

TECHNICIAN

THURSDAY
FEB.
20
2003

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Raleigh, North Carolina

IN THE KNOW

WORLD

Plane crash in Iran kills 270 military personnel

On Wednesday, Tehran television reported a plane crash in southeastern Iran that could have killed at least 270 people, most of whom were military personnel.

According to the state-run television, the Russian-built plane was on a short city-to-city flight from Zahedan, which is on the Pakistan border to Kerman, 500 miles southeast of Tehran.

Reports said that the plane lost contact with the control tower at 5:30 p.m., Iranian time, and crashed near Shahad, which is approximately 50 miles from Kerman.

Man sentenced in Sept. 11, 2001, trial

The first Sept. 11, 2001, conspirator was sentenced to 15 years in prison Tuesday for aiding hijackers in the terrorist attacks against the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

Mounir Montassadeq, a 28-year-old electrical engineering student, denied the charges during the trial that took place in Germany. Evidence against him was largely based on association with other al-Qaeda members.

His sentence is the maximum sentence allowed under German law for his conviction of over 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and five counts of attempted murder and bodily injury.

NATION

Ridge stresses being prepared

Tom Ridge, the U.S. Homeland Security secretary, announced on Wednesday that it is important for people to be prepared for terrorist attacks but it is not necessary to panic.

Ridge's new campaign, which includes a Web site, ads and a 1-800 number, suggests that people need only take simple precautions to protect themselves and their families in the event of a terrorist attack.

An emergency kit stocked with at least a three-day supply of food is wise, urged Ridge. Ridge said the kit should also include flashlights, batteries, medicine, duct tape and plastic sheeting.

Saudi Arabian student questioned in airport after cologne spray

On Wednesday at the Philadelphia International Airport, a 22-year-old Saudi Arabian student who was trying to book a flight to Saudi Arabia was questioned by airport officials concerning a container of liquid in one of his bags.

After spraying the contents on himself to demonstrate that the bottle contained cologne, the student inadvertently sprayed the contents on two security guards. Two police officers also examined the contents, reports said.

The action prompted security officials to immediately quarantine the two security guards and shut down two stores that the police officers went into after the incident.

The student was questioned by FBI officials and quickly released without any charges.

STATE

Raleigh ranked first in home internet connection

According to Nielsen/NetRatings, an Internet tracking service, Raleigh is the fastest-growing city in terms of at-home internet connections.

Raleigh's active online population grew 29 percent within the past year, said reports.

Nielsen/NetRatings reported that Nashville, Tenn., and Sacramento, Calif., are tied with the second-highest at-home online population growth rate. Each city grew by 19 percent.

Dole says Lumbee tribe should be federally recognized

Sen. Elizabeth Dole has recently filed a bill that, if passed, would grant the Lumbee tribe full federal recognition. A recognition of this magnitude would mean the tribe would receive economic benefits it has since been denied.

While the Lumbee tribe was recognized in 1956 through a law passed by Congress, the statement did not offer any privileges or benefits that were offered to

other tribes. Dole's bill, which is currently searching for co-sponsors, would help the tribe to fund for economic development, housing, education and health care.

The Eastern Band of the Cherokees, the only federally recognized tribe in N.C. has already opposed the federal recognition of the Lumbees, said reports.

IRAQ

IN FOCUS

Thousands of miles from home, over 150,000 U.S. forces are making temporary shelter in Kuwait and the Persian Gulf. Among them is a large population of troops from North Carolina — some of them the family of N.C. State students, some of them students themselves.

At the university, student opinions about the war are getting louder, many of them joining with the voices of other North Carolina citizens in peace rallies across the state on Saturday. But whether your connection is personal or political — war with Iraq will affect us all.

With that in mind, Technician will be starting a weekly section focusing on the developments in the path to war and NCSU connections to Iraq and the war

on terrorism. Each Tuesday and Thursday, Technician staff will explore issues like university research that could make an impact in the Persian Gulf or NCSU's role in past global conflicts.

We would also like to invite all students, faculty and staff, regardless of ideology or affiliation, to send their comments and concerns about a possible war with Iraq. Pieces should be limited to 500 words and submitted to teknews_turnin@hotmail.com.

TIMELINE FOR WAR MAY BE WINDING DOWN

An N.C. State professor weighs in on a possible war with Iraq.

Carlton Newsome
Senior Staff Reporter

"Military force is always this nation's last option. Yet, if force becomes necessary to disarm Iraq and enforce the will of the United Nations, if force becomes necessary to secure our country and to keep the peace, America will act decisively and America will act victoriously with the world's greatest military."

In a speech delivered at the U.S. Naval Station Mayport in Florida, President George W. Bush reinforced the rhetoric that has been common in the Oval Office during the past months: Iraq must be disarmed even if it means America must go to war.

Bush's case for war is founded in the premise that Iraq has been in violation of U.N. resolutions and a 1991 cease-fire agreement after expelling U.N. weapons inspectors from the country in 1998.

Bush took his case before the United Nations on Sept. 12, pushing for a new U.N. Security Council resolution to demand that Iraq allow weapons inspectors re-entry or face serious consequences. Iraq unconditionally accepted their return four days later.

Now, after the weapons inspectors have presented their findings before the U.N. Security Council, Bush and his cabinet continue to search for international support for opposing Iraq and the timeline for war seems to be winding down.

Bush has been ordering the movement of troops into the Middle East and has requested and received statutory authority

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IRAQ CHRONOLOGY

August 1990
Iraq invades Kuwait. President George Bush declares invasion "will not stand."

November 1990
U.N. Security Council says that Saddam Hussein must be ejected from Iraq using "all means necessary."

January 1991
Iraq refuses to withdraw from Kuwait and the United States leads air strikes and a ground assault against Iraqi forces.

April 1991
Iraq agrees to a cease-fire agreement that includes an end to its weapons of mass destruction program. Sanctions are installed until the conditions are met.

1995
The United Nations initiates "oil for food," allowing Iraq to buy medicine and food for its citizens through proceeds from oil exports.

November 1998
U.N. weapons inspectors leave Iraq claiming Saddam Hussein has made it too difficult for inspections for chemical, biological or nuclear weapons to continue.

December 1998
The United States and Britain launch four days of air strikes against Iraqi targets in "Operation Desert Fox."

January 2002
U.S. President George W. Bush names Iraq, along with Iran and North Korea, as part of the "axis of evil."

November 2002
The U.N. Security Council passes a resolution stating that Baghdad will face "serious consequences" unless it allows U.N. weapons inspectors entry and access to any site suspected of producing chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. Iraq agrees and allows weapons inspectors to re-enter the country.

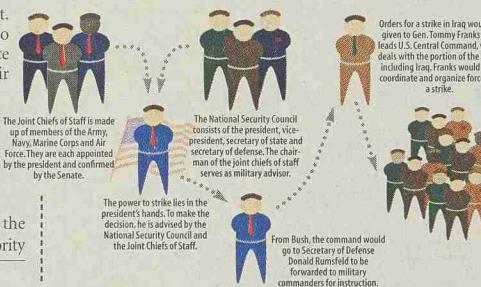
December 2002
As demanded by the U.N. resolution, Baghdad submits a list of its weapons of destruction.

January 2003
President Bush makes the case for Iraq in his annual State of the Union address. Britain's allegiance to the United States and a resolution for war remain solid, while key countries like France, Germany and China publicly express their opposition.

February 2003
Weapons inspectors present findings to the U.N. Security Council. The next day, mass protests erupt around the war against invading Iraq.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

As President, Bush alone has the power to strike against Iraq. If he does, here is the path an order would take according to the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986:



Students cook up learning experience

The N.C. State Cooking Club meets twice a month to learn new cooking techniques and taste their creations.

Rachael Rogers
Staff Reporter

Several students on campus and one chef are cooking up something really interesting and worthwhile. Only a few months old, the N.C. State Cooking Club was established by Executive Chef William Brizzolara and several of his cooking class students.

"The club was started last November and was an off-shoot of the cooking class

I hold every semester," Brizzolara said. Brizzolara wanted to form a cooking club for a while but never quite found enough time to give it the attention that such a club needed.

The idea came from previous cooking class attendees.

"I never had time to work on this club until this year, so I threw out the idea to the cooking class this past fall, and several students formed the club," Brizzolara said.

The club members get to do a little bit of everything. They work in a social environment where conducting business, socializing, learning, cooking and eating all take place.

"Students choose the agenda of the next class. For example, this week, it was Asian ... I research it and find recipes that I think they can handle," Brizzolara said.

Once the members decide on a particular agenda and all the necessary research is done, the students come together, along with Chef Brizzolara, and start the real business of the club: cooking. But, students don't get to pull out the mixing bowls or touch the stoves right away.

First, the students need a little bit of instruction — but only a very little bit. Brizzolara leads the students but also tries to let the members learn on their own. He said he answers questions but tries not to affect the outcome of their

cooking.

"We go into the kitchens and break up into teams, which cook different recipes. Once that is done, we line up the food, and each team explains what they made, what mistakes they made and what they learned from it," Brizzolara said.

Then comes the tasty part. "Then we get to go and eat the food," Brizzolara said. So far, the cooking club has learned a variety of skills and tried out a variety of different foods. The members have learned knife skills and cutting, and they have made Italian, Indian, Asian and Caribbean foods, along with learning how to make custards and

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TODAY

A&E
watches television and has the picks that didn't make it. p. 3

Opinion
scrutinizes N.C. State athletes' graduation rates. p. 4

Sports
gets ready for the track ACC championships. p. 8

WEATHER

Today
Cloudy
High 53, Low 38

Tomorrow
PM Showers
High 55, Low 35



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REED

continued from page 1

Professionally, Reed has reached the goal of bringing a board together that can work efficiently and is representative of the diverse student body.

"If you look from the executive board down all through the committees, we have international students, we have [African-American] students, white [students] across the board, so I feel that the board itself is very representative of the campus as far as the num-

ber of voices and the number of opinions," said Reed.

A personal goal that Reed takes a lot of satisfaction in is talking to the RAs and RDs because it is an area of the campus that does a lot of programming but does so with few resources.

"By taking the resources that the activity board has and combining it with the manpower that the RAs have, it will make better for the campus as a whole," he said. "There's several obstacles to go through, but we're working on those currently."

When asked about the upcoming

election, Reed says, "We're in the process of getting things rebuilt, so whoever comes in next I hope continues on with those plans."

James also hopes to see the relationships board and the membership on the activities board continue to increase as far as venues.

If anyone has any ideas of any programming that they would like to see in the upcoming year, such as concerts, Reed suggested they send him e-mail at unity_president@ncsu.edu.

TIMELINE

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from Congress, in both the House and Senate.

President Bush may ask for another resolution in Congress to show the United States that he does have support to move on with the war as advised by the Senate in Senate Resolution 32 in January.

William Boettcher, assistant professor of political science, explained that Bush and his administration are likely to submit a new resolution to the United Nations for approval.

"The U.N. resolution 1431 language is murky as to whether we should use force to disarm Iraq," said Boettcher. "Bush wants a new resolution with stronger language."

Boettcher also predicted that Bush will ask Congress for another resolution providing support for war.

The Senate resolution urged the president to allow appropriate time for the weapons inspectors to facilitate their work before continuing without the support of the international community.

The Senate stated that the reasons for this request are because

"more than three months have passed, and circumstances have significantly changed, since Congress acted in October 2002 to authorize the use of military force against Iraq; the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved Security Council Resolution 1441 (2002) requiring Iraq to cooperate with strict weapons inspections and give United Nations weapons inspectors immediate, unimpeded, unconditional and unrestricted access to all suspected sites involving such weapons."

Hans Blix, executive chairman of the U.N. Monitoring Verification and Inspection Commission, told the United Nations on Feb. 14 that inspectors have performed over 400 inspections covering more than 300 sites.

"All inspections were performed without notice, and access was almost always provided promptly. In no case have we seen convincing evidence that the Iraqi side knew in advance that the inspectors were coming," he said in a brief to the United Nations.

According to U.N. Resolution 1431, Iraq would face "serious consequences" if they did not comply.

On Feb. 5, Colin Powell, U.S.

secretary of state, spoke to the United Nations and outlined the main point of U.N. Resolution 1431, saying, "No council member present in voting on that day had any allusions about the nature and intent of the resolution or what serious consequences meant if Iraq did not comply." Powell also provided new evidence showing that Iraq was not cooperating and was providing support to terrorist organizations.

If the United States does go to war, Boettcher said, it won't be the same war fought in the Persian Gulf over ten years ago.

This will be a preventative war, he said, not the preemptive war the administration has promoted it as.

The difference, Boettcher explained, is that a preemptive war is a war in which Iraq has troops on the border and poses an immediate threat. Boettcher said this war will be a preventive war, in which it is believed that there is a threat in the future, such as the possibility of Iraq producing chemical and biological weapons and selling them to terrorists.

If we do go to war, Boettcher said, it will likely be an urban war. In training exercises for this kind of war, it is reported that one in four of the troops are killed. If the Iraqi troops do take to the streets of Baghdad, one strategy would be to just encircle the city and wait the war out.

COOKING

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sauses.

Once all the cooking and taste testing is finished, the club has to discuss business matters. "We discuss the club and what we need to do next," Brizzolara said.

This club offers a fun way for students to try out their cooking skills and also learn new skills, but the club is also important for other reasons.

"I think there is a great wealth of knowledge here at University Dining that is untapped. People at this age have relatively little or no experience at cooking, yet they will soon be out on their own. Our country is full of obesity because of our diets and the food choices people make," Brizzolara said.

So, how does the cooking club help students face these problems and learn to cook for themselves?

The club opens up opportunities for students to play a more active role in their individual diets.

"This club is an opening for someone to learn how to cook and take the mystery out of cooking, thus enabling them to have more of a control of [his or her] diet and food choices," Brizzolara said.

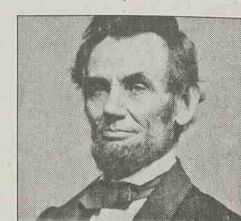
Brizzolara also like that it gives him a chance to work with the students who eat day in and day out at the dining facilities on campus, particularly the dining halls.

"This is also a way to share that knowledge and have direct contact with the students who are our customers," Brizzolara said.

The club is currently open to any student.

"We are still in the formulative process right now, so anyone who is interested can attend the subjects they find interesting. If it continues to grow, at some point it will need to be a more structured environment," Brizzolara said.

Currently, the club has 30 members and meets twice a month in Talley Student Center.



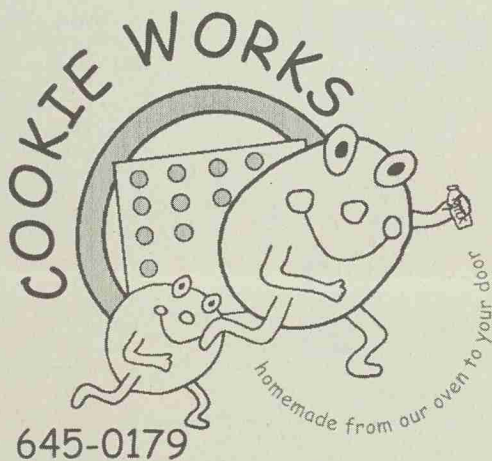
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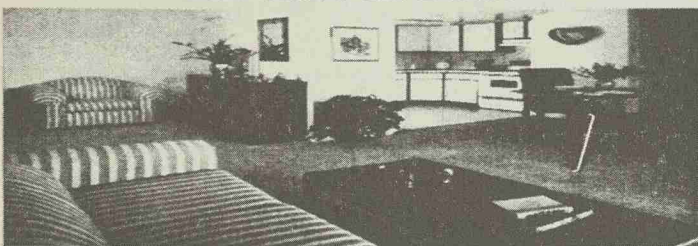
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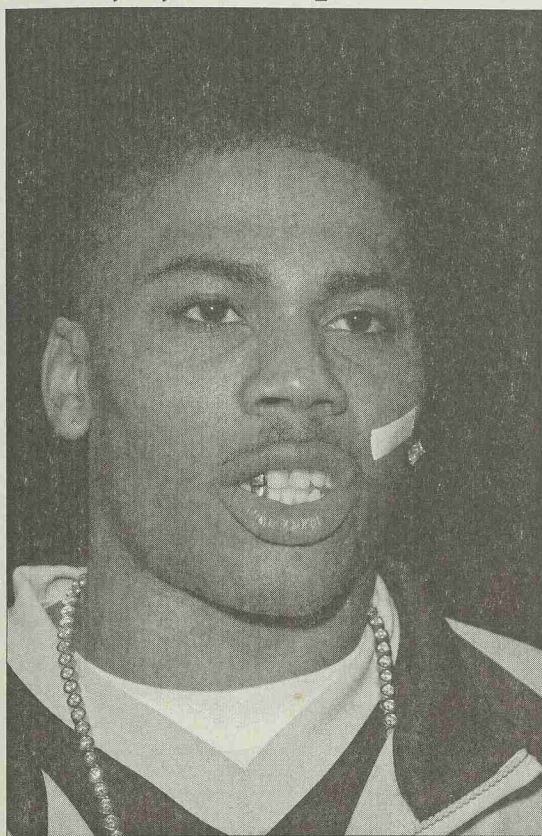
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PERSISTENCE

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Why your picks didn't make this list



Grayson Currin
Senior Staff Writer

There is something intrinsically wrong with doing albums-of-the-year lists. Deserving records get left off, or, worse yet, some great records are never heard. Readers complain because their album of the year didn't make it. More still gripe that many of the bands on the list are "complete crap" or "too obscure to really matter." And, because of that, there is actually something intrinsically right about albums-of-the-year lists.

It's like arguing with a wall — no one could ever win and, at many points, the argument seems as frivolous and as meaningless as all the "who makes the better James Bond" arguments one could ever have. But it's fun, it's stimulating and it's inherently interesting for any music lover.

And so, in lieu of a customary worst-albums-of-the-year list as the incumbent follow-up to last week's best of list, I give you a list of albums submitted in our CD competition giveaway that failed to make the cut.

This is not equivalent to a worst of list in any way. In fact, some of these made early drafts of the list or made honorable mentions. But, in the end, they all pale in comparison to anything that was left standing in the top 30.

Avril Lavigne, "Let Go" Come on, people! The name of this contest was "30 Albums Better than Avril CD Giveaway." You could have picked any album by any artist (well, except Menudo and that Jesse Camp kid) and had a much better chance. For Joe Strummer's sake, why would this imp of a punk-rock poser make this list? Overproduced garbage need not apply — a point which segues nicely into the next records ...

Kenny Chesney "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems"/Tim McGraw, "Tim McGraw & The Dancehall Doctors" On a Thanksgiving trip to South Carolina, I was

once trapped inside a car listening to Tim McGraw for three hours. I owe my life to child safety locks; yes, I tried to jump out. With a cover of the rock epic "Tiny Dancer" and a collection of synthetic singles, the record — just like Kenny Chesney's blandly written and poorly-played Nashville farce — is as uninspired and unoriginal as Faith Hill with hubby Tim in between the sheets listening to...

Santana, "Shaman" I once thought Santana was a guitar god. Now, after hearing the lifeless overproduction that scarily resembles that of label mate Avril, I know that Santana was once indeed a guitar god.

His playing here, however, is downright insipid and repetitive. You have to wonder if, at some point, Santana simply ran out of licks and added the same over-ornamented track to the bridge of each song. "Supernatural" was fun, but "Shaman" is just sad. Harness the spirits and find better writers, Mr. Carlos. Until then, there is always ...

Ben Kweller, "Sha Sha" This fun, often-brilliant release would have easily made a Top 50 list, but Kweller — still recovering from his young, corporate rock Radish days — always seems to be tottering on the brink of a brilliant record. Just as he gets to that point, though, he falls just short, disappointingly overexploiting a combination of hi-tech studio tricks and lo-fi recording techniques.

Maturity may be lacking, but talent is at an obvious maximum. Expect more from Kweller. He certainly schools Avril, and — rumor has it — he can even pronounce "David Bowie." He's young, vibrant and full of seemingly genius songwriting ideas, unlike ...

Dave Matthews Band, "Busted Stuff" and "Live at Folsom Field" In some cases, maturity may not be such a blessing. Though Matthews offers some of his most crafty and relevant lyrics in years, he seems to be mov-

ing too comfortably with the all-star band that his tunes have always depended on for life. Live, the jams seem stale and tired, shortened to the point of Jerry's disapproval and less funky than anything anyone from New Orleans gives a damn about.

The "Busted Stuff" work, renewed from the fabled sessions done in 2000 with Steve Lillywhite, sounds similarly trite, resulting in minimal instrumental explosions and sagging melodies dulled by their own flat production. It looks like Dave and the boys need some youth from ...

Nickel Creek, "This Side" This stands as a beautiful record at points that, ultimately, cannot grapple with a central problem. Play the bluegrass, and play it well. Make me happy. Play the bluegrass, and make it brilliantly accessible and pop faithful. Make me happier. Produce a sophomore effort rooted in that same melodic bluegrass but try to show the teeth of maturity by throwing in conspicuously maladjusted college rock tricks while taking some of the raw acoustic bravado away from your previous work?

Make me very sad. Though the youthgrass trio's follow-up to their 2000 debut is a fine record by anyone's standards, their hopes to head slightly towards rock and starry-eyed pop ballads sound slightly strained and pretentious at points. But for real rock copycats ...

The Soundtrack of Our Lives, "Behind The Music" For a couple of guys from Sweden trying to make no-frills rock n' roll, Soundtrack of Our Lives have never sounded like they were trying to impress anyone by being the Stones, Stooges or Beatles.

Until now. "Behind the Music" is a blistering rock n' roll effort, crafted from strong-armed melodies and some of the best playing in recent memory, but it would

See THE LIST page 6

Terror-ific television

Tim Coffield
Staff Writer

I invested two hours Monday night in the terror-proofing of myself and my esteemed pets (rabbit-dog Jeff and snake Eddie) with duct tape, head to toe. When our government speaks, we listen. We figured the excellent terror-protection benefits far outweighed the stickiness and ensuing difficulties with bodily functions. Price you pay, we figured.

Meanwhile, we were sufficiently privileged to view the grand finale of a television show called, I believe, "Joe the Millionaire." It stars a strikingly Neanderthalish young man with curly hair and a devilishly handsome butt-chin who — and we really dig this — lied to a whole heap of girls whom he was courting that he was filthy rich. He told them all that he had \$50 million.

I was more than a tad surprised at the quantity and caliber of his harem. I mean, I've tried this approach on several occasions, and with significantly smaller fictitious bank accounts, and on significantly lesser-caliber women, but it's never worked. It made me wish that I too had a pronounced butt-chin.

The network pulled out all the stops to back Joe's fib. He even had this stuffy Irish butler playing along and a fancy castle in which to reside, paid for by the show.

I finished wrapping Jeff in the fibrous tape, complete with little eye-holes, and marveled at my work. He looked like a lumpy silver sausage. I tethered him to a table and started wrapping Eddie, reflecting all the while on Joe, his hussies and their show.

In the tradition of reality television grand finales, Joe had cut all his girls loose except for two, one of whom he had to "choose." He also had to own up and reveal his true (dirt-poor) nature. This is where we had a little problem with Joe's decision-making skills. If we were posing as millionaires, we would not limit ourselves in this manner. We are confident we could recruit a whole gang of money-hungry polygamist hussies to move in with us.

The whole concept reminded us of a certain promiscuous and attention-starved girl we know. She used to tell all the guys she was dating that she was on birth control. Later, after several intimate weeks, she would reveal that in fact, she had lied, had actually never been on birth

control and was, in fact, probably pregnant. Then she would eagerly suggest marriage. No one ever was really willing to marry her, but she did elicit many great reactions. Kind of like Joe's approach, except inverted.

I completed the duct-taping of Eddie and discovered that he had lost all motor skills as a result. I also realized that I had neglected to make little eye-holes for him. But hey, as I explained to the hapless reptile, being immobile and blind is far better than being harmed by the impending biochemical attack. I paused dramatically to see if a biochemical bomb would arrive on cue. It did not.

We were touched by the genuine emotion in the faces of the final two hussies. We were never aware of the extent to which dollars could secure affection. I mean, I paid my prom date for her time, but my mom says lots of guys do that. Besides, I am certain my date never got that look these girls did. When Joe spoke, their eyes clung to him like static-y silk shorts.

I did not doubt for a second that they loved him. There are certainly less-worth reasons to fall in love than the prospect of financial security. But it was Joe I was concerned about. For him, this

whole show amounted to little more than glorified prostitution, and he knew it. In making his decision, he needed to look beyond the immediate circumstances to find the right woman for him. He needed to find some sort of common ground, a strong base on which to build a relationship, to foster his love. What possibly could a poor construction worker have in common with glittered-up gold-diggers?

After 12 rolls, I finished duct-taping myself. I was tightly wound. So tight, in fact, that I could not sit down. I kind of leaned against the wall. We were all completely terror-proof. We sighed, relieved. The Defense Department would be proud. We watched Joe make his decision in our sticky silvery safety.

He chose the brown-haired girl. She had a pronounced butt-chin much like his own. It was sweet, really. He had found their common ground.

Now, if Joe really cares about this cat, he will provide her with her own terror-proof duct-tape suit. If only he can afford it.

Mail Tim: tlcoffie@unity.ncsu.edu. Pay only postage.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY

A special presentation of "The Grey Automobile" will be held in the Campus Cinema at 8 p.m. Thomas McDonald will be on hand for the live performance.

Jupiter Coyote returns to the Lincoln Theatre with local acoustic rockers the Brooks Wood Band opening. Yasmine White is slated to play first.

Steve Earl plays at The Ritz. Garrison Starr opens.

Jimbo Mathus brings his Knocked Down Society to Kings Barcade for a show with The Countdown Quartet.

Alli with an I plays at Go! with Madcap, Points West and Johnny Clash Transplant all in support.

Perpetual Groove brings the jam to the Pour House as Danny Hutchens of Bloodkin opens.

Pierce Pettis plays at the Six String Café in Cary with Amy Speace opening.

FRIDAY

"The Ring" will play at 6:30 and 11 p.m. in the Campus Cinema.

"Spirited Away" will play in the Campus Cinema at 8:45 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be presented by University Theatre at 8 p.m. in Stewart Theatre.

Hayseed Dixie plays the Lincoln Theatre for a set of AC/DC and 80s rock covers. Kickin' Grass will also be on hand.

Polvo reunites in part for a show at Kings Barcade. Transportation and Mullet Revolta also play.

SPITTLEFEST is at the Brewery.

Live acoustic phenomenon Jimmy Landry plays at the Six String Café.

"The Life of David Gale," "Gods and Generals," "Old School" and "Dark Blue" all open in theatres.

SATURDAY

"The Ring" will play at 6:30 p.m., 8:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. in the Campus Cinema.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be presented at 8 p.m. in Stewart Theatre.

Fuz brings its show to the Lincoln along with opener the Hadley Cockrell Band.

NARAL presents its benefit concert featuring Jett Rink and Little Miss Messy at the Cat's Cradle.

Graham Fry of Confessor and friends play Kings as Tres Hombres, a tribute to ZZ Top. The Cartridge Family will also be on hand.

Traditionally flavored youthgrass troubadours the Steep Canyon Rangers will play at the Pour House.

Robbin Thompson performs at the Six String.

SUNDAY

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be presented by University Theatre at 3 p.m. in Stewart Theatre.

"Spirited Away" will play in the Campus Cinema at 7 p.m.

Local rock talent the Nicofiends, The Dandy Lions and Childred all play the Lincoln.

The Matt Barranti Band brings the blues-led rock to the Pour House for a free show.

MONDAY

Emerging guitar-pop act Graham Colton plays at the Cat's Cradle with kindred spirits Jonasay opening.

Shanks plays a free set at the Pour House.

TUESDAY

The first night of the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band Invitational will be held in the Ballroom of Talley Student Center at 7 p.m.

Soul Dojo, Inc. presents Spirit of '94 including Kaze AK Splendor at Go!

The Scott Jeffrey's Band will bring the free tunes to the Pour House with its set.

WEDNESDAY

Utah!, Kahoots and Skybolt Six all play at Kings.

The b-Sides play a show at Cat's Cradle with Sweet Potatoes, Eyes to Space and Boo!

Splint (Yes, they do cover Slint.) play at Go!

N.C. State bluegrass band Big Fat Gap will bring traditional 'grass to the Pour House.

Bluegrass act Jackass Flats plays at the Six String.

ONGOING

The Gallery of Art and Design presents The Jewelry of Robert Ebendorf: A Retrospective of Forty Years until March 9.

The Gallery of Art and Design presents Common Ground: Cultural Diversities from the Permanent Collection until March 9.

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Exceptional athletes

Universities across the country allow special provisions to admit students with special talents (i.e. athletic ability) to their school. For years, students admitted under these exceptions have been disclosed. The News & Observer reported last week that a policy N.C. State Chancellor Marye Ann Fox enacted this summer allows the number of these exceptions to remain undisclosed. If the university wants to maintain a balance between its commitment to academic integrity and athletic excellence — which it does and should — this decision is a grievous mistake.

NCSU officials say that it's a matter of practicality: UNC-CH changed the way they defined these "exceptional" cases, giving them zero cases to report this year. Disclosing NCSU's exceptions would tarnish the university's public image.

Deciding not to disclose these statistics looks even worse. As fans and students, it's all too easy for us to turn our heads to academic violations when we win a big game. Without disclosing this information, doing so would be come even easier.

Athletes who don't meet the regular academic standards for admission should have a role in the university. The university serves a different purpose for different students. Most students admitted under these exceptions are football players. To some students, football may just be a way to get out of the inner city or leave a small rural town. Though many athletes are not graduating — only 42 percent from the class of 1992 graduated by the spring of 2002 — the experience the nongraduates gained on a college campus is invaluable.

NCSU and its conference, the ACC, set their academic standards higher than the

minimum the NCAA requires. This must remain even though it may make recruiting tougher. According to The N&O, NCSU shows more exceptions than any other UNC-System school. Appalachian State, UNC-Asheville and UNC Greensboro have four, two and one, respectively. Semantics are part of the problem. UNC-CH solved their "problem" by simply changing the nomenclature of "exceptional" students. Different schools have different standards. The UNC System needs to standardize the criteria used to define these exceptions and the process used to disclose them.

Since this story broke, some critics of NCSU have attacked the abysmal graduation rate among athletes. The university must select carefully, on a case-by-case basis, the students admitted as exceptions and ensure that the resources and environment conducive to graduation exist. Beyond that, the responsibility lies with the student. Athlete graduation rates will never be as high as those for non-athletes, but that doesn't mean NCSU can't and shouldn't do better than 42 percent.

NCSU uses an equation based on SAT score, high school GPA and class rank to come up with a prediction of the student's freshman GPA. Students who have a predicted GPA below 1.8 out of 4.0 are considered exceptions. If anything, this is too lenient.

Further, NCSU last year admitted two athletes whose high school GPAs were less than a 2.0. This is not acceptable. Chancellor Fox and NCSU have some thinking to do about the future of student athletes at NCSU. They must develop a clear, concise and publicly divulged plan for success.



A trans-Atlantic rift



Andrew Dugan
Staff Columnist

a lengthy speech for war against Iraq, complete with audio tapes of Iraqi soldiers up to no good and satellite pictures of weapons factories, and is rewarded with little more than the metaphorical tumbleweed brushing across the room.

Powell's failure to convert more cautious (or dovish, if you prefer) nations into eager warriors is certainly a setback for an administration with hopes of invading Iraq. More importantly, it is becoming increasingly clear Bush will have to concede on the issue of timing if he wants a second resolution authorizing military force passed by the U.N. Security Council. If Bush's rhetoric is any indication of his patience, then the administration will forego this step entirely.

Despite a healthy amount of countries that back U.S. action, if Bush sends troops into Baghdad without U.N. consent, the effort may be unilateral. As proved over the last weekend, a legion of eligible voters opposes military action at home and abroad. This is true in the case of Italy, Spain and even Great Britain, where polls estimate the opposition to the war to be well over 50 percent — sometimes even over 80.

No democratic government will ever go against the will of such a large percentage of its population, lest it cease to be the government come election day.

Tony Blair, Britain's prime minister, has awoken to this grim fact and toned down his insistence that war must happen in "weeks, not months." Expect many European leaders to follow suit.

The critical eye turns to Bush. War may have a good amount of support in this country but unilateral action does not. Bush must have allies — even if the coalition consists of countries most Americans have never heard of — or he may have a rough time two November from now.

Whether he likes it or not, Bush must provide more evidence of Hussein's treachery (simply relying on his well-publicized evil personality will not help), and it must be compelling. Pictures of weapons factories may help support a case that Hussein has many weapons, but they cannot be the center of the claim.

Bush should drop the al-Qaeda link. The allegation is suspect at best and a desperate attempt to rally universal support at worst. The capital of terrorism is not in Iraq — even Bush knows it. Bush's credibility and reputation are on the line by arguing bin Laden and Hussein are in bed, even with a video that features bin Laden condemning the leader of Iraq. A case for war cannot be based on sensationalist material that — although invoking fear and a new element of urgency — has no real basis. This only insults the intelligence of unsure allies.

It is still unclear if taking all these steps to build a stronger and more convincing case against Iraq will result in a new Security Council resolution, or even garnish more support for Bush across Europe. France, who was become the leader of the anti-war countries, is now enjoy-

ing a sudden reemergence of international power for becoming the first Western democracy to come out of the Washington protective shell and resist American foreign intentions.

Germany's leader, Chancellor Schroeder, was elected almost primarily on his anti-American platform, and Russia has much to lose by a conquered Iraq since Iraq owes Russia a handsome sum of money.

These reasons for opposing war may seem a bit selfish. And in the most part, they are. But as Americans view the Europeans for being selfish and ungrateful, the Europeans have similar feelings. This rush to Iraq being promoted by Washington isn't for a sense of world security or an extension of the war on terror but for Bush to dish out some revenge to Hussein or to control the vast oil fields of Iraq.

These pessimistic thoughts illuminate the rift now forming between America and Europe. Bush must ponder long and hard before he decides whether he can comfortably wage war with such a division in the trans-Atlantic alliance — the closest and most benefited alliance ever conceived. Bush may find his war against a pariah nation will not only diminish world security by causing pandemonium in the tinderbox of the globe — the Middle East — but may cause America to become the newest pariah state.

Andrew would catch the first trans-Atlantic flight, but his plans were delayed when flights were cancelled across the North. You can reach him at abdugan@unity.ncsu.edu.

Future of NATO secure with Turkey defense

Staff Editorial
The Collegiate Times
Virginia Tech

(U-WIRE)
BLACKSBURG, Va. — Given the inevitability of war in Iraq,

Turkey is in the greatest danger of an attack if allied forces were to invade its neighbor to the south. Although NATO made the decision to fortify Turkey on Sunday, France, Germany and Belgium have been reluctant to begin planning to fortify Turkey with defenses against a possible attack from Iraq.

The fundamental role of NATO is to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by deterring and defending against any threat of aggression toward any of them. Therefore, it is imperative to honor our treaties with Turkey and provide defense from possible Iraqi aggression.

Some see the move to defend Turkey as a sign of advancing the war efforts against Iraq, particularly the French. Though the defense planning is resulting from

military build-up in the Persian Gulf, it is not the reasoning behind defending Turkey.

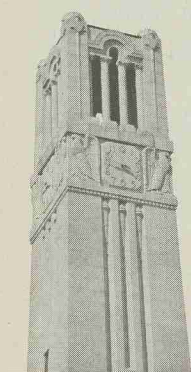
As a NATO ally, it is the organization's role to honor the treaty and provide defense when there is a possible threat to Turkey's security and stability. The move to honor the treaty is not a move for war. In fact, Germany, who opposes war, has offered to send Patriot missiles for the defense of Turkey.

Defense planning is just that — the planning is not an offensive move against Iraq but the fulfillment of an obligation to an ally. It is important that NATO shows signs of solidarity by honoring Turkey's defense needs.

Coming to the aid of our allies will prove vital in the fight against terror and threats posed by Iraq and North Korea. The focus for NATO is defense, and in order for the treaty to work, members must be ready to defend allies without holding back, proclaiming offensive motives for mobilization.

TECHNICIAN Jerry Moore • Matthew Pelland

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Bush ignores America



Ben Kraudel
Staff Columnist

going to decide policy based on a focus group? The role of a leader is to decide policy based upon the security — in this case — security of the people," said Bush. "Democracy is a beautiful thing, and that people are allowed to express their opinion ... Some in the world don't view Saddam Hussein as a risk to peace; I respectfully disagree."

Bush sounds completely ignorant of the basis for the American government. Voices of millions of people cannot be flippantly ignored when stakes are this high. When key policy advisors and members of the government are outspoken about their hesitance, it is not to be ignored because the president "re-

spectfully disagrees."

When discussing his duty to keep America safe, Bush said, "I owe it to the American people to secure this country. I will do so." Maybe others are terrified about Hussein, but I like to remember that for the past decade and longer, we've gone without incident or Iraqi invasion of America. The president is not securing America; he's attempting to secure his name as the man under whom Hussein crumbled.

Let's be honest. What else does Bush have to be remembered for? Everyone remembers John Adams as one of the founding fathers. Who remembers what was special about John Quincy Adams? Right, he was John Adams' son ... and history repeats itself. Bush's legacy is being built on his war with terror.

Sept. 11, 2001, is going to be remembered, but now it is beginning to look like Osama bin Laden may get the better of America. He's still out there. Al-Qaeda is active. Bush needs a definitive win, and he's aiming at Iraq. OK, we get it.

The president cannot get in front of television cameras and hundreds of thousands of protesters and say he's going to war no matter what. That isn't democracy. America was built by men who wanted the government to listen to the people, to represent the people — not tell them the government knows better what's for their own good. America was built in hopes of getting away from the government ignoring the presence of the people and treating them like sheep.

Bush wasn't in the mood for baby steps, saying, "Hopefully, Saddam Hussein will disarm. If he chooses not to disarm, as I have been saying for a long time, we will lead a coalition of the willing to disarm him." I would like someone to show me the willing. I have yet to see any sort of American unified support like we've seen in the other wars we successfully fought. Wars that had the support of the American people, we won. Military actions that lacked that support turned out to be catastrophes, and as soon as conscription becomes a real pos-

See KRAUDEL page 5

Voices of millions of people cannot be flippantly ignored when stakes are this high.

Time to start stockpiling



Holly Bezant
Staff Columnist

Powell made his case to the United Nations about the United States' stance against Iraq. This is not something to be ignorant of or ignore. Regardless of whether you believe we will be attacked or that the attack on Iraq is wrong, you should probably heed the warning to some extent.

Code Orange is one step below the most severe level, which is Code Red. Under Code Orange, it

is suggested we communicate with each other and our children about possible terrorist attacks, to give blood if the need for it is expressed by the various blood banks and to start getting safety shelter materials together.

Two weeks ago, federal homeland security officials provided a detailed list of what people should do and have. Included on that list is stockpiling duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal off windows and vents in case of a chemical attack. In addition to that list, the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety issued an advisory urging residents to keep emergency supplies handy, such as first aid kits and a week's supply of water.

While officials encourage people to take action and be prepared for some sort of disruption, they

also urge people to assume nothing is going to happen and to not live in fear. Some would assert preparing for an attack to any extent is a level of paranoia, but that would be like saying that you are living in constant fear of getting frostbitten if you wear winter clothing during the cold weather.

While growing up, my mom always encouraged us to prepare for anything. As a Christian, I believe that Jesus will come at any moment and that we need to be ready for the signs that precede him, such as possible nuclear war and famine (depending on how you interpret the Bible). So, I

don't mind having an extra reason to make me actually take heed and prepare.

There is a nationwide need for blood, so that aspect of Code Orange has already been going on for a while. We were attacked by terrorists, and children asked what was happening, thus it was explained to them. The only real difference between then and now is that we are now

*Don't live in fear,
don't worry your days
away, but do prepare.*

asked to stockpile basic needs and have emergency routes in place, along with some safety shelter materials.

It is important for us to always be prepared — just as preventive measures, like exercising to low-

er the risk of heart attack. It never hurts to have a few gallons of water stored away in case even smaller events happen, such as getting water cut off. First-aid kits are always beneficial, so why not have a few extra? Power could be cut off, and then you might find those extra batteries and kerosene heater pretty helpful. As for emergency evacuation plans, they should have already been made in case we experience any sort of natural disaster. So things are not really that much different with Code Orange.

I have read a couple of editorials in other sources that scoff Code Orange as the "new Iraq war label." I believe, however, it is wise to pay heed to federal officials' warnings and advice. While everyone makes mistakes — and while it may not seem like chem-

ical or biological warfare is too imminent — there is always a slight possibility. It is possible that Hussein, terrorists or someone will have something dangerous and use it. After Sept. 11, 2001, it always helps to be aware of your surroundings, if you weren't beforehand.

Basically, don't live in fear, don't worry your days away — but do prepare. Go and buy water and nonperishable foods that will last a while and be able to eat without cooking. Buy batteries, duct tape, plastic sheeting, flashlight(s), candles and other items to suit your needs. It can't hurt, and it could end up saving your life.

Holly believes we are not attacking Iraq for the oil. E-mail her at paz_rata@yahoo.com with your comments and questions.

Wedding bells can wait

Bonnie Chau
Daily Bruin
UCLA

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — The other night, two female friends and three male friends came to visit. Somehow our conversation became three separate conversations between guy-and-girl pairs.

After the guys left, one of my friends asked, "So what were you talking about?"

I laughed and said, "Marriage." It turns out my friends were talking about marriage, too. We started laughing, but it was rather shocking since I don't consider my friends or myself marriage-hungry types.

Back in high school, something about marriage would come up once in a while. Around the time "My Best Friend's Wedding" came out, one of my friends decided

we should all get back-up husbands whom we agreed we would marry if neither was married by age 30.

Now that we're in college, there's the occasional, "Oh my God, did you hear so-and-so from high school is getting maaaarried?" As if marriage is a cool disease only responsible, mature individuals get.

At the sound of such gushing, my response is usually to ask if this particular so-and-so is Mormon or if so-and-so is pregnant.

But the conversation I had been having with my guy friend that night was kind of horrifying. He likes to ask me if I've found a husband yet every time he sees me, and what's worse, his response to my dilemma of whether or not to graduate this year was, "But, you haven't found a husband yet."

On this night, he was going on

and on about how everyone meets his or her future spouse in college, how his own parents met in college, how nobody ever meets anyone from work or in bars or in random places — how it has to happen in college!

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, most recent data show the median age at first marriage to be 24 for women and 25.9 for men.

I wonder, do these 24-year-old women and almost 26-year-old men know the NCHS also reports that 43 percent of first marriages break up within the first 15 years?

The same study reassures us the duration of marriage is directly correlated with the age of the woman at first marriage. The longer you wait to get married, the longer your marriage is likely to last.

Biological clocks are ticking away. Perhaps this means the best way to go is to have kids when you will and put marriage off for as long as possible. Yeeahh.

Let's we think NCHS has not been thorough studies, a recent report claims "unmarried co-habitations" are more unstable than marriages. Where the probability of a first marriage ending in five years is 20 percent, the probability of an unmarried co-habitation ending in five years is 49 percent.

College life isn't the whole world. Take a close look at that less-than-marriage-material guy or girl sitting next to you right now and decide for yourself. Maybe we should wait before we jump the marriage bandwagon.

There are so better things to do in college than husband or wife hunting.

KRAUDEL

continued from page 4

sibility, the supporters of this war are going to be far fewer and much farther between.

On the whole, the world doesn't want this war. At home, a lot of Americans don't want this war. I appreciate other Americans think it's high time we got this over with, but it's time we ana-

lyze the approach we're taking to solve this problem. America is not about government making decisions for the people; it works vice versa. Fighting without a unified people is asking for trouble.

Ben can't wait to hear from the College Republicans on this one. Less angry people can catch him at bkraude@unity.ncsu.edu. The CRs can try takeavalium.com.

CAMPUS FORUM

The necessity of Black History Month

As director of the NCSU African American Cultural Center, I am frequently asked to comment on the relevance of Black History Month. I was recently interviewed by a Technician reporter for an article that subsequently appeared in the Feb. 12 issue. The reporter gave a fair and accurate rendering of our conversations, and I'd like to commend Ms. Litsas on her article.

While Ms. Litsas' article did not cover everything we discussed, I would like to address one omission from the article that I feel is most compelling. This issue is particularly compelling when addressing questions raised by at least one N.C. State student in an e-mail to me asking, "How can I have a Black History Month?" and "Why not have an ethnic minority month?" for other groups, and "Wasn't this reverse racism?" and "Imagine if there were a white history month." No, Black History Month isn't racist; the conditions that prevailed when the first African Americans arrived at NCSU are an example of racism.

One group of people who frequently goes unrecognized in our discussions of who's who among African Americans at NCSU is the tremendous group of pioneers on this campus in areas such as housekeeping, landscaping and physical plant technicians. These champions must be saluted for their preliminary stance here when black people were openly despised and scorned by white people. They picked up trash thrown around by white students while their own children were not allowed to drop even a crumb at home. They suffered countless instances of harassment from all whom they served. So, in my heart, I must pay tribute to the first African Americans on this campus, and those who continue to serve in such positions. These persons embody the abid-

ing purpose of studying black history, and our progeny must know their story as well.

Also, as a result of the article, I was visited by a former administrator who was disturbed by one statement in the article describing the purposeful segregation of African American students in one dormitory. After having personal dialogue with someone who had obviously pioneered on this campus in hiring African American staff throughout his division, we determined that the situation described in the article was prior to his tenure. We both learned something through our dialogue and review of history. We were not afraid to go back to a painful point in our mutual history to achieve understanding and respect. Studying black history will help us all in our quest for truth.

Knowledge of history is relevant to an understanding of the world we live in and can be a

guide in directing our actions towards moral and progressive social development. If we are unaware, we perish.

To someone who asks why do I have Black History Month, I reply, I do not have Black History Month; we (in the United States) have Black History Month — because it is necessary. It is necessary for me and for anyone like me; that is a natural consequence of my humanity. It is necessary for anyone who comes into contact with me, in the pursuit of his or her own humanity. It is especially necessary for anyone who would need to ask such a question, because as long as such a question is raised, the need for a designated Black History Month will continue to exist. As for other underrepresented groups who reside in this country, there should equally be no repression of their history and their contributions to this country's progress.

As for white history, it seems to me that it is celebrated in most every way, most every day. If you do not understand this, then you need only to observe these examples of white history and culture: pictures along the walls in Holladay Hall and most NCSU departments, tel-lie-vision, commerce-ya'lls, byouty standards, white-story classes, etc. When the black story (and by extension all other racial or ethnic groups) is as celebrated as the white story, there will no longer be a need for a designated Black History Month, for it will be as natural as every day. Until such time, I will celebrate Black History Month (as I personally celebrate every day) — because it is necessary.

Dr. M. Iyailu Moses
Director
African American Cultural Center

FREE BEER*



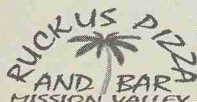
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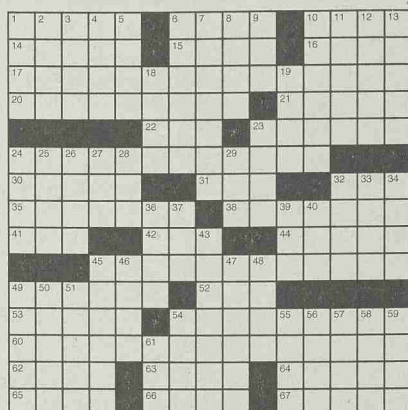
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By John Underwood
New York, NY

2/20/03

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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THE LIST

continued from page 3

have been infinitely better if it was an announced compilation. Over the course of 15 well-written, well-played songs that all sound familiar from some "only available on TV" CD commercial, these guys manage to rip off all of the rock luminaries: Queen, Zeppelin, Floyd, The Eagles, The Doors, The Clash, Buddy Holly, Tom Petty and Bob Dylan. Hey, at least they're equal opportunity imitators. And once again in the "I really have something to prove" category ...

The Streets, "Original Pirate Material"

Yes, it truly is as scary as it sounds. Though The Streets' emcee Mike Skinner makes compelling cases for the legalization of weed ("The Irony of It

All") and for bypassing the depression of an unfaithfully departed bird or of liquid funds ("Stay Positive"), Skinner's work on this record often causes one to think that Frodo Baggins bustin' a phat rhyme over a b—— beat may actually sound much better.

Rapping about birds, blokes, geezers, brandy and Playstations over frighteningly simple, repetitive beats, Skinner sounds like a sweet-faced cherub with a recently potty-mouth rather than a street-set Briton who considers himself "real." Does mediocre, white-guy British rap over boring hooks sound out of place? Then so should ...

Anything released in 2001 or earlier Yes, kids, this includes John Mayer's "Room for Squares," Jack Johnson's "Brushfire Fairytales," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," AC/DC's "Back in Black" and,

certainly, anything released — ever — by Guns N' Roses. The 2002 portion of the list and contest are essential. This, thank God, isn't the Grammys. And on that note, live albums, re-issues, annoying compilations of boy bands standing on their last leg (and, incidentally, last single) and any title featuring the words "Now" and "music!" were immediately disqualified. Speaking of old school ... **Jurassic 5, "Power in Numbers"** The rap sextet that has taken it underground for several years and re-emerged from Los Angeles with adventurous, ultramelodic hip-hop has finally landed upon the first bump in their self-announced quest for "quality control." That bump is mannerism. With "Power in Numbers," DJ Nu-Mark and Cut Chemist try to keep production and sampling prominence to a minimum while disappointingly keeping the unit's long-standing

commitment to the old-school elements. Many of the trailblazing, tongue-terrifying rhymes are captivating, twisting through puns and social commentary with almost unparalleled energy (see The Roots and Sage Francis), but the total dependence on old-school skill makes the disc a tring, jumbled listen lacking flow and the rump-shaking ramifications of their earlier work. Come on, J5, put the fun back in your retro-style function! Which brings us to those fun bastions of naughty rap ...

Nelly "Nellyville" / Eminem "The Eminem Show" "Welcome to Lockupville, home of rap stars with mega-talent, bad mouths, bad attitudes and images bigger than their record sales!" So you want egotistical rap music based around unbelievably and undeniably catchy hooks that would

make John Tesh sound brilliant? Then you're in the right place. With a hip-hop aficionado like Ghassan Hamra sitting on the panel for this list, how could you expect these records to make it?

No. They didn't, and they shouldn't have. Nelly, get rid of the Band-Aid. Eminem, love your mom. Guys, get real.

Thank you all for submitting lists in this year's contest. Thank you even more for reading this article. Thank you yet again for listening to music and for caring so passionately for it (or at least about 30 free CDs). Now, excuse me, but I must go prevent my roommate from playing that "Red Ragtop" song (regrettably enough, the best track on the Tim McGraw effort named above) yet again.

HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black/Tribune Media Services

Aries
March 21-April 19
Today is a 7. They say opposites attract. What do you think? A person who may be your opposite now seems quite compelling.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Today is a 7. Is your job getting easier, or are you getting smarter? Some of both. Continue to make changes for the better.

Gemini
May 21-June 21
Today is a 6. Your career will become more important soon, but you can spend tonight on romance. Get well rested in case you have extra work tomorrow.

Cancer
June 22-July 22
Today is a 6. Home is your favorite place to be, so make it even nicer. A new color and a little more work ought to do the trick.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22
Today is an 8. Your contribution to the conversation is keeping the others on track. Present options that they haven't thought about before.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Today is a 6. Your work should be getting easier as the money starts coming in. It had to happen eventually, and it isn't a moment too soon.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Today is an 8. You're naturally talented with words, but why not also play with color? Let your imagination run wild.

Scorpio
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Today is a 7. Wrap up a household project once and for all. At this point, perfection isn't as important as completion.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Today is a 6. You may need decorating tips, and you know just the person to call. You might be able to give the job away, which isn't a bad idea.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Today is a 6. Go ahead and ask for the money. Make an unreasonable request. You might not get it all, but then again, you might.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Today is a 9. Remember that window of opportunity that you've been hearing about? Look around. It could be open now.

Pisces
Feb. 19-March 20
Today is a 6. Financing you need for a household project is possible, so go ahead. Of course, you should look for a bargain but also get high quality.

Thursday Sports

Schedule
M. basketball @ Duke, 2/22, 4
W. basketball @ Clemson, 2/20, 7
Gymnastics @ New Hampshire 2/22
Wrestling @ Campbell, 2/20, 7

Scores
No games scheduled



TECHNICIAN

BASEBALL

Upcoming fantasy



Steve Thompson

I start to get excited every year around late February.

There's the inevitable college basketball frenzy, with some teams jockeying for tournament position (Wake Forest, Maryland and Duke) and others

just struggling to get into the tournament. (No comment.) But that's not what I'm talking about.

No, I'm one of those dorks who is looking forward to this year's fantasy baseball draft. I'm sure some of you out there have a disdain for fantasy sports, and that's OK. I'd advise you all to stop reading now.

Those that have continued reading know the fun of fantasy baseball — ridiculing of your friends, showing off your sports knowledge and foresight, finding a reason to pay attention to the first half of the baseball season, etc. Because we all take pride in doing, well, at least the first two of those, I'm going to let you in on my secret to drafting a solid team.

Now, I'm not one to brag, but my team last year could have taken the 1927 Yankees. It was that good. I have three rules that should lead you to a superior team. Heed my words, and then sit back and watch your team dominate.

(Note that I am well aware that I have now jinxed my entire draft and season by writing this column. Or perhaps I will get the Bill Simmons' reverse jinx now that I've brought that up. Hmmm ...)

Rule No. 1: Don't use a first-round pick to draft an old player

Sure Randy Johnson and his 20 wins and 300 strikeouts look attractive (the mullet, however — not so attractive). And I'm sure you want Barry Bonds and his 50 home runs and .350 average. Nope. Don't bite.

These players could have good years, but one day, the machinery is simply going to break down. You don't want this to happen after you've wasted a high pick on them. Go for younger, proven players with your first-round picks — ARod, Vlad, Soriano, Giambi, etc. These guys are far less risky and just as productive.

As a corollary to this rule, don't waste a high pick on a player with a history of injury problems. Todd Helton's back will cut 15-20 home runs from his slate, and I suspect he'll miss a good 20 games overall this year. Mike Piazza may be the best catcher available, but his knees aren't getting any younger. Steer clear early on.

Rule No. 2: Know when to draft relief pitchers

Last year, Mariano Rivera was drafted within the top three or four rounds in most drafts. He seemed a lock to get 40 saves (which he didn't get), and those who took him missed out on some big bats or solid pitching. Others who drafted Eric Gagne late in the game or picked him up off waivers got more saves plus the quality third rounder.

What's the lesson? Don't overvalue relievers. Pick up one or two when the "reliever run" comes in the sixth or seventh round and then forget about them until rounds 13 or 14. Late in the game, while everyone's taking bench bats who they'll drop three weeks into the season, you can take some borderline relievers who can get you some cheap saves.

Rule No. 3: Don't overvalue unproven players

Every year, some prospect or foreign player is touted as the next best thing. He put up big numbers in Triple-A ball or dominated the Bolivian leagues (as opposed to fading into Bolivian, a la Mike Tyson). You can expect those numbers to translate into major league success, right? Wrong.

For every Ichiro Suzuki, there is a Sean Burroughs. Occasionally, you'll find a player who can come up and contribute immediately at the major league level — but not often. Last year, Burroughs was touted as the "next George Brett" — a cannot-miss prospect. Well, he

See STEVE page 7

Gymnastics looks for first away victory

A high score in the meet against New Hampshire will enhance N.C. State's chances to qualify for regionals.

Ryan Reynolds
Staff Writer

A blizzard and more than two feet of snow in the Northeast will not stop the N.C. State gymnastics team from making the trip up to Durham, N.H., to compete in the first EAGL away meet of the season.

The Pack (9-3) has been nearly unstoppable at home this season but has struggled at meets away from Reynolds Coliseum. The team is hoping to change

that trend this weekend when it competes against the New Hampshire Wildcats.

State is coming off a victory over Utah State, William and Mary, and Rhode Island in the Hearts Invitational, which was held at Reynolds Coliseum. The team scored a 195.75, its second-highest total score of the season.

The road has not been as pleasant for the Pack. The team lost its first meet of the season at Central Michigan and fell at Auburn less than a month later, scoring two of its lowest team-point totals in both meets.

"We've gone into both away meets and had some problems in warm-ups," said head coach Mark Stevenson. "At Central

Michigan, we had two kids get dinged up and were not able to compete, so we had to go with a lineup that was short. It's hard to compete with four or five kids in an event compared to six for the other team. We haven't really had a full team on the road yet, but we've had full teams at home and done a good job."

State knows that having a great meet at New Hampshire is important for the team's confidence as well as putting up a good overall score.

"It's important that we go out and perform well," said Stevenson. "Whether we win or lose is not always the big concern for us, but the score that we get is a

See GYMNASTICS page 7



The gymnastics team has had success at home but is looking for a breakthrough on the road. Technician file photo

Track sprints to ACC championships

The N.C. State track and field team takes on the rest of the ACC in this weekend's indoor championships.

Todd Lion
Senior Staff Writer

The last weekend of the regular season for the indoor track and field teams has arrived.

The ACC championships will be held this Friday and Saturday at North Carolina's indoor track facility in the Eddie Smith Fieldhouse.

"We have some decent people in just about every event, and that's a little different than what we've had in the past," said assistant coach Gail Olsen. "In the past, we've been pretty heavy in a few events but have had to stick some goose-eggs in other events. That makes it really hard to do things like contend for a conference championship."

The Wolfpack men have a chance to score in almost every event at the conference championships.

"I think we'll do well in a number of events," said head coach Rollie Geiger. "We'll score in every area. We'll score in distance, middle distance, sprints, jumps and throws. That shows some balance in the program."

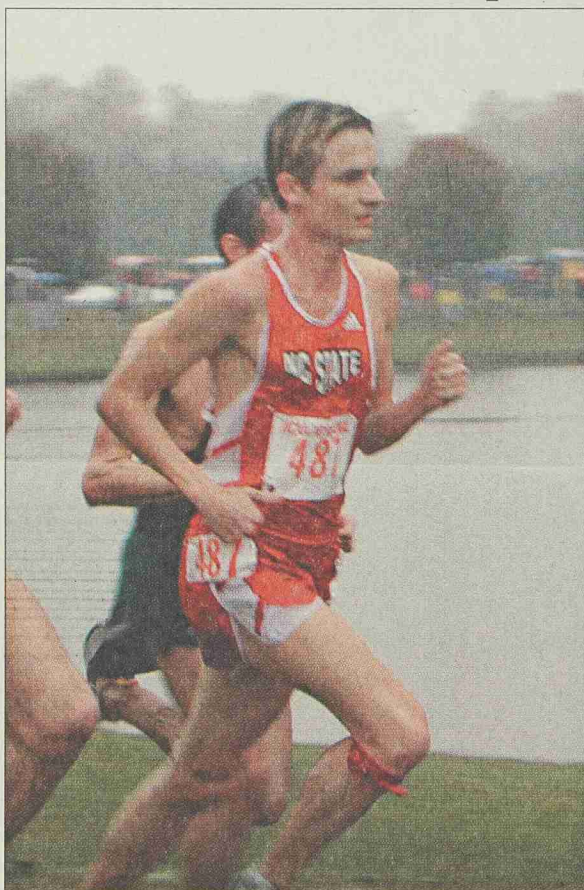
Senior David Patterson set a school record in the 5,000-meter run last weekend with a time of 13:56 and will compete in his signature event again this weekend.

"I'm going out there to win the 5,000 and the 3,000 [meter run]," Patterson said. "I don't see any good reason why I shouldn't be able to if I race well."

Devin Swann will join him in those two events.

Ricky Brookshire, Nick Mangum, David Christian, Jesse Rhodenbaugh and Kurtis Marlowe will fill up the spots in the mile and 3,000 and should be able score many points for the team.

"Obviously, Patterson seems to be on the top of his running after setting that school record in the 5,000," said Geiger. "Devin is nursing a sore leg, but hopefully, he'll be ready. If these guys are ready, then the distance events will be covered very



After setting a school record in the 5,000-meter run, David Patterson aims to win an ACC championship this weekend in Chapel Hill. Staff photo by Todd Lion

well."

Freshman Jesse Williams was one of the top two high jumpers in the nation as a senior in high school and is already competitive in the collegiate scene. He has the third-best mark in the conference heading into this weekend at 7-1.5.

"Jesse's a little inconsistent right now," said Olsen. "We made a couple of changes in the fall. Jesse's been to some big meets in his life, and judging from how he per-

forms at big meets, I think he'll do OK."

Fellow freshman Manny Lawson has also had an immediate impact on the conference. He leads the conference in the triple jump and has the fifth-best mark in the long jump.

"Manny has the right attitude," said Olsen. "He doesn't think he's going to lose, and that's the kind of attitude you like to have out there."

Lawson also had a top-10 mark in the

60-meter hurdles until this week, despite only running the race once.

Michael Hill and Jason Viera are also top-10 athletes in the triple jump. David Kessler, Eric Hoverstad and Justin Farmer are all ranked in the second, fourth and seventh places in the pole vault.

James Rowell and Randy Cass occupy the first two positions in the 35-pound weight throw, and Cass is also ranked in the shot put. Monterrio Adams is seeded second in the 400-meter dash, and Derrick High is a top-10 contender in the 200-meter dash.

The women's team is also very well rounded, with at least one State athlete in the top 10 in almost every event.

Felicia Fant and Ebony Foster are State's top two athletes in the short sprints. Fant is ranked in the 200-meter and 60-meter dashes, and Foster is a top-10 athlete in the 60 and the 200. Fant recently broke her own school record in the 60 and came close to the 200 record.

"Felicia has been running well," said Olsen. "The sprints will be really tough in the conference, but she's battling in there and should score for us."

The Wolfpack's distance program, the perennial strength of the team, will have a difficult time scoring points this weekend.

"Our strong area on the women's side is the distance events, but the ACC sent seven of its nine teams to nationals in cross country," said Geiger. "You can assume that each one of those seven teams has at least one really good distance runner, and when you consider that only eight people score in each race, that doesn't leave a lot of room for anything. In the women's 3,000, you have to run an incredible mark just to get in the fast section."

Multiple time All-ACC and All-American Kristin Price should spearhead the Pack's distance program in the 5,000 and 3,000.

"I'm not even going to think about time," said Price, the outdoor, 10,000-meter NCAA champion. "I'm just going out there to race."

Beth Fonner will join her in these events, and Diana Henderson and Josi Lauber will compete in the 5,000.

See TRACK page 7

Women face a big game at Littlejohn

The N.C. State women's basketball team travels to Tiger Town after a disappointing loss at Virginia last week.

Jon Page
Senior Staff Writer

It was several days ago, prior to practicing for a pivotal game at Clemson, that N.C. State women's basketball tri-captains Kaayla Chones, Terrah James and Nanna Rivers discussed the state of their season thus far.

State (10-13, 5-7 ACC) has only managed one conference victory on the road and ranks

last in the league in rebounding and in fifth place in the conference. It needs nothing short of a miracle or a dominating performance in the ACC Tournament in Greensboro to earn a berth to the NCAA Tournament.

While James and her fellow captains are concentrating on the remainder of the Wolfpack's regular season schedule, the redshirt junior can't help but weigh State's odds, post Greensboro.

"Last year, we didn't make it to the NCAA Tournament. We didn't even make it to the NIT," said James. "We don't want to play in the NIT. We know that we have to win

these last four games and put the pressure on and step up to play."

The pressure will be on for the Pack tonight at 7 p.m. in Littlejohn Coliseum, a venue State head coach Kay Yow calls "maybe the toughest place for us to play."

For State, the game plan will be similar to the last time they hooked up with the Tigers when Pack forward Alvine Mendeng lit up Clemson for 20 points on 8-for-12 shooting to lift State to a 63-55 win. Clemson (12-11, 4-8 ACC) will see a combination of zone and man-to-man defenses in the half-court game and will likely face a full-court press

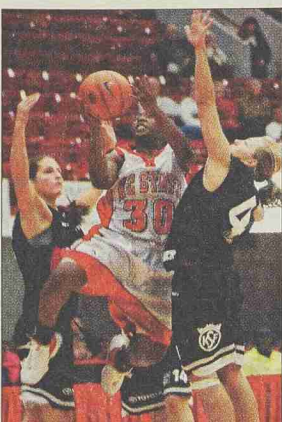
in transition.

However, unlike that contest when Mendeng scored most of her points on 15-foot jump shots, Yow wants her players to take it to the hoop strong and often.

"We'd like an up-tempo game, really looking to go inside to our post first and foremost," said Yow. "We're really concentrating on that to give them early looks and really the most looks because basically our two leading scorers [Chones and Carisse Moody] are there. So, we need to get them the ball a little bit more."

Both Chones and Moody

See BASKETBALL page 7



Time is running out for Kendra Bell and the Wolfpack women, who need a win to improve postseason positioning.

Staff photo by Rob Bradley