

4.



Patricia's fired up
Check out her top ten
list of last-column topics
and light up with Greg
Volk in Opinion, p. 4.

5.



Gladiator, Chicken Run
and Unbreakable
Check out the year end
movie roundup in A&E.

10.



Where is everybody?
Attendance is down at
the ESA for basketball
games. Sports examines
the drop-off.

Tuesday

January 9, 2001



TECHNICIAN

www.technicianonline.com

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

Today	Hi 40
	Lo 26
Tomorrow	Hi 61
	Lo 32

Fraternalities drop lawsuit against NCSU

◆The 10 NCSU fraternities had sued the university last November, claiming that Greek Life misused \$4.8 million of funds intended for the repair and renovation of Fraternity Court houses.

Andrew Buchert
Assistant News Editor

A lawsuit filed by 10 N.C. State fraternities against the university has been dropped in order to promote and accelerate negotiations between the fraternities and the university, said Raleigh lawyer Reef Ivey, the chief counsel representing the fraternities.

The fraternities filed suit last November, claiming that Greek Life, a department within university housing, misused approximately \$4.8 million in funds intended to offset the costs of renovating and repairing the campus's 14 fraternity

and sorority houses. The funds were collected from Fraternity Court residents through various increases in rent. "The university was taking the position that as long as they were being sued, they didn't have to negotiate," said Ivey. "They were going to take the opportunity to use all the [legal] procedures to play 'lawyer games.'"

Ivey said that the fraternities' claims against the university will be brought before the state attorney general's office for negotiation. The attorney general's office represents the university.

"The attorney general felt that if we dropped the lawsuit we would be able to negotiate, and so we are meeting with the attorney general's office to offer our suggestions and proposals," said Ivey.

"Since what we are offering is so reasonable, they won't object," he said.

The fraternities claim that

when the Greek Life department proposed an annual Fraternity Court rent increase of \$10,000, they failed to provide a reason for the increase and a proposal for the distribution of the funds when the debt has been paid, said Ivey.

"The university needs to account for the money," he said. Ivey said he believes that the attorney general's office will find the proposals reasonable, but if the negotiations still fail then the next step is to bring the fraternities' claims to State Auditor Ralph Campbell's office.

The fraternities can also revive the lawsuit anytime within one year of its withdrawal if they do not like the results of the negotiations.

"We would bring the suit against individuals rather than the university this time," said Ivey. "I think [the university officials] will realize that it is not worth a lawsuit."

University Counsel Mary Beth Kurz said the university had



filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit based on legal grounds, claiming that the fraternities' complaints were insufficient. She said that the withdrawal of the lawsuit opens up negotiations with the fraternities.

Director of University Housing Tim Luckadoo said that plans are underway for a meeting between university officials and all of the fraternity and sorority chapter presidents. "We want to sit down with

them and go through our latest proposal [for Fraternity Court], including major renovations and the maintenance of the houses," he said. "We're still working on resolving these issues."

Ticket distribution results



Jenny Barbare, a sophomore in communication disorders, picks up her voucher for a chance to attend the NCSU vs Duke game on Wednesday.



Winning Lottery Number
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Friends remember late student

◆University housing and Student Media Authority officials are working to memorialize sophomore Jonathan Brantley Lowe, who died Dec. 26 of a brain aneurysm.

Jimmy Ryals
News Editor

To friends who knew him in high school and at N.C. State, Jonathan Brantley "Brant" Lowe was the lead guitarist who taught himself to play off his older brother's passed-down Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix vinyls. He was the gadget man who spent weekends working on his 1986 Ford Bronco and once fixed a friend's computer when it was struck by lightning. He was Agent Smith, the WKNC disc jockey and alternate chief engineer, with the good sense of humor.

Lowe, a 19-year-old sophomore in computer science, died Dec. 26, 2000, at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte after suffering a brain aneurysm. He is survived by his father, Johnny Franklin Lowe and older brother, Christopher Franklin Lowe. Brant Lowe's mother, Harriet Brantley Lowe, died earlier that same month of uterine cancer.

Neeja Sharma, a junior in computer science, met Lowe when he was a student at Harding University High School in Charlotte and lead guitarist for the Charlotte band VOX POPS. Sharma knew Lowe first for his guitar work, but later came to think of him as a determined renaissance man, a quick learner who was mechanically and artistically inclined. A year older than Lowe, Sharma had

been working at WKNC for a semester before Lowe began working there.

"I remember him coming to the station, going around saying, 'I'm going to be a DJ, I'm going to be a DJ,'" Sharma said. "What it took me six weeks to do, he did in a week."

Lowe was also a volunteer fireman with the Wake County Fairgrounds Fire Department. He had been a volunteer fireman in Charlotte, too.

"He wanted to drive a fire truck," Sharma said. "And the best way to get to drive a fire truck is to be a firefighter."

At Lowe's Dec. 28 funeral, his father, John, said that Brant gave him the years to his life



Jonathan Brantley Lowe

that older brother Christopher had taken off.

WKNC Operations Manager Arielle Menges, a junior in English, met Lowe about a year and a half ago, but did not become close to him until last fall. She remembers Lowe for his sense of humor.

"He was just very on-the-spot, crack-you-up funny with some of the things he said," Menges said.

Senior animal science major Kristin Sainomaa was dating Lowe at the time of his death. She remembers him for his

New ACS security in place

◆Heightened security and simplicity are among IntraSecure's benefits.

Jimmy Ryals
News Editor

As of Dec. 18, a new computer security system is in place for human resources and financials activities; human resources and accounting administrators report no problems with implementation thus far.

According to Mardecia Bell, users of the new system, called IntraSecure, will face a new login screen that requires users to change passwords every 30 days, using passwords six to eight characters long.

Prior to IntraSecure's implementation, human resources and financials users used a system provided by PeopleSoft,

the university's provider of client/server business software.

The switch came about as an effort to "increase security so [ACS] could better protect administrative data." ACS undertook an extensive search for a new security system.

"One of our challenges was to find a third-party system that could work

with Sybase," Bell said. At the time of the search for a new system, IntraSecure was the only system that would work with a Sybase database.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Information Systems Steve Keto sees the fact that IntraSecure requires users to change passwords as one of its benefits. Also, IntraSecure allows for the use of one login ID and one password to log onto four different systems, simplifying system use for users.

"There are simply too many systems, too many IDs and too many passwords for people to remember," Keto said.

Bell said access to human resources and financials systems is decided on a departmental level. For the most part, university employees responsible for personnel actions, purchasing and paying vendors for services will directly use IntraSecure.

"We are just implementing this to enforce and enhance security features," Bell said. ACS dealt with some user problems during the first day of IntraSecure; solving them was primarily a matter of educating users and reminding them to change their password every 30 days.

"Once we got through the 18th, that was our biggest day for the phone calls and so

forth," Bell said. "It's been okay since then."

Charlene Moore Hayes, vice chancellor for human resources, said she has not heard of any problems with the new security system for human resources users. University Controller Paula Tate reports no complaints from accounting users.

"I use it every day and have had no problems with it at all," Tate said. "I have not heard any complaints from the staff, either."

said that, though IntraSecure is currently being used by cashier's office employees to access student accounts, he does not see student-used systems, namely TRACS, using IntraSecure in the future.

"TRACS runs off of the mainframe," Keto said. "It has its own security system and it's a pretty good security system."

LOWE

Continued from Page 1

magnetic personality. Lowe was an eager and hard worker who did things before he was asked to do them, according to WKNC General Manager Joe Ovies. "He was really attentive and really eager to help out in any way to help the station," Ovies said. "He was a very important part of WKNC. He just had a talent for what he was doing." Ovies said WKNC is planning to do something in memory of Lowe, although he is uncertain at this point about exactly what the station will do.

Student Media Authority Advisor Fran Dickenson is collecting money in memory of Lowe.

"We're raising money to give to either the [Lowe] family or to a charity of the family's choice to honor an important part of the WKNC family," Fran Dickenson, SMA advisor. Michael Giancola, coordinator of university housing residence hall operations, has been in contact with the Lowe family about participating in a memorial of some sort for Brant Lowe. Though there have been no definite plans made, Giancola said university housing would like to take part in memorializing Lowe somehow.

Lowe was interred in a private ceremony Dec. 28 at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home Chapel in Mooresville, N.C., with Dr. E. Harvey Rogers officiating.

The Lowe family asked that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to First Baptist Church, 150 S. Church St., Mooresville, NC 28115, or the Mooresville ARP Church, 659 Carpenter Ave., Mooresville, NC 28115.

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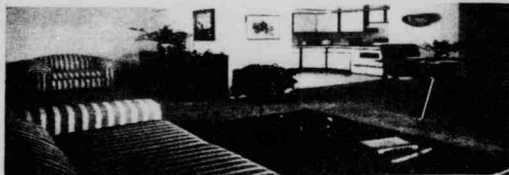
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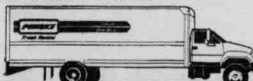
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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Offensive play

HOW DOES NFL PLAYER RAE CARRUTH DECLARE INDIGENCE AFTER ONLY A YEAR AND A HALF OFF THE FIELD?

Documents court-ordered to be sealed on July 5 and Oct. 5, 2000, which have recently been made public state that NFL wide receiver for the Carolina Panthers Rae Carruth, who earned \$38,382 per game during 1999, is indigent, meaning he is unable to bear the financial burden of legal defense in his capital murder trial.

According to records in North Carolina's Administrative Office of the Courts, because of his poverty taxpayers have been paying Carruth's legal bill, which includes a still-growing \$104,500 for his lawyers, \$7,100 for investigative work and an additional \$10,000 for a jury consultant.

The legal declaration of indigence can apply without Carruth being penniless; the term "indigence" just means that Carruth cannot afford his legal defense with his own funds.

Carruth's indigent status was formalized by order of Judge Charles Lamm, who also ordered the court documents sealed.

The average cost to taxpayers for two private attorneys in a capital murder trial in North Carolina is \$66,000.

Carruth is being tried for murder in

relation to the death of his then-girlfriend, Cherica Adams, who was eight months pregnant with a baby boy when she was shot four times in a drive-by attack.

How can Carruth, whose net worth was according to his own lawyers, \$368,000 in November 1999, now be in dire need of state-supported funds?

Yes, he paid \$125,000 to get out of jail when he was first arrested. But he also had \$30,000 in an NFL 401(k) plan, another \$30,000 in severance pay if he no longer plays for the NFL, and an additional \$35,000 tied up in investment.

Carruth's lawyers, however, David Rudolf and co-counsel Christopher Fiakko, are being paid the standard \$85 hourly rate for court-appointed lawyers.

Despite the few inklings of legitimacy in Carruth's indigence, one cannot deny a harsh skepticism in regards to such claims. Yes, taxpayers' funding of Carruth's defense is legal. But we as a society know enough to recognize that "legal" isn't necessarily synonymous with "right."



a cigarette for breakfast...

...another for lunch...

...followed by a sensible dinner.



Self-image is smoke and mirrors



Greg Volk
STAFF COLUMNIST

What's my New Year's resolution? Well, that's simple. I'm resolving not to make any resolutions because I always break them soon thereafter. But supposing I were going to make a resolution, it would probably have something to do with getting in

shape and losing some strategically located excess fat. I gorged myself on anything and everything in sight over the holidays with the hopes of shedding the flab after the holidays. Maybe I shouldn't have eaten that extra apple pie. Many of us enter the holidays with lofty aspirations of New Year weight loss in mind.

But losing weight is not just a concern solely brought on by the New Year; it is the concern of many Americans throughout the year. The problem is, we want a quick fix to a complicated problem. Let's start by discussing dieting.

I'm so confused as to what we are supposed to be eating these days. In elementary school it seemed so easy with that pyramid thing. Now there are myriads of diet plans out there. One suggests we eat mostly proteins. Another recommends mostly carbohydrates. Then there is the Subway sandwich diet that has been so popular as of late. I'm still waiting for the prioritizing of the fats, oils and sweets group. I

could be waiting awhile for that one. Oh well. I guess I'll still have the Butterfinger group.

Then we have our endless commercial weight loss and diet programs. Not too long ago I heard a radio advertisement for a program that helps you lose weight without dieting or exercise. Something about that seems a little fishy to me. In actuality, we don't need three easy payments of \$49.95 and a bottle of pills to lose weight without dieting or exercise. People are already implementing programs like this for free — they're called anorexia and bulimia.

We Americans always want the easy way out. We want a pill we can take so we don't have to exercise the self-discipline dieting and exercise would require. I got a guitar for Christmas. I'd love to be able to take a pill to learn to play it, or to learn a foreign language, or even to speed-read. But unfortunately it just doesn't work like that.

As college students, we tend to accept a little weight gain here and there. It's a kind of rite of passage. But we still tend to want the same movie-star figure as everyone though we are less likely to sacrifice to get it. After all, can we really be expected to cut down on late night Gumby Dammit consumption or limit our liquid caloric intake? In our defense, the stress and obscure scheduling of university life does not lend itself to weight loss. Therefore, I suggest a completely unique and revolutionary weight loss program: taking up smoking.

My plan is simple: skip the meal and go right to the cigarette. Any time you feel hunger beginning to strike, simply pull out the old trusties and puff away. But this weight loss plan must be implemented with caution. You'll have to significantly increase your water intake to make up for what you'd be getting through food. And you might want to pop some vitamins here and there (I like Flintstones).

As you continue on my nicotine diet program, your smoking and eating should maintain an inverse relationship, increasing smoking as you decrease eating. If this proves difficult initially, perhaps the Slim-fast approach would be helpful: a cigarette for breakfast, another for lunch, followed by a sensible dinner. Then if you are still having trouble getting started, try a candy bar for a snack.

Many students pick up a smoking habit when they come to college. Why not make it work to your advantage? Granted, there are obvious drawbacks to a nicotine weight loss plan, with the cancer risks and all. And if you already smoke, then I guess you're up a creek. There's always hope that fashion will go the way of the ancient Romans, with selphies becoming chic.

Now that you've heard me out, consider whether a nicotine weight loss plan would benefit you. I know some of you are skeptical, wondering what the caloric value of a cigarette is. Well, it's pretty much nothing. And that's exactly my point.

Questions? Comments? Email Greg at gvolk@unity.ncsu.edu

Last words



Patricia Crane
STAFF COLUMNIST

Hello and welcome to Technician's Opinion Page Firing Week! I'll be your departing staff columnist for today.

Truthfully, I was not prepared to be fired, so I'm not prepared to write my last column. But I'll do my best.

I'll continue in my tradition of attempting to entertain you, the readers, with assorted opinions. Some are serious, some lighthearted, and, if I do my job right, you won't be able to tell for sure which is which. So, without further ado, my list of Top Ten Things I Didn't Get A Chance To Say — with Almost Nothing From My Personal Life:

1) I sucks that I got fired. Fired, "let go," whatever. It is my opinion that it's a stupid mistake.

2) College sports are better than professional sports. Duh. The players are younger, the game is (usually) more pure and as an alumnus you have more of a reason to scream for the other team's blood than that you once lived outside Kansas City.

3) The legal age for everything should be 18. This includes driving, purchasing and consuming alcohol, draft registration, voting and smoking. Driving, you say? 16-year-olds have more accidents than any other age group. So just make it all 18 and keep an eye on high-school seniors who drink.

4) Eighteen should also be the legal age for smoking marijuana; it was outlawed with alcohol back in Prohibition days and they brought back alcohol. I don't smoke pot but I don't think the government should tell me if I can or not because it would only hurt me. If marijuana were legal, pot goes weed-related crime and all reasons the government should have a say. Nobody ever died of an overdose of pot.

5) Insurance is mostly a huge scam perpetrated on the public. You give this company money in case something bad happens; if something does, the company tries really hard not to give you your money. They

assume there's a good chance you're lying to them. And if nothing bad ever happens, you lose the money. It's organized gambling, and pretty morbid when you think about it.

6) Harrelson Hall is a scourge on the campus. It's a giant circular building with the steepest stairs in the Western world and no windows in the classrooms. Enough said.

7) People who hate trendy bands simply because they're trendy suck. These people are pretentious and obnoxious. They don't think for themselves, which is stupid.

8) People who get upset when a band they've always loved makes it big suck. Labeling a band a sell-out just because they finally sign a contract and get their stuff on the radio is ridiculous. These people are upset because they define themselves by their taste in indie-rock, and how can they be different if everybody likes their group? Wahh, wahh, wahh.

9) This paper needs a humor page. That way there would be a forum for my writing, and I would still have a job. And you, the readers, would have one more page to read, because I know most of you only read the opinion page anyway.

10) This is the really important one, the one thing I want you to remember: Computers are going to take over the world. The more sophisticated we make them, the closer we come to science-fiction becoming a reality. They'll conquer us and make us their slaves, like *The Matrix* or *Terminator*. So unplug and go outside every day, and please, read books printed on real paper — e-books scare me most of all. You laugh now, but you won't be laughing when you're doing the bidding of some overgrown calculator that's smarter than you'll ever be.

That's it, folks; all I have room to say. I have enjoyed writing for you so much, and appreciate all the responses and feedback. I am glad to have had a chance to entertain you. Read *Americana*, and sign up to write at *Technician*. I hear they have a few openings this semester.

Patricia is pissed off about being fired but glad she no longer has to live with deadlines. Commiserate or rub it in at pcrane@unity.ncsu.edu.

A principled government



Justin Greene
STAFF COLUMNIST

As the year 2001 gears up, America is beginning to shake off the dust of one of the longest and most controversial presidential elections in history. Most Americans, with the exception of Jesse Jackson and his band of perpetual protesters, have accepted the legal outcome of the election and have moved on to more important matters, like losing all of those holiday pounds.

However, as the news cycle churns on to the next national obsession, let us not fall prey to the illusion of a resolved, docile Washington settling back into the routine of arguing and spending money. Indeed, a new and perhaps even more fascinating debate is shaping up inside the Beltway.

During the electoral fray, Republicans and Democrats alike sounded off on the need for bipartisan consensus in the land. If anything was going to be accomplished, it was said, the parties were going to have to come together and form, in theory, a sort of new "American" party where everybody agreed about everything and shared all of the power. This pluralistic approach is the same line of thinking that seeks to refute the fact that if A is A, everything else must be non-A. In other

words, two things can be true at the same time, yet be contradictory in nature. For example, one religion can be true and even if another religion says something exactly opposite, they are both true if we only believe it. In this netherworld of philosophical hodgepodge, people stumble about aimlessly believing that either everything is somehow true or nothing at all can be known to be true (both ironically asserted as universal truths).

This theory has been applied to philosophy and religion, serves as the intellectual cornerstone of postmodern higher education and, in spite of its inherently obvious fallacies (it never ever works in real life), people have attempted to apply it to politics as well. The ideal truth, it said, is that we must all give up our "preconceived," "traditional," and "outdated" view that there are certain things that are right and certain things that are wrong — with no exceptions. Anyone who stands for any principle, whether on the left or the right, is labeled an extremist or, may it never be, a partisan.

Such twisted and antiquated ideas have the gall to insist on certain ideals, espouse specific policies and hope that their ideas will be implemented with governmental action. After all, those peasants who elected them only voted for them because they meant for them to join the ever-increasing chorus of talking heads and political blowhards, not because they wanted them to actually do or say anything concrete.

I, for one, am glad that Democrats are

reveling in being Democrats and Republicans are glowing with their partisan pride. That's the way it should be.

If you are a Democrat, you didn't vote for Al Gore because you support what George Bush stands for, and vice-versa. The media would have us believe that 90 percent of America lives in the moderate center, not forming strong opinions about affirmative action, abortion, gun control or homophobia. According to the pundits, the only thing we really care about is the economy and how it affects our wallets.

If that's so, then why are those topics even issues at all? Because the truth is people care. They care deeply. They have a deep sense of what they believe and how they want to live. Those that want you to moderate your views will defend their own till the last breath.

I'm not rejecting bipartisanship. There are many issues that we can all work together on. I'm just saying that we shouldn't trash partisanship as if it's a dirty word. Anyone who has any clue to what's going on has his own set of views and wants those views to be heard. That is what has gotten our country where we are today, an adherence to principle that carries us through and past the misguided and the apathetic. Govern with partisan factions; it's called democracy.

Questions? Comments? Email jgreenejustin@hotmail.com

TECHNICIAN

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920
CHIEF EDITOR: JEFFREY W. HARRIS

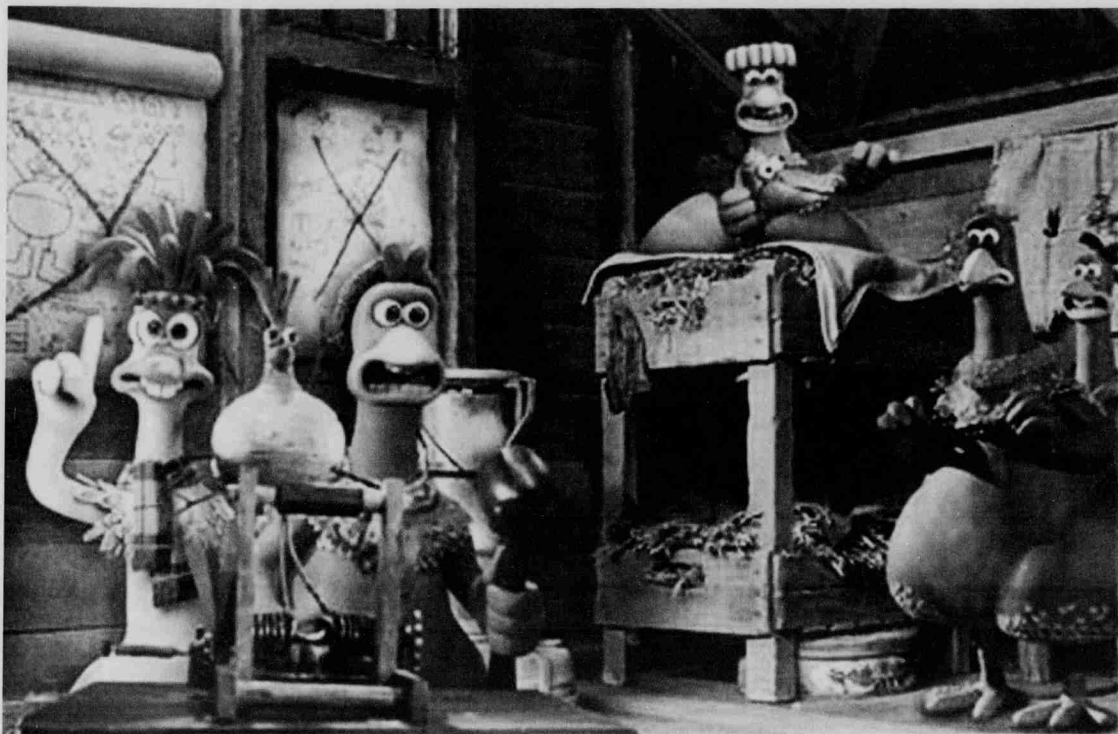
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WE NEED HELP

ALL THIS WEEK, TECHNICIAN'S OPINION DEPARTMENT WILL BE COLLECTING QUESTIONS FOR CHANCELLOR FOX FROM THE STUDENT BODY. IF YOU WANT TO ASK THE CHANCELLOR A QUESTION, EMAIL OPED1@HOTMAIL.COM. INCLUDE NAME, MAJOR AND CLASS. ALL QUESTIONS RECEIVED WILL BE SENT TO THE CHANCELLOR AT 6 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JAN. 12. THANK YOU ALL.

2000 Movie Roundup



Joel Isaac Frady
Assistant Features Editor

After the stellar 1999 season, theaters seemed to settle back down to typical Hollywood game. This year there were just about as many bad films as there were good ones. Out of that pack, though, a few films rose to the top and made the trip to the cinemas worth every penny. Here are the top ten films of 2000:

10. Meet the Parents

"Austin Powers" director Jay Roach, along with an exceptional cast, made one of the funniest comedies of the year using the subject that scares people the most. Ben Stiller is perfect as a guy who can't do anything right and the film piles on joke after joke with perfection.

9. The Cell

An impressive directorial debut for Tarsem, this is one of the most visually impressive and original films ever made. As is needed in a film like this, the plot occasionally takes the back burner as the amazing visuals and sets create the nightmare of being put in the mind of a killer.

8. Titan A.E.

For years, people have been complaining that animation isn't being used to its full potential, and this is the answer to those complaints. Animation kings Don Bluth and Gary Goldman create a film that would be incredibly hard to do in live action, creating one of the best science fiction films in years. The mix of action, space gadgets and fast ships make this one a treat.

7. Requiem for a Dream

"P" director Darren Aronofsky made the most disturbing, painful and honest film of the year, following four characters as they get further and further addicted to drugs and the downward paths their lives fall into. The film includes wonderful performances from Ellen Burstyn, Jennifer Connelly and (surprise) Marlon Wayans.

6. Chicken Run

The animators that made "Wallace and Gromit" spent over three years making this claymation film. It's chock full of laughs, smart parodies and witty British humor all with heart. As it ended, the desire to watch it again right then is not uncommon.

5. Almost Famous

Cameron Crowe's semi-autobiographical tale of a 15-year-old working for Rolling Stone magazine includes all those important moments of growing into manhood shared with the band Stillwater. Great performances mixed with fun, comedy and music, this film hits all the right notes.

4. The Five Senses

Canadian filmmaker Jeremy Podeswa made one of the most electrifying and emotional films to date with this tale of five intersecting lives in Toronto, with each character representing one of the five senses. Great performances mixed with a chilling score and perfect cinematography.

3. Traffic

Steven Soderbergh, still hot off of "Out of Sight" and "Erin Brokovich," put together what could be the perfect cast in his film

about the drug trafficking industry. Excellent use of filters and camera work as many plots intertwine while an excellent score helps emotions rise. Standouts in the cast are Don Cheadle and Luis Guzman as drug enforcement agents.

2. Dancer in the Dark

Singer Bjork and director Lars von Trier may have had a small war on the set of this film, but the final product shows no signs of it. A beautiful musical-drama about a woman whose dreams of being a movie star interfere with her life, which is everything but the glamour of the movies. Bjork not only gives an amazing performance but also composed the soundtrack, which is just as haunting as this film. The last twenty minutes are painful yet it's unable to take your eyes off the screen.

1. High Fidelity

This adaptation of Nick Hornby's best seller is everything anyone can ask for in a film: it's got a great love story, great cast, it's funny, witty, honest and has an awesome soundtrack. A story that simplifies dating from a guys' perspective into two understandable hours (even though it hits too close to home for some people), this film covers all the issues important to men in a funny, witty way. John Cusack gives a winning performance as a record store owner who examines his love life to see where he keeps going wrong, with many great narratives spoken directly to the camera. Jack Black, as one of his annoying employees, steals every scene he is in.

Honorable Mention: "Gun Shy," "Wonderland," "The Beach" and "X-Men."

IMAGE FROM YAHOO.COM



Technician's ten worst films of the year

As with all years, there are films just as bad as these are good, and to accompany this list is a list of films you'll want to avoid.

10. Lost Souls

It's a sad day for Satan, and you almost have to feel bad for him. He used to battle God, then he was reduced to Arnold in "End of Days" (still respectable), but here embarrassment is even thicker as he gets reduced to defeat by Winona Ryder. This film is dumb, dull and how it got made still worries me.

9. The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle

A remake of the old television show, it's not that this is as bad a film as that it's simply not funny at all. It's 90 minutes of pain watching good actors and loveable cartoon characters make bad joke after bad, stupid joke.

8. 28 Days

Sandra Bullock, who may be trying to kill her career, stars in this desperately bad film about a recovering alcoholic. Never deciding if it wants to be a comedy or a drama, but piling on the sap like a tree, it's sad when Steve Buscemi does a film this bad.

7. Beautiful

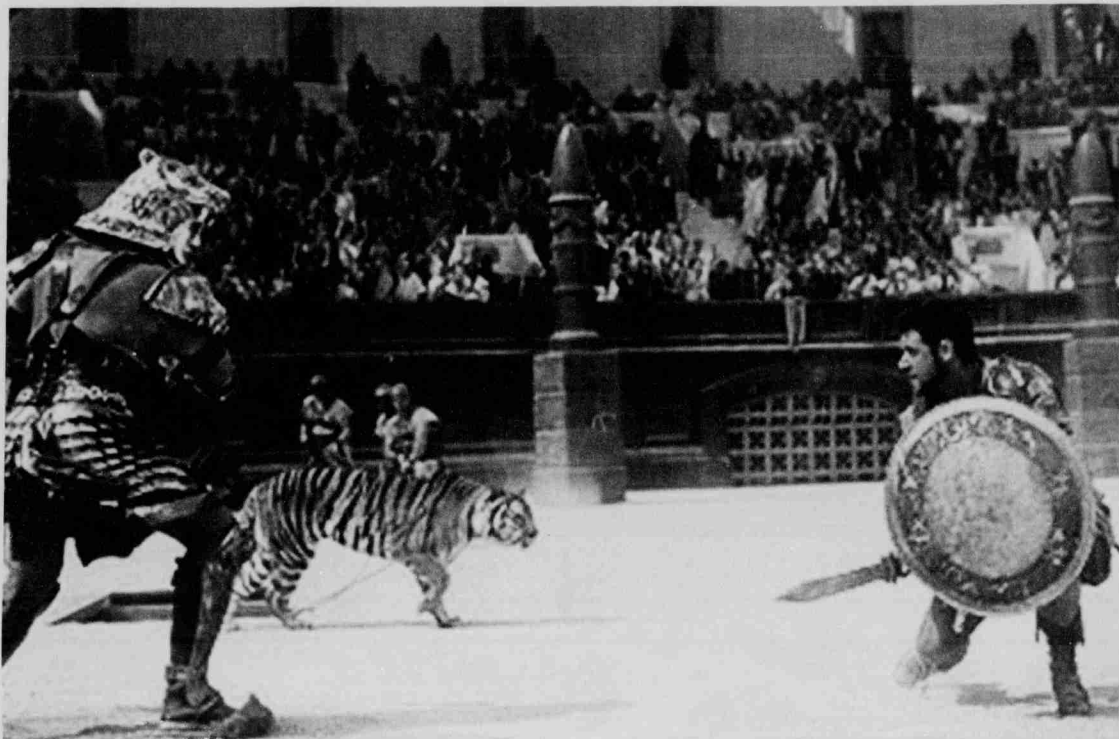
Sally Field's directorial debut was everything but, a painful mix of stereotypes in a film full of unlikable characters. If you have to see a beauty pageant film, "Miss Congeniality" is a safer bet than this pile of dung.

6. The Yards

This film could be medicine for insomnia! It's 110 minutes and feels longer than "The Ten Commandments." What a dull, dull, boring movie, many would opt for a bullet in the head over having to watch this again.

continued on page 6

2000 MOVIE ROUNDUP



AS IF ONE TOP 10 LIST ISN'T ENOUGH, HERE IS A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE YEAR THAT WAS IN MOVIES.

Ryan Hill
Features Editor

10. NURSE BETTY

Neil LaBute's first film that isn't about treating women like crap proves just how much talent he has when he is just trying to tell a good story and not trying to piss you off. Renee Zellweger and Chris Rock both show promise for the future in this tale of an amnesiac (Zellweger) who falls for a TV Soap Opera Star (Greg Kinnear) while being chased by two hitmen (Morgan Freeman and Rock).

9. CHICKEN RUN

Yes, this movie is about clay chickens that are trying to fly the coop. Yes, it's also mostly a family film. But look closer and you'll see that great characters and a fun story make this inspired tale worth a look before putting these chickens out to roost.

8. U-571

Jonathan Mostow's World War II submarine flick may be a little heavy on the firepower, but once the suspense starts it doesn't end until the credits roll. Matthew McConaughey gives a solid performance as the leader of an American task force stranded on a crippled Nazi U-boat.

7. CAST AWAY

Tom Hanks gives an average performance, which by any other

measurements is Oscar worthy. The tale of a man stranded on a remote island for four years was a huge risk for all involved, and it pays off beautifully. Hanks shows that just him (and a volleyball) can entrance an audience for a movie without showing anybody else on screen. The film falls off some at the end, but overall this daring tale is nothing short of spectacular, thanks to Hanks' performance and Robert Zemeckis' confident direction.

6. ERIN BROCKOVICH

You've got to hand it to Steven Soderbergh. Not only has he made one Oscar worthy film, but he has made two. The first contender is "Erin Brockovich," which features the best performance of Julia Robert's career in the true story of a woman trying to bring down a large company. Moving with kind of a new age feel, this film never falls short of tugging at the heartstrings.

5. X-MEN

The first movie since "Batman" to capture the essence of the comic book it's based on, "X-Men" combines a great story with superb acting. Hugh Jackman (stepping in for Dougray Scott, who was stuck filming "Mission impossible 2") gives a star-making turn as Wolverine, the coolest of all of the X-Men and the hardest to bring to the screen. Kudos to director Bryan Singer for keeping the story and the original comics' feel of isolation in view and not letting action and special effects take over.

4. HIGH FIDELITY

A great book turned into a great movie. The setting change from England to America didn't hurt the subtle humor one bit, and Jack

Black ("Tenacious D") finally had a chance to show the world just how funny he really is. John Cusack gives the same performance he always does, but the exposing of the male psyche he lets everyone see pushes this film above most Cusack films.

3. ALMOST FAMOUS

Cameron Crowe proves that he is a much better filmmaker than music writer with this tale of a 15-year-old who is assigned by Rolling Stone to follow around the fictional band Stillwater. Everyone involved gives inspired performances, most notably from Kate Hudson who shows everyone that she may look like her mom (Goldie Hawn), but her acting is what really makes her shine.

2. GLADIATOR

Ridley Scott's beautiful direction keeps things in check as Maximus (Crowe) goes from general to slave to gladiator in his struggle to get revenge on Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix), the man who murdered his family. Action to die for and great storytelling. Crowe may win the Oscar that eluded him last year in "The Insider."

1. TRAFFIC

As gutsy as it is infuriating, Steven Soderbergh blends an amazing cast with a tale about drugs that tells it like it is, not how it should be. The documentary feel only helps to get the point across as the film delivers blow after blow to your stomach. Benicio Del Toro gives the performance of a lifetime as a Mexican cop trying to do the right thing.

IMAGE FROM YAHOO.COM

Technician's ten worst films of the year

continued from page 5

5. Where the Heart Is

This is the meanest kind of film, one where they create two very likeable characters and torture them throughout the entire two hours. The happy ending seems pasted on, but in a way it's necessary, for this film. After seeing two nice people get ran over time after time, it makes all of us jerkies wonder how bad we're going to get it.

4. Unbreakable

The follow-up to the great "Sixth Sense," this is a uselessly boring film in which not much of anything happens and great actors seem forced as they give bad lines and hold stupid conversations.

3. Highlander: Endgame

May this series end forever, this film makes little sense on it's own, but goes so far as to contradict the films before it. Never watch this, because if you do you'll be banned from reading the Features section of this great newspaper.

2. Battlefield Earth

John Travolta destroyed what little career he had left with this and his other atrocity "Lucky Numbers." One of these days this film may be looked upon much like the awful slasher movies of old, but most likely it will wind up being compared to "Plan 9 From Outer Space" as one of the worst movies ever made.

1. Movies that take place on the planet "Mars"

It started with "Mission to Mars," which was a film that tried to be deep and just became stupid. Then when we thought it couldn't get any worse, well, it did. "Red Planet" came out and was truly terrible, and film that put people on Mars so they could run around and die stupid deaths that could happen on earth and \$70 million cheaper. If you really have to see this planet, I do highly recommend "The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars."

IMAGES FROM YAHOO.COM



Sports

NOTES

Continued from Page 8

games and whittled the number of unbeaten Division I teams to four.

The Cardinal (13-0), whose No. 1 ranking last season was the first in school history, received all 70 first-place votes and 1,750 points from the national media panel. Stanford, which beat Arizona State and Arizona on the road this week, is the first unanimous No. 1 since North Carolina on Dec. 22, 1997, and is the fourth team to be on top of the rankings this season.

Duke (13-1), whose only loss this season was by one point at Stanford, moved from third to second and had 1,667 points. Michigan State (12-1), which held the top spot for two weeks after replacing Duke, was third and was followed by Tennessee and Kansas, which both moved up two places from last week. Wake Forest, which was knocked from the ranks of the unbeaten on Saturday by North Carolina, dropped from fourth to No. 6 and was followed in the Top Ten by Illinois, Florida, North Carolina and Virginia.

Syracuse moved up three spots to No. 11 and was followed by Georgetown, Connecticut, Maryland, Seton Hall, Alabama, Wisconsin, Iowa State, Southern California and Mississippi. The last five ranked teams were Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, Boston College and Notre Dame.

ASHTON

Continued from Page 8

and on special teams, Robinson gave State the type of coach that makes opposing coaches cringe.

But even without Robinson, the Pack has plenty of targets for Rivers. Bryan Peterson showed big-play potential as State's No. 3 wideout with 28 catches for 394 yards. Jericho Cotchery and Andy Bertrand didn't see much action as freshmen, but, as Robinson said when he announced his decision to turn pro, both are talented players.

The Pack also frequently

threw to tailback Ray Robinson and tight end Willie Wright. And Amato has gotten commitments from Downton Edwards and Sterling Hicks, a pair of prized recruits at wide receiver.

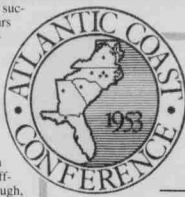
A bigger issue for the Pack is the possible loss of offensive coordinator Norm Chow, who is considered the top candidate for that position at Southern Cal. Chow built the high-powered offense that brought State back so many times this season. State's guts and determination won several close games, but Chow's offensive inventiveness certainly helped.

Next season will definitely be an interesting one for Amato and his team. Higher

expectations come with success, but Amato appears ready to face the challenge.

"We've got the same players coming back, and the 'Cardiac Kids' may run out of nitroglycerin tablets," Amato said. "But we'll fight, and I just told them in there if you think last winter the off-season program was tough, and we did it with about four coaches, I said, 'We've got a full crew now, men. It's going to be a lot tougher.'"

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



AROUND THE ACC

Standings:

Team	ACC Record	Overall
Duke	2-0	13-1
North Carolina	2-0	12-2
Maryland	2-0	11-3
Wake Forest	1-1	12-1
Virginia	1-1	11-1
N.C. State	0-1	8-4
Florida State	0-1	5-9
Georgia Tech	0-2	8-5
Clemson	0-2	9-6

Tuesday's games:

Georgia Tech at No. 10 Virginia, 8:00 p.m., RJ Split

Virginia dropped two places in the latest AP poll despite being taken behind the woodshed in its games against Wake Forest last Tuesday. Georgia Tech has won eight of the last 10 games against Virginia.

Florida State at No. 6 Wake Forest, 8:00 p.m., RJ Split

Wake Forest had its 17-game winning streak snapped by Brendan Haywood and UNC Saturday. Florida State should represent the start of a new streak. FSU, however, did win both games last year and has an 11-10 series advantage.

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- Fall Behind
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- Bring to Light
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- Tin
- Happening
- Animal Skin
- Maria
- Scholarly Book
- Suffix for Chem. Compounds
- Item in a Collection
- Danger
- Left End (Abbr.)
- One Hair From Beard
- Sodium Symbol (Abbr.)
- City in Nebraska
- Three (Roman)
- Against
- Ireland Village
- Food Fish
- Poet

DOWN

- King Cole
- Colorless, Oily, Viscous Liquid
- Tapering Spike of Ice
- Related
- Period
- Southern State (Abbr.)
- Intimate
- Speaker, Reader
- Craft
- Fuel
- Fluffy Animal
- 16
- Dodging

21 Steer

- Fluid Accumulation
- Black Bird
- Under Age
- African Antelope
- Exclamation
- Canadian Province (Abbr.)
- Pier
- Child
- Frigid
- Picture Taker
- Dye
- Evil
- Throw Out
- Beetles
- Police Jargon (Abbr.)
- Steal
- Atlas Item
- Cry
- Golfers' Necessity
- Southern State (Abbr.)

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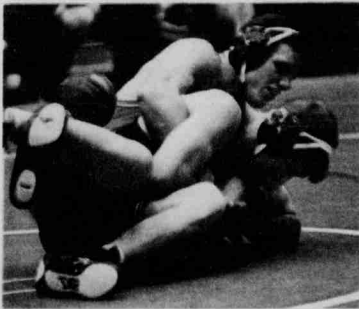
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Back the Pack



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W. basketball vs. Temple, 1/11, 7:00
Wrestling, NCSU Duals, 1/13, 12:00
Gymnastics, Quad Meet, 1/14, 2:00
Swimming vs. Virginia, 1/13, 2:00

No. 7 Lehigh drops Pack wrestlers



N.C. State held an 11-0 edge Sunday against seventh-ranked Lehigh before losing seven consecutive bouts and the match 22-11.

◆ N.C. State had an early lead, but Lehigh stormed back for the victory.

Sports Staff Report

Seventh-ranked Lehigh dropped the first three matches of the evening before sweeping the final seven bouts en route to a 22-11 dual-match victory over N.C. State on Sunday night at Reynolds Coliseum.

Lehigh, which lost a one-point match earlier in the day at North Carolina, improved to 7-2 in dual matches this season, while the Wolfpack dropped to 0-4.

State got off to a quick start, winning a pair of major decisions and taking an 11-0 lead

after three bouts. True freshman Ryan McCallum won a major decision over Anthony Shave at 134 to start things off, and sophomore Oraefo Brown upset 12th-ranked Matt Goldstein 6-4 at 141 pounds. That appeared to be a critical win for the Wolfpack at the time, but subsequent events proved otherwise. After Tommy Davis won by major decision over Troy Minorovic at 149, 11th-ranked Ryan Bernholz got Lehigh on the board with a hard-fought 7-5 win over Pierre Pryor at 157. Chris Vitale, ranked 12th at 165, then defeated the Wolfpack's Scott Garren in overtime to make it 11-6 at the midway point.

It was all Lehigh after that. In a battle of freshmen, Lehigh's Brad Dillon defeated State's Dustin Kawa 13-8 at 174, and Lehigh's Samir

Mahmoud got a takedown of Jason Gore at 184 with a second remaining in the second period to break a 2-2 tie, propelling Mahmoud to a 7-5 victory.

Mahmoud's win gave Lehigh the lead in the team scoring at 12-11, and fourth-ranked Jon Trence, a redshirt freshman, kept the Engineers on a roll with a 10-5 win over 19th-ranked Zach Breitenbach at 197. That made it 15-11 with two matches remaining, and Lehigh sealed the team victory when 16th-ranked Shawn Laughlin took a major decision 15-3 over the Wolfpack's David DeBinder at heavyweight.

Lehigh's Terrance Clendenin then finished the seven-bout sweep with an 8-5 win over George Cintron at 125. State hosts the N.C. State Duals this Saturday at 12 p.m. in the Weisiger-Brown building.

football Promising future at State

N.C. State's 38-30 victory over Minnesota in the Micropnc.com Bowl was the perfect finish to a remarkable season.

The Wolfpack ended the year with an 8-4 record and was the only one of five



Jeremy Ashton

Atlantic C to a 4-1 Conference teams to win a bowl. Not bad for a team picked to finish seventh in its league.

The Pack took people by surprise in 2000, but it won't have the luxury of being an underdog again in 2001 in what could be a very intriguing season in the ACC.

Four teams — Florida State, Georgia Tech, Clemson and State — should finish in the top tier of the conference. Four other teams — North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Wake Forest — will break in new head coaches. And Duke, which just completed its second 0-11 season in five years, should be mediocre again.

What really makes next season worth watching in the ACC is the fact that the Seminoles actually look vulnerable for the first time since they entered the league in 1992. Head coach Bobby Bowden loses 15 senior starters, including Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke, from a team that has played in the last three national title games. Meanwhile, Tech, Clemson and State bring back most of their key players.

FSU probably won't blow out teams by an average of 32.1 points per game next year, and for once, they might not be in the national title chase. But the Seminoles still have plenty of talented players waiting to take the spotlight, and until someone knocks them off their perch, they should still be favored to win the conference.

At State, the focus will be on providing an encore for Chuck Amato's thrilling first season as the head coach at his alma mater.

The bowl win was further proof that Amato has the Pack headed toward its goal of becoming a national powerhouse. State overcame a 24-point deficit in front of a national television audience to take its first postseason win since 1995.

That type of effort inspired new enthusiasm in the football program this year, which is already translating into success on the recruiting trail. The exposure State received in Florida during the preparation for the Micropnc.com, along with the knowledge Amato and assistant head coach John Holliday have of the state, has attracted several high-profile recruits.

"It's going to help tremendously," Amato said of the bowl win. "Being down here in this state, which is just talent, talent, we've gotten an awful lot of exposure in the last seven days that we've been here. I'm coming here to recruit some of this talent."

Those new players will add depth to a squad that returns a large majority of its starters. The defense still has ACC Defensive Player of the Year Kevin Robinson's second team All-ACC safeties Terrence Holt and Adrian Wilson. Most of the offense that averaged 31 points per game also remains intact, including ACC Rookie of the Year Philip Rivers.

The most significant loss is Kovan Robinson's departure for the NFL, something that obviously takes some explosiveness away from the Pack's offense. With his speed at wide receiver

Where is everybody?

◆ Attendance at the Entertainment and Sports Arena for men's basketball has averaged only 11,843 per contest.

Jack Daly
Sports Editor

One year after setting all-time records, attendance at N.C. State men's basketball games has trailed off dramatically. Last season, the Wolfpack averaged 16,535 per contest in its 20 games at the Entertainment and Sports Arena, with the lowest attendance in a regular season game

coming Dec. 30 against Western Carolina when 13,190 showed up. In regular season games, the Pack averaged 17,094

INSIDE

■ Basketball: Around the ACC 17

(in the three N I T games at the ESA, average attendance was 13,372). This year, State has averaged 11,843 in its eight home games. Only once, in a Nov. 29 win over Penn State, has attendance eclipsed 13,000 (13,577 showed up to see the Pack beat Penn State 84-76).

In comparison, the other main tenant of the ESA, the Carolina Hurricanes, has averaged 13,420 for its home games.

Attendance should improve in the next two months for the Pack with all the Atlantic Coast Conference games forthcoming, but crowds of 19,000 — the capacity is 19,722 — for all remaining home games would leave State with an average of 15,362 for the year, well below last season's tally.

"We've looked at [the attendance numbers]," said Charlie Cobb, associate athletics director at State. "We're concerned, but not to the point where we're panicked. But we have noticed that a lot of students' seats have been empty."

Since 15,000 season tickets were sold before the basketball season started, the only seats that technically have been available at each game have been student seats. And with many of the empty seats in the areas rationed for students, the vacant student sections have come under scrutiny.

So where are the students? State's early season struggles may have something to do with the students' apathy.

"I'm thinking it has to do with number one, how the team is doing," said Chad Flowers, president of the Student Wolfpack Club. "That's the main thing."

In the Pack's second home game of the year, Charlotte handed State its worst loss ever at the ESA, 95-78. The lack of a marquee opponent could be another explanation; Penn State doesn't have the appeal of a Kentucky, even though the Nitary Lions beat the Wildcats right before playing State.

"There's probably been a couple answers," Cobb said. "The student tickets to the CoSIDA Classic [State's first two games of the year] were \$5. Any time you're asking students to buy tickets, it's going to hurt attendance."

"The Penn State game was at 9 p.m. and the rest of the games were over break or exams.



Attendance AT THE ESA

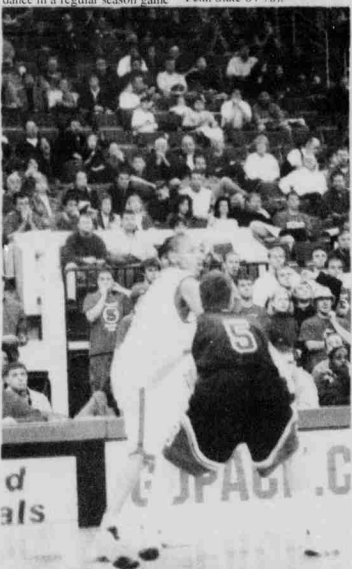
[Attendance] is going to pick up tremendously.

Indeed, Wednesday night's game vs. Duke at the ESA is expected to be a sellout. The North Carolina game on Jan. 28 will also be a sellout and contests against Maryland, Wake Forest, Syracuse and Virginia should all be sellouts, or near-sellouts.

Last season, when excess student demand for the North Carolina game left thousands

in the cold — literally — many lobbied for an increased number of student tickets. With all the empty seats at games this year, a repeat demand may look foolhardy.

"Students aren't beating the door down," Cobb said. "But the message should be don't cherrypick one game of the year. Invariably somebody's not going to get a ticket. Unfortunately that's just going to happen."



Fan support at the ESA has dwindled in the 2000-01 season.

Wolfpack/ACC Notes

Swim teams compete in Georgia

The N.C. State men's and women's diving squads competed over the weekend at the Georgia Diving Invitational in Athens, Ga.

For the women, Erin Lambie finished 18th (220.65) and 17th (389.40) overall in the one-meter and three-meter boards, respectively. Erin Bailey also finished, 17th (222.70) in the one-meter, while taking 22nd in the three-meter competition. Amber O'Reilly was 24th (199.45) in the one-meter and 26th (354.05) in the three-meter. Junior Nicole Vanderbeke placed 25th (197.50)

in the one-meter and 19th (384.90) in the three-meter meet. On the men's side, freshman Pat Roberts led the way for the Wolfpack, taking 13th (216.95) in the one-meter and 15th overall (402.60) in the three-meter competition. Fellow freshman Jason Clipp also competed, finishing in 14th position (214.10) in the one-meter board to go with a 17th-place (314.05) showing in the three-meter event.

State will be back in action when the men take on conference foe Georgia Tech on Friday at 3 p.m. in Raleigh. The men's and women's teams will compete the next day at home against Virginia.

Duke's Nate James named player of the week

Duke's Nate James was tabbed as the Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Week, while Florida State's Michael Joiner was selected as the ACC Rookie of the Week in voting by a select panel of the Atlantic Coast Conference Sportswriters Association.

James became the fourth Blue Devil to earn Player of the Week recognition after leading the third-ranked Blue Devils to wins over Florida State and Clemson. The 6-6, 205-pound senior from Washington averaged 21.5 points

and six rebounds while shooting 48 percent (11-of-23) from the field and 85 percent (17-of-20) from the foul line. He scored 22 points and had six rebounds in a 99-72 win over Florida State and 21 points and six rebounds in Sunday's 115-74 victory over Clemson.

Joiner earns Freshman of the Week honors for the first time this season after averaging 16.5 points, 5.5 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 1.5 blocked shots in two games last week. The 6-7, 215-pound freshman from Fayetteville shot 58 percent (14-of-24) from the field and 40 percent from three-point range. Joiner had 16 points and 16 rebounds in his first career ACC

game against Duke last Thursday and 17 points and five rebounds two days later against UNC-Asheville.

Stanford is No. 1

Stanford moved into the No. 1 spot in The Associated Press' college basketball poll Monday, the second straight season the Cardinal have held the top spot.

They went from second to first, replacing Michigan State, which lost 59-58 at Indiana on a buzzer-beating three-pointer. Kirk Haston's game-winner on Sunday ended the nation's longest winning streak at 23