

# FOCUS

Technique • Friday, February 14, 2003

## 50 years of women at Tech

In this installment of our series highlighting the 50 years of women at Tech, Joshua Cuneo explores the many Tech women in sororities, and what impacts that involvement has had on the Institute. Page 15

## Did b-ball earn a road win?

After their impressive and unexpected win against Maryland on Sunday, how did the Jackets fare against NC State's Wolfpack? Check out sports for a full review. Page 36



# Legislative internships offer unique opportunities

By Kimberly Rieck  
Senior Staff Writer

While most Georgia Tech students are staying in the classroom this semester, a group of students has seized an opportunity to help shape Georgia's future. Six undergraduate students from the Ivan Allen College are participating in the Georgia Legislative Intern program for the Georgia Legislature's current session.

Each year, thirty undergraduate students from across the state are selected for the competitive program where undergrad students intern full-time for the annual session of the General Assembly. According to John Havick, professor in Georgia Tech's School of Public Policy, each school is allotted a certain number of students to participate in the program—Georgia Tech has six spots. However, Havick said the number can vary from year to year. Havick first started running the program for Tech in 1980; he then took a break in 1986. This year marks his first year back running the program. Even when he wasn't there, though, Havick said Georgia Tech has been actively involved with the program since its inception over 30 years ago.

The students selected for the winter 2003 term are Brian Knight, Brian McAlhaney, Alan Bakowski, Laura Wilson, Richard Gardner and Amanda Rodman.

Knight is working in the Senate in the office of the administration floor leaders and the Committee on Redistricting. "I've had an interest in politics for a while now and when this internship was announced, I thought it would be a good chance to get some first hand experience in how things really work," said Knight. Knight is the only intern from Tech serving in the Senate.

McAlhaney is working in the House, interning for Rep. Richard Royal in the Ways and Means Committee office. The Ways and Means committee deals with all taxes and tax laws. McAlhaney actually received a B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Tech before deciding to re-enroll as a re-admission student to the School of Public Policy. In the House, he's a part of a small minority of Georgia Tech graduates; only two representatives are Georgia Tech alumni.

McAlhaney said the issues

that he currently works with most closely are the sales tax holidays and the proposed increased taxes on cigarettes, both of which frequently appear in the news.

Rodman is working in the office of Speaker Pro Tempore DuBose Porter. Rodman wanted to become an intern to "meet fascinating people and maybe do a little networking while at the Capitol."

Working in the speaker's office has provided her with many opportunities—from meeting representatives, senators and lobbyists to going to committee meetings and receptions. "It has been a great experience

thus far and a wonderful opportunity to see how politics, at least on the state level, really work," said Rodman.

Bakowski is assigned to the office of Gerald Greene in the State Institutions and Property Committee. "As a public policy major, the legislative process is one that's of interest to me," said Bakowski.

The State Institutions and Property Committee deals with institutions such as the Department of Corrections. According to Bakowski, one of the best parts about his job is meeting interesting people and seeing how the legislature works

behind the scenes.

In the Transportation and Motor Vehicles committee, Wilson interns for Rep. Ralph Twigg. Wilson is the only HTS major in the current group of interns; the other students are all Public Policy students. Wilson became interested in interning after she took one of Havick's political science courses. Wilson's committee has been busy dealing with the new driving laws currently proposed in the General Assembly.

Gardner helps Rep. Robert Ray in the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. Gardner's committee deals with many important issues related to Georgia's economy

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## Privacy or proximity dominate dorms?

By Jennifer Lee  
Staff Writer

For most college students, having at least one roommate is a way of life.

However, this may be changing: the *New York Times* recently reported that more and more college students are requesting housing that offers more privacy. As a result, colleges are responding by building new dorms or renovating existing ones to create more single-person rooms.

However, this trend doesn't include Georgia Tech.

"There was a time where we

considered turning Towers [a traditional-style Freshman Experience dorm] into suites," said Bob Morton, Assistant Director for the Freshman Experience Program. "But at Georgia Tech, we have such a shortage of housing, that to do this didn't make any sense, because we'd just be displacing more students."

But how much of the statistics are hype and how much is true? Dan Morrison, Associate Director for Residence Life, said in response to the article, "I wasn't surprised to see it. It was interesting to see the *New York Times* cover it, but we've actually been noting this for several years."

Morrison, and others who have worked with housing for a long time, say that the trend may be due to other factors besides privacy.

For example, one reason that some schools are adding more singles might be as a way to entice students to live on campus. However, said Morrison, because of the nature of Tech life, an overwhelming number of students apply to live on campus: "Students live on campus because of the proximity, the convenience, the ethernet

See *Roomies*, page 19



By Chris Raabe / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

These roommates appear to be getting along swimmingly; when a roommate relationship goes awry, though, would students would rather just live in a single instead of dealing with possible troubles?

## Disabled face increased construction roadblocks

By Christine Rutz  
Contributing Writer

In the past six months, every student's walk to class has been impacted by the numerous construction projects on campus. The areas surrounding the new ES&T building and College of Computing are continuously changing; new fences and barriers seem to appear overnight.

For many students, the barriers simply are a nuisance that occasionally makes them late for class. However, for some students, the construction poses a much more complicated and serious problem. Students with disabilities often find that their preset routes to class have been eliminated or made much longer and inconvenient.

Dawn Alford, a senior in Chemical Engineering, is one such student. Since she began at Tech, Alford has used a wheelchair to get around campus. She has found that the construction on campus has made it extremely difficult and "very frustrating" as far as her trek to class goes.

She explained that, "the difference between my ability to get around and the able-bodied student is...for able-bodied students [the construction] is an inconvenience, but for students with mobility problems it makes it impossible to get around."

Alford elaborated, "I don't have the luxury of being able to cut through grass or go up any steps." Instead,

Alford has to find wheelchair accessible sidewalks, curbscuts, and ramps, which has proven to be quite difficult with the constant re-routing of streets.

She said that one of the major problems is that she doesn't know in advance which sidewalks will be blocked off. Alford explained that if she knows in advance, she can plan an alternate way to get to class, but so far that hasn't happened yet.

She had one exceptionally unfortunate experience at the beginning of the semester.

As of spring semester 2003, all of the ChemE classes and labs have been moved to the new ES&T building (from Bunger-Henry). Therefore, when she arrived to the ES&T building for the first day of class, she was astounded to discover that there was no way for her to enter the building!

Alford consulted the project manager for the ES&T area, who informed her that the building would comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines when all the construction was complete. The wheelchair accessible entrances were blocked due to more construction in the surrounding areas. When she inquired as to why the building had been opened for class if students using wheelchairs could not get to classes in the building, the management told her that in their opinion

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## Intern

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my.

Typically, interns work from eight to five each day. Havick said it is a challenging position with mixed benefits. The interns receive \$200 a week but not a full semester's worth of credit for the internship—only six to nine credit hours. While it is possible for interns to pick up more credit hours for those trying to graduate early, it is difficult because the interns are working full time. Georgia State offers courses aimed towards fitting around a legislative intern's program.

In addition, Havick teaches nighttime special topics Public Policy classes that the interns have the option of taking. Havick said it is extremely difficult

for interns to maintain outside activities such as roles in campus organizations while fulfilling their internship and class requirements. For the program, students have to complete a journal and a research paper detailing their experience.

Most interns are assigned to a standing committee in either the House or Senate, while a few are placed in legislative staff offices. An interns' responsibilities include researching bills or issues before the General Assembly, working with a legislative committee, monitoring the progress of legislation and other duties as assigned by the commit-

tee.

Bakowski said one part of his job is to answer the letters and questions of his representative's, Rep. Gerald Greene in the State Institutions and Property Committee, constituents. In the Speaker Pro Tem, Dubose Porter's office, Rodman helps keep track of Porter's schedule and official commitments while keeping him informed of the latest state, local and world news. The duties of an intern can vary on a day-to-day basis depending on how busy the office is. "Some days I don't do very much, but some days I don't ever stop," said Knight.

The internship program helps students prepare for future careers in law, politics and government service. Knight, McAlhane and

Rodman are leaning towards careers in law. Havick said the internship is a great way to build up a resume, obtain references from top legal professionals in the state for graduate and law school and provide you with contacts in the Georgia Legislature.

The program is open to students of any major. However, Havick recommends that students take at least one course in American government and have an interest in politics.

Georgia Tech's selection process for the program begins in the fall.

For more information, contact [john.havick@pubpolicy.gatech.edu](mailto:john.havick@pubpolicy.gatech.edu)

**"The legislative process is one that's of interest to me"**

**Alan Bakowski**  
2nd year PubP major



## Sororities enrich lives, provide support

By *Joshua Cuneo*  
Staff Writer

When women first enrolled at Tech in the early 1950s, one of the first things they did was establish a sorority.

Eleven of Tech's women established the Tau Sigma sorority in 1953 with the assistance of Ms. Van Leer, the wife of the then-President of Georgia Tech. It provided the resources to help Tech women become active with campus events and seek academic help. Through it, Tech women quickly established several annual social functions of their own and participated in campus activities such as the Campus Chest and the World Students Funds. Women were encouraged to take leadership positions, and one woman made an attempt to become the first woman in history elected to the Georgia Tech Student Council. More importantly, Tau Sigma provided a forum through which the Tech women could socialize with one another without the pressures of their disapproving male classmates and faculty, a function that sororities continued to serve over the next fifty years.

"... We had women in the sorority who had graduated from Georgia Tech," recalled Nancy Jan Davis,

a 1975 graduate. "Shirley Mewborn was one of our advisors, and she was one of the first women graduates, so she mentored us, she helped us through the tough times and she was a role model in that we could see that we [thought that] we had it tough... That provided the nurturing, I think."

The local sorority soon became a chapter of the national Alpha Xi Delta sorority. The sorority was so popular among the women that most of Tech's female students throughout the mid-1950s were members.

The benefits that sororities provided to Tech's first women still remain the constant attraction of sorority life for women today. Of particular significance is the attraction of a close-knit social/support group that it offers to entering students. "Honestly, I wouldn't know very many girls, especially upper-class girls, if it wasn't for pledging a sorority," said Karen Donaldson, a first year International Affairs major and Purchasing Coordinator for Alpha Gamma Delta. Friendships often form particularly quickly due to a sharing of interests.

"Sororities provide you with a quick sense of comfortableness," said Colleen Baum, a third-year Industrial Engineering Major and President of Chi Omega Tau. "You [are]

around girls that are similar to you and share common goals and values."

Furthermore, sorority life still helps women escape the complications of being in a male-dominated university. "During my freshman year, I found it hard to form a circle of good girl friends because there are mostly guys in your classes," Baum recalled. "Being in classes with all men can sometimes be intimidating. As part of a sorority, you can usually find at least one other person that you know to go to class with and study with."

Donaldson also recalled coming into Tech with concerns about "the ratio," but "Tech is also a large research institute. It's easy to come out from high school and fall through the cracks here. I think that's why so many students here are unhappy."

Sororities have helped women ease this burden caused by the transition into Tech, providing it's members with the experience of upperclassmen, academic support for their classes (including TAs in most of the popular majors), community service options and connections after graduation. "Joining a sorority is not the only way, but it is

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## Construction

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By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**The proliferation of construction projects around campus has resulted in increased difficulty of mobility for disabled students.**

the building was ready enough for classes to be held there.

After that incident Alford met with several higher-ups in Georgia Tech's administration to discuss the

problem. She said that she believes that a focus group or perhaps SGA action could help solve the problem for good by establishing firm lines of communication between the con-

struction managers and the ADAPTS (Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students) program.

Improved communication between the construction project managers and GT disability services will continue to raise awareness for the needs of students with disabilities.

Alford was quick to explain that there are certainly different concerns for different types of disabilities, noting that, for example, someone who walks with crutches, a shorter route is obviously the solution. She believed that a focus group consisting of students with a variety of disabilities would be very effective in making construction routing decisions.

Tameeka Hunter, Program Co-

ordinator for Disability Services, said that all construction must meet the minimum ADA requirements, but that the blocked roads "create hardships for students with disabilities."

If a disabled student encounters a problem in getting to class, he or she contacts Hunter, who helps by stepping in to speak with the student and the administration to rectify the situation. When Alford had her unfortunate experience with the ES&T building, Hunter helped by participating in meetings with Alford, GT Facilities and the construction managers.

Alford ended up rearranging her class schedule such that she would not have any courses in the ES&T

building because of her inability to access the building. Although her professors assured her no direct penalties, she felt that the missed classes were too much to make up, and she enrolled in courses located in more accessible buildings. She hoped that the issue with the ES&T building has been handled appropriately and that "what happened to me does not happen to another student."

Alford said that she simply wants to raise awareness about how students with disabilities deal with changes in campus terrain in hopes that this will improve the way construction decisions are handled in the future for students with disabilities.

Campus construction and the blocked sidewalks have affected all of us, but particularly those students who already have some difficulty in getting to class. Students with disabilities will hopefully see many improvements in the way that these road closings are conducted and communicated.

**"For students with mobility problems [construction] makes it impossible to get around."**

**Dawn Alford**  
ChE

## sliver box

[www.nique.net/sliver](http://www.nique.net/sliver)

Ahhh, I hate that Bob Barker.  
The price is wrong, bitch  
Why is there an increase in fees?  
Why doesn't this cheap school hire more parking dudes to give us more tickets...woops, I think I just spilled the beans on Tech secret project X-12  
MSN sucks so much  
Hoover it is  
Red Bull gives me gas  
"We each be identified in a more secure method..." There are two main errors so far with this quote. Can anyone list them?  
The correct answers are...oh, I give up. Copy editors, please use a blunt object to whack each other with.  
1770 = worst class ever. Professors are great, TA's are asshats, and 4X more work than you have time to do in 3 hours  
heaven must be missing an angel. it's you, babe.  
Well, Well, Well, it seems that the 1770 TA's have gotten gayer. Less than half the people in 1770 got their drawings "critiqued" because the TA's spent too much time telling people how their drawing  
Warm for one day....so cold again b average and a girlfriend, all i ask dammit  
...ok a reasonably hot girlfriend :D  
sliver absofreakingrules  
You have to much personality to be an engineer.  
No matter how hard I try to resist...that boy is fine...he just can't help it  
"I like you...we are talking serious linkage here"—Hallmark Valentine's Day card  
Republican's aren't the type you take home to mama.  
once again, if you have a cold, don't come to class  
when is Tech building a new dorm building?  
I hope we never host the NBA all-star game again.  
there are no coincidences in life  
ANAK website: "membership is considered the highest honor a student can achieve at Georgia Tech." Only by the members.  
please win on the road  
to Maryland's #22: pick a name  
happy VD, i mean V Day...

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a great way to meet people and to be exposed to activities and opportunities you wouldn't have otherwise found," said Donaldson. "Alpha Gam[ma Delta] helped me overcome a lot of the problems I faced my first semester here, and I really feel like it has opened up a lot of things to me both this semester and in the years to come here."

Such opportunities also include leadership positions. A number of women at Tech who assume leadership positions are also sorority members, and women who are eager to do more with their sorority may have several opportunities to assume a variety of positions within the Greek system.

Baum, for instance, a founding member of Chi Omega Tau in spring 2001, wanted to make a bigger difference and took over as president of her sorority last month. "The benefits are that I get a huge opportunity to contribute to my sorority," she said. "I have the opportunity to improve things that need work and work with my sisters to make our organization into what we want it to be. I also have the opportunity to work with other campus leaders through Panhellenic and come up with ways to improve the overall Greek system for women at Tech."

Donaldson had similar motivations for becoming the Purchasing Coordinator. "It was a way for me to become more involved, and that has helped me by giving me more input in various aspects of the decision-making within the organization, as well as getting to know some of the older sisters and obtaining some experience with finance as well."

She hopes to remain actively involved and has her eye set on Vice President-Finance for the next term.

Yet the entire Greek system at Tech is probably most famous for

its social functions. The aforementioned annual events such as Homecoming and Greek Week are the most well known, but each sorority sponsors a number of other, smaller activities throughout the year, giving members of the sorority an opportunity to congregate and socialize among themselves as well as among members of the other fraternities and sororities on campus.

At Chi Omega Tau, for instance, Baum was able to list sisterhood

retreats and bonding activities, date nights, formals, dinners, crush parties, weekly business meetings, a variety of philanthropic activities and study hall. "Date nights are times when each sister gets a date and we all do something together: dinner, movie, something like that," she explained. "For crush [parties], we rent out a place, and then each sister invites up to five guys to come and hang out. It's all anonymous, so you can invite guys that you have a crush on."

During the 1960s, there was a lull in student enrollment that stalled the advancement of women on campus, and a second sorority—Alpha Gamma Delta—wasn't established

at Tech until 1973. As the number and diversity of women on campus increased during the 1970s and beyond, however, more sororities—some local, some chapters of national organizations—were and continue to be

service projects and campus programs and they coordinate with the Interfraternity Council regarding annual Greek-wide activities such as Homecoming, Greek Week and Greek Retreat.

The Panhellenic Council also offers other benefits to sorority



at a fairly steady rate, including the most recently added local sorority Chi Omega Tau two years ago.

There are now eleven sororities at Tech, and eight of them are members of the Panhellenic Council, a board composed of the presidents and other officers of the individual sororities to oversee and coordinate their activities on campus.

The Panhellenic Council sponsors sorority rush and a number of

en. This level of coordination, for instance, provides the sorority system with the resources to address important women's issues both within the Georgia Tech community and across the United States as a whole. "Sororities really focus on addressing women's issues, similar to those that [the Women's Leadership Conference] and Women's Awareness Month address... things like cancer awareness, safety issues, succeeding in the business world... problems that we

have to deal with as women," said Baum.

Sororities often work to call attention to these issues by inviting speakers from the Health and Counseling Centers as well as from sources outside Georgia Tech to talk to their members. Furthermore, "sororities themselves... provide a support system for girls that are going through problems. Usually, there is at least one person within your sorority that has gone through similar problems and they are there to help you. All of your other sisters are also there to offer support," said Baum.

The other three sororities are members of the National Pan Hellenic Council, an organization established in 1930 that consists of both African-American fraternities and sororities. Originally established to encourage African American participation in Greek life in an era when blatant racism might have scared it away, the National Pan Hellenic fraternities and sororities at Tech uphold the same ideals and events as those under the Panhellenic Council.

This kind of growth in sorority life reflects the rise in female student enrollment at Tech and the diversity that it brings to the Institute. The nature and consistency in the benefits of sorority life over the past fifty years are indications that Greek life works for women and has been a major factor in their success at Tech.

*The president of Pan Hellenic Council, a sister of Zeta Tau Alpha and a sister of Phi Mu were all asked to contribute to this article; all of them declined to speak due to time restraints and personal reasons.*

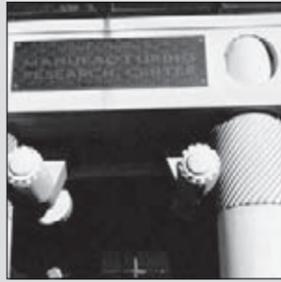
# Tech Up Close

email: [focus@technique.gatech.edu](mailto: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:  
Worm gears on the MARC building.

Last week's winner:  
Jon Swarner



By Brian Oxford / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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connection, etc. So we don't need to induce people; we're at a point where we're actually turning people away."

Another reason may be due to societal and demographic changes. "These days, students are coming from environments where they've come from smaller families, larger homes, more stuff, less people," said Morrison. "We always joke that the rooms haven't changed in size, but every year the SUV that people come to campus in gets bigger."

That's the case for Jennifer Haggemaker, a second-year Biomedical Engineering major. Although she is originally from Georgia, her family recently moved, and therefore Haggemaker keeps most of her belongings in her room at school. Although she did have a room and bathroom to herself at home, she said that if she had been given the option of living in a single her freshman year, she probably wouldn't have taken it.

"I would have been lonely as hell," she said.

Many students agree that freshman year is a different case from other years. Those that work in the Department of Housing seem to agree: "We try never to put freshmen in a room by themselves," said Morton. Although there are a few singles scattered throughout the FE dorms, most are occupied by residence hall staff or reserved for students with special conditions.

More privacy—at least during one's first year—may even be detrimental. "When I first came here in

1991, we used to look at the GPAs of students that lived in all residence halls," said Morton. "One of the things we noticed was in Woodruff and Harris, which are both suites, freshman coming in that requested [these nicer dorms], did considerably worse than freshman in a traditional dorm. We theorized that the reason for this is because when you go into a room and shut the door, you're isolated, and unfortunately being isolated, it's a little bit harder to find help."

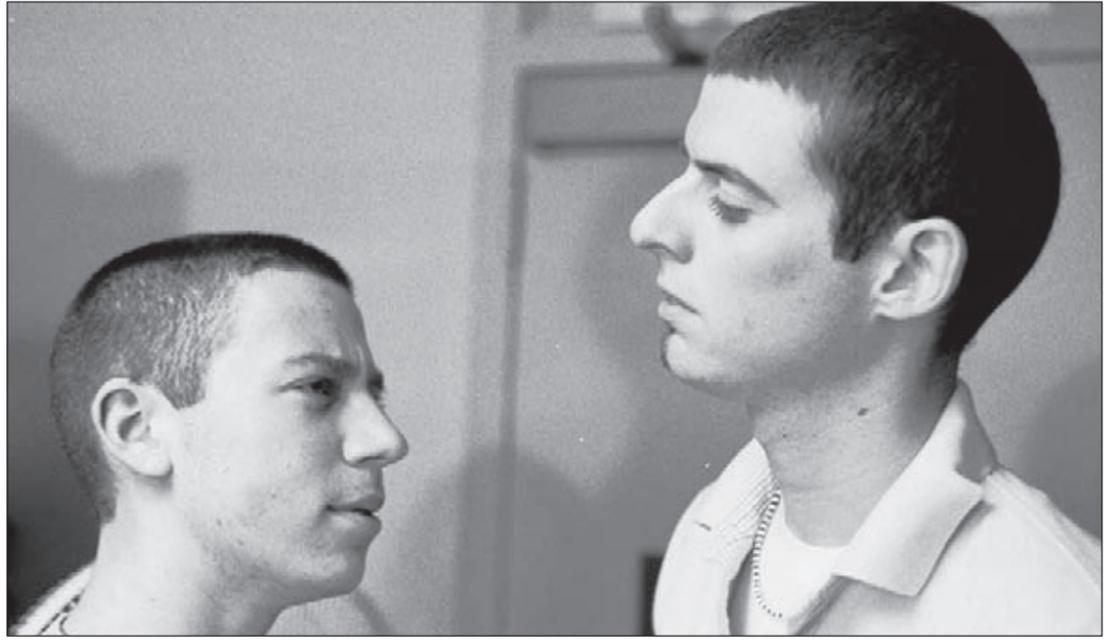
On the other hand, Chris Kelly, a Peer Leader in Caldwell, said, "I have noticed the negative effects of living in a traditional dorm in that I hang out all the time and spend less time on my studies than I should." He hopes to be in an apartment next year, and said, "It will be nice to settle down a bit and lose some of the craziness."

However, most students agree that the sense of community developed in traditional style dorms outweighs the occasional distractions.

Kelly said of his past two years in an FE dorm, "The community spirit is great... it's been a lot of fun being around lots of people."

Qing Xu, an Electrical Engineering sophomore, lived in Caldwell his freshman year, but was relocated to a suite in Woodruff his second

semester when Caldwell closed for construction. "I liked being in Caldwell because of the proximity of the people in the hall. You could pass by and say hi, and just chill. Woodruff wasn't as fun: the doors were always closed," said Xu. This year he lives in Hefner, a traditional dorm.



By Chris Raabe / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Some roommate relationships can be rocky, and filled with angst. Looking beyond the occasional personality clash, most freshmen say they are happy to live with a roommate during their first year at Tech.**

"I like Hefner, too, because it's almost like an FE dorm, with the open door policy."

Xu, who is good friends with his roommate, said that he wouldn't mind not having a single for the rest of his four years at Tech.

However, that isn't always the case. A difficult roommate may intensify the need for privacy.

"Living with a roommate is a little difficult," said Meredith Zaring, a freshman Mechanical Engineering major living in Cloudman hall. She said that she would have preferred a single "so that I don't have to get ready in the dark when my roommate is asleep, or work late to lamp-light, or ask if watching TV will bother her, or get out of the shower and come into a room with another person."

Zaring also pointed out, "I think people would make even more of an effort to meet others who live around them if they had a single room."

Kayla Berry, a second year Management major who lived in Mon-

tag the first semester of her freshman year, moved to East Campus second semester because of roommate problems.

Berry said that currently, she would prefer a single. "When you get older, life gets more crazy, and my roommate and I have such different schedules," she said. However, despite her experience first semester, she wouldn't have wanted to be in a single then. "As a freshman, I want to meet new people," she said.

According to Bob Morton, it's difficult to tell whether bad roommates are contributing to the overall trend. "It's like a roll of the dice," said Morton. "You never know—some years it's great, some years it's really bad, in terms of roommate relationships."

Perry Entwistle, a third-year EE, wouldn't have wanted a single his first year: "I came to Tech not knowing anyone, so I was really hoping to meet some people." However, now in his second year living in the ULC,

Entwistle does prefer living in a non-traditional dorm: "The ULC was a lot better than Fitten was. I moved in with some good friends, and we were lucky enough to be across the hall from some other friends and some cool people we ended up getting to know well."

Morrison noted, "Your life in the residence hall can be great even if you don't feel like the facility meets your needs. Most students know what they're getting into [in terms of facilities] when they come here." He acknowledged, "Most people would like a single room. The question is whether they need it."

Bob Morton concluded, "The older you get, the more you have a need for privacy. It's the same as being at home: students coming in live in a traditional space and then work their way to privacy—the apartments and suites—the older the student gets."

To read the Times article, go to [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

**"We try never to put freshmen in a room by themselves...[but] the older you get, the more you have a need for privacy."**

**Bob Morton**  
Assistant Director for the  
Freshman Experience Program