

TECHNICIAN

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Raleigh, North Carolina

IN THE KNOW

WORLD

Blix says Iraq may begin to cooperate

Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, chief U.N. weapons inspectors, said that after talking with high-level Iraqi officials for two days, they may have begun to come to agreements concerning the disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Blix and ElBaradei said they remain pessimistic about Iraq's cooperation, they noted that Iraq had handed over several important documents that included details about anthrax, the chemical agent VX and missiles.

U.N. experts will examine the documents in New York on Monday and Tuesday.

Car bomb kills 32 in Colombia

After a car bomb killed 32 people and gutted an 11-story night club on Friday evening, officials believe the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are to blame.

The bomb was placed in a car parked on the third floor of a parking garage and contained 330 pounds of explosives, said reports.

Labeled as one of the worst terrorist attacks in Bogotá in more than 10 years, the explosion killed 32 people and injured another 162. Six of the deceased victims were children.

NATION

Security measures heightened for U.S. military bases

On Friday, the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced they would probably raise the security measures at military bases nationwide.

Because of threats from the al Qaeda terrorist network against U.S. targets, the federal government raised the national threat level on Friday to orange, indicating a "high risk of terrorist attacks."

As more troops are deployed to Iraq and the Persian Gulf, the new threat in the United States increases, said reports.

In addition, the Pentagon has stated it may raise its threat level from Force Protection Condition Alpha to Bravo. Bravo is the third-highest level. Charlie would be the next level and would indicate that an incident will inevitably occur or has already occurred.



Columbus' ship bell goes up for sale

The bidding for the ship bell of the Santa Maria, Columbus' ship that arrived in America in 1492, will start at \$1 million.

Roberto Mazzara, the bell's Italian owner, found the bell while diving in a shipwreck off Portugal's coast in 1994.

The auction, which is expected to draw approximately 10 bidders, will take place on Feb. 20 in Madrid.

STATE

North Carolina to crack down on banned, imported medicines

According to reports, state inspectors and Latino advocates have agreed to provide more education at Latino "tiendas" (stores) across the state about dangerous imported medicines that are often banned from the United States.

While a crackdown on the imported drugs is the goal of the state, Latino advocates have noted that many times the immigrants just aren't aware that the medicines are not allowed in the state.

One of the drugs on which state officials are focusing is the painkiller dipyrone. The drug, also known as metamizole, was taken off the U.S. market in 1977 because of its risk of causing a life-threatening infection.

Two-thirds of state speeding charges dismissed, says report

According to a recent report, approximately two out of three speeding charges in North Carolina are either dropped or reduced. The report analyzes a year's worth of more than 692,000 traffic cases across the state.

The report compared the number of dropped speeding cases with the number of deadly speeding-related accidents. In 2001, one-third of the 1,530 deaths on state roadways were related directly to speed.

SAO offers new route to global experience

A new diploma certification will make it easier for students to market their international experience to employers and graduate schools.

Jordan Cooke
Staff Reporter

N.C. State's Study Abroad Office has developed a new type of certification for students who want to gain more experience with international communities.

The Global Proficiency Certification would be an addendum to students' transcripts. The intention is to better display a student's experience — working with internationals both at home and abroad — to potential employers or graduate schools.

Ingrid Schmidt, director of Study Abroad, said she got the idea from a similar program that was started at Boston College several years ago.

The Boston College program re-

quires that students meet three different criteria: international experience, international coursework and involvement in several international activities separate from the international experience.

The original program will serve as a base model, but Schmidt said there will be a few differences, mostly because NCSU is a public institution.

Schmidt said students would likely have to have spent four-plus weeks overseas to fulfill the international experience requirement. According to Schmidt, only having week-long international trips, such as a spring break trip, would not suffice because "it doesn't afford a student enough time to really experience the culture."

"We would even like to encourage students to participate in longer-term programs abroad," said Schmidt.

She also noted that being an international student here in the Unit-

ed States would count for the international experience component.

There would be several aspects to the academic component of the certification program, including coursework in a foreign language as well as other courses that have a focus on multicultural or international issues. Such courses may come from the humanities, social sciences, education or even business.

Boston College's program requires two foreign language courses above the core requirement of the school, as well as four other courses with an international focus. Schmidt says that it's not entirely clear how these requirements might be incorporated into the program here at NCSU.

"Being a larger public institution, N.C. State has more course options available to students than Boston College," she said.

She added that it's not beyond the realm of possibility that the re-

See SAO page 3

What a hottie!



"Pyro-Man" highlighted the College of Textiles open house this weekend. Researchers use the mannequin to test the comfort and protection of various fabrics. This lab work helps create uniforms for firefighters and oil well workers. Staff photo by Rob Bradley

First Dance Marathon raises nearly \$10,000

After N.C. State's success in its first-ever Dance Marathon, organizers look forward to next year.

Carie Windham
Assistant News Editor

When Lindy Clark took the microphone on Saturday night, she stepped in front of a crowd of people with numb, pained feet and a vague sense of where they were. After an hour-long concert by Justin Case, many could only think about sleep or at least sitting down.

But Clark and her story captured their attention and left many in tears.

She shared the story of her son, Jason, whom she lost after a lengthy battle with cancer at the North Carolina Children's Hospital.

"What I'm here to tell you is that there are kids out there still like Jason — little children, big children, kids your age — and they are there fighting for their lives," she said. "What you're doing today makes a real difference."



Participants get down with their bad selves at the first ever N.C. State Dance Marathon. Staff photo by Carl Hudson

ference."

For the students, many of whom had been on their feet for more than 23 hours, it was a sobering end to the first annual "Dance Marathon at N.C. State."

"What you're doing right now, though you may be tired, is going to make a difference,"

she said. "Thank you for what you're doing because you're making moms like me a little bit happier, and you're making kids like Jason get better."

Clark and other families visited the conclusion of the marathon, which benefited the

See DANCE page 3

Behind the scenes of the inaugural charity event

Students and others planned extensively for more than a year to pull off this weekend's event.

Carie Windham
Assistant News Editor

For many of the dancers and volunteers at Friday and Saturday's "Dance Marathon at N.C. State," 24 hours was a long and tiring commitment.

But for the brains and drive behind the event, it was just the paramount of more than a year's worth of vision, planning and effort.

"This has been their vision, and they've worked really hard to bring it together," said Mike Giancola, director of the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service and an advisor for the dance marathon.

Plans for the marathon started more than a year ago when Lee Dingle, a junior in civil engineering, heard about the marathon at UNC-Chapel Hill each year.

As he began tossing the idea around to different leaders and groups, a group of freshman Park Scholars began planning the same idea during a leadership seminar. The original group of scholars included Sara Anderson, Micah Sulli-

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FIND YOUR PLACE

Events to be held by N.C. State and student organizations this week:

Emerging Issues Forum

More than 30 national and international leaders from business, government and academia — including a former Fortune 500 company board chair, a high-ranking international government official and numerous state decision-makers — will examine the future of innovation and entrepreneurship and what it means to the state.

Monday and Tuesday
Jane S. McKimmon Center

Ticket Distribution

Tickets will be distributed for the NCSU versus Georgia Tech men's basketball game, which will take place Wednesday.

Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Reynolds Coliseum
For additional info, visit:
students.ncsu.edu/tickets

Pre-vet Club Meeting

For those interested, the pre-vet club will hold a meeting. The topic is large-animal vets.

Monday, 7:15 p.m.
Boston Hall 3712

Engineering Career Fair

The career fair is open to all majors. All faculty and staff are welcome to attend. The Engineers' Council is sponsoring the fair.

Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Jane S. McKimmon Center

Peace Rally

Called the "Young People Against Racism War" rally, the rally will begin at 10 a.m. at the Belltower. There will be music followed by a march to the Capital. The statewide rally will begin at 12 p.m.

Saturday

Campus Cinema

"Punch-Drunk Love"
Thursday, 7 and 9 p.m.
Friday, 9:15 p.m.
Saturday, 7 and 11 p.m.

"Frida"

Friday, 7 and 11 p.m.
Saturday, 8:45 p.m.
Sunday, 7 p.m.

Report card on diversity: one year later

A year after an AASAC report gave the university two F's, administrators take a look at their current diversity improvements.

Carlton Newsome
Senior Staff Reporter

In January 2002, the African-American Student Advisory Committee presented a report to Chancellor Marye Anne Fox detailing race-related problems they felt were not addressed sufficiently by N.C. State.

The report card, "N.C. State University African-American Student Issues; Spring 2002 University Report," graded the university on its progress in the realm of diversity issues. While NCSU received bad marks on its first report card, with F's in black faculty numbers and black freshman enrollment, administrators vowed to improve the grades.

One year has passed since the report card was presented, and while the university and administrators have made some changes, many agree there are still several changes left to be made.

According to Thomas Conway, interim vice provost for enrollment management and services, there are 16 fewer black freshman students enrolled in this year's class compared to last year. The 2002 incoming class included 402 blacks, as opposed to 418 in 2001. The total incoming freshman class decreased from 3,893 in fall 2001 to 3,732 in fall 2002; thus, according to Conway, the decrease in the number of black freshmen actually represents a .2-percent increase, relative to the entire freshman class.

Conway said the real news is

that maintaining the number of black students in this year's class is a result of an increase in the number of admitted blacks students who chose to attend NCSU. The percentage of black students who chose to attend NCSU after being admitted increased from 48 percent in 2001 to 49.9 percent in 2002.

"There was a special initiative supported by the provost's office instated to encourage colleges to contact admitted students in an effort to convert admitted African-

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TODAY

Opinion

thinks diversity is more than high admission numbers. p. 4

Classifieds

is the place to profess your love. For more details, see p. 6.

Sports

shoots a desperation 3-pointer, but it doesn't connect. p. 6

WEATHER



Today

Rainy
High 49, Low 29



Tomorrow

Mostly Sunny
High 48, Low 29

UNC system faces tough sell in getting \$300 million hike

With the recent controversies surrounding two chancellors in the UNC system, asking for a budget increase could prove difficult

Diane Suchetka
and Sharif Durhams
Knight Ridder Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — North Carolina's public universities have a tough sales job on their hands trying to wring a \$300 million budget increase from state lawmakers for next year. It's a pitch that's competing against other vital services in a year when the state faces an expected \$2 billion gap in its \$14.3 billion budget. And it could have a tougher time because key university supporters in the legislature lost elections last year and both houses have more Republicans the party that has traditionally questioned university spending this year. The situation is made more worrisome, faculty and university boosters say, because two high-profile leaders in the 16-campus UNC system the chancellors at UNC-Chapel

Hill and North Carolina State University have gotten tangled in public controversies in the past year. And they are controversies that could hamper the universities' ability to get what they want from the state. UNC Chancellor James Moeser caught heat last summer when the school assigned a text about Islam's holy book, the Quran, to new students less than a year after the Sept. 11 attacks. NCSU Chancellor Marye Anne Fox has been scolded by her own faculty, who formally censured her in January for what they called the unfair firing of two top academic officers. And both chancellors have been accused of endorsing wasteful spending Moeser for authorizing a more than \$376,000 severance payout to the school's top legal counsel and Fox for pushing a \$71 million conference hotel and golf course, financed with state-backed bonds. Flaps like those provide ammunition to legislators deciding which programs and funding requests to deny in a tight budget year, says Rep. Connie Wilson, R-Mecklenburg. "In politics, like in marketing and advertising, it's always helpful to have a poster child,"

Wilson said. "Moeser and Fox make good poster children." The UNC system wants to increase this year's \$1.8 billion in operating money it gets from the state by 17 percent, to pay for enrollment increases, faculty raises and program expansions. Last year, the UNC system asked the state for \$480 million more than it received the year before. In the end, it got none of it. University leaders want this year's increase to come from the state, not another hike in tuition, which has risen, on average, 62 percent over the last three years at UNC's 16 campuses. They also want to avoid dipping into money for research, which can help, among other things, attract top faculty and spin off companies that create jobs. The \$2.1 billion UNC is requesting from the state represents about 40 percent of the system's total budget. The rest comes from tuition and fees, government grants and donations. Officials say the \$300 million increase will help keep North Carolina universities competitive. Raising faculty salaries 6 percent, they say, would offset last year's freeze, and a \$625 hike per professor from the state the year before.

They would also use the money to educate thousands of new students and to provide more financial aid to those in need. Fox and Moeser helped lobby lawmakers last year, but what role they'll play this year is unclear. "At the moment, they would not be at the top of my list to send to the Education Oversight Committee to talk about a sensitive issue," is all their boss Molly Broad, president of the University of North Carolina system, will say. Moeser has announced that he'll travel the state talking to lawmakers and others to build relationships. If legislators target university budgets out of frustration over campus occurrences, it won't be the first time. A GOP-run House tried to cut the UNC system's two-year budget by 4.5 percent in 1995, complaining that campus leaders were arrogant and professors spent little time teaching. In the end, both Houses agreed to a 1.5 percent cut in the continuing budget, but raised faculty salaries and allocated millions for campus repairs, much of it coming from tuition increases. Close watchers of the legislature disagree on how much the two controversies will hurt the

system this year. Some lawmakers and campus leaders say there will be little fallout. "They're not going to cut funding that will hurt the students of North Carolina because of this," says UNC Charlotte Chancellor Jim Woodward. But some legislators and others predict a tough fight. "It's pretty hard to sit in the legislature and listen to a debate about how to fund a program to buy medicine for people who have HIV/AIDS and who can't afford drugs and then hear about the state playing a role in building a hotel resort and spa at N.C. State," said Chris Fitzsimon, executive director of the left-leaning Common Sense Foundation. Broad, the system president, is optimistic. And, she says, she has faith in both chancellors. "Our duty is to make sure that we are preparing this institution to pass on to our successors in a better and stronger shape than it was passed on to us," she says. "I am sobered by the issues that have surfaced in the last couple of months. But in a very sober way, I am saying to you, I have confidence that both of these chancellors will accomplish that ultimate goal."

BEHIND

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van, Ben Tennant, Kathleen Powers, Katie Barton, and Rob Campbell.

Once Dingle's network and the scholars were connected, "Dance Marathon at N.C. State" was born.

For them, and the countless volunteers who joined the marathon in its planning stages, the marathon was the end of a long and uncertain journey and the beginning of what they hope will be a longstanding tradition at the university.

"Right now I'm feeling excitement," said Dingle after the marathon. "I'm crying because it was more amazing than anything I could have pictured."

The days between a vision and the conclusion of the first dance marathon were filled with making arrangements for entertainment, winning the support of the university, recruiting dancers and finalizing plans. But the group also worked closely with the North Carolina Children's Hospital, taking tours, visiting patients and even organizing a social activity with the children.

"I think it's a perfect match," said Greg Holliday of the partnership between NCSU students and the North Carolina Children's Hospital.

Holliday, who works at the hos-

pital, worked with Sara Anderson, hospital chair for the marathon, to finalize the partnership and give the students the opportunity to meet and visit with patients.

"I organize events for a living, so I know how hard it is," he said. "I don't know how some of these students manage to do it all."

Giancola said that, throughout the process, the students had the right focus.

"All the students have been so motivated by this idea, they've developed a vision, and they've been working for a year to bring it to reality," he said. "They are doing it for the right reasons; all along it has been about the kids."

He said the event should help increase awareness about the hospital and the companionship needs of many of the children and families.

It also reflects on the students. "I think it shows what our youth today can do," said Holliday. "I am just amazed."

The challenge now will be making it stay.

"I can't wait for a break for a few weeks, then jumping back into next year," said Katie Barton.

Dingle said the group is already planning for next year.

"It's got the potential to become a campus tradition," said Giancola. "It's a great event, and any time you've got students that have ideas like this to benefit others, you can't help but get excited."

REPORT

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American students into enrolled students," Conway said. "That initiative has been judged successful."

Joanne Woodard, vice provost for equal opportunity and equity, addressed the issue of black faculty. She believes the real issue is not the overall number of faculty but the number of tenure-track positions held by blacks.

There were 10 new black faculty members hired to fill tenure-track positions in 2002, and a total three more black faculty overall than a year earlier. Woodard said the number only went up by three because four black faculty members left the NCSU College of Education, and there were two retirements.

In addition, there are some

tenure-track faculty members who serve as department heads and teach, and they do not show up in the faculty figures.

According to Woodard there were 72 total black faculty members in 2002. That number is exactly the same as it was in 2001.

"The university is making very good efforts to maintain and recruit talented new faculty and is sensitive to diversification issues," said Woodard.

Woodard noted that we match up well with our peer universities in issues of diversification.

Still, it is hard for public universities to contend with the private sector because of the competition in income potential and benefits packages, said Woodard.

Even with great efforts to recruit new and talented minority individuals, Woodard said, "We are still right where we were in 2001."



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SAO

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quirements could be a little bit different here.

"We also want to make sure we're collaborating with faculty in the various colleges to make sure these requirements would fit with the goals each college has set for its students," said Schmidt.

The third aspect of the program, the activities component, will have two parts. One is a service-oriented activity, and the other is a minimum of three other international or multicultural activities.

Schmidt said there are many opportunities available for students to serve the international community. The Study Abroad Office will also work with the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service to help provide students with a list of available opportunities.

"[CSLEPS] already has a database of volunteer opportunities," Schmidt said, adding that this could be very useful in finding service-project ideas.

As for the other international activities that students would have to complete, these could be as simple as living in Alexander Hall, NCSU's international dorm, or being a member of a cultural club. The other option, Schmidt said, is that students could substitute seven forum-style events, an idea which is being developed alongside the University Scholars Program.

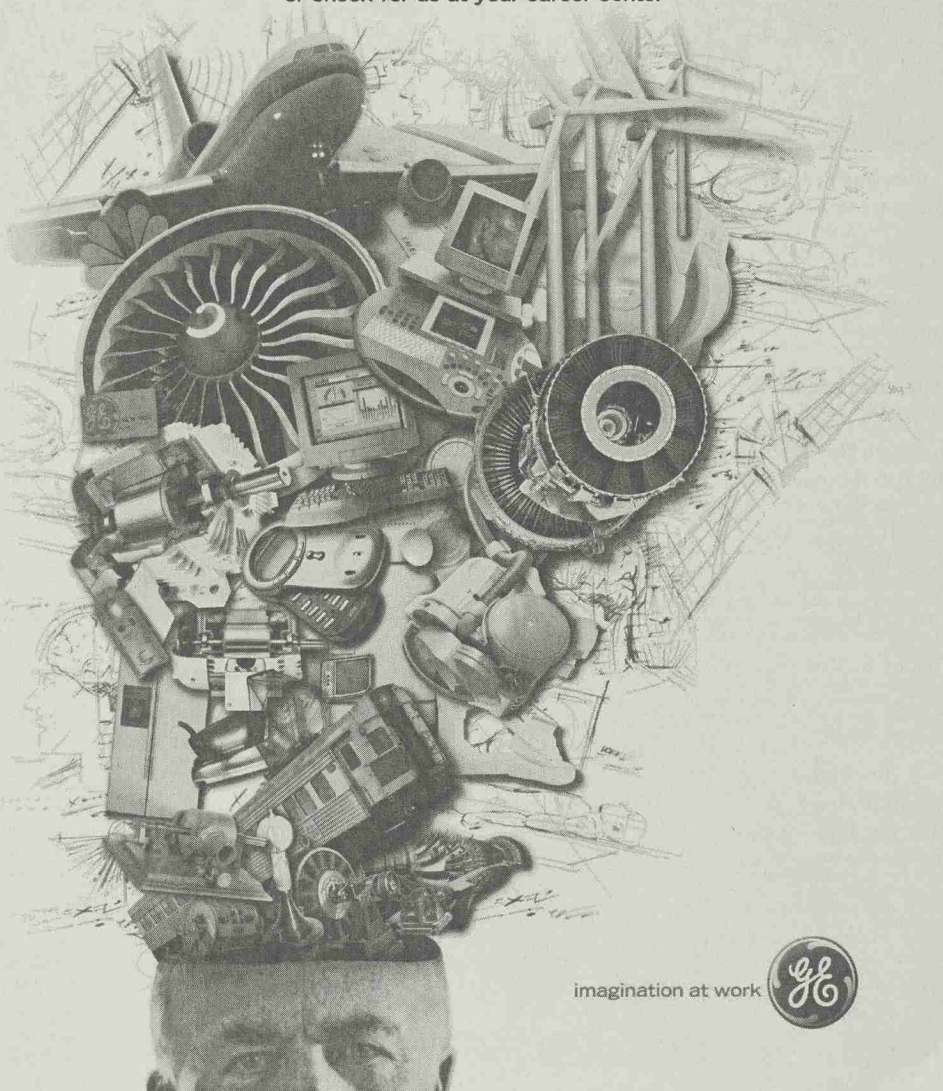
Students would have to provide documented proof of participation in each of the required activities.

Once a student completes all the requirements, the certification will be added to his transcript. Students would be able to fill in information for each component that would stand out the most to employers or graduate-program faculty.

"Students will be able to display what makes these experiences unique for them," Schmidt said.

Schmidt said the Study Abroad Office hopes to have the program started in time to see the first students graduate with their certifications in the spring of 2004.

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DANCE

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North Carolina Children's Hospital, to share their stories and their gratitude. Most were on hand to see the amount of money that students had raised for the hospital through contributions and their efforts, nearly \$10,000.

By the time that amount was announced, dancers had been on their feet in the Talley Student

Center Ballroom since 7 p.m. the night before, when they abandoned their watches and cell phones for 24 hours of no sitting and no sleeping. When students were finally allowed to fall to the ground at 7 p.m. on Saturday, even the decorations from the night before had deflated.

Organizers estimated that around 60 dancers participated for the full 24-hour period. The marathon alone raised one-third

of the total amount raised for the hospital.

"There is so much excitement to raise a third of your money while the dancers are here," said Lee Dingle, a junior in civil engineering who helped jumpstart the marathon at NCSU. "That's really amazing."

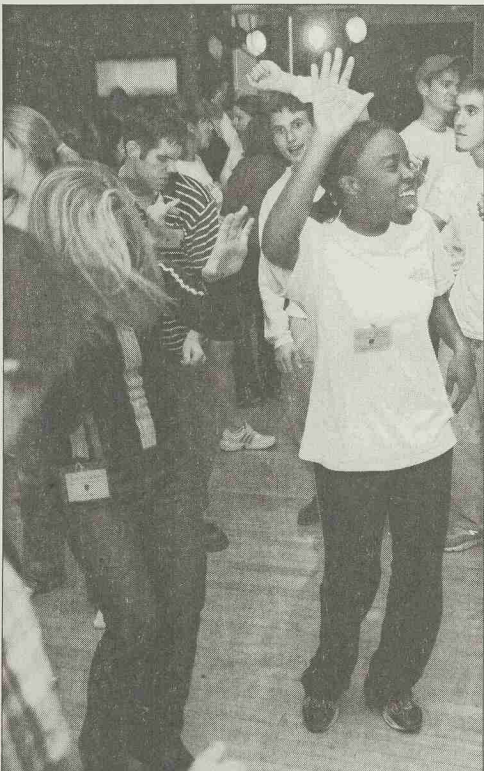
Much of the money was raised by individual dancers through fundraising and sponsorships by their friends and families. But some of the money came from visitor donations and T-shirt sales at the event. PKD Screen Printing donated free T-shirts to the event. All volunteers and dancers received one, and extras were sold for \$5.

Organizers were able to keep the costs low through donations from various businesses and organizations. Much of the entertainment — including bands such as the Taylor Roberts Band and Justincase — performed for little or no charge, and music was provided for the entire 24 hours by Perfect Day DJ for \$1.

Still, organizers were shocked at the total amount of money earned.

"It was definitely more than I expected," said Dingle. "It was more amazing than I could have ever pictured."

The proceeds will benefit the Dollars for a Difference fund at the North Carolina Children's Hospital. The hospital offers "one-stop health care for children and their families and serves all 100 counties in North Carolina. Patients are accepted regardless of their ability to pay and receive care from nationally and internationally renowned experts in pediatrics, including experts in cancer, congenital heart disease, infectious diseases and cystic fibrosis.



A big turnout made for big fun at the first-ever N.C. State Dance Marathon this weekend. Staff photo by Carl Hudson

Throughout the event, organizers reminded dancers that their pain was helping a greater cause. Speeches from hospital workers and families cemented the impact the donations would make.

So how does one stay on his feet for 24 hours?

"There is no secret," said Nick Vance, a senior in mathematics. "You just don't sit down."

Like many of the dancers, he thought the worst hours were between 3 and 7 a.m. By lunchtime on Saturday, his legs already felt dead.

"I'm running on pure adrenaline," he said.

Jera Mendenhall, a sophomore in statistics, didn't think 24 hours seemed so long when she signed up, but when the event was over, her mind had changed.

"Yeah, it actually was," she said. As for her legs, they felt "horrible," although after being able to sit down, she said she didn't feel them as much.

The secret to sticking it out, she said, was in keeping moving.

"Don't stand still," Mendenhall said. "Just standing sets you back."

Katie Barton, a junior in microbiology, agreed. "Don't stop moving," she said.

With her legs off the ground and supported by a table afterward, she admitted that her legs were starting to recover, but her feet were pulsing.

Fortunately, organizers must have realized that far in advance. The 24-hour period was filled with games, performances and activities to keep dancers' minds off the pain.

Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, for instance, came in during the day and gave step lessons to the weary dancers. For most of the dancers, it was an opportunity to get re-energized after a long night.

"We really needed this," said Barton as she watched the dancers working on routines in groups.

For members of the fraternity, helping out was an opportunity to help a good cause.

"Service is one of our main objectives," said Shandale Best, a senior in political science.

"Greeks have a bad reputation," added Justin Smith, a senior in political science. "Anything we can do for N.C. State is a great thing."

Activities and music weren't the only things that kept volunteers moving. Throughout the time, "moralers" and other volunteers came in to keep the energy up and dancers moving.

Most "moralers" signed up for four-hour periods, but many stayed longer. Cliff Ray, a junior in business management, said he had been moraling for about 15 hours. His fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi, was also one of the major contributors and title sponsors of the marathon.

"I couldn't be a dancer, so I gave all the time I could," he said.

Even though he hadn't pulled the full 24-hour shift, he was ready to go home, put some ice on his feet, pop an aspirin and get to bed.

"Then start thinking about how big we're going to make it next year," he said. "I'm really looking forward to seeing Reynolds filled up."

He wasn't the only one.

"Definitely another one next year," said Dingle. "After this, I can't say no."

Until then, though, most dancers, volunteers and organizers only had one thing on their mind.

"I'm going to sleep," said Katie Barton.



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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Diversity worth the effort

One year after the African-American Student Advisory Committee presented its diversity report card to the university, outlining failing areas, improvement initiatives are attempting to combat inequities at N.C. State.

A diverse student body is only the start of campus improvements, because sheer numbers do not reflect the true nature of the university's racial acceptance. Efforts to increase the numbers of black students and professors have been good for public relations. However, in order to prove that increased numbers reflect real good for the university as a whole, the focus should be on the responses of these new students and faculty members as to how well-received they are at NCSU.

As a percentage of the fall 2002 freshman class, the number of black freshmen enrolled at NCSU increased by 0.2 percent since last year; among black students the university accepted, 48 percent enrolled, compared to 49.9 percent in fall 2001. This jump shows a dramatic improvement for only one year. The black freshman class shrank in raw numbers, from 418 to 402, but an attendant drop in the size of the total freshman class accounted for percentage gain.

Yet while numbers show an increase in students, this does not always mean that the needs of the university are being met. The first concern should be for NCSU to recruit the most talented students possible, and NCSU as a whole should ensure that these students are being accepted. If numbers increase for a year, but internal dynamics do not change, black students may be less likely to enroll in the future for fear of discrimination.

Diversity is an important tool for universities when accepting a student body;

however, this push for a well-rounded class should not impose on the utmost necessity of a high standard of academics. When students come to NCSU, many have their first exposures to life in a city with people of varied racial heritages, socio-economic statuses, religions and sexual orientations. Part of our role as the largest university in North Carolina should be to mirror the broad ranges represented in the real world.

Then NCSU should strive to achieve diversity of all backgrounds, from those who are out-of-state students to those of different races, in an attempt to mirror a diverse spectrum without over-compensation.

There has been national controversy about the legality of affirmative action, but many of the acts achieved by NCSU are not simply choosing students based on race, but making them feel more accepted as a part of our student body. For example, after black students have been accepted to the university, the provost's office has instated a program to contact students and encourage them to enroll. Measures such as these make students feel more welcome and in no way hinder the opportunities of other students to attend, since acceptance decisions have already been made.

Part of the work in gathering responses from black students and faculty members about NCSU racial dynamics has been achieved through an online racial climate survey in November, but the results are not yet available. NCSU must take knowledge gained from the previous report card and its efforts to correct unequal ratios of minorities and also use feedback from the racial climate survey to evaluate whether our school is truly making advancements in diversity.



Men can't win on Valentine's Day



Decker Ngongang
Staff Columnist

Next to Christmas, Valentine's Day is probably the happiest day for a lot of people in the world because we tell our loved ones, our friends and our family that we appreciate them. I have already picked out gifts for my mom, grandmother and little sister. This is a time when I can join the rest of the masses in recognizing the love I have been shown over the years.

On this level, Valentine's Day is one of the most beautiful and sacred times to a lot of people. It is non-denominational, so there is no weirdness as to offending any one person's religious practices. It is a time to just love and be loved by those who love you — even with those who don't.

Now that all that explaining is out of the way, I can begin my quest to find out if guys can ever truly succeed during a holiday that places so much pressure on us to "win." The commercials begin after the Super Bowl, telling us about the deals at the jewelry stores or the sales at Victoria's Secret.

We hear it from our girlfriends, boyfriends or spouses as they occasionally mention a present they would like to receive. We even hear it from our parents as they tell us that we "better take her somewhere nice." I have been through the stress, and I hated it — it's too much pressure. Can't we just stay at home and watch a DVD?

I remember when I was dating a young lady around this time and a conversa-

tion came up as to our Valentine's Day plans. I commented that I had a midterm exam the next day and I needed to study for it, so we could go out the next day to celebrate.

I obviously didn't recognize the importance of the day and the fact that the world stopped for V-day because I was railed by this young lady and even her friends about why I was a bad boyfriend for not taking her out.

Much of the justification came from the fact that everyone else's boyfriends were taking them out for Valentine's Day, so why couldn't I? I was flabbergasted to hear the blatant disregard for my educational

welfare just to appease the masses by going to Applebee's or Golden Corral (just kidding).

It was at this time I really wanted to write a column. This was ridiculous — I was being held hostage by a holiday. A week later, I ended this particular relationship — whether the Valentine's Day incident had anything to do with it, I don't know.

I always thought Christmas was about an ideal, a spirit to be shared no matter the location or situation. I thought the very same about Valentine's Day, that the love or affection shared between two people could be shared and realized, no matter the situation.

My saying "I love you and care about you" should be enough for Valentine's Day. It says everything those flowers and dinners and other stuff only try to show. In our society's current state, should a man not live up to the commercial pressure and the stereotypical images placed on him by females, he is useless as a mate.

I don't understand.

I feel sorry for a number of you out there right now who are boyfriends for a week. You are in relationships that will likely meet their end in the coming week or two. Many people are establishing "commitments" for this special time of the year so as not to appear lonely on Friday. Many of you will be the victims taking your special friend out on the town for that dinner at the dining hall or the Angus Barn and buying them roses and wine and chocolates, only to have

your "investment" turn into a losing lottery ticket. I speak with a "Fox News cynicism," but I speak from my four years' experience as the victim and as an observer of the process.

Through writing this piece, I am not asking that people stop celebrating this day of love or buying roses for their loved ones or writing poems.

I am asking that everyone turn on their televisions this week and look at the commercials and see the pressure we are placing on this day. If you don't get flowers or cards or that dinner at Sullivan's, does that mean you don't have love? Things of this earth can't begin to express what exactly love is; they are merely trading cards of the real thing. Why stress so much over what types of trading cards you are going to get this Valentine's Day? Focus on the essence of the real things you have around you every day.

Decker isn't bitter, it's just that his attempts to get Halle Berry to date him have failed. E-mail your condolences to dngongang@unity.ncsu.edu.

CAMPUS FORUM

Criticism for mainstream media

There are several critiques and additions I would like to make of Ben McNeely's Feb. 7 column. It should be noted that essentially all of this criticism applies not only to McNeely but to the entire U.S. mainstream media. Although the lies and distortions contained in the conventional picture are too numerous to point out here in brief, I can at least mention a few points particularly relevant to the current situation.

McNeely states, "we knew of [Saddam's] use of chemical weapons in 1991." We also knew about them in the 1980s, when we were providing them to him and he was using them, a fact that has not been relayed seriously to the public. At the time of the actual atrocities, the media coverage was minimal and did not fail to include comments like, "there is an irreducible amount of arbitrariness in any international decision to sanction one form of warfare and not another" (this made by the liberal Washington Post — see www.fair.org/extra/0209/iraq-gas.html).

An even more ridiculous case is, "we learned of his secret nuclear weapons program, believed to be only six months

away from becoming operational." In reality, the U.S. government not only knew about Iraq's nuclear weapons program in the 1980s, it provided Iraq with machines that would help it along the way to the bomb (see www.casi.org.uk/info/usdocs/usir-aq80s90s.html, source 54).

The next major topic in McNeely's column is more of the same — another lie commonly propagated in the mainstream U.S. media; the weapons inspectors were not thrown out of Iraq — they left because the U.S. wanted to engage in Operation Desert Fox (see www.fair.org/extra/0210/inspectors.html for verification).

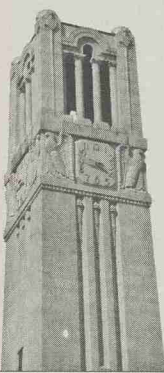
All cases outlined here with regard to McNeely's column would serve to support the conclusion that the U.S. corporate media's (whose perspective McNeely mimics, as many do in smaller publications) version of reality is extremely biased when it comes to Iraq, consistently favoring government propaganda over reality.

Alexander Sheppard
Lifelong Education

TECHNICIAN

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Abbie Byrom
Staff Columnist

Over the past few years, gas prices have fluctuated pretty reasonably. In 1999, gas prices were at an all-time low, pleasing the nation with prices between \$.99 and \$1.10 a gallon.

With the possibility of war with Iraq looming over our heads and the combination of a cold winter and increased tension with other nations, gas prices are going to continue to rise.

Saturday, I decided to fill my car's tank before I drove an hour and a half home. It usually costs \$12 to fill my tank, and then after going 80-85 miles per hour the whole way home, I end up with three-quarters of a tank left. When I filled my car up, to my surprise, I ended up paying \$18. Not only that, but I ended up using more gas than normal, going only 65-75 miles per hour on the way home.

At this rate, I am going to have to start riding a bike everywhere I go. Obviously I don't have a whole lot to complain about because I have a small car. The bigger cars and SUVs are now taking between \$23 and \$28 to fill.

Unfortunately, the answer to this prob-

lem is nowhere in sight. Many oil-trading nations are trying to be frugal in case the United States decides to take action against Iraq. Their fear is a shortage, and although we don't have one yet, they do have a valid point.

Another problem is Venezuela's oil supply not being readily available. Since they are having ongoing political and labor problems and are strike-ridden, oil will probably be expensive and not as free-flowing for the rest of 2003, at the very least.

Currently, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is trying to lessen the blow from Venezuela's low output, which has reduced our world's spare production to nearly 2 million barrels a day. This can only cause us more problems because if there is a sudden increase in supply or demand, there is little room for movement.

For college students all across the nation, this is a harsh blow. In just two days I watched the gas price for the 87-octane unleaded go from \$1.51 to \$1.62.

In San Diego, they pay \$1.71 per gallon, and in Canada, people are paying 88.9 cents per liter. We are already poor, but

now it looks like we will be poor and ride bikes or walk wherever we need to go.

President Bush has an answer, though — hydrogen fuel. Astronauts have used it to generate electricity since the 1960s. The benefits would include a cleaner environment and little-to-no dependency on foreign oil sources. The fuel can be produced right here at home in the good ol' USA, and it only emits water, not gases.

However, as much as Bush is pushing his initiative to do more research and begin to use the hydrogen fuel instead, his plan does not include getting the cars that use this type of fuel on the market. He did express the hope, however,

Now it looks like we will be poor and ride bikes or walk wherever we need to go.

in his State of the Union Address, that children born today will be driving a hydrogen-fueled car as their first vehicle.

There are some drawbacks to the plan for hydrogen fuel. The first is, it is not cost-effective yet. The second would be that this plan would not produce results for another 20 years, due to the need for research, technology improvements and wider availability, so the new fuel and

See BRYOM page 5

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Bittersweet symphony — MP3 lawsuits overplayed

Kenneth Pike
Daily Universe
Brigham Young U.

(U-WIRE) PROVO, Utah — Disney's cartoon version of Aesop's

"The Grasshopper and the Ants" should be required viewing for all members of the recording industry. The world does not owe them a living, and it's time for their incessant whining to stop.

In a recent court ruling, Verizon, a telecommunications company, was told to reveal the name of one of its customers to the recording industry — or "record biz," if you prefer.

Why? This particular customer downloaded music from the In-

ternet. The ruling, which Verizon plans to appeal, is being touted as a victory for the record industry. Should Verizon's appeal fail, the customer in question will likely be prosecuted.

It seems unlikely that, should the recording industry succeed, BYU will experience a sudden drop in enrollment as half of the student body is carted off to prison for data piracy.

Should the recording industry succeed, it would not be the first time downloading MP3s landed someone in jail. So just how major is this victory, anyway?

Five years ago, Microsoft bragged that the MP3 file format

would be dead by the new millennium. Three years ago, the Recording Industry Association of America won a case that was hailed as a "crushing blow" to online music piracy. Napster was shut down, only to be replaced by the more widely used KaZaA. The MP3 is three for three.

"Intellectual property" has never been easily defined. There are questions about whether or not it is legal to record a song off the radio, and

if you can then copy that song, which you did not pay for, for a friend. Then, does the legality change if you have a million friends?

The recording industry alienates fans and slits its own throat in the process.

It can be difficult to identify the point at which fair-use degenerates into piracy. The fact that entire careers are built on copyright law demon-

strates that difficulty. But in dumping a sizeable percentage of its shrinking profits into defending what may very well be its le-

gal rights, the recording industry is alienating fans and slitting its own throat in the process.

Supposedly, these legal expenses are in response to sagging CD sales, which are caused by music piracy. Shall we suppose that the RIAA is completely unaware of the current economic downturn? Or the fact that now that all of our old LPs and cassette tapes have been replaced, we aren't spending money on CDs? Shall we ask them why the Beatles still have diehard fans, while most of us can't even remember who sang "MMMBoop?"

Even many of the artists whose work is being pirated oppose the

RIAA. Musicians profit when broad exposure — the kind KaZaA provides in spades — draws crowds to their concerts. Few artists see a dime of profit from CD sales.

Simply put, the MP3 is little more than the RIAA scapegoat of choice.

That said, when it comes to copyright law, the RIAA actually has a leg to stand on. What they don't seem to realize is that putting their entire fan-base in prison is counterproductive.

Incarcerated criminals earn very little money.

Ignoring Iraq will have drastic effects

David Stewart
Oklahoma Daily
U. Oklahoma

(U-WIRE) NORMAN, Okla. — There are two possible visions of the world as of Feb. 4, 2005, two

years from this past Tuesday. The two versions involve one change. In the first we take no military action in Iraq, in the second, we do. Let's take a closer look at what might happen.

First off, let us consider what will happen if the United States fails to take action against Iraq. This inaction simply emboldens Saddam Hussein on his quest for regional hegemony. By August of 2003, Saddam had intermediate-range nuclear missiles. On Sept. 1, 2003, he struck Israel with them, obliterating that besieged country. Before anyone else could respond, Saddam revealed that he

had more missiles that he was willing to fire on every American base in the region if the United States did not pull out of the Middle East within one month.

Peace protesters on America's campuses cheered the destruction of Israel and the effective castration of the United States military. Oil prices rose to levels unknown even during the late 1970s. President Bush did not even seek the Republican nomination in 2004 after Iraqi terrorists released VX gas during the Super Bowl. Ordinary, decent Americans have become afraid to gather in public.

Meanwhile, North Korea has taken over

most of the Pacific Rim. South Korea made a valiant effort but was forced to go it alone when Congress wouldn't allow President Bush to send troops without

a United Nations mandate. China and France vetoed it, so no troops. Japan fell next, followed closely by Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

Once again, cheers came from the college campuses of America as the United Nations refused to allow the United States to honor its word. Europe faces a united Islamist state, the likes of which has not been seen since the 800s. Even worse, there are plenty of Fifth Columnists in each European state. Does

this sound like the future you want? I sure don't want this future.

Now, I look at the other alternative. Military action in Iraq was a resounding success. Saddam was dead by August of 2003, and a constitutional republic was set up. It has worked beautifully since January of 2004, when the first free elections were held.

By March of 2004, the Saudi royal family was exiled and the people of Saudi Arabia were in the process of holding a constitutional convention of their own. The United States was asked to send assistance and to temporarily provide an interim government. Other Arab states followed suit, and the Middle East is now as peaceful as it has been since the Roman Empire.

After finishing with the Iraqis, the Unit-

ed States finally got tough with North Korea. North Korea tried to invade South Korea again and fared no better this time. The last Stalinist regime fell, and now the Koreans are well on their way to re-unifying as a free state.

China allowed even more capitalist ventures in January of 2004, and it has provided a huge boost to the Chinese economy.

Unfortunately, there is unrest in China as the business leaders are trying to get the government to stop wasting the economy on their ideology. It looks like it will come to a head within the next couple months, so be watching for that.

The United Nations has dissolved, as it has been proven completely ineffective. Europe is trying to organize another one, but most countries are not buying it.

BYROM

continued from page 4

cars will actually make a difference in energy resources.

Finally, we will initially have to wait five years for the testing, research, technologies and funding to kick in. That sets the estimated time of arrival for the year 2010. And that is only in direct relation to being able to make producing hydrogen fuel cheap enough to be competitive with regular gas-powered vehicles. If the cost of production is not cheaper than the cost of produc-

tion of conventional gasoline, then we could be waiting much longer, spending much more money.

President Bush has already pledged \$740 million to develop and produce the technology and infrastructure needed for the hydrogen fuel project. Then, combined with the Freedom Cooperative Automotive Research program, he is proposing \$1.5 billion over the next five years to continue the project.

The ultimate goal is to bring energy production home and not to rely on particularly volatile nations for our resources. If the hy-

drogen fuel is competitive, we will be among the first to become energy independent and then begin to set the stage for our reduction in greenhouse gases using the emissionless car.

And of course, if all of this happens, then once again in the face of adversity the United States will come out on top and reaffirm our superpower status. Let's just hope we don't have to wait too long for this dream to become reality.

Abbie is looking forward to cheaper gas, no matter how long it takes. E-mail her and tell her what you think at pabyrom@unity.ncsu.edu.

Creating clones creates issues

Erik Bussa
The Lantern
Ohio State U.

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — Human cloning has been an

ongoing debate for some time now. Some want it, some don't. The reasons for or against cloning are little more than a person's own moral beliefs.

Cloning is wrong, and it has no place in our society. Aside from health risks to the cloned child, cloning poses risks to our society. Think of all the troubles children with only one parent have now. Now imagine what growing up and calling a beaker "Dad" and a pair of scissors "Mom" would do to you.

Cloning will allow for two or more people to be exactly the same. One's height, weight, eye color, intelligence and hair color can all be predetermined.

And if you thought one Carrot Top was bad, imagine a whole group of them telling bad jokes.

Genetically modified foods have been around since the early 20th century. Other forms of cloning have been around since 1952, when scientists first cloned frogs from tadpole cells. And, of course, we all remember the cloning of a sheep in 1997.

So why do scientists want to clone human beings?

It certainly can't be that they

want to increase the population of the planet, since scientists continually complain the planet is overcrowded. The reason is so they can experiment.

But humans are not the same as food or animals, and we weren't intended to be mass-produced. Contrary to popular belief, we did not evolve from any simpler life. Instead, each one of us has been specifically designed, and each one of us is unique.

Our genes should not be messed with.

Scientists argue that cloning should continue in labs for research purposes. It is true that scientists can clone a human embryo without intending to clone a person, but one act ends in death and the other doesn't.

This is where another argument comes into play: Is an embryo actually a human being?

It most certainly is. An embryo possesses the ability to develop into a fetus, and eventually into a baby. The only difference is what is done with the embryo once it is cloned.

For research purposes such as obtaining stem cells, the embryo

is cloned, the scientists get what they need, and then the rest is discarded. For human cloning, the embryo is cloned and then placed inside a woman's body.

So what does this make a scientist who is just extracting genetic information from an embryo, and who doesn't plan on cloning a person?

Each one of us has been specifically designed, and each one of us is unique.

It's simple: He's a murderer. All the potential for development into a full-grown human is inside of an embryo. And since when does the United States discriminate against someone for being a little different than the norm? Do we discriminate against 4-year-olds because they are younger and smaller than 18-year-olds?

The scientists who are in favor of continuing this research have no respect for life. They only have the ambition to do something someone else has never done and then be recognized for their work.

Whether cloning is done for research or to create life, it is wrong. People should not try to play God. At the very least, someone should take a stand to stop cloning for a few years to give scientists time to think about what they are doing. The only way to stop cloning is to pass a law making cloning illegal.

If someone is smart enough to clone a human being, then someone surely is smart enough to figure out some other way for researching diseases and how to cure them.

And if I want a copy of myself, Kinko's is open 24 hours a day. I can even get color for an extra 25 cents.

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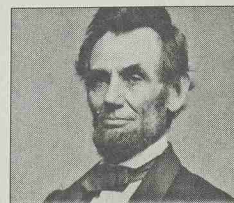
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- Mirrored
- Roses' places
- Mouselike mammal
- Flooring piece
- Hand-cream ingredient
- Brownish-gray
- Quantity of paper
- Violent public disorder
- Composer Blake
- Choices for the first of a threesome
- Marsh hen
- Pint drink
- Noah's peak
- Eye problem
- Nasser successor
- Masculine
- Old card game
- Choices for the second of a threesome
- Dwindle
- Riga resident
- Extent covered
- Climber's supports
- Alarm bell
- Pay dirt
- Skedaddle!
- Choices for the third of a threesome
- Get around
- Fact fabricator
- Doing nothing
- Cantaloupe or casaba
- Cable channel's letters
- Char slightly
- News medium
- Comprehends
- Bryn College

By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

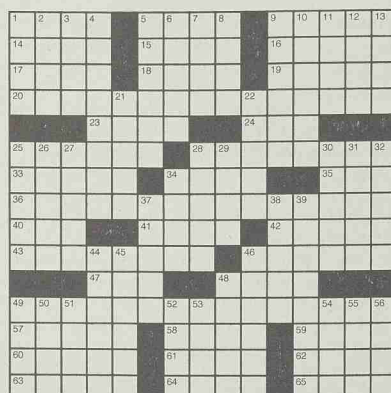
2/10/03

Friday's Puzzle Solved

- donkey?
- "Contempt" star Brigitte
- George who was Mary Ann Evans
- Way in
- Fixes in position
- Stanwyck film, "Dallas"
- Teamster
- Barker's mark
- Long, heroic poem
- Seven days
- Reluctant
- Food consumer
- Selling point
- Stallone character
- Sun-dried brick
- Plays' players
- Thanks!
- Ladd and Greenspan
- Stocky Welsh

DOWN

- Gillette shaver
- Docking site
- Spirited vigor
- Political



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

2/10/03

Friday's Puzzle Solved

- dog
- Small memento
- TV's talking horse
- Burton of "The Exorcist"
- Sing
- Terseness
- Maintain a grip
- East
- Rose stickers
- End of land or sea?
- Rope fiber
- Affirm positively
- Bamako's land
- Bulling bravos
- Stand
- Creative thought
- Long nail
- Deborah of film

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HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black/Trine Media Services

Aries
March 21-April 19

Today is an 8. You're more effective at receiving information now than you are at dispersing it. Ask questions and take notes.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

Today is a 5. Now is the time to ask for that promotion or raise. Or maybe you could get a little more out of your retirement fund. Investigate, then instigate a change for the better.

Gemini
May 21-June 21

Today is an 8. Travel and long-distance business should go well today and tomorrow. If you want more of something over here, look over there.

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

Taurus
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Gemini
May 21-June 21

Today is an 8. Travel and long-distance business should go well today and tomorrow. If you want more of something over here, look over there.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today is an 8. You're a pretty good talker, but you may have met your match. If the other person isn't listening, save your opinion. Wait until you're asked.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

Today is an 8. There'll be quite a lot of discussion, some of it heated, as a group endeavor gets going. Proceed, but make sure that cooler heads prevail.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Today is a 6. If you're well prepared, and you usually are, the inspection should go just fine. Even something you were worried about should go flawlessly.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Today is a 10. In order to solve a problem close to home, you may have to go far away. Expand your search for the answer.

Scorpio
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today is a 5. Are you thinking about dipping into savings to fix something broken at home? Does it really need to be a top priority? Pay off an old bill first.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today is an 8. You're a pretty good talker, but you may have met your match. If the other person isn't listening, save your opinion. Wait until you're asked.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today is a 5. You should be very productive, and there's plenty of work to be done. Make sure you get the instructions right so that you don't have to do anything over.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Today is a 9. You're back in the groove, effective, smart, attractive and creative. Accept a challenge. You're up for it.

Pisces
Feb. 19-March 20

Today is a 6. It seems there's more talk than action now, but try not to be dismayed. It's necessary to communicate carefully in order to prevent confusion later. Listen.

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Josh Powell makes a pass as Virginia's Travis Watson defends. Watson scored 15 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. Staff photo by Tim Lytvinenko

RIM

continued from page 8

and banked in a layup off the glass as referee Larry Rose blew his whistle.

Time for an old-fashioned three-point play, right?

Nope. Rose waived off the basket and signaled offensive foul, much to the chagrin of Hodge.

"I thought it was an 'and 1,'" said Hodge, referring to the term players use to describe a three-point play.

State held on its next two defensive possessions but was unable to convert on the offensive end, its last chance coming on the game's dramatic final sequence.

"We said, 'Hey, don't let them shoot a 3.' We just wanted to guard [Hodge]," said Virginia head coach Pete Gillen. "When they came out, we wanted to foul, honestly, but they don't

always listen to me. We didn't want them to hit a 3 at the end and tie, and they almost did."

Elton Brown came off the bench to add 12 points for the Cavs, who won at home over State for the 14th time in 15 games. The teams combined to shoot a woeful 8-for-37 from the bonus sphere.

The Pack will host Georgia Tech, a 90-84 winner over first-place Maryland, Wednesday night at the RBC Center.

TENNIS

continued from page 8

point, State was forced to win four of the six singles matches in order to pull out the win. For the first time this year, Choboy decided to move Shaw into the No. 1 spot.

"Will has worked very hard in practice and at the spring indoor matches," said Choboy. "I wanted to give him a chance in the No. 1 spot. I think he learned a lot today."

Shaw struggled at the outset of the match, dropping the first set 6-4 to Erez Cohen. Meanwhile, Murray took care of Shuster in the No. 2 match in straight sets 6-4, 6-3.

Banada also won in straight sets 6-3, 6-2 in the No. 3 match, and Mills lost in the No. 6 spot 6-3, 6-2. As Shaw continued to falter at the beginning of the second set, his teammates started to gather to cheer him on.

"The team spirit was great; we are all really close, and the support at the end was good to have," said Shaw.

Esmail wrapped up the No. 5 match, dominating the second set after a tough first set and winning 7-6, 6-0. At the same time, Shaw rallied to win the second set 7-6 and force a third set.

The Wolfpack found itself playing in third sets against both Erez and Alon Cohen, twin brothers

from Guatemala. Davis dropped his third set and lost the No. 4 match 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. Davis' loss left State in a 3-3 tie with Appalachian and Shaw's match as the deciding point for the afternoon.

With the support of his teammates Shaw came out strong in the deciding set, pulling out the hard-earned singles victory 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 and giving State the 4-3 victory.

"I'm not really happy with how I played, I'm happy with how I turned things around," said Shaw. "After I started hitting my shots, [Cohen] really became a different player from who I had played at the start of the match."

While he hardly felt that State played its best tennis, Choboy was still happy to come out on top.

"It always feels good to get a win," he said.

The Wolfpack will play its next match Thursday at 2 p.m. against Richmond at the Cary Tennis Center.

GYMNASTICS

continued from page 8

They got more support from the university, which is nice to see."

With the second-place performance, N.C. State improved its record to 6-3 on the young season.

Junior Leah Sabo had a solid overall performance once again. She finished first on bars with a score of 9.900. The score on bars was a personal best for Sabo. She also scored a 9.850 on the beam, which was good enough for a second-place finish in that event.

Sabo finished third in the overall competition with a total score of 39.350.

The Wolfpack's recent struggles on the vault didn't show in the meet. The team scored a season-high 48.825 in the event.

Junior Molly Pennington finished tied for first on vault with a score of 9.925.

"It wasn't important that I came in first, but it was important that I was able to get three more tenths [of a point]," said Pennington. "I thought we did a really good job. We got about half a point more than last week, we had less falls, and everybody did a lot better."

Sophomore Cori Goldstein gave the best performance on the floor for N.C. State. Her score of 9.950 was good enough for a second-place tie in the event. The

score was the best of Goldstein's career.

Tarheel freshman Courtney Bumpers scored a perfect 10.000 and finished first on the floor, en route to winning the all-around individual competition.

The Wolfpack is optimistic because of the continual progress it has made since the beginning of the season.

"We've gotten a little bit better," said Stevenson. "If we continue to grow at this rate then I'll feel really good with where we're at."

N.C. State will be in action again at 7 p.m. Friday when the team hosts Rhode Island, Utah State and William & Mary for the Heart's Invitational.

WOMENS

continued from page 8

The Noles installed a full-court press but were unable to come up with a steal and were thus forced to foul to get the ball back. But Bell and Terah James combined to go 4-for-4 from the charity stripe to preserve the win.

"The pressure was on the team as we started going down the stretch today," said Yow. "They hung tough today and made their free throws when we had to and kept it more than a one-possession game."

"We were just determined not to let this one slip through our fingers. We had it, and we have let a couple of other games slip right by and we've learned from it. I thought we did a better job with the way we were thinking down the stretch."

The Seminoles dished out 21 turnovers in the contest, none more costly than a string of errant passes and mis-dribbled blunders in the second half.

The Noles cut the State lead to six with 12:18 left to play in the second half but State responded on both ends of the floor.

Bell found a wide-open Carisse Moody for a jumper that pushed the lead to eight. On the ensuing inbound pass, freshman guard Billie McDowell put a blanket on FSU guard Holly Johnson. McDowell was charged with a foul in the backcourt but remained relentless. Johnson never made it over the half court line, as McDowell forced a jump ball. The possession switched to State and junior center Kaayla Chones would knock down two free

throws to push the lead to 42-32.

Just minutes earlier, also from the free throw line, Chones became the 21st player in State history to record 1,000 career points.

Moody came off the bench to lead all scorers with 20 points, scoring 16 in the first half. While Chones clogged up FSU defenders in the paint, Moody was free to roam the baseline, where her jump shot was most effective, although she was also a force in the post.

"[Carisse] practically held us in the game single-handedly in the first half as far as scoring," said Yow.

Just like her coach, Moody deflected all attention away from herself to talk about the team after the game.

"We definitely needed this win," said Moody. "Especially after coming off an overtime loss and the Carolina loss, where we had [those] teams the whole time and we just sort of let it go right there at the end. We just really wanted this win today."

State will head to the road on Thursday to face Virginia, another team stuck in the middle of the ACC standings. Currently in sole possession of fourth place, Yow expects her squad to storm into Charlottesville with the same tenacity and determination it showed against FSU.

"They dug deep and made it through this game," said Yow. "We're really happy to get it because we're in a logjam in the ACC standings. We did what we needed to do and had to do to take a step out from the wall and maybe loosen up the logjam a little bit. We'll just have to continue trying."

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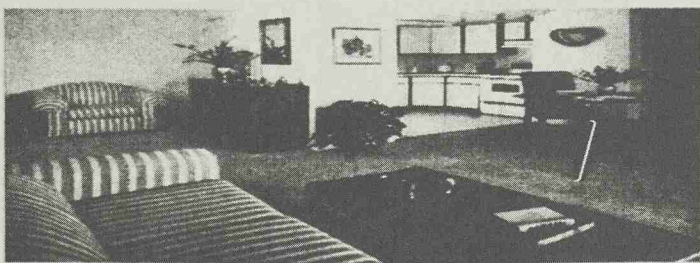
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M. basketball vs. Georgia Tech, 2/12, 9
W. basketball at Virginia, 2/13, 7:30
Baseball at UCLA, 2/14, 8
Gymnastics at Hearts Invitational, 2/14, 7

Scores

Virginia 61, M. basketball 58
W. basketball 57, Florida State 52
M. tennis 4, Appalachian State 3
Navy 27, Wrestling 16



TECHNICIAN

Women's basketball bounces back vs. FSU

The Wolfpack ended a four-game skid with a 57-52 knockout of Florida State.

Jon Page

Senior Staff Writer

After her team dropped its fourth straight loss in conference play to rival North Carolina on Friday, N.C. State women's basketball coach Kay Yow proclaimed that the Wolfpack must win its six remaining games in order to garner a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

It was a statement she reiterated on Sunday before the Pack matched up against No. 22 Florida State.

"I told the girls that we have our backs against the wall," said Yow. "It's sort of like we're embedded. We just need to take a step out. If we could just take one step out from the wall, it would really feel great."

The Pack took a step away from that wall — an emphatic step —

by defeating the Seminoles 57-52.

One down. Five to go. Just like each of the Pack's last two games, Sunday's contest featured State holding a double-digit lead throughout most of the second half, only to see that lead shrink as the clock trickled down.

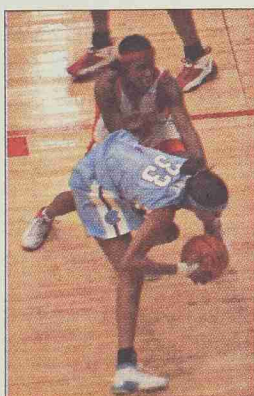
State (10-11, 5-6 ACC) never trailed FSU (15-6, 7-3), even though it was outrebounded for the fifth straight game. The Noles

nearly followed in the footsteps of Maryland and North Carolina and upset the Pack in the final minutes.

FSU guard LaQuinta Neely reduced the State lead to five with a layup with two minutes left. After State guard Kendra Bell connected on her second free throw with 1:04 to play, FSU guard Tasheika Morris launched a 3-pointer that

just rolled in with 48 seconds to go.

See WOMENS page 7



N.C. State's Nanna Rivers fights UNC's Kenya McBee for the ball Friday night as the Heels won 66-63. The Pack rebounded Sunday with a 57-52 win over Florida State.

Staff photo by Rob Bradley

Gymnastics pulls off second-place finish in Governor's Cup

State and UNC dominated Maryland and Towson to keep the Governor's Cup in North Carolina for the second consecutive year.

Ryan Reynolds

Staff writer

The N.C. State gymnastics team had a season-best performance and finished second in the Governor's Cup, defeating Towson and Maryland to help keep the cup in North Carolina for the second straight year.

UNC won the meet with an overall score of 196.775. The Wolfpack scored a 195.675, and Towson and Maryland rounded out the top four with scores of 194.575 and 194.300, respectively.

"We did an outstanding job," said N.C. State head coach Mark Stevenson. "Our goal isn't to be the best team that we can be by the first of February. Our goal is to be an actual contender at the end of April."

In its eighth year, the Governor's Cup is a competition between North Carolina and Maryland schools. The state with the highest overall combined score wins the cup.

The state of Maryland had won seven consecutive Governor's Cups before North Carolina claimed it last season.

"It's awesome," said Stevenson, referring to the Governor's Cup victory. "Carolina's done a drastic improvement over the last couple of years with their team."

See GYMNASTICS page 7

Shaw comes back to help men's tennis eke out win

Will Shaw's comeback singles victory provided the winning margin in a 4-3 victory over Appalachian.

Austin Johnson

Staff writer

Head coach Jon Choboy was not exactly thrilled about getting his first win with the N.C. State men's tennis program.

After his team defeated Appalachian State 4-3 Sunday afternoon at the Cary Tennis Center, Choboy had a long talk with his players on the courts about their play.

"I was disappointed in the doubles play," said Choboy. "We work really hard on doubles during the week, and it's an important point to get. We should have played bet-

ter on doubles today."

In fact, the doubles' point almost cost State the match on Sunday, as Appalachian was able to catch the point and early momentum. Pack junior Jon Davis and freshman Rehman Esmail had no trouble putting away their opponents in the No. 2 match, beating Ben Shuster and Andrew Taylor 8-3.

But State lost the other two pairs matches, as sophomore R.J. Murray and freshman Val Banada lost a close match in the No. 1 spot 8-6 to Doug Ormsby and Erez Cohen. A similar fate befell freshmen Will Shaw and Chris Mills, dropping the No. 3 match to Alon Cohen and Jacob Stapleton.

With the loss of the doubles'

See TENNIS page 7

Pack's hopes rim out



Josh Powell glides to the basket for two of his six points in the Wolfpack's loss Sunday night at Virginia. Staff photo by Tim Lytvinenko

Julius Hodge missed a last-second, off-balance 3-pointer that would have forced overtime in the Pack's 61-58 loss at Virginia.

Matt Middleton

Assistant Sports Editor

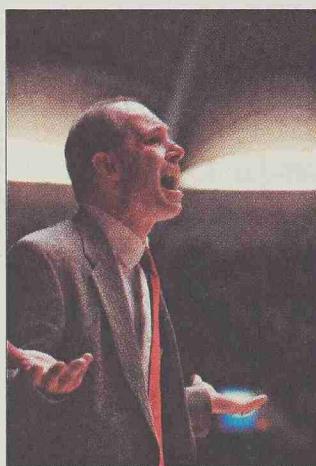
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — The routine has become all too familiar for N.C. State. Enter the locker room at halftime with the lead, start the second half showing promise of holding that lead, then watch it melt away later in the half and ultimately watch the elusive quality ACC road win disappear.

It happened at Maryland. It happened at Wake Forest. Sunday night at Virginia, it happened once again; only this time, the Wolfpack waited just a little bit longer to finalize the outcome.

State led by as many as nine in the second half, yet found itself down by three with 12 seconds left and one last chance to tie. After a timeout, the Pack frantically worked the ball around the perimeter before Julius Hodge launched an off-balance 3-pointer that rimmed out as the buzzer sounded to preserve Virginia's 61-58 win.

"We really didn't get [a good shot]," said State head coach Herb Sendek. "It was a tough shot, and Virginia did a good job defending. [Hodge] was a little off-balance, and with his athletic ability, he was able to get a look."

The shot was far from what the Pack was



Herb Sendek pleads his case to officials as play gets physical in the second half. Staff photo by Rob Bradley

looking for. In fact, the play State drew up in the timeout called for the ball to be inbounded on the sideline. The problem was, the officials had the Pack inbound the ball along the baseline.

"We had a play set up, and the spot was supposed to be on the sideline," said Hodge, who put his hands on his head in disbelief and stood motionless after the ball rimmed out.

"I guess one of the officials got confused, and it was under the basket."

"We ran a secondary play, and Virginia was playing some good defense, and I just tried to take the shot. I felt that I got a clean look, and I thought it was going to drop."

Virginia (14-7, 5-4 ACC) remained a perfect 10-0 at home, while State (12-7, 5-4) fell to 1-6 away from the RBC Center.

Hodge scored the Pack's final eight points and finished with 15 for the game. Travis Watson paced the Cavs with 15 points and 14 rebounds, his 11th double-double of the season.

The last five minutes saw the lead change hands three times, as both teams seemingly assumed control of the game. State regained the lead with 2:56 to play after Hodge was fouled while converting a layup, but he missed the ensuing free throw.

Watson grabbed the rebound before becoming involved in a shoving match with the Pack's Marcus Melvin. No technicals were issued, and the players were quickly separated by the officials.

"It was a fiercely contested game," said Sendek. "Guys today just battled on both teams."

After the scuffle, Virginia converted two sets of free throws on its next two possessions to grab a three-point lead.

On State's next scoring chance, Hodge beat his man off the dribble, drove the baseline

See RIM page 7