

# TECHNICIAN

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## IN THE KNOW

### WORLD

#### Small government plane crashes in Colombia

A Cessna U.S. government plane flying from Bogotá to the Florencia area crashed on Thursday in southern Colombia.

While the plane was carrying four Americans and a Colombian, some officials believe some of the crash victims may have been taken by leftist rebels because reports suggest that only two bodies were found at the crash site so far. Other officials suggest that if they survived the crash, those on board may have gone into hiding to avoid being captured by rebels.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which is Colombia's main leftist rebel organization, provided no statement.

According to reports, the U.S. Embassy officials refused to comment on the crash.

#### More than 150,000 troops now in Persian Gulf

While more troops continue to arrive within striking distance of Iraq daily, on Thursday the military command reported approximately 156,000 troops in the region.

The Pentagon has exceeded its goal of having 150,000 troops under the U.S. Central Command - from eastern Pakistan to the coastal countries of East Africa - by mid February. In addition, on Thursday, another 16,000 troops under the U.S. European Command were aboard ships resting in the Mediterranean Sea.

### NATION

#### Pentagon decides against cremation of U.S. troops

The Pentagon recently completed the review of a policy that would ultimately authorize cremation as a way to dispose of the remains of U.S. troops if they are killed in a chemical or biological attack.

The policy, which was reviewed by a panel of military health and mortuary affairs experts, was rejected.

The policy considered biological contaminants, including smallpox and anthrax, that would mandate the quick disposal of dead bodies to protect the living.

The panel decided that the current procedures for U.S. troops killed in battle are sufficient and will remain in place.

#### Tobacco company may suspend contracted workers

Vector Tobacco Inc., the tobacco company that produces the low to no-nicotine Quest cigarette, may be forced to suspend its three year contracted farmers for approximately a year.

The company, which has been selling its cigarettes in seven states for a week now, says that after two years of harvests, it has more than enough tobacco on hand.

Many of the farmers who were contracted with Vector Tobacco Inc. are members of the Amish community.

### STATE

#### Country superstar performs for N.C. soldiers

Thursday morning, country superstar Faith Hill performed for a crowd of over 10,000 soldiers and their families at Fort Bragg, N.C. The free concert was covered live by ABC's Good Morning America. Some came as early as 5 a.m. to see the superstar up close. Many of those in attendance are going to be deployed to the Persian Gulf as early as next week.

#### Bills would remove caps on number of charter schools in the state

Two separate bills that were filed in the House on Thursday would remove the 100 cap on the number of charter schools in North Carolina.

Representatives Cary Allred, R-Alamance and Michael Gorman, R-Craven, introduced the measures that would increase the present school limit that was established in 1996.

While charter schools are privately owned and operated, they receive public funds and have open enrollment. In addition, they place an emphasis on smaller class sizes and non-traditional teaching methods.

While the state Board of Education recommends the cap be increased to 110 charter schools, a recent study suggests that at least two more years of analysis go into researching charter schools before the cap is increased.

## INS mandates use of online database

*INS has tightened its digital monitoring of international students attending American universities and colleges.*

Nancy Zagbayou  
Staff reporter

As of Jan. 30, the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) requires all universities and colleges in the United States to input information regarding their international students in an online database now known as SEVIS. This includes N.C. State.

The U.S. government created SEVIS, or the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, in an effort to monitor international students and assure maintenance of national security. Colleges across the nation have until Aug. 1 to deliver data that ranges from degree programs to addresses of international students to the INS.

Although this new method of tracking international students is supposed to be more efficient and stricter than previous recording methods, many NCSU students are concerned that prevention regulations are being taken too far.

"Seeing foreigners as possible tar-

gets is not a solution," said Thomas Ragot, a freshman who is also a French citizen. "Collecting every data and watching foreign students constantly is certainly not the appropriate way to make them feel good about American diplomatic decisions."

SEVIS is designed to track all international students, but the INS has additional security precautions for students originating from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

International students will be deported if they do not comply with INS policies.

"This system creates a lot of inconvenience for international students because every little detail has to be reported to the INS," said one Chinese student, who preferred to stay anonymous. "For example, they give you 10 days to report your address change to the INS, and if you don't meet the deadline, you can be deported to your country."

Emre Usenmer, a junior in international politics and economy who

is from Turkey, expressed his concern about the new tracking system.

"This is stereotyping students based on their national origin," said Usenmer. "It is doubtful that this particular action of the INS can be preventive of any terrorist action. For a nation that is the promoter of freedom, this is nothing but a shame."

Anish Patel, a computer networking master's candidate of Indian descent, said that tracking international students the way that SEVIS will be doing is probably a bad thing. Still, because Patel is actually an American resident, he admits that it is something he doesn't really need to worry about.

Many other foreign students understand and accept why the government is taking extra security precautions with international students. They agree that after what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, it is the America's duty to protect its citizen.

And now, the present tension with Iraq and the possible link between al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein have intensified the efforts of the government to prevent terrorist attacks.

The question that remains is whether students should be held to the same standards as terrorists.

## N.C. State's Great Decisions program grows on students



Retired senior U.S. Foreign Service officer Curtis Jones spoke at Great Decisions. Staff photo by Austin Dowd

*Great Decisions, a discussion course dedicated to current national topics, has increased in size.*

Natalie Hecht  
Staff Reporter

This semester, more students than ever have signed up for N.C. State's Great Decisions course. Great Decisions, a one-credit course in which students attend discussion groups, lectures and Q-and-A sessions, focuses primarily on global and foreign policy issues. The Foreign Policy Association developed this program in 1954, and it is the largest grassroots, world-affairs educational program of its kind. All over the country, Great Decisions has found its way into classrooms and communities, and this will be the third year it has been enlisted at NCSU.

John Gilbert, who recently retired after teaching foreign policy full-time at NCSU for nearly 40 years, teaches the class along with three graduate students who help lead the discussion sessions.

The course is based on the Great Decisions Briefing Book — a journal comprised of eight articles dealing with foreign policy issues. Each article provides background, current policies, alternative policy options and historical context on the given topic. Each week, students are asked to read an article and prepare a 250-word response.

Students meet every Monday at 6 p.m., split up into four different discussion groups and discuss the article for about 45 minutes. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in the Poe Hall auditorium. But what makes this lecture unique to other such courses on campus is that it is free and open to the

public. And while there are only 70 students enrolled in the class, the large auditorium fills quickly with people who are not enrolled.

At the most recent lecture, there were members of the Springmoor Lifecare Retirement Community, scholar students, high school students and other interested observers. Also among the attendees were people from the Encore Center for Lifelong Enrichment, a program that is part of the McKimmon Center and that also offers a Great Decisions course of its own. Many of the Encore participants come to the public lecture at NCSU to gain more insight about foreign policy issues affecting the nation.

At Monday's lecture, Curtis F. Jones, a retired, senior U.S. Foreign Service officer, spoke on relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Jones studied Arabic in an Army program at the University of Pennsylvania and obtained a master's degree in international relations through the extension program at George Washington University. As one of the first participants in the Arabic language program at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, he interpreted for three secretaries of state. In addition, he has served as the director of the State Department's Office of Intelligence for the Near East, North Africa and South Asia.

Since Jones' retirement in 1975, he has served as a consultant to the department on Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and terrorism, given public lectures and written on foreign policy for North Carolina and national periodicals.

The hour-long lecture is typically followed by a 30-minute Q-and-A ses-

See DECISION page 2

## Stop and buy the roses



Brian Elam, a freshman in First Year College, buys roses from Elizabeth Waligora and Danielle Lee, biochemistry majors, on Thursday. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Biochemistry Club. Staff photo by Austin Dowd

## Student protestors to rally and march for peace

*tudents from across the Triangle will march to the Capitol Saturday for a statewide rally against a war with Iraq.*

News Staff Report

As the media highlights daily the situations in Washington and Iraq, the idea of a war on some level becomes increasingly real for Americans everywhere. And while there are many across the country who support the efforts of Bush's administrators, there are those who do not.

On Saturday, students from several of the Triangle-area universities will join to participate in a statewide — and slightly national — march and peace rally to oppose the impending war with Iraq.

Student marchers from across the Triangle will meet at the Bell Tower at 10 a.m. on Saturday and then proceed to march to the Capitol, where they will join other protesters from across the state.

Among other locations, protest rallies will also be occurring in New York City and San Francisco over the weekend.

At NCSU's rally, a preshow at the Bell Tower will feature hip-hop, chants, drums, freestyling and beat-boxing in hopes of motivating the marchers before they proceed to the Capitol.

A few of the main war aspects that the youth protesters will be opposing through the march and rally include the possibilities of a reinstatement of the draft

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### TODAY

**Serious**  
hangs out with I.Q. Prerequisite, Leonard and doughboy. p. 3

**Opinion**  
examines sanitation grades and U.S. relations with Iraq. p. 4

**Sports**  
takes a courtside seat with Adam Simons and Justin Flatt. p. 8

### WEATHER



**Today**  
Mostly Cloudy  
High 51, Low 42



**Tomorrow**  
Rainy  
High 58, Low 30



## THROWBACK THURSDAYS = DOLLAR NIGHT

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

## Revamped sanitation grades show promise

Next August most people will no longer be seeing the familiar sanitation grades in restaurants across North Carolina. The blue A's, green B's and red C's will be replaced by black-and-white score cards that have the letter and number grade, in the same size, posted side by side. No longer will the inspector hand write the grade in small, sometimes unrecognizable numbers on the line underneath the grade.

The change comes because some believe the general public should take more notice of the actual numerical grade received, because as they wisely point out, there is a large difference between a 100 A and a 90 A.

It is a good move to change the look of the card so that more attention is drawn to the numerical score. However, it is a poor decision to make them all black and white. If the point of redesigning the card is to make the number stand out, then the traditional blue, green and red colors should stay in order to enhance the card's eye-catching appeal.

Sanitation grades should not be taken lightly. The general public, including the usually passive college students, should be sure to check the grades of the restaurants they patronize just to make sure everything is up to each person's individual standards. The Commission of Health Services should take this change a step further and make two other things mandatory.

First, there should be a designated place in every restaurant for a list of criteria used in judging a restaurant's sanitation. This information would help raise the public's awareness about what the grade entails. Most people do not realize that points can be deducted for leaving meat out in high temperatures, a problem that could infect many people with e. coli, or because the water used to wash the dishes is not hot enough to kill all of the bacteria that could be present. Points can

also be lost for infractions like an employee who isn't wearing a hat or hair net, the trash can being left uncovered or structural problems within the building. The criteria would also eliminate the public's question of how some restaurants get grades over 100. Few people outside of the restaurant business know that by attending some special classes (on kitchen safety or on the spread of bacteria) restaurant owners can earn up to three additional points, which are added to their grade as a bonus for taking the time to attend the informational courses.

People are unclear about what constitutes a poor grade, and that could cause major problems. Having a list that informs people on what inspectors are looking for might shed some light on why it is important to check for sanitation grades and take them seriously.

Also, it would be extremely helpful for The Commission of Health Services to make it mandatory for restaurants to put stickers on their entrance doors that would have the establishment's current sanitation grade on it. By doing so, if a person feels as though they do not want to eat at the restaurant based on the sanitation grade, they would not have to go inside at all. Some people who do find a grade to be below their expectations are embarrassed to leave a restaurant once they are inside. By placing a sticker on the door, as they do in neighboring South Carolina and other states, the issue of determining what grade a restaurant has would no longer be a factor.

Overall, it is nice to see that Health Services is doing something to raise awareness of sanitation grades. However, by adding a checklist and a sticker to the restaurant's door the commission would be taking an active step in helping people understand the system and making it more convenient for the restaurant-going public to take a stand against establishments with poor grades.

## Black History Month a celebration for all

Staff Editorial  
Kentucky Kernel  
(U. Kentucky)

(U-WIRE) LEXINGTON, Ky. — It's only halfway through Black History Month and already grumbles can be heard: "Why do we have a whole month set aside for African-American history? Why don't we have a white history month?"

It's an argument that has come to be expected with each Black History Month. But just because it's common doesn't mean it shouldn't be addressed.

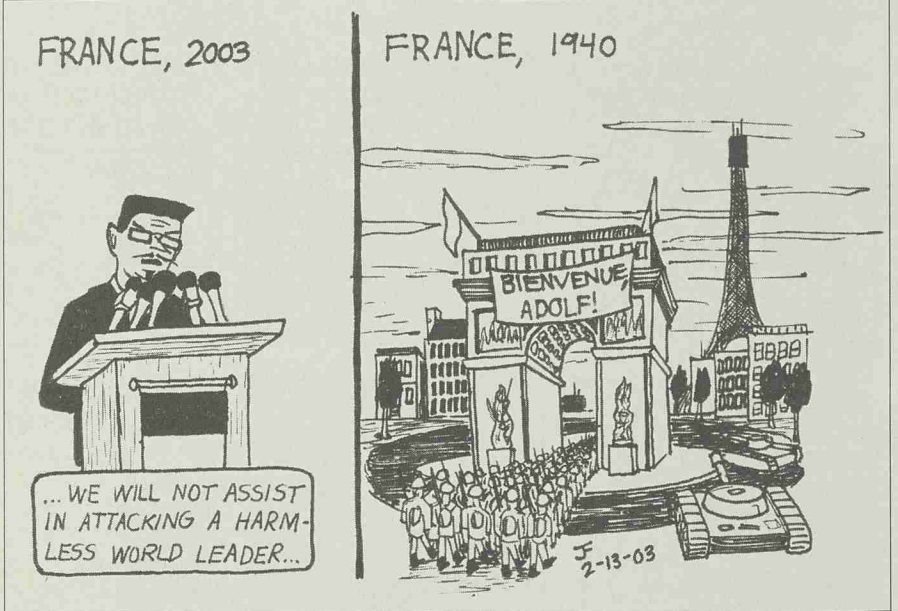
The simple answer is, of course, that practically every general history class taken focuses on white, European history. And seemingly every literature class, and every humanities class and so forth. Black History Month was initiated because of the dearth of African-American

can topics taught in regular classes. All that anyone ever learned about African Americans was that they were shipped over as slaves.

It's true that American culture is becoming more aware of the lack of diversity in our scholastic endeavors. More and more professors are integrating African-American achievements and influence into material that used to be dominated by "white" history. This can only enrich the quality of education students receive.

But our country is not so far along that we can simply drop a special month of recognition for black history. Remember, only 40 years ago, the University of Kentucky had segregated dormitories

See HISTORY page 5



## Maybe you're in love with the thought of the relationship



Zack Medford  
Staff Columnist

We deal with love every single day of our lives. You will almost never see a movie without an underlying romance. You can barely walk to class without running into a happy couple playing a little tonsil hockey before Super-Duper Calculus 963. Love is unavoidable, and it's become one of the most basic reasons behind our existence. Love drives our society. It's natural for some people to want power, money and fame. But in the end, all this really seems to amount to is desire to attract people. We want love, we all do.

In the movies, everything works out perfectly. It may take years, it may take seconds, but in the end, you are left knowing that the relationship is perfect. Fate is often the culprit behind true love. Just look at movies like "Serendipity," where fate spans many years to unite two individuals who just needed better timing. This past Wednesday, I was one of the lucky ones who saw Pacey and Joey spend a perfect evening together trapped in a Kmart. The setting was perfect; everything felt right. It is hard not to desire for the perfect love that we see so much.

The trouble with love, though, is that it isn't perfect. Oh sure, being in love feels perfect at first. You look into each other's eyes, and you know her. You know she

thinks about you, and you think about her. These are the perfect moments from what we've seen in the movies and on TV. Unfortunately, these perfect moments don't come without a price.

It is easy to fall in love with love itself. Almost nothing is greater than being with someone who helps you feel complete. It's a strange part of life that we are naturally drawn to one another. When you're in love, you can't help but wish to focus all your attention, thoughts and time on that one person. It feels so wonderful being needed, desired, loved. But when you find out that you just loved the idea of the relationship and not the person you're with, the low is unimaginable. When you define yourself entirely by another person, it is easy to feel empty. True love is rare.

When the aura of being in love fades, and you are left with that one person, things can look a little different. Love blinds you at first, but you get your vision back. Those things that seemed so cute at first now suddenly have started to annoy you. You hate the way she does this, she hates the way you say that. What makes the difference between true love and the rest is the little things. If you can live with the little things, and she can live

with your little things, then you need to consider yourselves absolutely among the luckiest people in the world.

When you find true love, you must hold on to it as tightly as you possibly can. I heard these words once, and they've stayed with me throughout my life. Mr. Feeny told it to Corey and Topanga when they asked him if they should really stay together when Topanga was forced to move far away from peaceful Philadelphia. Hold on to love when you find it. Don't let the way he always tells

*When you find true love, you must hold on to it as tightly as you possibly can.... Mr. Feeny told it to Corey and Topanga when they asked him if they should really stay together.*

bad jokes overshadow how much he loves you. Don't give up on her just because she will always take 2 hours to get ready, regardless of how much time you actually have. If you can look that person in the eyes and feel that everything is right, then you win. Love isn't perfect; don't try to make it so. Accept the things you cannot change, and listen to your heart. You'll know the difference between love and true love. Hold on to true love when you find it as tightly as you possibly can.

Zack wanted to send a shoutout to his girlfriend, but the mean editors at Technician wouldn't let him. If you think that's wrong e-mail him at zack@izack.com.

## Anti-Americanism spreads abroad



Michele DeCamp  
Staff Columnist

An advertisement recently appeared in Technician from the infamous David Horowitz that accused all anti-war advocates of being anti-American. Many people were incensed that someone would make such a statement, but Horowitz's

claim is not that unusual. The term anti-American has been a subject of some debate for many years and has been thrown in the forefront once again as France and Germany continue to refuse to agree with U.S. officials concerning the United Nation's situation with Iraq.

The term itself seems to refer to a way of life more than the American people. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were in place before our standard government, so in a way, there is an American way of life. It is a life that is marked by freedom and comfort for many, and it is also something that many people in the world want to emulate in their own countries as they pursue our companies, movies and television programs.

However, many countries are also frustrated with our country and federal government. The events on Sept. 11, 2001, brought the entire world on our side for a brief moment, when suddenly everyone

felt bad for the Americans who had always appeared resilient after World War II to direct attacks from terrorism or other nations. But now many nations are standing back and wondering if our government is acting in the world's best interest as it continually presses its case against Iraq.

Anti-Americanism has started or increased in almost every Western European nation. Tony Blair has suffered numerous attacks from British citizens who claim that he is President Bush's lackey. He has even had to create a public relations campaign to illustrate that he

*If I lived in France and all I heard about the United States was that its secretary of defense called us "Old Europe" and that some guy was suing McDonald's for making him fat, then I would probably have a negative opinion also.*

is still representing Britain first. Germany's chancellor seemed to win his campaign based on a platform that included dismissing President Bush and his administration. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder publicly stated during the election that he did not agree with military action in Iraq, and that he also disliked President Bush's empty and purposeless way of speaking to other nations.

It comes down to the idea that the United States is doing something wrong. The Washington Post reported that recent

polls show that more than 65 percent of Western Europe is opposed to war against Iraq. Also, 75 percent of the French, 54 percent of Germans and 44 percent of Britons said they believed that the United States had an ulterior motive for attacking Iraq. Apparently, we have lost the trust of some of our allies.

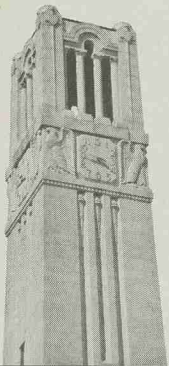
The only thing that I cannot figure out is when it happened. Many journalists have suggested that it stems from our position with Israel in regards to the Israel and Palestine conflict. Others believe that other nations are jealous of how victorious the United States was against the al-Qaeda network after Sept. 11. And for some, they feel that other nations are fed up with our "patriotism, obesity, emotionality and self-centeredness."

For the most part, there is not much the average citizen can do about these complaints. Our government's actions in Israel and our successes in Afghanistan are issues that we can only write about. Our image as overweight gluttons with an American flag

## TECHNICIAN

Jerry Moore · Matthew Pelland  
Editors in Chief

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# The Road to Baghdad: playin' politics



**Ben McNeely**  
Staff Columnist

During the last few weeks, everyone has been speculating on the causes of the conflict with Iraq. Yes, the United States has been dealing with Iraq for 12 years.

But, the question still remains: In the midst of a war against terrorism, why now? The Bush administration has come out with a compelling argument for going to war with Iraq. They have presented evidence that Saddam Hussein is hiding weapons of mass destruction or at least parts of them. They have told the world community that he is not cooperating with weapons inspectors and that the time for action is now. They do have a point: The United Nations has repeatedly given Iraq deadline after deadline to disarm, and Hussein has not complied. He has threatened his own people and the stability of the region. He is a hassle to his Arab brothers and to the entire world in general.

But, the other side — the anti-war movement — also has a compelling argument. They claim that the world has contained and deterred worse regimes before in the past and that Hussein is no different. They say give the inspectors more time, let them comb the entire country and find out the whole story behind the allegations that Iraq has illegal weapons. There is no need to go out and invade a sovereign country and put in harm's way millions of innocent people. These two arguments are sound and logical, but only one can be right. In order for one to be the winner, however, the two camps must play the age-old game of politics.

Politics plays a huge role in this conflict. In fact, it is all that is based on. President Bush is going to war to fulfill his promise

to protect the American people from terrorist attacks.

If he can give the tough talk to the American people and show some photos that might link Iraq to al-Qaeda, then he will have his mandate to go to war and protect the American people. But President Bush is acting off the worse fears of people by reminding them of the worse-case scenario: Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, Hussein gives them to al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda hits the America with a horrific terrorist attack. This is the message of the Republicans, who, for the most part, support the president and his actions. That is the reason behind the existence of the Department of Homeland Security, why the terror alert level was raised and why they are asking Americans to create emergency kits composed of food, batteries, duct tape and plastic sheeting. It is a fear tactic and one that is working. Hardware stores everywhere are out of duct tape and plastic sheeting, despite the fact that it will not protect you in the event of a chemical or biological attack. While his approval ratings have dropped, President Bush has enjoyed stellar approval ratings since Sept. 11, 2001, and now has control of the government after the mid-term elections last year. The Republicans are flying high.

Meanwhile, the Democrats are still picking up the pieces from the midterms and have already fielded presidential candidates. But they walk a fine line. To speak out against the president would be seen as extremely partisan, especially since the president is fighting terrorism, domestically and abroad. That would make the

Democrats look like they are weak on terrorism. But, if they do not stand up to the Republicans, what do they stand for? That is what did them in back in 2002. Democrats are going a different route. They are attacking the president on his economic policies. They claim that President Bush's economic stimulus package only gives tax breaks to the rich and does not do enough to help the poor or middle class. They cannot

win fighting Bush on the Iraq issue because his popularity is too strong, and to join the ranks of the anti-war movement might make them seem un-American in the eyes of crucial voters. So, they fight for those whom they always fight: the poor and disenfranchised. They attack Bush's domestic and economic policies. The economy is bad, and something needs to change. Only time will tell if that strategy will get a Democrat in the White House in 2004.

International politics are in full play here. With France and Germany poised to block any war resolution in the U.N. Security Council and with their refusal to defend Turkey in their capacity as members of NATO, the United States is up over the proverbial barrel. While we have most of Europe behind us, the major players in the European Union are questioning our motives. Even though Bush has repeatedly said that the United States will go at it alone against Iraq, Colin Powell and the diplomatic corps are desperately trying to get France and Germany on board. Of course, France and Germany do not want war because their people do not want to go to war.

Do we really need their support? Donald Rumsfeld has called them "Old Europe," implying that their control and reign over Europe is past. Their motives are clear though. If they have interests in Iraqi oil, they are going to protect them. The French have certainly proved that in the Ivory Coast, where they have sent in troops to protect their citizens and their economic interests during a violent coup last year. This butting of heads between the United States, the French and the Germans only hurts the United Nations, which does have its credibility on the line. Without cooperation between the member nations, the United Nations is powerless. It has no real power unless the member nations give it power. So, after numerous warnings and broken deadlines, Iraq still has not disarmed, and the United Nations is faced with the question: Do we allow America to disarm Iraq by force, or do we give the system a chance and contain Hussein through weapons inspections? Looking back at history, the latter seems not to be working.

Politics is at the heart of this crisis, and the fates of millions of people are in the hands of people who squabble over sentences in a piece of legislation. War is always about politics, and this one will be no different. But, for the United States to invade another country sets up a dangerous precedent and will become a part of our political arena, a new option for presidents to use in order to "contain" other countries. Our politics got us attacked on Sept. 11. Maybe we should think this through before we start attacking another Arab country.

*Ben should be out getting a date for Valentine's Day. Instead, he is researching for his next article. E-mail him at bmcneel@unity.ncsu.edu, but take pity and be gentle, please.*

**Hardware stores everywhere are out of duct tape and plastic sheeting, despite the fact that it will not protect you in the event of a chemical or biological attack.**

## RULE OF THUMB

### Restricting French imports considered

Some members of Congress recently began considering imposing extra health and labeling regulations on imported French products, such as wine and bottled water, in response to the country's position on war in Iraq. "We're thinking of requiring poodle owners to affix bright orange stickers to their dogs," said one stern-faced Congressional staff member.



### State house bans smoking

The North Carolina state House of Representatives has, at least for now, banned smoking on the floor of the legislative chamber with a somewhat controversial amendment to its rules. The ban may become permanent in the next two weeks if that pesky "clean air lobby" has its way with lawmakers.

### N.C. House still struggling

After taking nearly two weeks to craft a leadership deal resulting in co-speakers, the state House of Representatives is now struggling to elect a member to its second-most powerful position, speaker pro tempore. One member suggested on the floor, "Why don't we try a three-way?" Everyone else just shifted awkwardly in their chairs.



### Raleigh buses getting upgrade

Raleigh recently received federal grants to improve its bus fleet by installing security cameras, GPS systems and stop announcement systems on most buses by year's end. The hope is to attract more riders with the upgrades, but some local officials are skeptical. "Well, now at least we'll have grainy pictures of all the empty seats," said one skeptical city councilor.

### Gas prices rising

Recent economic developments have conspired against North Carolina drivers as average gas prices in the state have risen to levels higher than any since monitoring began in 1980. "It's really putting a pinch on my daily trips to and from Wal-Mart," said one Cary woman, looming from the window of her purring Ford Excursion. "I sure hope we take Iraq soon."



### Shearon Harris tests sirens

Shearon Harris nuclear plant began a series of tests of its 81 warning sirens this week, with plans to continue the tests until Feb. 24. Progress Energy officials reassured people living within 10 miles of the plant that being awakened at 2:30 in the morning by the wail of a warning siren is absolutely vital to the security of our nation.

### McDonald's sued over bagel

A Florida couple has sued a McDonald's franchisee, alleging that an "improperly prepared" bagel hurt both the husband's teeth and their marriage. The suit has baffled the owners of the McDonald's in question; they claim that there is no implied warranty of safety in their "McBricK-wich" sandwich.



### Planners push for density

City planners in Raleigh have begun work to bring dense development to the planned stop sites of the Triangle Transit Authority's commuter rail line, still years away from completion. "We figure that if we encourage the right mix of development in the right places, we may get 15 — heck, I'll be crazy and say 20 riders a day on this 'train' thing," said one planner.

### N.C. tuition rising quickly

According to a study released Tuesday, the cost for public colleges in North Carolina rose by 19 percent last year, the fifth-highest growth rate in the country, though the state still has the ninth-lowest average public tuition in the nation. The UNC System announced the results at Crazy Bob's House of Cheap Learnin'. "Come on down! We're dealin'!" implored Crazy Bob.

## CAMPUS FORUM

### Fill up, without supporting the Middle East

There's a way to fill up your tank and not put a cent toward companies in the Middle East. The United States Department of Energy's Web site publishes where oil companies import their products from on a monthly basis. Each company is required to state where they get their oil and how much they are importing. The major companies that imported Middle Eastern oil last month were Shell, Chevron/Texaco, Exxon/Mobil, Marathon/Speedway and Amoco. Last month, Citgo, Sunoco, Conoco, BP/Phillips and Hess did not import Middle Eastern oil. Check it out for yourself at [www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov).

*Bekah Taravella*  
Graduate Student  
Drexel University

### Present NBA players equal to those of yesteryear

I feel compelled to comment on what has to be one of the worst columns I have ever seen in print, a silly piece in Technician lambasting the NBA and its All-Star game.

I had a notion what I was read-

ing wasn't going to be enlightening from the start when the writer confessed to not having watched the game, which was the subject of the piece. Blasting the game without knowing anything but the final score would be like me blasting the column after reading only the title. Unfortunately, I did read the entire, god-awful thing.

I am aware that general interest in the NBA is down (in America, anyhow), but I am guessing that there are a few more than four fans of the league left. Although I myself find college basketball more entertaining, there is no question that the league's players are exceptionally more talented than those at the local universities, and the ones on display this weekend are the best of the best. Anyone who loves the game of basketball should be interested in seeing them together on one court.

Deriding the lack of defense in the All-Star game is like complaining about all the words in the newspaper. The lack of defensive intensity is inherent in the event. The point is just to put on a show for the fans and showcase the players' abilities. That's the

way it always has been and should be. As for defense in the regular season, check the numbers instead of simply repeating what people have always said to explain their distaste for professional basketball. There is a hell of a lot more defense being played in today's NBA than there was in the league's glory days of the 1980s.

Most ridiculous was the complaint that no one knows who any of the players are. That pretty much gave away the fact that the writer just does not follow basketball. The column stated that Magic, Bird and Jordan were big college stars before they got to the NBA, but now we're stuck with guys like Jermaine O'Neal. Now, we also have guys like the other O'Neal, Tim Duncan and Jamal Mashburn — guys that had fairly significant collegiate careers. And it seems to me to be pretty difficult not to know who college-skipper Tracy Mcgrady, Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnet are. Maybe Technician should leave the writing to someone with a logical original opinion.

*Jeremy Hitch*  
Third-year law student  
Campbell University

## DECAMP

*continued from page 4*

in one hand and a mirror in the other is a stereotype that is portrayed more in the media than through our real actions. If I lived in France and all I heard about the United States was that its secretary of defense called us "Old Europe" and that some guy was suing McDonald's for making him fat, then I would probably have a negative opinion also.

But there is also some truth to the idea that most of us are a little elitist about our American roots. We know that we have more freedom to live and act as we choose than most other places in the world. We also know that while we may encounter certain socioeconomic challenges along the way, there is not much that we cannot try to accomplish. We can all aspire to the supposed American dream, and I can see how our freedom may make other countries with different social policies mad. There are cultural gaps between ourselves and other nations that are more prevalent because our place as a world power puts everything about us in the limelight. It is not just that we have the freedom that we do; it is the fact that the entire world has

to be faced with it.

The fact remains that our government's foreign policy has come under attack lately, and even the proudest American journalists are wondering when the Bush administration is going to start paying attention to how anti-Americanism is infecting our allies. When one person tells you that they don't agree with you, then you can look the other way, but when many countries are starting to question your motives, then you have to wonder why you are suddenly all alone. If the Bush administration continues to attack or ignore complaints from its own citizenry and other nations, then it will suffer even after the Iraq conflict is over. We cannot help some aspects of anti-Americanism, but our government can ensure that it does not exclude or renounce nations whose help and strength we will need in order to be a successful world power. The second we start to assume that we know more than the rest of the world is when we too will fall.

*Michele is going to set up a barrier*

*cade around her apartment to protect herself from bioterrorism and angry Republicans. The only way to contact her will be by e-mail at [mlhagama@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:mlhagama@unity.ncsu.edu).*

## HISTORY

*continued from page 4*

and sports teams. The wonderful events highlighted throughout this month demonstrate that there's still much more everyone can learn about African-American culture.

Instead of complaining about the month, people should make an effort to participate in it. Go to a lecture; hear a concert; watch a screening of a movie. Re-evaluate the history that has been taught with the new information gleaned from these experiences.

Black History Month isn't just for African Americans. It's everybody's history month.

**For all those who are single...  
Happy Singles Awareness Day!**

## HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Blackburn Media Services

**Aries**  
March 21-April 19

Today is a 7. Postpone your big date until the weekend. There'll be less interference from work. Friends may still try to lure you out, but you can resist them.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20

Today is a 7. Choose staying home over going out if you feel you're just not up to leaving the house. Even an important person you're trying to impress will understand if you need the rest.

**Gemini**  
May 21-June 21

Today is a 6. Your patience is being tested, and this could be rough, since you didn't have much patience to begin with. Hold onto your money so at least you'll have that.

**Cancer**  
June 22-July 22

Today is a 6. Others look to you for comfort in times of confusion or stress. No need to rehearse for this part. You provide what they need naturally.

**Leo**  
July 23-Aug. 22

Today is a 6. Give yourself time to consider your options. Think things over. No need to be impetuous, even under pressure. That's one of the secrets of your success.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Today is a 7. It sure would be easier to do your job well if your home environment were more tranquil. Luckily, you have friends who understand and a loved one who makes it all worthwhile.

**Libra**  
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Today is a 7. You're known as a peace-maker, but you've also been known to instigate change when conditions just aren't fair. A little of that may be necessary.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today is a 7. The more you learn, the more you appreciate what you already knew. Trust your instincts, and acknowledge that you're smarter than you thought you were.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today is a 7. This ought to be a pretty good day to go shopping. You'll take more time that you normally would to be thrifty and seek out the best deals.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today is a 6. Don't go throwing your money around, even for a romantic reason. Well, maybe just a little of it.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Today is a 7. If you focus on what the others need, your workday will go by quickly. You may not be able to provide it all, but every little bit counts.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-March 20

Today is a 7. Continue to spend as much time as you can with loved ones, close family and friends. This weekend will be more about work, so get your cuddling in now.







## REDSHIRT

continued from page 8

The young man with a Tennessee twang has found out firsthand what the nation's premier basketball conference is all about.

"This definitely has been a learning year for both me and Adam," said Flatt, sporting a new, clean-cut hairdo. "We've gotten a lot stronger, we're learning the offense. We're learning the way Division I ball is played. It's certainly a big jump from high school to Division I, and especially the ACC.

"We're learning what it is to really play hard. Everything is on a different level."

The adjustment from star player to redshirt, on top of the overall change from high school to college, is especially challenging. Two players, who a year ago got their 20 points any night they wanted, now couldn't even play 20 seconds if they had to. That's change.

"It definitely puts things in perspective," said Flatt. "Obviously it's something that I'm not used to. But I think it makes you a little hungrier. It put me in a situation where I wasn't the best player on the floor, and I was going to have to fight for every minute I'd get. But it makes you work a lot harder."

Flatt might have gotten the opportunity to contribute this year if not for two early injuries. He underwent knee surgery and

broke his finger early on. Simons, too, could have gotten a chance had Ilian Evtimov's injury come a week before it did. But those are the breaks in college basketball. Neither would have changed their minds and gone to another school had they known they were going to be redshirted.

"I didn't really have a feeling [if I'd be redshirted or not]," Simons said. "I just went out there and whatever happened, happened. I've always liked program, atmosphere around here, the coaches."

"My decision would have stayed the same," Flatt added. "There's nothing wrong in the world with being a redshirt freshman in the ACC."

Especially considering the fact that the duo is getting a prime education in practice every day. Going against the likes of Clifford Crawford, Julius Hodge and company can only make Flatt and Simons better themselves. Guys like Crawford, a cagey senior, and Hodge, a cocky ball of explosive talent, have been mentors for Flatt and Simons.

"Cliff Crawford — he's been a really good leader, he's definitely the leader of our team, and he leads by example," said Simons.

Flatt, meanwhile, points to Hodge and former State guard and current graduate assistant Archie Miller for guidance.

"I respect everyone, but as far as people who have helped me — Julius has helped me a lot. He always offers insight, and Archie as

well. Archie is doing a great job, he really helps me to see what you need to do to be successful in the ACC."

Miller and Flatt also have a little bit in common.

"Great shooters, slow white guys," said Flatt.

And, take it or not, Flatt and Simons have actually shown up a few of the guys in practice this season.

"Once we're really rolling in practice, things get really competitive," said Flatt. "It almost doesn't feel like practice sometimes, it almost feels like a real game. Everyone is pretty competitive. I've put some 3s in people's faces here and there. That's basically my role, I'll knock a couple shots down on some guys, maybe let 'em know about on the way down.

"It kind of bugs them, but ..."

Not surprisingly, one of the redshirts wouldn't mind being Julius Hodge for a game. But it may be a surprise that it's Simons, a guy who blocks more shots than the back iron.

"I could get all the shots I wanted," said Simons, laughing.

Flatt, meanwhile, sticks more to his size. If he had to pick, he'd be Scooter Sherrill for a day, gold tooth and all. The way Flatt sees it, he and Sherrill share similar games.

"Scooter seems to be the player who plays most like me," said Flatt. "He knows his role. Scooter's a great shooter, he's always looking for his shot. He's really

not looking to penetrate unless that's what the defense gives him."

But for now, both Flatt and Simons are content to be themselves, two players who are every bit a part of State's team as Crawford or Hodge.

"They don't make you feel like a redshirt at all," said Flatt. "In practice, they'll come at you for messing up just as they would if Levi [Watkins] was to mess up. We prepare for a game just like everyone else does. When we do have time off, we'll catch a movie, or just hang out.

"I think the key to having a good team is having relationships off the court with your teammates."

That, and having a lucky rubber band. Flatt, who usually wears it around his wrist or ankle, says he has to have one before he goes out on the floor for warm-ups.

"I have to have a rubber band," he said. "I've got to find some rubber band around the locker room. It's a different one every time. I always throw one away and get a new one. Its been working pretty good so far."

And so has the redshirt plan. Both players are physically stronger and better players than when practice started in October. Both have learned from some of the best in the conference. And come next year, both will be ready.

And then, the warm-ups will come off for good.

## Pack stumbles at Virginia

The N.C. State women started strong, fell behind, rallied but fell short.

Sports Staff Report

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — The Virginia women's basketball team captured its sixth consecutive home win with a 58-54 victory over N.C. State on Thursday night at University Hall.

The Cavaliers improved 11-12 overall and 5-7 in ACC play, while the Wolfpack fell to 10-13 overall and 5-7 in the league.

"It was a disappointing loss after the way we started the game," said State head coach Kay Yow. "We couldn't maintain our lead. It was a critical game for both teams."

State took the opening tip and never looked back. The Wolfpack

went ahead by 15 points, 25-10 with 8:45 to go. UVa whittled away with a 16-2 run to tie the game at 27-27 with 4:43 on the clock.

In the second half, Virginia built its lead up to as many as 13 points, 50-37 with 10:39 remaining. The Wolfpack charged back to come within one point, 54-53 with 1:20 on the clock. UVa never relinquished its lead as sophomore Cherrise Graham (Conshohocken, Pa.) nailed four free throws in the final minute of action.

For the Pack, Carisse Moody had 16 points off the bench, while Kaayla Chones added 11 points.

Overall, Virginia out-rebounded State, 38-34. The Pack shot just 37 percent on the night, but also held Virginia to just 32.7 percent shooting.

## BASEBALL

continued from page 8

lot of really good arms at you. Their record is deceptive. They've played a difficult schedule and they'll be very battle-tested by the time they play us.

"We're going to have to play much better if we're going to have a chance to beat them out there."

The Pack will counter the Bruins' strength at the plate with its promising starters on the mound. Beginning on Friday, State will look to righthander Mike Rogers (1-0) who is red hot after missing most of last season due to a fractured leg. The red-shirt freshman

will take his perfect 0.00 ERA out West as he tries to give the Wolfpack a good shot at moving to a record of 3-0.

After going three solid innings Sunday, junior lefthander Nate Cretarolo also notched a win, as well as a 0.00 ERA, and will look to be State's starter on Saturday. Finally, taking the mound on Sunday to close things out will be junior college transfer Vern Sterry (0-0, 2.25 ERA).

The same effort can be expected from the Bruins' staff, which is still up in the air as of Thursday morning, as it will obviously look to cool down the Pack's number-one strength.

## PAGE

continued from page 8

Monday dying to learn whether their school made or missed the cut.

Not me though. Call me old-

fashioned, but I'm just going to wait until March 16 to even look at a bracket.

That's when the real bracketology begins.

Jon Page can be reached at jon12page@hotmail.com.

## TENNIS

continued from page 8

ray could be heard talking to himself again. He paused, collected himself and strung together four points to pick up the game.

In the next game, Murray's service and return shots seemed to

stretch Doll's body in so many different directions that he eventually stopped to admire one shot go by him. Murray would go on to drop that game, but snatched the final three games to take the first set, and eventually the match.

"It was just an ugly day," Murray said. "It's one of those days coach always tells us about when

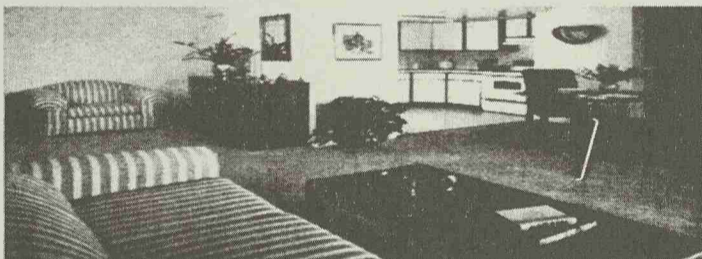
all your shots aren't working and you just have to scrap something out and find a way to win."

State will hope to start as strong as it finished when the team heads to the road Saturday for another tough non-conference match with South Carolina.

"South Carolina is definitely on par with the best teams we've

played so far in Miami and Indiana," said Choboy. "It will be a good match. Obviously we've got a couple wins under our belt and guys are feeling pretty good about certain things that they're doing. I think that hopefully we will be able to take some of this confidence and go into that match."

## Taking Reservations Now For Spring & Fall Move-In Dates



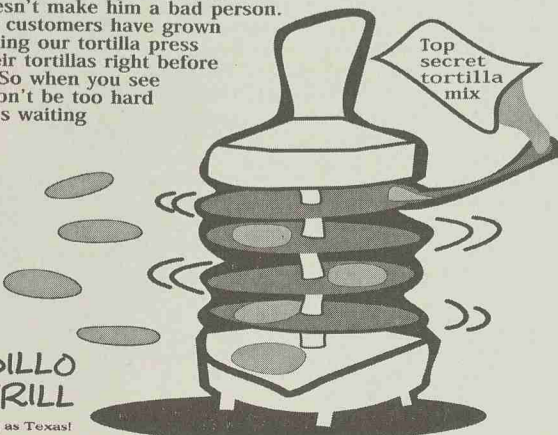
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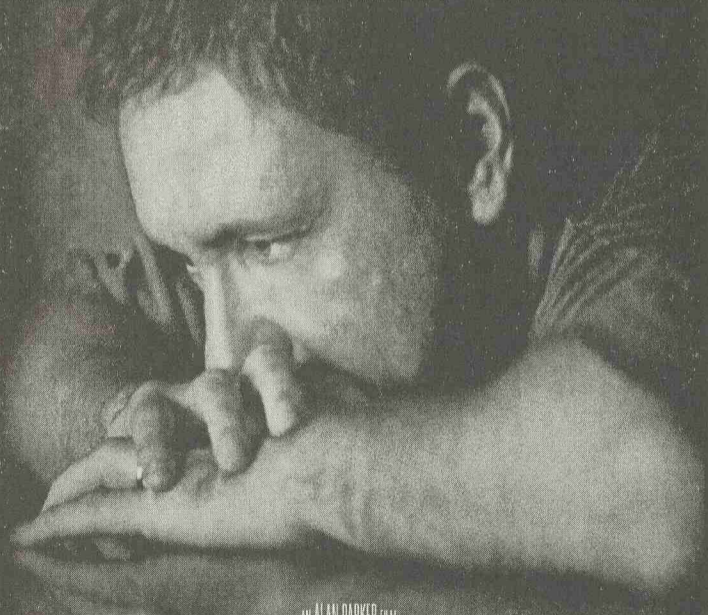
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# Friday Sports

## Schedule

M. basketball at Temple, 2/15  
Baseball at UCLA, 2/14  
Gymnastics in Hearts Invitational, 2/14, 7

## Scores

M. Tennis 6, Richmond 1  
Virginia 58, W. Basketball 54



## TECHNICIAN

### BASKETBALL

## Stupidology



Jon Page

Marcus Melvin and Dominick Mejia faced one minor hurdle before they could go into the movies on the first Tuesday night of February. The lady at the ticket window wanted to see some I.D.

Not a problem.

Melvin and Mejia probably just left home without their Visa check cards, right?

Nope, they paid cash. She wanted something else from the two lanky members of N.C. State's basketball team.

"The movie's rated R," she said. "You have to be at least 18 to see it."

As I stood near them in line, I was shocked. At 6-feet-8-inches (6'9") with the fro- this was before the cut, Melvin looks closer to 28 than 18, and the sight of Mejia doesn't exactly scream, "I'm a junior in high school!" either.

Surprised but unperturbed, Melvin and Mejia fumbled through their wallets and obligingly verified their age to the dutiful woman and entered the theatre.

After what I had seen on the Internet the day before, I wondered what it would be like if only it were that easy for N.C. State to make the tournament. Show up, flash some I.D., revenge last year's loss to UConn and cut down some nets.

But there it is on ESPN.com — the 2003 NCAA Tournament field — and the Pack wasn't even a blip on the radar.

What's that? "It's only February," you say? "They don't come out with the brackets until after the ACC Tournament."

You're right.

That's just ESPN's bracketology for you. Every Monday between January and up until the real brackets are released, ESPN's Joe Lunardi predicts the entire field of 65 teams right down to the play-in game. That means that each Sunday night (that's 10 Sundays in all), Lunardi spends five hours in his office filling out a make-believe bracket that will be obsolete in one week (as if it weren't obsolete in the first place).

Considering the endless possibility of twists and turns in a season of college basketball, especially among the smaller conferences, one might have more success learning Sanskrit while skinny-dipping to Antarctica than picking teams and seeds of the tournament.

But it's more than that. The NCAA Tournament bracket is a sacred puzzle, to be constructed in March. Rather, Lunardi starts assembling his in January with half the pieces. What's the point?

While our nation sits on the brink of war, Lunardi sits at his desk and struggles with life's tougher questions, like, who will win the Southland Conference Tournament, thus earning an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament?

One can only imagine the riveting inner-dialogue Lunardi must engage in with himself during this perplexing task, as he gazes sideways into his crystal ball. Well, it's a tough call. Sam Houston State and Stephen Austin are both strong and only have two conference losses. Then again, they make a mean burrito at the concession stands at Southwest Texas ... ummm ... Southwest Texas it is ... as a 15 seed ... in ... the South. Damn ... I'm good.

OK, so maybe Lunardi isn't exactly the Miss Cleo of March Madness (Cleo uses tarot cards, not a crystal ball). And it does say on the Web site, "projections are based on if the season ended today," and he actually has a semi-impressive list of credentials.

For 11 years he edited Blue Ribbon Basketball Yearbook, often referred to as the preseason Bible of college basketball. In addition to hobnobbing with members of the selection committee, Lunardi holds a day job at St. Joseph's University as Assistant Vice President of University Communications, where he also serves as color commentator for the Hawks' basketball radio broadcasts.

Ultimately, Lunardi's not to blame, nor is ESPN. It is those who helped to amass the 6.2 million hits on Lunardi's site last year, the same ones who log on each

## It's a redshirt life for Simons, Flatt

N.C. State redshirt freshmen Justin Flatt and Adam Simons have spent the year learning both on and off the court.

Andrew B. Carter  
Assistant Sports Editor

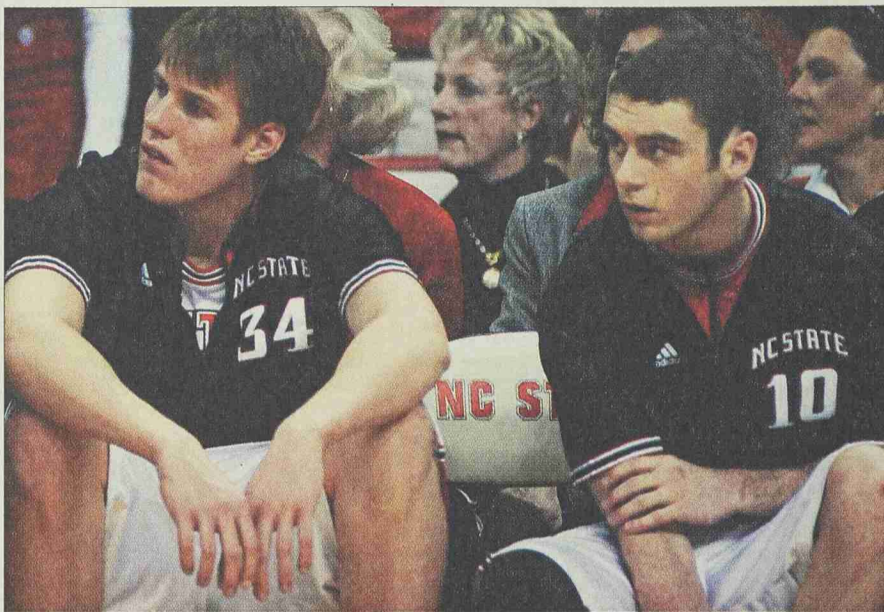
He'd say later the temperature was getting warmer in the RBC Center on that Wednesday night in late-January.

So off went the black warm-ups from his body, and off went his body from his chair. He was so excited, he just had to get up, wave his arms, race the baselines and get the adrenaline out. This was big time. ACC basketball at its finest, N.C. State was beating No. 3 Duke, the Wolfpack taking it to the Blue Devils on the court.

And on the sideline bounced Justin Flatt, his No. 10 jersey shining brightly and rippling with the picture of exuberance and pride. If NCSU coach Herb Sendek could have put the redshirt freshman in the game, his passion alone would have probably been good enough for a point or two. Heck, Flatt was ready to get in the game, regardless.

"I really was," he said after watching State beat Georgia Tech Wednesday night. "It got a little hot in there. It got a little wild."

But all Flatt and fellow redshirt freshman Adam Simons can do — during games, at least — is cheer their teammates and dream that one day, it's them shooting 3s or blocking shots or running the floor. They're redshirting this season, which means no real game action for the pair until November. And in the process, they're getting stronger, both physically and mentally, they're learning the Wolfpack's complex offense, and they're finding out what life is like in the



Adam Simons and Justin Flatt use this season to grow in the N.C. State basketball program. Staff photo by Matt Huffman

ACC.

It's a big change for the two. Last season around this time, Flatt and Simons were stars of their respective high school teams. Flatt was a finalist for Class AAA Mr. Basketball in Tennessee and averaged 28 points and nine boards as a senior. Not bad. Simons, meanwhile, was pulling down a double-double per game (19 points, 15 rebounds) at Williams High in Burlington.

Neither came to State with intentions of sitting out a year, and it's been difficult. "It's really tough," said Simons, a soft-

spoken seven-footer with blond hair a shy smile. "I wish I could have been out there for the Duke game, the Maryland game especially. Pretty much any game, I wish I could be out there."

Instead, it's in the weight room where Simons has spent a majority of his time. He came to Raleigh listed at a skinny 227 pounds, but he's already up to 243, which has earned him the nickname "Big Hungry." He spends a lot of his time eating — it doesn't matter what, he says — and getting eaten in practice by the likes of Josh Powell, who has taught Simons a

thing or three. But it's all for the greater good.

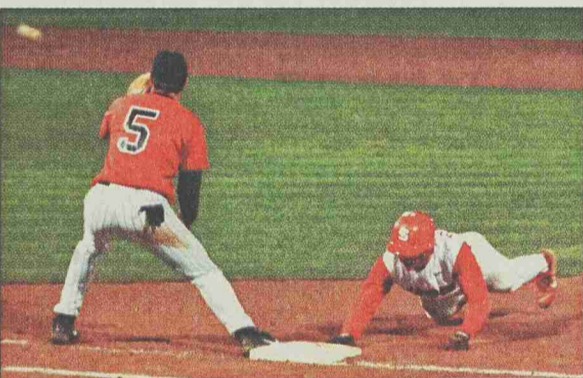
"I eat a whole lot more than I used to," said Simons. "I eat as much as I can, just get a lot of protein, and I'm lifting a lot of weights. I'm just trying to help the post players out as much as I can by trying to be physical with them."

"By practicing every day, we get better and better."

Flatt, a gunner who is listed at 6-foot-4 but is probably a shade shorter, agrees.

See REDSHIRT page 7

## Baseball heads west



The Wolfpack hasn't had a close call like this one all season. Photo by Andrew Knopp

The N.C. State baseball team will look to grab some quality wins against UCLA this weekend.

Justin Sellers

Senior Staff Writer

While it's still cold in Raleigh, the N.C. State baseball team will be experiencing warmer climates when it travels to Jackie Robinson Stadium on the campus of UCLA for a three-game series that begins Friday afternoon.

"We're excited," said head coach Elliott Avent. "The guys are excited to be going out to the West and playing a storied program like UCLA. Their team is always in the top of the PAC-10 and loaded with talent. So, it's going to be a good test for us and we're excited to be going out there."

But for the Wolfpack (2-0), California's temperatures aren't the only thing that is hot heading into the weekend. After smoking Elon 8-2 and 12-5 to open up the 2003 season, State is sporting a team batting average of .289. But while that may be considered strong for other teams, Avent knows his team is capable of better.

"We've got some dangerous hitters," said Avent. "Our whole lineup is pretty productive. We can beat you anywhere in our lineup; that's what is so great about our team. But we're still not swinging [the bat] as well as we can and we've got to focus on getting better."

Led by a dangerous middle of the lineup that features the solid power of junior catcher Colt Morton, the Pack will

look to continue that same success against the Bruins (3-4). Morton, who enters with a .375 average, tied career-highs against the Phoenix Sunday, totaling four RBIs and two home runs.

Also stepping up at the plate is first baseman David Hicks and outfielder Joe Gaetti. Hicks has a batting average of .375 and Gaetti, meanwhile, is also off to a solid start after going 3-of-9, picking up a double, a homer and two RBIs.

But UCLA, which was scheduled to play at third-ranked Cal State Fullerton on Wednesday before the game was called due to inclement weather, also features a lot of strength offensively. The Bruins are led by the trio of leftfielder Brett McMillian, second baseman Preston Griffin and catcher Chris Denove, which could make for an interesting long series should both teams continue to swing the bats well.

McMillian has gone 7-of-15 at the plate for a .467 average, while picking up two doubles to go with two RBIs. Meanwhile, Griffin, who is riding a seven-game hitting streak, and the freshman, Denove, also enter the weekend with batting averages above .400, with averages of .444 and .429 respectively. The duo has thus far combined for three doubles, a triple, three home runs and 17 RBIs.

"I talked to Mike Trapasso (the head coach at Hawaii and a former assistant coach at Georgia Tech), and he said UCLA has a very talented team, a scary team," said Avent. "Trap said just about every guy in their lineup could hit the ball out of the park and they can run a

See BASEBALL page 7

## Men's tennis nearly perfect vs. Richmond

R.J. Murray and Val Banada thrived in singles and doubles as the Pack walloped the Spiders, 6-1.

Jon Page

Senior Staff Writer

No need to watch N.C. State sophomore R.J. Murray play tennis. His game speaks for itself — literally.

After a bad shot, Murray will talk to himself disgustedly, even sarcastically. When he works through his mistake and comes up with a big shot he will emphatically yell, "Let's go Pack! Come on!"

Playing in the No. 1 spot for the Wolfpack on Thursday, he dished out an even distribution of criticism towards himself along with cheering for his teammates.

At times it was ugly, but overall it was sweet enough for Murray to defeat Richmond junior Niki Doll in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3.

More importantly, the Pack (3-3) came away with a 6-1 victory over the defending Atlantic-10 Conference champion Spiders.

Murray combined with freshman Val Banada to blast the No. 1 pair 8-3 while freshman Rehman Esmail and junior Jon Davis knocked off the No. 2 pair, 8-6, to win the doubles point for the Pack. Will Shaw and Chris Mills lost to Richmond's No. 3 double's team, but the improvement in doubles allowed a sigh of relief to escape from State coach Jon Choboy, especially after losing the doubles point on Sunday against Appalachian State.

"I think that our doubles were something we were disappointed with on Sunday and we did a better job with that today," said Choboy. "Number one doubles did a much better job making first serves and making returns. Number two doubles started a little slow but then they really picked it up. Actually, third doubles played really well too."

State didn't exactly ride a wave of momentum from its success in doubles over to the singles side, as the Pack had some problems getting started.

Three Richmond players forced State opponents (Murray, Shaw and Esmail) to win the first set in seven games instead of six, but State dominated the second

sets.

"I'm a little disappointed that we didn't come out a little bit quicker and a little bit more aggressively in singles," said Choboy. "We kind of let them hang in there in the beginning and once we got going again we did a good job, but we have to learn how to get off to a better start both in singles and doubles."

Shaw picked up a victory 7-5, 6-3; Banada won 6-0, 6-4; Davis was bumped by Derek Schwandt, 6-4, 6-0; and Esmail and Mills both notched wins too at 7-5, 6-3 and 6-4, 6-1 respectively.

For Banada, playing out of the No. 3 spot, it was his third straight win — a span in which he has not lost a set.

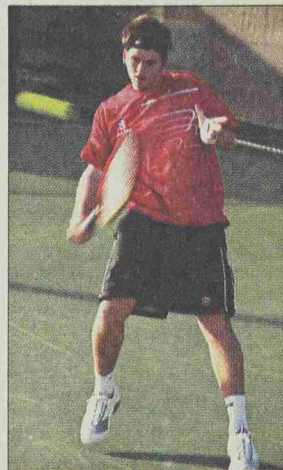
"I felt like Val, for the third match in a row, has played exceptionally well for us," said Choboy. "He really got on track for us maybe after our first match. He had a close loss at Indiana and then he picked it up at Miami."

But nobody picked it up like Murray in his first set against Richmond.

Murray opened service of the match and won the first game on an ace, but soon found himself in a hole.

With Doll leading the set 4-3, and serving with a 30-0 lead in the game, Mur-

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State created a racket in its win over Richmond. Staff photo by Ben Austin

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