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# Tuesday November 2, 1999 TECHNICIAN

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

Today



Hi 70  
Lo 64

Tomorrow



Hi 54  
Lo 50

## In the NEWS

### Applicants sought for Goldwater Scholarships

N.C. State invites qualified students to apply for the Goldwater Scholarships, a prestigious national scholarship program created to attract students into careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering. Students selected to receive the scholarships, which have a value of up to \$7,500 annually, are expected to pursue advanced degrees. Strong candidates will exhibit a commitment and potential to make a significant contribution to his or her field of study and generally will have demonstrated significant research experience. Seven NCSU students have been selected as Goldwater Scholars since 1995.

A faculty committee will review all applications and nominate four NCSU students for consideration by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. To be eligible, a candidate must be a full-time sophomore or junior, have a GPA of at least a 3.0 and be in the top quarter of the class, and be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or resident alien.

Information about the scholarship is on the Web at [www.acf.org/goldwater/index.html](http://www.acf.org/goldwater/index.html). Interested students may contact N. Alexander Miller III at 515-2835 or alex\_miller@ncsu.edu, or may pick up an application in 102 Sullivan Hall. Completed applications must be returned to 102 Sullivan Hall no later than 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29.

## NATIONAL

### How sleep deficit affects the body

Scientists have long known that a lack of sleep adversely affects the human brain. But the body has been another matter. Now, researchers at the University of Chicago have found evidence that a sleep deficit has negative effects on the body as well. Karine Spiegel and colleagues carefully studied the bodily functions of 11 young men as they got various amounts of sleep. The researchers found changes when the men had little sleep, including levels of glucose in their blood shooting up and concentrations of a key thyroid hormone falling. "Sleep debt has a harmful impact on carbohydrate metabolism and endocrine function," the researchers wrote in the Oct. 23 issue of *The Lancet*. "The effects are similar to those seen in normal aging and, therefore, sleep debt may increase the severity of age-related chronic disorders."

## WORLD

### In Norway, Clinton lobbies for Mideast peace

President Clinton met separately with Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Monday and urged both men to use this week's Middle East summit to build momentum toward settlement of the major unresolved issues of the Oslo Peace Accords. The president, the Israeli premier, the Palestinian leader and a roster of other world figures - including Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin - gathered in this bustling Nordic capital for a two-day commemoration of the life of Yitzhak Rabin, the peace-minded Israeli prime minister who was assassinated four years ago this week.

Clinton warned the swarming global press corps here that "I don't think you should expect some sort of major announced breakthrough" to come out of this week's session. But he was urging the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to settle in for serious talks on such divisive points as Palestinian statehood and the status of Jerusalem.

## N.C. State student group reaches out to entrepreneurs

◆ N.C. State students and faculty have begun promotion of the University Entrepreneurs Network, which encourages networking and provides entrepreneurial education

RYAN ARUNT  
Staff Writer

Entrepreneurship, an area ignored for the most part by College of

Management course developers, is blossoming on its own under the leadership of several committed N.C. State students and faculty.

Spurred on by the marketability of many NCSU-based technological innovations, as well as Raleigh's status as a hotbed for start-up activity, these individuals have created what they hope will function as an umbrella organization for the hosts of young entrepreneurial clubs sprouting up around campus.

"We're doing our best to link all

these different efforts so we can better promote entrepreneurship on campus," said Randall Parnell, chairman of the NCSU Entrepreneurial Speaker Series and leader in the effort to promote student involvement in start-ups.

Parnell, a junior in Business Management, noted that, while significant administration support has gone toward promoting actual business start-ups, little attention has been paid to the preparation of students for an entrepreneurial career.

In this spirit, several concerned students and faculty have begun promotion of the University Entrepreneurs Network (UEN), an organization designed to help coordinate all entrepreneurial-related activities on campus. According to Parnell, the club exists to link resources and encourage networking, but also to inform students that entrepreneurial education is available at NCSU.

Involved students can, through the resources of the UEN, attend

workshops and seminars as well as learn about other related opportunities, such as meeting successful Triangle business people and obtaining internships in young, dynamic companies, important in a field where most learning comes from doing.

Though Parnell works primarily on the Entrepreneurial Speaker Series, he is quick to reveal his ambition for business ingenuity on

See UEN, Page 2

## Students launch new publication

### Americana

A Journal of Ideas. Published by the Students of NC State University

October 19, 1999  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Departments  
The Front Page  
News & Opinion  
Features  
Humor & Creativity  
Editor's Page

Information  
About Americana  
Meet Our Staff  
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Submissions  
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"My religion is to search for truth in life and life in truth..."  
— Miguel de Unamuno

NC STATE UNIVERSITY  
Sponsored by the Issues and Ideas Committee of the Union Activities Board

### The Front Page

#### Welcome to Americana!

#### THE INAUGURAL EDITION

### News and Opinion

#### Solution One: White Paint

Overview and commentary on the situation in East Timor.

#### Lawn Party and Senate: One Senator's Perspective

Why the furor over Student Senate and funding for the Lawn Party is misguided.

### Features

#### An Existentialist Approach to Truth and Meaning

Tackling the central question of existentialist philosophy -- what is the purpose of human existence?

#### Tribute to Dr. Richard L. Porter

In honor of the Assistant Dean of Engineering that touched so many of us.

### Creativity and Humor

#### A Few Words From Satan

A screenshot from Americana shows the diversity of the topics found in the publication.

◆ N.C. State's new online journal hopes to encourage students to openly express their views and, in turn, enhance the intellectual atmosphere on campus

EMILY TOWNLEY  
Senior Staff Writer

The first issue of "Americana," the online journal of news, features, editorials and creative writing sponsored by the Issues and Ideas Committee of the Union Activities Board (UAB) is now available to students, staff and faculty at N.C. State.

According to Tomás Carbonell, editor-in-chief of "Americana," the idea for the journal was sparked last March, when he and current staff members discussed ideas for motivating and challenging students at NCSU to think about and discuss controversial issues.

Carbonell said he agreed to serve on the Issues and Ideas Committee, and he and other committee members decided to incorporate the journal into the activities and programs the group sponsors each year. Three committee members currently serve on the staff of "Americana," Carbonell said.

According to Carbonell, the mission of the Issues and Ideas Committee is to "provide forums for students to stir up ideas, create controversy and practice discussing their ideas and views." The UAB apportions funds to each of its committees for planning events, speakers and projects. "Americana" is one such project the committee adopted for this academic year.

"Americana" is the perfect extension of the Issues and Ideas Committee. We see "Americana" as a platform, an open forum instituted for carrying out the mission of the committee," Carbonell said. "We are not dictated, though, by anyone within the committee."

The online journal is a monthly publication with departments for news and opinion, features, humor and creativity, and editor's comments. In addition, the "Americana" Web site offers information about the publication and its staff, as well as information regarding subscriptions, submissions and contacting the staff.

The objectives of the journal are to "inform the campus community of issues and concepts that affect our lives in both overt and subtle ways and promise to shape our futures" and to "contribute to the creation of more dynamic, vibrant and rigorous intellec-

tual atmosphere on the N.C. State campus," according to information posted on the journal's Web site. Additionally, the staff intends "to heighten awareness and appreciation of the arts and letters at N.C. State."

"We are doing things that are not being done by any publication on campus," Carbonell said. "We see it as an addition in terms of what N.C. State offers on campus."

According to Carbonell, the "Americana" staff plans to publish issues once per month for the remainder of this academic year, and to register as an independent student organization and look for other sources of funding for subsequent years.

"Next year's Issues and Ideas committee may not want to do it, but we want to make sure that it will be around even after this year," Carbonell said. "I plan to keep on writing for as long as I can."

Carbonell, who was pleased with the first issue, expressed concern that the journal was "a bit too liberal." The staff, he said, "hopes to have a greater diversity of political views in the future."

Feedback has been very positive.

See New, Page 2

## A nice day to read...



As the seasons fade, many mainstays of campus, such as this statue behind Broughton Hall, will remain unchanged.

## A brain ailment breakthrough

◆ Rodolfo Llinas and his colleagues at the N.Y. University School of Medicine have developed a theory that could lead to new ways to treat various brain problems, including novel drugs, surgeries and even implanting the equivalent of pacemakers in the brain

ROB STEIN  
The Washington Post

Scientists have proposed a provocative new theory that may help explain brain ailments as diverse as Parkinson's disease and depression. The uncontrollable body movements of Parkinson's, the psychic agony of depression, the maddening ringing in the ears of tinnitus and a host of other neurological and psychiatric ailments may all be caused by the electrical misfirings of two key parts of the brain, according to the theory.

"What we have discovered is a whole new syndrome," said Rodolfo Llinas of New York University School of Medicine, who outlined his theory last week at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Miami.

The new theory could provide insight into why people with various brain problems appear to improve after undergoing certain types of brain surgery. It could also lead to new ways to treat such problems, including novel drugs, surgeries and even implanting the equivalent of pacemakers in the brain, he said.

"This could be very exciting," said Llinas, who also published evidence supporting his theory in last week's issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"This means that we are going to understand a whole lot of neurology and psychology that didn't make sense before," said Llinas, chairman of the department of physiology and neuroscience, in a telephone interview. "We may be able to design better drugs. Or perhaps through surgery. We now know the issue is to break that low frequency."

Other researchers, while saying more research is needed

See Brain, Page 2

## Wofpack men take fifth straight ACC title



Monday at Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill, the Wofpack men's cross country team scored a near-perfect 16 points en route to its fifth consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference title. Senior Chan Pons won the men's individual title while junior Christy Nichols won the women's individual title. The women finished second to UNC-Chapel Hill. More information on page 6.

James Beiter/Hall

## Fashionable...

and it last longer than those new jeans you bought. Diseases aren't cool, See A&E.



## Ehh Boo-boo!

What if TV stars of the '70s and '80s worked in Public Safety? See Today's Cartoon to find out.



## O'Cain stresses Terps

Wofpack head coach, Mike O'Cain calls Maryland "biggest game of the year." See Sports.

## New

Continued from Page 1.

according to Carbonell. The Web site has received roughly 500 hits, including hits from France and Germany as well as from other schools in the UNC system.

Carbonell hopes to incorporate into future issues a reader's forum section, much like that published daily in "Technician," in which readers express their thoughts on the journal and local political issues.

John Borwick, co-editor of the

creativity and humor section of "Americana" and one of the creators of the publication, sees the journal as "a good way for students to have the opportunity to express themselves on a more regular basis" than they can through media such as "Windhover," which publishes once each academic year.

Borwick wishes to develop a substantial humor section for future issues and plans on personally contributing to the news and opinion section. His future goals also include increasing to biweekly publication.

"We're looking for creative people who think they're funny,"

Borwick said. "We want to provide a forum so that anyone can express themselves - not just students."

Work in the humor section is published anonymously, according to Borwick. Topics covered in the first issue of "Americana" ranged from Republicans' plans to fund social security to the debate over creationism in the classroom.

"I hope that we can build on what we have and strengthen what we have in the future," Carbonell said.

For more information, or to read the first issue of "Americana," consult its Web site at [www.americana.ncu.edu](http://www.americana.ncu.edu).

## UEN

Continued from Page 1

campus.

"I would love to see a business concentration in entrepreneurship," Parnell said. "It would be a perfect fit for N.C. State's other outreach related activities."

And while that dream remains

unrealized as yet, his speaker series, developed last semester with fellow students Tim King and Damon Hughes, has already succeeded in bringing significant entrepreneurial talent to campus. So far, the speaker series has hosted a variety of successful area business people, including programmer Donnie Barnes from Microsoft nemesis Red Hat, and Chris Evans, an area executive responsible for promoting Triangle start-up com-

panies DaVinci and Accipiter.

The series' sponsor, the UEN, is attempting to capture and nourish campus interest in the subject by also hosting a Career Planning workshop November 12 and 13.

"Success isn't something that just happens to you," Parnell quipped. "You have to work at it and plan for it." For information on the UEN or the Entrepreneurial Speaker Services, visit [www.ncsu.edu/stud\\_orgs/uen](http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/uen).

## Brain

Continued from Page 1

to confirm Llinas's theory, said the findings are provocative. "I think it's a very important contribution, for a number of reasons," said Edward Jones, director of the center for neuroscience at the University of California at Davis and president of the Society for Neuroscience. "This is not something coming out of left field. It's building upon a very good basis of fundamental knowledge. It represents a synthesis and an interpretation that some of us hadn't really thought of before."

Llinas and his colleagues unveiled the theory after using a technique called magnetoencephalography (MEG) to study the electrical firings of

the brains of nine healthy people and compare them with nine people suffering from brain problems as diverse as Parkinson's, depression, tinnitus and unexplained pain.

The people with brain problems showed a distinctive abnormal pattern of electrical activity that Llinas called "thalamic-cortical dysrhythmia" because it involves apparent misfirings in parts of the brain called the thalamus and the cerebral cortex.

The thalamus is a clump of cells deep inside the brain that serves as a kind of relay station for almost all the information coming into the brain. The cerebral cortex is the part of the brain involved in perception, thought and recognition of information.

Llinas had previously shown that when people are awake and alert, their thalamus and cortex fire in synchrony at a high frequency, creating consciousness. When people sleep, the fir-

ings are at a low frequency.

In the new research, Llinas and his colleagues found that parts of the thalamus in people with brain problems had electrical firings of unusually low frequency even though they were awake. It was as if parts of their brains were asleep. "Something very clearly was happening. There was a complete change in the baseline frequency," he said.

The misfiring in the thalamus appears to cause part of the cortex to then misfire in a low frequency, which then causes other parts of the cortex to fire at a high frequency, Llinas said. The result is that messages in the brain are scrambled, causing various symptoms. The precise result of that scrambling depends on exactly which part of the thalamus is misfiring, Llinas said.

For example, Parkinson's patients experience damage to another part of the brain, which appears to cause part of the thalamus to misfire, resulting in faulty messages to the cortex and the symptoms of the disease.

When the misfiring occurs in a slightly different part of the thalamus, it causes depression. And so on for myriad other neurological problems, perhaps including psychiatric illnesses such as schizophrenia and obsessive-compulsive disorder, Llinas said.

"The beautiful thing about the Llinas paper is that one kind of synchrony entrains another, and the principle behind the recent findings is that if somehow or other this entrainment gets out of whack, then you're going to get symptoms that manifest in many different states," Jones said. "If we can consider that these two things get jumbled up, depending on which part of the thalamus is out of kilter with the whole, then you get these different manifestations."

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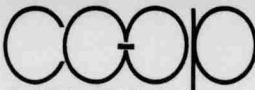
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**EATON** - Wednesday, November 3, 1999; CPE/CSC/EE/IE/ME Majors with GPA's 2.8 or above

**ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (John H. Kerr Reservoir)** - Thursday, November 4, 1999; FOR/NRM/PRT/SCO\_SF/W/ Majors with GPA's 3.0 or above

**NEW PORT NEWS SHIP BUILDING** - Friday, November 5, 1999; CPE/NE/CE/CSC/EE/IE/ME Majors with GPA's 2.6 or above

**ERICSSON** - Friday, November 5, 1999; ME Majors with GPA's 2.5 or above

**PHILIP MORRIS** - (Information Session - Monday, November 8, 1999) Interviews - Tuesday, November 9, 1999; CE/EE/IE/ME Majors with GPA's 3.0 or above

**MILLIKEN** - Tuesday, November 9, 1999; CHE/EE/CPE/ME/BUS/IE/TX Majors with GPA's 3.0 or above

**VIRGINIA POWER** - (Information Session - Tuesday, November 9, 1999) Interviews - Wednesday, November 10, 1999; CPE/EE/CE/ME/BUS/ACC/HRD Majors with GPA's 2.5 or above

**NATIONAL STARCH** - Tuesday, November 9, 1999; CHE Majors with GPA's 3.0 or above

**MEAD CORPORATION** - Wednesday, November 10, 1999; PPT/CHE/EE/ME/WP Majors with GPA's 2.5 or above

**MARTIN MARIETTA** - (Information Session - Wednesday, November 10, 1999) Interviews - November 11 & 12, 1999; CE/EE Majors with GPA's 3.0 or above

\*\*\*\*\*

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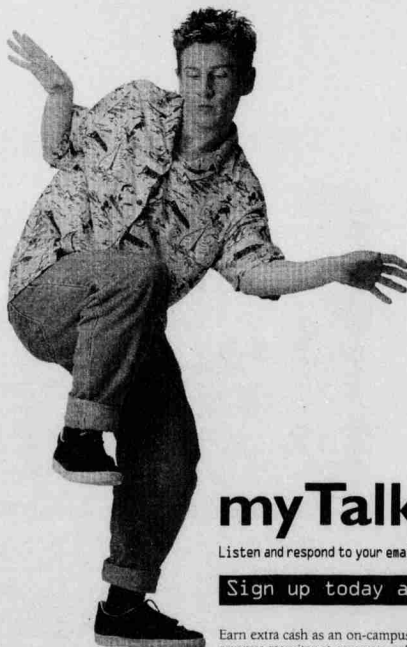
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## Stupid things to say at a cool party #23

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# Watch medicine



DAVID KIM

Staff Writer  
graphics by marko

## ◆ Fashionable Diseases: TB and Victorian England

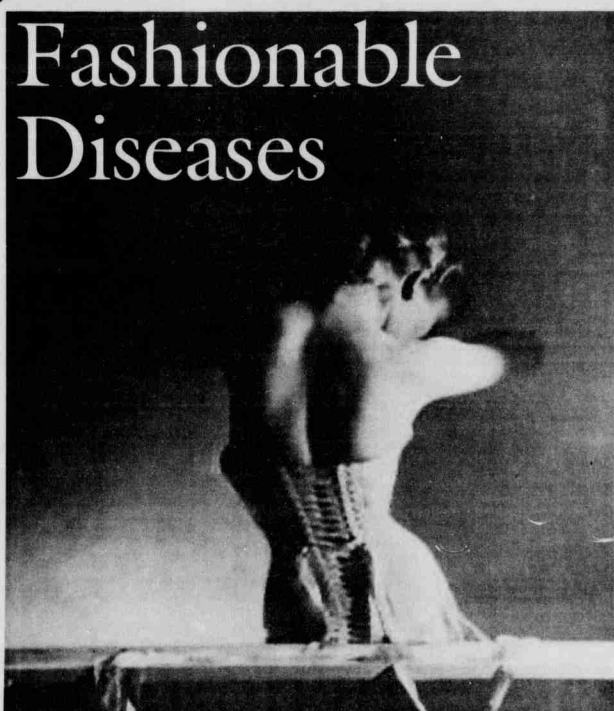
Fashion in clothing revolves in circles they say. What is chic in turn is largely synchronized by the mindset of the upper class of that particular era, its politics, its laws, and its economy. So it seems the case with the body figures of men and women who set those trends. Take advertisements for Versace or Calvin Klein and you come to realize that the gaunt Kate Moss look is the figure of the 90's. The muscular men and the not-so-thin but wholesome looking women of the 80's seem to be a relic of the Reagan era. In the 60's the voluptuous Marilyn Monroe look was in. Fashion merely accentuates the body figures of that time.

Turn back to the 19th century, to Victorian England. The 19th century writer Wilkie Collins begins the novel, *The Woman in White* with the line: "This is the story of what a Woman's patience can endure, and what a Man's resolution can achieve." The virtues of womanhood were patience, fragility, and meekness. And the women of that time appeared so both in physical appearance and in clothing: a gaunt, pale, almost sickly look was in style. So you wonder: How do you just manage to look sick? According to historian Margaret Pelling: "[In the Victorian period] all the known epidemic diseases were exceeded in incidence and effected by the many forms of tuberculosis..." Did all Victorian women have TB? No, but many did, especially the women of the upper class who determined what was fashionable. Symptoms of TB are characterized by fatigue, weight loss, chills, and fever, which explain the gaunt and pale look that was in style at the time.

Dr. Margaret Rancourt, Immunology professor at Rutgers University explains: The fashionable women's figure in the Victorian period was largely dependent on the massive out breaks of TB. Interestingly, the symptoms of a common bacterial infection of the Victorian period dictated the fashion trend of the era. Dr. Mimi Kim, professor of History at NC state also points out that although France (which also had large TB outbreaks) set the fashion trend for the 1900's, it was England that had the political clout to make the English look the norm for Europe and abroad.

Given the easily transmissible nature of TB, it is no surprise that it was common enough to become a fashion statement. According to one statistic, half of Europe had contracted the air borne disease in the mid-19th century. TB is respiratory disease spread through the air through coughing or sneezing. Today the bacterium is the leading killer of patients with advanced HIV whose immune systems have been weakened. The infection as two stages: an inactive latent stage where there are

# Fashionable Diseases



Tuberculosis viewed as fashionable among Victorian women in the early 19th century.

no symptoms and an active stage where patients are symptomatic. The first stage can last a lifetime; a person may carry the disease for a lifetime without it ever becoming active. Despite the even still high cases of TB, there are treatments for the infection usually consisting of a four-drug regimen of isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide, and streptomycin, antibiotics to kill off the infection.

In Victorian England, TB became so prevalent that it was considered much like we would consider the common cold today. Of all diseases through out history then, TB was the one that left a giant mark in the fashion world. And in some ways, fashion is still recovering from this infection even today. At a time when designers make us idealize models that look more like heroin addicts than supermodels, we really have to appreciate that element in society that drives fashion. In Victorian England that element was an immortal disease caused by a bacterium that was both a blessing and a curse called Tuberculosis.

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# Opinion

## Technician's View Go out and vote today

♦Today's Raleigh mayoral election marks an opportunity for N.C. State students to exercise some political power.

Before reading the headline on this editorial, did anyone among the N.C. State student body remember what today is?

It is, in fact, Election Day, a day that frequently passes unnoticed in the odd-numbered (read: non-presidential) years.

In fact, no high-profile national elections find North Carolina at their center, unlike last year, when the John Edwards-Lauch Faircloth U.S. Senate race captivated the nation.

However, there is one race that holds great significance for the city of Raleigh and, by extension, NCSU students. Today, mayoral candidates Stephanie Fajul (Democrat) and Paul Coble (Republican) will finish their campaigns in a runoff.

Coble and Fajul got this far by finishing first and second, respectively, in the original election, held October 5. Coble won 38.5 percent of the vote, while Fajul gained the support of 20.7 percent of the voters.

According to an October 7 article in the *News & Observer*, Coble has run on a platform of low taxes and decreased city government spending. The City Council member and former

Democrat has also focused on improving public safety and the city's roads. A political ally of outgoing Raleigh Mayor Tom Fetzter, Coble plans to focus on those issues in which the mayor has a direct influence.

Fajul is also a City Council member and an aide to Governor Jim Hunt. The *News and Observer* listed among her campaign's favorite issues a regional rail system and educational improvements—areas not under the mayor's jurisdiction. One of Fajul's major moves as a council member was her support of a \$650 million bond issue that would have gone mostly to school improvements.

Though Coble and Fajul have maintained a cordial relationship during their time as Council members, the campaigns have become increasingly personal since the first election. Members of each candidate's parties have circulated fliers attacking the other.

Open seats will also be decided on the City Council and the County Commissioners today. In the October election, only 23 percent of Raleigh's registered voters actually voted. More than likely, an even lower percentage of N.C. State's registered voters made their voices heard. Armed with information, here is your opportunity to break the political apathy that plagues our demography: Go out and vote.

Recently, Public Safety outlined some new plans to help keep the students at NC State feeling safe.

Research shows that because the vast majority of students at NCSU grew up watching TV, students would feel safest if they were protected in a style similar to 70's - 80's television.

Here are some of the ideas Public Safety came up with...

PROJECT CHARLIE would cover the Hillsborough St. and bellow area....



PROJECT A-TEAM would cover students riding the Wolfline and students visiting areas under oppression from hostile forces.



PROJECT YOGI would cover the atrium, brickyard, and anywhere else food is in danger.



## Stupid truths

Not only is tuition rising in the University of North Carolina system but also the same can be said for the competence level of some of its professors. I rarely believe in trash talking, but sometimes you cannot let blatant stupidity go unanswered.

David Guilkey, Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, opened his mouth last month about the proposed tuition increase.

"The poor people in the state are paying tax dollars and they never send a student here [UNC-CH]. It seems fair that the people who have more money, not the people flipping burgers or working at K-Mart should be supporting the University [UNC-CH]." Guilkey said.

Professor Guilkey is so right. Obviously, a tenured faculty member and head of a department in a premiere institution in the country cannot be wrong. Thank you for opening everyone's eyes. Raise tuition, if not, poor people might infiltrate the university and become learned. You know what happens when poor people get an education: they no longer flip burgers or direct people to the "blue light specials." Who would take care of Professor Guilkey and his faculty colleagues if the state did not have poor people?

Instead of sending poor students to UNC-CH to obtain a liberal arts education, send them to N.C. State, where they can learn how to drive tractors and fix machines. That's the main goal of a land grant institution, to teach the poor and farmers useful skills in an effort to support the upper class.

Guilkey, along with Ed Samulski, UNC-CH professor and head of chemistry, wrote a letter to the *Daily Tar Heel*, UNC-CH's

student newspaper, further blessing readers with great knowledge. "Then Hurricane Jose followed Hurricane Irene, which followed Hurricane Floyd. Most of the state's money had to be earmarked for the disasters. The entire UNC system suffered, but Chapel Hill more than the rest, because it had the most to lose."

Did they say Carolina would have the most to lose? I hope so, because everyone knows that NCSU's extension efforts, which occur in all 100 counties, do very little. In fact, I would call the over \$1.9 billion in economic impact NCSU creates statewide each year a drop in the bucket.

Especially if you compare it to the economic value of the intellectual thought effervescing from UNC-CH professors like Guilkey and Samulski.

Andrew can be heard every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. on WKNC 88.1 FM. This week the "Andrew Payne Show" explores the future of Hillsborough Street.

## Columns, columnists and your thoughts on both

The last time I checked, my column appeared on the "Opinion" page of Technician, not on the "Carved-in-Stone Facts" page. Not on the "Opinions-that-Are-More-Important-Than-Yours" page. And certainly not on the "Send-a-Person-Hate-Mail-if-She-Wrote-any-of-the-Articles-that-Appear-on-This-Page" page (not that I would mind that...in fact, I wouldn't mind ANY kind of mail).

I would never dare to speak on behalf of the band of Technician opinion columnists, but if I were ever to do that, I think I could safely say that often our peers take our self-indulgent essays about politics and pet peeves far too seriously.

Opinion columns are just what they claim to be and nothing more—they are the opinions of their authors. The authors aren't implying that their opinions are fact, nor that their opinions are superior to all others—they are simply expressing their personal viewpoints in a public forum that people will have something to discuss while eating their dried-out turkey subs at the Atrium.

Many students seem surprised, offended and often infuriated when the opinions of columnists conflict with their own.

But that's what makes an opinion an opinion—different people hold different views of situations. If everyone agreed on something, it would be a fact. And that would make an awfully boring story....

Who wants to read an article in Technician with the headline, "Is the Sky Blue?" or "If you have empty pizza boxes in your house longer than a month, does your house stink?"

Suppose, for a moment, that you were to read an opinion column that really hit home, something so controversial you absolutely could not pass it by without offering a counter-viewpoint. Well there is your chance to go for it. Write a letter to the editor that they have really boring jobs—your letters brighten their day. Actually, the nastier the letter, the more the editors enjoy them. Go ahead and E-mail the columnist. From everything I've heard in staff meetings, jealousy is a big factor when it comes to others receiving hate mail.

But for God's sake don't come up to me asking me "what the hell is that columnist talking about?" Because I DON'T KNOW! Columnists are people, too. As people, we are entitled to our opinions.

As columnists, we are privileged to print these opinions in a public place. That doesn't mean we think we can force you to read them, much less agree with them. It simply means that, by virtue of filling out an application and being selected by the editors, we have earned the right to publish our personal points of view.

In other words, columnists aren't trying to say that they are better than other N.C. State students or that their opinions are more valuable. It simply happens to be the case that ours are published publicly.

If you find that unfair, apply to

be a columnist next semester or submit a guest column. Just stop singling out columnists in person and harassing them over what another columnist might have written the day before.

The moral of this column is, if the contents of the Opinion page get you so agitated that you can't sleep at night, perhaps you should read another publication. Or maybe you should seek psychiatric counseling. If the contents of the Opinion page amuse and occasionally perturb you, then discuss them over Chick-Fil-A, send an occasional, well-thought-out letter to the Editor, and send your favorite columnist flowers on her birthday (July 25, I prefer lilies).

Of course, these suggestions, too, are a matter of opinion and must not be responded to by a shouted "Who the hell cares when your birthday is," "You suck!" or other such complimentary phrases.

The opinions expressed in this column belong to one Hannah Zaher. Any similarity to opinions held by other NCSU students is purely coincidental. Complaints regarding the beliefs expressed in this column should be directed to Campus Forum (trechforum@ncsu.edu) or to opinionated@columnist.com. Complaints regarding the way the columnist dresses, the size of her ego or why she takes forever to reply to E-mail will not be acknowledged. Compliments, suggestions, donations, flowers and candy (especially dark chocolate) are always welcome.

### CAMPUS FORUM

## Technician foul-up

An interest on the part of the editors of Technician in pedagogical issues is praiseworthy, and the English Department applauds any effort to make such issues the subject of thoughtful discussion. The editorial "Broken English" (Tuesday, October 26), however, only succeeds in creating confusion because it is based on inaccurate information.

First, we appreciate the acknowledgment October 27 of that the plan to use teaching assistants as graders and discussion leaders in large sections of literature surveys has never even been considered for freshman English. We wish to add that one of the principal considerations in attempting the new plan for teaching literature surveys has been the department's firm commitment to maintaining the small size of our freshman classes, while using our teaching resources most efficiently.

Second, the term "lab" is associated with the large literature survey sections in a sense different from its use in science courses. The "lab" is not a separate course; it is the third 50-minute period of a standard 150-minute, three-credit course. The senior professor in charge lectures two days per week to the entire class of 60-90 students. On the third day, the students meet in groups of 15-20 with a teaching assistant who leads a discussion of the content of the lectures, helps the undergraduate students prepare for tests and instructs them in the writing of out-of-class papers. The classroom times is exactly the same as in the more usual format.

Third, these large classes are all completely in the charge of a senior faculty member; the teaching assistants are just what the term implies, assistants to the instructor of record. The professor determines the content of the course and the format of the tests and writing assignments. He or she meets with the teaching assistants on a weekly basis to discuss pedagogical strategies and any problems that may have arisen, reviews a representative sample of the papers graded by each TA, visits each TA's discussion section at least once in the course of the semester and deals with any problematic papers or student complaints. The supervising professor is thus the final authority for every facet of the course.

Let me add a final word on behalf of the teaching assistants. Although the student interviewed in the front-page news story that accompanied the editorial complains that there

was no opportunity for the students to evaluate the large sections, in fact, I have a stack of student evaluations from both large classes offered in the spring of 1999. The one consistent feature of the written comments is praise for the graduate teaching assistants. Most students in these courses thought that they did a fine job of reinforcing the lectures of the professors. Moreover, it was less intimidating for many to speak up in a group of 15-20 students led by a graduate student than in a group of 30 or 45 (possible enrollment totals under the old system) under the eye of a senior professor or lecturer.

Let me emphasize that this is still an experimental program which the English Department undertook with some reluctance; and that we welcome informed comment about it. So far, however, we have been pleasantly surprised with the effectiveness of the program and have high expectations of the more extensive trial in the spring of 2000.

R.V. Young  
Director of Graduate Programs

## Hurricane Tuition

According to WRAL-TV5, tomorrow's weather will be "Partly sunny. High in the upper 70s. Light wind." I fail to agree with that. Last week, UNC-Chapel Hill experienced a hurricane of sorts dealing with a tuition hike.

I forecast that the same hurricane is coming toward the campus of N.C. State and there is no way to evacuate in time. So, ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS: Be ready at all times to fight this storm. Instead of sitting on your posterior and telling yourself that it is never going to happen, you need to get up and do something. BE PROACTIVE and not REACTIVE! I can't stand people who don't care. If this issue does not get up 27,000 students on this campus fired up, then I think we have a serious problem. For everyone who wants to go fight this issue, then join me in protest. For the rest of you who don't care, I hope that this hurricane destroys your dream of an affordable education, and may you drown in your own apathy. If you want to E-mail me about this issue, do so at cmorgan@unity.ncsu.edu.

Board up your windows and find the sandbags; it is going to be a long night before this storm is over.

Conen Morgan  
Freshman  
Computer Science

See Forum, Page 5

## TECHNICIAN

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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## Filling the void

Life is a constant struggle of trials and tribulations. Sometimes we are high on life and other times we lack motivation. It would be nice to live in a Utopian society, but that's not the case in present times.

The world has its problems, but there is a way to find peace in the midst of a seemingly chaotic society. Chaos means extreme confusion or disorder. It is not hard to see the confusion in people with a spiritual eye. For the Bible says, "The eyes are the windows to the soul."

I see the sadness in people's eyes as I walk from my classes day to day. Sometimes, it seems like people are crying out for help as I pass by them, but I never hear a voice. It seems like people are searching for something to fill a void that only God can fill. Most of us cannot discern that it is our soul yearning for our spiritual identity in God. As a result, we turn to temporary stimulants that last only a short while. The stimulant does not have to be drugs. It can be anything from excessive eating to sex.

During the climax of arousal or excitement, we forget about the spiritual identity that our soul longed for. When the effects of the stimulant wear off, we find ourselves back at square one.

Instead of filling the void, we realize that the problem still exists. Not only does the problem still exist, but the after effects of the stimulant begins to work in reverse. Whereas before, it relieved our mind, now it depresses our thoughts, causing our condition to seem worse than it was before. Then we realize that, in order to fill that void again, we would have to indulge in more of whatever stimulant provided the temporary relief.

For example, if a person gets drunk by drinking one beer the first time drinking, he (she) will have to drink more the second time in order to surpass the first drunken state. In surpassing the first drunken state, the last drunken state would be worse than the first. Meanwhile, the void is still there. We all struggle with something that is contrary to the will of God, but there is still hope while there is breath in us.

See Eric, Page 5

## ACC

Continued from Page 6

Corby Pons finished second with a time of 24:30.7, also earning All-ACC honors for the fourth time. The twins and current Wolfpack runner Jim Wilkins as the only N.C. State men's team members in all four years that they were eligible. Wilkins son, Bradsher is a freshman on the 1999 Wolfpack team.

It is the third time that the duo has finished right next to each other. In the 1996 and 1997 races,

Chan and Corby finished first and second, respectively.

Senior Abdul Alzindani finished third, while junior Chris Dugan took fourth, finishing with a flourish and just three-tenths of a second apart.

The quartet had close to 20 seconds on the rest of the runners in the race, which saw all 71 entrants finish.

Virginia's Bob Thiele was the first non-Wolfpack runner to cross the line, taking fifth place in a time of 25:03.2.

Aaron Saff, a senior earning all-conference honors in his final try, rounded out the scoring for the Pack, taking sixth, just five seconds behind Thiele.

Duke junior Terry Brennan took

seventh, while N.C. State redshirt freshman Dean Bowker took eighth.

Bowker, a Raleigh native, was the top rookie in the race, earning not only All-Conference honors, but becoming the Wolfpack's second consecutive ACC Rookie of the Year.

Jason Meany of Clemson took ninth and junior Mike Fitzula was the seven Wolfpack runner to earn all-conference honors, taking 10th with a time of 25:13.8.

Brad Einboden finished 13th for the Pack, the eighth N.C. State runner finishing before the second runner of seven of the eight other teams.

and others are never satisfied with life or what they have. How often do we consider other people and their problems?

## Eric

Continued from Page 4

Nobody wants to struggle with various trials and tribulations, but these trials help build character. It depends on how you view your situation. If I were to set a half a glass of milk on the table before two people, what would be their responses? One person might say the glass was half-empty and the other person might say the glass was half-full.

Based on their responses, the two individuals had a different perception concerning the same glass of milk. One person was grateful because he had only a half of glass and the other was thankful because he had a half of glass.

Life is pretty much the same way. Some people are grateful for life and the things that God has given them

my joy was based on conditions in relation to my situation.

After finding my spiritual identity through God I began to find peace, "that peace that surpasses all understanding." The various trials and tribulations helped make me a stronger man with a level head.

My grandmother used to say, "God won't put no more on you than you can bare." This not only means that God won't give you too many hardships, but it also means God won't give you too many blessings as well. If we stayed high on life all the time, we would become arrogant; if we lacked motivation all the time, we would lose confidence.

The objective in finding peace is to be appreciative for the things God has done for us, despite our situations. In finding God, I still encounter ups and downs, but there is no void in my life that seeking His word can't fill.

Comments? Eric can be reached at [etridic@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:etridic@unity.ncsu.edu).

## Terps

Continued from Page 6

lack of depth at Offensive line is a concern. We don't require them to wear them in games, that may change next year," the coach said.

Injuries, injuries, injuries: problems number three, four and five.

Despite, what has or has not happened on the field, this season is far from over and things are looking bright with a few players possibly returning from injuries and if the squad wins two out of its last three games, they will be eligible for a bowl bid.

That makes Saturday's game

against Maryland the biggest of the season according to O'Caill.

And despite the fact that the Wolfpack helmetsman is prone to say that on a weekly basis, Maryland is a do-or-die situation.

Maryland is pretty much in the same situation as the Pack.

"Every week everybody says it's a big game, but this really is," said Boyle.

"Both teams pretty much have their backs against the wall, both teams want to bowl games, it's not just win, and for the seniors the last time, they'll play in Carter-Finley," Boyle added.

Also, "there is a chance" that wide-out Chris Coleman may return the following week against UNC-Chapel Hill.

"He'll start catching today, his range of motion is not where it needs to be," added Coach O'Caill.

The Pack are still in the hunt to play on New Year's Day. And despite all the problems on offense and injuries the team has managed to keep its bowl day hopes alive. However, it is weird to some on the team that all of the big games this year it all comes down to Maryland.

"If someone had said a couple of years ago that my biggest game at home would be against Maryland, I probably wouldn't agree with them. But they're so much improved," Boyle later said.

It will be a battle of teams with a lot on the line, including a bowl bid. The loser's hopes of running on the field Jan. 1st will probably be dashed.

## Forum

Continued from Page 4

### More on Fraternity Ct.

In response to the fraternity rent increase and last Thursday's "Technician's View," I must state that I feel that the increase is completely ridiculous and uncalled for. I also believe that the position of Technician and the article on fraternity rent increase serve as another example of our anti-Greek newspaper attempting to further bash the fraternity community.

The rent increase would raise rent to be comparable to that of the "premium" dorms on campus; however, the living conditions in most of the houses is not comparable to the dorms in question. If anyone from Technician had actu-

ally ever been in a fraternity house, they would realize that not only are the rooms are smaller and unfurnished, but we also pay for all our cleaning supplies and provide the labor. We wait lengthy periods of time to have work done on our dwellings. In addition, after the rent increase, we would still not receive maids, supplies, furniture or individual room temperature controls. We would also be required to tear down our lofts and rebuild them each semester, which would create even more of an inconvenience. We do not have all of the luxuries of the dorms, and, therefore, we should not have to pay more for receiving less.

In response to the article, I would like to ask a few questions. First, the plan would allow for a \$10,000 annual fee for common areas within the chapter house, which is about \$250 per resident. My question is, would on-campus students have to pay a fee above their rent to use their common areas? The answer is NO. So, why should the fraternities in the chapter houses

have to pay for our common areas? Second, the proposal also calls for fraternities to pay utilities on top of the "premium" dorm rent. Do on-campus students pay utilities on top of their rent? Again, the answer is NO. I ask again, why should fraternity members have to pay this fee in addition to rent?

This rent increase proposal is not what we want. The conditions in which we live under are what we set for ourselves. We have lived without intervention from the university, and we are not interested in becoming just another dorm. I don't know how many readers out there are Greek, but those of us who are know the pride and love we have for all of our respective houses. We do not need the university to force us to become a dorm.

Paul Hill  
Senior  
Wildlife Science  
Jeffrey Navarro  
Junior  
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SPRING BREAK 2000! The Millennium

Anyone who saw the accident between a Red Dodge Stratus, and a Red Jeep Wrangler at the corner of Varsity Dr. and Marcom Dr. Tuesday, October 26, 5:45pm, PLEASE call 362-0291. Ask for Carrie or Cal.

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### Around Campus

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**Free Teaching of Falun Dafa:** Pullen Park Community Center, Thursdays 7:45-8:45pm. Contact Christina Opydeck 851-6052

Durham Main Library, Auditorium Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm. Contact Yi Liu 382-8726

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1911 Building Snack Bar Open M-F 7-4. Cokes, Sandwiches, Drinks, Snacks, Ice Cream, and more. Call 851-3330 or 851-9974

**CATHOLIC MASS ON CAMPUS:** Sundays at 11am and 7pm in 3712 Bostan Hall

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backthepack-backthepack-backthepack-



COMMENTARY

**Who cares about basketball?**

K. GAFFNEY

N.C. State is a cross country school. While the rest of the conference gripes over bragging rights for the so-called "major sports" like football and basketball, on Monday the Wolfpack once again proved that when it comes to cross country, there is no touching N.C. State.

Christy Nichols won the women's individual title.

Chan Pons won the men's individual title.

Three women earned all-conference honors.

A record-setting seven men earned all-conference honors.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

The men won the conference title with a record-setting score that was a close to perfect as possible with only actually being there.

And while the women didn't win their fifth consecutive title, the stature of the N.C. State program is not diminished.

Only three times in the 21 years that the Atlantic Coast Conference has held a race has the Wolfpack lined up a team and not finished in first place. The titles won by UNC-Chapel Hill in 1994 and Clemson in 1986 were won in years when the Wolfpack was, because of injury, unable to line-up a full five-member team.

1999 is only the second time that the Wolfpack had finished second in the team competition and they have never finished lower than third.

Nichols' win was the ninth individual championship for N.C. State since 1978.

Only once before Monday had the men's individual champion and the women's individual champion come from the same school, and that was done by N.C. State in 1993 when Tony Riley and Kristen Hall completed the feat.

The 1999 second-place finish is the first "loss" for the Wolfpack at the conference championships in 17 years.

And that is just the women.

To look at the men's side of the coin is, at least this season, scary.

The records speak for themselves. What is impressive is the things that will never be found in recorded history.

When the 1999 N.C. State team is listed in the conference record books, there will be no asterisk next to the entry that explains that Brendan Rodgers didn't run with the Pack in the conference championship.

But the eight guys that did will never forget that.

It wasn't like he wasn't there, he was, just forced to cheer from the sideline, and just as much a part of the team as any of the red and white clad athletes that crossed the finish line.

But that is what has come to be expected of Rollie Geiger teams.

Case in point:

Chan Pons, 1999 Men's Individual ACC Champion.

He took a year off, red-shirted, raced unattached in Raleigh and in Boston and in a couple of places in between.

He has been leading the Wolfpack all season and is now receiving national media coverage.

On Monday he became the Pack's seventh individual champion in history and the fifth of the decade.

He doesn't want to talk about himself, he wants to talk about the team.

He wants to talk about what could have happened had Brendan had been in the race.

He wants to talk about what will happen for the Pack as a team at the upcoming District and National Meets.

He wants to talk about the young runner that he befriended a church one day and has become a mentor of sort to and how well the youngster is progressing.

Whether or not you are a cross country fan, and most people aren't the evidence is hard to ignore: if athletes deserve recognition for doing what they do well, then these men and women deserve a little more than most.

And I'll say it one last time.

At the least, they deserve a locker room.

K. only has a few Technician columns in her. She is glad. If you have any suggestions, call her at 515-2411 or e-mail her at kim@ma.sea.ncsu.edu. She was thinking about writing about Loren Kirk's 52 points.

# N.C. State takes men's title

## Chan Pons wins solo title



Chan Pons won State's second straight individual title.

◆ Men power their way to fifth straight title.

K. GAFFNEY  
Sports Editor

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — What a way to go out.

With four seniors running their final conference race for the Wolfpack, N.C. State left its mark on the conference Monday by continuing their complete and total dominance of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The Wolfpack, which won its fifth straight conference championship Monday at the Finley Golf Course, has had some good teams in the past decade, collecting seven of the 10 ACC titles, and finishing second in each other year.

But the 1999 team is, almost without question, the most dominant team that the conference has ever seen.

In 1995, 1997 and 1998, the Wolfpack set and tied the record for largest margin of victory, scoring 49 fewer points than their closest opponents in the conference's final race.

Monday, they shattered that record, placing their top five runners in the top six, and sweeping the top four spots.

The Pack score totaled just 16 points, one point away from a perfect mark, and two points lower than the previous record of 18, set by the 1995 Wolfpack.

Duke finished second, with a score of 70 points.

The 54-point margin of victory is also a conference record.

With a time of 24:19.4, senior Chan Pons became the Wolfpack's fifth individual champion of the decade, and earning All-Conference honors for the fourth time.

See ACC, Page 5



1999 ACC Champ Chan Pons speaks with 1998 ACC Champ Brendan Rodgers as 1995 ACC Champ Pat Joyce and four-time All-ACC preformer Corby Pons look on.



**Cross Country**  
acc men's champion  
**Chan Pons**  
acc women's champion  
**Christy Nichols**  
acc rookie of the year  
**Dean Bowker**

1999  
**ALL-ACC TEAM**  
**Abdul Alzindani**  
**Amy Beykirch**  
**Dean Bowker**  
**Chris Dugan**  
**Michael Fitzula**  
**Christy Nichols**  
**Chan Pons**  
**Corby Pons**  
**Katie Sabino**  
**Aaron Saft**  
**markoMCMCXIX**

## Pack women upset by UNC-CH

◆ Christy Nichols cruises to individual title, team falls for first time in decade.

K. GAFFNEY  
Sports Editor

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Christy Nichols did the best she could, the only thing that was asked of her.

After not running a competitive cross country race in close to three full years, Nichols suited up for the Wolfpack at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships at the Finley Golf Course on Monday and picked up right where she left off.

As a freshman, Nichols finished second at the conference meet and went on to earn All-American honors.

As junior, three years later, Nichols took the championship.

Nichols controlled the favorite Trish Nervo by four seconds. The duo finished 12 seconds ahead of the rest of the pack, which included Duke freshman Sheila Agrawal and two-time defending ACC Champ Janelle Kraus, who were heavily looked upon as favorites along with Nervo.

According to coaches Rollie Geiger and Laurie Henes, Nichols would have been considered amongst the favorites in the race, save for the fact that she had been out of competition for so long.

Nichols redshirted the 1997 season and again in 1998 because of injuries, and battled minor injuries earlier this season, before making it back for the conference meet.

But Nichols, comeback in place, was disappointed on Monday.

Despite her win, what Nichols wanted was to help deliver the team's fifth straight ACC title and ninth of the decade. A

The Pack didn't pick up the team title, falling 12 points behind UNC-Chapel Hill.

The Tar Heels, led by Nervo and second-place finisher Heather Tanner, took the title, their second in the 1990's, scoring 44 points. The Pack finished second with 56 points, followed by Virginia with 77 and Wake Forest with 96.

For N.C. State, sophomore Katie Sabino earned all-conference honors for the second straight year, while Amy Beykirch was named to the all-conference team for a third time. Sabino and Beykirch finished eighth and ninth overall, and were the second and third runners to cross the line for the Pack.

Beth Forner took 17th with a time of 18:17.4 over the five kilometer course, while sophomore Molly Purser was 21st, finishing in 18:25.7.

Lindsey Rogers and Beth Kraft finished 31st and 32nd, while Erin Musson took 40th.



Christy Nichols won the Pack's first individual title since 1993.

## Next game a crucial one

◆ N.C. State faces Maryland Saturday to salvage bowl hopes.

RODOLFO A. BANAÑO  
Staff Writer

It was an offensive game, dominated by big plays and big players. However once again, it wasn't N.C. State's offense doing the dominating but rather the opposition's.

Georgia Tech scored at will last Saturday and showed the Wolfpack squad there are a lot of problems that need to be fixed.

"One of the coaches came up to us and told us at halftime the defense had played 50 plays. You can't be out there 100 times on defense. We sub quite a bit, but that's way too many plays. I think the defense could be a little bit worn down," said offensive lineman Todd Boyle.

Defense on the field too much: problem number one.



The N.C. State Wolfpack plays its final home game of the 1999 season Saturday against the Maryland Terrapins.

"We could just never get in sync," said Pack head coach Mike O'Connell. "They got off blocks better than we did. We just never seemed to get our feet on the ground offensively."

Lack of momentum on offense: problem number two.

The list could go on and on, but one thing

is for sure, injuries have been the biggest culprit to the team's woes.

So much so that Coach O'Connell has made many of his offensive linemen wear protective braces to avoid injury.

"It's a preventive brace, obviously the

See Terps Page 5

## ECU next for netters



The Wolfpack volleyball team, which lost a four game match to the UNC-Chapel Hill Tar Heels on Friday, 3-1, will take on the Pirates of ECU on Tuesday in Greenville. Against the Heels, freshman Tara Greene had 12 kills and 23 digs.

Fans were stunned in February when Payton, looking gaunt and frail, announced he had PCS. He made few public appearances after that. His condition gradually deteriorated, and his son, Jarrett, a running back/kick returner for the Miami Hurricanes, was called home last Wednesday night.

Payton rushed for 16,726 yards in his 13-year career, one of sport's most awesome records. And Barry Sanders ensured it would be one of the most enduring, retiring in July despite being just 1,458 yards shy of breaking Payton's mark.

Payton died at his home in suburban Barrington, Ill. His cause of death was not immediately released.

Payton had suffered from primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare liver disease that could only be cured by a transplant. He'd been on a waiting list for a transplant for nine months.

"He's the best football player I've ever seen. At all positions, he's the best I've ever seen," said Mike Ditka, who coached Payton for six of Ditka's 11 years with the Bears, including the 1985 Super Bowl season.

## Notes

**Cota, Newby charged with misdemeanor assault**  
CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina basketball players Ed Cota and Terrence Newby were suspended indefinitely from the team after several people were involved in a fight early Monday.

Cota and Newby turned themselves in to campus police after warrants were issued for their arrest on three counts of assault inflicting serious injury and two counts of simple assault. All the charges are misdemeanors.

It is unclear how long the players will

be suspended, but North Carolina, expected to be ranked in the top 10, opens its season Nov. 22 in the Maui Tournament in Hawaii.

Both Cota and Newby denied they were involved in the fight, which was a carryover from a Halloween celebration on Franklin Street, coach Bill Guthridge said.

**NFL's all-time leading rusher dies at 45**  
CHICAGO — Walter Payton, whose aggressive, elusive style made him the NFL's all-time rushing leader and took Chicago to its only Super Bowl victory, died Monday. He was 45.

Payton died at his home in suburban Barrington, Ill. His cause of death was not immediately released.

Payton had suffered from primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare liver disease that could only be cured by a transplant. He'd been on a waiting list for a transplant for nine months.

"He's the best football player I've ever seen. At all positions, he's the best I've ever seen," said Mike Ditka, who coached Payton for six of Ditka's 11 years with the Bears, including the 1985 Super Bowl season.