

TECHNICIAN

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FEBRUARY

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2004

Raleigh, North Carolina



TAYLOR TEMPLETON/TECHNICIAN

Whyteria Bullock takes in the new photography exhibit at D.H. Hill. "Requiem: By the Photographers Who Dies in Vietnam and Indochina" will be on display at the library until May 31. Bullock said, "It amazes me what people had to go through...it really humbles me."

Library presents 'Requiem'

The Vietnam War photo exhibit began Monday in D.H. Hill Library.

Robert White
Staff reporter

"They're pretty powerful photographs" said Steven Younder as he looked at the photographs of the Vietnam exhibit in D.H. Hill Library.

Younder and his brother Adam Younder are visitors to N.C. State viewing the exhibit, "Requiem" by photographers who died in Vietnam and Indochina.

The exhibit based on a book by Horst Faas and Tim Page, two photojournalists injured in the Vietnam War, features the photographs from 135 photojournalists who died during that war.

"Requiem" features not only the work of American, European, Cambodian and South Vietnamese photographers but also photographs from North Vietnamese and Vietcong photographers.

The exhibit, presented by the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, has been to New York City, Chicago, Ho Chi Minh City, London and Tokyo.

"Requiem" shows a variety of scenes from the Vietnam War and

Indochina from the 1950s to the mid 1970s. Photographs show the ruins of Buddhist monuments in the wake of the war. Other photographs show helicopter rescues, soldier memorials and military interrogations from both sides. There are also photographs of servicemen and civilians during different phases of the war.

"Requiem" also shows the pictures of the photographers with a short biography. Before this exhibit, the photographs from the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong were not available for public viewing in the west.

Highlights from the exhibit include several photographs from British photographer Larry Burrows, a photographer for Life Magazine, Vietnamese photographer Huynh Thanh My, and French photographer, Henri Huet.

Other photographers featured in the exhibit include Tim Page, a freelance photographer in the United Kingdom who has taken war photographs for the Associated Press, UPI and Life Magazine and Horst Faas, who covered the Vietnam War as the chief photographer for the Associated Press in Southeast Asia. Faas has won two Pulitzer Prizes for photography.

"The exhibit is a chance to look at the reality of photojournalism," said Terry Crow, director of Publications for NCSU Libraries.

PHOTOS see page 2

Survey probes profiling

N.C. State researchers concluded that racial profiling is not a factor in police stops

Tara Zechini
Staff Reporter

A recent study done by N.C. State researchers shows that there is no evidence of systematic racial profiling in the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

"I was surprised by the results," William Smith, associate professor who holds a doctorate in sociology, said. "I expected that we would find more evidence of major bias."

There were individual districts with higher citation rates of African-Americans, but there were also districts with lower averages.

"There is no pattern to suggest wholesale bias or discrimination across the highway patrol as an organization," said Matthew Zingraff, professor who holds a doctorate

in sociology and the primary investigator of the study.

The high citation rates of African-Americans in several districts could be due to the troopers' practices of patrolling areas of a highway where African-American drivers are overrepresented.

According to researchers, there are reasons for patrolling some areas more than others. Areas patrolled more frequently are those that have a high accident rate or a safe place to stop vehicles.

While the study shows that racial profiling is not a pervasive issue, some students feel that the isolated cases are still significant.

"...Profiling takes place," Tracy Salisbury, a senior in biology, said. "It occurs more frequently for black males than black females."

The researchers could not rule out the existence of individual officer bias.

Professor and co-investigator of the study, Donald Tomaskovic-Devey who holds a doctorate in sociology, suggests that if there is in fact individual bias,

managers should address the problem by monitoring the race composition of stops by individual officers.

In addition to determining if North Carolina State Highway Patrol officers engaged in racial profiling when making traffic stops, the study looked at North Carolina citizens' thoughts about the issue.

The study found that both African-American and white citizens experience disrespectful treatment during a stop, or learn of disrespectful treatment from friends or family, developing a dramatically reduced trust in the police force.

Documents also showed that African-American citizens have an increased belief that bias exists in policing. According to the study, a more general expectation of racial bias in all walks of life and a specific expectation of police bias influences this belief.

Research partially supports African-Americans' belief in biased policing. The

PROFILING see page 2

ICE AND SNOW... AGAIN



TAYLOR TEMPLETON/TECHNICIAN

Late in the afternoon, sophomore Don Warren scrapes the accumulated ice off his car. Freezing rain and snow fell throughout the day as temperatures hovered around freezing

Upcoming break offers more than just rest

Students plan to build and teach over the spring holiday

Shannon Holder
Assistant News Editor

Spring Break usually brings visions of lounging on the beach or relaxing at home for a week, but for some, spring break will be a time for volunteering all over the globe.

Several organizations are planning trips all over the globe to build houses, volunteer and tutor students.

"People have different interests, not everyone is going to go out and party," Tierza Watts, the associate director for the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service, said.

The center is planning four trips for this spring break. Two international trips will focus on building houses for the poor with Habitat for Humanity Global Village. One group will build foundations in Ecuador, the other nailing roofs in the Dominican Republic.

The Ecuador group will be having a spaghetti dinner in Bragaw Hall Thursday night to help raise money for their trip. For \$3.50, students will get dinner and entertainment.

"I think the people in charge of this fundraising project have really put a lot into it," Crystal Young, a senior in Spanish and political science, said. "I'm excited to prepare the actual meal. I think it's a cool opportunity to raise money and have fun at the same time."

Young is excited to test her Spanish abilities in Ecuador, but looks forward to the feeling of helping others.

"I've done the regular spring break the last three years and I knew it was my last chance to do this," she said. "I definitely expect some sort of personal growth in this trip."

Jon-Matthew Belton, a freshman in biochemistry, is going to the Dominican Republic for the first time.

"I just like to help people," he said. "I wake up every morning and I have a roof over my head and I thought the best way to share the

ASB see page 2

University to host famous author

Alice Sebold, the author of "The Lovely Bones" will visit the Talley Student Center Ballroom tonight.

Diane Cordova
Assistant News Editor

Students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to share an evening with the celebrated author, Alice Sebold. Sebold penned "The Lovely Bones," a highly praised novel released in 2002.

Sebold will lecture tonight at 7

p.m. in the Talley Student Center Ballroom.

Sebold, who lives in California with her husband, is a former student of Wilton Barnhardt, an associate professor in the Creative Writing Program.

Before Barnhardt arrived at N.C. State in 2002, he and Sebold met in 1996 at the University of California at Irvine where he was teaching.

At that time, Sebold started writing "The Lovely Bones" and received guidance from Barn-

AUTHOR see page 2

insidetechician



'Big Fish' in the sea

An interview with David Wallace. Page 8

diversions 6
viewpoint 7
classifieds 9
sports 10

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IN THE KNOW

NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, NATION & STATE

WORLD

Three U.S. soldiers killed in roadside bombings

Roadside bombs have claimed more American lives, killing three U.S. soldiers in separate attacks in Baghdad and Sunni Muslim areas to the north of the capital. At least six soldiers were injured in the attacks, one critically.

In the biggest attack, one soldier from Task Force Iron Horse was killed and four were wounded in a roadside bombing in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. One of the wounded was critically injured and the other three were in guarded condition, the military said. The first soldier from the Stryker Brigade to be killed by hostile fire died Monday evening in a roadside bombing in Tall Afar in northern Iraq.

-Wire Reports

One cleared in case of man eaten by lions

Police dropped murder charges Tuesday against one of four men accused of feeding a dismissed farm worker to lions at a northern game park.

Contending the alleged attack was racially motivated, hundreds of ruling African National Congress and South African Communist Party supporters protested outside court Tuesday. Riot police barricaded the road, the South African Press Association reported.

-Wire Reports

NATION

Gay marriages stand as California judge delays ruling

Conservatives went to court Tuesday and argued that San Francisco flagrantly violated the constitution by issuing same-sex marriage licenses, but wedding bells continued to ring for dozens more gay couples.

A judge in one case delayed until at least Friday a ruling on whether to block the marriages - more than 2,300 of which have taken place since last Thursday. Another judge was scheduled to hear a similar case in the afternoon.

Newly elected Mayor Gavin Newsom's decision to allow same-sex marriages remains legally unsettled but has intensified the national debate over whether gay couples should be allowed to marry.

-Wire Reports

Bishop convicted in fatal hit-and-run case

Bishop Thomas O'Brien was convicted of hit-and-run Tuesday for leaving the scene after killing a jaywalking pedestrian with his car, a crash that ended his career as head of the Roman Catholic diocese.

O'Brien is believed to be the first Roman Catholic bishop in U.S. history to be convicted of a felony.

The 68-year-old bishop, who said he thought he hit a dog or was struck by a rock, could be sentenced to anywhere from probation to three and three-fourths years in prison on the charge of leaving the scene of an accident.

-Wire Reports

STATE

North Carolina AG agrees with court ruling

State Attorney General Roy Cooper applauded a federal appeals court ruling Tuesday upholding the government's Do Not Call Registry.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals called the registry "a reasonable fit." It dismissed telemarketers' claims that it violates free speech rights and is unfair because it doesn't apply to charities and political solicitations.

More than 1.8 million North Carolina phone numbers have been placed on the registry since it began last July, according to the state attorney general's office.

-Wire Reports

Raleigh's first black city council member dies

John Wesley Winters Sr., the first black Raleigh City Council member and one of the first black state senators of the 20th century, has died at the age of 84. Winters, who had advanced Parkinson's disease, died Sunday at an Atlanta hospital.

In the 1950s, Winters worked as a milkman and a skipcap to support his family while nurturing his dream of building houses in Southeast Raleigh's black community.

John W. Winters & Co. opened in 1957. Winters then expanded to land development in 1960.

He developed Biltmore Hills, a neighborhood of affordable homes for middle-class blacks, naming the streets for famous blacks - including (Ralph) Bunche and (Ella) Fitzgerald drives and (Roy) Campanella Lane.

-Wire Reports

Wisconsin picks Kerry, just barely

Steven Thomma and Mark Johnson

Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

MILWAUKEE - Wisconsin decided Tuesday to propel Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts toward the Democratic presidential nomination, choosing the front-runner over N.C. Sen. John Edwards by just mere percentage points. With 30 percent of precincts reporting, CNN projected Kerry the winner - 39 percent to Edwards' 38 percent.

At stake were 72 delegates. Kerry's win still leaves him short of the 2,162 delegates needed to win the nomination, but it would effectively wrap up the nomination by demonstrating the breadth of his appeal within the party and the failure of his rivals to challenge him anywhere.

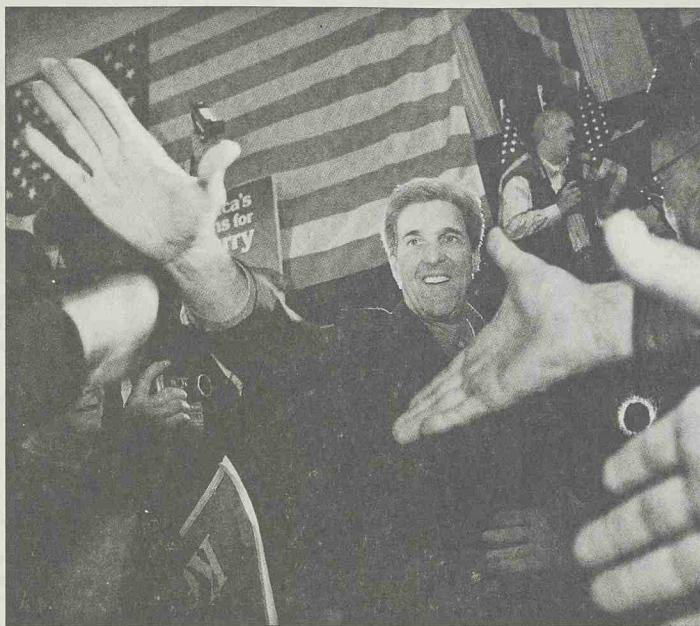
It also would put enormous pressure on Dean, winless in 17 states, to withdraw. And it would make it more difficult for Edwards to continue casting himself as a viable alternative to Kerry after winning just one contest, in South Carolina, two weeks earlier.

Edwards looked for votes Tuesday at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

"Today is a critical day," he said. "I need every one of you to get to the polls, reach out to your friends, family, your neighbors, get them to the polls."

A respectable finish in Wisconsin could be enough to propel Edwards into a two-man race with Kerry at least until a huge coast-to-coast round of primaries on March 2, when 10 states will choose a third of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Two other candidates - Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and the Rev. Al Sharpton of New York - weren't drawing significant support in Wisconsin,



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry greets supporters during an event where he received an endorsement from labor unions in Milwaukee, Wis., on Tuesday.

according to polls.

Kerry aimed his rhetorical fire at President Bush on Tuesday, accusing his administration of failing to keep promises to help veterans.

"This is not a conservative Republican administration, this is an extreme radical administration," Kerry said. "And we need to replace them with common sense and with fundamental American values."

In another sign that he was consolidating his grip on the party, Kerry on Tuesday picked up the endorsement of the Alliance for Economic Justice, a 19-union organization that had supported Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri until he dropped out of the race.

Gephardt and nine union

presidents, including Teamsters President James P. Hoffa, embraced Kerry during a morning rally in a Milwaukee hotel. It appeared to be less the passionate embrace of a soul mate than a calculation rooted in hard-nosed politics.

As Hoffa said, "John Kerry has a quality all of us know: He can beat George Bush!"

Dean hoped for a stunning victory but braced for political oblivion. He planned to return to Vermont after the vote to decide whether to stay in the race amid signs that many of his aides would leave if he didn't win in Wisconsin. His campaign chairman defected to the Kerry campaign on Monday.

Dean's hometown newspaper on Tuesday urged him to drop

out of the race if he lost in Wisconsin.

"For pride alone, Dean does not want to be perceived as a vanity candidate, a punch-drunk fighter seeking one more round to prove himself the champion," the Burlington Free Press said. "Right now, Dean is walking the fine line between respect and ridicule."

Kerry started looking ahead to the 10 states - California, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont - that will vote March 2. He announced that he has opened campaign offices in all of them.

If he remains in the race, Edwards plans to focus on California, Georgia and New York.

PROFILING

continued from page 1

report found that, across the state as a whole, officers stopped and cited African-Americans at a higher rate than whites.

African Americans make up 21.2 percent of all licensed N.C. drivers, yet they received

24.9 percent of all citations from troopers.

Zingraff said that the data provide no direct measures of individual trooper decision-making processes, including potential bias processes.

In discussion of inconsistencies in the outcome, Dr. Harvey McMurray, associate professor at N.C. Central University who

holds a doctorate in sociology, said, "One need not be a racist or ill-intended to make race-based law enforcement decisions and, whether intentional or not, the impact might constitute racial profiling."

ASB

continued from page 1

wealth is to provide a roof over someone else's [house]."

Belton's friends have been very supportive of his trip, and have donated money to support him.

"Don't let money be a deterrent for not going," he said. "The only thing you have to overcome is your fear of traveling."

Belton looks forward to learning on his break. "I'm hoping to gain a new cultural perspective as far as the whole world goes. I want to basically interact with the native people and to appreciate what I have a little more."

Anna Roth, a sophomore in psychology, is a leader for the Dominican Republic trip.

Students have cleaned dorm rooms, sold coffee and washed cars to help raise the needed funds.

Roth is excited about the dif-

ference the trip can make.

"If you only change one small thing in the world, think of if everyone did a small thing. Then there would be a big difference. It would help make the world one peaceful place where there is equality," Roth said.

According to Watts, the international trips cost about \$1,600.

The center is also planning two domestic trips, one to Arizona to tutor in classrooms and volunteer, and the other to San Francisco to help with the homeless population. Watts estimates the domestic trips cost roughly \$700.

Cameron Wells, a senior in history, is the co-leader of the San Francisco trip.

"There is a huge homeless population in San Francisco. It's just skyrocketed," Wells said. Her group plans to help with a homeless shelter and volunteer at a food bank.

Though she won't be soaking

up the sun on a sandy beach, Wells finds her trip more fulfilling.

"I don't think I'm missing out on that much," she said. "You are doing something that is helping other people, something that you will remember a lot longer than sitting on a beach or at home, and you learn a lot more from it."

Twelve people will accompany Wells to San Francisco, ranging from a 40-year-old doctoral student, to an 18-year-old freshman.

"We have a very diverse group," Wells said. "You meet a lot of people that you otherwise would not meet."

Watts is proud of the trips the center has planned in the past, and plans on participating in the San Francisco trip this year.

"These are the types of trips that students come back and continue to talk about it," she said. "It's a life changing experience."

PHOTOS

continued from page 1

Crow explained that the "Requiem" exhibit is a continuation of "The Pulitzer Prize Photographs: Capture the Moment," which ran from Sept. 19 to Dec. 14.

Faas was also featured in the Pulitzer exhibit.

Cyma Rubin of Business of Entertainment, Inc. curated the exhibit. Rubin wanted to bring an exhibit to N.C. State to make it more accessible to students, so they chose D.H. Hill Library as the location.

Crow explained that positive

feedback from faculty, students and the community about the Pulitzer exhibit lead to the showing of this exhibit. "This exhibit gives people a chance to compare and contrast it with the last exhibit," Crow said.

Crow also noted how the exhibit documents the various stages of the war showing the peace and tranquility of prewar Indochina before the horrors of the Vietnam War.

Although the exhibit has only been open since Monday, students and faculty have already begun to visit the exhibit.

"It shows the harsh reality of civil war," said Michael Naber, a doctoral student in natural

resources. Naber added that the photographs helped you to visualize and preserve memories of the war.

"It makes you form your own opinions about the war and not believe just what books tell you," said Manjula Kasoji, a sophomore in biochemistry. Kasoji says she hopes that NCSU will continue to bring exhibits like this to the university.

"Requiem" which is located in D.H. Hill's main circulation lobby and the mezzanine will run from Feb. 16 to May 31.

The exhibit was sponsored by the Hood Waldo and Mary Munch Road Library Endowment.

AUTHOR

continued from page 1

hardt.

Barnhardt said he knew the novel would be fine enough to publish but he didn't predict that it would be as successful as it has been - holding a position on the New York Times bestseller list for 66 weeks.

Barnhardt asked Sebald to come because "I wanted to share some of her spirit and ambition. I want it to be contagious," he said.

According to Barnhardt, Sebald is a very private person and doesn't do many appearances so "it's a great favor [for her to come]. I'm tremendously excited," he said.

Barnhardt also said he and Sebald are good friends and "Alice is a great supporter of the MFA [Master of Fine Arts] program."

According to Barnhardt, the MFA program "provides a time to work seriously and provides a connection to the literary world."

The university's new MFA program in creative writing will start this fall.

Barnhardt said the program is important, because "There is no graduate MFA program in the center of North Carolina, which is one of the richest literary areas. I think it's the right program at the right time," Barnhardt said. "We're hoping to draw [students] from all over the state and eventually from all over the country."

At tonight's event, Sebald will do a reading followed by a discussion between Barnhardt and Sebald.


The event is sponsored by the Creative Writing Program, the English Department and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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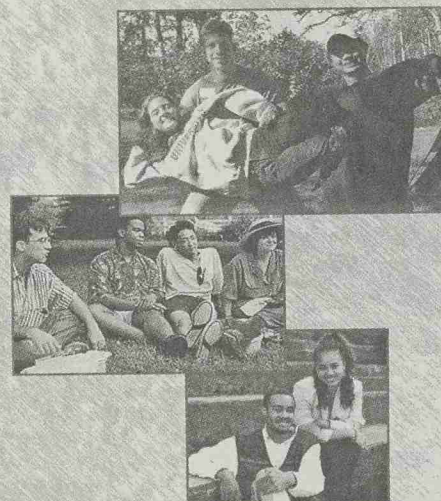
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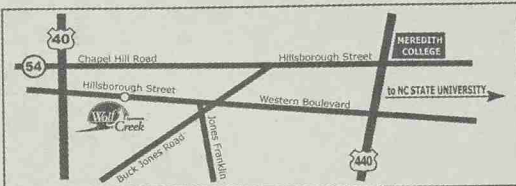
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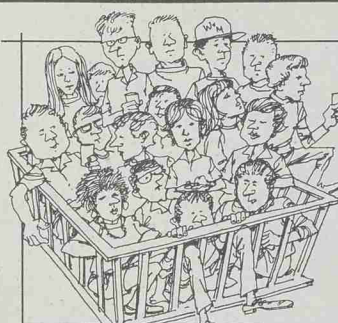
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THE COFFIELD FILES

Tattoos, like several venereal diseases, are forever

This past Monday, I stopped at the gas station to pick a copy of a certain magazine. This guy was parked out front. He looked very frustrated, in the way that



Tim Coffield
Senior Staff Tim

brows like Christmas tree ornaments. I figured he was gonna need a jump, and he didn't seem to have cables.

So I eased my car around to the other side of the place, parked and walked quickly inside, taking care to avoid eye contact with the guy. My jumper cables probably don't work that well anyway.

Calm yourselves, concerned readers. I know what you are thinking. You are thinking: "Tim, what was the magazine you bought?" Good question. And I will tell you: the publication called itself Tattoo Magazine. I call it the same thing.

Like many of you, I often buy this specific magazine because it is cheaper than Playboy, but it still has glossy pictures of real nipples in it. The only difference, of course, is these nipples are surrounded by colorful leprechauns, skeletons and/or sports team logos. But this only adds to their pointed appeal.

Anyway, this time was a bit different. This time I had weightier ambitions when buying this particular mag. See, lately I've grown weary with being so dull and conventional in my personal style choices. Like for instance, I always wear blue jeans. And so does everyone else. This conformity is too much for me to stand. That is, I feel far less special than I'd prefer.

So I've decided to do something different and edgy. Something crazy. Something that says *whoa*, this dude is spontaneous and daring, and very cool in an I'm-so-crazy-I-can-draw-on-myself-with-permanent-ink-and-not-care way. Yeah, I'm going to get a tattoo.

I'm still waffling on the specifics. I've been flipping through "Tattoo Magazine," getting a feel for what I might want. See, my tattoo is going to have a special meaning to me. I don't care what other people think. *Por ejemplo*: I was thinking of getting a carrot tattooed on my shin, because carrots are my favorite vegetable, and my shin my favorite leg bone. But I'm not sure.

Lots of folks these days are

getting tattoos between their shoulder blades. So I was thinking *this* might be the way to go. Maybe stick a cool, unique phrase back there, like "GO-PACK" or "LINKINPARK-ROCKS" or "PHILIPRIVERS." Yeah, that might be pretty cool. But so would a nifty bit of "barbed wire" wrapping around my upper arm. I'd have to start lifting weights, and roll my sleeves up to do dumbbell presses, just to show off my new arm decor.

I like to imagine myself lounging on the beach, shirtless and brown. My tattoo glistens under a thin layer of oil. My hairstyle is gelled into a stylishly unkempt arrangement. I'm looking hip. People are watching me but pretending they're not. These people are thinking, wow, this boy is a rebel. Devil-may-care. Look at that tattoo. Bold. What would make him do something crazy like that? Maybe he's in a pop-rock band. He probably drives a motorcycle. But I bet he doesn't even wear a helmet.

Anyway, I've been leaning towards getting the "PHILIPRIVERS" on my upper back. Big letters. Gaelic font. But here's the thing—I said that this tattoo was for me, not for other people. Every time I look at it, I want to be reminded of what's important to me.

And so a dilemma emerges: if the tattoo's on my *back*, I can't even see it without a mirror. And in the mirror, the writing would look all backwards and stuff. This would make it hard for me to read.

So, I've decided it best to get the writing tattooed on backwards to begin with, so in the mirror I can read it easily and know how special it is to me. Yeah.

When I'm at the beach, people will think: *whoa*—this boy is so crazy, he's got backwards writing tattooed on his back. He doesn't care WHAT we think about him. And that's REALLY sexy. He *definitely* drives a motorcycle. He probably plays bass guitar.

Yeah, I think this is all going to work out quite well for me. It'll be well worth the pain. I'm doing something special for myself that will be with me forever. Just like my sister said of her first husband.

Anyway, I looked through the whole magazine, so I'm pretty much a tattoo expert.

If anyone has any questions about this fine art, feel free to ask.

Just don't ask me for a jump. That would be too much.

Tim is looking for a volunteer to follow him around with a battery-powered hairdryer to keep the back of his neck warm. Contact tcloffie@ncsu.edu for details.

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL: CHAPTER 6

The French Connection

The team enlists the aid of a French secret agent in tracking down the mysterious Cossack.



"Would you like a smoke?" she asked, her voice accented with liquid consonants.

STORY BY JONATHAN HAMILTON | ILLUSTRATION BY MARY GELLAR

Stone flipped the collar of his coat up against the chill and lowered the brim of his hat to the lukewarm rain of the Parisian afternoon. Irons and Blackwood followed along the rue de Picpus, sharing an umbrella and posing as a couple. Irons raised the sleeve of his coat to his mouth, and his voice crackled through the button-sized receiver in his partner's ears. "Pretty good for a week's work, eh?"

Annie discreetly pulled her scarf closer to her mouth and replied, "Yes, but the transmitters are still a little obvious."

Stone spoke into his lapel pin. "At least the earpieces are wireless."

"Who is it that we're meeting?" Irons asked.

"French intelligence," Stone replied. "You two go look unobtrusive and cover me while I make contact." Annie and Irons broke off for the shelter of a tree and watched Stone walk into the shadow of Lafayette's tomb, feeling for the revolvers concealed in their coats in case something should go wrong.

In the recess of the open tomb, Stone came upon a woman with the look of a native Parisian, who stood smoking a cigarette before the gravestone. "Blindfold?" he offered darkly.

She glanced at him and smiled coquettishly, then turned and offered her cigarette case to him. "Would you like a smoke?" she asked, her voice accented with liquid consonants.

Stone shook his head. "I'm here to see a man about a dog."

The woman laughed and dropped the last

of the cigarette, then gracefully ground it out on the grass with her toe. "They said I'd know the code phrase when I heard it. You must be Jake Stone."

He nodded and offered his hand. "And you are...?"

"Marie Renarde, your liaison to the French investigation." She rested her hand in his briefly then strode out of the tomb, raising her umbrella as she went. "And the rest of your team?"

Stone followed her out. Seeing all was clear, Annie and Irons approached them. Stone gestured to the two. "Miss Anne Blackwood and Doctor Kenneth Irons."

Renarde nodded to Annie and took Irons' hand. "It's a pleasure to meet you," Irons said.

"But under terrible auspices," said Renarde. "All over Europe — Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, everywhere — we are investigating the disappearances of men of science. Physicists, chemists, architects, astronomers, all vanished within the past two years. At first we thought the cases unrelated, as they were so spread out internationally, but working in conjunction with your government, we now believe these disappearances to be the work of the man codenamed *le Cavalier*."

"The Cossack," Annie said.

Renarde nodded. "After learning of his plan to attack the U.S., we felt it imperative to involve you in our investigation. You may find some clue in the latest kidnapping. I have orders to do everything I can to lead you to this madman."

"What kidnapping?" Irons asked.

"A month ago, a physicist named Henri de Matteau vanished right here in the city. As you can imagine, it is a great embarrassment for France to lose one of her brightest minds in her very heart."

Stone turned to his teammates. "The trail's been cold for a month, and we don't have time to wait around for a break. If we're going to find out anything, anything at all, it's going to take a lot of hard work."

"To that end, Mr. Stone," Renarde added with the beginning of a smirk, "I can guarantee certain... *laxities* for avoiding the tangles of bureaucracy."

Irons grinned. "Say, that's the cat's! By the book never appealed to me anyway. I mean, who has time to read?"

Stone grunted his disapproval. "There is still a need for law in times of war."

"A soldier like you should know that war comes with its own laws, Mr. Stone," Renarde countered, "and, personally, I would like to see this Cossack tried by Madame Guillotine." She turned and started down the path toward the street. "If you'll all come with me back to my flat," she called, "I'll debrief you."

Irons followed readily, but Annie hung back with Stone, wanting his opinion. "Are we wasting our time?" she whispered, "or do you really feel we're on the right track?"

Stone considered the question, watching Renarde walk ahead, and answered enigmatically. "The deeper we're drawn into it," he said, "the closer we are to getting to the bottom."

To Be Continued in Chapter 7: The Hunters Hunted

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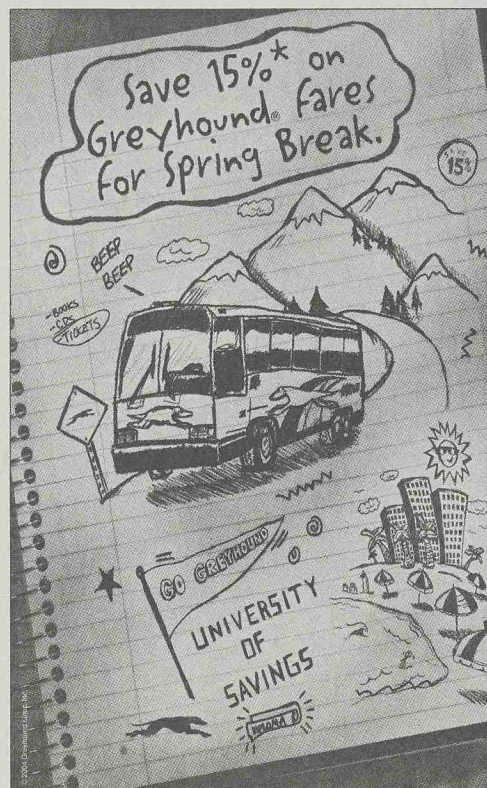
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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

POWERBALL FOR EDUCATION

OUR OPINION: DESPITE THE SHORTFALL IN GEORGIA'S HOPE SCHOLARSHIP, NORTH CAROLINA CAN LEARN FROM GEORGIA'S MISTAKES AND ESTABLISH A LOTTERY THAT COULD PAY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

It is every high school senior's dream: college acceptance.

It is every parent's dream: a tuition bill paid in full, thanks to a scholarship.

For 10 years now, Georgia students have been living that dream through the HOPE Scholarship. This scholarship funded by the state lottery gives students who graduate high school with a B average a free ride to any state supported college. For 10 years, it has worked and has funded the education of more than 700,000 students.

Now, Georgia faces a \$434 million shortfall in the lottery profits. This threatens the HOPE scholarship and its recipients.

But in their race to fund college educa-

tions for its citizens, Georgia overlooked some major issues that have contributed to this shortfall.

North Carolina has debated the lottery issue before, but it has been soundly defeated before a vote.

With tuition increases looming, and learning from the mistakes Georgia made, North Carolina should start a lottery to help fund education budget shortages.

Georgia gave a scholarship to every graduating high school senior with a B average. But there are differing standards as to what a "B" is. Some systems use a 4.0 GPA scale. Others use a 100-point scale. There is no standardized way to define a B average.

Also, Georgia does not use standardized test scores as a requirement for the scholarship nor does it have an SAT requirement, although lawmakers are throwing that around as a possibility to help stop the shortfall in lottery funds.

North Carolina should definitely re-

quire a standardized B average and use standardized test scores in the lottery-funded scholarship. SAT scores should not, however, be considered. Studies have shown that minority groups score lower on the SAT than their peers and such a requirement would eliminate them from consideration.

Millions of dollars each year flow out of the state into Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and now Tennessee lotteries. This money could go into North Carolina's schools.

In this era of tax cuts and rising budget deficits, citizens want higher education, but don't want to pay exorbitant amounts for it.

A lottery is only a temporary fix, but if the state uses the money wisely and distributes the money in a fair and fiscally responsible manner, we wouldn't face the problems Georgia is facing now.

Generations of North Carolinians could have higher education "as free as practicable."

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Dude, where's my money?

Abbie Byrom wants to know where the money she pays in parking tickets goes.

After looking at the City of Raleigh parking tickets that are mounting on my desk, I decided I must be personally paving some back road or side street here in Raleigh. Maybe I am filling the potholes that line Trailwood. If I'm not, I want my money back. I'm starting to look at my rising parking debt as my civic duty. I suppose I am taking one for the team, or at least for Raleigh transportation.

My guess is that students at N.C. State are helping fund whatever pork barrel projects the City of Raleigh Department of Transportation has in mind. At least, that's what I thought at first.

I have since found out that although the tickets inside the famed yellow envelopes on our cars say "Raleigh Capital City Parking," they are in fact written, enforced and collected by a private contractor known as Lockheed Martin IMS. Lockheed Martin collects over \$300 million annually between Raleigh and eight other cities. The privatization of the parking citation industry does not bother me. I just want to know where all that money is going.

I often have to park off Hillsborough Street to go to class or eat at one of the restaurants lining the street opposite campus. So does everyone else. However, N.C. State's timetable does not mesh up with the City of Raleigh. It seems ludicrous to have one and two-hour parking spaces, when the only people who park on them are students and faculty who most often need three and four-hour spaces.

The thing is, I really don't mind paying a parking ticket if it is justified. But I really get tired of getting to my car after two hours and one minute and seeing the officer writing me a ticket. No matter how I beg, I still leave with a \$6 bill for parking two hours. I get irritated when I get a ticket downtown because the bumper of my car is just outside the little green arrow indicating which way to park. If you're going to write me a ticket, at least get rid of the stupid late fees. College students have a million things already to worry about, the last thing we need is to know that the \$6 a day we pay to park is going to

turn into \$26.

Daily, we see the ticket officers stalking the back streets behind Hillsborough, just waiting for the time limits on each car to expire so they can slap them with a \$6-15 ticket. You might as well consider those streets the fourth parking deck. Currently, I owe about \$100 in parking violations, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. Although, I do feel as if my car has been targeted and put on some hit list. Well, I'm sure it has. Obviously, the ticket officers are looking for me because I have started to get quite clever with this whole parking thing. But, apparently not clever enough. You might suggest I just park on campus.

Well, in case anyone has forgotten, parking on campus is just as bad. Transportation gives out more spaces than are currently available, and with the construction projects going on everywhere you look on campus, parking spots are taken away and redistributed. The university transportation department could stand a little re-working too. I propose an overhaul of the parking violation/ticketing system. Has anyone noticed that no matter where you park on the streets adjacent to East Village, you always get a ticket? Why do we need permits to park at two in the morning? I'm just curious. As if most of our budgets are not already tight enough, the last thing we need is parking tickets to add to our ever-increasing debt. Trying to park downtown on Glenwood on Friday and Saturday nights is even worse.

The city should either expand the time that students can park on the streets behind Hillsborough or remove the time restrictions completely.

Parking is, and always will be, a tough issue for a large city like Raleigh. Throw a college campus of about 28,000 students located in the near downtown area in the mix, and the transportation department has an issue to deal with. The bottom line is that the parking system for the streets surrounding campus is unfair to students, and the program could use a little reconstruction to take into account the needs of the people who actually park on those streets.

Do you hate parking off campus too? Can't get a permit on campus? E-mail Abbie at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com.

Got an opinion you just can't wait to share? Ticked off at a Technician column, story or editorial? Tell us what you think. E-mail us at: viewpoint@technicianstaff.com



Take your time and get all you can out of it

Zack Medford encourages students to live life the best they can, even if it means graduating in six years.

Based on a study by The National Center for Education, 33.1 percent of students who started college full time in fall 1996 graduated in four years nationwide. They found that 49.6 percent graduated within five years and 55.7 percent finished in six years.



Zack Medford
Senior Staff Columnist

Now obviously there's a discrepancy between what colleges tell us is required to graduate and what reality says. If two-thirds of college students don't graduate after four years, there's a problem. Students can't get into the classes they are required to take, and have to take an extra year to meet those requirements. Many students change their major as many as three times before they settle on a course of study. Most of all though, students aren't given the clear facts anymore when we enter college - plan on five years.

While national statistics reveal this growing trend to spend five years in college, scholarships and financial aid loans need to catch up. It's not fair to promise a student a full college education but shut the door with closed class sessions and smaller course offerings. The government and the world of academia need to catch up to these changing times and ensure that anyone who wants a college education can have one.

Now, there is good news about this increasing trend. Actually, I think it's great news. College is, in my opinion, the greatest experience of a lifetime.

It's that period where we are actually in limbo. We're not under our parents' metaphorical roof anymore, yet we're not in the real world just yet either. For once in our lives, we get to decide who exactly we are!

The worst part about our society is that we are in such a rush. For example, go to Hardee's and watch people eat. I'm surprised that Wake EMS doesn't just put in a kiosk for Thickburger choking incidents and save them an ambulance ride.

Why don't we all sit back a second, and think about how much we have to gain from this experience. For some, college is a time to see the world and study abroad. For others, it's a time to get really drunk and have fun. For me, it's the once in a lifetime opportunity to just experience life to the fullest and have no regrets.

Let's forget worrying about having a job and being married by 25. There are plenty of happy people out there who didn't follow life's predictable plan. No, you don't have to have a job right out of college, and you don't have to go straight to graduate school. Why not take a year off and backpack through Europe?

Devote six months of your life to a mission trip in China. Live your life to the fullest before you find yourself stuck behind a desk working that pre-

dictable 9-5 job.

Me? I couldn't tell you what degree I'll end up with. Or for that matter when. I wouldn't mind doing a little reality TV for a while after college. I think it'd be kind of sweet to be the bitchy girl on the Real World, and start fights with everyone. Or maybe I could be the stupid guy who always

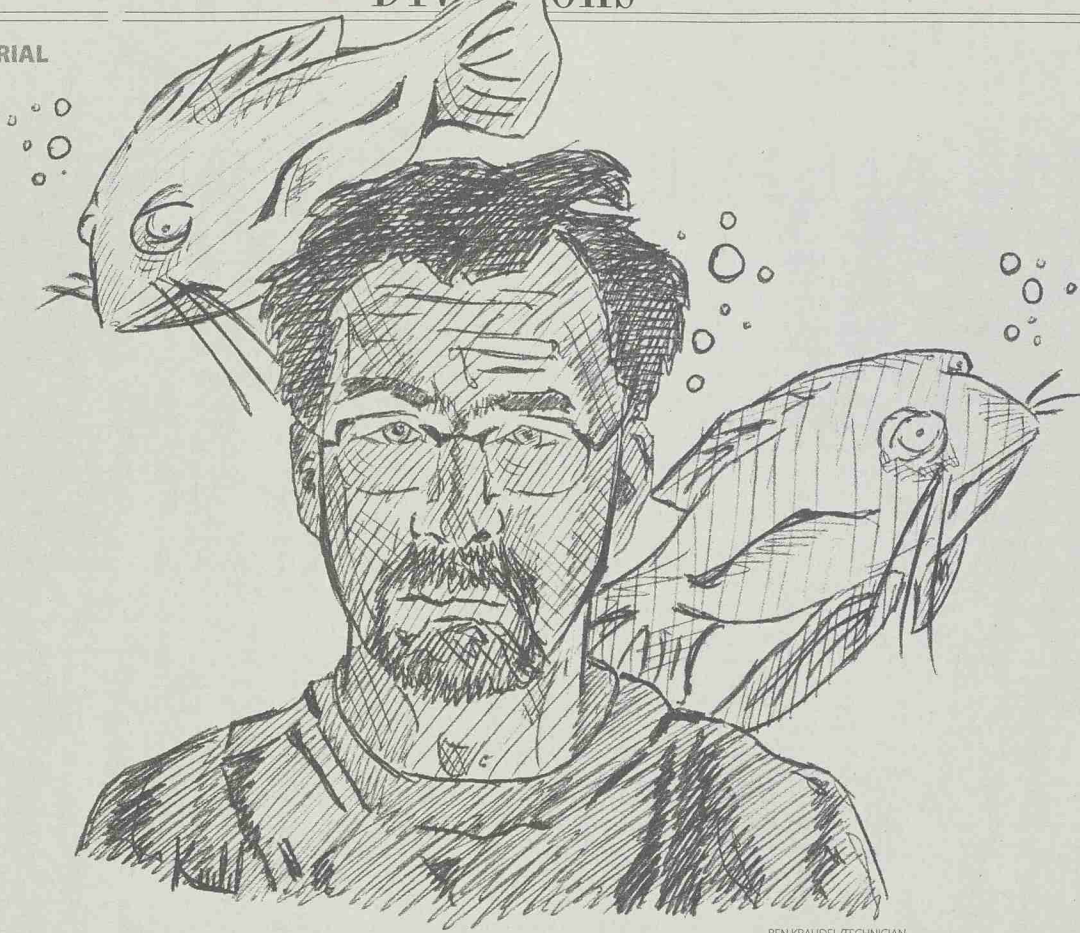
seems to get laid despite how incredibly dumb I sound. The show could reveal the secret of my talents in the season finale when I find out I was born with both sexual organs. Afterwards, maybe I could star on my own talk show, opposite of Shaquille O'Neal. Shaq and Zack could be daytime's most popular show, each episode ending with Shaq bouncing me like a basketball and dunking me.

The point is that we need to forget these social progression stereotypes.

You don't need to have a full-time job by the time you're 23 if it won't make you happy. Do what you love, not necessarily what you feel like you're supposed to do. You only live once, and if you die while you're working in the mailroom of some business, you really won't have much to look back on, will you?

Shaq and Zack can be seen Mondays at 8 a.m. on FOX. E-mail Zack at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com.

N.C. AUTHORIAL



BEN KRAUDEL/TECHNICIAN

A 'Big Fish' in the sea

DANIEL WALLACE, AUTHOR OF "BIG FISH," SHARES HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE WITH TECHNICIAN.

Ben Kraudel
Staff Writer

"Daniel Wallace has published stories in numerous magazines, including 'Story,' 'Glimmer Train,' 'Prairie Schooner,' 'Shenandoah' and others. Raised in Birmingham Ala., Wallace now lives in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he works as an illustrator. 'Big Fish' is his first novel."

Sitting at home with my copy of "Big Fish," rereading it before going to see the movie, which has more than doubled the book's sales, I flipped to the author description, which you just read, and wondered if Wallace would allow an interview by a university newspaper.

A week later, I am sitting in his home and doing my best to appear as if I have done this far more often than I really have.

I showed up early and interrupted his chance at a quick lunch, so he grabs a light snack and we begin to talk. Throughout the interview, I keep looking at folk art on the walls, colorful flashes of paint that are easy on the eyes. There's a curio filled with CDs against one wall, a poster for the movie occupies another piece of wall and yet another has a blown-up picture of one of the final scenes from the film - Billy Crudup carrying Albert Finney down to the river, surrounded by the cast.

Near the doorway to the kitchen, neatly framed, is the book jacket from the original hardback printing of "Big Fish." That is where we will always end up.

TECHNICIAN: I guess my first real question is how long have you been a "Star Wars" fan?

WALLACE: All my life; or a fibromyalgia fan.

TECHNICIAN: Is that the other one? I kept doing research and kept clicking on things and they would say, "The Complete Addendum to Star Wars," and I'd think, "This is probably not the same guy."

WALLACE: I did a talk at a university once at a student newspaper, and they had, "Daniel Wallace, appearing here, he's written many books, including 'Guide to Star Wars,' 'Guide to Fibromyalgia' and 'Big Fish.'" It's funny.

TECHNICIAN: It's an impressive resume. You moved to

Chapel Hill, and you have been here for like 20 years. Are you staying in the area even after things are taking off a bit?

WALLACE: Well, I think this is the best place to be, a place like this. Other places are so distracting. Not much happens here, which is good. For a writer, the less you have to do, the better. I couldn't live in the woods or anything...

TECHNICIAN: There will be no Waldens? No "Walden 3," by Daniel Wallace.

WALLACE: No, I bet even Thoreau would have a DSL line at Walden if he were there today.

TECHNICIAN: You are doing an illustrated novel. Is there a reason, you think, that there are fewer illustrated novels now than there used to be?

WALLACE: I don't know the real reason why. I think stories should be illustrated. I love illustrations when they are done right. The only thing I can think off the top of my head is that when you start putting pictures in a book you automatically think it's a kid's book, and it's hard to sell as an adult book.

But, I think that it's possible to write a serious book if the drawings are organic to the story somehow. I would love to write a serious novel, a real novel, with pictures.

TECHNICIAN: Have you received a written thank you from Tim Burton for helping people forget about "Mars Attacks!" and "Planet of the Apes?"

WALLACE: (laughing) I have not.

TECHNICIAN: I would wait for that to come in the mail. Do you feel like the movie "Big Fish" is in the group with "Edward Scissorhands" and "Beetlejuice," the other things that Burton has gotten kudos for in the past, or is it a different Tim Burton movie?

WALLACE: People talk about it like it is a different Tim Burton movie, and I think it is. It's certainly not as wild as his other stuff and it has more of a heart than his other stuff, it's almost sentimental, and his work is not sentimental, and hasn't been in the past. So I think, like anybody else's work, you look at it all together and see how it fits together and see what the similarities and dif-

ferences are, but that's how the movie...all the advertising said, "from the imagination of Tim Burton," and it really wasn't from the imagination of Tim Burton, it wasn't at all. He shot the screenplay that John August wrote. It would have been more accurate to say from the imagination of John August and Daniel Wallace.

TECHNICIAN: Okay, I have the Penguin's Readers Edition [of "Big Fish"] and there are the questions for discussion. Who writes those?

WALLACE: The people who publish the paperback.

TECHNICIAN: Have you tried to answer these?

WALLACE: I have. I wasn't very successful.

TECHNICIAN: It would be very entertaining, though not very kind to you, to sit here and...

WALLACE: And ask me the questions? You know, it was a huge relief, actually, when I saw those questions, because I was never a great student. I was never very good at answering questions like that in school and I didn't think I was stupid, but having read those, I discovered that it's not me. I can't even answer questions that are based on my own book. It's something wrong with the whole nature of the questions.

WALLACE: So, what is next, now that you have a bigger soapbox and a louder megaphone?

TECHNICIAN: I feel like that is the real benefit of having a bigger soapbox, is that since a lot more people are buying "Big Fish" that it would be less of a risk to publish an illustrated fable for adults, which, if I didn't have this audience, nobody would even consider. It would be laughable. But, I do have this audience, and they'll think, "Well, we've never done anything like this before, but if we can put 'By the author of 'Big Fish' on the cover, maybe people will buy it."

TECHNICIAN: And it's good to read fiction now that is about story and has symbolism and has intellectual value. I am just sort of inflating your ego.

WALLACE: Until my head is so big... (laughs)

TECHNICIAN: Until the next movie premiere, when "Ray in Reverse" comes out...then maybe a little invitation in the mail...



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BBALL

continued from page 10

"Either way you have to be ready to play," Sendek said. "There are quality teams in our league from top to bottom. Anytime you go on the road in the ACC, you better be really good if you're going to get a win. I think we're aware of that. I don't think [being ranked] changes our mental approach to things at all."

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Tigers, State will need to use that preparation and the stellar defense it has shown of late.

"They're just playing extremely good basketball particularly on the defensive end of the floor as well," Purnell said. "That's the most underrated part of their game. We're obviously going to have to put together an excellent ballgame to beat them in all facets of the game, and we're struggling to do that right now."

Sendek wants to make sure those kinds of accolades don't go to his players' heads, and that they are ready for a tough road

To place a classified ad, call 919.515.2029

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match up after such an emotional win over Duke.

If the last three State road games — all wins — are any indication, the team will be prepared. Since faltering at Boston College, the Wolfpack has been one of the nation's best road teams. After beating Duke, though, State won't surprise anyone.

"We're very pleased to have played well [Sunday]," Sendek said. "At the same time, we know that our next game is coming right behind us, and we have to be ready again [tonight] against Clemson."

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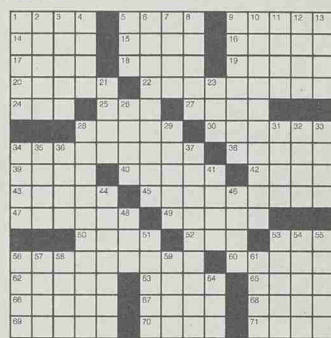
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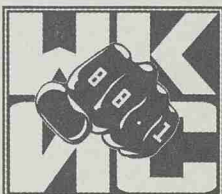
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34 Hanover, NH college
38 Gomorrah's neighbor
39 Landed
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42 Sub shop
43 Bounds' partners
45 Animated
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49 Immigrant's island
50 Raised platform
52 Poetic contraction
53 Outscore
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JOHNSON

continued from page 10

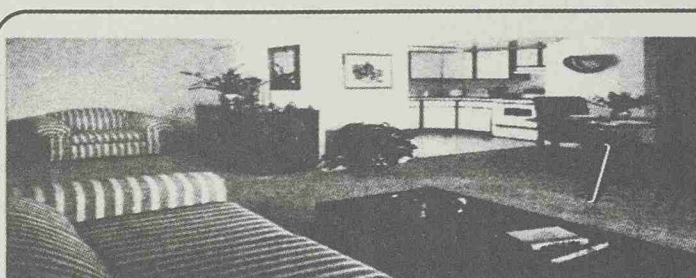
umpire and using his duck call when State had men on base. Then between innings, he would get up and sell scorecards.

His dedication to N.C. State baseball was unparalleled. John passed away in October, and while I can't say I know

much about Mr. Ward, I do know he was the greatest baseball fan I ever saw.

So if you can't think of a better reason to be out there sometime this spring, just grab a scorecard, take a seat and watch a game in his honor.

Austin Johnson can be reached at 515-2411 or ajohnson@baseballprospectus.com.



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Schedule

M. basketball at Clemson, 2/18, 7
W. basketball vs. FSU, 2/19, 7
Softball at Campbell, 2/17
Gymnastics at UNC, 2/17
Wrestling at Iowa State, 2/21
Men's tennis vs. ETSU, 2/21, 1

Women's tennis vs. Va. Commonwealth, 2/21, 4
W. swimming & diving in ACCs, 2/18-20
Track & field in ACC Indoors, 2/20-21

TECHNICIAN

Signs of spring

Any snow on the ground in North Carolina used to mean the state shut down, but now I'm going to class and it's snowing. Isn't there



Austin Johnson
Staff Writer

a law against that here? I do, however, have one comforting thought as I walk through the freezing cold. Pitchers and catchers report tomorrow. Which means spring can't be far away, no matter what

that attention-grabbing groundhog predicts. In fact, State already started playing baseball. I swear. I just watched them play Campbell last weekend.

Now I know what you're thinking at this point, "Austin, our basketball team is ranked 13th in the nation. THIR-FREAKIN'-TEENTH. Who cares about baseball, shouldn't you be telling us how awesome Herb is?"

Well for one thing, I already wrote that column back in January. But I also think it's important that fans go out and support the baseball team. I mean they almost made it to the College World Series. This is why I'm presenting my 2004 installment of the Top Five Reasons to see N.C. State baseball.

5. Different kind of game

State lost most of its power hitters to professional baseball in the June draft. Colt Morton, Joe Gaetti and Justin Riley all left college for the minor leagues. So State has employed a new offensive strategy — playing little ball. Get guys on base, move them over and manufacture runs. Whether or not little ball will result in big wins is yet to be determined, but it will certainly result in exciting baseball. More steals, hit-and-runs and squeeze bunts will translate into more sliding, diving and excitement for fans.

4. The new Doak Field

Yeah it has been nearly a year since the stadium was supposed to be done, and Doak Field is still an estimated month away from being completed (so it should be done by 2005). But it's serviceable now, and a lot of improvements have been made.

Gone are the bleachers, replaced by fold-down seats. Right field no longer slopes downward, so the right fielder's feet are now visible and rain doesn't create a man-made lake there anymore. There is also the new left-field wall, dubbed the "Red Monster," though it is considerably smaller than the green version to the north. Doak is also the best place to go vent about A-Rod selling his soul to Satan, I mean George Steinbrenner.

3. A winning team

Everyone likes to win, and last season State won. A lot. The Pack made it to the second round of the NCAA tournament, the Super Regionals, before falling to Miami. Had State gotten past Miami, the team would have been in the College World Series. It ended the year ranked No. 12 in the nation, and was as high as sixth at one point. Sure, a lot of key contributors from last year are gone, but State still has its biggest weapon — its pitching staff.

2. The pitchers

With a young, inexperienced offense this team will only go as far as pitching can take it, so luckily the team has three All-American pitchers on the staff. All three, Joey Devine, Mike Rogers and Vern Sterry, are nasty in their own way. Sterry and Rogers are capable of beating any team in the nation, and opposing teams might as well just raise a white flag if Devine comes into a game with a lead.

1. John Ward

The only thing I remember about watching my first State baseball game freshman year is John Ward. He sat directly in front of me keeping score, hassling the home plate

Pack still hungry

STATE SEEKS ITS SIXTH ACC WIN IN A ROW, AND THIRD ROAD WIN IN A ROW.



TIM LYTVINENKO/TECHNICIAN

Wolfpack coach Herb Sendek, coaching his team to victory against Duke, refuses to get too excited over recent wins.

Brian Grossman
Staff Writer

Last time out, it wasn't even close.

Clemson appeared uninspired, uninterested and unresponsive throughout the entire first half against N.C. State in a Jan. 17 loss to the Wolfpack. The Tigers dug a 17-point hole for themselves. By halftime,

They played evenly with State in the second half, but it wasn't nearly enough to climb out of the abyss. Clemson coach Oliver Purnell recalled the game as a low point in his team's season.

"That was the only game all year long that we didn't come ready to play," Purnell said. "I thought we were flat and flat-footed and all those things. We got it going a little bit in the second half, but it was just a flat performance."

"But that doesn't take anything away from N.C. State. I said at the time, and it's been proven, that they're playing very good basketball, and they're tremendous at home. If you come out flat against a team like that they'll flatten you, and that's pretty much what happened."

Thoroughly disappointed in his team, Purnell addressed his issues at halftime. It didn't end at halftime either. The Tigers heard about their first half performance against State for a few days after the game.

This time, Purnell will not tolerate such a performance.

"I fully expect our guys to be ready to go against N.C. State on Wednesday," he said.

The Tigers will need to be ready

The ball is in our court

CLEMSON

OFFENSIVELY

During its five-game ACC winning streak, the Wolfpack's best conference stretch in 30 years, State has run its Princeton-style offense to perfection. State has proved, too, during its streak that it doesn't have to shoot great from beyond 3-point line to win. Marcus Melvin and Ilan Evtimov has asserted themselves in the paint, which has negated the Pack's size disadvantage. Clemson's only hope might be to get hot from long-range, which happened in the Tigers' win over North Carolina two weeks ago.

Advantage: N.C. State

DEFENSIVELY

Clemson coach Oliver Purnell lauded State's defense during his press conference this week, and it's no wonder why. The first time the teams met, a dominating Wolfpack win in January, State didn't let Clemson run its offense. Purnell called the defeat Clemson's "worst game of the year." Bad news for the Tigers: State's defense is playing even better now, coming off a performance that had the nation's then-No. 1 team flustered and confused.

Significant Advantage: N.C. State

COACHING

Herb Sendek would be the ACC Coach of the Year if the season ended today. Purnell, in his season year at Clemson, has had the Tigers competitive in almost every game.

Advantage: N.C. State

INTANGIBLES

Thanks to the win over Duke, the Wolfpack is now just one game behind in the ACC regular season title race. The Pack is also trying for its 10th conference win, a plateau the program hasn't reached since 1989. Clemson, though always tough at home, has far less at stake.

Advantage: N.C. State

Prediction: N.C. State 78, Clemson 66

when the No. 13 Wolfpack visits Littlejohn Coliseum tonight. State finds itself with its highest ranking since 1989, which is also the last year the Pack won the ACC regular season title.

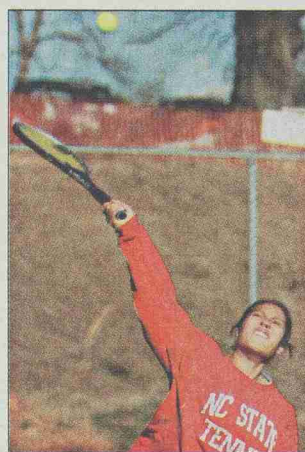
And if Julius Hodge and the rest of the Wolfpack have anything to say about it, the Pack will not be dropping from this ranking anytime soon.

"Everyone is hungry; we're going to stay in attack mode," Hodge said.

"We definitely want to stay below the radar and keep working hard. We're going to keep going into games with an attack attitude."

Flying under the radar is not an option anymore. With its highest ranking in 15 years and its recent upset of then-No. 1 Duke, sneaking up on anyone isn't likely. But Pack coach Herb Sendek isn't worried about that.

BBALL page 9



ROB BRADLEY/TECHNICIAN

After overcoming career-threatening injuries, Kristin Lam still keeps her passion.

Lam beats obstacles

Despite four knee surgeries, Kristin Lam remains focused on the game she loves.

Ian Jester
Staff Writer

Quitting was never an option for Kristin Lam.

Four knee surgeries and a complicated past would not be enough to deprive Lam of the game she loves. A letter winner for ESI International Academy in Hilton Head, S.C., Lam was ranked nationally in both singles and doubles tennis and competed in several prize money tournaments in high school.

But neither the fame nor the prizes could amend her tough past.

Born of Vietnamese descent, her family left Vietnam for California in 1975 after the war gave birth to a new communist country. Lam's birthplace, Long Beach, Calif., however, failed to provide a soothing environment for her family.

"I lived in California until I was 13," Lam said. "It was tough times in California, we had good friends, but my parents wanted to get out. My dad lost his job, and it was just a bad time."

But California happened to be the location of something extraordinary. It was the place where Lam discovered tennis.

"I was 7 years old when I first picked up my racket," she said. "[My dad and I] were watching a French Open, it was Monica Seles and Steffi Graf. And my dad was like, 'You want to be like Monica?' I was like, 'Yeah.' And so I got a racket, and [Monica's] my favorite of all."

Initially playing only once a week, she soon found herself on the court three or four times a week as a simple hobby became a passion for tennis. She played her first tournament at the age of 10, after which tennis became just as recurring as sleeping or eating.

Lam fueled that passion at ESI, where she trained with and competed against some of the top players in the nation. In fact, after graduation, her accomplishments had opened so many doors that attending N.C. State was hardly in the mix.

"I decided at the last minute that I wanted to go to college," Lam said. "I wanted to turn pro, and my family wanted me to turn pro, so there was really no college intended. It was actually that summer before college that I decided to go to State."

Even though her heart was set firmly on tennis, Lam had a love for entertainment as well, and decided to pursue a major in communications. Whether it was radio or television, music or movies, she embraced this new passion off the court as much as she treasured tennis on the court.

And then it happened.

Another tear in her meniscus, similar yet more serious than the one she experienced in high school, forced her to undergo yet another surgery, and Lam redshirted the 2001-02 season. During that time, the most tennis she could intake was watching her teammates compete without her, under new head coach Hans Olsen.

"When I first got here Kristin was not able to play because of her knee," Olsen said. "But when I saw her play, my first impression was that she was a player that could really control her opponent. She is a fierce competitor; she goes after every point like it's the last point she's going to play."

"But most of all, she has a lot of heart." Heart. Character. Now Lam, after month of rehab, is finally playing the game she loves once again.

"Four knee operations is not going to keep me from playing tennis," she said. "I'm never going to give it up. I love it."