

TECHNICIAN

THURSDAY
MARCH
4
2004

Raleigh, North Carolina

Local stores raided for selling illegal items



Shelves are bare at Buddha's Belly after a recent raid by federal law enforcement for selling alleged drug paraphernalia.

"Operation Pipecleaner" raids Snap Dragons and Buddha's Belly for selling drug paraphernalia.

Jessica Horne
Deputy News Editor

On Feb. 26, federal officials raided six businesses throughout the state for selling items that are considered illegal drug paraphernalia. Two of those businesses, Snap Dragons and Buddha's Belly, are located on Hillsborough Street across

from N.C. State.

Federal law enforcement officials dubbed the Thursday raid "Operation Pipecleaner." Officials presented the businesses with a warrant before seizing the paraphernalia.

U.S. Code Title 21, Section 863 was passed as part of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, and originally prohibited the sale or possession of illegal drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and PCP. The law was amended in 1990

DRUGS see page 2



"I could not ask for better company than here today," Sen. John Edwards said as he thanked supporters at Broughton High School.

Edwards out of presidential race

The N.C. senator thanked his supporters at Broughton High School Wednesday, including three NCSU students.

Charles Duncan
Senior Staff Reporter

"All my life this country has smiled on me, and today I am smiling right back!" Sen. John Edwards said to the packed gym at Raleigh's Broughton High School.

Edwards officially announced that he has dropped out of the presidential race and gave his support to Sen. John Kerry.

City officials said attendance reached almost 2,000, with



Edwards thanked supporters for their dedication during his campaign.

over 1,600 people standing on the basketball court for the announcement.

"It wasn't very long ago when the pundits said there wouldn't even be one John running at this

point," Edwards said. "We proved these pundits wrong."

Of the crowd in front of him, Edwards said, "John Kerry has what it takes, right here, to be president."

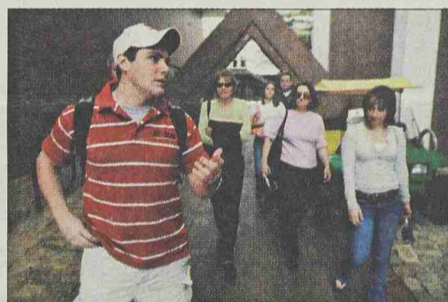
Edwards praised Kerry for his "strength and courage" in both the Vietnam War and his political life.

"Senator Kerry has fought back in this campaign, and he's won because his heart is good. He believes that America is at its best when we all have an equal chance, and equal opportunity to do our very best," Edwards said.

Standing on stage crowded with volunteers, supporters and members of his family, Edwards smiled as his two younger children waved "Edwards 2004" signs and gave their thumbs-up to the crowd.

Edwards said, "I could not ask for better company than here today," before thanking everyone who supported his campaign.

EDWARDS see page 2



ROD BRADLEY/TECHNICIAN

Student Ambassador Ryan Chaffee, a senior in communications, fields a question from possible rising freshman Rachel Watts from Norfolk, Va., while leading a campus tour. Rachel decided to tour N.C. State Wednesday because the weather was beautiful and she had a day off.

Ambassadors show N.C. State

More than just tour guides, ambassadors reveal the history of N.C. State to potential students.

Kenneth Ball
Staff Reporter

For incoming freshmen, a campus visit may make the difference between donning Wolfpack red in Raleigh or Tarheel blue down the road.

For those undecided, that decision often starts with a

college tour.

Nearly every weekday, tours of the campus are given to potential new students and their parents by NCSU Student Ambassadors.

Ben Davis, a senior in microbiology, is a student ambassador and one of the unsung heroes of the admissions process.

"It's a great program and it's a good way to meet people that you go to school with and people that you could go to school with," Davis said.

GUIDES see page 2

Candidates reminded to keep it clean

Students running for Student Government office were reminded of campaign ethics at Tuesday's all candidates meeting.

Adam Dunn
Staff Reporter

Just days after books officially closed for Student Government elections, candidates were reminded to keep campaign ethics in mind in the coming weeks. Candidates were in attendance at Tuesday's all candidates meeting to hear the rules associated with running for office.

Mike Giancola, Student Government adviser and director of the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service, set the tone for the meeting with a speech on running ethical campaigns. With all senators, board members and candidates present, Giancola laid out a few ground rules on ways to run an effective campaign.

"All we are trying to do is make sure that elections are honest, fair and provide everybody with an equal chance," he said. "It gives you as students a chance to run a campaign with integrity and a sense of political responsibility." Although the night's topics revolved

around ethics and morals, leadership development became a major issue.

Giancola made it a point to stress the importance of being a well-rounded leader while candidates represent themselves as student leaders.

"You are only as good as the skills you acquire," Giancola said. "Becoming a leader allows you to express yourself and truly acquire skills that are highly beneficial in life and politics as well."

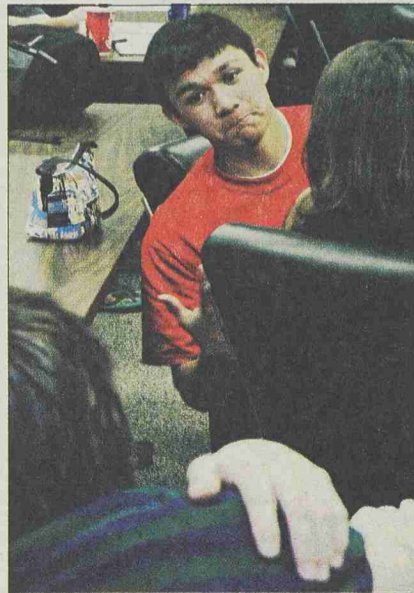
The meeting was summed up with a brief overview of proper campaigning procedures from elections board leader Lucy Tatum. Topics such as keeping proper expense records, places to not campaign and obtaining permits to set up booths in the Brickyard, were mentioned among several other highly detailed campaign procedures.

Ethics while campaigning were emphasized to assure equality and fairness for every candidate.

"We don't mean to sound uptight or overbearing," Tatum said. "We just want to make sure that everybody who steps into this race has the same chance as the next."

Will Langley, candidate for student body treasurer, thought values should be important to all candidates.

ELECTION see page 2



Adrian Ortega, top, gestures to Zach Adams during last night's elections information meeting. Both engineering students are running for positions in the Student Senate.

insidetechnician



Senior night spoilage

Men's basketball. See page 8

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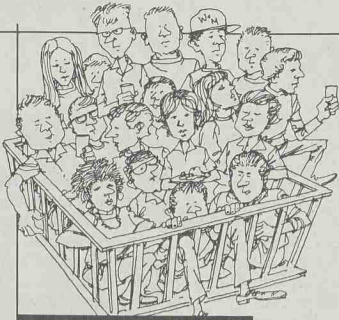
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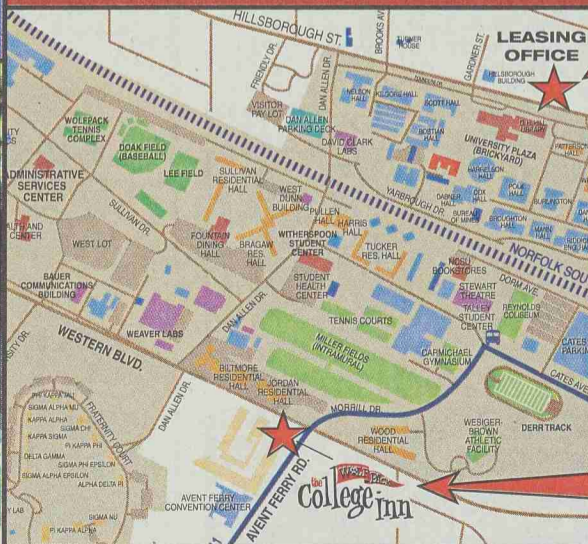
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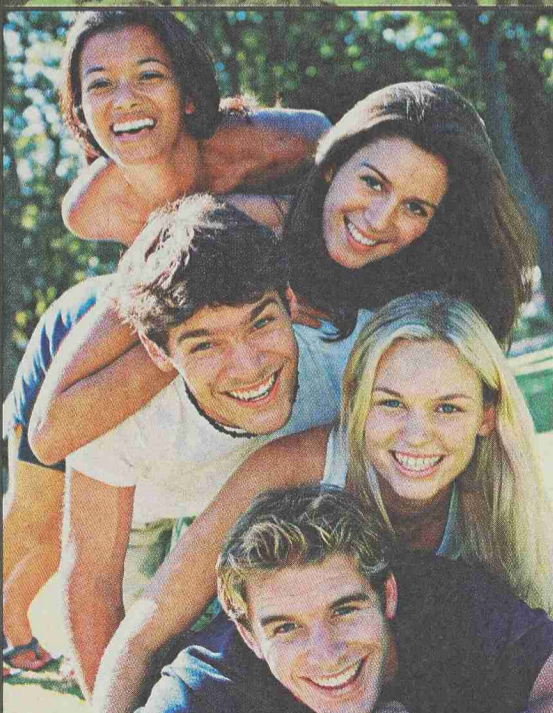
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SAYING GOOD-BYE TO 'SEX'

The fashions we carry

Ashley Hink
Senior Staff Writer

When getting ready to go out last night, I flirted with the regular ensemble of jeans, pumps, a fun little shirt, scarf and whatever accessories matched the color scheme. Yet, bored of my basics and conflicted by the fear of looking like every other chick in the bar, I bucked up and built the bravery to wear sexy black fishnets, a black mini-skirt, a fabulous sequined tank, and my colorful new bracelets reading "ASH" and "FREE" in bold, silver letters.

Girls shot glares across the bar that easily were interpreted as "That girl must be such a slut" or "I can't believe she's wearing that." My fashion adventure was unwelcome by the mostly stiff and stuck-up crowd, but as I confidently walked through the cramped rooms, I knew that Carrie Bradshaw would be proud. Regardless of the glares, the outfit represented me - no, not a slut or easy club bunny, but just a girl letting her hair down and having some fun.

The ladies of "Sex and the City" were very different and distinct characters, and the clothes they wore represented not only their extreme personalities, but also their feelings. Patricia Fields cleverly designed the creations, and the clothes and accessories that adorned the characters became much more than costumes. Fashion and style became an unprecedented aspect of the characters' lives and of the show.

While women tuned in from small towns in the middle of West Virginia and more metropolitan areas like Raleigh, they were exposed to an entirely new world of clothing, shoes and accessories that the local Sears and Belk surely did not carry. The expensive designer clothing that draped Carrie, Miranda, Samantha and Charlotte made "Sex" a fashion icon and, not to mention, Manolo Blahnik a household name.

Carrie Bradshaw, the fun, youthful and witty writer, appropriately pushed the envelope with her edgy fashion sense, in addition to draining her bank account. The need for curtains, household repairs and even rent came second to her pricey weekly excursions at Barneys.

A self-proclaimed shoe addict and glutton for high-end designer names, Carrie loved fashion and was able to sport anything from the latest trends to timeless classics.

She wore simple Calvin Klein dresses to weddings, suits that were oh-so Jackie Kennedy when dating a politician, \$7 vintage dresses with \$300 stilet-



HBO ENTERTAINMENT

Although "Sex and the City" is long gone, its influence on women and fashion still lives.

tos while shopping in SoHo, vibrant and wild Dolce & Gabbana dresses to parties, well-tailored Vivienne Westwood skirt suits to work and amazing Donna Karan gowns to formal events. Carrie wore clothing appropriate to the setting without ever sacrificing her unique and eclectic style. From hip Sex Pistols T-shirts to amazing Versace Couture gowns, she made fashion fun and all her own.

Miranda Hobbes, the rigid lawyer and perfectionist, often wore business suits that depicted her professional persona. When and if letting go, she wore simple contemporary prints and casual ensembles by Club Monaco, Calvin Klein and Marc Jacobs, to name a few.

Charlotte York, always true to form, wore girly, sophisticated clothing that never deviated from her Upper East Side life. Burberry plaids, Chanel coats, headbands and an endless array of flower-printed dresses filled Charlotte's closet and perfectly represented her innocence and romantic idealism.

When wearing clothes (which wasn't often), the sexy and outspoken PR executive Samantha Jones wore bright colored feminine suits and slinky, suggestive dresses - of course, without underwear. Gucci suits, Celine leather pants and Fendi handbags were included in Samantha's professional wardrobe, but dresses with plunging necklines and incredibly short hemlines were among her, ah, sex attire.

The beautiful and hardly affordable clothing represented who these women were, from sex kittens to business professionals and mothers-to-be. However, the costumes never sacrificed style and the power of status labels for functionality. Shallow, yes, but the ridiculous shoe obsessions and handbag collections represented more

than a price tag. Girls terrified of becoming working mothers and wives that hand in slinky silk shirts for stretch pants and themed sweaters were able to see these dynamic women take on such roles without giving up their ability to be sexy and stylish.

In addition to offering up lasting fashion inspiration, "Sex" certainly sparked quite a few trends throughout its six-year run. Carrie's gold nameplate necklace, enormous flower pin and diamond horse-shoe necklaces became all the rage and short of demand as women everywhere rushed to get their hands on them. Fendi baguettes, Christian Dior handbags and fabulous thrift store finds also became popular among audiences too.

Yet, nothing became better known and desired than the plethora of shoes adored and worn by the women of "Sex." While anywhere from \$300 to more than \$1000 a pop, the Jimmy Choo and Manolo Blahnik shoes became the objects of affection for women everywhere and, for some, worth the price.

From the trends to personal style and statements, the fashion on "Sex and the City" became an important aspect of the show. The clothes and accessories embodied everything about these women - financial power, independence, sexiness, professionalism, motherhood and beauty.

Fashion became a representation of the characters themselves, and no one else. So, for young women everywhere, "Sex" was an icon for fashion freedom. While we still might be far from Manolo Blahnik affordability, we can wear our short skirts and fishnets without insinuating sex, but instead, just being a little like Carrie.

SHH...IT'S ABOUT SEX

Worth the wait

Women take a long time to get ready to go out. Why do guys think they have made some discovery when they realize how

completely unfair that they can "get ready" faster than we can.

The other day I was sitting in student health next to some other patients while I waited for my usual refill of anti-baby pills. I was half eavesdropping as a girl up at the window was receiving her medicine and getting an explanation as to why her birth control had been changed.

"The only side effect should be a slight..." — at this point the drug lady began whispering, and of course all of the sicklies and I leaned forward with full blown interest. I immediately snapped at some guy, "Did she just say a 'slight lack of sexual drive'?"

It was my turn next, and I held my breath as I approached the counter, but I was simply handed over an inconspicuous brown bag. I was fully relieved, assuming that my prescription had remained the same. However, as I reached Price Music Center, sat down on the brick wall in front and waited on a friend, I discovered the horrible truth! No longer did the tiny pills run circular in a hard, white case, but in straight lines contained in something blue and floppy.

I ripped open the package and frantically scanned the patient

information sheets for notices of sexual drive deprivation.

Out of nowhere, a gust of wind blew everything all over Cates Avenue: little brown bags, information sheets and blue, floppy containers! Like a madwoman I attempted to gather my things, all the while anticipating the libidinous life I had to look forward to with my new drug.

How could life be so unfair? Already we girls have issues about dressing up to go out in a short amount of time, but what would become of us if we lost the sexual drive we had to begin with? The whole affair of "getting ready" would be lost. We might as well go out with unshaven legs and greasy hair. Stocks for Revlon and Maybelline would drop tremendously. As it turns out, I fretted with my friend for absolutely nothing. The "slight lack of sexual drive" was actually a mumbled "slight ache of stomach or head."

I thought about how taking a long time to get ready is not such a big deal at all. The more time and care women put into getting ready, the more everyone will appreciate the result.



Liesl Clouse
Senior Sex Columnist

hair? Makeup is a gift the gods granted, and we cannot help but utilize it to the full effect.

Women have to throw a lot of attention into getting ready! Men have it creepily easy. The male time span to get ready can be as little as 15 minutes, whereas we ladies can take up to three hours.

How ironic: the attention women need to get ready parallels the time and frustration it takes for us to reach climax. Some of us have not yet realized our potential for dressing up, but the reality that all females have the ability to get ready and shine. The event might take longer than the masculine mechanism even though it is

Liesl will be fixing her hair for the next three hours. E-mail: lsclose@unity.ncsu.edu

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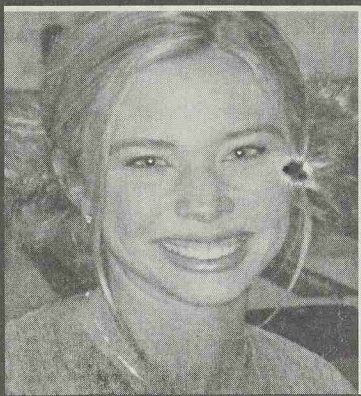
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ROLL OUT THE CAKE

OUR OPINION: FOUNDER'S DAY IS AN IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY THAT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI SHOULD CELEBRATE.

When was N.C. State founded? What was the original name of N.C. State? Who was the first president of NCSU and how long did he serve?

If you know the answer to these questions, congratulations, have a piece of cake. If you didn't know, better luck next time.

Why the history lesson? Founder's Day is Sunday.

N.C. State was founded on March 7, 1887. A group of young idealists called the Watauga Club lobbied the General Assembly to found a land-grant university that focused on agriculture and engineering. Thus, the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts formed. In 1889, Alexander Q. Holaday became N.C. A&M's first president.

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.

After 117 years, 12 chancellors and five name changes, NCSU is continuing its mission as a Research I, land-grant institution and educating thousands of North Carolinians every year.

Every year, the Alumni Association and university present the Watauga Medal to recipients who have given themselves to NCSU. A dinner is held in their honor. But beyond that, there is not much celebration.

The Alumni Association Student Ambassador Program passed out cake and free T-shirts to students Monday in the Brickyard, but other than that, there was no student celebration planned.

This is a genuine opportunity to bring the student body, faculty and staff together to celebrate everything.

NCSU needs to remind us just what we are here to do: to educate and to serve.

Just like Homecoming, Founder's Day is in danger of becoming a non-event, where the only people that observe it are

administrators, donors and alumni. Students are looking for traditions to rally behind. There is no better time to start a tradition than to have a Founder's Day celebration.

It could be coupled with a men's basketball game, as Homecoming is with football. There could be a week of events going on in the Brickyard. Student Government and the Alumni Association could team up and plan events that would energize the student body and commemorate the founding of our institution.

Carolina has University Day, where the university gets together for one big academic ceremony, like a convocation service. This is also an option for NCSU. Combining a ceremony like this with the annual Harrison Lecture would serve very well.

It is time for us to properly celebrate that in a well-mannered, dignified and fun way that involves everyone on campus.

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Thrill Jill... AGAIN!!



Stopping animal overpopulation

You don't have to be a contestant on "The Price is Right" to appreciate spaying and neutering your animals. Christin Liverance explains why.

There's some sad news for animal lovers in North Carolina lately. You might want to cover Spot's ears for this one. Nearly 17,000 unwanted pets were found or dropped off at local shelters in Wake County last year. Out of those 17,000 middle doggies and kitties, 10,000 were euthanized just to make room for even more homeless animals.

Christin Liverance
Staff Columnist

I'm no vegetarian, tree-hugging, PETA fanatic, but the fact that thousands of animals are put to sleep in Wake County alone is enough to upset me quite a bit.

Pet overpopulation is also the leading killer of dogs and cats in America.

This is pretty sad considering humans have control over this to a certain degree and seemingly do nothing about it. Domesticated animal overpopulation is a problem that could very easily be stopped if people would just have their pets spayed and neutered.

Another thing that bothers me is that people like to complain about a whole lotta nothing. That whole lotta nothing could save thousands of innocent animal lives.

Instead the issue becomes a whine-fest about what it will cost *me* and why I'm so special that I should never be put out for the betterment of society.

People are upset about a new proposal being discussed in North Carolina because it would force those with even small numbers of breeding animals to have permits and licenses for them and pay increased license fees.

There will also be more regulations and fines for those who choose not to comply.

So what's wrong with that? If you're that hard up that you can't afford a license to breed your pets, then maybe you shouldn't have the responsibility of owning a pet in the first place.

Owning pets requires money to care for them, and these fees should be factored into the cost of owning a dog or cat.

I don't really like the fact that unwanted animals are euthanized in the first place, it's somewhat inhumane in the very least, killing the things we can't take care of.

I also have to admit, however, that I don't see a better solution.

You have thousands of animals that no one wants, what are you supposed to do with them?

Let them run free in the streets? Send them to a colony on the moon?

Oftentimes, I don't think animals get a lot of respect in our society to begin with.

Yes, they are *animals*, living things that are not quite on our intellectual and evolutionary level, but they deserve some rights too.

Instead, we put them in zoos, we move out of an apartment and leave them to fend for themselves, we dump them on the streets when we've had enough, we use them for fighting and other bizarre forms of entertainment (who ever decided bull-fighting was a good idea?), we take over their natural homes with our apartment complexes and shopping malls and we let Fido outside every day to sew his wild oats, fathering bastard puppies all over the Triangle.

People need to stop whining about measly license fees and start thinking about what is best for our society and most humane for our four-legged friends.

The state is obviously trying to regulate spaying and neutering because it has become a great problem. They're not doing it to put out Mary Jones, owner of three Pomeranian show dogs.

The people who are complaining also need to realize that some of our tax dollars are being spent on the capture, housing, euthanizing and disposal of these homeless animals.

So either way, we're paying the price. Spaying and neutering is available at low costs for those who need it. SNAP-NC is a non-profit organization with several locations around North Carolina that provide low-cost spay and neuter services to those who need it.

Many of us are at the point in our lives where we are moving out on our own, out of our parents' houses, out of the dorms and into apartments and townhomes. Having your own place often means you get the privilege of owning your own pet.

College students can play a major role in solving the problem of animal overpopulation by having their dogs and cats spayed and neutered.

Spaying or neutering has other benefits for pet owners as well. It can also cause pets to be less aggressive and can increase their chances of a longer life.

Those who are considering pet "parenthood" should also think seriously about adopting a pet from a local shelter rather than buying a puppy from a breeder.

It's pretty sad that breeders are selling puppies for hundreds of dollars while thousands of dogs sit in shelters waiting to be adopted for free.

Adopting a pet is not only less expensive, but it helps get unwanted animals off the streets and into loving homes. You can find just about any breed of dog or cat you'd want in one of the many animal shelters in the state.

Oftentimes these animals are already spayed or neutered, up to date with shots, and have some training as well. Animals breed when they get the chance, they don't know any better.

However, we can stop the growing problem before it gets even more out of control.

Agree with Christin?
Let her know what you think at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com.

Three roads for Social Security

Rob Jaiall looks at the ailing Social Security program and what has to be done to save it for the next generation of senior citizens: the Baby Boomers.

I fully expect not to see a single cent from Social Security. As someone who will (hopefully) be entering the workforce soon, it pains me to think that I will be paying for something that will give me no return. Thus, I am hoping that Alan Greenspan's unusually verbose, grim comments about Social Security will precipitate in some sort of solution to my Social Security



Robert Jaiall
Staff Columnist

problem. As it stands, people my age will pay much in Social Security taxes but for naught.

Three types of solutions exist for reforming social security: creating a social security lockbox, switching to private investment accounts and eliminating social security.

Under the lockbox plan, the government would basically create a new trust fund that could not be raided and pay benefits out of that, similar to social security's original conception. Clearly, the lockbox idea came from better times because there is simply no extra money left from paying out yearly benefits to build up a savings of meaningful size.

The government tax surpluses from when Al Gore popularized the "lock-box" term don't exist anymore as a credible starting point for a new trust fund.

This plan also faces the political reality that the government will likely not be able to restrain itself from tapping an idle pile of cash in the face of fiscal deficits. This reality seems all too true during the term of an exceptionally spendthrift administration and a perpetual war on terror with many possible (supposed) emergency ex-

penses such as Iraq.

The second plan involves creating private investment accounts to which some portion of Social Security revenues would be diverted. The idea is that individuals could get better returns on their contribution by investing in stocks and bonds rather than just taking the benefits the government will pay at retirement.

For my generation, this is especially more attractive if we expect to see no Social Security benefits.

This plan, however, also shows its pre-recession origins. For each dollar that the government diverts into a personal investment account, the government needs another dollar to continue to pay out current benefits. Without a surplus, it is much harder for the government to cover diverted funds.

One thing people might still grit their teeth over is the fact that the personal account plan would still be a tax - an involuntary withholding from a worker's paycheck, but with higher returns.

The promise of higher returns over Social Security still remains murky because one's return from Social Security is dependent on demographic. Because Social Security is progressive, lower income people actually do pretty well relative to personal investment accounts. In some cases, one can actually be worse off under private investment accounts because the plan is not progressive.

One of the harder to analyze aspects of the private accounts plan is how will the flood of new Social Security money affect asset markets? It is conceivable that injecting such a large amount of cash into markets would lead to bubble dynamics that would seem desirable from a capital gains stand point, but would be unhealthy economically. Such consequences have had little public discussion even

though they merit it.

The third most popular option is a simple one - give people their money back and get rid of Social Security altogether. Of the three plans, this is probably the worst. The fact of the matter is that if there is anyone who can match the government in its fiscal irresponsibility, it is the American citizen. I don't know if it can be called a long-term trend or not, but the average American shows a much greater propensity to take on debt rather than to save or invest.

It is likely that citizens will take their returned taxes and spend it all, and when they get old, they will use the power of the old folks' vote to vote themselves benefits, once again burdening younger generations. Trading an old mess for a new one cannot count as progress.

Throughout this discussion, one might wonder how is it that the U.S. healthcare and retirement picture seems so bleak when Canada and many European countries seem to have gotten this problem solved. America's current quandary stems from spending choices it made long ago.

The United States chose low taxes and defense at the expense of Social Security. European countries did not pick defense or low taxes, so it only makes sense that they are able to have universal healthcare programs.


In this light, the hat trick the United States is trying to pull off may be impossible if it is not willing to make some tradeoffs.

At this point, I would not mind tradeoffs because anything is better than the clearly losing situation of paying for benefits that I will not receive.

Robert favors plan four:
eliminate old people. E-mail him at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com.

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MIDDLETON

continued from page 1

Now his son will leave as part of one of the most prolific teams since that era, even if it's caught in a downward spiral. State (18-8, 10-5 ACC) had won 10 games in the ACC just once since 1974 entering this season.

Roach spent the weeks leading up to the game assessing his future with the team, consulting his family and fellow seniors before a Tuesday meeting with Sendek yielded a final decision: it was, in the scruffy blonde-headed forward's words, "time to move on."

"I came in with Scooter and Marcus, so it'd be special if I went out with the two," said Roach, who is set to graduate in December 2004 with a degree in business management.

The coach responded by giving him the surprise start, not notifying Roach until he came into the team's meeting room 10 minutes before the game and

saw his name written on the grease board.

In the second half of the game as his team started to come back, Roach settled into his usual role, standing up, red warm-up jersey back on, to applaud teammates entering and exiting the game. Sometimes, he would sit on his hands in nervousness, those same hands that gave State the early lead and momentum it failed to parlay into a win that would have clinched second place in the league.

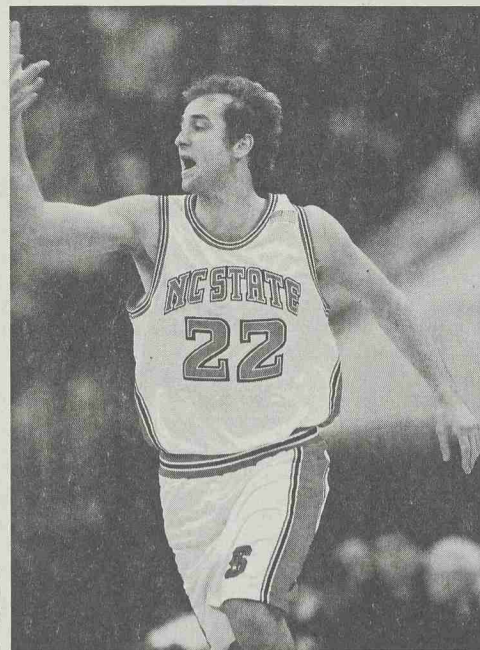
"I wish it would have energized us more," Sendek said. "I'm very happy for Will, he's going to be very successful in whatever he does in life."

Too bad his team couldn't have succeeded in his final home game.

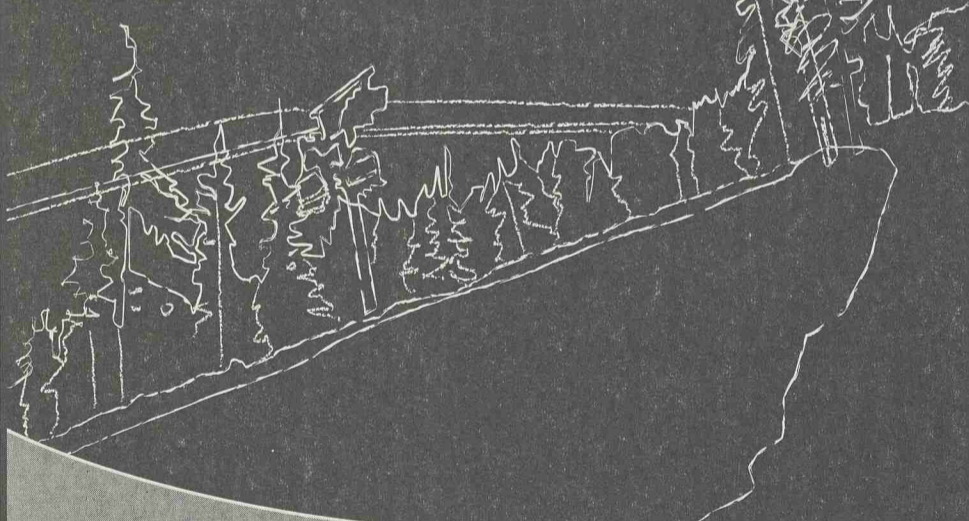
Matt can be reached at 515-2411 or matt@technicianstaff.com

RAY BLACK III/TECHNICIAN

Will Roach reacts after hitting a 3-pointer Wednesday night. Roach's points were the first of the night for State.

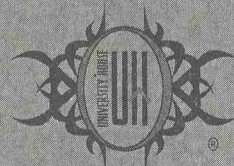


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Schedule

M. basketball at Wake Forest, 3/6, 1
 W. basketball vs. Clemson (ACC Tourney), 3/6, 6
 Baseball at San Diego State, 3/5-7
 Wrestling at ACCs, 3/6
 Gymnastics in Wolfpack Invite, 3/5, 7
 W. tennis at Clemson, 3/6
 M. tennis at Old Dominion
 Softball vs. Charleston Southern, 3/6, 1

Scores

Maryland 70, M. basketball 69
 Baseball 8, LeMoyné 2

TECHNICIAN

MARYLAND 70 | N.C. STATE 69

Senior night spoilage

MARYLAND RUINS N.C. STATE'S SENIOR NIGHT, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PACK'S NUMEROUS TURNOVERS, LEADING TO THE TEAM'S SECOND STRAIGHT LOSS AT HOME.

Andrew B. Carter
 Deputy Sports Editor

It was the type of situation made for seniors on senior night, the kind that causes college basketball players and highlight film producers to salivate. It possessed all the makings Wednesday night at the RBC Center in the final moments: time ticking, intensity increasing, hearts pounding.

The only thing missing was the story-book ending.

Senior Marcus Melvin twice missed 3-pointers in the final 22 seconds, twice misfiring on attempts from the right wing with Maryland defenders swarming. In an ironic twist, junior Julius Hodge, who finished with a game-high 27 points, nailed a 3 as the final buzzer blared, but it didn't matter as N.C. State lost a thriller to Maryland, 70-69.

With less than a minute to play and the home crowd buzzing, State (18-8, 10-5 ACC) trailed Maryland (15-11, 6-9) 68-66 and few could doubt which State player would get the ball when the shot clock melted.

As expected, the possession landed in the hands of Melvin, the senior who finished with 22 points, including 15 in the first half that kept State in the game early. The defense pressuring, Melvin heaved an off-balance 3-point attempt over two Terrapins from the right wing that bounced high off the rim.

Hodge fouled Jamar Smith on the rebound, who hit one of two free throws to put Maryland up three with 17 seconds to play.

After Smith's free throw, Maryland coach Gary Williams called a 30-second timeout, which gave State time to draw up something, anything, to tie the game.

On its possession, State took its time before Melvin launched another 3 -- almost from the same spot as his previous miss -- that hit the backboard and rim before falling to the court with just four seconds to play. Hodge again fouled Smith, who put the game out of reach with another free throw.

"I wanted to take those shots," Melvin said. "I've been in that situation plenty of times in my career here. They didn't fall, things didn't go like I wanted them to, but I've had my share of shots to go down when the game is on the line."

Melvin hit his share of shots on this night, too. The 6-foot-8 Fayetteville native was nearly the only obstacle that kept Maryland from blowing the game open by halftime. Led by flammable John Gilchrist's 15 first-half points, the Terps led by as much as 17 in the first half before two Melvin 3s late in the half brought State to within 10 at intermission. For the second consecutive game, the Pack looked slow, out of sync and discombobulated offensively in the game's first 20 minutes.

Former walk-on Will Roach, a senior academically, started the contest and drained a 3 from the right wing a minute into the game. With the crowd rocking from Roach's shot, the Pack couldn't capitalize despite its momentum. State didn't score again for almost five minutes as Maryland gained control.

In Sunday's loss to North Carolina, State started the game in similar fashion.

"That's something we can't do, especially against talented teams," coach Herb Sendek said. "We haven't started the game we wanted to, but you can't analyze that too much because we've also had games where we got off to a good start, but then had a bad second half."

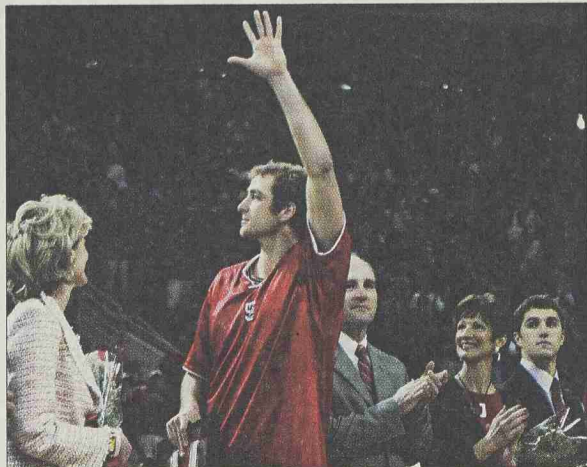
Still, the hole No. 16 State dug couldn't have helped. By the time State started to play, it was already down well into double digits.

"If you don't play for 40 minutes, it's hard to win," said Pack forward Ilian Evtimov, who finished with just eight points but hit two big 3s in State's second-half rally.

State did its best to make up for the lackluster start by playing maybe twice as hard in the second half of a game that will result in more than a few bruises for those involved. Amid flying bodies, slap-



Julius Hodge, who scored 27 points in the Wolfpack's one-point loss to Maryland, battles Chris McCray for a loose ball. TAYLOR TEMPLETON/TECHNICIAN



Surrounded by family, Will Roach waves to the crowd during senior night festivities. RAY BLACK/JIT/TECHNICIAN

ping hands and game-face stares, State clawed its way back. Melvin began what would be an 18-6 run to start the half with a 3, and Evtimov ended the spurt with the second of two 3s from the left

side. That shot gave State a 52-50 lead, its first of the game, with 14:43 to play.

After the initial run to start the half, Melvin cooled but Hodge began to heat up. The junior from Harlem scored 16

second-half points, including two plays that tied the game. He also came up with a few key blocks to deny Maryland.

State and Maryland traded ties and lead changes over the next 10 minutes before a Gilchrist dunk put the Terps up for good at 64-62 with 4:43 to play.

Smith started that play for Maryland, knocking the ball out Evtimov's hands while the redshirt-sophomore stood near midcourt.

"He came out of nowhere. I didn't see him," Evtimov said. "I wasn't aware he was behind me."

Maryland pushed its lead to six with nearly two minutes remaining, but State cut it down to 68-66 when Melvin hit two free throws with 1:17 to play.

"Down the stretch, we've got to convert and make plays," Melvin said.

Instead, the Pack, who finished with 19 turnovers, suffered several mental lapses.

Despite that, Melvin still had a chance to put his team ahead, or at least tie, in the final moments.

"They knew the ball was coming to me down the stretch," he said. "I didn't feel any pressure or anything. I wanted to put the ball up and shoot my normal shot. Things didn't go the way I wanted."

Different beginning, familiar ending

Herb Sendek got it right this time around.

His team, though, still didn't.



Matt Middleton
 Sports Editor

A starter for the first time in his career, redshirt-junior Will Roach played the part of a senior Wednesday night, as Sendek gave him the appropriate recognition for a player in his final year of the

program by inserting him into the starting lineup and allowing him to play the first two minutes of the game.

A classy move that should have sparked his team to an energetic start — one that even included Roach making his only shot attempt in the game, his first points since Nov. 21 — did the exact opposite, a wary sign considering the late nature of the season.

State fell behind in the first half for the third straight game at home and even though it came back to make it more than a game after intermission, it was the first 15 minutes of the affair that cost it the win, turning a celebration of the careers of three into the Wolfpack's second home loss in as many games.

Before the loss in a ceremony honoring fellow seniors Marcus Melvin and the injured Scooter Sherrill, Roach got more than the pomp and circumstance of the sometimes-melodramatic event. In addition to being honored at midcourt before the game with his family to receive the obligatory framed jersey, he started and played two minutes, even though he didn't necessarily want to.

"I wanted to tell him [Sendek] we're already down one starter [Sherrill], don't handicap us anymore by putting me in there," he said. "I owe this program so much; best experience of my life."

Roach showed that by going out there and making the most of his minutes.

He scored the Pack's first basket, a 3-pointer from the wing set up by a pretty pump fake. In fact, those were the only State points for the first 4:51 of the contest, as Maryland raced out to a quick 11-3 lead it would relinquish just three times; State never led by more than two points.

"We just started off real slow," Roach said, stating the obvious.

Sendek in 2000 chose not to start senior Tim Wells, a fairly significant reserve for the Pack that year, during the final home game of the season against ACC Tournament play-in invitee Clemson. State paid for the disturbance of the Tobacco Road basketball gods when the Tigers upset State and spoiled the afternoon, much like Maryland did Wednesday night.

Roach probably remembers that game. The Raleigh native and 2000 graduate of Broughton High School, grew up following his grandfather to Reynolds Coliseum, "coming to every N.C. State game since he was in diapers," said father Tommy, N.C. State class of 1972.