

MONDAY MARCH

28

Raleigh, North Carolina

NCAA teams get progress reports

Numbers do not look good for many NCSU teams

Josh Harrell

Although N.C. State suffered a bitter defeat against Wiscon-sin Friday night, the Wolfpack may not have touched the tour-nament court if the NCAA's new academic reform plan

new academic reform plan had been in place. The plan, to be instituted during the 2005-06 academic year, judges athletic programs year, judges at here it programs using an Academic Progress Rating System. Preliminary APR figures were released March 16 to allow institutions to see how the system works and where they stand before it is instituted.

The APR is numbered from 1 to 1000 and basically evaluates the graduation rates for players on various NCAA sports teams

across the nation.

Each scholarship player on a team is eligible for two points, one for staying in the program, another for retaining academic eligibility. The sum of each player's points are divided by the total possible points to give the APR score

The cutoff line for punish-ment from the NCAA will be a score of 925.

a score of 925. Seven Wolfpack athletic teams do not meet the mini-mum score of 925, including football and men's basketball.

The punishments in future years will range from loss of scholarships to postseason banishment to even revocation

of NCAA membership.

One of the biggest problems for NCSU in regards to the

APR, according to Academic Support Program Director Phil Moses, is transfer students, since they do not receive points for remaining

in the program.
"We thought we'd have about those same scores for most of our programs, and the biggest reason that our scores are low is because we have had a sig-nificant number of students transfer out," Moses said. "The students that choose to stay do well and graduate, but we have to figure out why students are

leaving."
The NCAA will also institute a rewards system in which high-performing schools high-performing schools will receive benefits from the

will receive benefits from the NCAA, such as more money for academic enhancements.

"A rewards system would be good, as it would force the football and basketball 'factories' to graduate players," Eric Ellis, an undeclared freshman in humanities and social science, said. "It would help mid-major schools with good graduation rates compete, as they're getting more scholar-ships or money."

One of the teams that

achieved an APR over 925 was the men's tennis team. Head coach Jon Choboy said he be-lieves that a focus on academics results in a more positive outcome for his players.

outcome for his players.
"If me and [assistant coach]
Matt [Halfpenny] do not believe students are achieving
the way they need to, then
we'll talk to them, and work on getting them on the right track," Choboy said. "There

ACADEMIC continued page 3



Stewart Lowry, a sophomore in biomedical engineering, dances in the men's fancy dance during the annual Native American Pow Wow held in front of Witherspoon Student Center last year. Lowry has been fancy dancing ever since he was 3 years old.

Pow Wow planning underway

Josh Harrell

Each year, the students of the Native American Student Asso-ciation have the chance to exhibit their heritage and culture during N.C. State's Human Rights week, as they hold their annual N.C. State Pow Wow.

The event, set to take place Saturday starting at 1 p.m. at Harris Field, will include dancing, food, and souvenirs

The members in charge of the event have been working all year in preparation to make this year's

reparation to make this years event a success.

"We've been trying to find out what people liked and disliked about last year's Pow Wow, and figure out what they want to see this year," Cory Blankenship, president of the Native American Student Association, said. can Student Association, said. "We have put a lot of work into the event this year, and believe it will be a success."

The most visible activity seen

at the Pow Wow is the dancing, which will take place for the duration of the event.

It's something some of the participants, according to As-sistant Director of the Office of Native American Affairs Brett Locklear, have been working on all their lives.

"Some of the dancers begin

dancing as early as the age of 3," Locklear said. "They learn from their family, and most dances are different as they develop their own style, depending on each person's family."

There are various types of dances that will be performed by each gender, including tradi-

tional, fancy, jingle and others.
"We dance with the music off CD's with a group of our same

POW WOW continued page 2

Academic Progress Rates of ACC Universities

Each player is eligible for two points, one for staying in the program, the other for retaining academic eligibility. The APR is obtained by dividing the sum of players' points by the total possible points. The cutoff line will be 925 Below is a comparative look at sports between NCSU, UNC-CH and Georgia Tech – another public science and technology school.

	N.C. STATE	UNC-CH	GEORGIA TECH
Men:		A Charles	
Basketball	846	1000	962
Baseball	886	952	907
Football	912	971	942
Swimming	932	1000	966
Golf	1000	900	1000
Tennis	958	972	1000
Track	967	938	978
Women:		7	
Basketball	929	946	984
Softball	1000	974	1000
Swimming	972	1000	1000
Volleyball	896	1000	981
Tennis	1000	969	1000
Track	939	970	988
OVERALL	929	970	964
			SOURCE: NCA/

Fans lament Bittersweet 16

Kyle Blakely

Robert Wright, a junior in agricultural business, sat in front of his apartment television Friday night motionless, as the final horn brought N.C. State's dream run in the 2005 NCAA Tourna-

run in the 2005 NCAA Tournament to a screeching halt.

"I'm in shock, I can't believe it,"
Wright said. "I thought we were done losing big leads like we did during our losing drought in the middle of the season, but it came back to haunt us."

back to haunt us." Kevin Grace, a sophomore in

mechanical engineering, was working at his part-time job at Advanced Auto Parts when NCSU took out Connecticut in the second round last Sunday. When his boss asked him to work Friday night, he said he figured it would be a good omen for the

Unfortunately, that sacrifice wasn't enough to pull the Wolfpack through.

"I just stood there, in front of the TV up front, buffing the same spot of the floor for the last few minutes of the game," Grace said.

After NCSU defeated UConn a week ago, high expectations started brewing in the minds of Wolfpack fans

Wisconsin defeated Bucknell, setting the stage in Syracuse for the first meeting in history be-tween NCSU and the Badgers. Numerous sports analysts pre-dicted the 10th-seeded Wolfpack would make it to the Elite 8. The hype before the game made the loss that much worse, students

said.
"This is really disappointing considering we just beat No. 2-seeded UConn; we should have

been able to beat Wisconsin," Michael Downer, a sophomore in

mechanical engineering, said.

Taking "the glass is half-full" stance, Andrew Bernard, a sonnee, Andrew Bernard, a sophomore in textile engineering exclaimed, "hey, we got farther than most people thought we would!"

"This game was indicative of our whole season. We didn't have quite enough in the end," Charles Hamm, a senior in mechanical engineering, said. "The effort was there, the results weren't."

BITTER continued page 2

insidetechnician



N.C. State's best season since 1989 nemorative poster

features classifieds sports weather tomorrow today

67°/49°



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

'Interesting candidate' sails into race

Opponents to The Pirate Captain say he's not a serious candidate, though.

Ben McNeely

With a patch over one eye and his parrot, Flipper, on his shoulder, the Pirate Captain is attempting to make waves in this year's student body election.

The Captain, who prefers the title "The" Pirate Captain and claims to have no given name, wants to deliver campus from the "scurvy

dogs" that are in power. While the Captain and his crew

take themselves seriously, other presidential candidates and current Student Body President Tony

Caravno say they do not. The Captain hails from the sea and says his home port is now in Raleigh. His platform — called the "plank" — consists of ideas other campaigns are also pushing for, like expanding the "Red Ter-ror Express" bus service to Carter-Finley Stadium and the RBC Center and joining together with the four other colleges in Raleigh to lobby the City Council.

Tuition bae goin' up every yea so I plan to go to the mayor and do something about it," The Captain

He also said the student body needs to petition the UNC Board of Governors for lower tuition and a student vote on the board.

"It's gonna take the energy of the masses," Swabby, one the Captain's "scurry" crewmembers, said. He also wants to start a scholar-

ship fund for students that write the best pirate story.

"Aye, we bae havin' soirees to raise

money for the scholarship," The Captain said. He added that the best pirate stories would be voted upon by the student body.

Will Langley, current CHASS sophomore senator and student body president candidate, said while it is "great that in student

government, everyone has a voice, ve have to have a leader that can

"The Pirate Captain would not be running if we had a student senate that works. I think he just shows the way student government has been running this year," Langley said. "It shows the irresponsibility of the current leadership.

Another SBP candidate, Lock Whiteside, said he is "an interesting candidate," but doesn't think The Pirate Captain is serious about

winning.
"He would be if he came forth with his name and face, but I just

RACE continued page 3



Captain



Every Sun & Mon



Pint Night Most Pints ?2



Winatripto Las Vegas Airfare & Hote



Page Iwo

BITTER

The familiar question of Herb Sendek's validity as Wolfpack head coach soon became the next topic among the students.

Still skeptical of Sendek's postseason success, Grace explained that taking NCSU to the Sweet 16 doesn't necessarily make him the best coach for the team.

Hamm however, disagreed, stating that "the trip to the Sweet 16 redeems the rest of our

Wright, a self-proclaimed anti-Herb lobbyist throughout the season, stepped off his original platform to offer Sendek the benefit of the doubt.
"There is no other coach out

there better than Sendek to bring in right now. You can second-guess him all day, but it isn't always up to the coach to win games," Bernard said.

At this particular gathering, there was no lack of support

for Julius Hodge and his accomplishments as a Wolfpack

"There is no question that Hodge has earned a red jersey in the rafters at the RBC Center,

Wright said.

"He brought more than just basketball skills; he brought character, put people in the stands and has done a lot for the University," Bernard said.

Despite the close of Hodge's final season as the leader of the Wolfbrock many students.

the Wolfpack, many students have high hopes for the coming seasons. Expectations for Gavin Grant, Andrew Brackman and Cedric Simmons are steadily

"Next year there will be lots of doubt without Hodge, but Grant, Brackman, and Simmons have improved a lot this season,' Hamm said.

The Wolfpack would probably have been more competitive, Wright and Bernard said, if could have stayed healthier this year.

Ambassadors of sport

Students Kasey Butler, Alex Students Kasey Butler, Alex Stefanski got their 15 minutes of fame over Easter Break when they hosted ESPN writer Jim (Eaple, on site to file a piece on the University's campus. Caple is on a national tour, traveling to schools involved with the NCAA Tournament. His stop at N.C. State was his last in a visit to all three Triangle schools.

In his piece "N.C. State of the Union" Caple writes, "walking across campus, the thought that comes to mind is: "Wow, they must have gotten a really good deal on bricks."

To read Caple's article in its entirety, log on to www.espn.com/page2

"Injuries and sickness plagued us all season, literally," Wright

According to Bernard, all of the health problems sustained this year made it hard for the

team to mesh as a unit.
"We had a lot of talent this season, but we couldn't get it together enough to win more games," Bernard said.

POLICE BLOTTER

B&E COIN OPERATED MACHINE

A non-student reported someone broke into a vending machine at the Old Field House. The incident happened sometime over the last three weeks. The damage was discovered while the machine was being re-

11:29 A.M. B&E COIN OPERATED MACHINE

A non-student reported someone broke into a vending machine at Talley Student Center. The incident happened sometime over the last three weeks. The damage was dis-covered while the machine was be-

11:39 A.M. B&E COIN OPERATED MACHINE

tudent reported someone to vending machines at Polk, and Harrelson Halls. The

12:49 A.M.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY
A non-student reported a window pane to a bus stop at Morrill Drive and Carmichael Gymhad been broken out. Officers investigated the damage, and it was determined damage was probably caused by drastic change in temperature.
There were no signs of vandalism, and the broken glass was all together in one pile as if it had just fallen.

6:40 A.M. DAMAGE TO PROPERTYA staff member reported someone damaged a trash can and a mailbox on Stinson Drive.

7:38 A.M.
HIT AND RUN PROPERTY DAMAGE
A staff member reported someone hit
a state vehicle parked on Brougton

Drive sometime between 3:00 p.m March 18 and 7:00 a.m. on March 22

10:45 P.M. SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE

A student reported a suspicious vehicle using the road to Observatory. Officers were unable to locate any vehicle. The patrol vehicle became stuck in the mud and had to be towed; no damage was done.

10:52 P.M.
SUSPICIOUS PERSON,
DRUG VIOLATION/ ARREST
A student reported a suspicious
person near the blike racks at
Kamphoefner Hall. Officers spoke to
a non-student, who was arrested for
possession of drug paraphernalia.
The subject was also issued a trespass
warning for all N.C. State property.

12:29 P.M. LARCENY A staff member reported someone stole approximately \$25 from a petty cash fund in a room in Gardner Hall.

POW WOW

sex," Lynn Harris, senior in

mathematics, said.
"My group is a group of four girls, and we've been practicing twice a week for a long time

crucial part of the dance, Locklear said, is the proper regalia for each dancer. The regalia are outfits made by each family that represents something to each dancer.

"Each regalia is symbolic of that person," Locklear said. "For example, someone may have turtles on their regalia, as they may be a member of the turtle and that would stand for long life and prosperity.

Each dancer puts a lot of effort into their regalia, and the outfit means as much, if not more, to each person as the dance

"The regalia is a very long pro-cess that is never really finished, and it is different for each person for different dances," Harris said. "You must first get permission from an elder, then you either

make or buy the regalia."

Harris said her regalia includes a skirt dress with a yolk across her shoulders, leggings, and a feather plume in her hair.

T-shirts were made for the commemoration of the event and will be sold for \$10 each, with all the proceeds going to the Native American Student

"We used a design that someone made which pays tribute to the 15th annual Pow Wow," Kelly

Godwin, T-shirt Committee chair and sophomore in sociology, said. "We're very pleased

with how they turned out."
Godwin said that along with the dancers will be plenty of food, crafts, and games for event attendees to enjoy

Last year, professor Aiman Smith went to the Pow Wow and told Native American legends and stories, and Blankenship said that they would try some thing like that again this year.

"The Friday night before the Pow Wow we will have a ban-quet to bestow honor on various Native American students,' Blankenship said.

"Then Saturday, the Pow Wow will be a demonstration of the heritage and different styles represented by Native Ameri-





5K Run / Walk NC State Centennial Campus 10:30 AM

New this year!

Parents and Families Services have made this event part of their Spring Fling Festivities.

For details or to sponsor visit www.ncsu.edu/health_promotion/run2005

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ACADEMIC

are so many opportunities here at State to get help if you need it, that if your grades are too low, then it's just a lack of effort."

Choboy also said that he believes coaches have a bigger responsibility than just helping their players athletically, they have to let the players know what they're capable of. Although NCSU has the only

football program in the ACC that does not make the cut, many critics of the system have pointed out that not every school may be sending in the right scores.

"We were surprised by how high some of the other schools'

scores are," Moses said.

Despite this fact, Moses said he thinks the system will be a

ood one. Moses said that to bring APR scores up, athletics will have to focus on the amount of transfer athletes, and work on keeping students at State.

We have to look hard at recruits, and once they're here we need to connect them to campus, and make their experience a good one," Moses said "We have to try to forecast reasons for leaving, and prevent it from

happening."

Moses said that any athlete thinking about transferring has to meet with Athletics Director Lee Fowler to talk about why they want to leave.

RACE

don't think he is that serious about it," Whiteside said 'I don't think the administration would see him as a serious con

tender for the race, either."

The other SBP candidate and current Student Senate Presi dent Will Quick did not return several messages left with him this weekend.

Current Student Body Presi dent Tony Caravano also had his reservations.

"If the Pirate Captain is a real person, he needs to run under his real name," Caravano said "He needs to run a serious campaign - in case he wins well. The work is more serious than it is fun."

But The Pirate Captain said he is not worried about the other candidates.

"I understand their point of view and respect their point of view, but I disagree," The Captain said. "They see me as a threat.'

Although he hasn't met with Chancellor James Oblinger or Chancellor James Oblinger or any other administrator, he said he would "dress more dapper, I would," when he attended Board of Trustee meetings. "It a matter of sittin' down with me and seein' I'm for real,"

the Captain said. He said he is also not worried about representing the

"I want to energize the school, get the new apathetic voters out," The Captain said.

Student Government statutes allow a candidate to run under any name they wish, just as long as they are in "good standing" with the University. All candidates are checked out with the Office of Student Conduct to make sure they are qualified

According to Paul Cousins, director of student conduct, The Pirate Captain is qualified to run. The name "The Pirate Captain" will appear on the ballot or while Appear on the Appear on t ballot on April 4 and 5.
Bonnie Pierson, chair of the

elections commission, said all that is needed to run for

student body office is a valid student Body office is a various student ID number to verify they are in good standing with the University. Pierson said the elections board did ask for his

real name, but would not release it to the general public. "It would be in closed ses-sion," Pierson said. "If you have a student ID number, then you can have any name on the ballot you want.'

No one, to Pierson's knowledge, has run under an alias before, and no one has contested the elections statutes yet.

"If anyone did contest it, we would consider it," Pierson

The Captain said he won't give his real name until after the elections, though.

IN THE KNOW

IN THE KNOW

DISTANCE ED REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR STUDENTS
Summer or Fall 2005 Distance Education registration, for credit courses, is now open for degree-seeking students. Courses are offered through the office of N.C. State Distance Education: http://distance.ncsu.edu/.
These programs enable students to enroll in college-credit courses and degree programs online over the Internet, on CD ROM, through VCR tapes, on the Cooperating Raleigh Colleges Education Channel (channel 18) or other media.
Information about registration for Distance Education courses and programs, along with a list of course offerings, may be found on the Internet at http://distance.ncsu.edu/registration, or by calling the Office of Credit Programs and Summer Sessions at 1-866-GO STATE or Raleigh phone (919) 515-2265

GOLDEN CHAIN SOCIETY

GOLDEN CHAIN SOCIETY
APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 29
The Golden Chain Society unique to
N.C. State. Each year, a maximum of
12 rising seniors who have displayed
outstanding scholarship, leadership,
character and service are added to
the chain by a tapping ceremony,
induction to the Golden Chain Society
's considered to be one of the highest

honors that can be bestowed upon a

rising senior. Applications are available in the mni Association Building and are due March 29.

CALENDAR

TOMORROW

TOMORROW
Join the Women's Center at 7 p.m. for their new play, "Campus Confessions," in Stewart Theatre. Advanced tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for faculty/staff or \$7 at the door for everyone. Tickets are now on sale at Ticket Central, 515-1100 Stewart Theater.

Animal advocacy film festival from 8 Anima advocacy rilm ressival (file) - 9:30 p.m. in the Campus Cinema. The film is sponsored by Students Protecting Animals Responsibly & Compassionately and will be "Remembering Bob," written, directed and produced by Maria Brenner, the 2004 Genesis Award winner for best student film.

TUESDAY - THURSDAY

TUESDAY -THURSDAY
CHASS 2005 International
Connections Week:
"The Global Within: Exploring North
Carolina's Changing Identity."
The focus will be on examining the
impact of cultural, economic and political globalization on North Carolina by
looking at how immigration is changing the society, culture, economy and
religious practices within North Caro-

lina and how these same elements are shaping the immigrant communities themselves.

Public Relations 'Student Society of America hosts annual PR Day. The event will be held at the McKimmon Center, and lasts from 8-5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for non-members Keynote speaker is from HBO. contacts.

Jacquelyn Warner, Event Coordinator, at 919-961-3129 Helen Smith, Vice-president, at 336-324-3916

Parents & Families Spring Fling

2005 North Carolina Federation of College Republicans Spring State Convention. The convention will be held in Raleigh, NC, at the Hilton North Raleigh on April 1-3, 2005. Complete and detailed convention information can be found at www.ncfcr.org.

Friday, April 1 Grains of Time, N.C State's premiere men's a capella group, will have their spring concert at " p.m. in Stewart Theater.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Annual Pow Wow
NCSU will host the 15th Pow Wow titled
"Honoring Old Traditions: Beginning
New Ones," The Pow Wow will be on
Harris Field at 1 p.m.; the event is free
and open to the public. Bring blankets
or lawn chairs. For more information,
visit www.ncsu.edu/msa or contact
Brett Locklear at 919-513-1351.

EKTAA
Ektaa, the South Asian student association's, is holding their largest show of the year, India Night, at 6:30 p.m. in Stewart Theater. Tickets are \$7 for students. Students should e-mail exec@ektaa.org for tickets. The Web site, which will be fully completed soon, for the event is http://www.ektaa.org/indianight/

Sth Annual Run For Respect Sponsored by Health Promotion
The run will be held on Centennial Campus from 9 - 11:30 a.m. and supports awareness and education about rape, sexual assault and relationship violence prevention. All proceeds benefit N.C. State's Women to Women program, The Men's program and Interact of Raleigh

The College of Engineering will host an Engineering Open House. All engineering departments on Main Campus and Centennial Campus will participate with tours, displays and information sessions for middle school

students, prospective N.C. State Students, admitted N.C. State students, parents and guests.
For more information call 919-515-9669 or go to the Web site at www.engr.ncsu.edu and click on "Engineering Open House 2005."

Friday, April 8 - Saturday, April 9
The Inaugural Black Alumni Conference, "Celebrating Excellence and Black Achievement," will be held at the University Club, NCSU.
This conference coincides with Pan Afrikan Week and includes notable speakers, professional development seminars and networking opportunities. If you are interested in attending this conference, please register online at www.alumni.ncsu.edu, click on events and locate the "Inaugural Black Alumni Conference" on the list.
You can also call Lisa Dyer at 515-3375 if you have questions.

Friday, April 22

Friday, April 22
The Campus Environmental Sustainability Team (CEST) will present its 2nd Annual Earthwise Awards on Earth Day.
These awards will recognize and reward outstanding contributions to environmental sustainability on the

environmental sustainability on the NCSU campus. Each recipient will be presented with a plaque as well as a \$250 prize. There are three separate categories: faculty, student and staff.

Any number of people in any category may be nominated. Awards will be pre-sented at NCSU's Earth Day celebration

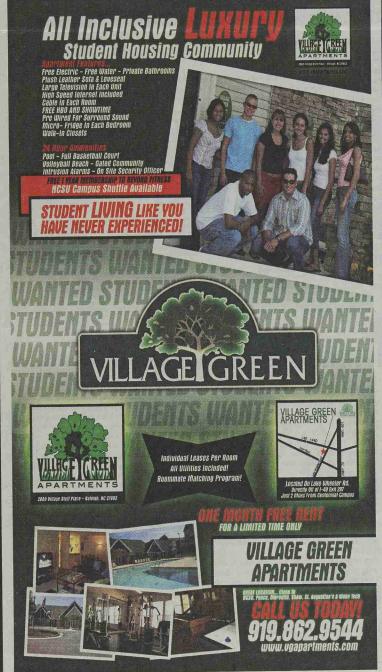
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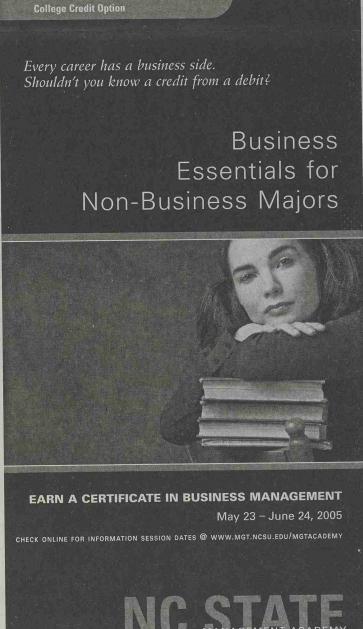
Send the name, NCSU position and description of sustainability-related achievements of the person you are nominating to Leslie Hester at lahester@ncsu.edu by March 15.

Thursday, April 28

Thursday, April 28
Undergraduates Research Symposium
Undergraduates in all departments at
N.C. State engaged in scholarly research
under the supervision of one or more
faculty or off-campus mentors are
eligible to participate.
Interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research contributions are encouraged. The symposium is sponsored by
the Division of Undergraduate Affairs,
the Office of Undergraduate Research
and the Provost's Office. Abstracts and
applications are due by Friday, April 15.
For more information or for application
forms, contact George Barthalmus,
director of undergraduate research
at 513-4187 or access the Web site at
http://www.ncsu.edu/ugrs.

Send all calendar and brief listings to news@technicianonline.com







Graduation needs serious overhaul

Johnnetta Cole will soon join an illustrious group of individuals whose members include Shirley Ann Jackson, R. Scott Wallinger,

Theodore

Hesburgh and Harm J. de Blij. Don't have a clue who these

dignitaries are? They are all former NCSU

ment speakers.



Andrew Payne

address to the graduating class of 2005 will be delivered by Cole.

Cole has an impressive resume.
Currently, she is president of Bennett College, an all-female historically black college in Greensboro, and former president of Spelman College in Atlanta. Cole also made history in May 2004 when she became the first black woman to serve as chair of the Board of Unit-

ed Way of America. I have no doubt that Cole's speech will inspire the graduating class and their ramilies gathered at the RBC Center on May 14. But the motive behind this column is not to criticize the particular selection of Cole—or any of the other past commencement speakers, except perhaps Phil Donahue — but to pose a larger question: Why are NCSU's commencement activities so mediocre?

Let's face it - NCSU's graduation exercises are a big let down. Having participated in two cer-emonies and attended countless others, I think I can speak with

some authority.

It's not just the commencement It's not just the commencement address that makes graduation memorable, because NCSU has had many notable speakers like Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Hugh Shelton, Sen. John Edwards and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shable. But all the activities expeciated lala. But all the activities associated graduation, from the "cattle feed-ing" at the chancellor's residence to the Sir Speedy-printed program

are rather lackluster
The problem is two-fold. Firsty students lack significant input into the process. Second, University administrators fail, if not refuse to put the necessary resources into the ceremonies to make them memorable for students. These are the same students who have toiled for four, five even six years to enjoy the occasion.

The chancellor is ultimately re

sponsible for graduation activities, with advisement from the University Standing Committee on Commencement. The committee is charged with the "responsibility of making a continuous review of the scheduling and programming [including speaker recommenda-tions] of the various exercises held at commencement time, particu-larly in regard to the form and content of the commencement exercise itself." There are only four students (three undergraduates and one graduate) on the 16-member com-

mencement committee
Don't get me wrong — graduation is not just for students. Commencement is a university event. It's a celebration of academic success and involves all campus con-stituencies, especially the faculty. Doesn't it make sense, though, that the primary audience, students — especially seniors — be consulted? Let graduating seniors make speaker recommendations to the commencement committee through a vote or survey.

Students at UNC Chapel Hill faced a similar dilemma even though they have had more promi-nent graduation speakers like comedian Bill Cosby and sportscaster Stuart Scott. Ultimately Carolina's administration and senior class officers came to a compromise, which included the creation of the "Senior Class Address" — a separate student oriented graduation event. As a result, Mo Rocca of Comedy Central's Daily Show will be the event's first speaker.
As I mentioned earlier, the suc-

cess of graduation does not hinge on the popularity of the speaker.

For NCSU, there is plenty of room for improvement. First, let there be sound. If you didn't hear me — let there be sound. Graduates sitting on the floor of the RBC Center can NOT hear the platform speakers. The arena's public address system is designed for basketball games—not commencement ceremonies. Our grandparents with their hearing aids can hear clearly but the

day's honorees get to enjoy noise. The University could spend a few more bucks on the graduation program. Maybe some color and pictures? Let some students in the College of Design have their hand it, anything would be better than the current product. I'm not one to always look to Carolina — but in this area they have a good example to follow.

The whole ceremony seems to

lack pomp and circumstance, especially tradition. I wonder if the event lost something when it moved from Carter-Finley Stadium to the RBC Center. And there are the little things. In an effort not to offend anyone, the administrato oftend anyone, the administra-tion has removed the traditional opening prayer for a "moment of reflection," delivered by Student Affairs Vice Chancellor Tom Staf-

And finally: Where are the fac ulty? Sure they grace us with their presence in the departmental ceremonies but their lack of attendance at the main graduation event is almost a slap in the face. If a figure like Rocca spoke at NCSU's commencement guess, who would be up in arms — the faculty. Re-member it's not just a student event; it's for the entire university

We will see if graduation improves. More than likely the status quo will remain.

Plus, with the chancellor's instal-lation coming up April 20 — the University may not have enough money for an enhanced commencement.

Andrew can be reached at viewpoint@technicianonline.com

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

IRREGULAR CANDIDATE HAS PROS, CONS

DENT BODY PRESIDENT CAN HAVE BOTH GOOD AND BAD EFFECTS ON THE RACE. HE BRINGS ATTENTION TO A DEAD SUBJECT, BUT NEEDS TO HAVE MORE SERIOUS IDEAS IF HE PLANS ON LEADING THE STUDENT BODY.

Our next student body president could be a pirate.

Argh?

If The Pirate Captain – and he doesn't go by anything else - and his band of stripe-shirted mates have their way, the next high-level student leader walking into trustee or Board of Governors meetings could be doing so with a peg leg and a parrot on his shoulder.

What sounds comical could be reality come next week. But if the captain wants to be taken serious. his platform must be altered, and he needs to come out and communicate more openly with students instead of hiding behind an eye patch and a bad wig. Otherwise, he's setting himself up for more pain than a bad case of scurvy.

The mere fact that The Pirate Captain is seeking election to the SBP post is very indicative of the current state of Student Govern-

That someone as silly as a sloppily-dressed pirate believes he can actually win the top student leader position should be a slap in the face to those currently involved in the organization.

But he does, and that's somewhat alarming.

On one hand, if The Pirate Captain is indeed elected, Student Government can count on walking its own plank.

Student Government might need a new leader with a fresh political paradigm that brings in a new line of thinking.

Additionally, the presence of such a figure brings attention to the election process, something that even at this time of the year is your average student's afterthought and that's on a good day.

The Pirate Captain's involvement in the process should cause those involved and in charge of elections to take a serious examination. Why, for instance, is someone allowed to throw his hat in the ring of such an important office without producing a real name? The students - the electing body - have a right to

But if this sea-loving chum is serious about being electing, his ideology must be immediately revamped.

Lobbying the City Council for changes to the tuition system, having a scholarship contest that rewards a student that writes the best essay about a pirate - these are just silly, misguided ideas that would do nothing but waste students' time and money.

The gimmick is fine. It's just the

platform and the seriousness - or lack thereof - that needs to change.

Otherwise, if he is elected, the captain can expect immediate mutiny.

The unsigned editorial that appears above is the opinion of the members of Technician's editorial board and is the responsibility of the editor in chief.



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Personality tests deteriorating personal relationships in employee hiring

My first job in Raleigh was working as a bear builder at Build-A-Bear Workshop. I'm sure many N.C. State students have been inside the workshop before. It's a hot spot for young cou-



Michele

their first dates together by creating stuffed beagles with heart boxers.

In order to become a bear builder, I had to go through a strenuous hiring and train-ing process. First, I had to fill out an application with references and the like. After they talked to my former employers and ensured I wasn't

incompetent, I had to take an exam. I had never taken a test before to get a job; however, the manager assured me it was not a big deal and I should just be honest.

Easier said then done. The test asked me about my integrity and previous drug use. I had to answer questions about what I would do if I knew my cousin was stealing from his workplace and if I was a morning person. As with most tests of this nature, I wanted the opportunity to write in my responses because the test's possible answers didn't follow with my thinking. For instance,

none of the answers for the thieving cousin question included talking to him about it first. I either had to go to the police, turn him into his employer or ignore what he was doing.

From that moment on, I had problems with

personality assessment testing, and many of the employees who came after me also found the test

I thought Build-A-Bear's hiring process was unusual, but I assumed that they were just being extra careful since we were going to be working with children.

Apparently these tests are becoming more and more popular as employers attempt to weed out candidates who are likely to be mediocre work-ers. Since my freshman year, I've had to take two other tests for jobs ranging from office work to

classroom teaching.

These employment tests are variations of popular personality tests like the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator that many young people take as part of leadership programs. The taker will read 50-100 statements and they will usually have to strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree or disagree with

But unlike traditional personality tests, these tests will place the taker in a red, yellow or green zone that, like a stop light, lets an employer

know whether the applicant is a go. Also, the results will let the hiring staff know certain tidbits like whether a person is likely to be positive worker or if he/she is going to be good about dealing with office conflicts.

Wow. This country loves testing people. Un-

fortunately, all these tests mean that we rely on multiple choice responses to tell us about how smart people are, how hard they will work, and how trustworthy they will be within the workplace. And if the person doesn't pass with flying colors, then he/she will never see the inside of a human resources office. No one considers whether people are being honest on these tests or whether people who don't like tests will be able to represent themselves well in a multiple-choice

Most people also know what employers will want to see on those tests. When I had to take a test for Wake County Public Schools recently, I knew better than to put that I hate getting up early in the morning. I'm going to be teacher, and school starts at 7 a.m. I don't get a choice in the matter, and I don't want principals thinking I won't be dependable. Just because I don't like getting up early doesn't mean that I won't.

According to the Washington Post, around 30 percent of employers are using personality assessment exams as part of their hiring processes. This statistic should be a real concern for young people going into the job market because standardized testing has grown from a school problem to a lifelong problem.

As a society, we are allowing scan sheets and

random questions to determine our future We're becoming lazy, and now employers don't even take the time to talk to people interested in a jobóthey'll allow a test to determine who are

their best applicants.

Obviously, most people aren't going to be able to make a difference in this new trend because they want to get jobs after the graduate, and they aren't going to rock the boat by refusing to take a test in an effort to protect their privacy.

However, psychologists are already out to

prove that these tests haven't drastically improved employee retention or production. gardless of what they find, I hope that this country will survive this rush of standardized testing and come to the conclusion that short answer responses tell us volumes more than A, B, C, or D, but we might have to talk to each other to get

Contact Michele your opinions at viewpoint@technicianonline.com

Features

The time is now for women to make the move

Making the first move seems to be an inherently masculine act, but as women continue to reach the ranks of men in other sectors of our society, it's time for them to suck-up those inherently feminine insecurities and make a move

Females

have always been taught

Throughout world history, men have been the dominant sex when it comes to all im-

tion that comes their way, con-tinually allowing men to take the initiative in all rituals of

ourtship. Daughters of great

kings and poor farmers alike were married off to men they'd never met to build alliances

with foreign rulers or merge the valuable commodities of

farmland and livestock.
Gentlemen called on sweet
Southern belles during the

Civil War era, keeping them

company on wide front porches

company on wide front porches in late summer twilight, until they built up enough courage to ask Daddy for permission to propose. Female suffrage was granted, World Wars were fought and years later things still hadn't changed much. Sandy sat hopefully by the phone in her poodle skirt, patiently waiting for Danny to call and ask her to the drive-in.

Today, females are finally

Today, females are finally equivalent to males in the of-

fice, the college classroom and in most other aspects of soci-ety. So why is it that we can't we

seem to outgrow the antiquated idea that men should act as the

catalyst when it comes to the chemistry of dating?

Biologically, men are more aggressive, competitive, and

logical, which makes it a little easier for them to pursue an

attractive lady. A guy is far less emotional in his thoughts, so

mind when it comes to asking a girl out, he may simply think, "Why not?"

Women as nutruring beings, on the other hand, are far more motional and are far more motional and a second to the same are far more motional and are far motional and are far more motional and are far motional and are far motional and are far motional and are far motional and are fa

more emotional and sensitive

to subtle indications whether a member of the opposite sex is or interested or not. On top

of that, we like to be absolutely sure that a man is interested before we act as if we are. This is simply part of our defense

against a shattered heart. We don't like to come off as needy

and overeager, attributes considered highly annoying in today's world of independence

and self-control.

Women are also sign-read-

ers by nature, and even if there aren't actually any signs to

interpret, we'll be sure to find some. If a guy yawns in your presence, fails to notice your new highlights, or doesn't see

you walk by him in the Atrium,

Now I'm sure there are many girls out there who are per-

feetly capable of reducing their

emotion and sensitivity to cold,

of the opposite sex feels about them. Most of us, however, are

reduced to guessing games and eventually resort to the "Dasy Method." You know, "He loves me. He loves me not."

hard logic when it comes to determining how a member

it has to mean he isn't inter-

rather than running all the possibilities of rejection and embarrassment through his



Christin Liverance to be pas-sive and accepting in any situa

year it was! There I was with a training bra and a blingin' set of braces, utterly oblivious to the fact that a tool called the hair brush had been invented, hair brush had been invented crushing on one of the more popular boys in school. I did the whole, "write him a note, ask him out" thing. It didn't work. He told my best friend he'd think about it, and that got me more than a little ex-cited.

The next day he informed me that he wasn't interested in girls for the time being. He needed to focus on his demanding middle school curriculum of middle school curriculum of pre-algebra and U.S. history. Oddly enough, the next week he got sent to the principal for making out with the captain of the girls' soccer team in the locker room after practice. My heart died that rainy day in March. I actually told a friend that I felt as if I would never laugh again. Oh, the dramatic laugh again. Oh, the dramatic life of a preteen girl. Thankfully, our lives do not

forever remain on the middle-school level. I discovered the hair brush, as well as the blow-dryer and straightening iron and graduated to Victoria's Secret lingerie. I also learned to laugh again, not only at others, but at myself.

This summer, for the first time in my adult life, I told a guy how I felt about him. It took weeks of thoughtful internal debate and stressful brain-racking to find the right words, and even then, it didn't flow from my lips like the per-fect monologue I'd mentally composed.

However, in the end it was actually worth some of the trouble. Although we didn't end up dating because of a long-distance situation, this boy did admit that he liked me too, and that was satisfying

enough in itself.

Actually, I liked myself more than before as well. I discovered a part of me that I hadn't realized was present prior to this event. There existed a brave, take-charge kind of woman inside the timid, write everything-in-dating-articles-but-never-say-it-aloud girl I always believed I was.

As we get older and more mature, reality sets in and we shake away the rosy dreams of girlhood. Women realize of grinoud, wonten realize that a knight in shining armor isn't going to come knocking on their door one spring after-noon and sweep them off their feet. Why would we want him to anyway? His white horse would only leave smelly, unap preciated gifts in our yard, and attempts at removing metal armor in the throes of passion would only result in numerous bruises in unmentionable loca

With this newfound under standing, females realize that not only is some initiation needed on our parts, we also come to appreciate the fact that guys can be shy despite their macho facades and aggressive reputations. Just because someone we're interested in doesn't jump at every chance to hang out with us doesn't mean they don't care. They're just as bogged down as we are by English research papers, biology lab reports, psychology praccums and part-time jobs that feel more like full-time. So make your move, ladies. If

you need one more bit of inspiration, consider this gem of the day: if you don't you'll always wonder what might have been. If you do, you'll be able to live with the knowledge that you did the best you could even if things didn't quite work out.

Beyond shots, cough syrup

WHILE THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER IS MOST OFTEN USED FOR BASIC MEDICAL SERVICES, OTHER EDUCATIONAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES ARE SOMETIMES OVERLOOKED DESPITE THEIR ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY

Michelle Eggleston

A chronic cough or a sore throat that occurs with the common cold and flu, or lab tests and medication from the pharmacy is what brings most students to the N.C. State health center. For those suffer-ing from more than flu-like ailments, however, there is more to the health center than throat

cultures and cough syrup.

The second floor is home to the oft-forgotten counseling center. Counselors are available to talk with students about anything ranging from roommate problems to depression. Most of the counseling services and medical services are free and easily accessible, but many of them are underutilized by students.



The counseling center in the health center offers a number of often underutilized services.

Overlooked services

The health center remains busy throughout the year, resulting in approximately 55,000 student visits. Roughly 60,000 prescriptions are filled in the pharmacy each year, according to Jerry Barker, director of Health Services. Yet the educa-tion and prevention program and the counseling center are oftentimes overlooked.

"I was aware there was a doctor's office, but I didn't realize there was a counseling center until recently," Lindsay Mooring, a junior in business management, said. The counseling center treats

a broad spectrum of problems starting from minor dilem-mas – like test anxiety, stress resulting from parents, room-mates and finances – to major problems like depression and other mental health issues.

"I have never been, but this is a tough time in our lives and it's a good idea to have this available to students," Oliver Serang, a junior in computer engineering, said. Several issues bring people to

the counseling center: poor academic performance and study

skills, homesickness and difficulty adjusting to the university, loneliness and isolation, eating and body image problems and family conflict. By taking action and seeing a counselor, students can help stop the problem before it escalates

"Sometimes getting help makes the difference between dropping out of school and coming back. Without help you can make a bad decision," Ron Jackson, a senior in aerospace

engineering, said.

Barker said students should utilize the education and prevention program in the health center more. The program educenter more. The program educates students on how to correct problems before they progress into something more serious. If not corrected, "stress can lead to more stress, which could lead to depression," Barker said.

"It's a good idea to have it available because not everyone can afford help and it's good to provide options for them,"

to provide options for them,' Nicole Cote, a junior in communication, said.

There are alcohol and drug abuse educators available to talk with students. Academic counseling is also available to

students who have questions or concerns about their current major and potential careers. Counselors are also available to help with semester withdrawals, learning disabilities and test

Bang for the student buck
The price of \$183 may seem
like a steep price for students
to pay for the health fee each year, but it is actually quite the bargain for health care. Students have access to board-certified doctors and nurses 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whether through on-site visits or on-call

In addition, most over-the-counter medications, counsel-ing visits, health education and a limited number of psychiatrist visits are available at no cost.

Visits are available at no cost.

There are charges, however,
that apply for certain procedures such as stitches, allergy
shots, physical therapy visits,
gynecological exams and prescription drugs. Doctors will
let students know ahead of time
if there will be a charge on any if there will be a charge on any expected procedures.

Even though certain charges do exist, it is at a discounted price

compared to private companies On average, prescriptions are 40 percent cheaper than the local drug store and lab work is less than half the price charged at a private doctor's office.

The University offers an insurance plan to students for the price of \$1,181 a year. The insurance plan covers up to \$100,000 worth of services. This is the cheapest insurance plan available compared to outside companies, Barker noted. While the health center is es-

tablished to help individual stu-dents the most, it also acts as the multic health department" for campus. Its employees are alert to what happens in the commu-nity, and they inform campus of possible concerns like the meningitis outbreak that occurred in the fall of 2004. This helps to educate students and control the outbreak of diseases.

Students who take the initiative to go to the health center to seek treatment not only help themselves, but they help prevent others from becoming

"If we can keep others healthy then you will stay healthy. Ev-eryone benefits," Barker said.

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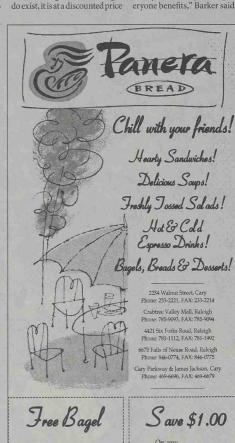
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"You-Pick-Two."

Sandwich, Salad or



Speaking of flowers, I will be the first to admit that I'm a complete pansy when it comes to taking action with a guy Perhaps my nagging self-doubt is rooted in my lasting memo-ries of sixth grade. What a

Sports SUEEINESSUFASEASUN

were part of a team that advanced farther

o genuinely accept closure to the team's Unlike last year — when the Wolfpack

blew a late double-digit lead against Vanest postseason run in 16 years. "I don't think it's a surprise that the mos Some called it rewarding.

State turns out to be the most rewarding challenging season I've had here at N.C iterally limping toward an imminent NI of the team, one that was once trapped Others spoke of the united character

winning, getting better." about our team," junior Cameron Benherman said. "Everybody put their ego: Collectively, Hodge, Bennerman & Co. "It says a lot about our character- a lot

only players in school history that ad-Collins, Julius Hodge, Will Roach and Lev in the postseason than any of the previanced to the NCAA Tournament all fou ous 15 collections. Four of them - Jordan Vatkins - will join a group of five as the In some sort of romantic way, the roller

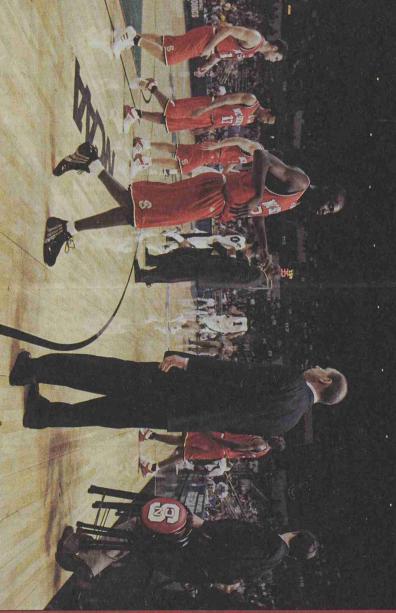
capture the school's second national title either, but the run conjured up memories and weeklong references to NCSU's 1983 a victory. It ended two nights short of mortality for the Pack. Perhaps even with lide with top-seeded, unbeatable North national title team that defied the odds to _arolina for one more intra-Triangle meet







PHOTOS BY TAYLOR TEMPLETON











BBALL

at one point by a eight straight points from Tucker.

"That was killing us," Grant said. "Tucker was inside, and if we doubled, he was kicking it out."

Wisconsin, air-balling 3's and committing 11 turnovers in a putrid 21-point first half, came out of the break firing from behind the arc, opening with a couple of bonus-sphere conversions from former walk-on Clayton Hanson. With the Pack forced to respec the perimeter, Tucker soon used his muscle to convert five layups in less than four minutes.

"He caused us a real matchup problem and just took over in that run," guard Engin Astur (team-high 16 points) said. Down double digits, Sendek tried anything to steal the momentum, even inserting injured point guard Tony Bethel for the first time in five games. He played two pedestrian minutes and couldn't spark the team and mask the glaring problems - hit-ting from the outside and stop-

ping easy Tucker buckets.
With the State crowd on its feet trying to exhort a last stand, Atsur misfired on a quick, deep 3 in the subsequent possession, and Wisconsin rebounded to effectively seal both teams' fate.

In his final game in a State jersey, Hodge scampered around the court trying to coax one final charge, just one final piece of magic. In the end, he briefly shook hands, wiped his face with his slender right hand and exited face down through the tunnel.

"We played until jerseys were

"We played until jerseys were soaked, legs were sore and we were exhausted," Hodge said.

Usually plodding Wisconsin's 44 second-half points were the most State has allowed since surrendering 48 to Wake Forest on Feb. 10. That game, played in the dead of winter, was the final sethods in a stratch that saw that setback in a stretch that saw the

Pack win just three of 12. Sitting in a folding chair with crossed arms and sloping shoulders, Bennerman mentioned that point in his characterization of the season.

"St. John's...probably the worst game in N.C. State history, then we hit another rock bottom and picked ourselves back up," Bennerman said. "It's just been a constant roller-coaster. We're proud now, but we felt like we had something and lost it."

"Would we like to win? Sure Do we always want to win more? Absolutely," Sendek said. "But being around amazing young men like this, watch them grow watch them do their best. Isn't that good enough?"

It would be nice to think that. But at a school with two national championship banners hanging from the rafters, it's only good

enough if you keep winning.

There can be life after Hodge, but only if the rest of the team remembers the lessons he leaves behind.

Austin can be reached at 515-2411 or austin@technicianonline.com

WOLFPACK WEEKEND

TRACK AND FIELD AT RALEIGH RELAYS
Competing against a field of more than 70 other universities, N.C.
State hosted its annual Raleigh Relays event this weekend at the Paul
Derr Track. Mitchell Pope qualifierd for the NcAA Regional Championship with his shot put throw of 59-41/4 on Friday, and Wesley Smith
qualified in the 5,000-meter with a fourth place finish and time of 14:
13-40. On Saturday, Michael Hill joined the group of qualifiers with a career-best mark of 49-9 1/4 in the triple jump, good for third place.
Angelina Blackman won the women's 800-meter with a time of 2:
0.38, just 0.09 second short of a qualifying time. Joanna Rodgers
came in second in the women's 3000-meter steeplechase with a time
of 10:5747, 3100 less than a second away from a qualifying mark. Senior Andy Smith, better know for his running ability, placed second in
the men's javelin throw as an unattached participant.

MEN'S SWIMMING 31ST AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP
The 200-yard medley relay team that broke records at the ACC
Championships earlier this season finished 14th nationally this weekend with a time of 1:28.48 at the NCAA Championships in Minneapoliis, Minn.
Cullen Jones finished 13th in the nation in the 50-yard freestyle event with a time of 19.63, good enough to earn the junior All-American honors, the also placed 41st in the nation in the 100-yard freestyle event, finishing with a time of 44.64. The Pack's 31st-place finish was third best among ACC teams, trailing only Virginia at 12th and Miami at 17th.

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SOUTES MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2005

Schedule

Baseball vs Elon, 3/30, 6 Softball vs East Carolina, 3/30, 3 (DH) W Tennis vs. Duke, 3/30, 2

Scores

Wisconsin 65, Basctball 56 Baseball 6, Lehigh 3 Softball 5, Virginia 3 Gymnastics 4th at EAGL Championships Virginia 6, M. Tennis 1 M. Swimming 31st at NCAA Championships

For more information on this weekend's action, including coverage of State's sweep of Lehigh on the baseball diamond check technicianonline.com

TECHNICIAN

COMMENTARY

Life after No. 24

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Julius Hodge strolled through the hallway of the Carrier Dome after his final press conference, dodging a



Johnson

few trailing reporters and ducking State locker, where he would take off his No. 24 jersey — never to put it on

Sports Editor again.
In past
years following tough losses,
Hodge would hang his head and openly question coaching decisions. It's always been hard for the Harlem native to keep his emotions in check when games go wrong. But following State's 65-56 loss to Wisconsin in the Regional Semifinals Friday night, the maturity Hodge has talked about so much during his final year was on full display.

"We have no reason to hang our heads," Hodge said. Hodge was lying — there were a number of reasons for those players to hang their heads. Like losing a nine-point second-half lead. Or giving up more second-half points to a slow-moving Badger team than they had to Duke, Wake Forest or North Carolina in the last month. His attitude after the game could have been more cold and gray than the average day in Syracuse.

But Hodge was doing his best to show the leadership that has been his calling card the past few weeks. The lessons Hodge displayed need to sink in for youngsters like Andrew Brack-man, Gavin Grant and Cedric Simmons. They will all be forced to take on bigger roles

next season.
"I learned how to show great leadership," Grant said. "How to carry your team, show how bad you want to win."

Brackman, who now moves from the front court to the pitcher's mound, had similar praise for the departing senior.

"Everybody's learned a lot from m," Brackman said. "It was great for our team, being kind of a young team. Just to be able to look at what he did is going to a lot for next year.'

With a group of returning young talent and a freshman class that includes McDonald's All-American Brandon Costner and front-court players Court-ney Fells and Ben McCauley, State's run of success doesn't have to end. The difference will be the way veteran players — Enbe the way veteran players — Engin Atsur, Cameron Bennerman and Tony Bethel — handle the responsibility of leading the younger players.

"I learned a lot from him basketball-wise," Atsur said. "We have to use his characteristics

nave to use his characteristics next year to be successful." In Hodge's four years with State, the team has been to four NCAA Tournaments, finished second in the ACC regular sea-son once and been runner-up in

the ACC Tournament twice.
"He came to N.C. State, and the program started to accomplish

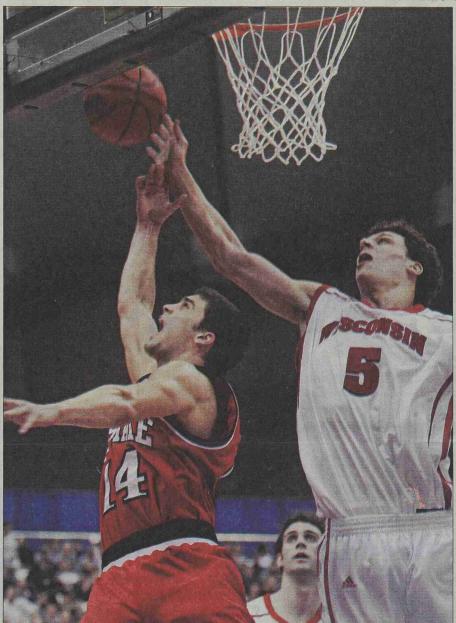
The key word there — started. It's up to the players Hodge leaves behind to continue accomplishing. When Sendek was asked if he felt as though his team was good but never good enough, the Pack coach gave the closest response to "get off my back" you'll ever hear from him.

AUSTIN continued page 7

SWEET 16

Second-half blizzard ends season

TOURNAMENT RUN IN THE SYRACUSE REGIONAL SEMIFINALS ON FRIDAY



Engin Atsur goes up and under during a lay-up attempt against Wisconsin's Jason Chappell on Friday night at the Carrier Dome.

Matt Middleton

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - N.C. State's season ended Friday night amid poignant wintry reminders of a time when

gnant wintry reminders of a time when things were anything but rosy.

Piles of snow dotted Syracuse's sloping campus, while a chilling March wind swirled and delivered the constant feel of dreary mid-winter, a since-forgotten time when this year's Wolfpack sat in the bottom 1/4 of the ACC and seemed ready to punch its ticket to the NIT.

Instead, the season lasted longer than most people expected. A team once 3-7 in the ACC became one of the last 12 teams playing in the great spectacle of

But on Friday night in the Carrier Dome, the same traits that got the Pack this far — resolve, moxie, rallying de-terminedness — were mirrored by its opponent. Wisconsin's Alando Tucker led a prolonged post-intermission 26-7

led a prolonged post-intermission 26-7 run that erased a nine-point halftime hole and allowed the Badgers to pull away from 10th-seeded NCSU.
Clock officially struck midnight for State's Cinderella story shortly before 9:30 local time when the scoreboard read 65-56 Badgers. The loss marked the first time since 1980 that the Pack lost an NCAA Tournament game it led at the half—a streak that spanned 32. at the half — a streak that spanned 32 games, four coaches, one national title and countless heartbreaks.

"I felt like we were going to win this game, but it feels incomplete, like a story that doesn't really have an ending," junior Cameron Bennerman said.

Then, the swingman who finished with 10 points, quipped what seemed to be on repeat throughout the postgame locker room.
"It was one of those games where they wanted it more than we did," Bennerman said.

Bennerman said.

Those sentiments were echoed by at least three other players, surprising considering grit and fortitude had been State's late-season calling card, evident even in losses like the March 6 setback against Wake Forest.

"Today, we felt like we let up when we shouldn't and we should have just kent

shouldn't and we should have just kept pressing and kept pressing and won the game," freshman Gavin Grant said. It took State almost 12 minutes to

score 10 points after intermission, following a first half in which it converted six 3-pointers. By that time, Wisconsin had run off 28 points of its own, fueled

NCAA continued page 7

Fourth for gymnasts

Michael Fox

The N.C. State gymnastics squad was the top-ranked team in the EAGL conference at the start of the conference at the start of the conference championship on Friday night at Reynolds Coliseum. At the end, the Pack finished in the middle of the group instead

of on top. The Pack score 194.975 points to finish in fourth place out of the eight competing teams. Chapel Hill finished in first place with a 195.975 for the Tar Heels' first EAGL championship win since 2002

There was a lot of pressure, vas really exciti same time," freshman Heather Zolton said. "I think we tried being too perfect, and it wasn't of our better meets.

The first event for the Pack, instead of the usual vault, was the floor exercise. The Pack finished fifth on the floor, which was led by a 9.825 performance by Kelsey Lee. The floor was won by UNC-CH, with the Heels' Courtney Bumpers netting the top performance with a 9.925.

'It's different having floor first, but we had a lot of energy," Cori Goldstein said. "We just came out and overshot

ourselves on the floor."
Goldstein received a 9.625
on the floor, which included
an out-of-bounds penalty.

"We need to try and stick our landings more and not take many steps," Zolton said. The Pack would get to the

vault in its second event, finishing with a third place score of 48,725. Zolton led with a 9.825, the fourth best score. All five Pack scores for the event got a

"You always want to start on vaulting if you can," coach Mark Stevenson said, "But you have to do all four events, and you have to be able to start on beam or floor or bars and still be successful."

Despite the fourth-place finish, the Pack will compete in the NCAA Southeast Regionals in Gainesville, Fla. on April 9.

SOFTBALL

Gelbard powers over Virginia perfection

Ian Jester

Feeling the burden of back-to-back losses on Saturday, N.C. State seemed lifeless in the series finale with Virginia, as Cayalier pitcher Coty Tolar carried her perfect game into the bottom

of the sixth inning.

With Easter Sunday thunderstorms advertising probable cancellation of the game, the swings of Wolfpack bats sounded monotonous against Tolar, producing groundball outs in all but two occasions to

that point. to perfection, Tolar would then feel the brewing storm. It didn't come from the gray sky above, but from the collective effort of the Pack. Coach Lisa Navas' squad scored two runs off bits and pieces to end the inning down 3-2.

'Navas told us that she had a perfect game against us and I don't think anyone realized it. I mean we saw her pitch yesterday and whooped her," sophomore pitcher Abbie Sims said.

Then sophomore Heather Gelbard charged the sky with a lightning bolt of misery for the Cavaliers, illustrated by a three-run homer to center in the bottom of the seventh that salvaged a 5.3 victory for the Pack

a 5-3 victory for the Pack.
"This was exciting because it was a full team effort," Navas said. "We usually go with nine or 10 players on a regular basis, but everyone came back and got it done. Our catcher getting on, someone pinch running...and usually every time we pinch run Beth [Poore] she scores for us.'

Poore, the sophomore from Charlotte, pinch ran for Miranda Ervin after she drew a walk, then Poore advanced to second after Jennifer Patterson added a single, before Gelbard brought everyone home for the Pack (29-17, 2-3 ACC) to celebrate.

"Everything goes so fast and

I was just trying to focus on selecting a good pitch to hit," Gelbard said. "I wanted to put it hard somewhere and she threw it right down the middle

Tolar lost her perfect game when freshman Blair Harkey reached on an error by third baseman Sara Larquier of Vir-ginia (12-16, 2-1). Harkey advanced to second on a single up the middle by Gelbard, which was followed by a pair of run-scoring singles by shortstop Shanna Smith and Sims.

"We know we're never out of it," Gelbard said. "If we're down we're up we're just going to score more. We said it was time to break up her perfect game."

Sims also pitched two innings following the five-inning start from freshman Brooke Isley. Sims threw about 200 pitches in Saturday's 10-inning tophalf loss, but only gave hit Sunday in earning her 12th win of the year.

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