Calvin Johnson in the final three minutes of the game to “snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.”

No it’s not the winning catch against Clemson. The play we deem to be most impressive and most difficult came against N.C. State. On third down and ten to go, quarterback Reggie Ball threw a pass behind Johnson, but Johnson stretched out and reached behind him to make the brilliant one-handed catch to save the drive. Even in slow-motion, the catch seems impossible.

The catch was incredible, but the game-winner was even better. Reggie Ball, who had thrown only one touchdown pass all season, found Calvin Johnson in the end zone to give Tech the 18-17 win.

Best Place to Watch a Game: Student Center/Post office
Reader Pick: A friend’s dorm room

Best Non-Money Sport: Volleyball
Reader Pick: Volleyball

Team That Most Exceeded Expectations: Women’s Tennis

Women’s tennis skyrocketed into the spotlight over the past year, finishing the regular season tied for the ACC Championship. The team’s No. 1 singles player, freshman Kristi Miller, has burst onto the scene, breaking the top-20 in the national rankings. Baylor transfer Dasha Potapova has played well in a leading role for the Jackets, and the team’s depth has been a tremendous asset for the Jackets. Potapova, Miller and Alison Silverio were all named to the All-ACC team, and Coach Bryan Shelton garnered ACC Coach of the Year honors.
**Best transportation: Walking**

Tech isn’t known for its quality on-campus transportation options, and there’s a good reason for it: They all have severe issues. As every student who’s ever been in a hurry to get somewhere on campus knows, the Stingerette buses are always conveniently available exactly when you least need them. Bicycles have limited parking options, carry a risk of theft, and can be dangerous to boot. And the Stingerette... well, let's just say it won a different award. With the lack of any good alternatives, walking being the best option should not be a surprise.

**Worst transportation: Stingerette**

A variety of issues have plagued the Stingerette this year, ranging from a loss of drivers to general irrelevance. Most students don’t bother trying to take advantage of the service; many don’t even know what it can do for them. Regardless of the internal struggles of the Stingerette and the parking department in general, the spotty service over the course of the year is inexcusable. What is the point of calling the Stingerette for a ride when it’ll take half an hour—or longer—just to get around to picking you up? Unless you’re worried about your safety, walking is faster.

**Best Coffee: Caribou**

Reader Pick: Jake’s

After Starbucks became the McDonald’s of the coffee world, Caribou came to save the day with their truly original specialty coffee drinks. On top of that, their classic coffee drinks actually taste good, and aren’t simply full of sugar like at this other place which we will not name. So here’s to coffee that coffee drinkers like.

**Best Theater: Midtown Arts**

Reader Pick: Regal 24

Got a taste for film other than the latest opus from Jerry Bruckheimer, but lack the coffee house street cred to break the scenes of LeFon? Well, have we got a movie theater for you. Midtown Arts near Monroe and 10th, has the finest in non-French art cinema that you’re likely to find in the greater Atlanta area. That is, of course, assuming that you can actually find parking in that God-forsaken lot of theirs.

**Worst pedestrian area: Hemphill and Ferst**

Reader Pick: 6th St. and Ferst

While, to the best of this publication’s knowledge, no one has yet been run over at the intersection of Hemphill Avenue and Ferst Drive, we cannot help but wonder when the first victim will be struck down. The bizarre system of crosswalks is confusing and inefficient. To get from one side of Hemphill to the other a person needs to walk onto Ferst and then cross back. Apparently whoever planned those crosswalks didn’t understand the simple fact that the closest distance between two points is a straight line.

**Best Concert Venue: Variety Playhouse**

Reader Pick: Tabernacle

The Variety is quite simply the very best in cool venues. It’s right smack in the middle of Little Five Points: cool. They get great acts: cool. And best of all, they’ve got that really neat ‘50s-style marquee out front. That thing is cool and a half.

**Best Ice Cream: Getting Ice Cream at Jake’s**

Reader Pick: Jake’s

Getting Ice Cream at Jake’s isn’t like driving over to Baskin Robbins. It’s more like hanging out at your cool older cousin’s house. Now granted, this cousin may or may not be growing weed on his roof, that’s neither here nor there because he makes a damned fine cone of ice cream.

**Worst bathroom: Student Center Commons**

Reader Pick: Student Center Commons

The bathrooms in the Student Center Commons, tucked away in a hall between the restaurants and STA travel, have taken the title from last year winning the Success Center bathrooms. Besides being one of the newest bathrooms on campus, they’re also much less frequented than most, so they stay cleaner.

**Worst parking lot: North Campus Parking Deck**

This deck may be the nicest spot on campus, but its greatest downfall is that the deck is not really all that close to anything. The new CRC deck runs a close second here, with wide enough parking spaces and not too many concrete slabs in the way of getting into a space. Both put Curran to shame.

---

**Tuesday May 24:**

The First Technique Staff meeting of the summer; nique@gatech.edu

---

**The First Technique Staff meeting of the summer; nique@gatech.edu**
The fine Asian cuisine at Tin Drum gives Tech students a reasonably-priced, off-campus alternative to the normal Tech fare. The food comes quickly, and the quality is consistently high at this Tech Square eatery. The pad Thai and chicken lo mein are some staff favorites.

Of all the grassy areas on campus, Tech Tower’s lawn is the most beautiful. In front of the most familiar symbol of Tech and surrounded by cheerfully blooming flowers, it is also some of the greenest grass on campus. One member of our editorial board swears the fertilizer they spray on the lawn contains green pigments. So while it may not be the best place to sunbathe, with the Tower in the background, the lawn is a great spot for taking pictures.

Whatever color you get it in (our favorite is bright gold), a Tech sweatshirt is a must-have for any student. It’s the perfect clothing for football games, especially as the end of the season nears and the weather starts getting colder. They’re also a much more visible sign of Tech spirit than, say, GT sandals or a hat. Priced at around $40 at the bookstore, they’re a little pricey, but if you only own one piece of Tech paraphernalia, you should make it a sweatshirt.

The computers on the fourth floor of Van Leer are probably older than some of the graduate students who live there. Those 550mhz dinosaurs typically don’t work, and should be thrown out so the taller among us have some legroom. The wall displays in the Management building probably have more processing power.

The fact that it’s a Tech tradition is probably the only reason this place stays in business. The food is a cheap, soggy, greasy mess, leading customers to rush to the ice cream stand on the other side of the room for a taste of some real food. And if we can find a table far enough away from the sports game blaring on the TV, we find ourselves plopping down in somebody’s used ketchup and salt. Doesn’t anybody ever clean the place?

Assuming you have an apartment or a roommate who’s willing to disappear for a while, there’s nothing quite like making out in the privacy of your room. There are no distractions and no dirty looks from passersby, and if things get a little heated, well, the risk of getting caught is minimal. Although there’s something to be said for risk...

With all of the activity that goes on in the Burger Bowl, it is difficult for grass to survive, and the grass that does survive is certainly not of the finest variety. A major problem for the Burger Bowl is that its competition across the street, Astroturf, stays green throughout the year.

With a 20-minute wait, the last thing we need is to walk on to the bus only to witness some hormonally charged young couple slobbering over one another’s faces, knowing we’re stuck with them for the next 10 minutes with no avenue of escape. There’s a reason why our high schools banned that kind of public display of affection. Get a room, folks.

The computers on the fourth floor of Van Leer are probably older than some of the graduate students who live there. Those 550mhz dinosaurs typically don’t work, and should be thrown out so the taller among us have some legroom. The wall displays in the Management building probably have more processing power.

Assuming you have an apartment or a roommate who’s willing to disappear for a while, there’s nothing quite like making out in the privacy of your room. There are no distractions and no dirty looks from passersby, and if things get a little heated, well, the risk of getting caught is minimal. Although there’s something to be said for risk...