

3.



Tickets, please? Opinion tackles football's Monday morning fumble over Florida State tickets. Check out the play-by-play analysis: p.3

4.



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6.



Chuck Amato N.C. State's head coach talks about Saturday's game against No. 6 Florida State

Tuesday
October 24, 2000

TECHNICIAN

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

Today	Hi	66
	Lo	51
Tomorrow	Hi	70
	Lo	54



Gary Birdsong preaches outside the Atrium on Monday afternoon.

Distribution goes awry

◆Most of the students who went to Reynolds Coliseum Monday to get tickets for Saturday's football game against Florida State did not receive them.

Spaine Stephens, Cara Froedeg, Jimmy Ryals
Staff Reporters

Between 1,500 and 2,000 people turned up at Reynolds Coliseum early Monday morning to get student tickets for this Saturday's home football game against Florida State.

Most of those students left empty-handed, as the Reynolds ticket windows closed at approximately 8:15 a.m. with

lines extending around the coliseum and onto Cates Avenue.

There was a massive Public Safety presence on Cates Avenue to ensure that no students camped out for tickets. Sgt. Jon Barnwell of Public Safety said some students began congregating in front of Reynolds Coliseum as early as 4 a.m.

Although there were no attempts to campout, "a few times, students started crowding up [toward the ticket windows], and we had to ask them to back up," said Barnwell.

According to reports from students who were at Reynolds, the crowd of students congregated near the parking deck on the corner of Dunn Avenue and

Jeter Drive.

Somewhere between 5:30 and 6 a.m., a mass of students rushed the three Reynolds ticket windows. Barnwell said the students lined up at the windows just before 6 a.m. Students who were at Reynolds place the beginning of the lineup closer to 5:30 a.m.

Public Safety officers repeatedly asked students to move away from the ticket windows; the windows opened and distribution officially started just after 7 a.m.

Regulations established for the distribution stated that students would not be allowed to line up until 6 a.m., with distribution starting a 7 a.m.

See TICKET Page 2

NCSU expert weighs in on Middle East peace

◆Assistant History Professor Akram Khater

Andrew Buchert
Assistant News Editor

The recent explosions of violence between Israelis and Palestinians in Israel and its occupied territories are a result of incredible frustration among Palestinians.

That frustration stems from seven years of failed peace attempts with Israel and two generations of Israeli occupation of the West Bank, according to N.C. State Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern History Akram Khater.

"Two generations of Palestinians grew up under occupation, and it is not benign occupation," said

Khater, who immigrated to the U.S. from Lebanon in 1978. "It has almost become a right of passage for a Palestinian young man to be put in an Israeli prison."

The Middle East peace process has two faces to it, said Khater. On one side, the process has been presented to the public by both U.S. government officials and the U.S. media as going very well, despite a few bumps and setbacks.

But at the ground level, the peace process has been neither smooth nor successful. Since the U.S. first took an active role in the Middle East peace process, 13,000 Palestinians have been thrown in jail, Israel has built 400 kilometers of roads in the West Bank territory and roughly 8,000 new

Israeli settlers have moved into the territory, said Khater. "The gross national product of the West Bank has dropped to 21 percent, unemployment has risen to 36 percent, and demolitions of Palestinian homes have continued in the West Bank," he said.

"These have all led to feelings amongst Palestinians that the peace process was not paying off."

Although Israel has appeared to be actively negotiating a peace agreement with the Palestinians of the West Bank, Khater cites an important detail of the peace process of which the average public has not been aware. That detail is United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which provides for Israel to vacate all of its occupied territories,

including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in return for recognition among the Arab nation of Israel's right to exist in peace.

"But the peace negotiations made [Security Council 242] a very complicated thing," said Khater.

Israel has built numerous settlements in the West Bank. But, Khater said that, according to the Geneva Convention, an occupying force does not have the right to change anything about the land it occupies.

"So Israel does not have the right to build settlements [in the West Bank]," he said.

Israel has also constructed a series of highways linking its various settlements throughout the West Bank with each other and Israel proper. Thus,

Palestinians must cross a series of Israeli checkpoints in order to travel within the West Bank.

Khater recounted an incident in 1984 when he was in the West Bank working for a human rights organization documenting the Israeli occupation of the territory. He was riding in a taxi with several Palestinians in the West Bank when they were stopped at an Israeli checkpoint. One of the Palestinians, who was on his way to work at a factory in Israel proper, had forgotten his identification card.

"The Israeli border patrol slapped him and made us all stop for two hours, something they call collective punishment," said Khater. "This happens every day."

Currently, the most hotly

contested area within the West Bank is East Jerusalem, which is the third-holiest site in the world for most Muslims. Khater said that all Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem are required to obtain an identification card, which must be renewed every year.

"But every year a certain percentage of Palestinians are denied [renewal of their identification cards], so basically [the Israelis] are pushing them out," he said.

"This is a time when the U.S. can exercise a certain amount of pressure," said Khater. "But I don't think Clinton has the courage or the stomach to push Israel."

"He is completely a lame duck and has no credibility anymore," he said.

NCSU adds new administrator

◆N.C. State has named David Anderson associate vice chancellor for development.

Ayren Jackson
Staff Reporter

David Anderson has been named the associate vice chancellor for development at N.C. State.

For the past 16 years, Anderson has coordinated many fundraising events at top universities across the country.

After a national search to fill the position previously held by Terry Wood, who is now the new vice chancellor for university advancement, Chancellor Mary Anne Fox recently announced Anderson's appointment to the well-recognized position.

The vice chancellor for development is responsible for providing direct support for college development programs and aiding in the establishment of comprehensive campaigns, which help raise funds for the university. Anderson will be working directly with Wood.

"I enjoy working with others and watching the success of our goals unfold," said Anderson. "Working with fundraising and the different campaigns is hard work, but more than that, it is fulfilling work."

According to many faculty members, Anderson's experience and dedication, among other things, qualified him as

the top candidate for the position.

From 1991 to 1996, Anderson was the director of major gifts at Rice University in Houston, Texas. While there, he established Rice's first major gift fundraising program. He also directed a \$45 million Computational Engineering Campaign.

Since 1996, Anderson has been the executive director of development at Duke University Medical Center. He was the manager of the "Keeping the Promise of Medicine" campaign, which raised \$370 million.

Anderson served three years at the University of Pittsburgh where he was the director of planned giving. He also served four years in development positions at the University of Virginia.

Anderson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia. He holds an M.A. in teaching from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. and a master of business administration from the College of William and Mary. As NCSU faces a critical time of increasing demands for private support, Anderson's experience working with public and private institutions will prove valuable.

"Mr. Anderson is a great asset to the advancement and development program here at N.C. State," said Keith Oakley, executive director for college advancement.

"N.C. State has an exciting learning environment in which I am proud to be a part," said Anderson. "The expectations are set high within the develop-

ment and advancement department, but I am ready to see the level of success that a group of great faculty and staff can create together."



David Anderson

DANIEL HELLSHEIM/STAFF

Halloween UAB style

The Union Activities Board (UAB) will be holding a Halloween Party in the Talley Student Center Ballroom on Oct. 27 from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The party will be a costume party, although costumes are optional. Advanced admission for N.C. State students will be \$3, while tickets at the door will be \$5. For the general public, tickets will cost \$7 both at the door and in advance. This is the first year UAB has held such a party.

UAB Entertainment Committee Chair, Takicha Lee, says they are planning to have a DJ from Untouchable Entertainment, as well as free pictures. There will be free food, including candy apples, snacks and finger foods. Door prizes to be given away include a cordless phone and two disposable cameras. A dinner for two at a local restaurant will also be given away for the best male costume and the best female costume.

Lee expects the turnout to be around 400 people.

"If you're interested in having a good time, the \$3 you pay for the ticket gets you a party atmosphere, DJ, dancing, food and door prizes. Come out and have a good time, and see the type of thing UAB puts on," Lee said.



TICKET

Continued from Page 1

Sophomore Vincent Burchette got to Reynolds at 5:30 a.m. He said there were two distinct lines, but "as you got closer, it was a jumbled mess."

Burchette said some people closer to the front of the lines got hundreds of tickets.

"I did the math, and thought, wait a minute, I'm not going to get tickets," he said. He had been at Reynolds for three hours.

Charles Standifer, a senior who arrived at 4 a.m., was one of the first students to receive tickets. He said that as the students "rushed" the ticket office, he just happened to be walking

by and jumped in the front of the forming line. He also said the Public Safety officers present allowed the three lines to remain, even though they formed early.

Pete Miraglia, who did not receive tickets, said he spoke to two of those officers, who were "totally unhelpful. They were actually part of the problem."

Miraglia said he only saw three officers attempting to control the students.

"Somebody should have been in charge," he said. "There are millions of dollars in the athletic program. The administration needs to take care of the ticket distribution. With all this demand, people get crazy."

He attributed that "craziness" to greed.

Jeff Flanagan, a senior in pulp

and paper science, was in the Reynolds area from 7 p.m. Sunday until the distribution. He spoke more positively of the Public Safety officers' performance.

"For what it's worth, they did what they were told to do," Flanagan said.

Jeremy Maciejewski received 14 tickets. He said he had 14 student identification cards and, when asked by the person at the ticket window where the owners of the IDs were, he said that he just pointed at other students who were not at the window with him.

Flanagan said the rush of students approaching ticket windows reminded him of a battle scene from the movie "Braveheart."

A number of students inter-

viewed said that members of Delta Zeta sorority received approximately 300 tickets for the game during the distribution.

Delta Zeta officials could not be reached for comment for this story at press time.

Cobb said the athletics department received "a few" complaints from students about Monday's ticket distribution.

"If there are students out there who are disappointed, they should get involved with Student Government, particularly with the Campus Life Committee of Student Senate," said Cobb.

Cobb does anticipate that athletics officials will explore alternative methods for distributing football tickets in the future.

Student Senate President Conen Morgan stressed that Student Government had minimal involvement in the ticket distribution.

"For once, Student Government wanted to take charge of distribution as a whole," said Morgan. "Because of campout last year, that privilege was taken away."

"We are not to blame in any way," said Morgan.

Josh Cox, a member of the Student Senate Campus Life Committee, served as the liaison between the committee and the athletics department.

Cox said the general consensus he has heard from students has put the blame for Monday's

ticketing incident on the number of student tickets allotted to block seating. While the number of block seating tickets varies from game to game, "a lot of people are saying that block seating got too many tickets," said Cox.

Joseph Bates, a senior in textiles management, believes that the high number of block seating tickets given for the game hurt students who went to Reynolds Monday morning.

"I feel like block seating took away my chance for getting a ticket," said Bates.

The issue of block seating as a whole is now under scrutiny.

The athletics department received 92 requests for block seating tickets, more than twice the number of requests for most football games. A lottery awarded tickets to 39 of those groups.

Groups that did not receive tickets were to have been notified by noon last Friday. Groups that did receive tickets did not receive any phone call and picked up their tickets Monday morning.

The athletics department allotted 4,500 tickets for block seating applicants; 3,500 tickets were available to the general student population.

Cox said he was sure that certain changes would be made to the block seating system. One thing that will be considered is the number of guest tickets that are allotted, on top of the current ticket allocation problems.

"We as Student Senate will be looking into the way block seating is done," said Cox.

Cox said that all groups applying for block seating were supposed to have received word on whether they would get tickets by 12 p.m. last Friday.

Leigh Pratt, a senior in finance, is the sergeant-at-arms for Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Pratt said that, at the end of the day Friday, she had heard nothing from the Campus Life Committee about her sorority's tickets. She assumed that the sorority's ticket order had been filled.

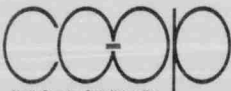
When Pratt went to pick up Alpha Delta Pi's tickets Monday morning, she found that the sorority had not received tickets in the block seating lottery.

"I probably should have called to double-check," Pratt said.

Cobb said that Student Government and the athletics department are working to get a "Big Event" for students without tickets to watch the NCSU-FSU game at either the Entertainment and Sports Arena or Reynolds Coliseum. The athletics department will make a decision on the event Tuesday.

For Bates, Cobb's big event would not be big enough.

"I feel like I've been screwed by the university once," said Bates. "I'd just as soon watch the game with my friends."



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CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS
- 1 Alternate (abbr.)
 - 4 Instance
 - 8 Sleeveless garment of goat's hair
 - 11 Home
 - 12 First man
 - 13 Recreational vehicle
 - 14 Atop
 - 15 Fish with snout
 - 17 Alter
 - 19 Tree
 - 21 Also
 - 23 Pave
 - 24 Act; deed
 - 26 Route
 - 28 Absolute monarch
 - 31 Earth (Gr. comb. form)
 - 33 Beverage
 - 35 Self
 - 36 Elevated railroad
 - 38 Stomp
 - 41 Hypothetical force
 - 42 Soak flax
 - 44 Before (poetic)
 - 45 Emmet
 - 47 Shower
 - 49 Knock
 - 51 College official

- 54 Rest
 - 56 Drag
 - 58 Two
 - 59 Abuse
 - 62 Tin
 - 64 Take action
 - 65 Time period
 - 66 Not any
 - 68 Chief Norse God
 - 69 Meadow
 - 71 Jug
 - 72 Rodent
- DOWN
- 1 Feel
 - 2 Coalition of nations (abbr.)
 - 3 Sack
 - 4 Ricochet
 - 5 Public notice
 - 6 Unhappy
 - 7 Give off
 - 8 Loath
 - 9 Ban
 - 10 Small bug
 - 11 Idle
 - 16 Near
 - 18 Tub
 - 20 Crane

- 22 Breakfast cereal
- 25 Vietnamese offensive
- 27 Energy
- 29 Gone by
- 30 Staff
- 32 Metal
- 34 mode
- 36 Mistake
- 37 Meadow
- 39 Craft
- 40 Goal
- 43 Oz character
- 46 Mow grass
- 48 No (Scott.)
- 50 Lead car
- 52 Scan
- 53 Midday
- 55 Window
- 57 Southern state (abbr.)
- 59 Morning moisture
- 60 Age
- 61 At once
- 63 Nether
- 67 Direction (abbr.)
- 69 Prosecuting lawyer (abbr.)

ANSWERS

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TECHNICIAN

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW Organized crime?

DOES N.C. STATE'S CURRENT TICKET DISTRIBUTION POLICY UNFAIRLY FAVOR STUDENTS AFFILIATED WITH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS?

For every home football game, N.C. State offers 8,800 student tickets. The Student Wolfpack Club, the student body's athletics booster organization, receives 600 tickets. An additional 200 tickets are reserved for dance team members, university band players, recruits, etc. Of the remaining 8,000 tickets, 4,500 are set aside for block-seating opportunities and 3,500 are made available to the general, unaffiliated student body.

Regulations set up by the Athletics Department require a group to consist of at least 50 members to qualify for block seating status. Although an individual block cannot exceed 150 members, a student organization is not limited to one block. Block seating is handled in Reynolds Coliseum about a week before the actual game day. Organizations pick up their tickets at the Stroud Center Ticket Office the Monday before game day.

If you're a member of a large enough student organization, the current policy probably sounds great. Sign your name and Social Security number on a sheet and get a ticket — even if you're not really sure about using it.

But what about the unaffiliated student, the one who isn't a member of a student organization or Greek society? Or the student who is affiliated with an organization that happens to have less than 50 members?

Why should students be left to scrap over the leftover seats that block seating organizations didn't snatch up?

Under current policy, the priority given to student organizations seeking block seating serves to effectively

bully unaffiliated students out of deserved seats and send a university-sanctioned message to the student body that affiliation in a student organization makes a student more deserving of a ticket than one who seeks a less social and more academic student life.

Granting block seating to organized student blocs is not the problem. Grant block seating to organized student blocs first, however, is a problem. On Monday morning, approximately 1.5 to 2,000 students started lining for tickets at Reynolds at 6:00 a.m. The vast majority of those students were denied tickets.

Of course, the Florida State game is a special case. There will always be more demand than supply involved in the ticket distribution of some games. That fact, however, does nothing to discredit the truth that Monday's happenings serve to highlight a deeply disturbing flaw in the university's ticket distribution policy — namely, that the university favors students who are officially or unofficially affiliated in student organizations over those who are not.

Assistant Athletic Director Charlie Cobb said, "The Athletics Department is willing to do whatever the students wish [about ticket distribution]." What, then, do the students wish? The answer is overwhelming: change.

Either the current ticket distribution must face a serious overhaul or the university should change its apparently empty rhetoric of "students first" to the more appropriate, more evident "organizations first."

Students who Need tickets Left out in the freezing Cold, while missing class Once again found out that State's ticket policy Has screwed all of Us over again!

-John Abell

Atheism: for the intellectual?



Rhett McLaughlin
STAFF COLUMNIST

At the pinnacle of academia there stands an assembly of persons dripping with wisdom. They look down upon the intellectual pooms of the age exuding pity as a teacher would to a child struggling with his kindergarten handwriting drills. This sagacious elite has successfully ridden themselves of superstitious religious beliefs and other obviously irrational world views. They are the skeptics, the rationalists, the materialists, the naturalists and the atheists. They are the true freethinkers. They have arrived.

I, trudging along in my stupidity and blatant ignorance, am apparently not equipped with the cerebral competence to discard my fanatical tendencies and adhere to their wise creed. Although I am clearly not qualified to argue such matters, I will attempt humbly to propose a logical explanation as to why I do not view the group in question as possessors of special revelation.

I will refer to this assemblage as atheists for the sake of simplicity. Please note that I do not believe that atheists are an evil throng of godless barbarians with a hidden agenda of conquering the world and forcing everyone to succumb to their authority.

They are, quite to the contrary, an admirable group of thinkers that have chosen to bring the prevailing modes of thought into question. They have committed no crime. In fact, it would do humankind a great deal of good to fol-

low their example and rationally consider the many aspects of life and come to their own conclusions, adopting personal world views as opposed to piggybacking on someone else's convictions.

Their crusade has not been executed without mistake, however. The atheist fails when he assumes that his naturalistic perspective, in which natural process and empirical observation prevail, is the most intellectually sound approach to understanding the universe.

Within the great atheist's mind there exists a striking inconsistency. He criticizes people of faith, or those believing in the supernatural, by labeling them as gullible and imaginative. Religion is unacceptable because it appears to flee from scientific investigation and has no natural explanation, according to the atheist. It is not physical and therefore retreats to being no more real than a four-year-old's imaginary friend is.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair, founder of American Atheists, has said, "Atheism is based upon a materialist philosophy, which holds that nothing exists but natural phenomena. There are no supernatural forces or entities, nor can there be any." What an astoundingly bold claim! This conclusion cannot be proven, supported by scientific evidence, garnered from experience or explained in terms of natural processes.

Isn't the irony obvious? There is no method by which atheists can test their anti-supernatural presupposition. Therefore, there remains no method other than faith by which one could join the atheist ranks. The atheist begins with faith.

Atheism may seem to be the simplest philosophy for understanding life due to the fact that it regards all supernatu-

ral phenomenon as imaginative creations of superstitious people. This quality enables it to appear as a more rational view than theism, for everything can be evaluated in light of the scientific method. Atheism, however, doesn't gain any viability as a philosophical perspective by asserting that the whole of the supernatural realm is merely the result of biological and social evolution. It is simply a perspective in opposition to theism, but not on more logical or rational grounds. In the end, it remains a well-developed idea based on a completely undeveloped presupposition (presuppositions are, by definition, undeveloped).

Atheism is not nearly as all encompassing as the American Atheists like to suggest. The atheist struggles to offer tenable explanations as to why the universe even exists, why it had a specific beginning, the fine-tuning of a number of parameters allowing life, how the biological realm arose simply by natural processes, the existence of good and evil and objective morality, the motivation for love and service, the religious experiences of people worldwide, their own doubts in atheism, why we have the ability to argue ideologies, and a myriad of other issues (volumes could be devoted to discussing each one of these).

The theist has an answer to such questions: there is a creator who began and upholds the universe and everything within it. Belief in God stands as no more of an absurd notion than atheism, and being a theist does not require forfeiting your reasoning ability.

Rhett realizes that this argument goes much deeper. Take it deeper at rhett@eos.ncsu.edu

Spray paint and ignorance



Patricia Crane
STAFF COLUMNIST

Last week, my stupidity stood up and smacked me in the face. It was a lot taller than I thought it was. I wrote on the Free Expression Tunnel last week and I actually had something to say, but my timing was horrible and as I wrote this the day after in broad daylight, I was off.

I painted a Star of David in Israeli blue on a white field, surrounded it with the first verse of a holy prayer and put a cross in the star.

I meant to convey my personal support for Israel and my belief that Christianity and Judaism are undeniably connected. But I should have asked someone first.

For the record, I have always and will always support Israel; but I also understand and sympathize with the Palestinian position. The land is filled with pain and injustice on both sides, and my heart bleeds for Jerusalem every day. But ultimately, my personal loyalties lie in my Judeo-Christian roots. If I'm asked to choose, I choose Israel — and it's my right to say so.

But in my naivete I didn't consider every angle, and I didn't listen to the nagging voice of doubt in my heart. When it was done, I loved how it looked but was nervous because I hadn't thought through the consequences and I knew deep down I was acting unwisely.

Muslim and Palestinian students would almost certainly be offended. And what if Jewish groups were blamed? What if Jewish groups were angry that someone wrote such a holy prayer on a wall? What if the university were held responsible, or looked for those who were?

The situation in Israel is so explosive now that my artwork could have sparked actual violence. I could also

have hurt Israel's cause by speaking out and seemingly taking an offensive. So I actually feel sick about my ignorance.

No matter how much I study or learn, I will always be an American Christian. I should not speak in a way that might be seen as speaking for a group I don't represent. And I'm the first to admit that a Star of David surrounded with Hebrew lettering doesn't automatically bring to mind a foolish little Methodist girl. So while I was speaking for myself, I know it didn't look that way from the outside; that's what I should have considered.

We have freedom of speech and what I did wasn't wrong — just very unwise. If you're going to make a statement, think it through and be responsible. Don't abuse the power we have to speak; our minds by speaking without thinking.

When I went to look at my work again, it had been painted over. I don't know by whom; it could have been any student or even the university itself in an effort to quiet the potential anger. If anything had actually happened as a result of my art, writing this and saying I painted it in the first place could put me in legal trouble, not to mention mental and spiritual anguish.

But I can speak for myself and I tell you that, while I apologize for my timing, I stand by the message neither side can refute: *Heav, oh Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is One; He's watching all of us, whether you believe it or not, and he wants peace more than any of us.*

The peace I felt after writing this column makes me believe that what I did was part of God's plan. He meant for me to be uneasy about what I had so rashly done so I would be moved to write. I have this forum and I ask you this question: If your heart bleeds for that land and your people, can you imagine how great is the pain of your creator? Selah.

Hate mail and/or virtual beatings with a rolled-up newspaper can be sent to pcrane@unity.ncsu.edu

'Cancerous apathy' hurts votes



Justin Greene
STAFF COLUMNIST

With the presidential election less than three weeks away, there are, surprisingly, those Americans out there who still have no idea for whom they are going to vote. Many of these facile citizens exercise the lame excuse that the candidates never talk about the issues, even after four issue-oriented debates. Since all it takes to become a candidate is Al Gore or George Bush's perspective on America's future about ten minutes at their respective Web sites or a half-hour period of one of the hundreds of candidate comparisons in the news media, one must come to the conclusion that some — not all — of these undecided voters simply lack the will to educate themselves.

I realize there are many who have made sincere efforts to distinguish which candidate best suits their, or at least which candidate is the lesser of two evils. Some are truly weighing the pros and cons of school choice, Social Security investment, partial-birth abortion and universal health care. Some are leaning towards one party when they and their family have traditionally voted for the other ticket, a tough decision to make. To all of the informed, but-undecided camp, I assure you I respect your sincerity and eagerness to make a good decision.

The citizens that hinder our democratic process, however, are those who simply shrug off politics with statements like "I just don't care" or "It doesn't affect me" or "My vote doesn't matter anyway." Statements such as these do not reflect a heartfelt frustration with the political process, as some would

have you believe; they merely highlight a cancerous subculture of apathy in America today.

The proof is in the fact that most who complain about the political process don't actually vote. Most who complain about the issues couldn't talk for twenty seconds about what the candidates believe. Even more tellingly, history shows that those who are truly frustrated with their government take radical steps to bring about change.

A simple case from American politics today is the situation of Ralph Nader. Many voters who are actually frustrated with the major parties have decided to give their vote to Ralph Nader's Green Party as a form of protest. Does it matter that most of these voters are choosing Nader because he's hip on college campuses with his platform of legalized drugs? Maybe not; I didn't say that was all that Ralph Nader stands for.

The Green Party voters and those like them in the Reform, Libertarian and Natural Law parties have transformed their political frustration into action in a way that benefits our democratic society by proposing new ideas. Instead of taking their toys and going home, the multi-party minded people in America today have learned to appreciate the possibilities that political freedom can bring.

Some have argued that the third party idea will never work because the Republicans and Democrats hold tight control over the system. I submit any party with a genuinely appealing philosophy will gain strength. Nader doesn't get only a few percentage points each election because he can't participate in the debates; he only gets scant support because some of his ideas are too far left for most Americans. Jesse Ventura became governor in Minnesota because his ideas appealed to the voters, not because the Democrats and Republicans rolled over and gave him

equal time.

For those people who say that politics doesn't affect them, I would ask them if they have school loans, if they pay taxes, if they have ever needed prescription drugs, if they are going to receive a Social Security check, if they believe abortion is OK, if they have friends or family in the military, if they drive on highways or if they buy foreign products.

Unfortunately, many people in America today subscribe to a misguided view and silence their own voice while they simultaneously either enjoy the benefits or suffer the consequences of politics. An American who complains about our country but neglects the responsibility of voting is like a man standing in the rain with a closed umbrella complaining about getting wet. It is his own fault.

For those who say that their vote doesn't matter, I remind them that John F. Kennedy won the 1960 election by an average of one vote per precinct. That means that at your local polling station, one more person voted for Kennedy than for Nixon. When totaled around the nation, it was enough to give him the narrowest margin of victory ever. Your vote, or lack thereof, does count.

I encourage all of my fellow students and readers to invest in their world by voting this November. Take a few minutes to head to a candidate's Web site instead of watching that music video for the tenth time or watching another rerun of "Seinfeld" or "Frasier." It may take a little time and a little thought, but America will be better off because of your effort.

P.S. To all the Nader fans, don't take it personally. I disagree with you just like you disagree with me. That's OK. This is America. Email me: jgreenejustin@hotmail.com

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Speak of the devil



Ryan Hill
Features Editor

Harold Ramis has always aimed for a high-concept comedy to direct: "Groundhog Day," "Multiplicity" and "Analyze This" were all better off as concepts instead of movies. His latest, "Bedazzled," comes the closest of his recent films to being a straight-up comedy.

The movie stars Brendan Fraser as Elliot, a dorky office worker who wants nothing more than for everyone to like him, especially Allison (Frances O'Connor). Elliot tries too hard to get people to like him and ends up being ridiculed by his co-workers, played by Orlando Jones, Gabriel Casseus and Rudolf Martin. After being mocked in public by his co-workers on top of being given the cold shoulder by Allison, Elliot declares to God himself that he would do anything to have Allison in his life. God may have been listening, but the devil (Elizabeth Hurley) answered his call.

The devil offers Elliot a chance with Allison, seven in fact. Elliot is free to make seven wishes, after which he must surrender his soul to eternal damnation. Considering that the devil has never looked better (or Hurley for that matter, who looks absolutely amazing in every frame she's in) Elliot figures Hell can't be all that bad, so he gives his soul over for a chance with the woman of his dreams.

Elliot's wishes take him to several different situations, the most memorable of which are as a

Bedazzled

★★★

Director:
Harold Ramis
Starring:
Brendan Fraser
Elizabeth Hurley

Columbian drug lord and an albino basketball star who is under-equipped. The wishes play out like extended skits and the feeling that you're watching an extended version of "Saturday Night Live" never lets up. Fraser, who has proven he can be funny in "George of the Jungle," doesn't break any new ground here, but he is funny enough.

"Bedazzled" is a remake of the 1967 Dudley Moore film of the same name and doesn't live up to the original at all. The comedy, like most of Ramis' earlier films, gets lost in the concept of the movie.

There are some funny parts to "Bedazzled," but nothing worth writing home about.

Hurley plays off of her "Austin Powers" character, using sexuality to her advantage instead of hiding behind it and saying "Oh I'm not pretty, really I'm not." Hurley has a rare energy that is just jaw dropping. At least for the guys. She also makes the devil someone you could almost see yourself selling your soul to.

I wish Harold Ramis still made movies like he did in the "Caddyshack" days, lowbrow humor mixed with an interesting plot. Unfortunately, we don't live in a perfect world and have to get our laughs from people who don't have half the grasp of comedy Ramis has. It's a waste, a real waste. "Bedazzled" is an attempt to get back to his comedic roots and he comes close to reclaiming his glory, but he falls short yet again.

IMAGE FROM TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Contending Political Beliefs

Joel Isaac Frady
Staff Writer

The Contender

★★★

Director:

Rob Lurie

Starring:

Jean Allen

Gary Oldman

Jeff Bridges

Christian Slater



Rob Lurie's "The Contender" is a film that does almost everything right only to be brought back down by the political beliefs of the filmmakers. Every element of a good film is here: great acting, good cinematography and a plot that doesn't

down itself in the material. Despite this, the political beliefs pushed throughout the film make one wonder if they were making a film or political propaganda right in time for election season. The most notable element that works in "The Contender" is its excellent cast. Jean Allen, in her first lead role, gives a performance on par with people that have been acting for 50 years. Allen ("The Ice Storm," "Face/Off") has always been a joy to watch on screen, each role being diversely different from the last. She is joined here by Jeff Bridges ("The Big Lebowski," "Starman"), who joins the ranks of Harrison Ford and Morgan Freeman by taking the role as the President of the United States, that is. What works so well here is the charm and humor he brings to the role; who would have ever thought that the President would be used for comic relief? Finishing out the cast are Gary Oldman (who is excellent) and Christian Slater (his first film in almost 20 years).

Lurie, along with cinematographer Denis Maloney, creates a full and unique-looking film. Every

set is full, no home or office is barren or even remotely empty. This tactic works well and many single shots look better simply because they took the time to fill up the screen, making the picture full instead of just setting up what they needed to get the shot. Maloney also gets the lighting just right; things don't seem too dark or too bright at any point in this film.

The plot's all too familiar, a political candidate (Allen) has been nominated to be the next Vice President, but a handful of politicians (led by Oldman) dig up some sexual secrets from her past to sway the vote against her. In films such as these, the dreaded courtroom scenes cannot be totally avoided, but this film plays out in many short scenes instead of long, drawn-out scenes that wear out a viewer. The timing is right throughout the film: it starts out with an action scene, then slows down and slowly builds up tension until the end.

What kills the film is the stereotypes and political statements made throughout the film. All of the film's protagonists are Democrats and the Allen character even gives a little speech about her belief that

is accompanied by "hero speech" music (the score for the film, composed by Larry Grouse, isn't very good either). As can be expected, the film's antagonists are all strict Republicans, led by the ever-creepy Oldman (his work in "The Professional" still frightens me). At many points in the film the parties make fun of each other, clips that can be used by Bush and Gore campaigns in the next few weeks. The film pushes the "typical" Democratic beliefs as well; liberal beliefs are pushed by the nice characters and the conservatives all made out to be jerks.

With elections around the corner, people can't turn on the TV or walk down the street without having politics pushed down their throats. Now much of the same material is available with big Hollywood names. It's understandable that voters have to be swayed and propaganda can be expected; it's just a pity that a film with as much potential as "The Contender" is made less of one due to the filmmakers' urge to push their beliefs on the audience.

IMAGE FROM WWW.ROTTEN TOMATOES.COM



Redefining *payback*

Zack Smith
Senior Staff Writer

Pay It Forward

★★★

Director:
Mimi Leder
Starring:
Kevin Spacey
Helen Hunt

(previously known for such big-budget action fare as "Deep Impact" and "The Peacemaker") and writer Leslie Dixon (from a novel by Catherine Ryan Hyde) firmly ground "Pay It Forward" in reality, at least for most of the film. Arlene and Eugene's romance isn't simple; they're both thoroughly damaged souls who aren't used to the idea of relationships. Likewise, Trevor isn't an ordinary kid, but he isn't superhuman either; he's just someone who lives in a world he sees is wrong and wants things to be better.

The acting is generally excellent; Spacey is his usual acerbic self as the damaged Eugene and Hunt is particularly good as the one who saves him. Arlene frantically tears apart the house looking for a bottle of booze. Likewise, Dixon is completely believable with Trevor, in scenes with Spacey and Hunt he more than holds his own and his performance never strikes a false note, even when the movie does. The supporting players aren't so lucky; Caviezel's role disappears for most of the film and Mohr and Jon Bon Jovi (who shows up two-thirds of the way through) have to deal with badly underwritten characters. Much better is Angie Dickinson in a surprisingly affecting and understated role, although most audience members probably won't be able to recognize her.

"Pay It Forward" is very effective and entertaining, but tries too hard sometimes and occasionally seems more ambitious than the intimate human story it's telling. The performances make this a film well worth seeing, although the ending is the kind that will leave you with either a lump or the words "You've got to be kidding me" in your throat. Whatever the case, it's a film that will have people talking, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. After all, there's nothing wrong with trying to change the world.

IMAGE FROM WARNER BROTHERS

Solitary Stroke of Luck

Nikhil Kriplani
Staff Writer

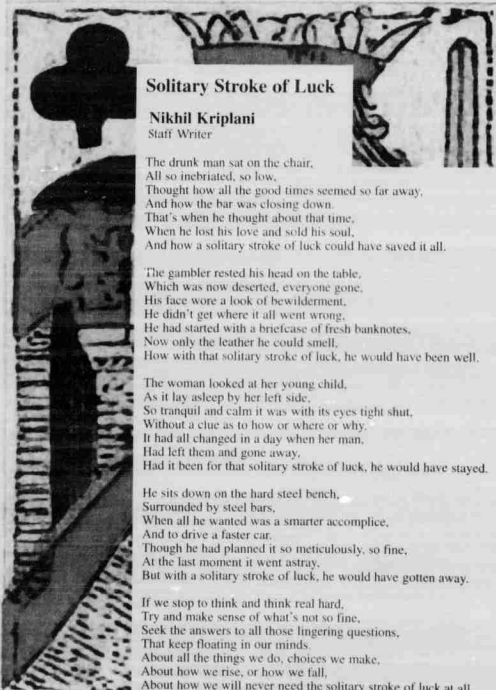
The drunk man sat on the chair,
All so inebriated, so low,
Thought how all the good times seemed so far away,
And how the bar was closing down,
That's when he thought about that time,
When he lost his love and sold his soul,
And how a solitary stroke of luck could have saved it all.

The gambler rested his head on the table,
Which was now deserted, everyone gone,
His face wore a look of bewilderment,
He didn't get where it all went wrong,
He had started with a briefcase of fresh banknotes,
Now only the leather he could call,
How with that solitary stroke of luck, he would have been well.

The woman looked at her young child,
As it lay asleep by her left side,
So tranquil and calm it was with its eyes tight shut,
Without a clue as to how or where or why,
It had all changed in a day when her man,
Had left her and gone away,
Had it been for that solitary stroke of luck, he would have stayed.

He sits down on the hard steel bench,
Surrounded by steel bars,
When all he wanted was a smarter accomplice,
Now to drive a faster car,
Though he had planned it so meticulously, so fine,
At the last moment it went astray,
But with a solitary stroke of luck, he would have gotten away.

If we stop to think and think real hard,
Try and make sense of what's not so fine,
Seek the answers to all those lingering questions,
That float pasting in our minds,
About all the things we do, choices we make,
About how we rise, or how we fall,
About how we will never see the solitary stroke of luck at all.



ASHTON

Continued from Page 6

and he's third in the country in receiving yards and fifth in all-purpose yards.

And there is no one in the conference that deserves the ACC Coach of the Year award more than Chuck Amato. State was picked seventh in the conference in the preseason media poll but has clearly established itself as the ACC's No. 3 team behind FSU and Clemson. The Pack has shown heart and an amazing will to win all year, which is a credit to the job Amato and his staff have done.

The focus of the ACC, not to mention a large portion of the country, will be on Tallahassee, Fla., on Nov. 4 for "Bowden Bowl II," which will go a long way toward deciding the conference championship. But earlier in the day in Winston-Salem, Wake Forest and Duke will meet in the "First Annual mrclean.com ACC Toilet Bowl," which should settle the matter of who is the worst team in the conference.

Both teams enter the meeting with "impressive" credentials. The Demon Deacons lost at home to Division I-AA Appalachian State in the season opener. The Blue Devils finally

played a game on Saturday against Georgia Tech in which their offensive output for the season (56 points) exceeded the number of points they allowed (45 points).

Granted, Wake lost 17 starters from a team that won the Aloha Bowl last year and then watched highly recruited quarterback C.J. Leak get knocked out of action for the rest of the season. And Duke has played the sixth-toughest schedule in the country according to the Sagarin rankings. But they can't be this bad, can they?

Jeremy Ashton's columns appear on Tuesdays. He can be reached at 515-2411 or jdash-ton@unity.ncsu.edu.

AMATO

Continued from Page 6

Number two, I want Philip Rivers for the next four games."

The mock release drew chuckles from those in attendance, but Amato was making a serious point. The offensive line will face its sternest test of the season against the FSU front seven. Regardless of how well his line performs, Amato acknowledged that on occasion, Rivers would inevitably end up on the turf under a swarm of garnet and gold jerseys.

"We've got to do whatever

we can to protect him, but he's going to get hit," Amato said. "He will get hit faster than he has the last couple weeks."

State is coming off a bye week following a 38-20 victory over rival North Carolina on Oct. 14. The team used its extra time to prepare for the Seminoles and, maybe more importantly, lick its wounds.

"In the off week, a lot of people healed up," Williams said. "I think the extra week is going to help a lot."


The Seminoles, ranked No. 6, will be favored to win against the 21st-ranked Pack. When asked about State's role as the underdog, Williams said the team is used to it.

"It's nothing new," he said. "I

think this week of practice was very important. The tempo was up, and we're going to come out to --"he on Saturday night."

Amato doesn't think there is any chance that FSU is looking past State to its Nov. 14 matchup with Clemson. The Tigers are guided by Bobby Bowden's son Tommy and are currently undefeated.

"We're not going to sneak up on them. We're not going to 'Pearl Harbor' them," said Amato. "They're not going to overlook us because of what's going to happen the next week. If something happens this week, then the following week is a moot point."



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State hosts Red/White game

◆ N.C. State head coach Herb Sendek has even vowed to dance with Mean Gene and Slappy during Saturday's festivities.

Jack Daly
Sports Editor

Herb Sendek hopes to impress N.C. State fans with his best moves Saturday.

The Wolfpack's head basketball coach will dance with last season's novelty act, Mean Gene and Slappy, at the Red/White basketball game at the Entertainment and Sports Arena.

If that isn't enough to entice State fans to come to the exhibition event, there will also be a game featuring two 15-minute halves and a ceremony celebrating past Wolfpack greats.

"We're going to have a lot of fun, exciting festivities," Sendek said. "There is a shoot out for money; there is another shoot out for tuition."

WHAT: RED/WHITE GAME
WHEN: SATURDAY 3:00 P.M.
WHERE: ESA

State will re-honor David Thompson, whose jersey is the only one the Pack has ever retired, and it will also re-honor the other State players who have their jerseys hanging from the rafters of the ESA. Finally, the university will raise another Wolfpack jersey to the rafters.

"Over the last several years, we've made a special effort to re-embrace our past and have honored a number of jerseys," Sendek said.

There will also be an autograph session after the contest for all interested Wolfpack fans.

The event starts at 3 p.m., so there shouldn't be a conflict with the Florida State football game that starts at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and all football parking passes will be honored.

"There's still going to be time to tailgate," Sendek said.

The event was spurred by last season's open practice that drew 6,000 fans to the ESA.

The contest will also be an important recruiting event for Sendek and the Pack. Prized recruit Julius Hodge will make his official visit to State for both the exhibition and the football game against FSU.

State is one of four schools on Hodge's final list of possibilities, Syracuse, Florida and Maryland are the others.



Will Herb Sendek bust a move?

athletics

Midseason musings

The college football universe has turned completely on its head during the 2000 season.

Traditional powers, such as Penn State, Tennessee, Alabama and Southern Cal, have flourished, while upstarts like Oregon, South Carolina, Oregon State, Northwestern and N.C. State, have ruled the day.

Parity has hit college football hard, setting up an intense 111 game stretch run.

Jeremy Ashton

As the end of the season approaches, just five teams — Nebraska, Virginia Tech, Oklahoma, Clemson and Texas Christian — remain undefeated. That number is guaranteed to drop to four this weekend when top-ranked Nebraska plays No. 3 Oklahoma. Meanwhile, No. 2 Virginia Tech and No. 5 Clemson have showings pending on Nov. 4 with No. 4 Miami and No. 6 Florida State, respectively.

The chaos in college football this year has left the Bowl Championship Series in its infinite wisdom with the very real possibility of having to choose from several one-loss teams for the national title game. Should that situation arise, several teams are going to question why they weren't selected. A playoff system would look really attractive at that point.

Even during State's bye weeks, the rest of the Atlantic Coast Conference is learning new things about Philip Rivers, like the fact that he's not actually the only freshman in the conference.

Bye weeks have been about the only thing this year that have stopped Rivers, who has won the ACC Rookie of the Week award every time he's played. Rivers needs just 148 yards Saturday against Florida State to break the ACC single-season record for passing yards by a freshman, which was set by Duke's Ben Bennett in 1980. He is also on pace to throw for a shade under 3,500 yards, a number that would shatter Jamie Barnette's school record.

Rivers is going to win the ACC Rookie of the Year award in a landslide based solely on his stats. In the unlikely event that he doesn't, the National Guard will have to get called in to the ACC's headquarters in Greensboro to institute new elections.

But Rivers' maturity, unselfishness and leadership are the reasons that he's led State to a 5-1 record. Through all the attention that's been thrown his way, Rivers has remained level-headed and is always quick to defer credit for his accomplishments to State's receivers, offensive line and coaches. That's what being a team player is all about.

Speaking of awards, the Wolfpack should be well represented when the ACC announces its postseason honors.

Linebacker Levar Fisher and safety Adrian Wilson have more than proven that they're first-team All-ACC material. These two get more impressive every time they step on the field, and they always seem to be around when something big occurs.

Wide receiver Koren Robinson is a lock for the All-ACC team at this point and with the kind of numbers he's put up, is a leading candidate for the Biletnikoff. Robinson has made several clutch catches this year.

See ASHTON, Page 5

Amato, Pack prepare for FSU

◆ No. 21 N.C. State faces its toughest task of the season Saturday against No. 6 Florida State.

Jerry Moore
Staff Writer

After serving 18 years as an assistant football coach at Florida State, Chuck Amato may be more qualified than anyone to talk about the Seminoles.

N.C. State takes on FSU Saturday at 7 p.m. in a nationally televised game. Both teams enter the contest with only one loss.

At a press conference Monday, Amato, now the head coach at State, discussed the Seminoles' tradition of success and how he feels about facing some of his former players and coaching peers. He had high praise for the entire program for which he worked for nearly two decades.

"They don't only have great players; they're a well-coached football team," he said. "Those coaches down there don't assume their talent. They coach those young men hard — and I mean hard."

Amato knows that FSU head coach Bobby Bowden will have his team ready to play on Saturday. Following a loss to Miami earlier in the season, the Seminoles will likely have to prevail in their four remaining regular-season games to have a chance of repeating as national champions.

"They have one goal, and that's to win the national championship every year," Amato said. "Now they've got to win out. Those young men know what's at stake."

Since joining the Atlantic Coast Conference in 1992, FSU's dominance has been obvious. The Seminoles have lost only two games in league play. The team's most recent conference loss, however, came at the hands of State in 1998. The Pack thoroughly outplayed FSU to secure a 24-7 victory at Carter-Finley Stadium.

Amato said that every team that faces the Seminoles enters the matchup thinking they have a chance to win. He noted that it might be important to his players that they

have actually seen a Pack win in the recent history of the series. However, he didn't lend too much credence to the Pack's success of two years ago.

"They have seen it done, but there were a lot of variables in that game that are no longer here," Amato said. "One has a Super Bowl ring on his finger and another is playing in Canada."

Amato was referring to Torry Holt and Jaime Barnette, respectively, who were instrumental in the Pack's shocking upset. Since then, the young quarterback-wide receiver tandem of Philip Rivers and Koren Robinson have replaced Barnette and Holt.

FSU quarterback Chris Weinke had a horrible day passing against the Pack in 1998. He threw a career-worst six interceptions, seriously dampening the Seminoles' comeback efforts.

"I know he's still thinking about it," said State cornerback Brian Williams. "He probably has a little extra incentive."

Weinke hasn't needed any added motivation to perform well so far this season. He leads the nation in passing yards with 2,784 and touchdowns with 22.

Last season, Heisman Trophy candidate Peter Warrick was Weinke's main target. Now he is spreading the ball around to more receivers, including Marvin Minnis, Anquan Boldin and Atreus Bell, who have combined for 17 touchdowns. Williams thinks the Seminoles' options could make them even more dangerous than before.

"They're probably one of the best teams in the country," he said. "They've got depth, and offensively they've got so many weapons."

A depleted State secondary will attempt to cover the speedy FSU receivers. Starting cornerback J.J. Washington is out for the remainder of the season after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament against North Carolina. Freshman James Walker, who started the first two games of the season, will fill the void. Williams thinks the time Walker has had to observe the action from the sideline has been beneficial.

Earlier this season while she recovered from a shoulder injury, The Wolfpack improved to 9-5-3 and an even 2-2-2 in conference play behind Lear's performances.

Lear is the first State player to be named ACC Player of the Week since 1996 when Tori Staples took the honor. The Wolfpack will face Campbell at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Method Soccer Stadium.



Cotra Jackson may see increased action Saturday after his performance against UNC.

"I see him as an improved player," he said. "By him sitting down, he has learned a lot. I think it has been for everybody's good."

Williams, who converted from safety to cornerback before the season, will line up opposite Walker. Adrian Wilson and Terrence Holt will continue to man the safety positions.

Amato certainly respects the Seminoles' offense, but he cautioned against forgetting the other side of the ball. The FSU defense ranks fourth nationally in scoring defense, allowing 11.1 points per game.

He repeatedly praised FSU's quick and brutally hard-hitting scheme.

At one point during the press conference, Amato presented a hand-written "press release," which he read to the audience in a monotone voice and with a somewhat straight face.

"Because of the great respect and admiration I have for coach Bobby Bowden, I am not going to play Philip Rivers Saturday night for two reasons," he said. "Number one, I do not want coach Bowden arrested for child abuse."



Chuck Amato focuses on FSU.

See AMATO, Page 5

WolfpackNotes

Lear named player of the week

N.C. State goalkeeper Gretchen Lear has earned Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Week after two stellar performances against ACC foes Duke and Clemson. Lear, a sophomore from Springfield, Va., held No. 11 Duke to just one goal as the Wolfpack upset the Blue Devils 3-1 on Tuesday, Oct.

17. She made eight saves in the game.

Against ACC leader and No. 5-ranked Clemson on Sunday, Oct. 22, Lear made nine saves and allowed no goals as the Wolfpack held the Tigers to a scoreless tie in double-overtime. Lear currently has a goals-allowed average of 0.58 in 780 minutes of play this season. In addition, she has tallied 49 saves and five shutouts in eight games. Lear missed several games

State ranked nationally

N.C. State jumped into the national rankings Monday after a successful week. The Pack is ranked 15th by Soccer America after a week that saw the team beat nationally-ranked Duke and tie ACC leader Clemson. State is the No. 5 team in the Southeast region, according to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America

(NSCAA). The Pack isn't ranked nationally by the NSCAA, but is in the also receiving votes category.

Such rankings give the team a strong chance to land in the NCAA tournament in November.

State hosts Campbell Wednesday afternoon at Method Road Soccer Stadium and concludes the season Sunday against Wake Forest at home.