

**Innocence**

in an idealistic world: Steve Streater sitting on the sidelines and inspiring UNC to a victory over Clemson last season. Boris Becker backhanding a one-handed shot after sprawling onto Wimbledon's grass, the Tar Heels' basketball comeback against Marquette last year. The kind of plays that make you scream with delight or frustration.

But the world isn't perfect, and stories about Maryland's cutting short its basketball season or Michigan losing its top two basketball recruits to Prop 48 are much more frequent.

There is some good that should come out of this, however. We have all grown up a little now, and realized that athletes aren't larger than life. For the most part, they are people blessed with a marketable ability. That's it. They are no more immune than any of us would be to offers of money for nothing, chicks for free or lines of cocaine.

But it isn't big news when a student is caught dealing cocaine. Athletes are held to a higher standard simply because of being in the public eye, and many are unprepared for it. The stories will continue, and in a way

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**Survival**

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it's a shame. Sports have always been entertainment, and such stories aren't extremely entertaining, except for the occasional shock value. But maybe football season will at least bury them deeper into the sports pages a little bit.

*Scott Fowler is a senior journalism major from Spartanburg, S.C.*

college-related temptations that can hinder one's culture-getting efforts. At UNC, 60 percent of those temptations involve Franklin and Rosemary street establishments. Weekend activities at student dwellings account for 24 percent of the distractions. "Pit-sitting" for four percent and graffiti-reading in classroom buildings for three percent. (Although "I think, therefore I am

— I'm pink, therefore I'm Spam" is worth a perusal.) "Et cetera," a blanket category of illegal and/or immoral activities, accounts for nine percent.

Join-it-us, in which students feel compelled to join every organization known to man, can be another distraction from cultural pursuits. UNC offers its share of organizations (225 last year), so choose carefully

and don't spread yourself thin. Make sure the blindfold is tight and the dart sharp when it comes time to pick.

And if the metaphorical jungle ever gets you down, just remember — your parents aren't around.

*Ed Brackett is a senior journalism major from Hendersonville.*

**Contra win big boost even for Mr. Popular**

**John Flesher**  
AP analysis

RALEIGH — North Carolina state legislators historically have gotten fewer requests from constituents for help than their national counterparts, but some say that trend is changing to the point that aides may be needed to handle the mail and phone calls.

Eighteen state Senates and 11 state Houses have provided their members with aides to handle constituent work, while 10 legislatures have allowed members to establish district offices after the fashion of Congress, according to an article in the spring issue of the Journal of State Government.

Rep. Dan Blue, D-Wake, says he expects the North Carolina General Assembly to consider such measures in the next few years.

It's probably a lot closer than many people think," he said. "Folks are looking to state government for help more than ever before."

Sen. Larry Cobb, R-Mecklenburg, who served in the Legislature for three terms in the

1970s and was elected again in 1985, said he had seen no significant increase in requests for constituent services. Most of his calls during the recent short session dealt with the status of pending bills, he said.

He and Rep. James Ezzell, D-Nash, predicted there would be resistance to efforts to hire staff members for constituent services or open district offices, which would be interpreted as steps toward a full-time Legislature.

"North Carolina has prided itself on having part-time, citizen legislators," Ezzell said.

Helping citizens with personal or business problems that involve government always has been a major task for members of Congress.

The typical U.S. representative and senator handles thousands of requests for assistance each year. People contact their congressman when their social security checks are lost, when they are denied veterans' benefits or have problems getting a passport, or even to get a U.S. flag that has been flown over the Capitol.

But historically, state legislators — at least in North Carolina — have gotten far fewer requests of this nature. In fact, a 1982 study by a University of Kentucky political scientist included North Carolina among states in which constituent

service was considered a low-priority item for lawmakers.

Some General Assembly members say that's still the case. "It's certainly not that legislators aren't willing to help, but we're just not called on much," Ezzell said.

But others say they're doing a brisk constituent-service business. "I'm just buried," Rep. Marie Colton, D-Buncombe, said.

Malcolm Jewell, the University of Kentucky professor, said his findings were based on research and interviews with legislators from North Carolina and other states in the late 1970s. He said he talked to about 25 Tar Heel lawmakers, and that the conclusions he reached were "not statistical type things, rather impressionistic."

Jewell said one reason why constituent service apparently was less important in North Carolina was that nearly every urban legislative district, where most requests would originate, was represented by more than one person.

"In multi-member districts, people are less inclined to look to a specific legislator and say 'this is my legislator and this is the person I go to to get that type thing.'"

Jewell said he had not done follow-up research since his study was published four years ago. But he said legislators in North Carolina could expect increasing demand in constituent service, partly because the state has dismantled some of multi-member districts under court order.

An even bigger factor, he said, is the Reagan administration's "New Federalism" philosophy of turning more programs and problems over to state and local governments.

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