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Thursday  
March 30, 2000

# TECHNICIAN

Today  
Hi 63  
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Tomorrow  
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Lo 41

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

## Pettigrew nails down AASAC endorsement

◆ Michael Anthony, Mark Aldrich and Conen Morgan also won out for their respective offices as AASAC determined which candidates to endorse in the upcoming student body elections.

ZACK MAZER  
News Editor

The African American Student Advisory Council announced their endorsements for next week's student body elections at last night's meeting, where candidates were treated to a question and answer session following a brief presentation of their platforms.

AASAC, the umbrella organization for 32 African-American groups on campus, holds annual endorsement meetings to determine which candidates are most informed and concerned about issues affecting the African-American community.

The endorsement for Student Body President fell to Harold Pettigrew, who is currently the co-chair of AASAC.

According to AASAC's chair Jamila Smith, their endorsement of Pettigrew was not influenced by his current position on the council. "If he wasn't an advocate for African-American issues, we would not have endorsed him," she said.

As for current the Student Body President, Raj Mirchandani, the chair said the council's disappointment in his lack of communication with them lost him the nomination.

"Instead of contacting us to get our viewpoint, he's made decisions that we should have made a part of... that's 10 percent of the [NCSU] population that he's not getting a viewpoint from," Jamila Smith said.

Mirchandani did stress that he had made contact methods available to the entire campus, and that he, in turn, had not heard from them. "But Harold doesn't sit back and say 'come to

me,'" the chair said. "Not once has he [Mirchandani] ever come to us."

For the position of Student Senate President, the council heard from Conen Morgan and current write-in hopeful T. Greg Doucette. Doucette was a candidate until the election board removed him from the race as a result of his grade point average. Their decision is currently under appeal, and Doucette is continuing his campaign under write-in status.

Jason Cotter, Mirchandani's chief of staff and candidate for Student Senate President, did not show up to bid for AASAC's endorsement, and the council in turn chose to endorse Morgan over Doucette.

Jamila Smith stressed Morgan's "great" working relationship with the NCSU administration as the basis for their decision, but noted that the two candidates are similar.

"They had a lot of similarities," Smith said.



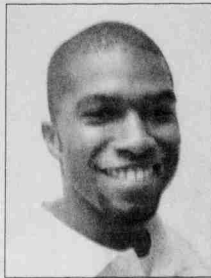
Harold Pettigrew, speaking before AASAC at last night's meeting, won their endorsement over incumbent Raj Mirchandani.

See AASAC, Page 3

### Harold B. Pettigrew

#### Personal Information:

Name: Harold Benjamin Pettigrew  
Age: 20  
Classification and Major(s): Junior, Political Science  
Current Leadership Roles: president, Society of African American Culture; vice president, African American Student Advisory Council; 1999-2000 Leader of the Pack; member, Student Center Board of Directors; member, Chancellor's Liaison Committee; member, National Pan-Hellenic Council; member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Golden Cham Leadership Honorary Society



**Platform/issues:** The core of Pettigrew's platform boils down to one central thing - building the campus community. As Student Body President, Pettigrew would seek to promote an increased interaction between student organizations.

"When the issue of tuition came up, one of the reasons that I, personally, don't believe that it was as effective is because you had so many student leaders of so many different organizations trying to do different things," Pettigrew said.

"The right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing... Because Student Government doesn't have that outreach to the campus community, then there wasn't any drive behind it."

Pettigrew feels that the division between Student Government and the rest of the campus student organizations has been detrimental to students. Also, he feels that a failure to publicize Student Government has contributed to the students' apathy.

"It amazes me how - we have a lot of color flyers put around campus now [for elections] but when we're dealing with the issues of making students aware, there are still complaints about promoting."

Pettigrew hopes to better the relationship between Student Government and the Student Media Authority by contributing a weekly column to "Technician" to keep students informed. In addition, he hopes to initiate a "State of the University" address, something typical on campuses around the UNC system.

Also, as Student Body President, Pettigrew plans to "upgrade" the Student Government web page, not only by keeping information available to students, but also making it interactive, so that students can express their opinions through the page.

Pettigrew wants to increase student access to Student Government. In that, he proposes the initiation of a program called "Pastime with the President," which would select five to 10 freshmen at random to come and have lunch and discuss issues that they are facing.

"People have complained a lot about promoting... but one big way of promoting is to actually be visible," Pettigrew said. "I would try to make Student Government more well-rounded... rather than just being tuition-specific or so political that the students who aren't interested in politics are turned off to Student Government."

He proposes the establishment of a festival he would call "The Taste of N.C. State," derived from a similar festival held in Washington, D.C. In addition to bringing major entertainment acts to campus, Pettigrew would tap the talents of NCSU's campus organizations.

"We have so many different groups and organizations that haven't been seen and that haven't been pulled together for campus events," Pettigrew said. We have so many entertaining groups and everyone loves entertainment. Why not take advantage of those students and their talents and showcase them?"

"The Taste of N.C. State" would not only bring in national artists, but would seek to promote the

See HAROLD, Page 3

### Student Body President

### Raj Mirchandani

#### Personal Information:

Name: Rajesh Mirchandani  
Age: 21  
Classification and Major(s): Junior, Political Science  
Current Leadership Roles: Student Body President; member, Board of Trustees; member, University Council; delegate, Association of Student Governments; member, Student Media Authority; member, Student Center Board of Directors; member, Ticket Distribution Task Force



**Platform/issues:** "Being President this year, my staff and I have accomplished a great deal for this University. We have had to deal with a variety of issues including fighting battles dealing with tuition."

In reaction to this, Mirchandani's priorities include the formation of a Student Government endowment fund. This would provide five \$2,000 need-based scholarships per year available to the entire university community. With an endowment, Mirchandani said, those scholarships will become a permanent part of N.C. State's future.

Mirchandani also hopes to further the tuition battle across the UNC system, by working with Molly Broad, President of the UNC System, to devise a task force to looking at future tuition increases. Mirchandani has already garnered the support from the members of the Association of Student Governments.

"One thing that I've been working on with President Broad is forming a task force to look into a tuition formula. The tuition formula would allow students to predict tuition increases. Is the formula possible? We don't know, but the task force to look into it is."

Last year, Mirchandani hoped to bring more entertainment to campus. While he did not achieve as much success with the idea as he would have liked, Mirchandani recognizes this as a learning experience. He hopes to further this agenda if re-elected.

"We spent the entire month of March figuring out how to bring a comedy show on this campus... it was trial and error to see what you needed to do," Mirchandani said.

"The thing is, I want to bring the entire community together. I don't want it to cater just to one population here at N.C. State."

Mirchandani's platform also includes furthering discussion within the university community regarding diversity. He is hoping to continue the university's efforts to build a diverse campus community.

"One of the most important [issues] is diversity on this campus. I'd like to continue diversity discussions to make sure that we have the best possible enrollment that we can here at N.C. State. And most importantly, once we enrolled those students, we have to do everything in our power to retain those students."

Continuing university traditions is of key importance in Mirchandani's campaign for re-election. He hopes to work to ensure the maintenance and expansion of Homecoming traditions.

"I want to make sure Homecoming is bigger and better this year," Mirchandani said. "I want to make sure that we have more students out there [and], most importantly, we have a place where students can come back to and really be proud of what the university has grown into."

Mirchandani also supports the maintenance of campout as the method for student ticket distribution. "We actually have a proposal ready to go up at the [Ticket Distribution Task Force] meeting to keep campout alive," Mirchandani said, "so while other people are talking about it, I'm actually

See RAJ, Page 3

### Student Body President

## On-line voting security questioned by student senate

NATALIE DUGGINS  
Senior Staff Writer

Once again, the status of the security of the university's on-line voting system for the Student Body Elections was called into question, as Student Senate convened for an emergency meeting Wednesday night.

"Since Monday, concerns have mounted concerning the security of electronic voting in the Student Body Elections. I have called this meeting in response to those concerns, as expressed by President <I>Pro Tempore</I> John Borwick," Student Senate President Seth Whitaker wrote a letter to the members.

According to an initial analysis of on-line voting, compiled by Borwick, the system, as it was the set up, made it possible for someone to forge votes, submit votes anonymously and for votes to be altered after being received.

In response to the security breaches, Borwick, who discovered the lack of security with last year's election's site, submitted Government Bill 48 to the Student Senate on Wednesday.

According to Whitaker, the current elections' statutes mandate that the Elections Board holds on-line voting. Under the changes suggested in GB 48, the Elections Board would be given the power to determine whether or not the electronic voting system is secure. If deemed insecure, the Elections Board would then have the authority to cancel on-line voting.

The government bill also stipulates that "the Elections Board conducts at least one 24-hour test of the electronic voting system before voting begins" and that "the Elections Board actively requests factual comments regarding the security of the electronic voting system."

#### CORRECTION

WEDNESDAY'S OF THE TECHNICIAN INCORRECTLY LABELED MICHAEL ANTHONY AND JIM SMITH AS CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT CENTER PRESIDENT--THEY ARE CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT BODY TREASURER. TECHNICIAN REGRETS THE ERROR.



While no one court assure the complete security of the on-line voting, Borwick and fellow senator, Chethan Pandiarinath, will continue to work to ensure the security of the web site.

If the Elections Board deems the on-line voting system insecure, students will not be able to access the on-line polling site and will instead, have to participate in the Election at one of the polling sites at the Atrium, Fountain Dining

## Horsin' around campus...



This foal was born last night at the Vet School. The as-of-yet unnamed foal was unusually large for a newborn, causing a stir amongst the Vet School Staff.



### Human Rights Week

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## TECHNICIAN BRIEFS

### N.C. State College of Management earns international accreditation

The College of Management at N.C. State University has joined the ranks of the best business and accounting programs in the world. The college has achieved accreditation of its business and accounting programs by AACSB — The International Association for Management Education, the nation's premier accrediting agency for business schools.

AACSB, a non-profit organization consisting of more than 800 educational organizations and cor-

porations, is the major service organization for business schools. Presently, 383 colleges and universities have achieved accreditation in business. Accreditation assures students and employers that NCSU's business and accounting programs meet high standards, and are committed to continuous improvement, according to Dr. Jon Bartley, dean of the college. It also adds value to degrees earned by students, signaling that they are competitive on a national and international basis.

### N.C. State Biochemist

### receives Burroughs Wellcome Fund Award

Dr. Carla Mattos, assistant professor of biochemistry at N.C. State University, has been awarded a New Investigator Award in the Pharmaceutical or Toxicological Sciences from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF).

Mattos is one of only 11 researchers nationwide and the only researcher from a university in North Carolina — to receive a BWF New Investigator Award in Pharmacological or Toxicological Sciences this year. The award, worth \$210,000 over the next three years, will help support Mattos' research on macromolecular complexes in the cell. Specifically, it will fund research in her lab on the surface features of the RalGTPase obtained from the multiple solvent crystal structures and from its complex with RalBPI and calmodulin. Funding is scheduled to begin as of July 1.

In addition to NCSU, other universities with BWF award recipients in pharmacological or toxicological sciences this year include Stanford University, Princeton University, Columbia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and other top

See BRIEFS, Page 4

## DO YOU AGREE WITH MIKE?

## HAROLD

Continued from Page 1

talents of N.C. State students within various organizations, Pettigrew said.

Like his opponent, Pettigrew has begun working to establish a university endowment, specifically addressing the unmet financial needs of the students. During the ACC Leadership Conference, Pettigrew said, he began discussing the possibility of establishing an endowment here with students from Georgia Tech and UNC-Chapel Hill, who boast large endowments. Pettigrew plans to finance this endowment with revenue generated from events like "The Taste of N.C. State" and a better Homecoming.

## RAJ

Continued from Page 1

doing stuff and making sure that it stays here."

Efforts to involve more students in the decisions of Student Government will include town hall meetings for serious issues that affect students. This year Student Government held two town hall meetings, Mirchandani said, one regarding Lawn Party and the other about tuition.

"You can hold town hall meetings on a monthly basis, but with all due honesty, the amount of turnout is going to depend on the

## AASAC

Continued from Page 1

"so hopefully they can work together."

She then cited previous involvement in the African-American

"I'd like to bring trust and reliability to the Student Government. A lot of students right now are disappointed with the overall structure and the overall leadership of Student Government," Pettigrew holds as one of the main facets of his platform.

Pettigrew recognizes that many NCSU students have simply lost trust and lack faith in the Student Government. He would like to institute a system of accountability that keeps a check on Student Government officials to fulfill their campaign promises.

"One of the problems that we do face is that we have so many promises made during the campaign period that students do have hope, but when it comes to executing, those promises aren't made a reality," he said.

importance of the issues we discuss."

Mirchandani also plans to maintain publicity for Student Government's upcoming events, including working with the administration's public relations department to get information out to the students.

### Why you want to be Student Body President?

"I'm very lucky that I'm a junior and my year in office has been very productive," Mirchandani said. "I couldn't be more proud of my staff and what I have done for this university this past year in the office of Student Body President."

Mirchandani hopes Student community and experience as treasurer for various campus groups as the reasons for the council's choice to endorse Michael Anthony over opposing candidate Jim Smith for the position of Student Body Treasurer.

"He [Anthony] has always worked within the African-American community, and that is important to us," Jamila Smith said.

Derrick White, a candidate for Student Center President, also did not show up to vie for AASAC's endorsement of that position, and the council chose to endorse Mark

### Why you want to be Student Body President?

"Right now, I feel that I'm the one person that could pull the campus together because I've had experience inside the Student Government and outside the Student Government," Pettigrew responded.

"With old leadership comes old ideas. If you keep the same people in the same positions, then you get the same results that were presented to you beforehand. New leadership is needed, and new energy as well, and I know that I provide that."

For more information, visit: <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~hbpettig>

Government will continue the agenda that they began last year, of which they accomplished 85 percent of their objectives, and address new issues. Using his year in office as a learning experience, Mirchandani believes it will enable him to represent students to the best of his ability.

"The passion that I have for Student Government and the things that I've learned are going to be able to carry over to next year."

"The office is not about me and my legacy, it's about the whole university having a legacy that we were able to establish."

For more information, visit: <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~mircha>

Aldrich. Aldrich is currently the secretary for both the Union Activities Board and the Student Center Board of Directors.

Of Aldrich, Chairwoman Smith said, "he has always had a good relationship with all groups on campus."

She also commented that the council believes Aldrich will answer their calls for an increase in diverse event programming at the four centers overseen by the Student Center President, the Talley Student Center, the Witherspoon Student Center, Price Hall and Thompson Theater.

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### BRIEFS

Continued from Page 3

national research institutions. Mattos joined the NCSU faculty in 1999. She received her doctorate in chemistry from MIT in 1993 and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University and Brandeis University from 1993 to 1999.

The Drunkard takes the stage April 6

## 'Got beer' campaign under fire

◆ Out of respect for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals renamed their anti-dairy campaign, 'Dump Dairy.'

COURTNEY LOWERY  
Montana Kaimin

(U-WIRE) MISSOULA, Mont. — "Got Beer" has been sent out to graze, but Charlie the Cow is looking to get saved.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals pulled their "Got Beer" campaign launched two weeks ago out of "respect" for protests made by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization, said PETA's college campaign coordinator, Morgan Leyh. The renamed "Dump Dairy"

The Drunkard (or The Fallen Saved), performed by the University Theatre program of N.C. State, will open Thursday, April 6 at Thompson Theatre on the NCSU campus. Dr. Burt Russell, associate professor in the NCSU University Communication Department and director with University Theatre, will direct the show as his final production before he retires at the end of the first summer session.

The play will be performed April 6-8, and 12-15 at 8 p.m. and April 9 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$11 for senior citizens, stu-

dents, NCSU faculty and staff; and \$5 for NCSU students. Tickets are available from Ticket Central at: 515-1100.

### Armed forces hold retreat

The Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps ROTC will be holding a retreat ceremony at the N.C. State Bell Tower on Wednesday, April 5.

The event will begin at 4:45 p.m. and will include a twenty-one gun salute. The ceremony will last about an hour and all members of the NCSU community are invited to attend.

campaign is still geared towards college students, but is taking a different approach. Instead of "Got Beer?" PETA is now sending missing posters of "Charlie the Calf" who was "last seen crying as he was being taken from his mother on a dairy farm..."

The "Got Beer" slogan, meant to steer college students away from dairy products on grounds of animal cruelty, touched campuses across the nation before the campaign was cut.

MADD avily opposed the campaign, deeming it "irresponsible" and claiming it would encourage college students to drink.

On PETA's milksucks.com web site, the organization reported receiving enormous positive responses from college students, but added materials have been revoked from campuses.

Despite the decision to stop the campaign, Leyh still maintains that the "Got Beer?" slogan was not intended to heighten alcohol use in college students, but rather raise awareness of animal cruelty issues.

"We still don't think the campaign would have caused any one student consume one more ounce of beer," Leyh said. "But we do respect their organization and their concerns, so that is why it was pulled."

The MADD organization sent a letter of discontent to PETA before the campaign was officially launched, and PETA officials took their concerns into account. PETA put yanked the slogan as well as sending a \$500 contribution to MADD and establishing a link to their web site on PETA's milksucks.com web site.

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Got opinions?

Zack Mazer will hold an information session for anyone interested in writing columns for the opinion section next year. Meet in the Technician office Wed, April 5, at 6:00 p.m.

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## TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

### Candidate pool underwhelming

Today's Opinion page is devoted to Technician's endorsements of candidates for the April 3-4 student body elections. This piece, however, is an offering of general staff thoughts that couldn't really

Even the ideas of some of those we aren't endorsing are intriguing. Treasurer candidate Jim Smith's ideas about using college councils to gauge student opinion on Student Government activities and decisions is one that, with some further planning, offers a lot of promise. Current student body President Raj

Technician's endorsements are accompanied by a word of advice: vote with caution.

be worked into the individual endorsements.

First and foremost, there was a general feeling among editorial board members that this year's election candidates are, overall, underwhelming. This year's candidates, even the ones Technician endorsed, were largely riding waves of vague promises in the hopes that said waves would break somewhere in Wilkespoor Student Center. The key word in this year's elections is 'promise': the promise of Harold Pettigrew's as-of-yet undeveloped freshman outreach plan; the promise of Michael Anthony's online allocation application, which would greatly simplify the process by which student organizations get money for events; and the promise of the grassroots feel surrounding Conen Morgan's campaign.

Mirchandani's proposed Student Government Endowment could offer a suitable salvo to the coming tuition increase. That proposal and one of using cash points at the Entertainment and Sports Arena could be downright handy.

Also intriguing to the board was the idea of a Pettigrew-Anthony pairing in the president and treasurer positions, respectively. Both candidates spoke at length about their desire to see Student Government unified, and their personalities seemed likely to mesh well. At this point, the 2000 elections offer a lot of promise. The fulfillment of all that promise lies in the hands of candidates and, most importantly, of you, the students. When you vote, know who and what you're voting for and press your leaders to carry out those things that draw your vote.

#### The nature of endorsements

The Technician editorial board—made up of department heads and assistants—met this week with the candidates for Student Senate president, student body president and student body treasurer, positions that will be decided April 3 and 4. These interviews led to the endorsements that you see here.

Election endorsements are a long-standing tradition in the newspaper industry. As campaigns wind down and voting dates approach, most respectable newspapers publish candidate endorsements. They are not to be mistaken for news articles, nor do they represent any individual's opinion on the upcoming races. These are Technician's informed opinions, based on interviews.

Only those members of the editorial board who attended the interviews of all the candidates for a given position were involved in the endorsements. The opinions you read are based on the information gleaned from those interviews. Technician's endorsements carry only as much weight as you—reader and voter—assign them.

Technician offers no endorsements on two positions: student body chief justice and Student Center president. There is no endorsement on the former because it is an uncontested position; on the latter, because scheduling conflicts did not allow the board proper research to make an endorsement.

—Ebonie Polite, Editor-in-Chief, Technician

### Technician takes Morgan; Cotter second

In the race for Student Senate president, Technician endorses Conen Morgan, with some reservations.

Though neither Morgan nor his opponent Jason Cotter was particularly overwhelming in interviews, both seemed to be solid candidates. Where Morgan has the edge is in what was perceived to be his commitment to change in senate.

Both candidates attacked the same issues - improving communication between the senate and its constituents, fighting tuition

and fee increases and reinstating campout - but Morgan's ideas were more active and less legislative.

Morgan is a sophomore first-year senator and the head of the senate's Tuition and Fees Committee. His campaign has three foci: publicity, ticket distribution and tuition.

The primary mechanism of Morgan's publicity campaign is the "Red and White" newsletter. According to his vision, the "Red and White" would be a weekly periodical offering a comprehensive listing of on-campus activities, from fraternity parties to speeches sponsored by academic organizations.

Though the newsletter may be less than feasible - cataloging all of the activities on a campus of 27,000 students would be a logistical nightmare - Morgan said that he was willing to use his own money to get the newsletter off the ground. That impressive gesture is an indication of how committed Morgan is to his ideas.

Morgan expressed few ideas for bringing back campout, but he did



Disclaimer: This cartoon is in no way intended to promote voter apathy. Voting has great possibilities. It's an excellent way to make your voice heard. If you noticed that none of these interchangeable leaders of tomorrow has a distinguishable voice, that doesn't mean you shouldn't vote. Indeed, that's all the more reason why you should vote. Vote for yourself, vote for your mom, or vote for your favorite Beate. Anything to let candidates know that you are not apathetic, you just don't know about their opinions.

John Carr 3.30.00



### Board selects Pettigrew, Mirchandani second

The Technician editorial board endorses Harold Pettigrew in the race for student body president.

While both Pettigrew and incumbent Raj Mirchandani offered quality ideas for improving N.C. State, the board's general feeling is that it is time for a change in the executive branch of Student Government. Pettigrew would most effectively promote that change.

A member of the Union Activities Board (UAB) and a member of the Board of Directors, Pettigrew seeks to increase accessibility in Student Government. Among his ideas for creating that accessibility are a freshman outreach program, a peer-to-peer semester

"State of N.C. State" address and an on-campus festival.

The freshman outreach plan is at once impressive and vague. The idea behind it is sensible: Pettigrew targeted freshmen as students who bring new energy to the campus but often find themselves out of the loop, particularly where Student Government is concerned. The less impressive part of Pettigrew's plan is in the planning itself: aside from a "Lunch with the President" plan, he offered few other methods of executing his freshman outreach idea. The freshman outreach plan needs more fleshing out.

Keeping his theme of accessibility, Pettigrew proposes a "State of N.C. State" address. This idea is one with real promise. The address would be a per-semester report on what's going on at NCSU and in Student Government. The address is a modest idea, but it's also a step toward SG accountability.

Pettigrew also proposed the idea of holding a "Taste of NCSU" Festival, modeled after a similar festival held in Washington, D.C. The festival would take place on a

blocked-off campus street, with bands playing at either end of the street, a sampling of international foods and on-campus talents, such as members of the Magician's Club, an example offered by Pettigrew.

The festival is an ambitious undertaking. Pettigrew has done his homework—where location is concerned. He said that Hillsborough Street and the Brickyard are the most promising areas he's seen. The problems there, however, are that the Brickyard is a bit small for such a festival—a fact Pettigrew himself pointed out—and that getting Hillsborough Street blocked out has never been something student government has been able to do. The board was particularly impressed by Pettigrew's interest in uniting Student Government's legislative and executive branches and working with the Raleigh City Council to give NCSU greater credibility in the community, both topics he spoke about at length. Mirchandani is near-

#### Student Body President



Raj Mirchandani

See PRESIDENT, Page 6



Harold Pettigrew

#### Student Senate President



Morgan



Cotter

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#### Student Body Treasurer

### Anthony endorsed for election

Technician endorses Michael Anthony in the election for student body treasurer.

Anthony showed a vision for the position and an experience with handling finances that his competitor, Jim Smith, does not have. The current treasurer of the Society of African-American Culture (SAAC) and the chair of the Student Government Operations Committee, Anthony already has experience dealing with money. Anthony's most ambitious idea was one of making senate's fee allocation process a Web-based one, with the forms necessary available and transmittable over the Internet.

Given the amount of time it takes for money to go from the senate to the stu-

dents, such a move would be wildly beneficial. According to Anthony, when an organization needs money in a week, it can't afford to wait a month for the proper forms to go through. His plan speaks to that fact. Aside from the streamlining of the allocation process, Anthony offered little in the way of hard-and-fast ideas. Rather, his strengths lay in his ability to define the problems facing the treasurer as a member of the executive branch. Anthony spoke at length about unifying the executive and legislative branches and of removing the discrepancies between what Student Government hears from the administration and what the student body hears from Student Government.

Smith is a first-year senator from the College of Textiles. The centerpiece of his campaign is a plan to use college councils as a feeder to Student Senate appointments and as a vehicle to express students' concerns to the senate.

A product of the textile college council himself, Smith came to the college councils frequently during the interview. The idea is interesting, but there are flaws in it. First, there is the issue of the

Both talked about improving the Student Government Web page. Those ideas, however, are misguided. When senate activity and visibility among the students increase, better publicity will follow.

That line of thought is what gives Morgan the edge: given his senate track record - on at least two occasions, he went straight to his constituents for opinion, first on the allocation to Lawn Party and second on the campout - and his willingness to use his own money to fund the "Red and White," Technician believes that Morgan is willing to do the legwork to improve the senate.

Our endorsement of Morgan is not without its uncertainties. Of particular concern is the importance he and Cotter placed on reinstating campout. Undoubtedly, the student body wants the campout back. The Senate President - and the senate, for that matter - has little control over whether that happens. It is an administration decision, bottom line. As a campaign issue, campout's a no-brainer; one

would be foolish to express an opinion against getting campout back - it's not, however, an issue that is within the senate's circle of influence.

More troubling is the relative lack of attention that the two candidates showed to the actual mechanics of the Senate President's position. Neither Morgan nor Cotter mentioned maintaining order in the senate hall or cutting down on the time wasted on procedure in their platforms.

Despite these reservations, Morgan is a good candidate and would make a good senate president. Though he is dangerously close to making the "Red and White" the lone issue in his campaign, we believe that he has the work ethic to make it work and, more importantly, the desire to make that work ethic a senate-wide standard.

The senate needs a president who will try to move the senators out of meeting and committees and into the university community. Conen Morgan would be that president.

strength of the college councils. Smith came from a strong, unified council, but not all of the colleges are blessed with such a council. Second—and this is not a flaw in the idea itself—Smith spoke of the college councils primarily as they relate to filling senate seats and overseeing the body, areas that obviously concern the treasurer, but which have less to do with his duties. The treasurer does work closely with the senate, but he is an independent agent, responsible for the students' money.

Smith touched on topics like working with area businesses and making organizations accountable for their spending—an annual treasurer's promise that Anthony also addressed. But, he offered little other evidence that he has experience with money.

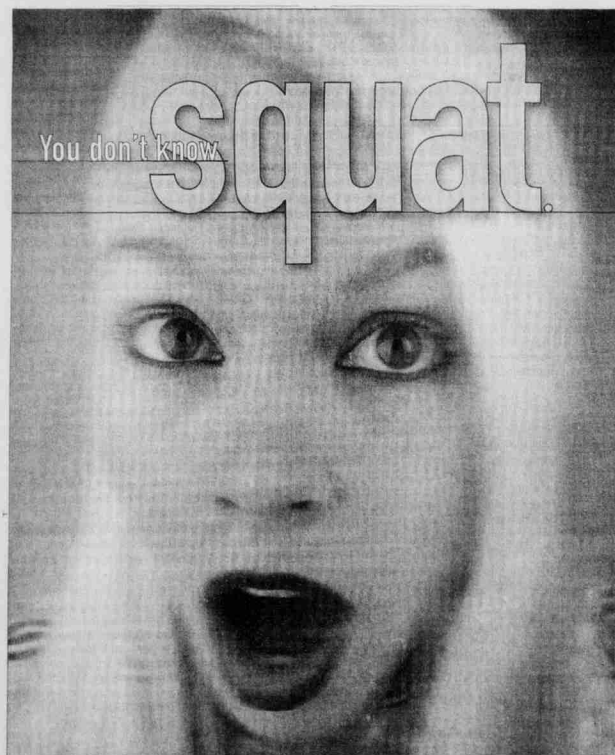
Smith also came off a bit standoffish, a trait that would not be helpful when dealing with administrators, students and senators on matters of money.

Given his experience with handling money and his understanding of the treasurer's job, Michael Anthony is the best candidate for treasurer.

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looks like history  
majors might get  
a job after all.

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"Nothing short of communism"

In response to Richard Morgan's article, "It's the economy, stupid!" (March 29), I'd like to first suggest to Mr. Morgan that he take an economics class or two before another savage attack on capitalism. Also, anything by the late Nobel laureate Milton Friedman might help improve Morgan's education regarding capitalism. The views expressed by Morgan are the same views expressed by Marx, Lenin, and Mao, and we have all seen what poverty and horror has resulted from those views in Eastern Europe, Russia, China, and elsewhere.

Without capitalism and the competition it entails, the Industrial Revolution would never have occurred and the world would still consist of a rich ruling class and a multitude of impoverished peasants with a life expectancy of 35 and no idea what car or a computer is. Adam Smith and others discovered long ago that by allowing a free market system to flourish, with extremely limited government interference, the motivations (greed, you might say) of self-interested individuals could be harnessed for the benefit

of the whole of society.

No one, including myself, would claim that capitalism is perfect or that our system doesn't have its flaws; but the wealth and power of our country today prove that it's the best system the world has ever experimented with. Unfortunately, I don't have space to counter all of Morgan's misguided points but suffice it to say that curing the "ills of society" by choosing "cooperation over competition" is nothing short of Communism.

Darren O'Connor  
Junior  
Physics

Race shouldn't be issue

Last night, I had the chance to listen to some of the debate on WRNC radio. I've never been more disgusted by the student elections than I was that night. It was clear that some of the candidates stacked the audience with students to ask question after question on race. Diversity and race are too important for us to use them as political ploys.

Even worse, I had the chance to see an e-mail from Harold Pettigrew from the African-American Student Association listserv. The title caught my attention. I fully support efforts to encourage diversity on campus, but I'm concerned about things like this discussion dividing the campus along racial lines. Let's put race aside and work for all the students. Just like it says in the commercial: "we all go to NC State."

Benjamin Gani  
Junior  
Communication

**DO YOU  
AGREE  
WITH  
MIKE?**

PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 5

ing the end of his first term as student body president and seeking reelection. Among the achievements of that term were the lobbying and defeat of a \$500 tuition surcharge in the North Carolina General Assembly last summer and the implementation of the Werewolf, a late-night bussing system that has been renewed for a second year. Mirchandani discussed a number of plans for next year, should he be reelected. Among those plans: the formation of a \$121 million Student Government endowment for need-based scholarships, the creation of a task force to investigate a tuition formula that would warn students of increases in coming years and the possible use of cash points at the Entertainment and Sports Arena.

The SG endowment was particularly impressive, with possible on-campus entertainment ventures raising money for it. Mirchandani's chances were hurt primarily by his work over the last year, in the board's eyes. Any time someone's seeking reelection, his (or her) achievements as an elected official are a key consideration. In a year when students lost the right to camp out for basketball tickets, the Student Senate passed a new wave of fee increases and the UNC Board of Governors passed a large tuition increase, those achievements just aren't enough to support his reelection. A change is necessary. In some ways, Pettigrew's campaign resembles that of the man he looks to succeed. Mirchandani won last year's election with a platform focusing on bringing entertainment ventures like Pettigrew's festival to campus. The closest that NCSU came to hosting such an event this academic year was the lukewarm homecoming event, at which Clarence Carter performed. Pettigrew's endorsement is one largely based on promise. His ideas all promise the changes we see as necessary to the improvement of NCSU and its students. Whether he will follow up on them remains to be seen; but, with a less-than-satisfying year behind him, Mirchandani has little to support his campaign. Pettigrew has what could be a very bright future holding up the weight of his election chances.

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## Combating assembly line learning

LAURA SHARRAMBA  
Carlier Daily (U. Virginia)

Lately, students at the University of California in Santa Cruz may have been getting the feeling that they're not in the 1960s anymore. The school, located on Monterey Bay near prime surfing waters, is not one to follow the crowd. Exhibit One: the school's choice of the banana slug as the school mascot. But the issue riling up most of the school's 11,000 students and some of the faculty, however, concerns Exhibit Two: the school's policy of not giving letter grades.

The policy has been an experiment in alternative education. Begun in the '60s, the policy uses written evaluations to judge students' work instead of letter grades. After 35 years, it is an experiment that may come to an end.

This is unfortunate. The use of evaluations reflects a focus on in-depth, comprehensive learning, because they force students to actually understand course material and

be able to demonstrate their grasp of it to their professors. Letter grades, on the other hand, too often allow students to coast through classes by way of late-night cramming sessions and rote memorization. As a result, they may forget what they are actually supposed to be doing in school-thinking.

According to The Washington Post, some students and faculty at UC-Santa Cruz have begun to express concern that the current grading policy has given the school an unmerited reputation as a repository for slackers. ("On California campus, an experimental era nears its end," Feb. 28). Instead of letter grades, students are given evaluations, which, ideally, are detailed reports on how well students have absorbed course material and grown as scholars.

Recently, UC-Santa Cruz's faculty senate voted to begin grading students according to the conventional letter grade scale. The process of giving evaluations will not cease, but there is concern that the letter grades will diminish the importance of evaluations, making them secondary to grades. Advocates of letter grades say that graduate schools want letter grades and don't have time to read through the 36 evaluations UC-Santa Cruz graduates present to them. According to the Post, many UC-Santa Cruz students believe that the institution of letter grades will transform the university into just another "educational assembly line," full of overly competitive grade-grubbing students.

To anyone who has attended a conventional university — or even high school, for that matter — these concerns may well seem reasonable. In the competitive land of GPAs and curving, it seems that learning often can take a back seat to grades.

Evidence of this phenomenon can be seen at the University.

Students today often work for grades first, knowledge second. The University is no exception, especially when it comes to big lecture courses, which are most susceptible to manifestations of grade-centric behavior. In courses of 80 or more students, especially those without required discussion sections, multiple-choice or short-answer tests are the primary way through which students' grades are calculated.

The result is that many students forsake actually learning the material. They focus instead on remembering only what will get them a reasonable grade in the course.

This happens all too often, and is illustrated by the frequency of questions such as "Will this be on the test?" The implication is that if it's not, students won't bother to learn about it.

The United States has a society focused on success, and in school grades are the measure of success. The higher a college student's grades are, the better chance he or she has of getting into a good graduate school, and the more likely it is that he or she will secure a good job. A person can then begin earning as much as possible of that other measure of American success: money. In this way, grades are a measure of future success; they are currency, to be used to buy one's way into the land of six-figure incomes.

The UC-Santa Cruz experiment is a noble one. Evaluations in lieu of grades shift students' focus from grades to the actual learning process. Ambitious students still work to get a good evaluation, but the work is different than that done for a grade. To get a good evaluation one must actually absorb and comprehend material, rather than just memorize it, regurgitate it onto a Scantron sheet, and forget it immediately afterwards.

Many students who choose to attend UC-Santa Cruz are likely those who care more about actually learning something than how they look to graduate schools. Valuing substance over appearance was part of the great 1960s' experiment. If the students of UC-Santa Cruz want to carry that concept into the next century, they should at least be allowed to try.



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## SOMMER

Continued from Page 12

"I've learned so many things and improved so much, and it's all because of them," Sommer said. Sommer joined the Pack in 1997 and immediately made her way into the lineup. During her freshman year, she competed mainly on bars and beam and was named the team's most consistent gymnast.

1998 was a breakout year for the Pack and Sommer. State qualified for Nationals for the first time in school history that year, and Sommer had much to do with that accomplishment. Sommer was selected as State's Most Valuable Performer that season and missed out on All-America honors by .2 points in the all-around.

"She fits in the bill of the hard-working, aggressive kid that does the job all the time," Stevenson said. Sommer is making the most of her final days with the Pack. Prior to the Wolfpack Invitational on March 11, she was honored in Senior Day festivities along with Maggie Haney and Ashleigh Wessing. Sommer then went out and matched her personal bests on beam and floor with a

pair of 9.95s to help State to a record-setting score of 197.725. "I couldn't have asked for a better last meet," Sommer said. "Everybody was just together and on. That's what we want every meet, but it's a little bit of satisfaction going out like that."

Sommer continued her hot streak the following weekend when State won its second consecutive East Atlantic Gymnastics League championship. Her score of 9.85 gave her a share of the league title on beam, and she tied Haney for third on floor with a 9.9.

"It's gone so fast," Sommer said of her senior year. "It just doesn't seem like reality. I've just been doing the sport so long."

With her career nearing an end, Sommer is hoping for one last shot at glory this weekend at the NCAA Regionals in Athens, Ga. But regardless of what happens in Georgia, Sommer will leave State after competing on some of the best teams in school history.

"I'm really proud of the level of the team since I walked in the door as a freshman to walking out as a senior," Sommer said. "Our program's stepped up amazingly. We were lucky to be top 25 freshman, and now we're hoping to be in the top 12."

not be duplicated in an enclosed stadium with bright green artificial turf. Meanwhile, football is a game that can actually be better in bad weather. One of the greatest games in football history was the 1967 NFL Championship game between Green Bay and Dallas that will forever be known as the "Ice Bowl."

For my own amusement, I would put an aluminum bat in Mark McGwire's hands at Coors Field in Denver just to see how far he could hit a baseball.

On a more serious note, I would eliminate the influence that corporate sponsors, such as Nike, have on the sports world. Corporations influence everything from the names of stadiums to where players will play. There is a definite problem when players are more loyal to the company that supplies them with shoes than their team.

The most important thing that I could do as king, though, is get Dennis Rodman out of the NBA. Wait a minute, someone already took care of that one.

Jeremy Ashton's columns appear on Thursdays. He can be reached at: 515-241-1111 or jashton@uncnscn.edu

## ASHTON

Continued from Page 12

back in the game on every occasion. Roberto Alomar sprit on an umpire while he was playing for the Baltimore Orioles, but was still allowed to participate in postseason play. And the NFL has caught the Dallas Cowboys' Leon Lett with drugs, three different times, yet he's still playing. If sports leagues are going to make rules, then they should start enforcing them. At least the NHL has got the right idea.

My royal engineers would be hard at work during my reign, blowing the roof off of every domed stadium in America, with the exception of retractable roof stadiums, and ripping artificial turf off of playing surfaces across the land. Baseball and football are sports that should be played outdoors on grass fields.

Part of the charm of baseball has always been the atmosphere that's created on a warm, summer day by the smell of the grass and the sounds of the game. That's what makes ballparks such as Wrigley Field, Fenway Park and Camden Yards so special. The same feeling that those great stadiums produce simply can-

## RELAYS

Continued from Page 12

between two women who can run the race in 50 seconds flat.

The distance races will be equally impressive on the women's side. State assistant coach Laurie Henes will be competing in the 5,000 meters as the top seed and is entered with a time of 15:55. Katie Sabino, who is seeded fourth in the 3,000, will also represent State in a distance event.

Cheri Kenah, one of America's top female distance runners, is

entered in the 10,000-meter race with a time of 32:15.

The field events will also be outstanding on the women's side. State will be led by the No. 2 seed in the triple jump, Sherlae Armstrong and by Kristin Pace, the third seed in the high jump.

"This is a great meet from a spectator's standpoint," said Geiger. "There is not a single event we will be running that will not be extraordinary."

"We have many previous Olympians here as well as many Olympic hopefuls," he added. "This really is the first major meet or the year for many of these future Olympians. With this being the start of the Olympic season, we are proud to say that the road to Sydney, Australia, starts here in Raleigh this year."

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**Sunday, April 2, 2000**  
United Student Fellowship Worship Service  
Pastor Fitzgerald Shroyer  
10:00am, TSC-Balroom

**New Horizons Choir Spring Concert**  
8:00pm, TSC-Balroom, \$5 general public

**Monday, April 3, 2000**  
"Love, Luck, and Liberation"  
8:00pm, TSC-Balroom, FREE

**"Yo De Young, Glibed & Black"**  
8:00pm, TSC-Balroom, \$5 to \$10000 and \$3 General Public

**Tuesday, April 4, 2000**  
Block Fitness Modeling Troupe Spring Fashion Show  
Featuring Trinity 6-7  
6:00pm, TSC-Balroom Theatre, show open @ 5:30pm  
\$5 to attend, free members on NCSU lockup @ \$4 @ door

**Wednesday, April 5, 2000**  
"Post Slavery Trauma Syndrome"  
Professor James Small  
6:00pm, TSC, FREE

**Mohogany Roots**  
Special guest Kiki Nigret, African grand old time  
8:00pm, TSC-Balroom, \$2 college students \$3 General Public

**Thursday, April 6, 2000**  
Block Party  
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**DanceVibations Spring Revival**  
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8:00pm, TSC-Stewart Theatre, FREE

**Friday, April 7, 2000**  
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7:00pm, TSC-Balroom Theatre, \$10 college \$15000 and \$10 @ door

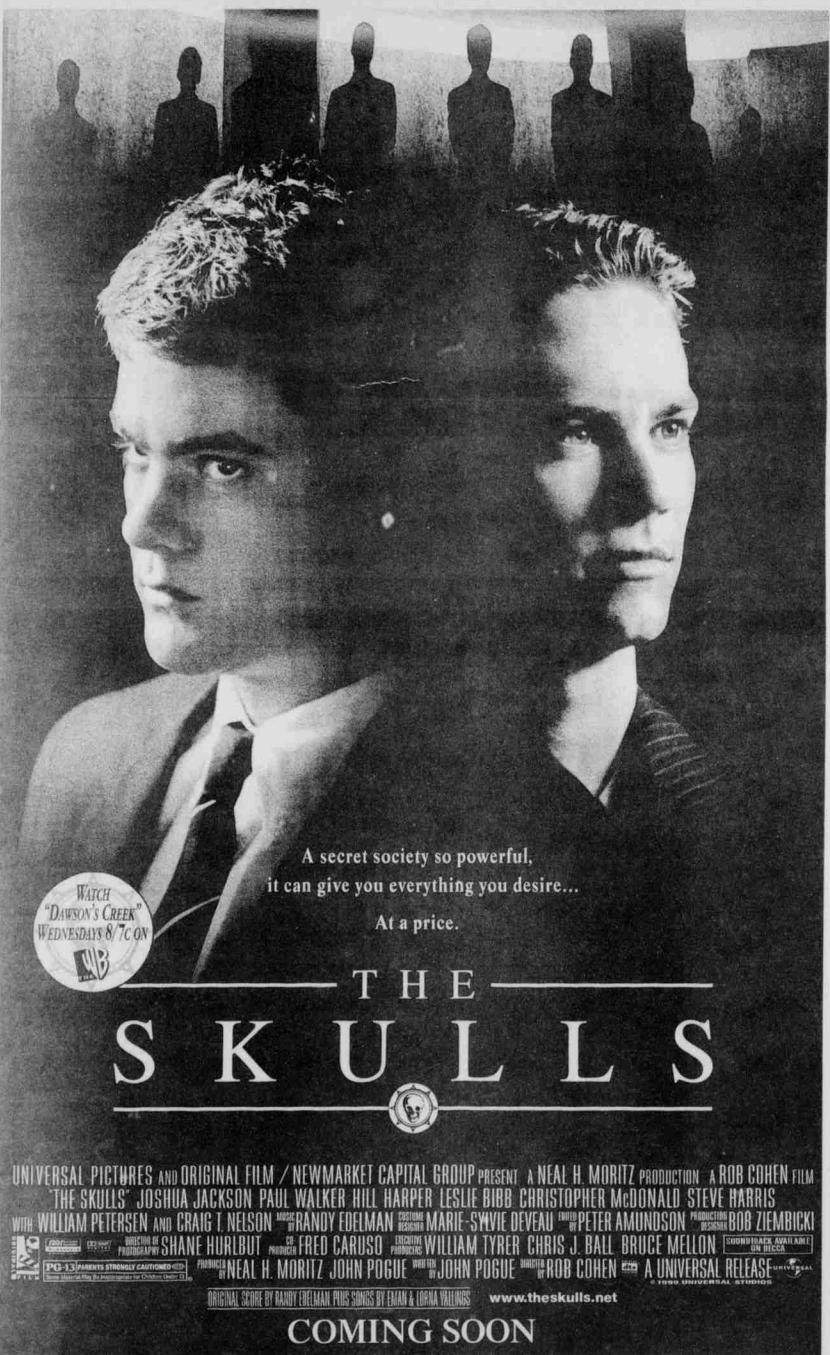
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# State track gears up for Raleigh Relays



◆ This year's Raleigh Relays draws top runners from America to N.C. State.

**TOOD LION**  
Staff Writer

Last year's Raleigh Relays were held in such horrid weather conditions that N.C. State track and field head coach Rollie Geiger was left wondering about the caliber of athletes that would return this year. After seeing the entry lists, though, all of his fears were subdued. "The amount of talent we have coming to race here this weekend is amazing. Every single event has athletes in it that are capable of being the best in America," said Geiger.

The sheer number of athletes competing at the Paul Derr Track this Friday and Saturday is phenomenal. Over 2,000 runners, jumpers and throwers will flock to the N.C. State campus to compete in this year's Raleigh Relays.

"With this many athletes, our number one goal is to just get through the meet," said Geiger.

The Raleigh Relays has become one of the largest meets in not only collegiate track and field but also world class track and field.

"We are putting on the only major meet in the nation this weekend," assistant coach Gail Olsen said. "Florida Relays coach was last weekend, and Texas Relays is next weekend, so we do not have either of them competing with us for athletes. Anybody who wants to race against good competition this weekend has to come here."

This year's meet has drawn teams ranging in location from Niagara Falls, N.Y., to Miami, Fla. to the University of Wisconsin, Villanova, George Mason and Georgetown, to name a small few. But all traveling to Raleigh this weekend. It is this does not mean that teams closer to home are not competing.

"The University of South Carolina and UNC are both bringing very talented squads up," said Olsen.

The 5,000-meter race, with one of the fastest fields on the track, will sport such names as Steve Holman and Dan Middleman. Holman is currently the premier miler in the United States, and Middleman represented the United States in the 10,000 in the 1996 Olympics.

The University of Wisconsin, which placed second at the NCAA cross-country championships, is sending 12 men to compete in the 5,000. N.C. State will also be well represented in this race with four men competing in the first heat. Running for State will be former high school national champion and All-American Abdul Alzindani, All-American Brendan Rogers, Atlantic Coast Conference 10,000-meter champion Dave Patterson and junior, Ryan Woods.

The top events of the meet should be the men's 100- and 200-meter dashes.

"Both of these races feature outstanding fields," said Olsen.

less than 10 seconds, will be competing in his premier event. The 200-meter dash will feature Ramon Clay, a 19.92-second 200 runner. NC State's own Tyrone Dozier will also be in this race as well as the 400, where he will be competing against Jerome Young, a 44.1-second quarter miler.

The men's pole vault will be a heavily contested event as well. Geiger says that State will enter five men who have all cleared 17 feet or better.

Among the rest of the athletes representing N.C. State are assistant coach Terry Reese who is the top seed in the 110-meter hurdles and the No. 5 seed, red shirt sophomore, Isaiah Ogelsby in the 16-pound weight throw, respectively.

The women's field is just as impressive as the men's are. The 800-meter run will be a highly contested match-up between Charmaine Howell and Julian Reynolds. Howell is a 2:02-half miler, and Reynolds is a 2:03-runner.

The 400 should also be a stellar race

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N.C. State hosts Raleigh Relays at Derr Track on Friday and Saturday.

COMMENTARY

## King for a day

JEREMY ASHTON

The world of sports is far from perfect.

If several of the problems that exist in sports were eliminated, then the games we watch would be so much better. The sports world needs someone, a monarch perhaps, to step up and take care of some of these problems.

So, I wondered what changes I would make if I ran the show.

If I were king of the sports world, my first proclamation would set a limit on base salaries for professional athletes and make contracts more incentive-based.

Too many sports stars have forgotten that they wouldn't have jobs if



# Gymnasts face crunch time

◆ The N.C. State gymnastics team gets its shot at a trip to the National Championship meet this weekend.

JEREMY ASHTON  
Assistant Sports Editor

The N.C. State gymnastics team travels to Athens, Ga., Saturday to take on five other teams in the Region Six Championships.

The 13th-ranked Wolfpack, who finished 1999 with the same ranking, fell one spot short of qualifying for the National Championship meet last year. State has been completely focused on getting to Boise, Idaho, for the 2000 Nationals ever since.

The pack will get its chance this weekend when it competes at Regionals for a trip to Boise, Idaho.

"We know what it's like to go [to Nationals] because we went two years ago," said senior tri-captain Jenny Sommer. "After missing by just tenths of a point last year, it's just that little extra motivating factor. This is what we've been working for all year."

State heads to Regionals following the best regular season effort in school history. The Pack had cracked the 196-point barrier only once in the gymnastics program's 20 years of existence before this season. But this year's team has topped that mark on four separate occasions.

"This is the best team I've ever been a part of," Sommer said.

Six State gymnasts were named to the All-East Atlantic Gymnastics League team at the league's awards banquet. Junior Amy Langendorf and sophomore Kelli Brown were unanimous first-team selections in the all-around and on vault, respectively. Langendorf was also named to the first team on bars, an event on which she is ranked 23rd in the country.

Sommer and fellow senior Maggie Haney closed out their impressive careers at State by getting voted on to the All-EAGL team. Sommer was named for the third time as a second-team choice on beam. Haney, who is ranked sixth nationally on floor, earned spots on the first team for floor and beam.

Junior Kara Charles and sophomore Aimee Pantone were second-team selections, as well.

"The kids that got spots earned them; they worked hard for them," head coach Mark Stevenson said. "We had some kids that are very good athletes that didn't get on, too."

The Pack has plenty of reason to be excited going into Regionals after its last two meets. The State gymnasts set a new EAGL record at the Wolfpack Invitational on March 11 by posting a 197.725. Only No. 1 Michigan and No. 2 UCLA have scored higher in a single meet this year.

State did not count a single score below 9.75. In all, the State gymnasts set or tied six records at the Wolfpack Invitational, including new team highs on

bars (49.35), beam (49.525) and floor (49.775).

State carried the momentum into the following weekend at the EAGL Championship meet in Pittsburgh. The Pack claimed its second consecutive league title with a score of 196 that topped the host Panthers by 725 points.

The Pack went into its final rotation trailing Maryland by 075 points. But State delivered a clutch performance on beam and then watched as the Terrapins struggled on the same apparatus and slipped to third.

"We had two falls in the meet, but neither of them counted, which was a nice thing," Stevenson said. "Luckily, the other kids did their job so that made up for those little mistakes that we had."

Maryland, Brigham Young, Towson, George Washington and host Georgia will be in direct competition with State this weekend for two spots at Nationals.

Two-time defending national champion Georgia is the heavy favorite going into the meet. The Gym Dogs are currently ranked third in the country and beat State by a margin of 31.25 points earlier in the year at the Entertainment and Sports Arena.

BYU was brought into the region from the West because the top 12 teams in the country are divided evenly among the six regions. The 11th-ranked Cougars improved their regional qualifying score by almost a point last year.

State is familiar with the other three teams at Regionals after facing them earlier in the season. The Pack split a pair of meetings with 17th-ranked Maryland and 23rd-ranked Towson and beat George Washington in their only matchup of the year.

The road to Boise certainly isn't an easy one for the Pack. But Stevenson and his team are confident that they can beat almost any team in the country if they execute their routines.

"If we go out and hit our routines, we're a good team," Stevenson said. "We're one of the top 12 teams in the country when we do that. If we don't go out and hit our routines, we could end 30th just as quick as anyone else can. It just depends on what you do that day."



Jenny Sommer and the N.C. State gymnastics team travel to the University of Georgia Saturday with a trip to the National Championship meet on the line.

## Consistently good

◆ Jenny Sommer is hoping to add another trip to Nationals to her already impressive career at State.

JEREMY ASHTON  
Assistant Sports Editor

Jenny Sommer doesn't necessarily grab the same attention that some of her teammates on the N.C. State gymnastics team do.

Sommer often goes unnoticed on a team loaded with talent. But her coaches and teammates know that the senior from Bluffton, Ohio, has been a crucial part of the Wolfpack's success over the last four years.

"Because she doesn't get the 10.0s and the 9.95s all the time, she gets overlooked a little bit," State head coach Mark Stevenson said. "She's just keeping doing the job every meet for us. She's the kind of kid that you have to have in a program."

Stevenson calls Sommer one of

the "most consistent gymnasts in school history." According to Stevenson, she has missed a total of three beam routines in her four years at State. That kind of consistency has made her a fixture in the lineup ever since she arrived at State.

"Even on her down days, she makes everything," Stevenson said.

"Sommer's versatility has been a key factor in her success at State, as well. She has been named to the All-EAGL team on three different events in the last two years, including a second-team selection on beam this year."

Stevenson credits Sommer's hard work in the gym for her accomplishments at State. But Sommer believes that a big reason for her success is the support that Stevenson, assistant coach Sam Schuh and her teammates have given her.

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ATHLETICS

the fans didn't come to see them. The owners may sign their checks, but it is the fans whom actually pay their salaries by showing up for games, buying merchandise and watching them play on television. Athletes have a right to make a good living just like anyone else, but player salaries along with ticket sales, are getting somewhat out of hand.

As king, I would eliminate the "insert-corporate-name-here.com" bowl games and replace them with a playoff system. Due to the sheer number of bowls that are being played now, every 6-5 team in the country goes to a post-season game. That devalues the meaning of qualifying for a bowl game.

An eight- or 16-team playoff would also guarantee that the national championship would be decided on the field. The Bowl Championship Series has done a good job of pairing the two best teams in the country, up to this point. But it's only a matter of time before a situation will arise where there are three undefeated teams from three different major conferences or, worse, no undefeated teams in all of Division I-A.

Opponents of a playoff system have said that it would stretch out too long and wouldn't bring enough revenue into the NCAA. Yet this year's 16-team Division I-AA playoff ended before the Division I-A bowl season was even underway. And I would certainly love to watch a good team from a small conference, like Marshall, get a shot at a national powerhouse just like in the NCAA's basketball tournament.

Speaking of the NCAA Tournament, the Monday of the National Championship game would be a national holiday if I were running the sports world. The greatest event in sports deserves to have its own day.

Drug abuse and on-the-field violence would no longer be a problem because I would institute capital punishment to prevent them. Well, that might be a little harsh, but fines and suspensions would stick if I were running things.

Former New York Yankee Steve Howe violated Major League Baseball's drug and alcohol abuse policy seven times and was allowed

◆ The N.C. State baseball team meets Georgia Tech in an ACC showdown at Doak Field this weekend.

JONATHAN HONEYCUTT  
Staff Writer

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets come to town this weekend for what looks to be a series of extreme importance for the Wolfpack.

Georgia Tech is ranked nationally in two of college baseball's three major polls. Baseball Weekly has Tech ranked at No. 14 while Collegiate Baseball ranks the Jackets as the 22nd-best team in the land.

Meanwhile, N.C. State is on a three-game skid after dropping the last two games of the UNC series this past weekend and then blowing a two-run lead in the ninth inning on Tuesday against the Citadel.

The Pack, however, is tied for fourth in the conference with Wake Forest at 5-4 in Atlantic Coast Conference play. Georgia Tech sits alone in third place, a game and a half up on the Wolfpack.

WHAT: BASEBALL  
VS. GA. TECH  
WHEN: FRIDAY-SUNDAY  
WHERE: DOAK FIELD

State at No. 1, Clemson at No. 5, UNC at No. 6, Tech and Wake Forest at No. 24. This is the toughest conference in the

nation," Mooney said. "There are never any easy wins when you play in this league."

Three Georgia Tech players are in the top 10 of the ACC in batting averages. Sophomore Richard Lewis leads the league with a .495 average while fellow sophomore teammate Mark Teixeira is fourth, batting .402. Junior catcher Bryan Prince is tied with three other players for the seventh-best average at .379.

Teixeira, the Yellow Jackets' third baseman, is also second in the league with eight home runs and has already won ACC Player of the Week honors once this season. Teixeira, last year's ACC Rookie of the Year, was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the ninth round of the Major League Baseball draft in 1998, but he declined so that he could continue to play at Georgia Tech.

Other Tech players are also among statistical leaders in several pitching categories. Cory Vance, a pre-season second-team All-American selection, leads the ACC in strikeouts per nine innings, averaging 12.72.

Freshman Jeff Watchko is fourth in the league with 10 strikeouts per game and fifth in the conference with a 2.67 ERA.

The Yellow Jackets snapped a two-game losing streak on Tuesday by defeating Charleston Southern 6-3. Tech improved its overall record to 19-8 after a 3-for-4 performance at the plate by Teixeira, who homered and drove in two runs.

Earlier this season, the Jackets had a nine-game winning streak before losing twice to Duke by identical scores of 4-3.

With so much talent and depth, State definitely has its work cut out for it against Georgia Tech.

"It's gonna be tough," Mooney said. "It's gonna be a dog fight as is the case in every ACC game. There really are no advantages but it's gonna be nice to play at home."

Friday and Saturday's games both have start times of 7 p.m., and Sunday's matinee will begin at 1:30 p.m.