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NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

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Distance learning proves beneficial for some civil engineering majors

◆ The flexibility of the program works well for students whose schedules prevent them from being on campus.

Aniesha Felton
Staff Reporter

The Department of Civil Engineering at N.C. State University, in partnership with the College of Engineering, is offering graduate courses and the Master of Civil Engineering (MCE) degree via distance education in Fall 2002.

Christopher Frey, an associate professor in civil engineering, said the MCE distance-education program will supply 30 graduate civil engineering courses accessible through Internet and CD-ROM. "We are providing students who are unable to physically be on campus to take these courses and focus on a specific discipline," said Frey.

NCSU has delivered graduate courses to distance learners since 1982. For nearly 20 years, the Department of Civil Engineering has worked with the Video-Based Engineering Education (VBE) program of the College of Engineering to deliver courses to students here and abroad.

The VBE program is an established infrastructure for assisting students with the daily logistics of distance courses. This includes assistance in ordering textbooks, delivery of lectures, frequent posting of course materials and sending and receiving assignments.

Distance education at NCSU involves delivering regular on-campus courses to students. Full-time faculty members delivering lectures to full-time on-campus students are recorded onto videotape, CD-ROM, DVD or video-stream for the Web. Students involved in the program will receive lecture notes, handouts and assignments via the World Wide Web. Although distance

education is not new at NCSU, the MCE program provided through this service is.

"N.C. State is the first school in the nation to have this distance-education MCE program," said Linda Krute, director for distance education programs. "We [NCSU] are trying to emerge as the big player in distance education services, and the MCE program will get us there quicker."

The purpose of distance education and the MCE program is unique in serving graduate students. According to Hardison, the program is intended to cater to graduate students who cannot come to NCSU's campus.

"Distance education allows full-time employees who want a master's degree to obtain one on their own time," said Frey. "Graduate students can watch the lectures wherever and whenever they have time to. They basically fit graduate school classes into their schedule."

According to Frey, the program is also for students who are not in North Carolina.

"I remember I was teaching a class to a student whose job placed her in the

Middle East; if distance education was not available, she wouldn't be able to get her master's," said Frey.

Besides flexibility and convenience as benefits of the distance-education program, obtaining an MCE has its benefits as well.

Frey said that most job promotions are due to getting an MCE degree. "If you don't get a promotion, you will definitely get a raise."

Other benefits of the new MCE distance-education program, according to the MCE degree brochure, include becoming better at your job, making yourself more marketable, satisfying your personal interest in more knowledge, broadening your expertise and gaining a deeper understanding of your field.

Frey explained there were several reasons why students are praising the MCE distance education program. For one, the program is targeted for students who do not have easy access to the university, in addition to the convenience students have studying over their own time schedule.

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David Pride, a visitor to N.C. State, climbs the wall sponsored by "Going Public" in the Brickyard.

Scientist improves the production of rice

◆ A breakthrough for rice growers will help produce more efficient rice that is also less susceptible to disease.

Carlton Newsome
Staff Reporter

Rice is one of the most important staple food crops in the world. In addition to feeding more than two-thirds of the world's population, according to statistics from the American Rice Association, rice is an important source of vitamins and nutrients.

Knowing the genetic makeup of rice will allow scientists to genetically engineer rice to grow more efficiently. And one way that scientist will be able to allow rice to grow more abundantly is by making the rice less susceptible to disease.

On April 5, an article appeared in Science Magazine that described a major breakthrough for rice growers.

More than 99 percent of the rice genome has been sequenced, which will allow scientist to have the building blocks for rice. Rice was selected for sequencing because its genome is smaller by a factor of 10 compared with other cereals.

"There is also a concept scientists refer to as synteny. Synteny means that if we know what a particular gene is for corn, we can then go to rice and find that same gene."

Ralph Dean, director of the Center for Integrated Fungal Research and a professor in N.C. State's Fungal Genomics Laboratory, worked on the Genome Project at Clemson University's Genomics Institute before coming to NCSU.

The Genomics Institute is an international center dedicated to finding applications for genomics research that will improve crop production.

Dean currently has a \$6 million research grant from the National

Science Foundation that is being used to find a way to help rice combat a disease called rice blast.

Dean said that he feels he is working on finding a solution for a disease that is one of the most important in the world.

"The disease, rice blast, wipes out an astounding amount of rice crops each year. Rice blast knows no borders," said Dean. "It can hit anywhere."

The mission statement for the Fungal Genomics Laboratory states that the rice blast fungus, *Magnaporthe oryzae*, is a major threat to food security worldwide.

Dean stated that the goal of the research is to activate a gene that will detect the fungus causing rice blast and make it work more effectively against the disease.

"It is like when a person gets sick. Sometimes the body reacts quickly and does not get sick, but then the person

See RICE, Page 2

Graduating seniors focus on 'the walk'

◆ Tradition and convenience are factors when seniors decide whether or not to attend graduation ceremonies.

Josianne Lauber
Staff Reporter

For graduating seniors, the signs of graduation are all around. The ring, the cap and gown, the invitations and the commencement ceremony are just some of the things that graduating seniors are forced to think about.

Chris Oldham, graduating this May with a degree in chemical engineering, said, "I'm walking for five years of hell."

Whether students walk because of tradition or family, or they decide not to walk at all, graduating is a definite steppingstone into the "real world."

At N.C. State, attending the graduation commencement ceremony is optional, which is why some students decide to "skip out."

Martha O'Donnell, NCSU's registrar, said, "About 2,800 students will graduate... but only about 1,800 will actually walk."

O'Donnell reminds students that the commencement ceremony is for all NCSU students, which include students graduating with their master's or doctoral degree.

"A student graduating with their master's degree may not walk because it's not as big of a steppingstone as it is from a bachelor's degree is," said O'Donnell. This is one reason that may explain the low attendance at graduation.

Many students want to walk because it is a tradition.

Kristy Armstrong, who will graduate in May with a degree in mass communication, said she will walk "just because it's part of the experience." She added, "It's going to be sad to leave but neat to start the next chapter of my life."

Not all students, however, want to be part of the commencement ceremony.

For Wendy Anderson, the ceremony is not a necessity. Graduating with a history degree, Anderson said, "I'm not one for ceremonies... I have no tolerance for sitting and listening to people talk... I just want the paper and the ring."

Derek Murray, who is graduating with a business degree, feels graduation is a positive thing. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... and I'll probably regret it in 20 years if I don't go."

Mike Fitzula, an NCSU alumnus, is glad he attended his graduation in 2001, but he feels "the ceremony could be a little shorter." However, he feels that the departmental graduation ceremony was very special because "it was very personalized... you got to graduate with all the students and professors you've worked most closely with over the past couple of years."

For commencement information, visit http://www.ncsu.edu/reg_records/grad_inf.htm.

Time running out for ill inmate

◆ A forthcoming decision could send Edward Lemons, a death row inmate, to a hospice center to die.

Jimmy Ryals
Senior Staff Reporter

A death row inmate at Central Prison could find out by the end of the week whether he'll live out his last weeks behind bars or elsewhere.

Edward Lemons, 34, a Detroit man jailed for a 1994 Wayne County double homicide, has filed a petition under a new state law to be released from prison to receive palliative care for what prison doctors believe to be the last one to two months of his life. Lemons suffers from hemophilia, a degenerative joint disorder, HIV, cirrhosis and hepatitis C. Doctors also believe he may have liver cancer, although his other illnesses prohibit their conducting conclusive testing.

Mike Unti, an attorney with Unti, Lumsden, & Smith, is one of Lemons' lawyers. On April 10, his firm petitioned Gov. Mike Easley to commute Lemons' sentence and move him into the general prison population or to grant Lemons clemency.

Last Thursday, Easley referred the request to the N.C. Department of Corrections, which could render a decision by the end of this week. Under a law passed last September, the department can release a terminally ill inmate to a palliative care facility if the inmate is not a danger to public safety.

Lemons was convicted, along with two other men, of the 1994 kidnaping and murder of Bobby Gene Stroud and Margaret Daniels Strickland. Stroud and Strickland were kidnaped at the site of a drug deal, placed in the trunk of a car and taken to a field, where they were shot.

In his petition, Unti cites multiple "substantial errors" in Lemons' 1995 trial. Among them is the fact that, in Lemons' trial — the men were tried separately, and Lemons was the first — Lemons was presented as the ringleader in the kidnaping and murders.

In the trials for the other two men, Larry Leggett and Kwame Jamel Teague, testimony revealed that Lemons did not join the other two defendants until after the kidnaping and that he ran away from the scene after the murders took place. According to Unti, Teague has said since Lemons' trial that he and Leggett shot Stroud and Strickland, a confession that has not been admitted in a court of law because new information cannot be brought in the first round of appeals.

Lemons' worsening condition halted the second round of appeals in their first stage, forestalling the presentation of any information outside the original trial record.

Unti cites other errors in Lemons' first trial: Teague and Leggett's records of violent crime were not presented, while Lemons was linked in the trial to a series of robberies the other two were later indicted for. Unti claims that the prosecutor knew Teague and Leggett would be charged in connection with the robberies.

"The prosecutor knew he did not have evidence that Ed Lemons had participated in those crimes," Unti said. "And yet he used those crimes during the course of the trial to essentially make Ed out as a violent man." The prosecutor in the original trial was Donald Jacobs, who is now a Superior Court judge. Teague and Leggett were each sentenced to 64 years in prison; Lemons was sentenced to death.

In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the state to reconsider Lemons' death sentence because of the admission of hearsay as evidence in the sentencing hearing. The N.C. Supreme Court reaffirmed the sentence, on the grounds that the admission of hearsay was "not so egregious as to result in a miscarriage of justice."

Another pillar of Lemons' request lies in Unti's contention that Lemons is not a danger to the public, largely because of his health.

Lemons contracted the HIV virus in the early 1980s from a blood transfusion. Eleven months ago, he began developing swelling, jaundice and pain in his extremities; in September 2001, doctors diagnosed cirrhosis of the liver. The hepatitis C has since been diag-



Edward Lemons, a death row inmate, was convicted of a double homicide in 1994.

nosed. Because of the hemophilia, Lemons has been unable to receive conventional kidney treatments.

Two weeks ago, Lemons' physician at the prison notified Unti that Lemons had roughly two to three months to live because of the progress of the liver disease.

Lemons' condition took a downturn over the weekend. According to Unti, since last week, Lemons has begun suffering labored breathing, fluid in his lungs and intensified pain.

"I kind of assumed that his grugginess and non-responsiveness [last week] was due to heavy medication," Unti said. "[Monday] when I visited him, it was apparent that he was in severe pain."

This week, Lemons has been placed on Central Prison's seriously ill list, allowing family members physical contact with him when they visit. Death row inmates are not generally allowed physical contact with visitors.

This week, Lemons has also begun receiving injections for hepatitis, and his pain prescription has been changed from Tylenol 3 to morphine.

Keith Acre, public information officer for the N.C. Department of Corrections, said the department is considering Unti's request and specifically looking at whether Lemons is a danger to public safety. In accordance with the new law, the department is also consulting with the families of the two victims.

"I expect we'll probably see a decision by the end of this week," Acre said, though he added that there is no specific timetable.

Should Secretary of Corrections Theodos Beck approve Lemons' release to hospice, the inmate would not be free. Such a decision would "extend the conditions of confinement and allow the inmate to remain an inmate outside the walls of the prison," according to Acre.

Beck's office currently has ultimate jurisdiction in the decision, according to Easley's press secretary, Fred Hartman.

Family members of both victims indicated in a News & Observer story last Friday that they intend to fight Lemons' release.

"I really don't think he should be taken out of prison and put in a hospice," said Jamie Strickland, the 16-year-old daughter of Margaret Daniels Strickland, in the story. "He didn't let my momma say her goodbyes... so I don't think he should get to say his goodbyes."

Legally, Unti feels optimistic about Lemons' petition. Realistically, though, Lemons' health gives him pause.

"I think it does have merit. I think there's a possibility that if Ed lives another week that he might be allowed to go to a hospice in the area," Unti said. "From a practical standpoint, I'm not sure he could travel."

In a letter sent to Easley and Beck yesterday, Unti urges a swift decision, citing Lemons' rapidly fading health and his belief that Lemons should not be on death row in the first place.

"Having scrutinized the trial and post-conviction records in this case, I can say with virtual certainty that Ed Lemons should never have lived (and should not be forced to die) on death row. Despite the efforts of many good people, however, Ed Lemons is almost out of time. I urge you to render an expedited decision on our request for relief," the letter reads.

Newly aired video of bin Laden adds to mystery of whereabouts

Jonathan S. Landay
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Videotape excerpts aired Monday by an Arab satellite television channel rekindled the mystery surrounding the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, the accused mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The excerpts broadcast by the al Jazeera satellite channel featured shots of bin Laden and his top aide, Ayman al Zawahiri, as well as a separate clip in which a purported Sept. 11 hijacker declared in an apparent farewell message: "It is time to kill Americans in their heartland."

The speaker, clad in military fatigues and wearing a checkered Arab headdress, was identified in an al Jazeera news release as Ahmed Alhaznawi, one of three hijackers of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in rural Pennsylvania. Al Jazeera, based in the Persian Gulf nation of Qatar, said the excerpts were from an hour-long videotape, titled "The Wills of the New York and Washington Battle Martyrs," that was hand-delivered to the station last week.

Al Jazeera intends to broadcast the videotape in its entirety Thursday. There was no indication when it was produced. But al Jazeera said information on the tape indicated Alhaznawi's segment was recorded in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar six months before the Sept. 11 attack.

A narration that accompanies the tape "appears to have been recorded recently," al Jazeera said. U.S. officials said they believed the segments featuring bin Laden and Zawahiri were taped after the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. "I

was advised that what I was watching very likely was using a patchwork of clips from previous periods, along with some dialogue of more recent periods," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told a Pentagon briefing. "It comments on things post-Sept. 11, but the (bin Laden) pieces appear to be from last year."

Still, the excerpts revived questions about what has happened to bin Laden since his former hosts, the puritanical Taliban movement of Afghanistan, were driven from power in December by U.S.-led military forces and allied Afghan fighters. Bin Laden's last known location was in a mountain stronghold in Tora Bora, in eastern Afghanistan, about 10 days before the complex of tunnels and bunkers was hit by U.S. airstrikes and overrun in late December by anti-Taliban fighters and U.S. special forces.

U.S. officials monitored walkie-talkie transmissions in which bin Laden was heard exhorting fighters of his al Qaeda terrorist network to resist. His whereabouts since then are a mystery, but U.S. and other commanders are continuing hunt for renegade al-Qaida members in mountainous eastern Afghanistan. A joint U.S.-Afghan patrol was attacked near the Afghan city of Khost on Saturday night and three Afghans were wounded. A U.S.-controlled airfield near Khost was attacked Sunday night, but in both cases U.S. AC-130 aerial gunships repelled the attackers.

Some U.S. and foreign officials believe bin Laden may have been killed in the assault or died of natural causes, while others say he may have fled over the rugged border into

Pakistan and escaped to another country. The prevailing theory among U.S. analysts is that he is hiding somewhere along the Afghanistan-Pakistan frontier or with sympathetic tribesmen inside Pakistan's autonomous tribal belt.

The videotape excerpts aired by al Jazeera show bin Laden, his head covered by a white cloth, and Zawahiri kneeling side-by-side in a pastoral setting. Only Zawahiri, a former Egyptian physician, is heard speaking, praising the 19 men who hijacked four U.S. airliners on Sept. 11.

"Those 19 brothers who went out and worked and sacrificed their lives for God, God granted this conquest that we enjoy today," Zawahiri said in Arabic. "The great victory that was achieved was because of God's help and not because of our efficiency or power."

More than 3,000 people died in the bloodiest attack in history on the American homeland. The man identified as Alhaznawi, reading from a prepared text, states, "The time of humiliation and subjugation is over. It is time we kill the Americans in their heartland, among their children, and next to their forces and intelligence."

Apparently referring to al-Qaida attacks on Americans outside of the United States, Alhaznawi said: "We killed them outside their homes, thanks to God. But today, we are killing them in the midst of their homes." He ended his statement by saying he considered himself a martyr.

Health experts dispel hangover myths

Jennifer Wlach
The Chronicle (Duke U.)

(U-WIRE) DURHAM — They are one of the great mysteries of college life, the seemingly unavoidable result of a night of drinking: hangovers. Everyone offers a remedy — from coffee to multivitamins — but no one has found a cure.

Although there is no proven antidote, there are steps people can take before, during and after drinking to help lessen their morning-after pain. Before students begin to imbibe, they need to put food in their stomachs, said Cynthia Kuhn, professor of pharmacology.

"If you eat before you drink, your peak blood alcohol level will be slowed because the food slows absorption," she said.

Another key prevention method is drinking water. "It is important to be well hydrated before you start drinking, and to continue hydrating yourself while you drink," said Jeff Kulley, coordinator of alcohol and substance abuse services, who recommends alternating water or sports drinks with alcoholic beverages.

Experts agreed that the selection of drinks also factors into the severity of a hangover. Certain liquors known as distilled spirits contain congeners — higher-order alcohols that can be toxic to the brain and add to the effects of a hangover, said Dr. Bill Christmas, director of Student Health Services.

According to an online report by the Washington University Medical School-based MadSci Network, brandy causes the

most severe hangovers, followed by red wine, rum, whiskey, white wine, gin and vodka. Student Health officials also listed bourbon and single malt scotches as congeners-laden liquors.

In addition, scientific advisers from beakmanwine.com recommend that people avoid carbonated beverages like champagne or soda because bubbles carry alcohol into the bloodstream more rapidly. And using food-based mixers may actually help slow alcohol absorption, Kulley said. Before heading to bed, Kuhn advised, people should avoid acetaminophen, found in Tylenol, because it can damage the liver.

"Taking medicines such as ibuprofen or aspirin before bed can add to stomach irritation," she added. Most importantly, students should continue to drink water before sleeping. Drinking coffee is a long-standing myth that will provide only temporary relief, Kulley said.

"Caffeine might help to get you going, but there is a crash afterwards, and it can be an irritant to the stomach, which adds to nausea," he said.

Another myth is that taking multivitamins cures hangovers. Although Kuhn said no studies have shown this to be true, she noted a study indicating some benefit in taking vitamin B6. There are a slew of morning-after products marketed to relieve hangovers, ranging from all-natural remedies, such as ginger and Wu morning tea, to drugs like Alka-Seltzer and Nurofen.

Although several products exist, Kuhn said she was wary

of their claims of effectiveness. "If what they're selling is a natural product, there is no requirement that it be proven safe or proven to work by the Food and Drug Administration. This is why you see so many things on the market," she said.

Kulley attributed the relief of Alka-Seltzer to its large amounts of acetaminophen and caffeine and said such quick remedies distract from the most direct prevention of hangover symptoms.

"Any [remedy] that does not focus on the quantity of alcohol and how fast you drink it is basically a myth because it misleads you from the two most important variables that will affect your health," he said.

Mornings are the best time to take pain relievers like ibuprofen or aspirin, and Student Health officials recommend eating foods that are easy on the stomach, especially carbohydrates, since they replace sugars lost in dehydration. But what's the absolute cure for a hangover? "Don't overindulge in the first place," Kuhn said.

RICE

Continued from Page 1

right next to you comes down with the illness," said Davis. "One person's body reacted and their defense systems kicked in; the other person's body was not as healthy and they became sick."

The rice genome project is a worldwide effort.

The Rice Blast Genome Initiative began in 1998 as the Rice Genome Initiative gave enough information for a hangover? "Don't overindulge in the first place," Kuhn said.

Colleges turn to businesses for course advice

Benjamin Wallace
Wells Knight Ridder Newspapers

WEST CHESTER, Pa. — In 1998, executives from local pharmaceutical companies took a complaint to West Chester University: Too many graduates were short on business skills. And those who knew business, they said, didn't know enough science. Couldn't the university teach both at the same time?

University officials began to work with drug-company executives to put together a program to fit the needs of those firms. The program that grew from those talks is in place now at West Chester University with 20 students enrolled. Colleges around the country are forming similar partnerships with the companies around them. At Pennsylvania's 14 state universities, 47 new programs designed in combination with local businesses to address workforce needs were put in place this year.

But the movement has created debate on college campuses.

"It raises questions about who is really writing the curriculum — something that's supposed to be the exclusive province of the faculty," said Martin Snyder, associate director of the American Association for University Professors.

West Chester University administrators said they have to keep up with the times, and that means being able to guarantee that a degree will make the tuition investment worthwhile.

"Our schools understand that they have to serve their students, in terms of making sure they get jobs after college. So the schools are going out into their communities, talking to employers, and saying: 'Help us design programs that will be useful to you,'" said Kenn Marshall, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania system, the network of 14 schools, mostly former state teacher's colleges, that includes West Chester University.

Elsewhere, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst has formed a partnership with two engineering firms to develop "customized-degree programs" that will produce engineers who also know how to manage companies. At the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, professors have worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a degree program in regulatory science that produces

graduates who are equally knowledgeable in agriculture and the Department of Agriculture's regulatory codes.

Experts say schools that draw the bulk of their students fit their local area are more likely to develop those types of programs. "Local schools have curricula that are often more nimble and responsive to local business," said JoAnn Robinson, a spokeswoman for the American Council on Education.

But that's a problem for some professors at West Chester University who worry that their school is playing down theoretical aspects of the undergraduate education in order to teach hands-on skills.

"We're encouraged to think in terms of professional education, and so you don't get time to delve into things like critical thinking, challenging the students," said Doug McConaha, a professor of sociology who teaches classes on aging.

Students say they find the working-world experience that the university's pharmaceutical program offers them invaluable. They hope it will pay off tangibly, with a job. Brandon Hoffmann, 21, a junior, was a biology major at Pennsylvania State University when he transferred to West Chester University in the fall of 2000 to take part in the then-fledgling pharmaceutical product-development program, because of the internships it promised.

"Penn State has a bigger name, a national name, no question. But there I was just a number, and I might have gotten an internship somewhere in the pharmaceutical industry, but it would have been nowhere near as good as the one I've got now. I really feel like I've got my foot in the door," said Hoffmann, of Folcroft, Delaware county. Hoffmann spent the summer working at AstraZeneca, a London-based drug company with its U.S. headquarters in Wilmington, Del. He returned to the firm to work again over Christmas break last year, and hopes he can land a job with the company after he graduates.

Hoffmann, and the 19 other West Chester University students enrolled in the program, takes general-education classes with the rest of the student body, but devotes most his time in pharmaceutical product development.

Members in the United States, Europe and Asia are pursuing the international consortium for the Rice Blast Genome Initiative. Dean was one of the people who helped launch this consortium in 1998.

According to the report in Science Magazine, the rice genome sequence provides a foundation for the improvement of cereals. Cereals are the most important grain crops in the United States. The rice genome has implications that will improve crops and food production and quality worldwide.

Dean said that cereals are more complex than rice. The genomes of sorghum, maize, barley and wheat all have much larger base pairing than rice. Sorghum is the smallest of the cereals and it has 1,000 base pairs. Rice has only about 420 base pairs.

The small genome and symmetry of rice make it attractive because it will give target areas of research an opportunity for discovery of the cereal genome.

DISTANCE

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The Department of Civil Engineering offers two dozen distance education graduate courses covering all major specialties areas. These courses are offered on a rotating basis so that they will be available to aid students during their degree program.

For students interested in the MCE degree, students must first apply for admission to the Graduate School at NCSU.

"Engineers need to be updated every three years and the distance-education MCE degree will allow professional[s] and full-time working students who want a master's on their own clock to obtain one and not compromise their job," said Krute. "We don't want to leave anybody out; distance education makes sure we don't."

According to Hardison, there are only positive aspects of distance education and obtaining an MCE degree through it.

"Before the service, you either come on campus and get your master's or you don't get an education," said Hardison. "Now, it is a different story altogether, and to think that State is changing the story makes me proud."



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NAUTICA

The Union Activities Board Issues and Ideas Committee Presents:

DR. DREW PINSKY

Friday, April 26 at 7:30 pm · NCSU McKimmon Center



The Union Activities Board's Issues and Ideas Committee presents **Dr. Drew Pinsky**, former co-host of the popular MTV television series *Loveline*, at NC State's McKimmon Center on Friday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available now and at the door, and are free for NC State Students, \$5 for NCSU faculty/staff, and \$15 for all others at Ticket Central (515-1100) on Talley's 2nd floor.

Bussing to and from the show will be provided in front of the Talley Student Center from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., and at the

McKimmon Center for one hour after the show. Doors will open at 7 p.m. NCSU students must present their Student IDs with their vouchers and cannot be guaranteed seating after 7:20 p.m.

Dr. Drew's performance will cover a wide variety of health care and personal issues, from love, romance, and relationships to

alcohol abuse and chemical dependency. The show will be highly interactive, with Dr. Drew dedicating the bulk of his time to addressing concerns from the audience. Dr. Drew places a premium on handling all subject matters directly and maturely, so participants are encouraged to come with an open mind and lots of questions.

Wolfstock to rock the Quad on Friday

Features Editor **Joel Isaac Frady**

Northeast Housing will be sponsoring "Wolfstock" this Friday, Apr. 19 in the Quad. They'll be bringing in five bands, a dance team and a wide variety of food at the alcohol-free event.

The main goal of the event is to promote and enjoy diversity, and this is apparent in the variety of music that will be featured.

"We're not just bringing in a rock band and pizza," said senior Ryan Sanford, a Resident Advisor in Becton.

"We're bringing everyone, from bluegrass to hip-hop to punk to jam-band. The male dance team, headed by Daryl Willie, will also be performing.

"We're also bringing in a diverse array of food, ranging from Mediterranean to Mexican, [for] this is a diversity program."

Among the bands playing the event are Shade Tree (jam/rock), 3-Piece Suit (rock), Drag (punk), Justus League (hip-hop) and Second Hand Bluesgrass Band.

While taking place in the Quad (which is on Dunn Avenue beside

Thompson Theatre and the Reynolds Coliseum parking deck), the event was planned by Northeast Housing, which is comprised of the Quad (Becton, Bagwell and Berry), the Triad (Synce, Gold and Welch), Watauga and North.

"We [also] want to promote where East campus is and what it has to offer," Sanford continued. "A lot of people have never even ventured over here."

It was also noted that though lots of students have never been over to that side of campus, or even know it exists (you'd be surprised), it did enjoy the

opening of the brand-new Clark Dining Hall this past Monday. The dining hall sits behind and between Becton and Berry in the building that housed the old Student Health Center.

Just a friendly warning: while the concert is free to anyone that wants to go, the food will be available to East Campus residents only.

"Wolfstock" starts at 5 p.m. and will run until about 11 p.m. Ample parking will be available after 5 p.m. in the Reynolds Coliseum parking deck.

Calendar of Events

Features Staff Report

On-Campus

The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange performs on Saturday with "A Hallelujah Project: In Praise of Americans and Their People" in Stewart Theater, followed by The Raleigh Civic Symphony playing on Sunday and the Music Minor Senior Recitals on Monday.

Wolfstock 2002, featuring the Second Hand Bluesgrass Band and four other bands, will take place in the Quad on Friday.

"Bell, Book, & Candle" runs in Thompson Theater through Sunday. Tickets are still available.

"Open Your Eyes," directed by Alejandro Amenabar, plays in the Campus Cinema on Thursday at 6:45 p.m., followed by the 2000 American remake "Vanilla Sky" at 9 p.m. Those two movies will be featured at the Cinema until Sunday.

Off-Campus

Formerly members of Nirvana, The Meat Puppets and Sublime play their new project entitled "Eyes Adrift" at the Cat's Cradle on Thursday, April 18. The hip-hop group Sankofa plays the Cradle Saturday, while Prong and Jam Pain Society play on Saturday night. The John Scofield Band will play Monday night with Mad Dog Trio opening, and Big Head Todd and The Monsters play Wednesday night.

Yonder Mountain String Band will play the Lincoln Theatre on Thursday with Chatham County Line playing in support, followed by Acoustic Syndicate and Blue String playing on Friday. On Sunday there's a benefit for Ivan Colón featuring C.O.C. (Blind), Man Will Destroy Himself, Original Confessor and more, while Robert Randolph and the Family Band play Wednesday.

Bob Mould plays tonight at the Rialto Theatre with Her Space Holiday.

More Black and Saunter play Thursday at the Pour House, followed by Waylandspire on Friday, Hose on Monday and Evil Jungle on Wednesday. Billy Music plays Saturday at the King's Barcade along with Amish Jihad and Grey Am.

Burnt by the Sun and Candria play Sunday at the Brewery, and Howlin' Maggie plays Wednesday. If you are looking for something to do on Saturday, there are many concerts going on in the area. Twiztid plays at the Brewery, while Daniella Howle & The Tantrums will give Humble Pie the munchies. Greenfest is happening, while Bloodkin plays at the Pour House and Widespread Panic plays the Altet Pavilion.

Alan Jackson brings his festival of country to Altet on Sunday alongside Rascal Flatts and others.

Sandra Bullock plays a homicide detective in the thriller "Murder By Numbers," which hits theaters this Friday. Also opening is "The Scorpion King," the "Mummy" spin-off with The Rock and Michael Clarke Duncan.

Jammin' with Ben Kweller

Senior Staff Writer **Grayson Currin**

Many kids couldn't survive the record industry as a high school freshman for most high school freshmen can't even figure out the locker mystery. Yet, at the age of 15, Ben Kweller was thrown into a pool of profit-eating piranhas that wanted money and money alone. As the frontman of what started as a high-school punk project called Radish, Kweller emerged as a bright-eyed, sunny-days man of 20 years.

His wit is full of charm, and the smile that he flashes regularly is a statement of his personality and lasting vitality. Before hitting the stage Saturday night at the Ritz, Kweller sat down to talk with Technician about his past, future and Garth Brooks.

Tech: Tell me about your musical beginnings.

BK: I was born in San Francisco, and then my parents moved to Texas ... I don't remember California. I grew up in Texas, but we always had a drum set

in the house and a guitar and an amp and a piano. Dad taught me how to play drums when I was really young ... we would play Beatles songs and Hendrix and just jam. They would always play The Beatles around me, so that was my first real influence. I just fell in love with their music. I learned "Heart and Soul" like every other American kid, and I just saw the pattern. I was like "What if I skip the second one and go to the third one?" Then it sounds like "Let it be." I was like — music, it's basically just a few notes and you pick how you want to arrange it. That's how I started writing songs. I just made up words about girls and love. That's the beginning.

Tech: How old were you when you wrote your first song?

BK: I wrote my first song when I was seven or eight on the piano. When I was 10, my dad bought me a guitar and showed me an E-chord and an A-chord. I started writing on the guitar. I put my first band together when I was 12 ... I started Radish when I was 13, and we

just played a lot in Dallas and made a CD. We got signed out of high school, when I was a freshman, by Mercury Records. Wow!

Tech: When Radish ended in '99, did you have a lot of ideas musically at that point or did you want a break?

BK: No. I was ready to do something different, and then I met my girlfriend Liz. I decided to move out of the house from my parents and to Connecticut to live with her. That was the end of Radish. We started going to New York a lot, so we decided to move to Brooklyn. I really came into my own. I started to record an album on my computer called "Freak Out, It's Ben Kweller." I met some people — Juliana Hatfield and Evan Dando. Chris Carrabba actually got a copy and invited me on the tour, but I got signed to ATO Records ... I didn't shop around for other deals. I was so sick of the big record company thing. I signed with them and started working on the new album, and here we are today. I put together a band for this tour, [and] I

think this will be the band for a while. They're incredible. Josh Lattanzi, he plays bass ... Fred, he plays drums. He looks like Ringo and sounds like Ringo ... and then, Mike Stroud.

Tech: Most fans at your typical Dashboard Confessional show aren't overwhelming supporters of Dave Matthews, the founder of your record company. How do you deal with that?

BK: Nirvana was my favorite band growing up, and ... if you are a Nirvana kid then you don't listen to the Dead or Phish or the Dave Matthews Band. As a musician, I've always felt that you can't hold a stick at that but you have accomplished or what he has built for himself. He's not a sellout; he does everything straight from the heart. He believes in all the right things — in music and in life. On one hand, I'm psyched to be their indie rock band and to be his guy. Now that I've hung out with the guy, I'm in love with him ... In return, I like his music more. I've been in this for so long ... I've become a lot

see Kweller, page 5

Don't give up on this "Yankee"

Senior Staff Writer **Jon Morgan**

Wilco
Yankee Hotel Foxtrot
★★★★

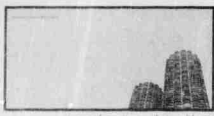


Image from www.wilcoworld.net

First impressions are everything. Whether they like it or not, the entire future of a band can rest on an album's first song. "Wouldn't It Be Nice" and "Janie Jones" — these are the songs that have changed bands into icons.

When I started writing this review up in my brains, I was going to say something to the effect that "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart" is no "Wouldn't It Be Nice," but it's certainly a step in the right direction. Well, I take it back. "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart" is up there. Years from now, some kid is going to write a review, and it's going to begin with "It's no 'I Am Trying to Break Your Heart,' but it's still pretty good." This song isn't good. This song is great.

I am trying to break your heart. It doesn't get any more honest than this, folks. Spoken slowly over the rising noise in the background, the words are repeated over and over. Scathing as it starts, however, the song softens from "What was I thinking when we said hello?" to "What was I thinking when I let you go?"

"What was I thinking when I let you go?" A question that a special someone at Reprise should be asking himself right now. The production of "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," plagued with problems from the start, led to problems with the

record label and eventually led to guitarist Jay Bennett leaving the band. As the much-anticipated follow-up to "Summer Teeth," expectations were high from the band and the label, and the label decided that "Foxtrot" wasn't up to the expectations.

Sound familiar? It should. The same thing happened to the Beach Boys' follow-up to "Pet Sounds," an album that, in the end, was never produced. Tensions in the band, pressure from the label and Brian Wilson's need for perfection led to the demise of what could have been one of the greatest albums of all time.

Luckily, Tweedy and company weren't such pushovers. After "Foxtrot" had been canned by Reprise, the band bought the recordings from the label for \$50,000. After moving to Nonesuch Records, the album is back on track for a release in late April.

This album comes and goes in waves, waves of happiness and sadness, country and pop. Running the gamut from self-conscious to self-deprecating, "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" jumps from pop to country and back again. This duality, in fact, is one of the album's true strong points. "Radio Cure" reminds us of Wilco's alt. country roots, combining a plodding blues guitar riff with Tweedy's crackling vocals.

"Heavy Metal Drummer," on the other hand, is at the opposite end of the spectrum. This is pop at its best. The bouncy percussion and the staccato strings, the guitar hooks and upbeat lyrics, this song is dripping with pop, a kind of pop that music these days needs. It's the songs like this that make one wonder how even a record executive could throw away such an album.

As the album comes to a close, things just get better. "Poor Places," while amazing enough on its own to have closed out the album, is followed by "Reservations," the true gem of "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot." Plodding piano chords and Tweedy's wistful lyrics set in stone once and for all that this is a relationship album. "Well, I've got reservations about so many things ... not about you."

Looking back, it's really hard to see how a person could have so easily cast aside this record. "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" is full of beautiful music, expertly crafted lyrics and, believe it or not, a surprising amount of commercial viability to boot. Sadly for Reprise, they gave up one of the best records in a long time for what amounted to pocket change. Beautiful and complex, sad and wonderful, "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" is a record that will be remembered for a very long time.

hyped his character up. The Rock himself probably had about two minutes of actual screen time. For some reason, Universal could smell what The Rock was cooking and decided to order up this spin-off.

Stephen Sommers, the writer and director of the two "Mummy" movies, wrote the first draft of this screenplay and wrote the story along with Johnathan Hales, the writer of "Star Wars: Episode II." David Hayter, who was given sole writing credit on "X-Men," also chipped in. So, with all of these blockbuster-minded gurus working on the story, you'd think that what The Rock was cooking would smell good. Instead, it smells like The Rock cooked up a mildly stinky fart.

The problem probably started off with having The Rock as the main character. The Rock says ... very little in this movie. It's a good thing, because he really can't act that well, except for that eyebrow thing he does, which, um, rocks.

The Rock plays Mathayus, an assassin hired to kill the sorcerer of a powerful warrior named Memnon, who looks and acts like an off-brand Russell Crowe. The sorcerer is able to predict the outcomes of battles, leading Memnon to win all his fights as he becomes ruler of whatever land they're

in. Mathayus soon discovers that the sorcerer is a sorceress, and a mad hot one at that, and instead of killing her, he keeps her and subsequently falls for her.

That's basically the plot. Intertwined in this plot are lots of fights, which are actually pretty cool. They aren't really inventive, and they lack the fun of the action in, say, "The Mummy," but they get the job done.

It does get disconcerting when your main character has about as much to say as one of the supporting characters. The Rock says 10 words tops at a time, so all you can really do is just watch The Rock lay the smackdown on a bunch of bad guys.

Another problem is that Mathayus is supposed to be an assassin, but he's nice to the good guys and mean to the bad guys. One would think an assassin would pretty much just be a cold, heartless bad ass. Of course, we would be wrong when The Rock is said assassin.

It's rumored that Arnold Schwarzenegger is going to make another "Conan" film in the near future. Hopefully it will be the kick-ass barbarian flick that our generation has sorely lacked, but if "The Scorpion King" is any indication, we may never see another kick-ass barbarian flick for a long time.

The Rock fails at laying the smackdown

Assistant Features Editor **Ryan Hill**

The Scorpion King

Starring **The Rock**
Michael Clarke Duncan
Directed by **Chuck Russell**
★★



© 2002 Universal Studios

Following up on the massively ridiculous success of "The Mummy" and "The Mummy Returns," Universal Pictures came up with a great idea. If the "Mummy" franchise can make us close to a billion dollars worldwide, why not have another franchise, a spin-off franchise, which could make us a few more bucks?

And thus the world was given "The Scorpion King," a knock-off "Conan" flick that's at least better than "Kull the Conqueror." Mind you, "The Scorpion King" is not "The Mummy 3"; it's a spin-off of that franchise.

Anyone who saw "The Mummy Returns" knows that The Rock plays the Scorpion King, and while they

Kweller, from page 4

more open-minded ... It's all about the music. As long as you're doing it straight from the heart, even if you become as big as Madonna, you're never a sellout as long as you stay true to yourself and to the music.

Tech: Growing up in Texas, it seems that it would be hard to escape the sounds of country music. Do you see that influence in your music?

BK: I didn't really fall in love with or respect country music when I lived in Texas. Growing up there — as soon as I found Nirvana — I hated my Texas accent. I wanted to be like Kurt Cobain. I wanted to alienate myself from the guys who wore cowboy hats and s—. When I moved away and saw the world, I found a new love for that music. Recently, I went out and bought all of Garth Brooks' records. A good song is a good song. Hank Williams, Johnny Cash ... it's punk rock. I definitely see that influence in songs like "Family Tree." It didn't always ring out in my music, but it does more and more lately.

Tech: What's in your CD player right now?

BK: It's the second Violent Femmes Album. We just got some records today. [but] I haven't been able to listen to it yet because I've been playing "Halo" on the X-Box. Oh, my God! It's ridiculous!

Tech: Steve Harris (U2, Dave Matthews Band) is more known as an engineer than a producer. How was that for you, using a producer who was still getting his feet wet?

BK: I just felt like something fresh was happening ... we started looking at

some pretty big producers like Rick Rubin, and we were going to record in LA and bring all of these studio guys in. But then it was like, "There's this guy named Stephen Harris, and he gets great sounds. But, he doesn't really produce." But then I just met him ... and we started talking about the game plan. It was so cool to work with him. He loved all of my ideas and I loved his. It was a great marriage. It was cool not to have someone intimidating me ... it was just making music the old-fashioned way. We didn't use Pro Tools or anything. We used 16-track tape. We were trying to base it around what they would use in '73 or '74.

Tech: You seem to love so many instruments and different sounds in [your] and others' music. How do you bring that all together when you sit down to write a song?

BK: I write only on guitar and piano, mainly. I've used the glockenspiel and organ to come up with stuff, [but] not full songs. Once I start writing a song on guitar, that's usually where I finish it, you know? It's a piano song or a guitar song. I sit down and play a chord progression. Once I find something that I like, I'll sing a melody of just words — you know, stream of consciousness. I usually have my little tape recorder on, but the best s— comes when I don't have my tape recorder. I've written some great songs that we will never hear. If it's really going well and I've mapped out everything — you know, this may be the verse, and this is the chorus, the bridge and the solo — I grab my sketchbook and force myself to write out words. The best songs happen just like that.

WKNC Top 10

Daytime

1. **Pedro the Lion**
Control
2. **Notwist**
Neon Golden
3. **Radio 4**
Gotham
4. **Denali**
Denali
5. **Cornelius**
Point
6. **Capital City Dusters**
Rock Creek
7. **...Trail of Dead**
Source tags and Codes
8. **Plug**
Independent Various Artists
9. **Fugazi**
The Argument
10. **Sorry about Dresden**
The Convenience of Indecision

Underground

1. **Immobilare feat. Jay-Z**
Let's Go
2. **Infamous Mobb feat. Prodigy**
Mobb: Nigga Fit: Sequel
3. **Sean Price**
Tel E Mundo
4. **Tribeca & Cash Brown**
The Big Bang
5. **Queensbridge**
Oh Boy
6. **Non Phixion**
Rock Star
7. **Fly Mode feat. Rah Digga,**
Rampage
Here We Go
8. **Sonic Sum**
Rocket
9. **Rock**
Walk Like a G
10. **GZA/Genius**
FAME

Afterhours

1. **Mark Farina**
Swerve
2. **Stryke**
Pages From The Blue Diary
3. **Hawke**
Headstroke
4. **St. Germain**
Boulevard
5. **Deepsly**
In Silico
6. **Soma 10 Anthology**
Various Artists
7. **Timo Maas**
Loud
8. **Desmond Williams**
Delights Of The Garden
9. **Soul Center III**
10. **Boards of Canada**
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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Accutane suit futile

THE LAWSUIT LINKING THE DEATH OF CHARLES BISHOP AND ACCUTANE IS OFF-BASE.

Accutane (isotretinoin) is one of the most widely used prescription drugs among teenagers. While anyone from a general practitioner to FDA officials will say it's quite successful at treating severe nodular cystic acne, it does have dangerous side-effects. The parents of teenager Charles Bishop, who flew a stolen plane into a building last January, are attempting to prove that their son's suicide was a result of Accutane use gone bad. Their lawsuit leveled against Accutane makers Roche Laboratories and Hoffman-La Roche Inc., so the Bishops say, is an attempt to call attention to the dangers of Accutane. The lawsuit, as evidenced by its \$70 million price tag, however is an attempt, albeit a weak one, to do more than that.

The lawyers for the Bishops are drawing an outline of an otherwise normal and happy child whose life was torn apart by adverse affects from Accutane. "This child was a happy, well-balanced, forward-thinking child who had a great deal to live for," Bishop's mother Julia told the Associated Press. This is the same boy who left behind a note empathizing with Osama bin Laden and supporting the Sept. 11 attacks.

Autopsy results found no traces of Accutane in Bishop's blood. Attorneys for the family posit that the tests are useless because so much blood was lost during the crash. Even if this is true, the recurrence of a flaw in the Bishops' logic.

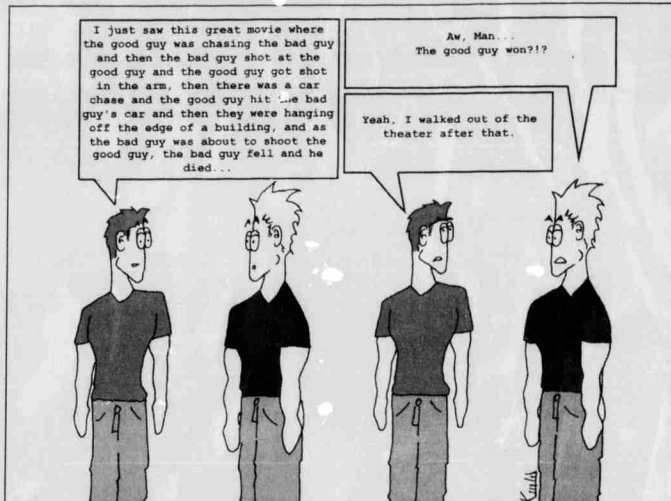
All prospective prescribers to Accutane (or their parents) must read and sign a

waver notifying them of the incredibly adverse side-effects Accutane can have. The most significant emphasis is placed on possible birth defects should users become pregnant, but the possibility of psychiatric problems or suicidal thoughts are also made clear. Bishop's mother signed this waiver. Even if she didn't read it, she said "legally" that she did.

Part of her case is that there is not enough information available on Accutane's possible psychiatric affects. Yet, a letter written to health care providers on the FDA's website clearly states this. If Bishop was a happy person until Accutane, why was the sudden change not reported? So essentially, Bishop would have the court believe that Bishop went crazy suddenly before his successful suicide flight.

Regardless of why Charles Bishop decided to take his own life, his death is no doubt tragic. Even so, a dollar sign cannot be placed on death. The \$70 million the Bishops seek skews their alleged message of warning.

At some point in time, the patient (or parent) must be held responsible for the use of prescription drugs. Spending nine minutes on the Internet will reveal that it's no secret that Accutane may cause psychiatric complications. And perhaps there does need to be more research done into the linkage between the drug and suicide; it has yet to be proven. Still, one must think that the Bishop's lawsuit does not accomplish what it says it intended to do.



Hollywood depiction of police needs work



Ben Kraudel

To Serve and Protect. I remember hearing this was the motto of sorts of those who serve as this country's line of public safety and defense. Police work is supposed to be virtuous and heroic work. I saw the movie "Training Day" this week. Also, I've watched several episodes of FX's new drama "The Shield." The thing that surprised me about both of these really shouldn't have. I found myself rooting for the rogue cops. There's something about vigilantes that is appealing to the eye and to my soul. It was only later, after I got back to my home, that I began to wonder about this. Is it not troubling that the portrayal of violence and distrust among those who are this country's enforcers of the law makes so many of us cheer? Killing other cops, stealing drugs, having affairs—all of these are things we see these fictional rogue cops doing, and it doesn't bother us. Still, does this happen in real life? Surely it does, and do we cheer for it then?

Because desensitizing our culture to these wrongs, and even glamorizing them, makes it that much easier for them to exist under the true guise of police work. As much as I enjoyed Denzel's monologues in "Training Day," or how I was overjoyed to see him win his Oscar, I wonder if perhaps creating this character that so many had rooted for adds to the general desensitizing of the public concerning violence and corruption. While so many movies and television shows depict violence and ask us as a public to leave our values concerning sex and drugs at the door. I examine this because we look to the police of this country as our protectors, and as our standard for ethics. Not only does this sort of programming desensitize people to corruption, but it also lends a dark shadow over police work in general. While this portrayal surely is not completely accurate, it is not completely inaccurate as well. So my proposal on this issue is twofold: While it would be wonderful to slowly work corruption out of the system, I would say that as corruption is worked out of the system, Hollywood would promise to more accurately portray police work and the standards for which it stands. In the years of Golden Hollywood and Cary Grant, policemen were round Irishmen with slight accents who always upheld the law, though they may

have been a bit daft. Now, nearly every policeman has one of two roles: He is either a rogue cop doing his best to twist the system to his advantage, or he is some good cop turned vigilante who is doing his best to right the system using his own rules. Neither of these truly does much to make the public trust and appreciate the police. Don't get me wrong: I like Bruce Willis. I liked the "Die Hard" movies, but how many kids after seeing that movie decided that they wanted to be a cop and are now loathing their radar guns?

In recent years, Hollywood has taken to making as many shots at the power structures of the world as possible, and I think it may be time for Hollywood to finally accept that it is also a higher power in the world. And as such, it has responsibilities and morals it should hold higher than just producing what will be entertaining. Some lines being crossed will not be beneficial to the overall good of society, and it is better to take the power given to the entertainment industry and use it to better society than to point out the flaws inherent therein.

Ben wants to preserve law and order... and "Law and Order: SVU" and "Law and Order: CI." Email him at bkraudel@univ-nctsu.edu.

I lost.



Larisa Yasinovskaya

As some of you may know, I just ran for Student Body President — and lost. Now I just want to share my experience and what I have learned from it. From the very beginning, I knew this was going to be a heck of an experience. I also knew and said that to do this, I would run only once, and never again — win or lose. The reasons for this decision were manifold. One was that I knew exactly what I was getting into and how difficult an undertaking this was. Another reason was that I didn't want to start out with the hopes of making this a career, and even if I had won, I figured that I should be able to accomplish my goals in one year and that another qualified candidate would undoubtedly come along. If I lost, I planned to move on and explore other parts of the university so as not to dwell on the past.

And so I will be moving on, but not before sharing the amazing experience that this election was for me. It was good and bad, but most of all — and as I had hoped — it built character.

This election, this campaign, was by far one of the hardest things I've ever done. Anyone who worked with me or on any campaign before knows what I am talking about. Campaigns are hell. They're long, they're hard, they're stressful. And most people don't realize how difficult it is. The worst part isn't even chalking all over campus on your hands and knees at 3 a.m. when you have an exam the next day (did you ever wonder how all that chalk got to where it was?) It's not making posters before class and then not being able to take notes because you can't feel your wrist from the pain of using a staple gun. It's not even painstakingly painting the tunnel in spite of your total lack of artistic ability. The worst part is when things go wrong. The worst is when you run out of gas right before you have to go speak to a group. The worst is when campus supervisors tell you that Student Government

vehicles are no longer welcome on the Brickyard (while all others are still OK). The worst is when you haven't eaten or slept and have a massive sunburn, and the wind picks up and tears all your stuff to hell — and you still have to smile through it all.

But I'm not complaining. This is the stuff character is made of, and I feel I'm all the tougher for it, or at least more mellow now. And I'm also not complaining because all the good stuff of the bad.

Because of this campaign, I got to meet and talk to more people than I think I ever would have if hadn't done this. I got to meet so many different people from so many walks of this university, whom I feel most of us don't even realize exist. I talked to seemingly everyone, from the future farmers to the future doctors, from international students to the Anime Club. I came in contact with more people than I ever knew had concerns.

And in addition to all this, I got to meet some amazing individuals whose faith and dedication kept me going when things were hardest. It is those people, and just having met and known them, that makes this whole experience worth it. And in the end I have no regrets about any aspect of this. I did what I wanted, and I did it my way. I know that I worked hardest until the last minute, and in the end that's what matters to me. I didn't compromise my beliefs, and I didn't succumb to the pressure and the negativity, and in the end that's what matters to me. But most importantly I had fun, and in the end that's what matters to me. I think that no matter what we're doing or what we're involved with, it's important to not get too caught up in it and in ourselves. I often had to remind myself and my supporters that you have to remember that you could die tonight, and if that were to happen, would today have been a good day?

And I guess that is the ultimate lesson: perspective. No matter what I do, I know to do my best and put forth my strongest effort. But I also know to remember it's a big world, and that no matter what I'm involved in, what I'm doing and how it turns out, it will all be OK.

Tell Larisa you're glad she lost at larisa_opinion@hotmail.com.

Mid-East conflict removed from American experience



Robert Jaijall

That Colin Powell's visit to the Middle East would be a failure should come as no real surprise to anyone. The experiences and wisdom of the average American and the average American leader are so far removed from the realities of life in Israel. It is laughable to think that completely irrelevant U.S. concerns would be addressed by the sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The further polarization of Palestinian and Israeli positions exposes the United States' influence over the region as illusory.

Americans should know by now what they consider to be appropriate responses to terrorism. For Americans, under no circumstances would it be acceptable to share any border with a country that seems content on sending guerrilla groups or bombers to attack the United States. Americans today couldn't even grasp allowing such a state to exist for 50 years. Moreover, Americans after that fateful day last September have become accustomed to the idea that it is wholly unacceptable to negotiate with unabashed supporters of terrorism against the United States.

However, Israel has tolerated such hostilities, making it unique among westernized, industrialized countries. This leads to the first point: For Israelis, consequences of Israel's relationship with Palestine and other Arab countries hit home quickly, frequently and closely. Any decision Israeli's leaders make can mean the difference in how many suicide bombings Israelis will face in the upcoming week. The closest American comparison — its

war on terrorism — hardly rises to that level of immediacy.

Thus, the need for Middle East leaders not to do anything stupid (yes, this sounds silly) leads to another point: The sides of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict are plagued by nationalism that ties them to horrible, extreme leaders (let this be a lesson).

Consider Israel's Ariel Sharon. Sharon started his climb to notoriety by leading the infamous Unit 101 Israeli commando unit attack on a Jordanian village, killing 69 civilians. The operation involved shooting through the windows and doors of houses and pinning civilians in their houses while blowing up their houses with hand grenades. Sharon later gained leadership positions in the military, where he earned his nickname as the "Butcher of Sabra" after killing an estimated 2,000 women and children in one incident alone. It is unclear why Sharon is not considered a war criminal.

That Israeli's position elected Sharon to his current position reveals what he wants: security without regard to the cost in Palestinian lives. Accordingly, there are already reports that the Israeli Defense Force's (IDF) most recent run through the West Bank is being carried out with the finesse of Sharon's previous operations.

Now, consider Palestine's Yasser Arafat. Arafat, like Sharon, started out his illustrious career by founding the commando group Al-Fatah, leading raids into Israel in the '60s and killing Jewish farmers. Arafat later headed the now-infamous Palestinian Liberation Organization, renowned for its terrorist attacks and bombings.

Like the Israelis, the Palestinians are now fortunate to have a militant extremist as their leader. Why Arafat? Seemingly a pattern among destitute Arabs, Palestinians believe that Arafat's willingness to bomb Jewish teenagers gives much-needed power by

which Palestinians can regain the land from which they were displaced.

However, reality suggests that Arafat has insufficient say in controlling his client terror groups, and as New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman points out, Arafat is not really a head of state, as he shows no concerns for the real affairs of a state, such as the education, economy and health of his people. Despite Arafat's morally complex inappropriateness, Palestinians, who do actually have valid complaints against Israel, have rallied around no other leader.

In this context, leaders like George Bush "wisely" send their diplomats into the Middle East, seeking for some sort of peace deal. "Blind peace" peace for the sake of peace — is something only the United States wants in the Middle East. The Israelis want peace only when they can be sure they won't get killed on the bus ride to work. The Palestinians want peace only when they can live in their homeland again as first-class citizens. For Israelis and Palestinians, "blind peace" is a toy with which naive kids play. Indeed, the mantra of "blind peace" is one even the United States is loathe to follow.

Given the United States' insignificance in the Middle East equation, for what reasons other than "humanitarian" ones (which lie at odds with Arab and Israeli concerns) does the United States still assume an active role in the Arab-Israeli conflict? The politics that bound the United States to the region (the Cold War) no longer exist. Old strategies have no place in a new situation.

Have anything more to add? E-mail Robert at evilbobNCSU@mac.com.

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STUDENT LEASES



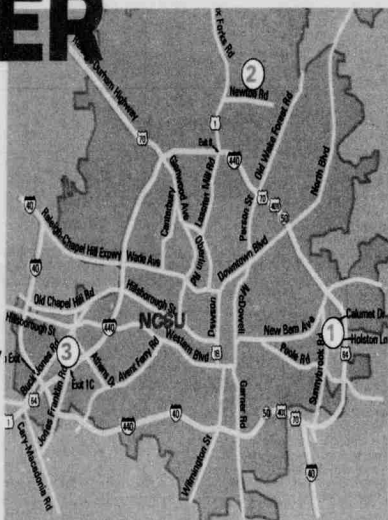
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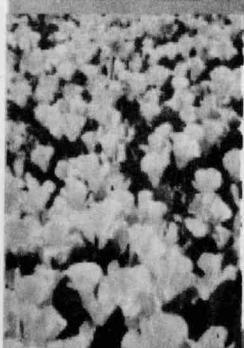
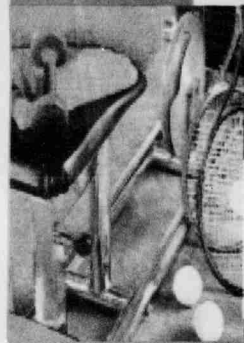
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TRACK

Continued from Page 10

those events."

The women's team may not have as many individuals on the ACC honor roll as the men's team, but they are still more than capable of performing at the top of the conference this weekend.

Leading the Pack will be a strong distance squad. Five Wolfpack runners are ranked in the top 10 in the conference in the 5,000, including three in the top four.

Kristin Price holds the top time in the conference as well as the second-best time in the nation in this event. Katie Sabino ranks only one position behind her on both the conference and national honor rolls in the 5,000.

Megan Coombs has the fourth-fastest time in the conference and the 16th best in the nation. Jen Modliszewski and Beth Kraft will join these three in the 5,000.

Sabino and Coombs hold the top two times in the conference in the steeplechase and the third and fourth best in the nation.

"Katie and Megan have good marks in the steeple right now," said assistant coach Laurie Henes, "but I think they're going to try to improve on them. They're both going to try to win, so hopefully they can push each other to qualifying marks." Price will double back in the 10,000, where she will be joined by Beth Hoover, Joss Lauber and Becky Hoover.

Katie Bolac has been one of State's best performers all season as she set or tied the school record in the pole vault three times. Her most recent jump of 12-9 places her 19th on the national honor roll and solidifies her second-place spot in the ACC.

Freshman Teresa Reed will also compete in the vault, where



PHOTO BY [unreadable]

NC State's men hope to pass by former champion Clemson at the ACC Championships this weekend.

she has the fifth-best mark.

Kristen Pace and April Golsby will compete in the high jump, an event Pace won the conference title in during the indoor season.

"April Golsby had a good meet last weekend," said Olson. "She jumped 5-3 in the rain, and I thought that was outstanding. She could have packed it up and not competed because of the weather, but she went out there and jumped well."

Felicia Fant and Ebony Foster will lead the women's sprint squad this weekend. Fant will race in the 100 and 200, while Foster will compete in the 200, 100-meter hurdles and the long jump. This will be her first long

jump of the season.

"Ebony long-jumped in high school and jumped 19-1," said Olson. "She has a lot of speed, and if she can hit the board and do just a few things we've been working on then she should be able to scrape up a few points."

Kelly Smokey will compete in all four throwing events — the hammer, discus, shot put and javelin. She is ranked in the top 10 in the conference in the discus and hammer throws.

"I think Kelly will have a good meet," said Geiger. "She is competing in all four throws, and if she can get just a little bit out of each one, then she's had a great meet."

TENNIS

Continued from Page 10

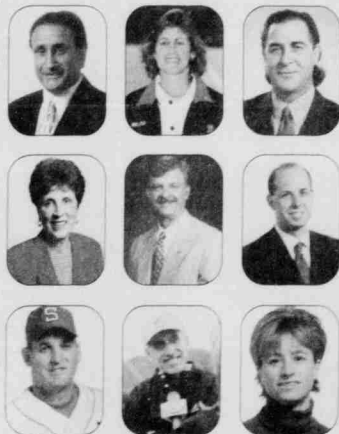
4-3 win.

Jennifer Jassawalla, who has the best singles record on the team at 12-9, is another player that is ready for another shot at Duke.

"I'm expecting us to play really well and compete well," said Jassawalla. "When we played them last time, there were a lot of opportunities to win matches, and at that time we weren't playing as sharp. Now we're playing a lot better so more opportunities should open up."

The ACC tournament is set up so that only teams advance; an individual victory, although gratifying, won't do much for the team.

The championships will be held in Raleigh, April 18-21, at the Millbrook Exchange Park. State begins play with the Devils at 1 p.m. Thursday afternoon.



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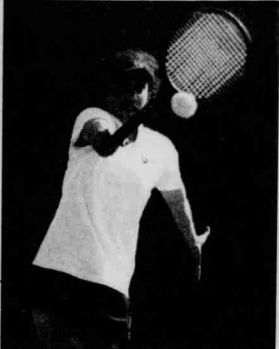
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ACC Championships

N.C. State primed to take on Duke in the ACC Tournament



JASON HEESTER/STAFF

Jennifer Jassawalla leads the N.C. State women's tennis team with a 12-9 record.

◆ The N.C. State women's tennis team hopes to ride a late-season surge into the ACC Championships.

Billy Freeman
Staff Writer

After struggling through much of the season, the N.C. State women's tennis team may be hitting its peak at the right time.

A victory over Virginia in the last weekend of conference play allowed State to reach double-digit wins for the first time since 1999 — a difficult feat considering they play in the ultra-tough ACC. The Wolfpack has also won two of its last three matches — all against ranked opponents.

State (10-12, 1-7 ACC) will need to capitalize on both factors if it is to get past defending ACC champion Duke (21-3, 8-0), who is looking for its 15th straight championship. The No. 5 Blue Devils demonstrated their power over the conference by going 8-0 in conference play this season.

One of those eight wins was a sweep of the Pack. In that match, senior Kristen Nicholls proved to be a tough match for Julie Deroo. Although she lost 6-4, 6-3, Nicholls held leads in both sets.

"Last time I played her I had my chances; I was up in both sets," said Nicholls. "She was definitely losing her confidence, so knowing that this time when I get my chances I'm going to capitalize on them."

Head coach Hans Olsen sees some weaknesses that the Pack may be able to exploit in this Devils team, such as being the favorite.

"One is they have to win," said Olsen. "They've won 14 years in a row. They're going to have to win. For us, everything we do is a reward, so we need to take that role on and use it to our advantage. I think that if we put them in close pressure situations then it can pay off, and we'll see how they react."

A pivotal point in the tennis match will be the doubles point. Winning the doubles point gives you a 1-0 head

ACC women's tennis capsules



No. 1

Duke

Records: 21-3, 8-0 ACC

Key facts: After advancing to the Final Eight of last year's NCAA Championships, once again the Devils posted an undefeated ACC record this season. With just three losses on the year, fourth-ranked Duke is poised to win its 15th title.

Key players: Only top team in the country is, the Devils are deep in talent. Five players on Duke's roster boast 20 singles wins or more.



No. 2

North Carolina

Records: 19-4, 7-1

Key facts: The Tar Heels' only ACC loss this season came against Duke, 5-2. Carolina will have the luxury of facing a possibly tired team in the first round — the winner of the Maryland/Florida State match.

Key players: Julie Rotundo is ranked 64th in the country in singles and is coming off a posting of top-30 player Julie Dekoo of Duke, 6-1, 6-2.



No. 3

Wake Forest

Records: 20-4, 6-2

Key facts: The Demon Deacons round out the ACC's lowest two teams, which make up the realistic contenders for this year's title.

Key players: The Deacs boast the conference's best player, Ben Bialik, who is ranked No. 1 in the nation in both singles and doubles. However, the junior has missed the last two matches with an injury, and her availability remains questionable.



No. 4

Clemson

Records: 13-9, 5-3

Key facts: The Tigers will be the slight favorite in what should be the most competitive match of the early rounds. Clemson topped Georgia Tech earlier this season by a score of 4-3.

Key players: The Tigers will be the slight favorite in what should be the most competitive match of the early rounds. Clemson topped Georgia Tech earlier this season by a score of 4-3.



No. 5

Georgia Tech

Records: 13-8, 3-5

Key facts: The No. 17 Yellow Jackets have lost two straight ACC matches heading into the tournament but have been competitive against ACC giants Wake Forest, Duke and North Carolina.

Key players: While the lineup has been shuffled many times this year, freshman Catherine Gunn has amassed the best overall ACC singles record at 6-2.



No. 6

Virginia

Records: 9-8, 2-6

Key facts: The sixth-seeded Cavaliers will meet Wake Forest for the second time in less than a week in the first round. The Deacs were victorious in that match, 5-2.

Key players: Raleigh native Heather Williams leads the team in ACC wins for the year.



No. 7

Maryland

Records: 10-10, 2-4

Key facts: The Terps downed N.C. State in their regular season finale to clinch a three-way tie for sixth place. Maryland's other conference win came against first-round opponent Florida State.

Key players: Marta Jedzjak sports an impressive record for the Terps, competing in several singles matches.



No. 8

Florida State

Records: 10-13, 2-6

Key facts: Florida State will hope to exact revenge on the Terrapins, who defeated them earlier this season. By virtue of a tiebreak, the Seminoles drew the worst possible seed out of the two tied for sixth.

Key players: The Seminoles' Achilles heel all year has been the play at the doubles position. They are still very talented at singles, led by Alda Galloway on Nov. 29.



No. 9

N.C. State

Records: 10-12, 1-7

Key facts: The Pack's lone conference win came at the expense of Virginia. The team has been playing solid tennis for the last couple of weeks, however, a first-round date with Duke might be too much to overcome.

Key players: Jennifer Jassawalla has been the Pack's most consistent player this season. Senior Katrina Goldenmeister will need a stellar effort on No. 1 singles against Duke on Thursday.

McCaïn and Hilary Adams, who are 7-1 in conference play.

"Those two together have won against teams that should give them the confidence that they can win against anybody," said Olsen. "Our doubles in general have been very dangerous."

Myrna Bawano and Loni Worsley have also been playing well of late. With State down 3-2 versus Virginia, each picked up wins to push the Pack over the top for the

See TENNIS, Page 9

Track runs to ACC finals

◆ N.C. State's track and field teams are looking to improve on last year's sixth and seventh place finishes at the ACC Championships.

Todd Lion
Senior Staff Writer

This weekend will mark the end of the outdoor track and field season for most of the athletes on the N.C. State teams. The Wolfpack will travel to Charlottesville, Va., to compete in the ACC Championships.

Clemson will be looking to take its third consecutive title on the men's side, but State will be sending a talented team that could challenge the depth of Clemson's sprinting squad.

A total of 19 of the Wolfpack entries are ranked in the top 10 in the conference based on this season's performances, and there are several men who have not yet competed in events in which they would surely hold one of the best times.

Senior Chris Dugan won the ACC crown in the 3,000-meter steeplechase in 2001 and 2000 but has not competed in the steeple yet this season. This year he will race in the steeple and the 5,000-meter run.

Isiah Oglesby placed fourth in the discus at last year's championships, but due to an injury in indoor season, he has only competed twice this season, throwing only the hammer in each competition. Oglesby will compete in the discus and hammer throws this weekend.

"We have Isiah, Tyrone [Dozier], and Dugan as our big three," said head coach Rolfie Geiger. "I think we'll do well. We're strong in the sprints, throws and distance races."

Before missing last season with a leg injury, Dozier won the ACC title in the 400-meter dash and placed third at the conference championships in the 200-meter dash.

"My best athlete, Tyrone Dozier, will have a full

load," said assistant coach Terry Reese. "He's going to run the 400 and the 200, and he'll also compete on the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400-meter relay teams. I'm expecting him to run really well this weekend."

Derrick High, Monterio Adams and Troy Graham will join Dozier in the 400.

"I'm also looking forward to seeing Derrick run," said Reese. "He's been running really well all outdoor season. It's just a matter of fixing a few small things in his racing — once we get those worked out, he should run even faster."

Joseph Brent holds the third-fastest 100-meter and second-fastest 200 time so far this season. T.J. Grwa will join him in both of these events.

David Patterson and Ryan Woods hold the two fastest times in the conference in the 5,000. Patterson will also be competing in the 10,000-meter run, an event he won as a freshman in 1999. Woods will be competing in his first steeplechase in addition to the 5,000.

Andy Smith will also attempt the steeple-5,000 double.

Chris Seaton, the ninth-best 10,000 runner in the nation, will join Patterson in both of his events.

"The biggest factor for us is going to be weather," said Geiger. "For distance runners to double, it really helps to have cooler weather. If you're going to run in a hard 10,000 on Friday, and it's warm and you lose a lot of water, it can be difficult the next day in the 5,000."

Nick Mangum, Devin Swann and David Christian will all be competing in only one event each. Mangum and Swann will race the 10,000, and Christian will run in the 5,000.

Randy Cass, James Rowell and Ryan Furlough will compete in the throwing events for State.

"The biggest thing is that we have Isiah back," said Olson. "Putting him in the discus and hammer with James is going to be good for the team. Both of them are capable of winning or placing high in each of

See TRACK, Page 9

BASKETBALL

Refining the process

The NCAA may finally be ready to make a sensible move on an issue that has depleted college basketball's ranks in recent years.

The organization's management council met last week to discuss rule changes that would relax restrictions placed on high school players and under-

Jeremy Ashton

classmen who enter the NBA Draft. The potential new rules would allow these players to go through the entire draft process but retain their college eligibility as long as they don't hire an agent or sign a contract. Under the current rules, prep or junior college players who enter the draft automatically forfeit their eligibility. At the moment, underclassmen can participate in pre-draft camps and then return to school, but they have to withdraw their names a week before the draft.

In a perfect world, the premier players would stay in college for four years, maybe three if they were really ready to move up. Realistically, convincing them to remain in school becomes more difficult for college coaches every year.

Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett and Tracy McGrady would be in their first, second or third seasons in the NBA if they had gone the traditional route, but all three made the leap from high school to the pros and are all-stars younger than 25. Darius Miles and Jermaine O'Neal are showing vast improvement in their second and sixth seasons, respectively, after making the same jump. Kwame Brown, Tyson Chandler and Eddy Curry have struggled in their rookie years, but in their second and fourth picks in the last draft are playing basketball full time and getting paid to do so.

With success stories like this, the best high school players are getting less incentive to play at the NCAA level. Even the players who do go to college are leaving earlier every year. Duke's Shane Battier was the first senior taken in last year's draft with the No. 6 pick. The next senior didn't go off the draft board until the 20th pick, which was used on North Carolina's Brendan Haywood.

Of course, for every Bryant or Garnett, there's a Taj McDavid or a Tony Keo, high school players who declared and went undrafted. For every Chris Webber and Jason Kidd who leaves college early and hits it big, there's an Omar Cook or Dantonio Wingfield.

In the past, players who entered the draft early and didn't make it cut had no second chance. If this new rule passes, then guys like Cook can go through the process, figure out what they need to work on and return to their education on and off the court in college.

The rule change wouldn't deter players from leaving early, but it would give them a way out if they weren't successful. Good players with limited credentials but limitless talent are still going to declare early for the draft, which is ultimately lowering the quality of play at the college and pro levels. Before Bryant, Garnett and McGrady hit it big, they went through a couple of years of growing pains, and during that time, no one in the NCAA was able to enjoy their presence.

Players will continue to leave early as long as NBA teams draft based on potential. At some point, the league needs to institute a draft policy similar to Major League Baseball. In the MLB, a player can declare for the draft after high school. If he doesn't like where he was picked, he can opt to play NCAA baseball, but he can't re-enter the draft until he has completed three years of college.

A draft policy like this for the NBA would allow the best players to jump right to the pros, while the rest could go to college, refine their skills and delight college basketball fans around the country.

Jeremy Ashton's columns will appear sporadically for the remainder of his time at N.C. State. He can be reached at 515-2411 or jeremy@techniciansports.com.



PHOTO BY JASON HEESTER/STAFF

N.C. State hopes to run past the other ACC schools in Charlottesville, Va., this weekend.