

3.



Greene calls for action
Banks exploit you and
more in Opinion.

4.



Rock on...
with "Josie and the
Pussycats," David Gray
and a "Wizard of Oz"
spin-off, plus some more.

6.



Without equal
The cheerleaders
brought their fourth
national title back to
N.C. State.

Tuesday
April 17, 2001

TECHNICIAN

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

Today	Hi 52
	Lo 32
Tomorrow	Hi 51
	Lo 32

Grundy acquitted



COURTESY OF THE ACC

◆ N.C. State basketball player Anthony Grundy was acquitted Monday of one charge of misdemeanor assault on a female.

News Staff Report

Anthony Grundy, a junior guard for the N.C. State men's basketball team, was acquitted Monday at the Wake County Courthouse of one charge of misdemeanor assault on a female.

Grundy expressed gratitude for the support he garnered during the proceedings, and relief at the outcome.

"I would like to thank Coach Sendek, Lee Fowler, the university administration and my girlfriend Linda Redue for standing behind me through this tough time," Grundy said in a prepared statement. "Their belief and trust in me has meant more than anyone will ever know. I'm just so thankful that their trust in me was backed up today by the judicial system and that I can now focus on academics and basketball."

The charge came from a Jan. 26 incident that led to Grundy's Jan. 27 arrest. Makazi Ife Mtingwa, 20, of Greensboro, also an NCSU student, had told police she was assaulted by Grundy. The incident was said to have occurred at an apartment at 2518 Avenet Ferry Road.

Throughout the proceedings, Grundy remained an active member of the basketball team.

Professor works magic in classroom

◆ One professor in the computer science department uses unique examples to teach discrete math.

Tim Clark
Staff Writer

Donald Bitzer's office is cluttered with books, notebooks, and those random stacks of paper that are a hallmark of any professor's office. What is unusual about the room are the many comfortable couches and large chairs, clearly inviting you to enter.

Upon arriving at N.C. State in 1989, Bitzer took on the job of teaching discrete math for the computer science department. Before he took over the course, discrete math was a dreaded topic, a class that had a high turnover rate in professors and taken only begrudgingly by students. During his tenure, Bitzer has worked to change this outlook on the course.

"Thinking is what it's all about," said Bitzer. "If you can get ten or twenty percent more of your students to [think], there'll be a big difference in the world."

Over the past 11 years, Bitzer has literally worked magic with the discrete math program.

Bitzer's been practicing amateur magic for more than 30 years, even designing his own

tricks. He decided to introduce magic to the classroom in the hopes of increasing student interest.

"People need clues to remember things, it helps if they have something to enjoy," Bitzer said.

The magic tricks performed are used to drive home concepts taught in the class: Card tricks serve as an example of a totology, and the classic cup and ball trick demonstrates a recursive process.

For his accomplishments in the field, Bitzer is now being asked to join a magicians' union, an honor he'll add to his doctorate in electrical engineering and his status as a university distinguished research professor.

Thinking back, Bitzer remembers seeing one of David Copperfield's early stage shows. At the time, he didn't think that Copperfield would amount to anything. Bitzer now regrets throwing out the autographed photo.

After almost 50 years of teaching, Bitzer continues to lecture even though it's not a requirement for his position.

A known inventor, Bitzer holds many patents. Among them is an interactive teaching system and its accompanying flat plasma display, the same display used today in flat televi-

Buskey selected as Truman scholar

◆ N.C. State's Brandon Buskey is one of only 80 students nationwide to receive a Truman Scholarship.

Andrew Buchert
News Editor

An N.C. State student achieved national acclaim this month when he was awarded a 2001 Harry S. Truman National Scholarship. Brandon Buskey, a senior in psychology, is one of only 80 students nationwide to receive a Truman scholarship.

"It is a huge honor to receive a Truman scholarship," said Buskey. "It's a pretty difficult process [to win the scholarship], but we have a good support system in place at N.C. State."

According to Pat Lee, director of merit awards and special scholarships at NCSU, the Truman Scholarship is valued at \$30,000.

Recipients receive \$3,000 for their senior year of undergraduate study and \$27,000 for graduate work at the school and discipline of their choice.

"The Truman Scholarship is definitely one of the most prestigious national competitions," said Lee. "But the one major difference between the Truman [and other national scholarships] is that candidates for the Truman need to have public service or work in the non-profit sector."

Lee said that candidates for the Truman must have a public service attitude and be "people who are going to be change agents."

"Brandon can be very influential in the way that he deals with people," she said. Buskey's plans include taking a year off after graduation from NCSU to work with the government to gain experience in the legal field, and then he plans to apply to law school.

Although Buskey's dream is to be appointed as a U.S. Supreme Court justice, after graduating law school he would like to either work with the U.S. Justice Department in the

area of constitutional law or work on educational policy for a public higher education system.

"I also might work my way through the court system as a judge at the appellate level," he said.

NCSU students have been active in the Truman competition since the inception of the scholarship in the late 1970s, said Lee. In fact, she said, an NCSU student won a Truman the first year that the scholarship was offered.

Buskey said the bulk of the work required to apply for the Truman took place at the NCSU level.

"I had put a lot of thought into my previous public service, graduate school plans, and where I see myself in three years," he said.

"[The NCSU committee] asked the tough questions," he said.

Twenty five NCSU students expressed interest in representing the university in the 2001 Truman competition, said Lee. Faculty members read the candidates' interest documents and selected eight of the 25 students for personal interviews.

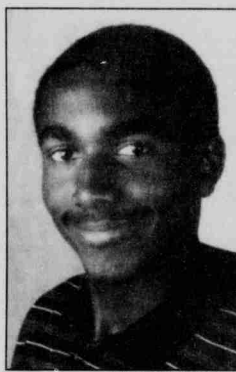
"The most nerve-racking part [of the selection process] was the actual interview," said Buskey. "It was challenging but conversational, and I felt that the faculty members were really trying to have a conversation with me. It gave me a lot of confidence," he said.

Lee said that four candidates were selected from the eight that were interviewed, and all four ended up at the national level of the competition.

"That is almost unheard of," she said. "Our selection process was highly successful this year."

NCSU's Suzanne Burlone, Sarah Netzer and Buskey were all selected to represent North Carolina in the national competition. Kara Mann, also one of NCSU's Truman nominees, represented her home state of Michigan in the national competition.

"Brandon emerged as the North Carolina



COURTESY OF NCSU NEWS SERVICES

Truman scholarship winner Brandon Buskey

Truman scholar," said Lee.

"A lot of people were involved with helping me to win a Truman scholarship," said Buskey. "A lot of individuals [at NCSU] were very helpful."

According to Lee, the Merit Awards Office will be conducting an informational meeting for students interested in competing in next year's Truman competition tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Senate chambers, room 201 of the Witherspoon Student Center.

Lee said the meeting is geared towards rising juniors and sophomores who are or might be interested in a career in public service.

The next meeting will be held in September, during which student documents will be distributed to students interested in competing for the Truman, she said.

Credit card debt hits college students

◆ Many college students do not realize the responsibility that comes with credit cards.

Ashley M. Heher
U-WIRE, ACC BUREAU

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — It was a crisp October weekend in New Hampshire when Kelly Pearson's father told her they were going to have a barbecue in honor of her weekend visit home from college.

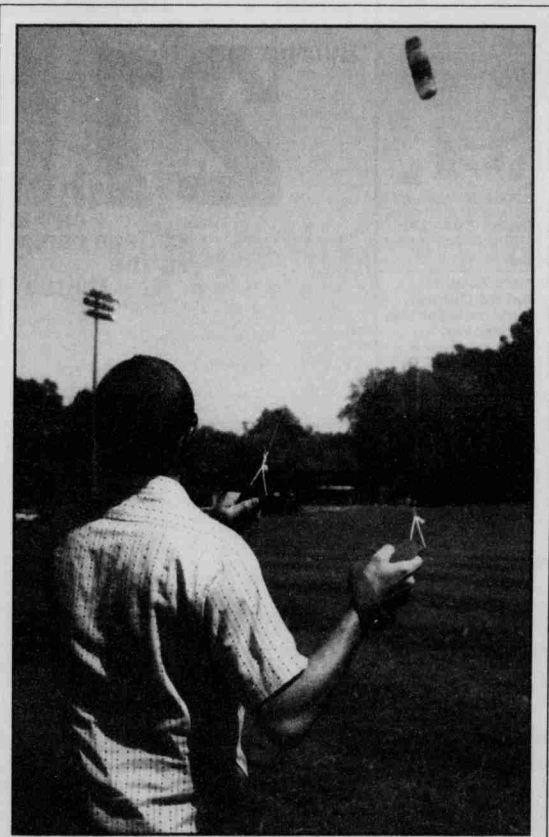
"Oh really? What are we having?" she asked as her father hit the gas switch on the big black grill.

"Your credit cards."

Out came Pearson's wallet and the two carefully extracted the shiny Visa card her parents had assigned and she had maxed out. Together they tossed it into the crackling orange flames and watched the silver eagle hologram melt and the shiny, but well-used, green plastic drip through the blackened grates.

In October the 22-year-old senior at The George Washington University had rung up almost \$9,000 in debt among four different credit cards. Accompanying the ceremonial credit card cook-out was an early graduation present from her parents — a \$5,000 check to pay off some of the bill. Now six months later, Pearson's debt has dropped to about \$3,000 between three cards: a gold and blue USAir frequent flyer visa, a silver Citibank MasterCard and a Capitol One visa card emblazoned with a tranquil ocean scene.

"I'm a nutcase with my credit cards," Pearson said. "I have one



Steve Floyd, a sophomore in aerospace engineering, flies his stunt kite over the intramural fields Monday.

DAVE KILZMALL/STAFF

BEACH

Continued from Page 6

zone. It seems as if Jeremy has a perfect sense for telling whether the ball is going to be a ball or strike, and if it looks like it's going to be a strike, he's going to swing and just hammer it."

While State's offense got the best of Maryland, Blanton (4-1) quieted the Terps' bats. Pitching a strong seven innings, including a fifth where the Terps had the bases loaded and no one out, Blanton held Maryland's offense to only nine hits and two runs.

The Wolfpack travels to the North Carolina coast for a rematch against the Seahawks Tuesday night.

Just like State, UNCW has won seven of its last 10 games. Of those games, the one that sticks out the most is an April 3 battle with the Pack, which saw State edge the Seahawks 4-3 at Doak Field.

"The last time we played them, it was just a great game," said Avent. "There was a good effort by both teams, and it went down to the wire. Both teams played well defensively and got help from the pitchers. Our guys fought hard, and we were glad to get that win."

Whereas the Pack is coming

off a recent win, UNCW (27-15) had a rather disappointing weekend, saving the taste of victory only once in a three-game series with James Madison.

The Seahawks are led by a Wright of their own — first baseman Matt Wright. Wright, who is the team leader with a .364 batting average, went 2-for-4 against James Madison Sunday, adding three RBIs to his season total of 42. Right on his heels is third baseman Magnus Pilegard, who has a batting average of .359 and 28 RBIs.

On the mound, junior right-hander Brian Whitaker (6-3), who owns an impressive 1.99 ERA, leads UNCW. Whitaker is in good company with right-handers Jake Mullis and Charlie Weatherly waiting in the bullpen. Mullis (6-3) has an ERA of 2.41, while Weatherly (7-4) trails with an ERA of only 2.52.

"We are looking forward to playing them in their home because it is truly a beautiful ballpark," said Avent.

"Wilmington has a good team with talent all around. We've got to do a better job at bat and play good defense, so hopefully, we can come away with a win."

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 6

up to 60 mph.

Rules for fast-pitch softball parallel those of baseball, unlike those of slow-pitch softball. The players can bunt and steal bases (without taking a lead), and only nine players take the field at a time, instead of 10 for slow-pitch. Teams generally play doubleheaders consisting of two five-inning games when they meet.

The women have no way to scout out their opponents, but Knight offered a sound pitching strategy.

"Get up there and throw strikes," she said. "And don't throw the ball right down the middle on the big girls."

The women would like to finish with a tournament against East Carolina this weekend in Greenville, but a scheduling conflict may prevent the games from being played, unless they can be moved to Raleigh.

Nonetheless, these women enjoy representing State and playing softball against any competitors.

"We have a lot of good attitudes," said Horton. "We love the game. And we love playing together. Next year, we have the same talent coming back."

ASHTON

Continued from Page 6

every quote they needed before a question was ever asked.

The true characters in the ACC's coaching ranks are starting to dwindle. Bobby Cremins and his one-liners are gone from Georgia Tech. Rick Barnes and his desire to build a national power (and beat North Carolina) have moved from Clemson to Texas. And Jim Valvano's wit and charm no longer grace the sidelines at State.

Like the rest of them, Odom will be missed.

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

CHEER

Continued from Page 6

leading can be.

"During the time that I cheered, we had one guy that came on the team and quit the cheerleading team and walked on the football team because he said that cheerleading was just too hard," James said.

Due to the skill needed to perform what can be dangerous stunts, the cheerleaders practiced every weekday this semester from 6-9 a.m. James enlisted Mark Stevenson and the gymnastics coaching staff for help with the team's basket tosses. The women were required to go through strength training twice a week, while the men lifted three times per week. James thinks that the level of dedication that cheerleading demands has made the team very close.

"As far as the guys go, your holding someone else's life in your hands, and the girls have to have a lot of trust in the guys," James said. "As far as the dynamics of having girls and guys together, I don't really think any other team can beat it. It's a great combination. They're really become a family, and they have to have tremendous trust for each other."

State's victory at Nationals will be shown on CBS on April 28 at 3 p.m.

MAGIC

Continued from Page 1

The display was created in 1964 to serve as an inexpensive monitor for PLATO, Bitzer's computerized teaching system. The monitor lives on in modern televisions and the computer science department is using the education network to teach students binary relations.

The development of the plasma display is the focus of a lecture each semester, as its development is based on simple discrete principles. At the conclusion of the lecture students are given a demonstration of the flat TV. Last semester, students were treated to an excerpt from "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

As the distinguished research professor for the department of computer science, Bitzer continues his research in a variety of topics. In addition to studies on error correction and genetic coding, he's currently working with graduate students to write software to read lips.

"There's very little to distinguish lecturing from research in Bitzer's eyes."

"You get the same kicks out of research that you do from teaching," said Bitzer. "It's all about that sudden look of understanding in someone's eyes."

It was through research that Bitzer met Tiffany Barnes, the doctoral student whom now lectures alongside him.

"Dr. Bitzer's the whole reason I'm here at State," said Barnes. "He gave me a job during my semester off and convinced me to start taking classes."

As past students know, Barnes lectures solo for the first few weeks each year. Bitzer, 67, spends his summers on a lake in Illinois windsurfing and spending time with his grandchildren.

In the past, Bitzer has been a media expert of some note. He's appeared twice on the "Phil Donahue Show" to speak on electronics, and he was even given a chance to show his expertise alongside WGN's Bozo the Clown. At one point, Bitzer was touring, giving up to three lectures a day.

"Those days are all over now," Bitzer laughs. "There was just too much travel."

CREDIT

Continued from Page 1

of my friends hold two of them — my Capitol One and my Citibank — because I'm trying to pay those down. I had him hide them in his apartment, so not only do I have to call him but I have to physically walk over there if I want to use them. I used to give them to my roommate to hide, but I'd always find them and run them back up."

According to data compiled by the NellieMac financial and student loan company, Pearson isn't alone in her credit card worries. Seventy-eight percent of college students carry a credit card in their own name. In a credit card usage study of its college clients, the company found that the average student has three credit cards and is carrying almost \$2,800 worth of credit card debt. Most troubling to financial managers is the trend toward increased credit card debt. This year's \$2,800 figure is \$1,000 higher than the average balance recording two years ago.

While another study conducted by Student Monitor, a New Jersey-based market research group referred to U-WIRE by both Visa and MasterCard officials, disputes NellieMac's data and shows the average student carries 1.89 credit cards and that the average unpaid balance is \$577, financial planners and experts in the credit industry are worried that college students are accruing debt levels well beyond their means.

To Pearson, each of her credit cards has its own personality.

"The Citibank, which every college student has, is great because it has an 8.9 percent APR," Pearson said, ticking off the qualities of each of her three remaining cards. "I like to look at the ocean on the Capital One card, I think about how I can't afford to go there because I'm racked so much up."

Pearson got her first card, in her own name, her sophomore year in college. "I got it online," she said. "It was so easy. You can get approved in 60 seconds."

Now to keep track of spending, she keeps an Excel spreadsheet itemizing her monthly expenditures: \$650 a month at restaurants and bars; \$500 a month at CVS; \$500 a month for rent. Then there's money for necessities, like her cell phone bill and groceries.

"I charge all this stuff because it's the mentality I have," she said. "I can't fix it. It's because it's plastic and you're not seeing the money being taken away. It doesn't feel like a real transaction."

Now working full-time at a law firm, her goal is to have her entire balance paid before starting law school in August. And she hopes to keep it off for good.

Steve Rhode, the president and co-founder of Myvesta.org, a non-profit Internet-based credit counseling service, spends a lot of time helping people find a way to manage debt. "When it comes to credit card marketing, the first issuer that gets that card into someone's hands wins," he said. "People hold on to that card. They're willing to take a risk on college students because many have part-time jobs and may have the bank of mom and dad."

The problem he finds from mixing college students and credit cards is a lack of education, Rhode said.

"I have college students who tell me they know more about condoms than credit cards," he said. To try and teach his own 13-year-old daughter about budgeting money and credit early on, Rhode got her a pre-paid credit card last month. "I'd rather get her over that thrill of having a card while I have some parental input than sending her off to college and be surprised when she gets a card when she walks by a sorority giving away free t-shirts," Rhode said. The main reasons Americans — and often college students — are so dependent on money and the purchasing power of credit cards, are psychological, Rhode said.

"It's a status thing. We want to fit in, we want to be accepted and to be part of a certain crowd," he said. "In order to fit in we have to acquire things that make us part of that group. We buy a certain sweater or a certain type of car and it creeps up on us and then we've got this huge balance."

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Students need voting voice

NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE BILL 169 SHOULD GIVE STUDENTS A BADLY NEEDED VOTE ON THE UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Last night, in the latest step in a process that could bring more hope and student input to University of North Carolina System planning, the House of Representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly passed favorable reviews on House Bill 169. The bill, if made into law, would provide the Association of Student Governments (ASG) president with a vote on the UNC Board of Governors. Currently, the ASG president, Andrew Payne, actively participates in discussions and deliberations but does not hold official voting privileges.

With recent tuition increases all in place UNC System schools already in many and more likely to come, it is of the utmost importance that students are given a say in how and where their money is spent. Two main problems are cited by opponents of the bill: one, a clause that would allow the ASG president to have a "desiginee" to vote in his absence, an option not available to other members of the board, and two, questions of the maturity of college students in helping to determine the multimillion dollar budgets of the UNC System.

The truth is that the clause in question would provide the ASG president with

a privilege not open to regular board members, but this might be necessary, first and foremost a student. It is absurd to prevent students from having a voting voice on the Board of Governors simply due to maturity concerns associated with age. Older bureaucrats need to recognize that students probably know more about UNC system needs on a fundamental level while students need to recognize the governing experience of the Board of Governors as essential to the UNC System's success. Giving the ASG president voting privileges would help to forge some desperately needed common ground between students and UNC administrators.

It is important to note that Bill 169 would not be giving a random college student a vote in major decisions; it would be giving the ASG president, who is elected for his demonstrated ability to represent successfully students' interests, a vote. Students should most definitely have a vote in the Board of Governors decision-making process, perhaps even more than one. For the time being, one is all we are likely to get and should be thankful for it.

'Those damn Chinese!'



Lariso Yasinovskaya
STAFF COLUMNIST

"Those damn Chinese! They did it again. I told you they were up to no good. We should just nuke them and be done with them, before they all move here and take over our nice cities with all those 'Chinatown's.' First they take our soldiers hostage, next thing you know they're going to take over this entire country."

Even if you did not participate in such a conversation recently or had any knowledge of a similar sentiment lately, this sentiment exists. That statement and many similar ones rang loudly and clearly across this vast country, from neighborhoods to schools to television shows. And although they may seem harmless enough (I mean, we're not actually kicking them out, are we? I'm not just talking about the Chinese; I'm talking about any form of ethnocentrism, racism and prejudice. Any time you laughingly talk about Mexicans eating tacos all the time or the Irish drinking too much but whiskey, you engage in a prejudice of a kind. Perhaps even the individual you may be talking about or to may not be offended in the least by what you say, but the damage remains. But what is the damage? If they're not offended, then no harm done.

Ah, but there is harm done — not necessarily just to the person who is the object of your amusement, but to your own mind, understanding and conception of different people. To you, your Mexican friend becomes your "Mexican friend," no longer a biology major with whom you eat lunch every day. No, when you introduce him, you say "This is John...he's Mexican." Your own conception of him as such reduces him to that single solitary master trait: his minority status.

This is the true harm of racism, ethnocentrism and prejudice. In addition to insulting the individual you're referring to, the results of this practice dehumanize him. Referring to someone by his minority status for the purpose of identifying him, not the purpose of descrip-

tion or the assessment of him origin, reduces him to that one trait.

None of us are immune to the practice. We do it all the time. It's almost involuntary, as we are constantly bombarded by these references in places ranging from television sitcoms and news, to our textbooks, to everyday interactions with our friends: "Who's Chris? Is he that black guy?" you may casually ask, or remember, "oh yeah, Jenny...she's the Japanese girl." And Jessica, she the one in the wheelchair" or "Michael, the gay guy, your know..." We all remember the time George on Seinfeld was looking for a black friend and we all hear the news anchors say that a young black man was arrested for something. Our history books tend to have a special woman's or a black section, for all their accomplishments. Silly me, thinking they were there all along during the rest of history, apparently though, they only accomplished about a chapter's worth of things.

All this reflects the mostly arbitrary distinctions among races and people of different countries. We allow a people of our outward appearance or place of origin, or whatever trait makes them different from ourselves to become their one and single most identifiable trait, regardless of any others they have. This, in turn, dehumanizes them, reducing them to the girl, the black guy, my Chinese friend, or a gay lab partner. All this, of course, serves to perpetuate prejudice.

I'm not saying that we need to instantly become politically correct and report people's entire life histories when we introduce them. I'm just saying that we need to be aware of the entirety of the individual. Realize that foreign people aren't simply people from different countries who are not like you, because they are probably more like you than you realize; that women are not just women with feminine concerns; that gay people are more than homosexuals. And so on. So, the next time you get ready to introduce a person, think twice about how you label them.

Lariso is that Russian girl who drinks vodka all the time, you know how they are... email her at lariso.yasinovskaya@hotmail.com.



ALBERT MAWSON

Banks suck



Greg Volk
STAFF COLUMNIST

Banks suck. That's the bottom line. Banks suck, and they suck even more for college students. For some reason (maybe it's all the pollen) I always seem to spend a lot of money around this time of year, which only irritates my already tumultuous relationship with banks. One of my biggest peeves with banks is the whole ATM service charge deal. I feel like I'm always having to take money out of an ATM. My wallet is full of receipts reminding me about how much money I used to have and that the free car wash I got with a tank of gas expired two months ago. It's always bothered me that there is not a Bank of America (the bank I use regrettably) on campus, but that's another story.

No, my real beef with ATM's is the service charges they levy when you use them for what they've designed for. If you are in a bind and have to take money out of a competitor's ATM, they always charge you for this, but, of course, politely warn you before they let you proceed. Then, as if this isn't enough, your bank might charge you for using another bank's ATM (Where I come from, that's called a "double whammy") If I had some form of regular income, I could simply take cash out of checks when I deposit them, but with no frequent checks, it's kind of hard to take cash out of them. I guess I could cash out the whole check when I finally get a big one — that would prevent me from

having to go to an ATM for a while. But then I'd have a big wad of cash on my hands (And I don't want to have a big wad of cash on my hands. This is the reason I have bank accounts in the first place instead of a piggy jar).

I've considered switching to another package deal different from the one I'm currently with, but there are problems with this as well. With my current set-up, I have no monthly fees; I simply have to keep a minimum balance of \$1,000 between my savings and my checking account at the good ol' Bank of America. That's just one problem. Another is the fact that I have four boxes of checks (that's like \$30 or something) I will forfeit if I ever change banks. That would defeat the whole purpose of changing banks.

Perhaps the biggest slap in the face we receive from banks is the deposit restrictions and hidden fees they impose on us. If I want to deposit money into my bank, then I have to use one of their deposit slips or receive an ambiguously named fee called a "counter deposit." What the hell is a counter deposit? "Are you telling me that I have to spend money to buy your deposit receipts, and then, if I run out of these receipts, I can deposit, but have to spend an extra \$1.50 as a result of not having spent more money on your deposit receipts yet?"

Yeah, that's pretty much what the banks are saying. You have to spend money to give them money. I did zone out quite a bit in economics class, but don't banks want my money in their reserve? Isn't that how they make money — by loaning my money to other people? I know there's not a whole lot of my money, but that's part of the problem — they don't care; they can afford to treat people with little money like junk mail.

Some people say banks are just a necessary evil. They are most definitely both necessary and evil...oh, and they suck. Is it necessary that they are a bigger pain than help? I know they are businesses, too, but it seems their parasitic practices are getting worse all the time. Most of us college students have not applied for loans to buy a house or make a large investment yet. When we do, I think we'll be rudely awakened. Here's a news flash that the banks don't like to broadcast: you have to have money already to get more money from banks, that, or be charged interest rates that are so astronomical you'll never be able to pay off the debt. (Side note: if you call Mr. Cash, don't expect to be able to talk to Billy Packer. He doesn't even actually work for them. I learned this the hard way.)

I apologize to people who have family members working for banks or who work for banks themselves. You don't necessarily suck. When my mom worked for First Union for a short time, her experiences there only reinforced my deep-seated banks-only-exist-to-screw-you attitude. Why can't we go back to the old days when we could walk up to the counter, present a receipt and receive your money's equivalent written in gold or leave your Smith & Wesson as collateral for a loan. Back then, even if they had had the fees they have today, they would have had to notify you via Pony Express, giving you some time to prepare yourself before you got slapped with doublewhammy hidden fees.

Want to help Greg roll pennies or develop a better banking scheme? Email him at gmvolk@unrty.ncsu.edu

Globalize humanity



Justin Greene
STAFF COLUMNIST

The dawn of the 21st century is opening doors of international trade and economic expansion such as the world has never seen. Even multi-national companies are joining legendary blue-chippers in the trend of going multinational. The Internet is allowing international expansion not just by Coke and McDonald's, but also by individuals and small family businesses with the knowledge to build and maintain their own Web sites.

These developments have led to a concerted push by big business to liberalize traditional trade restrictions and form multilateral trade agreements that open foreign markets to the conquest of time-proven capitalistic practices. Various governments around the world, lured by the prospects of new markets and increased revenues, have largely bought into the theory of globalization without a second thought. While there is nothing inherently wrong with expanding one's business or setting up shop overseas, it benefits everyone to step back from the bargaining table and take a long, hard look at the situation of the world today. You can hardly watch a sporting event or major production on television without being inundated by tons of commercials from companies like Nortel, Oracle, and IBM that shower us with fleeting images of Hong Kong,

Singapore, London and other exotic places spun together with musical references to globalization, e-commerce and the technology revolution. The impression that these companies are trying to convey, of course, is that the world is taking off in a technological rocket and your company had better jump on board or be left behind.

While this perspective may be true in the United States and select parts of the European Union and the Asian Tiger countries, it is far from being a realistic grasp of the world at large. While we are trying to keep up with the most powerful microchips and to utilize the fastest bandwidths available, much of the world is simply trying to survive in inhumane conditions. It is almost as if the technological giants are trying to market computers in a world where the majority of the people have less-than-adequate literary skills and can't even access a telephone.

This doesn't mean that we should adopt the Luddite view that all technology is bad. What we should do, however, is seek to mold some of our technology in ways that will foster serene humanitarian causes and help to streamline aid to other countries. The reasons for this type of approach are becoming more evident day by day. While Americans for the most part enjoy an economy where a lower profit is considered a loss, millions of families in places like Calcutta and Cairo wake up every morning to scrounge through mountains of garbage in a search for food. Just this past week, the world has been re-awakened to the horrors of slavery with the discovery of a ship carrying hundreds of child slaves from the

African country of Benin. No doubt, this story will be pushed to the back pages of the major newspapers as anxious Americans panic about the wild swings of the Dow Jones Index.

Many people would argue that it isn't our country's job to police the world or provide humanitarian aid throughout the world. However, there is no excuse for a nation with such wealth to neglect the glaring needs of the world around us. If the government isn't going to fund international aid directly, then there should at least be some sort of tax incentives for those who contribute to private humanitarian foundations.

Globalization is a novel concept that is neither good nor bad at face value. However, the evil tendencies of human nature to exploit the environment, ignore human rights and abuse labor must be countered if globalization is going to be anything other than a world-wide empire of corporate interests. Capital gains are important, but on the list of priorities they fall behind eliminating slavery, clothing and feeding the destitute and bringing the oppressors to justice.

In order to bring the Third World into the 21st century, the global economic superpowers must first help those countries through the remnants of the twentieth century. Any process of development that skips these crucial steps of human rights and self-determination is a pathway to misery for those who already know it all too well.

Globalize humanity with Justin, or simply email him, at jgreengreJustin@hotmail.com.

TECHNICIAN

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Joel Isaac Frady
Assistant Features Editor

No matter what profession you are in, no matter what your beliefs, having standards is a necessity. Without standards, anything goes in every aspect of life, thus leading to chaos. To prevent this chaos, lines must be drawn, enabling one to avoid those situations and incidents that will sacrifice happiness or, in this case, integrity. Some people draw lines as to what words are or are not bad ("Fudge" or "Damn" may be acceptable, but other words not mentioned here would be deemed unacceptable). Some people draw lines at the killing of lab rats to test products. For me, the line has been in the process of being drawn for a long time. Even so, no line was drawn, even while sitting through such films as "Last Souls," "Highlander: Endgame," "Red Planet" or even "Battlefield Earth" (which was

kind of fun in a D-Movie sort of way). The line has now been drawn at "Josie and the Pussycats," a film that you are now being begged not to see, with the hopes this film and films like it might not be made. There are many problems with this film; too many to hit on, but the one that was most disturbing was that as you watch the movie you feel your IQ dropping.

That's right, you will be dumber if you see this movie. While there is no scientific evidence to support this theory (yet, no testing was done prior to the release, due to conflicts with animal rights over the use of the lab rats), there is a very obvious reason this happens; this movie has no brain. Much like many kid films and

gross-out comedies, there is no intelligent force behind this movie, but it does something the other films don't. While the other brainless films are satisfied with

ing new. The hand of three dimwitted girls finally makes it to the big time, but along the way they find themselves caught up in an evil mastermind's plan to enslave all of humanity to her capitalizing ways.

Now, having watched

and the cartoon was very promising movie material. Here, she starts with a Backstreet Boys parody of a band named DuJour; the opening shots are of teenage fans jumping and shrieking in painfully high-pitched voices that have proven deadly to the lab rats. As with most of the film, the idea behind it was funny and they even had Seth Green (Scott Evil in "Austin Powers") as one of the band members. In any other film this would have been funny and generated many laughs, but here the execution is terrible and has an air of stupidity around it.

The plot thickens as Wyatt (Alan Cumming, who plays every scene as if it were funny and gets one, two laughs at best), the promoter of DuJour, has to get rid of them after they realize that their music is being used in a grand scheme to capitalize America. The scheme is run by Fiona (Parker Posey of "Party Girl"), who demands they get a new band, and Josie & Co. are hired on the spot. The rest of the film gives way to terrible acting and unfun-

ny jokes that even the lab rats could have tested as unfunny...

The herd of terrible actors is headed by Cook, who may soon consider retiring from acting to become a model so no one can be offended by her acting. She's plastic here; the dolls probably made for the movie would have done about as good a job, putting no life or humor into a role that needs it. The rest of the cast is talented and painfully wasted. Tara Reid, who has proven to be incredibly charming in "Dr. T and the Women," is wasted here as Melody. Half of the funny cast of "Road Trip" is wasted as well.

The biggest waste is Posey, who has time and time again shown that she is one of the wittiest and funniest actresses working today, but in "Josie," she has little to work with that she even looks like she's being forced to say these lines.

Nothing else adds up, either. The music, vital to a film about a rock band, isn't very good. The use of colors involves invading your eyes with these hideous pinks and oranges, as if the bad jokes weren't bad enough for the stomach. Simply said, "Josie and the Pussycats" may go down as one of the worst films of all time. Don't see it. Don't let your friends see it, for the good of the people. And if not for your own good or for your friends, then skip this movie for the lab rats. They have feelings, too.

IMAGE FROM UNIVERSAL PICTURES



Josie and the Pussycats (zero stars)

Director: Harry Elfont and Deborah Kaplan
Starring: Rachael Leigh Cook

moving along brainlessly, "Josie" actually sucks the intellect from the viewer to appear as if it had any sort of intelligence.

For those of you who are familiar with the classic cartoon and comic strip, "Josie and the Pussycats," the idea is not-

the old cartoon over the past few days, it was obvious that it had spirit and was a lot of fun. It's the equivalent of "Scooby Doo," but with three gorgeous women and no ghosts

Not in Kansas anymore



Features Staff Report

In her fast-paced and funny first novel, Mueller Bryson tells the story of a young woman's wild journey coming to terms with her father's sudden death. "Hey Dorothy You're Not in Kansas Anymore" is a delightful and engaging tale reminiscent of "The Wizard of Oz." Dorothy Gale Robinson, an aspiring actress, is the daughter of hippie parents with a passion for old movies. When her father is killed suddenly while sipping a non-fat decaf mocha latte at a local coffee shop, Dorothy's life is turned upside down. After an unconventional dispersing of her father's ashes at the Universal Studios' Psycho House, Dorothy's mother decides to sell all her worldly possessions and join a New Age cult headquartered in Banff, Canada. Of course, Dorothy's twin brother, Jude, is too busy with his law firm to help Dorothy save their mother from the clutches of the sinister cult, so she seeks the aid of her new boyfriend, Lahrs, and a cult-buster, Mervyn O'Roy, who just happens to look like Mickey Rooney. The motley trio venture from Florida to Canada, and through a series of mishaps and misadventures, Dorothy and her fellow rescuers recover Dorothy's mother, and everyone finds a little romance in the Canadian Rockies.

PRaise for the Book
"A magnificent work ... let the joyous news be spread."

- Glinda, *The Good Witch*
"I think Dorothy finally made it home with this one!"

- Auntie Em
"A spectacular feat of atmospheric skill."

- Professor Marvel
"If you have half a brain, you'll buy this book."

- The Scarecrow
"(Bow) Wow! Wow!"

- Toto

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Karen Mueller Bryson is a producer and award winning playwright. Her one-act play "Thazel Hoffstetter Lives Here" was produced at Unity Fest 2000 at the Bank Street Theatre in New York City. Her short play "The Doctor Will See You Now" was produced by StageWorks in Tampa, Florida as a part of their "Briefs and LongJumps" series and her short play "God's Grace" was produced in "An Evening of One-Acts" at Carrollwood Players in Tampa, Florida. Her play "But Does He Know Botticelli" was produced at Cavaya Community College in Auburn, New York. It also received a staged reading at the Footsteps Theatre in Chicago and received an Honorable Mention in the 1999 McLaren Memorial Playwriting Contest.

Her play "When Fat Chickens Rule the World" was a winner of the Scriptwriters' of South Carolina Playwriting Contest and received a staged reading. The play was also a semi-finalist in the 13th Annual Henrico Theatre Company One-Act Playwriting Competition. A monologue from the play was recently selected for publication in the anthology "Audition Monologues for Young Actors-II. The book will be published by Meriwether Publishing in Colorado Springs in summer of 2001. Mueller Bryson is a student in the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing at Warnborough University in London.

Prior to becoming a playwright and novelist, Mueller Bryson earned a Master's Degree in Human Development Counseling and worked for a number of years as a counselor and educator.

Zack Smith
Senior Staff Writer

Crime is one of the most popular topics for comic books, along with fantasy, horror and superheroes (and various combinations thereof). One of the best of these books is "Stray Bullets" from El Capitan Books, a self-published series that ranks with the likes of Elmore Leonard, Donald Westlake and Jim Thompson as some of the best crime fiction in any medium, print or otherwise. "Stray Bullets" is written and illustrated by David Lapham, formerly an artist for now-defunct superhero companies like Valiant and Defiant. His skill with visual storytelling is evident, almost every page of each "Stray Bullets" features the same eight-panel layout, yet the style doesn't come across as static or repetitive. Lapham's art is clean, crisp and uncluttered, using stark black and white to tell tales where the morality is decidedly gray.

While the art of "Stray Bullets" is gorgeous, it's the stories that are the real stars. Every issue is a self-contained, stand-alone story with a rotating cast of characters. The chronology of the book is similar to "Blue Fiction," with characters changing from story to story, but with certain characters appearing in different roles in different issues. The first issue, for example, focuses on a pair of hit men, including one on the verge of insanity; that hit man reappears as a child in the third issue, but the reader also meets his mother. The mother reappears in the fifth

issue, where she tries to seduce a naive teenager named Orson; Orson and a girl he meets at the end of that issue become the focal characters for the next several issues. There are also a number of recurring background characters, including drug dealer Spanish Scott, the stone-cold killer Monster and Harry, a drug dealer whose name inspires fear in the other characters, but who is never actually seen or heard.

Story lines in "Stray Bullets" are self-contained, with a few exceptions; the same characters rarely appear in consecutive issues. There are several recurrent characters, including Virginia Applejack, a young girl traumatized by witnessing a violent incident and emotionally abused by her mother; Orson and Beth, a dysfunctional couple on the run; and Amy Raecar, a Bonnie and Clyde-like criminal whose surreal adventures frequently end with her destroying the world.

The tone of each story varies from suspenseful to humorous to goofy to horrific. Violence, when it occurs, is depicted realistically, but it is the promise of violence in these tales that gives them their impact. An action-movie style issue about Amy's rampage across America, for example, is followed up with a slower-paced story about the death of Virginia's father. The closest thing to an ongoing storyline is in issues 8-14, containing a series of stories about Beth and Orson hiding out in a small town in the West, which starts off comically but leads to a violent and haunting climax.

That's not to say that "Stray Bullets" is a completely grim, disturbing book; there are some very funny moments, particularly in the over-the-top nature of the Amy Raecar stories, the goofiness of Orson and the use of the phrase "Cudd bears" by most of the characters. While the humor does alleviate the grimness of some of the stories, at the same time it can also enhance it — especially if something bad happens to a character the reader has come to care about.

"Stray Bullets" is smart, involving, occasionally devastating and always compelling. It's not like any other comic out there, crime or otherwise, and it's well worth seeking out. "Stray Bullets" is currently on hiatus; there are 22 regular black-and-white issues, along with two color specials featuring Amy Raecar. There are currently four trade paperback collections, the first 16 issues (four issues each, 1-3 are \$11.95, 4-7 are \$14.95) and two hardcover collections including 1-7 and 8-14. A fifth collection should be available in May, and Lapham's current mail-away through "Murder Me Dead," an eight-issue limited series that retails for \$2.95. These books can be found in local comics shops like Foundation's Edge or Capital Comics, or an online bookstore like Amazon.com. For more information about ordering comics or locating a comics shop, try the toll-free number 1-800-COMIC-BOOK or the Web site www.ordering.comics.com and www.themasterlist.com.

IMAGE FROM STRAY BULLETS

ARTS CALENDAR



Katie Kelley
Staff Writer

APRIL 16

WIND ENSEMBLE SPRING CONCERT

8 p.m. at Stewart Theatre
Conductor Dr. John Entzi is the Director of Concert Bands and Jazz Ensembles at NCSU and has performed with Holiday on Ice, Disney Parade and with performers such as Gladys Knight & the Pips and the Temptations.

APRIL 17

BETH GRIFFITH

8 p.m. at Stewart Theatre
Internationally recognized Soprano Beth Griffith highlights the final Arts Now Series presented by Dr. Rodney Waschka. Griffith, who received the German Record Critics Award for her recording of Hector Berlioz's virtuosic work, "Three Voices," will sing new and recent works written for her beautiful voice and electronic music.

APRIL 17-20

MIKE VAX BIG BAND

Jazz & swing fans, you're going to love this one! The Mix Vax Big Band will perform its only show in North Carolina on the NCSU campus. Alumni from the famed Stan Kenton Orchestra have come together to provide us with a night of upbeat, lively tunes that are sure to keep you jazzed for the entire evening.

ONGOING

The Crafts Center Gallery is currently showing amazing work by its studio members. Some of which are for sale through April 22. Call 515-2457 for Center hours.

Need a gift? Purchase handcrafted terra cotta garden pots and herb stakes made by members of The Crafts Center on Campus. Proceeds will help rebuild their kiln! Prices range from \$3 to \$10.

IMAGE FROM THE WIZARD OF OZ



Wolfpack baseball goes to the beach



Brian Wright and the baseball team defeated UNC-Wilmington 4-3 in their first meeting at Doak Field on April 3. The two teams square off again tonight in Wilmington.

◆ **The N.C. State baseball team travels to UNC-Wilmington for a rematch with the Seahawks.**

Justin Sellers
Staff Writer

After yet another busy week of competition, the N.C. State baseball team picks up play once again against a familiar foe in UNC-Wilmington.

The Wolfpack (21-18), which went 3-2 over the Easter break, is playing some of its best baseball of the season, having won seven of its last 10 games.

After facing seven non-conference opponents in a row, State hosted

Atlantic Coast Conference rival Maryland in a three-game series over the weekend. While the first two games in the series were pretty evenly matched, resulting in a win for each team, the third game was owned by the Pack.

Outstanding offensive performances from Brian Wright and Jeremy Dutton, teamed with good pitching by Jason Blanton, allowed State to steamroll the Terrapins 15-7.

Wright, who recently had been in a little bit of a slump, showed he hasn't lost his touch by connecting in all four of his official at-bats, including a home run, while racking up seven RBIs.

"Brian has been in a little slump for

us, but a slump for Brian isn't the same for other players," said head coach Elliott Avent. "He hasn't been satisfied with his offensive play lately but broke out against Maryland, especially Sunday. He hit an impossible home run against the wind. Brian was hitting the heck out of the ball all day and came up big for us by driving in some of our guys on base."

Meanwhile, Dutton, heating up as the season progresses, ended the game 3-for-5 with four RBIs and scored three runs.

"Jeremy is on fire right now," said Avent. "Particularly in the last two games, Jeremy has done really well for us. He has a great idea of the strike

See **BEACH**, Page 2

Left in Odom's Wake

April always brings plenty of movement in the coaching ranks of college basketball.

Some coaches who have been out of work for a while got new jobs. Others simply switched addresses. For one, Wake Forest coach Dave Odom falls in the latter category.



At a press conference in Columbia, S.C., on Tuesday, Odom was

introduced as the new head basketball coach at South Carolina. Actually, athletics director Mike McGee mistakenly called him the new head "football" coach, a true indication of the task ahead for Odom.

USC has long been a haven for football fans, even though the Gamecocks had struggled for respectability in recent years before winning the 2001 Outback Bowl. Basketball has taken a back seat since the school left the Atlantic Coast Conference. The challenge for Odom will be to bring sustained success to a program that has never experienced it, which may be the reason Odom left the relative security of Wake and the ACC.

"It is without a doubt one of the most exciting days of my life," Odom said at the press conference. "This is an exciting beginning for my family, and I hope you all feel this is an exciting beginning for the university."

USC gets a coach who has proven he can build a team capable of holding its own in the toughest conference in the country.

Before Odom arrived at Wake, the Demon Deacons had endured four consecutive losing seasons and had only been to the NCAA Tournament eight times in school history. The only time an Odom-coached Wake Forest team finished below 500 was his first year with the program, when the Mike McNeely 12-16. Wake made the Big Dance eight times in his 12-year tenure and won the NIT in 2000.

The Deacs claimed back-to-back ACC Tournament titles under Odom in 1995 and 1996 and never finished worse than 7-9 in the ACC after that first season. Odom coached three All-Americans, including 1997 National Player of the Year Tim Duncan. He was also a three-time ACC Coach of the Year and the 1995 National Coach of the Year.

Odom's move is a boost for the Gamecocks and the Southeastern Conference, it is a true loss for Wake and the ACC.

Odom's departure leaves the ACC with a plethora of young coaches. Due to retirements, firings and other job opportunities like the one Odom took, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski and Maryland's Gary Williams are the only head men in the ACC with more than five years at their current school. N.C. State head coach Herb Sendek now ranks third in the league in tenure as he prepares for his sixth year with the Wolfpack.

When Odom left, he also took some of the conference's personality with him because the coaches add some color to the league. Krzyzewski has become the elder statesman of the ACC and brings a genuine intensity to the game. Williams brings a fiery passion for the game and always looks like he's on the verge of a heart attack. And Odom was a nice guy who talked so much at press conferences that he gave reporters

See **ASHTON**, Page 2



The N.C. State cheerleading team claimed its fourth national title, and first since 1991, in Daytona Beach, Fla., on April 6.

Something to cheer about

◆ **The N.C. State cheerleading squad is enjoying its fourth national title.**

Jeremy Ashton
Sports Editor

National championships are hard to come by in any sport. In its tradition-rich history of varsity athletics, N.C. State has only claimed eight titles. Four of those now belong to the cheerleading squad.

The Wolfpack cheerleaders finished as the overall national champion at the 2001 National Cheerleading Association Collegiate Nationals in Daytona Beach.



The Pack has never finished out of the top 10.

Fla., on April 6. State, which took an experienced team with seven seniors to the meet, claimed its first national title since 1991.

"It was a long time coming for this one, especially for these seniors," head coach Lisa James said.

The competition at Daytona was broken up into several divisions. State participates in Division I-A with 25 other teams, including perennial powerhouse Louisville.

During the preliminary round Thursday, James said that State struggled slightly with its routine and went into the finals third behind the Cardinals and Oklahoma State. But the Pack cheerleaders hit all their spots with the title on the line to receive a score of 9.49, comfortably defeating Louisville by .33 points.

"We definitely just stepped it up and hit everything in the finals and came out with the highest score and blew everybody away," co-captain Whitt Morehead said.

State's score was then matched against the winners of the other divisions to determine the Grand National Championship. Once again, the Pack had no equal.

"N.C. State had not even hit their routines in those last few years," James said. "Definitely, overcoming that barrier of just hitting the routine was kind of our goal. I think we all knew in the back of our mind that 'we could win, but we knew we had to go out there and do it under pressure.'"

For State, Nationals is the only chance the squad has to really show what it can do. The Atlantic Coast Conference places strict limitations on what cheerleaders can do during basketball games because of liability issues. But Morehead said those restrictions

aren't in place when the team competes at Nationals on protective mats rather than hardwood floors.

Morehead said that the Pack is known as one of the country's premier teams. State has never finished outside of the top 10 at Nationals, and James noted that the team has placed worse than third only three times.

"We're known throughout the country as a strong, powerful squad," Morehead said. "We just wanted to carry that attitude into finals and into the NCA and do the best we could to represent N.C. State."

James said that many State fans she has talked to are surprised when they discover how good the team is. "I know most of our fans, until we go to the ACC Tournament, they never realize that they have good cheerleaders; they just assume that that's the standard," James said. "Every year we come back from the ACC Tournament, and they're like, 'I never realized how good you all were until I saw other cheerleaders.'"

While some may not recognize cheerleading as a sport, a concept Morehead disagrees with, there is no denying that it requires a high degree of athleticism. State's routine at Nationals lasted 2 minutes, 15 seconds, and involved constant movement, lifting and jumping.

"We all come from some athletic background, whether it be football or baseball or anything," Morehead said. "I played a little bit of everything. I was a football player in high school primarily, but I played basketball and golf and tennis. That's pretty much the same for every guy and girl on the squad."

James, who was a varsity cheerleader at State from 1991-95, related a story about just how tough cheer-

See **CHEER**, Page 2

Softball club swings for the fences

◆ **The club softball team is thriving in its third year of existence.**

Curtis Breese
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: Technician will be profiling some of the club sports at N.C. State in the coming weeks. The women's softball team is in focus today.

Participation in N.C. State club sports is flourishing these days with more than 40 men's and women's teams.

Now that the weather has turned warmer, the "Girls of Spring" have finally had a chance to show what they can

do. The women's fast-pitch club softball team is in its third year of existence. The club, which currently sits at 2-5, is in search of a conference but has had some success against local talent, sweeping a doubleheader from Duke's club team on the same day that its men's basketball team played Maryland at the Final Four.

Yet it knows the difficulties a club team has to endure and the importance that participation, team improvement and responsibility plays in overall success. It has led to a Club of the Year nomination from the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department, with the winner being announced May 3.

In order to build club revenue, the team

has been busy with fundraising, selling carnations and accepting donations to make and give away T-shirts. The school has also doubled the team's money allocation from \$500 to \$1,000, much to the officers' delight.

"The money we receive is based on how we spend it, if we raise our own money, and if we get our stuff [papers] in on time," said team President DeeDee Horton.

Practicing and playing home games at Pullen Park, the women get a chance to use quality facilities, although in a "sketchy" location, Horton said. The players mentioned that one of their biggest fans is an unnamed homeless man who comes to watch practice.

"We don't know if he's dangerous," said pitcher Sherry Knight.

Since they work out near the railroad tracks, and incidents such as a car break-in that happened last year could occur, the women sometimes fear for their safety.

"It's kind of scary, but it's fun," said Horton.

The club has also been allowed to practice at Miller Field, but without a dirt infield, defense can be hard to work on.

When it rains, the women can be found taking batting practice at the local Grand Slam USA, which Knight said sometimes lets the team slide on cage totems and turns the pitching machines to speeds

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 2