



Take over the world

The world would be a better place if it were all American. Register for selective service in Opinion, page 4.



A trio of things, including Richard Buckner, "Duets" and pink dolphins in A&E.



Tarantini speaks

The men's soccer coach and his team hope to break out of their rut this weekend at Clemson.



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TECHNICIAN

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Service learning: a taste of the real world

♦ The Service Learning Project team is looking for students to work as reflection leaders or community liaisons.

Lauren Pressley

Staff Reporter

Students at N.C. State may now have more of a chance to improve the education of others by becoming involved with service learning.

Service learning is a method of education in which classroom lessons are applied to real-world settings. After students apply the learned information, they take part in

reflection sessions to think about the application and share their experiences with other students.

"Service learning helps to create a challenging and engaging classroom experience in which students become more reflective about their lives, see the connections between course content and 'real-world' issues and practice citizenship and leadership," said Patti Clayton, a member of the Service Learning Project team.

Students involved in the two classes that utilized service learning last year found them to be challenging and rewarding, said Clayton, so the

Division of Undergraduate Affairs has decided to support the continuation of this project for another year.

Six service learning classes will be offered in the spring. Clayton said the Service Learning Project team is looking to train five more faculty members and hire five to eight reflection leaders as well as a community liaison.

"The classroom environment is much more community-like because the students have had more of an opportunity to interact and get to know each other outside of the classroom environment," said Gretchen Lindner, a reflection session leader, in a Technician article

last year. "Students are more comfortable speaking up in class and having discussions."

Reflection leaders will attend the class with the students and learn the materials along with them, said Clayton. They will then lead small group sessions outside of class throughout the semester.

In addition, the reflection leaders can arrange an on-site student study with the professor to include whatever they think is necessary for the reflection leader to lead sessions confidently and still gain the most from class.

In addition, one community liaison will be hired to contact groups in the community

about service learning, meet with faculty to determine what needs should be met and work as an overall liaison throughout the year.

The advisers of service learning are looking for independent, highly motivated, mature and responsible students who are interested in learning and personal development and are able to work well with faculty and with students in one-on-one and small group settings, said Clayton.

"The Service-Learning Project team is pleased to be able to continue our efforts to explore and expand this exciting teaching and learning method," said Clayton.

"We believe, and students from last year have confirmed, that this is a rewarding experience for everyone involved - one that challenges students, faculty and community organizations alike to think deeply about the interface of higher education and community concerns," he said.

Interested students should contact Clayton for additional information and application instructions at pclayton@mindspring.com by 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21. Interviews will be held immediately, and training will begin by late September and early October.

Dissertations, theses for sale online upset some scholars

Remi Bello

Daily Texan (U. Texas Austin)

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas — Graduate dissertation and thesis authors nationwide are denouncing what they call unauthorized commercialization of their scholarship on the Internet.

The controversy arose after hundreds of scholars learned that a commercial Web site called Contentville.com was selling the doctoral dissertations and masters theses of Canadian and American authors, including ones at the University of Texas at Austin, seemingly without their permission.

Established last July, the consumer-oriented Web site advertises the sale of the scholarly papers through an agreement with UMI Dissertations Publishing, a company that has worked with graduate schools nationwide in storing, filing and selling theses in various forms.

Last June UMI contracted with Contentville.com, making it an advertising and distribution portal in an attempt to expand access to graduate research work. UMI's database has been available through other online providers in the last decade.

"There are a lot of students who are not aware of the fact that UMI has the right to sell dissertations," said Cindy Rosenthal, director of public relations for Contentville.com, adding that students can request that their work be removed from the site.

In response to student discontent, Contentville has placed a statement on its Web site explaining its relationship with UMI.

"I think if they analyze the situation they'll see that they are being treated fairly; it seems as though they were not aware of their commitment when they turned in their dissertations," said William Savage, UMI

director. "We are trying to provide as much exposure to dissertation research as we can."

The contract that students sign with UMI to archive and publish their theses and dissertations includes a clause that allows UMI non-exclusive rights to sell their scholarly work, Savage said.

Officials said the confusion may have arisen because students don't read their contracts with UMI before signing them and so are unaware that UMI has legal and commercial rights to their work.

All reproduction, sales and distribution of thesis and dissertations are conducted by UMI. Students receive 10 percent in royalties from all sales made by UMI.

UT students have traditionally published and archived their dissertations and theses through UMI and other establishments. But with the creation of the UT Digital Library last fall, students will have more options,



Rob Vaughn, a freshman in electrical engineering, tosses frisbee outside his dorm room after the storm clouds of Gordon moved out of the area Tuesday afternoon.

said Rozelle Moulton, a UT special education graduate student and member of the Graduate Student Assembly. Unlike the other dissatisfied

students, Moulton said the online sale of graduate student dissertations does not bother him. "I think that since knowledge

is power, it should be shared," he said, adding that he is planning on publishing his dissertation through UT's Digital Library.

One year after Floyd, rebuilding money remains in N.C.

Trey Davis

The Chronicle (Duke U.)

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. - Just more than a year since Hurricane Floyd brought devastating floods to eastern North Carolina, that part of the state is still in the process of rebuilding.

Though the state has already allocated about \$450 million to rebuild houses and \$35 million for business recovery, half of that money remains unclaimed, said Linda Ray, a public relations officer with the Housing and Business Redevelopment office of the N.C. Commerce Department.

"Why people won't come and get it, who knows?" she said.

Despite an advertising campaign and the assistance of 100 housing counselors, many residents and businesses still have not applied to get state funding. Ray said her office expected that money to be gone by now.

Although most businesses and farms have received federal and state assistance, the repair and replacement of homes has not occurred as quickly.

"In the past year, we have crafted a state response package, designed and implemented programs and performed outreach to

identify potential recipients," explained Leza Aycock, director of the Governor's Hurricane Redevelopment office.

However, these programs have not been completely successful. In many cases, despite public relations efforts, residents either do not know about the state funds for which they are eligible, or they do not believe they can actually get the money.

Part of this problem may also be due to the fact that the Federal Emergency Management Administration cannot release the names of people who have applied for federal aid to the state redevelopment office. When residents are denied federal aid, they often think state assistance also is beyond their reach, Aycock said.

Recently, FEMA mailed 67,000 letters on behalf of the state office to people affected by flooding. Aycock hopes the response will make it easier to discover exactly who still needs state support.

"Repairing and replacing housing is the highest priority. There are programs in place to meet that need, but the need is so great that the effort must continue at full steam," she said, adding that there was a shortage of "quality, affordable housing" even before the flooding.

Volunteer labor, on the other hand, has done much to speed the rebuilding process.

After the hurricane hit Sept. 15, 1999, volunteers from across the nation rushed to aid in the massive clean-up effort. These efforts have tapered off, however, Aycock said. However, several faith-based organizations have signed on to long-term rebuilding projects.

Elaine Madison, director of Duke's Community Service Center, said University students have continued to offer their help. She pointed to a \$2,000 donation made in May by the Class of 2000 and a fall break trip to Greenville, N.C., being organized by Wesley Fellowship. Madison noted that while the pace of aid and distribution has picked up since early summer, student volunteers are still needed.

"The best way to be an effective volunteer is to work with a non-profit agency... that has the expertise to direct volunteers to projects where they will make the most difference to the folks who need help the most," Madison said.

She also recommends working for government offices or churches sponsoring long-term projects.

Study addresses consumer concerns about online privacy

Michael Sosin

Daily Pennsylvanian (U. Pennsylvania)

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA - "Do you care if someone knows what kind of toilet paper you buy?"

That's something that consumers should think about before they shop online, according to Stephen Krobin, a Management professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

"There's an inherent tradeoff in the Internet and digital technology," Krobin said. "If you want to use the 'Net, you have to tell it something about yourself."

As the presence of the Internet increases in every day life, concerns about e-commerce privacy issues have also grown - particularly since privacy concerns have been raised with several big-name companies.

Last week Amazon.com, the Internet mega-merchant, raised concerns by amending their privacy policy - a document that can traditionally be either an explicit agreement between an individual and a Web site or an implicit, non-binding corporate policy - to reserve the right to sell personal information they have gathered in the case that the company itself is sold.

Two privacy groups, the Electronic Privacy Information Center and Junkbusters, withdrew from Amazon's affiliates program, in which other sites offer books through Amazon and collect a percentage of the sales.

Annenberg Professor Oscar Gandy, a member of the EPIC board, said that the organization expressed concern with the changes to Amazon's policy.

"Part of the major concern is the way third parties are involved," Gandy said.

Krobin agreed. "The great danger is not what Amazon does with the data, they're a reputable firm. But if they do sell my data, I'm not sure who has it." Research done at the Wharton Virtual Test Market showed that "people are concerned about privacy, and privacy and security are reasons people don't buy things online," Krobin said.

"If you go to the King of Prussia mall, you can look through hundreds of windows and nobody knows where you've been," Krobin explained. But on the Internet, "everything you do, every place you've been, everything you buy can be recorded."

A survey released by the Privacy Council at last week's Global Privacy Summit in Washington, D.C., showed that

more than 61 percent of those who say they do not shop online say their top concerns are about privacy and security.

The concerns are not without merit - in a high-profile security breach last week, Western Union found itself the victim of hackers who gained access to nearly 16,000 of their customers' credit card numbers. The company notified users whose numbers may have been stolen, and the site was shut down for several days.

And in August, bankrupt Internet toy retailer Toysmart tried to sell its customer list, contrary to its privacy policy, which had stated that user information would not be shared. The company made an agreement with the Federal Trade Commission to only sell its list to a buyer who will abide by the terms of the defunct company's policy.

To protect their customers, American Express announced a new program for its cardholders that could neutralize some of the damage from an incident like Western Union's security breach by offering its customers single-use card numbers for online transactions.

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Truman scholarship a worthwhile endeavor

An informational meeting will be held for all interested juniors on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. in 201 Witherspoon. All other students interested in learning more about the scholarship are also welcome to attend. Any questions or comments should be addressed to Pat Lee or Neva Miller at 515-7223 or 515-3098, respectively.

The event runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and has plenty of free parking. It is also located on a Wolfline stop. A detailed list of prizes, exhibits and presentations are located at <http://www.ncsu.edu/itexpo>.

Gierka said this event is being considered "a think-tank of education and innovations."

Individuals or organizations who wish to contact the Charles Ray III Diabetes Association can either call (919) 303-6949, or view the association's official Web page at www.charlesray.org.

On Sept. 5, Education

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We need to rule the world



Robert Jallat
Staff Columnist

It's not often that revolutionary ideas are introduced to the world — even less often do people squander the opportunity to take advantage of these ideas. Something, however, personally disturbing that has happened over the last century is how almost all societies have ignored the truly great idea of imperialism.

The great expansion of civilization and growth that occurred during the Victorian Era is an example of policy-makers in America should genuinely re-examine.

The Republican plan to increase defense spending is

admirable, but it falls far short of what is needed if the U.S. is to implement a new manifest destiny.

If the U.S. Armed Forces act quickly and decisively, the whole world could be brought under American domination. The U.S. is clearly entitled to rule the world, being the greatest creator of wealth in history, with the smartest, most inventive, freest citizens on the face of the planet.

If the U.S. had access to 100 percent of the world's resources, instead of the paltry sum it has now, progress and prosperity for Americans could increase significantly. This is the plan Gore and Bush should be pushing if they truly care about the welfare of the American people.

Of course, this proposal may warrant war with some countries, and the conquered world experi-

ence a transient period of displeasure, but these are necessary and small costs of a plan that would have huge payoffs. Besides, the countries being conquered, most of which are largely violent, ignorant, and backward, would benefit from being under American rule. A healthy dose of American wisdom and know-how would indeed solve most of the problems in the world.

There would be no more quibbling between Jews and Arabs or Muslims and Hindus over territory. In America, there simply is no such thing as a Christian state or a Jewish city, and since under American rule, countries like Israel and India would be states or at least territories, this nonsense of ethnic fighting would simply not exist. Religious freedom is just one of the many gifts

America has to offer.

This situation in Africa with the starving kids would only be a temporary. Almost all Americans are prosperous, especially after the economic expansion of the last decade. Someone starving to death in America is virtually unheard of. What the Africans need to realize is that there are many big brothers here in America who are willing to help them, just as soon as they give us the opportunity.

Perhaps the direst situation though, even more so than the Africans, is that of the Chinese, Cubans, and other countries who are still under the thumb of evil Communism. America's current policy of letting freedom infiltrate these countries through free trade just isn't cutting it. It has been nearly fifty years since the Cold War started, and free trade

has yet to bring democracy to the people in these countries as a matter of fact, it has also been slow to affect the other savage nations of the world.

It is time for a proactive approach. So far America has been mucking around, trying to spread democracy by spreading free trade, but why not take the world directly to the source? The absolute best way to spread democracy is to spread America! It is stupefying to think how the supposedly wise men in Washington could overlook such an elegant plan.

Why are our leaders hesitating? It is not as if building partnerships and respect with other countries or preventing an arms race will ever bring peace to the world. This idea of interest-free foreign aid aimed at building industry is a joke, just like this

wussy foreign policy issue of dropping sanctions on Cuba to make the Cuban people think America is their friend. As for Africa, we all know what they do not need is economic prosperity, better medicine, and better education to bring stability to the continent. Let the truth be told: only America can create wealth for its citizens, even without an abundance of the requisite natural resources. All other countries have failed, and now it is time for the U.S. to step up to the plate and bring the world under its wing.

Questions? Comments? Email Robert Jallat at rjallat@unity.ncsu.edu



The Other Hand Pre-marital sex Grin and bare it or Grin and bear it?



Justin Parisi
Staff Columnist

I love pre-marital sex.

Don't take that the wrong way or try to construe it with morals or

couth. The simple fact of the matter is that I believe pre-marital sex is essential to the blossoming of a truly healthy relationship.

They say sex doesn't matter. What they mean to say is that it does matter, but it shouldn't. At first glance, it is a purely materialistic, and utterly physical thing. But examine it closer and you'll find that there's much more to it.

Let's say that Joe Schmoe marries Mary Quite Contrary. They have waited throughout their courting process for the wedding day, where they finally get to "do it." They hurry through their vows and head straight for the honeymoon. They check into the hotel and start neckin'. Then, all of a sudden, Mary strips off her dress, underneath, there's a black patent leather leotard with high heels and a whip on her utility belt. "Yikes!" says our lovable schmuck, Joe Schmoe. What has he gotten himself into this time?

It sounds absurd, yes. In fact, it sounds like a bad sitcom. It may well

well could be for those who don't discover their potential partner's bad habits before marriage. Now, Joe will either have to spend the rest of his life in bondage or will have to commit a bigger sin: divorce.

Another argument one could have for the advantages of pre-marital sex is sheer human nature. We are animals by definition. Yes, our mental capacities are stronger than that of animals, yadda, yadda, yadda. But it only suppresses desire; it does not suppress it. At the primal core of our being, we are carnal beasts, hungry for sexual conquest. That is why it is so darn hard to hold back.

Some will contend that the strong desires are a test from a moral entity, but I argue that it is merely nature calling to us to fulfill our destiny, to propagate the species, to enjoy life — to feel good.

While feeling very, very good (did I mention I love pre-marital sex?), sex is also a good way to learn more about oneself.

Let's say that you have never had chocolate ice cream, but are really, really curious. But, because it's fattening, you decide that you'll only try it either when you become overweight, since you're there anyway. Then let's say that you become overweight and you try it. As you quiver and

shake and convulse and — (paradox me... got carried away there) — realize that it is your favorite thing in the whole wide world. You'd start wishing that you had tried it sooner, right? At least then you'd have felt like getting fat was worth it.

The same can be said for sex. Denying yourself sexual exploration until marriage is a dangerous thing. If you get married before discovering sex and then it's really bad sex, you may go throughout life wondering if you made the right decision. That's because sexual fulfillment is a part of being a life. It brings you closer to a person because you are sharing the most intimate of moments and are at face value, the closest you can get. Importantly, it helps reveal the person you don't normally see.

Nay, you say? Love is possible without sex? Well, it's true: for some types of love, like parental or friendship. But for romantic love, no matter how deep, you can't ignore bad sex.

Don't get me wrong — I'm not saying that sex is the key element in a relationship. I'm just saying that people should taste their ice cream before they buy it.

Justin Parisi
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Rhett McLaughlin
Staff Columnist

You can knock whoever's boots you like (if they let you); that's called freedom.

thinking before you start a knockin'; that's called common sense. It doesn't take a genius to realize that the only foolproof way to prevent STD's and unwanted pregnancy is abstinence. Although the majority will agree that abstinence is indeed the ultimate safeguard against all sorts of problems, most people believe that "responsible sex," as opposed to abstinence, is the answer.

The arguments against abstinence usually consist of statements such as, "Abstinence doesn't work. Kids are going to have sex anyway. It's natural. They just need to do it safely and only when they're in love." That argument seems reasonable, but is it? I agree that responsible sex is the only appropriate sex. However, I believe that the only truly responsible sex is sex within the realms of marriage.

First of all, if you wait until you are "in love" to have sex, then your decision to take a huge step in the relationship is based on your definition of love. I, being a male, am honest enough to admit that if I waited until I was in love to have sex, then my definition of love would become when I was ready to have sex. I can't hold to that policy, because "in love" is way too much of a gray area.

Furthermore, no matter what form of birth control you employ, you could still cause pregnancy if

you're in a sexual relationship. Are you so madly in love that it would be OK if you made a baby? Would you be willing to raise a kid with that person? Also, you still could contract a STD despite every precaution. Is your love so deep that it welcomes whatever diseases might be lurking behind that button fly? In the case that your lover is HIV positive, is this love worth dying for? Think about it.

So before you have sex, not only should you be in love, but you also must be willing to deal with a pregnancy and/or your partner's possible STD's. This kind of relationship, based on trust and commitment, should be reserved for one person. In our society, a love of this magnitude is best characterized by marriage. In fact, this is the very reason for the institution of marriage. Marriage, a trusting, lasting, monogamous and secure relationship, creates an atmosphere ideal for a sexual relationship. It greatly reduces the potential problems associated with sex, like disease, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, and guilt. Sex within marriage is a way of communicating that trust and commitment in a powerful way. It's beautiful.

Still, some will say, "What about sexual compatibility? You've got to know you're good in bed together if you're going to get married." To those that would propose such an argument, I say this: if you're basing your marriage decision on sexual compatibility, then I greatly fear for the one you are to marry. Go ahead. Do that. Get married. Have some kids, and then get divorced when

the sex loses its intrigue. Ruin some lives.

The reality is that all arguments against abstinence ultimately boil down to a simple lack of self-control. While abstinence is undoubtedly the most ideal sexual plan, the average person endures the risks of a sexual relationship because sex is just too hard to resist. This deficiency in self-control, which plagues so many before marriage, doesn't subside after marriage. If you have sex before marriage, you are more likely to have an extramarital affair. Why? Because you have convinced yourself that this desire is just too great to control. One day, you will be faced with the proposition of an affair with a captivating coworker. That urge will be no less powerful. Conversely, those that save sex for marriage learn how to control their sexual desires, and this mentality carries over into their marriage. This again is common sense.

I'm getting married on June 2. That will be the first time my fiancé or I have ever had sex. Heck, that will be the first time we've ever been naked with somebody else. There will be no sexual or emotional baggage entering our marriage bed. There will be no STD's crawling around on the sheets. We won't have to hire a babysitter because we won't have any kids running around. This will all have been enabled because we waited. We waited on gettin' busy until we got married. Oh, what a feeling.

Rhett McLaughlin
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FORUM

Continued from Page 4

General"), that was too far.

First, as Technician failed to mention, he has run one of the cleanest, maybe the cleanest, program for some 29 years, graduating 77 percent of his players and never been under investigation by the NCAA for anything I can recall. Bobby Knight is a military man (played and coached at Army) with some "old school ways" who deserves demands respect, especially from kids more than half his age. I certainly would not yell to a professor here at N.C. State, "Hey Smith!"...no, no, no, I would at least have the decency to address them with some professional title. Professor Smith, Mr. Smith at least. My grandfather is also from a military background, and I know for sure he would yank anyone up by the arm that addressed him in such a disrespectful manner as Ken Harvey did to Bob Knight to try to teach them some manners. That zero-tolerance card the IU administration set up for Bob Knight was simply an impossible mandate to follow, especially since the General wasn't informed about what was included in this policy. The current IU administration decided long ago to fire Bobby Knight; they just did it this way to remove the

blame off their shoulders. And as far as some of what Technician calls Knight's "worst moments," I personally see them as coaching genius, and for anyone who knows what line of work I am in, that may be ironic. Example: the chair-tossing incident; do you think the NCAA would have reviewed the officials' call in that game that led to Knight's technical as thoroughly had the General not made a scene by tossing a chair. No, they wouldn't. His antics help "guide" whoever it is in the NCAA to review mistakes made by officials, because they, like everyone else, are not perfect. One more thing: I would really like to see our man Herb Sendek get at least one Technical foul this year; come on Mr. Sendek; do it for the General!

Kevin Dean
Senior
Accounting

Marks supports poor parenting

Though I can understand Kelly Marks' sentiments on perseverance (Sept. 14), I feel that the mentality that Marks supports is one of the major problems in parenting in America today. Marks suggests that the mother mentioned should not have allowed her daughter to solve a problem on her own because a

bathroom is "hardly a place to model important life lessons." Where is a good place? When is a good time? In our country, apparently there is no good time or place. Children are allowed to float through early childhood without learning the value of perseverance and dedication. The people who should be teaching children how to deal with difficult situations, their parents, instead leave it to teachers and peers.

I applaud this mother, her bow and all, for allowing her child to overcome one of life's minor obstacles on her own. Sheltering children from all difficult situations only makes later misfortune harder to handle. Perhaps if more parents allowed their children to solve problems for themselves, more of these children would be able to build solid beliefs and ideals early on. Maybe then, we wouldn't have so many students struggling to "find themselves" during college.

Gregory J. Barlow
Junior
Electrical and
Computer Engineering

Racism is the issue

Reading the forum reply of Christina Hammock on racism, one gets the distinct feeling of being at the Democratic Convention. The points made by

Ms. Hammock are distinctly leftist and distinctly defunct. There have now been eight years of an increasingly left leaning government in America and yet the plight of poor blacks has not changed much.

What does "people of color" mean? Does this term refer to Hindu Indians, Chinese and Japanese? If so, why is it that these groups are not under-represented on university campuses but are instead labeled by the same liberal governmental types as over-represented? Should we follow the quota system and ban Asians and Indians from attending school?

As might be noticed, the other "people of color" do not count on the government to support them. Instead they form support groups within their communities to help new comers settle in and establish themselves. The individual helping himself is what America was founded on, not on Big Brother Government doing it for you.

Before any of you decide to tear into me for being a white male, let me let you in on some-

thing. Notice my name? Yes, let me tell you about racism:

I have known racism more than any of you can ever imagine or would wish to know. Try growing up in a country, during the Cold War (if anyone still remembers that concept) where you were branded, because of your blood not politics, as the enemy of freedom and God. That is what every Russian living in America faced. Slavs in general are looked down upon and stereotyped to such a degree that it would make the NAACP froth at the mouth and gnash their teeth if it were about blacks.

Try to remember when the last time Hollywood or Television portrayed a Russian as a compassionate or intelligent character. Do not try too hard, it will give you a headache. Instead we are portrayed as dark-blooded killers, whores, Mafia thugs or just plain envious, stupid drunks. Even as an officer in the U.S. military, I was told which areas I was off limits for because I was Russian. Yet other ethnic groups from Russia and the former Soviet Union were allowed right

in. We Slavs make up over 25 million people, yet our cultures are totally ignored. American history books are not Eurocentric; they are Western Eurocentric.

The Klan doesn't like us much either, we do not get a "break" because we are "white." We are not Germans, we are Orthodox Christians or Jews and we have weird names, that is all that matters. There are over 6 million Orthodox Christians in this country, more than Muslims or Jews, yet our holidays are ignored and we are treated like a second class religion.

And the point of all this? We do not go on welfare or ask for government assistance, we help each other and move forward. This is the same as what many blacks do and it is the right thing to do. As for those others who wish to cry about racism, you are not the only victims of it. Deal with it and move on; everyone else has.

Stanislav M. Kravtchuk
Former captain, U.S. Army
Senior
Computer Science



Singer Reggie Kane (Andre Braugher, left) hitches a ride and meets maniacal traveling salesman Todd Woods (Paul Giamatti, right) who's facing a major occupational burnout.

Solo Artist

Joel Isaac Frady
Staff Writer

"Duets" is truly a tale of an average film saved by one man. It's actually three different stories, each involving two characters that all collide at a karaoke tournament at the film's climax. One of these plots is horrible and by itself would be a terrible film. The second of these plots isn't much better. The third, however, has an excellent "Thelma and Louise" style plot accompanied by one of the best performances of the year. It's this performance, by the still rising star Paul Giamatti, that keeps the audience involved for the entire course of the film.

Like most great performances, he has to overcome a script that's far from perfect. Even the motives by which his trek across the country begins are never really explained, he just got sick of his typical suburban lifestyle (his "suburban

prison") and took off looking for something more fitting. Along his course he picks up a hitchhiker (Andre Braugher, "Homicide") and finds that he loves to sing karaoke. His performance is much more complex than this and he steals every scene. There are points when one of the other plots is going and all that's being thought of is when they go back to his story.

The other performances, sadly, suffer terribly. The film, being directed by veteran Bruce Paltrow, stars his daughter Gwyneth in one of the lead roles. It almost feels as if he was trying to capture, instead of a character, his little girl on film: Gwyneth acts as if she were 12 the entire movie (one line of hers: "I'm so excited I'm gonna go pee."). She stars opposite Huey Lewis (thoroughly unlikable as a karaoke hustler), her

long lost father who shows up when her mother dies. The other two leads, Maria Bello and Scott Speedman, are another example of talented people who are killed by the script (the best recent example was Ashley Judd in "Where the Heart Is," a knock-out performance in an altogether horrible film). Bello plays a karaoke queen who uses her femininity to get what she needs (she offers sexual services to pay for a car's paint job) while Speedman ("Felicity") drives her across the country, still heartbroken after walking in on his girlfriend and his partner. Both do what they can here, but the stereotypes of their roles get them in the end.

The problem with the film in general is that it just tries to hard. The writer and producer, John Byrum ("The Razor's Edge"), wrote a script that creates characters so wide and diverse that they no longer seem like real charac-

ters, an element that is necessary in an ensemble picture. It's as if he simply wanted for audiences to know just how diverse the underground world of karaoke is, leaving other elements of filmmaking behind. He fails entirely and this world seems silly and gives no incentive to get into this lifestyle.

Even with all of its flaws, "Duets" still makes for a very enjoyable watching. This is also a very promising sign for Giamatti, who after giving an excellent performance opposite Jim Carrey in last fall's "Man on the Moon" has now established himself as an actor to be seen. It's a pity that the film around him wasn't on par with his performance else this would have been one of the best films of the year. Why this film jumps so often from witty to dumb, entertaining to boring, interesting to lame I don't understand. The end product is a film that's altogether average, pushed above the level of mediocrity by one Oscar-worthy performance.

★ ★ ★

Director:
Bruce Paltrow
Starring:
Gwyneth Paltrow
Paul Giamatti

When nature calls ...answer it

Rachael Rogers
Staff Writer

Have you ever been chased by a silverback gorilla, bitten by a vampire bat or crawled in a pit with 18,000 snakes? Ever been hunted by a tiger or swum with piranhas, electric eels or dolphins?

Chances are you haven't and probably never will, but, believe it or not, there are people in this world who dare to do such things. On Mon., Sep. 18th and Tues., Sep. 19th, N.C. State Students were treated to a meeting with one such person, nature writer Sy Montgomery.

Danger girl (as Montgomery calls herself) brought her amazing story to our campus and shared it with the many students who were lucky enough to attend this event, which was one of the many events hosted by the University Scholars Program.

Sy Montgomery is an accomplished nature writer who grew up idolizing nature writers for "National Geographic." As a young woman she studied journalism and began her career writing for various newspapers. During a summer where she assisted researches,



Sy Montgomery speaks about her many travels at the University Scholars Program.

PHOTO BY KYLE RODGERSON/STAFF

A window to your soul

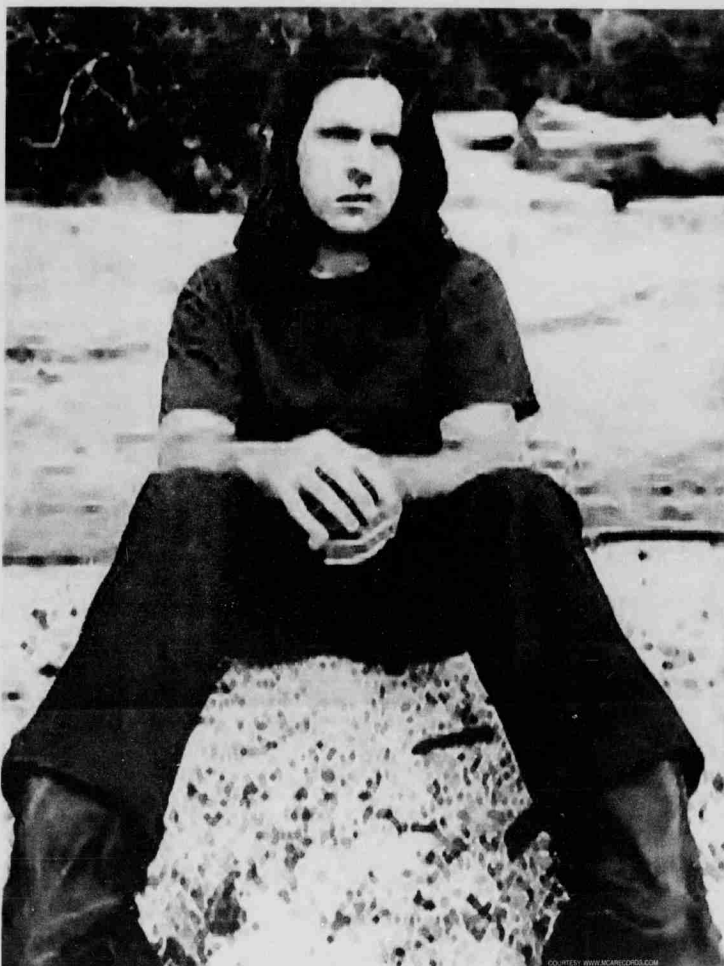
Chandler Carriker
Staff Writer

Since his debut album "Bloomed" surfaced in the mid-90's, Richard Buckner's music has been a stark contrast of time periods and styles. He has employed traditional Austin musicians, such as Lloyd Maines and Buck Hancock, avant-garde rule breakers, such as NYC's Marc Ribot and desert music desperadoes, like Giant Sand's Joey Burns and John Connerino. His songwriting can conjure up images as diverse as the Dust Bowl or the parking lot of an Econo-Lodge. On his new album, "The Hill" (due out Oct. 3rd), Buckner has completely embraced the past, choosing to use the poems from Edgar Lee Masters' "Spoon River Anthology," published in 1916, as the words and inspiration for his music.

"I started doing this right when I started doing 'Devotion and Doubt' (his second album)," said Buckner, seated in the back room of Carboro's GO! Studios following a recent show. "I had some time off and I was kinda running away from some crap, so I went to this hotel near the entrance to Death Valley in Eastern California and checked in for a week and had the book with me. I had it with me in this hotel and there was no TV, in the middle of the desert, there was just kinda nothing to do but play guitar or read and it just started happening, the songs just started getting written for no reason."

The mixture of Masters' poems, written from the perspective of the deceased citizens of a midwestern village, and Buckner's music, which often veers from delicate to menacing with a mix of western twang and modern crunch, does seem like a rather natural thing. Buckner's treatment of the poem "Julia Miller" is imbedded in rather reserved acoustic guitar, perfectly reflecting the muted emotions of the poem's desperate character ("We quarreled that morning/ For he was sixty-five, and I was thirty/ And I was nervous and heavy with the child/ Whose birth I dread-ed"). And while Buckner's voice, with its growl and whisper, is as diverse an instrument as any on his albums and gives great strength to Masters' words, his purely instrumental interpretation of the poems just as effectively tell the story of Spoon River.

Following "Tom Merritt," in which Buckner sings of a man murdered by his wife's nineteen-year-old lover, the listener is hit with "Ollie McGee," brimming with the disharmony of slide guitar and pounding beats which represent the tale of the young murderer. Buckner's last two albums



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were released on MCA, but he has since been dropped. "The Hill" is a daring project that he would not have been able to do on a major label. While his contract with MCA gave him a great deal of creative control, Buckner felt he still had to fight over the specifics, like paper packaging for his CDs and the use of rather obscure musicians and producers. Now on indie-label Overcoat Records Buckner finds projects like this one much easier. "So I started doing 'The Hill' and I was calling them and going like 'Well alright I wanna do this and this and this,' and they were like, 'Alright.' Like no fights at all," said Buckner, with a sense of relief. "So the

basic thing is I'm still able to do what I want except there's no fighting involved and no threats, I can just do whatever I want." For example the entire program of "The Hill" is located on one track, so there is no way to skip from one song to the next forcing the listener to listen to it as an entirety. How many major labels would go to that for? Talk about not being able to hear a single.

Anyone familiar with Richard Buckner's previous work may be a bit disappointed to hear that his new album features none of his original lyrics, but for him this project had become a necessary step. "The album came at a good time for me to do," said

Buckner, "because I'm working on my next record right now and I was kinda doubting my whole method or the shape my songs were taking and I wasn't sure what the problem was, so I just switched gears and totally started working on the Spoon River record and now back on my own songs it seems to have helped me in terms of clearing my mind and writing from a different vantage point." Use of literature to cure writer's block is not something new for Richard Buckner though. "Whenever I get any kind of block going," adds Buckner, "where I think I can't do what I want to do, I just pick up one of my Raymond Carver books, usually poetry, E.E. Cummings

does that for me, [and] Masters does that for me."

While Richard Buckner's albums have landed him continually on the top of critics' list, it is his constant touring and incredibly intense shows that has built up his small but loyal following. Looking around GO! Studios during his show there was not a song that was not being sung along to or who's opening chords were not greeted with an astonished look. The road is somewhere that Buckner also finds himself at home.

"Eric [Haywood, multi-instrumentalist who is Richard's lone partner on stage] and I are just best friends and we kinda just crave being in a truck together for a month and

driving around," Buckner offers. "We have the same interests like guitar stores, and record stores, and barbecue. We have a great time traveling together. We feel like little boys driving around the country."

On stage there is a fraternal feel between the two musicians, as Richard between songs trades glances with Eric, seated behind his pedal-steel guitar, throws out the name of a song, and off they go heading into another, be it slow and searing or loud and sonically pounding. "We don't use a set list," jokes Richard. "I end up looking at the set list and forgetting everything."

Even though an album where Buckner has moved from offering up stark personal testimony, as he does in his previous work, to using the words of fictional characters from the grave, there is still a sense of experience to it all. His music is nothing but the fruit of a well-worn life, and it bleeds through in all he does. It is these life lessons that serve as a great inspiration for Buckner's work.

"I've got this card where at Flying J truck stops there's a book-on-tape rental program," said Richard, reaching back for an anecdote from the road. "Last week we had the Muhammad Ali story, and that was really great. But man these last couple of days, the one we just finished this morning was the Merle Haggard autobiography. He reads it himself. They're just... great stories. They're just whacked, and it's even more whacked than you would have thought just knowing stuff about him" but, Richard adds with a smile, "it's really inspiring to hear him talk about his life and what he went through and what he still goes through."

It's the inspiration of these lives lived (while not actually lived in the real world) that help created the beautiful work found on "The Hill." Going from the story of the drunken demise of Oscar Hummel, set to the most peaceful sonic backdrop (furthering Richard Buckner's use of ironic juxtaposition), to the closing story of William and Emily and two lovers telling of the joy of dying in each others arms. Buckner's music, with its torch and its twang, provides the listener a glimpse into the human soul rarely provided. So this is not just a morbid album about those long since past, for as Buckner sings in the final song, over a haunting organ, "There is something about Death/ Like love itself!"

(To read Edgar Lee Masters' "Spoon River Anthology" go to www.boondocksnet.com/masters/spoonriver.html)

NATURE

Continued from Page 6

Montgomery found her true calling. She decided that she wanted to give more back to society: to inform, contribute and entertain.

While working on her book "Spell of the Tiger," Montgomery encountered these amazing creatures that she discovered to be the elusive and rare pink dolphins. Her enchantments with these pink dolphins led her to the Amazon, where she researched these gentle creatures. Her research required four separate expeditions.

What began as a small interest, led to intense research, where Montgomery found herself completely taken away by these animals. These expeditions evolved into a journey of the world's greatest jungle, a journey back in time and a journey of the mythical world that the inhabitants, both human and nonhuman, live in each day.

Montgomery gave an enlightening and interesting lecture about her expeditions and these animals. Her lecture was brought into color by accompanying slides featuring candid shots of the

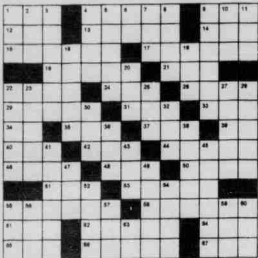
natives, dolphins and various other plant and animal life of the Amazon. It wasn't the usual yawn of a lecture. Her stories were far out, unbelievable, and completely amazing.

Want a taste of this mythology? No, there is no Oedipus, Odysseus, or Iliad involved. Her mythological stories flirt with a different and more interesting mythology. It is a mysterious, captivating and seemingly impossible mythology that sparks an interest and disbelief. It's more folk tale or hearsay than anything else.

How unbelievable that the natives have seen the dolphins emerge from the water and take human form? Would anyone believe that these dolphins can and have fallen in love with and seduce the beautiful native women? Probably not, but the idea is fun to entertain. And maybe, just maybe, there is a truth encompassed in these strange tales.

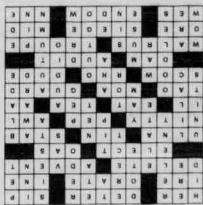
No matter the truths behind these tales, Sy Montgomery is a fun and entertaining speaker and her humorous stories are captured within the novels that she contributes to our literary society. If you want to find out more about Sy Montgomery or these enchanting nature tales, check out her book "Journey of the Pink Dolphins-An Amazon Quest" published in March 2000 by Simon and Schuster.





- ACROSS
- 1 Trail girl
 - 4 Prevent, discourage
 - 9 Small cake
 - 12 Angel
 - 13 Porpous public speech
 - 14 Describing to judge
 - 15 Leave out
 - 17 Term of Christ
 - 19 Vote in
 - 21 Organization of American States (abbr.)
 - 22 Arm bone
 - 24 Can
 - 26 Percia
 - 29 Gruffy
 - 31 Energy
 - 33 Boring too
 - 34 Midwest state (abbr.)
 - 35 Have dinner
 - 37 Brewed drink
 - 39 Driver's group (abbr.)
 - 40 Chinese philosophy
 - 42 Fingernail bond
 - 44 Keep safe
 - 46 Flat-bottomed boat
 - 48 17th Greek letter

upside-down answers



- DOWN
- 1 kept out of sight
 - 2 Before (poetic)
 - 3 Sacklin give in
 - 4 Launch excessive love
 - 5 Build
 - 6 Teacher's helper (abbr.)
 - 7 7th Greek letter
 - 8 On over
 - 9 Mexican rap
 - 10 Water
 - 11 Dog or cat
 - 16 Make happy
 - 18 Organic vessel

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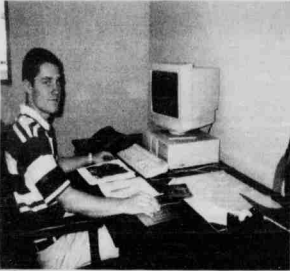
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Continued from Page 10

In looking at UNC football teams in the mid-1990s, one sees top-10 programs and large crowds at Kenan Stadium. As the Tar Heels have struggled of

With four straight challenges before the Wolfpack football team, it is doubtful that the Pack will be able to continue this improbable season unscathed. Thus, the fans will likely have a chance to show whether they are dedicated to Wolfpack athletics or simply along for the ride.

Steve Thompson can be reached at sbthomps@unity.ncsu.edu or 515-2411

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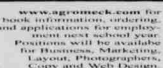
Registration for fitness workshops in Qigong, Massage Techniques, Stress Management, Swimming Stroke Clinic, Weight Training and Nutrition is ongoing. To register or for more information, stop by 1000 Carmichael Gymnasium or call 515-1161.

Continued from Page 10

"Overall the field is good, but in front of the goal is a little worn," said Tully. "We were worried about getting some bad

Continued from Page 10

Game time is set for 2 p.m.



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