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Thursday February 24, 2000 TECHNICIAN

Today
Hi 64
Lo 46
Tomorrow
Hi 68
Lo 51

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

In the NEWS

PAMS, CHASS seek award nominations

The College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (PAMS) and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) are seeking nominations for the Award for Excellence program. Information and forms are available from the offices of department heads. PAMS nominations are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 6, and should be sent to Robert Morrison at Box 8208. CHASS nominations are due at noon Monday, March 6, and should be sent to Carolyn Bunn at Box 8101.

Reception planned for Swaisgood

Harold Swaisgood, recipient of the prestigious Holladay Medal, will be honored by the Food Science Department on March 2. A seminar will be held in honor of Swaisgood in Schaub Hall at 3 p.m. followed by a reception at 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served during the reception.

The seminar is entitled, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Graduate School Working for Harold Swaisgood (A Comparison of How Milk and Blood Clot)." It will be given by Frank Church, a former student of Swaisgood's who is now a professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology and Medicine at the University of North Carolina.

Lecture and Symposium to be held

The N.C. State Park Scholars will sponsor a lecture and symposium by John Hope Franklin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22 in Stewart Theater at Talley Student Center.

Franklin, a James B. Duke professor emeritus of history and Duke University law professor, will present "The Tulsa Race Riots of 1921: Reflections of a Near Victim and a Historian," which will be followed by a reception.

The cost of the event is free. For more information, contact 851-2385.

College of Engineering presents study abroad opportunity

David Ollis, distinguished professor of chemical engineering, has provided the opportunity for four N.C. State engineering students to participate in a technical program at CPE-Lyon College in Lyon, France.

The program, which will begin June 5, is aimed toward first or second year students in chemical, electrical or industrial engineering who have completed two years of French language study in high school or one year in college.

The program will cost students very little. The cost of courses, housing and industry visits will be covered by CPE-Lyon. Students will be expected to pay for their own food costs and local transportation.

Interested students can contact Alex Miller at: namiller@gw.fis.ncsu.edu for an interest survey. Students who fill out interest surveys may be contacted to see if they wish to apply.

Student Government Debates

On March 28, Technician and WNCN will co-sponsor debates between candidates for Student Body Offices. The show will be broadcasted live on KNC on the Andrew Payne show from 6 to 8 p.m.

Emerging Issues Forum gets underway

◆ A host of big-name speakers will be on campus for the next two days to discuss the issues currently facing North Carolina.

TIM CLARK
Senior Staff Writer

The 15th Annual Emerging Issues Forum opens today at the McKimmon Center. The forum will continue on Friday as well.

The Emerging Issues Forum was started in 1986 by North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt to provide the means for inviting national and international leaders to North Carolina to talk about current social issues make presentations and hold question-and-answer sessions.

Past forums have focused on global issues such as the world economy or the environment.

"The forum usually covers things that people are thinking about or being discussed in the media," said Mike Roth, the associate director of the Emerging Issues Forum. "These issues are usually chosen from the national or international front."

This year's forum is different in that it seeks to bring the focus a little closer to home.

In a letter released by the forum, Gov. Hunt said that, "This...forum is about shaping our future, identifying critical issues and making strategic choices, choices in education, the



Gov. Jim Hunt (left) with business panelists Jim Goodnight, John Correnti and George Henderson discuss global issues at last year's forum.

environment, the economy and in matters concerning the health and well-being of North Carolina's children and families."

Speakers are coming from both the state and the nation at large to discuss their successes and how they can be applied to North

Carolina. The selection process for both guests and topics comes from a committee comprised of the governor, many of the deans from N.C. State and Chancellor Marye Anne Fox. The committee met periodically to propose ideas,

with the goal being to finalize an agenda six months prior to the actual forum.

Some of this year's guests include: Molly Broad, president of the UNC system, consisting of 16 universities, who will speak on education; Hugh McColl, chairman and CEO of the Bank of America, who will discuss his views on the state economy. Other featured speakers include: Olivia Golden, assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who will speak about the importance of early child education and Governor Roy Barnes of Georgia, who will outline the steps his state has taken toward preserving the environment.

The forum will also feature Erskine Bowles, President Bill Clinton's former chief of staff.

In addition to the focus on state issues, the panels of this year's forum are almost exclusively made up of North Carolinians, many of whom are NCSU faculty.

"Having the panel of North Carolinians to engage speakers adds further North Carolina flavor to the forum," Roth said.

This year's Emerging Issues Forum will open 9 a.m. today at the McKimmon Center. While aimed specifically towards educators, businessmen, public officials and students, the event is open to the public. A live web cast of the event, as well as additional information, is available from the forum's web site: (http://www.ncsu.edu/emerging_issues).

Most students finish in 6 years

◆ Recent studies show that many NCSU students are taking increasingly more time to earn their degrees than in the past.

ANDREW BUCHERT
Senior Staff Writer

The percentage of students entering N.C. State as freshmen and receiving their degree within five years is slightly higher than national figures, according to data released last week by the American College Testing Program. However, NCSU is only ranked 13th among its 15 peer institutions in terms of average six-year graduation rates.

A report issued last week by the American College Testing Program showed that nationally, the percentage of students entering four-year institutions and graduating within five years is steadily declining, with only 51.6 percent of entering freshmen in 1993

Six-Year Graduation Rates 1995 - 1998

Duke University	93
Penn State	80
N.C. State	65
Univ. of Georgia	64
Iowa State	61

receiving their degree within five years.

Of the 3,176 freshmen that entered NCSU in 1993, 57.7 percent graduated within five years, a rate 6.1 percent higher than the national figure, according to the NCSU University Planning and Analysis website. However, that number declined to a 53.2 percent

five-year graduation rate with the class entering NCSU in 1994.

NCSU officials are more concerned about six-year graduation rates, in which the university ranks only 13th among its 15 peer institutions. NCSU saw a 1995-1998 average six-year graduation rate of 65 percent, only ranking slightly higher than University of Georgia, with 64 percent, and Iowa State, with a rate of 61 percent. Duke University leads the comparison of peer institutions, with an average six-year graduation rate of 93 percent, followed by Penn State's 80 percent.

"For a lot of programs [at NCSU], four [years to graduate] is not a reasonable number," said University Planning and Analysis Director Karen Helm. "A lot of our students participate in programs, such as co-oping, which require more than four years."

"One dimension that is often overlooked is our particular mix of students, especially our nontraditional students," said Helm. "Adults tend to take a smaller number of credits and, so, require more years to obtain their degree," she said.

The report released by the American College Testing Program also noted that the freshman to sophomore retention rate increased from 73.6 to 74.1 percent for freshman students entering universities nationwide in 1998. NCSU's freshman to sophomore retention rate has remained generally steady since 1991, with 87.7 percent of 1998 freshmen returning as sophomores in 1999.

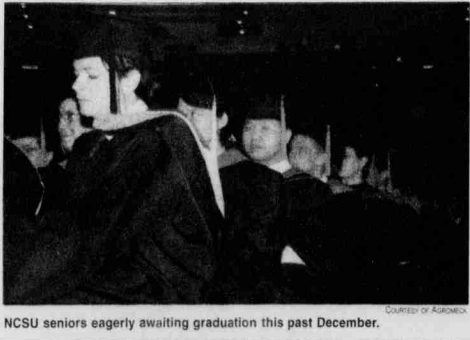
Among the 15 peer institutions, NCSU ranks tenth, with a 1995-1998 average freshman retention rate of 88 percent. Duke leads the comparison list in retention rates, as well, with an average of 97 percent of freshman returning as sophomores. Penn State and UC-San Diego share the third rank, with average retention rates of 93 percent.

BBQin' out by Harrelson



JOHN MCKELVEY/STAFF

Henry Sink, president of the NCSU Agromony Club and a senior in Biological Engineering, serves up some fresh barbecue to students at the Brickyard. Sink and his Agromony Club members were selling the barbecue sandwiches during lunch to raise funds for upcoming club activities.



NCSU seniors eagerly awaiting graduation this past December.

Half of all students have cheated, study says

LAUREN WIENER

Daily Northwestern (Northwestern U.)

(U-WIRE) EVANSTON, Ill. — In the area of academic dishonesty, colleges and universities nationwide are facing a discrepancy between policy and practice.

Half of all college students admit to having cheated at least once during their undergraduate careers, according to a recent survey conducted by Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. At Ball

State and at other schools, cheating occurs despite outlined academic integrity policies.

To address the issue, Pennsylvania State University is designing a new academic integrity policy.

"We had a long-standing policy that was very elaborate," said John Cahir, vice provost and dean for undergraduate education at Penn State. "We became dissatisfied with it because we detected widespread sentiment that it was too complex and bureaucratic."

The new policy will allow the faculty to make the final determinations regarding consequences of cheating.

"By having the primary agents as professors, it becomes a teaching/learning situation," Cahir said. "It becomes a more positive experience for the student, one they can learn from."

Although professors and teacher's assistants may monitor exams, their job becomes difficult when hundreds of students take a test together, students and admin-

istrators said.

"Most of the cheating on campus comes from taking multiple choice-type tests in big lecture halls," said Chad Lawrence, a 1997 graduate of Penn State. "Friends may go in and sit together, kind of like a group effort."

At Indiana University, class level matters as much as class size, one student said.

"The students in these classes truly belong here," Helfner said. "There is a certain point where you cannot rely on other people anymore. You have to understand it yourself."

Plagiarism is another form of cheating that may be facilitated not only by increased access to the Internet, but also by the multitude of sources it provides. Northwestern courses sometimes require online activities such as

See CHEAT, Page 3

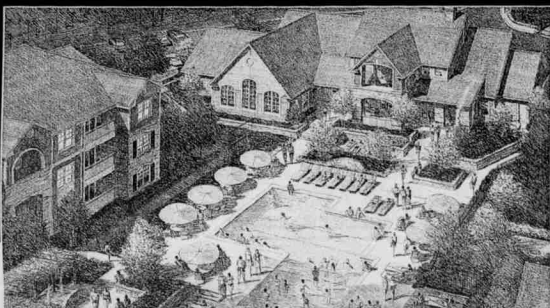
Words, words, words
What's so great about them? Marks has an answer...sort of. Check out Opinion.

Doughgirl
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Senior Day
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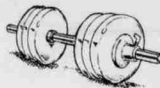


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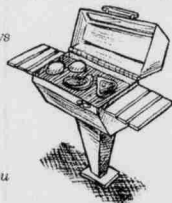


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chair to pool and back again. Days that beckon friends and firing of grills (we've got six of 'em - grills, not friends). These are days

that last into the evening hours, when you come to appreciate the fact that you have your own private bed-

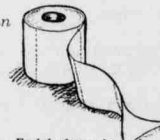


Plenty of gas grills around. Some even next to the pool.

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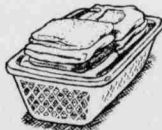
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CHEAT

Continued from Page 1

posting homework assignments or papers online.

"We want to teach students how to work together, since it is natur-

al for people to work together after college," said Stephen Carr, McCormick associate dean.

While the Internet may make it easier for students to plagiarize, it also makes it easier for faculty to discover such instances, Carr said. "Students would be foolish if they thought the new electronic media could open new doors for cheating," he said.

Most students and faculty members agree that students who take such a risk are primarily motivated by grades.

"There is such pressure to get good grades and to do well that even a good student may resort to it," Laurence said. "Most people don't cheat merely to pass, but to improve their grades."

For many students, cheating is just a continuation of previous habits from high school or even middle school.

NU's website and undergraduate handbooks clearly define its academic integrity policy. The policy states that "academic integrity is a fundamental commitment."

Some of the individual schools, such as Medill School of Journalism, have adopted additional policies or ways to deal with breaches of the honor code. As freshmen, McCormick students must sign an academic honesty code that is identical to the university's, Carr said.

Yale prof. pleads guilty to child porn charge

DANA KLINEK

(Daily Pennysylvanian (C. Penn.) Staff)

More than a year after being arrested for receiving and possessing child pornography, Yale Geology Professor Antonio Lasaga pleaded guilty on Friday to the charges against him.

Lasaga, who has been on leave from the professorship since his arrest in November 1998, admitted to receiving tens of thousands of images of child pornography on his computer and possessing two videocassettes of a child engaged in sexual acts.

The professor agreed to plead guilty to two of the federal charges filed against him in exchange for five other charges being dropped.

Lasaga has been the subject of investigation since the Federal Bureau of Investigation seized pornographic pictures of children in 1998 from his on-campus apartment in the college house where he was the faculty master.

Lasaga, 50, was to be tried this week in U.S. District Court.

"We find it distressing that these crimes were committed by a member of our community," Yale spokesman Lawrence Haas said. "The university will be taking appropriate action at the appropriate time."

Under federal sentencing guidelines, the plea agreement recommends that Lasaga be sentenced to a jail term of 135 to 168 months—about 11 to 14 years—and pay a \$17,500 to \$175,000 fine, the Yale Daily News

said. U.S. District Judge Alvin Thompson will sentence Lasaga on May 8, after the U.S. Probation Office has prepared a pre-sentencing report.

The judge could sentence Lasaga up to 20 years in jail and a maximum fine of \$500,000.

Lasaga's attorney, William Dow, would not speculate as to what the sentence would be.

"Professor Lasaga has acknowledged his wrongdoing. His fate is now in the hands of the court," Dow said in a written statement after the plea was entered.

In addition to the federal charges, Lasaga faces state charges, including first-degree sexual assault and the promotion of an obscene performance, in reference to the videotapes.

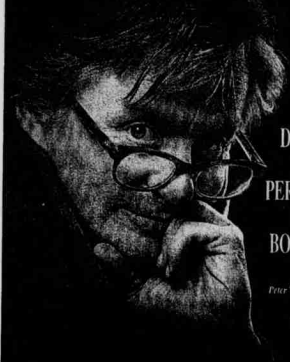
Under the agreement, Lasaga must undergo a polygraph test to verify that he no longer possesses any child pornography.

Federal agents determined that Lasaga had been using an Internet portal site since 1996 to download child pornography.

In his written statement, Dow said Lasaga's situation "teaches us once again that even the most accomplished of us cannot escape the experiences of our youth."

Because Lasaga waived his right to further appeals in the federal case by pleading guilty, he will have to accept whatever sentence Thompson gives him in May.

Michael Douglas



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

GE POWER LIGHTING SYSTEMS - Tuesday, February 29, 2000; CH/PY/IE/CEM/MTE/CHE/ME/EE/ENE Majors with GPA's 3.0 or higher

MAGNETI MARELLI - Friday, March 3, 2000; ME/EE/IE Majors with GPA's 2.5 or higher

MEAD CORPORATION - Monday, March 6, 2000; PPT/CHE/Majors with GPA's 2.5 or higher

VIRGINIA POWER - Monday, March 6, 2000; EE/ME/ACC/BUS & Finance Majors with GPA's 2.5 or higher; Information Session and Interview Sign-Up; 6:00pm Caldwell Hall Room G110; Interviews will be scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2000

FUJI FILM - Tuesday, March 7, 2000; ME/EE Majors with GPA's 2.25 or higher

EASTMAN CHEMICAL - Wednesday, March 8, 2000; CHE Majors with GPA's 3.0 or higher

MILLIKEN - Thursday, March 9, 2000; EE/CPE/CHE/IE/TXE/ME Majors with GPA's 3.0 or higher

COMMSCOPE - Monday, March 20, 2000; CHE/EE/MTE/ME Majors with GPA's 2.5 or higher

BELLSOUTH - Tuesday, March 21, 2000; TED/EE/CPE/IE/CSC/ME Majors with GPA's 2.8 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.

March 2, 2000 (Thursday) at 5:00pm in WINSTON HALL Room 29
March 7, 2000 (Tuesday) at 4:00pm in WINSTON HALL Room 29
March 22, 2000 (Wednesday) at 5:00pm in WINSTON HALL Room 29

Should your schedule not allow for attendance at any of the above listed orientation sessions, please contact the Co-op office at 515-2300 to discuss alternative orientation arrangements.

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"Morning-after" pill hits San Diego U.

ANDREA SHEARER
The Daily Aztec (San Diego State U.)

(U-WIRE) SAN DIEGO — Maybe the condom broke, or perhaps in the heat of the moment logical thinking was left on the floor next to the underwear.

Whatever the situation may be, there's a new option for San Diego State University couples waiting to see if it is going to be a table for three instead of two.

Plan B, a new emergency contraceptive pill approved by the

Federal Drug Administration last July, is now available by prescription at Student Health Services on campus.

The new product is highly effective and results in much less nausea and vomiting than other Emergency Contraceptive Pills, according to FDA research.

"I didn't experience any nausea or vomiting when I used the pills," English senior Marcella Garcia said. "I took the pills like you would aspirin and never thought twice about it or had any reaction to the pills. It was like I

was taking a daily vitamin."

Plan B is made up of two pills containing a hormone women secrete when they are pregnant, and a synthetic hormone, which is commonly found in birth-control pills.

The pills are only available by prescription, and no internal examination is required.

"Plan B has been available at SHS since last November," said Harry Du Mond, a pharmacist at SHS. "But we have been providing emergency contraceptive pills for years. Now we have an

estrogen-free product."

The Plan B package is small, about the size of a makeup compact, and contains two pills. The first pill should be taken within 72 hours of sexual intercourse, and the second pill is taken 12 hours after the first pill.

According to FDA research, the sooner the pills are taken, the more effective they are in preventing an unwanted pregnancy.

If taken one day after unprotected sex, the pills prevent pregnancy with 95 percent certainty, compared with 60 percent if taken

three days after unprotected sex.

The Plan B supply is low, said Du Mond, but even when the current shipment runs out, students can still obtain another brand of an ECP to prevent pregnancy.

Du Mond said he wishes students would be able to receive prescriptions for Plan B ahead of time, and have it waiting at home.

This way, students would not have to wait until SHS opens Monday morning if they had a contraceptive accident early in the weekend, he said.

"The reality is the company that manufactures Plan B is not geared up to meet a high demand," Du Mond said. "Therefore supply and demand need to be addressed."

Many pharmacies do not have Plan B in stock because only clinics and Planned Parenthood have been supplied with the drug so far, Du Mond said.

"Expiration of the product is also currently an issue," he said. "The product that is currently in shipment expires in June."

Common side effects of emergency contraceptives currently on the market cause nausea and vomiting, but Plan B has been reported to cause less nausea and vomiting than other emergency contraceptives, according to the FDA.

"The good news about Plan B compared to the other methods is that the instances of vomiting and nausea are way down," said Dr. Rory Brenning, a staff physician at SHS. "I haven't had any patients

complain to me that they experienced nausea on it."

Other ECPs, such as Yuzpe, also used with SHS, contain progestins in combination with estrogens, the "female" hormone.

Plan B is the first progestin-only pill that has been approved in the United States for emergency contraception.

According to FDA research, nausea occurs in about 23 percent of Plan B users, compared to 50 percent of Yuzpe users. Vomiting occurs in about 6 percent of Plan B users, compared to about 19 percent of Yuzpe users.

This is beneficial because it reduces the chance of a patient having to come back for more pills if they vomit the first dose, Brenning said.

"Plan B has been shown to be 89 percent effective," Brenning said. "Another good thing about Plan B is that pretty much anyone except women with an established pregnancy can use this ECP."

Garcia said, "It is reassuring to know that there is a secondary protection for those of us who rely on condoms. The surest method of birth control, I am not able to take birth control pills and we all know that condoms do break on occasion."

Brenning said students who should consider this emergency contraceptive are those who admit to forgetting to take birth control pills, condom users, students who use other barrier methods, and even students who are abstaining and don't foresee having sex in the near future.

Students can keep them at home in case of an accident, he said.

Students who are in need of an ECP should contact SHS at 594-5281 and make a same-day appointment or simply walk in to the clinic and speak with the appointment desk.

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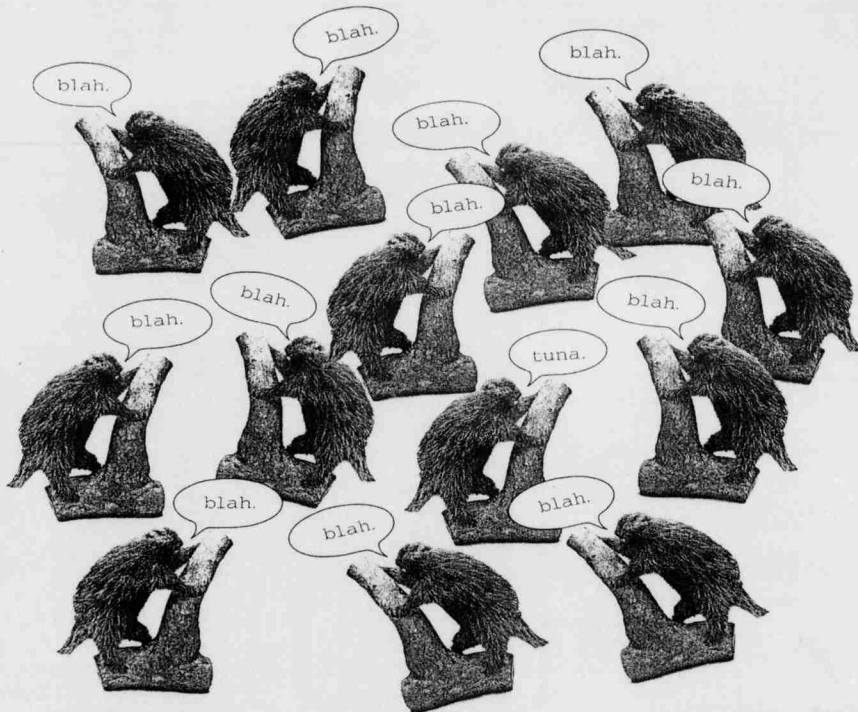
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Opinion

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

China calling

China is once again playing the part of Eastern bully. The same China that turned its own tanks on its own students. The same China that has wrongly held

Lee Teng-hui's suggestion that the two nations maintain a "special state-to-state relationship" was met with anger by the Chinese government.

A move toward independence this time, however, could have serious repercussions with Taiwan. In retaliation to the upcoming vote-as, apparently, retaliation is necessary when islands hold elections that could lead to independence. The Chinese government issued a White Paper threatening to invade Taiwan if the island should seek complete independence.

The two areas became separate entities when the Communists, led by Mao Zedong, gained power in mainland China.

A bizarre relationship has ensued since the separation, as both nations have intermittently claimed authority over all of China. With a population of more than 1 billion, one of the world's strongest economies and an astronomical defense budget, China seems to have the more viable claim at the moment.

China is a nation with a severe overcrowding problem and a horrible international reputation-imagined that-keeping it from gaining the favored-trading status it desperately needs from the United States.

That trading status is just as necessary to the Chinese as it is to the United States. It cannot be achieved as long as these repeated human-rights abuses continue.

Taiwan shouldn't necessarily seek independence, but its voters should be free to consider that possibility without having to fear for their safety.

China's frequent attacks on smaller countries is immoral; with all the problems the nation faces, it's also counterproductive. It's time for the Chinese government to realize both of those facts and turn its attention inward.

power in Tibet for 50 years and has forced the leaders of the Buddhist religion to emigrate. The same China that, in a fit of paranoia, is launching a full-fledged police war against the Falun Gong religious sect, a small group that the Chinese government believes is sparking an uprising among Chinese citizens.

Yes, that same China is once again playing the part of the Eastern bully. Surprising, eh?

This time, the tiny island of Taiwan finds itself having to defend its democratic lunch money against the Chinese.

On March 18, the Taiwanese will go to the polls to elect a new president. The democratic election will be only the second in the 50 years since Taiwan separated from China.

Currently, the ruling party in Taiwan is the same one that has been in power throughout those 50 years, the Kuomintang.

All five of the parties involved in the election claim a desire for a one-to-one relationship with China when both nations have equal footing.

Only one of the five parties, the Democratic Progressive Party, openly advocates all-out independence for Taiwan.

That fact, however, is all but irrelevant. Any step toward sovereignty for Taiwan-a move to become independent nation, satellite state or nation capable of proverbially wiping itself is one that the Chinese will stop.

That much became clear last summer, when current President

GO STATE!
STOMP THOSE
TIGERS!



Language is important



KELLY MARKS

"Sometimes words have served me well, sometimes words can go to hell for all that they do..." -Harry Chapin

In a moment of sublime introspection, a friend of mine once said, "You know, language is a very important thing." Well, besides having a knack for stating the obvious, he also had a good point. Language is important. It's how we know that a thing is a thing; words define objects, feelings and ideas.

They're like outlines or, better yet, like M&M's. Words are the hard candy coating that hold in all of the meaning.

And, like M&M's, you could say that words melt in your mouth and not in your hand. Or maybe you wouldn't say that because, when I think about it, it sounds kinda dumb, but if you squirt your eyes up and squeeze your brain together really hard, it can almost make sense.

Words can't just sit in the open and mean something—they have to be taken in. You can't taste the chocolate (or peanut or crispy or whatever it is they're putting in M&M's these days) if it's sitting in the palm of your hand. You have to put it in your mouth to under-

stand what all the fuss is about.

Likewise, you can't understand the meaning of a word just by its being there; it has to end up in your head.

Now, I could launch into some sort of quasi-philosophical discourse and ask the question, "If a word isn't read or heard, then is it a word?" I could then, of course, follow with, "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" and "If you couldn't put your lips together, what would the word 'peanut butter' sound like?" (Go ahead and try the last one, it is fun.)

That, however, is not the point I want to make. So what is my point, exactly?

Well, that's sort of the point. And if that doesn't confuse you, just

wait.

I have a whole column ahead of me. Words are wonderful things. Our ability to produce and process them makes things like ordering fries in the drive-thru easier and more pleasant experiences. And syllables and sentences, to me at least, appeal much more to my finer sensibilities than do a series of snorts and grunts.

Words, however, are fickle things. They are tricky and rather flimsy. Like many strings in the wind, they can get tangled up, turned around and tied in knots.

In our search for meaning, we sometimes find ourselves having

CAMPUS FORUM



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Agnosticism: an alternative

When I read Richard Lee Robertson's letter on Christianity, folks went up but I viewed it as his opinions and his right to express them. The next day I read both Kenneth Chavis's and Thomas Bakana's rebuttals. Is it me, or are all three bashing each other?

I was born and raised by "split-parenting". One parent believes in God while the other holds very strong evolutionary beliefs. I had

the opportunity to see both sides of the argument. I was not blinded by faith or hindered by it. Today, I am agnostic.

Agnosticism is simply not the belief in any absence of a greater being or plan but the belief that there is something out there. I find that total belief in a book written 2,000 years ago, which has over 5,000 versions in just the English language, all coming from the same text "translated" differently, is just plain stupid. I think the Bible was written during a time when there



RACHAEL OVERCASH

The 2000 presidential election is rapidly approaching. Right now we are in the midst of both the Republican and Democratic primaries.

The major contestants in the GOP race seem to be Texas Governor George W. Bush and Arizona Senator John McCain. As for the Democratic race, the major candidates are Vice President Al Gore and Bill Bradley.

With the elections brewing, I want to focus on the current major candidates (I just have to ignore such long shots as Alan Keyes). Also, for argument's sake, I will have to put the Democratic campaigns on the back burner, as the Democratic primaries are still a few months away, and focus on the GOP primaries.

Tuesday, McCain claimed victory in Michigan and Arizona. McCain also had an amazing win in New Hampshire two weeks ago. Right now, McCain's only setback was in this past

weekend's South Carolina primary. So, the question is will McCain be the GOP nominee for the 2000 presidential elections?

That is a tough one to answer. In my mind, McCain came totally out of the woodwork to run for president. What was really known about McCain before he decided to run?

I consider myself a pretty well informed person on the current political scene, but what I previously knew about McCain was really very little. I knew that he was a senator from Arizona and that he wanted to implement campaign finance reform.

And campaign finance reform is what has really brought McCain to the forefront, in the voters' eyes. Campaign finance reform is usually an issue left unscathed by Republicans. McCain, however, stepped out of that mentality and fought for reforms in the way political candidates run for office.

Being a strong believer in campaign finance reform and running an honest campaign have helped McCain tremendously. He has focused on the voters rather than the interest groups.

Unlike previous candidates,

McCain is crossing political lines in his campaign. He is drawing votes from both Republicans and Democrats. He has appealed to middle-class working Americans. To the outside observer, McCain appears to be a "liberal conservative."

As you more closely examine McCain's legislative behaviors, however, you begin to realize that he is a true conservative. McCain has been consistent in his voting patterns in the Senate. He has generally voted with the conservative majority.

In this election, McCain is playing his political issue cards very well. He is addressing issues that will set him apart from the standard Republican stances that Bush is relying on. He is choosing to focus on issues that will present him as a Republican with a liberal twist. He knows how to strategize and pull votes from other sectors of the population. This reason is why McCain is winning primaries that were thought to be guaranteed victories for Bush.

Knowing these basic political facts about McCain and the GOP primaries may be good, but what do they mean to us as students at N.C. State?

I know many of you could care less about the 2000 election. You may not even know who the candidates are. Nor are you probably thinking that any candidate is addressing any issue that pertains to your life.

Yet, such an apathetic stance toward the election of our country's future leaders is not acceptable. I am not asking everyone to jump up and enroll in a political science class, nor do I want everyone to rush out and join a candidate's local campaigning office.

I just want college students to be more informed about the political scene around them. How do we expect political candidates to take our votes seriously if we are misinformed voters?

I know that candidates usually do not address issues that relate directly to our needs. But why should we allow them to get away with not addressing our issues? The question I pose to you is this: What issues would mobilize you to vote or help on a campaign?

I guess I am definitely the atypical college student in that I would jump

See VOTING, Page 5

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Anderson shares his list of pet pleasures



MARK ANDERSON

What is the opposite of a pet peeve? A pet pleasure, perhaps?

Anything strangely delightful, possibly? No, this is not the answer-with-a-question-game column.

This article is the anti-"pet peeve" piece. Surely, there are similarly inexplicable peculiarities of daily life that are actually pleasing. We all recognize a few each day, even laughing at the happening, whatever it may be. Whatever are they, anyway?

Jerry Seinfeld masterfully exploited the humor behind pet peeves, the everyday quirks we encounter. His comedy series "Seinfeld" supposedly revolved around nothing, that is,

the little events in life. Jerry, Elaine, George, and Kramer would caricature those social phenomena of life and keep our stomachs in stitches, laughing.

Well, my abbreviated list of pet pleasures is not stand-up material. It is enlightening to know that the "little things" can be frustrating or pleasant. It is your choice to make.

Shorts, T-shirts and sunshine. Yes, spring is near. No more jeans, sweatshirts or winter wear. Once the last piles of snow and ice melt away, we can finally purge our memories of all that white stuff that turned only and kept us out of our beloved classes.

Eating ice cream at the student center with your honey. Hey, we are students. Enjoy the life...and the ice cream, sunshine and your "special friend."

Men's basketball. After the recent rash of losses has plagued our basketball team, we can be assured that N.C. State will win again in basketball...tonight at Georgia Tech. Sting the Jackets! Envision State in the Big Dance (the NCAA Tournament), and we will get there.

Finishing an assignment on time. There's nothing like getting the job done early. And then again there's nothing like pulling an all-nighter. You choose.

Knowing there is someone who will always love me and will always be hoping for me to return to his open arms. That someone is God. Not my mother, daddy, sister or best friend. That is the most gratifying thing to know.

When I do return to God's comforting arms, I receive love, tender guidance and a compassionate

friend. Well, that about says it. There are, of course, many more little things out there. I better keep my eyes and ears open.

Pet peeves have their place as humor and as suggestive opinions, but beyond those applications, they are reminders of frustrating annoyances we face daily.

See you around. I will be the one laughing by myself at the red light when I am late to work, just after receiving the news that I owe someone \$85 for a chair I broke.

Keep it real...and light.

I promise I will write a traditional column soon. In the meantime, give your neighbor a hug and write to me. We want to hear from you!

Email Mark at: mbander2@unity.ncsu.edu

MARKS

Continued from Page 5

to tug and pull them about. We have to unravel them or give up, grab for the scissors and just cut the whole thing loose.

But the true danger doesn't lie in the words themselves. After all, they're just sitting there like M&Ms, right? And no one, looking upon a big bowl of those friendly little chocolates, ever feels fear.

But it can be quite a different matter when one of the yummy sweets is lodged in the throat, the hard candy shell slicing through the esophagus, chocolate choking the unsuspecting candy lover.

Sometimes, things just go down the wrong way.

Words, once out of our mouths or on the paper, are no longer ours. We have no control over how what we say will enter another's head, how it will be received or if it will

ever be received. Personal experiences, prejudices and preferences cast a thousand shades of meaning over every noun and verb. Let's not even get into the adjectives.

We're lucky that there are so many things we all agree on. Your "red" is probably a lot like mine. Our "up's" probably head in the same direction and our bad days might even feel a lot alike. For language to work, there has to be this common ground, a place where we can all meet and know what we mean.

And yet, look at an Iris. I call it a blue flower and you say it's purple. We're both looking at the same thing, seeing the same refraction of light, staring at the same slice of the color spectrum.

But in words, we can't agree. What I say is not what you see and what I mean for you to hear is not what is said.

I use words a lot. I know them, I know how they can be perceived and misperceived. I try to measure them out carefully, like I'm following a recipe and the meal's

success hangs in the balance.

But in the past few years of writing, I've realized that, no matter what I say or how I try to season it, it's going to leave a bad taste in someone's mouth. What I write isn't necessarily what's read. Heck, in some cases, what I write isn't even exactly what I mean.

There's nothing quite like having the sense that someone understands you, that they know what you mean, that they get "it," whatever your "it" may be. Consequently, it can be frustrating when they don't.

The dangerous part of words is releasing them out in the open to be interpreted—little representatives of your character running about leaving bad impressions that you might not get to refute.

This makes me nervous. There have been times when I have hurt feelings, stirred anger or just completely pissed people off when that was not my intention.

With this column, I can have a tendency to write with certain readers in mind and completely

forget that there are other people out there picking up the paper, being literate souls, doing that reading thing and taking things in ways I never intended.

It really used to bother me. It still does from time to time. And yet, I've learned that you can't please everyone all of the time. Some people only hear what they want to hear, or my voice just doesn't fall in their auditory range.

I suppress urges to apologize to the world. I hold back from trying to explain away what will not be understood. And I continue to write, because I was told once that language is important.

Words are both what we make of them and what we make them out to be. We can only strive to say what we mean, mean what we say and hope that that's what people thought we meant.

And so that's really my point. Take that point, as you will.

Kelly has no witty closing remark. She could have said something else about M&Ms, but then she thought, "never mind." E-mail her, as always, at: kmmarks@unity.ncsu.edu. Only if you want to, of course.

VOTING

Continued from Page 5

up and down if a candidate talked about some serious reforms in health care.

For the more typical college student, some interesting political issues may be the legalization of marijuana or women's rights as they relate to birth control and abortion. How can we get candidates to address these issues—or any others—if we aren't informed about them and don't push our elected officials to pay attention to them?

As for the eventual Republican and Democratic nominees, I have no real prediction. I do feel, however, that we should not sit idly and watch our votes go to waste.

So, when your party's primary election comes up, get out there and vote with an informed vote.

Rachael is not endorsing any candidate for the upcoming presidential election. If you have any free time while surfing the web, please check out the Andrew Payne Show at www.wknc.org/aps. Please send any questions or comments to Rachael at: rtovera@unity.ncsu.edu.

FORUM

Continued from Page 5

was much despair. There was nothing to live for if you were poor. The world was in dire straits. This man and his teachings were a sign of hope for all. Several others joined in. The Bible had stories put in it to instill certain virtues in people, since, at the time, stories were how lessons were learned.

I also find that trusting in science 100 percent won't help either. Not all science is exact.

With all that said, do I think believing in God is bad or that being Christian or Muslim, or whatever, is bad? No. Have you ever noticed how those who believe in modern Christianity, Islam, etc. are more well-mannered and tend to help out those in need, as well as get in less trouble? Have you noticed how those who trust in science or the Bible 100 percent tend to be arrogant, untrustworthy, pushy and blatantly intolerable?

I am of a religion called common sense. It comes from both beliefs. I don't try to commit what some might call sin, but I don't expect God to "cleanse" me of it. I also don't depend entirely on science to provide all the answers to my questions.

But, if there is a heaven and a God, and I do my best to help others and live a good life, if he doesn't want me in heaven because I wasn't a devote worshipper, then I don't want to be in his heaven. I'd rather become nothing.

Chad Stinner
Textile Technology
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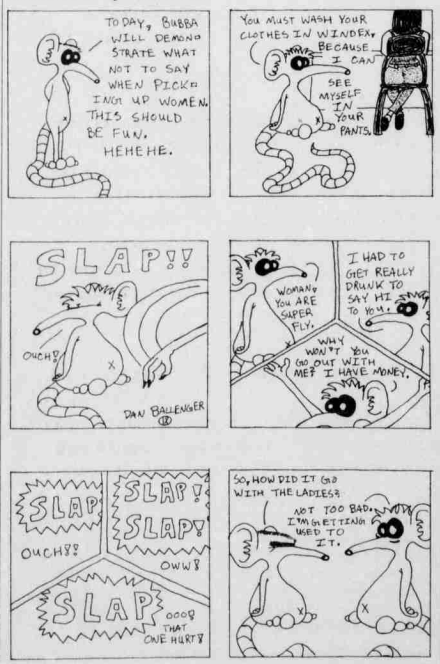
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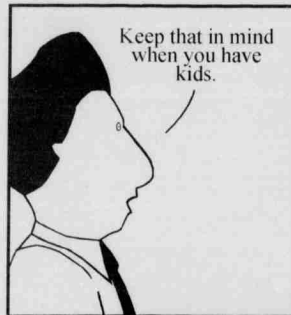
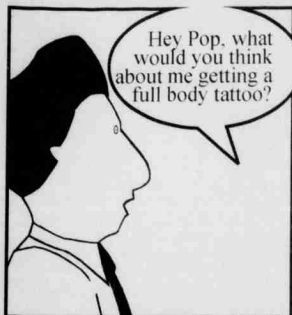
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ERB

Continued from Page 10

with the pressure of being the Pack's top player in the low post. And she certainly didn't disappoint.

The honors and accolades piled sky high for Erb in her junior season. And they came with good reason. Erb led the ACC in scoring and rebounding throughout the entire season and was 13th in the nation in scoring (21.5), 22nd in rebounding (9.9) and 15th in field-goal percentage (59.8). Erb eclipsed the 20-point mark 19 times and scored more than 30 points five times.

After putting up such gaudy stats, Erb began pining up the hardware. She was named ACC Player of the Year, first team All-ACC, third team All-America by Women's Basketball Journal and honorable mention All-American by Kodak and the Associated Press.

Before the start of this, her senior season, Erb was named to a preseason list of candidates for the Naismith Player of the Year Award by the Atlanta Tip-Off Club. She was also a preseason All-American candidate.

Once again, with the pressure falling on her shoulders, Erb has been sensational in her 21 games this season.

Before she went down to injury, Erb was averaging 15.8 points, 8.4 rebounds and shooting 55.9 percent from the field in her 27.5 minutes of action per game. She was well on her way to possibly repeating her Conference Player of the Year feat.

And then came the unexpected. With under a minute to go against UNC, Erb was fouled while attempting a layup, subsequently landing awkwardly and breaking her foot. Although she hasn't been a physical presence during her injury, Erb has been with the team emotionally from the very beginning.

"We feel like Summer never left us," said head coach Kay Yow. "She has never sulked in self-pity. She is completely in it for the team and she is at practice motivating the rest of her teammates."

The true leaders always find a way to motivate their counterparts, whether it be by actions or words, and Erb has done both this season. With her return set for the NCAA Tournament, her SportsCenter moment could hopefully come for the Pack by orchestrating a trip to the Final Four instead of sitting on the sidelines as a mere cheerleader.

chance that junior Ron Kelley could see some playing time after sitting out the last three weeks with a knee injury of his own.

In practice on Monday, Senek gave each member of his team a tennis ball. The reason? Senek wants his players to "bounce back" and finish the season strong and confident.

State guard Anthony Grundy sitting out the last three games are must-win.

However, he said the team feels "no pressure."

"Guys know what we need to do and have to do," Grundy said. The game is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. and will be televised live on ESPN2.

GAINNEY

Continued from Page 10

every game during the Pack's improbable run to the ACC Championship game and was named to the All-Tournament team. Gainney has been a permanent fixture in the Pack's lineup ever since.

Gainney has never been a flashy player who jumps out and grabs people's attention. His career scoring average is only 6.8 points per game with a field-goal percentage around 40 percent. But his contribution to the Pack over the past four years goes far beyond the numbers.

"He does things that are not seen," freshman Damien Wilkins said. "He gives guys a lift when they're down and gives guys the ball where they need the ball. He's just a great person."

He has been the main cog in the Pack's offensive machine since securing the starting point guard spot. His career total of 316 assists places him ninth all-time at N.C. State. And according to Wilkins, no one knows Senek's system better than Gainney.

"He knows what Coach Senek wants, and he can communicate it to us in a way that we may feel

comfortable hearing," Wilkins said.

Gainney also developed into a clutch shooter who is not afraid to have the ball when the game is on the line. His buzzer beaters against Purdue and Maryland gave the Pack, arguably, its two biggest wins of the year.

One of his proudest moments came against Wake Forest, who at the time was ranked No. 2 in the country, during his freshman year. Gainney's steal and basket within two minutes to play in regulation helped the Pack send the game to overtime. And his steal in the overtime session was key to NCSU's 60-59 upset win.

"The Wake Forest game that year was a big game," Gainney said. "The team came together and beat a real good Wake Forest team on the road."

But every player on the Pack's squad maintains that Gainney's leadership is his greatest asset to the team.

Gainney is not quite sure what the future holds for him at this point. Right now, his focus is on the rest of the basketball season and getting his team back to postseason play.

"I'm just going to wait until the season is over, and then I'll see which path I want to take," Gainney said.

Key Thursday night games include Virginia (21-6, 12-2) at Maryland and Florida State at Duke (22-4, 11-3). Then over the weekend, North Carolina (15-11, 7-8) hosts Duke.

"We've been working a lot on our own system," Yow said. "We felt, coming out of the two losses to Duke and Virginia, we've played well enough to win defensively, but defense alone isn't going to carry us over Georgia Tech."

ASHTON

Continued from Page 10

Senior Joel Dramis has come up huge on a number of occasions. While Boross was still injured, Dramis wrestled up a weight class at North Carolina in January and upset a two-time defending ACC champion. And last week, I watched as he pinned his opponent from UNC-Greensboro with the Pack trailing by six points and only one match left.

Freshman Scott Garner wasn't even supposed to wrestle this year with Pryor in front of him in the 157-pound weight class. But Garner has been a pleasant surprise and is considered a favorite to win the ACC title in his division.

And wrestlers such as Davis, Boross and Zach Breitenbach have been more than consistent.

Head coach Bob Guzzo has also done a great job with this team. Guzzo, who has coached the wrestling team at N.C. State for 25 years, knows how to get the most out of his athletes.

The first time I ever talked to the wrestling team, Pryor told me that they had the greatest coach in the country. That shows that Guzzo's team respects him and is willing to work for him.

But the biggest reason for this team's success is its heart. I've seen firsthand at practice how hard these wrestlers work. And I've seen in their eyes how much they want to win.

The truly scary part about this team is what the future holds. Dramis is the only significant competitor that won't be returning next year. Pryor, Noble, Davanzo and the freshman that were forced to redshirt this season will all be back in the lineup. And another talented recruiting class is on its way to Raleigh.

Guzzo may have so much talent next year that he will have a hard time finding places to use all of it. But I'm sure that's a problem that every other coach in the ACC would love to have.

Jeremy's columns appear most Thursday's in the sports section. If you would like to respond to this column, he can be contacted at 315-2411 or jdashton@unity.ncsu.edu

ATLANTA

Continued from Page 10

likely to put things under a microscope and break them down, and I think that's a good part of the process because that's how you learn and improve," Senek said. "But I wouldn't be more pleased with the attitude, the togetherness and the work ethic of our basketball team."

According to Senek, freshman Marshall Williams, who has been sidelined with a knee injury, is still not ready to come back. But Senek said there is an outside

PACK

Continued from Page 10

Gardner did last time."

Garner, a freshman, poured in 19 points on 8-11 shooting in the first meeting between the teams.

The rest of the ACC prepares for the tournament in Greensboro, N.C., from March 3-6, closing out the conference season over the weekend.

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Wolfpack finishes regular season tonight vs. GT

◆ The women's basketball team will honor Summer Erb as it closes out its season at Reynolds Coliseum.

ROB GODFREY
Staff Writer

The curtain falls on the N.C. State women's basketball regular season when the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets buzz into Reynolds Coliseum tonight. But the show is far from over.

Coach Kay Yow and the Wolfpack (21-6, 11-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) re-match with Tech (5-9, 12-12) two and a half months after State's 80-70 win in Atlanta to tip off the conference season and this second match-up has far reaching post-season ramifications.

"A win here helps us out with NCAA tournament seeding," Yow said. "And a win here would help us pick up momentum going into the ACC tournament."

As of late, the Pack has been stagnate

offensively. At Virginia, where the team had a chance to tie the Cavaliers for first place in the ACC, State shot themselves out of the game. The Pack lost 60-51.

"We've led the conference in field goal percentage all season, but we shot 32 percent in Charlottesville," Yow said. "So we've been concentrating on shaping up offensively."

Tech's post-season fate hinges on its performance tonight, also, making the match-up more intriguing. Physically,

the Pack is without its star post player, Summer Erb, but has to compensate with a strong performance, offensively, and defensively from non-starters.

Erb pounded Tech for 15 points and 14 rebounds.

"Georgia Tech is a very physical, very aggressive team," Yow said. "We have to box this team out and keep them from getting the second chance baskets; they live on those. We need some one to step up for us like Ivy

WHAT: BASKETBALL VS GT
WHEN: TONIGHT, 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: REYNOLDS COLISEUM

See **PACK**, Page 9

COMMENTARY

Wrestlers thriving under adversity

JEREMY ASHTON

There have been plenty of times this season when the N.C. State wrestling team has closely resembled a MASH unit.

Yet as next weekend's ACC tournament at College Park, Md., approaches, the Wolfpack grapplers are not just surviving; they're thriving.

Barring a complete collapse

WRESTLING

tonight at Duke, the Pack is poised to finish its regular season undefeated in ACC dual meets. N.C. State will head into the tournament as a heavy favorite. That's not a bad accomplishment for a team that has lost enough talent at one time or another to fill a squad at most other schools.

Tommy Davis, currently ranked 14th in the country, at 149 pounds, missed the Pack's first two tournaments of the year. Kevin Boross, the defending ACC champion at 174 pounds, was absent from the lineup for two matches in early January. And George CINTRON, who had been having a marvelous season in the 125-pound weight class, is now out for the rest of the year with a knee injury.

Davis, Boross and CINTRON were at least able to get their seasons off the ground and have a chance to show what they could do. Several N.C. State wrestlers didn't even make it past the first couple of weeks of the season.

A couple of members of N.C. State's talented recruiting class suffered injuries before ever getting the opportunity to compete in a match. Phil Davanzo was supposed to challenge for a starting job in the middleweight classes but was never able to see action this year either. And Billy Noble, the ACC's runner-up at heavyweight last year, started the year at 197 but was knocked out for the year at the Lehigh Invitational.

But the biggest loss came at the Navy Invitational, N.C. State's first tournament of the year. Pierre Pryor, another defending ACC champion, was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of that event after sweeping through the 157-pound division. The problem came in the semifinals when Pryor broke his wrist, an injury that would end a very promising season.

Most teams would have folded in the face of the losses that this team has suffered, but the Pack has persevered.

A big part of NCSU's success is due to all of its wrestlers stepping up to another level in the wake of all the injuries.

See **ASHTON**, Page 9

Senior Day

Erb intimidating in the post

◆ The Wolfpack look for Summer Erb's return to spice up a rejuvenated lineup.

DAVID HOBGOOD
Staff Writer

In mid-March, spring is still days away. Yet may be Summer-time for the women's basketball team.

That's when the Wolfpack is anticipating the return of 6-6 senior All-American Summer Erb from the injury she sustained, a broken foot, on Feb. 4 against North Carolina. With her return before the NAAs, Erb will look to bring a successful end to an outstanding career at N.C. State. And on Thursday night at 7 p.m. in Reynolds Coliseum, the Pack will honor Erb, the team's lone senior, with Senior Day festivities before their game against Georgia Tech.

Erb was one of the most highly touted players in the country coming out of high school. She was a two-time all-state selection at Lakewood High in Lakewood, Ohio. Erb also received second team All-America honors by Parade Magazine as a senior and she gained experience in USA Basketball in 1994 as she participated in the U.S. Olympic Festival.

After her immense success in high school, Erb carried her dominating post presence to Purdue University. After only averaging eight minutes per game in her freshman season, she belted West Lafayette, Ind., and brought her talent to Raleigh.

In 1997-98, her sophomore season, Erb played in all 32 games averaging nearly 15 minutes per contest. Although she didn't start, Erb played a vital role as a key reserve in the post. While backing up the likes of All-American Chastity Melvin, Erb averaged 7.6 points, grabbed 4.3 rebounds per game and shot an effective 51 percent from the field.

While she was solid all season long, Erb was at her best in the East Regional of the NCAA Tournament, which was played in Dayton in her home state of Ohio. In the regional semifinals, Erb had 17 points and nine rebounds against Old Dominion. Then against Connecticut in the regional finals, she had 12 points and eight rebounds.

With the graduation of Melvin, Erb entered her junior season

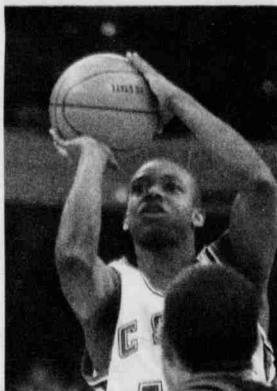
See **ERB**, Page 9

SUMMER ERB

ONE OF 15 NAISMITH PLAYER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS...NAMED TO THE ALL-EAST REGIONAL TEAM DURING 1997-98 NCAA TOURNAMENT...AVERAGED 21.5 POINTS AND 9.9 REBOUNDS AND WAS NAMED ACC PLAYER OF THE YEAR LAST YEAR...HAS TWICE SCORED CAREER HIGH OF 34 POINTS



Summer Erb and Justin Gainey will be honored this weekend on their teams' respective Senior Days. Both have had a huge impact on Wolfpack basketball.



Gainey steady as a rock

◆ Justin Gainey has been one of the key factors in the Wolfpack's return to postseason play over the past four years.

JEREMY ASHTON
Assistant Sports Editor

N.C. State head coach Herb Sendek calls him "the Prudential Man" because no player has been steadier for the Wolfpack basketball program over the last four years.

Like all good things, however, Justin Gainey's time at N.C. State will soon come to an end. The Pack's senior captain will play in his final regular season home game Sunday at the Entertainment and Sports Arena.

The weekend brings "mixed emotions" for Gainey. On one hand, his team is fighting for its postseason life and Sunday's game against Clemson is crucial to the team's hopes. On the other, this is Gainey's last chance to play in front of the fans who he has provided with so many magical moments.

"It's going to be real exciting," Gainey said. "It's sad in a way that I'm leaving, but I'm happy that I'm moving on."

Gainey's career at N.C. State did not exactly get off to a great start.

Gainey, who came to the Wolfpack out of Greensboro Day School, saw a decent amount of playing time off the bench prior to the start of the 1996-97 ACC season. But he hit rock bottom in early January in a game at Florida State. Gainey's line for that game consisted of 17 minutes, no points, one assist and four turnovers.

That game marked a turning point for Gainey. "Not that I needed any more motivation, but that helped motivate me a whole lot," Gainey said. "It just pushed me to another level."

The improvement did not show immediately. In fact, Gainey played only one minute in a game at Clemson just two weeks after the disaster at Florida State. But injuries destroyed any depth the Pack had that year and gave Gainey a chance to prove himself in the starting lineup.

By the time the 1997 ACC Tournament rolled around, Sendek could not pull Gainey out. He played every minute of

See **GAINEY**, Page 9

JUSTIN GAINEY

PLAYED ALL 40 MINUTES IN ALL FOUR ACC TOURNAMENT GAMES DURING HIS FRESHMAN YEAR...HIS 316 CAREER ASSISTS RANK HIM 9TH ALL-TIME AT N.C. STATE...HIT 87.4 PERCENT FROM THE FREE-THROW LINE LAST YEAR, THE 3RD HIGHEST TOTAL IN N.C. STATE HISTORY...HONORABLE MENTION ALL-ACC LAST YEAR

Women's tennis tops UNCG

◆ The Pack improved to 2-1 on the season with a 7-2 win over UNC-Greensboro.

ROEDRYO R. BANUJO
Staff Writer

N.C. State's women's tennis team defeated the UNC-Greensboro Spartans 7-2 Wednesday in an afternoon match at the Wolfpack tennis complex.

With the win, State improved to 2-1 on the season.

Loni Worsley, NCSU 7
Brie Glover, Kristen Nicholls and Myrna UNCG 2
Bawono each picked up singles wins for State. Glover and Bawono, Francie Barragan and Worsley, and Nicholls and Landis Strader picked up doubles wins.

The Wolfpack started the match with sophomore Kristen Nicholls winning in straight sets in a match that ended very quickly. Next came a victory by freshman Myrna Bawono, also in straight sets, 6-3 and 6-0.

"It was a pretty hard-fought match, my opening was pretty tough. I played a good match," said the sixth-seeded Bawono.

Senior Brie Glover kept it going with another straight-set victory, and the women's tennis team finished off

UNC-Greensboro in convincing fashion. It was a much-needed victory for the team after a disappointing loss at Michigan.

The season has been up and down so far, and the team looks forward to riding a wave of momentum into the ACC tournament. After Georgia State, the team has back-to-back home matches against South Carolina and Georgia Tech. Then, they travel down to Miami for back-to-back matches against Miami and Marshall.

"This win is a good build up for Georgia State; each match makes us tougher," said head coach Kay Louthian. "It also is a build up for the ACCs. We feel we are right in there with all the teams in the conference with the exception of maybe one or two."

The team hopes to do better than it did in the ACC indoor tournament, where only one player advanced into the second round.

"We're really looking forward to the ACCs," Louthian said. "We've been working hard. Everybody has been giving 100 percent, on the court, in the weight room, everything, and we're ready for it to pay off."

Next for the Pack is Georgia State, a team that has had only one win thus far in the season.

Wolfpack needs road win in Atlanta

◆ The Wolfpack faces a do-or-die situation at Georgia Tech tonight.

JONATHAN HONEYCUTT
Staff Writer

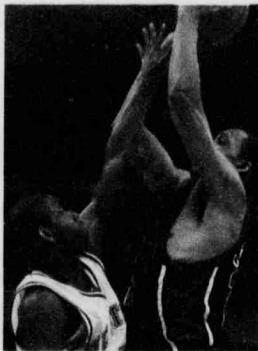
N.C. State's men's basketball team will take on the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets tonight in Atlanta with perhaps the season on the line.

Many feel that the last three games of this up and down season will have major implications on the Pack receiving a bid to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in nine seasons or if the team is NIT bound for a fourth straight year.

"Within our locker room, our task has been to focus on two things," head coach Herb Sendek said. "And that is, number one, to work as hard as we possibly can to keep getting better. And secondly, to care about each other."

By beating Georgia Tech tonight, the Pack would improve to 16-9 overall and 6-8 in the ACC. However, beating Tech in Atlanta is a "tall" order.

Georgia Tech's front line consists of 6-foot-11 Alvin Jones and seven-footer Jason



The Wolfpack travels to Georgia Tech this weekend, needing a win on the road to keep its NCAA tournament hopes alive.

Collier. Jones is notorious for his shot-blocking abilities, and Collier leads the team in both scoring (16.0) and rebounding (9.6).

Georgia Tech has struggled somewhat this

See **ATLANTA**, Page 9