

TECHNICIAN

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Raleigh, North Carolina

Proposal could push creative writing to the next level

N.C. State hopes to add a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing degree.

Robin Sutton
Staff Reporter

Faculty at N.C. State's creative writing department are taking their program to the next level. For a decade, undergraduate and master's students have studied under talented writers to gain a minor in creative writing or a Masters in the Arts degree (MA). But soon, students at NCSU may be able to receive a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (MFA). "It seems like a natural outgrowth of what we've been doing," said John Kessel, director of creative writing. "We're working on the details of the program that will be sent to the Board of Governors by Jan. 1."

Kessel hopes the program will be approved by the end of the spring semester.

The MFA is a two-year program, and graduates would have what is, ultimately, the equivalent of a doctorate in Creative Writing.

"It is the capstone in the field of Creative Writing," said Kessel.

Graduates would have the option of teaching at a college level. They would also complete a thesis, or final project, which "would be of publishable quality." The project could be a book of short stories, a novel or a non-fiction piece of literature. "Fundamental to teaching creative writing is to publish," said Kessel.

Currently offered at NCSU is the MA

See WRITING page 2

General Motors CEO to address students

Rick Wagoner will deliver a lecture as part of the College of Management's Wachovia Lecture Series.

News Staff Report

N.C. State's College of Management will welcome Rick Wagoner, CEO for General Motors Corp., to campus today to share his experiences in the corporate world with students, faculty and staff. The lecture will take place at 4 p.m. in 3400 Nelson Hall and is free and open to the public.

The lecture is part of the college's Wachovia Executive Lecture Series. Each year the series brings top executives to campus to speak to faculty, staff and students about their experiences in the professional world. This semester alone they have welcomed leaders such as Ken Thompson, president and CEO of Wachovia, and Jim Cain, former president of the Carolina Hurricanes.

Wagoner is expected to discuss the industrial revival at GM, where he was recently named the next chairman to succeed Jack Smith. Smith will retire in May 2003.

See CEO page 5

Edwards promotes 'College for Everyone'

The senator's comprehensive reform package would attempt to enhance teacher quality, improve public schools and make higher education more affordable.

Carlton Newsome
Senior Staff Reporter

"At the heart of the American dream there's a simple bargain; if you work hard and play by the rules, America will give you the opportunity to build a better future," said Sen. John Edwards. "Now, as never before, education is the key to opportunity."

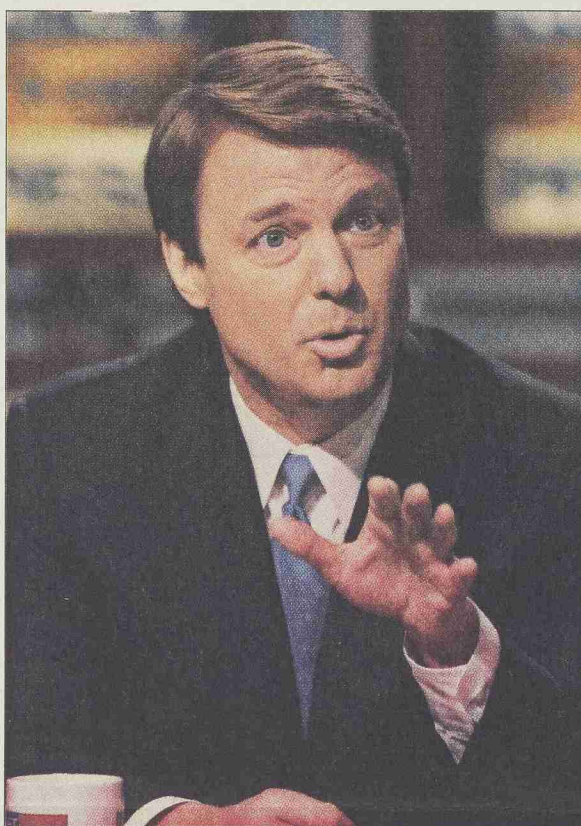
With that in mind, Edwards has outlined innovative new ways to strengthen the teaching profession, improve public schools and make higher education affordable for hard-working students through the College for Everyone plan.

A spokesperson for Edwards said that the College for Everyone program is designed to give students who might not otherwise get a chance to go to college a break that will allow them to see through the price tag of a college education and see the value that they will gain, rather than viewing as secondary something that they will never be able to afford.

This comprehensive package of education reform proposal was laid out in a speech at the University of Maryland and was the third major policy address delivered this fall by Edwards on domestic issues and foreign affairs.

He said Congress should double federal assistance to improve teacher quality. In return, states should be required to pay teachers more, target districts in greatest need and hold teachers accountable by adopting tenure reform laws such as North Carolina's.

Edwards called for free college tuition for students who commit to teach at least five years in communities with teacher



Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998.

shortages, together with a \$5,000 mortgage tax credit for teachers who buy homes in poor school districts where they work.

He also wants to require every high school to offer college-preparatory courses. He hopes to encourage universities to reach out to disadvantaged commu-

nities so young people can plan for college.

The centerpiece of the package is the "College for Everyone" plan. Free tuition for the first year at a community

See EDWARDS page 2

Commencement speaker reflects, looks to future



Senior Caitlin Boon is majoring in both food and poultry science. Staff photo by Ben Austin

Senior Caitlin Boon will give the commencement speech for December graduates.

LaWanda Ray
Staff Reporter

Born and bred in North Carolina, Caitlin Boon, a senior who's double majoring in both food and poultry science, is more than just a great speaker.

A Wolfpack fan since childhood, Boon decided to apply for the commencement speaking position because she thought that her family would enjoy it — being a "big bunch of Wolfpack fans" themselves — and to bring attention to the variety of activities she participates in.

Lydia Kuykendal, a junior and a close friend of Boon's, said, "Caitlin embodies everything this university strives to be and it's not fake; she really does care." She went on to point out that "even on crutches she manages to make it to football games."

Her favorite organization, which was also instrumental in her decision to come to NCSU, is 4-H. She credits her speaking ability to her 4-H experience, and as a freshman was the NCSU 4-H vice president.

Boon feels that "the university should realize the value of 4-H, and how it places middle and high school students in connection with many professors here."

Double majoring keeps her busy, but Boon says that, "both departments are wonderful and both departments really feel like family. Faculty members are not just here to teach, they are really concerned about students."

As a result of her participation in the Poultry Science club, Boon has won two national poultry judging competitions and two golden chicken trophies. She is also a member of the NCSU Food Science club, which was the nationally awarded chapter of the year.

Aside from her academic involvement, Boon's interests include salsa dancing, ballet, which she has practiced for 19 years, hanging out with friends, and volunteering with the Inter-faith Food Shuttle, 4-H and the YMCA.

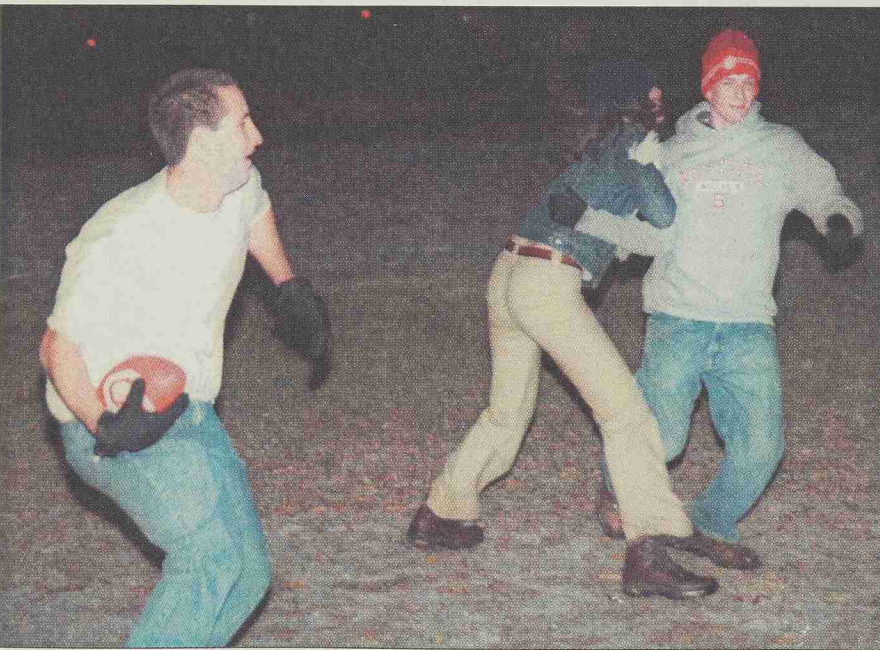
After graduation Boon is headed to Peru for three months to work for the International Potato Research Center, where she will be working with farmers on a new potato product. Eventually Boon would like to have a career in food policy.

But with exams right around the corner, Boon acknowledges how easy it is to develop "senioritis" and says that you must "tell yourself it is not an option."

To her fellow students Boon also says, "the best thing that you can do is to use your education for more than just passing tests, getting out of college and get-

See SPEAKER page 5

The frozen tundra



Freezing temperatures and ice could not stop freshman Nikki Player and sophomores Keith Murray and David Anderson from playing a football game at Tucker Beach. Staff photo by Carl Hudson

POLL POSITION

Should N.C. offer free tuition to freshmen with a 3.0 high school GPA?

Vote at technicianonline.com

TODAY

A&E gets close with Chris Robinson, 'Metriod' and 'Empire,' p. 6

Opinion wonders 'what would Jesus drive' ... or would he walk? p. 8

Sports has the scoop on the Pack's lopsided hoops win. p. 12

WEATHER



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WRITING

continued from page 1

program.

"The MA is a step on the path to a doctorate," said Kessel. It involves more literary studies, "reading novels and writing papers," whereas the MFA contains more writing workshop hours with classes at a higher level. "MFA students are working to perfect a fine art like painting, dance, or art — only their craft is writing."

If the program is approved, students who earn an MA degree from State will have the option of applying to work on their MFA. State would be the first school in the Triangle to offer an MFA in creative writing.

"Most MFA programs come out of liberal arts universities," said Kessel. UNC-Greensboro and UNC-Wilmington are the two other schools in the UNC System to offer the degree.

But there is a demand for a program like this in the Triangle.

"We've had inquiries about it for years," said Kessel. "People call us who have a job and a family here in the Triangle that aren't interested in traveling to another city to pursue the degree."

Tracy Knight, who works at NCSU's Study Abroad Office, is one resident who is interested in the MFA program. Knight believes NCSU's program would benefit students who work full-time and have limited vacation.

"I have thought about [the MFA program] for a very long time. But the only close-by program is in Greensboro, and their program is resident only. So if you can't move, what can you do?" she said.

John Morillo, director of NCSU's English graduate studies, acknowledged there is a lot of interest from the community.

"Two out of three people who have expressed interest are older people in the community who already have undergraduate degrees and would like their writing to become more than just a hobby."

"They want to polish their craft in order to publish their creative work," he said. "It's also an opportunity for them to work with our talented staff."

At a time when NCSU's financial state is shaky, the timing for a new degree program seems questionable. However, according to Kessel, there will not be a lot of immediate start-up costs.

"The classes exist," he said. "It's a matter of organizing them differently."

There are currently three professors in the creative writing department. They are Kessel, Angela Davis Gardner and John Balaban, poet-in-residence. In addition, Wilton Barnhardt was recently hired as an associate professor. Several affiliate faculty members would also be available to teach creative writing classes.

"Eventually, we'd like to hire one more published faculty member, and five would be plenty," said Kessel.

Planners want to keep the program small. The first class would probably have between eight and 12 students, said Morillo. Applicants would be required to submit approximately 40 pages of a creative manuscript, letters of recommendation, and as with all graduate programs, an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 would be required.

NCSU's MFA degree would be unique in that it would require students to complete six credit hours of free electives. This would benefit writers who need additional information about their subject matter.

"I'm a science fiction writer, myself," said Kessel, who, as an NCSU employee, has plenty of

resources for science and technology at his fingertips.

With time, will the MFA program phase out the MA? It seems like the next logical step since the programs are so similar. But for now, it's too early to tell.

"Once we get the MFA up and running, we'll evaluate that," said Morillo.

For Knight and other residents and students in the Raleigh area, the program is an obvious and welcome addition to NCSU's already-thriving creative writing department.

"Right now I'm writing some fiction, and I'm interested in publishing a novel at some point," Knight said. "But to get it published, I'm going to have to be in a setting that pushes me to write."

EDWARDS

continued from page 1

college or public university for students who pass college-prep courses and work at least 10 hours a week at a part-time job or in a community service program would be offered through this program.

He said he would also strengthen the foundation of student aid, including the Pell Grant. In addition, he would offer full scholarships for students who commit to working for five years after graduation to help meet our nation's homeland security needs.

Edwards is urging universities to follow the example of UNC, Yale and Stanford and end early ad-

mission programs that favor the wealthy. He also called for an end to "legacy admissions" for the sons and daughters of alumni donors that put a premium on money over merit.

Richard Kahlenberg, an education policy expert at the nonpartisan Century Foundation, said Edwards' agenda was "based on sound research, will shake up the system and will focus needed attention on children who are now being cheated by the system."

Sworn into office on Jan. 6, 1999, Edwards has been hailed by some as an advocate for issues affecting the daily lives of regular people in North Carolina and the nation.

Edwards' accomplishments in-

clude a major investment in America's public schools, modernization of the nation's banking system, sweeping campaign finance reform and many other accomplishments.

A product of North Carolina public schools, Edwards was the first person in his family to go to college. He worked his way through N.C. State University and graduated with an honors degree in textiles in 1974. He earned a law degree with honors in 1977 from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Majority of world enjoys U.S. entertainment, but oppose foreign policy

A global survey reported that Anti-Americanism may be rising.

Ben Finley

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A majority of people in countries around the world look favorably on the United States, but anti-Americanism is rising fast as the United States prepares for a possible war with Iraq, a new global survey reported Wednesday.

There is deep concern globally about a war with Iraq. Follow-up surveys in six nations that work closely with Washington found that large majorities of their citizens oppose the U.S. use of force against Iraq.

A majority of people in three of those friendly countries - France, Russia and Germany - think the United States is pushing

for war against Iraq for the selfish goal of getting control of Iraq's oil, according to the survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

The Muslim world in particular is increasingly hostile toward the United States, but favorable sentiments toward America are generally in decline even in Western and Eastern Europe.

While the trend line is down over the past two years, support for America remains generally strong, with majorities in 35 nations saying they still view America favorably.

Those are the headline findings from the in-depth survey of 38,000 people in 44 countries in every quarter of the globe.

A majority of Britons, the French, Germans and Russians think Iraq poses a significant danger and majorities of all but the Russians agree that Saddam Hussein must be removed. But, some-

what contradictorily, less than 50 percent of people surveyed in each of those countries support using force to get the job done.

That may reflect widespread cynicism about U.S. motives, especially a perceived American lust for Iraq's oil. Majorities totaling 75 percent in France, 76 percent in Russia and 54 percent in Germany say that's why Washington wants war. Even in America's closest ally, Great Britain, 44 percent hold that opinion.

Such sentiments may reflect a broader discomfort with America's imposing presence around the world. "Even those who are attracted to many aspects of American society, including its democratic ideas and free-market traditions, object to the export of American ideas and customs," the survey report said.

People in every European country except Bulgaria "are resentful of American cultural intrusion

in their country," the report said. "Overwhelming majorities" in the Middle East are negative about the spread of U.S. ideas. "The sentiment also appears throughout Latin America and Asia," the survey reports, although "in Africa, public attitudes are generally more pro-American."

To some degree, such attitudes simply go with the territory of being the world's only superpower, with unmatched economic and cultural influence, said Madeleine Albright, the Pew Center's chairman and a former U.S. secretary of state under President Clinton.

"America is nearly universally admired for its technological achievements, and people in most countries say they enjoy U.S. movies, music and television programs," the survey reports. "Yet in general, the spread of U.S. ideas and customs is disliked by majorities in almost every country."



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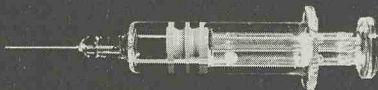
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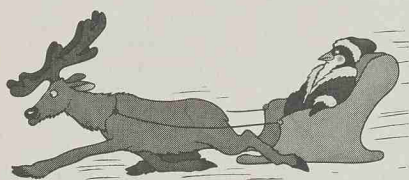
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U.S. AIR FORCE
CROSS INTO THE BLUE

Scientists announce success in decoding mouse genome

The advancement could speed up research into the causes and treatments for cancer, heart disease, schizophrenia and AIDS.

Robert S. Boyd

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Gleeful scientists announced Wednesday that they have decoded almost the entire genome of the mouse, the humble little household pest that is laboratory researchers' favorite animal.

As the second mammal, after humans, to have its DNA deciphered, mice will help scientists speed up their search for the causes and potential treatments for cancer, heart disease, schizophrenia, AIDS and other ailments. Biologists can perform experiments on mice that are impossible or unethical in people.

Despite obvious differences between mice and men, it turns out they have a great deal in common.

"We are all mammals," said Dr. Allan Bradley, the director of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, England.

In a flurry of papers published in Thursday's edition of the journal *Nature*, scientists reported that 99 percent of the approximately 30,000 human and mouse genes are similar. About 80 percent of mouse genes are virtually identical to their counterparts in humans, even though the two species evolved along separate paths for the past 75 million years.

"We even have the genes that could make a tail," said Jane Rogers, a Sanger Institute researcher.

For understandable reasons, mice have more genes for the sense of smell, for smaller bones and for faster reproduction. Humans, in contrast, have more genes for vision, language and thought. Both share the same basic body plan — heart, lungs, livers, backbones and so on — demonstrating their common mammalian heritage.

Scientists are confident that the mouse genome eventually will help improve human health. Cancer research is an obvious choice, but they admit that medical benefits will take time.

"There are not going to be cures immediately," cautioned Eric Lander, a leading genome scientist at the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Mass.

As they worked, scientists essentially laid mouse DNA alongside human DNA, checking for similarities and differences. In the process, they discovered 1,200 new human genes and 9,000 new mouse genes.

One previously unknown human gene plays a key role in regulating the processing of fat, and

may be important for preventing heart disease, said Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Md.

"We now have a Rosetta stone with which to read essentially the same message written in two different texts," Lander said. "It is through comparison that we really get to understand ourselves."

The Rosetta stone is a basalt tablet inscribed in both Greek and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics that was found in Rosetta, Egypt, in 1799. It enabled researchers who knew Greek to decipher the hieroglyphics for the first time.

The new DNA sequence was assembled by the Mouse Genome Sequencing Consortium, an international team of hundreds of scientists. Financing came from government agencies in seven nations and three private companies. To date, the mouse project has cost about \$130 million, somewhat less than predicted, Collins said.

Collins said knowledge gained from the mouse "will help us speed (medical research) up dramatically. We can do things now that we only dreamed about a couple years ago."

For example, Collins said earlier work on mice led to the development of Gleevec, a novel anti-cancer drug that the FDA approved last year for the treatment of chronic myelogenous leukemia.

"The laboratory mouse has become an indispensable tool," Mark Boguski, a researcher at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, wrote in *Nature*. "This will greatly accelerate the isolation of disease genes."

The mouse that sacrificed its DNA for science was a black-coated female from the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. It was one of millions of identical mice that have been inbred for more than 50 years for scientific research, and is a close cousin of the common field mouse and house mouse.

An almost complete draft of the human genome was published in February 2001, and a finished product is due next April. A preliminary draft of the genome of the rat, another favorite laboratory mammal, was released last month. Next in line for sequencing are the chimpanzee, chicken, cow, dog, sea urchin and honeybee.



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Supreme Court to rule on admission policies

The University of Michigan will defend allegations that it admitted less-qualified students because of race.

Maryanne George
Knight Ridder Newspapers

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The U.S. Supreme Court will decide next year whether admissions policies at the University of Michigan that give an advantage to racial minorities can continue at the nation's colleges and universities.

Many legal scholars anticipated the court's announcement Monday that it would hear the 1997 cases filed by two white students denied admission to the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and one who was denied admission to the law school.

All argued they were rejected while less-qualified minority students were admitted.

Lower courts have issued contradictory rulings in similar cases since 1978, when the Supreme Court issued its landmark but splintered decision in the Bakke

case that upheld the use of race as a factor in admissions.

The court is expected to hear oral arguments in the University of Michigan cases in March or April and issue rulings by the end of June.

"Clearly this is an issue of great national importance," said University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman. "We are ready to defend our policies. What we do is fair and legal."

The key issue in both cases is whether the use of race is legal under the Constitution's 14th amendment — commonly known as the Equal Protection Clause.

If the court rules that race is not a legal criterion, then the University of Michigan — and theoretically hundreds of other schools — would have to create new race-blind admissions policies, said Wayne State University Law Professor Robert Sedler.

If the court finds that race is an acceptable factor, then it could uphold the university's policies or order changes to be supervised by lower courts.

Michigan's case relies on the theory that creating a diverse student population improves education for all students. Students who are intervening defendants in the case present a different theory: that the use of race is necessary to correct past and present discrimination.

The incoming freshman and first-year law school classes of fall 2004 would be the first that could be affected by a Supreme Court ruling, said Jonathan Alger, University of Michigan assistant general counsel. Two of the Supreme Court justices who heard the Bakke case and voted in the minority — Chief Justice William Rehnquist and John Paul Stevens — will also hear the Michigan cases.

Barbara Grutter, who sued the University of Michigan when she was denied admission to the law school in 1996, said she was breathless when she heard the high court would hear her case.

"When I entered the work force 30 years ago, doors were opening," said Grutter, 49, a health care consultant from Plymouth Town-

ship. "I never thought I'd be discriminated against on another basis."

Jennifer Gratz, who sued the University of Michigan because she was denied admission as an undergraduate in 1995, said: "You couldn't wipe the smile off of my face this morning."

Gratz, 25, a technical trainer in San Diego, who graduated from the university's Dearborn campus in 1999, said: "I still believe in what I am doing."

The high court's decision to take the case was what Agnes Aleobua wanted, too. She stood on the steps of the Michigan Union in Ann Arbor in a driving snowstorm with other students to announce a march in Washington, D.C., on the day the Supreme Court is to hear arguments in the case.

Aleobua, 21 and a senior from Detroit, is an intervening defendant in the Grutter case. Her father, Paul, signed papers to allow her to intervene in 1997, when she was a student at Cass Technical High School in Detroit.

"We have the best arguments,"

Aleobua said. "But if students at U-M and across the country build a mass civil rights march, that will determine the outcome."

Coleman said she was not surprised that the high court decided to take the two cases. University lawyers filed briefs in October with the Supreme Court asking them to let stand lower court rulings, which favored University of Michigan's policies.

But they also urged the court to hear the undergraduate case if it decided to hear the law school case.

"The court decided to take these cases because they are very strong," Coleman said. "This is a historic opportunity for the court to reaffirm Bakke so that all institutions of higher learning will have the academic freedom to take race into account."

In May, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati said that diversity is a compelling state interest and that the law school's admissions policy is constitutional. The decision reversed a March 2001 ruling by U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman in

Detroit. That decision was appealed.

The appeals court has yet to issue a ruling in an appeal of the undergraduate case.

In December 2000, U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan ruled that diversity is a compelling state interest and that the current undergraduate admissions policy is constitutional. But Duggan ruled that a former policy, which set aside seats for minorities, is illegal.

In an unusual move in October, lawyers from the Center for Individual Rights in Washington, D.C., representing Gratz and Grutter asked the high court to bypass the appeals court and hear the case.

There have been similar lawsuits at other universities in recent years but none has been considered by the Supreme Court. In cases out of Texas and Washington state with different outcomes, the court chose not to take the cases. In a Georgia case, the university dropped its appeal before it reached the high court.

See COURT page 5

HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. BlackTribune Media Services

To get the advantage, check the day's rating:
10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

Dec. 5. You have amazing powers this year. You're smart, so don't let this opportunity slip away. You can achieve a goal you've had for years. Figure out how to keep the money coming in without working so hard. Now is the time!

Aries
March 21-April 19
Today is an 8. You're drawing the attention of those in authority. They're thinking you could handle more responsibility. Don't be afraid. Follow an older person's advice.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Today is a 7. If you have to get out of town to find the best deal, you'd better go soon. If you must wait for the weekend, Saturday morning at the latest.

Gemini
May 21-June 21
Today is a 7. You and your mate need to have a talk about money. Do it now, before one of you spends more than the other thinks you can afford.

Cancer
June 22-July 22
Today is a 6. All of a sudden your hero or heroine appears. This wise, competent person is glad to help you carry your heavy load. This could be a friend or a stranger, but for you, he or she is an angel.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22
Today is a 7. Your recent burst of creativity leads to a lot of great new projects. How will you get them all done? Get organized, now!

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Today is a 6. You should be just about finished, and not a moment too soon. Don't worry about perfection anymore. You're close enough. Wrap it up!

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Today is a 7. You should almost be past the planning stage and the supply-acquisition phase. The doing phase is fast approaching. Look out, world!

Scorpio
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Today is a 5. You may be almost out of ideas, but that's OK. There are more ideas that other people have discovered and left for you in books. Keep hunting and you'll find the perfect one.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Today is an 8. You're very persuasive now. Be careful what you ask for, because you just might get it. But here's the rub: You may have to pay for it.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Today is a 7. You should be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel by now. It's an indication of success, not the train coming. Tomorrow will be even better.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Today is a 7. You're good at evaluations, but how are you at setting priorities and making snap decisions. You'll soon get to practice.

Pisces
Feb. 19-March 20
Today is a 6. You show your love in subtle ways. You don't always come right out and say it, but people get the message. Make sure an older person knows.

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CEO

continued from page 1

Leadership positions are nothing new to Wagoner, however. His resume includes positions as vice president of finance for GM Europe, managing director of GM's Brazilian division and executive vice president for GM in the United States. He has been the

company's chief executive officer since June 2000, the youngest to hold the position since 1923.

Wagoner received his bachelor's degree in economics from Duke University and an MBA from Harvard University.

His visit will also include a dinner address to members of the Supply Chain Resource Consortium at the College of Management

COURT

continued from page 4

The national importance of the issue and the extensive factual record made by the University of Michigan and CIR and also increased the chances for the University of Michigan cases to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, said Susan Low Bloch, a professor of constitutional law at Georgetown University.

Many legal experts say Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy are the swing votes in the Michigan cases, Bloch said. In prior cases, Justices Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia and Chief Justice Rehnquist have opposed the use of affirmative action.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, David Souter and Stevens have been more sympathetic to affirmative action, Bloch said.

Bloch said it is important to clarify the Bakke decision.

Former University of Michigan President Lee Bollinger, who led the team that created the university's defense of its admissions policies, agreed.

"Losing is a risk, but this is too unsettled in society and it's too important to leave unsettled," said Bollinger, president of Columbia University.

SPEAKER

continued from page 1

ting a job; find something you are passionate about and volunteer."

Boon also advises students to "find a way to study or travel abroad, and take classes outside of your major to gain a well-rounded education and a better understanding of the world today."

While at NCSU, Boon has studied abroad at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, and has traveled to Cuba and Mexico.

What do you think?

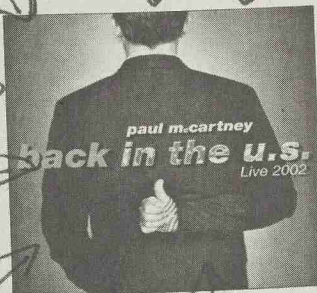
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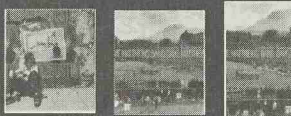


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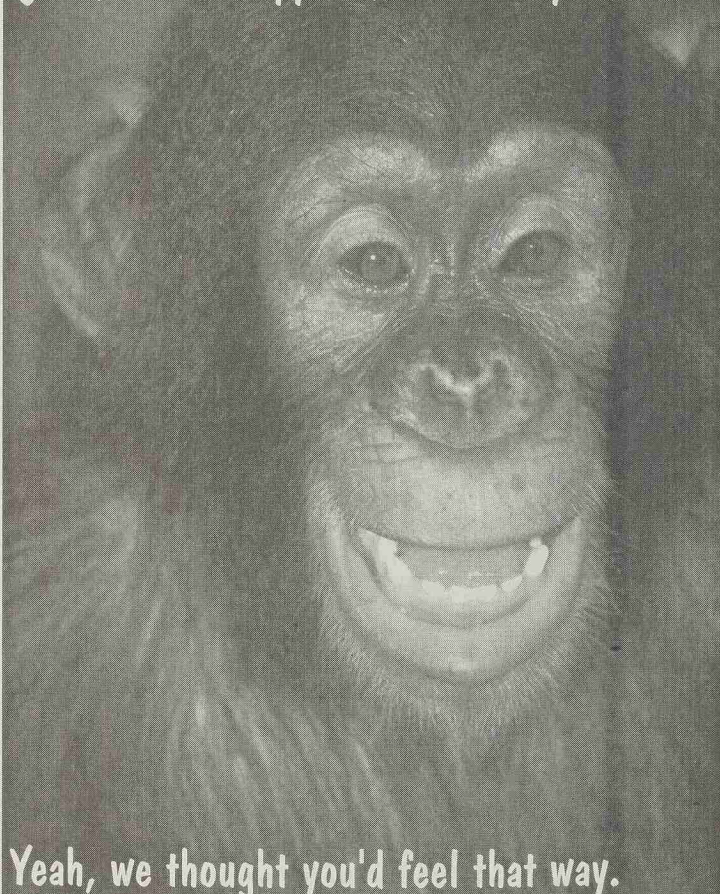
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How far does a solo Crowe fly?

Grayson Currin
Senior Staff Writer

You really have to wonder about a guy like Chris Robinson.

At least that's what most people in the audience at a half-capacity Lincoln Theatre seemed to be doing for part of his generous three-hour show Sunday night alongside his current touring outfit, New Earth Mud.

Robinson rose to fame as the lead singer of The Black Crowes, a prolific and involving frontman for one of the most visible '90s Southern rock bands. The Crowes' first effort, "Shake Your Monkey Maker," was a tour de force of singles and attitude, eventually reaching quintuple-platinum status.

With Robinson at the helm, The Crowes became one of the most respected touring acts of the '90s, straddling the thin line between jam-base appeal and popular radio acceptance. The band made it in the studio, releasing five more albums, ranging from mediocre at worst to stellar, in only nine years. 1992's "Southern Harmony and Musical Companion" earned two platinum plaques, and "Amorica" met wide critical acceptance despite low sales.

A string of late 1999 dates found Robinson transforming into one of his idols, Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant, alongside his own band and Zeppelin's guitar virtuoso Jimmy Page for the recording of a classic rock reinvigorating set, "Jimmy Page & The Black Crowes: Live at the Greek." A sell-out tour followed with Page, as the Crowes perched high in a deserved moment of glory.

All this considered, it seems that the Crowes should have been able to deal with the fraternal scuffle between Robinson and his guitar-sailing brother Rich that constantly plagued the band's ranks. The conflict gained national attention when the band lit into the sarcastically dubbed "Brotherly Love Tour" in 2001 with the squabbling Gallagher of Oasis.

After ending the tour and hitting the road in support of "Lions," the band immediately dissolved into hiatus, many of the members moving quickly into long-brewing solo or side projects.

And so it was for the Crowe, with the voice that seemed destined to save the soul of rock 'n' roll. Robinson, with a few songs he had written during the closing month of their tour and even more he had written later, headed to Paris with Oasis sideman Paul Stacey to record an album in the idyllic Gang Studios.

"New Earth Mud," the album that emerged in less than a month, is a matured, mellowed effort, void of any of the crotch rock or guitar psychedelic strains that coursed through both early and late Crowes' work. The album — highly suggestive of Robinson's musical genesis drawn from McCartney, Dylan and Winwood — is, overall, a surprisingly solid effort, managing to graft real soul power to middle-of-the-road introspection.

By and large, it was that new, organic, low-key sound that Robinson chose to deliver to the audience Sunday night. Ambling onto the stage and grabbing his six-string Martin, Robinson — clad in skintight jeans, a white, loose Oxford and a leather jacket — gave the crowd a smile at the start of the show.

"Ready?" he asked the band before appropriately hammering into "Mud"'s opener, "Safe In The Arms of Love."

"Way across the valley on the mountain side/ Poets write of dying and they drink black wine/ They dream about a hero with broken wings," Robinson sang, his voice full of that emotive steam that made him famous.

Robinson, obviously thrilled with the idea of crowd intimacy he discovered during his American and European acoustic tours earlier in the year, was immediately friendly with the crowd.

"This next tune is appropriate for the evening. Our big Sunday Evening hootenanny potluck thing ... This is called 'Sunday Sound,'" Robinson said, laughing.

The band sailed through the song, Paul Stacey electrifying the crowd with guitar breaks, ripping through a piercing solo as his brother, drummer Jeremy Stacey, and bassist George Reiff sailed into a hard-edged cadence backed by the organ groan of George Laks. Robinson, working to keep pace with his own guitar, flashed an honest smile at the band, expressing sincere admiration for the force they were adding to his material.

That same scenario persisted a good deal of the night, as Robinson looked most comfortable letting the band take more than its share of the evening's excitement. Paul Stacey's dynamic guitar work seemed the necessary ingredient for New Earth Mud. His song-shifting playing, both convincing and mutable, handled the brunt of the band's



Chris Robinson, formerly of The Black Crowes, is doing the solo thing. Photo courtesy of Redline Entertainment

load, slashing in and out of riffs and rhythmic verses with palpable electric explosions.

During the three-hour set, Robinson and company played well over half the material from the new album, delighting fans of the disc's largely acoustic-based melodies.

Robinson and Mud moved with flair through a well-selected batch of covers, bouncing through a blues-laden version of Dylan's "Tough Mama" before laying back during a Stacey-dominated, sublimely played cover of a song Tim Buckley made famous, "The Dolphins."

"This is Dead Folk Singer Sunday. That's a sub-theme of the theme from earlier ... Not very funny, is it?" Robinson joked with the crowd after chilling it with the cover pair.

The James Moore-penned "Got Love If You Want It" sent the crowd into fits, exploding with a combination of the deep Delta Blues and the electric vim that set the Southern rock mindset even with that of The Crowes.

The Dead got their due with the opener of the first set, "Going down the Road Feeling Bad," and the crowd applauded for the cover of the Stones' "No Expectations." Crowes' sideman and Raleigh resident Audley Freed joined Robinson onstage for a raging cover of "Blues Power," keyboards and guitars sending a good portion of the audience into fits.

The wealth of diverse covers that Robinson and Mud presented Sunday is but a testament to Robinson's own heterogeneous musical inspirations.

In talking about his music collection and the records that influenced him for the recording of "Mud," he is quick to mention Thelonus Monk, followed in surprising form by Lester Flatt and Earl Scrog-

gs, Neil Young, Jerry Garcia, Al Green and a host of others.

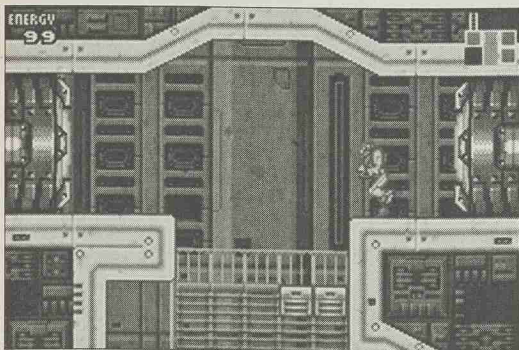
Strains of all of those were readily apparent in both the album and the live show. As Robinson made his way through two sets, he served testament to the classic rock background many came to the show expecting while making a conscious effort to show his "songwriter" propensities.

With eyes closed, it wasn't difficult to conjure images of Dylan and The Band while Robinson and friends played numbers such as "Sunday Sound." Robinson nearly played the part of bona fide singer/songwriter genius with the tuneful "Barefoot by The Cherry Tree." Almost through a willful act of conscience, however, he reverted back to the Brit rock sounds of Pete Townshend and Mick Jagger, grabbing the microphone with one hand and pointing upwards with the other in posed retro-Plant fashion.

The Southern rock grist popularized by The Crowes found its place in the set time and again.

The result, though solid in content and injected with real soul power, seemed rather forced, a sincere but misguided effort to recreate the last 40 years rather than to start something new with it. All the trappings of a great band were present and accounted for, but Chris Robinson must find himself and solidify his own direction musically. When that happens, his undeniably strong voice, riding alongside the flabbergasting skill and emotion of Paul Stacey's playing, will start something special.

More 'Metroid' love



Nintendo's Gameboy Advance version of "Metroid" is "Fusion."
Photo courtesy of Nintendo

Metroid Fusion

GameBoy Advance
★★★★½

Antonio Brunson
Staff Writer

To coincide with the release of "Metroid Prime," Nintendo also developed another "Metroid" game for the Gameboy Advance that's

more faithful to the gameplay of the Super Nintendo classic "Super Metroid." While it falls short of meeting the high standards of its predecessor, "Metroid Fusion" is a fun game in its own right and one of the best available for the portable system.

In "Fusion," we again meet bounty hunter Samus Aran, who contracted an infection from a parasite while exploring the home planet of

the Metroids, SR388. Pushed to the brink of death, the only way scientists could save the fearless explorer was through metroid tissue recovered from her previous adventures. The procedure worked, although she lost most of her abilities and several pieces of her suit had to be removed.

Shortly following her recovery, Samus is dispatched to investigate a disturbance at a space station where the parasite, now known as "X," is being studied. Upon arriving at the outpost, Samus sees that the parasite has infected and taken control of many of the creatures aboard the station, which functions as a biosphere. Her previous exposure to "X" not only allows her to take on the creatures but absorb the remnants of "X" into her own suit, and now she must work to contain the threat.

This new twist introduces some interesting concepts into the gameplay. Now when Samus defeats an enemy she must absorb "X" before it infects the body of another creature. Since the parasite samples came from the removed pieces of

See FUSION page 7

Fallen 'Empire'

Empire

Starring: John Leguizamo, Peter Sarsgaard
Director: Franc Reyes

★

Joel Isaac Frady
A&E Editor

"Empire" stands alone as a film so staggeringly incoherent, so sloppily made and so incredibly boring at any given point that years from now it might be taught in schools as how *not* to make a movie. From beginning to end the film is plagued with too many voice-overs, cardboard-thin characters, random graphic violence and a plot that's as easy to read and predict as an episode of "Scooby Doo."

In the middle of all this mess, sadly, sits John Leguizamo. Granted, his career has seen many low points like this one — "The Pest," "Super Mario Bros.," "Spawn" — but despite these bad choices he's always bounced back with the likes of "Moulin Rouge" or his stunningly hilarious HBO special "Sexaholic." Even in the low points, it must be said, he has always proven himself to be a talented, diverse actor who can add life to almost anything.

Even with a good performance in "Empire," one that will keep many people from simply walking out of the theater, there's no force on earth that could have saved a script as horrible as the

one that writer/director Franc Reyes developed for this film.

Nowhere, at any point of this film, does he decide where the variety of characters he's introducing are going, how any of the several subplots tie together or what he's trying to say through the film. A couple of times he does make a message or two clear, but he has to use not only voice-overs in these scenes, but the voice-overs actually explain what's happening and why it's happening.

There's also the major question as to what exactly director Reyes and cinematographer Kramer Morgenthau were trying to do with their camera, because the visual style that "Empire" employs makes most TV movies look like "Citizen Kane." The camera bounces all over the place without any understood reason, the camera panning constantly and breaking almost every established rule in cinematography.

Someone very wise once noted that you know the cinematography is working if the pictures make coherent and dramatic sense with all the sound entirely off. In "Empire," the pictures barely make coherent sense with the voice-over giving a play-by-play of the action.

The plot bounces around so much it's hard to explain, but it always follows Victor Rosa (Leguizamo), a character who describes himself as "young, Latin and good-looking." At some

See EMPIRE page 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY

Michael Winterbottom's "24-hour Party People" plays at the Campus Cinema.

Xtra Infinit will present "Liquid Flows" at Kings Barcade.

Saunter and None The Wiser play at the Pour House.

Don Conoscenti and Amy Spence will play the Six String Café.

Jazz Anew performs with DJ Exe at Humble Pie.

Meltdown Yellow plays at the Berkely Café.

Greenhorns with the Man play at Go! Studios.

Rich Emily plays at the 42nd Street Oyster Bar.

FRIDAY

The Music Department presents its Holiday Concert in Stewart Theatre.

"Biggie and Tupac" plays at the Campus Cinema.

Seattle, a tribute to Pearl Jam and Nirvana, plays at the Lincoln Theatre.

Appetite for Destruction plays at Cat's Cradle.

Kings Barcade will host the Bifocal Media Film Night.

Secondsight will play the Six String Café.

Steep Canyon Rangers play at the Pour House.

Big Bertha plays at the 42nd Street Oyster Bar.

Alex Bach and Alysoun Light will play the Berkely Café.

"Empire," "Analyze That," "Equilibrium," "Rishte" and "Heaven" open in theaters this weekend.

SATURDAY

The Music Department presents

its Holiday Concert in Stewart Theatre.

"Biggie and Tupac" plays at the Campus Cinema.

DJ Freaky Flow and MC Mudslide perform at the Lincoln Theatre.

Southern Culture on the Skids plays at the Cat's Cradle.

Armand Lenchek plays the Six String Café with Danny Gotham and Will McFarlane.

Goner, The Natural History and Ryan Pound perform at Kings Barcade.

Emma Gibbs Band plays the Pour House with the Daniel Barrett Group.

SUNDAY

Michael Winterbottom's "24-hour Party People" plays at the Campus Cinema.

The New Horizons Choir performs in Stewart Theatre at 4 p.m.

MONDAY

Interpol, Calla and Cold Sides play at Cat's Cradle.

Pfiesteria plays the Pour House.

TUESDAY

It's Open Mic night at the Six String Café.

WEDNESDAY

Embodiment plays the Brewery.

Taking Back Sunday and The Starting Line play at Cat's Cradle.

Devil's Workshop Big Band plays the Pour House.

Kings Barcade will host the "Best of 'Hi Mom'" short film festival, followed by French Toast (the band, not the breakfast meal).

Daybreak performs at the Six String Café with Nixon, Blevins & Gage opening.

FUSION

continued from page 6

Samus' suit, she can absorb some of her lost abilities by defeating some of the stronger creatures.

Unlike "Super Metroid," which gave the player freedom to explore the world around them and seek out their next goal, "Fusion" has a rather rigid, objective-based system. Before advancing, Samus must consult with her ship's computer, named "Adam," who will inform of her next task, even pointing out its location on the map. Other areas will be closed off completely, preventing curious players from going off the beaten path.

While this averts any confusion, it's disappointing that the developers didn't allow for more freedom. This linearity also allows "Fusion" to have a much deeper story than previous "Metroids," and a few of the plot twists are sure to throw you for a loop.

Still, players must comb each area they access, checking for bombing locations and fake walls in classic "Metroid" fashion. They'll take on the usual collection of alien scum, including a couple of new faces, and search for extra missile packs, energy tanks and other upgrades.

The biggest twist in the game is the appearance of a cloned body of Samus, created by the "X" parasite. This bad girl has all of the abilities Samus has lost, making the heroine no match for her. Several scripted situations will require you to avoid this lurking menace until she leaves the general area, making for some of the tensest moments in the game.

Sadomasochistic players will get a kick out of challenging the clone and seeing how far they can run before being annihilated.

Some will be surprised at the initial difficulty of "Metroid Fusion." Enemy damage is uncom-

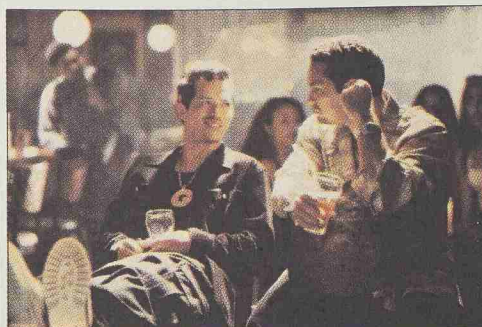
monly high, and Samus will drop after only four or five hits. Lots of boss battles are littered throughout the game, most of which, except ironically the last ones, are very challenging. These screen-filling battles require you to make the most of virtually every ability you come across, and you'll breathe a sigh of relief when you finally best the vicious beasts you'll be taking on.

"Metroid Fusion" has some of the best visuals on the Gameboy Advance yet. Lavish drawings accentuate the storyline, and smooth animation brings the drooling, creepy aliens to life. Lush foreground and background scenery create a believable, interesting environment. The whole package comes together nicely and you'll appreciate some of the nuances developers took the time to put in.

Aurally, "Fusion" hits the spot but doesn't do anything too special. Each creature shrieks with the tenacity you'd expect, making the boss battles just that much more intense. The soundtrack boasts some remixed tunes from "Super Metroid," all of which are decidedly inferior to their source material, but the original music in the game holds its own.

"Fusion" clocks in at about four hours, but if you count the amount of time retrying bosses, the total's closer to six or eight hours. Still, the length of the game leaves something to be desired, and the only motivation to play again is to see a slightly better ending. If you own "Metroid Prime," which I most assuredly suggest you do, "Fusion" unlocks some extra secrets in the Gamecube game, most notably the entire original "Metroid" game.

Despite its flaws, "Fusion" is a fun, original game on a system best known for its ports of classic Super Nintendo games and is worth at least a rental.



"Empire" opens Friday. Photo courtesy of Universal Studios

EMPIRE

continued from page 6

points we follow his relationship with his girlfriend Carmen, at other points we follow his business association with Jack Wimmer (played by the talented but wasted Peter Sarsgaard) and at other points we follow the life of crime in the Bronx that he is trying so desperately to get out of.

The cast has several other notables, but it's not really worth going into, because they are all either talented (most of them) or not (the cases of Denise Richards and Fat Joe), and all of them are wasted. All of these characters are as cliché as possible, each one is paper-thin and they are so distanced from the audience that in one incredibly violent scene (involving two murders) the audience began applauding as they died.

This response to brutal violence marks two flaws in the filmmaking. The first is simple: the audience cared so little about these characters, for they were so poorly developed, that their deaths were simply an entertaining end to two horrible people.

The second stands as a bit ironic, since the film decides (at the last

possible moment) that it's about knowing and accepting the consequences of one's actions. Victor realizes that the violence he's contributing to, if not executing personally, is going to catch up with him. The voice-over tells us that he realizes the extreme importance of these actions, but despite this 'message' the film is chock-full of stylized, glorified violence.

There is something, admittedly, that works at two different points in "Empire." For a film that did nothing else right, it does manage to bring in two giant shocks, one of which made many people jump in their seat. Hitting the audience that way is hard to do — hell, many horrors fail to do it — but then again, that only accounts for less than a minute of a feature film.

The rest, as you should be able to assume by now, is simply garbage.

Leguizamo is the only bright spot in the picture, but he's hard to watch because you simply wish that an actor that talented could make something that isn't this awful.

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Execution stay is in interest of justice

A stay of execution issued on Wednesday may do more than simply postpone an execution — it may grant death row inmate Desmond Carter a new chance at justice.

Carter's Dec. 10 execution has been an issue of debate for not only Durham County but the Triangle and state at large. Carter's lawyers requested the stay on Tuesday amid concerns about racial bias, incompetent defense lawyers and partisan judicial elections, according to the Associated Press.

It would be simple to say that as long as questions remain about the fairness of a death penalty trial, the execution should be postponed. Yet, as long as defense lawyers can continue seeking appeals, this process could lead to abuse. Therefore, our only decision as a society — as long as the death penalty is in place — must be to make informed decisions about the nature of each case. And in the situation of Carter, the appropriate decision is to review the facts surrounding the nature of his trial.

Carter was sentenced for the 1992 stabbing murder of Helen Purdy, Carter's 71-year-old neighbor. He was convicted of robbing Purdy of with a deadly weapon, a crime for which he received 40 years in prison.

Several factors surrounding the Carter trial should be considered for review, the first of which being whether or not the Rockingham County Superior court actually had the jurisdiction to sentence Carter to an execution — an issue Carter's lawyers question. Another problem involves one of Carter's state-appointed lawyers, Doug Hux, who was

reprimanded by the state bar. A petition filed by Carter's new attorney claims Hux was incompetent and that his actions severely hindered Carter's trial.

Race is often considered to be a factor in death penalty sentences, and Carter's case is no different. It would be difficult to allow appeals to be made for every minority sentenced to the death penalty, but Carter's situation is different because, as stated in the petition filed by Carter's lawyer, many other people convicted of first-degree murder haven't been sentenced to death. The petition says this is because Carter is black and his victim was white, but instead of simply analyzing race, lawyers should examine what distinguishes Carter's crime (one said to be deserving of the death penalty) from other first-degree charges that did not. If the details of Carter's crime fit with previous death penalty first-degree murder trials, this would provide evidence to continue with plans for an execution, because the sentencing would be motivated by previously accepted legal practice — not a race-related judgment.

While the family of Helen Purdy was certainly anticipating the day in which Carter's sentence would be carried out, the legal system has a responsibility to ensure a fair sentencing trial to the convicted. Although re-evaluation may take more time and money, these expenses are worth the assurance that the death penalty was obtained through the proper actions of the North Carolina courts involved and not outside bias or misrepresentation.

Mirandas should be given first

Staff
Editorial

Daily Targum
Rutgers U.

(U-WIRE) NEW
BRUNSWICK,
N.J. - Once again,
information is the
topic of concern.

However, this time technology and innovation do not deliver it. In fact, it's the delivery of information that has the Supreme Court in controversy.

Even though operational procedures guide employees in their professions, they are not always followed. In police work, the law demands that anyone arrested be read their Miranda rights before questioning. Although sometimes, the arresting officer does not remind criminals they do have the right to remain silent and anything they say can and will be used against them in a court of law. This lack of procedure violates many of the freedoms associated with this country and should be enforced in all cases.

In a very real situation highlighted in Monday's issue of The Daily Targum, Oliverio Martinez was hit five times in a police shootout about five years ago. Following the events — and without giving the Miranda warnings — Sergeant Ben Chavez of Oxnard, Calif., began aggres-

sively interrogating Martinez, who was in critical condition and needed medical assistance immediately.

Well, to make a long story short, anyone would have confessed, if it got them medical attention. Now the Supreme Court has been beseeched to decide whether the coercive acts of the police were justified in pursuing a confession that might have been lost due to death's unique muzzle.

In scenarios similar to the above, few questions remain about the suspect's guilt. However, citizens of this country take pride in their freedoms and rights. And they should — they exist to guide us through life. So, it's not just about enforcing laws from both sides of the judicial process. It is about applying a means to all individuals regardless of varying situations.

It is then necessary while in our quest to end terrorism, a current issue where Miranda rights are often ignored, that suspects are given their rights upon arrest and information be channeled appropriately. If gathered in any other manner, we risk losing a part of American culture so many cherished.



A leap of faith

Andrew
Dugan

Staff Columnist

Perhaps in an effort to modernize Christianity, or to help a few unsure believers finally

select a set of wheels, many Christians and

onlookers have recently decided to answer the question that has been secretly troubling us all since the creation of the Ford T model: If Jesus was alive today, just what kind of car would he be driving?

Now before I get any e-mails depicting my descent into hell, let me

clarify — this is an actual debate that has gained popularity with those eager to explore the consumer side of their faith. Many have proudly proclaimed their answer, whether it was researched by analyzing Bible passages or simply some gut feeling they got one day while sitting in church.

The News & Observer's opinion forum is crammed with Triangle residents who have had epiphanies of sorts, each espousing a different car Jesus might be driving. So the suggestions listed below are not my own but belong to someone else. That disclaimer notwithstanding, let's examine a few of these musings.

The first one I recall reading was penned by a man who was sure Jesus would be behind the wheel of a sport utility vehicle. Now it's important to remember that this controversial vehicle is the whole reason this argument started. Long before the introduction of religion into this debate, different factions had been fighting about whether the SUV should be allowed on the road, given its harmful effects to the environment and to other cars sharing the road.

Apparently every point that could be made was stated, so the focus of the al-

tercation became religion, a understandable soft spot for many. If you won't give up the keys to your SUV for Mother Earth and your fellow man, then at least do it for those up in heaven. As for the man's position, I find it quite dubious.

I am sure Jesus would enjoy a sense of security behind the wheel, as we all do, but He might be alarmed by the vehicle's occasional tendency to flip over. Besides, if the meek shall inherit the Earth, I doubt a colossal SUV will be collecting anytime soon.

Many have offered this solution: Jesus would be driving a small,

fuel-efficient car. This seems to be a bit more reasonable than the SUV notion. But still, Jesus would need to drive a newer model of these cars, lest he might violate environmental regulations due to the antiqueness of his car. This could be costly. Jesus was not a man of material wealth last time he took the form of man, though he had a large wealth of character and morality. Of course the latter aspects aren't exactly conducive to aggressive negotiating, so he may not have the resources to make the purchase. And I think the disciples would get a bit claustrophobic in the passenger seats of a small car.

One reader foresaw the last quandary. Jesus, in order to make room for his 12 disciples, would avoid getting a car together, but wouldn't stoop to the system of mass transit. Instead he would get a motorcycle, as would his friends, and they would form a motorcycle gang of sorts. Sure they wouldn't look as tough or greasy as the ones some of us may have run into, but they would be strong in numbers.

Still, I just can't picture Jesus going to a Harley-Davidson convention. I think

this one is a bit of a stretch. Other readers presented us alternate solutions; however, many seemed to be writing more about their first cars than an appropriate vehicle for Jesus. Some pointed out, as I did earlier, that Jesus was a man of limited means and that's how he preferred it.

Jesus would walk, ride a donkey (not in the larger cities of America, he won't), ride the bus or other such modes of transportation that are less glamorous than a Porsche but make more economic sense. For any of those who might have cared, I am not going to give my opinion as to what this holy man would be cruising in, should he still be alive. Why?

Because it's ludicrous and a testament to America's ability to

commercialize every aspect of our culture, even the more revered parts.

Celebrity endorsements of commercial products are a regular in this

country: basketball players have multimillion-dollar deals to promote sneakers, teeny bop singers push soda and clothing lines and Bob Dole proudly promotes a certain drug that helps the love life. But do we need to relegate a deity that is held so sacredly by so many to become a model consumer?

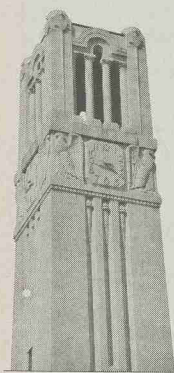
Religion may help people understand and cope through their lives, but it's not there to help you pick out a car, a brand of paper towels or a certain type of gum. It is supposed to be more than that. So even in the free markets of America, a few things should still be kept off limits.

Andrew secretly longs for a motorized scooter. If you can make his Christmas dreams come true, e-mail abdugan@unity.ncsu.edu.

TECHNICIAN

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Alcohol myths

Season
Hughes

Staff Columnist

'Tis the season once again to make merry, celebrate the holidays and spread feel-

ings of cheer and goodwill to fellow man. To many N.C. State students, this goes hand in hand with raucous Christmas parties, drunken confessions of love and the mass consumption of eggnog. In other words, the holidays are yet another excuse to get stoned.

I choose not to partake in the Bacardiladen festivities in which some of my esteemed colleagues so readily revel in. Although frankly, I am tempted to take advantage of a few priceless Kodak moments you find yourself in, but I will generally turn my cheek and sip happily on a Vanilla Coke.

I have heard of embarrassing stunts performed with the aid of Smirnoff, have seen more than enough people passed out on the floor after a wild night's worth of drinking and have witnessed a great many mornings comparable to the fires of hell for those who just didn't know their limits.

And, after all this, I have just one question: why?

In an attempt to answer this question for myself, and any others who would rather be able to remember the great fun they had the night

before, let's take a look at some of the more popular myths of alcohol consumption.

Alcohol makes you sexy. Hmm ... not quite. Although you may feel more attractive after downing a few drinks, this isn't always the case.

Shakespeare once wrote, "drink increases the desire, but takes away the performance," and he would know a thing or two about overindulgence. In fact, a recent British study has proven that alcohol actually makes other people more attractive, which is fabulous for people like me.

"Drink on!" I say.

And here's another "sexy" fact: according to "The Sunday Night Sex Show," — one of those shows you may not remember watching — alcohol can actually increase a man's risk of impregnating his partner. It has to do with the loss of extraneous fluids in a man's ejaculate, so the fluid is thicker and contains more sperm. Now, if that isn't sexy, I don't know what is!

And one thing I don't understand is the bragging rights men — and even some women — feel they are entitled to after bedding a random stranger in a drunken haze. They may not even know the person's name, but you can be sure their good buddies will know every sordid detail the next day. So, it takes mass

amounts of alcohol for anyone to want to have sex with you? Way to go! You'da man!

Alcohol is actually good for you. While it is true that one to two glasses of red wine a day can protect against heart disease, some cancers and other lesser-known diseases, when used in excess, alcohol can be poisonous and/or fatal. It can stop your breathing, rot your liver and ruin your esophagus. While alcohol is not linked directly to diabetes, it can cause similar symptoms in a painful condition known as chronic pancreatitis, which is very difficult to treat.

Alcohol has also been shown to kill brain cells, even causing severe hampering of cognitive function in some cases, function that did not return even after abstinence. Women who drink heavily during pregnancy put their child at a high risk for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome — a disease that kills the brain cells of the fetus and causes severe developmental and behavioral problems later on.

And, of course, there is that lovely weight gain caused by cell water retention and an increase of appetite linked to the consumption of alcohol. "Alcohol: Good for you?" I think not.

Alcohol helps you have fun. Over

See HUGHES page 9

Exam studying tips

Holly Bezant
Staff Columnist

This column may not be useful for those of you who have the whole studying thing down pat. However, this is my fourth year at N.C. State, and I am continuously revising my studying habits. And this column may not interest people who have heard it all before, whether or not they study well.

I received quite a speech from an uncle while I was in New York over the break. While I was up there to honor a different uncle's life and mourn his unnatural death, it was great to see all of the family again.

My uncle asked me how school was doing (as does everyone you don't see in a while), and of course I told him the truth — chemistry was killing me. He asked me about the problems with my classes lie. I refused to take the blame, proclaiming that the professor was out of tune with the students' needs since he had just come back to teach after being gone for six years.

I also blamed it on the exams. While I was slightly ranting, he interjected subtle questions about if I had gone to the professor's office hours and if I had taken advantage of everything that was available for help.

At this point I faltered. My professor's office hours were at a perfect time for me to see him when I needed help. Granted I couldn't attend two out of three SI sessions for the course, but I have a friend who tutors chemistry to others and would have been happy to help me out whenever I needed it.

My uncle reassured me that it isn't always just the grades prospective employers look at. A lot of the time it is how you carry yourself, your attitude toward them and what experience you have.

He suggested studying enough ahead of time to leave up to a whole day before the exam free. Then I would be more clear-headed for it. He said that cramming up to the last minute — or cramming in things I may have not looked over as well to the last minute — would merely mix everything up. I am guilty of both.

Don't be so quick to blame your professor for a low grade. Most of the time it is probably your own refusal to take advantage of the resources that are in front of you. Maybe it is poor time management. I know that is one of my major problems.

So, here are a few studying tips. First, study everything, and not only the ma-

terial from the semester exams. Do not cram, especially up to the last minute. This will cause panic, so plan ahead.

Do not pull an all-nighter unless it has proven to be helpful every time you have done it in the past. If you go into the exam groggy from no sleep, you won't be able to think clearly enough to do well. Study in a quiet place. Turn off all TVs, radios, etc. Ask your neighbor(s) to turn off their music (which shouldn't be on that loud during this time period, anyway).

Don't just memorize. Learn the material until you are able to talk about it to someone comfortably without struggling to remember something.

If you missed a day or two (or more) of notes, get them from someone. There may have been something added in lecture by the professor that isn't in the book.

I hope I will practice what I preach. Good luck to all, and have a great holiday season!

Holly won't be at the Gator Bowl, but she congratulates everyone who will be. Cheer for her, and e-mail her at paz_rata@yahoo.com — especially when we win.

HUGHES

continued from page 8

Thanksgiving break, I had the unfortunate experience of going to a club with two of my old high school friends and my best friend who also doesn't drink. My friend and I had a great time on the dance floor, but we cut our night short because two other friends spent the entire time on a couch, complaining about how they needed to go out and get trashed in order to have fun at a club.

All I could feel was pity. How sad is it that young people nowadays must depend on a substance in order to have

fun? Don't you have better things to do? Alcohol is a relaxant and can be found in many sleeping aids and cold medicines. It messes with the frontal lobes, dulls everyday sensations and eliminates common sense. Therefore, the consumption of alcohol can make you feel like you're letting loose and hanging out. Great for a couple of hours, but what happens the next morning when you find your head in a toilet and have little to no recollection of the night before?

Or worse, you could end up as an alcohol-related fatality, or one of those who decides drinking and driving is a

good idea. After all this, if you still decide to consume alcohol, please be safe about it. Don't go overboard and make sure you have a designated driver. If you wake up in bed the following morning next to an Urkel lookalike and have plastic wrap in obscene places, all I can say is, I told you so.

The author requests that you get all of your "Season's Greetings" and "Holiday Season" jokes out of the way by e-mailing LoveStories@yahoo.com. Maybe you'll send the one she hasn't heard before!

CAMPUS FORUM

Volunteer service is not just a holiday activity

In response to your Dec. 3 article "Give the gift of help," I agree that Wake County organizations definitely need help during the busy holiday season. Many families rely on the organizations listed in the article for important services, and without volunteers it would be impossible for the organizations to offer all the services that they do. However, organizations need volunteers not just during December, but all year round. Poverty doesn't end on Dec. 26. Unfortunately, our giving spirit tends to.

I have not done a lot of volunteer work myself, but what I have done as part of my social work classes has been one of the most valuable parts of my education. I've found that when I volunteer, I have gained more from the people I've "helped" than they have from me, and in the process, I've

met some amazing people. The organizations listed in Technician's article are all wonderful groups that need our help. I encourage anyone who's not currently volunteering to call an organization that interests them and to stay involved. Christmas lights and decorations are something that should be packed up and put away by the end of December. Our concern for other people should not.

Joy Turner
Senior
Social Work

Minimum wage laws a necessity

I would like to know what Darren O'Connor's sense of "morals" entails. In response to his column on Dec. 4, we all know Republicans like corporations, but really, do we have to express such complete disregard for the well-being of others? At Christmas, too, what

is this guy? The Anti-Goodwill man? Minimum wages laws can be justified morally. Just because a person is working for \$5 an hour doesn't mean they want to or that they deserve to. Should we say, OK, employers can pay \$3 an hour. That has such great benefits to single mothers and their kids. Yeah, their kids have no standing in our society, it's immoral to try and force employers to pay people enough to eat. Too bad those kids chose the wrong mom?

The reason a non-minimum wage is illegal is because of what happens when it's not. If companies, CEOs and the people that set pay were moral, they'd pay what the work was worth and not cost-cutting minimal amounts for the benefit of a CEO. The consequence of a minimum wage is not more unemployment. The cause of unemployment is that the cost of natural resources is not what the true cost is and thus

companies prefer to use machines and more limited oil, gas, etc. other than paying people to do the work. Before you jump on me about the cost of the extra labor, realize what the cost of gas, oil and other such things will be in the not too far future.

As far as education, that's a separate problem. The fact people cannot be hired for \$5 an hour means somebody (namely the American government) failed in providing the basic education that we believe to be a right. Unions and the actual minimum wage are also different. Unions create a shortage of labor when employers don't meet the demands of those people who have the skills to perform the job. Union workers do not receive \$5 an hour minimum wage. I have yet to see the Fast Food Workers union, or any Marginal Workers unions, if they even exist. Let's make things clearer — it is not only unskilled

people who work for minimum wage. I personally know of people who have master's degrees, but because their degree isn't marketable right now, they end up working for minimum wage.

In addition, a lot of college students work for minimum wage. I have worked for just over minimum wage. I'm a computer engineer with a 3.76 GPA, and I'm not about to be called stupid for the fact I couldn't get a better job at the time. Look at what would happen if we didn't have minimum wage — corporations would exploit workers and allow for sweat shops. Do you want 5-year-olds working for pennies a day to make that textbook of yours? I don't. It's bad enough we buy products from countries that allow this, but we should not be encouraging the United States to create this kind of bad situation.

A \$50 or \$200 minimum wage? Don't exaggerate the problem, O-

Connor; we're not asking \$50 or \$200 an hour — more like \$6 or \$7. It's not a matter of luxury when it comes to minimum wage; it's a matter of necessity and what is fair and right to do for the employees of America. The government is here to protect the people, and when it doesn't, it fails. I don't like government interference, but when it comes to minimum wage, it protects the rights of the employees, prevents the abuse of large corporations and supports the right of lower-income families to buy food and clothes. Those who oppose minimum wage should promptly be made to enact their own solution and made to go work for \$1 an hour.

Hayley Dawson
Sophomore
Computer Engineering

Alien agenda

Zack Medford
Staff Columnist

Ladies and gentlemen, we are at war. Now that we have that settled, let's move on to a more interesting topic. In 1980, several U.S. Air Force officers made a startling discovery. Their stunning account of a giant object landing in the heart of the Rendlesham Forest is breathtaking.

The "strange glowing object" illuminated the entire forest with a strangely angelic white light. It was described as having a pulsing red light on top, like most spaceships and the occasional reindeer. The next day three depressions seven feet in diameter were found in the grass, and radiation readings of the area were at 10 times the normal level.

After hearing this, friends, I had to sit down and ponder the meaning behind it.

Now first of all, I don't know what to think. The soldiers described this unidentified flying thing (UFT for short) as "metallic in appearance and triangular in shape." That much seems credible, as most spaceships are considered to be conical or, at the very least, metallic. Had these soldiers described the spaceship as being made out of wood or perhaps gone so far as to say it was composed of a marshmallow substance, I would begin to question the validity of their claims.

Unfortunately, everyone knows aliens only use the highest-grade metal to build their spaceships. Except for Venetians — they use a Gortexlike fabric to withstand the acrid clouds of Venus.

The object was described as "approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high." This is the part that makes me nervous. I don't really understand math all too well, but I have a feeling that meters are tremendous. Especially space meters.

If aliens are landing in ships this large, that means they are probably very tall. Tall aliens, much like tall women, are very intimidating to me. I won't go so far as to

say they should be destroyed, but I will say that they are going to have to learn to be more easygoing and approachable if they wish for me to talk to them. The aliens should try that, too.

Now the question you're probably asking yourself is, "Where did Zack obtain this information?" The answer is that the information was recently released from Great Britain's Ministry of Defense. This report is just one of many UFT reports that are going to be released in the next few months.

Shockingly, UFT enthusiasts (read: nerds) were quick to claim that members of a secret U.S. defense branch purloined the audiotapes and photographs regarding this incident from the Ministry of Defense. It is not known if these men were Tommy Lee Jones or Will Smith.

Personally, I am excited at the British government's willingness to reveal this information. I had planned on making a run at President of the United States solely so the military would be forced to reveal all of their secret alien technologies to me — heated toilet seats, invisibility suits and whatnot. Thanks to our buddies across that ocean of ours, I won't have to worry about it.

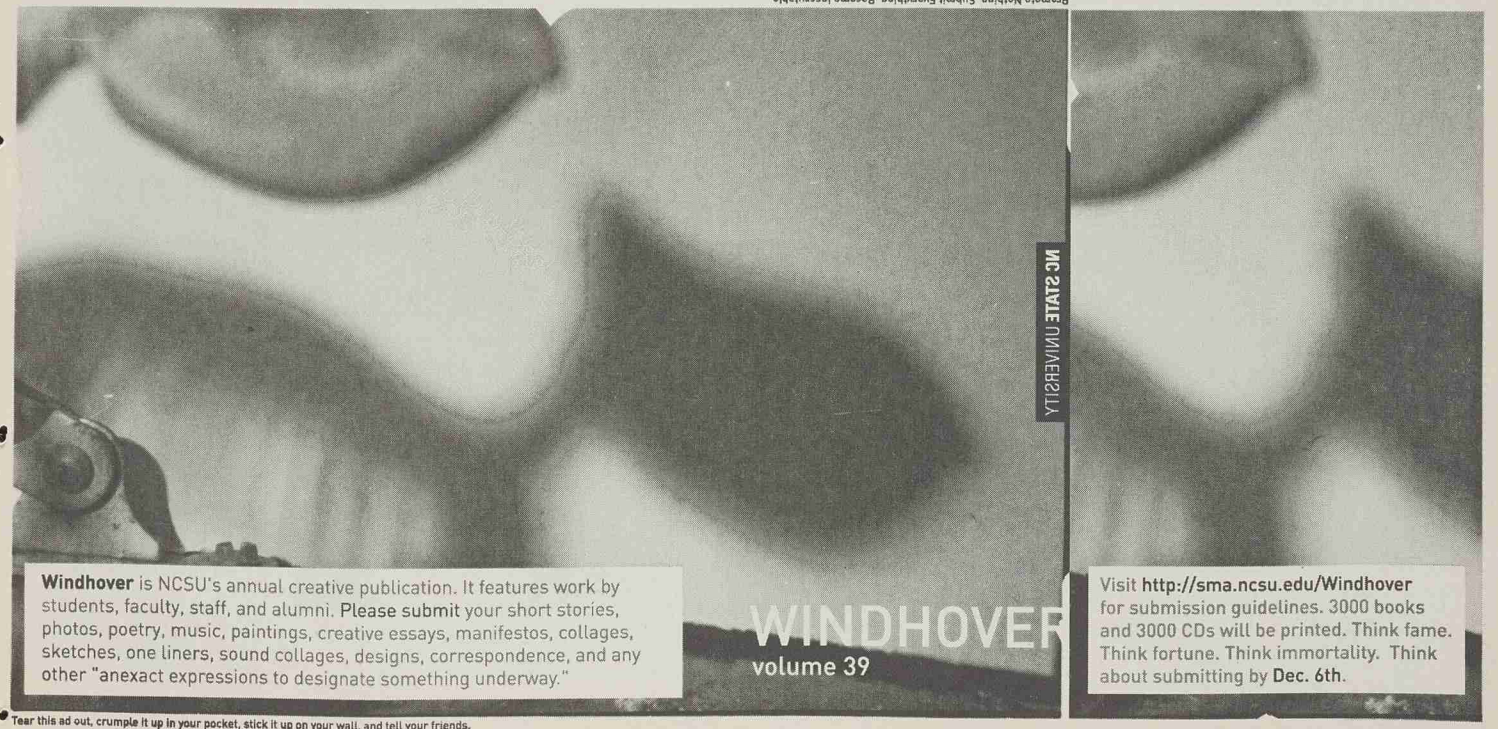
Perhaps this day marks a benchmark in time, and soon all information about UFTs and other secret cover-ups will be revealed. Maybe we'll learn that we aren't truly alone in this great universe and that super-intelligent bugs exist.

I think that settles the question though. America needs to stop

focusing on removing Hussein from power and start focusing our efforts on the super-intelligent bugs. If we don't learn their weakness soon, it might be too late. You super-intelligent bugs! You blew it up!

Zack sure has a flair for the dramatically stupid. Tell him your secret alien theories by e-mailing him at zack@izack.com.

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volume 39

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WINTHROP EARLY PICK IN POLLS



1 WINTHROP

2 ARIZONA

3 KANSAS

4 OKLAHOMA

5 TEXAS

6 PITTSBURGH

7 DUKE

8 GEORGIA

9 KENTUCKY

10 VIRGINIA

11 UCLA

12 MICHIGAN STATE

13 XAVIER

14 ALABAMA

15 MISS. STATE

16 OREGON

17 VILLANOVA

18 FLORIDA

19 UCONN

20 MARQUETTE

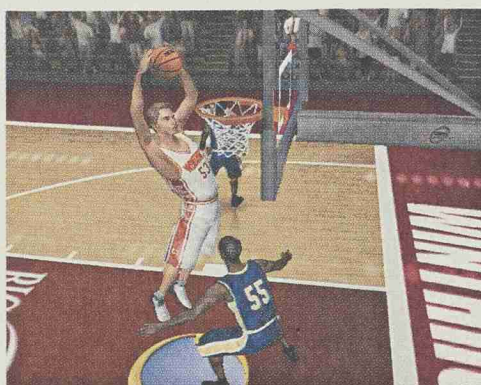
21 INDIANA

22 GONZAGA

23 MARYLAND

24 MISSOURI

25 USC



Sweet Sixteen. Elite Eight. Final Four. And now the Talented Twenty-Five. Will Kansas be at the center of this year's bracket? Will the girl in the mail room pick the NCAA champion? Read on for everything you ever wanted to know (but were afraid to ask) about college basketball.

1 WINTHROP

Okay, so they went 19-12 last year. And they are from the Big South Conference. But trust us, the Eagles can definitely hoop. Besides, these guys are made up of 4,500 polygons, just like any other team.

2 ARIZONA



What's the 411 on the 'Cats? Not only do they have all five of their starters returning, but they also have what most consider to be the best front-court in college basketball. Can you say Dynasty Mode?

3 KANSAS



Despite losing a key player to the NBA, look for the Jayhawks to return to the Final Four this year. We've seen what they have been doing in Practice Mode, and, trust us, we are thoroughly convinced.

4 OKLAHOMA

Another team we predict to be returning to the Final Four in 2003. Not only do they return with 70 new player models, they look good doing it, too.

5 TEXAS



They say everything is bigger in Texas, but what we notice on this team are the little guys. The backcourt is the cream of the crop. End of discussion. Obviously, somebody did their homework before this year's recruiting.

6 PITTSBURGH

Look for what could be the most exciting duo in college basketball to rate high in the on-screen player ratings.



7 DUKE

Add the slick job done in recruiting to the usual Blue Devil talent pool, and you get a team that is bound to make some noise. Get ready to hear Billy Packer and Eddie Doucette saying, "And the Blue Devils win again," a lot this season.

8 GEORGIA

The Dawgs' poll position could change in October, depending on their front-court production. If they produce, prepare for this team to move a little higher in the polls.

9 KENTUCKY

Should come down to the wire between them and Georgia for the SEC crown. Use the over 30 new dunks (including reverses, follow-ups and 360-degree jams) and this Wildcat team might overtake that other Wildcat team.

10 VIRGINIA

The Cavs are not happy with last season's late collapse that landed them out of the tournament. Don't let that fool you; they've got the talent. Not a pushover computer opponent. Not in the least.



11 UCLA

No, it's not the 1970s Bruins, but this team ain't bad, either. Besides, the digital cheerleaders are really easy on the eyes. Definitely easy on the eyes.

12 MICHIGAN STATE

This year their most famous alumnus will make it into the NBA Hall of Fame. That just might spark the Spartans to play at an elevated level.

13 XAVIER

"Who?" That's right, Xavier. Get used to seeing this school in the polls. The Musketeers are clearly the class of the A-10. How does a team go from unranked to number 13? Practice Mode, Practice Mode, Practice Mode.

14 ALABAMA



With the return of some key players, the Tide possesses one of the best inside-outside combos in the league. If you are attending a Tuscaloosa fish fry this year, expect to see some happy basketball fans.

15 MISS. STATE

The Bulldogs, coming off a Southeastern Conference tournament championship, have a tough schedule, playing both Xavier and Oklahoma this year. Said one player, "Hey, I'm all for just selecting Tournament Mode, and just get right to the tourney."

16 OREGON

Enjoying its first league championship in 63 years and one of the last eight teams standing in last year's tourney, Oregon's picked second by us in the Pac-10, behind No. 1 Arizona. Expect a long stay in the NCAA tournament this year for the Ducks.

17 VILLANOVA



The pressure is really on to produce and get the Wildcats back into the tournament after a three-year absence. In addition to all the new faces on the team, there will also be new duds for the 'Cats as Villanova debuts a new digital uniform.

18 FLORIDA

How about that SEC? Yet another entry from a very tough conference. Tough conference or not, the Gators hold their own against some of the NCAA's best.

19 UCONN

Expect the Huskies again to be strong in the backcourt. Use the right analog stick control to perform spin moves and dropsteps out of the post to put the solid backcourt to good use.

20 MARQUETTE

The Golden Eagles open against Villanova, marking the first time the two teams have met since the 1980 NCAA tournament. Can this young team hold its own in an upcoming Conference USA? We think so.

21 INDIANA

Can they get the support they need inside? If not, the Hoosiers could be off-balance even with what should be an extremely productive perimeter.

22 GONZAGA

Can the Bulldogs get the top scorer they need to emerge? Time spent in recruiting will be time well spent. Everything else is in place for another banner season on the left coast.

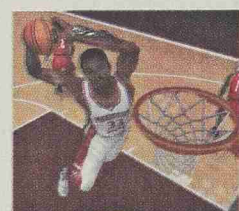
23 MARYLAND



We're considering these champs an outside shot at defending the title after losing four starters. Terps get a new arena this year. Unfortunately, they are also getting a mostly new team, as well.

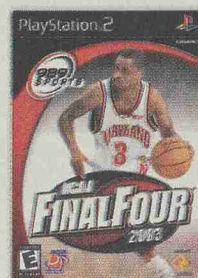
24 MISSOURI

Mizzou's run to the Elite Eight last year was the Tigers' longest stint in the tourney in eight years. And this should be another promising year.



25 USC

A long shot to win the title. Let's face it, they are no Winthrop. But don't count them totally out, either.



PlayStation 2

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- Adroit
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- Racer
- Luyendyk
- BMW rival
- Shroud of
- FDR's pooch
- Party-goer's payback
- Venetian blind part
- Endeavor
- Real
- Outer covering
- Maj. Barbara's creator
- Wood pattern
- Garr or Hatcher
- Voiced
- FedEx guarantee
- Rams' mates
- Angry states
- Tractor name
- Draft org.
- Partnership abbr.
- More pungent
- Of the stars
- Railroad switch
- Mata
- Roberts film,

By Gerald R. Ferguson

Portland, OR

12/5/02

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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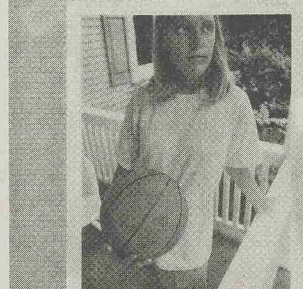
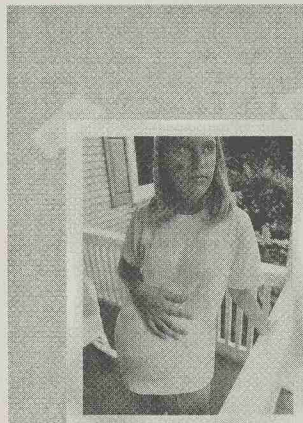
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Thursday Sports

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M. Basketball vs. South Carolina, 12/8, 6:30
W. Basketball vs. Washington, 12/6, 6:30
Wrestling @ Las Vegas Invitational, 12/6
Football @ Gator Bowl, 1/1, 12:30

Scores

M. Basketball 74, Northwestern 49



TECHNICIAN

FOOTBALL

St. Louis blues



Steve Thompson

Mike Martz is a tool.

The head coach of the St. Louis Rams, he was once touted as a genius — a true offensive guru. But he is not genius. The guy who decided to use ball bearings in pens, now there's a genius.

Mike Martz is an idiot. Ever since he inherited the talent of the Rams from Super Bowl winning Dick Vermeil, he's overcoached the team just enough to keep it from winning the Super Bowl again. This year, however, he's being very convincing in his ability to completely mismanage and ruin a talented franchise.

Example? Look at the Rams quarterback situation. Two-time MVP Kurt Warner started the year for the Rams — and lost all four games before going down with a broken finger.

Third-stringer Marc Bulger comes in and leads the team to five straight wins, yet before win No. 5, Martz had already announced Warner would be the starter the following week. Did he learn nothing from the Patriots last year? You go with what's working. Who cares who is more talented? It's winning that matters.

So then Martz brings Warner back and what happens? Warner loses two straight and then runs back to the injured list as fast as he possibly can. All the momentum, all the chemistry that Bulger had helped the Rams build simply destroyed. Some genius.

(Now, Warner deserves a lot of blame for this as well. A Hall-of-Fame quarterback shouldn't rush back from an injury when a backup is doing an admirable job. Warner was obviously insecure about his job, and he put himself above the Rams. That's unacceptable.)

Need another example? How about Martz's babying of the NFL's most talented player, Marshall Faulk. Three weeks ago, Faulk went down with a high ankle sprain.

But while Martz was quick to hurry back a slightly injured, highly ineffective Warner for the stretch run, he refused to do the same with Faulk.

Generally speaking, this isn't a bad strategy. One doesn't want to put one's best player in danger of worsening an injury. But when a team is in a must-win situation, to keep an 80 percent Faulk on the bench when the Rams couldn't afford to lose is idiocy. Not genius.

When Faulk is at 80 percent, he is still one of the most dangerous players in the game. He's like Michael Vick, Chad Morton and Jerry Rice — whenever the ball is in his hands, anything can happen. Yet Martz sits him.

Again, though, this decision is even more confounding considering Martz was using completely different logic than he did with the quarterback situation.

Early in the season, Martz wasn't getting as many touches to Faulk, and the Rams were losing. Then Warner went down, Faulk started getting the ball more — the Rams started winning. Martz however, couldn't wait to bring back the injured, horrible Warner and sit the sublime, if injured, Faulk. I just don't get it.

In his years as Rams head coach, Martz has lost the Super Bowl and failed to even advance a team in the playoffs, despite having an improved defense and still the same incredible talent at offense that had won the Super Bowl under Vermeil. This year, Martz has led his team out of the playoffs. At least he's being exposed for the fraud he is.

Because the simple fact is, Martz is a stubborn egomaniac. Not a genius.

Steve Thompson can be reached at 515-2411 or sthompson@unity.ncsu.edu.

Intensity, defense lead Pack

N.C. State led all the way in a dominating win over Northwestern in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

Andrew B. Carter

Assistant Sports Editor

N.C. State was intense and fiery enough to warm the frigid outdoor weather Wednesday night.

On a wintry evening that kept the crowd at the RBC Center the smallest it has ever been for a Wolfpack game, State gave all 3,833 in attendance its most complete performance of the season. The Pack (3-0) had played moments of games like this before, and it had shown spurts of brilliance during two lopsided wins.

In its first game, though, a one-sided win over Mount St. Mary's, State lost intensity in the first half. On Saturday, it didn't attack a pesky Coppin State zone.

But Wednesday night, State put it together for 40 minutes in a 74-49 dismantling of Northwestern (2-2) in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

There were dives for loose balls, like Cliff Crawford's in the second half that led to an easy bucket. There was Julius Hodge, pumping his fists and employing those in the stands to cheer. There was Marcus Melvin, knocking down 3-pointers and driving to the hoop in his finest showing of this young season.

But most of all, there was defense. Pressing, maddening, everywhere. It forced 21 Wildcat turnovers and led to 28 points for the Pack. White jerseys were everywhere for coach Herb Sendek's team. On the floor, diving over press row and - most of all - in the faces of the Wildcats.

"Defense wins championships," said Crawford. "Everywhere you go, people preach defense. We really set the tone in practice, and we were able to execute it tonight."

State got off to a hot start on offense, too. Melvin began the contest with a 3 from the left wing and never cooled. The junior would hit two more from behind the arc before the game's first timeout, and after that, Scooter Sherrill knocked in his second 3. Just like that it was 16-5 Wolfpack.

"Coach told us they'd be in



Clifford Crawford played tenacious defense against Northwestern. Staff photo by Carl Hudson

a zone, and I really wanted to assert myself early," said Melvin. "Scooter Sherrill, Julius Hodge and myself knocked down shots all game and really set the tone with our offense."

Unlike its last outing against a zone in the Coppin State game, State worked the ball to near perfection in this one. Crawford and Hodge would lead the penetration and find the open man. The shooter would do the rest.

"Tonight in the first half, I played off to my teammates," said Hodge. "In the second half, they rewarded me. But our offense was on fire from 3-point land [early], and we continued to make shots and make stops."

The stops were numerous against a Northwestern team that came in with intentions of making it a slow-down, grind-it-out affair. The Wildcats' patient strategy paid off to an extent, albeit a short-lived one, as Aaron Jennings led a spurt that brought his team to within three at 24-21 with just over six minutes remaining in the first half.

They should have quit there.

Over the next 18 minutes of

the contest, State went on a 38-9 run to open a 62-30 lead with eight minutes to play. A microcosm of the game, the Pack's run was led with intensity, defense and shooting.

"I thought we've been better each time we've played," said Sendek. "We were better tonight than we were in our other two games, and we're still by no means a finished product. We have a lot of work to do yet. But it was a good night for us. We played with a lot of intensity on defense, and they played really well together on offense."

For the night, State shot a solid 51 percent, including 10-21 from beyond the 3-point line. It once again featured a balanced scoring attack, as Melvin led all scorers with 23. Hodge added 17 and Josh Powell 11.

But one of the most positive signs, again, was the emerging Crawford. The senior guard may have only had five points, but he also led the team in rebounds (eight) and steals (four). His airtight ball pressure led to numerous turnovers.

"I thought Cliff was a real catalyst in the press, but every-

body covered their assignments well," Sendek said. "It was very attentive execution of what we talked about in practice."

It was almost as if the Pack knew what Northwestern would do before even the Wildcats did. At least that's how it seemed, especially during State's big run.

"We knew we had similar [offensive] systems, but our game plan is it's never about them, it's always about us," said Hodge. "We just did what coach told us to. We still cut hard back door, we still shot three-pointers, rebounded, played hard defense."

"Our press was really working, and we just stuck to what we were used to doing." For Hodge, that meant going back to his T-shirt. In the Pack's last game, the sophomore didn't wear his patented under-jersey attire.

"[Last game] I just wanted to show my guns to the crowd," said Hodge. "But it's like my motto, I always wear it."

Whatever works for the Hodge and the Pack. And whatever it was, it worked great Wednesday night.

Pack, top teams go to Las Vegas



The Wolfpack heads to Nevada for solid competition. File photo by Blake Lane

The State wrestling team will face some of the top teams in the country this weekend.

Jimmy Ryals

Staff Writer

For a compulsive gambler, a trip to Las Vegas is an indication of a relapse. The N.C. State wrestling team hopes a trip to Sin City will be an indication of how good it can be this season.

The Pack will compete against some of the top teams in the country at the Cliff Kean Las Vegas Invitational this weekend. State head coach Bob Guzzo believes some of his wrestlers need to step up.

"Really we have some veteran kids that have been through a lot," Guzzo said, "and, quite frankly, it's time for them to really step up and show that they can compete in a high-caliber tournament like this." Among those Guzzo referred to by name were defending ACC champions George Cintron and Jake Giamoni.

The Pack is coming off a fourth-place showing at the Navy Classic. Junior Scott Garren, coming off a knee injury that sidelined him for all of last season, won the 157-lb. class at Navy, and three teammates made the finals in their classes. Junior Dustin Kawa was among those three; he was pinned in the 174-lb. final by top-ranked defending national champion Greg Jones of West Virginia.

"We didn't score as well as a team, but we had four individuals in the finals, which is real strong in that caliber of field," Guzzo said. "I think we have some things to work on. I think we're probably a little better than we showed in the tournament."

He'll have a good idea of that after this weekend. Ohio State, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, West Virginia and Michigan are among the teams slated to wrestle in Las Vegas. All are among themat.com's top 10 in the nation.

"The reason why those teams go there is because they know this early in the season you're going to be able to compete against the best schools in the country," Guzzo said, "so it's a very, very popular tournament ... it's probably one of the best tournaments in the country, other than the national tournament."

The Las Vegas tournament will be State's last until second semester. By then, the team will likely have the services of heavyweight Ricky Fowler, a defensive tackle on the football team. State wrestled without a heavyweight at Navy last weekend.

WOLFPACK NOTES

Terrence Holt a finalist for special teams award

N.C. State's Terrence Holt has been named a finalist for the Mosi Tatupu Special Teams Award. He currently 12 career kick blocks (eight field goal blocks and four punt blocks), including three kick blocks in 2002 season (one field goal block and two punt blocks). He is joined by the following players: Aris Comeaux (Army), Glenn Pakulak (Kentucky), Charles Pauley (San Jose State) and Todd Sievers (Miami).

The Mosi Tatupu Special Teams Award was created to honor college football's best special teams players, including kick returners, coverage specialists, punters and place kickers. The winner of the 2002 Mosi Tatupu Award will be announced on Dec. 13, 2002. On February 1, 2003, the winner of the award will receive a trophy commemorating his accomplishment during halftime of Hula Bowl

Maui.

Previous winners of the Mosi Tatupu Special Teams Award include Kahli Hill, formerly of the Atlanta Falcons (2001), J.T. Thatcher of the Oakland Raiders (2000), Deltha O'Neal of the Denver Broncos (1999), Chris McAlister of the Baltimore Ravens (1998) and Brock Olivio (1997).

Wolfpack gets major donation

Curtis and Jackie Dail, longtime Raleigh-area residents have made one of the largest gifts ever contributed to N.C. State. The couple has committed \$5.2 million to the Wolfpack Club for an array of athletic capital projects and student-athlete scholarships, according to Bobby Purcell, executive director of the N.C. State Student Aid Association (Wolfpack Club).

In return for their commitment, the Dails will have the following facilities

named in their honor: Dail Basketball Practice Facility at the Weisiger-Brown Athletics Center; Dail Football Practice Complex; Dail Outdoor Tennis Stadium at the new J.W. Eisenhower Tennis Center; Dail Baseball Clubhouse Office Wing; and the new Dail Softball Stadium. In addition, the funds will be used to endow the Men's Basketball 6th Man scholarship and to endow a softball scholarship.

Gator Bowl ticket sales mounting

N.C. State Director of Athletics Lee Fowler announced Tuesday afternoon that Wolfpack fans have bought more than 10,000 tickets for State's Jan. 1 appearance in the Toyota Gator Bowl. The large number of tickets have been purchased in just three days of sales since the bowl announcement.

"Our great Wolfpack fans are one of the main reasons our team was so suc-

cessful this year," said Fowler. "Now they are making a statement about how much they love their team in a big way. We want to make sure that every Wolfpack fan who wants to attend the game is able, so we strongly encourage anyone that wants tickets to purchase them soon."

The priority deadline for Wolfpack Club members is Dec. 15. A limited number of Club Level tickets remain for top Wolfpack Club donors, while the remainder of the tickets are available for \$40 (\$30 for students). Fans are encouraged to purchase their tickets before the Wolfpack's opponent is announced this weekend. Tickets are available by calling the N.C. State ticket office at 1-800-310-PACK or (919) 515-2106. Due to heavy call volume, fans are encouraged to order tickets online at www.gopack.com.

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