

Task force probes retention and graduation rates

A recent report by the university investigates graduation and retention rates and makes recommendations for improvements.

Diane Cordova

N.C. State continually strives for academic excellence and continually works to improve areas of weaknesses, as shown by the University Task Force's recently published report on undergraduate retention and graduation rates at NCSU.

NCSU hopes to improve its retention and graduation rates, but this is not just problematic at NCSU, as the report reveals. "Although the overwhelming majority of college students who enroll in post-secondary education do so with the intention of graduating (98.7 percent), only 27 percent of the baccalaureate students who attend public 4-year institutions complete their education in 4 years (NCES, 1996)."

In addition, the report states that the average five-year graduation rate for public four-year institutions in 2001 was 41.9 percent, down from 52.2 percent in 1983(Postsecondary Education Opportunity, 2002).

Although these figures only consider freshmen who enroll in a specific institution and not shose who enroll in one institution and transfer to another, the numbers are still a cause for concern, according to Gail O'Brien, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, professor of history, and chair of the Task Force. In fall 2002, former Provost Stuart Cooper

In fall 2002, former Provost Stuart Cooper appointed the University Task Force on Undergraduate Retention and Graduation Rates to come up with recommendations and plans for the improvement of retention, which would in turn, improve graduation rates within the university. The Task Force also developed reasoning for their recommendations. The Task Force is not the first one of its kind at NCSU.

Both Interim Provost Robert Barnhardt and recently appointed Provost James Oblinger requested that the Task Force continue. The Task Force had two main findings ac-

cording to O'Brien. The first, that those who remain enrolled as

full-time students at the university are more likely to finish in a timely manner and more likely to finish period.

. Wachovia gives

\$1.5 million grant

A report by the University Task Force on Undergraduate Retention and Graduation Rates shed some light on possible culprits for the university's low undergraduate retention and graduation rates. To curb these numbers, the task force made the following recommendations:

1. The administration at N.C. State will emphasize retention and graduation rates in all planning endeavors.

2. Faculty and administrators will strongly encourage students who enter NCSU as full-time students to remain in that status.

3. Faculty and administrators will work closely with students in order to achieve academic success.

4. Faculty, with the support of the administration, will develop additional opportunities for students who cannot matriculate into their major of choice, and faculty and administrators will improve communication with students about these opportunities.

5. Retention and graduation rates should be given priority in the development or alteration and evaluation of academic regulations and should be considered in relation to one another.

6. Efforts to implement appropriate strategies for improving retention and graduation rates, to monitor and assess these strategies, and to modify these strategies and develop new ones as necessary should be institutionalized immediately.

The vast majority of students enter NCSU with the intention of attending full-time \bar{n} over 99 percent between from 1995 to 1997 - but at some point the number of full-time students falls under 50 percent. Among those who continue as full-time students, over 90 percent graduate in five years and almost 100 percent graduate within six years. The second main finding was that students

who have trouble with their grades early on are not likely to complete their education.

Of the 2,168 students who enrolled between 1995-1998 and who finished their freshman year with less than a 2.0 GPA, only 256 had graduated by 2002 while 307 were still enrolled, whereas students who graduated in the spring

TASK FORCE see page 4

on ion rits

STAFF PHOTO BY TIM LYT VINENKO Nick Aunchman, a senior in biology, makes sphereical silver nanoparticles for a study on optical properties of metal nanoparticles.

ACC expansion faces hurdles

A lawsuit and outcry from their own members could halt the Atlantic Coast Confer-

ence's expansion plans.

News Staff Report

When members of the Atlantic Coast Conference edged forward with plans to open the conference to three new teams, they opened themselves up to a firestorm of criticism from the outside and now, it seems, from the inside as well.

Just days after five schools from the Big East fired a lawsuit against the ACC over the proposed expansion, top administrators from Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill circulated letters expressing their own concerns and furthering doubts that the ACC would find enough support to garner the seven votes

needed to move forward. "I voted in favor of entering formal conversations for collegial reasons," wrote Duke president Nan Keohane in an e-mail that was obtained by the Associated Press on Monday. "I believe that was the right decision at the time. However, I am now concerned that the kinds of substantive discussions we anticipated before a final vote would be taken have not materialized, and show no prospect of doing so."

James Moeser, UNC-CH president, sent a letter with similar concerns to the ACC presidents on Thursday, according to a report by the Associated Press.

Amidst the controversy, sources indicated that a vote could occur on Tuesday, when the nine ACC presidents and chancellors took part in a conference call to discuss the expansion.

But after two hours, a vote never came, with another teleconference set to take place at 6 p.m. today. "The ACC Council of Presidents had a constructive call (Tuesday) afternoon that was an integral part of the ongoing process," said ACC Commissioner John Swofford in a statement on Tuesday.

"No conclusions were reached, nor were any intended to be reached," he said. "There will be further discussions, and as has been the case throughout this process, there is no definitive timetable."

A major snag in the process could be UNC and Duke. If one other school were to join them in voting no, the proposal would be defeated.

If dissent from within were not enough, the Big East, which stands to lose three teams in the expansion, filed a lawsuit against the ACC, Miami and Boston College to try to stop the teams from logarithm

leaving. The lawsuit, which calls for monetary damages and injunctive relief, alleges that Miami and Syracuse ACC see page 4

Israel's attempt to assassinate Hamas leader kills 5 Palestinians

Aaron Davis Knight Ridder Newspape

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israeli helicopters fired a barrage of missiles into a crowded intersection Tuesday in a bloody assassination attempt on a senior Hamas leader that gravely wounded the fragile Mideast peace process

process. Two Palestinians were killed and 35 were wounded in the airstrike, including a 7-year-old girl who was hospitalized in critical condition. Later Tuesday, Israeli tanks and helicopters fired again, this time on a Gaza refugee camp, killing two 19-year-old men and a 16year-old girl. Thirty other Palestinians were injured. Hamas threatened retaliation "like an earthquake" for the attempted killing of Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a physician who is Hamas' spokesman and one of its

most recognizable figures. The failed assassination was the highest-level attack by Israeli forces on a political militant leader in nearly two years. Knight Ridder interviewed Rantisi twice this week,

as it became clear that he held significant sway in determining whether Hamas would restart cease-fire talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, which would help advance the so-called "road map" peace plan.

ISRAEL see page 4



Palestinians crowd around the destroyed car of senior Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi after it was reportadly hit by an Israeli helicopter missile.

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N.C. State has received a grant to help support programs at the College of Management, the College of Education and a new visitoris center.

News Staff Report

A generous grant from the Wachovia Foundation could help N.C. State bolster current programs and break ground on a new visitor center next year.

The foundation, which is a private foundation funded annually by Wachovia Corporation, has given the university a \$1.5 million grant to support the College of Management, The College of Educationis William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation and the proposed E. Carroll Joyner Visitor Center.

"Wachovia is committed to furthering education and helping tap the vast potential In todayis students," said Jack Clayton, Wachoviais regional president for central North Carolina in a News Services press release. "We are delighted to support N.C. State, a leader in providing opportunities for achievements in entrepreneurship and innovation."

Adamgraduate scholarships and graduate fellownd a ships, diversity initiatives and MBA Program enrichment activities funded by \$1 million to the College of Management. The Friday Institute and the proposed visitor center will each receive \$250,000. The visitor

center is scheduled to be built next year. The Wachovia Foundation gives grants to eligible tax-exempt organizations each year to further its mission to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life and make a positive difference where people work

Among those opportunities will be under-

make a positive difference where people work and live. The grants are given in the areas of education, community and economic development, health and human services and arts and culture. "We are thrilled that Wachovia has chosen to enhance our academic programs and sup-

to enhance our academic programs and support our students through this generous gift to the college," said Jon Bartley, dean of the College of Management, in the press release. "Wachovia and the College of Management both strive for excellence, and the Wachoviais financial support will help assure that we can achieve excellence even in the face of reduced state budgets."

Opinion

TECHNICIAN · WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2003 2

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW FCC changes will create media monopolies

The Federal Communications Commission has voted to allow companies more freedom to buy media outlets in different mediums as well as own a higher percentage of the outlets available in an area. Until this vote, companies were lim-

ited to owning 35 percent of the media outlets in any given area. The revised regulations raise that percentage to 45 percent. Media conglomerates will also have the chance to own multiple mediums, so one company could run the newspaper and major television station in one city. As soon as news of the planned vote hit airwaves - barely weeks before the vote

took place - the public responded with fears and outcry. They expressed con-cerns, and rightfully so, that these new regulations will only create even larger media companies who will eliminate the local coverage and content diversity that the public is still able to enjoy today. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that Congress curb the FCC's changes because the United States' media outlets will eventually be owned by a handful of companies if these new regulations

are not properly checked. There are already large media compa-nies in the United States today. Disney owns ABC, the ABC Family channel, the Disney Channel, the ESPN Channel and multiple film companies. AOL Time Warner owns HBO, CNN, Time Magazine, Warner Brothers Studios (a film and television company) and Time Warner Cable, which services the Raleigh-Durham area.

However, many small companies still exist despite Disney and AOL Time Warner's holdings. The News and Ob-server is owned by the McClatchy Company and WRAL is owned by the Capitol Broadcasting Company, The FCC's new regulations will put these companies in jeopardy of being sold to companies like Viacom or NewsCorp. With options come diversity, and the public needs to be able to be able to choose where they CAMPUS FORUM

get their news from. The effects of such broad ownership rules can be seen in the results of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Clear Channel Communications was able to buy up hundreds of radio stations, and this one company now owns more than 1,200 radio stations. Clear Channel owns five radio stations in Raleigh including the popular G105 and 106.1RDU. When one company and 106.1RDU. When one company owns multiple stations or media out-lets then the public receives the same news, the same music, the same televi-sion programs, and usually the same opinions. Many people have noticed this trend in their radio stations, and it is now possible that the same trend could occur in our newspapers and

television programs. These new rules will also completely eliminate the chance for someone to start their own media company amongst the conglomerates. Ted Turner is actu-ally speaking out against the new regulations because he feels that he would not have been able to create his own company if these rules had existed when he was starting out. The FCC changed the rules because the average consumer now has so

many ways to access information that companies need to have more media outlets under their disposal to reach a wider audience. Yet the large media companies have already been able to have a hand in most formats without

these FCC changes. The public has sent the FCC hundreds of thousands of letters speaking against these new regulations, and many locally owned media outlets have already begun to speak out against the changes. These new guidelines will hopefully not pass through Congress unnoticed. Sen. John McCain, Commerce Committee chairman, plans to work with the legislative branch to produce laws which will curb these new regulations and hopefully prevent media monopolies.

We'LL RETURN WiTH OUR TOP STORY, 'The ATTACK of THE MEDIA-DEVOURING BLOB,' AFTER THESE DIGESTIVE GURGLINGS....

Ridiculous costs

Doctors

name is Cut-chin:

A few months

priceless.

\$600.

Skates and en-trance fee to skat-These supplies consisted of a few pieces of gauze, some lidocaine and the hospiing rink: \$15. E m e r g e n c y room fee: \$900. tal bed that I was in for two hours. I filled out the paperwork and sent it

off to my insurance company, hoping that they could cover it. Then I received a \$600 bill from the doctor, who charged fee: Ability to point me another emergency room fee and a to the scar on my chin and explain to people the pro-nunciation of my charge for the actual stitching.

I normally do not cry about anything (Held the tears back completely while at the emergency room. Well, almost completely.), but after receiving all of these bills, I sat down and cried like there was no tomorrow.

It amazed me how much just a simple visit to the emergency room costs. What visit to the emergency room costs, what if it was something very serious, like a car accident or severe burns? What if I did not have insurance? What do people without insurance do? How do y pay?

I really think something needs to be done about hospitals and the fees as-sociated with them.

I work at an emergency animal clinic. Our fees there are high compared to a regular animal hospital, but we also see things that are much more serious than a regular veterinary clinic would see. Our fees are not outrageous either, we mark up enough to receive a profit, but we try to do just what an animal needs instead of every little thing to try to get as much money as possible from people.

Also, our clients know what they will be paying for before anything is done We give estimates and then stick to• them.

I was never told while at the emer-gency room what any of the items would cost. In fact, as I was leaving we stopped to get the bill, and the receptionist told me it would not be ready for two weeks. I certainly had no clue that the doctor

would be sending a separate bill. So far, however, my insurance has covered the hospital bill. This is a great covered the hospital bill. This is a great thing, because I just did not have \$1100 floating around in my room anywhere. The doctor's office will not let me wash dishes or clothes for them to pay that bill, so I am still waiting to see if insur ance will cover that.

I asked why prices were so high, but no one could give me a very clear answer, just that they have bills to pay too and cannot be expected to do things for free. While I understand that they cannot perform their services for free, just the same as we cannot perform our services for free at the clinic, we still will try to work with people and give them options. Maybe I should have veterinarians fix me from now on.

Heather wants to get to the bottom of this hospital cost thing. E-mail her at hrcutchi@unity.ncsu.edu if you would like to join in and help!



STAR TRIBUNE

ago I had the pleasure of going ice skating for the second time in my life. I learned a few important lessons that day. One - I'm not that graceful and therefore, ice skating is not an activity I should partake in often. Twice in a lifetime is often enough. And two, if a doctor is stitching your

chin back together and is a Duke fan, it is not good for me to remark on how much of a State fan I am while a Duke/State game is going on.

But two weeks later, more lessons came in the mail. In the mail. I received the bill from the hospital and 1 atmost had to go back - my heart stopped and I am sure I fainted, though I do not remember. The emergency room fee by itself was \$900, and then another \$200 for the "supplies" that were used.

> Martha Stewart is being prosecuted not for who she is, but for what she did." That is what the U.S. Attorney what

said in a press conference last Wednesday when he indicted Mar-tha Stewart and her stockbroker for conspiracy to

cover up illegal trading practices. The F.B.I. representative echoed the same sentiment, when he said that this case is "not about celebrity, but accountability." But in the court of public opinion,

TECHNICIAN

Ben

McNeely

Staff Col

namely the American public and the media, Martha Stewart is guilty as sin. Everybody loves to hate Martha. Even I have disdain for her and her so-per-ceived "perfection." She passes herself off to be the quintessential homemaker, who spends time making cutesy crafts, gourmet meals for simple picnics and always has milk and cookies waiting when the kids get home from school

She is the epitome of the ideal American homemaker, yet Martha has had more dysfunction in her home life than the British Royals themselves. At least they air their dirty laundry out for all to see. Martha whitewashes over hers with glitter and crazy glue. All the rumors and innuendo about her being a control freak, domineering and methodical are probably true (As told by the TV movie on NBC. I didn't watch it, though.)

Never mind her personality or what persona she shows off on TV, Martha Stewart is a phony and a fraud. She is savvy Wall Street investor who knew the rules of the game and the ins-andouts of insider trading. If she did con-spire in a cover-up, she should be held responsible for her crimes. However, Martha Stewart is only a pawn in the bigger problem of corporate crimes in America.

art is being used as an example by the U.S. government to send a message to CEOs and the public that corporate fraud and other crimes will not be tolerated any longer. The rash of white-collar crimes uncovered in the past two years has affected the economy. Millions of dollars that were earned by middle and

Everybody hates Martha

lower class workers have been lost. Investment firms and banks were telling the public to invest, invest, invest. At the same time, they were working behind the backs of investors and col-lecting more than their fair share. Enron, WorldCom, Arthur Andersen and ImClone are the big ones, but don't fool yourself. This sort of thing happens ev-eryday and it will continue to happen. That is human nature: greed overtakes any moral judgment.

If such is true, why has no one indicted the executives of WorldCom or Kenneth Lay of Enron? Arthur Andersen got a slap on the wrist for shredding documents. So their stock went down a few points; people's whole investments are gone, totally and completely wiped out. Kenneth Lay still keeps his home thousands in Aspen, while

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of workers are Enron are laid off and their retirement accounts cleared. And the performance account account of the several the government goes after Martha Stew-art, who only gained \$47,000 from her insider trade? Where is the logic here? Wrongs have been perpetrated here, and both should be pursued in the interests of justice, however justice should be bal-

anced and fair. It may feel good to use Martha as a 🔹 target just to satisfy our inner hatred for her but only for a little while. Against my better judgment and rational thought, I hope they throw the book at her. De-spite the U.S. attorney's noble statement about justice, not vergeance, deep down, you know he wants to nail her to the wall ecause she is so annoyingly perfect.

The government is using her to show that no one is above the law. They did the same with Leona Helmsley for tax evasion. Here's a message to Justice Department: believe me, we get it. When you can go into a library and look at records of books we checked out, that sort of shows how far the F.B.I. can go. It is nice that you are going after Martha, but in the true interests of justice for all, shouldn't you be going after the greedy bastards at Enron and WorldCom? Martha Stewart is only small game • compared to them.

Yes, she probably committed a crime and yes, she should be punished for

her crime. But the law is supposed to dispense justice, fair and evenly. That has not happened and will not happen by making a spectacle out of Martha Stewart. Only through tough sentencing and better ethics education in business schools around the country will help prevent such crimes from being perpetrated again. In the end, it all boils down to simple values we all learned as children: don't lie, cheat or steal. Think about it, it's a good thing.

Ben's portfolio went up two points thanks to the indictment. Email him at ben@technicianstaff.com to tell hin. what two-faced hypocrite he is.

Submissions to Campus Forum should be made to: editor@technicianstaff.com. In addition to a 400-word limit, Technician reserves the right to edit submissions for grammar and AP style.

Please let me correct your assertion that undocumented immigrants do not pay State or Federal Taxes. They do. The only ones who do not are those whose employers do not declare them as employees. The immigrants who get ITN numbers (a tax ID number) will have a way, once they have adjusted their status, to apply for any reimbursement that they may be due.

Giving non-citizen graduates of the NC public school system in-state tuition status will benefit the state and this country by giving them the opportunity to be even greater contributors to our country. Senate

Bill 987 will give them the opportunity

Thushan Amarasiriwardena TECHNICIAN Carie Windham NT NEWSPAPER OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

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to change their way of life by going to college. It would be better for all immigrants to have an easier route to become legal residents and or naturalized citi-zens, which most seek, but that is in the

Zens, which most seek, but that is in the hands of the Federal government. Some added information...North Carolina was the top ranked state for rate of growth of Hispanic buying power over 1990-2002 with an increase of 912 percent. Their buying power in North Carolina was nearly 9 billion dollars in 2002 and is projected to increase to 23 billion by 2007.

Just like most North Carolina families, Latinos share common values of education, family unity, work ethic and religious faith

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Serious Edito



News

Student loan interest rates reach all-time low

Heather Jones University Daily (Texas Tech U.)

(U-WIRE) LUBBOCK, Texas - As decided on May 27, 2003, caused by economic forces, the new interest rates on federal education loans will drop to an all-time low of 2.82 percent. This is a 64 percent drop from last year's 3.46 percent.

The new rate will go into affect as of July 1.

The change in interest rates also effects repayment, which will now be 3.42 percent instead of the 4.06 percent it was last

ISRAEL

continued from page 1

According to the Sallie Mae Foundation, a leading provider

of education funding, the interest rates are falling to the lowest levels since the inception of the student loan program in the 1960s. During the past three years

interest rates on student loans have dropped nearly five percent points As long as I have worked here

I have never seen the interest rates under 3 percent," said Earl Hudgins, Director of Student Financial Aid at Texas Tech. "It is extremely beneficial to

or summer of 2002 had an average GPA of 3.06.

to support themselves. Others may drop courses because they

feel concerned that they are not doing well in one or more classes,

and others may put less priority on their education because they

choose other activities over it,

or because they get into some

financial debt and must work

long hours in order to meet their

financial obligations. As far as lower GPAs are con-

cerned, OfBrien suspects that there are also several reasons

why some students get into grade

trouble during their freshman

year, including some could be bothered with personal crises,

while others may have trouble

adjusting to the new-found freedom that comes with living

tions are made to the university,

including encouraging students

to remain in full-time status and giving retention and graduation priority in the development

or alteration and evaluation of

vay from home. In the report, six recommenda-

rate

students

According to the Sallie Mae Foundation, interest rates for federal loans are based on the last auction of the 91-day Treasury bill in the month of May plus a margin of interest set by federal regulation.

The interest rates are at an all-time low because the rates are connected with prevailing short-term treasury yields in late May and June and this past year's short-term interest rates have been on the decline because of a general weakness of the economy.

The new interest rates will go

The also encouraged the uni-

versity to develop more oppor-

tunities for students that cannot

matriculate into their major of

O'Brien said the report, pub-

academic regulations.

choice

into effect on July 1 and will last until June 30, 2004, when they will again be readjusted accord-

ing to this year's short-term treasury yields. This will also be beneficial to students who have already taken out loans, Hudgins said. The Department of Institu-

tional Research and Information Management Web site reports that more than \$20 million in the form of financial aid was given out to undergraduates this past school year at Tech.

Financial aid helps students with everything from tuition and fees to transportation and

ACC continued from page 1

abandoned contractual obligations to the other members of their conference by verbally committing to remain in the conference and then trying to

leave. Five universities joined in the suit: Connecticut; Pittsburgh; Rutgers; Virginia Tech and West Virginia University. Among their grievances are that the remaining Big East schools have funneled millions of dollars of funds into athletic facilities ñ with the thought that the Big East would keep its fourteen members.

On Monday, attorneys rep resenting the schools filing the lawsuit filed a request to speed

up the discovery process. The lawsuit also alleges conspiracy between the ACC and living allowances. Hudgins believes that the number of loans given out will stay pretty much the same, but with the change in tuition and fees there will be an increase in

loan volume, to help with the increase in fees. 'We would rather work two or three applications for a student then have a student borrow too much," said Hudgins.

Stephen Layton, a senior me-

chanical engineering major from Whitharral, said lower interest rates can help him refocus his

finances elsewhere. "I work full-time, my wife and

Boston College and Miami. On June 8, Swofford responded with a statement that defended

the ACCis decisions. "NCAA institutions are free to associate with other institutions they deem most in harmony with their athletic mission," he said. "The ACC has acted properly and legally throughout this process and is unaware of any conduct by Miami, Boston College or Syracuse that would violate the terms of their by-laws

Big East against their will, should they desire to change their current conference affiliation." At N.C. State, where Chancellor Marye Anne Fox has supported expansion, faculty expressed concerns about travel, scheduling, academic standards and faculty input at a meeting with

or that could bind them to the

administrators on Thursday. The chancellor, Provost Jim

I both do, and [school] is a big expense that I don't have to come up with money for right now," he said. "It helps me concentrate on getting money for other things, like the rent.'

Sara Shelton, a senior communication studies major from El Paso, Texas, said she thinks many students are welcoming the new rates and expecting changes for the better.

"I think that it will encourage students to take out loans and increase how many students graduate," she said. "It will make life easier for students."

Oblinger, Athletic Director Lee Fowler and Faculty Athletics Representative Donn Ward were on hand for the discussion and faculty questions

Fowler assured the group that despite a larger conference, the number of trips taken by teams would not change. In addition,, shorter non-conference trips would make up for the distance traveled to the new conference schools.

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Ward used statistics from Miami, Boston College and Svracuse to make the case that opening conference may actually enhance its academics.• Within the schoolís athletic departments, he said, scores and graduation rates are higher

than those at NCSU. Even if approved, there is no set date upon which the new teams would enter the conference.

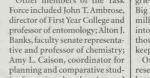




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ment management; Kenneth L. Esbenshade, associate dean and director of academic programs the College of Agriculture Hunt, university registrar; Tony L. Mitchell, assistant dean and Mustafa, a recent graduate in

keep our goals before us," said O'Brien. "If the process of improving retention and gradua-tion rates does not become an integral part of the institutional structure and culture of this university, our goals will not be

TASK FORCE continued from page 1

In a telephone interview Mon-day night, a little more than 12 hours before the assassination attempt, Rantisi, 55, seemed to dismiss worries that Israel would retaliate for a weekend attack that killed four Israeli soldiers.

"What will they do, end Hamas? They cannot," he said. "They can attack Hamas. They can attack us, but they will only reinforce our resistance."

Israeli intelligence officials defended Tuesday's strike, saying they had evidence that Rantisi wasn't just a political spokesman but a military com-mander as well and recently had ordered Hamas leaders to launch a new wave of attacks on Israelis One Israeli official called Rantisi a "ticking time bomb."

The Palestinian prime minis-ter threw up his hands Tuesday, calling the Israeli military strike a "terrorist attack" that undermined the U.S.-backed peace plan

On Monday, Abbas had delivered a risky speech aimed at refocusing Palestinian militants on the peace effort. The militants broke off cease-fire talks with Abbas last week, saying he'd promised too much to Israel and President Bush. The militants then staged an attack Sunday killing four Israeli soldiers in Erez Crossing, which separates the Gaza Strip from Israel, to show their disgust with Abbas' remarks at last week's peace summit in Aqaba, Jordan, where he called for an end to violence against Israelis and did not stress some key Palestinian demands. Bush was unusually critical of

the Israeli attacks, saying he was "deeply troubled" by them.

"I'm concerned that the at-tacks will make it more difficult for Palestinian leadership to fight off terrorist attacks. I also don't believe the attacks helped Israeli security," he said.

Palestinians and Israelis said they feared that Mideast vio-lence was about to spiral into an all too familiar and painful back-and-forth cycle.

"I'm truly scared that many Is-raeli lives will end. Many people will die for today's great mistake," said Ron Cohen, a member of the Israeli Parliament and a retired Israeli army colonel who serves on Israel's security and foreign affairs committee. "This is not the message we need to send. It really seems Israel has decided to

destroy the road map." The United States is prepar ing to launch a team of Mideast monitors to help implement the road map. But the assassination attempt almost certainly will make it harder for Abbas to put the end to violence against Israelis, as required under the first phase of the plan.

Technician incorrectly listed the total amount of material recycled by the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling as 56 tons. That total was just part of the 2,487.67 tons of mate-rial recycled and composted. In the same issue, three photos on pages 6 and 8 were incorrectly at-

tributed to Tim Lytvinenko. The

photographer was Josh Michel.

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These are problem areas for several possible reasons, said lished last month, is "a very practical guide for improving O'Brien. As for the difficulty of partretention and graduation rates It says to do so will require comtime students finishing their de-grees, students could be moving mitment on the part of everyone - all levels of administrators, facfrom full-time to part-time status for several reasons, according to ulty, and students." Other members of the Task O'Brien, including running into financial difficulties and needing

planning and comparative stud-ies for university planning and analysis: Thomas E. Conway interim vice provost for enroll and Life Sciences and profes-sor of animal science; Louis D. director of minority programs for engineering; and Malika M. biological sciences. "We must make sure that we

realized.

·A&E

TECHNICIAN · WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2003

Summer movies make a splash

"Raising Victor Vargas"

 Director: Peter Sollett
 Starring: Victor Rasuk, Judy Marte ***1/2

Peter Sollett's shining "Raising Victor Vargas" captures the emotions and struggles of its characters with a kind of honesty and realism that is rarely with a kind of honesty and realism that is rarely found outside of documentary. If it weren't for the film's gritty, well-realized style that first-time director Peter Sollett and cinematographer Tim Orr ("George Washington") produce, it'd be easy to minist Washing to a documentary. to mistake "Vargas" for a documentary. It stands proudly, however, as a nice contrast

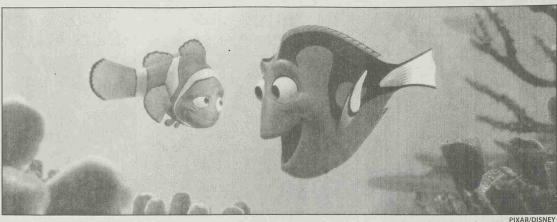
to the dozens of teenage romantic comedies that studios spend millions of dollars making each year. Nowhere in this film will you find actors covered in make-up and dressed in designer clothes as they kiss under the moonlight with some poppy Michelle Branch song in the background. Instead, we see apartments that barely pass sanitation laws, females with more facial hair than their male counterparts and teenagers who, like most teenagers, have no clue how love and romance work and don't have a popular soundtrack to help guide their decisions. While the minute details of Victor's (Victor

Rasuk) life and struggles may differ from those that the average Joe faces, he's at a place in life that that the average joe faces, he s at a place in life that we've all been: his home life is complicated by his brat sister and his devoutly religious and slightly eccentric grandmother; he's also trying to start a relationship with Judy, the local knock-out, despite having no idea how to get past the wall of ice she surrounds herself with. The problems in big life are never given the

The problems in his life are never given the melodramatic treatment that most pictures would indulge in. Instead, even the large problems (such as his grandmother's threats to kick him out of the house) and the huge triumphs (a big first kiss) are handled in a low-key, observant manner. Instead of blowing the situation up to enhance the
drama, director Sollett's screenplay lets the drama, the laughs, and the heartbreaks happen. The only thing that really needs to be enhanced about "Rais-

ing Victor Vargas," in the end, is the attendance it's finding in movie houses. *-Joel Frady*

"Raising Victor Vargas" is playing at The Colony in Raleigh and The Madstone in Cary



"2 Fast 2 Furious"

Director: John Singleton Starring: Paul Walker, Tyrese Gibson ★★1/2

Like many, if not most, summer movies, it's not a good idea to ask questions regarding the plot and events of "2 Fast 2 Furious." Allowing even the slightest amount of logic into the situation quickly interferes with the flow of the picture and the jolly fun that "2 Fast 2 Furious" delivers. This sequel finds Brian O'Conner (Paul

Walker) living in Miami after leaving the L.A. po lice force. He still indulges in street races, this time for promoter Tej (rapper Ludacris), before being arrested after a big win. Since the police have a mile-long list of charges against him, he goes undercover for them, bringing his childhood friend Roman (Tyrese Gibson, "Baby Boy") into the mess

As "2 Fast" moves along, the action scenes only get bigger and more ridiculous, culminating in a final chase that's straight out of "The Blues Broth-ers," just without the music or the comedy. The villain's plot, which has Brian and Roman running across mid-day Miami delivering large amounts of dirty money, is so extravagant and ridiculously complicated that you have to wonder how he was ever able to succeed in the black market, and why he doesn't just have his two lackeys deliver the money instead of sending them to kill the guys

that are delivering the money. Details like that, however, are what demand that no thought be put into "2 Fast 2 Furious," especially when it would just interfere with the high-speed action that the rest of the film relies on. After "The Matrix Reloaded," the part of your brain that handles willing suspension of disbelief should be more than strong enough to handle "2 Fast 2 Furious," and there's a enough car action and scantily-clad beauties to keep the mind happily occupied, even if you're left wondering for hours upon hours which idiot decided that "2 Fast 2 Furi-ous" was a good title. *-Joel Frady*

'Finding Nemo"

Director: Andrew Stanton, Lee Unkrich Starring: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres,

Excuse my use of what is increasingly becoming a cliche, but Pixar has done it again. The immersive Disney/Pixar animated film Finding Nemo follows the standard set by 1995's Toy Story with inven-tive visuals combined with yet another compelling storvline

From the lick-able undersea world of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, an overprotective father, Marlin (who is not a fish of that namesake, but a small and unfunny clown fish), sets off on a trek across the ocean to find his son. Nemo, the aquatic tot for

by scuba divers and vanked from his home in the ocean to a dentist office aquarium.

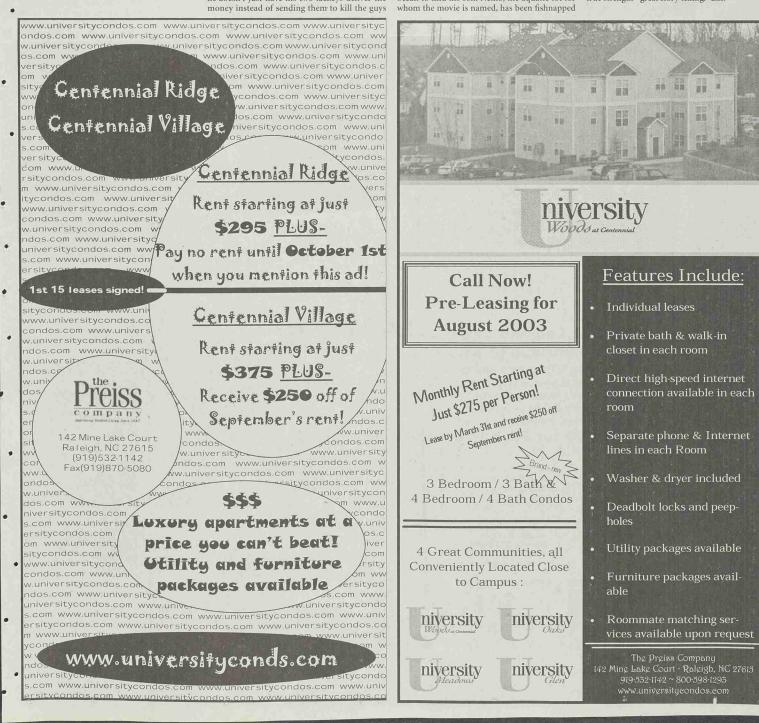
While the film does follow the similar sweep of the typical journey fable, the assortment of char-acters that Marlin (voiced by Albert Brooks) comes across certainly hides that minor shortcoming.

Dory (Ellen DeGeneres) a blue tart, with a short-term memory just shy of useful, tags along for the journey and sparks many of the delightful scenes. Able to read, Dory and Marlin are determine that Nemo has been whisked away to Sidney, via an ad-dress on the diver's lost scuba goggles. What ensues is a journey through the ocean

that teeters between dangerous encounters with the creatures of the deep and laugh-out-loud antics with a cast of characters that includes a trio of sharks trying to stay "on the wagon" by avoiding their urges to attack their fellow fish and a pack of surfer dude sea turtles.

But despite the length and excitement of his travels, the real journey for Marlin is not in mak-ing it to Sydney harbor but in discovering that life - even in the ocean - is truly in the risk of living.

As with any Pixar film, one can quickly find one-self diverted by the obviously painstaking details in the background added by the animators. Even under the confines of a fish's face the nuances of a human can be seen glinting through. Although the novelty of the computer animation has certainly lost its appeal, Pixar has kept its audience with its true strength - great story telling. *-Eds.*



Sports/Serious

doughboy Pirate Captain Jim words by Shel Silverstein pictures by marko



"But Captain Jim, | cannot swim."



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"But Captain Jim, I cannot sail."





"But Captain Jim, I cannot row."

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Thank you Jim," Says Gaptain ME!"

NEXT YEAR continued from page 8

TECHNICIAN · WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2003 6

the ninth

Sunday, Miami grabbed the early lead, but the Pack came • back to twice tie the game.

In the bottom of the tenth in-ning, Gaetti scampered home on Maynor's bloop hit to tie the game, and the next batter up, senior Adam Hargrave, smoked a hit down the third-base line.

With Maynor on second, a hit would have ended the game. But the umpire ruled the ball foul, and Hargrave eventually struck out. The Canes won a trip to Omaha, Neb. with six runs in

"Everyone in the dugout thought it was a hit; it looked like one from where we were in the dugout," said Davidson. The Pack ended its season at

45-18, as many of the players sat in disbelief following the final out Sunday; their magical season was finished.

But after having a day or two to reflect on the loss, the Pack seems to have come to a consensus.

"I think we all just want the season to start again," said Davidson.

In a way it does. Almost every returning player will be participating in a summer league to get a head start on next season's preparations.

Some are traveling to areas as far away as the Pacific Northwest, while others like outfielder Tim Coffield will be playing in the local Coastal Plain League, which has teams in local towns and cities such as Wilson, Wilmington • and Durham.

There are, however, a couple of players that probably won't be playing much baseball this summer, pitchers Vern Sterry and Rogers. Sterry, who logged more than

116 innings this year, must de-cide whether or not to sign with the Oakland Athletics, who selected the right-hander in the 16th round of the amateur draft. Whatever the case, Sterry's arm should and probably will see some rest in the next couple of months.

months. Rogers led the team in innings logged with 125 and is spending the summer in his home state of New Jersey, likely taking the summer off to rest his arm. If they both return, they will

probably be throwing to a differ-ent target, because catcher Colt Morton, a third-round pick of the San Diego Padres, will probably pursue his professional career following a sensational year behind the plate. State will also need to replace

a majority of its regular infield. Hargrave and shortstop Chad Orvella both graduate, as does third baseman Jeremy Dutton Regardless of the off-season losses the program endures, the

Pack has laid the foundation to return to national prominence. ìI think it was a good season,î said Davidson.

Quite an understatement, but a succient diagnosis of the 2003 year nonetheless ñ a year the Pack can't wait to try and duplicate.



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BASEBALL

coming in and holding them un-

til the ninth inning when we went to Valdez-Fauli. They had second and third and he gets them out

with the infield in to preserve the game and get us out of that

On Saturday, Wolfpack pitch-

ers Vern Sterry, Phillip David-son and Joey Devine combined

to keep Miami's bats in check. Sterry did allow four runs in the

fourth inning on just two hits, but the trio kept the Pack in the

game when its bats were continu-ally stymied. State clawed its way

back into the game, eventually tying the game in the bottom of

the seventh inning after reliever Valdez-Fauli walked in two runs

by walking Colt Morton and hit-ting Joe Gaetti. "I do think the heat may have

taken its toll on the number of

innings our pitchers could go,î said State head coach Elliot Avent. "[Michael] Rogers we felt like could have gone a little more yesterday, [Vern] Sterry today and we had to get Joey [Devine] out a little earlier than

[Devine] out a little earlier than

we hoped." Miami took a one-run lead

after the top of the tenth but State fought off elimination for

one more inning after Gaetti scored on a two-out single to

left field by Marc Maynor. The Hurricanes then proceeded to tag Chad Orvella for five runs,

including a grand slam by Erick

San Pedro to ultimately give Miami an 11-5 lead. None of

the runs Orvella gave up were earned. Valdez-Fauli pitched a

scoreless eleventh inning to get

the win for the Canes who will

now head to the College World Series. State, on the other hand,

• is going home after what was a

season that defied expectations.

iI just want to say that I am so proud of every player on this

team, they have gone through so

much,î said Gaetti. ìWe didn't have a field, playing through a

lot of adversity and I am not sure that anybody besides this

team felt that we would be here

After the loss, head coach Avent discovered that he had

today

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continued from page 8

situation."

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CARTER continued from page 8

aldís after spilling coffee on herself (coffee is hot!?). At first glance, the case

doesn't seem too preposterous. You've got the bloody glove, white Bronco chase and a guy with the temper of Hel—oops, wrong file.

Ah yes, here we are. One of statefans' main points is the fact that insidecarolina.com, a similar site dedicated to UNC sports, has been credentialed by State and UNC in the past. But insidecarolina.com is also Inside Carolina the magazine, and has been around for some length of time. A similar publication — The Wolfpacker — covers State and it's been

credentialed since its inception. The main problem with the statefans lawsuit is its Lionel Hutz-esque butchering of "first amendment rights." I guess they're referring to freedom of the press. Also outlined somewhere in the Constitu tion is our right to bear arms, but that doesnit mean we can walk down the street lugging sawed-off shotties under our sport coats, with a backpack full of grenades and sticks of dynamite protruding from every orifice. We have freedom of speech, too, but that hasnit stopped federal courts from banning Dick Vitale in 27 states. And sure, we have the

freedom of the press. But if courts decide any schmoe with a keyboard and a monitor can call himself "press," then I guess it's time to start my Playboy mansion Web site and demand immediate access to every centerfold. I swear I'd be "in it" for the

journalism. Andrew Carter can be reached at andrew@technicianstaff.com Special Offer... 1st Month Free! Thistledown Townhomes s 2 Bodroom Townhomes and Two-Story Units Available col.Tuns One Numth Free On Reduced Monthly Rent (Call for Debails)

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instruments, pets, internet, \$300-\$400/mo. negotiable. Message 919-696-3857, jewama@hotmail.com.

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in the ACC and was without its most experienced pitchers all season due to injury. Instead, State 45-18 and finished third in the ACC, despite not having a true home stadium for most of



group of guys that I don't think

any coach would be any prouder

KRT/MIAMI HERALD PHOTO BY AL DIAZ The University of Miami's opening pitcher J.D. Cockroft pitches during their game against N.C. State at Mark Light Field in Coral Gables, Fla. been named Coach of the Year the season by CollegeBaseballInsider.com. "You could say it was two of the toughest days of my career or two of the best days of my A big part of the reason Avent was honored was his skippering of a team that was picked by ACC coached to finish sixth career,î said Avent, ìl'm here and if I wasn't here it might be two of the toughest days of my career but to lose as we did sure it makes it tough but we have a

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(3) March

Wednesday DOTTS

TECHNICIAN ====

Hey sports fans! Wan-

Andrew B. Carter

you could spray hair on Herb Sendekís bald spot? Wanna munch on free BBQ and have a coach-eyeis view of the Wolfpack football team at Carter-Finley Stadium? Go down after the game and chat with Philip Rivers about how he just made some poor cornerback his pet Lassie?

Hell, ever dreamed of go-ing to the World Series? Super Bowl? The next moon landing? Now you can. Just dial up your nearest webmaster, get him to set you up with a Web site that focuses on a particular subject (anything!) and demand the right to cover it as if you were Geraldo Rivera.

Oh yeah, and when youire -- gasp -- denied the media credentials, sue as if Ronald McDonald is standing over your coffee-burnt body. Rant about how your first amend-ment rights are being violated and ask not what would Jesus do, but instead, what would the founding fathers do? At least one Internet site

has executed the plan to more perfection than a Johnnie Cochran summation. Thatid be statefans.com, an Internet community dedicated to N.C. State sports. Go to the site on a given day, and youill find everything youire likely to see in a newspaper minus correct editing, grammar and writing skill (with the exception of one guy named Brewster).

Youill find columns, features and news, particularly the most comprehensive and current menís basketball and football recruiting scoop. Youill notice the message boards, by far the most popular reason why the site is traffic is so high, and the reason as to why statefans.com should be as close to press pass es as Michael Jackson should be to little boys. For what it is -- a Web site

designed by fans for fans -statefans.com has to be among the best on the Net. But the only way the site could be less credible is if it hired Jayson Blair as a senior reporter. Not to say its contents are false ñ itis accurate most of the time ñ but thereis a difference the size of the Grand Canyon in reporting second-hand new statefans specialty) and finding news, which is hard enough for reporters with 20 years experi-

But thatis the thing, statefans.com doesnít appear to want to find news, rather, itíd be content with courtside press seating for basketball, and a seat in the pressbox at Carter-Finley Stadium.

As of last month, represen-tatives of statefans.com are suing State and the University of North Carolina in attempt to gain press access to revenue orts, which it has been (rightfully) denied.

Once Judge Judy finishes Case no. 456-XC Man v. Bearded Old Woman, the statefans lawsuit is expected to commence. After itis thrown out of court, which shouldnit be too long, it should be well on its way to lawis Hall of Shame. where the case will forever rest in the presence of such gems as the woman who sued McDon-

CARTER see page 7

na sit so close to an N.C. State basketball game you could get Jay Kohler lost in the gap between Mar-cus Melvinís teeth? So close

featuring N.C. State and Miami certainly lived up to its isuperi moniker. On Sat-urday and Sunday, the Wolfpack and the Hurricanes faced off in the Florida heat to decide who would be going to the College World Series. In terms of history, it was a David ver-sus Goliath match, featuring the Pack,

contested tilts.

who has only been to the World Series once before, and Miami, who has been to the series 19 times. This time, Goliath emerged victorious.

This past weekend, the Super Regional

State dropped a heartbreaker on Sat-urday, losing 10-9 after leading 9-3 in the sixth inning. The Hurricanes then proceeded to outlast the Pack in an 11inning affair on Sunday, which saw State come from behind twice to tie the game, only to lose 11-5. Saturday, the Wolfpack broke a 3-3 tie in the top of the sixth in-ning, which was highlighted by a two-out grand slam by Justin Riley -- the first of his career.

With the Hurricanes down six after the inning and 12 outs away from a loss, a win looked almost like a sure bet. But in the high-scoring world of collegiate baseball, no lead is ever safe.

Miami put five runs on the board in the bottom of the sixth and added runs in the







J.R. Riley hit a grand slam in game one against Miami, but the Pack could not hold on for the win. eighth and ninth innings while relievers Alex Blanco and Shawn Valdez-Fauli held Braun with two outs in the bottom of the ninth. the Pack scoreless in the final frames. Joey Devine finished the game with the loss,

giving up the winning home run to Ryan

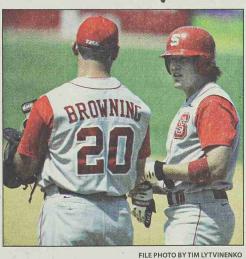
"We kicked it around a little bit but we made a great effort coming back after they put up that six spot," said Miami

head coach Jim Morris. "We came right back at them and I've got to give our guys credit for that. Alex Blanco did a great job $\, \blacklozenge \,$

FILE PHOTO BY TIM LYTVINENKO

BASEBALL see page 7

Run leaves Pack hungry for next year



Joe Gaietti went 1-4 with 2 RBI's in game two this weekend.

As its best season since 1968 ended, the N.C. State baseball team is already looking forward to next season.

Matt Middleton

The thought they had it when the ball from J.R. Riley's bat barely landed over the fence Saturday for a grand slam. They thought Devine was given both the ball and the lead. And a day later, they thought they had it when Joe Gaetti barreled around third base and slid safely home after a Marc Maynor, single. But the hunches turned out to

be wrong - just barely. This past weekend at the Super Regional in Coral Gables, Fla., Miami and N.C. State played a pair of games filled with their share of twists and turns.

Twice each game came down to the wire, and twice Miami prevailed as the winner, ending

prevaled as the winner, ending the Wolfpack's best season since 1968 two wins short of the Col-lege World Series. "It was certainly a roller coaster of emotions," said sophomore pitch Philip Davidson. "There were so many times where we were the winner that fuel were we were thinking that [we] were going to win both games. "Even Miami thought we had

it. Perhaps they did, but with the Coral Gables crowd becoming restless Saturday, the Hurrican rallied all the way from a 9-3 deficit to win on a home run by Ryan Braun when Devine hung a slider over the plate in the bottom of

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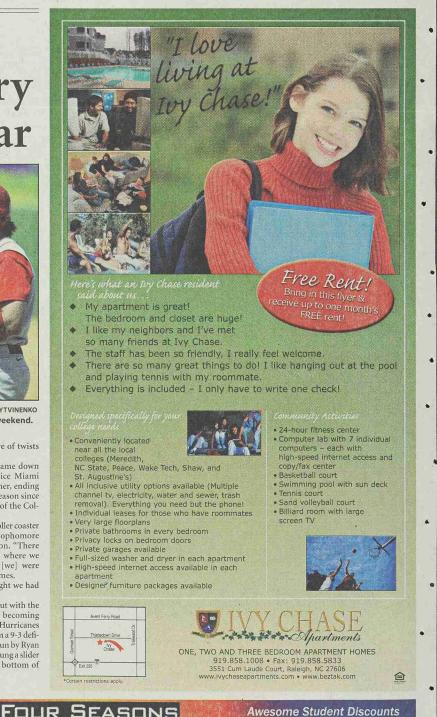
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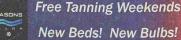
West Chatham Street, Cary

NEXT YEAR see page 6

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