

# FOCUS

Technique • Friday, November 1, 2002

## On the campaign trail

Recent Tech alums Trey Childress and Chris Young experience the rollercoaster of emotions that come along with working on a political campaign. Page 17

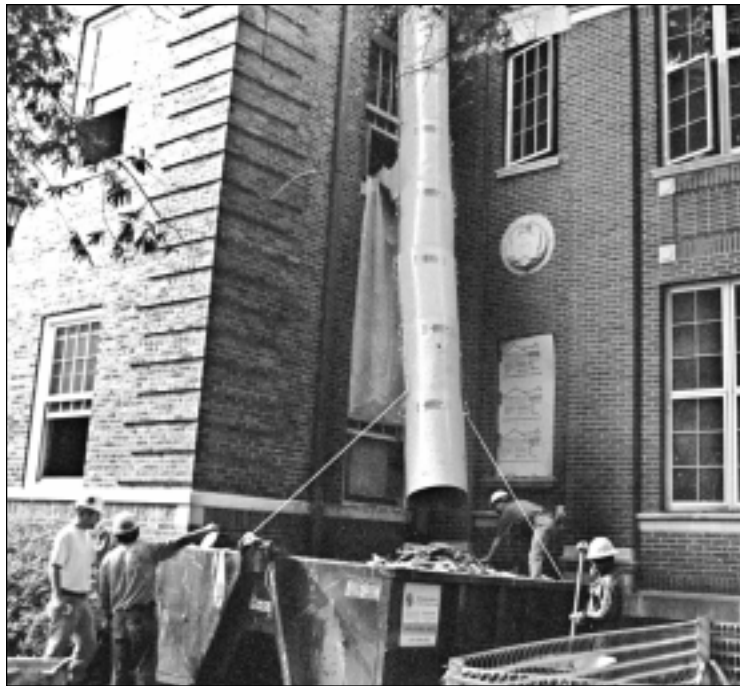
## Jackets make a splash

In their first meet of the season, both the men's and women's swimming teams won against Emory. Diver Laurissa Prystaj also broke two school records. Page 36



# A tale of two buildings: one restored, one removed

Why is the historic Coon building currently undergoing renovation when Hightower was recently demolished?



By Ian Clark / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The historic Coon building is currently undergoing renovation; once completed, the building will house the Psychology department.



By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The crumbling Hightower building was demolished earlier in the semester; Yellow Jacket Park will fill the space starting spring 2003.

By Justin Partlo  
Contributing Writer

If you've taken General Chemistry, you might remember that entropy is the degradation of matter to an ultimate state of disorder. While this may be a valid reason for razing

the Hightower Building and renovating the Coon Building, Don Alexander, the Manager of Facilities Engineering, offers a different explanation.

"It's a very calculated, very engineered process," said Alexander. The 1997 Campus Master Plan, a 128-

page document, currently dictates all demolition, renovation and construction projects on campus. "We stick to the Master Plan pretty religiously," said Alexander.

According to the 1997 and the 1991 Campus Master Plans, the Hightower Building was the pri-

mary choice for which building on campus should be demolished. Ron LeRoy, the Project Manager of the Hightower demolition and Yellow Jacket Park construction, said, "The building really had a lot of maintenance problems." It was torn down because "studies suggested that we

would have spent more money to maintain or renovate it than to replace it."

The Hightower Building was completed in 1949, after then-President Van Leer campaigned to add several new buildings to campus. When the Board of Regents approved the construction of the new buildings, the decision was made to name the building after textile executive William Hightower, since it was to be for a textile school.

The Hightower Building's long history on campus created additional red tape for Facilities to overcome before the building could be leveled.

Before demolition could take place, "we had to go through a very formal process because the property belongs to the state," said LeRoy. A series of tests were conducted, beginning in 1999, to measure the impact the demolition would have on the historical and natural environments on campus. The results of the tests were then sent to the Board of Regents in 2000. After the Board of Regents reviewed the project, approval was granted during the summer of 2001.

A forum for the public to voice concerns was held in January 2001,

See *Buildings*, page 21

# Architecture alumna designs proposal for Ground Zero memorial

By Jennifer Lee  
Contributing Writer

In the wake of 9/11, much debate has taken place regarding plans for rebuilding the area where the World Trade Center towers once stood—referred to as Ground Zero—and the surrounding land. This past June, six different plans were unveiled for Ground Zero, but because of lukewarm public reception, they did not make it past the proposal stage.

However, in September, just before the eve of the 9/11 anniversary, the New York Times Magazine published an article, "Thinking Big: A Plan for Ground Zero and Beyond," curated by Times architecture critic Herbert Muschamp. "Thinking Big" highlighted new, innovative ideas for Ground Zero from some of America's premier architects, including Maya Lin, who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and Richard Meier, architect of Atlanta's High Museum of Art.

But in the midst of all the famous names, a Tech alumna is also part of this re-imagining of the WTC project. Meredith Bostwick graduated from Tech in the summer of 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture, and is currently pursuing her masters at Princeton University, where she will be entering her thesis this spring.

"I would describe the proposal that Muschamp curated for the New York Times as a critical response to the six designs released earlier this year," said Bostwick. "Not only do the projects presented in this proposal encompass a new kind of development and memorial for the

World Trade Center site, but would also propose a redevelopment and master planning for Lower Manhattan as well."

Bostwick's involvement in the WTC project began when, in spring semester 2002, she chose to take a design studio and seminar at Princ-

"The disappearance of the Twin Towers within the New York skyline is directly related with the identity of their facades."

Meredith Bostwick  
BS Arch. 2001

eton with Peter Eisenman, one of the architects whose designs were featured in Muschamp's article. "[The seminar] was conducted specifically on the change in sign, image, and representation of architecture after the events of 9/11," she said. The culmination of the seminar was a project, developed by Bostwick and her design partner, Pablo Lorenzo-Eiroa, encompassing a university, memorial and office towers on the site of where the World

Trade Center towers once stood. Presented at Columbia University's World Trade Center Symposium in June 2002, the project is currently being edited to be included in a book about the studio's works for Ground Zero at Princeton University.

"Tech prepared me for Peter," said Bostwick. "I was known in the studio [at Princeton] as 'Tech monkey,' as Peter would say. Despite the views that Tech is just an engineering school, I can appreciate now the courses offered, and the faculty who were willing to bring topics of discussion outside of the realm of technology, and begin to meld those aspects with culture, philosophy and theory."

After studying with Eisenman, Bostwick pursued an independent research/work/study with Guy Nordenson, a professor of architecture and engineering at Princeton who was also featured in Muschamp's proposal. "My work with Nordenson was spent

researching the development, structural innovations and history of the 'skyscraper'—from the World Trade Center's construction in 1973 to present day," Bostwick said.

Around that time, her partner, Pablo Lorenzo-Eiroa, while conducting research with Peter Eisenman, was also invited by Muschamp to create a prototype housing tower for the Lower Manhattan West Street residential corridor. Lorenzo-Eiroa, as Project Architect, and Bostwick, as Project Designer, led research that culminated in a design for a residential tower that

is very much in keeping with the spirit of innovation and creativity that is emphasized in Muschamp's article.

Several aspects of their residential tower design demonstrate the uniqueness of their approach. For example, Bostwick has a unique way of viewing the meaning of memorial:

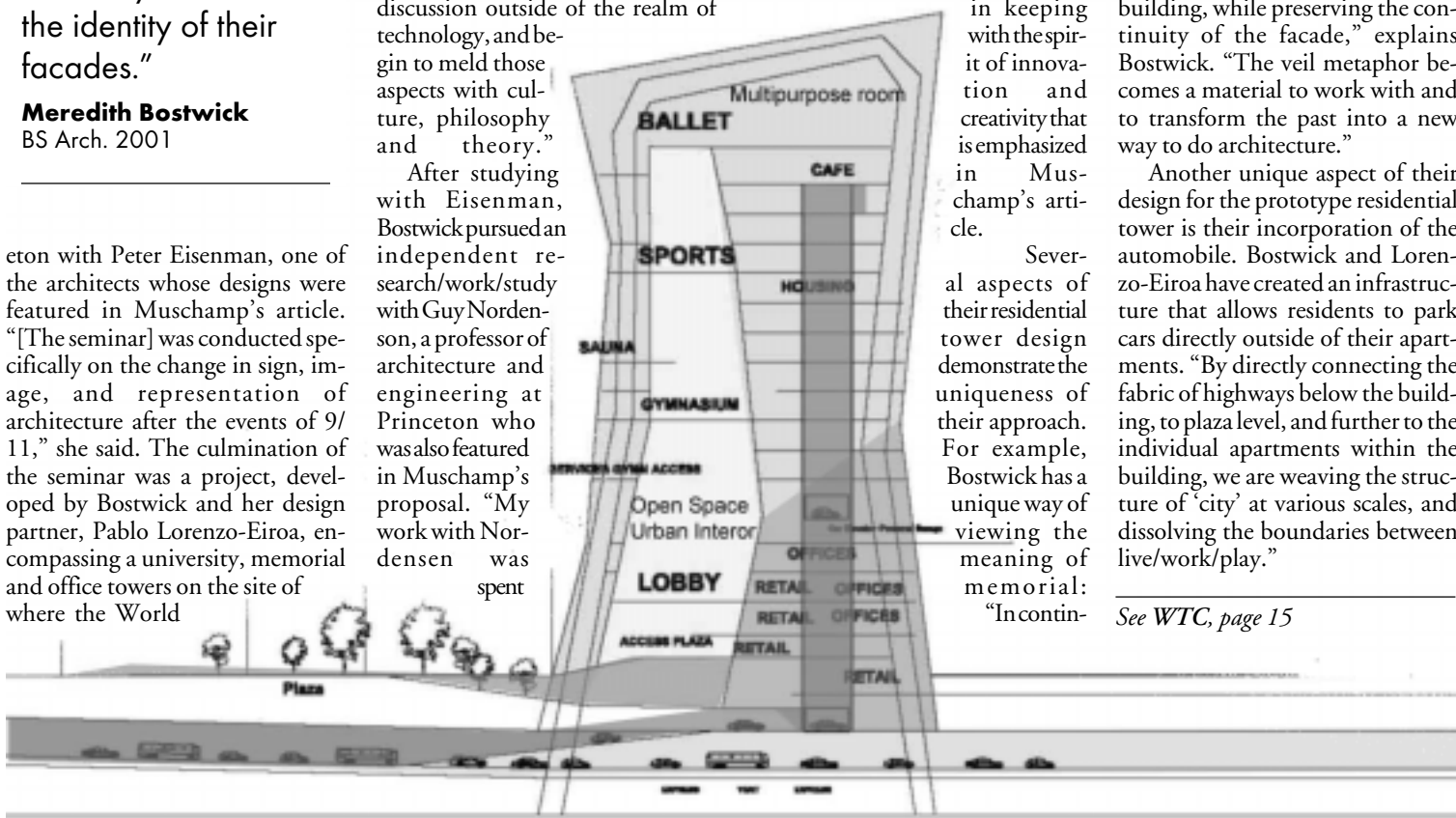
"Incontin-

uously reworking the diagram of the site, we were able to create 'memorial'—not as a specific place, but as a writing in the site.

She continued, "The disappearance of the Twin Towers within the New York skyline is directly related with the identity of their facades." Therefore, Bostwick views the city as a sort of metaphor, with the neighboring buildings being "witnesses" to the disaster. Architecturally, the buildings wear a mourning "veil," which is articulated by "scaled openings and closings, exposing or protecting the interior 'flesh' of the building, while preserving the continuity of the facade," explains Bostwick. "The veil metaphor becomes a material to work with and to transform the past into a new way to do architecture."

Another unique aspect of their design for the prototype residential tower is their incorporation of the automobile. Bostwick and Lorenzo-Eiroa have created an infrastructure that allows residents to park cars directly outside of their apartments. "By directly connecting the fabric of highways below the building, to plaza level, and further to the individual apartments within the building, we are weaving the structure of 'city' at various scales, and dissolving the boundaries between live/work/play."

See *WTC*, page 15



**WTC**

from page 13

Although this prototype tower, Bostwick said, is “only a proposal at its current state”—as are all the designs featured in Muschamp’s article—its potential lies not, perhaps, in the reality of the design, but in its ability to influence future efforts.

However, soon after Muschamp’s article was published, six new teams, representing 27 architectural firms and five countries, were hired to design plans for the WTC site.

Interestingly, two of the American architects chosen for the teams had been featured in Muschamp’s plan: Richard Meier and Charles Gwathmey, architect of the Guggenheim Museum addition. So perhaps the pioneering efforts of Muschamp and Bostwick may soon become reality.

# Professor lectures on bagel’s social history, significance

By Aliza Mills  
*Daily Targum*

(U-WIRE) Rutgers U.—New York University Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett presented a lecture about the social history of the bagel Tuesday sponsored by The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for Jewish Life.

A few Rutgers students and professors along with many senior citizens from the local Jewish community gathered in the Multipurpose Room of the Cook Campus Center to hear Kirshenblatt-Gimblett speak about the historical and cultural significance of the bagel.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, a visit-

ing professor from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, studied the bagel by looking around the world for traces of the original bagel and new variations.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett documented the bagel’s arrival in the United States in the 1890s from Europe. The bagel remained a New York and New Jersey Jewish delicacy until the late 1950s and into the early 1960s.

Lender’s Bagels began marketing frozen bagels across the country in the early 1960s. This was the first time bagels were packaged and the average life of a bagel was prolonged, she said. Before this time, a bagel only lasted a few days because they were made with few ingredients and

no preservatives, which did not facilitate travel outside of the tri-state area.

“A beautiful bagel is a fresh bagel,” Kirshenblatt-Gimblett said.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett said the original basic bagel was made of white flour and water. As the bagel’s popularity grew, so did its size and the varieties available. “What had been just a bagel, was now a hot commodity,” Kirshenblatt-Gimblett said.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett showed the many different shapes, sizes and varieties available today. She showed pictures of many bagels, from the unholy bagel — a bagel without a hole that is injected with cream cheese — to the penis bagel, a favorite at

bachelor parties and in the gay community, she said.

Slowly, the bagel became a piece of everyday American life. It lost its religious identity and became much more of a national symbol.

“The bagel is now everywhere, while being nowhere in particular,” Kirshenblatt-Gimblett said.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett said the bagel has penetrated everyday life in America. It has become part of the day-to-day life of an American along with a cup of coffee and a newspaper.

At the end of the hour-long seminar, Kirshenblatt-Gimblett admitted the bagel is no more special than any other food; she just chose to study this one.

## Child Care from page 1

Powell, however, these circumstances will mean that the center is not yet an option. A first-year graduate student in Public Policy, Powell would not be able to pay the tuition fees for her 19-month-old daughter Nicole, even if she were to receive a mini-grant. "Most student parents at least have [a spouse] who works, but Ben, Nicole's father, is a student at Berkley, so we essentially have no income," she said.

She admitted, though, that being a graduate student left her more time to look after her child. "I had a bit more leeway in missing my undergraduate classes if I needed to, but there were more classes to attend, plus group projects and senior design to worry about. Now, even though I can't afford to miss a class, I'm spending less time in class, so in that respect, it's easier," she said.

Powell commented that in the future, a sliding cost scale would be better to accommodate families who

were in different situations. "I realize that the program is just starting, but there is a clear difference between families where both parents have a job, and those where both parents are students," she said.

"To have a sliding cost scale, we have to have a subsidy for someone

**"It may not be feasible for me...but this is definitely a step in the right direction."**

**MegAnn Powell**  
Graduate Student

to pay the difference in cost," said McAnally. At the program for which he previously worked, between Emory and Crawford Long Hospital, the school and the hospital were able to pay for the difference. "We're applying for grants now so that this can be a possibility for the future,

but right now it's just not feasible," he explained.

Powell now relies on friends to look after her child while she is in class. "What I'm doing now works for me. Berkley has a childcare center with a more feasible price scale, but I'm not ready to be separated from Nicole. Really all I can do is wait until Ben or I graduates and we have more options," she said.

Tricia King, a graduate student in international affairs, fully supports the new center. Like Powell, she feels that childcare during her undergraduate years would have been a great help. "When I was an undergraduate student my daughter was not in school yet...I took her to an in-home daycare, but it would have been a lot easier for transportation and cost-efficiency to have been able to bring her on campus with me," she said.

Powell agrees that the center itself is a good idea, although it is not yet an option for her. "It may not be feasible for me until after I graduate, but this is definitely a step in the right direction," said Powell.

## Colors from page 1

white, old gold and navy blue as the official colors. This fact soon prompted the committee to recommend using solely those three colors on all athletic apparel.

"In the past, we always had a certain percentage of predominant and trim colors on uniforms. But there was no historical perspective on that," said Chapman.

In fact, the recommendation was already unanimously approved by the Athletic Board Oct. 21. The Athletic Association has yet to officially approve it, but is currently working with the Russell Corporation to select the official shades for all three colors, denoted through Pantone Matching System (PMS) rating numbers. The AA is anticipating a formal meeting this December to vote on the proposal presented by the committee, according to Mr. Dave Braine, director of the Athletic Association.

A final decision to adopt the colors would have several implications.

The most apparent would be the gradual move to use the three colors on all athletic, band and cheerleader apparel. Although this would restrict the number of colors that can be used to just three, teams and coaches can still choose to design their uniforms in any arrangement they want, whether with a predominately gold or a predominately blue fit. For many athletes, the decision to incorporate navy blue is being regarded as a good decision.

"It's better for us when you have navy blue on the uniforms," said Kirin Kumar, a member of the women's softball team. "You often can't see the gold mixed with the white. The blue will bring some color."

Because of financial considerations, the policy will not go into effect until September 2004. However, the good news is that many of the uniforms are currently in compliance already.

Additionally, as soon as the PMS color shade ratings are determined, the campus bookstore will receive a copy as well, which it plans to utilize for future merchandise.

# Recent alumni find political campaigning rewarding, exciting

By Jennifer Schur  
Focus Editor

Although Tech is not traditionally thought of as a breeding ground for the political movers and shakers of the state, recent Tech graduates have started to change this image.

Chris Young, BS HTS 2000, has been working with Sonny Perdue since he was an undergrad, when Young was assigned as an intern to Perdue's office. At the time, Perdue was President *pro tempore* of Georgia's Senate, and Young was a part of the Legislative Internship Program.

Prior to Perdue's announcement of his intent to run for governor of Georgia, he asked Young to be a part of his senior team.

His position deals "primarily [with] things that deal with governance, policy and positions," Young said. The clarity of the job description ends here, though: "We're very interdisciplinary. But if you had to call me something, I suppose 'senior counselor' would be most appropriate."

Young is involved in determining where votes are strong and where they need to be boosted, where Perdue's message needs to be targeted, helping plan Perdue's schedule and figuring out a cohesive strategy.

Tech has not put Young at a disadvantage in the political arena; instead, he said, "the Tech curriculum lends itself to being very analytical and logical."

These beneficial by-products of a Tech education are an advantage in any field—a systematic and logical approach to tackling problems and finding solutions is a useful skill for many areas.

"Technology is a tool for public policy; being in the Tech atmosphere, you know the terminology and can converse [intelligently]."

"Tech teaches you a certain way to think, [and teaches you] discipline, and to stick with it until you

find a solution," Young said.

Hot on the campaign trail, Young utilizes the skills he cultivated as an undergrad to deal with the "schizophrenic" work of the campaign world. Last weekend alone Young traveled to 13 cities in three days, getting on and off a plane 26 times.

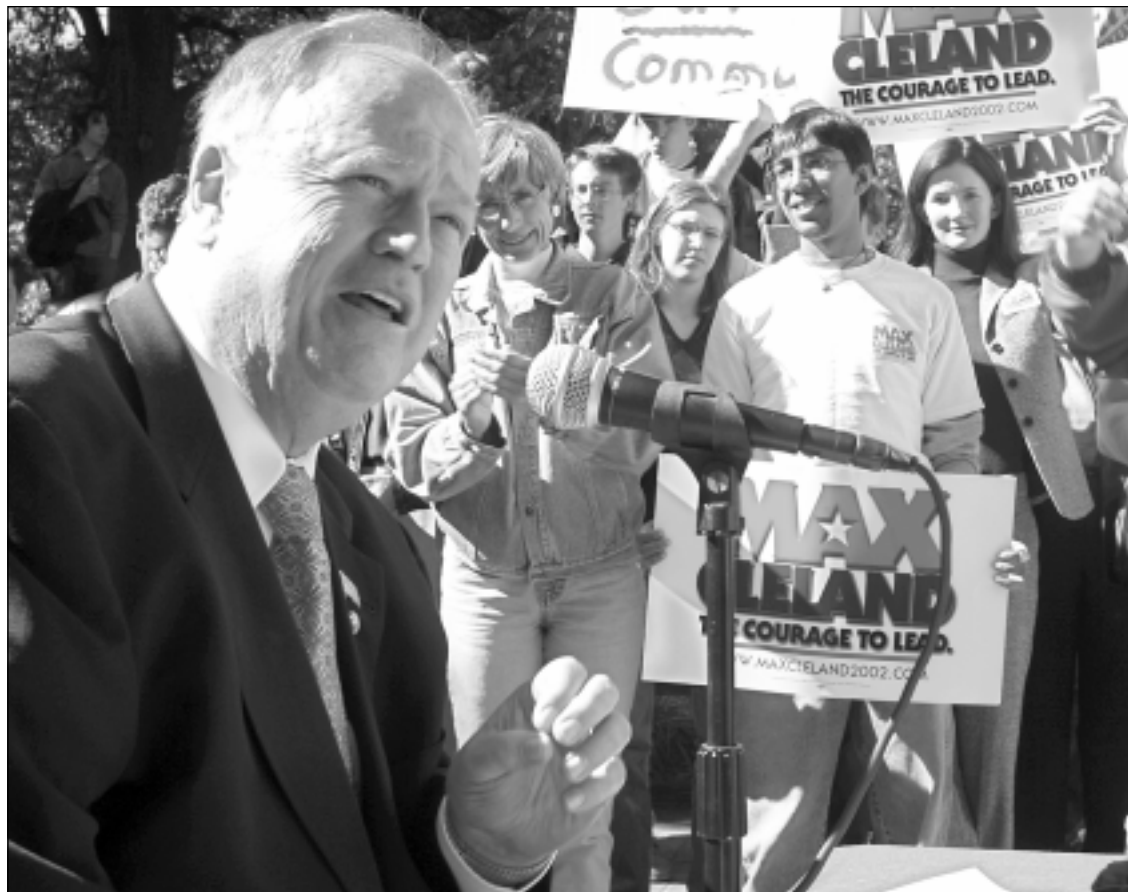
The best part of the job? "Meeting everyday Georgians all across the state. [Finding out] what they care about. Regardless of whether we win or lose, we'll come away feeling like we accomplished something worthwhile."

"[Most students] have the impression that they can't get involved in politics—false; there are plenty of internships and opportunities available. [You] don't have to jump straight to the Senate! Get involved in a school board or a county commission. Public service comes in so many forms. Tech people are bright enough folks, and people just gravitate to them," said Young, when asked for advice for current undergrads who are interested in being politically active.

The simplest way to directly affect the direction the community, state and nation take is to vote, said Young. "I would implore students, anyone associated with the Tech community, to vote."

Trey Childress, policy director for Perdue's campaign, also encourages students to make their voices heard by voting. Childress, BS IE/INTA 2000 and MS PUBP 2001, met Perdue through Young while he was in graduate school, and helped out whenever help was needed by doing research and offering policy advice. Overtime, his diligence and reliability paid off; Childress was asked to join Perdue's team in April.

As policy director, Childress helps Perdue develop position statements on issues. The job entails "lots of policy analysis, critical thinking and amassing large amounts of information," Childress said. "[I am] better prepared than someone from a lib-



By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**U.S. Senator Max Cleland, who is up for re-election Tuesday, campaigned for re-election at Tech Tower on Thursday morning. This year's election features several races in which Tech students and alumni played roles.**

eral arts school because [of my] engineering background—[learning how to] take complex processes and boil them down to what's critical. I'm at an advantage because of that."

Childress said the job is fun, exciting and affords him the opportunity to leave his mark on Georgia's political system. "Whether we win or lose, though I hope that we win, [I know] that our efforts have influenced public policy."

"This is the best experience I've had in my entire life—[it's] exciting, [I'm] influencing Georgia's politics, [experiencing] personal growth and learning about how I work with people and what I believe about de-

mocracy," said Childress.

Adam Stevens, the president of the College Democrats at Georgia Tech, is also involved in local politics. The club he heads affords its members a chance to travel the nation to participate in campaign events. Stevens said, "Georgia Tech has a reputation around the state as [having] serious, practical people."

"Chris Webb [a College Democrats member] was an intern for Governor Barnes over the summer; Amanda Pardo works on media and research for Lt. Governor Mark Taylor's campaign," said Stevens, showing that current undergrads are also involved in Georgia's political scene.

Getting involved is easy, according to Young, Childress and Stevens: "People just want good help. [If you are] bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, responsible, intelligent and indispensable with [your] volunteer help, [organizations and campaigns] will ask for your help and to come on full time. Keep your eyes and ears open," advised Childress.

Though working on a campaign can be an invaluable, memorable experience, the easiest way everyone can have an impact and make a difference is to vote. Your next opportunity is Nov. 5, as Georgia holds elections for governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House and General Assembly.

# SGA encourages students to think about issues that sway votes

By Eric Vogel  
Contributing Writer

On July 5, 1971, President Richard Nixon signed the 26th amendment to the Constitution, giving all Americans over the age of 18 the right to vote. The amendment was signed in part to pacify angry youths, especially college students, who were being sent to Vietnam to fight and die without having representation in the lawmaking body that was sending them. In 2002, that right still exists, and Georgia Tech students can use it to better this school. Students can influence the Institute in a variety of ways.

Georgia Tech's Student Government Association (SGA) is the main venue for students to affect the campus. Among its responsibilities is to distribute the over \$2 million in student activity fees on behalf of the student body. Student Body President Tiffany Massey said that the most important issues are "almost

always related to funding the various organizations on Tech's campus."

Those Tech students who are 18 and older and are US citizens can also vote in local, state and national elections. In the next election, the governor of Georgia, a seat in the U.S. Senate and a number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives will be chosen. Students who have not yet done so yet may register to vote at the Fulton County Government Building, the North Fulton Annex, College Park, any public library or facility that issues driver's licenses or by mail. Tech has, according to Massey, "one of the highest voter turnouts" in comparison to our peer institutions.

Aside from voting, there are many ways Tech students can influence politics. Randall McElroy, Chairman of the College Libertarians, recommended that students who wish to do so should join the various political clubs on campus. His

organization, which is trying to bring a "broad libertarian education" to the campus, is but one of many that seek to influence politics through student involvement. The College Democrats, another such organiza-

**"The more students we have interning with our elected officials, the more the officials are 'connected to Tech.'"**

tion, held a gathering next to Junior's grill Thursday where students were able to meet Senator Zell Miller as he garnered support for fellow democrat Max Cleland, who is up for reelection for his Senate seat on Tuesday.

Massey spoke of SGA's "Gov-

ernmental and External Affairs" committee. The committee, which has two co-chairs, is a "student government opportunity to reach out to our elected officials."

One of the activities currently being planned is a reception for legislatures friendly to Georgia Tech. The committee works with Andrew Harris, Georgia Tech's lobbyist, to publicize the Governor's Intern Program and Legislative Intern Program, both of which put Tech students (juniors, seniors and graduate students) in the offices that control our state's government. Massey said that currently, "not a lot of Tech students are involved [in them]," and added that the current participants were "mostly a bunch of UGA students" because it's more publicized on their campus. She explained that the more students we have interning with our elected officials, the more the officials are "connected to Tech," and therefore the more sympathetic they

are to our interests. Students interested in participating in these programs should contact SGA to begin the application process.

When asked what he thought were the most important issues for Tech students, Randall replied that, while there is "nothing really pressing" at the moment, there are some minor city regulations that are not in students' best interests. He cited as an example the fact that the government is putting pressure on dance clubs not to allow people under 21 in, a policy which he says is "unnecessary and annoying."

As for what determines who or what Tech students support with their votes, Randall observed that younger students tend to vote "how they've been brought up" but, as they become more independent, "they look at issues more." He summarized that "college students are in the process of realizing that having a vote can determine what they can and can't do."

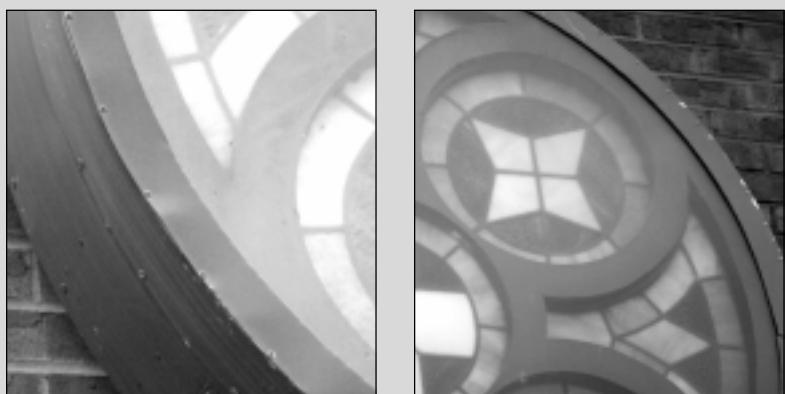
# Tech Up Close



email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

Winner of the Tech Up Close contest receives a *Technique* T-shirt and a coupon for a free student combo at Li'l Dino's.

Last week's Tech Up Close: Stained glass in front of DramaTech



By Tim Cailloux / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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## Buildings from page 13

and only one dissenting opinion was voiced, according to LeRoy.

The vacant lot, left behind from the old building, will soon be converted into Yellow Jacket Park.

"Construction will start at least by January, if not sooner," said Alexander.

"The Master Plan dictates that a major need of the campus is to develop open space," said LeRoy.

Yellow Jacket Park will be the next step in improving green space on campus. It will host several trees, benches and an open, grassed area, thus providing students with a more peaceful and attractive environment.

On the other side of Skiles, a building older than Hightower is currently experiencing a shaping of its future—literally.

The Coon Building, on Cherry Street and across from Tech Tower, has been undergoing renovation for the past year. One of the oldest buildings on campus, the Coon building was originally called the

"Mechanical Engineering" or "New Shop" building when it was completed in 1912. Later, the New Shop building was named after Tech's first mechanical engineering professor, John S. Coon. Coon joined the faculty in 1889 and served as chairman of mechanical engineer-

**"[Choosing what's renovated] is a very calculated, very engineered process."**

**Don Alexander**  
Manager of Facilities  
Engineering

ing until his retirement in 1923.

Coon was dubbed "Tech's Greatest Professor" by Dean George Griffin, and was the first person to begin the movement to beautify Tech's campus. It is fitting, then, that the building in his honor is located in

one of the most beautiful areas on campus.

Now, more than 90 years after the Coon building was constructed, it will become the new home of the Psychology Department, whose current building will be torn down to allow for the construction of the new Computer Science building.

"Initial tests suggested that the [Coon] building wasn't big enough for Psychology," said Gary Petherick, Project Manager for the Coon renovation. "It doesn't allow much room for growth," he added, but the nearby Weber Building "could potentially provide room for expansion in the future, if needed."

The renovation will add about 15,000 square feet of space to the original 62,000 square feet in the Coon building. Psychology currently occupies about 40,000 square feet.

Because of the Coon building's historical significance, extra care has been taken to preserve its original look. The entrance on Cherry Street will be left as-is, along with many other characteristics that provide a glimpse into the building's past.



Photo courtesy GT Capital Planning and Space Management

**The plans for the soon-to-come Yellow Jacket Park show it filling, with green space, the area left vacant when Hightower was demolished.**

The building will be furnished with the latest technology, including a wireless network. It will also be fully accessible to handicapped persons.

"It's going to be a pretty nice space," said Petherick.

According to Petherick, the project is going well thus far. "It's a quirky old building. Rooms aren't square, walls aren't square, and floors

aren't level," said Petherick. The renovation crew has been able to work around these expected, minor problems, though.

Both the Hightower and Coon projects are nearing completion. Petherick expects the Coon building to be ready by March 2003, and the first phase of Yellow Jacket Park should be finished during spring semester 2003 as well.