

TECHNICIAN

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Raleigh, North Carolina

'Sin tax' proposed

A bill in the North Carolina legislature could increase taxes on "sin" items like cigarettes, beer, wine and liquor.

Thushan Amarasiriwardena

Staff Reporter

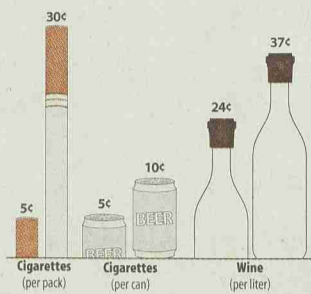
On the table in the N.C. Senate, a proposed bill hopes to bridge the state budget gap via tax hikes on cigarettes ranging between 25 to 50 cents per pack; 30 cents for a six pack of beer; an additional 13 cents for a liter of wine; and an average of 60 cents for a bottle of liquor.

Dubbed the "sin tax," the proposed increases could raise an additional \$200 million from cigarette taxes and another \$130 million from beer, liquor and wine. Senate Democrats proposing the \$330 million bill are hoping to use the additional revenue to stem cuts in areas such as education, health care and environmental concerns which have been recent targets during tightening fiscal times.

The proposal, part of a \$15 billion budget proposed by the Senate, follows the vein of a similar plan that saw little opposition, raising sales taxes on items such as candy and soda.

Proponents of the bill suggest that the proposal is attractive on multiple fronts, noting that it does not merely create additional revenues but could also reduce teen smoking, which historically falls as prices on cigarettes rise.

Rep. Deborah Ross, a Democrat from Raleigh, supports the bill in the House. "The cigarette tax is something that I have been



Senate budget proposal / Technician graphic

consistently in favor of because it deters teen smoking," said Ross.

While there are strong signs of support in the Senate, their peers in the House see little backing for the "sin-tax," with support following along party lines. Ross thought it would be unlikely for the proposal to pass.

A spokesperson for Rep. Rick Eddins, a Republican from Raleigh, said he was against this or any other tax increase, a sentiment held by many Republicans. Ross however does not believe such tax increases are rash solutions, "I don't think you should raise taxes for the sake of raising taxes, but to avoid making cuts for items such as education and human services."

Opinions on the proposals varied among students on campus as they weighed the additional costs of paying more for items under the proposed tax and the benefits of the revenue that it would bring - especially for education.

Kyle Royal, a senior in mechanical engi-

neering, said that "it's a little ridiculous that they're targeting just 'sinful' items," but resigned to the notion that "it's such a small tax that no one will really notice." Alternatively, Royal suggested that the legislature revisit the North Carolina lottery proposal.

Others thought that benefits of the additional revenue outweighed the additional costs. "It doesn't seem like that much in comparison to someone being better educated than it would be worthwhile," said Sarah Harrington, a senior in communication disorders.

The proposal is part of a national trend where 30 states in the past 2 years have begun to look at cigarettes and liquor taxes to allay budget shortfalls.

North Carolina ranks third lowest on taxes on cigarettes at a nickel-a-pack compared to the national average of 68.3 cents and far less than New York's \$1.50, the highest nationally.

Taxes on cigarettes have not been increased since 1991 in North Carolina. An excise on liquor was lowered by three percent to 25 percent when the sales tax was last increased.

Owners of liquor stores also had mixed thoughts in regards to the proposed tax. Raj Raj, manager of College Beverages on Hillsborough Street, said that the taxes were "already too high," and thought that anything more than one percent would be too much.

"I don't think it would affect my business at all," said Adam Aj, owner of Raleigh Beverage on Glenwood Avenue. Aj said that he was also in favor of the proposal "if the money is going to something good."

Affirmative Action ruling nears

A decision in the University of Michigan cases could come this month.

Eli Addison

Staff Reporter

As the final weeks of the current Supreme Court term wind down, colleges and universities are bracing for two decisions that could rewrite years of practice as justices prepare to decide, again, if considering race and ethnicity in university admissions is constitutional.

Two cases before the court, Gratz v. Bollinger and Grutter v. Bollinger challenge the current admissions policy of the University of Michigan, charging that the university's "points" system unfairly gives minority students an advantage. The plaintiffs, Barbara Grutter and Jennifer Gratz, allege that they were denied admission to the university while lesser-qualified minorities were admitted.

Grutter was denied admission to the law school in 1995. Gratz was denied as an undergraduate the same year.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the case this month in a ruling that could radically change affirmative action programs at universities across the nation.

"When we think of affirmative action, we usually think of underrepresented or minority groups in our population who have experienced considerable prejudice and discrimination in the past," explained Gail O'Brien, associate dean and professor of history at N.C. State. "Many members of minority groups continue to face considerable prejudice and discrimination in the present, and to the extent that affirmative action helps overcome these obstacles, it is useful."

The last time the Supreme Court ruled on affirmative action, the 1978 case of Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, the court handed down an ambiguous ruling: stating that colleges could use race and ethnicity as factors in college admissions but they could not hold a quota of spots for members of particular races or ethnicities.

"[A] State has a substantial interest that legitimately may be served by a properly devised admissions program involving the competitive consideration of race and ethnic origin," the ruling read.

The University of Michigan used this rationale to present its argument to the court citing evidence that "diversity is a compelling interest in education." The U of M. admissions policies for the undergraduate level operate on a point system. In all adding up to a maximum of 150 points for each applicant. Applicants with 100+ points are usually admitted.

The breadth of the lawsuit stems from the giving of a maximum of 20 points to minorities of African American, Indian American, or Hispanic American ethnicity.

Advocates against this policy argue that the automated 20 points given to applicants of these groups put applicants of other ethnicities at a grave disadvantage. But these same 20 points are not only for race according to the U. of M. is admissions policies: "They may receive 20 points for one of the following: membership in an underrepresented minority group, socioeconomic disadvantage, attendance at a predominantly minority high school, athletics or at the Provost's discretion."

The academic factors in U. of M.'s policies account for up to 110 points. And minorities are not the only applicants that receive "extra points" based on other factors.

From the U-M 6th Circuit brief on June 5, 2001: "counselors assign ten points for Michigan residency, six additional points for residency in underrepresented Michigan counties, and two points for residency in underrepresented states. Applicants receive one or four points for alumni relationships. The personal essay can earn up to three points."

Advocates for affirmative action argue that it helps underrepresented groups overcome obstacles put in place by prejudice and discrimination. Furthermore, it ensures a diverse student body.

"This kind of affirmative action does not result in students being admitted to universities who are not qualified and who cannot compete successfully," said O'Brien. "It does contribute to diversity within institutions of higher learning, and this is very positive, since we all benefit from having a variety of perspectives in the classroom, regardless of the subject matter of the course."

In a recent national public opinion poll by the Chronicle of Higher Education, nearly four in five respondents said it was important or very important for colleges to help minority students become successful. But over half a 64 percent a said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed that minority students should be admitted if they have lower grade-point averages and standardized-test scores than other applicants.

Along racial and ethnic lines, 24 percent of black respondents strongly supported the use of racial preference in college admissions, 8 percent of Hispanic respondents and only 3 percent of white respondents.

While affirmative action was first instituted to improve diversity and help minorities overcome obstacles, O'Brien did admit that the current system has its problems.

"First, affirmative action does not take social class into consideration. Many white students who are financially and culturally deprived have a difficult time competing successfully on exams like the SAT, and they

RULING see page 4

Blood drives to take place at NCSU

The American Red Cross Summer Blood Drive is poised to take place this week to try to meet the need for blood.

Diane Cordova

Deputy News Editor

As the summer gets underway, the need for blood intensifies, particularly with more people departing for vacation - meaning more accidents - and the regular amount of the student body missing.

According to Mike Giancola, director of the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service at N.C. State and a member of the NCSU Blood Drive Committee, a traditional blood drive takes place every year during the summer.

NCSU and the American Red Cross are attempting to coordinate monthly blood drives.

This summer the blood drives are scheduled for June 17 from 2 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the College of Textiles on Centennial Campus, room 2309, June 18 and 19 from 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Talley Student Center Ballroom, and June 20 from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Vet School.

The NCSU Blood Drive Committee is comprised of various faculty and staff members. The committee members include Eddie Lovett, chair of the committee, Chris Austin, Tamika Barnes, Peter Burke, Alisa Casciano, Sue Cross, Dave Frye, Mike Giancola, John Mountz, David Serxner and Shoshana Serxner.

"I'm excited to be a part of this," said Lovett, a residence life coordinator. "The partnership between the American Red Cross and N.C. State has been a strong one for so many years."

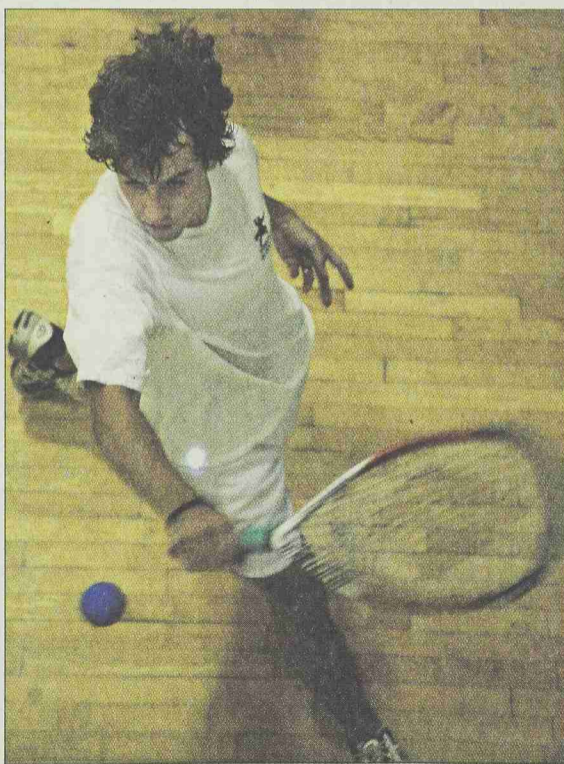
"If you can [donate blood] you should, because you never know if you or a loved one will need it," said Shoshana Serxner, who has donated a total of eight gallons of blood over the past few years.

For these summer blood drives, everyone that gives blood will receive a free lunch cooler from the American Red Cross.

Appointments to donate blood are encouraged, but

BLOOD see page 4

Friendly competition



Kris Westmoreland, a junior in business, beats his friend, Ben Jackson, a junior in economics, 17-15 at Carmichael Gym. Staff photo by Tim Lytvinenko

Attempted robbery spawns crime alert

News Staff Report

Campus Police are searching for a white male in conjunction with an early morning attempted robbery at the Coliseum Pay Lot on Friday.

According to Campus Police, the suspect approached the parking attendant at the lot at 8:19 a.m. He demanded money and said that he had a knife, although no weapon was shown. He was last seen fleeing the scene towards Jen-

son Drive, he did not get any money.

The suspect is described as a white male, tall with a slender build, in his mid to late 20s. He has sandy, blonde hair and brown eyes. At the time of the incident, he was seen wearing a solid red T-shirt, not tucked in, with blue jeans and tennis shoes.

Anyone with information on the suspect or the incident should contact Campus Police immediately at: 515-3000.

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Higher taxation will save budget

The poorly named "sin taxes" will probably not be increased this year because it only has one-sided support in the legislature, but it is a measure that some government officials and local organizations hope will eventually pass. Many N.C. residents are aware that their state has an unusually low cigarette tax. It is an untapped resource that could bring in millions of dollars each year, and an increased tax could help eliminate a financial deficit that has prevented the legislature from agreeing on our state budget as the June 30 fiscal year ends nears.

"Sin taxes," a term which usually refers to cigarettes and alcohol, have not been raised in North Carolina for over a decade. Some legislators hope to raise the tax on packs of cigarettes 25 cents; a \$10 bottle of liquor could go up 60 cents; a six pack of beer would be 30 cents more; and a bottle of wine would go up 13 cents. Combined, these increases could add \$330 million towards the budget. These monies could save or reduce cuts in education, health care and environmental programs.

North Carolina is not getting any closer to voting on a lottery, so there has to be a way to come up with funds that will save the state from further cuts. Students at N.C. State do not want to see their tuition increased for another consecutive year, and like a lottery, "sin taxes" only affect those who elect to buy the products involved. North Carolina college students cannot avoid paying higher tuition, but it is their choice to buy alcohol and cigarettes.

North Carolina is a "tobacco state," and it is important that our government protects its farmers, but our state has the third-lowest tobacco tax in the nation.

Even that statistic is a little misleading because Virginia, which has the second-lowest tax, allows its municipalities to increase the tax at their discretion. It is time for the legislature to stop side-stepping this issue. People smoke and drink and they will continue to smoke and drink even if the tax is raised, but the money that could come from such an increase would help legislators fill some of their budget shortfalls.

Alcohol and cigarettes have very little if any health benefit to their consumers. It is not the state's job to try to regulate alcohol and tobacco use amongst people who are legally able to purchase one or both of the products, but it won't hurt to make them more expensive. Making cigarettes more costly may deter some young people from picking up the habit, and while it will not cause a significant decrease in teen smoking it may just make it a little harder for students to start.

North Carolina needs more money, and thus far, the legislators have yet to agree on where some of the funds are going to come from. The "sin tax" proposal will create an estimated \$330 million increase in state funds, and it will hopefully prevent legislators from eliminating important health care and education programs. It is not good to tax alcohol and cigarettes more because they are bad for you, but because they have not been taxed enough.

Our state has held on to its tradition of protecting some of its natural resources from medium to high taxation, but as our state faces another strained budget, it has become imperative that we make sacrifices to save our state from another crippling fiscal year.

Promoting discrimination

Staff Editorial (U-WIRE) - Hiring practices within Head Start shouldn't hinge on religious affiliations.

The federally funded Head Start program could be in for a major overhaul following a House panel vote last week.

The bill initially included improvements such as requiring college-educated teachers for the program and raising the academic standards for students.

Now, in addition, it includes a provision allowing more liberties for certain states to run Head Start. This includes the right to hire or not hire teachers based on their religious affiliations.

In essence, this bill is actually OK'ing discrimination.

The program is designed to prepare children of lower-income families for elementary school by teaching reading

skills along with health and nutrition.

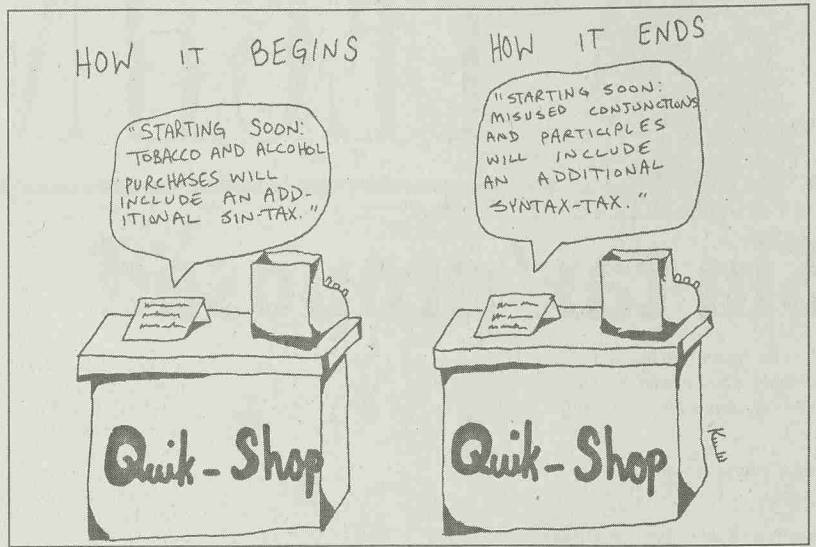
As long as religious ties are left at the door, an employee's worship practices bear no effect on teaching pre-schoolers how to read, eat and brush their teeth.

The bill does include an anti-discrimination clause, but much of its purpose is to simply prevent various religious groups from pulling children out of the program. It does not apply when it comes to employment.

The bill has now gone to the full committee for vote.

About 1 million children every year benefit from the Head Start programs across the country, and while Head Start is in need of improvements on many levels, blurring the lines between church and state isn't contributing to a solution.

It's just creating another problem.



Obesity is a big problem



Ben Kraudel
Staff Columnist

Companies throughout the United States announced plans to battle the epidemic of obesity that is causing them lowered profits and higher health care costs. According to one estimate by the Washington Business Group on Health, obesity

loses \$12 billion from companies' budgets. Now, it seems, these corporations are looking for answers.

Helen Darling, the president of the Washington Business Group on Health, compares obesity to health care problems of the past. "There are a lot of interventions that work but we haven't focused on it," she said. "This is like smoking 30 years ago."

So, in an attempt to respond to this "obesity epidemic" Darling's group is developing an institute to coordinate efforts between several corporations to find out what drives obesity and what might be a potential fix. Information and opinions from professionals at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will also be used.

Currently, obesity is believed to be linked to heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes and other chronic dis-

ease. Most companies see much more lost productivity, prescription drug costs and hospital stays as a byproduct.

A study released last month suggests that obesity and related illnesses could account for \$78.5 billion of the nation's \$1.5 trillion dollar health care costs. The report also said that the United States spends as much on these illnesses as on smoking related illnesses, but has made no efforts to find a solution.

I'm not a thin guy. I never really have been and I doubt I ever really will be. So, I know, from first hand experience, that everyone likes to blame the fatties. Everyone loves to point the finger and place the blame when the overweight people go by. No one, however, likes to put forward any sort of real solution. I never hear anyone say anything that makes sense when confronted with someone who has packed on a few pounds.

"He should stop eating," she says.
"She should go on a diet," he says.
"Why doesn't he work out more?" they say.

None of these are viable options. Well, they're viable, just not realistic.

No one wants to be fat. I'm pretty sure that's right. I can't think of any person who sits down one day and says, "I want to lower my life expectancy and make myself less like those idolized as attractive in the media - where's the twinkies?"

However, Americans lead a fast-paced

life. We lead a fast-paced life, centered around little physical exertion, but lots of stress and anxiety. We drive everywhere because we don't have time to walk. We sit at desks or near tables all day at work. As a country, we like to calm down by going home, lying on the couch and eating three bacon cheeseburgers. That sure takes the edge off.

But it also puts the edge back on around our midsection. At least, it expands the edge. If Fortune 500 companies are going to start looking for a solution to cutting their costs, it had better not be putting their employees on the Atkins diet or giving them more to do at work. If companies would pay for overweight employees to go talk to a nutritionist, buy them a membership to a local gym and give them the time to get healthier, productivity and morale are bound to improve.

I can guarantee you that every overweight person you see wants to be thinner and healthier. They all want to look better and feel better. Most of us, however, have given up. The American lifestyle doesn't always make it easy to change. Still, it's possible, and fill try if everyone else will.

Ben sat at his desk and wrote this column instead of going to the gym. Complain to him at bpkraude@unity.ncsu.edu.

Summer Blues



Zack Medford
Staff Columnist

I grew up in Raleigh my whole life. First I lived in my house about 5 miles away from NCSU, then I moved into Sullivan dorm, and now I live in my apartment. I am only just now starting to realize the flaws with this city in the summer.

Don't get me wrong, I love this place to death. But damn if summer doesn't suck out here.

Raleigh's weather is useless. It taunts me like my mother used to do back when I was fat. Whenever I have to go to work, the sun is out and the sky is blue. Little children run through their yards playing in their sprinklers and grilling hotdogs on the barbecue. Yet the moment I get off work, the clouds instantly roll in from the horizon, and blacken the sun. The sky cries its horrible tears causing my truck to fish tail back and forth as I make the long and unhappy drive home from work. I have no time to go to the park, to walk my dog and enjoy the sun. My life this summer is merely spent between working, sleeping and complaining about how all I ever do is eat and sleep.

Granted, there is still time to get drunk. You can always drink a couple of Nats, down some Yager, tear off your clothes and jump in the pool. But it's not as much fun when you're the only person doing it. It's even less fun when your elderly neighbors decide to join in. But who ever thought Old Mrs. Wilkinson could do such beautiful

swan dives?

Summer means many things. There are no more huge parties to attend - no one is left in Raleigh to go to them. It's hard to get a large group of people together, so we have to change our strategies. On the weekends, my roommates and I gave up trying to invite lots of people over and settled for small get-togethers. When you go to a university with 30,000 people, you get used to knowing a lot of people.

My buddy list used to be longer than the line outside a Taco Bell bathroom on free bean-burrito day. I had a list of nearly 200 people including friends, acquaintances and

people who I just-kind-of-knew. The moment exams ended though, my buddy list became deserted. People went home, lost the use of their personal computer. I actually had to start talking to people on the phone, awkward conversations ensued.

When people actually told me about a party, I was hesitant. The summer simply makes it too hard to have a real party. Granted, if we all actually just went to these parties, there probably would be hundreds of us. But it's just not going to happen. You have to trim the fat in the summer, and just focus on the people closest to you.

Instead of going to parties in huge groups, you have to focus. I've found myself going to movies with my friends again, just like in middle school. Sure, the Hulk looks ridiculous. But what else are we going to do?

I've played more basketball than I have all year lately. Oh, don't get me wrong, I'm one of the worst basketball players you'll ever see. Yet, it's a sport that merely requires a handful of people and a ball. You don't even need someone to buy you beer to play it.

All in all, I think it's good to get this time to spend with my close friends. Sure, going to parties is usually fun, but just hanging out with your best buddies is always guaranteed to be a success. It's easy to take your friends for granted, so I'm making sure I take some time out to focus on those around me. However, I'm still counting the days until everyone moves on back to Raleigh, and there are actually places to GO in this city!

Complaints aside, Zack's always ready to party. Send him your invites at: ztmedfor@unity.ncsu.edu.

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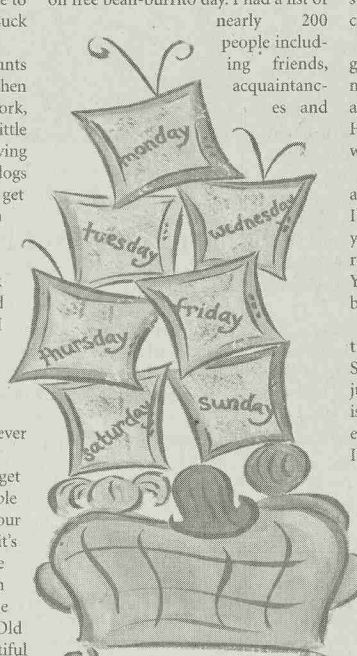
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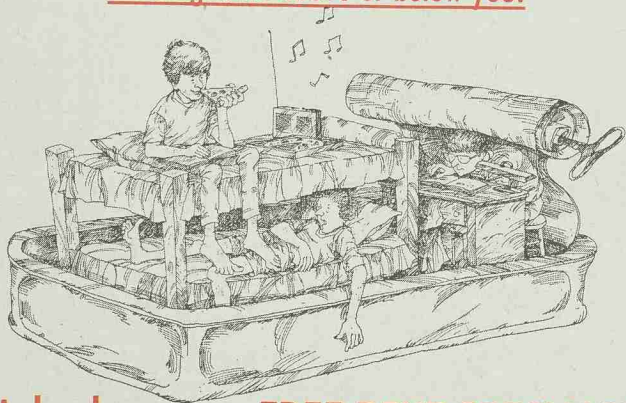
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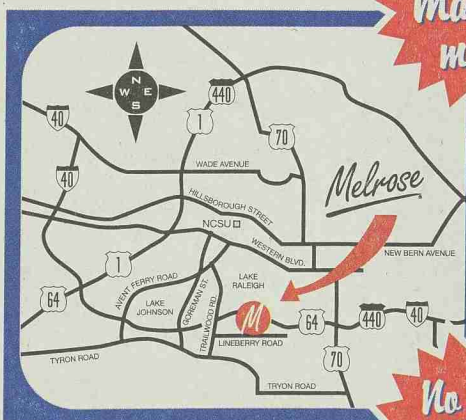
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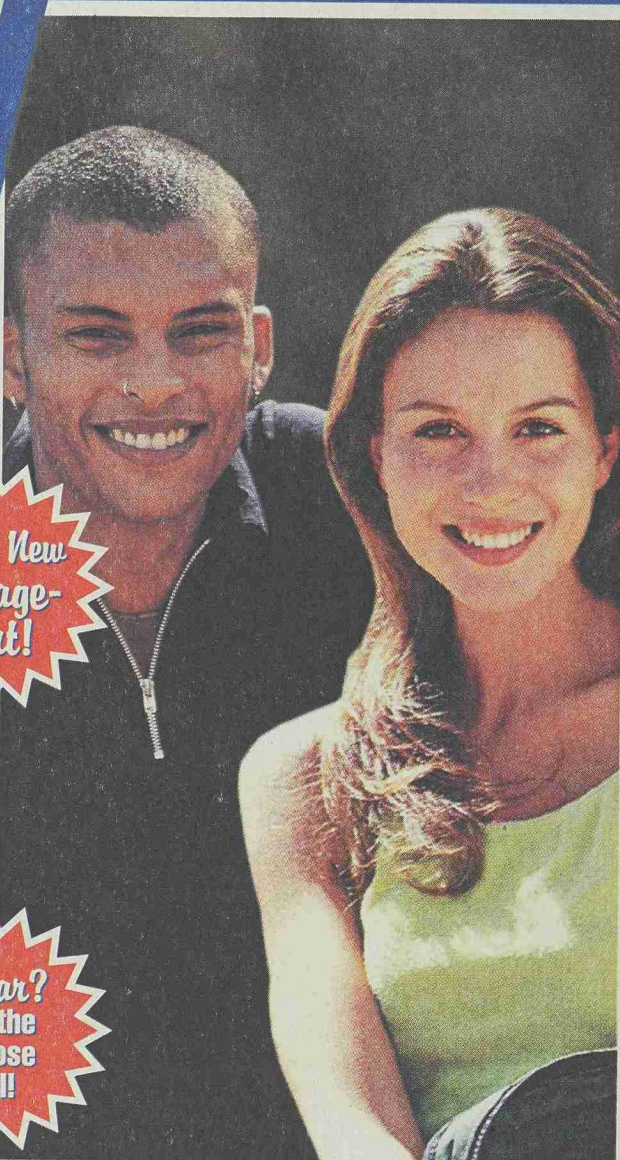
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BLOOD

continued from page 1

walk-ins are welcome.

All blood types are needed but those with type B or type O blood are currently in very high demand, said Giancola, who has worked with the organization for years and has donated blood himself.

The American Red Cross tries to obtain 1500 units of blood per day just to meet the demand, he added.

"With each unit that's donated, you have the potential to save three lives," said Giancola. "A small donation goes a long way."

According to Giancola, each donor - on average - gives approximately one pint of blood.

"I believe in the mission of the [American] Red Cross and what they do," said Giancola. "We all have a responsibility to do our part. We can give back to the community. The least we can do is give up an hour of our time and donate blood."

For more information, visit the Web site: www.ncsublooddrive.com.

Tuition Payment Deadline Reminder: Students registered for the 2003 Second Summer Session are reminded that full payment or complete financial aid information must be in the University Cashier's Office by **Thursday, June 19, 2003**, or their registrations will be cancelled.

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RULING

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may deserve a few extra points in the admissions calculation," she said.

The problem is that calculating financial aid is difficult.

"I am not advocating that people who cannot compete successfully be admitted to the university," O'Brien said. "Yet, 'cultural capital' is important in being successful, and there's no question that some students have a lot more of it than others."

And, though it's not called "affirmative action," so-called "legacy" admissions are flawed, as well, she said. "Legacies" is a common term given to students whose parent give money to the university, the children of alumni or children whose parents have the "right" political connections. Oftentimes, she said, they get a few extra points at admissions time.

"This is not a hand up to the under-privileged, but a hand up to the privileged who, in my opinion, should be able to compete successfully without added assistance," she said. "And, interestingly, it is these students who are most likely (even more likely than athletes) to fall below their predicted GPA at the end of their freshman year."

As an educator, O'Brien expressed sincere concerns that if the court rules against the U-M in this case the effects will be a step backwards in the effort to provide an opportunity for higher education to those underrepresented groups in our institutions.

"As a historian, I know that 'progress' is not linear. This country made gains in civil rights during Reconstruction in the late 1860s and early 1870s; these gains were lost by the beginning of the 20th century. It could happen again if we are not vigilant."

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& BLONDE

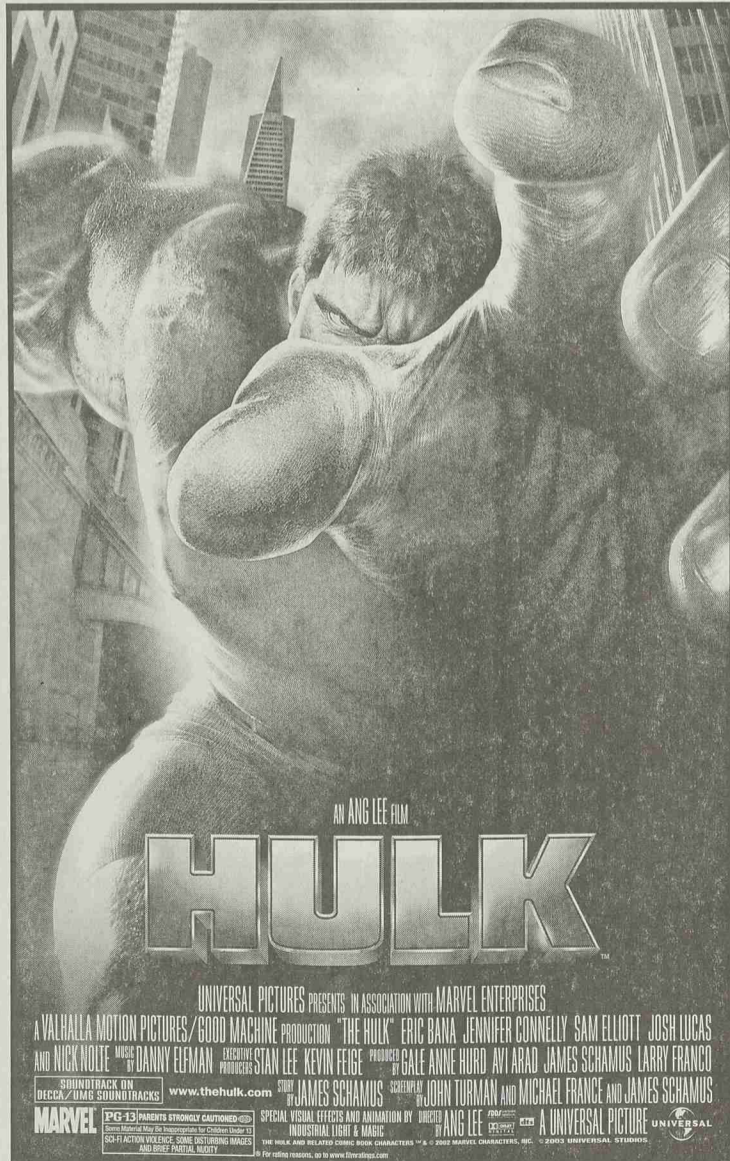


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Ready to rumble

Grayson Currin
Senior Staff Writer

The record companies want your money. But Technician-being a student newspaper and all-knows you need your money. Below are three records you should need now, and three more that may be better spent in the form of Ramen noodles.

Jack Johnson

"On and On"
vs.
Ben Harper
"Diamonds on the Inside"

It's little more than the very specific tale of the man who knew too little and his pal who nearly knew too much. Longtime touring buddies and collaborators Jack Johnson and Ben Harper - who pulled in for full sets in front of a drenched, near-capacity crowd at Cary's Regency Park Sunday night - have established their own brand of cool over the last few years, pairing their light-hearted, laid-back ways (Johnson was a professional surfer and filmmaker) with some of the most provocative, sincere songwriting this side of the mainstream.

To put it nicely, though, Johnson's sophomore effort - "On & On" and on and on and on - is one of the most appropriately titled discs in recent memory, plodding through sixteen tracks of primarily unfinished business. The grooves are solid (rather, the groove), but Johnson's understated guitar playing and melodic work seem limited and non-committal at times. He seems idle with letting his words drift into a trap of vapid euphemisms and

droopy generalizations more concerned with passing the time rather than making anything like a real statement.

Johnson does explode at points with some of his best, most thoughtful work ("Symbol in My Driveway," "Tomorrow Morning" and "Dreams be Dreams") and a handful of contagious sing-alongs ("Taylor"), but the rest of the material seems like disappointingly lazy fare - predictable, bland and underdeveloped.

"Diamonds on the Inside," however, is perhaps the single most ambitious record of Harper's career and of the record-buying year to date. With "Diamonds," Harper emerges as the premiere musical polyglot of our time, revisiting the sublime acoustic soul and driving roots rock of his past while delving head-on into blunt funk ("Brown Eyed Blues"), august, African-inspired religious beauties ("Picture of Jesus") and emotionally confounding epics ("She's Only Happy in the Sun") with an unmistakable passion and flair.

He slips occasionally here, coming across as forced on some tracks ("Temporary Remedy") and redundant on others ("Touch from Your Lust"), but - all in all - Harper has made the smartest and most consistent record of an already magical career.

Winner: Ben Harper

Lucinda Williams
"World without Tears"
vs.
eastmountainsouth
"eastmountainsouth"

Lucinda Williams has been busy over the past decade. While establishing herself as one of

the premiere songwriters in the land and being likened to heroes Dylan, Young and Cohen, Williams has built a reputation as a music critic of the highest order, handpicking artists and writers she feels as worthy and using her alt.country platform to sing their praises (and sometimes, songs). Two years ago, Williams' laudation spurred Patty Griffin's career and reputation along; now, Williams is back with a new album of her own and props for eastmountainsouth, a refreshing Los Angeles duo by way of Alabama and Virginia.

Williams' record, "World without Tears," is a gorgeous, carefully stated literate masterpiece of the highest order, chock full of tears, heartache, regrets and - ultimately - hope. The tough-as-nails, sharp-as-knives lyrical acumen of Williams stands out as never before, brought to life by her own brittle, raw licks (not to mention the guitar work Doug Pettibone).

Snarling her way through songs knee-deep in allusions and earnestly emotional self-awareness (think a "Live Rust" Neil Young recording "Blonde on Blonde" with Daniel Lanois at the helm), Williams truly bleeds on the album, dropping sexual innuendos, ornery requests and womanly charms with a knowing smirk as wide as her vocabulary. Not since Emmylou Harris' "Red Dirt Girl" has a Nashville babe loomed this large.

Eastmountainsouth, though, takes a decidedly more sonorous and easy-going approach, relying on gorgeously tracked harmonies and careful, thoughtful production for a sound altogether delicate and tender.

Peter Adams (vocally, think a smarter Keith Urban) and Kate Maslich absolutely soar together, Adams cultivated crooning serving as but the yin to the yang of Maslich's laconic tremble. They nail a lush, album-opening take on the Stephen Foster tune "Hard Times," and manipulate their own "Rain Came Down" and "Father" into veritable masterpieces with a next generation hodgepodge of inventive programming, slinking piano, and warm acoustic guitars. Adams earns his stripes with the disc, as many of his multi-instrumental and co-production decisions border on genius hereonce again, think Daniel Lanois.

The expected freshman-effort jitters pop up occasionally, but-with a nostalgia-soaked, down-from-the-mountain glow infused with a sharp sense of adult contemporary precision and charm - eastmountainsouth towers.

Winner: Lucinda Williams, barely.

Sean Watkins
"26 Miles"

vs.
Mike Marshall & Chris Thile
"Into the Cauldron"

If you haven't heard Nickel Creek, run - do not walk! - to your local record store. The youthgrass trio of Chris Thile and Sean and Sara Watkins plays like they've been making music together for decades, and they make albums with a depth and maturity that most veteran bands would kill for, cutting

RUMBLE see page 7



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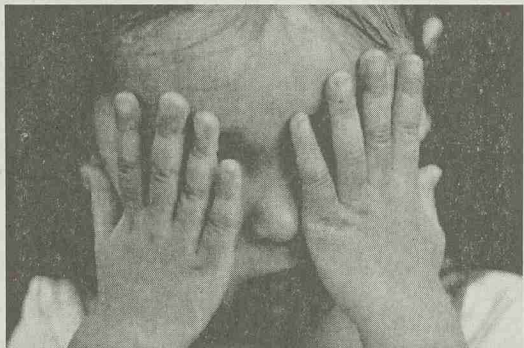
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An All-American finish



Staff file photo by Tim Lytvinenko

Despite a 39th place finish, N.C. State track and field athletes made an impressive showing at the NCAA track and field finals.

Todd Lion
Senior Staff Writer

Three out of the five N.C. State athletes competing at the NCAA track and field finals brought home All-American honors from Sacramento State University this weekend. Kristin Price, Andy Smith and Jesse Williams all finished in the top eight in their events. Renee Gunning and Beth Fonner also competed in the meet.

Price finished third in the fastest 10,000-meter race at the national finals since 1988, when Sylvia Mosqueda won in a meet record 32:28. Price finished the 6.25-mile race in 32:50, a personal best mark by 37 seconds and the second fastest in school history. The junior was the national champion in this event last year, winning that race in 34:26.

"When you take into consideration how much pool work she had to do because of her broken foot and the fact that she ran her personal best by almost 40 seconds, it might have been a better race this year than last year," said head coach Rollie Geiger. "I don't want to take anything away from winning, but taking the situation into account, it just might have been better."

Price suffered from a hairline fracture in her foot and had to take several weeks off from running to recover. She started running again in the middle of May.

Stanfordis Alicia Craig won the race in a blazing time of 32:40. Twins Kate and Laura O'Neill of Yale finished second and fourth in 32:47 and 32:52.

"The race was just fast from the gun," said Geiger. "Kristin ran 16:13 for her last 5,000, and the winner closed in 16:03. It was an impressive race. The winner and the Yale girls are obviously very good, and for Kristin to split the Yale sisters is amazing."

Price was the only woman to score for the Wolfpack, and her six points finished State in a tie for 39th place.

Sophomore Andy Smith also ran a personal best mark on the way to scoring in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Smith's time of 8:36 earned him All-American honors with a seventh place finish.

"An athlete doesn't experience a trials-finals format during the year," said Geiger. "We just don't do those things. Sometimes you're not sure how the athlete is going to react to another hard effort just two days after the trials. In the finals, he ran his personal best mark of the year, and he did it falling on a barrier on lap three. He fell and kind of rolled and got back up, but he was all scratched up and lost a little bit mentally. To get up after a fall and finish All-American with a personal best mark is pretty big."

Smith's time places him as the third fastest steepler in Wolfpack history and is only two seconds away from Chris Dugan's school

record.

"We've had some outstanding steepers here in Chris Dugan and Jose Gonzalez, and now Andy is knocking on the door right behind them near the school record," said Geiger. "He admits he lost it a little bit mentally right after the fall, so to get up and finish like he did was a good, solid effort."

Arkansas's Daniel Lincoln won the steeplechase in 8:26, making him the first American to win three national titles in that event.

Freshman Jesse Williams was the final Wolfpack athlete to score at the meet. Williams finished seventh in the high jump, clearing a mark of 7-1 3/4. Southern California's David Jaworski won the event in an impressive 7-5 3/4.

"The problem is that he finished second indoors, so you think that finishing seventh outdoors isn't that good of a finish," said Geiger. "But you have to remember that he was still an All-American."

Williams cleared 7-0 1/4 and 7-1 3/4 in his first attempt at each

height, but he failed three times to clear 7-3 1/4.

"I don't think Jesse's run-up wasn't particularly good that day," said Geiger. "He was jumping high, but his approach wasn't where it needed to be. Then again, you've got a freshman finishing All-American. It was a good day for him, and he scored for the team."

Smith and William tallied a total of four points for the team, placing State 52nd overall.

Junior Renee Gunning competed in the 5,000-meter run and finished 11th with a time of 16:36. This year marks the first time that preliminary heats were run for the 5,000.

"Renee made the finals, which was a huge step for her, and she was just a place away from making All-American," said Geiger. "It was a solid meet for her."

Beth Fonner competed in the 10,000 with Price and finished in 17th place, running a time of 34:42.

"We didn't take a lot of athletes out to nationals, but three of the five scored," said Geiger. "That's a pretty high percentage. It was a pretty good meet for the teams."

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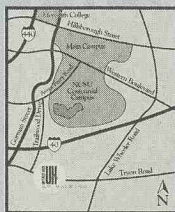
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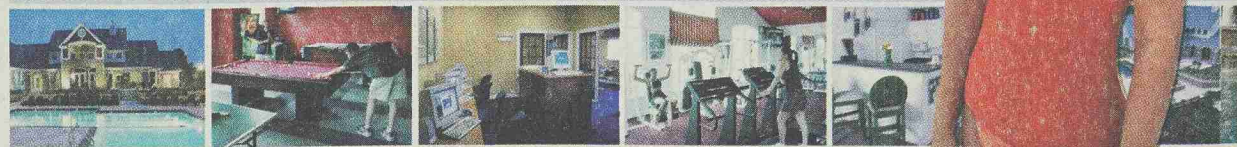
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Veterinary Assistant needed for one of the best-equipped animal hospitals in North Carolina. Applicant must be able to work 2 to 4 full days per week (M-SAT) during school year. Employee will learn venipuncture, intubation, intravenous catheter placement, and become proficient in performing laboratory tests. Fifty percent of time will be spent in training or performing skilled tasks; fifty percent will be spent with general cleaning or kennel duties. Ideal position for someone with veterinary school aspirations. Veterinary scholarship program available for individual completing 1 year of full-time work. Call Dr. Mike at Clayton Animal Hospital-553-4601.

Chiropractor's office seeking part-time front office person. 3:30pm-7 or 8pm M-F. Call 872-8981. Training provided. Starting at \$9/hr.

RUMBLE

continued from page 5

sophisticated, charming pop songs under the innocent guise of bluegrass.

Sean Watkins, the Creek's guitarist, headed into the studio recently, finally giving way to the "Rubber Soul" and "Bridge over Troubled Water" leanings that have always lurked just beneath the surface of Nickel Creek's work. Watkins took control of the project, writing and producing all of the tracks himself. Watkins manages to balance a respect for song and melody with his own thirst for

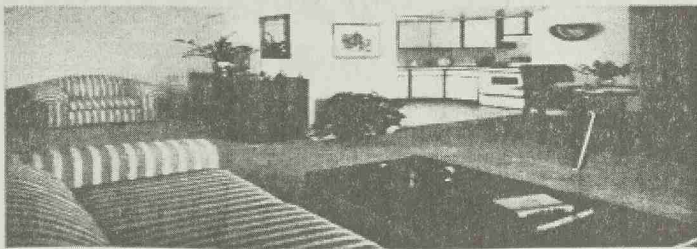
"new" sounds: saxophone cuts through the sprightly "Chicago," Pastorius-style bass romps through the Flecktones-inspired "Chutes & Ladders" and the simple guitar/bass structure of "Creeping Beauty" cries vintage Tom Waits.

A Chris Thile/Mike Marshall collaboration sounds exciting - well, at least the thought of it. The record, though, does sound excited, just not exciting. Through Nickel Creek, Thile has rightfully earned a reputation as an extremely melodic mandolin player not afraid of taking chances; by way of Psychograss and a fantastic "classical" record with Edgar Meyer, Joshua Bell and Sam Bush, Marshall has be-

come known as one of the true mandolin greats.

But with "Into the Cauldron," the pairing just doesn't live up to expectations. The playing is indeed great at many turns, and a few tracks are worthy of both mighty players ("Scrapple from the Apple," "Stranded in Kodiak"). But sometimes the improvisation removes both Thile and Marshall too far from the melody and their otherwise terrific sense of song; when they stick to the melody ("What a Blast!"), the playing is painfully obvious. This isn't a bad listen, but if your hopes for this duo run high, you may be disappointed. Winner: Sean Watkins.

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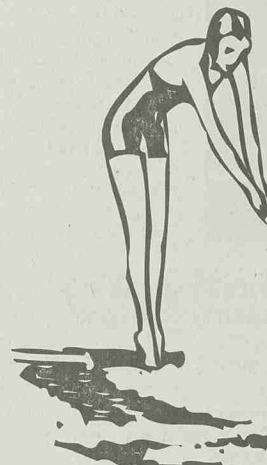


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The \$26 million Wendell H. Murphy Football Center is believed to be the finest of its kind in the country.

Written by Matt Middleton | Photos by Tim Lytvinenko

During the days when Chuck Amato spent his time patrolling the field as a member of the Wolfpack linebacking corps, he said the word facilities wasn't even in the vocabulary of the team's administrators and coaching staff.

Now from his fourth-floor office, the Wolfpack head coach can take a stroll around his office building and see the very definition of what a big-time college football facility should be.

The Wendell H. Murphy Center has been the home of the Wolfpack football program for several months since construction completed the \$26 million building. The

state of North Carolina."

Inside, each room of the four-story complex is spacious, and the school's block S logo is on every imaginable object, wall - even urinal in the building. The largest block S stands proudly in the carpet of the team's spacious locker room, surrounded by pristine wood-paneled lockers that must be kept especially neat by the players, or they will feel the wrath of their head coach.

On the same level as the locker room, is a sports medicine facility that would make some professional sports teams turn green with envy. Three indoor rehabilitation pools are the jewel of the sports medicine area, one even has a false bottom that moves allowing head athletic trainer Jamey Coll and his staff to perform a variety of procedures.

But it doesn't end there.

Should the team need time to relax after a strenuous practice or whenever it has down time, the third-floor area provides just the medicine it might need. The large dining room area stands adjacent to a team lounge that has a ping-pong and billiards table, plush leather couches and flat-screen televisions.

Already, the team has become quite competitive, staging ping-pong and pool competitions.

"Even this room I can see helping the chemistry of our team. They're already competing with themselves [by] seeing who can beat who in pool and ping pong," said Amato.

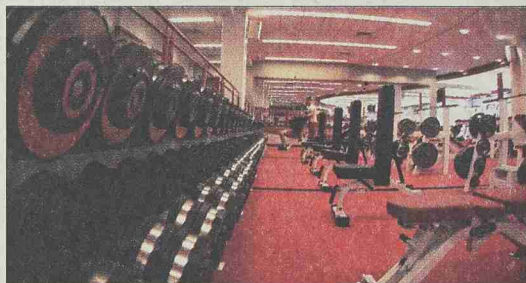
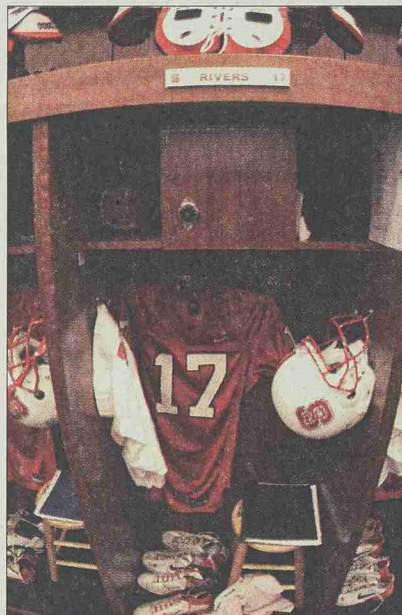
Potential All-America quarterback Philip Rivers is especially fond of the lounge area, boasting of his superiority on the ping-pong table.

"It will be a good way for us to bond when we spend time in here," said Rivers, who added that running back T.A. McLendon is the team's resident pool shark.

As for on-the-field improvements, both Amato and Rivers believe that the building will be an invaluable recruiting tool -- which is precisely what Amato envisioned it being.

"When you win 11 games like we did, you're going to get some good players wanting to come here," noted Rivers. "But when you add a place like this, it's going to be real hard to say no."

Which could quickly translate into bad news for the rest of the ACC.



facility houses the entire coaching staff and will be the exclusive home to the football team for many years to come.

During a recent tour of the building, Amato said he believes there may not be a finer facility in the world.

"You always think yours is [the best], but I've been in a lot of complexes, and I don't know if I've ever been in one that was 105,000 square feet and looks like this," said Amato.

To be exact, the building is just over 103,000 square feet of N.C. State football pride and contains more gadgets than James Bonds' closet. Even the outside is overly picturesque. Standing in front of the entrance is a 42-foot-high statue of six wolves that Amato said "could be one of the most photographed monuments in

Numerically speaking Wendell H. Murphy Football Center

2 - parking spaces for head coach Chuck Amato's car.

3 - separate swimming pools used for rehabilitation in the sports medicine area of the facility.

25 - seats in the Woolard theater, currently showing visitors the film "Domination" starring Amato.

70 - yards, the width of the weight room, which stretches the entire width of the building.

114 - custom wood lockers for each player. Amato has implemented strict rules about the cleanliness of each player's locker.

103,254 - approximate square feet of the four-level complex.

\$26,000,000 - cost of the entire facility, funded entirely by the Wolfpack Club.

(clockwise from top) "Wolfpack Turf," a sculpture by Dick Idol towers at over 42 feet./ Over one hundred lockers line the carpeted team locker room./ Athletes will have over 15 tons of weights at their disposal./ In addition to big screen televisions, the Player Lounge boasts billiards and ping pong tables as shown by Phillip Rivers.



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