

Coffee: Coffeehouse utilizing leftover funds in Taylor lounge

Continued from Page A1

Aside from mere plans and meetings, Willingham points out that there are tangible aspects of the Coffeehouse project that have already begun. "Construction is already completed on the patio," he said. "They installed the necessary ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramp and

it looks great," he adds. "We're really happy with that."

In addition, Willingham said that renovation has begun on the facility's bathrooms that will bring them into compliance with disability accessibility laws and the existing walls and flooring are scheduled to be removed in the near future.

Overall, Willingham said that he

and SG are enthusiastic about the future of the Coffeehouse. "Everyone seems very happy," he said. "We think this is going to go ahead and move very quickly."

Although a completion date is not yet set, Willingham said that SG expects to hold a grand opening party for the yet-to-be-named Taylor Coffeehouse before the end of this academic year.

The completed Coffeehouse will resemble comparable establishments, such as Starbucks and Borders Café, in menu, quality and pricing. Its appearance will include, according to SG, hardwood flooring, comfortable furniture, a warm color scheme and a fireplace. The Coffeehouse is anticipated to operate between the hours of 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. on

weeknights and from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. on weekends.

Burdened with a number of problems, a startling statement on Nov. 18, 2002 announced the abandonment of the Coffeehouse project. To the relief of SG, however, it lasted less than 24 hours. The development of a cyber café in the library has been postponed, and a compromise has been

reached that will allow a student staff to run the Coffeehouse under the supervision of an ARAMARK manager.

The current plan calls for the project to be phased in over the next two years using leftover funds from the renovation of the Residents Life and Housing offices, with a possibility of additional funding in the future.

Rape: Policy too stringent?

Continued from Page A5

Though he was glad he had told them in the end, he said he felt that it should have been his choice. Jennifer said although she was encouraged to tell her parents, she never did.

Trevor also disapproved of the university's refusal to allow legal counsel into the judicial proceedings.

"The fact that I could not have professional legal representation in the room with me, but the plaintiff could have professional counselors come in and testify for her was not fair," he said.

After three days of proceedings, the panel found it did not have enough evidence to convict Trevor. The judicial system bases its findings on a "clear and convincing standard."

Not so convincing

According to university judicial officer Ricardo Hall, who oversees all cases in Wake Forest's judicial system, "clear and convincing" is about on par with the legal "beyond a reasonable doubt standard."

Sokolow, the consultant who helped revise the university's sexual assault policies, said the university's judicial system is generally friendly to the victim, but the clear and convincing standard is too high.

"In some ways (Wake Forest's) system is hindered by the clear and convincing standard (it) use(s)," he said. "It's strongly protective of students who are accused, but we also have an obligation to protect the community, and this is not a court of law."

Sokolow said in a sexual assault case involving alcohol, for example, it is impossible to meet a standard of clear and convincing evidence because nothing can be clear.

"It's almost as if the outcome is foreordained by this artificially high standard," he said.

In fact, findings of responsibility are rare in sexual assault cases. Between fall 1999 and spring 2002, eight students were charged with sexual assault.

In only two cases were students found responsible for the initial charges, although in several cases students were found responsible of the much lesser charge of sexual misconduct.

Sokolow said most schools use a lower "preponderance of the evidence" standard, meaning it is more likely than not that the crime occurred. Hall described this standard as "51 percent."

"I've observed that our panels are not willing to expel or suspend a student with 51 percent certainty," Hall said.

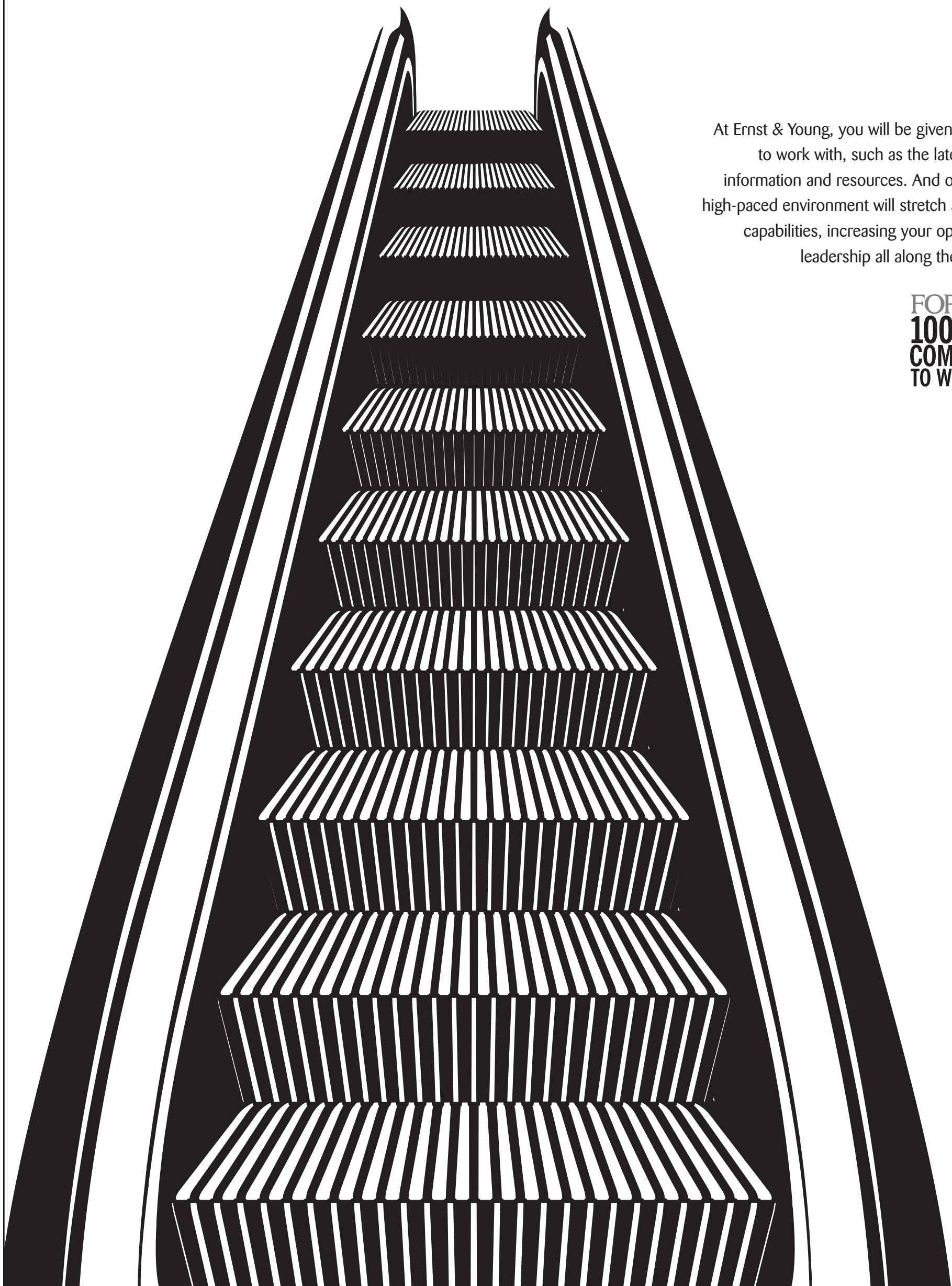
Senior Jonathan Willingham represented accused students in two sexual assault cases while he was a member of the Board of Investigators and Advisors.

"I like the fact that it's really hard to get people convicted ... because it is really so hard to prove," Willingham said. "I'd rather have a guilty person go free than see someone innocent get kicked out of school."

Although Trevor was not found responsible of any sexual offense, the panel composed a letter condemning his conduct, to be included in his file.

"I felt fulfilled because I thought something was going to come out of the letter," Jennifer said. "But ... I still have to walk around campus and see him."

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