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# TECHNICIAN

Thursday  
February 3, 2000

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

Today



Hi 50  
Lo 34

Tomorrow



Hi 52  
Lo 32

## In the NEWS

### University Dining Runs Survey

University Dining services is currently running a dining survey on the university dining web site through Feb. 20.

Dining services want to know how students feel about food, service and the general dining program on campus, and hopes to improve communication with students and increase students' understanding of the general program.

The survey can be found on the web at [www.ncsu.edu/dining](http://www.ncsu.edu/dining).

### Forum looks to future of North Carolina

For the 15th year, N.C. State will stage its Emerging Issues Forum on Feb. 24-25, featuring thought-provoking discussions on economic and social issues facing the state and the nation.

Headlining this year's event are Dan Glickman, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and Hugh McColl, chairman and CEO of Bank of America.

This year's forum, titled "Shaping Our Common Future," will examine critical issues affecting education, the economy, the environment and the health and well-being of families in North Carolina.

The forum will be held at the McKimmon Center.

Joining Glickman and McColl in making major addresses will be many other knowledgeable and respected political leaders, businessmen and educators including Roy Barnes, governor of Georgia; Bill Campbell, mayor of Atlanta; Erskine Bowles, chairman of the Governor's Rural Prosperity Task Force; Dr. Olivia Golden, assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families; and Molly Corbett Broad, president of the UNC system.

### CVP "Winter Guard" to open season this weekend

Carolina Visual Productions, Raleigh's oldest independent winter guard, will be giving a production this coming Saturday, Feb. 5 at 4:30 pm, at Broughton High School. Admission is \$4.

The production is entitled: A moment in Time: Dream or Reality? It is a unique look into how American society excludes certain individuals because of emotional or physical challenges.

CVP includes eight NCSU students. Winter Guard performers use floor units and props to create a theatre inside a gymnasium. Groups perform to a wide variety of music on a sound system and incorporate dance and theatre into their productions. Winter Guard has also been described as a visual script. Incorporating a theme and costumes, the shows are more like short one act plays. The high entertaining aspects of the themes utilized keep the audience in a constant state of different emotions. All groups must utilize flags, sabres and rifles. The equipment used is what makes winter guard so unique.

The snow and ice already is melting, but the economic and environmental impact of last week's record-breaking winter storm may be felt across North Carolina for months to come.

The harsh weather may have helped farmers a little by killing off some agricultural pests such as corn ear worms and army worms, says Dr. Sterling Southern, entomology extension leader for the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service at N.C. State. But many helpful insects such as lady beetles, which live close to the surface, also may have been killed. In the winter of 1976-77, for instance, extremely cold weather killed off many beneficial insects, leading to one of the worst pest seasons on record.

### Economic, Ecological Impact of Recent Snows May Be Felt for Months

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## Fox talks shop

Natalie Duggins, Technician Senior Staff Writer, recently sat with Chancellor Marye Anne Fox for an interview, which runs here verbatim, on the financial challenges facing N.C. State. The interview has been edited slightly for space constraints. Section two of the interview will run Monday with a comprehensive look at the upcoming tuition decision by the Board of Governors.

NATALIE DUGGINS  
Senior Staff Writer

If a football team fails to win a big game, people quickly shift the blame to the quarterback. In baseball, blame always falls on the head of the pitcher. But here at N.C. State, the proverbial buck stops with the university's chancellor, Marye Anne Fox. In her short tenure as chancellor, Fox has not backed down from some of the school's most controversial issues, including a heated debate with students over the future of tuition at NCSU and the true definition of "free as far as practicable."

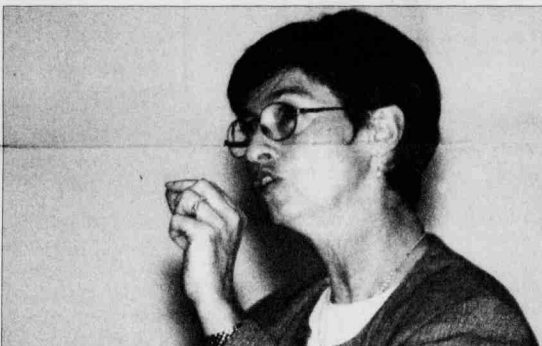
**Technician:** Do you still think that now, considering the effects of Hurricane Floyd and the effects of this latest snowstorm, that a tuition increase is still in the best interests of N.C. State and the citizens of North Carolina?

Chancellor Fox: Those very factors mean that the state budget is going to be cut and what that means is that we have to have money to operate the university. My concern from day one has been to make sure that there were sufficient financial aid resources available so that students were not adversely hurt. And

the incremental money from tuition, was to be used for financial aid. We of course have a number of students for whom a tuition increase would not be a real burden and...they would of course not get financial aid and what we would be doing is trying to leverage the resources to help all of the students.

**FYI:** In early January, after receiving tuition increase proposals from the Board of Trustees at NCSU, UNC-Chapel Hill, East Carolina, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Wilmington, UNC System President Molly Broad presented her own proposal to the system's Board of Governors. The proposal would call for \$332 and \$388 tuition increases for undergraduates and graduate students, respectively, at NCSU and UNC-CH. Of this money, the university would receive \$200, which according to Broad would go to supplement faculty salary increases. The additional money would be used to fund a \$37 million financial aid package for the entire UNC system. Furthermore, the plan supports a \$750 tuition increase for students in the College of Veterinary Medicine spanning four years, for a total of \$3000.

**Technician:** What do you think of [UNC System President] Molly Broad's proposal?



Chancellor Fox discussing tuition matters with students at last semester's Town Hall Meeting

so, the question is, are they going to cause more students to need financial aid? The answer is probably yes, that's why I think we have to work very hard to get this financial aid package that was proposed by the system through. And we have to work very hard to get private donors to give more support for students. And, of course, part of the third,

Chancellor Fox: Well, there are some positives about it. One is that she is basically recognizing that we need additional resources on campus and that certainly is true. The fact is that what she's done is reduced our \$300 package to a \$200 package by taking \$100 that we were suggesting out of financial aid and



Chancellor Marye Anne Fox taking care of business at WKNC 88.1.

putting it into the financial aid package. So, it makes it all the more imperative that we focus on getting that financial aid package passed through the legislature.

Of the \$200 that is left, that we had wanted to allocate specifically to student services, the system is saying that we have to allocate to faculty salaries. Now, what we don't know for sure is whether putting additional money in faculty salaries gives us the kind of budget flexibility to address the student services needs and that's part of what is still being worked out —...what kind of flexibility would be involved in the tuition increase.

The other thing that is positive about it is that it acknowledges that the costs of hiring at Research I institutions, that is, State and Chapel Hill, [are higher] than at some of the other institutions. Recall back that when we looked at faculty salaries, we never made the argument that students should pay for faculty salaries. And, in fact, we made the argument that our salaries here...are a little bit lower than at Chapel Hill. We're higher than other schools because of the competitive market for our faculty and that has to do with the quality of the school basically.

But because the faculty salaries were higher, it meant that we have less discretionary income than the other schools that have lower faculty salaries. To the extent that that's true, that means that we had to cut back on things that students really need to succeed like financial aid — the kind of staffing that we need to help students get additional financial aid — and that's really what worried us before.

**Technician:** With President Broad having \$200 going to faculty salaries...previously you had said that you would go to the General Assembly and ask for money for faculty salaries and that student tuition not be used...does that mean that you're not going to support Molly Broad's plan?

See FOX, Page 2

## Kelly named biotech head

◆ The new director of the Biotechnology Program wants to ensure that research coincides with wise ethical decisions made by students and faculty.

TREY GOWLIN  
Staff Writer

Living in an era that is dominated by technology, there are countless times that different academic fields cross paths to make the world a better place. Yet it takes someone with great leadership to make sure that things get accomplished in the correct manner.

For this reason, Chancellor Mary Anne Fox and Charles Moreland, vice chancellor for research, outreach and extension, appointed Robert M. Kelly as the new director for N.C. State's Biotechnology Program.

This unique program combines research and teaching by NCSU faculty in areas such as chemical engineering, botany, veterinary medicine, genetics and food science. Since these programs all interact with each other at some point, there is much room to gain knowledge that previously might not have been available.

"Not only is he personable, but he gets people to work with him. In one word, I would describe Dr. Kelly as challenging," said Moreland.

Kelly first worked in the chemical industry at DuPont after college, where he performed environmental science research. This is where he saw the potential for biotechnology in the future, Kelly said. Since it was promising, Kelly came back to NCSU to obtain his Ph.D. From there, he joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins University.

At John Hopkins, Kelly started researching a group of microorganisms, called extremophiles, that inhabit deep-sea volcanoes. Enzymes extracted from these organisms have been shown to be potential catalysts in industrial processes.

In 1992, he came back to NCSU to teach in the chemical engineering department.

In the search for a new director, Moreland said that one of the things that separated Kelly from the other candidates was his ability to obtain funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH) for graduate research.

On the undergraduate level, Kelly hopes to establish a minor in biotechnology by the fall semester of 2001. In such a competitive age he says, "undergraduates need to know what graduates used to."

In order to take the biotechnology program to another level, the university will have to maintain a good status with private companies, Kelly said.

"It's a matter of being effective to let companies know we have things to offer them. In turn, students can gain valuable internship experience with them," he added.

Kelly also commented on the ethical decisions that coincide with technical research.

"There are always lingering questions about what is considered ethical and what isn't, when it comes to science research. It is vital to make informed decisions. Opportunities will allow you to make good decisions."

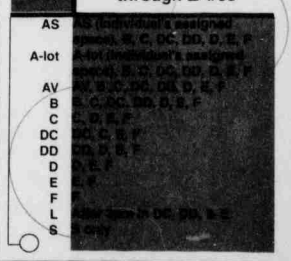
## Parking and Transit Updates

While most of the campus parking areas have been cleared, some areas are still in the process of snow removal.

As clearing efforts continue, adjustments in parking operations and enforcement are being initiated to help permit holders find adequate parking. The following parking operations and enforcement will be in effect beginning Thursday, February 3, through Friday, February 4, 2000.

1. The pay lots at the Coliseum Deck and the Central Campus Pay lot will resume operations. Any valid university parking permit may use these lots without paying. Vehicles without a permit must pay the regular hourly rate.
2. DD permits may park in the Dan Allen Deck Pay lot without paying the hourly rate. Vehicles without a permit must pay the regular hourly rate.
3. Handicapped and reserved parking areas and spaces will be enforced.
4. No parking will be allowed in fire lanes, drive lanes, landscape areas or other designated no parking areas.

### Valid Parking Zones through 2/4/00



## McNeill departing for Alabama

◆ After years of success raising money at N.C. State, Jeffery McNeill is heading for a similar post at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

### NEWS STAFF REPORT

Jeff McNeill, N.C. State's vice chancellor for university advancement since 1992, will leave NCSU in April for a similar post at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

At his new school, McNeill will oversee fundraising programs, alumni affairs, governmental affairs and university relations.

McNeill's forte at NCSU has been fundraising, and his work to reshape the way NCSU raises money has gone from



PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLITT McNeill

about 1,000 scholarships and fellowship endowments when he came in 1992 to about 3,600 today about 600 more than the goal he set for his efforts.

In his role at NCSU, McNeill led "The Campaign for N.C. State Students."

The campaign overshot its \$80 million goal and hauled in \$124 million for the students of NCSU.

Until his arrival, NCSU's primary fundraising success had been through corporate sponsors.

"My charge when I came here was to

turn that around," McNeill said. He then proceeded to concentrate on raising money from individual sponsors.

McNeill earned his bachelor's degree at Gardner-Webb College and his masters from Clemson University. He spent 15 years working at Clemson before moving to NCSU.

In a recent press release, Chancellor Marye Anne Fox said, "Jeff McNeill's efforts have changed the entire fundraising culture of our university. He brought many individuals closer in their relationships with N.C. State through his professionalism and personal enjoyment of serving people. He changed the way we think about our fundraising potential, and we now know we can achieve great support from our alumni and friends. He left a very positive mark on the university."

## Ric Flair

Is it in his "Nature" to be N.C. governor? Technician thinks not. Check out Opinion.



[www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Arena/9693/2flair.htm](http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Arena/9693/2flair.htm)

## Serious



## Baseball '00

Even with the snow, the Baseball team is ready to go.



## FOX

Continued from Page 1

Chancellor Fox: Well, I have to support Molly Broad's plan — we work for the Board of Governors. What I will do is argue that we ought to have flexibility in how the money will be used. As I said, when we were talking about a tuition increase, we didn't think that \$200 or \$300 was enough to make a difference with respect to the faculty salary deficiencies compared to market. Therefore, we needed an additional increase for faculty salaries in addition to whatever that is. So, on the one hand we're going to argue that we need faculty salaries, but that ought to come from the legislature. We're going to argue that we need more money or discretionary money to provide student services. We need flexibility on-campus, that really is the key idea. We need local control over how we spend the money.

**FYI:** Included within President Broad's plan for increased tuition at each of the 16 UNC system schools is a \$275 fee (\$100 the first year, \$100 the second year and \$75 the third year) for capital improvements. This fee would mark the first time that the universities have

looked to the students to fund the physical improvements and upgrades of UNC system campuses.

**Technician:** Also in President Broad's plan, there's a \$100 fee for capital improvements; after that, it's an extra \$100 in the next year and \$75 the following year. Do you think it's fair for students to be forced to support the capital improvements of the universities?

Chancellor Fox: We're at a stage where we need money and again it's the hurricane. I've been going around the state talking about [the university's Five Year Capital Plan]. It's a pretty big dollar amount — \$450 million — in order to make the investments we need for the students in the future. The political wisdom that led the Board of Governors to think about that \$100 increasing to \$200 and \$275 in successive years was that that's what's necessary to get this plan jumpstarted. We've made a firm commitment to this program and we have to make these kinds of adjustments if we're to have anything near access and opportunity for students as they come here. We don't want to get so selective that we can't just take a chance on students and if we're going to do that, we need to have money.

So, the plan from system is that this would be used as a core. It would be matched by the legislature and that money doesn't come, then we're in a bad situation with respect to space. Our space situation, I think, is even worse than our faculty salary situation. It means that we have students who can't do undergraduate research because there aren't labs available. It means that there are students who can't get into lower division courses because the labs aren't available. And that costs, with respect to how fast they can go through school. If you can't get a course one semester and you get delayed and there's a whole sequence of things. The idea that your graduation is delayed, even by one semester, simply because of these facilities, is really very costly, perhaps more than the cost of the bond funding.

So, do we like it? I suppose that we would have very much preferred to have gotten the legislature to completely fund this. Is there a chance that we can do that? I think so and I think we're going to work for it. What this proposal from the system is to say that we think this is so absolutely important—the investment in facilities—that we're going so far as to do something we don't want to do, which is ask the students to contribute to it.

## Students jailed for test theft

♦ California students jailed, fined for test theft

FABIOLA SAUVINOUGH  
Daily Texan

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas — In a case that has brought attention to the problem of academic dishonesty in higher education, a California judge sentenced two men to a year in prison Thursday for a conspiracy involving the theft of a copy of the Law School Admission Test in February 1997. Danny Khatchaturian and Dikran Iskenderian were sentenced for conspiring with Ashot Melikyan, who stole the test at knife-point from a LSAT test site in February 1997. Melikyan was sentenced to a year in prison last October.

Khatchaturian and Iskenderian received the answers to the test via pager. In addition to jail time, the three men were ordered to pay nearly \$97,000 in restitution to the Law School Admission Council, which produces the LSAT, for the cost of developing the test.

"We hope this sends a strong message to those who think they can cheat their way into law school," Philip Shelton, LSAC

president, said in a statement. Susan Aleman, assistant dean for student affairs at the University of Texas School of Law, said there hasn't been a case of such magnitude involving academic dishonesty at the University's Law School.

"We don't administer the LSAT, but within the law school, thank God we haven't had any cases like that," Aleman said.

But problems involving scholastic dishonesty are not uncommon at the University, and penalties may vary from an admonition to the revocation of a degree.

According to the latest figures in the 1997-1998 Annual Report of Disciplinary Cases released by UT Student Judicial Services, 186 of the 826 cases documented in the report involved academic dishonesty.

Student Judicial Services is responsible for investigating alleged violations of institutional rules and for implementing the disciplinary process.

The most common cases were cheating on standardized tests, with 75 reported cases, and plagiarism, with 54 reported cases.

Penalties for academic dishonesty at the University include

receiving no credit for the assignment, reduced credit for the assignment or a failing grade in the course. But there have been a few cases in which students have received steeper penalties.

"There was a case in which a student that had already graduated got his diploma revoked for changing grade forms and faking four professors' signatures," said Kevin Price, associate dean of students and head of the Student Judicial Services. "These cases are not common, but they do happen."

Technology is now helping professors weed out dishonesty in their classrooms.

Rosental Alves, a journalism professor, said electronic databases now make it easier for professors to detect if a student's work is not original.

"With the Internet, we now have access to information that will easily let us know if a work has been plagiarized," Alves said.

Alejandra Wohlstein, an economics senior, said she hasn't cheated, but acknowledged it would be easy to do so.

"In some of my classes, it is not hard to cheat, but there is no time to do it," Wohlstein said.

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## It's your turn to dish it out:

## Take the University Dining survey!

We want to know: What do you like? What don't you like? What are we doing right and what could we do better?

Your opinions help us evaluate how we're doing and what we can do next year to better meet your needs. Go to [www.ncsu.edu/dining](http://www.ncsu.edu/dining), click on "2000 Survey" and tell us what you think. It will only take a few minutes, and you'll be entered to win free Board Bucks just for participating.

Please complete your survey by February 8 to be eligible for the drawing.

Survey dates: January 20 through February 13.



Go to [www.ncsu.edu/dining](http://www.ncsu.edu/dining)



## GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE UP TO \$5,000

College seniors and graduates who are interested in becoming secondary school teachers of American history, American government, or social studies may apply. Fellowships pay tuition, fees, books, and room and board toward master's degrees.

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email: [recogprog@act.org](mailto:recogprog@act.org)

or visit our website

<http://www.jamesmadison.com>



North Carolina State University  
Cooperative Education Program

## COMPANIES COMING TO CAMPUS

**KIMBERLY-CLARK** - Monday, February 7, 2000; CHE Majors with GPA's 3.0 or higher & EE/ME Majors with GPA's 2.8 or higher; Information Session and Interview Sign-Up; 7:00-9:00pm Riddick Hall Room 320; Interviews will be scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2000

**IBM** - Wednesday, February 9, 2000; CSC/EE/CPE Majors with GPA's 3.0 or higher (Pre-screening - Co-op application and resume must be in Co-op office by February 4, 2000)

**IBM** - Wednesday, February 9, 2000; ACC & Finance Majors with GPA's 3.2 or higher (Pre-screening - Co-op application and resume must be in Co-op office by February 4, 2000)

**EATON Corp.** - Wednesday, February 16, 2000; EE/ME/CSC/EE/CPE Majors with GPA's 2.8 or higher (Pre-screening - Co-op application and resume must be in Co-op office by February 11, 2000)

**VOLVO CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT** - Wednesday, February 16, 2000; ME/IE Majors with GPA's 2.8 or higher

**EVEREADY BATTERY** - Thursday, February 17, 2000; BUS/ME Majors with GPA's 2.5 or higher

**GEORGIA PACIFIC** - Friday, February 18, 2000; CHE/EE/ME Majors with GPA's 2.8 or higher

**BRASFIELD & GORRIE** - Tuesday, February 22, 2000; CE Majors with GPA's 2.75 or higher

**DISNEY COLLEGE PROGRAM** - Tuesday, February 22, 2000; All Majors with GPA's 2.5 or higher; Information Session and Interview Sign-Up; 6:00-8:00pm Broughton Hall Room 2211; Interviews will be scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2000

**DISNEY IMAGINEERING PROGRAM** - Wednesday, February 23, 2000; Design/CSC/CPE/ACC/Finance Majors with GPA's 3.0 or higher; Information Session and Interview Sign-Up; 6:00-8:00pm Caldwell Hall Room G111; Interviews will be scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2000

**GE POWER SYSTEMS** - Tuesday, February 29, 2000; CHE/NE/ME/MT/ENE Majors with GPA's 3.0 or higher

Students interested in interviewing with these and/or other Co-op employers should contact the Co-op office at 515-2300 or plan to attend one of the following Co-op Orientation Sessions.

February 2, 2000 (Wednesday) at 4:00pm in WINSTON HALL Room 29  
February 9, 2000 (Wednesday) at 5:00pm in WINSTON HALL Room 29  
February 15, 2000 (Tuesday) at 4:00pm in WINSTON HALL Room 29

In addition to the above listed Co-op orientation sessions, the following 6 video orientation sessions have been scheduled. Please note that space is limited to 6 students per video orientation session.

February 2, 2000 (Wednesday) at 10:00am & 10:30am in PEELE HALL Room 212  
February 3, 2000 (Thursday) at 10:00am, 10:30am, 4:00pm, & 4:30pm in PEELE HALL Room 212

North Carolina State Ski Program  
At Winterplace Ski Resort

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a special North Carolina State Ski Program which is being made available by Winterplace Ski Resort, near Beckley, West Virginia. North Carolina State Students, Faculty and Staff wishing to take advantage of this special ski program must present their North Carolina State ID Card when purchasing lift tickets or renting ski equipment.

## SPECIAL PRICES ARE:

## Weekdays, (Monday through Friday, Non Holiday)

	All Day Open to 10 pm	Twilight 3 pm to 10 pm
Lift Ticket	\$22.95	\$20.95
Rental Equipment*	\$19.95	\$16.95

## Weekends and Holidays

	All Day Open to 10 pm	Night 5 pm to 10 pm
Lift Ticket	\$40.95	\$24.95
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\* Rental Equipment includes skis, boots, and poles. Deposit Required)

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- Beach Party Weekend and Tube Race-March 11 & 12, 2000
- Open 8 am on Weekends and Holidays and 9 am on Weekdays.
- Holiday periods are: Dec. 20-Jan. 2, Jan. 15-17, & Feb. 19-21.

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# Opinion

## TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

### Governor Flair?

During a Jan. 17 appearance on "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee," World Championship Wrestling (WCW) star Ric Flair announced that he may run for governor of North Carolina.

Since that announcement, Flair has been quiet about whether he actually will join North Carolina's other candidates for the governorship.

By even entertaining such an idea,

run, assuming that he garners the over 96,000 signatures necessary to run in North Carolina. In a Feb. 14 press conference he will make his intentions known.

But Flair's legislative experience begins and ends with his many previous fund-raising campaigns in past elections, most notably those of former President George Bush, perennial Sen. Jesse Helms, Rep. Sue

Myrick, Sen. Lauch Faircloth and presidential contender George W. Bush.

If Flair throws his hat (or even his sequined robe) into the ring—most likely

as a Republican or Independent—he will face Republicans Rep. Leo Doughty, former Rep. Chuck Neely, and former Charlotte mayor Richard Vinroot; and Democrats Mike Easley, the current N.C. Attorney General, Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker.

Flair could also face any number of Libertarian or Independent nominees.

Those who have already announced candidacy hold public offices and "know the ropes" better than the grappling hopeful.

Former wrestler and current Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura provides the only example of "wrestler-turned-governor" attempt. The difference between Ventura and Flair is that, before politically pile-driving his way into the governor's mansion,

Ventura spent four years as the mayor of Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Here in North Carolina, former "athlete/celebrities" have not fared well, as demonstrated by former NASCAR driver Richard Petty's failed run for N.C. Secretary of State in 1996.

The political ring is still somewhat brutal decision-making: a steel cage offers political success is still measured in substance rather than style, reason rather than ratings. As the deadline for entering the campaign draws closer, Flair seems to be short on both.

Flair has already joined Jesse Ventura, Warren Beatty, Donald Trump, and former wrestling enemy Bob Backlund—celebrities who believe that commercial success is a natural lead-in to political success.

A Charlotte resident, Flair, 50, 6'1" and 230 lbs., was born Richard Morgan Flehr. He played football for the University of Minnesota for two years before being kicked off the team for bad grades. He subsequently dropped out of school.

A professional wrestler since 1972, Flair has won titles in four different organizations—all since breaking his back in a 1974 Wilmington plane crash.

In recent years, Flair has gained fame as a flamboyant, sometimes villainous and sometimes virtuous version of Fabio who taints his opponents with the catch phrase, "To be the man, you have to beat the man—whooooaaa!"

An accomplished businessman, Flair also owns nine Gold's Gyms across North Carolina and has patented the figure-four leg-lock.

Still, the conservative Flair has neither held elected office nor established a personal political platform.

For these reasons, the "Flair for governor" campaign—should it ever get off the ground—is one that need not be trusted with the welfare of our state.

## CAMPUS FORUM



All letters sent to Campus Forum (techforum-L@ncsu.edu) are the property of Technician. The Technician editorial staff reserves the right to edit all Campus Forum letters for content and space. There is a limit of 250 words on Campus Forum letters.

### Evolution an unbelievable fallacy

Editor's Note: The Editorial Board has waived the word limit on the following letter.

Every morning, I look forward to reading the day's Technician. Unlike many people, however, I do not anticipate the next Technician so that I can become better informed of campus events or the news from around the world. I wait expectantly for the latest version because the amount of anti-Christian propaganda that is published every day in it's pages amazes me.

Ever since I began attending N.C.

State, I have been bombarded with articles, editorials and cartoons that deny God's existence. The few that acknowledge the idea, there actually might be a Supreme Being, refuse to accept this God as the God that Christians call Lord. I do not blame the Technician, however. To expect the Technician to acknowledge that God exists and that Christianity is a real religion might offend some. After all, God is everyone's friend. He would not expect anyone to change just to be close to Him, would he?

Jan. 24 was no exception to this pervasive threat to Christians. On the Opinion page, appeared a column enti-

See FORUM, Page 4

## TECHNICIAN

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1928

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## Packers

by: Danimal



## Trust gained, trust lost



KELLY MARKS

You know, Valentine's Day is coming soon (read on, I promise this isn't that sort of column).

With the stores sporting the latest in shrink-wrapped hearts and the shelves full of stuffed bears wielding fake-bedecore organs, it makes a girl think. And it makes it darn near impossible not to think about love. After all, the word is there in big, script letters everywhere you turn.

But this isn't going to be a column where I moan and groan and attempt to grapple unsuccessfully with what love means. I tend to waste more than my allotment of column inches per year on that one topic.

The truth is, we talk about love, but there's something that can be even more precious. It can be far more fickle and fragile. And, in

most instances, once it's gone, it's not easily regained.

So what is this mystical sentiment? This idea that I'm claiming is bigger than any of those words people are preparing to toss around and toast to in a week and a half. What in the world is this column actually about?

It's about trust.

When we enter this world, we have no other alternative but to trust. We trust someone will feed us, shelter us, dress us, bathe us, keep our noses from getting all snotty and make sure we never smell too funny. We can't not trust—we don't know of any alternative. We put our faith in others before we have a concept of what faith is.

After all, isn't innocence really the same thing as trust? Isn't it being unaware that bad things can happen, that people can disappoint you, that things can change, and not always for the better?

In a sense, trust is naive. It's the pink hues of a world tinted by rose colored glasses. It's what you see before you outgrow the frames or the lenses that pop loose or that get trampled under a careless foot.

And, like those glasses, once trust is broken, you never quite see things the same way. Suddenly, you find yourself sitting there with a big fat piece of tape holding the lens parts together, and you can't seem to look past it.

All you can see is that fatty piece of tape, that imperfection, and it's there catching your eye, calling attention to the fact that things are not what you thought they were, and they will never be that way again.

(Now, right here, I want to make it clear that I'm not equating trusting someone with ignoring reality. In fact, trusting another person can make things all too terribly real.

But more on that in a minute.)

The thing is, we take trust for

granted. We trust that it will always be there. And, like with all of the things that our mummies say we should feel lucky to have—like our sight and our health and the meat-ward that the starving kids in China would give their right arms for—we don't realize what we have until it is gone.

OK, so it is not an eye or a limb or any functioning part of our bodies that we use on a daily basis. But trust, once it's gone, is just as hard to get back—sometimes harder.

Too often, we don't realize how important it is to be trusted. Yeah, so your parents trust you enough not to get you a babysitter when they leave for the weekend. Your teachers trust you enough to leave the class for a few minutes during an exam. Your friends come to you with their problems, their secrets and their heartaches. All run-of-the-mill, big deal scenarios right?

See MARKS, Page 4

## Choose your own adventure



MARK ANDERSON

You might recall a pledge I made a few weeks ago. Something suggesting I would offer a choose-your-own-adventure-type genre. I believe. Well, wait no longer! Let the quest begin!

own-adventure-type genre. I believe. Well, wait no longer! Let the quest begin!

1. You hear the alarm. It's early. You can't read the clock but you know it is 6:00 or 7:00 BC (before class). Do you roll over (go to #4) or do you roll out of bed with relative enthusiasm (go to #2)?

2. Moving about your room, you find the temperature to be somewhere near freezing. You stumble to the refrigerator and discover that your milk has indeed frozen overnight. Do you eat the cereal plain (go to #3) or just skip breakfast altogether (go to #6)?

3. You are filled up with dry cereal and down a glass of cancer-fighting orange juice. You decide to invest in OJ because of its cancer-fighting attractiveness and good taste. Go to #5.

4. Go back to #1. Add nine minutes to the previous alarm time.

5. Despite the disappointing change of breakfast menu, you remember to call 513-8888 to check on the status of classes. If you were hoping to hear that school was finally back on a normal schedule, go to #8. If you were hoping to hear that school was again closed, go to #8.

6. You return to the bedroom to change into jeans and a sweatshirt but begin to be lured by the welcoming remaining warmth of your bed. You avoid the temptation by checking the Weather Channel, only to discover a large mass (another storm?)

7. In a special report, the weather center anchorperson describes the green mass as a bizarre transformation of a once-normal cumulonimbus cloud. If you step onto your balcony to witness the meteorological event, go to #12. Otherwise, move to #9.

8. This is the Adverse Weather and Emergency Conditions Hotline for North Carolina State University. Effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, North Carolina State will open and operate under a normal schedule and the adverse weather policy will no longer be in effect. The university adverse weather policy can be found at Web site www2.ncsu.edu/hr/ppn623.htm.

"Dial tone. You are going to school. Go to #11.

9. If you do not drive to campus, skip to #15. Otherwise, move on to #10.

hovers over NCSU on the weather map. Go to #7.

10. Now in your ice-covered car (or on your ice-covered bike), you start scraping. This takes a lot longer than you anticipated. Fortunately, you remember Mike Maze and Greg Fishel pleading with you to drive slowly, even if the roads look clear. See #14.

11. Return to #6.

12. It is actually a giant helium-filled Hollywood-mad cotton ball that had been used in the filming of the third sequel to "Honey, I Shrank the Kids." You return indoors, and, thinking it all to be a dream, you go back to bed. Later you hear the alarm again and realize that it is now 6:54 a.m. Go to #13.

13. Return to #4.

14. You plug along the road, skip a bit here and there and finally get to school just five minutes late. If you have some kind of reserved permit (e.g., AG-6), go to #17. Otherwise, See CHOOSE, Page 4

## Attaining a vision for the future



RACHAEL QUEARASH

On Jan. 31, I had the honor of dining with and listening to Gen. Henry Shelton, Chairman of the

Chiefs of Staff. I felt very privileged to meet and mingle with other leaders in the U.S. Army, the N.C. State community distinguished students.

is a gathering of our nation's and future leaders. Shelton's is a model leader, emulated by my own beliefs about leadership remarks were a real inspiration and other students who plan our nation through the 21st

Shelton's comments personally to leaders, it did, how-

ever, stress important aspects that should be a part of anyone's life. Among the topics Shelton touched on were ethics, confidence, empowerment and practice.

Shelton's emphasis on vision stuck out in my mind more than anything he covered during his speech. "Leadership is the ability to turn a dream into reality," Shelton said.

I agree with him in that it takes leadership to implement a dream. But I disagree in the fact that you have to have leadership skills to have visions for the future.

The ability to have vision should not only be in leaders but in everyone. I think that as college students whether you are interested in leadership or not, you should still have vision for your life.

This time in college is a critical time

when visions and plans for our lives must be made. We can no longer depend on others to decide what we should do; we must search for ourselves. We must find what will make us the happiest for the next 60 years or so.

Having vision and focus is the key to a successful life. Yet, everyone's visions are different. It is not right to look down on or admire someone else's vision. Visions are custom-made, based on your outlook and passions in life. Everyone is different, and everyone is happy fulfilling different visions.

Some of us have visions of being revolutionary scientists or engineers. Others want to go into politics, others want to be the Surgeon General of the U.S., while still others want to return to their

home and work in the city where they were raised.

However, each of these cases is admirable. They are admirable because they fulfill a single person's vision.

Respecting others' vision is imperative. Although they may not hold up to your standards, that doesn't necessarily mean that they are poor visions. The only time a vision is poor is when the person is unhappy. The true sign of a successful vision is happiness. You know that someone will succeed in a vision when you can see his face light up and passion pours out.

Follow your own vision. Too many times we attempt to fulfill a vision, shown to us by others rather than by ourselves. You know in your heart that

See VISION, Page 4

## MARKS

Continued from Page 2

Well, that is, until you've betrayed the trust that makes those things possible.

On a daily basis, we jeopardize people's faith in us. Every time we "conveniently" forget something, every time we're late or welf on a promise, every little white lie told—we run the risk of losing someone's trust.

And, once trust is gone, how do you ever get it back? How does the

person who was let down ever find the strength or the compassion to offer us a second chance? How does the person who gets to try again, ever make amends?

Is it ever really possible to trust or be trusted again? Doubt spreads like kudzu. You can rationalize it away just as you'd pluck and yank and pull at each new weed, but it still finds its way into the slightest cracks and crevices.

Soon, it takes up residence, growing stronger and tougher, going beyond nuisance status as it makes a home in your head and your thoughts for the self, slowly splitting even the most seemingly stable firmaments apart.

Okay, so I'm being slightly melodramatic. But the truth is that it's not the initial betrayal that tears people apart. That would be a lot kinder to both parties. It's the miggling doubts that are sowed, that can lie dormant for years, only to be nurtured into full bloom by a chance comment or occurrence.

We talk about the things that make relationships work—the caring, the passion, and the innocence—and what can happen when these things fade. But the truth is you can love someone even after the thrill is gone.

Can the same be said for when you can't trust them? Elvis, that sage for all seasons, once belted out that "we can't go on together with suspicious

minds." A wise man he was—well, outside of that whole Jungle Room of his.

You can't build your dreams on suspicious minds. If you constantly question, wonder and doubt, there's no room for the freedom, independence and faith that make relationships work. Without trust, there's no respect and without respect there's just no point.

But, how do you learn to trust? How do you put faith in something if you've never really had much faith at all?

Well, it's hard. And it can be painful. And it can be as risky as falling in love. In either case, you're essentially placing a part of yourself in another person's hands and just hoping like heck that they don't mess it up. You trust them not to break you.

And, when it comes down to it, that's all you can do. Trust me.

Kelly realizes that she did mention the I-word several times for a column she claims was not about the I-word. But, really, she didn't think you'd notice, what with all of those other I-words printed on everything lately. Comments? E-mail kmmarks@unity.ncsu.edu. But don't necessarily trust that you'll get anything back.

## FUTURE

Continued from Page 2

a certain vision is right for you when you can feel it seeping through your bones. Do not let anyone influence your decision. You should always be the final influence in your life.

Do not be afraid to reach for the highest tier within your range. Even if you fall, you can always pick yourself back up and start over.

Sheldon had a vision for his life. He took risks to implement his vision and is now reaping the benefits. His life and decisions were correct for him. However, to some they may be too lofty.

Yet, do not cut yourself short. Everyone with the will power can make it to his highest dreams.

Just remember that it is OK to have a vision that is not considered big, as long as it is right for you.

Listen for Rachael on the Andrew Payne Show every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. on WKNC 88.1 FM. Also, in the following years as Rachael fulfills her vision of becoming the Surgeon General, "To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe." —Abraham Lincoln. E-mail questions and comments to rchenca@unity.ncsu.edu.

## FORUM

Continued from Page 2

ted "Modern-day Christians have it all wrong." The author, Ryan Avent, proceeded to explain exactly why Christians are wrong in their belief in Creationism.

He was, however, very ineffective in his argument; for he offered no points that would prove that we Christians are lost in a world controlled by science. What he did was imply that evolution was a scientific certainty and that no Creationist could offer proof that would counter this impressive logic.

As a student of evolution this semester, I have learned that there is more supporting this theory than I had originally thought. This evidence, however, only supports a theory that is riddled with holes and controversies.

To Mr. Avent, then, I offer in support of Creationism his own very weak and flimsy so-called facts about evolution. The holes are too large and the controversies too entangling for any scholar to believe that this concept might have truth woven into it. Perhaps when evolution can be called a fact more Christians will be willing to accept it as such.

That however, will never happen, because evolution is a fallacy that can never be proven.

Richard Lee Robertson  
Freshman  
History

## CHOOSE

Continued from Page 2

move to #16.

15. You take off and land on your backside after slipping on a small patch of brick...I mean, ice. You get up but fall yet again at the stairs (cliffs) of Harrelson. Congratulations. You made it to class. Go to #18.

16. No spots are available, so you drive around and, finally, after 10 more minutes, find a lone space...covered in heaps of snow and ice. You park anyway and pray your emergency break will keep the car from moving. Go to #15.

17. Good for you. You made it to work, assuming, that is, that no students have those mysterious special permits.

18. "Class cancelled due to teacher's illness," reads the sign posted on the classroom door. You take advantage of the opportunity and read for your next assignment.

The End

There you have it. Hope you enjoyed it. Share it with your friends. Just don't start any kind of middle school choose-your-own-adventure cult, please. Be responsible and retrieve your friends from the hit-the-alarm-and-rollover loop that was built in. They can stop reading now.

Thoughts, comments? E-mail Mark at mbander2@unity.ncsu.edu.

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Brian Tran, Computer Sciences, prepares to make the first copies using the All Campus card.

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>>>Backpacking my ASSSSSS!! If I tried it on my own I'd still be looking for the train station!!

>>>So I've been back for a week now and miss all you guys terribly. I'll post the pics of all of us soon. It's hard to find one of our famous group pics where SOMEONE that means you, Bryan! isn't making a very INAPPROPRIATE gesture!! Can't believe we did so much and still had leftover cash...what a great deal!!!! Cara...you're high-school French was as useful as a 14k modem... Glad we had our fearless tour leader Scotty to guide us in the right direction with no hassles!!!! Reunion in 2000...I vote for South Africa!! Keep in touch, all my new mates, at [contiki.com](http://contiki.com) Love Robbo xxxxxx

this sort of thing sometimes happens to people who travel with us.



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meces by danimal



## doughboy by marko

The Felin, Matajuro Yagu, was the son of a famous swordsman. His father, believing his son's work was too mediocre to anticipate mastery, disowned him. So Matajuro went to Mount Futara and there found the famous rabbit swordsman Banzo. But Banzo confirmed the father's judgment and told the cat that because of his rush to learn so quickly, he would never get any better.

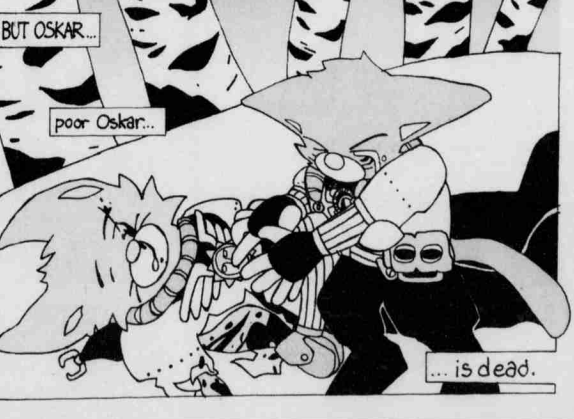
Matajuro was told never to speak of fencing and never to touch a sword. He cooked for his master, washed dishes, made his bed, cleaned the yard, cared for the garden, all without a word of swordsmanship. Three years passed. Still Matajuro labored on. Thinking of his future, he was sad. He had not even begun to learn the art to which he had devoted his life.

But one day Banzo crept up behind him and gave him a terrific blow with a wooden sword. The following day, when Matajuro was cooking rice, Banzo again sprang upon him unexpectedly.

When Matajuro became the greatest swordsman in the land, he hopped a spacecraft and ventured towards Myrm'fon, a moon of the planet Arachan'th.

Having ditched Maxine, Oskar the cat, met up with Manturo on the moon. They flew their trusty spaceship, the V'sp'dae, to the city of Achilla of the Asclapetus. Achilla had been ravaged by a deadly comet and Oskar and Matajuro were met with a fiery debris upon entering the planet's atmosphere.

Their ship gravely damaged, they slammed into a region known as Deja.



## es muy bien alterations by jackson brown



## the man by steven f. leboeuf





## LEADER

Continued from Page 8

shortstop, Smith had a good high school career, but he received no scholarship offers from Division I schools.

"For me, the choice was either school or school and baseball," said Smith. "And I didn't want to go to a Division III school."

For Smith, the decision was simple. "N.C. State was my school of choice since childhood. It's the only place I applied," he said.

Smith enrolled at State and was one of six baseball walk-ons in 1997, his freshman year.

"Walk-ons just don't make college teams anymore," Avent said. "Every day, we came in to out walk-ons, and we couldn't cut Jason because he'd had another good day."

All of those good practice days led to a good first start for Smith, a March 29 matchup with Florida State. Smith went 1-2 and started a ninth-inning double play that helped bury a Seminoles team that would go on to reach the College World Series.

That victory began a 14-game winning streak, and the 1997 Pack team reached the NCAA Tournament

before being ousted by losses to Alabama and Southern California, the two regional finalists.

Smith started 14 of 26 games during his freshman season, batting .295 and providing solid defense.

He played particularly well during the NCAA Tournament, batting .429 in four regional games. Smith provided the game-winning RBI in the 10th inning of a 10-9 tournament-opening win over Wichita State.

Avent, who was in his first year as NCSU head coach in '97, said that the Wichita State game may be the best NCAA regional game he's ever been involved in.

After closing the '97 season as the team's starting second baseman, Smith slumped in 1998. He batted .184 and started only 15 of 34 games, losing his starting job to jumbo transfer Brian Ward, who would become an all-conference player before graduating in '99.

"I thought the starting job was mine to lose," Smith said. "You've got to continue to work. Don't settle for anything."

A return to form came last year. During his junior season, Smith took over as the starter at third base March 2 and stayed there for the remainder of the season. He batted a respectable .291 and led the team in stolen bases with 18. He was caught only once.

Smith's greatest on-field contribution in '99 was not at the plate, however.

"We really came around defensively when he came in at third base," said Avent.

Smith also added another chapter to his already-unique story last spring. A graduating senior with a 3.84 GPA in construction engineering and management, Smith was invited to deliver the speech in his departmental graduation last spring.

A late-season rainout against Clemson, however, created a problem. In order to make up the game, the team scheduled a doubleheader on graduation day. Smith was surprised to find himself with a dilemma: Speak at graduation, or play in the game?

"I never considered skipping the game. My first thought was to get someone else to speak for me," he said.

Another surprise lay ahead, though. After the first game, Civil Engineering Department Head Downey Brill presented Smith with his diploma on the field.

"It was the culmination of the two things I'm here for," Smith said of the presentation.

Exactly what is Smith's role going into the delayed start of this 2000 season? As a senior, he will provide

leadership to a young team; exactly how he will do that depends on who you're talking to, however.

"I picture myself as a quiet leader," Smith said. "My role's going to be to try not to be too emotional."

"[Smith's] both a vocal and example leader, a great academic guy," said fifth-year senior Mooney.

"Smith shows very good character," said Schmitt. "The underclassmen respect him."

Pitcher Steadham offered a unique perspective on Smith's on-field attributes, having competed against him this past summer. "He's a hustler, fun to watch, and he's a hard guy to get out," he said. "He's smart, and that gives him an advantage over most players."

Perhaps Avent, the head coach, offered the most accurate picture of Smith's value to the team. "He's excellent at moving runners, he's one of our best hit-and-run guys and handles the bat well...he's just an outstanding athlete," Avent said.

How to sum up a second baseman/third baseman/shortstop who can also play catcher, who once hit 87 MPH pitching in tryouts, according to Avent? A former no-chance walk-on who has become a key contributor while graduating with honors and is working on a master's degree from the only school he wanted to attend?

Once more, Avent may offer the best description: "He's the most versatile player on the team."



N.C. State was supposed to play Elon College Saturday, but there has been a rare snow-out. Nonetheless, the team is ready for the 2000 season to begin. Its season opener will now be in the Winn-Dixie Classic.

## PACK

Continued from Page 8

shooting.

"He was fantastic tonight on both ends of the floor," said Sendek. "It's hard to quickly recall a night where he's been as complete."

Guard Archie Miller added 12 points off the bench for the Pack for his third consecutive game in double figures. Sophomore Anthony Grundy also pitched in 17 points in the winning effort.

The first half proved to be a defensive war with neither team able to get much going offensively.

The Florida State offense had a horrible half from the floor, hitting just 26.1 percent. The Seminoles were held without a field goal for a stretch of 7:29.

NCSU utilized a 14-2 run midway through the first to seize a lead that it would never relinquish. The Pack seemed ready to deliver the knock out blow early but had trouble scoring as well, hitting only 37 percent on its end for the half.

The second half looked like it would be a different story early. Oliver

Simmons hit two quick shots to pull Florida State back within six. But the Seminoles would get no closer.

A monster dunk by Thornton with 10:25 left ignited the crowd and pushed the 11. The lead gradually grew as high as 16 for the Pack with steady play on both ends of the court.

Florida State made a mini-run toward the end of the game, but the Pack hit its free throws down the stretch to preserve the win.

The Pack returns to action Sunday with a trip to Maryland. The Pack defeated the Terrapins 68-66 on Jan. 6 in the ESA.

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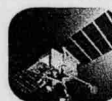
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## 2000

Continued from Page 8

### Leadership.

Lee, a senior outfielder from Clayton N.C., hit .281 last season with two home runs. Senior catcher Mooney, from Forked River, N.J., cranked five home runs, hit .264 and led the team in fielding percentage (.984). Smith, a senior infielder from Goldsboro, hit .291. "We've got a lot of hidden talent," Lee said. "I think we've got a better team than last year."

Team pitching figures to be one of the Pack's most valuable assets come spring.

"Our pitchers should lead the way," Avent said. "Any ball club should be able to rely on whoever takes the mound and our guys know what it takes to be successful."

Sophomore returnees on the pitching staff were a combined 16-2 as freshman. Dan D'Amato led the freshman in 1999 with 52 strikeouts and a 7-2 record. His 5.11 ERA was no match for fellow freshman Kyle Stephenson; his ERA: an impressive 4.03. Mike Sollic led the freshmen in ERA, however, with a 3.05 mark and he was a perfect 4-0. Ryan Combs and Steadham round out the Pack rotation.

In the infield, experience will be a question.

Fall competition shook up the infield with Smith moving to second base and freshman Jeremy

Dutton winning the job at third. Additionally, an injury may sideline freshman Chris Goodman, who was a projected starter at shortstop, early on.

Mooney and Tyler Tiesing will vie for the starter's spot behind the plate and coaches are yet to determine who will fill in at first base.

Experience in the outfield is in question for a different reason. There are players who have seen ACC action in the outfield, but no player has a great deal of experience at the position he will play when the 2000 season gets underway.

Heavy hitters Craig and Richard Lee (no relation) and senior leader Josh Schmidt team up with Andy Baxter, who has been plagued by injuries throughout his career, in the outfield.

"You never feel like you have enough depth when you take it position by position," Avent said. "But I think our depth is adequate."

Overall, with its leadership, the missed practice with the snow shouldn't effect the Pack in the long run. Because the schedule assembled by Coach Avent, including a match-up with defending national champion Miami in Durham on April 21, will accommodate young players to Division I baseball quicker than any practice drill or inter-squad scrimmage.

Staff Writer Jimmy Ryals contributed to this story.

## ACC

Continued from Page 8

Clemson will challenge for the conference championship (coached picked the Tigers third) as well last year's ACC tournament champion Wake Forest.

Just above NCSU in the standings is rival North Carolina — the team that surprised Miami over the weekend, beating them 9-0 in the ACC/Disney Baseball Bash.

## ESA

Continued from Page 8

Charles give the Pack depth in every event.

Gymnastics is unique to the world of sports. Most other sports involve direct competition between individuals or teams. That's what attracts fans to games.

Gymnastics is different because the challenge for the participants is to overcome an apparatus, not an opponent. The head-to-head competition that characterizes most other sports isn't there.

But the enthusiasm, energy and sheer athletic skill that the NCSU gymnasts put on display at every meet make them worth seeing.

Jeremy's columns appear on most Thursdays. He can be reached at 515-2411 or jashon@unity.ncsu.edu.

Tied for sixth in the standings is Virginia. And Maryland and Duke check in seventh and eighth place respectively.

Nationally, the ESPN college coaches poll boost three ACC teams: Florida State at No. 4, Georgia Tech at No. 8, and Clemson at No. 15.

"This is the best conference has been in a long time and the best a lot of the teams have been," Avent said. "There's no disgrace in being picked sixth. It might make getting a tournament birth hard if that's where we finish though."

## WOMEN

Continued from Page 8

storyline. Some nights ball handling hurts Yow's team worse than anything does; but turnovers are excusable, the coach points out, when a backcourt is predominantly freshmen. In the second half, at Carolina, 14 turnovers kept the Heels in the game.

On other days, as was the case at Wake Forest, turnovers work in Yow's favor. The Demon Deacons succumbed to some of the toughest defensive pressure exuded by Yow's team this season and coughed up the ball 24 times.

The results: 22 points off turnovers and a 43-29 halftime lead for State.

With a win, State will remain a front-runner, with Virginia and Duke, for the regular season ACC crown.

## AMATO

Continued from Page 3

the list. Fellow Floridian Troy Graham also won a state title in the 400 meters. He will bring good size and speed to the wide receiver position.

The Pack was able to hold on to several players that had committed before Amato became head coach. Among them was Cary placekicker Austin Herbert, who set the North Carolina record for career field goals.

"We almost feel like we had two signing classes," Amato said. "We have the players who were committed to North Carolina State and stuck with us after the coaching change, and we have the players who we went out and recruited. I feel good about both groups."

Another key player in the recruiting class is Alabama player of the year, quarterback Philip Rivers. Rivers has already enrolled for the Spring semester at State.

"Philip is a big, smart player who seems to have that 'it' you want in a quarterback," Amato said. "He's the son of [a] coach and has a lot of confidence in himself. The fact that he is here now will give him an opportunity to get involved in the mix at the quarterback position this spring."

The state breakdown of this year's 16 signees goes as follows, 6 from North Carolina, 4 from Florida, 4 from Alabama, 3 from Georgia and one signee from Texas.

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# Thursday Sports

## COMMENTARY

## Showdown at the ESA

JERMEY ASHTON



N.C. State hosts Georgia on Sunday in the Entertainment and Sports Arena for the second time in three months.

The situation is a little different this time, however. Georgia will come to the ESA as one of the top teams in the country. The Wolfpack will play the role of an up-and-coming underdog. And, by the way, Sunday's matchup is going to be a gymnastics meet.

The only sporting events that have taken place in the ESA since it opened are N.C. State basketball games and Hurricanes hockey — unless the World Wrestling Federation's November appearance counts.

The schedule makers at the ESA couldn't have picked a better event to host this weekend. This is the biggest matchup the ESA has seen in its brief history in terms of the quality of the two teams involved.

Georgia is college gymnastics' version of a dynasty. The Gym Dogs are the two-time defending national champs and have won five NCAA titles since 1987. They had knocked off 67 consecutive opponents until they fell to Alabama in the Super Six Challenge at the beginning of this year. It was

## GYMNASTICS

a streak that spanned 30 meets over a two-year period.

Gymnastics takes a back seat to no one at Georgia. The Gym Dogs routinely sell out the 11,000-seat Stegeman Coliseum. And the atmosphere at meets is similar to most college basketball games with indoor pyrotechnics and replays on the big screen.

In its past meetings with the Gym Dogs, N.C. State hasn't had the firepower to keep the score close. But this time around, the Pack will give Georgia a serious run for its money.

Everyone associated with the N.C. State gymnastics program has said from the first day of practice on that this is the best team in school history. The squad has done nothing to disappoint so far.

The Pack opened the season Jan. 13 against George Washington by setting an opening-meet record for overall score.

The weeks since then have been strange. The team was supposed to fly to Bermuda for a meet with Nebraska but ended up stuck in New York the day of the meet.

The winter weather that paralyzed the Southeast limited the Pack gymnasts to three practices in a 17-day stretch. Yet, they went to Ohio State over the weekend and still posted a score of 194.075. The earliest any other N.C. State squad had scored over 194 was in its fifth meet. Imagine what this team might be able to accomplish with a full week of practices.

The success that the Pack has achieved starts at the top. Head coach Mark Stevenson built this program from the ground up, and he's done it the right way.

Stevenson's philosophy is that his team has to face the best in order to improve. The Pack always has one of the toughest schedules in the country. Five of the 12 teams that participated in the 1999 National Championship meet are on NCSU's schedule.

While Stevenson has guided N.C. State gymnastics to new heights in the gym, he is extremely proud of his team's accomplishments in the classroom. In an era when the first part of the term "student-athlete" doesn't always get stressed as much as it should, the Pack consistently earns one of the highest team GPAs in the country. NCSU had more Scholastic All-Americans, ten, than any other gymnastics squad in the country last year.

The amount of talent on this year's team is undeniable. Seniors Maggie Haney and Jenny Sommer can be counted on for three good goals each at every meet. Sophomore Kelli Brown earned second-team All-East Atlantic Gymnastics League on two events last year. Junior Amy Langendorf might be the best all-around gymnast NCSU has ever seen. And gymnasts like Sara Dolan, Monica Berry and Kara

## Pack pulls away from Florida State

◆ The Wolfpack defeated the Seminoles 68-58 Wednesday night to move into a tie for second place in the ACC.

JEREMY ASHTON and ROB GODFREY  
Staff Writers

N.C. State used a workman-like effort Wednesday night to grind out a 68-58 win over Florida State in the Entertainment and Sports Arena.

The win pushed the Wolfpack to 5-3 in the Atlantic Coast Conference and moved the team into a tie for second place in the ACC.

with Virginia after the Cavaliers fell to Maryland. The key to the game for the Pack was its

stingy defense, which has become the team's signature. The Pack held the Seminoles to just 32.7 percent shooting from the floor and forced 16 turnovers.

"I was very pleased with our defensive effort for the most part, except down the home stretch," said N.C. State head coach Herb Sendek. "All in all it was an important win for our basketball team, and I thought in particular that our defense in the first half, holding a very potent Florida State team to 18 points, was outstanding."

N.C. State had a consistent night in almost every facet of the game. The Pack held on to the ball well, committing just eight turnovers in the game. NCSU also hauled in 36 rebounds for the game.

The team just could not seem to put the ball in the basket as much as it would have liked to. The Pack only managed to shoot 37.7 percent from the floor.

Forward Damon Thornton was a huge presence in the post for the Pack. Thornton finished the game with 12 rebounds and five blocks.

"We continue to get very consistent and good play from Damon," said Sendek. "In the first half, he led our team with deflections. That's always a barometer for how active you are. He's really strung together now some good games."

More importantly, he helped the Pack make life miserable for FSU's star player Ron Hale. Hale came into the game averaging 17.4 points but shot just 3-of-13 from the floor.

"He's tough to guard," said freshman Damien Wilkins. "It was hard to stay with him at times, but at the same time, I think, he was kind of frustrated that a lot of his shots weren't falling."

Meanwhile, Wilkins had a big impact for the Pack with one of the best all-around games of his young career, scoring 19 points on 6-of-7

See PACK, Page 6



Kenny Inge helped State against FSU.

## Baseball 2-0-0-0

◆ N.C. State's baseball team is ready for the first season of the millennium.

ROB GODFREY  
Staff Writer

Crowning a Super Bowl champion usually means out with football and in with baseball.

This season, however, baseball is temporarily on hold in Wolfpack country thanks to the record snowfall in and around the Triangle. Coach Elliot Avent's 2000 baseball team has been confined to indoor practices during which players run, and take batting practice while coaches hope mother nature will allow them to practice in a more suitable environment.

"At this point in the year, we should have had 12 to 15 inter-squad scrimmages," Avent sighed. "Hopefully, we can get on the infield this weekend."

Over the weekend, the Pack was supposed to open the season at home versus Elon College. Officials canceled the Saturday game because Doak Field, on the N.C. State's campus, is still covered in snow. No make-up date is set.

Despite all the snow, State's baseball team is ready to

start the season. In the preseason Atlantic Coast Conference coaches' poll, the Wolfpack was picked to finish sixth, while Florida State was picked to win the conference.

"I could care less if we're ranked 100 right now," said senior catcher Dan Mooney. "We've got 56 games to play."

While Mooney thinks the rankings don't matter, other Wolfpack players aren't putting much stock in them.

"We're as good as or better than number one [in the conference]," said pitcher Ryan Steadham. "We should definitely end up in the top three."

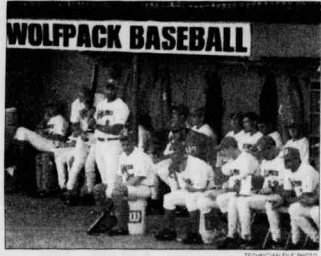
If the Pack wants to succeed this season, it will first and foremost have to find a way to replace power hitters Mike Postell and Brian Ward, seniors from last year's squad.

Both Ward, a second baseman, and Postell, a first baseman, were leaders in most offensive statistical categories last season on a team that finished the season 37-25 in all games, 11-13 in the Atlantic Coast Conference. "Anytime you lose two guys in the same year who carried you like Postell and Ward did, you need someone to step up," Avent said. "Luckily we have several candidates."

And those candidates include some very reliable per-

formers. Tri-captains Craig Lee, Dan Mooney and Jason Smith are the nucleus of what Coach Avent calls outstanding

See 2000, Page 7



N.C. State's baseball team is ready for action.

## Senior Leader

◆ Jason Smith has gone from a walk-on to being an important component of N.C. State's baseball team.

JIMMY RYALS  
Staff Writer

For the past three weeks, the loud ping of aluminum on horseshoe has resonated through the basement of Reynolds Coliseum.

The venerable old arena has lost one of its primary residents this year — the men's basketball team — but the recent severe winter weather has forced the Wolfpack baseball team to take up temporary residence in its bowels.

"Oh, I'm dying," said senior pitcher Ryan Steadham. "I don't care if it's 20 degrees outside, if there's no snow on the ground, I want to be playing."

Steadham is not in the minority in wanting to get back outside; most of the team seems to be itching to get out of

the musty basement that now also carries the heavy scent of tobacco juice.

Steadham is nearly alone, however, in his position as a senior Wolfpack baseball player on this year's team. There are only six seniors on the 2000 squad: Steadham, pitcher Conrad Clark, outfielder Craig Lee, catcher Dan Mooney, pitcher/outfielder Josh Schmitt and second baseman/third baseman/shortstop Jason Smith.

All six seniors are major contributors, and they all came to the State baseball team in different ways. But Smith may have followed a more circuitous route to his position than any of the others. As a child, Smith played for the United Kingdom in the European qualifier for the Little League World Series. The U.K. team finished third.

Years later, Smith was graduating from Rosewood High School in Goldsboro. A two-time all-conference



Jason Smith.

See LEADER, Page 6

## Seminoles lead ACC

◆ Georgia Tech and Clemson are the teams most likely to challenge Florida State.

ROB GODFREY  
Staff Writer

The Atlantic Coast Conference has the reputation for being an outstanding athletic conference. Baseball is no different.

With perennial powers Florida State and Clemson, looking strong this season, there will be no easy conference games.

The ACC baseball coaches picked FSU to finish first in the conference at the annual coach's convention in Greensboro, N.C.

"The ACC is awfully strong this year," Wolfpack Head Coach Elliot Avent said. "Florida State is Florida State and UNC looked awfully good in beating Miami 9-0 down in Florida."

The Seminoles, national runners-up to Miami in 1999, finished just above Georgia Tech, ranked eighth in the national polls.

Yellow Jacket coaches and players are out for revenge after not receiving an invitation to the 1999 NCAA baseball tournament. But the Nokes and Jackets are not going to run away with any conference games.

See ACC, Page 7

## Amato lands 16 football recruits

◆ N.C. State head football coach Chuck Amato announced the student-athletes who have signed letters of intent to attend N.C. State.

ADEMARO R. BRAWNO  
Staff Writer

When N.C. State hired Chuck Amato as football coach, it got a man who brought years of recruiting experience in football-rich South Florida.

That experience was evident Wednesday when Amato announced four last-minute signees from Florida. However, Amato was quick to point out that despite Florida's reputation at producing talent, the main focus has to be recruiting in North Carolina.

"Here's where we've got to recruit," Amato said. "It's North Carolina State, it's not Florida State. Obviously we're

not going to get all of them from North Carolina, but we start from there.

Amato announced the names of the newly signed recruits at a press conference. Two of the players are already enrolled at N.C. State.

"We've signed a lot of athletes to play a lot of different positions," said rising sophomore and wide receiver Koren Robinson. "I'm real excited about next year, ready to get going."

Speed is the one constant found in this year's recruiting class. Among the list of recruits is Andy Bertrand, who was a member of the Florida state champions in the 400-meter relay.

"He came out of nowhere — his team didn't throw the ball much," Amato said. "Andy is a wide receiver with good size, good speed and big play capability."

Bertrand is not the only tracker on

See AMATO, Page 7

## N.C. State's women ready for Tar Heels

◆ N.C. State looks to maintain second place in the ACC with a win over North Carolina.

ROB GODFREY  
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Tar Heels will invade Reynolds Coliseum tonight at 7 p.m. and try to avenge the 79-72 loss No. 8 N.C. State dealt them Jan. 3 in Chapel Hill. Both teams enter the rematch having dealt with unforeseen problems over the last month.

After winning 14 straight games to start the season, the Wolfpack (16-4, 7-2 ACC) lost four of its next six games, including back-to-back losses in the conference to Clemson and Virginia. And just when the Pack appeared to be back on track, handing the Duke Blue Devils their first ACC loss in overtime, it dropped two non-conference games, 81-77 to Texas, and, more recently, 83-63 to Tennessee.

North Carolina (9-9, 3-6 ACC), similarly, struggled on the court in January.

Losing seven of nine games after the New Year, Carolina from fell both national polls and had to compete without the services of ACC standout Nikki Teasley.

Teasley, who came back Saturday against Maryland, scored 17 points in the Heels' loss to State.

However, the Pack, coached by Kay Yow, and the Heels, coached by Sylvia Hatchell, were victorious over the weekend: State downed Wake Forest 86-56 and Carolina defeated Maryland 54-49.

What will it take for the Pack to

win?

A performance tantamount to its performance of a month ago.

The Pack has to shoot consistently, rebound and force turnovers.

Tynesha Lewis and Monica Bates put on a three-point shooting exhibition at Carmichael Auditorium earlier this season, combining for nine field goals from behind the arc. Since mid-January, Pack shooting has been inconsistent, though.

While State shot 47 percent against Carolina, it shot a meager 33 percent against Virginia and 37 percent against Clemson.

Next, freshman Kaayla Chones, who grabbed 20 rebounds in Chapel Hill, needs to be a force-as do all Pack rebounders.

"Rebounds were a big key," Hatchell said, following State's fourth straight win over her team. State out-rebounded their opponent 49-37.

Finally, turnovers figure to be a key



N.C. State's women's basketball team is set to take on the arch rival North Carolina Tar Heel tonight at 7:00 p.m. in Reynolds Coliseum.

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