

3.



Tattoo to you!
Miller gives you the skinny and Dubya's policy gets smoggy in Opinion.

4.



Ever Wonder?
We pick your valentine and Muse some more with Greg Rucka in A & E.

6.



Striving for three
The gymnastics team goes for its third straight league title Saturday.

Thursday
March 22, 2001

TECHNICIAN

www.technicianonline.com

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

| | |
|----------|----|
| Today | |
| H: | 65 |
| L: | 44 |
| Tomorrow | |
| H: | 66 |
| L: | 45 |

Elevator quality 'going up'

◆ Elevators on campus are being repaired and upgraded.

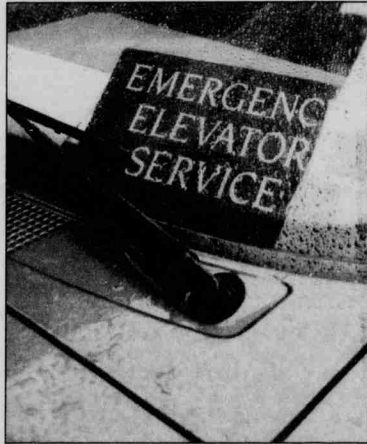
Tim Clark
Staff Reporter

As a part of routine maintenance, N.C. State is continuing the modernization of its elevator systems across campus.

Facilities Operations and University Housing are both making efforts to replace worn out elevators and improve reliability.

In most cases, modernization involves replacing the elevator's controllers, door locks and motors. Components such as the elevator cabs and door fronts are reused when possible.

Additionally, the archaic generators still used by many elevators on campus are being exchanged for modern A/C power supplies, which will draw from



These repair vehicles have made regular appearances on campus in recent years.

a building's existing power system. The new power supplies lack the carbon brushes of the old generators, meaning that they won't produce carbon dust. Carbon dust has been a long time sanitation issue in machine rooms around campus.

Facilities Operations handles the upkeep of all elevators on campus except those found in residence halls.

Areas of high traffic are among the first to receive the modernization. "You see a lot of traffic in the library, naturally, as well as other buildings like Talley Student Center," said Fred Heppding, contract administrator for elevators with Facilities Operations. "These are the areas that tend to show the most wear on their elevators."

Vandalism is another factor in the modifications. "Impatient students [can] knock [elevator] doors off their tracks by trying to force them open," said Heppding. "They also knock out the push buttons which have to be replaced."

University Housing is seeing to the modification of elevators located in residence halls. Housing plans to upgrade one dorm each year until all facilities have been modernized.

Housing's modifications differ from the rest of the campus modernizations in that they plan to replace the entire elevator except for the existing shaft. "We're bringing in new cars with stainless steel boxes, in addition to changing out the motors and cabling," said Steve Nettles, a facilities engineer for Housing.

The efforts to modernize the elevators began in earnest two years ago with modifications made to both D.H. Hill Library and Poe Hall in the spring and summer of 1999. Since then, Biltmore, Gardner and Kilgore Halls have all been retrofitted, and repairs are currently being completed in Dabney Hall.



It's not uncommon for students to have to pry open elevator doors in order to board them.

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK EVENTS

For a complete list of the week's events, visit www2.ncsu.edu/~news/relations/humanrights.html

MONDAY MARCH 26

NOON HARRIS FIELD
Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony for the 8th annual Human Rights Week will be held at Harris Field in front of Witherspoon Student Center.

6 P.M. BRICKYARD

An Evening in Amnesty Village. Members of N.C. State organizations will spend the night in the Brickyard as an educational campaign. Sponsored by the NCSU chapter of Amnesty International, the Park Scholars, Lorax Environmental Club, Hope for the Homeless, Engineers Without Borders and the Student Peace Action Network.

TUESDAY MARCH 27

2:30 P.M. AACR ROOM 126, WITHERSPOON STUDENT CENTER
Disability Rights, Community and Culture

The event will include conversation and films about the disability community and how disabled people view themselves in a majority environment with civil rights. Sponsored by the Ron Mace Center for Disability Community Development and the Center for Universal Design.

2:30 P.M. WALNUT ROOM, TALLEY STUDENT CENTER

Domestic Abuse and the Ethics of Unbiased Assessment. Participants will learn how the N.C. Department of Social Services deals with alleged child abuse cases. Volunteers will be on hand to record their experiences as investigators or representatives for abused children. Sponsored by Student Leadership Consultants.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 28

9 A.M. — NOON BLUE ROOM, TALLEY STUDENT CENTER
Project SAFE Training Session

Participants will be trained to be supportive of homosexual and bisexual members of the NCSU community. Sponsored by Project SAFE.

NOON — 2 P.M. CLASS OF 1998 GREENSPACE IN FRONT OF D.H. HILL LIBRARY

Reading — Human Rights in Literature. Different perspectives on human rights and diversity will be communicated through literature. Sponsored by NCSU Libraries' Library Diversity Committee.

3 P.M. CINEMA, WITHERSPOON STUDENT CENTER

Keynote Address — "A Little Matter of Genocide: Holocaust and Denial in the Americas." Ward Churchill, a significant voice for Native American rights, is co-director of the American Indian Movement of Colorado. Sponsored by the Human Rights Week Committee, the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and African American Affairs, Student Government and the Union Activities Board.

THURSDAY MARCH 29

4 — 5:30 P.M. AACR ROOM 126, WITHERSPOON STUDENT CENTER

Archie Barker's Neighborhood. This program stresses the importance of respecting the rights of others to exist free of discrimination and stereotypes. Sponsored by the N.C. State Inter-Residence Council.

6:30 — 8:30 P.M. AACR ROOM 126, WITHERSPOON STUDENT CENTER

Farmworkers in North Carolina: Justice in our own Backyard. A slide show and discussion on the situation of North Carolina's migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Sponsored by Student Action with Families and Legal Services of North Carolina.

FRIDAY MARCH 30

7:30 P.M. AACR ROOM 126, WITHERSPOON STUDENT CENTER

Film — "Harvest: 3000 Years." The film notes the differences between a peasant family and their landlord. Sponsored by the Ethiopian Students Club, the African American Cultural Center and the African Studies Program.

Unity Week reaching its end

◆ There are only three days left in N.C. State's first-ever week-long celebration of unity and diversity.

Jimmy Ryals
News Editor

If white ribbons are on the lapels of members of the N.C. State community this week, then the meaning of that color—unity, the presence of all colors—is what is in their heads.

The white ribbon is the symbol of NCSU's first-ever Unity Week; with three days left in that week, organizers are pleased with the response the effort has received.

Christy Gamble, a senior in microbiology and the event's originator, has been pleasantly surprised by the turnout for the week's events thus far—a pair of rallies in the Brickyard and a panel discussion. Gamble said she had not expected many members of the NCSU community to come out of their "glass boxes" to learn about diversity issues.

Unity Week continues Thursday with a pair of diversity workshops, one for students and one for faculty members. The faculty workshop will be held in Witherspoon Student Center's Multipurpose Room from 1 to 3 p.m., with the student workshop taking place in Witherspoon Room 201 from 6 to 9 p.m. K. Watford-Gamble of Exodus Counseling Services will conduct the workshops.

Diversity will be the dish served at Friday's Unity Week banquet, at which Vice Provost for Diversity and African-American Affairs Rupert Nacoste and Donna Ebron, the Sergeant-at-Arms of

the North Carolina General Assembly, will deliver speeches. The banquet will begin at 7 p.m.; students can take part for \$5, faculty members for \$7 and guests for \$10.

Saturday's Union Activities Board-sponsored International Fair will close the week. The fair, an event in the ballroom at Talley Student Center, will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will feature international food, music, dance and crafts from different cultures around the world.

Funding for Unity Week came from the Student Senate and UAB. The funds from senate came from the senate diversity committee's operating costs. Diversity Committee Chair Jesse Elting was one of the organizers of Unity Week activities.

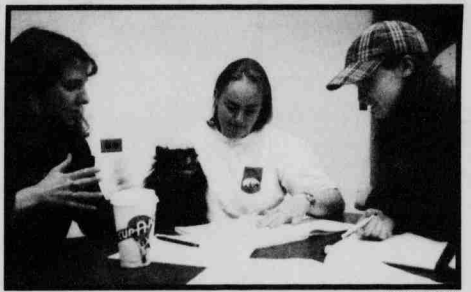
Senate President Conen Morgan also helped in organizing Unity Week. He estimated that roughly 150 people were at the kickoff rally, at which NCSU Chancellor Marye Anne Fox took part.

The Monday night panel discussion drew only about 15 people, in Morgan's estimation. Sitting on the panel were Jason Cotter, editor emeritus of the conservative publication "The Broadside," Student Senator James Reed and Tara Mahoutchian of the Iranian Students Association.

Members of the African-American Student Advisory Council; Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians and Allies; and the Asian Student Association were invited to take part in the discussion but were unable to attend.

The low turnout did not bother Morgan. "Whenever you talk about controver-

See UNITY, Page 2



Seniors Welsley Wallace (center) and Jonna Britt (right), receive chemistry help from Dr. Laura Sermaniak.

The final list of candidates for the April 2 and 3 student body elections has been completed. The candidates for Student Senate and Student Center Board of Directors seats are:

CALS sophomores (2 seats)

- Jeff Broadway
freshman, animal science
- Natasha Peck
freshman, agricultural education
- Jamie Pendergrass
freshman, biological sciences
- Brad Dixon
freshman, microbiology and political science

CALS juniors (3 seats)

- Matt Ruddy
sophomore, biological sciences

Engineering sophomores (4 seats)

- Philip Denton
freshman, computer engineering

Engineering juniors (4 seats)

- Matthew G. Frazier
sophomore, mechanical engineering
- Dustin Choe
junior, aerospace engineering
- Arturo Lumpkin
sophomore, computer engineering
- Allen Klaliber
sophomore, computer science
- William Engler
sophomore, aerospace engineering

Engineering seniors (4 seats)

- Mark Hoyer
junior, computer engineering
- Erich Fabricius
junior, chemical engineering

Natural Resources (2 seats)

- Andrew F. Brown III
junior, parks, recreation and tourism
- Jonathan Ducote
freshman, natural resources

CHASS sophomores (3 seats)

- Nick DiColandrea
freshman, political science
- Lance D. Mangum
freshman, political science
- Amy Zellner
sophomore, philosophy
- Wes Gray
senior, zoology
- Jennifer McIlmail
freshman, political science

CHASS juniors (2 seats)

- Hayley Phillips
sophomore, political science
- Daniel Middleton
sophomore, English
- Garrett B. Bugg
freshman, natural resources
- Matt Jones
freshman, natural resources

CHASS seniors (2 seats)

- Charles A. Jones Jr.
senior, English
- Don Davis
junior, political science
- Tripp Finch
junior, political science

Management sophomores (2 seats)

- Angela G. Perkins
sophomore, business management

Management seniors (2 seats)

- Munawar Diwan
junior, textile technology
- Chris Genovese
junior, business management
- Stephen Liston
junior, business management

PAMS (2 seats)

- Mark Mathews
freshman, physics
- Andrea DeWees
junior, chemistry
- Peter Difiore
junior, marine sciences

Textiles (2 seats)

- Josh Cox
sophomore, textile engineering
- Shannon O'Connor
freshman, textiles

Graduate (4 seats)

- Ken Hoy
- Gary Palin
senior, political science

First-Year College (2 seats)

- John Leavister
freshman, FYC
- James Goody
freshman, FYC

Student Center Board (4 seats)

- Ryan Hall
- Amy Zellner
sophomore, philosophy
- Jamie Pendergrass
freshman, biological sciences
- Elizabeth Sall
junior, biological engineering
- J. Seth Dilday
junior, chemistry
- Erich Fabricius
junior, chemical engineering
- Lee Burgess-Ford
senior, statistics and political science
- Cliff Ray
freshman, FYC
- Michael Orr
sophomore, FYC
- Derrick L. White
sophomore, political science
- Gary Palin
senior, political science

No one is running for senate seats representing the College of Education and Psychology (2 seats), the College of Design (1), juniors in the College of Management (2) or the College of Veterinary Medicine (1).

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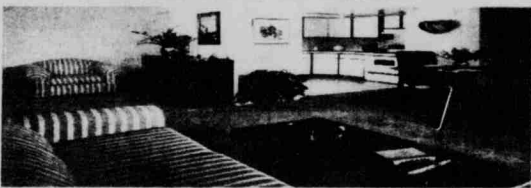
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UNITY

Continued from Page 2

sial issues, it doesn't matter how many people you have on hand," Morgan said. "If it was 15 or 5,000, we still had a good discussion."

Gamble almost did not follow through on her goal of sponsoring a week of diversity-focused events at NCSU. A fall break trip to the University of Central Florida near Orlando, however, gave her new hope. Plastered around the campus were posters about UCF's just-completed Diversity Week.

Gamble returned to NCSU and enlisted the aid of Inter-Residence Council President Liz Gutierrez, Senate Diversity Committee Chair Jesse Elting and Mahoutchian, whom she called "the backbone" of the Unity Week planning.

Addition

In Wednesday's Technician, there appeared a graphic listing the candidates for positions being contested in the April 2 and 3 student body elections, including positions on the Student Media Authority board. The list of SMA candidates was one short, however, as it did not include Derrick L. White, a sophomore in political science. Further, an incomplete list of candidates for the Student Center Board of Directors appeared Wednesday. A complete list of those candidates appears in the above graphic.

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NEWS

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Open Seven Days a Week

NEWS



Talley Student Center Basement

Craving Sports?

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Hot air, cold policy

WHY IS THE EPA DEFENDING CO₂ EMISSIONS?

Dubya recently reversed his dedication to a campaign pledge of regulating power plant emissions of carbon dioxide. He claims carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, is not listed as a pollutant under the federal Clean Air Act. So why did he make the pledge in the first place?

What's more curious, however, is why Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief Christine Whitman is supporting Bush's disregard for the CO₂ threat. Whitman was criticized during her nomination for having favored a "voluntary compliance" program under which polluters are allowed a "grace period" to negotiate with state agencies before fines are imposed.

In a speech to the National Press Club, Whitman defended Bush, saying he "didn't want to do anything that was going to discourage decisions that would result in a better mix of energy" and because the nation is "in the midst of a national energy crisis."

Since when should the EPA chief prioritize energy concerns over the environment? Isn't that why we also have an Energy Secretary?

If the coal emissions restrictions had stayed, it would have forced the nation to depend more on cleaner-burning natural gas. Coal can burn cleanly, but it requires expensive processing.

Whitman explained the nation is "becoming extraordinarily dependent on natural gas" and argued "most people understand that there are problems when you become too dependent on a single source of energy."

We agree. Dependence on a single source of energy — coal or oil, especially — invites great problems.

Bush's decision and Whitman's support follows intense lobbying by the coal industry. CNN reported, Whitman also contradicted previous statements made just a few weeks ago where, at an international conference on global warming, she expressed concern over

global warming and said Bush could incorporate emissions restrictions of CO₂ into an anti-pollution strategy.

The betrayal of a campaign promise is a regular feature of the first months of a presidency. But the treachery of Whitman to environmentalism is much more disturbing.

She is supposed to be an expert in her field and a leader of national policy. It's one thing for the president to dodge a campaign pledge, but it's something else entirely for the EPA chief to discredit her own former policy. Why should we think she has it right this time if she can flip-flop so casually?

The move also highlights a damning pattern on the behalf of the EPA, which also said on March 20 that it would withdraw a pending arsenic standard for drinking water that was prepared during the final days of the Clinton administration. The rule, which would update the current policy established in 1942, would have slashed the permissible level of arsenic in water from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion.

In reality, the "energy crisis" is just an oil crisis. The EPA can use this chance to work with the administration to urge "alternative energy options" to go beyond additional drilling sites for oil. Wind, solar, and more technology are genuinely alternative energies and are all proving to be both commercially and economically secure.

As long as the EPA functions as a puppet of the Energy Department and an administration headed by two oil barons, it will be nothing more than a farce. Correction: it will be a farce that will betray its very purpose, and quite possibly endanger future generations of Americans and citizens around the world in catastrophic ways we are barely able to imagine because they are the effects of issues we are barely able to address.

Sins on skins



Miller Jones
STAFF COLUMNIST

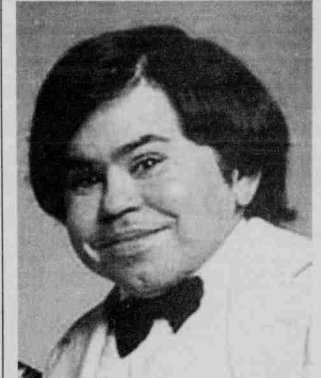
Look out! They're everywhere — on people's ankles, backs, even tongues and feet. They're on kids, women, the elderly, and there's a good chance your little sister's boyfriend has one, and he's not afraid to show it to her when your parents aren't around. Forget everything you know about tattoos. The rules have changed. They're not just reserved for tough guys sailors or biker babes anymore. Today there is no limit to the possibilities of getting ink done on one's body. As the new millennium reminds us that there is no longer anything sacred and change is the only thing constant, people of all ages, colors and sizes are unafraid to permanently decorate their bodies in this supreme form of self-expression. For years, men who wanted to show their undying love for their woman would embed her name, usually on their biceps, written in a gently flowing black cursive manner except for a glowing red heart. That meant those two were destined to stay together forever. It was the unwritten rule of tattooing — you couldn't just go around messing with the simple ethics of tattoos. And anyway, you can't erase ink.

This simple fact holds even today — ink is permanent. However, that is not stopping crazed lunatics and good-old-fashioned inebriated spring breakers from stumbling into tattoo parlors and demanding injections through a hot ink needle from some guy named "Python," who by the way is fresh out of the slammer. I recently set out on an open-minded quest over Spring Break to learn as much as I could about the tattoo industry, and I ended up learning a lot about myself. I also left myself completely open to the all but slim possibility of being swayed by both close friends and overweight hirsute cigarette-cramping tattoo

artists." However, getting a tattoo on a white is something that is strongly discouraged by the tattooed community. Most will tell you that they researched the parlor and the artist for weeks of even months before they got the artwork done. Making a mistake with permanent ink is like writing a check your body can't cash, or one your body can cash but looks ugly doing it.

Getting a tattoo is also not something you can get advice on from your grandfather. Sure he may have a place on his arm dedicated to his infantry from The War. Or possibly his cutesy nickname for your grandmother. Or maybe even the name of some exotic woman like "Mesmerella" with a big black strike through it that he refuses to explain the meaning behind. Simply put, if you are set on inking a part of your body, you shouldn't let anyone tell you how to express yourself. It's your body, not theirs. Meaning behind your personal tattoo should come from within.

That's why I have a tough time deciphering the meaning behind some of today's tattoos. When I am walking down the street and I see a hairy ape of a human being in a cut-off black T-shirt blazingly promoting a permanent skin stain of the Tasmanian Devil on his shoulder, my mind attempts to account for the reasoning behind such a permanently embarrassing mistake. The same goes for the insolent woman manning the counter at the local Crown gas station with the indelible mark of a serpent and an eagle riding double on a Harley into the sunset on a lone-some highway. What could these kinds of tattoos possibly mean? Usually I just give up wondering due to a non easily foreseeable answer and a



Not ALL tattoos are bad

throbbing headache. I realize the fact that there is personal meaning behind any and all body artwork, but c'mon! Taz? What could an animated Warner Brothers character possibly express about an individual? Maybe that person is unable to be understood at times due to loud mutterings and constant spitting. Maybe he or she is a dirty and hairy animal. Or maybe I should just leave them alone and let them be content with their personal declaration and inside meanings. Nah, that wouldn't be much fun now would it? It is socially agreed upon that there are some lines one shouldn't cross when it comes to eternally changing one's body.

And as for me and my adventures with tattoo parlors and tattooed victims in central and eastern Florida throughout Spring Break, I have concluded that I like my body just as it is. But if ever do decide to venture into tattoo land, I'll fear the day that I'm 70 and I prop my grandchild up on my knee to read him a bedtime story. He'll lift up my sleeve, point at my wrinkled bicep and say, "Grandpa, why do you have a picture of a naked woman swordfighting a pterodactyl?" Then I'll look deeply into his eyes and with a warm soothing voice say, "Son, never ever drink tequila."

Look Boss! De plane! De plane!
Miller Jones
Miller Jones at MillerWroteIt@aol.com.

Missionary imposition



Justin Parisi
STAFF COLUMNIST

This past week, the beacon of faith was inexplicably shattered. That's because the Catholic church, who have long been the major sheep of black organized religious sects, sent word from the Vatican in response to some recent alarming allegations. It seems that some Catholic missionaries and priests have taken their bond with God a bit too seriously and are raising nuns, who are considered to be "married to God." Worse yet, if the nuns happened to become pregnant, they were forced to have abortions using the contraceptive pill.

Now, I'm no theologian, but something tells me that somewhere within the Catholic dogma, this sort of behavior is looked down upon. After all, these women are married to God, and by raping them, the missionaries and priests are committing adultery against the Lord.

Yeah, I'm pretty sure that's a bad thing. What's more, Catholics have long opposed birth control methods of all shapes and sizes, especially abortion. So that's not one, not two, but three count 'em — three sins. I'd say that Unholy Trinity is worth at least six hundred Hall Marys.

Yet, the word from the Vatican means nothing to admonish these rapists, adulterers of God. Instead, the church points to the positive things the missionaries and priests have done, as if to say, "Hey, rap's not all that bad when you're helping villages in Africa irrigate." The exact statement from the Vatican was "some negative cases cannot let us forget the often heroic faith expressed by the large majority of those men and women in religious orders and the clergy." The Vatican went on to say further, according to Reuters, that "many of them live in situations of extreme psychological and physical hardship, at the limits of human endurance." I guess that's a valid excuse. If I were crazy, I'd rape a nun, too.

Basically, the Vatican wants us to look

past these rapists' flaws and forgive them as the Catholic Church often forgives its congregation.

Look past rape? Look past adultery? What do they take us for? Americans?

The fact of the matter is the Catholic Church is in dire need of reform — once again. There is a serious problem if the higher-ups are allowed to taint the parishioners with their power. The meek, rather than inheriting the earth, have become their own. The women who chose to serve God now cower as victims to the power the clergy has over them. And these "missionaries" are evil, even with the sacred oaths and pageantry of the church. It is disconcerting that these are the men who are helping children of third-world countries "find" God because it is not clear which God they are praying to. Is it the God who is vengeful and punishes sinners? Or is it a God that forgives any sin, no matter how atrocious?

The Catholic Church has thrived upon the weak for centuries, forcing its members into a cycle of guilt against itself. However, the same rules apparently do not apply to the clergy. There is no guilt being handed down on the clergy, but instead, there is praise. In a sick way, that is the way religion should work, where sins are not admonished, but are forgiven and we are remembered more for our deeds than our misgivings. In the case of rape, however, there need to be repercussions. The Catholic Church cannot be allowed to set a precedent for who can and cannot rape.

It is obvious that the sect is in disrepair and the only way to rectify the damage is to completely turn the Catholic Church on its ear. There needs to be a revival of excommunication, where the bad seeds are not slapped on the wrist, but are kicked out and punished. A renewed commitment to faith needs to be reinstated, because if that somehow been lost in the shuffle of power, Positives need to be focused upon, but not to the extent where we allow rapists to be praised.

Until the Catholic Church can solve these problems, it will remain on its back.

Questions? Comments? Email jparisi@unity.ncsu.edu.

Reparations ridiculous



Nathan Lintner
STAFF COLUMNIST

When Earl O'Hara of Hutcheson said down to write my David Horowitz's "ten reparations" against reparations are a bad idea, he failed to relate how the commission of \$78.1 billion total that black coalitions and organizations are asking American taxpayers to fork over would improve the situation of black people. Americans who assert that money can ameliorate the ills of slavery are in fact motivated by the very capitalistic greediness that fueled slavery's existence. It reveals the flawed mentality of many Americans who believe that money equals happiness and that an abundance of it can cure all of life's problems.

Hutchinson claims that slavery and segregation convinced white people that blacks were lazy and prone to violent behavior.

According to Hutchinson, viewing blacks as racially dysfunctional "has served white fears and hostility and stoked the standard rationale for lynchings, racial assaults, hate crimes and police violence."

Hutchinson also asserts that black people are "more likely to live in segregated neighborhoods, be refused business loans and attend decrepit, failed public schools." Suppressing, for the sake of argument, that Hutchinson's claims are true for all blacks (which they are not) in America today, what would money do to change their situation? Martin Luther King and other civil rights activists of the 20th century did not simply ask the government to write black people a check and call it even. True activists for black equality and upward social mobility pursued legislation and social reform to reverse or at least counter the negative effects of slavery. Black Americans seeking repara-

tions are not appealing to the proper party responsible for their ancestors' enslavement. Slavery was brought to the American colonies by imperialistic European nations. Yet before that could even occur blacks in Africa had to sell members of their own race to white Europeans. Therefore, black and white Americans seeking reparations for the descendants of slaves should appeal to Africa and Europe, not the United States. Moreover, while it is true that once established here, certain Americans supported the enslavement of other human beings, the country as a whole never defended slavery.

In his original draft of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson denounced slavery as an evil thrust upon the American colonies by the British crown. In Jefferson's opinion, Europe was guilty of violating human nature's "most sacred rights of life and liberty... captivating and carrying [a distant people] into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither." These lines were removed from the original declaration to satisfy the interests of southern statesmen. Indeed it was the southern states, which later denounced their affiliation with the union that exists today, that supported and pursued the perpetuation of slavery.

When the south seceded to form a confederate nation, they did so because the union did not support the spread of slavery into new states and territories. The confederate nation was formed to ensure that the existence of slavery would not be threatened. The confederates then waged war with the union. Had they been victorious, slavery would have been extended throughout the continent and gone on for a time indefinite. Yet because there was a union, e.g. the modern United States of America, to oppose the confederates and bring the south back into the fold of freedom, slavery was abolished.

Why then are some blacks asking for reparations from the nation that not only freed them but has made

substantial changes in its law code to give preference to their race and facilitate their mobility in society? Blacks seeking reparations are asking the wrong people.

Likewise comparing reparations for slavery with holocaust victims is improper. Jews are not receiving reparations from Germany merely because they are Jewish. Jews actually had their property confiscated and their wealth stolen. Some of these victims are still alive. They and the families of victims have every right to ask for heirlooms or wealth that were taken from them by the Nazi regime.

Finally, Horowitz asserts in his "ten reasons" that if black people, whose ancestors were unfortunate enough to be carried here for sale as slaves, are seeking money as a remedy, they presently have more wealth than they would have had they and their ancestors remained in Africa. Horowitz relates that the GNP of African-Americans is so large that the black community in America is the "tenth most prosperous 'nation' in the world," adding, "American blacks on average enjoy per capita incomes in the range of twenty to fifty times that of blacks living in any of the African nations from which they were kidnapped."

Suggesting that blacks should be paid reparations for slavery is offensive and counterproductive to the great strides made by great Americans like Fredrick Douglass and Martin Luther King, Jr. Slavery is an evil of the past. No one alive today is responsible for 18th and 19th century bondage, just as no one alive today experienced 18th and 19th century bondage. Americans should be proud that their country ended slavery and defeated a confederate nation that was intent on maintaining its institution here. We have come a long way and should not entertain ridiculous attempts to re-ignite racial tensions that many give their lives to assuage.

Questions? Comments? Send email to horatio399@yahoo.com.

TECHNICIAN

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• WRITINGS OF WONDER •

GREG RUCKA INTERVIEW

PART TWO

Zack Smith
Senior Staff Writer

GREG RUCKA IS ONE OF THE HOTTEST NAMES IN COMICS RIGHT NOW, AS THE WRITER OF "DETECTIVE COMICS," THE NEW SERIES "QUEEN AND COUNTRY" FROM DCI PRESS AND HIS SERIES OF CRIME NOVELS FEATURING THE CHARACTER OF BODYGUARD VYCKE KOHME. HE RECENTLY TOOK SOME TIME OUT TO DISCUSS HIS CURRENT PROJECTS AND HIS UPCOMING WORKS. PART ONE OF THIS INTERVIEW IS ONLINE AT <http://www.underground.com/read/0121/002711.html>

Also in stores this week alongside "Queen and Country" is the latest issue of "Detective Comics," which Rucka has written regularly for over a year. He enjoys working with many of the characters — "Two-Face I love writing, because he will always break my heart. Lex Luthor [who has appeared in several Batman stories written by Rucka] is also a lot of fun, because he's so set; he'll never change. It's interesting writing villains, because for a villain to work, he has to have a good reason; super-criminals aren't as interesting as regular criminals. Like with Poison Ivy, it's more interesting to delve into her psyche, figure out why she's the kind of person who'd kill someone over a rose bush."

Before getting into comics, Rucka was best known for his novels. While he manages to balance his career in comics with his prose work, he admits they're two different mediums. "When you're writing a novel, everything that gets down on the page comes from you. Comics are a visual medium — there's a difference between reading an image and seeing an image. So I made a point when I started writing comics to let the image tell as much of the story, if not more of the story, than what my words told. When I write a comic script, I write full script. I put in enough information so that the artist knows what I want the page to look like, how many panels I want, what images are important in each panel and so on.

"I want the artist to know what I want to achieve, but that's not the same as what I want word-for-word. When you have a good artist, like [Queen and Country artist] Steve Rolston, or [Huntress artist] Rich Burchett or [Whiteout artist] Steve Lieber, they can read a script and say, 'Oh, he wants six panels on this page because he wants to show how lonely the character is; I can use five panels and make it just as emotionally devastating.' Which is fine, because I don't know anything about visual storytelling.

"I'm working on something with J.G. Jones right now, and the pages that he's turning in are phenomenal! I have rarely seen pencils as beautiful as these are, and he is sticking religiously to the script, and at the same time



he isn't drawing exactly what I said. He's doing an excellent job with the script, and he and I are really on the same wavelength — he knows what I'm after, I know what he wants to do, and it's coming together beautifully."

"That project is 'Hiketia,' a mini-series from DC due to come out this fall that features a character readers might not expect from Rucka — comics mainstay Wonder Woman. Rucka's very excited about working with Wonder Woman, whom he considers an underrated and underappreciated character. "There are things about that character, that I see her, that I find compelling — a very 'Stranger in a Strange Land' quality. I took a lot of mythology in high school. I love her as a warrior princess of peace, that's a very complex concept. To me, it seems that you cannot write Wonder Woman if you are afraid to use the word 'feminist' and the meaning of that word changes all the time. Lynda Carter might very well be feminist by '70s standards, but things are different now."

"Wonder Woman has, with a handful of exceptions, been really badly treated over the years. In last month's issue of [comics magazine] 'Wizard,' there's a round-table interview with the Superman writers, and ['Adventures of Superman' writer] Joe Casey gets asked what he'd do if he had Superman's powers for a

day, and he is quoted in the issue as saying, 'I'd bang Wonder Woman all day long.' And he thinks he's funny, and he thinks he's being clever, and that is absolutely 100 percent indicative of the attitude towards Wonder Woman right now. Everyone wants to sleep with her and no one respects the character. [Current writer/artist] Phil Jimenez is an exception, along with [past artist] Matthew Clark.

"[The mini-series] will deal with the title concept, which is an ancient tenet of Greek and Athenian law that says that if someone comes to you and surrenders himself and everything he has to you, then you are obligated to protect him with your life. And a person supplicates like this to Wonder Woman, and she finds out the supplicant is being pursued and has to confront this pursuer."

In the meantime, Rucka continues his work on "Queen and Country." "It's a very different style of storytelling for me, because in a way, it's the first team book I've done. Tara's a major character, but she's not alone — there's at least one other character who's as important a presence as she is, and there's two other characters who also play major roles. So it's a team book, which for me is really bizarre. I've written through issue No. 3 so far. I'm working on issue No. 4 right now and then I'm going to write

issue No. 5 really fast so I can start showing it around to artists, to see who'll be best for the new arc."

He's also finished with his latest Aticus Kodiak novel, "Critical Space," which is due to come out in October. "It's done, it's turned in to the publisher, and it's in their hands now. It'll be a sequel to [earlier Kodiak book] 'Smoker,' featuring the return of the assassin from that book." He encourages as many people as possible to take a look at his books, and other comics out there. "In today's world, you practically have a moral obligation to find a comic you think someone might like, show it to them and get them to read it. That's all there is to it. There's something for everyone, you just have to find it."

(The first issue of "Queen and Country" is in stores now. Collected versions of "Whiteout" and "Whiteout-Melt" are available at local comic shops like Foundation's Edge and Capital Comics, along with other comics shops nationwide. The first issue of "Whiteout" is available online as a free PDF file at www.onipress.com/freesample. Rucka's official Web site is online at <http://www.caystreet.com/kodiak>. A new version will soon be available at www.gregrucka.com. If you want to find a local comic shop, or learn more about ordering comics, try the toll-free number 1-800-COMIC-BOOK or the Web site www.the-master-list.com and www.ordering-comics.com.

WONDER WOMAN BY CHRIS BACHALO

MUSINGS

Joel Isaac Frady
Assistant Features Editor

Duke Nukem to Finally Hit the Big Screen

Long after announcing plans to make the "Duke Nukem" film, Threshold Entertainment and the Miramax-owned Dimension Films are finally ready to make the film. The film is being developed, much to the surprise of many, with hopes of bringing the happily "Mature" rated material from the game to a calmer PG-13 on film.

Tarantino returns with the Vegas

Quentin Tarantino will be making a return to his material from "Pulp Fiction" and "Reservoir Dogs" with "The Vega Brothers." A prequel to both films, it will follow Vincent Vega (John Travolta's character in "Fiction") and Vic Vega (aka Mr. Blonde, Michael Madsen's character in "Dogs"). Travolta and Madsen have both committed to star in the film, and this is especially good news for Travolta, "Fiction" saved his career after a string of late-80's flops like "Look Who's Talking," and now who better than Tarantino to get him out of the "Battlefield: Earth" hole he's in.

Say it Isn't So!

The laughs are on for this weekend as three comedies, "Say it Isn't So," "Heartbreakers" and "The Brothers" all make a run for it. "So" is the newest film written by the Farrelly Brothers, the demented heads behind "There's Something About Mary," and has Chris Klein and Heather Graham as two people who fall in love, only to find out that they're brother and sister.

"Heartbreakers" stars Sigourney Weaver and Jennifer Love Hewitt as a mother and daughter (because they look alike ... sorta ... just in a way doesn't look alike at all) whose marry and destroy scheme of getting rich men's money goes terribly wrong in this film from "Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion" director David Mirkin. Rounding out the list is the romantic comedy "The Brothers," which follows four black men whose polygamous lives are changed when one of them gets married.

Bob Dylan Plans Short Tour

Though currently on tour in Australia and preparing for his March 25 satellite performance for the Academy Awards (where his song "Things Have Changed" from "Wonder Boys" is nominated), Dylan will play live shows in a three-week tour, opening Tuesday, Apr. 18 in Boulder, Colorado and finishing up on Saturday, May 6 in Memphis. One of the shows will be in Charlotte at the Center City Festival on Apr. 28.

Playing This Weekend

The Brewery will be starting the weekend off on a slower note with Bluegrass band Spiltlip Rayfish on Thursday, Mar. 22, then pumping it up as the Rock Reggae band Fighting Gravity plays Friday, Mar. 23 and the Alternative band Milo on Saturday, Mar. 24. On Sunday they'll finish off the weekend as Thad Cookrell and Trailer Bride play for the Earthquake Relief benefit. The Cat's Cradle will start the weekend with Dispatch on Thursday, Mar. 23, bring in Lake Trout on Friday, Mar. 23 and finish it with Blue Rags on Saturday, Mar. 24. A note for next week, tickets are on sale for the Far Too Jones concert next Saturday, Mar. 31.



TECHNICIAN'S PICKS

The Oscars

Features Staff

With the Academy Awards only a few days away, here are the nominees and our picks.



BEST PICTURE

"Gladiator"
"Traffic"
"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"
"Chicago"
"Erin Brockovich"

ACTOR — LEADING

Javier Bardem — BEFORE NIGHT FALLS
Russell Crowe — GLADIATOR
Tom Hanks — CAST AWAY
Ed Harris — POLLOCK
Geoffrey Rush — QUIZEL

ACTRESS — SUPPORTING

Jeff Bridges — THE CONTENDER
Willem Dafoe — SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
Benicio Del Toro — TRAFIC
Albert Finney — ERIN BROCKOVICH
Joseph Fiennes — GLADIATOR

ACTRESS — LEADING

Jean Allen — THE CONTENDER
Juliette Binoche — SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
Eileen Burstyn — REQUIEM FOR A DREAM
Liam Neeson — YOU CAN COUNT ON ME
Julia Roberts — ERIN BROCKOVICH

ACTRESS — SUPPORTING

Judi Dench — CHOCOLAT
Marsha Gay Harden — POLLOCK
Kate Hudson — ALMOST FAMOUS
Frances McDormand — ALMOST FAMOUS
Julie Walters — BILLY ELIOT

DIRECTING

BILLY ELIOT
CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
ERIN BROCKOVICH
GLADIATOR
TRAFIC

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

CHOCOLAT
CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
GRIFFITH R. WHITE, ABE LEON, ERIN BROCKOVICH
WONDER BOYS

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

ALMOST FAMOUS
BILLY ELIOT
ERIN BROCKOVICH
GLADIATOR
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

UNDERGROUND

- 1 Talk N' Walk Reflection Eternal Rankin
- 2 Wu-Tang Clan The W. Loud
- 3 Outkast Stanionka Arista
- 4 Beasts No Escapin' This Loud
- 5 Deltron 3030
- 6 Jay-Z The Dynasty Roc-A-Fella
- 7 Black Eyes Pass Bridging the Gap Interscope
- 8 Lyrics Lounge Vol.2 Rankin
- 9 KRS-One Hot Kool
- 10 Memphis Bleek The Understanding Roc-A-Fella

REVOLUTION

- 1 Toadies Hell Below, Stars Below Geffen
- 2 Downer Downer Roadrunner
- 3 via Valentine Soundtrack Warner Bros
- 4 Morise/Meygar God Says No A&M
- 5 Old 97's Satellite Rides Elektra
- 6 Alterra Alterra Ep Coolidge
- 7 Goodhead 2000 Years of Human Error Priority
- 8 Longwave Endorse/Lurusa
- 9 P/Sanger Headup to Nowhere Columbia
- 10 Factory 61 Mankind UCA

AFTER HOURS

- 1 Norco: Collective/The Tijuana Sessions Vol. 1 Palm
- 2 via Rarewoks Astralwerks
- 3 via Motion Six Degrees
- 4 Spylab This Utopia 12" Guidance
- 5 BT smartbomb network
- 6 Noel Sanger Ritual Sunrise
- 7 Blue States Nothing Changes Under the Sun 16th St. Lounge
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Sports

BERRY

Continued from Page 4

where she was ready for bars, and coming into the lineup, she has done just an outstanding job of making it look pretty and doing the work."

Four years of perseverance and hard work has not only paid off for Berry, but it has rubbed off on her teammates and established her as a team leader.

"Seeing her progress through the last two years has been amazing," assistant coach Colleen Johnson said. "She's increased her difficulty, and she's been one of our most con-

sistent beam workers. She gives 150 percent every day and is always doing more than what is required every day."

Berry's teammates have also noticed her hard work.

"Ever since I stepped in the gym, I've just looked at her as the leader of our team," freshman Kendall Cangolosi said. "She's always worked hard and never gives up. She'll put forth the effort until what she's doing is perfect."

The hard work is also part of Berry's plans for being a role model to the rest of the team.

"I've always wanted to be somebody that they could look up to and say 'She's accomplished what she has because of what kind of person she is,'"

Berry said. "I want them to see me as a role model."

Berry's perfectionist attitude has also helped her achieve success.

"We've worked so hard on her confidence, and it's funny at a meet when she gets off, and she's so critical of herself, and the score comes up 9, 9.5," Johnson said. "She doesn't know that she's that good."

The hard work put forth by Berry is an example that hard work will yield results. Her work ethic has made her successful during her four years at State and also an example for others to follow.

"When I'm a senior I hope that freshman can look up to me like I was up to her," Cangolosi said.

EAGL

Continued from Page 6

"We've had a couple of kids count a fall the last three meets on bars because we've had a couple of kids that have been inconsistent, and Stephanie's not inconsistent," Stevenson said. "She exhibited bars at Arizona and went 9.8. I wish I'd been smart enough to put her in

the lineup."

Stevenson said sophomore Marilyn Madey, who has been out the entire season with cracked ribs, could also find herself in the State rotation.

When it won EAGL the last two years, the Pack notched scores of 196.05 and 196, respectively, the team's highest ever on the road. In the previous five seasons the EAGL Championship has been held. State has finished no lower than third in the eight-team meet.

TENNIS

Continued from Page 6

Spartans share with the Pack this fall is American. UNC State cruised to a 7-0 win.

On paper, State's second match should be easier. Campbell (5-8) has had an up-and-down season. The Camels do not have any seniors on the roster and have lost many close matches this year. The Pack will face the Camels in the early match of a Saturday double-header.

State will take on Charlotte (6-6) in the afternoon session. The 49ers have faced tough competition this year, falling to Georgia Tech, North Carolina and South Carolina in tightly contested matches. Charlotte has struggled to late, losing four of its last five matches.

The Pack will close its weekend away against perennial Southern Conference power Furman (9-6) on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

"Every one of these home matches is important," said Hayes. "People have been coming up to me and putting me on the back, and saying, 'You're doing so good, coming so close.' But what we need to do is start pulling through on these close matches. It's nice to be home after all the travel, but these are important matches."

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Veterinary Assistant (FT or half-time) needed for ultra well-equipped small animal hospital 15 miles east of Raleigh. Successful applicant will learn tubation, venipuncture, catheter placement, and dental radiology technique. Ideal position for pre-veterinary student on sabbatical or out-of-state student trying to establish independence. Call Dr. Mike at 553-4601. AUTISM SOCIETY OF NC seeks interested students to be camp counselors for summer residential camp. Internship credit possible. Contact David Yell @ (919)542-1033 or dyyell@autismsociety-nc.org TEMPORARY HELP NEEDED! Wal-Mart, 1725 New Hope Church Rd. looking for light industrial help. 7am-5pm, Mon-Fri, April 9-June 26. Must be available full 9-hour shift. Applications in lay-away at store, or call 1-877-4WM-JOBS. EXCELLENCE FOR STUDENTS! Set your own hours. Pay for college in cash. Lucrative bonuses and residuals. Leadership qualities preferred. NYSE Company. Call Terry 919-773-6698 CAMP COUNSELORS: Overnight Camps in Pocono Mills of PA need counselors for Tennis, Arts, Athletics, Office. June 18-August 12. Apply on-line www.pineforest-camp.com READING/MATH TUTOR: Are you a junior or senior who has tutoring experience and loves working with kids? Sylvan Learning Center in Cary is looking for PT tutors, 2 evenings/week. Call Michele, 858-8103. Horn Section Wanted: JUMP BAND is in need of saxes, a trumpet, and a trombone. Influences range from West Coast Jump Blues and Kansas City Swing to Texas Blues, and Classic Memphis R&B. Goal is to be 75% original material/arranged covers. Players with Professional Attitudes wanted for a one day a week commitment. Band has rehearsal space in Morrisville and professional recording studio in Raleigh available. Contact Dennis McGill at Oceola Recording Studios (919)828-1113. MUSICIANS WANTED: Vocals/Instrumental/writer starting eccentric, original, top band in NC. Funk-based with jazz, hip-hop, pop-rock. Dedication to a great Email new-funkband@aol.com.

Room for Rent

Sublease bedroom in 3BR apartment \$300 + 1/3 utilities. Start mid May or June through summer. 841-4642. Pool, workout room.

3 rooms available with separate bathrooms on 2nd floor at University Woods. \$350/mo 1 year on. Internet line. Call Tiffany at 754-0855.

Three rooms available, third floor, with separate bathrooms at University Commons on the Wolfline on German St. Females only. \$350/mo per room. Call 829-1111

Condos For Rent

For Rent, Lake Park Condo, 4 bedrooms/4 baths. \$1900/month. Call 919-233-2211 or 910-862-4908. 1 year lease, available Aug 1, 2001.

4BR condos at Lake Park, each with own bath, shower, and closet. Common living room and fully-equipped kitchen. W/D, microwave, cable TV ready and 2 phone lines. Swimming pool, volleyball and basketball courts. Ideal for 4 students. \$325-345/student depending on condo. Near NCSU, Meredith, and St. Mary's. Off Valent Ferry, near Gorman. 1-yr. contract starting May or August. Call 919-859-0486.

4BR/4BA condo available in University Commons for fall rental. W/D, microwave, \$310 per person. Must have 4 people. 919-395-3495.

Cars

Honda Civic 2001. Plum. 15,000 miles, automatic transmission, AM/FM radio, cassette player, AC, power steering, power windows, cruise control. Owner leaving country, must sell. 833-2537.

Motorcycles & ATVs

Black Honda Elite scooter, 1999, 2-seater, 80 cc, like new. 425 miles. \$1500. 362-1747.

Child Care

Childcare program/driver needed for 12-year-old boy. Monday-Friday, 3-6pm. Excellent pay, paid vacation. Call Marc @ 832-1098.

Baseball vs. Howard, canceled



W. basketball vs. UConn, 3/24
Baseball @ Virginia, 3/23-25
Gymnastics, EAGL, 3/24, 6:00
M. tennis vs. UNCG, 3/22, 2:30
W. tennis @ Florida, 3/22

THREE AS NICE

◆ The N.C. State gymnastics team goes for its third consecutive EAGL title Saturday.

Jeremy Ashton
Sports Editor

One title is tough enough to win. Two is even more difficult to reach. But a three-peat is definitely rare.

The Wolfpack (14-14) will take aim at East Atlantic Gymnastics League history Saturday night at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill when it attempts to become the second team to claim three consecutive league championships. West Virginia also accomplished the feat when it took the first three EAGL titles from 1996-1998.

Yet as this weekend's meet approaches, State has other things on its mind.

"It'd obviously mean a lot to us to win another championship, but that's not what our focus is," head coach Mark Stevenson said. "Our focus is one skill, one routine at a time, 24 routines. If we do that part of the job, our opportunity to win a championship is very good."

Unlike the last two years, a trip to the NCAA Regionals isn't an absolute certainty for Pack heading into the EAGL Championship meet. The top six teams in each region are invited to attend Regionals. State currently sits sixth in the Southeast and is in a tight race with five other teams for the last three spots in the region.

"We had decent scores, 194-plus, and that's what we were shooting for," senior co-captain Kara Charles said. "It was nothing too spectacular. It wasn't like, 'Oh, we came together.' But it was good to get to where we need to be."

The Pack spent last week crisscrossing

the country for meets at Georgia and Arizona, trying to boost its regional qualifying score, the mark that the NCAA uses to select teams for Regionals. The RQS takes a team's top six scores, three of which have to be from road meets, drops the highest one and averages the rest.

Entering last week, State's highest score on the road this season was a 192.7 at the Governor's Cup on Feb. 4. The Pack posted back-to-back scores of 194.35 during the road trip to increase its RQS to 194.4, just .05 points ahead of seventh-place Towson.

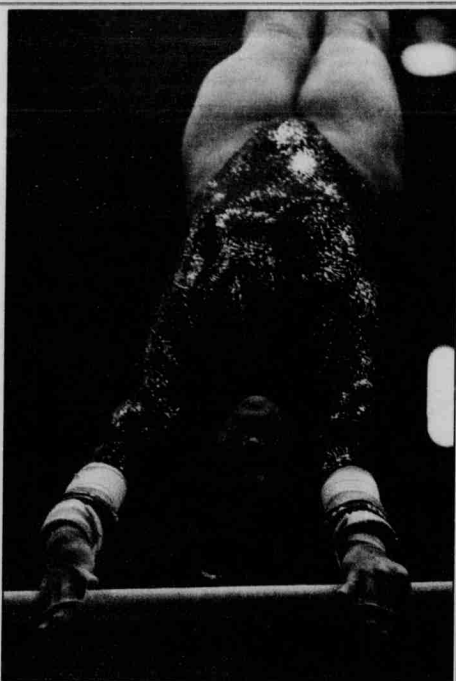
The EAGL Championship gives State one more chance to post a solid road score. All of this seemingly puts more pressure on the Pack this weekend, but Charles doesn't necessarily see that as a bad thing.

"I don't want it to be pressure in a bad way; it'll be good pressure," Charles said. "It'll make it more exciting. That's what sports is all about."

At the beginning of the season, Stevenson said one of the things he wanted to do differently this year was slow the team's training down so it would be fresh at the end of the season. Injuries forced State to do that anyway, but Stevenson thinks that strategy, along with the work put in by the team's healthy gymnasts, will pay off.

"The object this year was to peak between EAGLs and Regionals so that we were going to Nationals," Stevenson said. "With the losses, we still have the opportunity to go to Nationals, but we have to be perfect in two more meets to get to there. But the bottom line comes down to these guys are doing all the right things to be where we ask them to be at this time of year."

The Pack should be further helped by the likely return of a pair of gymnasts



The gymnastics team can match West Virginia's run of three straight EAGL titles with a win Saturday in Chapel Hill.

who have been out of action. Sophomore Stephanie Southard has missed the last four meets due to an ankle injury. Stevenson expects her back

in the lineup on vault and uneven bars this weekend.

See EAGL, Page 5

basketball

Ghosts of the past

The 2001-02 season will probably be the make-or-break season for Herb Sendek at N.C. State.

With Chancellor Marie Anne Fox and athletics director Lee Fowler loyally at his side, all indications are that Sendek will indeed be the Pack's head basketball coach.



Jack Daly

But with many State fans clamoring for a change, it's nearly impossible to see Sendek surviving another year of missing the NCAA Tournament.

So on the surface anyway, it is tantamount for Sendek to make the NCAA Tournament with what will be his sixth State squad.

Will next year's team, as currently assembled, have enough talent to end the Pack's 10-year NCAA Tournament drought? Sure.

Will next year's team make the NCAA Tournament? That is a trickier question, and of course, nobody really has the answer.

The biggest thing State will have going against it is this year. Plainly, absolutely nothing good came out of this season. Some players got better at boxing out, others better at ball-handling, but as a team, there are absolutely no positives to harken back to.

State players said as much in the locker room following the 76-61 loss to Duke in the first round of the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament. When asked for positives, they all pointed to individual things.

"I think a lot of guys realize that we've been talking about it [making the NCAA Tournament] for too long," said guard Anthony Grundy. "Now, it's time to put up or shut up."

If the Pack was on some sort of an upswing, if its rise was positive and outdistancing its run, then there might be good reason to be optimistic next season. Instead, with the team's descent into blowouts and uninspired efforts, it is much more realistic to approach next year with caution.

When former athletics director Les Robinson fired former football coach Mike O'Conn, he relayed a story at the press conference about looking into the players' eyes before the Carolina football game in 1999. While gazing into those retinas, he saw fear. Robinson didn't think things would be any different the following season, so he decided to make a change.

With the basketball team, it's not so much that the fear will be there from the beginning, it's what happens if it surfaces after a couple of losses.

What happens if the team stumbles at the beginning of the season, say on its home court? If the crowd at the Entertainment and Sports Arena boos, will the team fold? Will the disappointing memories of this season play mind games?

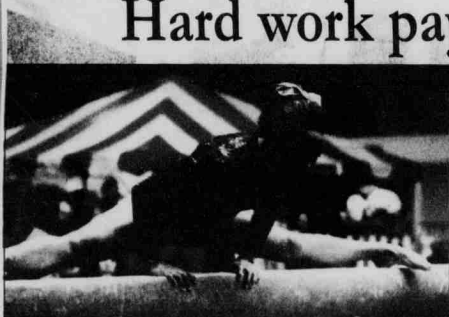
At times, the media and fan speculation seemed to weigh on the Pack this season. One can only imagine that it will be 100 times more intense next year if State fails to live up to its potential.

As mentioned, the team will have talent, and it's far from certain that the Pack will struggle. There's no reason that the Pack couldn't finish in the upper echelon of the ACC.

But for that to happen, State will not only have to stay next year's opponents, but also the ghosts of this season.

Jack Daly's columns run every Thursday. He can be reached at jdaly@unir.ncsu.edu or 515-241-2411.

Hard work pays off for Berry



Monica Berry was ranked No. 2 nationally on beam at one point this year.

◆ Monica Berry has gone from walking on to being an integral part of the N.C. State gymnastics team.

Ryan Hill
Staff Writer

Monica Berry's four years at N.C. State have been marked by several achievements.

The second person to ever record a perfect score in gymnastics, Berry also

was ranked No. 2 nationally on the balance beam at one point this year. But, even more, Berry began her career as a walk-on.

Hailing from Taylors, S.C., Berry placed great importance on obtaining a scholarship.

"When I came in my freshman year, I didn't have a scholarship," Berry said. "I didn't think I was going to get to stay, and if I hadn't gotten the scholarship, I wouldn't be here. It's really meant a lot."

Berry has taken the opportunities given to her over the years and made the most of them.

During her freshman year, she set a then-school record of 9.95 on the balance beam at the Bubble Invitational. She also kicked off her career at State with a first-place finish on bars and balance beam against Radford. Berry was also named to the East Atlantic Gymnastics League All-Academic team.

Building on her breakthrough year, she became the second gymnast in school history to earn a perfect 10 on the balance beam at the Wolfpack Invitational. "It was definitely a great feeling," Berry said. "Everybody dreams of getting a 10. I'm always that close every other time, and to have it happen was really nice."

The 1999 NCAA Regionals was



MONICA BERRY
EARNED SECOND PERFECT 10 IN SCHOOL HISTORY ON BEAM AT THE 1999 WOLFPACK INVITATIONAL...SCORED A 9.825 ON BEAM DURING THE 1999 EAGL CHAMPIONSHIP MEET...HAS WON 4 BEAM TITLES SO FAR DURING THE 2001 SEASON...2-TIME FIRST-TEAM ALL-EAGL SELECTION ON BEAM

See BERRY, Page 5

Tennis opens homestand with UNCG

◆ The men's tennis team will play its next five matches at the Wolfpack Tennis Complex.

Steve Thompson
Staff Writer

There's no place like home.

After having 10 of the first 13 matches of the season on the road, the N.C. State men's tennis team returns to Raleigh on Thursday, opening a five-match home stretch against UNC-Greensboro.

Cold, late-winter temperatures and inadequate facilities require the Pack (2-11, 0-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) to schedule most early season matches away from Raleigh. The pressures of travel, combined with a more challenging schedule, have

resulted in a slow start for State. The Pack is 2-1 in matches played in Raleigh, while the team has yet to win on the road. The team is looking to this home stretch to jump-start its season.

"These matches are very important for us," said Wolfpack head coach Eric Hayes. "We scheduled a lot of tough matches early in the year because that's what the NCAA Tournament looks for."

"Out of all the matches so far, only one time have we really gotten our butts kicked. We were really in the rest of the matches, and we're looking to build on that."

gles matches last year and be honored as ACC All-Conference.

This season, Jackson has won only four matches at No. 1 singles, although many of his matches have been close. Recently, Jackson has shown signs of resurgence by winning two of his last three matches. In the match against Georgia State, Jackson persevered after losing the first set 6-0 to emerge with a three-set victory.

"I think Eric's put a lot of pressure on himself personally," said Hayes. "We've got a young team, and he's the only senior, and that's caused him to have too much pressure, which is unhealthy. He's just got to go out and play and not worry about expectations."

While the Pack is happy to be at home, the teams State will



The men's tennis team is 2-1 at home this year.

face are not cupcakes. Three of the next four matches are against teams ranked in the top 70 before the Pack faces rival North Carolina.

UNCG (8-2) is a talented and experienced squad that is expected to challenge for the Southern Conference title. The only common opponent that the

See TENNIS, Page 5