

# NEWS

## From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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LOW-COST COMPUTER BRAILLE DISPLAY

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OPENS JOBS FOR VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, GA....Job opportunities for the visually handicapped could double as a result of a low-cost computer braille display now being developed at Georgia Tech's Engineering Experiment Station.

EES researchers say that the 400 or so occupations now listed within the capabilities of the visually handicapped could easily go to 800 or higher if their computer braille display is successful. And they claim that the braille display could be almost 20 times cheaper than anything similar currently on the market.

Gary Kelly, project engineer who is himself visually handicapped, says that the braille display could be used the same way sighted persons use visual displays from computers. It would consist of a 40-character one-line printout that could be read as fast as the person could read braille.

Jobs that would become immediately accessible with this innovation, says Kelly, are in bookkeeping, airline reservations, banking, credit card verification or any others that require the use of visual displays from computers.

"We are now designing a software system to translate computer language into braille," says Kelly, "and we've come up with a conceptual design of the hardware. The next step will be getting additional funding to go ahead and build the unit."

Kelly says that if the funding becomes available a prototype could be ready as early as the summer of 1981. The project is currently funded with monies from a private memorial fund.

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