

TECHNIQUE

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Credit card companies seek out college students as easy prey.

CAMPUS LIFE page 11

Adam Sandler's *Water Boy* improves upon *Happy Gilmore*.

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High-pressure groups harassing students

By June Cai
News Staff

Students walking around the Georgia Tech campus the past month may have encountered recruiters inviting them to join various organizations. While most of these groups seem friendly, the Office of the Dean of Students refers to some as "high pressure groups."

According to Stephanie Ray, Assistant Dean of Students, the Office has received several complaints in recent weeks about recruiting on

campus, especially around the freshmen dorms and outside the Student Center. While other types of these groups (i.e. social and political) exist, most are religious, and some have been suspected of cult activity and brainwashing.

Recruiters, who are usually also students, stop people to invite them to Bible studies or ask about their religious backgrounds. Even when a student says he or she is not interested, some recruiters become very persistent and may follow the student.

These groups target people with emotional problems, such as those who are lonely, going through grief or a difficult time, experiencing academic difficulties, or suffering from relationship problems. These factors make a person vulnerable to recruiters from high pressure groups who provide comfort and friendship, and freshmen are especially targeted because they are experiencing a transitional period in their lives.

Recruited students may feel flattered that they are so cared about,

"The bottom line is that the more complaints we receive, the more of a case we have [against the groups]."

Stephanie Ray
Associate Dean of Student Affairs



and they also seek the support the group can provide. Furthermore, the members of the groups often denounce outsiders. A Tech em-

ployee, who wishes to remain anonymous, befriended a Tech graduate

See *Pressure*, page 5

Renovations aim to repair leaky Britain

By Monali Desai
News Staff

Flash floods... crumbling walls... new adventure movie? Perhaps... if Britain Dining Hall could be considered a movie theater....

One of Tech's oldest buildings will soon be undergoing a major renovation that is intended, among other things, to reconcile its medieval design with the plumbing systems of the '90s. Britain is suffering from water intrusion and damaged plaster walls. Auxiliary Services has a plan in motion to correct the water intrusion problems and is looking for funding to support interior renovations.

The major problem Auxiliary Services is trying to solve is uncontrolled water intrusions, which have created severe damage in the walls and have resulted in falling pieces of plaster. Heavy periods of rain have flooded some parts of Britain, causing those areas to be closed off to the general public.

Auxiliary Services is planning on spending \$430,000 on water intrusion-related renovations. The renovations being made are based on an engineering firm's recent structural evaluations of Britain.

"All of the recommended renovations are not being made—only the ones that are considered to be top priority," explained Rich Steele, Director of the Student Center. Auxiliary services is also planning a \$60,000 project to improve the interior design at Britain. However, interior renovations will not start until all of the waterproofing renovations are finished.

Renovations to waterproof Britain should start by 1999. Construction is not expected to impact Britain's day-to-day operations; renovations are also not expected to result in increased food costs.

Another plan underway includes a major renovation of Britain's interior design at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million.

See *Britain*, page 4



Artist's rendition / AUXILIARY SERVICES

Administrators hope renovations, which include repairing uncontrolled water intrusions, will lead to a cleaner, classier Britain.

A Question of HONOR

Conclusion of a multi-part series

By Huda Kazi

"Some teachers are more interested in their research than in making sure people aren't cheating on their tests."

Maggie Brown
Textile Management Senior



Students feel professors need to take the first step

You need a high 'B' on the final to make an A in a five-hour class. You've studied all night, and you walk into the final confident you can handle any question the professor gives you. And then you see number six. You remember knowing how to do it at one point in time. All you need to do is jog your memory, and your neighbor's paper is tantalizingly within view. Do you look?

"Using someone else to jump-start you would be cheating," says Textile Management senior Maggie Brown.

But how many students agree with her? And how many would resist the temptation to look?

"I would say 75 to 85 percent of students would cheat if necessary, whether it be looking on another student's test to jog memory, collaborating on homework when told not to, or using Word when told not to," said an IE major who asked to remain anonymous.

She does not believe the Honor Code is working, largely due to the still-nebulous definition of legal Word files and the

See *Honor*, page 6

Close Up Financial Aid

Few merit-based scholarships available

By Scott Lange
Assistant News Editor

The opportunity to receive a top-quality education at an affordable price has long been one of the primary reasons students choose to attend Georgia Tech. However, a combination of factors has made it difficult for many of the Institute's most outstanding students to find scholarships to help them pay for school.

While the Office of Student Financial Planning and Services administers well over 300 institutional scholarships, most of them are aimed at very specific subsets of the student population. As a result, some of Tech's elite leaders and academic achievers are left to pay their way through school out of pocket.

"We put a fair amount of money into [merit-based scholarships] but we don't go out and buy people," Director of Student Financial Planning and Services Jerry McTier said. "That's typical of most elite institutions. If you were at Duke and said 'I have a 3.8, where's my money?' you wouldn't get much of a response."

The scholarships that are available for current Tech students are mostly based on three distinct qualifications. Scholarship committees look at merit, need, and often, geography. Many awards are targeted towards students from particular cities, counties, or states.

"To say that we sit in the Financial Aid office and reward academic excellence is generally not true," explained McTier. "[To the extent that] that is done, it is done by specific departments."

However, the Institute does offer millions of dollars in merit-based scholarships each year through the President's Scholarship Program. Founded in 1981, the Program offers annual stipends at two levels to about 80 students in each incoming class.

"The President's Scholarship Program is Georgia Tech's premier merit scholarship program to attract the best and brightest to Georgia Tech, to get top students interested in learning about Georgia Tech while they are still juniors and seniors in high school, and to increase the enrollment of top student leaders," President's Scholarship Coordinator Randy McDow said.

"It increases the overall academic level

See *Merit*, page 7

Talking about honor here, there, everywhere—even in Texas

Illegal collaboration on assignments on the rise at U. Texas-Austin

By Danielle Cooper
Daily Texan

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas—Unauthorized collaboration—preparing an assignment with another person's help and without an instructor's permission—has risen over the last 10 years at the University, UT officials said Monday.

Unauthorized collaboration, considered a type of cheating, was a factor in 25.5 percent of cases of academic dishonesty on campus last year and was involved in 32.3 percent of cases two years ago, said Kevin Price, assistant dean of Student Judicial Services.

Even with this year's drop, recent figures show an increase from five years ago, when unauthorized collaboration was involved in 16 percent of cases. Ten years ago, unauthorized collaboration was only a factor in 10 percent of cases of academic dishonesty.

"There has been an upward trend in unauthorized collaboration nationwide," Price said.

Because students have the opportunity to work together on assignments—such as homework or lab reports, which constitute a small percentage of their overall grade in a course—students justify getting help from others even when not allowed, Price said.

"Students often try to rationalize working with someone else," Price said.

Nang Ngo, co-chair of Students For Academic Integrity, said he has observed students collaborating on assignments without permission from instructors.

"One of the rationales people come up with, especially for homework, is that this doesn't really matter anyway," Ngo said.

But when students get through school without doing their own work, they do not represent the University well in the job market, he said.

Jessica Marshall, another co-chair of SFAI, said students often aren't clear about the University's cheating policy after orientation because it gets lost in the stacks of informa-

tion they receive. She urged students to talk to individual professors to find out to what extent they permit group work on assignments.

"We encourage students to talk to their professors to find out what they expect," Marshall said.

"I often tell students it's not the mistake that defines them, it's the response to that mistake."

Kevin Price
Assistant Dean of Student Judicial Services

If students are caught engaging in collaboration or any other form of academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating, they are subject to disciplinary measures from the Office of the Dean of Students.

"The University has a set of rules about how to handle these cases,"

said Sharon Daniel, an instructor in the Division of Rhetoric and Composition who sponsored a forum last week on cheating at the University.

In accordance with UT rules, the instructor must first confront the student about the infraction. The instructor then must meet with student and other faculty members to discuss the incident.

If a student pleads guilty to the charge, the instructor can impose a penalty on that student—usually either a failing grade on the assignment or in the class—and reports the charge to the Office of the Dean of Students.

The Office of Student Judicial Services, which is within the Dean of Students office, decides whether or not to take further disciplinary action.

Cases of extreme academic dishonesty can result in either suspension or expulsion, but those penalties are generally reserved for second-time offenses, having another person substitute in an exam, stealing a test or falsifying an academic record.

When students do not accept the charges against them, they can request a hearing from the Office of

Student Judicial Services.

The accusations against some students are dropped at this level, but the intensity of the penalties against those who are found guilty coincide with the degree to which they cooperate with UT officials, Price said.

"I often tell students it's not the mistake that defines them, it's the response to that mistake," Price said.

When students admit to dishonesty without a lengthy investigation, it shows the University that it will more likely be able to trust those students in the future, Price said.

Students seeking advice about their legal rights concerning charges of academic dishonesty can visit the UT Office of the Ombudsman.

While Brooke Grona, UT Ombudsman, said she can't act as an advocate for students in these cases, she can explain to them how to handle themselves in a hearing.

The Technique wraps up a three-part series on honor at Tech today. To find out about the honor situation here, turn to the story on the front page, the Letters to the Editor on page 8, or check the Technique archives online at cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique.

News briefs

Library giving thanks with special hours of operation

The Price-Gilbert Memorial Library will have different hours of operation during the Thanksgiving holidays:

Wednesday, November 25	8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday, November 26	Closed
Friday, November 27	Closed
Saturday, November 28	Closed
Sunday, November 29	Regular hours

A splash of literature in the middle of all this science

The School of Literature, Communication, and Culture will be hosting a poetry reading featuring Thomas Lux, author of *New & Selected Poems*, *The Sanity of Earth & Grass*, *Split Horizon*, *The Blind Swimmer*, and *Half Promised Land*, on Thursday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 117 of the Student Services Building. A book signing will follow. Interested students can call 894-7000 for more information.

USC looking for STAC, TE/TEXT/PTCH reps

Undergraduate students with at least 60 quarter hours and majoring in STAC or TE/TEXT/PTCH interested in participating in student government can apply for vacant positions online at cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sga. Candidates must not be on probation, academic or otherwise. Previous experience in hall councils, governing boards, or in leadership positions is a plus but not necessary. Representatives will serve through Winter Quarter 1999, the remainder of the current term.

In general, a representative is responsible for drafting and voting on legislation on behalf of the students in their major. This requires weekly participation in USC meetings on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Representatives are also required to visit four student organizations per quarter to visit with and talk to constituents.

Winter OSCARs now available online

Winter Term 1999 OSCAR information is now up at www.gatech.edu/oscarweb. Changes have not yet been finalized.

Looking at Parking from the other side of the line

The Parking Appeals Committee is looking for at least five student volunteers to hear student appeals for parking violations. Interested students must be able to participate five hours a week. Contact Georgia Braxton in the SGA office for more information.

Wrap-Up Undergraduate Student Government

Registration, parking: What's your priority?

By Steve Slawsky
USG Correspondent

Should ROTC students acquire priority registration? First on Tuesday evening's docket was a resolution on whether USC should recommend to the Registrar that all ROTC students be able to register before non-ROTC students. After a representative from the Navy ROTC fielded questions, the resolution was remanded to the Academic Priorities Committee for further investigation regarding both the wording of the resolution, as well as the exact circumstances surrounding the class requirements and time restrictions of ROTC students. Undergraduate students are encouraged to voice their opinions to both their major and class representatives.

Other business of the evening included allocating money to Erica Young, the chair of the Off-Campus Development Committee, to attend a Midtown Alliance conference, annual gathering to promote commercial development in the Midtown area. Council also appointed members of the Elections Committee.

Most of the action of Undergraduate Student Government occurs outside of Council meetings, and many events have been scheduled for the upcoming weeks. The State of Parking Address by Director of Parking John Nolte will be November 12 at 11 a.m. in front of the Campanile, and is brought to you by the Campus Services, Safety, and Planning Committee. The Parking Focus Group from the Office of Parking and Transportation Services is accepting input from students, which should be directed to Ron Kwok at ron.kwok@sga.

Other focus groups...you may give input to the Library Focus Group to Paige Younkins at paige.younkins@sga. If interested in the Post Of-

fice Task Force, please contact Alex Shkirenko at alex.shkirenko@sga.

Forty students are needed for Alcohol Focus Groups to review the Interim Alcohol Policy, and interested parties should contact Adam Baker at adam.baker@sga.

The Academic Priorities Committee has established a new web site cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/academic to answer questions about registering for classes at Tech.

Regarding ticket distribution, the Athletic Services Committee announced that the final football home game, against Wake Forest on November 21 will have "open door" admission, meaning that a Tech student should simply show his/her BuzzCard at the gate for entrance to the game. Please see cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/tickets for updated information about basketball ticket distribution.

SGA has given money to Under the Couch (UtC) to help sustain its activities, one of which is Shock Lobo's concert at UtC tonight. Doors open at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$5 with a BuzzCard.

Want to find out more about the USG and how to get in touch with your representatives? Visit the Web page, cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sga for information on the USG committees.

USG Contact Information

Marc Galindo	president@sga
Divya Gupta	vp@sga
Wendy Horowitz	chief-of-staff@sga
Julie Bonds	secretary@sga
Victor Chou	treasurer@sga
Caroline Wild	vp.finance@sga



By Kristi Odom / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Brittain Dining Hall's current Gothic look is the result of the contributions of many academic departments, including Architecture and Textiles.

Brittain from page 1

However, the interior renovations will only be done if Auxiliary Services can find funding for them. Auxiliary Services, who has financed many previous Brittain renovations including a servery renovation in 1995 that cost \$1.2 million, a re-work of the slate roof in 1995 that cost \$350,000, and more roof repair projects in 1997 and 1998 costing \$70,000, cannot afford the extra changes.

Auxiliary Services feels that interior renovations are needed to solve insufficient seating problems, to make the bridge space on the second floor usable and to help improve the general lack of appeal of Brittain. Importance is placed on increasing the overall appeal of Brittain, because as Rosalind Meyers, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, said, "Next to the Tech Tower, Brittain is the most recognized historical building on cam-

pus."

Increased seating capacity is key because of increased involvement in meal plans. In the past few years the number of people on meal plans has doubled from 1,800 to 3,600. Tentative plans for Brittain would

"We want it to be a place where people want to be, not a place where they have to be."

Rich Steele
Director, Student Center

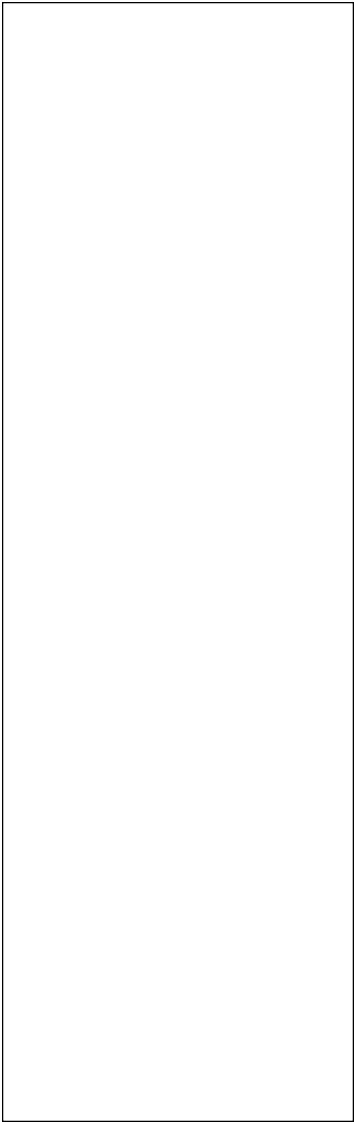
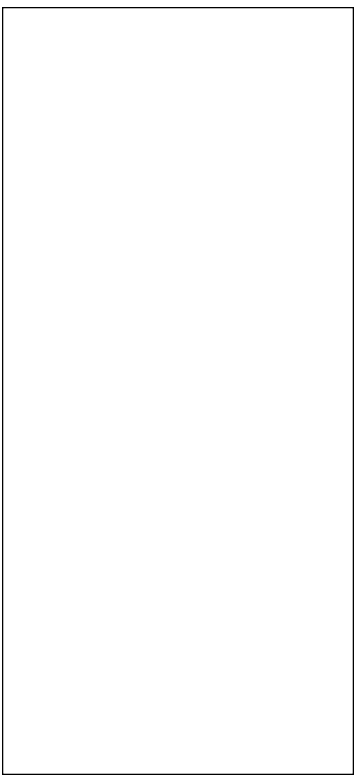
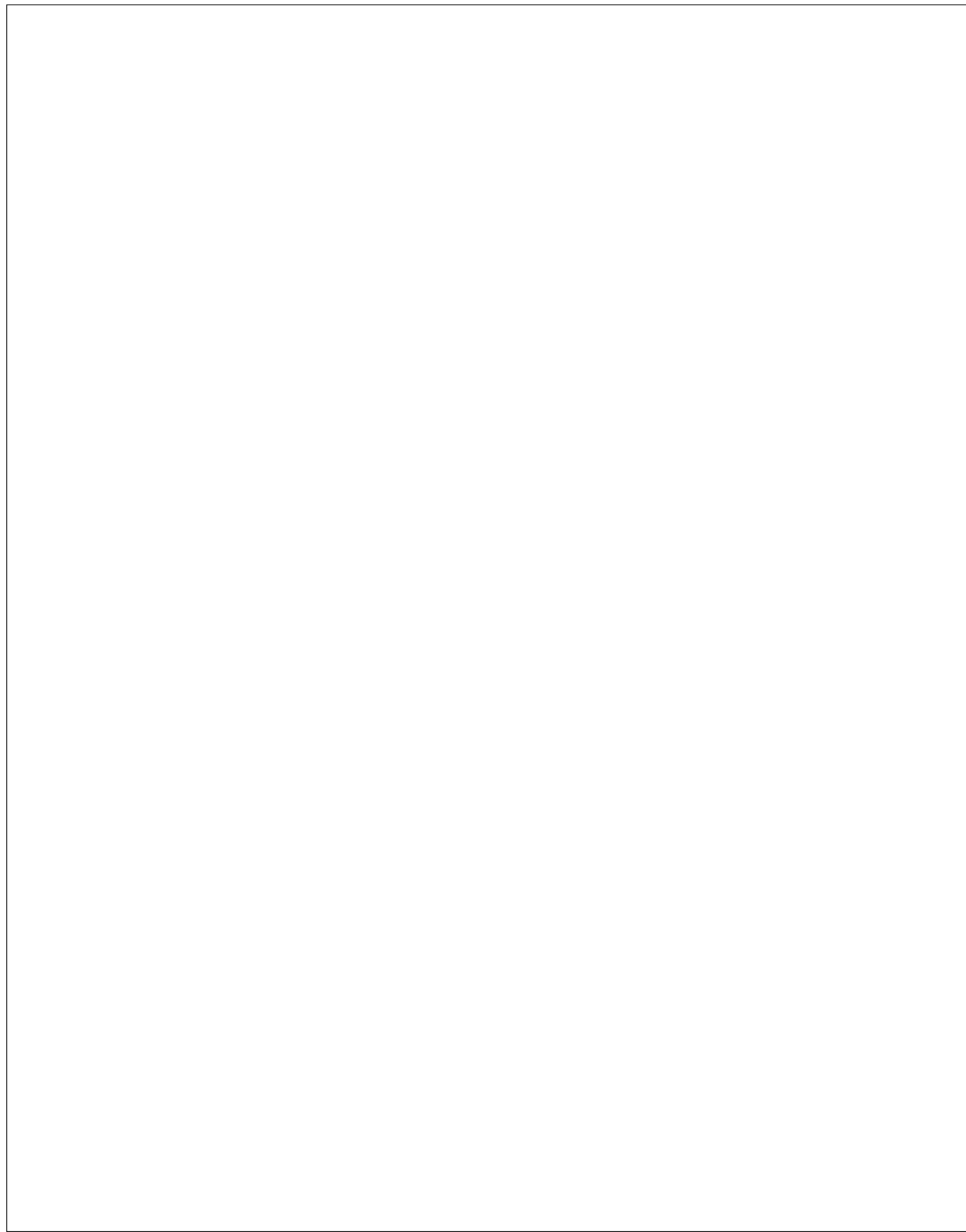
maximize the seating from the current 225 seats to 380 seats. These plans include tripling the bridge space on the Mezzanine level of Brittain, by adding a special seating section as well as a grand staircase. The extra seating area could possibly be

used as a place for student organizations to program events.

Other renovations of Brittain could include increased lighting, new tile flooring, new furniture, column features on the walls and a presidential dining room. Outside funding is already available for the dining room, which may be used as a special meeting area.

The initial design and construction of Brittain was a campus-wide effort. The Architecture department designed and supervised the construction of the Gothic building; the Ceramics department made the tiles for the floor; the Textile department made the original curtains and tapestries for the walls; and the School of Mechanical Engineering made the wrought iron for the light fixtures.

Auxiliary Services hopes to improve the atmosphere of Brittain Dining Hall. "We want it to be a place where people want to be, not a place where they have to be," said Steele.



Pressure

from page 1

student while working on campus. Because the employee is homosexual, he became the victim of derogatory slurs and actions led by the student along with several others at work one day. The student and the participants were members of the Atlanta Church of Christ, a large church in South Atlanta who recruits on campus.

"Most were from that place, and they arranged a 'shake down,' ... they put on a show. It was very embarrassing," said the employee.

Once a person joins, these organizations often exert their power and influence by placing focus on shame, guilt, and not asking questions. They can also isolate the member from friends and family and control thoughts and opinions to agree with those of the group. This allows the member to become dependant on the group for support, encouragement, and decision making.

Members give up their freedom to personal beliefs and rights to agree with the group's views and thoughts; they only believe what they are told. The employee believes that this is what happened to the graduate student, who was probably told by the group to lead the attack.

"They patted him on the back. I hate the thought of college kids getting caught up in that sort of thing, but I can see that happening," he said.

The group then invited the employee, who is a Christian, to at-

tend a service. While most members acted friendly, the preacher, who church members looked up to, filled his sermon with more slurs as well as racist remarks against Native Americans, and the employee believed scriptures had not been well-studied.

"We want to make sure students know what to look out for. The bottom line is that the more complaints we receive, the more of a case we have [against the groups]. Students are encouraged to let us know."

Stephanie Ray
Director of Diversity

The group, whose members are very tight-knit, encourages others to become like them and a part of them. In addition, he suspects the group of some brainwashing activities.

"They make you feel bad so you're more vulnerable to join. They want you to change your ways and join them. Inviting is okay, but deceiv-

ing is wrong. It's not right to mislead people," the employee said.

He adds that it did not seem easy for students to leave the group, and they also had to recruit other students sometimes. When he refused to join the church, the employee received hang-up calls and unsolicited visits from the members, and he became too afraid to call the police. After speaking with a Tech human resources official, the employee worked hard to put his life back together and to recover from his emotional pain.

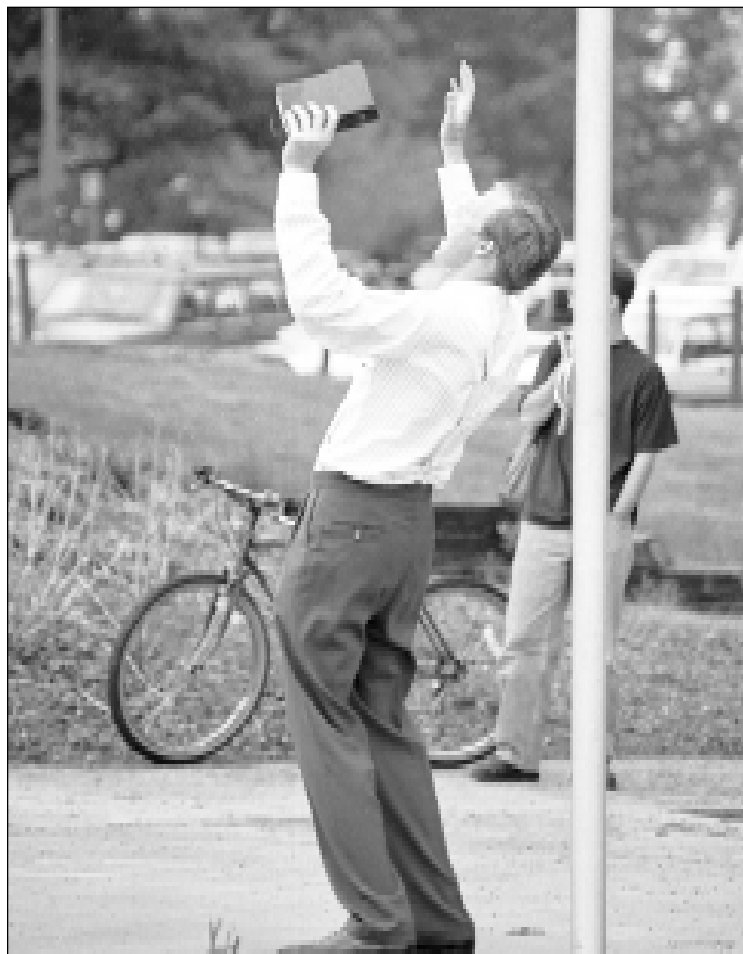
"They need to stop and think about what they are doing, who they're hurting. They do as they are told, without questioning," the employee said.

He encourages groups such as the Atlanta Church of Christ to attend diversity workshops.

"[Members] say what the group says. Their attitudes were [that] they were better than everyone. I believe in religious freedom," he said.

In order to promote awareness of the dangers of these organizations, the Office of the Dean of Students, who should be contacted to report high pressure group activity, published flyers and posted them in Freshmen Experience dorms last week.

The flyers give the dangers of joining such a group and factors that make someone vulnerable. In addition, they give warning signs to identify a high pressure group. These include all members seem to be perfect, being asked to recruit new members, isolation from past affiliations, and focus on guilt and



By Josh Freeman / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

While street preachers like "Brother Jim" generally address large audiences, the high pressure groups prefer to approach individual students.

shame.

"There are groups...and then there are high pressure groups. It's a good feeling to be wanted...some [groups] rely on your free choice of joining, while others use persistent recruiting efforts of win you over," warn the flyers.

Because the recruiting cannot be legally stopped, Ray explains, "We want to make sure students know what to look out for. The bottom line is that the more complaints we receive, the more of a case we have [against the groups]. Students are encouraged to let us know."

Honor

from page 1

availability of sample tests to the student body as a whole.

"I was under the impression the whole Honor Code policy was set forth to protect and equalize the rights of students—to, in theory, remove the so-called cheating of using Word that only some people could get access to," she says.

"Professors who don't provide sample exams are violating their end

of the Honor Code. Nothing a professor or the school policy or any such thing is doing is going to destroy the Word files collected by the fraternities, sororities, and other organizations."

She feels increased enforcement on the part of professors—especially by making sample tests available on the Web and clarifying the importance of the Honor Code at the beginning of the quarter—would do a good deal to improve the honor situation on campus.

Brown agrees. She believes professors need to take a more active role in the honor process and that students will begin following through with their end if professors take the first step.

"Some professors are more interested in their research than in making sure people aren't cheating on their tests," she says.

"Going over the Honor Code is a good idea because a lot of times people feel like the professors don't care—they're just giving lectures and

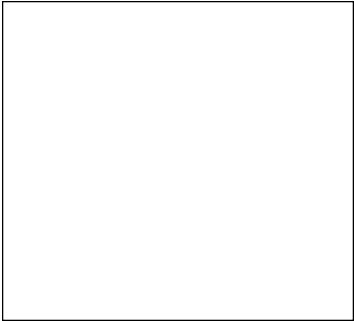
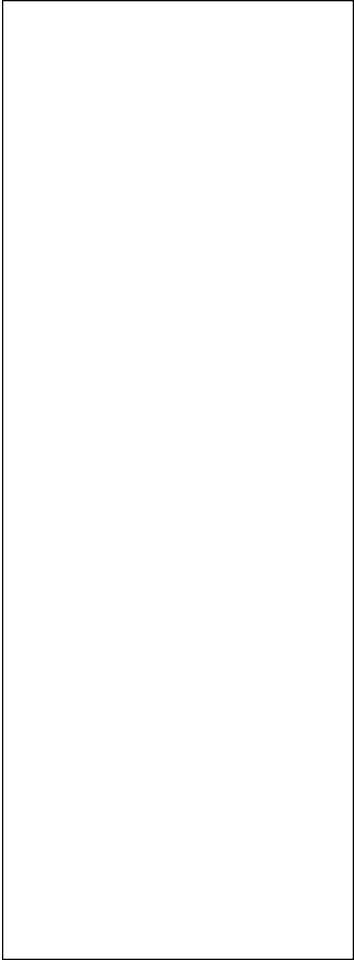
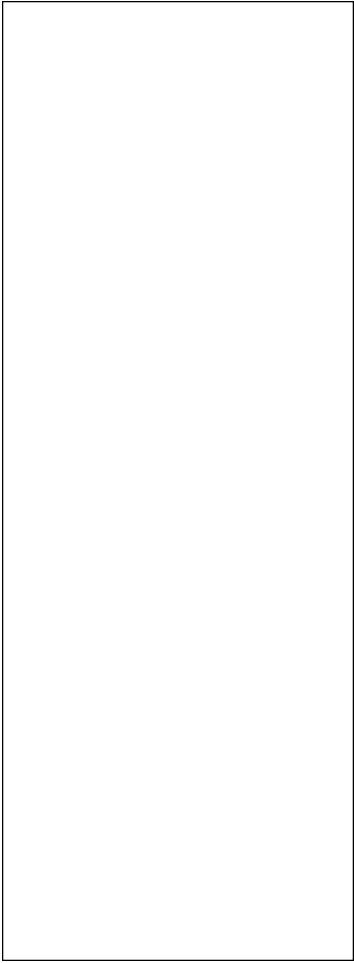
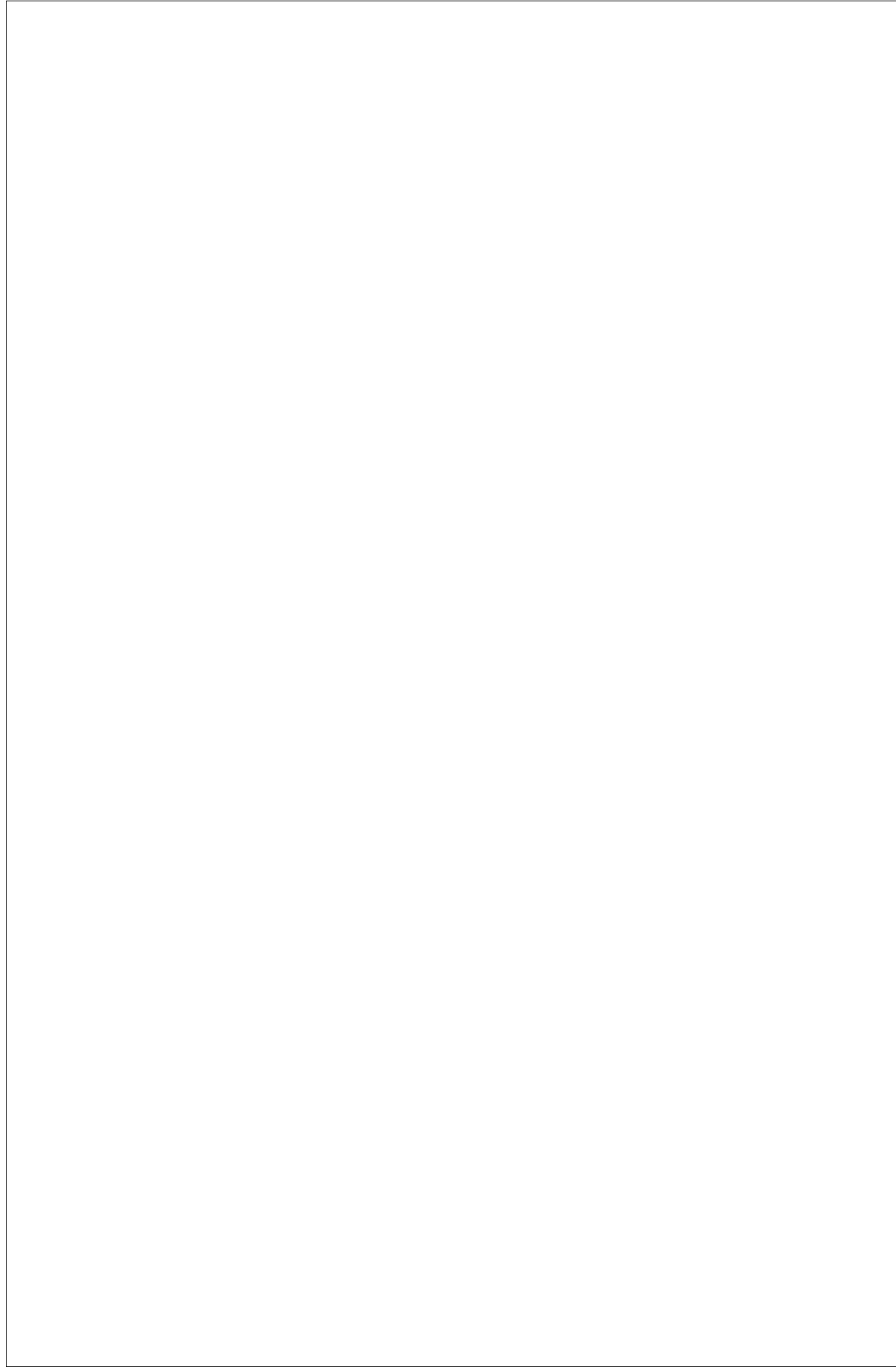
tests because they have to. When I've had professors who specifically say in lecture and on the syllabus that they won't tolerate it, then people think taking the lower letter grade because they didn't cheat is going to prevent them from getting the 'F' because they did cheat."

Brown believes another problem is the high level of competitiveness on campus.

"The pressure to cheat is greater here than at other schools because of the academic pressures. Profes-

sors are a big problem because they don't do their end of the job. You shouldn't cheat to compensate, but sometimes you feel you have to do what you have to do," a Biology major, who asked to remain anonymous, concurred.

Still, Brown is optimistic about the future of the Honor Code. "There could be a true sense of honor on campus because the Honor Code's real new, so people do not know exactly how to apply it or enforce it."



Merit

from page 1

on campus to have motivated students here. It really helps with recruiting them to campus and helps with support while they are here.”

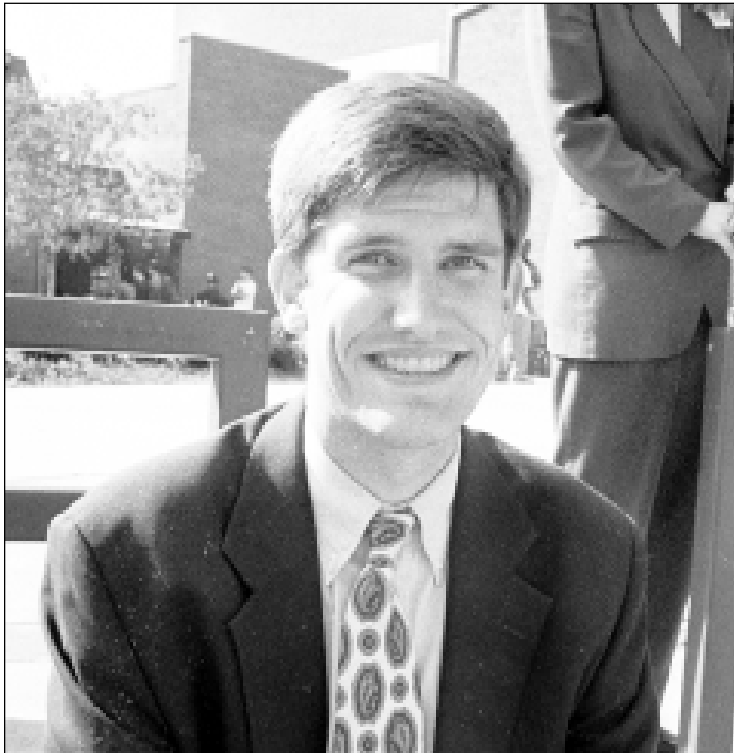
“I believe [the President’s Scholarship Program] is doing an excellent job,” McTier concurred. “The changes they made recently are bringing more people to campus with a potential to be leaders. They’re finding people who were leaders in high school and are likely to be leaders at Georgia Tech.”

While the President’s Scholarship is a high-profile merit scholarship given to hundreds of students, only high school seniors applying to the Institute are eligible to apply for it. There is no analogous program for students already at Tech.

“I think there is a definite need for scholarships [based on merit for students already at Tech], but the question is, given limited money, where should the limited resources go? There are so many outside scholarships and internships available, so Georgia Tech has chose to leverage its money by getting the students to Tech in the first place.”

Even though the President’s Scholarship Program is primarily a recruiting tool, it does also function as a reward to its recipients. Out of state Scholars receive annual stipends of either \$10,000 or \$5,000 while in state Scholars receive either \$5,000 or \$2,500. President’s Scholars also receive benefits such as priority registration for housing and classes, an additional e-mail account, and access to a private study room.

“[In order to continue receiving the money] they are required to keep



By Josh Freeman / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Randy McDow, coordinator of the President’s Scholarship Program, works to provide four-year scholarship packages to incoming freshmen.

a 3.2 overall GPA,” McDow stated. “They are required to average 15 hours per quarter over their lifetime at Tech. They are also required to be involved on campus or in the community to some degree.”

“Unlike some scholarships and programs at other schools, we don’t say what they need to be involved in,” McDow continued. “If community service is not your thing, go and do some cold fusion. We bring them in because of their diverse interests and abilities so we don’t try to dictate to them what they should do while they are here.”

According to McDow, some

Scholars are extraordinarily involved in campus leadership while others focus on academics and a small percentage fail to meet the goals of the Program altogether. Some believe that the money going to those President’s Scholars who are not living up to the Program’s ideals would be better spent on scholarships for deserving students already at Tech.

“It would be nice if we had more scholarships for upperclassmen, but the students who would get those scholarships are typically already doing fairly well and are looking at good job offers and have had good co-op jobs,” argued McDow.

Alcohol policy focuses on wellness, not punishment

By Meredith Porter
The Reflector

(U-WIRE) MISSISSIPPI STATE—Mississippi State University offers a creative way to deal with underage drinking and drinking on campus.

First time drinking offenders caught with alcohol on campus could end up in a \$15 program in which they must spend an hour with counselor Deborah Jackson and pass a test.

If students have a behavioral infraction and alcohol possession, or are two time drinking offenders,

“Our goal is to educate rather than punish.”

Mike White
Dean of Students

they are put into a \$25 program called Alcohol and Other Drug Education Program. It meets every Friday for a month from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Joe Frank Sanderson Center. Third time offenders are suspended for a semester.

“The alcohol and other drug education program tries to stress education of alcohol,” Mike White, Dean of Students, said. “Our goal is to educate rather than punish.”

Parents of the students enrolled in the class are not contacted. “We

try to treat the students as adults,” Dave Remy, assistant dean of students, said. The Department of Recreational Sports sponsors the classes, and Jackson, a full-time student working on a doctorate in counselor education, teaches it. “This is a very unique and wonderful program because it focuses on a wellness philosophy, not on punishment,” Jackson said.

The goal of the class is to teach students to maximize their potential and stay out of trouble and to supply them with truthful information on alcohol. The class involves the piloting of an interactive CD program called Alcohol 101. This program takes the student’s information, including height and weight, and places the student in an interactive party. The student can go to the bar and order drinks. The program will tell the students what their blood alcohol level at certain times throughout the evening would be. The class also involves a lot of group discussion. “This is not a lecture,” Jackson said.

The discussions cover topics from the properties of alcohol and the physiological effects it has on the body, to explanations about the difference between the students’ assumptions about alcohol and what it actually does to the body. The class also talks about the legal consequences of drinking and potential drinking habits.

“Students seem to worry more about getting in trouble than getting help,” Jackson said.