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Tuesday September 21, 1999 TECHNICIAN

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Medievalist to speak at NCSU Friends of the Library Lecture

The Friends of the Library of N.C. State will host a special lecture with author and medieval specialist Sharon Newman at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11. In her talk, "Myths of the Middle Ages: Braveheart Revised," Newman will discuss misconceptions about medieval times.

Newman is the author of several medieval series, including the Catherine LeVendeur and Guinevere series, which feature novels such as "Death Comes as Epiphany," "The Devil's Door," "The Chessboard Queen," and "Guinevere Evermore."

The reading is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Assembly Room on the second floor of the East Wing, D.H. Hill Library.

NATIONAL

Two Disagree on Expanding Probe of TWA Flight 800 Crash

Retired Navy Cmdr. William S. Donaldson III, who says a terrorist attack caused the TWA Flight 800 tragedy, holds out hope for a larger congressional probe and additional testing that might point to a missile. In their report, officials at the Navy's China Lakes facility said shooting a shoulder-fired missile at a 747's fuel tanks would settle "finally and conclusively" the lingering questions about a supposed missile attack.

But James Kallstrom, former FBI assistant director, said scientists agreed such tests would not have made "a material difference" in his criminal probe. "There comes a time when you have to end an investigation," he said, noting that he suggested to National Transportation Safety Board officials they pursue any necessary testing. NTSB officials, however, said it was not their role to conduct testing for possible criminal activity.

The plan to invade Kosovo

Early on the morning of May 27, German police blocked every autobahn ramp and side street along the route from the Cologne airport to the Bristol Hotel in Bonn. Even the few people who happened to be up at 3 a.m. could not possibly catch a glimpse of the man inside the motorcade whizzing by.

The war over Kosovo had been dragging on for nine weeks, and Defense Secretary William S. Cohen had flown in secretly to discuss a possible NATO invasion of Yugoslavia. The meeting also brought together the defense ministers of Britain, France, Germany and Italy. After 6 1/2 hours of debate, the five ministers reached a momentous conclusion: Their governments must decide whether to assemble ground troops, and they must make the choice within days.

From the start of the 78-day air war in the Balkans, President Clinton publicly ruled out a ground campaign. Nevertheless, secret preparations for an invasion of Kosovo were extensive, and progressed much further than has been previously disclosed. Relying in part on a clandestine relationship with the Kosovo Liberation Army, NATO's leadership was probing Yugoslav defenses. Allied capitals were considering commitments of troops - including nearly half of Britain's standing army - when Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic unexpectedly capitulated.

Clinton and the leaders of NATO's other member states never gave the final political go-ahead for an invasion. But Milosevic may have believed otherwise.

Despite public denials throughout the war, the CIA worked closely with the KLA to glean intelligence about the disposition of Yugoslav troops in Kosovo. When the ethnic Albanian rebels launched a major offensive in late May - with NATO's full prior knowledge and active air support - Milosevic and his generals seem to have concluded that NATO was on the brink of an attack. That, NATO commanders now believe, was an important factor in the Yugoslav leader's sudden retreat.

"QUOTABLE"



"In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is."

-Yogi Berra

Help needed after Floyd

◆ NCSU and other campuses are joining forces to raise money for those students affected by Hurricane Floyd.

DANIELLE STANFIELD AND ZACK MAZER
News Editors

Other UNC system campuses including N.C. State University are participating in an impromptu "quarter campaign" to help ECU and UNCW students with books, housing, supplies, food or anything they need that was lost in the floods created by Hurricane Floyd. NCSU's Student Government is sponsoring the drive and will be in the Brickyard Tuesday and the rest of the week from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. collecting donations. Everyone in Raleigh is encouraged to stop by and donate.

"We'll accept any type of donation. This is a fellow university in need," said NCSU Student Body President Raj Mirchandani. "It's students helping students get back on track."

According to Cliff Webster, ECU's student body president, between 2,000 and 5,000 students are out of housing.

"We had our fun with our days off but now it's time

to pull together and help other students," said Mirchandani. "I don't think anyone here understood the impact that the storm had."

After President Bill Clinton toured eastern North Carolina by helicopter Monday, he announced the Labor Department will use \$12 million to hire temporary workers to help with hurricane cleanup, and that emergency food stamps will be available to help families in need. North Carolina is also promised federal disaster aid, said Clinton.

However, Mirchandani said that federal funding will take a while to get to residents and funds from a donation drive will get to those in need a lot quicker.

"I think it'd be great if, being the largest university in the system, if we could raise a substantial amount of money," he said. "I challenge every student to bring 50 cents apiece and to tell their friends to bring 50 cents."

According to university statistics, if every student donated 50 cents, NCSU could raise approximately \$14,000 to \$15,000.

"Stand back, look at your apartment and imagine it underwater," said Webster.

Physics gets new outlook on UV light

◆ Jan Schetzina and the NCSU Physics Department have developed the first ultraviolet light-sensitive camera, which could be used to detect biological and chemical weapons or gauge levels of UV radiation filtering through the earth's atmosphere.

TOMAS CARBONELL
Staff Writer

In a startling breakthrough for digital imaging technology, Jan Schetzina and his colleagues in the Department of Physics at N.C. State have developed the world's first camera that senses only ultraviolet light.

"It's truly an advancement," said Schetzina, who unveiled his invention on September 3. Schetzina, along with Chris Boney, a postdoctoral student in physics,

and Jeff Brown, a Ph.D. student in physics, spent nearly two years developing and refining their ultraviolet camera.

The Night Vision Laboratory at Fort Belvoir, Va., and the Honeywell Technology Center assisted in the research. Although Schetzina, Boney, and Brown conceived the idea and developed most of the technology underlying the camera, these centers were instrumental in producing and refining Schetzina's ultraviolet sensors, critical components of the device.

The invention functions "sort of like a digital camera," said Schetzina. Unlike traditional cameras, digital cameras record images on an array of pixels rather than photographic film. Schetzina's ultraviolet camera contains a matrix of 1,024 sensors that generate electric current upon detecting ultraviolet light, much like conventional solar cells. Since the electric current generated by each cell varies proportional-

ly with the intensity of the light it receives, a computer can use the profile of the electric current in the pixel array to create an image of the ultraviolet source.

Past efforts to develop ultraviolet cameras failed, explained Schetzina, mainly because a material that exclusively absorbs ultraviolet light had never been developed. Most digital cameras on the market employ photodiodes that only absorb light in the visible spectrum, failing to detect invisible,

high frequency ultraviolet radiation. Schetzina and his partners circumvented this problem by manufacturing photodiodes from a new, ultraviolet-sensitive material known as aluminum gallium



Developer Jan Schetzina with the UV camera

nitride. Schetzina's first ultraviolet image was a blurry rendition of the letters "NCSU." The Army Research Office and the

See Physics, Page 3

Just pickin'

Photo: Harriett-Matt

Tread Willis watches as Jim Beaver kills some afternoon time playing his guitar between Tucker and Owen Residence Halls Monday.



Virtual advising virtually ready

◆ Virtual advising gets its start at N.C. State this year, with an interactive web page and help for anyone, from distance education students to on-campus students with a quick question.

LAUREN PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

N.C. State has a new advising program intended "to put students in touch with clear advising information, help them identify and connect with the best advising resources in each college and major, and to help them in a timely and efficient fash-

ion," according to Andrea Irby, former coordinator of advising for the College of Management. Andrea Irby was recently named first director of the Virtual Advising Center (VAC) that was started at NCSU in August of 1999.

"The VAC is in its first year of operation," Irby said. "It is the culmination of two years of research and work on the part of university advisers, faculty, administrators and students."

Irby has done work with the Committee on Undergraduate Advising, which defined the mission and role of the VAC.

"The VAC is a web-based advising center, where undergraduate students can find

answers to their academic questions either through clearly linked web pages and text, or by e-mailing or calling an adviser," said Irby.

Irby pointed out that the VAC was created to improve the quality of information the students received, give students easier and more efficient access to existing information, be available 24-hours a day, give quick feedback from an interactive format, direct students to the best resources that are already existing on campus for academic skill improvement and career and major exploration, and finally, to offer advising infor-

See Advising, Page 2

Civil rights leader to speak

◆ Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP, will address issues of civil rights and political awareness in October as this year's Harrelson Lecturer.

BETH McAFEE
Staff Writer

Julian Bond, civil rights activist, author, commentator and former Georgia state lawmaker, has been named the 1999-2000 N.C. State Harrelson Lecturer.

Bond will be spending Wednesday, October 27, at N.C. State University visiting with students and faculty throughout the day, including a luncheon with the Scholar's forum and a reception immediately before his lecture at 1 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the African American Cultural Center. His public lecture entitled, "Civil Rights: Now and Then" will be given at 2 p.m. at Witherspoon Student Center Campus Cinema.

Bond has made significant contributions to the struggle for civil rights and political awareness since his time at Morehouse College in Atlanta through his Georgian State senatorial career, up to his present work with organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Bond began his work in 1960. He was a founder of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, a student civil rights group, at his college, which organized three years of nonviolent anti-segregation protests, contributing to the integration of Atlanta's theaters, lunch counters and parks. Bond was arrested during one such sit-in at a segregated cafeteria at Atlanta City Hall. That same year, he was one of the many students who came together to form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and a short time later, he became the group's communications director.

In 1965, Bond was elected to a one-year term in the Georgia House of Representatives, following a court-appointed reapportionment of the legislature. However, members of the House voted not to seat him based on his fierce resistance to the Vietnam War, and did not give him

See Leader, Page 2

Know your stuff

Facts you should know about your health.



Fightin' Words

Valvano and Murphy go at it for ESA naming rights. See Opinion.

A blast from the past

The Technician Sports year in review.



Leader Advising

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his position. He was elected again in 1966, and was again denied membership to the Georgian House.

After his third re-election, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the House had violated his rights in refusing him the seat, and gave him his proper position.

Bond went on to the Georgia Senate in 1974 and continued his political career until January 1987, during which time he was elected to public office more times than any other black Georgian. He sponsored or co-sponsored more than 60 bills, which became law, including a sickle cell anemia testing program and a statewide program providing low-interest home loans for low-income Georgians.

Since 1980, Bond has been host and commentator on "America's Black Forum," the oldest black-owned program in television syndication. He has also been a commentator on the "Today" show and is the author of a nationally syndicated newspaper column called "Viewpoint."

Bond is currently on the advisory boards of several civil rights and human rights organizations, including the ACLU, the Corporation for Maintaining Editorial Diversity in America and the National Federation for Neighborhood Diversity. He was elected chairman of the NAACP in 1998, after serving four terms on its national board.

He has shared his wisdom and personal experience in numerous outlets. A collection of Bond's essays, entitled "A Time to Speak, A Time to Act" has been published, as has his book, "Black Candidates - Southern Campaign Experiences." He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Harvard University and Williams College. He is currently a distinguished scholar in residence at the American University in Washington, D.C. and a professor of history at the University of Virginia.

The NCSU Harrelson Lecture Series, the university's distinguished lecture series, sponsored by the Provost's Office, began in 1961, as a provision of the will of the late Chancellor John W. Harrelson.

mation to distance students.

With more online classes and video classes, Irby said, entire degrees might be completed in this way in the future. If that becomes the case, distance education students would need access to quality advising via the Internet, according to Irby.

The VAC will be a complement to the other advising efforts already existing on campus, Irby explained, especially for students who are undecided, changing colleges or majors, living far away from NCSU or in search of quick answers to basic questions.

Irby also pointed out that faculty should feel free to use the VAC. "We believe the information we provide will help faculty in working with advisees or students in their classes."

The VAC, according to a press release, will also make NCSU more visible throughout the state, region and nation. Irby elaborated by saying that most universities have web pages, but there are not many with interactive advising pages, and NCSU is the only university in the region to have such a center. She said that the VAC could be used as a model for other schools that are expanding their services for distance education students.

For now, Irby plans "to continue to explore ways the VAC can serve its many constituents," establishing listservs for students who want to ask academic questions over email and for faculty and coordinators of advising to share ideas across campus.

Students can do many things on the VAC web site, including emailing or calling an adviser. There are also many links to other useful NCSU pages.

Irby said that they always welcome student input on the site. The web site for the VAC is located at http://www.ncsu.edu/advising_c entral.

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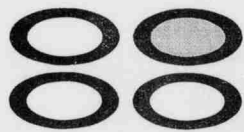
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Place: Mann Hall Room 403

Date: **SEPTEMBER 23, 1999**

Time: 6:00 PM

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Physics

Continued from Page 1

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency funded Schetzina's research, "indicating that military interest in this technology runs high. For now, national defense indeed appears to be the main application of Schetzina's technology. Noting that some biological and chemical war-

fare agents emit ultraviolet light under the action of lasers, Schetzina believes the camera may aid in the detection of these weapons. However, eventually this technology may also be used to gauge the levels of ultraviolet radiation filtering through the earth's atmosphere, thus serving as indicators of ozone depletion. Astronomers could conceivably use Schetzina's invention to observe the behavior of distant stars. Additionally, in certain industries such as welding, cameras that record solely ultraviolet light may prove

helpful in refining the production process. Asked what the next stage of evolution for this technology would be, Schetzina claimed to be working on improving the resolution of the camera by constructing larger arrays of photodiodes. Describing the present quality of the UV images as "fairly coarse," Schetzina said "the future direction of this research is fairly clear." The full text of Schetzina's research is available on the Internet at <http://nsr.nij.mjr.org/449/>.

Flooding causes pollution problems

◆ Flooding from the monster storm is still creating pollution problems in the highly farmed areas along the east coast, though the flooding may have some benefits.

PETER GOODMAN
The Washington Post

As Hurricane Floyd swept through the Chesapeake Bay, it washed as much pollution-laden sediment into creeks and rivers as normally lands over the course of a year, burying fragile oyster beds and threatening seagrasses vital for young fish and crabs, scientists say.

But scientists cautioned that the Chesapeake, a vibrant system governed by crosscurrents of natural and human forces, rarely allows for tidy calculations of harm and benefit. The storm washed pollution off the land — much of it from chicken farms that dominate the Eastern Shore — but it also flushed algae out to sea, extinguishing a cycle of fish kills wrought by oxygen shortages, and probably ending the season's threat of outbreaks of the toxic microbe *Pfiesteria piscicida*. The fish-killing microbe feasts on algae.

Some oysters may suffocate under layers of silt, something authorities will be watching for when they begin surveying reefs later this month in preparation for October's commercial harvest. But some oysters may have taken relief from the rains, which lowered the high salinity that encourages oyster diseases.

"So many of these organisms are affected by so many different factors throughout the year," said Robert Magnien, a water quality expert with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "You really have to wait until all is said and done to tally up the

effects." So intense was the storm, so abundant its rains, that Maryland scientists on Friday recorded the second-highest flow ever on the Choptank River, a major bay tributary on the state's Eastern Shore.

Normally, 34 cubic feet of water slips down the Choptank every second. But a day after some nine inches of rain fell, the Choptank flowed at 6,420 cubic feet a second, according to the state's Department of Natural Resources — 189 times as much water as usual.

Donald Boesch, president of the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science, spent Thursday driving across the Eastern Shore.

"Let me tell you, I've never seen as much water running off the land," he said. "All of these creeks were absolutely full to the banks with turbid water. You could just see it, how much sediment was being washed off the land."

Of most immediate concern is the impact on seagrasses. Nurseries for fish and crabs, the grasses also nurture food for waterfowl.

Big storms have devastated seagrasses before. One, in August 1933, buried grasses in sediment, at a time when many already were thinning from disease.

"In seaside lagoons, where eelgrass was king, in 1934 there wasn't a speck of grass," said Robert J. Orth, a professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and a leading expert on seagrasses. "It was gone."

In 1972, Hurricane Agnes rumbled up the Atlantic and buried seagrasses in drifts of sediment. Cloudy water lingered for months. "There were huge losses of seagrasses that we've never really recovered from," Boesch said. Floyd arrived at a time of mounting concern over seagrasses. Although

grass beds have grown back nicely in some areas of the Chesapeake, particularly in the lower bay where high salinity favors them, grasses in Tangier Sound — prime crabbing grounds — have declined six years in a row. In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Bay Program announced the sound's grasses have receded 63 percent since 1992.

Whether Floyd significantly hurt seagrasses can't be known until next spring, the start of another season of growth, Orth said. Although it's reasonable to assume that some plants were washed away by wind-driven waves that hammered shallow areas, it's also possible the storm scattered seeds to places where the grasses have yet to recover, he added.

But Floyd clearly exacerbated the underlying trend that attacks seagrasses, oysters, crabs and most sea life: It dumped more nutrient pollutants in the water — excess nitrogen and phosphorus — thereby encouraging more algae which deny seagrasses the light they need to grow. Much food for algae washes down the Nanticoke and Pocomoke rivers from chicken farms in Maryland and Delaware, according to EPA data.

Many farmers spread chicken manure on their fields as fertilizer. But in key areas of the Eastern Shore, poultry production has exceeded the land's ability to absorb its waste. Soils are saturated with nutrients. When rains come, and as soils erode, some of the excess washes into the water.

Big storms are particularly effective polluters. While some of the effects are diluted by increased flows of water, the dominant factor is the extra pollution that a major storm washes in.

China-Taiwan split splits families

◆ The split between Communist and National forces did not only split an island from the mainland, but families as well.

MARGIE FARLEY
Los Angeles Times

TAIPEI, Taiwan — At the end of China's bloody civil war 50 years ago, Chen Hsiu-ying left Shanghai in a desperate hurry, carrying only a suitcase with a few silk dresses, some hidden gold and her 3-month-old son in her arms. She was certain she'd be back soon.

Chen and her soldier husband were fleeing with the defeated Nationalists to exile in Taiwan — an island across a narrow stretch of sea south of Shanghai. But it was only for a few years, they thought, until the Nationalist leaders could regroup and reclaim sovereignty over the mainland from the Communists. She had named her son Hu-sheng, characters meaning "prosperous Shanghai" — a reminder of the good life and the family she meant to return to.

Half a century later, Chen lives with her son and grandchildren in a Taipei house as large as the mansion her family lost to the Communists in Shanghai. The brother whom Chen left behind was sent to a labor camp because of his association with her and the Nationalists, and ended up a factory worker. Chen, now a vigorous 78, often thinks about the way things turned out. "When I left, I left my whole family behind," she says. "When I say 'home,' I still mean Shanghai."

Thus began the split that would divide families and a nation in a sustained competition for the right to be known as the one true China. It is a struggle still raging, and the division has defined lives on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

Like Chen's family, Taiwan and China have gone their separate ways in their five decades apart. Taiwan has a thriving free-market economy that far outpaces China's and a blooming democracy that makes citizens feel they would be taking a step backward to be under even nominally Communist rule. Taipei has given up the claim to govern all of China, but it demands a status equal to Beijing's. Beijing, recognized by most of the

world as the government of China, declares that if Taiwan moves toward independence, it will bring the island back to the motherland by force if necessary. In July, after Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui declared that Taiwan should have a "special state-to-state relationship" with China, the Chinese army scrambled to high alert, and recently Chinese jets ventured into Taiwanese airspace, raising tensions even higher.

As much as democratic Taiwan feels separate from the mainland's Communist Party-led government, there are still strong ties to the motherland. There are thousands of families like Chen's that span the strait, 55,000 marriages between mainlanders and Taiwanese, and at least \$30 billion in Taiwanese investment in China.

But there are still wide differences of opinion about where Taiwan belongs. In Taiwan, a series of polls has shown that a clear majority favors keeping relations the way they are, with gradual evolution toward either independence or reunification, depending on China's progress. In China, however, polls show that most people cannot fathom independence for Taiwan, which they regard as a province of the mainland.

Attitudes are divided by generation as well as by the strait. Chen's son, the baby named for Shanghai, is now a politician who thinks Taiwan should reunite with China. His daughter, in turn, isn't so sure.

In 1984, Chen finally saw her brother again after a 35-year separation, when the governments began to allow relatives to come back for visits to China.

"She visited us in our small public apartment, where some of us had to sleep on the floor, and she said, 'You really have suffered,'" nephew Yu says. "At that moment, I thought the mainland couldn't compare to Taiwan."

Yu looks around his new apartment in Shanghai, a two-bedroom flat with a television, a video disc player and a washing machine but no dryer; his wife rushes to pull in the laundry flapping outside the window as a rainstorm begins.

"Even now there's a gap. But we've had great changes here," Yu says. "China includes Taiwan, and Taiwan can't be separated from the mainland. The Chinese people won't allow that to happen. The government won't let it happen either — if Taiwan wants to split, the army has to attack."

"But I hope China will take back Taiwan in a peaceful way. I have relatives there."

In Taipei, legislator Fung Hu-sheng, 50, hasn't forgotten the city he was named for. He has visited the mainland and his relatives several times in the last decade, and was a guest philosophy professor at Beijing's prestigious Qinghua University.

Once a secretary to former Taiwanese President Chiang Kai-shek, he has made it his mission to find common ground for Taiwan and China.

"All people over there are also my people. They just belong to a different political system. We hope we can help them enjoy a better life, a democratic life, like us," he says in his legislative office.

"We hope for reunification, but the method should be peaceful and democratic. We don't want to be unified by force. We don't want to be governed by a communist system. I disagree with the Taiwan independence movement. It is dangerous and risky, and it could cause a civil war and bring the U.S. into it."

That is a sentiment he is trying to pass on to his daughter, Fung Fu-hua, 24, a sociology student at Taipei National University. But like many people of her generation, she was born in Taiwan and has no special nostalgia for or loyalty to the mainland. She feels that Taiwan is a separate country but that it isn't worth a war to prove that.

"I argue with my grandma every day about China," she says with a bright smile. "I think people who live in a democratic system can't live under communism. If Taiwan and China unify, it will be many, many years away."

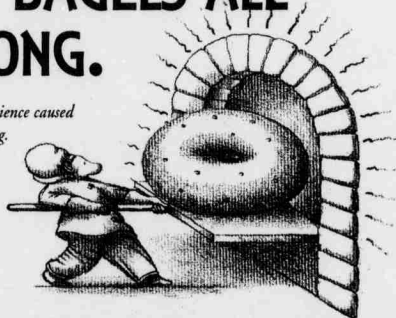
She concedes that her ideas may tilt more toward the West than toward the mainland, despite her father's efforts.

"I wanted to go to college in the United States, but my father wants me to live on this island and help fuel change in Taiwan," she says. "I don't really agree. It's a political idea. If you want to live a better life, you can't live in only a political way."

She has been to the mainland three times and visited her cousins in Shanghai twice. She says she wouldn't want to live there but respects her relatives for working to better their lives.

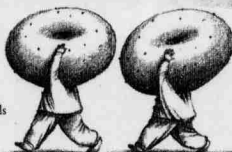
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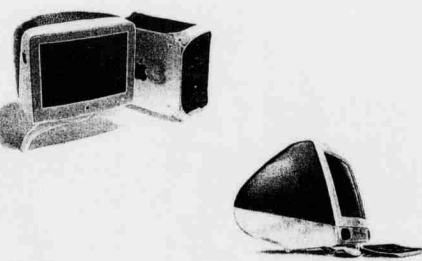
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DAVID KIM
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Heads up for your health

◆ What you Don't Know can Hurt you

You've heard of STDs like HIV, Syphilis, and Gonorrhea; how about Chlamydia? If you are like most people, you have very little knowledge or never even heard of the disease.

Chlamydia (Chlamydia Trachomatis) is the most common sexually transmitted disease among people in their twenties. It is caused by a bacterium that lives inside human cells and among the STDs mentioned, it is the most easily transmitted.

It is estimated that upon first exposure, 20% of men and 45% of women will contract the disease. And among patients with other STDs such as Gonorrhea, 25% of men and 30-50% of women also had Chlamydia. Upon infection, the bacterium can infect and cause irritation in the eyes, lungs, or the urogenital area depending on the age (risk factors increases for people in their late teens to mid twenties) and how the disease is transmitted. As with other STDs possible complications are greater for women than they are for men.

In woman, the bacterium can spread to the upper reproductive tract (the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries) and scar the fallopian tubes resulting in infertility.

In men, infection of the urethra is most common causing pain upon urination and a possible bladder infection. If contracted in pregnancy, the infection can pass the umbilical chord and infect the baby resulting in either conjunctivitis, infection of the surface of the eye (25% of the time), or pneumonia (10% of the time).

What makes Chlamydia such an elusive topic to the public is that most people (especially females) do not show any symptoms of the infection but are still able to transmit it to others. If symptoms are present, women may experience vaginal redness and discomfort or a clear vaginal discharge. Men may experience a similar clear discharge from the urethra. Depending on the extent of the infection, both men and women may also experience a low-grade fever.

As with most bacterial infections, Chlamydia can be cured by antibiotics. A one dose glass of Azithromycin in powder form is the most commonly prescribed, although there are also pills available that must be taken daily for one week; powder Azithromycin tends to be more expensive than the pill option. Upon treatment with antibiotics, patients should abstain from any sexual activity for one week, to allow the antibiotic time to kill off the infection. Doctors recommend screening for STDs every six months.

If you suspect that you have Chlamydia or just want to have a screening, see your doctor or contact the student health center. Abundant information is also available on the Internet and on the student pamphlets at the student health center.

For the

◆ Costner finds another winner in the sports world.

K. GAFFNEY
Features Editor

Go see this movie. If you like baseball, if you like love stories, if you like movies, go see this one.

In *For the Love of the Game*, Kevin Costner has found another hit baseball movie.

It is not *Field of Dreams* and it is not *Bull Durham*, but it is not *Tin Cup* either. The movie, which also stars Kelly Preston, is the best of both box-office worlds. It is a date movie, only in the sense that it appeals to romantics and sports fans alike.

The movie takes place in New York, where Costner, as aging pitching star Billy Chapel, is on a road trip as his Detroit Tigers take on the New York Yankees.

Throughout the movie, as Chapel hurls heat from the loneliest place in the world, Chapel's mind wanders back, reminiscing about his relationship with Preston's character, Jane.

In the movie throughout the course of the game, Chapel struggles with the knowledge that has been newly imparted to him that his team, which he has been with for 20 years since signing out of high school, has been sold and the new owners are talking about trading him and that his love, Jane has accepted a position in London, and is scheduled to fly overseas during the game.

The flashbacks focus on the highs, Billy's first encounter with Jane, and the lows, a career threatening injury.

It is not to say that the movie is not some what predictable. Happy endings abound.

It is not to say that the movie is not unnecessarily sappy at times.

But it is also not to say that there isn't great insight into what happens at the end of a career and the things that you find most important when your life, as you know it is being slowly taken away from you.

There is none of the lavishness that could be



Kevin Costner stars as Billy Chapel, an aging pitcher for the Detroit Tigers who faces losing his job, losing his love, and losing to the Yankees.

afforded to a big-time movie with big-time actors such as this one, surely all of the money went to renting out and lighting Yankee Stadium.

And if you are a New Yorker at heart, just the scenes of the city and "the house" make it worth the money and the trouble.

The supporting cast includes John C. Reilly (*The Thin Red Line* and *Boogie Nights*) and Jena Malone (*Stigmom* and *Contact*).

The screenplay for *For the Love of the Game*

was adapted by *City of Angels* writer Dana Stevens, from a manuscript written by Michael Shaara. Shaara, the mind behind the civil-war based epic *Killer Angels*, wrote the text before his death in 1998. It was his son Jeff that found the manuscript amongst his father's works.

Go see it.

And when you do, watch for the random N.C. State reference.



Kelly Preston stars along side Kevin Costner in *For the Love of the Game*.

Know your supplements

◆ Plain Facts about Ginkgo Biloba

With the increasing rise of health care costs, the popularity of herbal remedies has been greater than ever.

There are hundreds of herbal remedies available in the market offer treatments for virtually all physical and psychological ailments but the one herb that has gained tremendous popularity with students and peoples over the age of fifty is Ginkgo Biloba.

Claimed to increase concentration and memory, the herb is commonly used to improve grades and treat the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease.

According to the September issue of Time, "Memory and Concentration Formula" marketed by Bayer Consumer Care alone took in \$8 million dollars. Bayer is just one of many companies marketing Ginkgo; the herb alone makes up approximately a \$240 million dollar a year industry. So what exactly is Ginkgo Biloba?

Historically Ginkgo has its roots in Eastern China,

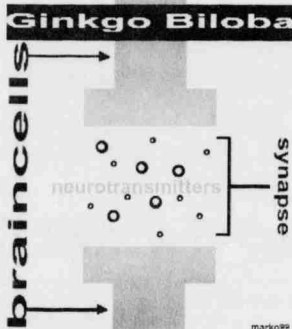
found as decoration in Buddhist temples of China and Japan due to the plant's aesthetically pleasant appearance. The Chinese and Japanese used it to treat asthma, indigestion, and even as a cure for drunkenness.

The medicinal parts of the plant are the dried leaves and the seeds separated from its fleshy outer capsule.

Ginkgo supposedly works by increasing the blood flow to the brain and has the effect of thinning the blood, stimulating the release of neurotransmitters (the brain chemicals that serves as signals between brain cells), and increasing the brain's uptake of sugar (the brain lives exclusively on a type of sugar called glucose).

In theory, all this translates into increased alertness, memory, and concentration. Memory is a result of communications

between brain cells; Ginkgo is supposed to make those communications, in a sense, louder in volume and longer in duration by making brain cells release more neurotransmitters. Although some users swear by it, the advertised benefits of Ginkgo have not been scientifically proven.



Dr. Ronald Petersen, a neuroscientist at the Mayo Clinic warns: "Most of these products have not been investigated to any significant extent that would warrant the claims that are being made." Many researchers believe that the claimed benefits of the herb is the placebo effect, claiming that a

sugar pill would work just as well.

There is also the possibility of drug interactions; since Ginkgo is a blood-thinner, taking it with other blood thinners like aspirin, could cause internal bleeding, especially for women. Another fact to consider is that like other herbal medications, Ginkgo is not regulated and tested by the FDA, making the quality, and the dosage of actual-Ginkgo present in the products advertised by the various manufacturers questionable.

The verdict on Ginkgo is uncertain without any definitive scientific evidence. But if your goal is to increase memory and concentration, there are proven ways to do it. Doctors recommend: 1) abundant antioxidants (especially vitamins E and C) that protect brain cells from day to day wear and tear. 2) aerobic exercise, which is proven to enhance memory retention, although no one seems to be clear why. 3) mental exercise—because even though it is a cliché, the brain is like a muscle, the more you work out the better it will perform (try reading books and solving difficult puzzles).

America the beautiful: Lassiter takes on Miss America

DONNIE LASSITER
Staff Columnist

The "Miss America" Pageant. What a joke.

I was flipping through the television channels Saturday night and stumbled across the revelry of the nationally known pageant and decided to stop for a minute and check it out.

As I sat there listening to the contestants and their verbose comments about how they want to save the whales and put an end to famine everywhere, I nearly rolled onto the floor laughing. Did these women seriously expect the viewers, or the judges, for that matter, to believe their puffed-up remarks and lofty ambitions? I think not. More importantly, did the judges expect me to believe that the woman who would eventually be crowned "Miss America" would be a realistic representation of the female population of the United States? Again, I doubt it.

You see, they don't call it the "Miss Ugly-As-Hell-But-Still-Wants-To-Save-The-World Pageant." They call it

the "Miss America Pageant," supposedly designed to determine the most talented, spirited and beautiful woman from across the United States. One would think that the criteria for determining such a well-rounded representative of American women would have something to do with intelligence, virtues, morals, religion, family ideals and things of that nature. Not with what you look like in a bathing suit, whether you can tap dance or how close you can come to shattering a wineglass.

If I were a woman, I think I would be pretty mad at the whole procedure and idea behind the pageant. It seems that women are still being viewed in the same way as they always have been, as objects that serve the purpose of entertaining and delighting the eye, but nothing more than that. If you think back through history, it's easy to see that women have certainly had more of an influence on American society and life in general than just sitting there and looking pretty.

Don't get me wrong here—I like attractive women just as much as women like attractive men—but to

reduce the importance of women to the degree that beauty pageants do seems like a horrible form of ignorance. Throughout this country's history, women have fought and died for the same ideals as their male counterparts have. They have seen the country through tough times, they have been emotional rocks for their families to lean on, and they have facilitated the development of their children's lives. They have been responsible for great scientific achievements, civil rights amendments, incredible business ventures, equality under the law and a host of other societal issues.

I don't mean to sound like one of those psychotic women's rights activists, because I can assure you there is nothing I despise more than an overzealous and angry woman who thinks that she must have someone's blood to be happy. And I also don't want to come across as one of those people who fight for a cause so fervent to them that they have no business saying anything in the first place. What I do want to say is that I find it hard to believe that women have tolerated the "Miss America" spectacle all these

years.

Women are quick to jump on the offensive against Playboy and the supposedly degrading things it does to the female gender, but I have to remind you that Playboy isn't a committee out to crown a "Miss America." Playboy is a business out to make money by selling what sells. The majority of men out there want to see beautiful women, and Hugh Hefner wants to be rich. Both parties seem to benefit from that process.

But the people putting on the pageant really have nothing to gain from the whole show. There is no societal value to it, nor is it something that will make someone rich. The only benefit I see for anyone is that one network gets higher ratings than the others for one night. Aside from that, it's simply a game that they play to parade some girls around the stage and put a crown on one of their heads. Sure it's a great ego-booster for the one who wins, but that seems like an unfair trade-off for the image that it gives women.

Maybe I'm being arrogant here, but I think that other people see the worthlessness of the thing and would agree

with me if they'd take a minute to think about it. My suggestion on the whole mess would be to eliminate the beauty factor from the pageant. Or at least make it something that accounts for less. You can't tell me that the woman who wins is qualified or competent enough to be a national representative of females as someone who may not be so attractive. That would be sort of like choosing the winner of the Super Bowl based on who's got the coolest uniforms.

Think about it—if you get a gunshot wound in the chest, you don't stroll into the hospital looking for the hottest doctor to crack that thing open and get you working again, do you? You look for the most skilled doctor, regardless of gender and regardless of physical appearance. Likewise, you don't see the Nobel Prize committee interviewing their nominees in bikinis, do you? They choose the winners based on their contributions to society and the benefits that their work holds for people everywhere.

I could be wrong about this, but I seem to recall that, some time ago, the people who make Barbie Dolls revised

her looks—I think they made her a brunette, changed her measurements to something a little more believable and took away the glitzy glamour-filled crap she wore. I may have been dreaming all that, but even if they didn't do it, it seems like it would have been a pretty good idea.

It just seems very clear to me that beauty is too overrated in so many ways in this country. To have Baywatch and Playboy out there doesn't do anything to help, but to hold a national contest to find the most attractive woman to put a crown on makes the image that this country has even more tarnished. But then again, we live in a country that has a liar for president where you can get sued for pulling someone out of a burning building. Maybe a bad image is to be expected here.

Comments may be directed to jdlassiter@uncc.edu. Just please don't put Donnie's name on any women's liberation or femi-Nazi E-mail lists. He thanks you in advance.

JOE KINNEY
Guest Columnist

As a former mental health professional who worked for a clinic that offered treatment for substance abuse, I am intrigued by this year's presidential campaign. What intrigues me is that Republican Senators are speaking out in defense of candidate George W. Bush's alleged prior use of illicit drugs. These Senators say that such prior experimentation with illicit drugs by a presidential candidate does not disturb them and that it should not be an issue in the campaign.

I beg to differ. I find it disturbing that politicians who make laws responsible for tens of thousands of drug addicts being locked up in prison as criminals, say that if a person tries drugs and is lucky enough not become seriously addicted and, therefore, a chronic substance abuser, he is qualified to become president. But, if a person tries drugs and is unlucky enough to become seriously addicted and a chronic substance abuser, he should be regarded as a criminal and be incarcerated.

Medical science shows that a person has no control over his or her susceptibility to addiction. The susceptibility of a person to become addicted to a substance appears to be dependent on physiological traits of the person and may have a genetic basis. People who become addicted to a substance often find they cannot quit their substance abuse, no matter how hard they try. Their continued use of a substance is therefore properly viewed to be more of an involuntary act than a voluntary act.

The only truly criminal act such people are guilty of is the experimentation with drugs for the first time in their lives. In the event that they become addicted, all subsequent use of the drug is properly viewed to be largely involuntary in nature. But, this first use of drugs which drug addicts are guilty of is exactly the same voluntary crime candidate Bush is allegedly guilty of. On a voluntary basis, drug addicts in prison are guilty of doing nothing different from what candidate Bush did.

So, for the millions of people who once experimented with illicit

drugs, their fates, in a criminal respect, totally depend on luck. If they are not susceptible to addiction, they will likely quit using drugs at some point in time and can expect to be allowed to hold the highest office in the land. But if they are susceptible to addiction, they can expect to become chronic substance abusers and be consistently vulnerable to being arrested and incarcerated.

In my view, current drug laws are the single most unjust laws enacted by the American government since the Civil War. They exonerate the lucky who do not become addicted

to controlled substances after experimenting with them, and they punish the unlucky who become addicted. Luck controls the fate of the first-time drug user.

Then, there is the impact drug laws have on the integrity of our government. Current drug laws often dissuade honest men and women from pursuing political office if they once tried drugs. Meanwhile, drug laws have invited the single most blatant liars to ever walk the earth to pursue political office.

Such people have no qualms about falsely denying previous drug use. They also are comfortable lying under oath, lying to the entire world public and lying constantly in order to achieve political goals.

Current drug laws are an anathema to the nation.

George Bush, cocaine and good luck

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Opinion

Technician's View Online with the VAC

◆ The 1999-2000 school year marks the launch N.C. State's Virtual Advising Center and a new era in college advising.

The extended games of telephone tag, the endless virtual paper trails left by unanswered E-mail, the disappointment of not getting those precious digits in time to fill a schedule...all of these hardships will soon become fading memories.

No N.C. State has not revolutionized dating; the administration has, however, revitalized its advising system in an effort to get more information to more students.

For the last two years, Student Government and the university have worked on developing an on-line advising center that would be available to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That work has paid off with the initiation of the Virtual Advising Center (VAC) at the beginning of the current semester.

The VAC's Web page, www.ncsu.edu/advising_central, has links to pages offering degree requirements, a "Virtual Adviser" question-and-answer forum, "A Virtual Guide to Success at N.C. State," a "Frequently Asked Questions" section and contact information on advisors in every college.

The page also contains links to information on existing university web pages.

The VAC page will obviously benefit students, but former Coordinator of Advising for the College of Management Andrea Irbly expressed interest in helping professors, too: "We believe the information we provide will help faculty in working with advisees or students in their classes."

The page itself has a user-friendly layout, with clearly labeled links and easy-to-follow instructions on the linked pages. They offer comprehensive contact information, giving names, office locations, phone and fax numbers and E-mail addresses of advisors in each college.

NCSU is the first university in the region to offer such an exhaustive Internet advising system.

According to Irbly, other schools offer web pages, but none have the level of interactivity of the VAC.

The idea and implementation of the VAC are a move forward for an advising system that too frequently leaves students—particularly new students—directionless in times of academic turnover. Faculty members are busy, often too busy for maintaining their advising duties. Hopefully, those professors who do not do not make themselves available to advisees will take Irbly's advice and make use of the VAC to polish their advising skills.

That the university is willing to make changes in the advising system, particularly changes that place it at the national forefront, speaks volumes about its commitment to the students.

CAMPUS FORUM

More response on gay rights

Editor's Note: Due to the nature and content of this letter, the Technician editorial board has waived the word limit.

This letter is in response to Mr. Nathan Gay's letter in the September 14 edition of the Technician. Although he made several good points, parts of his letter seem poorly supported or mistaken.

According to my dictionary, a martyr can be someone who chooses to die rather than denouncing religious beliefs, one who sacrifices for a cause, or one who suffers greatly. Although Matthew Shepard is a martyr in the sense that he suffered greatly, his martyrdom does not belong to the same category as Rosa Parks or Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who chose to endure strict civil penalties for their beliefs. I don't know of any homosexuals who have protested unjust laws by breaking them and then living with the penalties. Someone like that would, in my opinion, be a truer martyr than someone like Rodney King or Matthew Shepard.

Although I couldn't find anything documenting discrimination by Cracker Barrel, I assume that the situation is as Mr. Gay described it. As such, although it may be deplorable that Cracker Barrel discriminates against homosexuals in this way, it is perfectly defensible. There are laws against homosexuality in most states, which makes homosexuals, in those states, criminals. It is perfectly legal (and, some would argue, good) to discriminate against criminals. Whether homosexuality should be legal is an entirely different point, and one that Mr. Gay does not address. The question is not "Why should we consider homosexuals human?" but "Why shouldn't we consider homosexuals criminals?" I have yet to hear a definite response to this question, although it seems overdue.

I disagree entirely with Mr. Gay's response to the fourth issue. Homosexuals are equal under the law. Murder of homosexuals is prosecuted; they are not segregated in schools and they can own firearms, to list some basic rights. All basic rights available to heterosexuals are available to homosexuals. They can even marry (despite what Mr. Gay's letter states),

although not someone of the same sex. You also can't marry a chair, a horse, a child or several people at once. If you want that changed (legally, I hasten to add, since there are many religious organizations that will marry same-sex couples), then you need to have a good reason. And if religious beliefs (protected by the Bill of Rights) are not a good enough reason to support polygamy, why should marriage be extended to same-sex marriages merely because a small minority of the population wants it that way? Similar to the question at the end of the last paragraph, I have not heard a good answer to this question.

Based on the position of many pro-homosexual organizations, it seems that homosexuals do want special rights. The most flagrant example of this is the movement toward hate-crime legislation. Such laws make it worse to kill a homosexual than a heterosexual. Is my life any less important than a homosexual's, merely because of my sexual orientation? If not, then what is the point of hate-crime legislation? This is favoritism at its worst. Murder is murder and should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, no matter who the victim happens to be.

Finally, I would like to quibble over Mr. Gay's language. This may seem trivial, but words can show a lot about the thoughts behind them. In particular, Mr. Gay wrote that "[homosexuals] can push for laws that say [homosexuals] are just as human as [heterosexuals]." This is flawed reasoning, as far as I'm concerned. Laws don't say anything about humanity. Laws punish certain types of behavior. They make no statements about the relative humanity of the person acting. Under the law, any homosexual is human, without consideration for race, religion, color, gender, sexual preference, intelligence or anything else. What Mr. Gay seems to want is to make it legal for homosexuals to act in a way that is natural to them. I'm sure that any axe murderer, thief or polygamist would love to be able to act in a way that comes natural to them. In order to change our laws, homosexuals need a better reason than that it's natural to them. If you do have one, Mr. Gay (or anyone else), I urge you to make yourself heard.

William Emigh
Junior
College of Engineering

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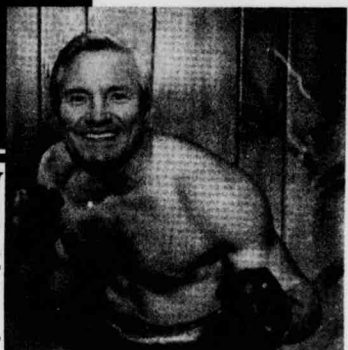


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The fall of our language

JIMMY BYRYS
Opinion Editor

What has happened to the English language?

I find myself asking...well, myself...that question more and more frequently with each passing day. From newspapers and magazines to essays and novels, I've found more and more writers eschewing the basic fundamentals taught them by blue-haired English teachers back when bag lunches were an indicator of personal value and identification came largely from grade level.

What really distresses me, however, is the fact that a lot of these mistakes have become accepted as correct. I have personally pinpointed two particular errors that have wormed their way into the realm of proper English.

The last comma. Where did the last comma in a series go? Up until about my freshman year here at N.C. State, whenever you had three or more items in a series, you set them off with commas. That included a comma before the conjunction (generally "and" or "or"). Anything less resulted in a deflating reduction in grade.

But now? Now, I'm the idiot when I add the third comma (and, quite possibly, on other occasions). I worked for a newspaper at home this past summer and the single most frequent mistake I textbook every written was on my side, but the edi-

tor and the standards of modern English were against.

Let's practice our fundamentals together. Say it with me: "I went to the store this morning for eggs, beer, (now pause for a second...gather yourself and enjoy the peaceful respite that last comma brings) and oatmeal." Was that so bad?

Moving right along... "Once the mother (or the father, granddaddy, or third cousin, depending on your perspective) of all grammar errors. It was once imperative for a writer not to let anything come between his "to" and his "let."

But now? Now, to not cause any hardship for the author, split infinitives are allowed, almost encouraged on occasion.

When I turned in my first college paper last year, I noticed in my final (and futile) on-my-way-to-class proof that I had split an infinitive. I held my paper until the end of class, letting my anxiety over the massive impending point deduction grow to preposterous levels. After the other students filed out, I peeled my paper from my sweaty palm, handed it to the professor and told her of my grievous grammar blunder.

"Oh, that's no big deal, Jimmy."
"No big deal?" I don't like the idea of differing with an English professor, but I was shocked. Sure, going to college meant facing a lot of changes: living with someone for the first time, not having my parents sleeping soundly in the

room down the hall, and very carefully inspecting the toilet seat before sitting down, to name a few. But did the English language actually change during the summer after my senior year of high school?

The only answer to that question is a resounding "NO." But that still leaves yet another question: why did English change?

I see two possible answers. Either the English language has gotten too big for its britches and needs to take a trip behind the linguistic wash-dish or the language's writers have become so lackadaisical with their prose that errors no longer matter.

Regardless of the case, I can no longer maintain my servitude to a language gone awry. No more will I turn the other cheek and remove the final comma simply because everyone else is doing it. Never again will I lazily avoid printing a revised copy of a paper because a split infinitive "isn't a big deal."

From this day forward, I declare a one-man war on the modern English language. And I intend not to let any ifs, ands, or buts stand in my way.

Jimmy apologizes for the nature of this column. He is but a vessel for his compulsive need to have correct grammar in his life. If you have any comments for this anal (aspiring, but undeclared) English major, send them to jbyrys@unity.ncsu.edu.

Classified information and the state of the ESA

ANDREW PAYNE
Staff Columnist

In today's column, Andrew Payne explores two topics, a Technician classified concerning the maturity level of frat boys and his visit to the new Entertainment and Sports Arena.

In last Tuesday's Technician, I happened to stumble upon a very intriguing and rather unusual classified ad.

"I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the maturity among fraternity BOYS," began the rambling of this extra-long classified ad. Apparently the classified "advertiser" intended to humiliate her roommate's ex-frat boyfriend, which seems like the most logical explanation.

Why would anyone take the time and spend the money to air personal issues in a public medium? I am in no way endorsing the apparent-

ly illegal actions cited in the ad, which include the taping of sexual encounters. One must always be careful when making blank statements, a fact it seems that this advertiser overlooked, even though she proclaimed that "this letter is not intended to berate or demean fraternities in general."

Whether you side with the author and agree with her statements, such as "we all know that paying for friends is a valuable social tool," I question her motive and maturity. I actually applaud her for her act, but her content in going after someone in the student newspaper is rather, well, immature.

One might go so far as to believe that the author's roommate may no longer trust the author, having betrayed her roommate's secrecy. This past Sunday, I had the opportunity to tour the new Entertainment and Sports Arena with the N.C. State Chapter of the Associated General Contractors.

From the beginning, I have been a staunch opponent of the ESA. Pig Dome, Money Pit or whatever term you may use. But I cannot help being impressed with the 750,000-square-foot facility. With state-of-the-art training, locker and press rooms, it is what every improving/winning basketball program needs, especially in recruiting the top basketball prospects in the nation.

Unfortunately, it lacked one important ingredient: it did not feel like it belonged to N.C. State University. No one can argue that Reynolds Coliseum isn't 100 percent N.C. State Wolfpack.

I am also going to have to agree with my colleague Natalie Duggins, who wrote in yesterday's Technician, "If it ain't Wolfpack red, I don't want it." It may have just been me or the lack of natural lighting; I did not see enough red, especially on the outside. The architects did do a great job

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Technician (USPS 455-070) is the official student-run newspaper of N.C. State University and is published every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the academic year from August through May except during holidays and examination periods. Copyright © 1999 by the Student Media Authority. All rights reserved. To receive permission for reproduction, please write the Editor in Chief. Subscription cost is \$75 per year. Printed by Burlington Times-News, Burlington, N.C.



*Sharon Manning
named
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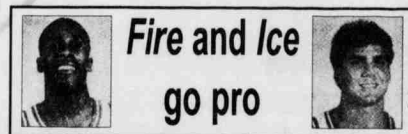


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