

Tech

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

Volume LXXIII, Number 46

Monday

November 23, 1992



The holiday season is now upon us. In a very short span of time, N.C. State students are about to experience Thanksgiving, Christmas and the new year in rapid succession. Everyone loves the holidays, if for nothing else than getting a break from the hectic, overwhelming pressure of academia. The holidays provide a time for friends, family and even complete strangers to gather together in relaxation and celebration. The holidays mean different things to different people. To many, they are simply times to take a break from the flurry of everyday life -- a time to eat and drink and receive gifts. To others, the holidays have a greater significance as a time to celebrate freedom and fellowship. To others they are a time of great personal religious importance. To everyone, however, they are special days. The purpose of this edition is to commemorate these special days, to propagate holiday cheer, to inform and entertain, to share and encourage sharing. The holidays are a time for people to be with people. If we take the time to appreciate each other now, maybe this will be the first step to making every day a holiday. *TECHTOODLES.* -T. Shawn Long

Here's An Offer To Help STRETCH The Monthly Budget!

Day Care Movies Birthdays Tuition
Braces Sports
Christmas Tennis
Shoes Food
Account savings
Department Skates
Washer Clothes
Vacation an Piano
Lessons taurants
Annivers ew Cars
Birthday Parties Dates Football

In exchange for a few hours of your time each month, not only can you add hundreds to the monthly budget but you can help save lives!

Bring in this Coupon:

Receive \$20 on your first donation
Receive up to \$140/month with
regular donations

MILES INC.

1 Maiden Lane, Raleigh, NC 27607
(across from Rechenbach's, near NCSU Belltower)

CALL TODAY
(919) 828-1590

Mon. - Fri. 7:30-4:30
New Donors Mon.-Fri. 7:30-3:00



What's Inside

- 3 - What are the holidays about?
- 4 - Past, present of Thanksgiving; Lincoln's original proclamation
- 5 - Gifts and materialism in the U.S.A.
- 6, 7 - A special Techtoo board game!
- 8 - Suicide a mounting problem during holidays
- 9 - Fiction
- 10 - Christmas traditions vary in different cultures

TECHNICIAN

Serving North Carolina State University since 1920.

Editor in Chief Managing Editor
Joe Johnson Mark Toscak

Techtoo Editor
J. Keith Jordan

Assistant Techtoo Editor
T. Shawn Long

Photography Editor.....Angela Pridgen	General Manager.....Tim Ellington
Asst. Photo Editor.....Larry Dixon	Operations Manager.....Stan Martin
Graphics Editor.....Joe Procopio	Sales Manager.....John Moore
Copy Desk Chief.....S. Thompson	Production Manager.....Laura Allen
Copy Editors.....Nicky Williams	Ads Production.....Mary Stephens
	Accounts Receivable.....Lisa Bryson

Technician (USPS 455-050) is the official student newspaper of N.C. State and is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout the academic year from August through May except during holidays and examination periods, and on alternating Thursdays. Mailing address is Box 8608, Raleigh, NC 27695-8608. Subscription cost is \$45 per year. Printed by Hinton Press, Mebane, NC. POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to Technician, Box 8608, Raleigh, NC 27695-8608.

On the Cover

The Student Bookstore offers many choices of Wolfpack gifts.
Photo Illustration by Todd Bennett

The holiday season is just around the corner

We should understand what we are celebrating

From Staff Reports

It's holiday time again!

For Christmas, it is time to lug out the old flame-retardant Christmas tree, carefully put the ornaments in place, the angel delicately on top, the presents snugly beneath and the stockings waiting to be filled by Santa Claus. And only about 30 more days to buy those presents and hang those stockings.

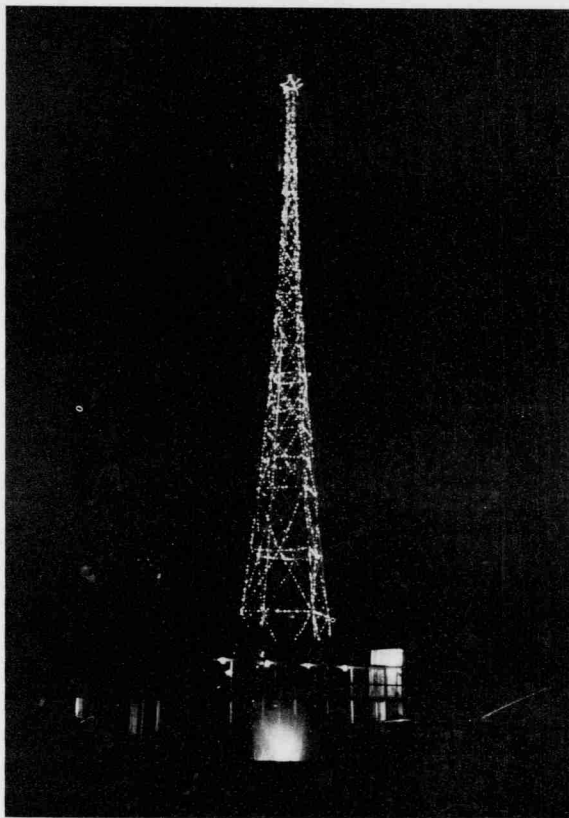
For Hanukkah, it is time to light the candles in the Hanukkah lamp, spin the dreidel and also present presents. But why these symbolic items? What is the meaning of these traditions?

Let's begin with the original purpose of these holidays. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, but the origins of Christmas rituals go much deeper. Many of today's Christmas ideas comes from the Yuletide celebrations of ancient Europeans. This is the time when they thought the sun glowed with renewed power after being at the depths of the heavens.

According to Alfred Carl Hottes' 1001 Christmas Facts and Fancies, in the earliest of times, it was thought that during the period now known as Christmas, the earth "began to awaken under the kiss of light, when new hopes rose in frozen hearts."

During this winter festival, man would make an attempt to redefine his relationship with nature. So when the Christian church decided to celebrate Christ's birth, it came to terms with the pagan rituals of the people and designated the holiday at the same time of the people's mid-winter holiday, around December 25.

The Jewish holiday, Hanukkah, is also a celebration of lights and, in fact, is also known as the Feast of Lights. The story behind this celebration still holds true today. The story is one of the



Technician File Photo

The WRAL-TV tower Christmas lights are a sure sign that the holiday season is upon us. For many students at NCSU, this time of year means large meals and frequent trips home to visit relatives.

victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucids, after the Seleucids desecrated the Temple of Jerusalem. The Jews, in rededicating it, lit the Temple candelabrum with only enough oil to last one day, but amazingly the oil lasted for eight days, so

now the holiday is observed for eight days with the lighting of a candle on each day. This holiday is a minor one for the Jewish people, but because of its place on the calendar it has grown in importance.

Today's Christmas symbols are

also derived from secular practices. The secular use of evergreens, such as the tree, the holly wreath, and the mistletoe, brought an all-natural festive air into the home as man tried to relate to nature. The ornaments of the time were colorful paper

roses, apples, leafgold and sweets.

The Scandinavian myth of the Christmas tree says that a tree sprung from the spot where two lovers had been killed, and during the Christmas season unexplained, unextinguishable lights were seen flaming in the trees' branches.

The Christmas tree of today though is, of course, environmentally sound. It is flame-retardant so as to protect it from fire, plastic so as to recycle it year after year. The custom of hanging the mistletoe over the doorway is to ensure peace and friendship, a pledge to be sealed with a kiss.

The practice of gift-giving was very common among the early Romans. The gifts were given as a wish of luck for the coming year. The English custom of giving goes back to the reign of Henry the Eighth. During this period, gifts were given and received according to the rank of the parties. "Queen Elizabeth relied on Christmas gifts to replenish her wardrobe." The subjects presented her with items such as jewels, furs and even the first pair of silk stockings to be made in Europe.

Gift-giving is also practiced in the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah but the practice does not define the holiday as much as it defines the modern day Christmas.

Ahh, but who delivers these presents? Could it be your parents, could it be your friends? It is none others than fat, jolly old Saint Nicholas. Landing gently on each and every rooftop in his gift-filled sleigh, being pulled by eight reindeer, St. Nick, or Santa Claus, delivers presents to all of those who have been good for the past year.

Nicholas began his deed of delivering to the good at a very early age. As a young, orphaned child he began to give all of his money away to those who needed it. Even as a baby, he refused food except once on Wednesday and once on Friday. And as a child devoted his time to the study and understanding of the Scriptures. So naturally in his later years, he became the patron saint of children. So all you boys and girls are going to get exciting presents.

Thanksgiving history rich

By Alan Jones
Staff Writer

If you and your family have trouble finding something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day this year, you might consider some of the offerings. You might start with the King of England, without whom the Pilgrims would never have been in America.

The Pilgrims had no trouble knowing they had a lot for which to be thankful. They were thankful for the land, good crops, their loving families, new friends, and their scalps.

The first Thanksgiving was a three-day festival of food and fun declared by William Bradford, Governor of Plymouth, to celebrate the bounty of the land with their new friends, the Native Americans. Over the years the tradition became widespread until it was accepted as a national holiday.

You could offer up a prayer also for Mrs. Sarah J. Hale. She is usually given credit for having encouraged the country to adopt the last Thursday of November

as the nationally recognized Thanksgiving.

Without her might still be chasing the turkey all over the calendar.

Mrs. Sarah J. Hale worked hard over decades writing editorials for the largest periodical of the time, Godey's Lady's Book, and letters to all of the governors of the states suggesting their celebration fall on the same day.

In 1862 thirty states celebrated Thanksgiving on the same day. On October 3, 1863 President Lincoln issued the first national Thanksgiving Proclamation setting American Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November.

The only official change in American Thanksgiving since has been by a Congressional Joint Resolution approved by President Roosevelt in 1941, which changed the celebrated day to the fourth Thursday in November instead of the last.

Other countries also celebrate a form of Thanksgiving, and you could be thankful that we all agree on something. Canada adopted it in 1879 and celebrate

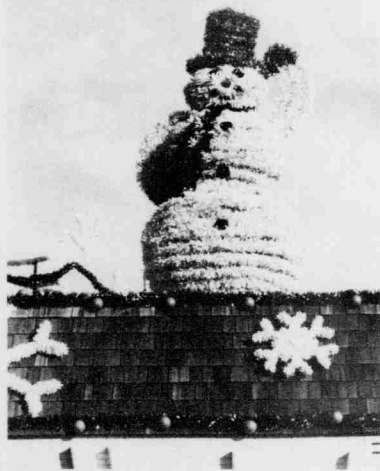
it on the second Monday in November. The first Catholic International Invitational Pan-American Celebration was convened in Washington D.C. in 1909.

Thanksgiving has changed since the first three-day celebration. The typical American go-to-grandma's-for-dinner may leave out of the celebrations one of the original intentions. Do we spend Thanksgiving being thankful?

We have so much for which to be thankful, the nation has set aside a day for that express purpose.

My family's usual Thanksgiving Day is probably a typical one. I would hope so, because our get-together is something I look forward to every year. We all go to grandmother's house on the family farm.

My father's five brothers and sisters on that side make a large meal a happy one. We have all the fixings, and spend time finding out what everyone has been doing and watching parades and football.



Technician File Photo

Frosty the Snowman greets passers-by from high atop a fast-food restaurant.

Lincoln's Thanksgiving proclamation

Issued on Oct. 3, 1863

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To those bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which

has sometimes seemed to provoke fratricide, have been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theater of military conflict; while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of

our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has increased notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, the battle-field, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the most high God, who, while dealing with us in anger

for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while

offering up ascriptions justly due to him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and union.

CYCLE CENTER

TREK
YOKOTA
GIANT
MONGOOSE
NISHIKI



'92 Model Closeout
Up To 40% Off

FREE
WATER BOTTLE

with any purchase
We Accept All Competitors' Coupons

HOURS:
10-6 mon-fri
10-5 saturday

2428 hillsborough street • 833-BIKE •
(next to McDonald's)

ZACK'S

Famous Frozen Yogurt

(Across from Winston Hall)

2302 Hillsborough St.
(Next to Bruegger's Bagels)
839-2063

Buy One Cone or Cup at Regular Price,
Get 2nd One of Equal or Lesser Value
FREE!!

ZACK'S

ZACK'S

Gifts on peoples' minds as holidays approach

By Maria McKinney

Staff Writer

"Tis the season to be rich, and deck the halls with boughs of presents.

The theme of Christmas is not giving and rejoicing anymore. Instead the holidays has been reduced to money and presents, thanks to commercialized America, according to some students at North Carolina State University.

Worry and anxiety have replaced the happiness and excitement that once surrounded Christmas. In fact, Christmas seems to be more of a headache than a heartfelt event.

"In our commercial society, Christmas has been drowned by the stress of saving money to buy gifts," said Pamela Ram, a senior majoring in French. "I think people get more stressed around Christmas than any other time of the year. It's all the preparation for it."

This stress is exemplified by the gift-buying tradition that goes hand-in-hand with the Christmas holidays. Buying presents for others gives people a false sense of superiority or inferiority.

"I think that it's unfortunate that a lot of people get stressed over reciprocating a gift that someone has given them," said Tracie Epps, a junior majoring in psychology. "Some people can't give a lot and then they feel bad. It's unfortunate that that's what it's come to."

And what did Christmas used to be like? Some students can still remember when the holiday wasn't so commercialized.

April Hammonds, a freshman majoring in English, remembers a childhood Christmas.

"When I was little, my family used to go out in the woods and cut down our own Christmas tree," Hammonds said. "That was so exciting and personal to me."

But that personal aspect has deteriorated over the years.

"Now I would not even think about going out in the woods to get a tree because I want it to be the best," Hammonds said. "It's not that the store-bought tree is better than the ones in the woods. It's just because money is the main factor in the Christmas celebration."

The monetary value of the Christmas season takes precedence over any feelings of peace and love for some students.

"When I think of Christmas, I think of presents and money," said Holly Martinson, a freshman majoring in political science. "[Christmas is] the biggest time when a lot of money is spent. People are losing the giving aspect because they only think about what they're getting."

So, what is the real meaning of Christmas among the students of N.C. State? The general consensus was quite positive.

"Presents are fun, but that's not the whole point," Latonya Hammonds, a freshman in electrical engineering said.

"Christmas means Christ's birth, which symbolizes birth. It's a time for thanking Him for giving us life," Hammonds said.

In a world filled with grief, sorrow and war, Denise Parks, a sophomore in communications, feels Christmas is a time to leave all of the bad feelings behind.

"I think [Christmas] is a time to come together in the world in peace," Parks said.



Technician File Photo

To this boy, Christmas means gifts from Santa Claus.

Many students feel that Christmas is a time to come together, especially with family and friends; a time when people realize how much they appreciate the people they care about.

"Christmas is a time when you renew relationships with family and friends," said Amy Durham, a freshman majoring in civil engineering.

"During Christmas-time, families are coming together," Hammonds agreed.

The warmth of Christmas-time

is also appealing to some students.

"During the Christmas season, everyone smiles," said Erin Maynard, a junior majoring in English.

The commercialism of Christmas doesn't bother some students at all.

"I realize [Christmas] has become commercialized," said Colby Hammonds, a junior in biology and animal science.

When asked his interpretation of Christmas, Hammonds said, "Love your fellow man."

Shopping for gifts not always easy

By Kurt Mathews

Staff Writer

Finding gifts to give at Christmas can turn even a jolly old soul into the Grinch who not only stole Christmas but wanted to blow it up.

Keeping track of what sister, brother, mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends want is enough to make you wonder how the fat guy in the red suit does it every year — and still manages to ho ho ho wherever he goes.

The old "let's-just-keep-a-running-list-in-our-head" never seems to help us mere mortals solve anything either. It still becomes a chore, especially when you have over 50 relatives. Getting mom a sweater every year — now that is a checklist in the head kind of gift.

Picking out a Christmas present for someone special should not boil down to a chore. Remember boys and girls: it is the thought that counts.

Yeah right. Try telling that to your girlfriend when all you come up with is a handy dustbuster for Christmas. "But honey, it can be used for so many things."

The next piece of lousy advice I have for you is give what you would like to receive. Twenty years of opening presents from my uncle made this fallacy obvious to me.

Socks. The uncle is big on socks. I must admit, I now own probably the best sock collection this side of the Mississippi. Yes, it is a thrill every year to open up his gift to me. "Now really Uncle Bud, what could be in that foot-long package that the dog keeps trying to get to?"

You know we are making this

See GIFTS, page 10

Be sure to look for the Techtoo basketball issue for the most complete preview of Wolfpack basketball available! You'll find it on December 3rd wherever you usually get your copy of Technician.

**ASKEW-TAYLOR
PAINTS**
110 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina

**10% OFF
TO ALL
STUDENTS**

Emergencies
Accepted

Scott C. Earp, DDS

833-2911 800 St. Mary's St.

Wisdom
Teeth
Removed

Student
Discount

Bleaching
403 Ligon Bldg

**Southern
Style**

\$2 OFF | \$5 OFF

Haircuts OR Perms

Appointments Accepted & Walk-Ins Welcome

546-0867

PROFESSIONAL HAIRSTYLES FOR
MEN & WOMEN

\$2 OFF | \$5 OFF

Haircuts OR Perms

Appointments Accepted & Walk-Ins Welcome

546-0867

Mission Valley Shopping Center
Next Door to Kerr Drugs

Start

Early Exams

Professor leaves country

Move forward 3 spaces

Late Exams

You remember your bowling exam is on the last day and time slot.

Lose 1 turn bellowing

Thanksgiving

Food poisoning

Lose a turn

On way home

Spot Virginia Lottery ticket, become wealthy and leave school.

Game over!!

Thanksgiving

Favorite relative visits

You earn an extra turn

Dead Week

Overwhelmed with excessive homework.

Go back 2 spaces.

Visit A

She disc
trip to th

Lo

		On way to the Bowl Game A country sheriff rear ends you. You are ticketed for a substandard bumper. <i>Lose 1 turn.</i>
Christmas Day Enjoy quality time with family. <i>Advance 3 spaces.</i>		
		New Year's Day You can't remember. <i>Lose a turn trying.</i>
Christmas Eve Lie awake wondering what Santa will bring. <i>Lose a turn.</i>		
Aunt Rosie ...usses her last ...e doctor. <i>Lose 2 turns.</i>		First Day of Classes Look around and taunt all of your fellow competitors because you are the winner!!

Techtoo proudly presents the Technician Holiday Board Game! Here's all you need to know:

•Use pennies or other small, worthless items as game pieces.

•Roll a dice (or draw numbers on pieces of paper) to generate a number from one to six. Then move your piece forward that many spaces and follow directions.

•Use only your left hand to move your game piece.

•Good luck! As you spend your holiday break playing this game over and over, both alone and with friends, you'll have our best wishes.

Presented by Keith and Hunter, a couple of idiots.

Suicide statistics increase during holidays

By Tina Petelle and Russell Deatherage
Staff Writers

James' parents divorced several years ago and his mother recently remarried. His father had transferred to the west coast and James had not seen him in two years. James did not particularly like his new stepfather and with Christmas approaching, he was considering just staying in Raleigh during the break.

All was fine until his roommate and girlfriend left. He was suddenly all alone at a time meant for family and friends. The television and radio were constantly babbling out good cheer, but James became more depressed.

James watched all the holiday movies with a grimace on his face; they brought no cheer to him. For the first time in his life he felt as if he had no one around to care for him, had no one to want him, had no one to love him.

On Christmas Eve, the sense of depression overcame his better judgment and he swallowed a bottle of sleeping pills, laid down on his bed and cried to his death.

James' story is unique in its circumstances, but the outcome isn't. Hundreds of people every year at Christmas time and other holidays are overcome with feelings of despair that lead them to attempt or commit suicide.

Depression is the leading cause of suicide for 35,000 Americans every year. The sad thing about suicide is that most people who try it don't want to die, said the doctors at Charter Northridge Hospital. They are looking for answers and they can't find them. As a result they turn to what they feel is the only way to get people to pay attention to their needs

— suicide.

James didn't really want to die. He couldn't cope with the feeling of emptiness and hopelessness his situation had brought to him. He needed help, like most depressed people, and didn't know how to find it.

James was not alone with his feelings of depression. While once thought to be an extreme of sadness, depression has now taken on a new title as an illness or disease.

"Over 30 percent of the population will be depressed in a life time," said Dr. David Kravetz, a clinical psychologist. "It is a widespread disease."

Depression is a combination of many factors both within and out of our control.

According to Holly Hill mental facility doctors, some of the most prevalent factors of depression are: genetics, biochemistry, personality type, and environmental influences.

According to Kravetz, society plays an important role in depression. Dysfunctional families leave children with an emotional deficit. When a child goes into the world, he is left with no knowledge of how to deal with what life throws his way.

Kravetz said that depression is more than just feeling blue.

"Depression is more than just a feeling state," Kravetz said. "If you're depressed then you have given up hope."

Kravetz said that once you are depressed, it is much harder to pull

yourself back on the tracks.

Seven years ago, Jill suffered just as James did. Unlike James, Jill sought help for her depression and is still alive today to speak of her illness.

"I just felt there was no way out of it," said Jill. "It was like there was nothing to look forward to. I wanted it to end; no one understood me."

Jill suffered from some of the common characteristics of depression. She felt hopeless and had lost her self-esteem. Jill did contemplate suicide and attempted it.

"I didn't want to eat or go out with my friends. After all, who wants someone who is always upset around," said Jill. "I just sat in my room and cried. I stopped being involved in my school activities and just wanted to sleep."

Jill was thirteen the first time she tried to commit suicide. She didn't want to die, she wanted someone to help her and didn't know how else to show everyone there was a problem.

"My friends and parents told me I was fine, but I didn't feel fine. I felt a pain, an uncontrollable pain and I wanted it to end, anyway I could stop the pain," said Jill. "They said it was a part of growing up, but I felt like it wouldn't end, so I tried to make them understand I was serious about how I felt."

Jill, as a cry for help, tried to take her life. Fortunately, a friend had caught on to what she was going to do and stopped her before it was too late.

"I went to see a psychologist after that," said Jill. "He understood what I was going through and didn't mock me, he just listened."

Dr. Kravetz said that there are many ways to help with depression, but a therapist is an important factor. He said that a therapist's job is to work with a person the whole way through it.

"Therapists seem to have a greater depth of understanding," said Kravetz. "They can deal with the problems and feel comfortable with them."

Jill saw her psychologist for a few years and seems to be doing just fine. Even so, she will never forget the face on her mom when she left the hospital the day she tried to commit suicide.

"My mom just looked down at me and said she loved me with tears in her eyes," Jill said. "I felt so horrible that I had hurt her so much, and I just wanted to hug her, but I couldn't. I felt so helpless laying on that stretcher and I realized that life was very precious."

Suicide is something people should not take lightly, especially around the holidays. This is a special time of the year and everyone needs to feel loved and understood. Suicide can happen to anyone, but on the positive side, it can be prevented.

According to Charter Northridge doctors, some of the warning signs of suicide are threats, marked changes in behavior or personality, and making arrangements for after death.

If someone shows these signs, don't ignore them. Talk to the person in a positive manner. No one wants to see someone they care about end up like James.

Send us your short fiction, and we just might print it.

Fiction submissions should be approximately five to eight double-spaced, typed pages in length. Please include your name and a telephone number. If you want your copy returned, you must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Mail your fiction to **Techtoo**, Box 8608, College Station, Raleigh, 27605-8608 or bring it by **Technician World Headquarters** in Suite 323 of the Student Center Annex.

DWI & CRIMINAL LAW



FREE
CONSULTATION

G. Bryan Collins Jr.
Attorney at Law
530 N. Person St. Raleigh 27604

CALL FOR
APPOINTMENT
829-0323

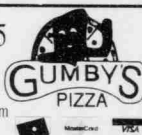
Gumby Solo
12" One Topping Pizza
and One Soda
\$5.²⁵

See for ea. additional item

For Four
16" One Topping Pizza
Small Pokey Sticks &
Four Sodas Only
\$11.⁷⁹

836-1555

Hours:
Sun. - Thurs.
11:00am - 1:30am
Fri. - Sat.
11:00am - 2:30am



2 Large
One Topping Pizzas
\$9.⁹⁹

Great Taste, Cheapest Price
Now Serving Breadsticks!
3017 Hillsborough St.

WOLFPACK
16" One Topping Pizza
& Two Sodas
\$7.³³

Campus Mail Service (Electric Company Mail) Hillsborough Street

Utility Bill courier • Daily Delivery to S.B., Cablevision and
C.P. & L payment centers (check or M.O.) Avoid late charge
& disconnects - \$1.00

Film Processing • 24 exposures: only \$5.95
Newsletters and Magazines

Discount Computer Supplies! Diskettes & Paper etc..
UPS and Express Shipping • Stamps • Film

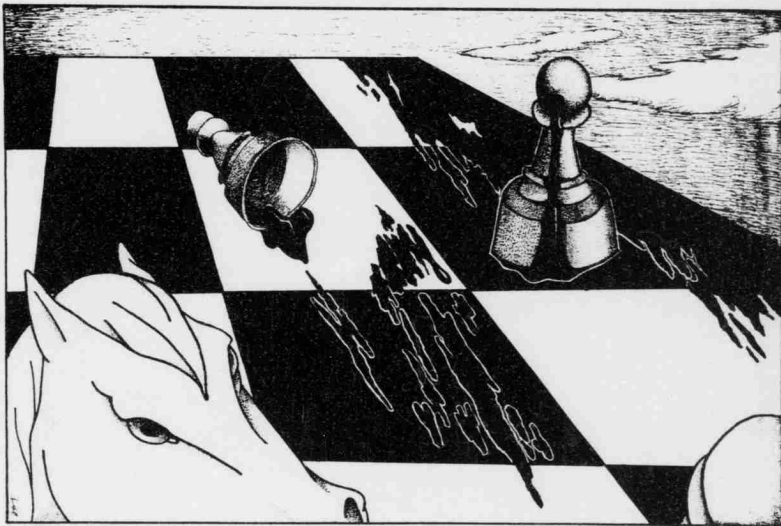
Fiction

The Chess Game

by William Stewart

William Stewart recently came back to college after serving in the U.S. Army. Stewart, 22, is a sophomore business major originally from Winston-Salem, NC.

Stewart got the idea for the story during the Persian Gulf War while his brother served as a Marine in Saudi Arabia.



It was the typical evening.

They were sitting around playing chess on the coffee table in the den of Edwin's small, but quaint, apartment. The opponent was his good friend Jamie who had to deal with Edwin's sarcasm, especially since Edwin had won four games straight.

Jamie was doing better than usual this game, however. He had managed to capture, or kill, as that was the way Edwin saw it, a knight and two bishops, as well as numerous pawns. So, to an inexperienced observer, Jamie appeared to be winning.

But Edwin wasn't too worried, even if he had been overconfident and let Jamie have more than he should have. Edwin was in much better position and knew the game was soon to be over. Chess was one of the few games that Edwin took serious and because of this, he was always studying the board and about three moves ahead.

Edwin, using the foresight of Jamie's predictability, baited him into taking his rook with the queen, thus leaving Jamie's king wide open. Edwin's pieces were already lined up. All he had to do was move in for the kill.

"Checkmate," Edwin said. There was a smirk on his face as he sort of laughed at Jamie, who had really strained his brain during the course of this game. "You did better than usual this game."

Jamie knew not to take these remarks personally as that was just Edwin's way of letting him know that it was a good game. Besides, even before the game started Jamie knew that he was probably going to get beat. Edwin was a way above average chess player, so Jamie found it no disgrace to lose against him.

"You won again, Edwin, but I did manage to get more of your pieces than you got of mine," Jamie said, as if to let Edwin know that the game was at least a challenge for him to win every now and then.

"Yeah, but I won the game since the

"
Yeah, but I won the game since the only thing that matters is who kills the king. See, they are all just pawns to me," Edwin quickly said.

"

only thing that matters is who kills the king. See, they are all just pawns to me," Edwin quickly said.

"In that case, I have a friend that I want you to meet. He may change your attitude about chess a little."

"Someone who can change my attitude about chess ought to be interesting," Edwin said.

"Oh, you'll definitely find chess interesting when you play it with him. I'm going to go," Jamie said.

Edwin had already turned on the television to

watch the news on the war. Edwin's brother was a marine in the war so he was really into the news lately. "We'll see him Thursday at Bridge's Park around six, OK?"

"That will work, but isn't the park an odd place to meet? Besides, didn't some old man commit suicide there?" asked Edwin.

"Exactly the place. No one goes out there, so you two can have a nice game of chess. Later!" Jamie said as he was walking out the door. Edwin gave no reply as he had his eyes fixed on the TV screen.

Jamie heard Edwin mumble to himself "to hell with this war — put me in charge" and couldn't help but think that there was something Edwin could do about the war. It would be done on Thursday.

Thursday came around, and Edwin didn't have any problem with taking the trip to the park, no matter how weird it was to play chess out there. Jamie had called him earlier to make sure he still planned on going. Jamie seemed a bit anxious about something. However, Edwin had nothing better to do and he did like chess. "Change my attitude, huh?" Edwin said out loud to himself.

The park was slightly run down, with patches of tall grass and a few picnic tables scattered around. It was surrounded by a patch of trees, adding to the desolate feeling being outside the city limits gave it to begin with.

Holiday celebrations vary with location, culture

By Andrew Lloyd
Staff Writer

The traditions that Americans identify with Christmas are not as venerable as one might imagine. In fact, Americans have only celebrated Christmas in its traditional form since the 19th century with the customs established by people like Charles Dickens and Henry Wordsworth Longfellow.

"They took older elements and created something new," said religion professor Robert Bruce Mullin.

But Christmas was not always been a favored holiday among Protestants. "Christmas has always been controversial," said Mullin, "and the historian, Bradford, at Plymouth Plantation specifically says that they worked on Christmas Day."

"Some [Protestants] refuse to accept Christmas today," said Mullin. "Only recently in Scotland have they taken to celebrating Christmas. Before, the Hogmanay, when on New Year's Eve children go door to door asking for presents, was much more important."

Catholics celebrate Christmas differently, Mullin said. They have integrated Christmas with the larger picture of religious festivals, such as eating fish in preparation for Lent.

Customs during the holiday season depend on the ethnic

group. The Catholics in Italy, Mullin said, sometimes eat up to 18 different kinds of fish.

They also attach more importance to the coming of the wise men and spend a longer time trading gifts, he said.

Also, Mullin said that Catholics historically have been more open to the image of Jesus as a child with Mary as his mother. The idea of Jesus as a child can be seen as important in art. But until the 19th century, Protestants were less willing to accept the idea of the child Jesus, and more concerned with Jesus, the teacher or Jesus on the cross.

Recently, a new celebration has been added to the traditional holiday season. In the same way that Dickens and Longfellow attacked the materialistic practices of Scrooge, Maulana Karenga established Kwanzaa, partly as a backlash against the over-commercialization of Christmas, but also as a celebration of African-American culture.

The Interim Coordinator of African-American Student Affairs, Rhonda Covington, said that Kwanzaa was formed in 1966 not as a substitute for Christmas, but to give African-Americans an opportunity to express their culture.

The holiday season has become a traditional gathering time for Americans, and Kwanzaa is held from December 26 through

for you to follow, do buy people things that they buy for themselves.

This would rule out underwear, household appliances and of course socks. If you cannot afford anything worthwhile then give away coupons.

For your boyfriend or girlfriend give coupons for one free massage, a homecooked meal or a night of ... well you get the idea. Parents are easy to give coupons for free yardwork or housecleaning and promises



Tami Langley/Staff

The ways that many North Carolinians celebrate the holidays are not universal.

January 1.

It is a seven-day festival, and each day one of seven principles is celebrated: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Gift giving, the driving force behind the commercialization of Christmas, is not emphasized, and whatever gifts are given are encouraged to be instructive and/or handmade.

Every night during the celebration of each principle, participants celebrate and light candles.

There are seven candles in a candle-holder, three green, three

red, and one black.

At some point during the festival period, a community supper is held, and generally everyone will bring a covered dish. The dinner will be opened by the elder, who will make an opening prayer discussing the importance and value of life, family and learning.

Then everyone drinks from the unity cup to celebrate and show pride in their culture. The elder makes some concluding remarks, and then everyone feasts.

"It's like a big family reunion," who has participated in the Winston-Salem Kwanzaa celebration and the N.C. State University

celebration every December 4.

Covington also said that traditional styles of dress, including hair styles and clothing, are worn "to bridge the gap between America and Africa."

"But the spirit is to capture our roots and our contributions here [in the U.S.]."

Gifts

Continued from Page 5

too tough on ourselves, let us sit down for a moment and ponder this gift thing. What do people really want?

Love and peace throughout the world, right? Of course not, be realistic. I have one simple rule

Q: Why does Santa Claus have three gardens?

A: So he can ho, ho, ho!

Attention!

All State Students Will Receive 20% OFF Manicures, Pedicures, and Sculptures with Student ID (Tues. and Mon. Only)

881-9697

The Nail Gallery

4208 Six Forks Road, Suite 206
(Next to Bennigan's)

THE CUTTING EDGE

"Rusk, Nexxus & Paul Mitchell"
\$2.00 off Haircut - guys & gals
\$5.00 off Bodywave
\$5.00 off Sculptured Nails
ONE BLOCK FROM CAMPUS

832-4901

832-4902

Hours:

Mon. - Fri

8 am - 9 pm

Sat.

8 am - 3 pm

Expires 1/31/93

Appointment or walk in
2906 Hillsborough St.
across from Hardee's



The Episcopal Campus Ministry

meets for Eucharist & Fellowship every Tuesday at 4:30 P.M. in the NUB-1200 Student Center

Join Us

The Episcopalians at NCSU Welcome You
Episcopal Chaplain: The Rev. Craig A. Phillips

the Brake Shop
Our name says it all.

OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL

RALEIGH

2812 HILLSBOROUGH

(Across from Swensons)

828-5494

MON. - FRI. 8AM - 6PM

SAT. 8AM - 3PM

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION (MOST CARS)

BRAKES \$59.00

MAINT. ON REG. MOST CARS

LIFETIME WARRANTY ON PADES AND SHOCKS

ON ALL CARS

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

See Manager for complete details

Fiction

Continued from Page 9

Edwin never was much for picnics or parks. However, he trusted Jamie and soon found himself experiencing anxiety as his supposed opponent hadn't shown up.

A man appeared and was carrying a briefcase. Edwin presumed it to be the chess set as Jamie told him not to bring one.

"How's it going, Moffit?" Jamie said, sighing slightly.

"Not bad. So this is my opponent, huh?" the man said with a tone of skepticism.

Edwin felt like saying something smart. In any other situation he would have. However, there was something strangely intimidating about Moffit.

He had a small, pointed black beard and no sideburns at all. It was like he never shaved and that was all the facial hair he had. His hair was also jet black but short and neatly combed to the side. He wore faded jeans with holes in them, a pressed dress shirt with dirt stains on it, gold rings on nearly all his fingers, and a camouflage bandana around his neck and left arm.

"You can call me Moffit," the man said as he held out his hand.

Edwin stared at him for a second then slowly shook his hand. "Edwin, your opponent," he said.

Moffit went toward a picnic table without saying another word, and Edwin looked at Jamie with suspicion for the first time since he'd known him. Then the two of them followed behind Moffit to the picnic table.

When they got there, Moffit held out his hands. "Pick one," Edwin glanced down at the wrinkled fingers and the fancy gold rings. He chose the left hand. Moffit opened it up and a white pawn was in it. "Good choice," he said, since Edwin got to move first since he had chosen white instead of black. They immediately started setting up the chess board that Moffit had taken from the briefcase.

The chess pieces were fancy, and the kings really caught Edwin off guard as the white one had Edwin's features with a crown. The black king, however, didn't look medieval at all. Instead, it looked like a demon with a pointed witch's hat.

Edwin couldn't help but be startled. "Do you choke under pressure, Edwin?" he said.

"We shall see," Edwin said quickly.

They didn't need spectators in this game," Moffit said.

"I guess I'll go back to the car then," said Jamie.

"Like hell you will," Edwin

said. The car was down a path from the park and that would leave Edwin out of sight of Jamie. He was suspicious something would happen.

Moffit laughed. "Don't worry, Edwin, it will be all right. Maybe I get nervous when people watch me play. It won't last long anyway."

It didn't matter, though, as Jamie said, "Good luck, Edwin," and was already walking away. "I know you can win — I'll be waiting in the car."

Edwin glanced back at the chessboard and then at Moffit. He wanted to walk away but didn't. "It's your move, Edwin," said Moffit.

Edwin moved the pawn in front of his king two spaces up like he did every game. Moffit moved right away. Edwin could tell that they both had set openings for the beginning of a chess game. Edwin then moved his queen a few spaces diagonally and a flock of birds flew out from some trees. Then a whistling sound went across the sky.

Edwin looked around, then looked at Moffit who was moving a bishop onto the center of the board. Just then an explosion went off. "Just what is going on?"

"Don't worry, you're not on the front line, are you?"

"What is that supposed to mean?" Edwin said.

"Didn't you once say that 'they are all just pawns to me'?" remarked Moffit.

"Well, I see that Jamie has been talking to you about me. You probably know how I use my pieces and what my strategies are, too, don't you?" said Edwin. "No, Jamie didn't tell me that.

He just said that you were a good chess player and could make a difference. I do know you want to make a difference."

"I'm not going to make anything because I quit this little chess game," said Edwin while standing up.

"You can't quit what you started and besides, artillery will probably hit your car when you're driving away if you quit now."

"Then what are my options?"

"Let me explain, and then I'm sure you'll want to play — and win," Moffit said. "See your eight pawns? One of them is your brother's unit. I understand that he's a marine. And as you have already noticed, you are the king. Now, what you want to do is kill my king to end the game — the war. Pretty simple, huh?"

"But what if you kill my pawns?"

"Edwin, you have eight pawns, only one is your brother. Besides, I don't want pawns. I want your king. I want this game to end as quickly as you do."

"You bastard!" Edwin said. He then looked down at the chess board. He didn't know if he choked under pressure or not. He had never been under this much pressure. The next move he made was well thought out. They weren't all just pawns to him anymore, and he couldn't quit the game until it was over.

Artillery rounds kept going off as each player moved, and as two pieces ended up beside each other, Edwin could hear rifles and machine guns in the distance, also. Then Moffit took a pawn with a knight and looked up at Edwin and smiled as he removed it from the board.

"Was it my brother's unit?" Edwin said in a quiet tone.

"Not this time. Now he has a one in seven chance."

The game continued. Edwin had broken a sweat and was concentrating as hard as he could. Moffit was good at chess, but it was an even match. Edwin succeeded in taking the knight and a couple of more pieces, but the main thing in his mind was the seven remaining pawns. Moffit got a couple of pieces also, but they weren't pawns.

Then it happened again. Moffit took another one. It was inevitable. Edwin was trying to use his main pieces and keep his pawns out but other pieces can move so far. He just looked at Moffit.

"No, not this one either." Edwin managed to take another one of Moffit's pieces before it finally happened. Moffit had been closing in. "Check," Moffit said. Just then an explosion hit about twenty yards from them. The firefight sounded a lot closer also. "See, told you that you were in check."

Edwin had temporarily forgotten everything but the king and quickly moved his knight in front of Moffit's piece. He was still safe for the moment but was now on the defensive.

"Look here, another pawn," Moffit said while removing another piece from the board. Edwin didn't even ask. Moffit then said "three down, five to go" to let Edwin know his brother was still alive. Edwin realized he had sacrificed too many of his key pieces to even

have a good offense. Moffit was moving his pieces in for the kill. It was only a matter of time.


Edwin began looking around at the park, the trees, the sky. He couldn't even think about the game anymore. As far as he was concerned, the game was over.

Moffit moved one more time. "Checkmate," he said in an almost regretful tone. "You still have your pawns." Moffit was true to his word. He only wanted the king.

Jamie hadn't waited around the park. He had gone home to watch the news. There was a news flash that the war was over and our troops were pulling out. So maybe we had lost, but no one cared. This war was unpopular, anyway. It had gotten out of hand. Just as long as it was finished, we could return home from so far away.

It didn't matter who had won, thought Jamie. Perhaps he was a little naive to politics. Perhaps he just wanted peace, like everyone else. Then he thought of his friend Edwin. He knew Edwin would win one way or another. Edwin wouldn't see his brother again, but his brother was coming home.

In Bridge's Park was a young man. He had apparently committed suicide — a gunshot wound to the head. He lay slouched over a picnic table with blood gushing onto the ground and brain fragments on the table. A chess set was covered with blood and some pieces still stood upright. They were mostly pawns.



1 & 2 Bedrooms still available for fall move-in dates

Everything You Want In Your New Home Is Right Here...

Kensington Park
THE RENAISSANCE OF
THE 1920S - NORTH CAROLINA
EXPERIENCE

851-7831 1-800-K82-PARK



Balentine's

You'll only find a spread

THIS BIG for this little in one place!

Balentine's
Cafeteria & Confederate House

Show Student ID and save an extra 10%!!
Prices range from .15 to \$.95 per item.

Good thru Dec. 15th, 1992

410 Oberlin Road, in Raleigh's Cameron Village
Open Mon. - Sat. 11 AM - 2:15 PM, 4 PM - 8 PM
832-3741

University Dining

University Student Center Food Court

Commons Breakfast

Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Emporium C-Store

Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.



Sunday - Thursday
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Friday - Saturday
10:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Celerity

Monday - Friday
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Sunday - Thursday
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Friday - Saturday
10:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Special Edition

RESTAURANT

Lunch

Monday - Friday
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Friday
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.