

TECHNICIAN

TUESDAY
DECEMBER
2
2003

Raleigh, North Carolina

Body bags and ribbons cover campus

Groups on campus show their concern for the number of HIV and AIDS cases worldwide Monday in the Brickyard.

Michele DeCamp and Aniesha Felton
Staff Reporters

Sarah Crystal Cole's body was lying in the Brickyard Monday.

The 18-year-old high school senior died from HIV when she was infected by improperly sterilized hospital tools used on a HIV positive patient. But instead of Cole's real body, there was a white "body bag" on the red bricks.

Other victims of HIV and AIDS including Shawn Thomas,

a 27-year-old pharmaceutical representative, and Ali Davis, a 2-year-old infant, surrounded her. All of these fictional "bodies" were placed in the Brickyard in order to educate students about the realities of AIDS. This was just one presentation held at N.C. State for World AIDS Day.

Students groups such as the Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians, and Allies (BGLA), Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC) and the African Student Union combined their efforts to talk to students about AIDS, hand out free condoms and pass out red ribbons for students to wear.

"People at State should be aware of AIDS because it's a big problem in the world. There was an article that came out this summer that said that cases of AIDS

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Katie Parker and Lauren Lundin, both sophomores, stop on the Brickyard Monday to observe the simulated corpses that were put out for World AIDS Day. "I think the saddest one is the baby because it didn't do anything," said Parker.

ROB BRADLEY/TECHNICIAN

Out-of-state cap not an issue at State

While the enrollment cap for out-of-state students currently doesn't affect NCSU, other schools may have to exempt certain programs from the cap.

Cetty Abraham
Senior Staff Reporter

The push for more out-of-state students at UNC-Chapel Hill may be the talk of the town, but there's an interesting trend in enrollment at N.C. State.

According to the Headcount Enrollment Report for Fall 2003, a detailed report put together by University Planning and Analysis that shows university, college and department enrollment by classification and demographic categories, NCSU doesn't have much reason to argue for lifting the 18 percent cap on out-of-state admissions for freshmen.

Of the 3,851 freshmen admitted to NCSU for the fall 2003 semester, 431, or 11.2 percent, were not from North Carolina, which is a rather notable difference from the 17.6 percent admitted to UNC-CH.

Tommy Griffin, director of undergraduate admissions, believes that UNC schools have a primary responsibility to educate students who are residents in North Carolina.

"The schools are funded by taxpayer dollars, and N.C. State was specifically founded as a land grant university to open up education to people, with the focus on North Carolina students," Griffin said.

This doesn't mean that UNC schools are meant to be exclusive to North Carolina students.

"Students from other states and countries and backgrounds are important to us," Griffin said. He attributed the 18 percent out-of-state cap to the jump in out-of-state students enrolling in UNC schools after World War II.

Today, many question whether the 18 percent cap is restrictive to North Carolina students and UNC schools. While many

articulate the justifications and advantages, one real dilemma remains.

"The problem is that more North Carolina students are graduating from high school," Griffin said, forcing universities to weigh the fairness of educating in-state students before considering out-of-state or international applicants.

Some students, such as Carol Squillace, a junior in biological sciences, agree with this approach.

"I think the cap is fair considering that North Carolina taxpayers fund UNC universities," she said.

Limiting spaces for out-of-state applicants is not an entirely blind approach Griffin said that a number of schools, such as the NC School of Art or NC A&T's engineering program, are exempted from the cap.

At N.C. State, the low out-of-state population has multiple causes, Griffin explained.

"We're the most popular school in North Carolina, and we get the most applications from North Carolina students than any of the other UNC schools.

And while it's equally difficult for in-state and out-of-state students to be admitted to NCSU, there's a pretty good chance that those out-of-state applicants can be admitted to most other schools in the country, giving them many options," he said.

Griffin also points out that NCSU has been getting more applications from out-of-state students in recent years, making the admissions process more competitive overall.

Griffin also acknowledges the advantages that both out-of-state students and students from across the state bring to the table.

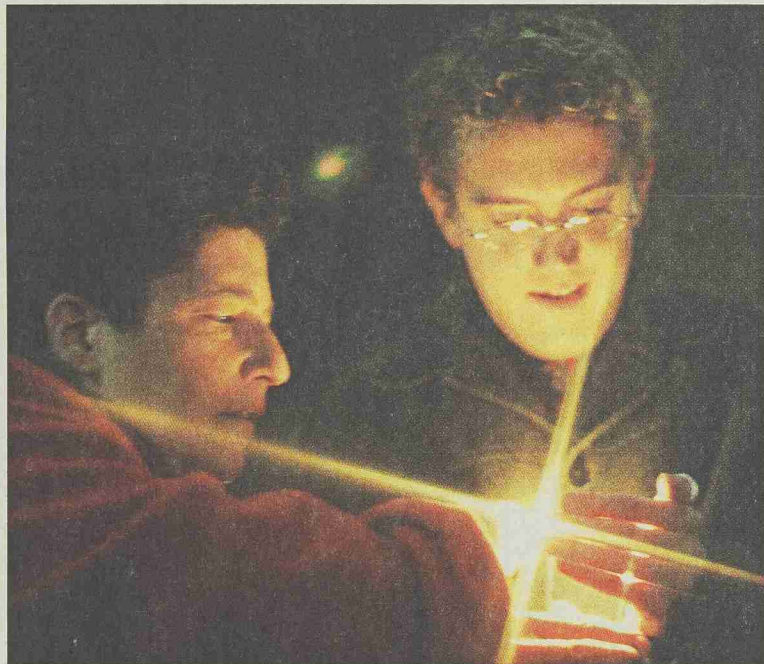
"A student from Raleigh may have a whole different perspective than a student from Murphy, or a student from Elizabeth City," he said.

Darren Thorton, a senior in biological sciences from Virginia, agrees.

"I definitely think more

ENROLL see page 2

SEE THE LIGHT



Keith Kozak and Justine Hollingshead pass on the light at a candlelight vigil last night held at the Belltower to commemorate HIV/AIDS victims.

ROB BRADLEY/TECHNICIAN

AIDS awareness continues

The Student Global AIDS Campaign is extending its reach with the presentation of a speaker living with HIV.

Aniesha Felton
Senior Staff Reporter

For the Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC) organization, one day of AIDS awareness was not enough. They will extend their awareness campaign today with the story of a "real-life person," who will talk about his experiences living with HIV.

"The reason why I say 'real-life person' is because most of us don't know anyone personally who is living with this devastating disease," Giovanni Seawood, co-president of

SPEAKER see page 2

The new card on the block

A new ID card for all students will make their current IDs invalid in January 2004.

Thushan Amarasiwardena
Staff Writer

Starting next week, there will be a new card on the block, err, campus.

Distribution for the new AllCampus ID for students will begin next Thursday as part of a multi-part project to phase out the current campus ID cards and using social security numbers as student identification. Current IDs will become invalid on January 7, 2004 before classes resume for the spring semester.

Sporting a new design, the new card comes with a bevy of new features (see graphic) and others in the works that will help lessen "the number of pieces of plastic you will have to carry," said Randy Lait,

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU



PHOTO - Your new ID card will use the photo on your current card.

STUDENTID - The new card sports the new nine-digit university ID number that supplants the use of the Social Security number

EXPIRATION - Tough luck getting a student discount in a couple year's time at the movies. Cards will typically last three to five years.

TRANSACTION NUMBER - The 16-digit number will be used for internal record keeping and allows the card to become extended to a Wachovia ATM card.

SOURCE: NCSU ALL CAMPUS / TECHNICIAN

business manager for University Dining.

The catalyst for the change is a university-wide effort to drop social security numbers as student ID numbers, and the

new card will use a two part numbering system, giving students a new nine-digit code and a 16-digit transaction number compatible with banking systems, accord-

ing to Lait.

Systems such as TRACS, along with other registration and record keeping within the university, will use the nine-digit code. The new number found under the student's name on the new cards will be the only number students will need to remember.

The 16-digit transaction code will be used for services like Board Bucks, C-Stores and dining halls.

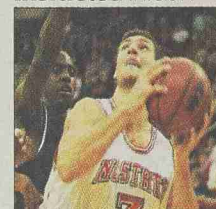
Through a partnership with Wachovia, the cards can have their functionality extended to become ATM cards if students link the card to their checking accounts.

Visa check card functionality is part of the long-term plans of AllCampus system according to Lait. Representatives from the bank will be on campus to help students add this function in January.

For the change, over 33,000 new cards

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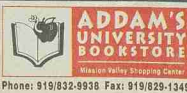


Sports
N.C. State's non-conference basketball schedule is considered stronger than last year.

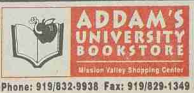
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From the blotter

A list of reports issued by Campus Police

Saturday, Nov. 29

11:58 a.m. Safety Hazard
An Officer discovered a manhole cover which was out of place in the Student Government Parking Lot. The cover could not be moved, and Facilities was notified about the problem.

8:00 a.m. Fire Alarm

A fire alarm was received from the McKimmon Center. No smoke or fire. Panel indicated smoke duct in room 241. Officers and RFD responded and checked the building. RFD checked building with a heat camera and found nothing. System would not reset. Electronics was notified. Unknown cause of activation.

Sunday, Nov. 30

11:18 a.m. B or E and Larceny
A student reported that Price Music Center had been broken into. A number of doors to the second floor offices appeared to have been pried open. The instrument storage area had been accessed. Pieces of paper were found in a number of doors in the halls and on the north exterior door. CCBP was called to process the area. A camcorder and project were taken.

1:43 p.m. Larceny

A student reported the theft of her bicycle from the rack behind the Quad Snack Bar.

2:28 p.m. Odor Complaint

A non-student reported a strange odor in the Partners I Building in suite 3100. He said he thought it smelled like cigarette smoke, but there was no reason for it

to be there. An Officer checked the building but did not find anything unusual or out of the ordinary. No odor was found by the officer. Everything checked out ok.

8:04 p.m. Fire

A student reported leaves on fire in front of Avent Ferry Complex Building B. Police responded and the small fire was already extinguished. No damage was found. RFD was not notified. The student stated her boyfriend had put the fire out.

9:41 p.m. Fire Alarm

Police responded to ES King Village Building B in reference to a smoke head activation. No signs of smoke or fire. The cause of activation was cooking.

Monday, Dec. 1

Stolen Items

Two students reported several items stolen from their lockers in Price Music Center. An incident report with the same case number was completed containing their information and what was stolen.

2:47 a.m. Traffic Collision Careless/Reckless Driving

Police responded to the Pullen Road traffic circle in reference to a dark vehicle driving over the circle and colliding with a sign. The vehicle was located and the student driving was issued a citation for careless and reckless driving. ECC contacted Raleigh Police in reference to the downed sign.

AIDS

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has increased among college students in the Triangle, so it's a problem here as well," Giovanni Seawood, a junior in psychology and founder of SGAC, said.

One project that SGAC members were working on during the afternoon events was a letter-writing campaign - the letters are to be sent to President Bush. The letter asks that the \$6.5 million earmarked for abstinence-only education be spread over other HIV prevention programs.

Each of the signed letters will be individually mailed to the president with a condom attached.

Seawood was pleased that students were willing to sign the letters.

"More times than not, we had a good reception; there are more people concerned than I thought," Seawood said. SGAC collected around 100 signatures during the four-hour period.

Robin Siska, a senior in psychology and president of BGLA, organized the World AIDS Day events. They had planned a similar event for last year, but the ice storm eliminated their plans. However, Siska hopes that this will become a regular event each year for NCSU students.

"We just wanted to do this because they hear about things and they get desensitized, and we want people to know that it's still here and it's an important cause," Siska said. She especially hoped that the body bags hit home with the students.

"It's to show people that AIDS doesn't discriminate between race, age, sex, sexual orientation, job, anything," Siska said. Siska also hoped that the condoms and their message would educate students. Each condom had a sticker with the statistic that 50 percent of new HIV transmissions occur in people ages 15-25.

The student presentations were flanked by non-profit and university-supported booths as well. Student Health Promotions had a booth with literature on relationship violence.

The non-profit group Alliance of AIDS Services also brought their STD Roulette game. Students could spin the wheel and get a chance to contract Gonorrhea, Herpes or HPV. Students also gathered at the Alliance booth to watch proper condom demonstrations. Alliance educators gave volunteers the chance to put a condom on a penis mold to see if they knew what they were doing. If not, the educator would demonstrate the proper technique on another model.

"We're really out there to educate them. We want people to leave this table and know what they're doing," Kristena Clay, an Alliance prevention supervisor, said. Clay found that students were very receptive.

"I thought I knew how to put on a condom, but I guess not. I learned that it's important to know the facts of how to properly protect yourself when having sex," Rebecca Highfill, a freshman in animal science, said.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of World AIDS Day, and some students were glad that it was a focus for NCSU.

"I think most of us know about AIDS already, but it is good to remind people to be more aware of our decisions," Mary Chaplin, a junior in psychology, said.

While Josh McCall, a senior in chemical engineering, didn't

Ways to prevent yourself from contracting HIV:

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the original virus that can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). Therefore it is important to protect yourself from becoming HIV positive.

1) Educate yourself and others.

Make sure you know what HIV is and its symptoms. You can't tell that someone is HIV positive by looking at them.

2) Know the HIV status of any sexual partner.

Always ask your partners about their sexual history and never engage in unprotected sex with someone if you aren't sure of their sexual past.

3) Use a new latex or polyurethane condom every time you have sex.

Use a new latex condom every time you have anal or vaginal sex. If you're allergic to latex, then use a polyurethane or plastic condom. Use only water-based lubricants and make sure you put the condom on properly. It is important that there isn't any air in tip because it can lead to the condom breaking.

4) Use a clean needle.

If you use a needle to inject drugs, make sure it's clean, and don't use it again.

5) Be cautious about blood products in certain countries.

Medical workers in the United States are now very careful about screening blood, but other countries don't always do this. If an emergency requires that you receive blood in another country, get tested for HIV as soon as you return to the United States.

6) Get regular screening tests.

If you're a woman, have a yearly Pap smear test. If you are sexually active with more than one partner, then you should get tested for STDs periodically.

7) Don't become complacent.

Because certain medications have reduced the number of AIDS deaths in the United States, many people think that HIV is no longer a problem. But there is still no cure or vaccine for HIV/AIDS.

Source: MayoClinic.com

accept a free condom, he was glad that the volunteers were out there.

"I still think it's a good idea. I want to know. I'm impressed that our campus would be doing so much for World AIDS Day. People need to know," McCall said.

The African Student Union, who had members out in the Brickyard during the afternoon, also held an AIDS Forum in Talley Student Center with several speakers who have seen African AIDS cases firsthand.

Monica Porter, who is working on research on the rising number of AIDS cases within the African, African-American and Caribbean communities, spoke about her time in Ghana where she encountered a hospital ward filled with AIDS patients.

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"It left a mark on my life. I noticed the silence, no one was

talking," Porter said. "I had the firsthand opportunity in my life to see the face of AIDS."

Vicky Reed, who spent time in Kenya on a church mission trip, joined her. Reed stressed that people in Kenya need to be fed before they can be educated because their hunger is too great. She noted that all she saw were older people and young children.

"There is a whole generation being wiped out by AIDS," Reed said. Many children in Kenya and other parts of Africa are raised by their elderly relatives when their parents die from AIDS.

Wendy Wechsberg has made studying South Africans a major part of her life. She works with the RTP-based RTI International, where she is currently doing follow-up research on a study she did on women in South Africa and why they often engage in high-risk behavior. She found in her previous research that of the women they studied, 96 percent of them were forced to serve as sex workers to feed their children and drug habits.

"South African women lack power, lack equity and lack the ability to get jobs," Wechsberg said. "A lot of sex, work and drugs are being used." Wechsberg works on intervention programs that help women obtain food and educate them on how to use protection when having sex. However, she knows that the successes they have are only a small part of what is left to be done.

"Our work is just a drop in the ocean," Wechsberg said. "We still have a lot left to do."

Organizers felt like the event was a success.

"It seems like there is so much more that we don't know. Not all of us can go to South Africa and help out, but we can still get involved here and do what we can," Melody Fayomi, a junior in electrical engineering and member of the African Student Union, said.

SPEAKER

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SGAC and a junior in psychology, said. "Most people look at Magic Johnson and say, 'Oh, he's doing just fine, so AIDS might not be so devastating after all.' We want to have a regular, everyday person with HIV to let people know the harsh realities of the illness."

Jose Arairez will speak at 6 p.m. today in Room 2301 of the Student Health Center. Arairez works with the N.C. Lambda Youth Network as a health educator organizer and is a mentor to youth who are living with HIV.

Arairez will speak on the physical hardships of the virus, society's discrimination towards people living with HIV and AIDS, the financial burdens and the innumerable medications

related to the disease. Arairez said he wishes to reveal the realities of living with AIDS to college students and share with them opportunities they have to help stop the proliferation of the rapidly spreading disease.

"Ignorance is what is spreading the problem," Seawood said. "If we were as educated on such things like AIDS as we should be, the increasing rates of AIDS cases would not be so high."

It is imperative that people know what is going on because that which we don't know is exactly the thing that is killing us; that's why events like these are so vital."

Tracina Williams, a junior in zoology, and Seawood started SGAC on campus in the spring because of an AIDS conference they attended in Washington, D.C. in February.

old Polaroid IDs that were in use before the current system.

Lait said that there would be multiple sites on campus that will be producing new cards for those not on the system.

Despite his department's advertising and media campaign over the next few weeks Lait said that there will be a number of students shocked by the fact their current cards will not work next semester.

"This is just one of those things you can't do in pieces," Lait said.

CARD

continued from page 1

have been made for distribution later this month. Students living on campus will receive their new cards through their residence halls. Those living on campus can pick up their cards at the ticket counters at Reynolds Coliseum starting next Thursday.

Other students can find the distribution method that pertains to them by visiting the AllCampus Web site at nscuallcampus.com.

Even though 33,000 new cards were manufactured, many campus employees are not on the current system.

"I know I'm missing several hundred [people on the system]," Lait said, jokingly mentioning that N.C. State CFO, George Worsely until recently used the

Pre-Printed Card Distribution

- December 11-19** Those living on campus will receive their new student ID cards through their residence hall.
- December 11-19** Those living off campus can pick up their new student ID cards ticket at windows of Reynolds Coliseum.
- December 31** Faculty / Staff cards will be distributed along with payroll checks
- December 31** University Affiliate cards available at the Centennial Office
- December 31** Gym Household Guest access cards available for pickup at Carmichael Gym
- December 31** Encore Program cards available at the McKimmon Center

Source: NCSU AllCampus

ENROLL

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out-of-state students would contribute more diversity to the campus," he said.

Still, Griffin doesn't see the highly debated cap as much of an issue at NCSU, because he

says that some schools may be able to find a way around the enrollment cap.

"In terms of the future, I think we might see some UNC schools exempting specific programs from the cap to fulfill specific targets in North Carolina, such as our need for more teachers and nurses," Griffin said.

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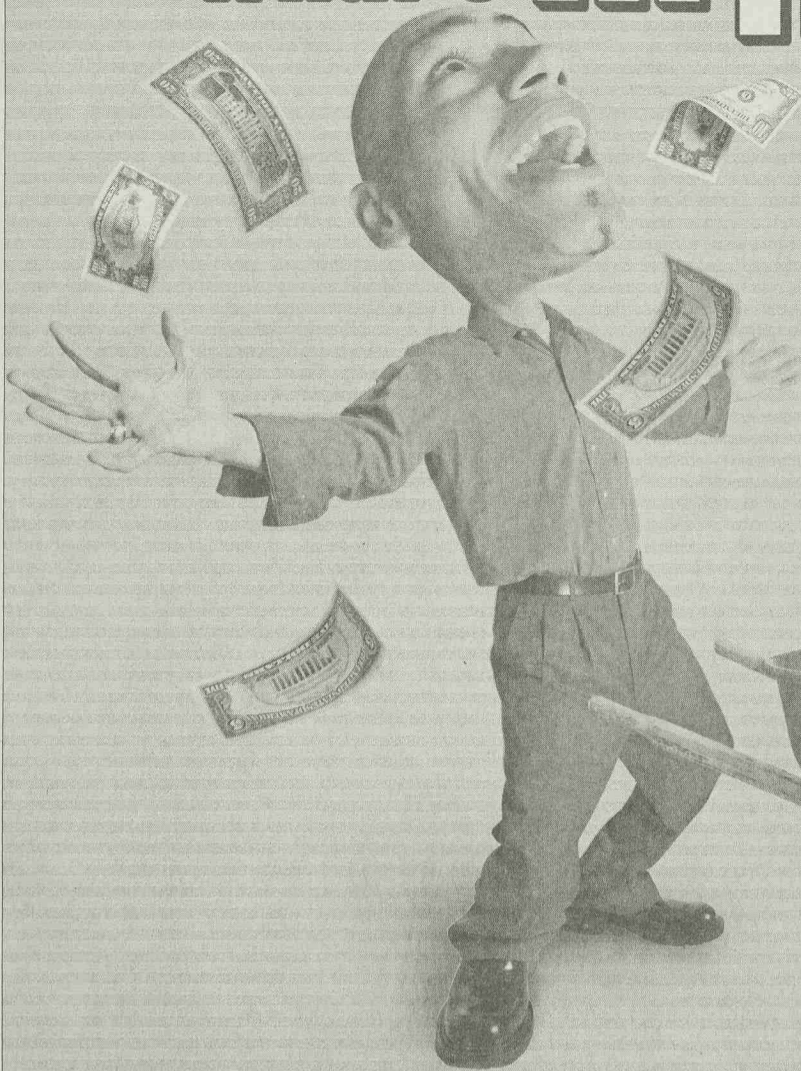
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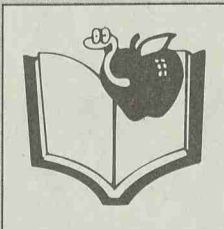
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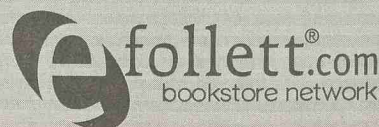
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TICKET THE TICKET



"The Missing"

Starring: Cate Blanchett, Tommy Lee Jones
Director: Ron Howard
★ ★/2

Few films are as horribly marketed as Ron Howard's "The Missing," which many people - based on the advertisements - believed to be a thriller. That notion is quite different from the slow, dramatic Western that was actually created.

Not that it matters too much, for "The Missing" is probably going to disappoint most viewers, no matter what they're expecting. It's told at a very relaxed pace that ventures far into the Land of Boredom; for a film that runs just more than two hours, it stretches on for what seems like many more. It's got a

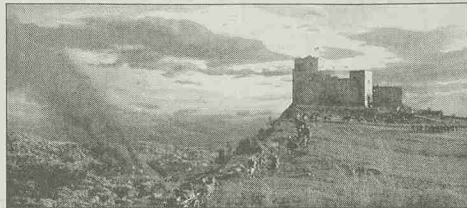
this film actually been a supernatural thriller set in the West, the photography would still fit perfectly.

The film's conflict is where the problems come in, as Maggie (Blanchett) and her long-lost father (Jones) set off to find her daughter, who was kidnapped by some very well-groomed savages who sell pretty girls in Mexico. The film's portrayal of these savages, who are primarily Native-American, is quite lopsided. They're murderous monsters half the time, and businessmen with standards - even morals - during the other half. Their actions frequently seem more motivated by a film trying to be inoffensive than by the characters themselves, and the result is paper-thin characters that fit the stereotypes the film tries to avoid.

Mainly, though, the film is just slow. Instead of being interesting the whole time, it's interesting just enough to make the majority of it seem that much more boring.

Even fans of slower films will find this one hard to sit through.

Others will just let "The Missing" stay that way.
-Joel Isaac Frady



Timeline

Director: Richard Donner
Starring: Paul Walker, Frances O'Connor
★ ★/2

Take the unexplainable apparatus that transports DNA sequences in "The Fly" and the concept of changes in the past altering the present ("Back to the Future"), subtract the actors with charisma and the ethical morals of the narratives, and you've got the latest time-traveling blockbuster, "Timeline."

IITC, a shady technology lab in the New Mexico, discovers how to breakdown and recreate molecules to transport objects and organisms elsewhere. The only problem is a "wormhole" that causes everything to wind up in Casteltgard, France, circa 1357. An archeological team consisting

of Chris (Paul Walker), Kate (Frances O'Connor) and others, gets forced into traveling back in time via the magical room with mirrored walls, in order to save Chris's father.

A little history lesson at the beginning forewarns the audience of the British-French fighting that will soon engulf the film. But the dull lecture is as unimportant to the audience as it is to Chris, who's just along for the girl (O'Connor).

Suddenly thrown into medieval times, and the spectator is suddenly in an interesting apathetic situation.

An unavoidable lack of interest in the ongoing war is created because the audience has only been introduced to the main characters from the "future," so both sides feel equally distant. Eventually, the film becomes pro-French, with the English turning into the

bad guys.

Sadly, Walker's performance is nowhere near as energetic of either of his "Fast and Furious" roles; he acts (or, more appropriately, doesn't act) as if he regrets taking the role. The other actors are equally unexciting, and no on-screen chemistry develops.

In the film's defense, it does possess several redeeming qualities. Clearly, the director is not afraid of killing some characters (and showing some gore in the process), thereby adding intensity to the action. In addition, from start to finish, you know you're watching a genuine action movie - it doesn't drag or become slow with any slow emotional love scenes, and the film's length feels right.

I expected a little more from the director of the classic "Goonies." "Timeline" is entertaining, but easily forgotten a few hours later.

In such films, unexplained logistics do not always need clear explanations; marvel at more explosions and more sword-fights, and you'll soon forget all the overlooked plot details. Pass the Milk Duds and popcorn!
-Andrew Nicholas



"Bad Santa"

★★★★★
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox
Director: Terry Zwigoff

It's hard to find words to describe how vulgar and potentially offensive "Bad Santa" is...but it's even harder to find words to describe how explosively funny the film is. In the [altered] words of Marla Singer, "I haven't [laughed] like that since grade school."

The film follows a safe cracker (Billy Bob Thornton) and his dwarf partner (Tony Cox) as they pose at a department store as Santa and his elf with the intention of robbing the place on Christmas Eve.

It's a scheme they pull every year, but this gig is presenting far more problems than they're used to. There's the conservative store manager (the late John Ritter) who disapproves of Santa's (excessive) boozing, womanizing and general

lack of anything resembling manners, though he can't find a reason to fire the duo. There's also the store's head security guard (Bernie Mac), who isn't as clueless as the pair would like.

Enter into the picture a woman with a thing for Santa (the lovely Lauren Graham) and a kid that still believes in Christmas (Brett Kelly), and the bizarre events of "Bad Santa" are just getting started.

Basically every scene in "Bad Santa" contains good

laughs. Some may have bigger laughs than others, and you might feel a bit guilty for laughing at some of them, but you'll still be laughing. And even when the plot takes a turn that doesn't seem very original, rest assured that the jokes they run with are quite unpredictable.

At heart (even with all the cursing and naughty deeds), "Bad Santa" stands as a fairly good-spirited Christmas film. It's the tale of the meanest, most vile Scrooge

to ever find the Christmas spirit in the midst of deception and greed. In its own strange way, it's a very optimistic film.

If that's too much insight for you, however, then be left with this: "Bad Santa" is the funniest film of the year, and it will probably be a while before another film this funny comes out.

So if you like laughing, "Bad Santa" is the perfect film to fight the dead week blues.
-Joel Isaac Frady

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RESPECT THE DEAD

OUR OPINION: THE SUPREME COURT WAS RIGHT NOT TO ACCEPT THE DALE EARNHARDT AUTOPSY PHOTOGRAPHS CASE. THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY OVERRIDES THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW.

There are many things the press can report on: murders, crimes, scandals. For the most part, the First Amendment protects the press when reporting on such matters, as long as it is factual and accurate.

But there are instances where the right to privacy is paramount to free press.

The latest case comes from Florida, where the University of Florida's student newspaper, The Alligator, sued for the right to print NASCAR racer Dale Earnhardt's autopsy photos.

Earnhardt, a seven-time Winston Cup champion, died during the Daytona 500 on Feb. 18, 2001 when his car slammed into a wall. He died instantly of injuries to the head. There was a media frenzy to cover the event and anything connected

with Earnhardt was fair game, even the autopsy photos.

The State of Florida, however, disagreed and passed a law banning the press from seeing and printing autopsy photos. There is a \$5,000 fine for the unauthorized copying and publication of autopsy photos.

This law applies to Internet sites as well, to prevent sites like Rotten.com, which displays grotesque pictures, from picking them up and publishing them on the World Wide Web.

Since the law was enacted, The Alligator has been suing to have the photos released.

They say the photos will uncover negligence by the medical examiner. But the Supreme Court disagreed and refused to accept the case, letting the judgment of the lower court stand.

This is a prudent course to be steering. Autopsy photos have no place in a newspaper, especially a student newspaper. It is unclear why The Alligator

wants to publish these photos, and the 'uncovering negligence' excuse is not enough to have photos released.

As much as the public's right to know is necessary in order to have a free and independent press, the right to privacy must be maintained so respected publications do not turn into third-rate tabloids that print half-truths and questionable material.

With the advent of the Internet, it is more evident now than ever to have laws in place that respect the deceased and the family. Take for example celebrity mugshots being broadcast on late night television. Imagine autopsy photos.

Autopsy photos are not pretty, and can be humiliating to the family if published, whether it is a celebrity, like Dale Earnhardt, or Joe Schmo from Dullsville, U.S.A.

The press can fulfill their obligation to the public without becoming vultures at the scene of the crash.

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A unique Thanksgiving

Robert Jallall describes his family's imitation of holiday traditions and the reasons behind such celebrations.

I am an immigrant of the born-abroad-but-raised-in-America flavor, and more often than not, I strain to think of myself as anything but American. Whenever I try to play the immigrant, my friends never fail to remind me that I am whiter than they are.

When I went home this week, I had the pleasure of eating hot food that I did not have to make myself (As a corollary, the food was also better tasting.). My mother made turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and sweet potato pie in quantities that would last at least a week. Outside of the presence of dahl puri and curry, the meal could be assessed as very traditional for the holiday. Perhaps less

biology, after eating the big meal, everyone lazed or slept away the traditional Thanksgiving Day.

Continuing the rituals, my parents went shopping on Black Friday and already brought back wrapped presents and gifts for Christmas. Like clockwork, the Christmas tree went up that weekend, and work began on festooning the

house with lights and decorations. As a function of getting older, this Thanksgiving also lacked some elements of previous years' celebrations.

Except in this column, I don't have to go back to school and write a reflection about my holiday. There was also no mention of the Thanksgiving story that kids often have to review in preparation for the day.

Regardless, I think my vacation was very traditional. However, sometimes I am moved to ask myself "Why am I doing this?"

While for me, the above holiday traditions are old, for my parents, they must be new. In Guyana, the South American country where my parents grew up, the November holiday itself does not exist. This nonexistence is not just nominal, as it is with Canada and their October celebration.

For one, turkeys do not live in Guyana. To a foreigner, the prospect of cooking and eating such a strange, huge bird must come as a big surprise (Indeed, my Japanese teacher once remarked how unbelievable it was that Americans ate this bird that she had previously only seen in zoos.). One must also cross sweet potato pies and cranberry sauce off the list of

foods eaten in Guyana. For Christmas, scratch eggnog and cider from the list.

There are no Christmas trees in Guyana. The tradition of cutting down small conifers, bringing them into the house, decorating them and putting gifts under them is one that can only be practiced where the climate allows. Imagine Christmas without a Christmas tree! One cannot even begin to think about wreaths, mistletoes, snow, snowmen or fireplaces.

Some of the other points almost need no explanation. Christmas lights require electricity, which, even today, is only intermittent at best. Black Friday and decorations are things to afford, which the Guyanese cannot.

My parents' Thanksgivings and Christmases were so different from my own, it is almost like they are foreigners in the same family.

To answer the question of why I take part in the holiday traditions, my parents copied the culture and traditions of people around them when they moved here.

Their experiences of Thanksgiving and Christmas would not resemble our American neighbors', but my brothers' and mine do.

Presumably, the resemblance helped my brothers and I grow up as Americans, but because it was all copied, the resemblance now seems farcical. The great story of the pilgrims coming to

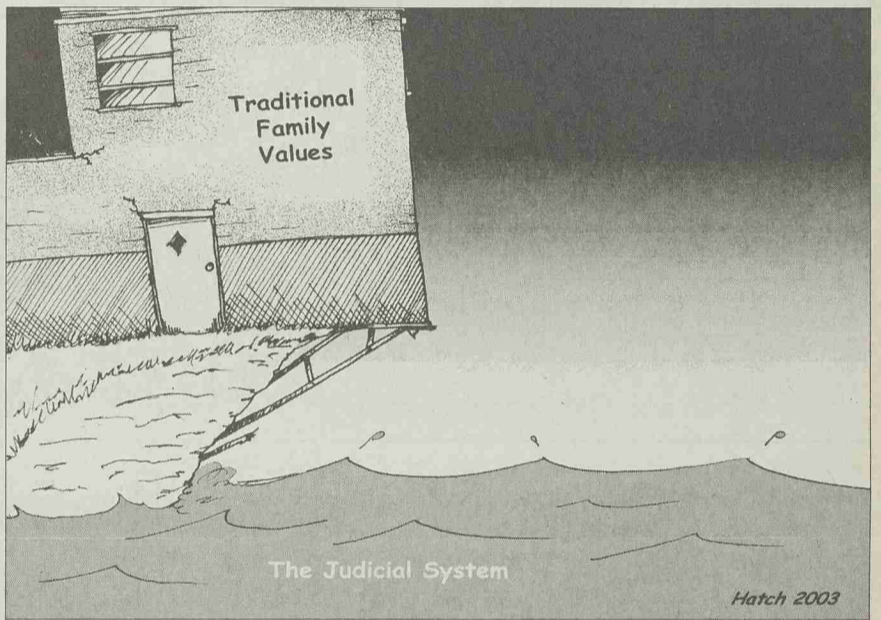
America has no connection with my family. There are no family recipes passed down through generations; what my mother cooks today are things borrowed from American friends or learned from cookbooks. All those

Thanksgivings where my brothers and I ate the big turkey dinner with cranberry sauce and the other sides were just an imitation of what American kids do. All those Christmases where my brothers and I woke up to tear open our presents under the tree were also an imitation. Even the consumerism is an imitation.

Today, I wonder what I will do years from now. I have already experienced what it is like without Thanksgiving and Christmas during my study abroad in Tokyo.

In Tokyo, I could readily identify my holiday observances as imitation and thus, arbitrary, but now at home, I have come to see the same arbitrariness. Now, devoid of history, I can choose, as if from a menu, what traditions I want or do not want to follow, just as my parents did before me. Perhaps that will become my tradition.

Email Robert with your comments at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com.



Taking stock of what is left

Another semester is almost over, and Andrew Payne looks back at some of the highlights of fall 2003.

As the semester draws to a close, I'd like to share a few thoughts and observations about the N.C. State community. By the way, these are in no particular order.

No one should be surprised that the Wolfpack lost to Maryland in football. The team started the game with retiring the No. 17 jersey of quarterback Philip Rivers. You want to talk about bad omens. Who in



Andrew Payne
Staff Columnist

the Athletics Department made that decision? Did they forget Rivers had two remaining games? They must have had New Year's Eve plans already.

The N.C. State Board of Trustees once again passed an overwhelming campus based tuition increase, a total of \$900 over the next three years. Unfortunately for the Board of Trustees (fortunately for the students), their decision will be modified, even overturned, by the UNC system Board of Governors. NCSU will be lucky to receive a one-year increase, let alone a multiple-year increase. This isn't the first time the Trustees have been shown up and made to look foolish by the Board of Governors.

Out-of-state students should be hoping that Santa places a few extra dollars in their stockings this year. That is - if a proposal at UNC-Chapel Hill is approved, out-of-state students might be paying an additional \$8,000 a year for their education. Why the sudden increase? Chapel Hill is going through a public relations rebuilding campaign after their failed attempt to raise the cap on the enrollment of out-of-state students.

Their debacle alienated almost every parent, legislator and school board across the state. Even if this mas-

sive tuition increase does not pass either the Chapel Hill Trustees or the Board of Governors, look for action by the N.C. General Assembly to make it law. Any increase at UNC-CH will be felt by NCSU students.

Adam Smith, a recent NCSU graduate, has recently published "NCSU: A Bridge to the Future," a 165-page book that chronicles N.C. State's history with photographs. There has been discussion among the university's administration to provide every incoming freshman with a copy. I think that is a great idea, that way freshmen can be reminded of all the traditions that the university and the City of Raleigh have squashed over the years.

Once again the university is attempting to drive businesses away from Hillsborough Street. With a planned "juice bar" in the works for the Carmichael expansion the university feels the necessity to compete with Hillsborough Street merchants who offer similar products. My question to the university - when will the dining hall be serving great tasting food like Porter's Tavern?

Off-campus students may soon feel the wrath of newly elected Raleigh City Councilor Thomas Crowder. Crowder is expected to nominate NCSU forestry Professor Ted Shear to the Raleigh Planning Commission. Shear is the self-proclaimed savior of single-family neighborhoods and vocal supporter of limiting the number

of unrelated persons in a single-family home. Look out for the Raleigh Police performing neighborhood sweeps where they corral students into paddy wagons and force them to live in the student ghettos - I mean "student" apartment communities. Maybe Crowder and Shear would like students to wear a big red "S" on their clothes to differentiate them from "real" people.

Crowder may not be in office too long if a recall petition is successful. Raleigh City Code allows for the recall of an elected official with the signature of a small percentage of registered voters. Too bad Zack Medford isn't an Austrian body builder.

After Philip Rivers, Officer Bowen's name is recognized most on campus. As the Nuisance Party Ordinance Nazi officer "no one knows my first name" Bowen makes his living by busting up college parties on Friday and Saturday nights. He must get a joy out of it as well. Bowen

handed out a nuisance party ticket last weekend to a household that had nine people gathered around the television playing video games. Hey Officer Bowen, I am having a party this Friday night, and my address is 1903 Hillsborough Street.

It has been a great semester; I look forward to many more.

Contact Andrew at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com.

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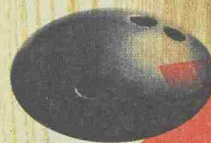
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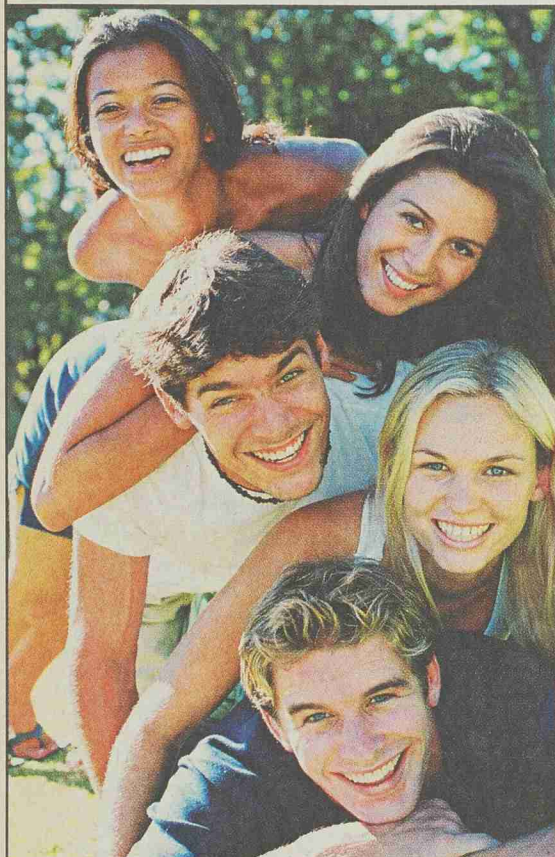


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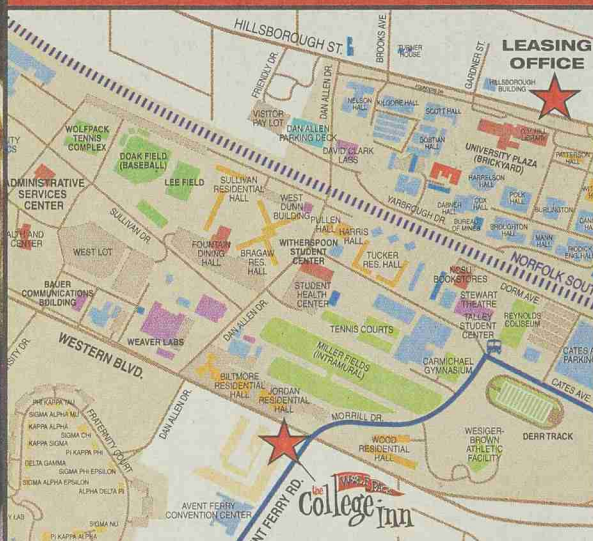
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Schedule

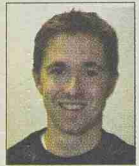
Football vs. Kansas, 12/22, 5:30
Men's basketball at Michigan, 12/2, 7:30
Women's basketball vs. ECU, 12/3, 7
W. Swimming & Diving at UNC, 12/2
Wrestling at Las Vegas Invite, 12/5-6



TECHNICIAN

Giving thanks

My favorite Thanksgiving Day football game features an all-time quarterback in his 40s, a field slightly larger than a dorm room and plays drawn up on the back of a hand.



Andrew B. Carter
Deputy Sports Editor

The game gets all the national attention of the Tangerine Bowl, and it's probably like any other. Thanksgiving Day football game in America.

My favorite Thanksgiving Day football game isn't on

TV. It doesn't involve Lions or Cowboys or ESPN or John Madden.

There's no commentators or cameras. There's no paint on the field, only grass that's bare and naked in some parts. This Thanksgiving, the field even went dogleg left, and the all-time quarterback had to fight through tree branches to loft touchdown passes.

There's no spectators, either. The only one who watched this was also the game's only cheerleader — the quarterback's wife and the players' mother.

So why is such a game my favorite Thanksgiving Day football game?

Probably because while the spirals aren't tight, the bonds are. Probably because of the brotherhood. Because it's tissue, please — of the love.

It's not a typical football game, this classic. But it has as much tradition as eating turkey on turkey day. There are only four players or five if you count the all-time quarterback. Three of the guys are brothers: Vann, the oldest, a recent State graduate; Stephen, a current NCSU student and John, the youngest and a high school junior.

The other is also a brother, even though I've got a different last name. Usually, the game is broken into a battle of youth vs. age. Speed vs. smarts. Butter fingers vs. Mr. Droppy Hands. This year, I teamed up with Vann as we beat Stephen and John like they had stolen something, 35-28. It's only a touchdown difference, but we let up. Plus, Bruno said he'd give my partner and I a cut if we shaved some points.

The game's got history, too. It debuted one Thanksgiving Day a long time ago, always in the afternoon, always after the turkey and stuffing and fixings had settled in from a delicious meal.

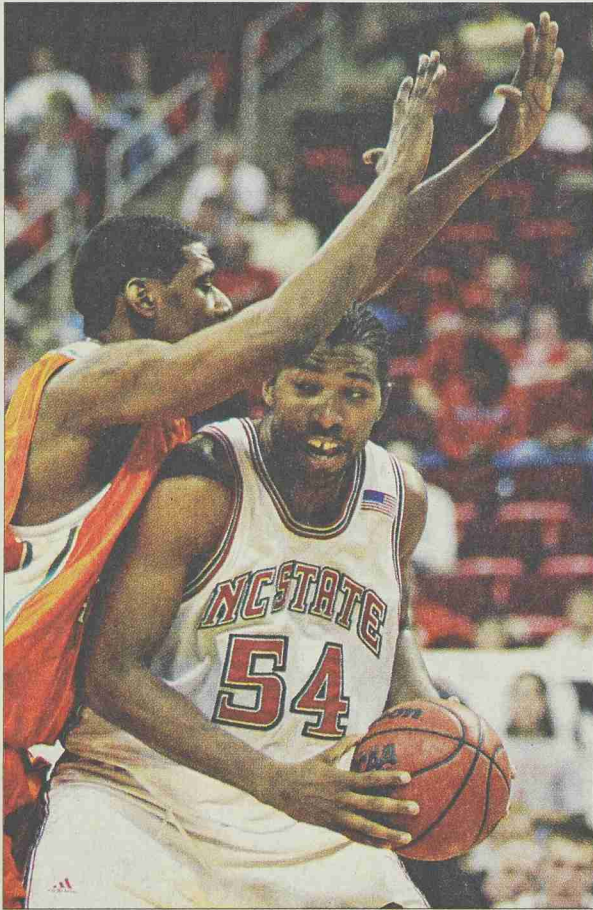
In the early days, it was a one-on-one showdown of Vann vs. Stephen, with Mr. Pearce lobbing passes as all-time quarterback.

Vann won most of those games, but Stephen has caught up in recent years. Ask them both, and they might tell you they're undefeated.

For the past six Thanksgivings, I've been fortunate enough to be

CARTER see page 7

Beefed up schedule begins tonight



Marcus Melvin and the Wolfpack face a tough slate of out-of-conference games starting tonight at Michigan.

N.C. State's non-conference basketball schedule is considered stronger than last year.

Matt Middleton
Sports Editor

In last season's N.C. State basketball media guide, each player was asked to name the team member that is most likely to be a coach someday. Junior reserve Will Roach was the most popular answer to that question, but senior Scooter Sherrill simply answered it "myself."

It seems to be a prudent answer for the West Rowan product, considering he's already perfected the concept of "coachspeak."

"Howard and Florida A&M were both great teams," Sherrill said of the two Mid-Eastern Athletic opponents State beat by a combined 50 points.

But State won't have to worry about being tested tonight when it travels to undefeated Michigan for a 7:30 game as part of the ACC/Big 10 Challenge.

"It's good we have a stiff road test coming up," coach Herb Sendek said. "I think we'll learn more about our basketball team."

Not only tonight, but in the non-conference contests that follow.

Of the seven non-conference opponents the Pack has remaining after Michigan, three of those were NCAA Tournament teams a year ago and all but one of the other four is a big-name school from a BCS league.

Last year's non-ACC schedule had State meet exactly zero teams that would go on to play in the Big Dance.

Still, Sendek claimed his schedule isn't that much different than a year ago.

"I don't know if it's a whole lot different [from past years]. One thing that stands out is that we don't have a lot of games

Remaining non-conference games for N.C. State, which travels to Michigan tonight for the ACC/Big 10 Challenge:

Dec. 7 vs. Wisconsin Milwaukee
Panthers (2-1) were beaten at the buzzer in NCAA Tournament last year by Notre Dame.

Dec. 13 vs. Hartford
Hawks (2-1) beat UMass by six earlier in the year.

Dec. 20 at South Carolina
Gamecocks (6-0) off to best start in almost 15 years under Dave Odom.

Jan. 3 vs. UNC-Wilmington
Seahawks (3-1) were probably the third-best team in the state last year.

Jan. 7 vs. Brigham Young
Cougars (2-1) have seven players at least 6-foot-7 on their roster.

Jan. 20 at Boston College
Eagles (4-0) felt they should have gotten State's tourney bid last year.

Feb. 22 vs. Washington
Huskies (3-0) return 71 percent of their scoring from last year's 10-17 team.

in December," Sendek said.

State plays just five games this month, which allows student-athletes to concentrate on their exams beginning next Monday.

State will play one more game, Sunday against Wisconsin-Milwaukee, before getting nearly a week for exams. Last season, UWM won 24 games and almost defeated Notre Dame in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"By quick count, we only have four non-conference games in December, which puts us a little more crowded in January because we pick up UNCW and BYU," Sendek said.

But the Pack must first set its sights on winning a game in the Challenge for the

SCHEDULE see page 7

Freshman Perry tastes success

Swimmer has chewed up competition, Rice Krispies Treats this season.

Ian Jester
Staff Writer

The success of a team depends on each and every member. No matter how large or small their parts may seem, they are indisputably connected as a whole. For example, the savory taste of a Rice Krispies Treat depends not on a single rice krispy, but on each and every rice krispy working together — every snap, crackle and pop going toward a goal.

So what do Rice Krispies Treats and the women's swim team have in common? Nothing — but freshman sprinter Rebecca Perry thanks her mother for the tasty treat before each meet.

"Especially this season, before every meet I have to have a Rice Krispies Treat that my mom has made me," she said.

Those treats arrive out of Greenville, where Perry earned multiple state championships at J.H. Rose High School. Swimming since age six, what started as simply having fun in the pool with her older sister has transformed Perry into a Division I athlete at N.C. State.

"At that time, I was doing swimming, gymnastics and dance just to keep busy, but I never thought that I would be doing it this long," Perry said.

Swimming with a club team in Greenville, she fell under the eyes of assistant coach Chad Onken. Onken, who State hired as an assistant coach in November 2000, first witnessed Perry swim the first weekend that December, and saw someone that he had to bring to the



The women's diving team has been bolstered by freshman Rebecca Perry.

Wolfpack.

"Her [club] coach in Greenville was one of my best friends growing up," Onken said. "I pulled him aside and said, 'I have to get that girl.' We were very fortunate to get her away from schools like Virginia and North Carolina.

"She's big time, and we're very happy

to have her."

Yet, Perry would have come to Raleigh on her own accord. Deciding between State, UNC, UVA and East Carolina, she liked how coach Brooks Teal incorporated the men's and women's teams together,

PERRY see page 7

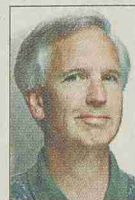
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