

THURSDAY JAN. 30

Raleigh, North Carolina

Venezuelan private banks drop out of strike

As a strike in Venezuela against leftist President Hugo Chavez nears its two-month mark private banks in the country decided on Wednesday to leave the strike and restore normal working hours.

During the strike private in the strike and present the strike and restore normal working hours.

hours.
During the strike, private banks, which make up about 90 percent of the country's financial sector, operated on limited hours and restricted transactions.
Banks, schools and factories decided to strike in hopes of pressuring Chavis out of office.
Venezuela's striking oil workers, who are the No. 5 petroleum exporters in the world, have decided to withhold their strike and remain on lockdown.

Deficits of \$199 billion projected for this year

On Wednesday, the White House's Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said that they projected a deficit of \$199 billion this year and a deficit of \$145 billion in 2004.
Predicted to be a deficit of \$145 billion this year and \$111 billion in 2004, these higher projected figures that were released by the Associated Press are bleak for the government's fiscal outlook.

outlook.

In addition, while in August the CBO forecast a cumulative surplus of \$1 trillion over the decade beginning in 2003, they are now forecasting a cumulative surplus of \$629 billion over the decade beginning in 2003.

House of Representatives deadlocks over speaker

One of the most powerful positions in state government is vacant today after the state House of Representatives failed to elect a new speaker on Wednesday.

To elect a new speaker, a candidate would have to get 61 votes in the 120-member house. After four roll-call votes, a brief recess and a final vote, neither party could gain 61 votes.

Republicans managed 60 votes on each ballot for Rep. Jim Black, who would be vying for his third term. Democrats remained split 55 for Rep. George Holmes and five for Rep. Richard Morgan.

By appointing the committee chairman and through controlling debates and votes, the speaker of the House has considerable power in North Carolina politics.

Blast increases need for blood donations



A deadly explosion at a Kinston pharmaceutical supply plant has pushed North Carolina's fragile blood supply to a critical level. The Triangle chapter of the American Red Cross will operate the following the locations this weekend.

At least 8 people killed in N.C. plant explosion

and Mike Stobbe

Knight Ridder Newspapers

KINSTON, N.C. — A powerful explosion tore apart a manufacturing plant Wednesday, killing at least eight people and injuring dozens more. Flames and black, acrid smoke billowed

from the West Pharmaceuticals Services plant and could be seen 20 miles away.

Authorities provided conflicting numbers of dead and injured in the hours after the explosion. Regional Medical Examiner Mary Gillilands said the Lenoir County Sheriff's Department notified her that eight people had been confirmed

Kinston Mayor Johnnie Mosley said two people had been killed and seven others were unaccounted for four hours

after the explosion at 1:27 p.m.
City manager Ralph Clark said some workers were believed to still be trapped inside the plant late Wednesday after-

"There was a loud explosion and the lights went out," said Sam Phillips, a cost analyst for West who was in his office about 150 feet from the explosion. "When I looked out into the hallway, it looked like a war zone. The ceiling tiles up and down the hallway were hanging down. I couldn't see anything else.

The blast showered broken glass and debris into the area. All that was left of the building was a shell. The area around the



Firefighters battle a blaze after an explosion rocked the West Pharmaceuticals Plant in Kinston early Wednesday afternoon. KRT photo by Patrick Schneide

"There are many chemicals in there," Mosley said. "But we don't know what combination might have caused some-thing like this. The extent of this devastation will not be understood or felt for many days.'

The factory is a division of the Pennsylvania-based West Pharmaceuticals Services, and manufactures syringe plungers and intravenous equipment. It also works with rubber materials that it distributes to other West locations.

Mosley said 115 people were at the plant at the time of the explosion.

"What they're doing now is trying to get into that plant and find the individuals we haven't heard from," Mosley said around 5:45 p.m.

It was unclear what caused the blast. Insulation from the plant was found two miles away, police said, and windows were blown out more than a mile from the site. Police directing traffic wore masks over their noses and mouths.

The fire had been contained by 6 p.m., but the plastic in the building was expected to burn through the night. The FBI, the SBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were on the scene

More than 10 patients were being treated at Lenoir Memorial Hospital for fractures, burns and respiratory problems. Five more were sent to burn centers in Chapel Hill, Durham and Pitt County.

Chancellor Fox defends actions at Student Senate



that will take [N.C. State] to the next level." Staff photo by Matt Huffman

Chancellor Marye Anne Fox addressed student senators and answered questions about recent firings in the provost's office.

Carie Windham and Jerry Moore

When Chancellor Marye Anne Fox approached the podium at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday, she knew senators would later vote on an "act to rebuke" her for her actions in firing C. Frank Abrams, vice provost for academic affairs, and Bruce I. Mallette, vice provost

for administrative affairs.

She knew their vote would come on the heels of a Faculty Senate vote for censure last week. But the chancellor hoped for a different result with the stu-

"I can understand some of the discomfort. I can understand you want rationale for my actions," Fox said. She reminded those in attendance that Student Body President Michael Anthony joined the other members of the University of North Carolina Board of Trustees in an unanimous vote of support for her decisions.

'The fact that I have the support of the Trustees should speak well enough," she said.

While addressing the senate, Fox repeatedly stressed that she has listened to the voices of students through conversations, student walk-in hours and her

"Even in difficult decisions, I have listened to the students," she said, outlining her successes with incorporating students into leadership searches, the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees.

'I pledge to you that I'll continue to listen," Fox said. "I hope we can all continue to listen to each others concerns."

After her address, student senators rose to ask questions about a range of student issues but focused on her recent personnel decisions.

The chancellor cited the state's strict protection of personnel records several times but answered questions she could.

Sen. Kristi O'Grady asked about the chancellor's power to fire university employees under "management flexibility" guidelines. Several senators raised semantic questions — wanting to know if the firings were "at will" or "at cause."

See FOX page 2

Edwards faces questions on local, national stages

N.C. State students and professors weigh in on Edwards' chances at the presidency.

Ayren Jackson News Editor

On Jan. 2, in the driveway of his Raleigh home surrounded by a modest crowd of family, friends and supporters, John Edwards, D-N.C., announced that he had formed a committee to prepare a bid for the Democratic nomination for presi-

Following his announcement, Edwards, the product of a working-class family from North Carolina, immediately entered his hat into a whirlwind of

speculations, foresight and predictions. North Carolinians across the nation, many of whom would not mind seeing one of their own grace the hallways of the White House, immediately began questioning his experience and credibility to vie for the Democratic bid in

At N.C. State, history and political science professors now had a hometown model that they could call upon during the spring semester for some of their class discussions.

Edwards was a buzz in North Caroli-

na and across the country.

And now as he cautiously plans out the issues he will address in 2004 and how he will choose to present himself to



the American community, people everywhere are wondering if this NCSU alumturned-U.S. senator actually has a chance at winning the Democratic bid.

'There are so many things that can happen," said Andy Taylor, associate professor of political science. "When we think of Edwards' chances, we have to think of his chances to win the Democratic vote. The field is crowded with a lot of valid candidates, like Joseph Lieberman and Richard Gephart, who are more well-

According to Taylor, there are two main things to consider when thinking about wards is still in the race as the current Democratic field begins to diminish, his chances to get the bid depend on who is left for him to compete against. Second, Edwards' chances also depend on what it is that Democratic voters want to see in the White House. '[Edwards] has a chance because he

has a fresh face," said Melissa Bailey, a senior mass communications major and political science minor. "But that can pose as a problem in Washington because many voters are not educated about the person they are voting for, and they will just go in on name recognition

According to a recent poll conducted by the News and Observer, while North Carolinians would choose Edwards for the Democratic bid in the primaries, he would not be able to knock off the already established President Bush in the

If the primaries were held today, North Carolinians would choose Edwards at 51 percent. Lieberman would only receive 15 percent of North Carolinians' votes in the primaries, according to the poll.

But if the 2004 election were held to-

day, Bush would beat out Edwards in North Carolina, 56 percent to 40 percent. The poll, which was published on Jan. 18 noted that it would be a slightly larger margin than when Bush beat Al Gore in the state in the 2000 elections.

wards] has at the moment," said Taylor.

See EDWARDS page 2

WEATHER

Today Rain High 42, Low 34



Tomorrow Cloudy

A&E

stops Loose Fur kisses on the way to Asia Night. p. 3

Opinion

responds to Bush's proposals in the State of the Union. p. 4

Sports

warms up the page after State's cold shooting against Duke. p. 8



High 49, Low 41





SATURDAY NIGHT BANDS - Moxie McCoy - ONE NIGHT ONLY

SAT. FEB. 1ST 10:30PM - Moxie McCoy - One night only Moxie McCoy - Sat. Feb. 1st 10:30pm - Sat Night Bands





News

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Senators also inquired about how much knowledge Mallette and Abrams had of problems in their performance before they were re-

moved.
"What I want to know is, were they notified of these deficiencies?" asked Tracy Hutcherson, a senator in CALS.

The chancellor alluded to several reviews of the provost's office in the last year and a series of conversations. But she stressed that she was not responsible for directly evaluating Abrams and Mallette and that she had never spoken to them directly.

"But I cannot imagine how they could not be aware," Fox said.

Sen. Gary Palin pressed the issue further, stating that he had read a letter from Abrams, in which the former vice provost alleges that he was not aware of any problems with his performance.

But the chancellor stood by her belief that both men had full

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warning.

Wednesday's meeting lacked the hostility expressed at the Faculty Senate meeting last week. Many senators even rose to express their respect for the chancellor before asking questions.

Jason Moody, a freshman senator, decided to forego a question and simply state his support.

"I have the most incredible respect for you," Moody said. Thank you for keeping the best interests of the university in your mind at all times.

Sen. Lock Whiteside expressed his support. "In a leadership position, you have to make difficult decisions," he said.

But Whiteside and other senators wanted to know how the university would move past the censure resolution.

"It was a wake-up call to the administration about the need to communicate much more routinely and effectively," Fox said of the resolution. She reinforced her commitment to enhancing the ability of the university to communicate and engage in more active dialogue.

The chancellor's remarks were met by a standing ovation by the student senators.

"I hope we share the determi-

nation to go forward," she said. 'I pledge to build a leadership team that will take us to the next

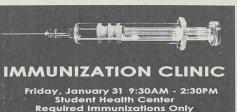
Following Fox's comments, Student Senate President Josh Cox introduced Andrew Payne, who will serve as the student representative on the provost search committee.

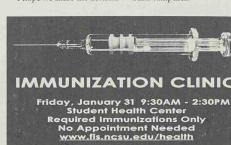
Payne reported on the early progress of the committee and a timeline for its forthcoming actions. Per the chancellor's request, the search will focus on "internal" candidates, and the committee has defined this to mean prospects who currently serves or has previously worked at one of the 16 University of North Carolina campuses.

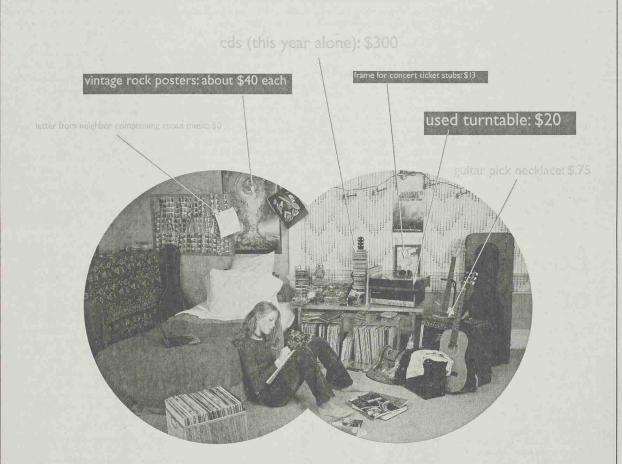
Payne said the search committee will begin reviewing applications on March 1. The chancellor has asked the committee for a list of at least three individuals, from which she will choose the next provost. The committee hopes to have the position filled by May 1.

Student senators then asked Payne to choose "student-friendly" candidates, to which he replied, "I'll make sure that hap-

At press time, the Student Senate continued to discuss resolutions, including a formal rebuke of the chancellor. Friday's Technician will have additional details.









EDWARDS

continued from page 1

With the primary elections nearly a year away, Edwards' chances can be described as a toss-up.

So far Edwards has remained steadfast to the issues that he has been concerned with ever since he became a senator in 1998. Some of his key issues include homeland security, economic prosperity, educational improvements and foreign policy.

"People everywhere in the real America don't care about Republicans, or Democrats, or the politics of Washington, D.C. They don't ask much from government, but what they ask for matters," says Edwards on his Web site

(www.johnedwards2004.com). "They want their leaders to honor their values, have the courage of their convictions, keep their country safe and strong, be smart with their money and give them a chance to make the most of their future."

According to Taylor, it is important for candidates to find a niche for themselves, particularly in a crowded Democratic field.

"What Edwards is trying to do is look out for the regular guy," said Taylor. "He has said several times in the media that he sees that government isn't interested in the regular guy but rather interested in corporate politics."

According to Taylor, North Carolina has seen a move to the left from Edwards since he was elected to the Senate in 1998.

"He has packaged himself as a new kind of Democrat," said Tay-

Edwards has moved to the left for two reasons, noted Taylor.

First, to win the Democratic vote, one has to move to the far left. And second, Edwards knows that he will possibly be neck-toneck with Lieberman, who is not so far left.

"Plus, how Edwards is being portrayed, [as a new kind of De-mocrat], works well with his trial lawyer background," said Tay-

At 49, Edwards is one of the youngest candidates for 2004. While some say that his age could be a positive factor in the race, others believe that Edwards' experience level does not compare to that of other candidates

"Time is on his side," said Taylor. "However, on the other hand, you don't know what is around the corner. Edward's positions might become outdated, stronger candidates might join the party. Also, say a Democrat does win in 2004: then Edwards can't run

Whatever happens in 2004, North Carolina will undoubtedlv be a part of it and many agree that Edwards will, in some ways, change the American view of North Carolina as a state.

"Although North Carolina has been more progressive than other southern states, Senator Jesse Helmes has represented North Carolina for many years as the traditional conservative," said Taylor. "Edwards though, is young ... and moderate to liberal — this will be reflected on the state.

'Stop Kiss' gets the go-ahead



The girls of "Stop Kiss" return this weekend. Photo courtesy University Theatre

Laura England

Grayson Currin

University Theatre will present "Stop Kiss" for the second time at N.C. State on Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1 in the Studio Theatre at Thompson Theatre. These performances will help raise money to fund a trip to Savannah, Ga., where the group will perform at the American College Theatre Festival.

University Theatre's production of "Stop Kiss" has been chosen to be in the

The story and struggle

of Schoolkids Records

This is the third article in a series dealing with the peo-

Mike Phillips deserves a great big hug — or rather,

quite a few great big hugs. Without a doubt, the N.C. State student body owes him one, as does the entire

Triangle music scene and its countless musicians and

listeners. Even record labels — from mom 'n' pop,

tabletop establishments to perennial juggernauts like Columbia — owe Phillips the great debt of at least one

Phillips, owner of the entire Schoolkids Records chain, is the man solely responsible for giving to Raleigh

its first — and still foremost - independently minded,

college-aimed record store. 'Kids owes much of its suc-

cess to Phillips, an athletic, burly man in his mid-40s.

Earmarked by his sharp business sense, equally im-

pressive wit and unlimited energy, Phillips has taken his

nearly 30-year-old dream and turned it into one of the

region's most fabled and most popular record chains.

in 1974. Working in Morgantown, W.Va., for the founder and owner of eight Schoolkids Records' stores

throughout the Southeast, Phillips was making his way

to the company's headquarters in Athens, Ga., when he

passed through Raleigh along the main corridor of NCSU, Hillsborough Street. Immediately noticing the

abysmal, virtually nonexistent record scene, he saw

room for both expansion and profit.
"I was passing through ... and I just realized that there

was no real record store on Hillsborough Street, or

anywhere around here, for that matter. Rent was real-

ly, really cheap then, so we decided to go for it," quips

Phillips, a self-pronounced master of multitasking, as

he quickly glances through the stack of papers and invoices on his desk in his Cary storage facility. Phillips manhandled the job, immediately signing a

lease to a small space just beneath the Western Bowling Alley on Hillsborough Street. Not long after opening shop in 1975, Phillips purchased the store from his previous boss, keeping the apropos Schoolkids moniker

and stepping out onto what proved to be his own two,

Phillips later headed a few blocks east, moving the store

to its current Raleigh location at 2316 Hillsborough

St. in 1979. Business did well on the thriving thoroughfare and has been frequented by hordes of music-

Phillips, by the mid-90s, was living his dream, stand-

still remains.) Business was good, and the local music

scene was on the verge of a national explosion that

many preemptive critics likened to what had happened

But things slowly started to fall apart. The Chapel

Hill craze — herded in by such phenomenal and popular acts as Superchunk (1991-97) and Ben Folds Five

(1995-98) — began to collapse before liftoff had even

begun. The scene that some felt would shuffle in a new

era of rock began to wane, gradually moving back into

Phillips' younger, ubiquitous assistant and former

Snatches of Pink manager. "It's a very cool climate, but

That wasn't ever true, really," says Fred Jenkins,

the small, local clubs where it had started.

hungry college students for nearly two decades.

ing at the helm of a seven-member chain stores stretched across two states. (The store in Athens

financially deft, feet.

in Seattle shortly before.

That dream originated with just another company trip

platinum plaque-sized embrace.

ple behind the scenes of North Carolina music.

prestigious festival along with six other productions out of more than 40 others in the southeast region vying for the honor. This production was first performed last March for the University Scholars

The American College Theatre Festival is known to promote plays that exhibit diversity, and their selection of University Theatre's production of "Stop Kiss" as a part of their festival is well merited.

It is a love story of sorts, but without a Prince Charming, fairy godmother or glass slipper. Written by Diana Son, the play explores love between two women and the repercussions that result from it in today's society. Son's edgy and wellwritten works have even attracted a cult following.

She received the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding New York Production Off-Broadway for "Stop Kiss" and was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Play, as well as a Drama League Award for Distinguished Production of a Play. "Stop Kiss" has also been optioned as a movie by Robert Greenwald Productions.

The play follows the involvement of two women, Callie (Tracey Phillips) and Sara (Collette Rutherford), in presentday New York City, trying to figure out who they are and where they stand in life. It's a sort of coming-of-age story as Callie and Sara, two adults, realize they have an unspoken attraction to each oth-

When their hesitant first kiss provokes an act of violence, their lives are changed in a way they never could have foreseen.

The director, Terri Janney, was especially drawn to this play because it deals with two gay women, a rarity found in

"There are very few 'lesbian plays," she said. "Hardly any have dealt with female sexuality. Often, if you thought of someone being gay, you thought of a man. I was taken with this play."

And like the content of the play, its presentation is of an unusual manner as

"The play has multiple settings and is not a traditional one- or two-act per-formance," Janney said. "There are 23 different scenes." The story is told by 'jumping' back and forth through time to different situations throughout the course of the women's involvement with

The set must be easy to change and transport for the upcoming festival, so it relies heavily on lighting to switch to different scenes on the stage one at a time, instead of illuminating the whole stage.

The play received positive feedback last March when it was performed for the University Scholars program.

Even people who were not comfortable with the subject matter were able to say they were pleased with the actual performance," Janney said. "People either love it or they hate it, but they still talk

about it and I think that's good theater."

The cast is made up entirely of seniors, three of whom (Tracey Phillips, Collette Rutherford and Kate Isley) have been chosen to compete for the Irene Ryan Scholarship. This notable award is sponsored by the Kennedy Center and aims to "encourage, recognize and celebrate the most diverse work produced in university and college theatre programs," according to the scholarship press release.

The upcoming performances at Thompson Theatre are important to the cast and crew of "Stop Kiss" because the money earned through ticket sales will pay for their trip to the American College Theatre Festival - an accomplishment that Janney is very proud of.

'When I first started working with them, four or five years ago, I never dreamed they would get this far with their acting abilities," she said. "This show is a testament to their work. This is, in a sense, their graduation.'

The two fundraising performances will both take place at 8 p.m. in the Studio Theatre at Thompson Theatre and are sponsored by APO (the Drama Honorary fraternity). Tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by calling (919) 515-2405. Tickets can be picked up at Thompson Theatre. The studio has limited seating and unpaid tickets will be sold at 7:30 p.m. on the nights of the performances on a first-come, first-served basis.

> be a special performance featuring Eliot Chang, a standup comedian from Harlem, N.Y. This comic has

> had several television and film appearances and also tours clubs and

> colleges throughout the nation. Chang's career began six years ago,

and he describes his humor as "bru-

tally honest, dangerous and not for the weak of heart." Critics have de-

scribed his honesty and confidence

Chang does not rely solely on his

ethnic background for his material though; he hits home by talking

frankly about real issues. According

to a press release, "his show creates

a partylike atmosphere producing

nothing less than roars of laughter.

In a typical show, one can expect to

laugh at the topics of "living in

Harlem, racism, drugs, nicotine ad-

diction, steroids, religion, wheel-

chairs, homeless people, Arnold

as "refreshingly original."

CALENDER OF EVENTS

THURSDAY

"Brown Sugar" will play in the Campus

GrooveLily plays the Six String Café. The explosive Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey will electrify the Pour House.

Eyes to Space plays at Go! alongside Phantom FM, The B-Sides and Serotonin Project.

"Stop Kiss" will be presented in Thompson Theatre's Studio.

"Brown Sugar" and "Stormy Weather" will play in the Campus Cinema.

Americana hosts its open mic night in Caldwell Lounge at 7:30 p.m.

Buckwheat Zydeco will roar into Cat's Cradle in Carrboro.

The Breakfast Club plays at the Lin-

David Massengill plays the Six String Café, wit Caroline Herring opening.

Topaz will play the Pour House.

The Dynamite Brothers play with Dragstrip Syndicate at Go!

SATURDAY

"Drumline" and "Standing in the Shadows of Motown" will play in the Campus

"Stop Kiss" will be presented in Thompson Theatre's Studio.

Cross Canadian Ragweed play at Go! Kevin Kinney will take to the stage at Berkeley Café.

Tift Merritt will play the stage with The Carbines at Cat's Cradle

Appetite for Destruction plays at the Lincoln Theatre. Rebel Son opens.

Regan headlines at Six String Café with Seth Horan playing in support.

Purple School Bus plays at the Pour

"Drumline" will play in the Campus Cin-

Texas songwriter Hayes Carll will play a free set at the Pour House.

King's X take to the Lincoln stage. Jam Pain Society and Zug Island open

Luna will play Cat's Cradle with Calla. The Droogies play with K Word, Makeshft and Woodshed at Go!

"Standing in the Shadows of Motown" will play in the Campus Cinema.

Jimmy Buffet plays the RBC Center. Lula's Birthmark will play a free set at

the Pour House. Poor Iris will open. Ender plays with Xtreme Badasses, Feeble Weiner and Fire Parade at Go!

"Drumline" will play in the Campus

Acoustic duo the Avvett Brothers will

play a free show at the Pour House. The Apples in Stereo play the Cat's Cradle for a set. Oranger opens along

with North Elementary

Open mic night at Six String Café.

WEDNESDAY

The Alquila Theatre Company will perform "The Importance of Being Earnest" in Stewart Theatre.

Rockers Faceplant will play a show at the Pour House.

CrossRoads and Alive & Well bring bluegrass to the Six String Café.

A little taste of Asia



Traditional dances like this one will highlight Saturday's Asia night in

Lori Miranda Osgood

N.C. State is a campus known for its diversity. Even more importantly, State is renowned for the way that the student body embraces different backgrounds, heritages, races and cultures

On Saturday, one group of students will be taking this achievement to the next level as the N.C. State Asian Students' Union Executive Board hosts the annual Asia Night. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., and the show will commence at 7

Asia Night is an annual event sponsored, produced and presented by the members and executive board of the Asian Student Movement. Officials from the group proudly boast that each year the event is a huge success, and they also take much pride in bringing it to audiences at NCSU. The purpose of Asia Night is not only to entertain but also to celebrate cultural diversity and unify the Asian communi-

The event will be held in the Talley Student Center Ballroom. To bring about awareness of the Asian culture, the group will provide a dinner of authentic Asian cuisine, a fashion show displaying traditional Asian clothing and many more modern and traditional performances

The highlight of the evening will

Schwarzenegger, regular sex, freaky sex, freaky deaky sex and Hitler." The event's planners expect Eliot Chang to draw many to the event. Other highlights of the evening include performances by Fusion, NCSU Varsity Dance Team, UNC Kamikaze Dance Team, Duke Defining Movement Dance Team, ECU Break Dance Team, UNCC Tony

Tsai — Chinese yo-yo, Sunny Dance group, Triangle Taiko of North Carolina, Liming Wang — "First Love,"

Loose Fur jams the night away

Loose Fur

Ghassan Hamra

In the world of music, artist collaborations have a way of ending horribly. Look at Audioslave. This Soundgarden-Rage Against the Machine hybrid turned out to be an experiment gone terribly wrong. And how about The Reindeer Section? This Scottish "super group" released one of the most mediocre albums of

Nonetheless, amid the dust rise a few couplings that end up doing wonderful things. When Dillinger Escape Plan and Mike Patton collaborated on last year's "Irony is a Dead Scene" EP, no one could have anticipated how incredibly good things would turn out. Patton's vocals were the perfect compliment to Plan's technical ability. A similar compli-

ment comes to us in the form of Loose Fur, a recent collaboration between Jim O'Rourke and Wilco's Jeff Tweedy.

O'Rourke has jumped from one end of the spectrum to the other on his music. In fact, one would be hardpressed to find a musician who has dabbled in more musical genres than O'Rourke, responsible for brilliant albums like Wilco's "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" and Gastr Del Sol's "Camoufleur," is also responsible for last year's most overrated pseudo 'returnto-form' album "Murray Street" by Sonic Youth, Thus, it was hard to judge where Loose Fur would fall.

Luckily, O'Rourke and Tweedy's self-titled release, "Loose Fur," reflects work most similar to that exhibited on "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot." The album itself was conceived in the late morning hours when Wilco was taking a break from working on "Foxtrot" (i.e., sleeping). But, super-productive folk like these two have no time for sleep; they just create more

Loose Fur is much less conventional when compared to Tweedy's work with Wilco, exemplified by the third track, "So Long." Though song structure is fairly basic, random dissonance is thrown in here and there for whatever reason O'Rourke and Tweedy could have thought of at 3

However, the remainder of the album displays simple rhythm and gentle vocals that will lull the listener to sleep if they're not careful. Tweedy's grimy alt-country voice turns out to match quite well with O'Rourke's calm, lulling vocals.

Though the whole of the album is great, there are a few standout tracks. Laminated Cat," "Elegant Transaction" and "Chinese Apple" are among these. Yes, the song names are stupid, but you will just have to let that slide

On that note, don't expect the most thought-provoking lyrics ever written from O'Rourke. "A connection all the same, like urine loves cold

Transaction." Though Tweedy's lyrics are a bit better, they certainly aren't his best.

This album requires a patient listener. At times, it seems like the album will drift into the realm of pretentious rock that many bands have done recently. For instance, the guitainly could have been cut off a bit earlier. Luckily, Loose Fur knows to stop while they're ahead and not run tracks into 15 minutes of guitar loops. If you're still having trouble placing

what this album may sound like, imagine an album of tracks similar to "Radio Cure" and "Ashes of American Flags," but with less subtle noises thrown in at different times

Though the music presented here is not nearly as groundbreaking or astounding as "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," what O'Rourke and Tweedy have put together from random mid night jam sessions is good enoughfor this listener's CD player.

it never really had the potential then to be what they

See SCHOOLKIDS page 6

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Edwards' malpractice showdown

Judging by the recent media coverage of President Bush and Sen. John Edwards, one might think the presidential election is nine weeks away instead of nine months. Bush and Edwards are engulfed in a media war, focusing mainly on Bush's push for a \$250,000 cap in medical malpractice suits. Though his course of action is quite the opposite, Edwards, who, in this case, teeters dangerously on the edge of a conflict of interest, would be wise to downplay - not publicize -

Bush is saying that exorbitant jury awards in malpractice cases are driving doctors' malpractice insurance through the roof. Edwards and his fellow democratic compatriots are saying that Bush's proposal does little more than feed the pocket of struggling insurance companies. Edwards maintains that malpractice awards should continue to be decided by a jury on a case-by-case basis, and that an across-the-board cap is ridiculous and harmful to patients.

A sound enough argument. But when one looks into Edwards' past occupation and his current campaign for the Democratic party's presidential nod, the issue becomes significantly murkier.

Edwards made his money and gained his power — the money and power that helped him win his Senate seat and now allow him to make a presidential bid as a North Carolina trial lawyer focus-ing on medical malpractice cases. Further, as reported by the News & Observer, Edwards is now seeking \$620,000 from

his North Carolina trial lawyer buddies.

This provides more than enough fodder for even the most dimwitted of conspiracy theorists. It's easy to say Edwards is guilty of succumbing to the temptation of self-serving fundraising and, in turn, policy-making. This would be nothing new. It happens all the time (see the Bush administration and Big Oil), but rarely is it this public.

It is also, however, easy to say that Edwards' stance on a malpractice cap is just his latest effort to defend the interests of the common citizen, Maybe he practiced the type of law he did because he felt strongly about it and that this is all just an unfortunate coincidence creating the appearance of a conflict of interest.

As with many big political issues, it's unclear who started this malpractice debate — Bush or Edwards — and what its true motivations are. Certainly and curiously though, Edwards feels the need to keep fueling the fire.

It appears Edwards has nothing to gain here. He has staunch support from many democrats and lawyers. His press releases, press conferences and reactions to Bush will not garner more support and could even draw more attention to his possible conflict of interest

As this Bush vs. Edwards media clash escalates toward the democratic convention, voters - North Carolina ones especially — should pay close attention to how Edwards handles this touchy is-



RAY CHARLES: UN WEAPONS INSPECTOR

Disappointing State of the Union



Ben Kraudel

most Americans took a break from their normal lives or at least from their normal TV viewing — and watched President Bush's State of the Union address. Under heavy fire from the public and from the De-

mocratic Party, Bush took the stage and let rip with what I must call a less-than-spectacular performance.

I expected Bush to take the stage with a die-hard speech, aimed at uniting a country behind him. I expected my president to say that there were reasons for the things we do, and that when all was said and done, I would at least know why my president was so dead-set on going to war. I did not expect what I go

For nearly an hour, Bush explained in little to no detail ... nothing at all. Jargon after jargon, buzz word after buzz word, sound byte after sound byte ... and still, no explanation. I sat hoping to hear how things were going to change, and instead, I got a handful of hopeful fantasies.

Every new idea had no fundamental logic or basic explanation. While hydrogen-powered automobiles are a fine idea and quite possible, they don't deserve to be randomly thrown into a national address unless someone will explain how they will come into being and what the oil lobby will be doing in the meanwhile. This isn't the World's Fair. If I want to suspend my disbelief, I'll go to the

CNN cut the transcript of the speech into nine pieces on its Web site. I cut it

In the moments and commentaries

leading up to the

State of the Union,

much was said

concerning the

importance this

speech held in re-

assuring an increasingly doubtful

Bush's leadership,

with a particular

emphasis on the

about

public

into three. Here is a paraphrased exam-

I. "Hi. I'm going to give Americans a lot of tax breaks. Somehow this will help people without jobs and stimulate the economy. Just ignore how incredibly illogical this is because you'll be paying way less taxes.'

II. "Here are all the things I want the government to spend money on. This would normally be difficult, given as I've just cut the government's budget substantially by severely lowering taxes. So, just ignore all the things I have to say here, which are mostly buzz words. (Outlaw abortion.) I might be talking about war at any moment. You better stay alert and think about the possibility of my talking about war. (Outlaw cloning.) I don't like HMOs. The reason doctor bills are so high is because doctors have to pay outrageous insurance rates in case they saw off the wrong limb. We should do something about that. (A lot of my friends are doctors.)

III. "OK, now I'm talking about war. North Korea is a bully. Iraq is a bully. Our Lord obligates us (because we, as Americans, are united religiously) to fight them and instill in them the liberty to live as they want ... and as we know they should. Thank you, good night."

What bothered me more than anything else in this year's address was how the president addressed those we have killed in our war on terror. "All told, more than 3,000 suspected terrorists have been arrested in many countries," Bush said, "and many others have met a different fate. Let's put it this way: They are no longer a problem to the United States and our friends and allies." While I understand that it is impossible to fight a death-free war, I see no reason for the president of the United States of Amer

ica to get on national television in his annual chance to connect with the American people and gloat over the deaths of men fighting for what they believe. I do not want to look into my president's eyes and see blood lust. Nothing will lose my trust faster.

The Democratic response, by Washington's Governor Gary Locke, to the State of the Union pushed several of his party's agendas, but at least they focused more on how to fix things — with real solutions rather than result-oriented ideas. Locke suggested a plan to spend \$100 billion in tax relief and investments, some to create incentives for making new jobs, starting this year.

While Locke may have not been the best candidate for the speech - some past indiscretions were quickly voiced by the Republican party — I appreciate the Democratic plan for what it is: realism. Locke began and ended his allotted 10 minutes by describing his grandfather's trip to America by steam ship and the dreams he had brought with him-He had come in search of a better place. A place where he would be accepted even though he was not a natural citizen.

Politicians do not often move me. I have become jaded, as have most Americans, but I noticed the differences between the speeches of Bush and Locke. Bush spoke in sound bytes and far-off dreams. Locke spoke honestly and briefly remembered what America is all about .. and there was no blood lust in his eyes.

Ben believes God wants him to stay in college, write columns and occasionally play his guitar - not kill heathens. If you have a better idea, write him at bpkraude@ unity.ncsu.edu.

CAMPUS FORUM

Dean Brady says CHASS flourishing at NCSU

As dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS), I'm compelled to take issue with Greg Volk's charcterization of the support this college has received from Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and former Provost Stuart Cooper ("Fox's hunt for a provost," Jan. 29). One of the primary considerations in my decision to move to N.C. State in 2001 was my conversation with Chancellor Fox about her vision for NCSU and the critical role of CHASS in realizing that vision.

Our collective goals for NCSU include becoming a top, research-extensive university. Take a look at the national rank ings of research universities and you will find in the top tier a number of institutions with traditional strengths in science and engineering. But, the very best science and technology-oriented research universities also have excellent programs in the humanities and social sciences — MIT is a perfect example. The issue is not whether one invests in the sciences and engineering or in the humanities and social sciences — great research uni-versities are great across the board and require investments in both areas.

Chancellor Fox and former Provost Cooper have strongly supported strengthening existing programs and the introduction of new initiatives in the humanities and social sciences. This support has come not only in words but also in dollars. Last year, CHASS hired 23 new faculty members, and this year, we have 17 faculty searches underway Provost Cooper returned funds to the

college to enable us to offer more competitive salaries to faculty in areas in which we want to build, such as nonprofit leadership, ethics and environmental studies along with ethnicity, international studies and area studies. This has happened despite two difficult budget years for the university.

During Chancellor Fox's tenure, new undergraduate and graduate degree programs have been added, in anthropology, French, Spanish, criminology, public administration and communication. CHASS has formulated a request for permission to plan a new Ph.D. program in communication, rhetoric and digital media. When approved, this will be the first Ph.D. program in the humanities offered by the college. Chancellor Fox and former Provost Cooper have actively supported our goal of enhancing interdisciplinary academic opportunities for students. This year, CHASS also received a large block grant from the

See FORUM page 5

Jerry Moore · Matthew Pelland

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY



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The unofficial response



Andrew Dugan

economy and Iraq.

Bush's approval level has dropped down to around 52 percent — the lowest since Sept. 11 - and Bush did have quite a bit riding on this annual address to the nation. But I find it impossible to accept the fact that Bush alone had stock in this speech.

The Democrats, who are still coming off the coattails of an election gone sour, were just as culpable to prove to the nation that they, if not Bush, had some sort of plan to help remedy the nation's ills. That may sound ludicrous to some: how could the Democrats exhibit any new legislation or political philosophy when the speech wasn't theirs to give?

They could merely sit idly in the Cham-

bers of Congress and watch the

Republican president give this trenchant speech. These concerns are fair and, for the most part, highlight restrictions the Democrats were facing during the State of the Union. But, actions speak louder than words, to abuse the clichE.

The best indicator of just how submissive the Democrats will or will not be to the Republican majority stems from the reactions of prominent Democratic senators during various points during Bush's watershed speech. As seems custom for the State of the Union, this otherwise 20-minute speech is isochronally interrupted with applause from an often-jubilant crowd.

Not every line the president says, of course, is applauded by the entire audience. When Democrats abstained to get up from their seats and cheer vigorous ly, it helps underline what points they will eventually challenge the president

John Kerry, a presidential hopeful and leading voice in the Democratic community, was seated next to the most egregious Ted Kennedy and a handful of other Democratic senators. These men were the kindest of the bunch to the president. They applauded the obligatory re marks, such as the respectable plan that

gives badly needed funds to Africa, the need to further combat terrorism (and the nonsensical remark that we are currently winning this war) and any line that could be somehow interpreted as patri-

But, they also exerted some support for lines promising a better economy, though they did not applaud the actual steps Bush was outlining. They also seemed unsure when they were going to actually stand up join the standing ovation — it seemed as they waited from cues from Tom Daschle or Joseph Lieber-

Speaking of the latter senator, his seated position was next to the controversial Senator Clinton from New York, They both gave visual disapproval of Bush's anti-abortion diatribe, with Clinton seemingly almost breaking into tears.

Perhaps it was the little smirk Bush gave after he had spoken about his obections to abortion that caused Clinton to almost lose control of herself.

Clinton also seemed to give a sarcastic smile when Bush reviewed his economic stimulus plan.

The main man whose very presence spoke for the probable future actions of

See DUGAN page 5



Holly Bezant

low that the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and America's Blood Centers (ABC) have teamed up with the Red Cross to send out an urgent call to action to all eli-

know,

has been so

gible donors across the nation. According to the American Red Cross Web site, www.redcross.org, "more than 60 percent of the community blood centers represented by America's Blood Centers have reported inventories of two days or less of Type O red blood cells. During the past two

weeks, Red Cross blood inventories have dropped roughly 50 per-American Red Cross has hit a American Red Cross regions have issued some form of local emerlow in their blood stock. In gency media appeal for increased fact, the supply donations.

The Triangle Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is one of those branches appealing to the public for help. As reported in Tuesday's Technician, North Carolina's blood supply is currently at a single day's supply. By now, unless several people responded, that supply is drastically smaller.

The main cause of this emergency situation is the rash of winter storms that swept across the Central Plains and south and northeast United States. Even states that were not affected directly by the weather are experiencing shortages because they may depend mostly on import

ed blood or have had to export to states that have been hit badly.

I personally have never given blood. I tried a couple times. The first time was in high school, and they turned me away even though I was to be 17 years old the following day. (The requirements are that you are 17 years of age, at least 110 pounds in weight and in general good health.) The second time was my freshman year of college, and I was turned away because it had been less than a year after I had gotten my tattoo. Since then, blood drives I wanted to partake in have occurred on days I was sick or hadn't been sleeping or eating well enough to

However, I resolve to find a blood drive or a place at which to donate blood. I am lazy in many respects, which is something I need to work on. But, I am going

to stop being lazy and regain my healthy habits that I had dropped sometime during my sophon year of college so that I can do-

It is possible for a healthy individual to give blood every 56 days, or six times a year. The Red Cross is urging eligible donors to donate now, and then consistently every two months after that to ensure a good constant supply of

Think about your family and friends. Have any of them needed blood? Have any of them had cancer or surgery? Now look around you. Look at the pollution, carcinogens, diseases, etc. that could at any point cause a problem. One of the current leading causes of death is heart disease. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out that you need blood for heart surgery. Automobile accidents are quite frequent and could result in a need for blood in treatment of injuries

Basically, many people, includ-ing myself, don't think about blood and the fairly simple act of giving it. At this age, we subconsciously feel that we are invincible. We stay up until 2 a.m. and chow down on Gumby's and guzzle Pepsi. (Too bad it's not Coke.) Walking to class is many people's only exercise. But hey, we won't need blood anytime soon, right?

Unfortunately, no one can predict the heart failures that occur not only with inactive people but with athletes, such as football players. No one can predict acci dents of any nature, and there is risk of contracting AIDS or developing cancer at any time. That is why giving blood will help you. It's a cycle. You give blood now and encourage people around you to do so also, and one day, if you need blood, those people will still be giving and give you life.

Here's a list of contact information to the aforementioned organizations

American Association of Blood Banks: 866-FROM-YOU (866-376-6968), www.aabb.org

· America's Blood Centers: 888-USBLOOD (888-872-5663), www.americasblood.org

American Red Cross: 800-GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543), www.givelife.org and www.redcross.org

You can also help by giving plasma at SeraCare, which is right behind the Belltower Mart on Hillsborough Street. Holly appreciates all comments and questions at paz rata@yahoo.com.

FORUM

tinued from page 4

Provost's Office, which has been invested in graduate student stipends and additional operating funds for departments.
I'm a social scientist, but as an

administrator within a college including social science and hu-manities disciplines in addition to a professional social work program, I have a responsibility to support excellence in all disciplines and programs represented in CHASS. Whether one is a scientist, engineer, social scientist or scholar in the humanities, as administrators we all work to advance shared interest in building excellence across NCSU CHASS has been well supported in our efforts to fashion new approaches to liberal arts education that will meet the changing needs of our students and the new challenges of this century. The humanities and social sciences are not only alive and well, but flourishing, at NCSU.

DUGAN

continued from page 4

his Capitol gang.

and some portions of

sure Bush compromises on many

of his points.

the hurting Democratic Party was

their minority leader, Tom

Daschle. Due to increasingly awk-

Linda P. Brady Dean, CHASS

PETA urges passing of Resolution 50

As an N.C. State alumna, I would like to respond to your article about dissection dissenter Jared Milrad ("Student challenges uni versities' animal rights policy," Jan. 23). Every day, PETA receives calls and e-mails from students who think it's wrong to kill and cut up animals for classroom projects, and we think they're right.

Millions of animals — every thing from frogs to dogs - are killed every year to be used in biology and anatomy classes. Some of them could be lost or stolen companion animals. When PETA went undercover at the Carolina Biological Supply Company, one of the nation's largest suppliers of animals for dissection, our investigator was told by his super visor that some of the cats killed there were companion animals who had "escaped" from their

Sadly, some teachers cling to the outdated notion that there's just "no substitute" for dissection. But in every study conducted on the subject, students who used alternatives to dissection learned and

Forty-eight percent of America now has some sort of grievance

with George W. Bush, but that

doesn't mean they will flock to

the opposing party. The Democ

rats have to prove these dissidents

retained as much - or more information about biology as their dissecting counterparts.

This is not just an animal rights issue: All students should have the right to an education that doesn't violate their ethical beliefs. We hope the Student Senate will pass Resolution 50, guaranteeing students the right to refuse to dissect and to use non-animal alternatives instead. To learn more about this issue, visit our Web site PETA2.com.

> Kate Turlington Class of 2000 Special Research & Investigations Assistant People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Norfolk, Va.

Council should balance

The public debate about the pro-

Do you want to issue your official

opinions about Andrew's unoffi-

cial response? He can be reached

at abdugan@untiv.ncsu.edu.

tions. As stated by Steve Crisp at the hearing on Jan. 21, however, many of the arguments on both sides are self-serving and may not reflect what is ultimately best for

our entire community. Certainly the name-calling and impugning of any individual's personal motives does not reflect well on our city or the speakers. This negative portion of the debate has been going on in too many nonpublic forums for too long as well. However, I am quite proud of the multitude of citizens of varying opinions who have spoken from their hearts and contributed to a positive debate.

My personal agenda was to get this citizen-initiated draft ordi nance out of the table so we could have a civil public discussion about a very complex set of issues that need addressing. In part, that is why I chose to play the "devil's advocate" with speakers at three public sessions held prior to the formal hearing. That is also why I requested those sessions and chose to get information out to a variety of groups to be sure all the facts and perspectives were brought into the debate.

I chose to face this tough issue head on, not to duck and wish the problems would just go away. Addressing such issues is clearly the agenda of the current leadership on the City Council, and we consistently looked for opportunities to expand citizen participation. Now that we have inspired that participation, it is clearly up to the Council to work with all the parties to come up with fair and equitable solutions that balance the concerns of all. Working together, we can make Raleigh a better place for all, and it is the Council's job to serve as a catalyst for healthy debate that leads

> Benson Kirkman Deputy Mayor District D Councillor

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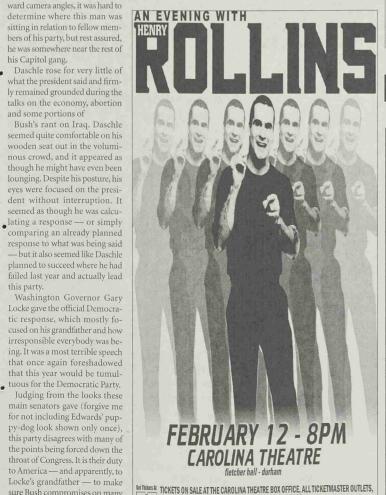
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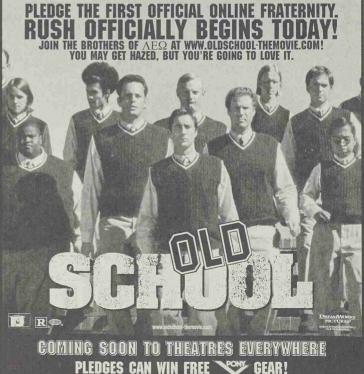
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ASTA

continued from page 3

My Le, Chinese Lion Dance and a fashion show choreographed by Nancy Nguyen. The group will also be hosting an after party at Club King from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m., which will cost \$5 with a flyer and \$8 without.

The Asian Student Moment is confident that the fashion show will be more different than ever with the help of a team of consisting of choreographer and stylist Nancy Nguyen and her team of six other makeup and hair artists.

Nguyen is in charge of developing, coordinating and producing the fashion show.

She says that "this is [her] first time helping with the fashion show, but all 30 models have practiced diligently, and they are going to put on an awesome show." They will be modeling the outfits and will be walking to a mix of Asian techno and rap music.

Why should those of non-Asian descent come to the event? In Nguyen's words, "there will be performers from all races, the entire program is quite education-

al and the food will be very good. Why not come?" She also notes that it will be fun for all members of the family.

Anticipating guests in excess of 500 people, Asia Night promises to be an event that should not be missed.

Tickets must be purchased through NCSU Ticket Center, which is located on the second floor of Talley Student Center. The event is \$7 for students and \$10 for the general public for both the dinner and the show, or \$5 and \$8 for the show

SCHOOLKIDS

continued from page 3

said it would be."

Phillips, nodding and frowning, agrees, saying, "The magazines had to find something to say, something to sell. That's their job. But, it never really turned out to be quite what they thought it was."

Phillips, like the rest of the area music circuit, moved on, going back — for the most part — to business as usual. Schoolkids continued to outsell the competition, maintaining its rank atop the hierarchy on Hillsborough Street and dominating its neighbor, The Record Exchange.

Competition, however, wasn't just around the corner for Phillips and Schoolkids at the close of the decade. Instead, it was quickly emerging just across the street—at college campuses, in a myriad of dorm rooms, by way of the Internet and the Napster revolution. The movement took labels and stores alike by storm, raising a series of imperative questions and creating the need for vastly different marketing ideas than those that had been successful only a year before.

only a year before.

Suddenly, the college kids weren't interested in CDs bought from a retailer with loads of personality; they were interested in bandwidth and downloading highly touted albums from industry hotshots weeks before they hit shelves nationally.

"I've got a 15-year-old son at home, and let's say [that] there's a new Jay-Z album coming out. If he can download it three days before it's in stores, why would he or anyone care about paying 20 bucks for it ... It's like, 'I have it. I got it for free. So, I sure don't need it from you," Phillips shouts, his hands flailing in fits. "I don't know why anybody now would want to buy it. CDs just cost too damn much money."

In a surprising admission, Phillips doesn't place the blame for high Internet traffic and low music store retails squarely on the shoulders of the consumer. Of course, he feels a bit of animosity toward music fans who have shied away from their local record stores, but he also empathizes with their situation. He, instead, blames the art-debasing cycle of noncommittal musicians, number-happy record labels and corporate-dominated mainstream radio.

Given the chance, Phillips bluntly vents about the lack of the artists in today's musical landscape, bashing Chumbawumba, Alanis Morisette, Matchbox Twenty, Mariah Carey and a gang of others in one fiercely focused fell swoop. He criticizes the artists' newfound contentment with releasing hyped albums propelled by two singles and 40 more minutes of unabashed filler.

"tdon't blame the kids for what they are doing. In my older days, a 'Led Zeppelin II,' for instance, had no crap on it. They were all great songs. You got more bang for your buck. Now, you get three good songs and 10 really lousy songs,' says Phillips, caught in the middle of a Rob Thomas-chiding. "People are tired of the crap. They really are."

The blame doesn't end there, Phillips asserts.

"Record companies have become very greedy," says an atypically somber Phillips, giving brevity to what he sees as the major problem.

He finds fault in the record label's current mysterious infatuation with disposable artists, and he pines for the days when companies would invest in a band, letting them develop and mature. Phillips points to the list of one-hit wonders as evidence, arguing that such forgettable stars are simply a quick, vulgar way for corporate heads to rake in the profite.

"We'll find a hot little chick, put a wet T-shirt on her, let her dance around and then put out two singles," Phillips chuckles loudly, imitating music executives of the past few years.

past few years.

"They throw it on the wall and see if it sticks. If it doesn't, they move on," says Freddy, still pondering the label's sad lack of commitment to musicians. "Music used to be run by people who loved music. But it went from them to lawyers and now to accountants."

Phillips scoffs at national radio, citing its concerns for major profits as one of music's most pronounced ills. He criticizes the short-leash approach that media giant Clear Channel Entertainment uses with its myriad of radio stations, reprimanding them for their narrow, bland programming and lack of regional interest.

"They own it all. Really, they have the right to say to a station like WRDU, 'Play these 15 to 20 songs, and that's it.'You never really hear the stranger stuff anymore," says Phillips, "They control so many aspects of the business that you end up with bad radio stations, tight radio playlists and expensive concert tickets. None of that is good for the consumer."

of that is good for the consumer."
In light of such dreadful circumstances, Phillips has had to change as a businessman, restructuring his company and

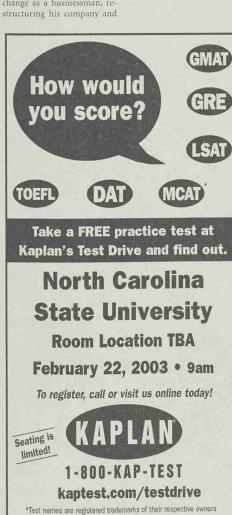
catering to different audiences. He has carefully added a myriad of eclectic, often-obscure artists in an attempt to draw fans of corporate-clear music into his store. Schoolkids, as Phillips puts it, "is trying to get away from majorlabel garbage ... that isn't priced fairly."

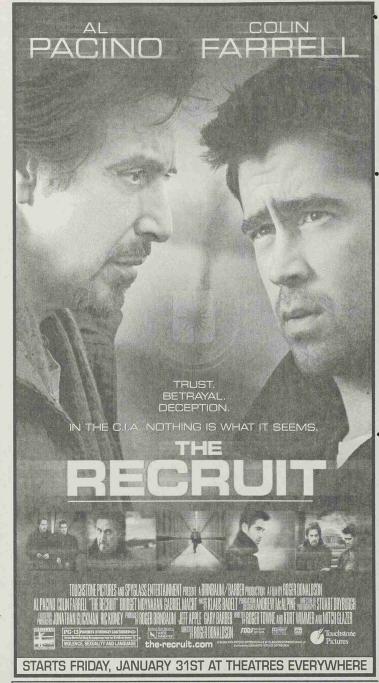
"Best Buy is geared to just sell you Garth Brooks. And I'll sell it to you. But these days, I don't care if I do or don't sell a Garth Brooks disc," Phillips jokes, referring to his company's recent approach.

Local artists have become a priority for Phillips and company, filling a void that local radio left behind. Schoolkids, under Phillips' forethought, has made a conscious effort to offer great service, building a knowledgeable, concerned staff of music lovers. Thus far, the idea has proven to be fairly successful, as the now four-member chain (the Durham store recently closed, though stores still remain in Cary and Chapel Hill) still remains profitable and the first stop for area listeners.

But, NCSU is on the verge of losing the landmark that Phillips envisioned some 30 years ago. The lease at the Hillsborough Street location runs out in September of this year, and Phillips is currently debating a move to a location with more parking, better access and more community. Cameron Village is a prospective location, as well as Mission Valley and downtown Raleigh.

Phillips, someone who always seems to be evaluating business decisions, hasn't decided upon such a move yet. If he does, however, music shopping may become less fun and friendly for a campus that, thus far, has been fortunate to have Mike Phillips on its side.







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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS State capital

- Natural State Capital meaning "wooded" 6 "Columbo" star Falk 11 One way to stand 14 Add 15 Band together 16 Raw mineral 17 #1 song from "Rocky" 19 Director Craven 20 City near Phoenix 21 Go-between 23 Gradual deterioration 27 Act as 29 Go-fer's task 30 Religion of zombies 31 Chatter away 32 Stingers 33 Craze

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BASKETBALL continued from page 8

coach Duke head Goestenkors. "When she did get the ball, we wanted to double team her just like everybody else

With Chones attracting the majority of the Duke defense's attention on the inside, State looked to its outside game to get points. State's perimeter players shot 1-for-13 in the first half.

Second chance points did not

come easy either. Duke hauled in 25 first-half boards, nine more than State, and finished the game with a 48-32 edge.

rebounds, State failed to score any second chance points.

In the second half, State guards Terrah James and Nanna Rivers penetrated the lane for layups

With only nine offensive

and short jumpers. I think N.C. State did a great

job in the second half," said Goestenkors. "They knew they weren't hitting their outside shots and they just tried to take the ball to the basket. I thought it took us too long to adjust to

State actually outscored the Devils in the second half, but Alana Beard and company thwarted any State run with a big defensive play and a fast break bucket or a super-human layup by Beard, slashing through a wedge of State defenders.

However, Yow and her troops will continue to trudge forward and use the loss as a building block for the rest of the season.

We lost the game, but it is the number one team in the country and we only lost by 10," said Chones. "We're just going to use it as fuel for our next game.'

STEVE

continued from page 8

tory has come to the right

school. Wolfpack basketball is a resolute program that has risen to every test of our time. Battling back from the adversity of the previous decade has revealed the character of the school, to the world and to ourselves. State is a strong team. The ACC has waited 12 years for Wolfpack basketball to return to prominence. Beating Duke, North Carolina and Maryland would be a good start.

May Herb guide the Pack now. (Applause.) Steve would like to thank George W. Bush for a generic speech that was

easily manipulated. He can be reached sbthomps@unity.ncsu.edu or 515-

HOROSCOPE

March 21- April 19

Today is a 7. Although you're very lucky and powerful, and have the support of friends and family, be careful. If you add

Aries March

To get the advantage, check the day's rating

Taurus April 20-May 20

Today is a 6. You may feel slightly

nibited by a person with distinctly different tastes. Do what's required to pay the bills, and chuckle about it in private with a true friend. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

Gemini

May 21-June 21

Today is a 7. Be practical. Figure out what

you can afford to spend and how to get there even cheaper. This coming weekend will be awesome for romance

Jan. 30, Don't spend the entire year hanging out with your friends. You're involved in fascinating projects, and you need a little private time. Schedule at least one retreat with an enlightened advisor. Talking about an old wound helps it heal, and that allows you to help others. Cancer
June 22-July 22 Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

Today is a 7. Technology can help you deal with a bottleneck. Don't push harder. Find a way around it. Today is a 7. Don't be shy about asking questions, but don't ask questions in public. Nobody needs to know where you get your information. Just make

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Today is a 7. You're closer than ever to having a dream come true at work. Loved ones offer encouragement. You can do the rest.

Today is a 7. Follow through on promises recently made. Do it not just for the person you love, but also for yourself. You'll be much more optimistic once you've done what you said you'd do



Scorpio Oct.23-Nov.21

Today is a 6. Don't buy anything but the essentials. Something you've long wanted for your home falls into that



Sagittarius Name

and travel. Find a way to afford it.

Today is a 7. Give difficult material your full attention. A light once-over isn't



Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today is a 7. Take care of paperwork in to do it. That's not happening.



Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Today is a 7. You can take ancient information and use it to build things nobody else can. That's just one of your talents. But first, you have to do the



Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

Today is a 7. Something you've long dreamed about is becoming a part of you.It's a goal accomplished honorably.



Libra
Sept.23

discipline, you've got it made.

category. Actually, it could be a down payment that you're saving for.



enough. Study.





Pat yourself on the back.

M. basketball @ Maryland, 1/30, 9 M. tennis vs. Princeton, 1/30, 8:30 Wrestling vs. Campbell, 1/30, 7:30 W. basketball vs. Maryland, 2/1, 7 Duke 54, W. basketball 44



==== TECHNICIAN =

N.C. State of the Union

BASKETBALL



Steve Thompson

State men's bas-ketball team will gather in the newly erected Comcast Center, deeply aware of decisive days that

The outcome of the game is of great conse-quence. A victory

will bring a prosperity that is broadly shared among the entire Wolfpack nation - first place in the ACC. It will come if State can answer every danger presented by enemy Maryland.

In all these days of promise and days of reckoning, State fans can be confident. In a whirlwind of change and hope, a win over Duke has made our faith sure and another over North Carolina has firmed our resolve. The team is strong. (Applause.)

This team still has many challenges They cannot be denied, nor ignored. They can be overcome, if they are confronted with focus and clarity and

During the last two years, the Wolfpack nation has seen what can be accomplished when we work together. (Applause.) To lift the standards back to where N.C. State used to be, Anthony Grundy and Archie Miller led last year's team to the NCAA tournament, which must now be the goal for every Wolfpack team. (Applause.) To prove State is among the best teams in the ACC, the Wolfpack has compiled a record of 16-9 in conference play, a mark that is bettered only by the last two national champions, Duke and Maryland. (Applause.) Some might call this a good record; I call it a good start.

To win tonight, the primary goal is clear: State must have an offense that moves efficiently enough to allow every man to get open looks. (Applause.) After early season scoring droughts and general inconsistencies, the offense is recovering — yet it's not growing fast enough or strongly enough. With starters' minutes rising, the team needs more bench players to contribute. Julius Hodge and company have a sign up that says "help wanted."

Still, this team is on the brink of leading the conference. (Applause.)

State has the ACC on its heels. Defeated are the mighty Duke and the resurgent North Carolina. One by one, the ACC is learning the meaning of N.C.

State basketball. (Applause.)

The gravest danger in the battle for ACC supremacy is upcoming teams that possess and seek to utilize inside weapons that cause destruction due to their mass. Maryland has Ryan Randle and Tajh Holden; Clemson has Chris Hobbs and Ray Henderson; Wake For-

est has Vytas Danelius and Eric Williams. As the fight begins against Maryland, the team must be extra careful in taking measures to protect its big men from foul trouble and defend in the post. While defense against Duke and North Carolina revolved around protecting against the outside shot, Maryland has a number of inside weapons that have destroyed other teams in the past. State must assume that Maryland will use these weapons, and it must find an answer - be it a matchup zone or other-

This threat is new; State's duty is fa-

miliar. (Applause.) Many challenges, abroad and at home, have arrived in a single season. Even more are on the horizon. In two years, Wolfpack basketball has gone from a sense of vulnerability to an awareness of its potential; State fans have similar ly evolved from bitter division in small matters to ... wait, maybe that hasn't changed. Regardless, State goes forward with confidence because this call of his

See STEVE page

Devils down ice-cold Pack

N.C. State shot a frigid 30.2 percent from the field and failed to capitalize on a subpar outing from No. 1

Matt Middleton

For a while Wednesday night in

Reynolds Coliseum, it looked like neither Duke nor N.C. State wanted to win their ACC showdown, as each team did its best to try and give the other the upper hand in the contest.

Shot after shot clanked off the iron, layups looked as if they were as difficult as halfcourt shots and turnovers were as plentiful as assists were scarce.

Duke eventually overcame a season-high 22 turnovers and 1-for-14 3-point shooting to hold a off a scrappy Wolfpack team, 54-44, to win its 25th straight ACC game and also remain unbeaten. Additionally, the win for Duke set up a show down with the nation's only other unbeaten team, No. 2 Connecticut, Saturday in Durham. State (9-10, 4-4 ACC) shot a

season-worst 30.2 percent from the field on its way to just 44 points, also a season low. The Pack had just one player in double figures, Terah James (13 points), while the Blue Devils (20-0, 8-0) were paced by All-American Alana Beard's 24 points and 12 rebounds.

"Offensively, that was one of the ugliest games of basketball I've seen in a long time," said Duke head coach Gail Goestenkors, speaking of the first half that saw the Pack shoot 18.5 percent and the Devils commit 13 turnovers.

State head coach Kay Yow could only state the obvious after the game, staring at the stat sheet that reflected an offensive nightmare

We got slow start offensively in the first half; we were not ag-



Alvine Mendeng scored only six points as the entire Pacl couldn't hit the mark. Staff photo by Kevin Ritter

gressive enough in the first half,"

Down 24-11 at the intermission, the Pack came out of the gate and scored as many points in the first two minutes of the second frame (five) as it had in the final 10:22 of the first half. Shots that had rolled off the rim in the first were now fgoing in as back-to-back pull-up jumpers by Nanna Rivers and Alvine Mendeng cut the lead to eight.

A Kaavla Chones hook and a pair of free throws from James sliced the lead to six and got the crowd into the game for basically the first time all night.

But Duke showed why it's the No. 1 team in the nation by going on a 16-2 run that was keyed by the play of freshman reserve Lindsey Harding. With its lead at 22 points, Duke seemed well on its way to another blowout

That is until the Pack's outside shooting came alive.

State's only 3 of the game, coming from James, ended the dry spell and seemed to kickstart the Pack offense. A layup by Rivers with 5:12 left trimmed the lead down to 10 and prompted another Goestenkors timeout.

"I thought we really played well in the second half, especially after falling behind in the first half so big," said Yow. "They just put it behind them and went out and played the second half as another half."

Duke came out of the timeout and ran a set play for Beard, who dropped in a tough layup in traffic. State, resilient at times during the final 10 minutes of the game, still refused to go

"I really like the way that we never gave up tonight," said Yow.

"There's a point where some teams really start to bend or perhaps even break - that never happened [tonight]. They dug in and kept playing hard, kept believing and actually got them-

selves back into the ballgame."
Back-to-back 3-point plays from James and Rivers cut the lead back to eight and after two missed free throws by Harding, James converted another lay-in off a backdoor pass from Liz Bailey to make it a two-possession game with 1:42 remaining.

With the crowd on its feet for one final time, Harding toed the foul line again, only this time she swished both tries.

The Pack would not score again, and the Devils held on to remain unscathed both overall and in the conference.

State will try end its two-game conference losing streak this Saturday at Maryland at 7 p.m.

Frustrated from the field

A second half surge is too little, too late to overcome woeful shooting first half and top-ranked Duke.

Jon Page

For the unbeaten Duke Blue Devils, it was just another stop on a great journey - much like a stretching exercise — before a Saturday showdown with second-ranked Connecticut.

For N.C. State, a team desperately in need of a mid-season resurgence, it was another air ball, another brick, and a wideopen jump shot that rolled in. out, back in, around and finally out of the hoop. It was another wasted opportunity.

With Duke posting its secondlowest scoring output of the first half, State picked the wrong night to go frigid from the field. At intermission, the Wolfpack had only hit on 18.5 percent of its shots for 11 points. Only one Wolfpack player, Amy Simpson, had more than two points.

"We had so many shots around the basket that we didn't put down," said State coach Kay Yow. "We had a backdoor cut that was wide open and we missed on the pass. A number of things like that happened to us and then some wide open looks and the shots just didn't go down. It was frustrating.'

Duke pounded State center Kaalya Chones on every Pack possession.

"Our goal was to limit • [Chones'] touches, because she makes good things happen, whether she's scoring or pass ing out of the double team," said See BASKETBALL page 7

Pack visits Terps with first place on the line

Off to its best conference start in 14 years, the Wolfpack travels to defending NCAA champion Maryland tonight.

Andrew B. Carter

Big games have been routine for N.C. State over the two weeks. First was one on the road at Florida State with a threegame losing streak threatening. Then, it was No. 3 Duke at home with the Blue Devils owning 13 straight wins in the series. And Sunday, it was North Carolina in a rivalry game that's always huge

Three wins in its last three outings have given State a new beginning. Long gone are the feelings of frustration after the Pack had lost three of four to start the

All that's here now is opportunity. It begins tonight when State (11-4, 4-1 ACC) travels to College Park for a showdown with No. 10 Maryland (12-4, 5-1) . The Wolfpack and Terrapins meet with first place in the ACC on the line.

"We have a big game vs. Maryland for first place," said State's Julius Hodge, who was named ACC Player of the Week for his performances against Duke and Carolina. "Right now, we're playing really well. We can't have any letdowns. We have to stay consistent and continue to

Consistency had been missing for Hodge and company early in the season. It wasn't uncommon for the team to scorch the nets off the rims in one game and go frigid in another. But, since the Boston College loss on Jan. 16, the Pack has finally found what works. In wins against Duke and Carolina in particular, the Wolfpack made its 3-pointers, cut sharply to the basket for easy layups and moved the ball for open looks.

State also clamped down on defense, holding the perimeter-oriented Devils and Tar Heels to less than 43 percent

'We know we're on top of the standings and that was our goal," said Hodge. "But, it's not just to get there. We want to stay there. As long as we continue to have guys like Cliff Crawford and Marcus Melvin playing the way they were and have myself step up in big games, we're going to be successful."

But still, State has to be wary of Maryland's imposing interior, which is led by Ryan Randle, who averages 13.4 points and more than eight rebounds per game. Gone is nemesis Lonny Baxter, but Randle and Tahi Holden could cause problems for State down low, particularly if the Terps are able to get Pack center Josh Powell in foul trouble.

'You have two frontcourt players who have been instrumental in providing Maryland with the great rotation that they had up front [last season]," said State head coach Herb Sendek. "[Randle and Holden] make them so difficult to deal with up front.

The Terps also have depth. Maryland

coach Gary Williams has utilized several starting lineups, with seven Terps having started at least six games this season. Williams' team goes a legitimate 10 deep.

The Pack, meanwhile, relies heavily on its starters. All five of them scored in double digits on Sunday, amounting for all 86 of State's points. The lack of depth doesn't dampen Williams' concerns of

"We play a very hot N.C. State team," said Williams. "I think State just had a great week last week with their wins, and they certainly are playing together. It's going to be just a great ACC game. ... I think it's going to be a very tough game

Of course, there's also the subplot between Hodge and Maryland senior point guard Steve Blake, who is among the best in the ACC at his position and averages 11.4 points and just under seven assists per game

State fans remember Blake from last season when he and Hodge had two runins, the second of which left Hodge suspended for one game, a State win over Virginia. Hodge will likely be at his emotional peak tonight as a chance for first place and another shot at Blake awaits. That's just the way Sendek wants to see his budding star.

"I don't want all our guys coming out of a cookie cutter," said the coach, "We've all got different personalities. It seems people are fond of labeling me certain ways, and now, Julius may be too flamboyant for others. People are who they are.



Josh Powell shoots over J.J. Redick and Shelden Williams. Maryland's vaunted inside attack will challenge Powell tonight. Staff photo by Matt

"I think Julius' passion, spirit and competitiveness adds a lot to our basketball

Just as the consequences of tonight's game add tremendously to its magnitude. With a win, the Pack can improve to 5-1 in the ACC for the first time since the 1988-89 season. And what team did State defeat for its fifth conference wins Yep, Maryland.





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