

TECHNICIAN

FRIDAY
JANUARY
23
2004

Raleigh, North Carolina

Picart plans for new year

New Provost of Diversity Jose Picart promotes tolerance and diversity on campus.

Brigid Ransome
Staff Reporter

Although Jose Picart is in the teething stages of being the new vice provost of diversity, his goals are already defined.

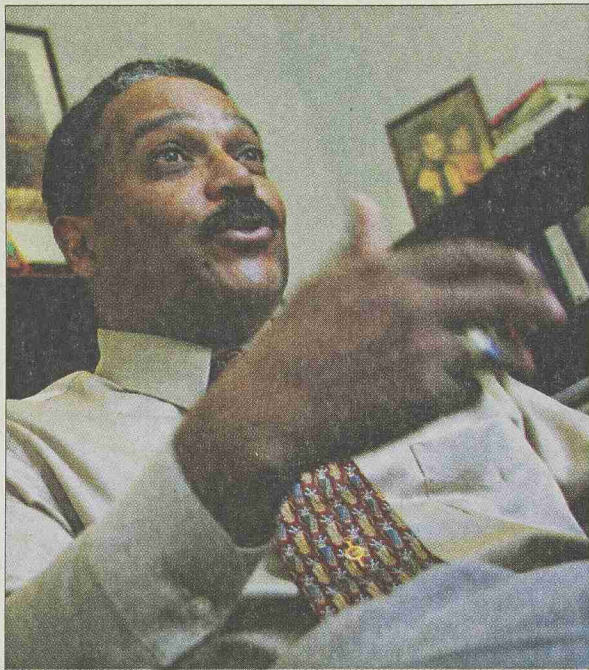
He became a part of the university community in October 2003, bringing with him 18 years of experience from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Picart is working to promote the message of diversity and tolerance not just on campus but in the local community as well.

"Diversity challenges us in that not all the ideas are positive; there may be disagreement that may arise. In terms of the campus climate, things could be working better in specific issues like bisexuals, gays and lesbians and women issues."

His solution to such concerns is to make sure that nothing remains unchanged. Picart said he hopes that through continuous assessment using surveys, "we can build a more inclusive and diverse campus, retain and graduate more historically underrepresented groups and create feelings of trust."

Picart also intends to promote the spirit of diversity in the classroom by examining how much of it is contained in the academic programs offered. Consequently, the problem that may arise is that the student population sometimes lacks the motivation and drive to be active participants in such events. "Pro-



RAY BLACK/TECHNICIAN

Jose Picart, Vice Provost of Diversity, urges students to take advantage of the variety within the student body to become comfortable with different cultures.

grams are all great but if people aren't reaching out then nothing can really and truly be accomplished," Picart said.

He advocates an intense call for all to genuinely take personal responsibility in diversity education.

"NCSU has enough richness that you can't walk 500 yards without coming across someone who is different from you. We need to break down the artificial borders and move beyond that invisible caste system."

"Diversity is my life; it's a bridge between tolerating people and valuing them."

- Picart

Picart's docket for 2004:

March 2: Dialogue on diversity (UNC-TV will be on campus covering town hall meetings on race relations in America and the status on civil rights)

March 18: Yo Soy Latina, A Play

March 22-26: Human Rights Week

Events with dates yet to be announced:

BGLA Awareness Week

Yo Soy Latina Awareness Week

Pre-college SPACE (Saturday Program for Academic and Cultural Education) program

A convocation festival with new student orientation

Hosting a video teleconference between

NCSU students and Iraqi soldiers so that

students can get a real world feel of the ex-

periences of a soldier on foreign ground.

While Picart is very pleased with the outpouring of support he has received since he arrived here, the message that he imparts is that diversity cannot be learned, it must be lived. "It is a lifelong process, on a day-to-day basis," he said.

Platforms propose money for students

Candidates plan ways to make higher education more affordable to students.

Ben Akroyd
Staff Reporter

The future of the country's higher education and perhaps students' college experiences depend very much on who will be living in the White House next January.

N.C. State's own Senator John Edwards has proposed making the first year of college free of cost for all students in a program called "College for Everyone."

In order to qualify, a student would have to complete a specific college-prep course load in high school. Additionally, students would have to spend "an average of 10 hours a week in work-study, service to your community or your school, or a part-time job" according to a speech Edwards gave at the University of Maryland.

Edwards has also proposed a federal program that would pay for the entirety of a student's college education if they agree to serve as a teacher for five years following graduation. The concept is similar to the Teaching Fellows program already in existence in North Carolina.

To pay for his programs, Edwards recommended that the government end its practice of subsidizing student loans and allow the loans to be dolled out via competitive contracts.

Edwards has also voiced displeasure with many universities' binding early-decision style admissions, praising UNC-Chapel Hill, among others, for abandoning the practice.

Edwards also proposed that public schools end their "legacy" admissions preferences, a viewpoint shared by General Wesley Clark and Governor Howard Dean.

One student is already rooting for Edwards to win in 2004.

Scott Stephenson, a senior in mathematics, approves of Edwards' ideas. "I think that Edwards' plan would probably be the best, and he's the best democratic candidate overall."

General Wesley Clark's "Universal College Grant Plan" would provide \$6,000 per year for every college student for their first two years, if their family earns less than \$100,000 a year.

Clark also promised to provide \$40 billion to the states so that they can get their financial crises under control and bring down the price of tuition, as well as additional tax credits to families trying to save money for their children's college education.

The plan would aim to grant one million additional students access to higher education.

Clark plans to pay for his policies by privatizing student loans, like Edwards.

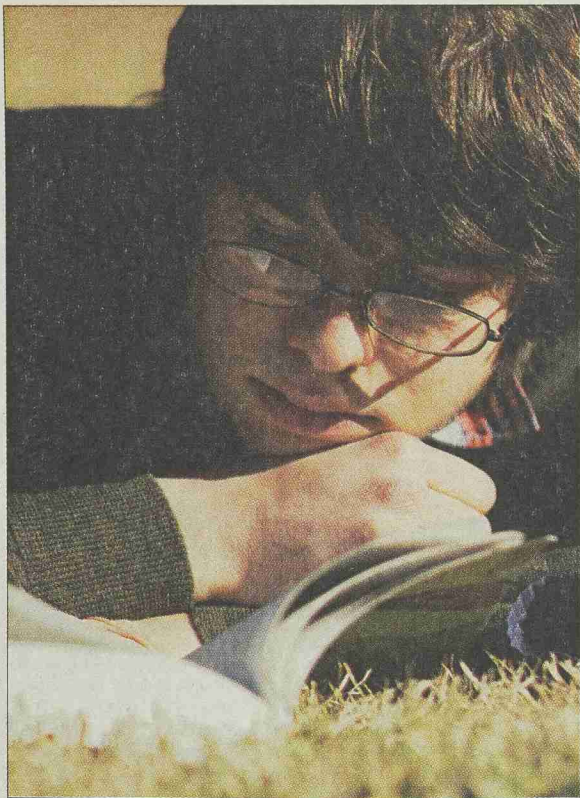
Another Democratic party candidate, Senator John Kerry, proposed a "College Opportunity Tax Credit" that would provide credit for each year of college on the first \$4,000 paid in tuition. The credit would provide 100 percent on the first \$1,000 and 50 percent on the rest.

Kerry also has developed a "Service for College" plan that would provide for the cost of four years at a public college in exchange for students serving their countries and communities. He has not yet defined what type of service students would have to perform.

His platform also includes the creation of an "I Have a Dream" scholarship fund that would provide \$1,000 for students who participate in early intervention programs meant to prepare students for college.

Additionally, Kerry pledged to defend Title IX, a higher education bill signed

STUDY BREAK



TAYLOR TEMPLETON/TECHNICIAN

Matthew Wilson reads "In Search of Lost Time" for his English class while lying in the grass outside Poe Hall.

insidetechnician



Helping students find their voice

Melinda Sopher looks to her students for encouragement just as students look to her as a positive role model. SEE PAGE 2

diversions
viewpoint
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weather
today

tomorrow

54°/28°

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Lecturer speaks on ants and life

Edward O. Wilson visited to speak about how ants are just a small part in the great biodiversity of Earth.

Josianne Lauber
Senior Staff Reporter

Hundreds crowded into the McKimmon Center to listen to Harvard professor Edward O. Wilson's lecture, "Exploration of the Biodiversity of Earth: A Little-Known Planet."

Wilson, referred to as the father of biodiversity, is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winning writer and teacher of modern science.

George Kennedy, an N.C. State entomology professor, had the opportunity to introduce Wilson last night.

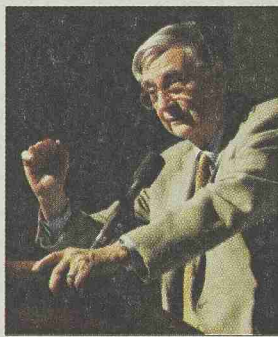
"Professor Wilson's research accomplishments have established him as one of the most influential evolutionary biologists of our time," Kenney said. "In his recent book, 'The Future of Life,' Dr. Wilson eloquently and forcefully describes the magnitude as well as the biological, environmental, economic and ethical dimensions of the biodiversity crisis."

Wilson took the stage after his introduction and immediately spoke of how pleased he was to be invited to speak.

Wilson informed the crowd that, "what we do [as biologists] is not just an occupation, it's a calling."

Wilson went on to tell the crowd that the importance of systematic biology, the area of biology that is concerned with classifying new species, has not been fully grasped by society.

He claimed that as more and more species are discovered and classified, the effect on biology, as a whole, would be dramatic. It would aid in the understanding of ecosystem assembly, climate impact and bioprospecting (searching for new pharmaceuticals, among other things).



PETE ELLIS/TECHNICIAN

Edward O. Wilson, a legend in the field of biodiversity, lectured to a packed house at the McKimmon Center on Wednesday.

Emerging new technology gave Wilson a great deal of optimism for the future of systematic biology. He felt that with the new field tools available, the science would be able to progress at up to 100 times as fast as in the past. Wilson stressed that although the vast majority of species remain undiscovered, the next 25 years could result in huge numbers of new classifications. The discoveries would build toward what he called the "Encyclopedia of Life," a library that documented almost all of Earth's species.

After the speech, Wilson took questions from attending high school students about his book, "The Future of Life." Questions ranged from his opinion on Bush's environmental policies, which he did not approve of, to what his favorite type of ant was.

Wilson ended his speech by tying together some of what he has learned about ants as an entomologist and some political theory: "Socialism works. Karl

BIO see page 2

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THE WORLD, NATION & STATE

WORLD

CONTINUED VIOLENCE IN IRAQ
LEAVES NINE DEAD

Attackers killed nine people in an outburst of violence, including four Christian women headed to jobs at a U.S. military base and two American soldiers. South of the capital, the security chief of Spanish troops in Iraq was shot in the head during a raid.

Two Iraqi policemen were killed Thursday and three others were wounded when gunmen fired on a police checkpoint between Fallujah and Ramadi, two insurgency hotspots west of Baghdad.

The attack occurred along the same road where, the day before, assailants firing from a speeding car killed four Christian women and wounded six other people in a convoy headed for the U.S. military base at Habaniyah, 50 miles west of the capital.

Elsewhere, two U.S. soldiers were killed and another wounded during a rocket and mortar barrage late Wednesday on an American camp near Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

-Wire Reports

SHARON REMAINS DEFIANT, SAYS
HE WON'T RESIGN

A defiant Ariel Sharon brushed off calls to resign Thursday, vowing to complete his term despite a burgeoning bribery scandal. But even a top official from his own party said Sharon's days as prime minister may be numbered.

Speaking publicly for the first time since a real estate developer was indicted Wednesday on charges of bribing Sharon with \$690,000, Sharon told a youth gathering from the ruling Likud Party that he intended to stay.

"I arrived here as prime minister and as chairman of the Likud, a position I plan to fill for many more years, until 2007 at least," Sharon told the cheering youths, referring to the date of the next scheduled election.

-Wire Reports

NATION

REBUILT WTC TRANSIT HUB
DESIGNED TO LET THE SUN SHINE IN

A transit hub at the World Trade Center site will shine sunlight 60 feet underground and have a dome that can be opened to the sky each Sept. 11, design drawings released Thursday showed.

Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava presented final drawings for the \$2 billion station that New York and New Jersey officials say will be comparable to city landmarks like Grand Central Terminal.

The station, serving the PATH commuter line linking Manhattan and New Jersey, will have walkways to link to 14 New York City subway lines and nearby ferry service.

The station, located to the east of where the Twin Towers once stood, will have canopies resembling wings that emerge 150 feet in the air from a glass and steel dome.

-Wire Reports

PROSECUTORS ACT TO REMOVE
JUDGE IN SCOTT PETERSON CASE

Prosecutors in the murder case against Scott Peterson exercised their authority Thursday to remove the judge appointed to preside at the trial, contending he is biased against them.

Under California law, the prosecution and the defense each have one opportunity to remove a judge without having to give a reason. California's chief justice will appoint a new judge.

Peterson, 31, is accused of murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, just before Christmas 2002 and dumping her body in the San Francisco Bay. Her remains and those of the fetus she was carrying later washed ashore.

Prosecutors acted a day after retired Judge Richard Aronson was named to oversee the Peterson case when it is moved from central California to the San Francisco Bay area.

-Wire Reports

STATE

PUSH FROM EDWARDS SPANS
NORTH, SOUTH

Sen. John Edwards campaigned Wednesday in both South Carolina and New Hampshire, waging a two-front battle for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Appearing at a downtown Greenville restaurant during the breakfast hour, Edwards touted his Southern roots. He argued that his prospects for beating President Bush in the region set him apart from other Democrats.

By lunch, he had returned to the snowy streets of Nashua, N.H., to preach his "uplifting, optimistic message" of middle-class empowerment at a packed diner. Wednesday night, he held his 100th town hall meeting in the state that Tuesday holds the nation's first presidential primary.

-N&O

N.C. SEEN AS HUB FOR DRUG
RE-PACKAGING

Federal authorities worry that North Carolina is playing a new role in East Coast drug trafficking.

Recent arrests and reports from drug agents indicate the state is becoming a distribution hub for cocaine and marijuana. An emerging pattern shows the drugs are driven from the Mexican border eastward over the interstate and then repacked in smaller amounts for shipment north, the officials say.

North Carolina, along with South Carolina and Georgia, are becoming what the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration calls "transshipment" states. Often, rural areas provide cover for these staging areas near the intersections of east-west and north-south highways.

Helping students find their voice



CHRISTOPHER DAPPERT/TECHNICIAN

Melinda Sopher grades the performance of Jevon Moore, a junior in civil engineering, as he gives his introductory speech in her COM-110 class on Wednesday.

Melinda Sopher looks to her students for encouragement just as students look to her as a positive role model.

Kristen Healey

Staff Reporter

Melinda "Mindy" Sopher brings a new dimension to teaching in the communications department.

Sopher became a teacher because she wanted to keep learning and said she felt that by educating students she could also learn from them. She attempts to create a trusting, energetic and creative atmosphere for her students to learn.

"Ms. Sopher is a very inspiring teacher. In my time at N.C. State, I have never met a teacher so dedicated to her students or so committed to personal success. In her public speaking class, she made every student feel at home. I made lasting friendships with the people I met in Ms. Sopher's class and I can only thank her for helping me form those bonds."

Tara Zechini, a junior in communications, said, "Not only did she help me improve my public speaking skills, she has remained a close friend and confidant. I appreciate her advice and her outlook on life. I could not ask for a more positive role model than her."

In this type of environment, Sopher has encouraged her students to grow and continue with their success.

"My goals as a professor are to challenge and support students' critical thinking so they can make judgments relative to values and content," Sopher said.

As she has watched her students grow over the years, she has also made accomplishments in her professional life as well as in her personal life.

In her career, Sopher earned a political science degree from Wittenberg University in Ohio and took an intense interest in Greek life, residence life and student activities. Later, she earned her master's degree from Bowling Green State University where she became Chapter De-

velopment Coordinator for nine fraternities and sororities.

She continued her interest in Greek life as the Director of Greek Life at NCSU and won the Sigma Nu Greek Adviser of the Year Award.

"Winning the Greek Adviser of the Year Award is the most amazing achievement for me. It was the first time they had given out the award and I was very honored," Sopher said.

Sopher is also the communication adviser for juniors, advising 242 students with their academic studies. But it goes beyond that.

"Seeing the light bulbs come on for students is one of the most happiest things for me," she said.

In her personal life, Sopher is a cancer survivor and she said she believes that God, doctors and most of her family and students contributed to her recovery.

Having dealt with cancer, Sopher said she is "privileged to breathe and live another day. Whenever I feel unmotivated, I see the faces of my students."

According to Sopher, she has two inspirations that have given her confidence to be a strong leader. The first is Barbie Toodle.

"She was a Greek adviser at the Ohio State University. She did a workshop on creativity when I met her."

She was an administrator with a big job and still respected everyone. She displayed integrity, skill and encouraged everyone to do their best," Sopher said.

The second inspiration for Sopher is her eighth grade composition and grammar teacher, Sally Soppitt.

"I give her credit for my writing skills and the ability to dig deep and find out who I am," Sopher said. Sopher hopes to finish her doctoral degree, go to Germany to find her roots and finish a book that she started. Meanwhile, she remains at NCSU teaching communication classes, advising students and inspiring people.

"She is a role model to everyone," Amy Reith, a freshman in communications, said.

BIO

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Marx was correct. It's just that he chose the wrong species."

Sean Stowe, a senior in biochemistry, was excited about the lecture.

"He [Wilson] was one of the forerunners of biodiversity in the understanding of how evolution has taken a part in diversifying our world with different species," Stowe said.

Stowe came to the lecture because he was familiar with Wilson's achievements.

I knew about him because he is often referenced in documentaries and text books that I've had in my classes," Stowe said.

Jim Harper, the department head of entomology, praised Wilson.

"E. O. Wilson is one of those rare scientists who combine the ability to integrate in-depth knowledge from a wide range of subjects to understand very complex issues related to biological organization at many different levels, from ecosystems to the molecular."

A pioneer in chemical communication, featuring the first comprehensive account of pheromones in ants, as well as the creation of the theory of island biogeography, Wilson is well known to his colleagues.

Last night, Wilson showed a slide of himself collecting insects at the age of 13 - illustrating his interest in science during his youth.

"The fact that Wilson found insects to be fascinating at an early age and chose ants as the subject of his life's work was fortuitous. As entomologists, we

are very proud to have him as a leader in the field," Harper said.

Wilson's spunk, energy and profound knowledge was clear to the audience while he gave his lecture.

"For a man 74 years old, Wilson has the energy of a college student and is using it incredibly well to inspire others to take care of the only world they have," Fred Gould, an entomology professor, said.

Wilson's fans love that he is able to put what may normally be over people's heads into simple language at his lectures.

His books also target the public to educate them on many issues of global importance and interest.

"He [is] one of those scientists who has the ability to express complex biological issues and their biological, sociological, economic and political impli-

cations in layperson language, both in conversation and in writing," Harper said.

Harper stressed the importance of Wilson's research.

"General principals of biology can be learned from studying many types of animals and plants. Insects, however, because they are abundant, easily observable, widely distributed over all land and fresh water habitats on earth and extremely diverse in species and ecological roles, have provided the experimental subjects which many famous scientists have used to elucidate many basic biological and ecological principles that apply to many other forms of life, both lower and higher, including man," Harper said.

-Ben Akroyd contributed to this report

EDUCATION

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into law in 1975 that provides for sexual equality, and protect opportunities for women in higher education.

Another New England candidate, Dean's "College Commitment" promises all eighth graders that if they prepare for and graduate from college, they will have access to \$10,000 a year in loans and grants.

Dean hopes that a graduate repaying the loan would never have to use more than 10 percent of their income repaying their loan per year. Furthermore, at the end of 10 years work, the loans would automatically be paid in full.

For graduates who go into public service fields such as teaching, Dean's plan would limit the maximum percent of their income they could pay back their loans with to 7 percent.

Geoff Swannstrom, a junior in nuclear engineering, would like to see Dean's proposals happen. "I like Dean's plan of repayment over time...I have friends who have been stuck paying 30 percent of their income paying back student loans."

Dean also proposed quadrupling the AmeriCorps program's enrollment to 250,000. AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that strive to meet needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. Participation in the program can earn up to \$5,000 in college grants.

Senator Joseph Lieberman has his own plan for how to save students money. He would like to raise the maximum amount a student could receive from a Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$7,760 by 2008-09.

Additionally, Lieberman would start programs that would "think K-16," meaning encouraging public universities to communicate with state high schools to make sure students will be prepared for college and not forced to take non-credit, remedial courses in college.

Lieberman would also provide additional funding to schools that significantly increase their enrollment and graduation rates of low income and minority students.

Candidate and Representative Dennis Kucinich would make a college education at a public institution completely free of cost.

Kucinich would pay for the initiative, estimated by him to cost \$48 billion, through funds gathered partially by the rescinding of the Bush tax cuts and partially by reducing the Pentagon budget by 15 percent.

President George W. Bush has also made recent statements that could affect higher education. He outlined in his State of the Union address plans to give \$250 million in grants to community colleges who work with employers looking for high-skilled employees, as well as an extra \$33 million to the Pell Grant program that would translate into \$1,000 more per year for poor students who have completed a strenuous high school curriculum.

Despite the campaign promises, many students remain cynical. One such student is Jeff Huling, a junior in philosophy. "All politicians are corrupt, I'm not voting for anyone," Huling said.

Crystal Young, a senior in political science, said she hoped for the best. "I doubt the feasibility of these plans...but I'm curious to see what happens when the next president is elected."

Mars rover stops transmitting data

Gwyneth K. Shaw
The Orlando Sentinel

WASHINGTON - Flight engineers worked furiously into the night Thursday to determine why NASA's Mars rover Spirit had stopped transmitting data, a "very serious anomaly" for the mission and a development that could complicate this weekend's scheduled landing of a twin robotic probe on the planet.

Since early Wednesday, flight controllers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., have received only beeps from the rover indicating that it is operating and likely in some

kind of default mode. But the golf cart-sized craft isn't beaming back to Earth any data from its scientific observations.

Several opportunities for the rover to communicate with its human handlers, either directly or through signals relayed from a pair of NASA spacecraft orbiting Mars, were skipped, said Pete Theisinger, the project manager for Spirit.

Overnight Wednesday, controllers got a confusing transmission from the Mars Global Surveyor craft, which indicated it had received data from Spirit. But flight controllers found none, Theisinger said.

During a briefing from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which is managing the rover project for NASA, Theisinger said managers first thought the issue was related to bad weather at a communications site in Australia.

Cook said the problems started as flight controllers tried to send Spirit its daily instructions.

There were indications that the rover's computer received some of those orders but not the entire set. That's when controllers asked the computer to send the sequence of beeps back to earth.

Mission managers are not sure whether the glitch is a software

problem - which probably could be corrected - or a more daunting issue with the rover's hardware. Engineers are working through a lengthy list of possible failure scenarios to pinpoint the problem, but so far nothing has emerged to explain the odd series of events.

They are less worried that the trouble is a hardware failure on the rover itself, Theisinger said.

"Yes, something could break, clearly something could fail. That's a concern we seriously have," he said. "But there's not any obvious correlative event."

Theisinger said engineers and scientists planned to regroup

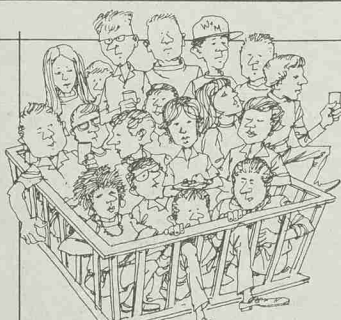
late Thursday, after taking some time to rest.

Communication problems between Mars and Earth are not uncommon.

But the sudden change clearly has mission managers worried. The lack of information also is complicating efforts to determine exactly what is wrong.

Also weighing heavily on the thoughts of Spirit's managers is the impending landing of a twin rover, dubbed Opportunity, scheduled for shortly after midnight on Sunday morning. The pair of robot geologists cost NASA \$820 million.

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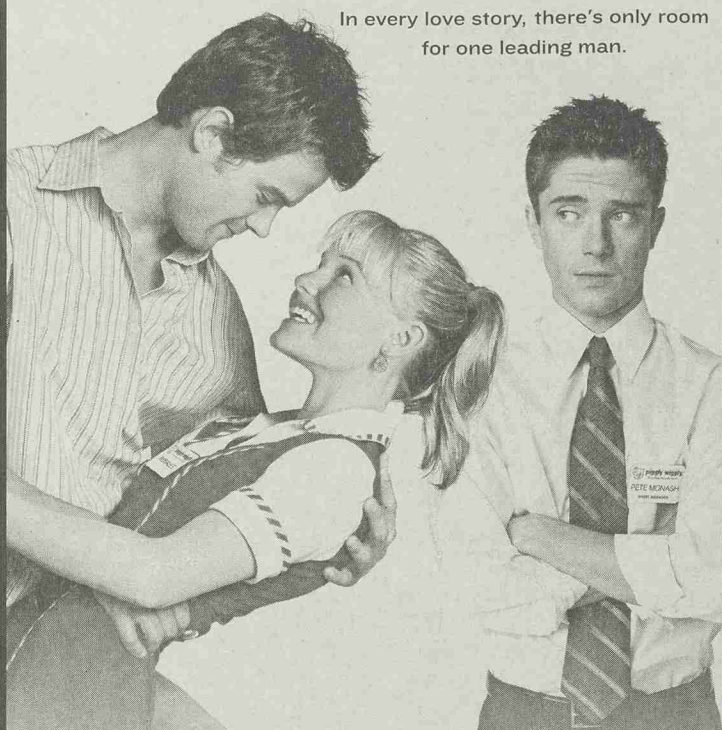
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RULE OF THUMB



Senate sends Bush new bill

The Senate overcame Democratic delaying tactics and sent President Bush an overdue \$373 billion bill financing policies on overtime pay, food labeling, media ownership and guns. The bill essentially allows you to watch CBS while working past quitting time, drinking fresh milk and shooting things.

Mars still unprobe-able

An anomaly of an unknown nature has disrupted communications with the Spirit rover on Mars for more than 24 hours, said mission managers. One dyslexic project leader said, "Wait... Mars? We're supposed to be sending these things to Mars? Aw man, I've been sending them to Kurt Warner to use as practice targets."



Hiking magazine finds irony on map

A hiking magazine apologized on Thursday after it published a route plan that would have sent walkers walking off the north face of Britain's largest mountain. Ben Nevis. The magazine realized their mistake after a sister magazine made a similar mistake, sending hikers walking off of America's largest mountain, Marlon Brando.



Microsoft still sucks

Microsoft Corp. said on Thursday that its quarterly profit shrank on large equity compensation costs while revenue grew on rising business spending on technology. In English, it's getting harder to sell people the same old s**t in a new box.



Catholics make carnival less sexy

The prospect of condoms and Kama Sutra poses in a parade in Rio de Janeiro's famed Carnival has riled the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Brazil. The church had no problems with the idea until they saw the float entitled "Sister Mary Margaret and the Altar Boys."



Sharon not leaving

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told cheering right-wing supporters on Thursday he had no intention of resigning as Israeli prosecutors considered indicting him over allegations that a businessman friend bribed him. "Hey, c'mon," said Sharon, "If I can get away with mass homicide, there's no way bribery charges are going to stick."



Ben and J-Lo break up, again

The on-again, off-again relationship between Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez is once again off again. When asked to comment, Affleck said, "She just wasn't really good luck for my career. Every movie I made while dating her tanked. I think she got her 'Maid in Manhattan' stank all over me."



Bush opposes gay marriage

President Bush used his State of the Union address on Tuesday to enter the political minefield surrounding gay marriage. This prompted one irate homosexual to say, "The President needs to realize that sometimes men want to marry other men. I mean look, it certainly worked for his father."



Ice cream technology upgrade

Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream Holdings Inc. is betting on a new process to make ice cream that is lower in fat and calories taste more like the real thing and revitalize the stagnant light ice cream market. "This is an interesting idea that Dreyer's has," Ben of Ben & Jerry's fame said, before sitting down in a chair made of money, in his house made of money, all of which was paid for by selling fat people fatty ice cream.

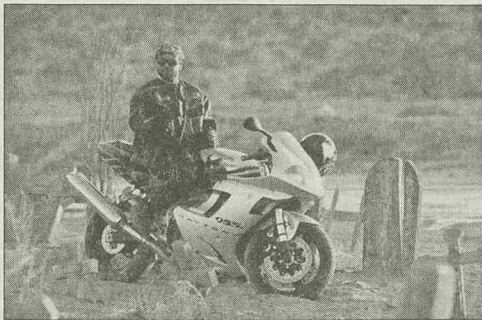


Internet-voting not hacker proof

The U.S. government may abandon an Internet-voting system planned by the Pentagon because hackers could easily tamper with election results, said several computer science professors. One Pentagon official said, "Yeah, we knew something was amiss right away when the screen would flash blue and then read: 'All your President are belong to us.'"



TICKET MOVIES



Torque

Zero Stars

Directed by: Joseph Khan

Starring: Martin Henderson, Ice Cube

A red light dominates the frame, followed by a clean dolly down to the rears of a yellow Acura RSX and a red Mitsubishi Eclipse. Yep, this is going to be quality cinema. As an uninvited "crotch rocket" (the first of many to come) joins the open road of Southern California, the McDonald's color palette of red and yellow is broken slightly, and the film turns to motorcycles.

Not just any bikes, but pastel, high performance bikes owned by ridiculous biker "gangs" reminiscent of actual gangs several decades ago, now armed with one-liners and a truckload of computer-generated (CG) special effects.

Be warned, the only redeeming quality of this film is its flashy title sequence. The credits cast beautiful shadows and reflections in the on-screen environment. That said, good luck making it through the rest of the film.

Let's start with the dialogue. "I live my life one quar-

ter-mile at a time," said Ford (Martin Henderson), the lead character, blatantly quoting Vin Diesel's rough dialogue in "The Fast and the Furious." "That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard," his girlfriend, Shane (Monet Mazur), said. Apparently, producer Neal H. Moritz is not afraid to joke about having his fingers in many poorly acted films.

Also, Ice Cube makes sure to get in the obligatory "F--- tha police," calling back to his days with hip-hop group N.W.A. He may never be part of another film as influential as his role in 1991's "Boyz n the Hood" if he keeps taking roles in films like "Torque."

And if the dialog wasn't bad enough, they figured that people might be able to overlook blatant corporate sponsorships. Ten minutes don't pass before you see another character sucking on a red-labeled Budweiser bottle. Let's associate drinking with driving motorcycles dangerously fast - good plan.

And, naturally, the characters are "too cool" to use trashcans; countless bottles get thrown down, half full, just to hear the

empowering shatter.

And the last major disappointment: the stunts. Only one legitimate stunt stands out: a "Christ-air," where the rider stands up on his moving bike and extends his arms out to resemble Christ on the cross.

But largely, the heavy reliance on CG removes any possible credibility of the motorcycle stunts, which ironically were the chief hook used to pull in a audience.

If you want to see genuine, illegal street stunts that inspired "Torque," download a couple home videos from the bike scene down in Texas. I am not condoning illegal activities, just simply suggesting that you save your money and your time.

It is understandable that there is enough of an audience to support a "The Fast and the Furious" on bikes (despite the ill-fated "Biker Boyz"). Unfortunately, shameless verbal intertextual references, corporate sponsorships and racial slurs render any possible "torque" in this film completely inferior to the not-quite-as flawed "F&F" series.

-Andrew Nicholas

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

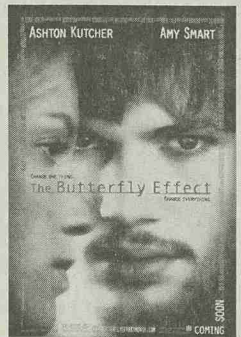
ON CAMPUS:

Matchstick Men is playing at the campus cinema at 7 p.m.

The campus cinema is showing "**Unknown Pleasures** at 9:30 p.m.

Packabellies are hosting 36 Madison Avenue, an all male A Capella group, in the activities room of Bragaw Hall at 8 p.m.

Cherish the Ladies is performing in Stewart Theatre.



OFF CAMPUS:

"**The Butterfly Effect**" is opening at local cinemas along with "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton" and "Line of Control."

"2009 Lost Memories," "Suspended Animation" and "Monster Man" are making their North Carolina premieres at the Carolina Theatre in Durham at the Nevermore Film Festival.

Valient Thorr, **Alli With an I**, **My Dear Ella**, **Spencer Acuff** and **Urban Sophisticates** will be at Cat's Cradle. **Cold Sides** and **Sorry About Dresden** are performing at Go! Room 4 with **DJ Nasty Boots** and **Juan V**.

Terry Anderson's **Olympic Asskickin' Team** is opening for Cross Canadian Ragweed at Lincoln Theatre. **Chris Rosser** and **Stephanie Carby** are performing at Six String Cafe.

Gent Treadly and **Vince Welnick** are performing at The Pour House Music Hall.

Stuckshot, Far Less and Tomorrowz

Yesterdaze will be at Berkeley Cafe. **Countdown Quartet** will be performing at King's.

SATURDAY

ON CAMPUS:

Unknown Pleasures will be shown at 7 p.m. in the campus cinema.

The campus cinema will be showing "Matchstick Men at 9:30 p.m.

OFF CAMPUS:

"**At Night With No Curtains** is making it's Triangle premiere at the Nevermore Film Festival at Carolina Theatre in Durham.

"**Octane**," "Ghost of the Needle," "The Ghosts of Edendale," "Lethal Dose," "The Human Beeing," "I'll Bury You Tomorrow," "The American Astronaut," "ULTRACHRIST!" and "Bubba Ho-Tep" at the Nevermore Film Festival.

Automag, **The Pygmies** and **Valient Thorr** will be performing at The Brewery.

Big Sky are opening for **Weekend Excursion** at Cat's Cradle.

Two Dollar Pistols, **Randy Whitt** and **The Grits** are performing at Go! Room 4.

The Breakfast Club is performing at Lincoln Theatre.

Jason Harrod will be at Six String Cafe.

Steep Canyon Rangers is performing at The Pour House Music Hall.

Kingsbury Manx, **The Comas** and **Bishop Allen** will be at King's.

SUNDAY

ON CAMPUS:

Matchstick Men will be shown in the campus cinema at 7 p.m.

Unknown Pleasures will be shown at 9:30 p.m. in the campus cinema

OFF CAMPUS:

Boxbomb, **Evergreen Terrace** and **Comeback Kid** are performing with **Beloved** at Cat's Cradle.

Twenty Ripped Angle, **Reach 454** and **Blatant Disarray** are opening for **Bile** at Lincoln Theatre.

Jim Lauderdale is performing at The Pour House Music Hall.

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

ASHCROFT IS READING ABOUT YOU

OUR OPINION: THE PORTIONS OF THE PATRIOT ACT PERTAINING TO LIBRARIES SHOULD BE LEFT OUT WHEN THE LAW COMES UP FOR RENEWAL NEXT YEAR.

After Sept. 11, 2001, Congress hastily passed the USA Patriot Act, giving to law enforcement great latitude in electronic surveillance, less restricted access to personal records and the ability to search and detain suspects without probable cause or without representation. The government can search business, financial and library records without the knowledge of the suspect. Libraries were especially worried about this because Internet histories and borrowing records of patrons could be accessed without a warrant from a judge.

America has lived under this shadow for two years and the act is due to expire next year. President George W. Bush called on Congress to extend the Patriot Act in his State of the Union address on Tuesday night, to the applause of Re-

publicans and to the chagrin of Democrats. For the sake of academic integrity of university libraries, the Patriot Act should not be renewed, but if it is, any arbitrary access to libraries without search warrants should be left out and the historic privacy protections that libraries once enjoyed should be replaced.

As soon as the act was passed, the American Library Association issued a proclamation condemning the act and cautioned all their member libraries to inform patrons of what they could expect in the way of privacy violations. As it turns out, though, the Justice Department has not issued warrants demanding information from libraries. All the same, libraries should be afforded a certain amount of privacy when it comes to their patrons. Academic libraries, like D.H. Hill, should not have to feel like they are keeping tabs on the students, especially since there are a large number of international students at N.C. State. Right now, while the Patriot Act is still

in effect, libraries are open to government intrusion in the name of "homeland security."

In February, the NCSU Libraries and the American Civil Liberties Union is hosting a panel discussion on the effect of the Patriot Act on libraries. They will discuss what libraries have done in order to comply with the law. However, since the Patriot Act is due to expire, the NCSU Libraries, through the American Library Association, should begin lobbying Congress to not renew the Patriot Act, especially in the name of academic freedom. No library has been subpoenaed under this law and there is no reason to suspect that one will be in the future. Terrorists are going to get the information they need through shadier channels.

There is no need to subject the patrons of the nation's libraries to the paranoid and intrusive tactics of the FBI.

Let the Patriot Act die like it is supposed to in 2005.

The unsigned editorial that appears above are the opinion of the members of the Technician's editorial board except for news editors and are the responsibility of the editors in chief.



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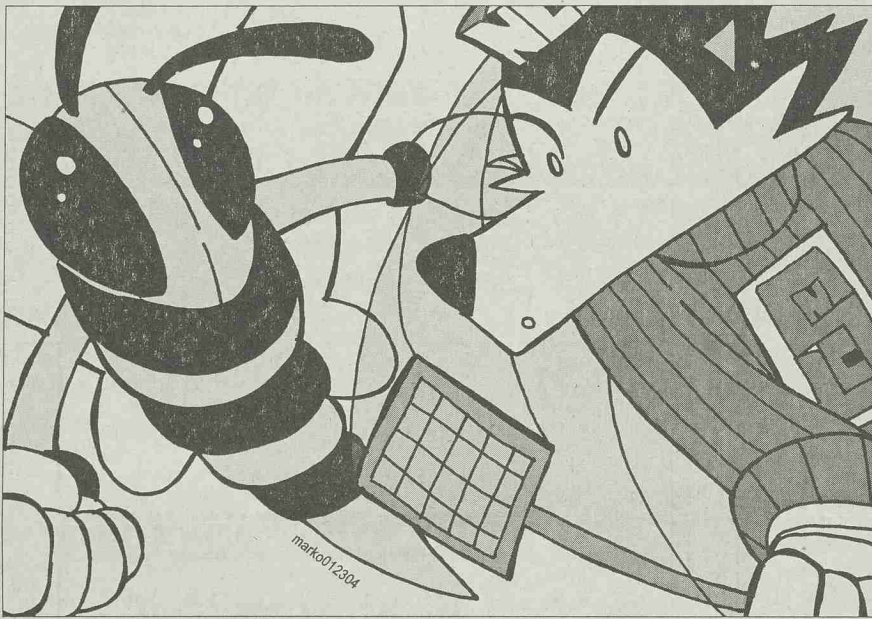
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Taking back NASA

Alexander Sheppard wonders if a plan to the moon and Mars is fiscally responsible and how we should pay for the next great step in space exploration.

As most of us are aware, the current administration has recently proposed a long-term, 30-year plan for U.S. space exploration. Under this plan,



Alexander Sheppard
Staff Columnist

the United States would continue to operate the space shuttle until around 2010, and, considerably longer than that, play the leading role with the International Space Station. Then, "as early as 2015 and no later than 2020,"

the United States would put men on the moon. Operating a lunar base in the 2020s "could reduce the cost of further exploration," thus paving the way for a manned mission to Mars around 2030. Exact costs for all this are unspecified, but they would supposedly be in the hundreds of billions of dollars range.

Powerful state-corporate interests have, for a long time, desired programs of this type, spanning decades and costing huge amounts. In 1989, the then-current administration proposed another similar program, one that might have cost considerably more than this one. It was called Space Exploration Initiative (SEI) and the estimated costs were to be \$400-500 billion over 30 years. In fact, the basic ideas were exactly the same as those presently articulated, except it was to start then and culminate around 2020. The fate of this program, inevitably, was to be dismissed by Congress - it was too much to ask even from the good uncle.

The reason that these types of plans are proposed is not that they have scientific or exploratory value. They don't. It's been understood for a long

time, at least more than a decade, that we could put men on Mars in 10 years for \$50 billion. This will be news to many, but it's true. Going to Mars does not require a space station, lunar bases or hundreds of billions of dollars. I suggest reading "The Case for Mars" by Robert Zubrin to understand the technical reasons for this.

There is, however, one thing that does require all that stuff: a massive and stable transfer of public wealth to giant aerospace and other corporations, which has long been a primary focus of NASA.

In the aerospace-defense community, they call this "pork barrel spending;" in a community so heavily dependent on giant corporations and the military, the term "corporate welfare" would expose too much for many people's comfort - but that's what it is. Zubrin is worth quoting at some length here: "Consider the case of Lockheed Martin, the largest aerospace contractor in the world. I was employed as a senior, and later staff, engineer at the prime facility of this company for seven years. Lockheed Martin almost never accepts hardware contractors on a fixed-cost basis...Hence, the more the ABC vehicle costs to produce, the more money the company makes...the company is saturated with 'planners,' 'marketeers,' and 'matrix managers'...Of the 9,000 people employed at the Lockheed Martin main plant in Denver, only about 1,000 actually work in the factory."

The extent of the waste and inefficiency that this sort of thing has produced at NASA over the last 30 years is hard to overestimate. The two most important projects of NASA today, the shuttle and the ISS, have been designed principally not to do important science or exploration, but rather to support a system of private gain.

In my view, the shuttle and ISS are inherently flawed and should simply be scrapped. The shuttle costs, at best, twice as much as a normal rocket to launch; on that basis alone, it makes no sense to operate. The ISS was designed in part to serve as a justification for operating the Shuttle, among other non-scientific reasons. Its level of scientific output, for its costs, has been a source of much laughter in the space community.

John Logsdon, director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University, basically wrote the same thing in a paper last year. He notes that "NASA has had to shift resources from the longer term objective of lower-cost access to space to meet the requirements of operating the ISS and the space shuttle for the next 15 to 20 years...The only way that NASA can up significant resources to invest in future-oriented technologies seems to be by reducing its institutional overhead (for example, by closing several of its field centers, a very difficult thing to do politically) or by stopping some of its current activities." Why this is so "very difficult to do politically" is not hard to guess.

Whether moves are made to institute Bush's plan or not, NASA will continue to flounder in the absence of a drive to discipline the giant conglomerates and the institutionalized bureaucracy. Instead of a NASA that responds mainly to the desires of private tyranny, NASA must respond to the desires of the public and to the sensible suggestions of its own common engineers. Only if we move in that direction is there any hope for a robust, efficient space program.

Alex notes that the military is an incomparably larger source of waste. Contact him at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com.

All in favor of Saddam?
All opposed?

Those that mourn the capture of Hussein are supporters of terrorism. Baruch Mechanic delves into the Arab image of Saddam Hussein.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we got him!" states Paul Bremer, the top U.S. administrator in Iraq. Our wonderful, awesome U.S. Army found Saddam

Baruch Mechanic
Staff Columnist

Hussein hiding in his rat hole looking like the furry rat that he is with \$750,000 in U.S. cash, two AK47 assault rifles and a pistol. Did he fight? No, instead he cried like the lying animal he is, saying that he is the president of Iraq and he wants to negotiate just as he was seconds from sucking on a grenade. A grenade stamped "Made in the U.S." This was a wonderful day for the world and Iraq, and an awesome victory for the United States as the "Butcher of Baghdad" was caught. So that is why it pains me so much to see those that feel sorrow for Saddam Hussein now in U.S. custody. Oh my gosh, is that true? There are people who are sad over this?

In the Palestinian Authority (PA) press The Al-Quds daily newspaper printed: "The sad and shameful aspect of all this is that it was the United States that brought about these developments... the violation of Iraq's sovereignty, the loss of national independence and the transfer of power to the occupation authorities." That makes us sound like the bad guys. But how could we be the bad guys when we ousted the Baathist party and "dethroned" the tyrant Saddam Hussein who enjoys torturing and gassing his own people, oppressing the Shiite Muslims, and modeling himself after Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin.

In another PA newspaper, the Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, a columnist wrote on December 18 "When the tragic fall of Baghdad took place and it became the second Arab capital to fall under occupation after Jerusalem, the traitors considered it an official holiday. When the resistance started in Iraq after the fall of Baghdad, the traitors, spies and mercenaries began to compete with one another in maligning and cursing their own people. They began to say, day and night, this is terrorism; it is not resistance; these are mercenaries, they are not revolutionaries... This is your day, traitors. Dance to the tune of Bush's drums and time your prayers on Sharon's trumpet. But remember that the Arab masses, especially in great Iraq, may have their backs to the wall but they know that you are the enemy. The dustbin of history will be the eternal fate of the enemies of Iraq - Iraq the glorious martyr that will be resurrected by the resistance."

However, newspapers in Kuwait such as the Al-Furat's December 18 edition

and the Azaman and Khabat express feelings of joy that Saddam is caught and how new hope has reached the people of Iraq. On December 18, Kuwait's former Oil Minister Ali al-Baghli expressed in an article for the English-language Kuwaiti Arab Times "Despite the noise around us [condemning the capture]... from the bottom of our hearts we say God bless America." Al-Baghli went on to write that the capture "was possible due to the determination, effort and sacrifices" made by the United States of course. But wait, let's not stop there.

Kuwait's A-Siyassa newspaper in their December 15, 2003 editorial went on to call Hussein a "devil" and "one of the worst criminals mankind has ever seen..." In Lebanon newspapers during the week of his capture commented

“...an awesome victory for the United States as the ‘Butcher of Baghdad’ was caught.”

how this marked the end of a legend and how the demise of Hussein will help to prevent another "Saddam" from coming into power in Iraq.

By no means do I support these Muslim countries or any of their policies. But it leads me to ask, why those countries would praise his capture while the PA mourns it. Well I have got the answer for you. Funding from Iraq in the millions was sent to Yasser Arafat annually and was distributed not to social programs to help Palestinians but to terrorist organizations in the continuing onslaught of mass murder within Israel.

What about the millions of dollars of aid the United States sends to Yasser Arafat? Shouldn't we deserve something in return like maybe, oh I don't know, a thumbs-up or a "congratulations."

Yasser Arafat steals money from his own people in the millions just to "line his pockets with gold"; support terrorism, fund his own businesses and provide his wife and daughter in Europe a lavish lifestyle on a \$100,000 monthly allowance. We really shouldn't expect anything better from Arafat and his cronies.

I personally feel that Saddam Hussein and Yasser Arafat should be placed in the same category as murderous scumbags that see their legacy as that of bloodshed in the pursuit of their own interests instead of peace and tranquility living with the rest of the world.

But to sign off with one thing I will say this, I am proud of the hard work that the United States, England, and other foreign military units in Iraq are doing and hope they keep up the awesome job.

Agree or disagree with Baruch? E-mail him at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com.

Wolfpack Weekend

Gymnastics

The Wolfpack will engage in the third leg of a five-meet road schedule tonight with a quad-meet at Gainesville, Fla. Florida, ranked No. 1 in the Southeast and No. 3 in the nation, will host the meet. Other participants are Michigan State and Illinois-Chicago. State twice eclipsed the 193-point mark in last weekend's two road meets after opening the year with a 191.250 mark at home. The Pack eventually returns home Feb. 13 to host the annual Hearts Invitational.



ATSUR

continued from page 8

Europe. "I've tried to get used to the offense, I've learned it, and I think now I've got it. And people play faster here, more physical."

Off the court, Atsur has had as much success. The guy whose brother describes him as "a smart kid" earned a 3.7 GPA in the fall semester. So what, right?

"That was my purpose, so I'm not very excited," he said. "If you compare it to other guys, it looks great. But my grades were always good."

Atsur arrived on campus with good grades and the ability to speak four languages: English (taught in European high schools), German (language of his mother), Turkish (language of his father) and French (Atsur went to a French high school).

A relatively unknown recruit when he signed to play, Atsur has proved Sendek smart, too. The coach raved about Atsur in the preseason and Sendek hasn't been afraid to let the guard handle the ball in key situations.

Sendek suspected he was getting a nice player all along, but after seeing Atsur play against

Virginia in his first ACC game, he knew Atsur could be special. "He's a really good player," the coach said after that game. "There was a spurt there in the first half where he had three consecutive assists for easy baskets. To play like he did as a freshman in his first ACC game really is a beacon of light for us."

Atsur, who likes his books and his alone time when a free moment arises, hasn't surprised anyone with his quick start. His brother expected it, as did his coach.

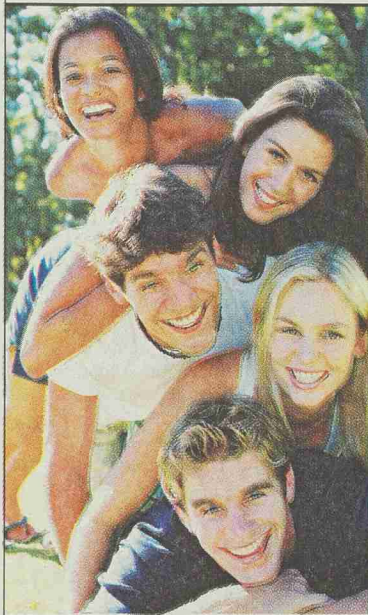
"I'm not surprised at all. He's such a smart player," junior Hodge, once a successful freshman himself, said. "On the court, he makes it easy to get good baskets from him. He'll set you up."

Despite his fast start and ability to learn, Atsur is still a work in progress. He's still becoming familiarized with America, still catching on to new surroundings. For one, Atsur is unfamiliar with North Carolina's trademark delicacy: barbecue. "Barbecue? You mean like chicken? Like barbecue sauce?" Atsur said. "I don't know. They didn't tell me about North Carolina barbecue."

Turns out, he hasn't learned everything — yet.

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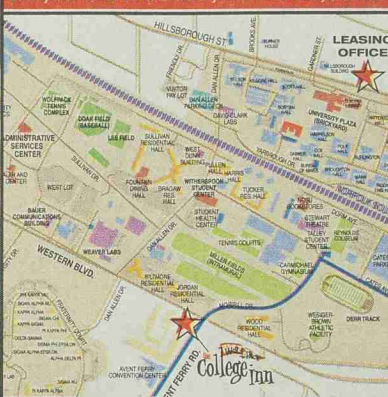
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Research Associate - Plant Transformation (Temporary) Job responsibilities: Transformation of corn and tobacco, maintenance of cultures, generation of plants, some plant analysis to monitor gene expression. Several positions: 20-40 hrs/wk, initial assignment for 6 months. Required skills and experience: B.S. in molecular biology, microbiology, biochemistry or related field with 0-2 years of experience. Molecular biology techniques (plasmid isolation, restriction digests, agarose gel electrophoresis). Excellent organization and record keeping skills. Familiarity with DNA mapping and sequence editing software a plus. We offer competitive salaries and an exciting opportunity to work for a cutting edge company.

Research Associate - Plant Transformation (Temporary) Job responsibilities: Transformation of corn and tobacco, maintenance of cultures, generation of plants, some plant analysis to monitor gene expression. Several positions: 20-40 hrs/wk, initial assignment for 6 months. Required skills and experience: B.S. in molecular biology, microbiology, biochemistry or related field with 0-2 years of experience. Molecular biology techniques (plasmid isolation, restriction digests, agarose gel electrophoresis). Excellent organization and record keeping skills. Familiarity with DNA mapping and sequence editing software a plus. We offer competitive salaries and an exciting opportunity to work for a cutting edge company.

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5 Saudi, e.g.
9 Concur
14 Mating predator
15 Seat for several
16 Low look
17 Molecular building block
18 Gallous
20 Carved pole
22 Naive idealists
23 Ballpark treat
25 Chow down
26 Skip
29 Countenance
33 Double-crossed
37 Baby powder
39 Shanty
40 Game counter
42 Thumper's deer
43 Blackboard cleaner
45 Feathered pet
47 Thaw
48 Production
50 Harass for payment
51 Pandemonium
56 Gangster
62 Tractor man
63 Creaked
65 "My ___ Lady"
66 Short-handed one?
67 Dispatch a dragon
68 At all times
69 Attach
70 New Haven school
71 Count (on)

DOWN
1 Reluctant
2 "Star Wars" droid
3 "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" poet
4 Domesticated
5 Bat wood
6 Turnpike, e.g.
7 Frizzy do
8 Police officers' IDs
9 Underway
10 Oniscorops framework
11 Function
12 Water pitcher
13 Extremities
19 Blow one's own horn
21 Kind of home
24 Training room
27 Vigor
28 Skilled
29 Antiaircraft fire
30 Zenith
31 Sugar unit
32 Issue forth
33 Those folk
34 Had on
35 Outgoing circle
36 Try out
38 Diminished
41 Delaware Water
44 Traveling salesman's course
46 Chafe with friction
49 Skittish
50 County of SW England
52 Put off

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Sports

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2004

Schedule

M. basketball vs. Georgia Tech, 1/24, 4
W. basketball vs. Maryland, 1/25, 1
Wrestling vs. Old Dominion, 1/27, 7:30
Swimming & Diving vs. Clemson, 1/31, 12
Gymnastics at Florida, 1/23

Scores

No games scheduled

TECHNICIAN

Mr. Poise

FRESHMAN ENGIN ATSUR HAS BEEN COOL UNDER PRESSURE FOR THE PACK

Andrew B. Carter
Deputy Sports Editor

Most freshman basketball players travel to Cameron Indoor Stadium in awe — a body full of nerves, butterflies and jitters jammed into a jersey and high-tops. Most play rattled and unfocused, daunted by a Duke mystique that rolls in the arena like fog. A select few, a special group, yawn at the banners in the rafters and the “D-U-K-E” on the opposition’s jerseys. They just play basketball.

That’s Engin Atsur.

When N.C. State traveled to Duke last week, the freshman from Istanbul, Turkey played like a veteran, while several veteran teammates played like freshmen. That night, Atsur led the Pack in points (14) and minutes played (34) all the while ignoring the saliva-flying slurs racing from the Duke student section.

Atsur was accustomed to the invectives, anyway. When he played with the Turkish national team in the junior world championships over the summer, hostile crowds and rowdy gyms were the norm. He heard it all — in all different languages.

“The most interesting thing was they were yelling at me in some Turkish curse,” Atsur said.

The English translation?

“I don’t want to say it,” he said. “It’s not polite.”

Figures. The soft-spoken Atsur practices manners the way most players practice mugging for SportsCenter. Upon meeting a person for the first time off the court, he’s quick to extend his arm for a handshake, offers a warm smile and always says, “Nice to meet you,” “Yes, sir” and “Thank you.”

He’s relaxing and calm, which is the word Atsur says describes him best and the trait he inherited from his mother, Renate.

“He’s real easy going,” teammate Julius Hodge said. “A good guy to get along with off the court.”

It’s true: Atsur can get along with anybody. And the way he’s been playing basketball has won him many friends and fans during his first five months in America. It all goes back to his persona.

“He always keeps his cool,” Atsur’s brother, Emre, said. “I’ve never seen him mad.”

Emre Atsur, a senior who plays basketball at Western Carolina, would know. He describes Engin as his “best friend” and holds close the memories he and Engin shared while growing up in Turkey.

Near the family home, Emre and Engin could often be found playing one-on-one on an outdoor goal near the back yard. Their father, Cetin, who played professional basketball in Germany, taught his sons how to play the game at a young age. When Engin was 9 and Emre was 12, the brothers began playing in club leagues, but maybe the best competition for both was Atsur vs. Atsur. Emre, the bigger of the two, would push his brother around.

“I was a lot more physical with him, he was more finesse,” Emre said. “And he’d shoot from anywhere.”

Though Emre concedes Engin is now the better player, the older brother does own the lead in the overall head-to-head series.

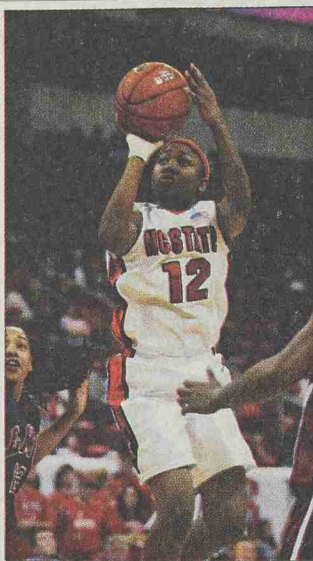
“I’d say I won about 60 percent of the time,” he said. “We haven’t played in a while, but the last time we did, he beat me.”

Emre shouldn’t feel too bad. Engin has made a habit of beating older, more experienced college players, especially in his first four ACC games. Against Virginia in late December, Atsur had five assists and 10 second-half deflections that led to several Cavalier turnovers.

At Florida State, he made a key steal late in the game to preserve a two-point lead in State’s tight victory. At Duke, which is where poise vanishes, the freshman



Engin Atsur defends driving Virginia forward Devin Smith. Since sitting out the first three games of the year per NCAA rule, Atsur has been a fixture in the Wolfpack’s lineup, starting the last six games at point guard.



ROB BRADLEY/TECHNICIAN

Marquetta Dickens floats to get off a jumper.

Hitting the mark

Marquetta Dickens loves being aggressive on the court.

Austin Johnson
Staff Writer

As a sixth grader in her hometown of Tarboro, Marquetta Dickens watched Tynesha Lewis, who would go on to become a four-time All-ACC player at N.C. State, dominate her high school competition.

That summer, Lewis helped teach a basketball camp attended by Dickens, and the middle schooler had soon found a role model.

So it was no surprise when Dickens decided to come play basketball at State, following in the footsteps of Lewis.

“Everything that I want to accomplish in my life, she has already done,” Dickens said. “I definitely look up to her.”

Coming in as a freshman, Dickens’ impact on the team was not felt immediately. She received little playing time at the beginning of the season, averaging less than 10 minutes a game off the bench for the first six games of the season.

As with most of the freshman coming onto the team this year, defense was a much bigger adjustment for Dickens. Coach Kay Yow believes the biggest problem for freshmen is learning to deal with better screens by bigger and stronger players.

“It’s a lot different in college. It’s more of an angle thing here, where in high school you just had to stay in front of people,” Dickens said.

As Dickens learned to play college defense, her offensive contribution became too impressive to ignore. During a game against Georgia in early December, she led the team in scoring while being on the court for only 13 minutes. The rest of the month she saw her minutes and her production slowly climbing. Soon, she was in the starting lineup.

“Sometimes her shot selection isn’t as great as you would like it to be; however, I would trade that all right now for an aggressive offensive player,” Yow said. “To me she’s the most aggressive offensive player we have.”

Her aggressiveness is evident on the court — she is third on the team in field goal attempts and just sixth in minutes played. But the results are also undeniable: Dickens leads State in 3-point percentage and is second in points and third in assists.

Despite Dickens’ development as a scoring threat, State struggled as a team. The Wolfpack lost its first five ACC games, struggling to make plays in key situations.

“There isn’t one thing in particular that we struggle with,” Dickens said. “We just have mental lapses and those have been killing us down the stretch.”

But in the second half Monday against Florida State, everything came together for the Pack. The mental lapses disappeared, and the team missed only four shots in the entire half, scoring 53 points and recording the team’s first ACC win.

“We were just fed up, tired of losing,” Dickens said. “We knew we were too good a team to be 1-5 [in the ACC].”

State will look to improve on that mark this Sunday when it hosts Maryland at 1 p.m. in Reynolds Coliseum.

The ball is in their court

GEORGIA TECH

OFFENSIVELY
With a horde of players that can fly up and down the court, Georgia Tech has the horses to outscore almost anyone in the country. Athletic swingmen Ismail Muhammad and B.J. Elder are a great complement to the backcourt of Jarrett Jack and Marvin Lewis. Toss in Arizona transfer Will Bynum and you have five explosive scorers easily capable of going for 20 points on a given night. Tech has scored less than 74 points just twice all year, running its record to 15-2 along the way.
Advantage: Georgia Tech

DEFENSIVELY
Tech has improved immensely on the defensive end, perhaps the one true indicator of its surprising overall success. The Wolfpack, though, will give the Jackets trouble with its unorthodox offense that brings the center out to the high post. This could spell trouble for Tech and its slow-footed, awkward big man, Luke Schenscher. Look for Tech to mix in some zone defense to offset that match-up, something State saw for a few possessions against Boston College. As its offense has hit some recent struggles, State’s defense has kept the Pack in virtually every game.
Slight Advantage: N.C. State

COACHING
In a little more than three years at Georgia Tech, Paul Hewitt has taken the Jackets to one NCAA Tournament and has his team playing top-10 basketball this season. Hewitt, the 2001 ACC Coach of the Year, likes tinkering with a rotation that goes 10 deep and will mix up pressing defenses in an attempt to wear State out.
Advantage: Georgia Tech

INTANGIBLES
After being burned by Boston College last year, State ran off three wins in a row against Florida State, Duke and North Carolina that saved its season. But the Pack not only has recent history on its side, it has lost just two games at the RBC Center in the past 12 months and has yet to be really challenged at home this year, its smallest margin of victory being six points against Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
Advantage: N.C. State

Prediction: N.C. State 80, Georgia Tech 77

The Engin Atsur file

Born: April 2, 1984
Height: 6’3”
Weight: 185
Hometown: Istanbul, Turkey
Major: First Year College
Atsur at a glance: Has a brother, Emre, who plays basketball at Western Carolina...Speaks four languages fluently — English, Turkish, German and French...Has started the last six games for the Wolfpack at point guard as a true freshman.

was the only Pack player to score in double digits. And against Clemson, he put together maybe his most complete game with seven points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals. All the while he’s moved into the starting lineup and is playing as much as anyone on the team.

Not a bad start. Only thing is Atsur has barely noticed his numbers. He’s more focused on diving on the floor after a loose ball or reaching around a big man in the post for a quick steal. He’s attending to the little things that equal big victories.

“I always try to do my best,” Atsur said. “I’m always trying and everything is going well for the team and [me] personally.”

Though success has come early for Atsur, he’s still had to endure a lot of change. He misses his parents and friends, of course, but he also had to adjust to a new style of basketball.

“First of all, we have a different offense,” said Atsur, who played in an offense based on the pick-and-roll in

ATSUR see page 6

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