Tragedy awakens best of Tech community

Tuesday, campus came together to express condolences and remember those who were lost during the tragedy at Virginia Tech. The ceremony was a fitting close to a year that was marred by controversy, and for those who are about to graduate, a college career marked by tragedy.

In two weeks, graduating students will walk across a stage bringing to a close the past few years of their lives that were overshadowed by tragedy and controversy. During the past four years, students have experienced Katrina and the relief efforts, the tsunami in the Pacific, the Bluffton Baseball team accident, and now, most striking, the deaths of 32 collegiate colleagues at a sister university in the ACC.

The theme of this year has been Finding Common Ground, yet the entire year has been marred by competing factions on campus in humanity no matter what has happened in the past. We come together to lift each other up in the most dire circumstances. When a life is lost, the other problems seem insignificant because, above all, no matter our financial problems, academic problems, or social problems, we have the most valuable asset of all life.

We have come together in light of this tragedy and we need to stay together and keep ourselves on that common ground and work out the rest of our differences. We should not wait until another tragedy strikes for us to be at our best, but learn to maintain this sense of community in the best of circumstances.

We need to move forward making sure that in the future we stop and think about how we treat each other. It is time that we give every person the respect that is owed to all the human race.

“Iit is time that we give every person the respect that is owed to all on the most basic level.”

More than Angelou, more than Obama, more than any other person who has come to campus this year, the show of mutual remorse and pledged support given at the ceremony was, by far, the most inspiring event that has taken place this year.

The theme of this year has been finding common ground, yet the entire year has been marred by competing factions on campusickering and trying to undermine each other. The shows put on by rival groups on campus have been childish and sometimes downright embarrassing, during a year that we were supposed to put aside those petty differences and come together.

It is a shame that it took a tragedy of this magnitude to bring the campus genuinely together, even if only for a fleeting moment. Just like during Sept. 11, we stopped being Republicans or African American students or homosexual students or any other type of student present on campus, and simply became Tech students. We, with one voice, showed our condolences and support for those lost at Virginia Tech and everything that weickered about for the past eight months was suddenly meaningless.

The students on campus have finally put aside their petty differences. They have realized that no matter background, ethnicity, politics, or religion, we are all members of one race: the human race.

We all share a common heritage in humanity no matter what has happened in the past. We come together to lift each other up in the most dire circumstances. When a life is lost, the other problems seem insignificant because, above all, no matter our financial problems, academic problems, or social problems, we have the most valuable asset of all life.

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We need to move forward making sure that in the future we stop and think about how we treat each other. It is time that we give every person the respect that is owed to all on the most basic level, the human level.
Best off-campus hangouts

Best Off-Campus Hangout: MoonDog’s
Student Pick: Someone’s House
A popular Tech hangout in the Buckhead area, MoonDogs caters to the college crowd and is one of the only places around that can provide entertainment nearly every night of the week. With nightly contests, live music, plasma TVs and four bars, MoonDogs is sure to keep any college student entertained.

Best Trivia: Rocky Mountain Pizza
Student Pick: Rocky Mountain Pizza
Rocky Mountain Pizza offers some of the best trivia for Tech students to enjoy. Within walking distance of campus, Rocky Mountain caters to a mostly Tech crowd. The questions are challenging enough for any of the most pop culture-savvy students. Rocky Mountain is a long-standing Tech tradition that everyone should try. Plus, there’s free beer for each week’s winners.

Best Concert Venue: Tabernacle
Student Pick: Tabernacle
The Tabernacle is the best concert venue in the area for Tech students, for many reasons. It is within walking distance from Tech, and it also boasts some of the best bookings in town. The seats are cheap, usually less than $30. Because of the small size, those seats also come with a great view and good acoustics, no matter where you are. A church converted into a music venue—genius.

Best Off-Campus Restaurant: Figo
Student Pick: The Vortex
Located just a short distance from Tech, Figo offers some of the best meals for a remarkably cheap price. Nestled in a small building on Howell Mill Road, Figo boasts crowd-pleasing food. The menu offers an excellent selection of Italian food. If you are ever tired of cooking, Chef Boyardee, and need real Italian food, then Figo is the place to go.

The good, the bad and the ugly sides of Tech

Best Tech Tradition: When the Whistle Blows
Student Pick: Ramblin’ Wreck
When the Whistle Blows is a fairly new tradition, having only been around for about a decade. It is a memorial service that gives everyone on campus a chance to reflect and pay respects to those who passed over the past year. This ceremony gives us a chance to come together to celebrate and remember their lives.

Worst Tech Tradition: Stealing the T’s
Student Pick: Construction
Stealing ‘T’s off campus or on other people’s campuses is perfectly fine and acceptable and actually pretty funny, but when all of the ‘T’s on campus are missing, it gives the campus a semi-decrepit look that does not do us justice. By breaking ‘T’s off of every facade and sign around campus, it makes us look shoddy and run down, as if we would prefer to be living just southwest of campus.

Worst Dorms: Triples
Student Pick: Triples
Anyone who experienced the triples this year knows why they won worst dorm. Traditional housing is already cramped as is. Two’s company, but three’s a crowd. Congratulations to those who kept their sanity in those dorms.

Best Green Space: Skiles Walkway
Skiles Walkway is the main artery on campus that connects the Student Center to the classroom buildings around Tech Tower. This space allows student organizations to publicize their events to the campus as well as to come together for special events—or even have camels graze.

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The Best (and Worst) around Campus

Best Place to Study: Flag Building
Student Pick: Library
A nice, quiet place to study without the traffic of the student center or the library. What more could one want in a study space?

Worst Place to Study: Stinger
Student Pick: Stinger
The worst place to study has to be standing in a moving vehicle jammed full of people being pushed and poked every inch of the journey. If you are so desperate about a test that you are resorting to cramming on the Stinger, you might as well just put the book away and enjoy the ride, because you have already failed the test.

Best Coffee on Campus: Einstein’s
Student Pick: Einstein’s
Einstein’s is perfectly situated in the heart of the campus in the Student Center Commons, and it has the added benefit of not having non-students complaining about their non-fat, non-dairy lattes.

Best Campus Restaurant: Junior’s
Student Pick: Junior’s
Junior’s, an old classic, served up delicious burgers, chicken wings and fries this year, earning it our coveted award. Besides, nothing brightens a stressful day more than a smile from Tommy.

Worst Campus Restaurant: Jackets
Student Pick: Dining Halls
Jackets is a newer restaurant to campus, and although it has great ambiance, the quality of the pub-style food does not correlate to the prices. Not only that, but the service is often slow.

Best Dining Hall Meal: First day of school
Student Pick: Connect with Tech meals
The dining halls always treat the students to a delicious feast the first day before starting the tasteless monotony that the students will experience for the rest of the semester. Students should take advantage of the first meal while they can.

Worst Dining Hall Meal: Any Saturday
Student Pick: Any Saturday
While normal meals in the dining halls are nothing to cheer about, the meals on the weekends are particularly distasteful. The main dining hall staff have gone home for the weekend, leaving the students to pick at the leftovers—or worse—left behind from the previous week.

Best New Construction on Campus: Klaus Building
Student Pick: Klaus Building
It took a long time to complete, but the prime example of sustainable design in the center of campus is finally complete. Although there was a minor fire earlier this year, the Klaus Building is still the shining beacon of an ever-expanding and improving campus. Everyone is a little envious of the C5 department’s new home.

Best Looking Major: Architecture
Student Pick: Management
Architecture, also dubbed Archi-torture and “Arts and Crafts for Adults,” has one of the best male/female ratios on campus. Several studio sections, in fact, have more females than males. In and of itself, the Architecture ratio does not make the major the most attractive. However, the quality of people in that major speaks for itself. Architecture is a very artsy major that attracts a certain type of people. These people, while sometimes hindered because of long nights in the studio, like to go out and have social lives and mingle with the mainstream crowd.

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The Best (and Worst) of Sports

Rookie of the Year: Javarris Crittenton
Student Pick: Javarris Crittenton

A product of local powerhouse Southwestern Atlanta Christian Academy—the school also responsible for producing Dwight Howard—Javarris Crittenton headlined one of the three most heralded recruiting classes in Tech history. Crittenton did not disappoint in his freshman year, leading the Yellow Jackets to 21 wins and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. He also finished second in the ACC in assists, while co-leading the team in scoring at 14.4 points per game. Along with fellow freshman, Memphis product Thaddeus Young, Crittenton helped bring the “thrill” back to the Thrillerdome.

Best sports story: Calvin Johnson enters the NFL draft
Student Pick: Calvin Johnson enters NFL draft

Although he will be missed, Calvin Johnson declaring for the NFL Draft was the biggest news in Tech athletics this year. Our very own All-American will be continuing his career of mind-blowing catches in the NFL. Wherever Johnson goes, he will be sure to have quite a few Jackets cheering him on.

Best Female Athlete: Kristi Miller
Student Pick: Kristi Miller

For the second year in a row, tennis star Kristi Miller earns this award. Miller has remained in the top 10 of the FILA Collegiate Tennis Rankings since Feb. 21. She helped the Jackets to victory in the USTA/ITA National Team Indoor Championship.

Most underrated sport:
Women’s Tennis
Student Pick: Women’s Tennis

With big money-making sports such as football and basketball, the smaller sports tend to be overlooked. But don’t let that stop you from cheering on the women’s tennis team. This past February, they captured the USTA/ITA National Team Indoor Championship, while holding a top 10 ranking all season. The Lady Jackets also head into the ACC tournament with a No. 2 ranking, led by their star Kristi Miller.

Biggest sports letdown:
ACC football championship
Student Pick: ACC football championship

The 2006 football season had its high points and concluded with the Jackets capturing the ACC Coastal Division title with a 9-3 record. With high hopes, the ACC Championship saw the Jackets take on Wake Forest. In a game that was dominated by low scoring, and inefficient offense, the Jackets could never overcome the Deacons, losing the game 9-6.

sliver
www.nique.net/silver

them are doing busy work 9-5...
A.J. Smith is a beast! Barack Obama stole my heart and ruined my week. gg housing sucks. Do they mean 3pm in PST or something? The sub lady in Woody’s is a total nazi.
sophomores ALWAYS get shafted by GT. gg. Is it possible for GT freakin’ housing to create a website that doesn’t crash all the time? I saw SAM ELROD scopein for poon.
Appley girl said that guys at Tech need to have the brass to ask the girl out because the (few available) girls won’t! “Do it, Laddies!” show obvious interest and wait.”I’ll do the rest, marry moo cow and mufins twiddlesticks
Facebook didn’t actually change anything, it just looks different and there isn’t that creepy guy in the corner anymore
i can’t believe the college democrats got barrack obama...all the republicans ever do is sue the school
darn manatees won’t stop watching comedy central
damn manatees won’t stop watching comedy central
greyhound
kristi miller
calvin calm
I applaud those who can at lease decide if they want to be a nun or a slut...these in-betweeners are totally lame... I’m glad to see the college republicans are so concerned about the war against gays those islamofascists are stepping on their turf
Erina - What do we all think about breast implants? definitely!
Hey Newberry, want to hit the club up tonight?!!!
College Republicans are racist, ignorant and retarded!
Can we stop having awareness weeks? They piss me off.
I’m sick of the religious groups around here trying to cram it down everyone’s throat. You can’t prove your religion’s right, so STFU.
To my friends, professors and advisors...thank you for 5 excellent years!

See page 7 for more Slivers!

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