FOCUS

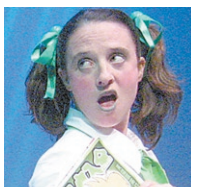
Technique • Friday, April 21, 2006

HALLER GOES DEEP TWICE

Freshman Whitney Haller hit two home runs, helping the Jackets win a decisive victory over the Boston College Eagles last weekend. **Page 36**

CARTOON AS A VIOLENT ART

Cartoon, a new play by Steve Yockey, blends relics of childhood innocence with adult violence as social commentary. **Page 22**



Sustainability: Tech places first in Dubai

By Lynn Deaton
Contributing Writer

A four-member student team led by Richard Dagenhart, a professor from the College of Architecture (CoA), put forth the winning proposal for the Dubai Forum on Sustainable Urban Development (DSUD), documenting a renovation of the Dubai Central Business District (CBD). CoA graduate students Shauna Achey, Scott D'Agostino, Chad Stacy and Jeffrey Williams traveled to Dubai in late March to present to the DSUD along with Dagenhart.

The proposal, which won first place, was specifically tailored to the inherent cultural values and lifestyle of the Arabic world.

"After getting the invitation from Dubai, I asked four students to join me for the project," Dagenhart said. He had taught the students in previous classes and found that their "enthusiasm, hard work and interdisciplinary orientations" made them perfect candidates for such a complex project.

The downtown area of Dubai, a thriving economic center, is outdated and has fallen into disrepair. The DSUD feels Dubai's architecture deserves special attention so it can keep up with the rest of the city's urban development. The competition in Dubai is the first in a series of projects to rehabilitate business districts in cities around the world.

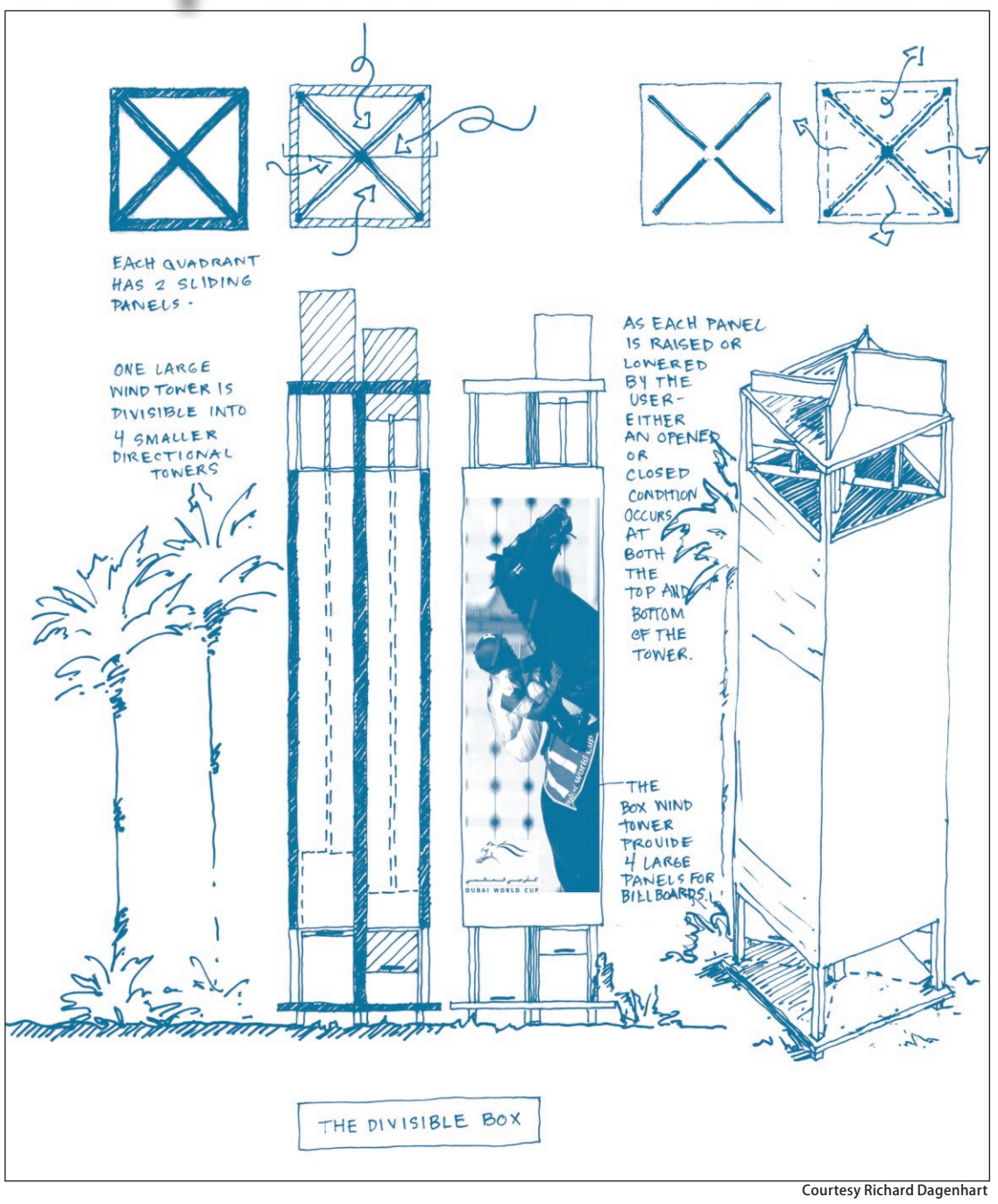
Dagenhart went to Dubai Nov. 2005 for a briefing, and the students worked on their competition entry over Christmas break. All five traveled to Dubai in March to present their plan, where the DSUD awarded them with a cash prize. Part of this prize was split among the students, while the rest will go to the College of Architecture to recruit more students to the urban design program and to endow research in the built environment.

"[Our] proposal attempted to weave tradition with the contemporary by interpreting traditional urban, landscape and building types for contemporary use and expression," Dagenhart said. The team came up with four distinct icons they felt would propel a sense of place into a sustainable yet culturally identifiable future: greening, cooling, inhabiting and connecting.

> "We created new wind towers as functioning public art to be located throughout the downtown."
>
> **Richard Dagenhart**
> Architecture Professor

"Greening came from the tradition of the oasis or in Arabic, 'Waha,' and [it was applied] to landscaped parking areas (parking gardens), street landscaping (an urban arboretum) and small recreational areas in the old city. 'Cooling' came from the ... wind towers that directed and cooled air in traditional houses. We created new wind towers as functioning public art to be located throughout the downtown. 'Inhabiting' was easy—it meant building new housing above shops, but we interpreted [inhabiting] to be around the traditional Islamic house with a central courtyard—as a common or family space. 'Connecting' had to do with improving the connection

See **Dubai**, page 17



Courtesy Richard Dagenhart

Richard Dagenhart's student-led team implemented wind towers as a major part of their award-winning proposal to improve downtown Dubai's Central Business District. These innovative towers are multi-functional, serving as billboards, generating energy and providing cooling winds to pedestrians.

Alumni Association names Thompson honorary member

By Emily Tate
Contributing Writer

The name Robert Thompson might not immediately ring a bell with students. But as vice president of Administration and Finance, Thompson has conducted the work behind the scenes of much of the construction currently taking place on campus.

At the annual Gold and White Honors dinner held in March, the Alumni Association (AA) named him an honorary member along with Jean Fraser Duke and Aaron King, Jr.

"We try to honor people who have had a significant, distinctive [impact] on Georgia Tech," said Joe Irwin, president of the AA.

"I was sort of flabbergasted when they called me up and said they were going to make me an honorary alum, because I know that [the award] doesn't go to a lot of people....I'm incredibly honored and proud, actually, to have received the award," Thompson said.

Thompson first came to Tech in 1995 with Institute President Wayne Clough, with whom he had worked at the University of Washington in Seattle, Wash. When offered the presidency at Tech, Clough asked Thompson to accompany him as vice president of Administration and Finance.

"Bob is one of the top people in his business, and he has been one of the chief factors in Georgia Tech's rise to prominence as one of the nation's top universities. What distinguishes him is his openness to new ideas, his broad knowledge of what it takes to succeed and his willingness to help others improve and grow," Clough said.

See **VP**, page 18

Shanghai grows in popularity

By Trevor Stittleburg
Contributing Writer

Chinese calligraphy. Martial arts. Engineering. Students studying abroad at the Shanghai Summer Program (SSP) in China will be taking these classes and others this year. The program is now in its second year and is growing in popularity.

The program offers nine classes, including Statistics, Statics and Thermodynamics, as well as non-credit classes such as Chinese Calligraphy, Painting and Martial Arts, all of which will be taught by Tech professors. Established in partnership with Shanghai Jiaotong University (SJTU), the program will be held on SJTU's Xuhui campus in the center of Shanghai. SJTU is a leading institute for engineering education in China and has over 20,000 students. The program fee that Tech students pay for the Shanghai Summer Program (SSP) allows access to computer labs, the internet, a library and athletic services on the SJTU campus.

Compared to other study abroad programs Tech offers, the Shanghai program is more general and "suitable for most Georgia Tech students," said Tong Zhou, co-director for SSP.

"The Shanghai Summer Program enables students to see the world and graduate on time. It is a general purpose program where students can take humanities and social science courses that are relevant to the location, as well as engineering courses that are required for the students' graduation," he said. "....China [has] a large and growing economy and Shanghai is the economic engine of China....Our nine-week long program uses Shanghai as a fixed base."

> "[Students] that understand... different cultures are better qualified to work in today's... global environment."
>
> **Tong Zhou**
> SSP Co-director

SSP also offers several local field trips throughout the summer—a half-day tour of Shanghai, the Shanghai museum, the Old City and sites of major corporations such as General Motors and Volkswagen.

There are no language requirements for SSP, although a short one-and-a-half hour overview of basic Chinese is provided.

Zhou feels that studying abroad provides a huge benefit to Tech students.

"Upon graduation, many Georgia Tech students will likely work for multinational companies with teams collaborating across different continents. Those that understand and are sensitive to the different cultures are better qualified to work in today's increasingly global environment," Zhou said.

In addition to classes, the SSP also plans to offer internship opportunities.

See **China**, page 18

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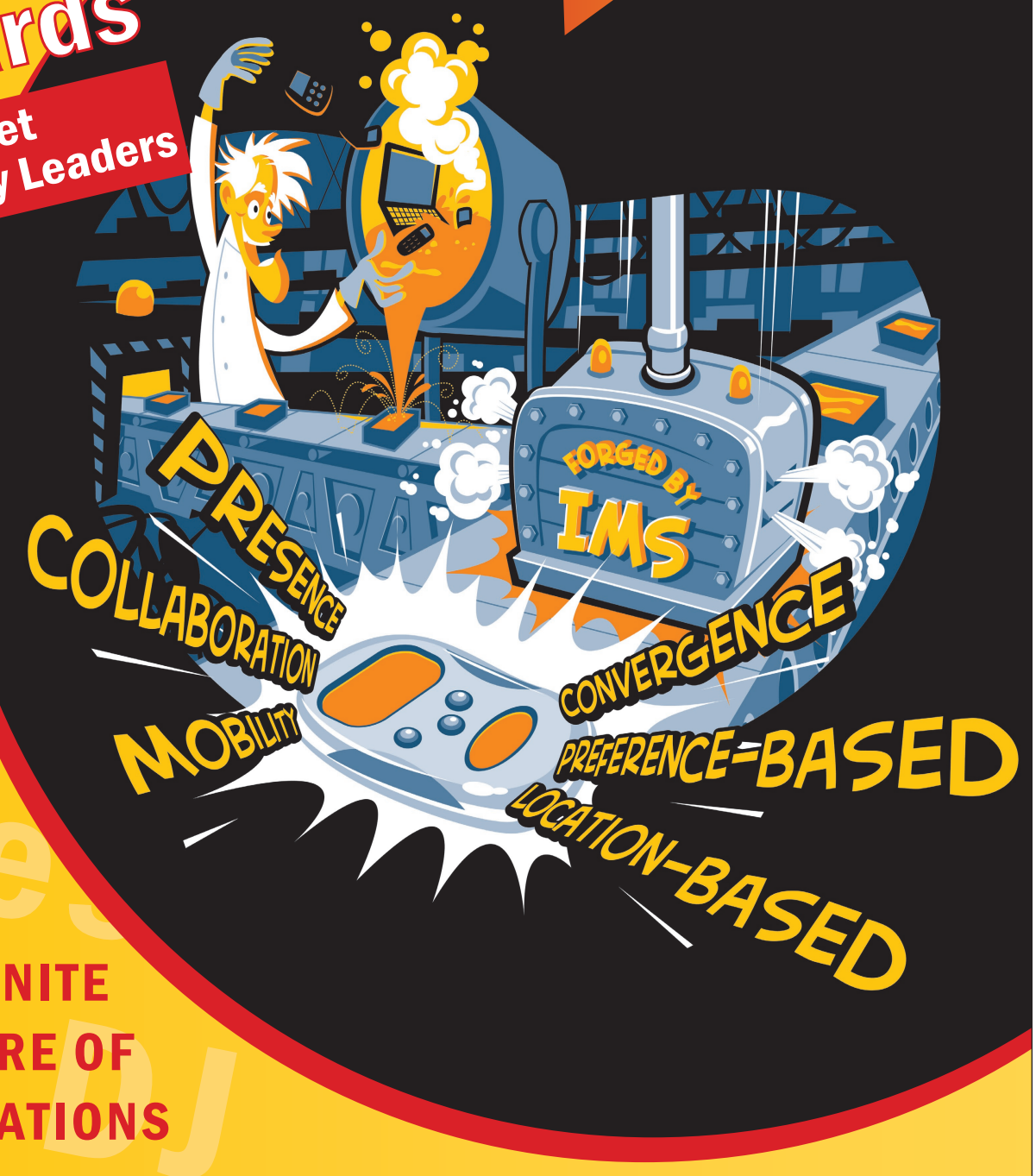

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FACES AT GEORGIA TECH

Fulbright Scholar endeavors to better community

By Manu Raghavan
Focus Editor

"At this age, you don't need to be sleeping," said Paul Pearlman, in response to concerns about fitting extracurricular activities into a busy schedule. Pearlman, a graduating senior in Electrical Engineering, has walked the talk by serving the community almost nonstop since his freshman year.

One of the many hats he wears is that of president of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity. In this role and affiliated ones, he has been at the forefront of many service efforts that have contributed in some form to various communities ranging from those on campus to those in faraway, tsunami-stricken countries. He served as vice-chair of the Tech tsunami relief effort during Feb. of last year.

"[My fellow members] and I moved forward with the tsunami relief effort on campus last year. This is the biggest thing I've done at Tech," Pearlman said.

Apart from playing a leading role in service organizations and events, Pearlman is also well accomplished as an Electrical Engineering undergraduate. He has worked with various ECE faculty members on improving the post-processing phase of medical imaging technology.

"Nearly all of my time has been spent in labs, classrooms or meetings," he said. He has also worked at the Georgia Tech Research Institute while participating in the Co-op Program.

In recognition of his various talents, Pearlman has been granted a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research on the diagnosis of fetal alcohol syndrome in pregnant women at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He has also been awarded a graduate fellowship from Yale University to research in the field of medical imaging.

When asked about how he became keen to serve the community and how he ended up in a technical field of study, he spoke of his aspirations to do great things by leveraging his technical prowess.

"When I was six or so, my father got me involved in the Boy Scouts. This got me interested [in community service]. Later, when I came to college, I became interested in digital signal processing (DSP).

"[To me], the mathematics of DSP was fun. Still, I wanted to do something to aid the community. So I chose to use my technical skill set and translate that to improve the post-processing of medical images," he said.

Pearlman hopes that his work in medical imaging will eventually enable physicians worldwide to provide less expensive medical services and to use more effective technology.

Courtesy Paul Pearlman

Senior Electrical Engineering major Paul Pearlman plans to research in South Africa on a Fulbright Scholarship before attending Yale.

Dubai

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between the downtown area and the surroundings," he said.

The competition included four other schools: the University of Pavia in Italy, the University of Aleppo in Syria, Tongji University in China and the University of South Australia in Adelaide. The jury consisted of an international panel: architects, landscape architects and planners from Canada, Australia, France, Malaysia, Egypt and Scotland debated over which team should receive the top prize.

Tech took first place and was followed by Pavia University from Italy. "Our solution was more complete, extending from design principles and strategies to detailed proposals," Dagenhart said.

The student team focused on differences in the cultural traditions that architecture expresses in the Middle East. Simply put, the program of the built environment changes depending on the daily activities and culture of a region.

> "Architecture and urbanism in the Middle East [are] varied...but [have] cultural connections to the landscape...."
>
> **Richard Dagenhart**
> Architecture Professor

"Architecture and urbanism in the Middle East [are] varied across the entire area, but [have] cultural connections to the landscape, tribal traditions and Islam," Dagenhart said. "….It is something that architects and urban designers struggle with every day in designing new projects."

Dagenhart described the differences between the architectural styles of the U.S. and the United Arab Emirates.

"[The] front porch, front yard, living room—all are at the front of [the] house. [They] are all ceremonial spaces connecting the lives and stature of the family to the public world of the sidewalk, the street and the community," Dagenhart said. A traditional house in Dubai, on the other hand, "is inward looking—to the central courtyard with its 'bent' entry to assure complete privacy of the interior of the house. The outside is bounded by an enclosing wall that is essentially windowless."

> "Being an architect...means we have to...understand tradition and the contemporary world...."
>
> **Richard Dagenhart**
> Architecture Professor

"These two traditions have a lot to do with the differences in urban form. Of course, those traditions are changing and so is urban form in Atlanta and in Dubai," Dagenhart said. "Being an architect and urban designer today means we have to try to understand tradition and the contemporary world and try to weave those together in some way that is, perhaps, meaningful, beautiful and pleasurable...and actually works for our day to day lives."

The forum lasted three days. After presenting to the jury, the team found time to tour the downtown area and other famous architectural precedents, including the Emirates Mall, Ski Dubai, the Burj al Arab Hotel, the Palm and the World.

The team was honored for its achievement April 7 at a reception held by the CoA.

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China

from page 15

"Starting this year, we are also working with Georgia Tech's Division of Professional Practice (DOPP) to offer additional services to the Shanghai Summer Program students," Zhou said. "During the students' participation in the Shanghai Summer Program, if they find that they would like to extend their China stay or return in a future semester for an internship, DOPP's International Practicum Coordinator, Ms. Debbie Gulick, and our local host, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, will work together to provide internship opportunities to the program students."

Nick Silver, a first-year Computer Science major, is excited about the program.

"I've always been fascinated with Chinese culture. I went to an information session and…it sounded really interesting," he said.

Callie Reis, a freshman Mechanical Engineering major, another SSP participant this summer, feels that her experience in China has the potential to be life-changing, more so than simply taking classes at Tech in Atlanta over the summer.

> "It will be very interesting to live in a foreign country instead of just visit briefly and adapt to the environment."
>
> **Callie Reis**
> First-year ME

"I want to experience as many different cultures as I can, especially for developing good business etiquette in the future. I knew that I would eventually want to study abroad but I have already traveled in Europe....I think without the Shanghai study abroad I might not have had the opportunity, time or interest to travel to China," Reis said. "I am especially excited to interact with locals and students at our host university. It will be very interesting to live in a foreign country instead of just visit briefly and adapt to the environment."

The future of the Shanghai program appears bright and will continue to focus on providing a general study abroad opportunity for all Tech students.

"We think the current Shanghai Summer Program model works well so we definitely plan to continue to offer the program each year. We would like to make the program to have as broad an appeal as possible.... Students are welcome to send future course suggestions (with justifications) to the Shanghai Summer Program Coordinator Ms. Leslie Penley [at] **leslie.penley@oie.gatech.edu**," Zhou said.

A list of questions about the SSP are answered on the program's website at **china.ece.gatech.edu/shanghai.**

VP

from page 15

During his first year at Tech, Thompson said, the campus was quite different from what it is today. Out of 73 universities that were surveyed, Tech ranked the lowest in appeal to students, faculty and alumni.

In the 11 years since Thompson has been here, the campus has doubled in size.

Under the State Board of Public Universities, Georgia universities are given an allowance of one building project for every six years. Because of these limitations, Thompson and many other members of the Administration and Finance Department worked to put together a private developer called Georgia Tech Facilities, Inc.

According to Thompson, the private developer was key to the expansion of Tech's campus into areas such as Tech Square, the Campus Recreation Center and the Biomedical Engineering complex.

Thompson was also instrumental in creating a campus-planning commission of four well-known architects to select additional architects to build new facilities.

In addition to expanding and improving Tech's campus appeal, Thompson restructured the administration, which was previously inefficient in serving the campus community. He reorganized it into six branches: Auxiliary Services, Facilities, Budget and Planning, Information Technology, Financial Services and Human Resources.

Thompson graduated from the University of Washington at Seattle with a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1962.

Thompson said everything he has accomplished at Tech would not have been possible without all the people working with him.

"When I retire and people ask me what I'm most proud of, I'm going to say that I'm most proud of the organization and the people that I brought to Georgia Tech," he said.

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if this sliver appears blue, you need to take a break
about time someone screwed Tech
man, the flowers and sorority girls are in full bloom
the new CoC is already shafting people, and it is not even open yet!
can we get someone that has some actual musical ability next year for sting break?
since when do we have a right to the freedom of speech...
I thought we lost that a long time ago
hey, I do not care if I have free speech, just as long as I get to keep my porn and guns
Free
oh, Free Speech and Religious freedom is just another one of those stupid misunderstood ideas the founding fathers had....or so the gay community tells me
I still want to know why my sliver about GT cow week being a gay name never made the slivers?
I do not know who is worse, the gays or the christians.... both seem to be the same evil to me
oit needs to stop installing new phones and give me gigabit
College Republicans should be suing the RIAA and MPAA! That is the real evil that is destroying this country!
Speaking out against those who do not "live by the bible" - very christian indead!

See page 33 for more Slivers!

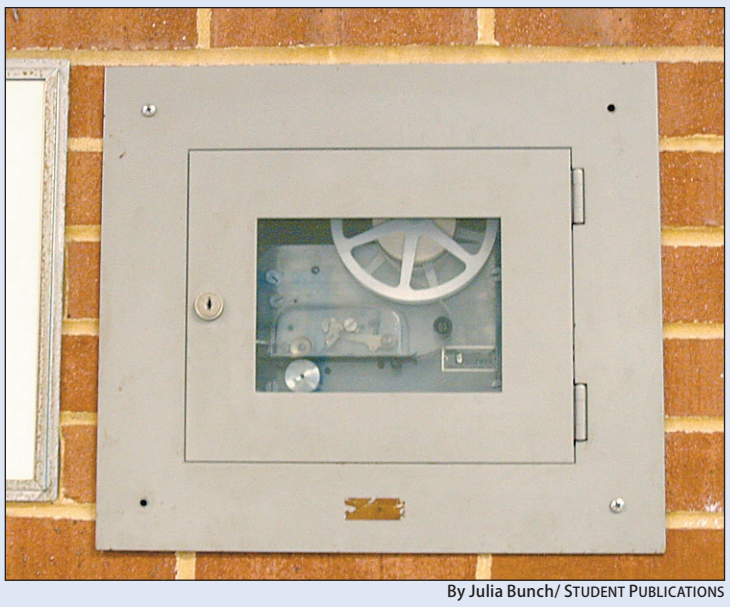
Tech Up Close

WHERE THIS WAS PHOTO TAKEN?

Email **focus@technique.gatech.edu** if you think you know the answer; check to see if you won in a later issue.

Answer to previous Tech Up Close:
Teletype on the West Wing of the ground floor of the Howey Physics Building.

Congratulations to last week's winner:
John Ball



By Julia Bunch/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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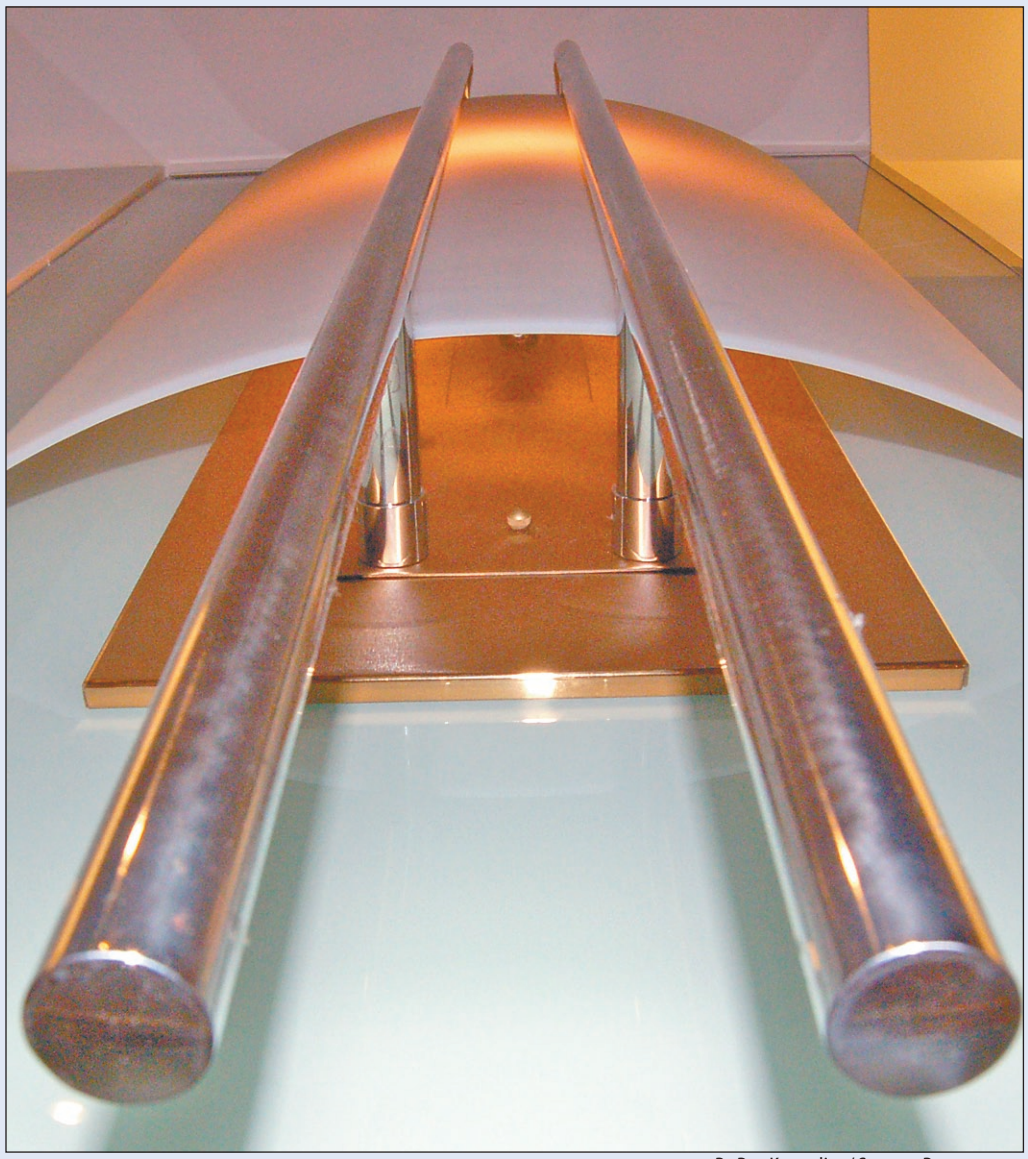

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