

THURSDAY AUGUST 21

2003

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Raleigh, North Carolina

Freshn

Before classes officially started, some freshmen set out across Raleigh to volunteer their time.

Anna Edens

Most incoming freshmen use the day before classes start to unpack, buy books or even sleep in.

But not Kati Cadenhead. She wanted "to learn about the city of Raleigh - what their problems are, where families go for help and what services there are."

The freshman political science major from Charlotte was one of 148 students participating in Service NC State, a morning of promoting volunteer service across Raleigh through the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service. The first-year program also aimed to help incoming students meet and to facilitate the growth of character and citizenship in NCSU students.

Through the Service NC State program, freshmen were divided into groups to travel to 12 various locations such as Fuller Elementary School, the Governor Morehead School for the Blind and the Urban Ministries of Raleigh. Cadenhead's group spent the morning at the Salvation Army on Person Street in downtown Raleigh.

"Look at the itty bitty shoes!"

"Who will tray of a 72 pairs of how

"Who will wear a size 72 pair of box-

ers?"
"I've never seen so many Christmas

As the group sorted through the organization's Clothing Closet, students focused on their tasks, but there were also sounds of laughter and conversa-tion about new dorm rooms, campus

dining and even class.
"I'm so glad I came," said Cadenhead. "I know the people in my group now,



 $Joshua\,Gaskill\,, Gio\,Seawood\, and\, Adam\, Culley\, separate\, the\, damaged\, cans\, of\, sweet\, potatoes\, from\, usable\, cans\, at\, the\, food\, bank\, cans\, define the control of the control of$ $of North Carolina.\ Seawood, a junior in psychology and the leader of the group, said that Service N.C. State would, "Be good to the state of the property of the state of t$ meet some of the freshman and get some service in at the same time.".

and we'll be able to hang out later, hopefully. I think [Service NC State] served its purpose to help us get out and meet

The 10 students at the Salvation

Army put together shoe racks, cleaned out the clothing warehouse, arranged small toiletries and even organized small toiletries Christmas stockings for the upcoming holiday season.

Although the tasks may seem simple, "if we don't do it, the staff does. And they shouldn't waste their time when

FRESHMEN see page 2

Are tuition increases pricing students ou

Iowa

Feeling the pinch

As state budgets continue to struggle across the nation, students and families are paying more for public universities.

Carie Windham Staff Reporter

Not too long ago, tuition at a public university seemed like one of the best deals in town. State legislatures, sitting comfortably on the economic boom of the mid-1980s, continued to feed the growing budgets of their state colleges and

As a result, those universities came to rely on state appropriated funds for a large bulk of their operating budgets.

Students and parents saw the benefits each semester when the tuition bill arrived. With the state picking up most of the tab, tuition rates across the country remained relatively low. In North Carolina, they were among the lowest in the nation.

But that was all before the national economy went sour post-Sept. 11. The suffering economy affected North Carolina with looming state deficits, enrollment surges and budget cuts. Prior to Sept. 11th, North Carolina students

 did not have to battle annual tuition increases

Since 1998, students have seen successive increases in the cost of their higher education, pushing tuition up over 100 percent since 1998 at N.C.

It's a trend seen across the nation in which, according to a recent survey by the National Wisconsin

Increase: 16.7-18.7 percent

lowa State University Increase: 17.6 percent Illinois

At N.C. State's peer institutions across the nation, preliminary data suggests that five percent is a small price to pay. Here's a look at in-state increases for the

2003-04 year.

Increase: 5 percent fee increase

Increase: 5 percent

Ohio ase Western University

Increase: 7.1 percent Pennsylvania

Penn State Increase: 9.8 percent for base tuition

> **New Jersey Rutgers University-**Increase: 9 percent

Virginia Polytechnic Institute Increase: 14.8 percent average

Texas A&M University Increase: 0 for fall but new policy

Georgia Institute of Technology y University of Georgia Increase: 15 percent (research), 10 percent (regional)

KATIE KINSEY/TECHNICIAN



James **Oblinger** settles into role as provost

Provost James Oblinger is a familiar face at N.C. State with a new job title.

C. Seth Lester

One of the constant features of N.C. State is change. In this past year alone, the university has received a state-of-the-art athletics facility, several renovations to older lecture halls and even a new

Dr. James Oblinger, formerly the dean of the College of Agricul-tural and Life Sciences, was named the new Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of NCSU in May.

Oblinger remains committed to being visible to the student body and looks forward to an exciting, new relationship with NCSU. He is housed in Holliday Hall in an office where you will find various bricks he has collected from old buildings and a large

On Oblinger's desk you will find a jar of M&M's and a snow globe with all of NCSU's more famous buildings. "I like Peanut M&M's better than plain M&M's," Oblinger admits.

And, while we may know his favorite candy, new arrivals to any university often ponder the question that some long-time whether of the plotter in equestion that some infiguration students are still asking: What is a provost? A quick flip through Webster's gives us, "a person who is appointed to superintend, or preside over, something." Incidentally, the second definition reads, "a keeper of a prison," which some may find strangely approximately interest the second definition of the seco propriate at times.

Despite the authoritative source of the above definitions, how-

ever, Oblinger readily admits that a provost is charged with a lot more than just presiding over *something*. In fact, even our new-est addition to the NCSU administrative bigwigs admits, "a lot

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socia-

tion of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, tuition rates are soaring at public universities.

These rates have increased as much as 25 percent at the City University of New York system to 39.2 percent at Northern Arizona University for the upcoming year.

Even at NCSU, where a five percent increase was enacted for 2003-04, students and families are beginning to wonder: In this sagging economy, is higher education still affordable for

the working family?
States under pressure

On average, states are ex-pected to ask students and families for 10 percent more for tuition and fees this semester, according to Will Doyle, senior policy analyst for the National Center for Public Policy and

EDUCATION see page 3

Students squirm under budget

Budget cuts often mean larger classes and fewer faculty and staff positions, which can directly affect students in the classroom.

allows unlimited increases

University of California-Davis
University of California-San Diego

Increase: 25 percent

[Editor's Note: The following is the second of art series addressing budget cuts at N.C. State.]

Josianne Lauber Senior Staff Reporter

When it comes to budget cuts students often feel helpless, but some students have already taken action.

Student Body President Tony Caravano feels the student government has had good input. "As time has passed this summer, Student Government officials have been looking to share student input into issues concerning the budget. While we would have liked more direct input in the process, we have been able to contribute some," said Caravano.

Erich M. Fabricius, student senate president has mixed feelings. "It's both fortunate and unfortunate that our university is very creative with addressing budget cuts. Fortunate in that they minimize the impact to most prominent of our programs, but unfortunate in that damage is hard to see by the public and the legislature, and often subtly passed on to

students in increases in fees and other things,"

Amanda Devore explained events prepared for next session. One thing on the government's plates is preparing a "book" of students' personal stories concerning budget cuts and tuition increases and how their lives have been affected. "The goal for this project is to get at least 100 stories from each of the 16 campuses, compile them into a book, and published for all legislators before budget discussion begin in the spring," said Devore.

Additionally a lobbying workshop is being planned. This will take place during the stu-dent government retreat this fall. "This way, members will be more prepared to fight against

BUDGET see page 2





FRESHMEN

they have things to do that we couldn't," said Margaret Rode, a freshman in the First Year College

program. Christine Shaw, director of Social Ministries for the Salvation Army, said the center greatly ap-preciated the help of the NCSU students.

"We get a lot of middle to high-school volunteers, but often they can only work for an hour or so

can only work for an hour or so without becoming distracted. And during the school year, we see very few groups," said Shaw. The day of service began at 9 a.m. at Talley Student Center, with groups leaving for their work sites at 10 a.m. The groups worked with the sites and then worked with the sites, and then reflected on the service activities before returning to campus before 3 p.m.

As Cadenhead ate lunch and

As Cadenhead ate lunch and reflected about the day's tasks, she said, "When you go through and see the little socks, you realize that there are small babies on the streets. They are lucky to have a place like this to come to

Tierza Watts, associate director

of CSLEPS, said, "I am absolutely thrilled that we had 148 students show up, because our true goal was 150. I visited about six sites, and everyone I talked to was grinning and saying, 'Your volunteers are wonderful!'"

The turnout of upperclass-

men leaders who helped also

impressed Watts.
Watts believes the event "was a good way to introduce freshman to community service," and she said the office is considering sponsoring the event again next

Cadenhead herself is inter ested in continuing work with the CSLEPS office through their Alternative Spring Break Trips "Everybody I've met in the organization has been incredibly nice, so I'll probably stick close,"



Chelsea Ngongang, a sophomore in chemistry, is "Workin' it out on a day off from school" by tilling up weeds from inside of a sweltering hot greenhouse at Fuller Elementary school. Ngongang said that volunteering was a very rewarding way to help out the community that "Makes you feel good about your-

OBLINGER

of people don't know what the provost does, let alone who the

Oblinger said, "Students know clearly the role of the chancel-lor, and then regard the dean of their college as in charge of their own academic futures, and somewhere in between the chan-cellor and the deans is where that provost falls."

The provost," Oblinger said, "is the chief academic officer, where the chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the university." The provost's office covers the entire spectrum of aca-demic administration, including course and curriculum approval. Registration and Records, NCSU Libraries, Information Technolo-gies, everything from recruitment to retention to graduation rates, Distance Education and of course, all the individual college departments.

Among the new provost's more immediate goals is the accreditaimmediate goals is the accredita-tion review with the Southern As-sociation of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Review, which gages the university's performance along the lines of faculty quality and placement, student compliance with existing administration with existing administration and technology.

"[Technology] is something that this institution has an excellent record in, but we want to leverage more simply because of the collection of disciplines we have," said Oblinger. "[The SACS Review] is what our Quality Enhancement Program is focused on, and it's going to be a major commitment for our faculty, students and staff."

While it seems like an insurmountable amount of work, Oblinger said he is excited about his new role on the University's administration team and that he is an ideal candidate for the job.

"I got involved in the provost position and also administration because of the heavy advising/ teaching load I enjoyed and the research that I helped conduct involving industry and business." In short, Oblinger said his main draw to academic administration is helping to facilitate the prog-ress of others.

And, while the new Provost has quite a reputation, both at other schools and here in Raleigh, he admits, "I've probably learned more in my [first] four weeks on the job than I have in my past 17 years here at the university.

Oblinger's story begins in North-Central Ohio, where he was born and raised. His lengthy career in academia began at De-Pauw University in Greencastle, Ind., where, at the recommendation of his brother-in-law, he obtained an undergraduate degree in bacteriology.

Oblinger continued on to re-

ceive his master's and Ph.D. in food microbiology and technol-ogy from Iowa State University. Around this time, Oblinger's

interest in university adminis tration began to manifest, and so he took on a teaching and re-search position at the University of Florida in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department. In this position, Oblinger interacted with several thousand students in an advisory capacity and thoroughly enjoyed this type of work.

Oblinger, however, certainly is not a fresh face around NCSU. The new provost's history with the Red and White begins in 1986, when he was nominated for the position of Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and was promoted to the dean of the college in Oc tober of 1997.

At the time of his appointment to the NCSU administration, Oblinger was serving as the Associate Dean of Resident Instruction at the University of Missouri at Columbia, and was very familiar with NCSU, due to its front-running nature in the

Part of the provost's job de scription involves working with the Chancellor on a day-to-day basis. "[The Chancellor and I] have had a strong and positive working relationship, and if I didn't think that would continue, I wouldn't have applied for this position. She's been very sup-portive in my [first] four weeks here," says Oblinger. Oblinger maintained a work-

ing relationship with last year's Student Body President Michael Anthony and looks forward to working with Tony Caravano, the

current student body president. Oblinger is also dedicated to not just forming academic pro-grams that instruct, but academic programs that "round out" the

"The quality of a degree program from our university is of the utmost and highest quality, and our graduates take a part of that with them, and therefore need to be associated with that process and not just passing

He feels strongly that students who take a year away from their studies to participate in co-ops and internships and generally get involved draw a more complete experience from their time spent working towards a degree than those who simply work through the academics.

"I want to try and enhance our already high-quality programs by

having those things that maybe used to be referred to as 'extras' not be so 'extra' any more," says

Oblinger also places diversity near the top of his agenda. "Di-versity is defined, at least in my terminology, as more than gender and race," says Oblinger.

Most clearly, Oblinger is dedicated to being a champion of the students. "Students are our regenerative life-blood," the new provost acknowledges, 'Ouality of the student expe rience is foremost on my radar

When offering advice to students, the new provost simply said: "Take advantage of every opportunity you have here at State."

BUDGET

budget cuts and tuition increases when the legislature goes back into session," added Devore.

Evelyn Q. Reiman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs clears up the magnitude of the cuts to students. "Though challenged by shrinking financial resources coupled with expanded student enrollment, we remain absolutely committed to student success and we are resolved to continue our very best efforts in support of our student body," said Reiman.

Reiman also stressed the importance of her office's partnership with the student government. "We will also seek to continue our successful partnership with student government leaders to minimize the impact of these cuts. We hope this

partnership will enable us to maximize our effectiveness in acquiring the new resources needed to provide the superb educational experience that you expect from a world-class institution like N.C. State University," said Reiman.

Deans and others advise students to be active.

"It doesn't hurt for the students to be sure and let their parents and their legislators know too how they feel about this because the future of the state depends so critically upon education upon making sure we are providing the youth of the state the opportunity to get a solid education to prepare

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them for the rest of their lives, it's just an investment that has to be made," said Masnari, dean of Col-

lege of Engineering.

Masnari stressed the challenges of the cuts, but offers some guidance to students.

"It's tough times ... We have to do a better job in informing the public as well as the legisla tors of how everything we do on campus, not just classroom teaching, but in research, plays into the education of students and how that betters the state, said Masnari.

Dean Linda Brady of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences believes faculty-student bonds are very important. "When you have a larger class it is difficult for faculty to really get to know students one on one, and so I would encourage students to visit with faculty during their office hours to make sure faculty get to know them.

Discussing the five percent tuition increase and the budget * problem, Andy Willis, the assistant to the chancellor for external affairs, believes students can have a tremendous impact 'downtown' and offers advice. "[Students] do have a voice. They do have legislators that represent them and most legislators are responsive. I think it is important for students to be educated and realize this is not just a North Carolina problem," stressed Willis, "Forty-four of • the other 50 states in the country have budget problems equal or worse than ours."

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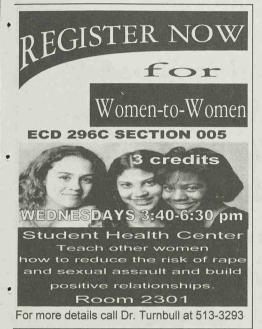
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EDUCATION

The increases come at a time when over half of the nation's state budgets are facing budget deficits. According to the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, the projected state budget short-

fall for all states is between \$70 million and \$85 million. "The last couple of years have been really difficult for states and state budget," said Doyle. "This year has been one of the worst since World War II."

Historically, he added, the trend shows that higher education gets bigger when times are good and cut when times are bad. And one thing that always seems to follow is a tuition increase.

"Students and families are asked to pay the bill," Doyle said.

Some increases have been less severe than others.

A number of states - like North Carolina - have enacted increases that are less than five percent. Mississippi issued no increases.

"If you look at our surrounding states, their tuition increases were much higher," explained Andy Willis, assistant to the chancellor for external affairs at NCSU.

To the north, Virginia's public universities averaged 14.8 percent increases at four-year institutions. In South Carolina, Clemson upped tuition 18.8 percent and the University of South Carolina increased rates by 15 percent.

From what I've seen, North Carolina tuition increases were

relatively small compared to

everyone else," Willis said. In the larger scope of the state's budget, education has typically fared well in North Carolina. But education comprises nearly 60 percent of the budget, Willis said, and when the money gets tight, it's hard to avoid cuts.

This year, the universities re-ceived less than five percent in cuts -- state government received

"I think the legislature and the governor have placed their priori-ties in education," Willis said. Despite this years increase, tuition in North Carolina for

in-state undergraduates is still among the lowest in the nation. cashing in at \$1,477.50. And many legislatures and taxpayers argue that that's a bargain for a four-year degree.

But when fees, room and board and other estimated expenses are tacked on, the estimated amount the average undergraduate will spend this year tops \$12,000. It's over one-quarter of the median family income reported for North Carolina families in the 2000 census.

For out-of-state students, tuition this year runs \$7,401.50. Taking into consideration room, board and other expenses, the to-tal price tag to attend NCSU from out of state is over \$23,000.

The student toll

Despite nationwide increases in financial aid to cushion the blow, students are beginning to ques-tion whether increased tuition is starting to close the doors on

Jonathan Ducote, a senior at NCSU and the president of the UNC Association of Student Governments, spends a great deal of his time fighting for student issues downtown. He worries that accessibility is being jeopardized by repeated increases

"We've got a phenomenal university system, time proven that it works and it can do great things," he said. "It's just a matter of keeping it accessible and the way things are going -- I'm not sure that's the case anymore."

And concerns spread beyond North Carolina's borders.

Jonathan McConnel, a student leader at Auburn University in Alabama, helped fight against tu ition increases on his campus, But a state budgetary shortfall of over \$400 million left students paying 16 percent more this year

In a way, Auburn needed it. Our faculty salaries were below regional average," he said. "But it's important to be affordable to stu-dents. The way we look at it, how many students do you keep out every time you raise tuition?

"One student is too many." At St. Mary's College in Mary-

land, on the other hand, students didn't try to oppose their 8.5 percent increase

Because of the state's budget crisis we were all expecting a tuition hike," said Patrick Bond, a student leader at St. Mary's We recognized its necessity. fact, the student member of the Board of Trustees voted for the increase

Philip Shockley, who was appointed as the student regent to the University of Maryland's Board of Regents, explained that most students knew that increases were coming after budget cuts cancelled many programs and sent staff members home.

'We could cut programs, we could cut more people but we would lose quality," Shockley explained. "No one wanted for [increases] to happen but when your costs increase - how do you compensate for that?"

As the student's voice on the Board of Regents, he did fight to

keep increases low.
"There are students that have said they aren't coming back they just can't afford what [the re gents] are doing, which is hurtful and shameful," Shockley said.

Doyle, who watches and analyzes higher education trends, says this may not be the last year for tuition increases. He worries that future students may be turned

away by rising price tags.
"It's a question of equal op-portunity," he said. "There are a set of students that are not going because they have no ability to

Others, he warned, may turn to

"Students are graduating with higher levels of debt," he said. "We're watching them borrow more and more and that's not the way to run the system."

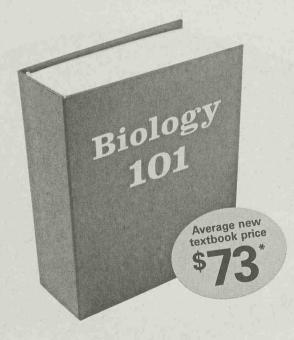
How it adds up

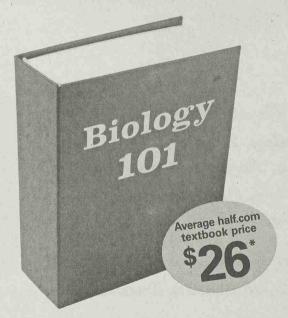
What five percent looks like in dollars and cents.

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\$1,477.50	\$7,401.50
\$70.50 a semester	\$352.50 a semester
	\$1,407 \$1,477.50

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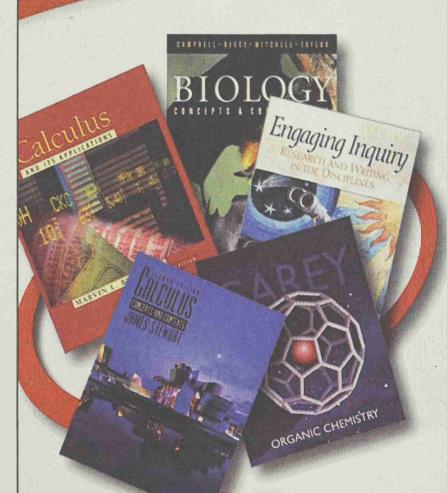
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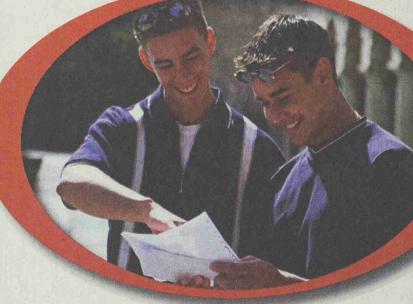
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Patrick Roberts, a sophomore in First Year College, and Amber O'Reilly, a senior in communications, play a game of Frisbee golf on a course on Kaplan Drive on Wednesday. "We like Frisbee golf because it's entertaining, exercise and it's one of the few free things you can do in Raleigh," said O'Reilly.

Goin' to the park

he area around N.C. State is covered in restaurants, theatres, comedy clubs, pool halls and pretty much every form of entertainment that one could imagine. But sometimes the exciting, social atmospheres these establishments offer are more smoky, crowded or urban than you are in the mood for.

Fortunately, there are several local parks that provide that laid-back, rural feel that everyone occasionally wants on those high-stress days.

Pullen Park Located directly beside East Campus (across Pullen Drive), Pullen Park is the local favorite. It contains all the typical park features: a playground, tennis courts, a pond and some covered picnic tables. But it is the little touches like paddle-boating, a trolley, a carousel and a large swimming facility, that help it stand out.

It is, however, poorly lit at night, and ventures over there can be interrupted by some interesting, and occasionally, shady people. So if you are going to venture over there during those late-night hours, you'd best go with some people or a big stick.

Lake Johnson An easy drive down Avent Ferry (away from campus) will take you straight to Lake Johnson. The park, which lies across over 400 acres (though many are underwater), has very well-priced paddle boat, canoe and kayak rentals.

It has over 3.5 miles of paved paths that run throughout the woods around the lake, and it is easily the most popular site for joggers in the area. But just to warn you, it is also a very popular site for people walking their dogs, so watch your step.

Fishing is permitted on the board-walk, but it is rare to see people taking advantage of it. The boardwalk area is fairly well-lit at night, and stands out as a great spot if you are looking to go somewhere quiet and relaxing.

Kentwood Park Sitting under a mile from campus on Kaplan Drive (it's about a five-minute walk from a Wolfline stop on Gorman Street), Kentwood is best known for its 18-hole disc golf course that attracts most of its visitors. The course is fairly easy if compared to most other disc golf courses, but it's challenging enough to make those in-between class visits enjoyable. During parts of the day it can get quite busy, so it's recommended to play in smaller groups to prevent those dreaded "traffic jams." And if you're allergic to poison ivy, you might want to skip hole 13.

The park also has some fairly wellkept tennis courts, a baseball field (which typically isn't being used) and a'small playground.

Lake Wheeler A 10-minute drive from campus can get you to Lake Wheeler, a large park with that "middle of no-where" feel. Since most of the 800-acre park is covered in water, they offer jonboat, canoe, kayak and sailboat rentals. This park is not quite as busy or exciting as the previously mentioned, but it's a gorgeous place that can provide a great getaway.

It also has some giant, steep hills that double as excellent sledding spots in the winter (if it snows, that is). Since the brick walkways in the Court of the Carolinas have ruined the best sledding spot on campus, it is comforting to have such quality alternatives

Experiencing State single

Ashley Hink

If one spends adequate time in Raleigh, it does not take long to realize that this economically booming area is a mecca for young families. Pricey SUVs with American flag stickers fill the streets as mothers tote their children to soccer practice. They return in the early e ning to perfectly manicured yards and fathers just arriving from a hard day's work in Research Triangle Park. Raleigh just might be the suburban dream, and everyone wants in.

Young professionals fill upscale bars along Glenwood Avenue, cocktails in hand as they eagerly sell themselves to their dates, as if the appealing life of utopian Raleigh will pass

However, the rush to find Mr. or Mrs. Right hardly begins in bars, it begins on college campuses. From stuffy classrooms to the busy brickyard, student's eyes are constantly on the prowl to check others out, especially at the beginning of the school year.

The first few weeks of the fall semester are

filled with painful and humorous attempts to impress the opposite sex. Most of us feel the pain of those young girls that cautiously walk to class in high heels, short skirts, a full face of make-up and designer bags in hand. After a humiliating fall on a loose brick and showing up to class with sweat marks, most learn that such efforts often end disastrously.

When the sun goes down students flock to parties, dorm events, cocktails and clubs and flirt to the point of exhaustion in hopes of meeting that special someone. For four years the grueling process continues, and while some get lucky, most of us will leave N.C. State with nothing more than a degree in hand and reflections of time spent unsuccessfully searching for the perfect partner.

We are living in a very unpredictable and unstable point in time. With a shaky national economy, undeniably frightening foreign affairs and a questionable future for our country, there seems to be comfort in the idea of marrying, settling down and eventually starting a family. But while people spend their time on the dating circuit and social scene, many forget to experience these vital years independently. Humans are innately and socially

driven to seek companionship, but personal growth and self-realization is most often achieved alone.

There is nothing wrong with having the company of another person

Whether one is in a serious relationship, dating or "talking" to someone, it is imperative to communicate and learn from others. However, the constant pressure to be with another causes people to fear solidarity. Many people cannot comprehend going out to dinner, seeing a movie, attending a forum or doing much of anything alone.

The company one is with does not maximize experiences. If anything, they are tainted by the presence of others. People glance by colorful and diverse crowds when mindlessly chatting with someone else along a lively street. An amazing painting can be completely overlooked in a restaurant when one's focus is to desperately find clever things to say. Beautiful lyrics can become nothing more than muffled voices when mixed with exhausting conversa-

tion and calming cocktails at a music venue.

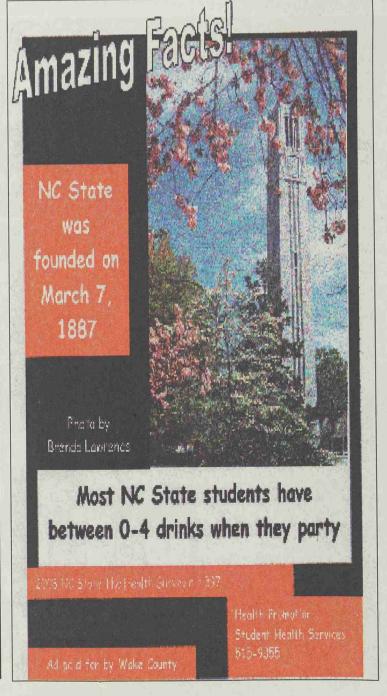
Companionship might be comforting, but it ultimately distracts people from intimately experiencing all that life has to offer.

The people spotted alone in movie theatres, cafes and art exhibits are hardly missing out. They might attract sympathetic glares from other couples, but sometimes disguised within the stares are feelings of envy.

While many spend hours picking out a perfect outfit, fixing hair, applying make-up and making endless attempts to impress another, a select few courageously venture out independently, freely and void of inhibition or pressure. These are the people that will come away from these amazing years with much more than a degree; they leave with a sense of

As the first few weeks of school painfully begin, remember that there is more to the college experience besides the witty compliments and all too often drunken seduction. Don't be afraid to skip out on a party or wear a scummy, old t-shirt to class in fear of missing out on the perfect person.

Enjoy these precious years independently The white picket fences and SUVs will still be around when the time comes to settle down.





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BUDGET CUTS ENDANGER EDUCATION

Nationally, state governments are struggling for ways to balance their budgets in a recession. North Carolina is no different. The state has been in a budget crisis for two years now and once again, public education is taking the hit. Every constituent campus in the UNC system has taken major budget cuts in the past

According to the Provost's office, N.C. State has lost about \$116 million for programs and operating costs. Tuition for public universities is increasing every year. Considering that roughly 22% of the population of North Carolina has a college degree and the income level is lower than other states, like California and New York, it is imperative that affordable higher education is available to every North Carolina citizen.

The mission of the university, as a public institution, is to provide North Carolinians a competitive and affordable education that will allow them to embark on fulfilling careers. This is the first and foremost priority. Research is also very important. Qualified and knowledgeable faculty and convenient class sections are a necessity in order to meet this high standard.

Unfortunately, faculty members are not being hired and class sections are being cancelled because of budget cuts. Teaching assistants are being fired and class sizes are skyrocketing. This is not the type of environment that is conducive to effective learning. The administration has been loathe to consider extracurricular programs expendable, and thus cut their funding, but there has been very little choice.

Fortunately the students, faculty and staff can, and must, vote. Next year, in the elections, we can vote for our representation in the General Assembly and the Governor's Mansion to change. Until then, we have to take cuts in state funding. Extracurricular programs sponsored by the individual colleges should be cut or find outside funding.

should be saved no matter what. As a last resort, in-state tuition should be

Consider the numbers: the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges reports an average tuition increase of 10% from last year to this year. N.C. State has only had a five percent increase from last year. We are still well below the national average. In terms of research grants, we are near the top of the list nationally. Even though academic programs are hurting, the faculty should continue seeking and winning the research grants that have made N.C. State a top research university.

Despite the rising costs of higher education, N.C. State, and public education in general, is still a bargain and still provides students with quality education that is needed for careers in science, technology and agriculture. All we can do now is wait out the money shortage and make the best of a tight situation. The unsigned editorial that appears above are the opinion of the members of the Technician's editorial board paper and are the respi ibility of the editors in chief.

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A+'s are for wimps

Think you are really earning your A's? Think again. Ben Strickling takes on weighted grade point averages.

So, let's say your friend walks up to you and tells you he or she has a 4.0 GPA. What impression does that give you about him or her? Well, after

that he or she has perfect grades.

Well, think again. NC State is one of

"If this

student

walked up to

someone at

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university

and said, 'My

GPA's a 4.0

even though

I got four B+'s,' he or

she would

get laughed

at and then

asked, 'What

the hell kind

of school do

you go to?""

Schools with

non-weighted grades

University of Georgia,

University of Virginia,

Tech, Wake Tech, UCLA

Harvard, Yale, Carolina, Duke,

University of Maryland, UNCG,

UNCC, Georgia Tech, Virginia

those rare universi

you've decided that you friend is a pre-tentious twit -- and consequently uninvited him or her to any future social events that involve alcohol of any kind -- you might be tempted to think

Strickling Staff Columnist

ties that likes to "reward" students who make A+'s with weighted grades. At State, A+'s are worth 4.333 grade points instead of the customary 4 points, as if the administration really believed the trite cliche about "giving 110%" and thus felt obligated to show this on their student's transcripts. Deep down in the most cynical regions of my mind something tells me this might be a bureau cratic plot to raise the school's statistics,

but I hope not.

Despite the origins of the inflated A+ this system allows students to walk around with a 4.0 GPA and still have less than perfect grades. A student with 24 credit hours worth of A+'s can make four B+'s and still have a 4.0 (provided the rest of his or her grades are all A's). The same student could make a D+ instead of the four B+'s and still keep his or her "per fect" 4.0 GPA.

Now that's re-ally pitiful. If this cally walked up to someone going to Harvard or Duke or Carolina or almost any other major university and said "My GPA's a 4.0 even though I got four B+'s," he or she would get laughed

at and then asked,
"What the hell kind of school do you

I admit, this hypothetical conversation is a bit silly -- who really cares what students from other universities say -- but it touches on an important

point. What does this form of grade inflation say about the academic policies of the university and what impact does it have on our university's academic reputation? You would be surprised at how many of N.C. State's peer univer-sities refuse to weigh A+'s extra. In fact, I couldn't find even one other major university that currently uses this form of grade inflation. Here's a short list of some that don't: Harvard, Yale, Carolina, Duke, University of Georgia, University of Virginia, University of Maryland, UNCG, UNCC, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, and even good old Wake Tech. In fact, UCLA's web page even mockingly says "sorry, no bonus" next to the 4.0 mark on its grading scale.

To all you straight-A students out there, I'd be pissed. You're 4.0 at N.C.

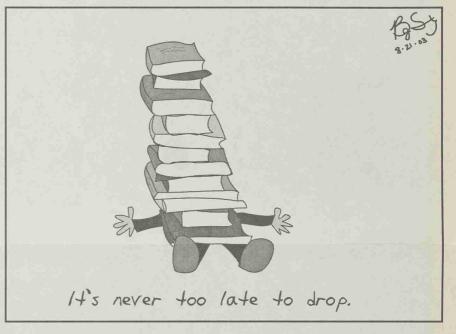
State doesn't mean as much as it does at these other uni versities. After all, I'm sure there are people walking around there with hypothetically your same GPA who didn't put forth as much work as you did. It's sure going to look good on their transcripts though.

There are still two other reasons the inflated A+ is a bad idea. First, it favors and encourages the taking of GPA booster classes. I'm sure we've all heard about so-and-so's class where you're guaranteed to get an A, and we've all had incentive at one time or another to take these classes. But I don't think its right to give students any more incentive to take these classes instead of classes where they might actually learn some thing. Second, the

structure of some classes are more disposed to handing out A+'s than others. Classes that distribute grades based primarily on systems, or other quantitative grading scales make A actually possible Often, in classes where grades are based largely on papers and essays A+ grades simply aren't even handed out. It's no wonder

most liberal arts majors think A+'s are

Any one who wants to call Ben sour grapes because he's working on a liberal arts degree feel free to email him



Lack of U.S. intervention in Liberia has devestating results

The United States has sent troops to Liberia, but is it too little, too late? Despite a call from the United Nations for other nations to help in rebuilding Liberia, it is time for Africans to fix their own problems.

(U-WIRE) BIRMINGHAM, Ala. The attention paid to the plight of the suffering masses of Liberia has been

Shegun Otulana Kaleidoscope U. Alabama-Birmingham

quite encouraging in light of the usual lack of attention when it comes to issues dealing with Africa.

The visit of Presi-dent Bush to Africa

-- where he made a commitment to help West African countries bring neip west African countries oring peace to war-ravaged Liberia --has also played a part in increasing awareness. But with fighting once again raging in Liberia's capital, the administration has been indeci-sive about how and when to provide that as

The inaction on the part of the United States, the United Nations and the West African neighbors of Liberia is needlessly condemning thousands of Liberian civilians to death. Hundreds have al-

The United States has not sent a peace mission to Africa since its 1993 nightmare in Somalia. The might of the American military is however widely respected in Liberia, making it less likely that anyone would mete out such treatment to any captured

Despite the dangers, efforts to resolve conflicts in other parts of the world have shown some results However, what has become obvious as events have unfolded is that none of the growing pressure on President Bush to send troops is coming from the American public. That the United Nations and other countries are arguing for a more involved United States should certainly be taken into ac

count by American policy makers. However, it is my opinion that, absent a few extraordinary situations -- and Liberia may turn out to be one

no such involvements should be undertaken unless demand-ed by the people.

lonial intervention and domination ionian intervention and domination in Africa. It points to the failure of Africans to resolve their own problems and heightens the chances that any major power will intervene wherever it considers another country a rogue or failed state.

African countries should take the initiative, under the auspices of the United Nations to bring an end to the Liberian crisis. Instead of looking to the United States for forces, their primary request should be funds and logistical help, and a background role for the US in an impartial U.N.-led coalition in conjunction with other

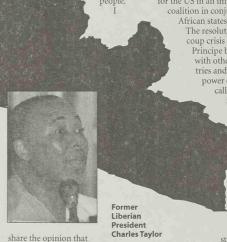
> The resolution of the recent coup crisis in Sao Tome and Principe by Nigeria, along with other African countries and the return to power of the democratically elected govern ment of Sao Tome

> > pe -- under the threat of a military atthe coup plotters sets a good precedent. Liberia pres-

> > > opportunity to

and Princi

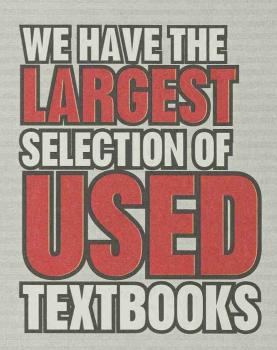
I only hope this time the political leaders put aside their hatred for Charles Taylor, think about the innocent Liberians and stand up to the challenge.



have a role to play in Liberia, but it is time the Africans solve their own problems

Reliance on former colonial powers only seeks to affirm continual neoco-

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Baylor debacle could be worst in college sports history

FORT WORTH, Texas (KRT) The scandal surrounding Baylor's basketball program is emerging s one of the most sordid in the

history of college sports. And that's saying something. The details shock even experts and academicians who have spent their careers studying the missteps and misbehavior of

coaches, players and boosters. "This is a new low," said Peter Golenbock, author of numerous sports books, including one detailing various violations in North Carolina State's basketball program that resulted in the school's being placed on proba-

tion in 1989. The circumstances at Baylor couldn't be much worse. A dead player. Another player accused in his murder. A coach surreptitiously tape-recorded while plotting to malign the dead player in an attempt to cover his department's wrongdoing.

But the allegations at the heart of the Baylor case _ payments made to players, hiding drug-test results _ aren't unique.

"It is a case that clearly demonstrates what has gone wrong," said William Friday, president emeritus of the University of North Carolina and co-chairman of the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. "It's

time for the American public to look in the mirror to say, 'Look, we love college sports, but this isn't what we're talking about.'

A commission report found that the NCAA had sanctioned, censured or put on probation more than half of the universities playing at the NCAA's top competitive level in the 1980s Nearly a third of professional football players responding to a commission survey taken then said they had accepted illicit payments while in college.

Controversy has seemingly always dogged collegiate sports. Here are some of the lowest

Southern Methodist Univer-

sity and the "death penalty." SMU already had been penalized by the NCAA for paying players when new revelations emerged. Football players were receiving money from a boost er-generated slush fund _ and members of the school's Board of Trustees, including then-Gov. Bill Clements, knew about it. The ensuing investigation resulted in the only instance of the NCAA's shutting down a program. After a two-year banishment, SMU's football program started back up in 1989 but has never reclaimed

the success it once knew Fall of the "Fab Five" at Michi-

The men's basketball team was belatedly punished by the NCAA this year after a booster who died before sanctions were announced said he had paid five top recruits, including current NBA star Chris Webber, in the early 1990s. "This is one of the most egregious violations of NCAA laws in the history of the organization," an association official said when sanctions were announced.

Academic fraud at Minne-

Under coach Clem Haskins, the school's basketball program was found to have had a widespread practice of using tutors to write papers for athletes. Minnesota ras placed on probation in 1999 and Haskins was forced out.

The death of Len Bias.

Bias, one of the best players in Maryland history, died of a cocaine overdose in his dormitory. celebrating after being drafted by the NBA's Boston Celtics in 1986. His death led to an investigation that uncovered academic shortcomings in the athletic department. A few years later, the university was sanctioned for violations involving special benefits to athletes

The point-shaving scandals of the 1940s and '50s.

Many of the top teams and players in college basketball were implicated in a plot to accept bribes from gamblers to fix dozens of games

Point shaving has continued:

In 1985, four Tulane starters

were accused of shaving points.

No players were convicted, but the program was shut down In 1997, two players at Arizona State pleaded guilty to point shaving. Golenbock said college sports' scandals inevitably have

thing - cash. What college basketball is those Michigan kids were doing | would allow his access to his

been driven by one overriding

What sets the Baylor scandal apart is not only the murder, but the allegations that coach Dave Bliss attempted an elaborate cover-up by pointing a finger at his own player, said Andrew Zimbalist, an economics professor at Smith College who wrote "Unpaid Professionals: Commercialization and Conflict in

Big-Time College Sports." 'Maybe there is nothing quite as egregious as that," Zimbalist

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lege football programs are doing back-handsprings for attention, and we don't care

Outside Carter-Finley, writers with over 100 years of sportswriting experience among them wait for the OK from the inside They wonder if they'll get four or seven minutes of interview time. While waiting, they salute the

good old days The days when their jobs weren't so hard, and the coaches weren't so afraid. The days when a good sound byte didn't bite. To Jim Valvano, a writer's

dream, whose practices were more open than a 7-eleven. To Dick Sheridan, tougher than a box of stale beef jerky but always all about is money," he said. "All accessible. To Mike O'Cain, who was following the money, and that goes on all over the place." players during downtime. To countless others, who spoke their

minds and enjoyed it. One writer, a former Technician sports editor, remembers the days when he'd walk into Revnolds Coliseum, and a young Jim Valvano would sit with him throughout practice and just talk. About basketball. About life.

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Think you're man enough to talk to Amato?

Brainy enough to lob questions Herb Sendek's way?

Are you excessively knowledgeable in any and all sports?

Then come write for Technician Sports. Contact sports editor Matt Middleton at 515-2411. sports@technicianstaff.com or just drop by **Witherspoon Student Center** room 323.

Football vs. Western Carolina, 8/30, 6 Women's soccer vs. William &Mary, 8/23, 2 Men's soccer vs. Georgia Southern, 8/30, 2 Volleyball @ Western N.Y. Tournament, 8/29-30 Cross country @ adidas Invitational, 9/13

Scores No games scheduled

= TECHNICIAN =

Dissention in the kingdom



Carter

middle of a former cow pasture, alone on acres of land, the N.C. State football team practices in obscurity without witnesses, without intrusion, with-

out distraction. It's just what head coach Chuck Amato wants — privacy.

Locked inside a field and surrounded by the Gestapo and sniper towers (you mean that's ress box?), it's surprising the stadium walls of Carter-Finley aren't soundproof. After all, any blow of the whistle, any sound of a tackle, any hint of a player's yell that could be heard might be sold to the enemy.

For example, observe this conversation I had with a Western Carolina coach who shall remain nameless just hours after I had robbed the Wolfpack of priceless practice information. Just call

Me: How much will you give

Western Carolina coach: What

Me: Itís all on tape. Western Carolina coach: Lemme hear it. [Tape plays]. What the hell is that?

Me: Not sure. I think it's someone yelling. Actually, itis the sound of a tackle. Wow, hear that? Valuable stuff. Tells you how intense these guys are. You need this for your game plan, man. Of course, it could just be the sound of bird droppings falling from the sky on

Western Carolina coach: I'm sold. I'll give you a hundred bucks. Me: Deal.

Western Carolina coach: Victory

If only I had been allowed access inside the kingdom walls, I (and about nine other writers that cover N.C. State football) could have retired off the riches we'd make selling practice secrets. At the very least, we would have published the team playbook for a modest fee.

Maybe it's warranted, all the hoopla and security and privacy and secrecy. A few years ago, a "journalist" who covered Kansas State football practically published the Wildcats' playbook in the local paper. Apparently, that left K-State coach Bill Sny-der kind of ticked. Practice has been closed ever since. At press conferences, he's as cold as a Wendy's frosty fresh out of the drive-through- just sits there and

That's not the only case. Sometimes, you don't even need any access - or facts, or sources

to bring down a program Just look at Peedr Goalenglock (intentionally misspelled in his honor and for his love of inaccuracy) and his book Personal Fouls, which ignited an NCAA missal of Jim Valvano.

But still, standing outside a fence for 30 minutes just to have a five-minute conversation with another person who happens to play football seems a bit ridicu-

But that's what happens when a collegiate program hits the bigtime. It's comical, too. Ninety percent of sports writers probably cover 20 percent of the col-

lege football programs. The other 80 percent of col-

Expansion's TRETCHING impact Lost in the ACC expansion mix is its effect on the non-revenue sports programs whose magnitude depends on which sport's

coach you ask.

Taylor Francis

The Atlantic Coast Conference was making its move. Like a lion prowling through the savannah it lurked planning, preparing and waiting for the right time. Then it pounced on an unsuspecting Big East. No longer would the ACC be content as a nine-member athletic conference focused on basket-

ber athletic conterence focused on basketball. It had higher aspirations in mind.

When the dust settled and the smoke cleared, Virginia Tech and Miami had accepted invitations to leave the Big East and join the ACC. Beginning in 2004-05, the ACC will be an 11-team conference, whose football prowess rivals, and arguably outweighs, its basketball prestige.

But lost in all the political maneuverings, clandestine meetings and high-profile

clandestine meetings and high-profile sports conferences was the fact that these two schools would not just be joining the ACC in football and basketball, but in every

other sport as well.

Every fall there are five non-revenue sports participated in by N.C. State — volleyball,



Sarah Ensminger slams home a spike at a recent practice. Volleyball figures to be the sport most affected by league expansion.

men's and women's cross country and men's and women's soccer. After this year these teams will have two more road trips to make for conference matches and it will undoubt-

for conference matches and it will undoubtedly impact the players and coaches.

The direct impact on women's soccer will be lightened by the fact that the ACC is already so strong in that sport.

"It's hard to say. They're already strong teams, said women's soccer head coach Laura Kerrigan. "The ACC is the best conference in the nation and this will give them an extra edge to get that much stronger."

an extra edge to get that much stronger."
While women's soccer is already the best in the nation, ACC volleyball will get a boost from the new additions.

from the new additions.
"Miami, they're a young program, but they'll have a lot of success," said volleyball head coach Mary Byrne. "But I believe that the addition of two teams will add even more strength to ACC volleyball."

While all the sports will be affected by the addition of these two schools to the ACC,

some certainly will fare better than others.
"The effect is very minimal," said cross country head coach Rollie Geiger. "It's another two teams in the conference championship, another sixteen athletes per race - sixteen more males and sixteen

more females."

Part of the advantage cross country has over other sports is that its contests do not pit one team against only one other team.

"The effect is probably greater for those sports that have to go head-to head," said Geiger. "In a sense, we have our ACC tournament, so we only really have to see them

once a year."

But the other sports will have to make travel plans for trips to Blacksburg and Coral Gables.

"Miami is going to be a flight, but we already have one flight with Florida State," said women's soccer head coach Laura Kerrigan. "Virginia Tech geographically fits right in." The players, however, don't seem to mind

the extra trips.

"We love to travel and see new places," said senior Adrienne Barnes. "We usually have our classes set early in the morning, so we travest to mice for providence." try not to miss too many classes

Most coaches agree, however, that the travel will be much better to Virginia Tech than to Boston College or Syracuse, two teams the ACC was thought to have in its

Then you're talking about another two flights and flying is always tough because you're missing more classes and you have

How the newest ACC members finished last season in the fall non-revenue sports played by N.C. State:



Miami Hurricanes

Does not field a team

Second in Big East's Northeast Division

Ninth in South Regional

Finished 13th out of 14

teams at conference race

Women's cross country



Virginia **Tech Hokies**

10-7-1 team missed Big East Tournament

Eleven-loss squad didn't qualify for conference tournament

Men's soccer

Women's soccer

Men's cross

Hokies finished 13th at Southeast Regional country

Seventh-place finish at Southeast Regional

to leave earlier," said Kerrigan. "Generally, it's just more of a pain."

But the results of expansion and the perceived boost in the conference's football status could mean more money for the conference, and in turn, each member

"I've been through a lot of athletics directors here, and they ask me what I need for my program and I say What I need for my program is for the football team to win the national championship and the basketball team to win the NCAA tournament," said men's soccer coach George Tarantini. "That's what I think about expansion. I think it's a

those two programs progress.

way for us to survive.

"Think about the money we're going to be making and how many soccer balls we can buy and how much better we can be when

:20 Timeout with... aya Mapp is entering her junior season as a

member of the Wolfpack volleyball team. The Washington, D.C. native was the offensive leader for the team a year ago in the middle blocker position, leading the team with her attack percentage (.293) and kills (339).

Major: Communication, theater concentration

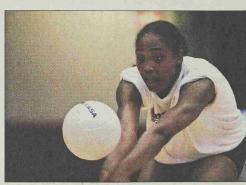
Favorite Professor at State: Dr. Patricia Caple, acting classes

Best D.C.-area professional sports team: The Redskins, of course.

Best volleyball player out there: Tara Cross-Battle

Pre-game ritual: "I put on music and dance in front of the mirror. Later, Crystal Shannon does makeup for me and I never wear makeup!"

In the CD player: Old school Bone Thugz-n-Harmony



TIM LYTVINENKO/TECHNICIAN

Transportation: BMW
Ideal guest list: Emeril for cooking, Dennis Rodman for comic relier and, or comic relier and,

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