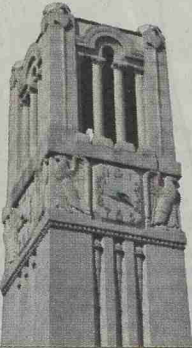


TECHNICIAN

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER
16
2004



technicianonline.com

Raleigh, North Carolina

People of faith are healthier, study says

Tara Zechini
Staff Writer

Religious people live longer and healthier lives than their non-religious counterparts, according to several studies released by Duke University Medical Center recently.

While the studies concentrated on older adults, researcher Harold G. Koenig, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and associate professor of medicine at Duke University, stated that the results pertain to college students as well. "The findings apply to people who are under stress. Age doesn't matter as much as stress level does," Koenig said.

Koenig's research has found that religious people spend less time in the hospital, are healthier, recover faster and avoid depression or recover from it quickly.

"Depression is oftentimes evidence that the person is unable to cope with a life stress or loss. Religion helps people to make sense of traumatic events, death of a loved one or even a failure in school," Koenig said. "Religion gives them hope...they can pray to God to give them strength to get through the situation."

Lisa Waller, a junior in biological sciences, believes that being a person of faith makes people more optimistic about life.

"When you're living for God, you're living life with purpose and you don't really worry about when you're going to die. You know it's going to be wonderful — heaven is going to be great," Waller said.

Research also shows that people of faith are less likely to use addictive substances.

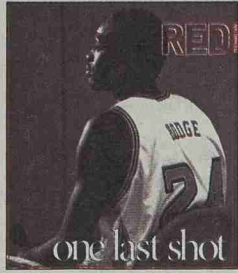
In his article "The Healing Power of Faith," Koenig stated that people who attend church weekly have about 1/3 the rate of alcohol abuse and are about 1/3 as likely to smoke as those who seldom participate in congregational worship.

Religious youth show significantly lower levels of drug and alcohol abuse, premature sexual involvement and criminal delinquency than their non-religious peers, according to Koenig.

"All of the laws of the church seem to have health benefits. It strongly advocates against things like smoking and drinking," Koenig said. "These are practical rules."

FAITH continued page 3

insidetechnician



Julius Hodge has one last shot
Inserted, Technician's basketball season preview.

weather today

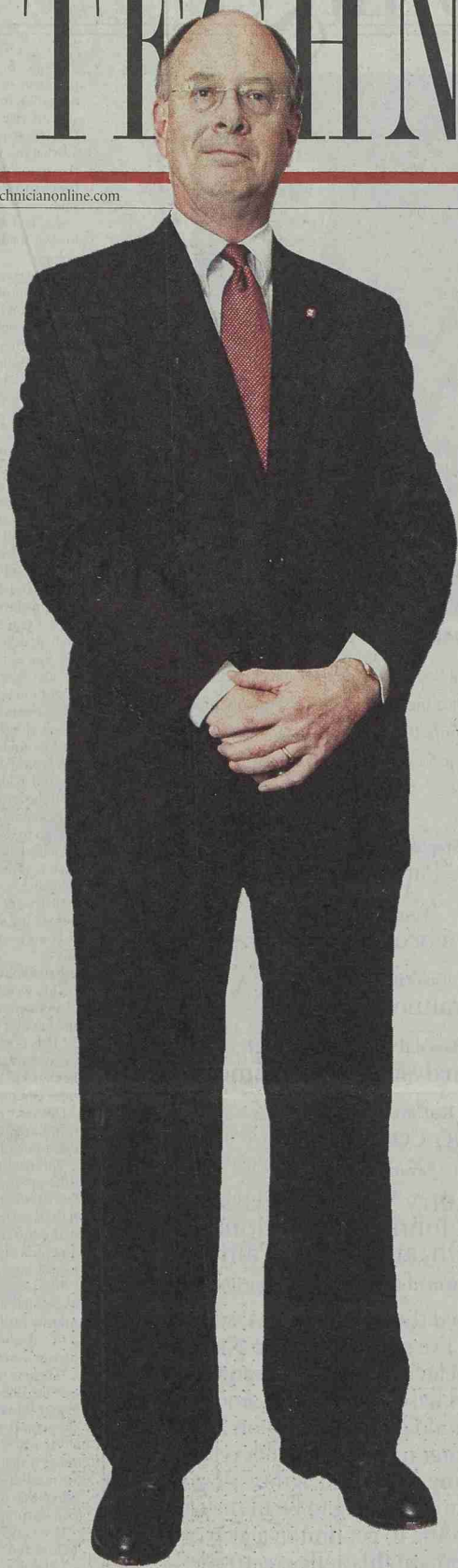


64°/37°

tomorrow



64°/41°



James L. Oblinger

SET TO TAKE OFFICE ON JAN. 1, JAMES OBLINGER SAYS HE IS READY FOR THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

STORY BY BEN MCNEELY | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR TEMPLETON

When a university hires a new chancellor to take the lead, it is usually someone from out of town, out of state — someone with little knowledge about their new home.

The nice thing about James Oblinger is that he already knows N.C. State and the people of North Carolina.

"I count myself fortunate. I was able to come to N.C. State 18 years ago. Once [wife] Diana and I arrived, we knew this was home," Oblinger said in his remarks to the UNC Board of Governors last month.

James L. Oblinger, current provost and chancellor-designate, has been playing dual roles since he was announced as NCSU's 13th chancellor on

OBLINGER continued page 2



Oblinger addresses a crowd at his welcoming ceremony on Oct. 8.

Merit-based scholarships hard to offer

Ben Motal
Staff Writer

Every year, N.C. State competes with other universities across the nation to attract top students into the incoming freshman class, sometimes enticing students with merit-based scholarships.

However, universities do not have the funds to provide these scholarships to every prospective student.

"As the quality of our students increases, it is difficult to honor all of [the high-achieving students] with scholarships," said Krista Ringler, senior assistant director at the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

Out of approximately 3,840 enrollees, NCSU awarded 208 university-wide scholarships to incoming freshmen for the 2004-2005 school year. Of these scholarships, 161 were given on the basis of financial need and academic merit

and 47 were given solely on the basis of merit, according to Ringler.

Individual colleges and departments offer a significant number of scholarships as well, Ringler said. She also notes that many students attending NCSU have received non-university scholarships through outside organizations.

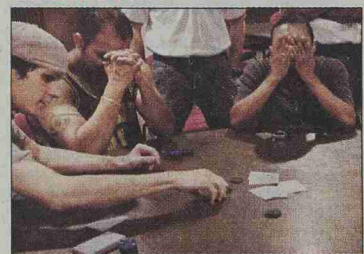
"The thing it does for us is it allows students to look at N.C. State that wouldn't consider us otherwise," said Thomas Griffin, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The Park Scholarship, he points out, is an important tool the university uses to attract students who might otherwise overlook NCSU.

Griffin also acknowledged the inability of the university to offer scholarships to many academically talented students.

"There are so many that are outstanding based on

MERIT continued page 3

TAKE IT DOWN



Campus groups are increasingly looking to poker nights and other gambling events as fund raisers.

Groups gamble to raise funds

Haley Huie
Staff Reporter

Fundraising isn't just about car washes and doughnut sales anymore. Student organizations began to look to gambling to raise funds for various philanthropic organizations.

Dance Marathon's Fundraising Chair Brice Nielson first introduced the idea of a poker night fundraiser to the organization.

"It's for a great cause and it's a good time. It's an excellent chance to meet other N.C. State students," said Nielson.

Nielson said that the idea came to her after attending a poker night her friends had. She submitted the idea to the organization and it became the chief fundraiser to support Dance Marathon, which is held each February in Carmichael Gymnasium and which benefits the North Caro-

lina Children's Hospital. Nielson said she realized hosting a gambling fundraiser for the organization would be a great way to raise money because it's something that many college students already do in their free time.

Students enjoy taking part in events that involve gambling for charity because it is a competitive and fun way to meet new people, she said.

Nielson added that many students like having the chance to win a prize in addition to donating for a good cause. Prizes such as gift certificates and cash awards are available at many of the events.

Walker Grossell, a junior in accounting, won the second-place prize at Dance Marathon's August Poker Night.

"This is a great idea because it's good whole-

GAMBLING continued page 3

<p>Sammy's Taps & Grill 755-3880</p>	<p>33¢ Jumbo Wings Sun - Thurs</p>	<p>Every Tues & Thurs Almost Everything \$2.50</p>	<p>Mon - Thurs 2 for 1 dinners 5:30-7:30</p>	<p>Sammy's Taps & Grill 755-3880</p>
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Oblinger

TECHNICIAN

OBLINGER

continued from page 1

Oct. 8.

He has two assistants scheduling his time. He's named an interim provost, Larry Nielson, dean of the College of Natural Resources, and named a search committee to find his permanent replacement as provost.

He's shook hundreds of hands and received dozens of congratulatory notes, notably from his predecessor, Marye Anne Fox, now chancellor of the University of California at San Diego.

As the days count down to Jan. 1, Oblinger is tying up loose ends to make the transition to his new job. He doesn't have far to move: the provost's office is right next door to 1 Holladay Hall — the executive suite with crimson carpet and two large oak doors that is the seat of power of the largest university in North Carolina.

For Oblinger, it is a logical step. As an academic, he climbed the administrative ladder, having served as a faculty member, assistant dean, college dean and provost. Oblinger knows the ins-and-outs of university administration and says he always remembers why universities exist: for the students.

When the student body came back from fall break, however, it learned that a new chancellor had been announced. When asked about Oblinger, many answered, "Who?"

Oblinger took it in stride.

"I know that's the way it is, quite honestly," he said in an interview with Technician.

ALLIGATOR MEAT AND COKE CANS

James Oblinger grew up in Ashland, Ohio — a small town near Cleveland. His mother, a schoolteacher. His father, a newspaper linotype operator who worked for the Akron Beacon Journal, 50 miles away. His father worked two shifts so he could get paid more, yet never moved from Ashland because he liked the "small-town" feel.

Oblinger has one sister, a geneticist, who lives in Canton, Ohio.

In high school, Oblinger was junior class president and editor of the yearbook. But he charted his future when he went to DePauw University, located in Green Castle, Ind.

"I went to DePauw because it had an excellent reputation in the sciences," Oblinger said.

He majored in bacteriology and became interested into food microbiology.

"I was fascinated by those things you could only see with a microscope. Fascinated by single-celled organisms that caused disease, spoiled food and healed people, since penicillin is a mold-waste product," he said.

He went into food science as a senior in college and looked at several graduate schools, including N.C. State.

"I noticed N.C. State at the time. They had — still have — an excellent food science program...but I went to Iowa State instead, because they had a very significant grant program in the area of foodborne disease organisms...pretty much nasty bugs...and that was fascinating to me," Oblinger said.

When he graduated with master's and doctoral degrees, he had job offers from Coca-Cola, Clemson University and the University of Florida.

He took the teaching and research position at Florida and stayed for 14 years.

While there, he researched foodborne pathogens in red meats and poultry — including alligator meat.

"At that time, alligators in Florida were a protected species. But there were nuisance alligators that would come up out of canals and take dogs and cats," Oblinger said.

Around the 1970s, alligator farms cropped up, raising alligators and crocodiles for their hides, which was legal, Oblinger said.

"Local Floridians, known as 'crackers' used to tell stories about how you could eat the meat out of an alligator. Generally they are talking about the meat out of the tail. The tail meat has the texture of pork and the taste of chicken," Oblinger said. "Entrepreneurial types who were raising these animals said there is a market here for the meat. So they started — and still sell to this day — little strips of tail meat for use in cocktails."

But no one had ever done any microbiological studies on alligator meat, he said.

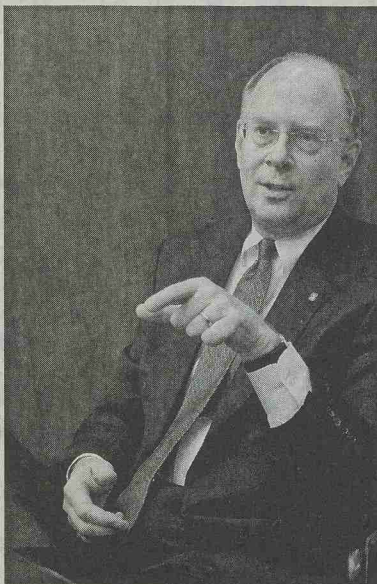
"If you were going to use it as a food product, you ought to know something about the microbiology of the refrigerated meat," Oblinger said. "It was intended to provide the microbiological characteristics of a meat product that never, never had work done on it before."

In tandem with his research, he taught general food science courses. He had 125 advisees at one time and taught a general education class that had about 750 students in it.

"I taught courses for non-science majors, because I liked opening people's eyes to new things," Oblinger said. "Giving people some fundamental knowledge about the food supply...gate to the plate' type thing."

'THE BEST CHOICE'

Dozens of supporters milled around the lobby in the UNC general administration building on that sunny, mild October day, waiting for the Board of Governors to come



HANGING WITH MR. OBLINGER

Oblinger once quipped at a chancellor's liaison meeting, "Always have a sense of humor about yourself." Technician tested his sense of humor — just to keep him on his toes.

Q

Staples or paper clips
"Paper clips"

Favorite beer
"It's not a beer, it's Guinness."

Favorite dinosaur
"Tyrannosaurus Rex"

What class did you skip in college?
"Quantitative analysis. That was undergrad."

Red Sox or Yankees
"No comment."

Favorite music
"I like Country Western, Classical, Beethoven and John Michael Montgomery are good. Oh, and Robert Palmer."

Who would win in a fight: a lion or a gorilla?

"The lion is called the king of beasts, so clearly he would win. I've seen specials on National Geographic television and I've seen these wildbeasts being chased by the cats...and the cats win. But then I could go in between on this scale. Does this encounter take place on a level playing field? Are we talking speed and agility are going to be important or are we going to be in the top of a tree? Is the lion going to get him in a grip or is he going to remain this agile creature?"

To sum it all up: Who's on first?"

out of executive session. The room was filled with electricity.

Board of Trustees member Bob Jordan beamed as he walked into the meeting chambers Oct. 8.

"It's a great day...for all of us," he said.

As the search committee chair, he kept the search on a tight schedule. Committee members were expected to have read all the candidate material before meetings and interviews. In just five months — a school record for an university executive search — NCSU had a new chancellor.

Oblinger, accompanied by his wife Diana and their four sons and daughter-in-law, walked down the aisle, amid a standing ovation, and stepped to the podium to make his remarks.

"Since Marye Anne Fox announced her departure, one of the most often asked questions has been, 'Can we maintain our momentum?' I'm here to tell you that the answer is an unequivocal 'Yes,'" Oblinger said.

From there, he went to the College of Textiles Atrium on Centennial Campus for the presentation to the campus community. He knew that all of this was put together on a short schedule — 48-hour notice for support personnel, fall break for the students — yet when he looked out into the crowd, he couldn't help but get choked up.

"That afternoon in the Atrium was very emotional. My whole family had been with me during the day. Over in OP [general

administration building] it wasn't as emotional as when I looked and saw this sea of humanity, standing room only, people in the balcony," he said.

"To have the four boys in, and to have my wife there — she does a lot of traveling — it just worked out very well. That's the excitement. That's the emotion. That's the electricity," Oblinger said.

"It was just a moving experience." The announcement culminated a five-month search, clouded in a veil of secrecy that left the campus wondering and the press fuming over the information blackout.

"We know Jim Oblinger and the things he is talking about doing and the things he's already doing," Jordan said. "The good news is Jim Oblinger was in the search, the other news is we put him up against the best, all across the nation."

'SUNDAY NIGHT WITH THE FAMILY'

When Oblinger accepted the chancellor office, he was accompanied by his family: wife, Diana and four sons, all of which attended NCSU.

Diana Oblinger holds the position of vice president at EDUCAUSE, a higher education technology think tank. Holding a doctorate in cytogenetics and an expert in higher education information technology, she travels a lot and keeps an office in their home. Before, she was the chief information officer for the UNC system and was a higher education executive for Microsoft. She also is an adjunct

professor of adult and community college education in the College of Education.

"This vice president's job in a think tank that is well-recognized around the world is a job that she has always wanted to have. When the opportunity came along, she jumped at the chance," Chancellor-designate Oblinger said.

She is nationally and internationally-known for her work in information technology.

"If you go to the Web and google 'Oblinger,' you will probably find more on Diana than you will on James," he said.

Sunday night is particularly special at the Oblinger house. Diana will make a meal and the family, four sons and all, will sit down, eat and chat.

"Diana loves to cook. I think it is a release from the pressures of her job. And I am the benefactor," Oblinger said. "As a tradition in the Oblinger home — Sunday dinner — you'd need an excuse not to be there. There are still two [sons] in town...and they still do come home Sunday evenings."

Oblinger uses that time to catch up with his boys and "test the waters," to see what the current trends are with the student body.

"Through them, I've had a very good exposure and developed an excellent appreciation for the student experience. One would expect that at a world-class university like State that, in fact, the quality of that degree is going to be excellent. And, absolutely, it is," Oblinger said. "Some percentage of one's education takes place outside the classroom and laboratory. The social aspect of learning to get along with people from all kinds of backgrounds."

A typical day at the Oblinger home begins around 5:30 a.m.

"If she is in town, Diana will get up and go to her computer," Oblinger said. "I'll get up and go to work around 6:45 or 7. I don't eat breakfast, unless I have a business breakfast. That is valuable time to meet people, in the morning."

He'll work all day, sometimes not returning home until 7:30 or 8 p.m. He is even known to come in the office on Saturdays.

UNLUCKY 13TH? SO WHAT?'

In his welcoming speech in front of the campus community, Oblinger laid out four themes that will mark his administration.

"This is a very large and well-thought-of institution. And to think that I am at the helm, so to speak, is humbling and honoring," Oblinger said.

Diversity is at the forefront of Oblinger's mind and, in his opinion, there is no set definition of diversity at N.C. State.

"I think diversity means different things to different people. I came from a college that had developed its own definition of diversity. It dealt not just with race or gender, but it had to do with economic background and urban and rural mix," Oblinger said about the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"We tried to think in the college as broadly as possible about what does a diverse community really represent."

In terms of a definition for diversity, it all depends on who you talk to, Oblinger said.

"I believe my experience would tell me that one size does not fit all, in terms of a definition. I think we have the survey to back up the notion that people think differently about diversity," Oblinger said. "The important thing is that we are talking about diversity, we're talking about inclusivity, we're talking about that this is important to the teaching and learning process."

Diversity of the faculty is very important to him and the deans.

"The deans are committed to a diverse and inclusive campus. We're not just talking about people...we're talking about programmatic diversity as...the potential for a minor in Native American coursework. I see that as an element of diversity," Oblinger said. "We have made real progress. We have not arrived, but we are working at it, that is the important thing."

His management and leadership style is simple: surround yourself with competent people and also go out and meet people.

"You don't pride yourself on relationships if you are in the office all the time...I think Dr. Fox had a great rapport with lots of people," Oblinger said.

"And when people wonder, 'Can we maintain the momentum?' It's the momentum of the institution. It's everything from students feeling good about their education and their interaction with the faculty to the way the staff feel they are appreciated in what they do to support faculty and students and contribute to the overall reputation of the university."

"A chancellor actually owes it to maintain and enhance those relationships, and that is going to be a major focus of mine."

Oblinger doesn't see his new job as a burden.

"[I am] Honored, humbled. You recognize the role the chancellor plays in the life of an institution. I don't see it so much as a burden. I see it as a real responsibility to do the absolute best for the institution," he said.

As for being the 13th chancellor, Oblinger said he is not a superstitious man.

"There are 13 trustees, there were 13 on the search committee, so what if I am number 13?," he said.

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WOLF VILLAGE APARTMENTS

FAITH

continued from page 1

Michael Pendlebury, department head of N.C. State's philosophy and religion program, said that he believes it is possible that people who attend religious events regularly would be less likely to abuse substances because they lead ordered lives.

"But I also think that anyone who lived structured and disciplined lives would be less likely to abuse substances and therefore be more healthy," Pendlebury said. "I would be surprised if atheists who live well-organized lives led less healthy lives."

Although the research focused predominantly on people with Judeo-Christian beliefs, Koenig said that Christianity does not appear to be the only healing faith.

"The existence of God isn't

required for them to work. Social organizations like the church, synagogue, mosque or temple help guide people in their decisions that ultimately seem to be health enhancing," Koenig said.

Koenig has been researching the relationship between religion and health for almost twenty years. When he was a family physician in training in the early 1980s he noticed that many patients were relying on their religious beliefs to handle the stress.

"They would talk about prayer and reading scripture," Koenig said. "These patients were less depressed and more likely to care for themselves and religious faith was a major factor in helping many patients to cope."

Koenig noticed that there was not much research in medical literature that looked at religion and health and he felt the need to research the relationship because

it was clinically applicable.

"It's something doctors need to be aware of," Koenig said.

While doctors cannot recommend, prescribe or endorse religion, Koenig said it is important for doctors to support the beliefs that make the patient healthy.

In the health magazine "Vibrant Life," which advocates prevention rather than diagnosis and treatment, syndicated health columnist Peter Gott said, "spirituality is associated with health benefits, not because of divine intervention but because the various aspects of a religious life promote behavior and attitudes that are healthful."

Bobby Riggs, a senior in statistics, is hesitant to accept the relationship between religion and health.

"Being a statistician, correlation studies between two unrelated concepts are always hard to believe," Riggs said.

On the other hand, Sarah Sawyer, a junior in industrial engineering and a self-proclaimed evangelical Christian, thinks the relationship is "definitely possible."

Kelly Taylor, a sophomore in psychology, is doing her own research, using one of Koenig's questionnaires.

"I do think the research is true. As a Christian, I think that you understand that faith helps you handle stressful times," Taylor said.

One of the largest studies to date on the subject by researchers at the University of California at Berkeley produced similar results in a 28-year study of 5,000 people aged 21 to 65 years old.

The study found that people who attended religious services at least once a week had a 23 percent lower risk of dying over the study period than people who attended less frequently.

GAMBLE

continued from page 1

some fun and gives people a chance to support kids. That's what it's all about," Grossell said.

He added that the events were fun for college students because many students already have poker nights in their spare time. Events such as these are beneficial to all parties involved, he said.

Many other organizations have similar events for their chosen charities as well. Alpha Delta Pi sponsors an annual Casino Night to donate mon-

ey to the Ronald McDonald House in Durham, and University Entrepreneurs hosted its first Casino Night this year in cooperation with Dance Marathon.

Patrick Moore, a junior in criminology, admits that he likes to gamble and sees the profit benefiting others as an excellent way for student organizations to raise funds.

He added that he thought fundraisers which appeal to the competitive urge are a great way to entice people.

"I like to gamble, and if it helps other people, that makes it that much better," Moore said.

MERIT

continued from page 1

scholarship that picking is difficult," Griffin said.

He notes that NCSU enrolled 76 valedictorians and 79 salutatorians this year alone, yet only 47 students received Park Scholarships, the university's only full-scholarship. In addition, approximately 1,500 enrollees were ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating class — a notable increase from last year, according to Griffin.

"It's just one of these situations where we have many more deserving students than available scholarships," Griffin said.

From an admissions standpoint, merit-based scholarships give bright students individual incentives to look at NCSU even

if they don't receive one, Griffin said.

Merit-based scholarships improve the university by attracting students whose studies benefit the campus and the community, Ringler said. These scholarships are often the deciding factor for students who are uncertain about which college to attend, she said.

However, the need for grants and scholarships with financial considerations was also emphasized by both Griffin and Ringler.

These types of awards give students the opportunity to attend college who otherwise could not afford it, they said.

"There is definitely significant overlap [between students who qualify for need-based and merit-based awards]," Ringler said.

OPEN HOUSE TONIGHT

Writers wanted; 7 p.m in 323 Witherspoon Center

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CAMPUS FORUM

To submit letters to Campus Forum, send your thoughts to viewpoint@technicianonline.com. Please limit responses to 400 words. Technician reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and size.

Fans need attitude adjustment

I cannot accept the attitudes of some N.C. State fans. These students were every bit as detestable as the FSU band. I sat in section seven, the heart of the students. I love that section because I can cheer without inhibitions, and so can the people around me. This game was not about cheering. From the minute the first mistake was made, the cussing began.

No one was perfect enough for State's instable fans. I am a Jay Davis fan and I know that with a little support from the crowd, his game will improve. Consider this, Jay Davis was recruited by one of the nation's best coaches, to fill the shoes of one of the nation's best quarterbacks; Amato would not have chosen Davis if he did not believe he could fill them.

Do fans really think that Jay Davis can perform as well his starting season as the No. 4 draft pick did for his last?

Not only were the insults being hurled at Davis, but also McLendon, Blackman and a handful of other incredible players who made a few mistakes. The drunks behind me resulted in yelling vulgarities at me when I refused to stop cheering for Jay

Davis. When did fans lose such respect for each other and their team?

After hours of standing around listening to jerks vent at the players, fans began to leave. These same jerks had the audacity to ask, "Why aren't you supporting your team?" Is supporting your team yelling obscenities and vulgarities and demoralizing the team?

It is a shame our quarterback, a very talented ballplayer, has to fear for his safety when he leaves the stadium. It is a shame that his family after traveling from Florida to see this game, has to sit through fans yelling insults at their son, brother or nephew. It is a shame that a few fickle fans sully the name of our school.

Casey Spence
Freshman
International Politics

Duncan church-state argument flawed

Emily Duncan's column entitled "Election Pushed the Church State Envelope" is a grand example of irresponsible and

inaccurate thinking. Duncan bases her column on the often misunderstood and generally inaccurate idea of "separation of church and state."

The First Amendment in no way restricts "what religious bodies can do with the government," as Duncan suggests. It simply assures that no laws will be set up establishing the religious practices of one group over the other.

Homosexuals have the exact same liberties of heterosexuals. Heterosexuals can't marry whomever they want - not their dog, or their mom or their cousin, or their favorite friends at once. "Love" is a very poor criteria for arbitrating who should marry.

While Duncan thinks that "[t]he Constitution guarantees American's freedom to make their own decisions regarding their minds and bodies..." our legal system disagrees with her. This is why suicide, mind-altering drugs, and other such practices are illegal.

William Cox
Junior
Electrical Engineering

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

CHANCELLOR SALARIES ARE OUT OF CONTROL

OUR OPINION: SALARIES ACROSS THE NATION HAVE RISEN DRAMATICALLY FOR CHANCELLORS AND PRESIDENTS. BEING THE HEAD OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IS AN HONOR - NOT A BANK. SALARIES NEED TO BE FROZEN IN ORDER TO FORWARD HIGHER EDUCATION.

Once again, money has proved to be the primary focus for chancellors and presidents of colleges and universities across the nation.

This time, the ugly beast rears its head in the domain of salaries for the head of an institution of higher learning.

Across the nation, 42 presidents of universities and colleges have a salary that exceeds \$500,000 - last year there were only 27.

By comparison, University of North Carolina system President Molly Broad earns a "modest" \$312,504 and N.C. State's new chancellor, James L. Oblinger, will be earning \$274,797.

A chancellor or president at any college or university is not financially stressed by any means. He or she has already spent time in the university system, most likely as a provost, dean or department head, and already established a secure financial background.

Thus, anyone becoming the top dog does not need a salary as high as some of the ones being offered - particularly the ones that top \$500,000.

Salaries are used to attract candidates to the university. However, they also inadvertently promote competition between universities. These numbers will keep getting higher as the years progress.

The high number is intended to be attractive because the longer a president stays, the more influence he or she has in the university system.

And that can be a powerful tool when tuition agreements and decisions are being made.

There is a difference between public and private university systems because private university tuition can very easily be ten times the tuition of a public university. That is a separate issue because a larger amount of money is being fed into the university - thus a larger sum can be paid - even if the receiver is the head of the institution.

Case in point: William Brody, president at Johns Hopkins University, a private institution, earns an annual salary of \$897,786.

The average salary of chancellors at public institutions is \$328,400. NCSU is obviously below the national average, but there is no reason for the trend to continue to rise.

Competition fosters mistrust - and in a time where our education system needs to be unified the salaries must remain consistent as well.

Maybe there should be a salary freeze to go along with one on tuition.

Voting has become overrated

Jeff Gaither explains why, contrary to popular belief, it's all right not to vote

I'm damn glad the election is over.

You know why? Because I'm sick of being reminded all the time, from every possible source, to vote.

Vote! Get out and vote! You have to vote! There's no excuse not to vote! Everybody has to vote! Do your duty to your country, and vote! If you don't vote, you have nothing to complain about! Vote! Vote! Vote!

Even this very publication ran on its Election Day front page a big message encouraging everybody to vote. I voted, myself; but I don't think it's a responsibility, and feel people who did not vote are quite as good as me.

We have a voting fetish in this country. It has its origins, I think, in the fact that originally only rich, white males were allowed to vote. So now, since everybody can vote, we all view it as this great privilege, which we ought not to waste.

However, what I actually wasted, this election, was two hours of sleep. I got up, waited in line with a bunch of strangers and cast my vote for Kerry; and it did no good whatsoever. It was a waste to vote. I wish I hadn't.

A lot of Americans view voting as a sacred duty we owe to our country. But it's not, really.

It's just something we've been brainwashed to feel that we have to do: like going to class, or saving ourselves before marriage, or not using drugs. But we've thrown those monkeys off our backs, and we can throw voting off too.

I mean, really, if I genuinely don't care who becomes president, why should I vote? It's not like I owe my

vote to anyone. I didn't promise my sweetheart, or swear to my mother on her deathbed, that I would vote. I do not owe anything to anyone.

Some people say, "Well, if you don't vote, you're neglecting your civic duty." Excuse me, but I wasn't aware I had any civic duty.

You can invent imaginary obligations for yourself, if you like; but my only duties are to A, harm no one, B, keep my word and C, look out for the interests of Jeff Gaither. Everything else is outside the scope of my responsibility. Others can worry about my "civic duty" if they like; I will not.

And some people say, "If you don't vote, you have nothing to complain about." But really, where's the logic in that? I have a lot to complain about, thank you very much.

And how does getting up early one November morning, and standing in line in the cold for two hours, magically bestow upon me the right to complain? Does a complaining-right fairy flutter up above my head and sprinkle right-to-complain dust on my hair? What is the "right to complain," anyway? I can say whatever I like, whenever I like, regardless of whether I voted or not.

Besides, the truth of a statement has nothing to do with its credibility: if I outline clear, well-grounded arguments for why we should not be in Iraq, say, they are valid: whether or not I voted is irrelevant.

In fact, I almost didn't vote, just because I was so damn sick of being told to.

The truth is that as humans, we have the right to do, or not do, whatever we want. If a United States citizen does not wish to vote, for any reason whatsoever, it is his or her right to refrain from doing so.

And indeed, I actually admire

people who did not vote: they showed independence of spirit, and put self-interest before popular convention. While we were all standing in quarter-mile lines in the rain, they were at home, sleeping in their comfy beds.

They didn't care about all these "Get-Out-the-Vote" drives; they cared more about sleeping. Good for them; they had their basic priorities straight, and put self-interest first.

Now, far be it from me to say that you should not vote, if you honestly want one candidate or the other to win. What I am saying is that you shouldn't preach voting as a responsibility, or a duty, or view people who do not vote as lazy or irresponsible.

And really, people who do not vote on the grounds that their votes do not matter, have a very valid point. Your vote means basically nothing. It is only one in 100 million, and if the person you voted for loses, then you may as well not have voted at all; and if the person you voted for wins, then he probably could've won without your help, so you may as well not have voted at all in that case, too.

And really, even if you believe your vote does matter, which it doesn't, it is really all that important, anyway, who the president of the United States is?

It's important in the grand scheme of history, I suppose, but I for one am not very affected by it. I voted for Kerry, but I do not particularly mind four more years of Bush; I'll be fine either way; my life is good. This might seem a rather selfish attitude, but I am an American, and selfishness is the essence of the American Dream.

E-mail your gross misinterpretation of this column to viewpoint@technicianonline.com



Jeff Gaither
Staff Columnist

The unsigned editorial that appears above is the opinion of the members of Technician's editorial board and is the responsibility of the editor in chief.



TECHNICIAN

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<p>News Editor T.S. Amarasiriwardena news@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Viewpoint Editor Jason Eder viewpoint@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Sports Editor Austin Johnson sports@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Arts and Entertainment Editor Jake Seaton arts@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Features Editor Ashley Hink features@technicianonline.com</p>	<p>Photography Editor Taylor Templeton photos@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Graphics Editor Patrick Clarke graphics@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Advertising Manager Claire Saunders advertising@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Classifieds Manager Zach Patterson classifieds@technicianonline.com</p>	<p>Deputy News Editor Tyler Dukles tyler@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Deputy News Editor Erin Welch erin@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Deputy Sports Editor Ryan Reynolds sports@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Deputy Photo Editor Ray Black III photos@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Deputy Graphics Editor Jessica Gluck graphics@technicianonline.com</p>	<p>Editor in Chief Matt Middleton editor@technicianonline.com</p> <p>Managing Editor Ben McNeely ben@technicianonline.com</p> <p>323 Witherspoon Student Center Box 8008 NCSU Campus Raleigh, NC 27695-8008 Editorial 515.2411 Advertising 515.2029 Fax 515.5133 Online technicianonline.com</p>
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Just how valuable are the 'values' Americans claim?

Matt Campbell evaluates the so-called "values" that decided the election and the same ones that are dividing the nation

All of the hype leading up to the presidential election showed America to be a divided country. The regions on the map mixed like oil and water, positive and negative or cranberry sauce and cranberry mold. The polls were tight and the feuding was elevated. No one could get along.

On election night we saw the same divided nation we were expecting. An evening full of Dan Rather one-liners and crazy video touch screens came to an end with only the slightest bit of uncertainty but soon a winner was declared. The blue states were blue because their guy lost. The red states were red in the face because their party

headquarters were vandalized. No one could be happy.

The widely divided population of our country caused some to worry about how we can move on from this point. The priorities of people in the Northeast don't match those of people in the Southeast. Plus, no one is listening to Alaska and Hawaii.

Unfortunately, the prevailing issue of the election was "values." You know, the values that Democrats don't have because their favorite president had "sexual relations" in the Oval Of-

ice. These are the same values that Republicans have because their favorite former mayor of New York had an affair in the basement of City Hall, then left his wife for his mistress. Wait, that doesn't sound right.

Maybe they are the values of the guy who was going to run for senator from Illinois, but got caught up in the sticky web of a sex conspiracy. Umm, I smell double standard!

Nonetheless, the voters in the red states made their voices heard and they said that they want a man in office with good values and strong religious faith. Eleven states voiced their opinion on clamping down on gay marriages. Voters in Churchill County, Nevada made their voices heard too.

They supported President Bush, the man of values, morals, stuttering and religion. They also supported legalized prostitution.

Voters in the rural Republican country overwhelmingly voted down a ban on legal prostitution. People on both sides of the issue were surprised by the results. It was a good move for everyone.

The results of this vote will lead to the reopening of two brothels in the small Southwestern

county. The results also reconfirmed any doubt about what real values are.

It amazes me how, in this time where votes are cast merely on a candidate's religion, ignoring anything regarding the little thing called issues, that people who would vote to the right would also vote with the hookers. The situation bleeds with hypocrisy.

Look around and see a world that is at war.

Many of these wars are rooted in ideological differences of religion. So, it must be a good idea to pronounce the religious (read: Christian) views of this country.

Negative. Look around and see a world on the brink of technological breakthroughs. Look around at a place where information can be sent around

the world in a heartbeat. It is today that science is striving toward medical miracles. Our schools can be filled with technology to help students learn.

However, we go with a guy who doesn't believe in science. We elect a man who still believes in Creationism. This is a man who will write the words of the Bible into the words of the law: wanting to end stem-cell research and banning gay marriage. We elect a president that takes the

religious beliefs of only a portion of our country and turns them into action against abortion and sex education in middle and high schools.

If the election told us anything, it is that these are the values of the American people, well, at least a quarter of them.

We have elected a president that is a self-proclaimed non-reader of the news. Therefore, I have no fears of him catching a glimpse of this column.

However, this holds him true to his values. A recent ad campaign that made its way onto bus systems around the country proclaimed "Read books, Get brain."

While the obvious meaning of that statement would be true, the ad was designed with the double-entendre in mind. For those of you not hip to the slang, "get brain" is also lingo for oral sex. Our president is a man who will not stand for that sort of debauchery. I've got to read more. Once you leave your cushy surroundings of the Bible Belt, the nation's "values" are not so apparent.

However, America has grown so obtuse that the religious values of this country voted in the president for the next four years. Well that, and let sex for pay be legal. Hey, values have got to stop somewhere.

Let Matt know what you think - email him at viewpoint@technicianonline.com



Matt Campbell
Staff Columnist

Sports

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2004

TECHNICIAN

Schedule

Football vs. ECU (in Charlotte), 11/27, TBA
Basketball hosts BCA Invitational, 11/17-19
Women's Basketball vs. EA Sports, 11/16, 7
Volleyball at ACC Tournament, 11/17
Swimming & Diving in GT Invite, 11/19-21
Wrestling at Navy Classic, 11/20
Cross Country in NCAA Championship, 11/22

Scores

No games scheduled



Best coach money can buy

Picture desolate Texas. Tumbleweeds rolling across the desert while an armadillo scurries across a two-lane road, dodging the only car that's driven by in the last 15 minutes. Well, maybe El Paso isn't that desolate, with a population of a little over 500,000, but it is home to a man that didn't want to be recognized a year and a half ago.

The man's name is Mike Price, and in May 2003 he had just signed the coaching contract of his life when Alabama lured him away from Washington State.

What better way to celebrate a multi-million dollar contract than to head to a shady strip club in Pensacola, Fla., similar to the one's that you drive by in eastern North Carolina on the way to the beach.

The stripper who changed Price's life forever went by the name of Destiny.

The story she told Sports Illustrated about her encounter with Price may have been true or fictitious. Maybe she wanted to get a promotion to a more profitable strip club like The Dollhouse or Pure Gold, or maybe she had 20-some years worth of stripper confessions to get off her fake chest.

Either way, it ended the 57-year old Price's job before it even began with Alabama.

The man who led Washington State to two Rose Bowls, was out of a job and in boiling water with his wife.

Price is back at it, though. He is now football coach at the University of Texas at El Paso, and has resurrected a football team as well as his career.

He's getting his act back together at the perfect place — an overlooked Texas city at a school where football has been an afterthought.

And he's succeeding. The Miners boast a six-game winning streak and are 7-2 this season, a stark contrast from UTEP's apathetic 2-11 record last year.

The best thing about coaching at UTEP: it's a mid-major that, if brought to prominence, can squeak by teams like San Jose State and Rice and demand respect from the BCS Committee.

Utah and Boise State do that now, so why can't the Miners if it has an undefeated season in the next few years?

But most importantly, Price is revitalizing a coaching career — one that's seen great success in the past.

He's getting a second chance after a big mistake — huge if you consider the fact that a stripper ordered \$1,000 of food off the room-service menu — but that's in his past.

Being in the obscure city of El Paso is the perfect place for Price to get his coaching legacy back in tact.

After all, coaching football is his "destiny."

Contact Ryan at 515-2411 or ryan@technicianonline.com

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Experiencing some Mediterranean magic

N.C. STATE SPENT THE MONTH OF MAY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, TOURING THE COUNTRIES OF ITALY AND GREECE WHILE COMPETING IN FOUR EXHIBITIONS AGAINST HOST CLUBS

Ian Jester

Senior Staff Writer

It was time for her to make a decision. She had weighed every repercussion and consequence involved of the choice that was yet to be made. And with familiar eyes fixed to witness her resulting decision above, it was joyous excitement that these eyes experienced underneath a water-laden cliff halfway across the world in Hydra, Greece.

Coach Yow decided to jump the cliff, and after a few moments of descent, she joined the rest of the water-logged Wolfpack floating in the picturesque beauty of the Aegean Sea.

"I hadn't planned on jumping," Yow said. "I just had on shorts and a shirt, but everyone started jumping, and I just decided to do it. I know it was things like that we will remember, and I know they enjoyed that day a lot."

The moment marked a favorite memory for many of the players on the first-ever overseas trip taken by the program in 30 years of existence. From May 21-30, players and coaches traveled to and immersed themselves in the storied history and culture of two of Europe's richest cities — Rome, Italy and Athens, Greece.

The team also competed in four exhibition games during the tour, sparking a new meaning to the idea of going on the road. The Pack compiled a record of 2-2, with wins against G.S. Basket Palestrina and Esperipes BBC and two losses versus the Greek National Team.

"The competition was very physical," sophomore guard Ashley Key said, who was also the Pack's leading scorer for the tour. "It was difficult adjusting to their rules, like the extra step, and the constant pushing and pulling the entire game. There were plenty of fouls."

By NCAA regulations, athletic programs are allowed to take a team abroad every four years, and it was only last May when Yow was finally able to undertake what many ACC teams had been doing habitually.

Trips abroad add a definite boost to recruiting efforts according to Yow, as more recruits start to inquire about the program's out of the country ambitions. Both North Carolina and Duke have been exceptional in keeping up with the four-year timetable, with the Tar Heels taking an identical trip to Italy and Greece just a few weeks prior to State's departure, and the Blue Devils recently spending its available summer time in Australia.

It was the first time abroad for sophomore guard Marquetta Dickens, who along with the rest of last year's team, found life in Europe slightly different than the life she was accustomed to in Raleigh.

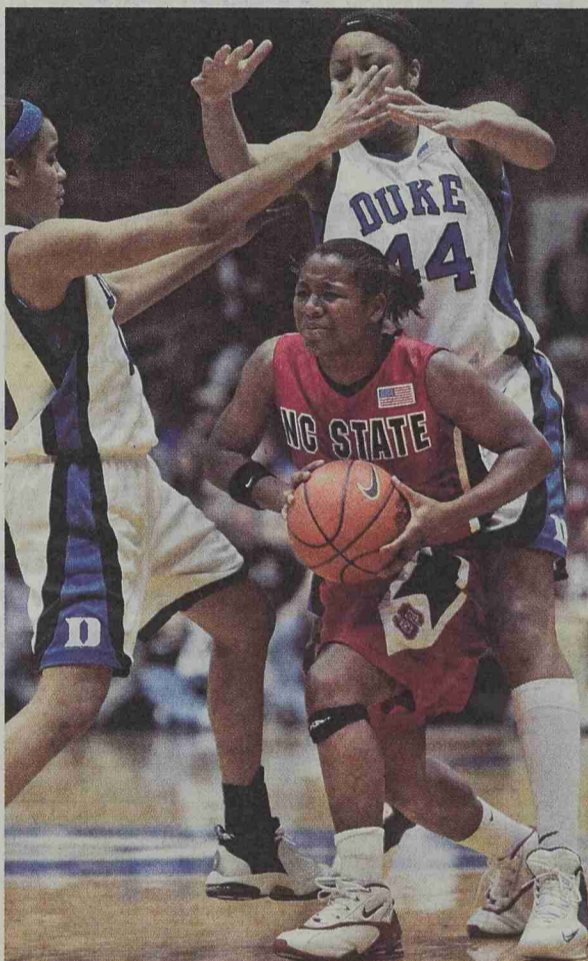
"It was a fast life, very fast life," Dickens said. "We wanted to rent mini-scooters, but Coach didn't think that was a great idea. It makes you appreciate home a little bit more because it's so different over there."

The itinerary was simple: to have fun. State started most mornings by touring the sights of their present location, the standard operating procedure for most of the day unless a game needed to be played that afternoon. Regular trips to the shops and markets were not uncommon, and dressed in red and white basketball apparel, the team gathered attention from the curious onlooking locals.

"Everyone would open doors for us and ask us questions about basketball, they thought we were famous," Key said.

And although the markets caught the interest of the Pack, some of the foreign cuisine did not grasp their splendor.

"Pizza Hut and McDonald's," both Dickens and Key said of their favorite foods abroad.



Kendra Bell experienced the rich history of Europe during the basketball summer trip.

"In Italy, they had all of the seafood in one dish, and none of us ate it," Dickens said. "I tried a little bit, but I didn't quite know what it was. I thought a great part of the experience was going over there and trying something new. It wasn't that bad."

The team visited some of the most inspiring monuments and locales of the Eastern hemisphere, including the Roman Colosseum as well as the Acropolis in Athens, a temple dedicated to Athena the Virgin.

"The most memorable place I visited was Corinth," Dickens said. "After we got back, it was the first thing me and my grandfather talked about. He's very religious and after seeing where Paul spoke, it just kind of blew my mind. I was like, 'Wow, I'm really here.'"

Now back in Raleigh and much drier, Yow will open her 30th season tonight in an exhibition game against EA Sports at 7 p.m. With the experiences abroad just a faint memory now, Yow feels that although the trip is over, she has learned something of vital importance about her team.

"I learned that my players are great people," Yow said. "I had not one problem the entire trip, no one complained and everyone was a great team member. They took advantage of the opportunity that they had, and that really pleased me."

The general consensus among this year's team has decided a trip to France is in order for the summer of 2008. And with the memories of Italy and Greece to cherish forever, the Pack can't find a



Pack Coach Kay Yow took a leap of faith into the Aegean Sea this past summer.

single reason not to do it again. "Here we're just at practice and we're not always on campus, but there we were together," Dickens said.

"You can learn more about their personality, and that can carry over to the court. I think it was a great time for the team to bond together, and if we play together like we did over there and bring that to the ACC, it's going to be special."

Wolfpack must replace big holes

Austin Johnson
Sports Editor

When former players Alvine Mendeng and Kaayla Chones left N.C. State at the end of last year, the Wolfpack was left with a gaping hole in the low-post of its lineup.

Combined, Mendeng and Chones averaged 22 points and 13 rebounds per game. Chones, who was taken in the second round of the WNBA draft, led the team in scoring and rebounding while Mendeng was second in rebounding and third in scoring.

The burden now falls on sophomore Sasha Reeves, who contributed big minutes down the stretch for the Pack, and junior-college transfer Tiffany Stansbury. Stansbury was named the National Junior College Player of the Year before transferring from Gulf Coast Community College to State. Coach Kay Yow is anxious to see how the new team competes on the floor.

"The best I can say right now is that I am not setting any limits on this team," Yow said. "I'm really anxious to see this team compete."

State made the NCAA Tournament last season thanks to a late run, but lost out in the first round. Along with Mendeng and Chones, the Wolfpack also lost captain Nanna Rivers. Senior point guard Kendra Bell, who emerged as a team leader during the season, will try to take over as team leader.

"It's funny because we were all here this summer and I was looking around for Kaayla or Nanna and then I was like, wait, uh oh, I'm an upperclassman," Bell said. "My role of a point guard is a leadership position and I'm just trying to come from the momentum I had last year and build on that."

Bell will be joined in the backcourt by sophomore Ashley Key and junior Billie McDowell, who will be expected to carry more of the offensive burden this season.

"They are both scorers," Yow said. "They can both shoot threes and can both penetrate. I think Billie has been looking really good in practice."

Sophomore Marquetta Dickens and redshirt junior Rachel Stockdale also look to improve the team's perimeter shooting ability, an area the Pack struggled in at times last season. Stockdale has been limited most of her career by knee injuries, but said the injuries are improving with time.

"Over the summer my knee was doing great. I came back and did preseason here with a lot of workouts and time on the water treadmill. I had some swelling here and there, but overall my knee is looking really good."

The abundance of scorers gives Bell even more responsibility, as she will attempt to distribute the ball and take the lead of a relatively young team.

BBALL continued page 5

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