



Campus reactor leads the way in "nuclear renaissance"

Ian Jester

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in Spring semester, Dayne Murray skated on his Gravity longboard towards what he described as the "home of his future.'

He was one of 45 nuclear engineering students to attend this second-year class inside Burlington Laboratories. The sophomore said skating to class saved him 20 minutes of traveling, which he put towards sleep. But there is an object that cap-tured his attention before walk-ing into each class

ing into each class. "There's a Progress Energy plaque that I look at on the wall next to our classroom," Murray said. "It's nothing fancy, but it lets me know there's an employer out there that wants me to come to class and succeed."

to class and succeed." The plaque symbolizes the University's appreciation for the \$385,000 renovation grant pre-sented by the Progress Energy Foundation to former Chancel-

lor Marye Anne Fox in 2000. Headquartered in Downtown Raleigh, Progress Energy is one of the strongest supporters of the College of Engineering, accord-ing to COE Executive Director of Development Ben Hughes.

"Progress Energy needs engi-neers and we train engineers," Hughes said. "We are a source of recruitment for major companies like Progress, and their generous financial support is just an insight to our long-term relationship. It's a relationship that dates back to before I was at N.C. State."

The partnership began in 1977 — when Progress Energy was known as Carolina Power & Light — it has benefited both parties

"In the 80 plus years of the company, we've worked with the faculty and students at N.C.

State to ensure their research in nuclear energy is adequately funded," Merrilee Jacobson, a corporate communications spe-cialist for Progress Energy, said. "We want people to be aware that Progress Energy is committed to the University and to the Raleigh

community for years to come." Progress Energy donated a total of \$232,500 to the College of En-gineering in the 2004 fiscal year, and is planning to increase that amount by more than \$30,000 for 2005.

Jacobson is part of a research team for the Progress Energy Foundation that decides which non-profit organizations are most deserving for the compa ny's education, environmental and economic development grants.

"It's a very interactive process," Jacobson said. "Everyone is interested in finding the right mix of funding that satisfies both parties. I sit down with Ben once

Campus cutting energy costs

or twice a month to find out the needs of the engineering college and how we can appropriate our corporate prof-itability funds."

Hughes said Duke Energy, he North Carolina-based diversified energy company, is another huge supporter of

the University. Based out of Charlotte, Duke Energy provided the College of Engineering with \$174,500 in the 2004 fiscal year, according to Duke Energy Senior Vice President E. O. Ferrell III.

"Duke Energy is a company founded in engineering with seven nuclear reactors under our control," Ferrell, a 1966 alumnus in electrical en-gineering, said. "And since N.C. State has one of the few operating nuclear reactors for research in the nation, we want to fund N.C. State to

NUCLEAR continued page 2

student cleared in bombing

Tyler Dukes

A former N.C. State student held for questioning in the Lon-don terrorist attacks remains in Egyptian custody today, despite being cleared of wrongdoing by

the Egyptian government. Police arrested 33-year-old Magdy Mahmoud Mustafa el-Nashar in Cairo Thursday in re-gards to "an alleged connection" to the four bombings that killed 52 people on July 7, according to a statement from the Egyptian Ministry of Interior made last Deider. Friday.

"He denied any connection to the aforementioned occurrences in London and noted that all his personal property was still in his apartment in Britain," the min-istry said.

According to CNN, minis-try spokesman Hisham Safiya said the ministry presented the cabinet of Egyptian President Hosni Mubrak with an "internal security report" that cleared el-Nashar.

Egyptian officials have not said when el-Nashar will be released.

Safiya also stated that Egyptian officials found no links between el-Nashar and al Qaeda, the group believed to be responsible

for the attacks. According to the Times of Lon-don, London Metropolitan Police discovered that el-Nashar rented

one of the apartments searched in Leeds where Police found ex-plosives Wednesday. Focus turned to el-Nashar af-ter London Police found traces of

Magdy el-Nashar

y 19	Cleared of wrongdoing				
y 18	Denies link to bombings in an interview				
y 14	Egyptian Police arrest el- Nashar in Cairo				
y 12	Police reportedly find explosives in el-Nashar's apartment				
e 30	Arrives in Egypt, stays with family				
ily 7	Terrorists attack London in four locations				
ay 6	Receives doctorate from University of Leeds				
Fall 000	Pursues doctorate at University of Leeds, U.K.				
ring 000	Begins master's course- work in chemical engi- neering at N.C. State				
998	Receives master's degree in organic chemistry from Cairo University				
995	Begins postgraduate work at Cairo University				
994	Receives bachelor de- gree in chemistry from Cairo University				
990	Enrolls at Cairo Univer- sity in Egypt				
	COMPILED BY TYLER DUKES				

explosives in a Leeds apartment rented by el-Nashar, according to a CNN

report. Scotland Yard said Friday that they could not confirm or deny

NASHAR continued page 2

PATIENCE, YOUNG GRASSHOPPER



Camp.



Poker: A 'Kid's' game Alumnus Michael Gracz has won a \$1.5 million prize in poker after gradu-ating in finance in 2004. See page 8.

entertainment viewpoint classifieds 5 sports 8 weather tomorrow today eff an el a 94°/75° 94º/76°

With campus upgrades in the works, the University Maurer said. hopes to take a bite out of its budget

Tanner Kroeger

Vith la year's water a energy budget of over \$20 million, N.C. State administrators are taking new mea sures to cut spending now and in the future.

According to C.C. Maurer, university energy conservation coordinator, NCSU has made a pledge to save 4 percent of their energy budget for the present fiscal year. NCSU spent \$23 million last year on water and electricity,

paired with improvements at Carmichael Gym, highlight the University's most recent efforts to cut its energy spending. The plant, finished in Spring

that is pumped out to buildings "It's a much more efficient

air conditioning unit," Maurer said

immediate impact on campus new features being installed at Carmichael should bring chang es that are more significant to the

erations at Carmichael, the improvements to the gym are

in progress, Sanner said, is the replacement of showerheads in gym showers to use

less water crease pressure and decrease water usage, so you get the same effect with less water,"

ENERGY continued page 3

Summer sports camps are a common sight around campus. For-mer NCSU soccer player Justin Branch coaches camper Alessandro Scanu during the hot afternoon on Tuesday. Scanu is part of a group of around 30 campers from Venezuela attending the State Soccer



A new water chiller plant,

Sanner said.

While the new air-conditioning system will make the more

University's spending in the long run.

According to Dawn Sanner, director of facilities and op-

part of an ongoing process to upgrade the building. One of the many different

The new shower heads in-

Research model predicts plant, animal movement

Page 2

Matt Wilson Staff Write

Researchers have developed a model to predict the dispersal of plants and animals using wild-life corridors, which are strips of land connecting separated habitats

Associate professor of zoology Nick Haddad, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Florida and Allegheny College, conducted the study at the Savannah River Site National Environmental Research Park on the South Carolina-Georgia border.

Haddad's research began in 1993, when he first collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service to research butterflies in a variety

of habitat patterns. "That's where we got the idea of varying the arrangements of habitat[s]," Haddad said. "Those corridors are based on the premise [that] by connecting other-wise separated habitats, you can increase the movement rate of plants and animals."

The idea of wildlife corridors emerged and Haddad began collaborating with other research-

ers. However, one significant problem emerged in their research. Tracking the movement and behavior of a species required an extensive amount of time and a large group of researchers. "We got to thinking, how could

we come up with a simpler way? Could we figure out based on their movement patterns if they used corridors or not?" Haddad said

He then began a study to create

any information pertaining to

El-Nashar attended N.C.

State during spring semester of 2000, conducting graduate

coursework in chemical engi-

neering. His time at the University

prompted FBI officials to scour any records pertaining to him

According to University Reg-

istrar Louis Hunt, the office of Registration and Records released general directory in-formation, but government of-ficial obtained other information

ficials obtained other informa-

tion about el-Nashar through the Office of Legal Affairs with

a court order. Additional inquiries were

directed through NCSU News Services, Hunt said.

"Anytime we have a matter like that we want to funnel

everything through the same source so we're giving the same information," Hunt said. Saad Khan, director of the

chemical and biomolecular

engineering graduate program, declined to comment on el-

The Egyptian-born el-Nashar left NCSU in the fall of 2000 to seek a doctorate from the Uni-

versity of Leeds in the United

According to a statement

from the University of Leeds Thursday, el-Nashar was in-

sponsored by the National

Research Center in Cairo. El-

Nashar, who received his doctorate from the University of Leeds in May 2005, conducted

the research with a six-member

El-Nashar arrived in Cairo on June 30, a full week before the attacks, according to a CNN in-terview with Magdy's brother

The statement from the Egyp-

tian Ministry of Interior said that Magdy el-Nashar plans to

return to the U.K. to continue

Mohammed el-Nashar.

his work.

Nashar

Kingdom

NASHAR

el-Nashar.

late last week.

a predictive model that could es-timate the dispersal of plants and animals in habitats connected by

animals in habitats connected by wildlife corridors. "In ecology for the last 10 years, we've thought that local behav-iors might be used to predict larger scale dispersal, but virtu-ally no one's been successful at translating larger scale dispertranslating larger scale disper-sal," Haddad said.

As part of the study, the U.S. Forest Service set up eight similar sites, each 2 acres. In each site, a central patch of habitat was connected to another patch by a wildlife corridor, approxi mately 150 meters long and 25 meters wide. Three other habi-tats remained unconnected to each other. The researchers chose to study

the Eastern bluebird, an animal known to disperse plant seeds, and the seeds of the wax myrtle plant, found in its droppings.

"The bluebirds are coopera-tive. They land on perches that we put out there for them," Haddad said.

Researchers marked the plants with a harmless dye to track the dispersal of its seeds through the patches.

"We sprayed the fruits with a very thin film of fluorescent dye powder, so the birds couldn't see it," Haddad said.

it," Haddad said. After collecting approximate-ly 13,000 samples, researchers found that bluebirds and seeds from the wax myrtle plant were, respectively, 31 and 37 percent more likely to be found in the center of connected babitate them center of connected habitats than unconnected habitats.

Although many other studies of wildlife corridors have been

published, Haddad's research shows the effects of reconnect-ing habitats on a larger scale. According to Haddad, the pre-dictions closely fit the actual dispersal of seeds.

Although the researchers could only observe bluebird behavior in a short range, the prediction model correctly estimated seed dispersal at greater ranges. "We could use that informa-

tion in a model and predict very accurately where fruits will be dispersed on the landscape,' Haddad said.

gram will be a key player in that

try took a major hit in confidence following the melting of nuclear fuel from a full-scale commercial reactor at Three Mile Island near

The bluebirds often were found to travel along the edges of the landscape corridors. According to Haddad, landscape develop-ment often fragments habitats, reducing population size and leaving animals and plants vulnerable to the genetic defects that develop from inbreeding. "Habitat loss and also the

separation of habitats is the most important factor causing the loss of biological diversity," Haddad said. "Small popula-tions are more likely to inbreed and they're also more likely to

foundations. The second area is directed toward program-matic support, which includes anything from improving the operation of the PULSTAR to renovating teaching facilities and labs. The renovations have not gone unnoticed by one nuclear engineering student, who re-ceives scholarship support from Progress Energy. "I know that I just got out of a

nuclear lab without new equip-ment, and the radiation counters were so worn out," Jason Kopp, a senior in nuclear engineering, said. "Through the funding of Progress Energy we've gotten a world of help in our experiments.

The other two areas reflect corporate funding in the areas of event sponsorships and un-restricted support. Both energy companies sponsor dinners for Ben Franklin scholars — stu-dents earning a bachelor's degree in both engineering and huin both engineering and hu-manities — as well as providing a "piggy bank" fund for the dean to use at his will. "The dean will use the unre-

stricted support funds to benefit highly-qualified out-of-state students that are considering a closer alternative for education," Hughes said. "It's a strong way to compete against Georgia Tech, Virgina Tech, Purdue and other technical schools for the brightest students."

By bringing in this vast potential for future employees of the nuclear industry, Ferrell said both North Carolina-based comperiod that is demanding to hire more graduates.

"Over the past several years, the main goal for utility companies was to operate extremely efficient," Ferrell said. "Now many of the senior employees that we hired in the 1970s are looking at retirement - they've already benefited the company with all they had left. Now we've reached a period where hiring a greater number of college graduates is becoming the main goal.

Jacobson echoed Ferrell's state-ments, when she also added the market for hiring at Progress Energy is improving following change genetically in ways that oppose natural selection." The behavior model could be

useful for other applications, Haddad said, such as tracking the movement of disease-carrying birds or invasive species. Had-dad also said that his research will have an impact on future landscape development.

"Our work provides empirical data to show that corridors seem to work as they're intended," he said Haddad said now he will focus

research on two fronts. The first

the recent purchase of Florida

Energy. "You don't normally absorb a company the same size as your-self," Jacobson said. "We had to borrow a lot of money from the market, but this made us more flexible as an employer. Now we'll hire roughly 1,000 entry-level graduates by December to fill those positions vacated by our retiring senior employees."

It's a change in the market Ferrell anticipated, but said he knows one of the two North Carolina nuclear giants needs to build the next-generation reactor to fulfill that promise. "The need for engineers was

static after Three Mile," Ferrell said. "The normal cycle that increased the number of nuclear power plants stopped. It left the country in the position where

adding more base-load generating plants will support the need for engineering talent, the talent that will replace the seniors of

will be to examine how wildlife

corridors affect population and diversity; the second will be to

study endangered species in wildlife corridors.

"Our work is going to focus more on species of conservation interest. We're going to focus on six different species of restora-tion concern in those areae."

tion concern in those areas,

the July 1 issue of Science.

The research was published in

Haddad said.

the 1970s.' Jacobson and Ferrell both agreed the importance of nuclear power in the nation's future will be witnessed by its environmen-tal safety compared to other en-

ergy sources. And by way of their long-term relationship with the Universi-ty, both companies have NCSU graduates believing in the same

graduates believing in the same prosperous future. "It's going to start booming here when we start running out of fossil fuels," Kopp said. "I think my future is going to be a promising one for the nuclear industry." industry.'

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NUCLEAR ntinued from page 1

stays robust.'

That nuclear reactor is housed at Burlington, on the other side of Murray's nuclear engineer-ing class in the Progress Energy Lecture Hall. Ferrell, who is also on the board of directors for the NCSU Engineering Foundation, remembers the first time he was introduced

"I remember watching the utility trucks pass by my house in Durham. That was the first time I knew of Duke Power," Ferrell said. "While I was at State, Duke Energy was build-ing a hydroelectric station north of Charlotte, and they invited engineers to come see the facility as part of future recruitment. The potential of fission and nuclear power really started to pick up

Stemming from the ideas of Clifford Beck and former Dean of Engineering Harold built in 1950, establishing the nation's first university nuclear reactor and research curriculum.

actor is one of three university nuclear reactors located in the Southeast — and one of 27 in

Multi-University Southeast INIE Consortium, or MU-SIC, which conducts research based on grants from the U.S. Department of Energy. The department head of nuclear engineering Paul Turinsky points out that U.S. Depart-ment of Energy has funded the NCSU program in several ways, including a \$12 million research grant applicable over six years

development, through our mem-bership in the Battelle Energy Alliance, which recently received a \$5 billion contract to operate at make sure the nuclear program the Idaho National Laboratory for the next 10 years Hughes said the nuclear indus-

to nuclear energy.

Lampe, the present 1-megawatt PULSTAR nuclear reactor was

Currently, the PULSTAR re-

the nation. NCSU is a member of the

"For the longer term, the U.S. Department of Energy is developing six new reactor designs, dramatically different from current plant designs, to de-ploy two or three decades from now," Turinsky said. "Our pro-

Middletown, Pa. in 1979. The loss that halted a nuclear dream of unlimited potential for some "Lots of nuclear programs closed down, and now whether it's because of political controversy or the threat of nuclear terrorist attacks, there's a reluc-

ance to rebuild that confidence in general," Hughes said. According to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission there was a decline in orders for nu-clear plants following the meltdown, and the demand for new employees dropped. But as many universities discontinued their nuclear funding and programs after Three Mile Island, NCSU remained committed through-out the questionable period in the nuclear industry, a move Mo-hamed Bourham, a professor in

nuclear engineering, praised. "We are now in the nuclear renaissance," Bourham said. "Nuclear engineering programs have increased nationwide and the numbers are incredible compared to five years ago."

As more programs are created across the country, NCSU's pro-There were only 25-30 under-

graduates in nuclear engineering three or four years ago," Hughes "Now there are about 120 said. graduates this year.

Spring graduate Josh Nowak said researching the history of nuclear engineering in high school didn't scare him from

enrolling in the program. "The scholarship from Duke Energy means the world," Nowak said "Because I'm an out-of-state student I wouldn't have been able to get my degree without that." Nowak's scholarship is one of four areas of financial support given by the nuclear companies'

TECHNICIAN





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ENERGY

Sanner said the University is also looking for ways to keep lights from being left on, hoping to install sensors in bathrooms classrooms and other areas with

high, but sporadic traffic. "Starting later in the fall, we are going to be installing some occupancy sensors," Maurer said. "These sensors will turn on lights when someone enters a room and turn them off when the person leaves.

Sanner said Carmichael's eventual expansion, which breaks ground in January, will also have these features.

"Energy will be [the expan-sion's] main focus," Sanner said. "We are working on ways to dim the lights so that we don't need

full wattage while cleaning." Korey Hite, a junior in me chanical engineering, is part of Students for Sustainable Energy, an energy conservation group on

"Every student needs to get involved because the biggest changes happen when everyone is a part of change," Hite said. "Twe heard it said that we could save a million dollars a year if save a million dollars a year if students would just turn off their computers.

Hite said his group, along with similar student organizations, are planning ways to get students involved this fall.

"Right now, Students for Sus-tainable Energy is planning some other things on campus," Hite said. "We might merge with another on-campus group and plan some bigger and better things." Maurer said NCSU has a com-

mitment to save 4 percent on en-ergy this year; however, there is a state-wide campaign to save 20 percent.

'The University is committed to save 4 percent per square foot," Maurer said. "Of course, we want to exceed that, but it's our commitment for right now.

POLICE BLOTTER

07/13/05 10:19 P.M. | ANIMAL PROBLEM RPD's ECC reported NCSU cows were running at large in the Mid Pines area. A staff member and Officers were able to locate and corral 3 cows without incident.

07/14/05 12:24 A.M. | ASSIST OTHER

12:24 A.M. | ASSIST OTHER AGENCY Officers responded to the Hillsborough Street area after reports that an unknown subject was in an accident on Hillsbrough Street and fled on foot down Lampe Drive. The suspect was located on Current Drive attempting to get on a Wolfline Bus. The subject refused to give his name and was turned over to Raleigh Police Department and was taken into cus-tody and transported to Wake Med by EMS.

07/15/05 4:53 P.M. | LARCENY A staff member reported a box of books missing from the loading dock at the bookstore.

6:59 P.M. | B&E/LARCENY A student reported their vehicle had been broken into while parked at the Capability South Lot. Stereo and sun-glasses were taken.

1:21 P.M. | SUSPICIOUS PERSON

1:21 P.M. | SUSPICIOUS PERSON Officers responded to Morill Dr. near Faucette Dr. in reference to a male that was sitting in his vehicle nude and exposing himself. Officers checked the area but the vehicle had left prior the officers arrival. There was no further information available on the vehicle.

11:48 P.M. | SUSPICIOUS INCI-DENT

11:48 P.M. | SUSPICIOUS INC. DENT A staff member reported that some of the housekeepers had located a white powder like substance on the floors in the DH Hill Library. Upon investigation, the scene had been cleaned by housekeeping. The of-ficers spoke with the housekeepers, who stated they thought it had com who stated they thought it had con from the ceiling and cleaned it up. The substance was very fine and ap peared to be chalk or baby powder

2:05 P.M. | TRAFFIC ACCIDENT While attempting to leave the scene of a Fire Alarm, an RFD engine backed into a vehicle that was parked on Stinson Dr. The vehicle was parked illegally, and the driver was issued a parking citation illegally, and the parking citation.

TECHNIC your campus, unfolded everyday

1

technicianonline.com

AL MANA

Entertainment TECHNICIAN AGE 4 · WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005 Student seeks photography exhibit

Greg Behr

Asking Dana Dillehunt what she wants to be when she graduates from college would produce an answer similar to that of ask-ing a six year old what they want to be when they grow up. At the moment she is an aspir

ing writer with a deep love of all things David Sedaris.

She is a copy writer for Rockett, Burkhead, and Winslow advertising agency seeking to do pro bono work for local charities, an amateur musician who can play a mean cello and accordion, as well as a photographer disen-franchised by commercial pho-tography seeking an exhibit in a local gallery. "T had a business where I took

portraits of people, but gave it up after clients wanted too much control over their pictures," she said shrugging off the fact that it was her own morals that led to the failure of the business couldn't express myself and I

couldn't express myself and I think that if people want canned photography then they can go to Sears," Dillehunt said. This example of completely forfeiting a business because her artistic license was threat-ened is what makes Dillehunt competition and artichehun to competition. special and refreshing to an industry that sees so many of its artists compromised by a lack of opportunity.

Senior Dana Dillehunt has been processing black and white film for years. She sets her bathroom up as a darksets, putting her enlarger on her sink and her chemical trays in the tub.

has now turned her attention to other aspects of photography. Currently she is wrapping up a solo exhibit that concentrates become successful, although fears that it won't be because of her environment. 'Opportunities at N.C. State fears that she "won't be taken seriously" by the Gallery of Art and Design located in the Talley Student Center. Her gripes with

sign curriculum to be a double standard when compared to enrollment in higher level Eng-lish courses. "Art and design is unlike English where anyone can enroll in upper level classes with barely any qualifications with barely any qualifications and only a few prerequisites," Dillehunt said.

Although she said she is disap-pointed by her limited resources at NCSU she appreciates the Col-lege of Design as an impressive school that does very creative

school that does very creative work on a campus that doesn't always put art first. "State should give more sup-port to artists and photographers because the art community is alive in Raleigh even though it must not always be vicible." does may not always be visible," she said

"The gallery on campus is fine, but cannot even compare to the galleries at larger universities like Columbia," she said commenting that she had recently visited Columbia University's gallery and was very impressed.

was very impressed. "Most People on campus don't even know about our gallery and the university isn't doing enough to get people involved, but there is so much potential at State and in Raleigh for something really great," Dillehunt said. She caid she hones the arkhibit

She said she hopes the exhibit she is currently working on may place more importance on amateur art and photography at NCSU and in the Raleigh area,



TECHNICIAN

<u>Viewpoint</u>

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005 • PAGE 5

CAMPUS FORUM

To submit letters to Campus Forum, send your thoughts to viewpoint@technicianonline.com. Please limit responses to 350 words. Technician reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and size.

You've got to be kidding

<text><text><text><text>

together as such? I agree that we should all be vigilant against having our constitutional rights

serves the right to edit for grammar, st taken away. However, while she doesn't mention protecting the right to keep and bear arms, she does mention 'separation of church and state,' which is enumerated nowhere in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. In fact, I challenge her to find it. Also, Ms. Lang, please list for us a provision in the Patriot Act that infringes on the Constitutional rights you say it takes away. I've read it (yes I actually have...have you?), and I didn't find any. Clinton was wrong 'on a personal level?" Ms. Lang forgets that Clinton admitted to lying under oath, and that perjury is a crime no matter what the subject. This is a blatant attempt to sanitize an admitted "public" crime.

a obtaint attempt to sanitize an admitted "public" crime. Ms.Lang refers to our country as a "democracy." This word was not widely used to describe the USA until the mid-20th century; our nation is a republic, and the difference is worth researching. Loculd go on. However, I hope that I've highlighted the shallowness of Ms.Langs arguments. I know she means well. But when you delve into pure facts rather than recite subject lines of liberal newsgroups, the arguments fall apart. Nathan Gibson Nathan Gibson Mech Eng. 2004

The court has strayed

The court has strayed Daniel Underwood raises some freligious symbols, especially in light displays freligious court and the symbol symbol free symbol and the symbol symbol symbol free symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol free symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol free symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol free symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol symbol free symbol Constitution reign James Lawrence

NCSU: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

OUR OPINION: CAMPUS IS FLOODED WITH CONSTRUCTION - ALMOST TO THE POINT WHERE IT BECOMES A STUDENT'S EXPECTATION. BUT DESPITE THE SUMMER OF CONSTRUCTION HERE, IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR STUDENTS TO REMAIN PATIENT BECAUSE THESE THINGS ARE NECESSARY AND WILL PE MORE BENEFICIAL LATER DOWN THE ROAD.

There is one thing every student is guaranteed to see while here Some people will say opportunities, others say a different culture, some a new city, while even some go as far to say that everyone will see their future.

That may or may not be true, but factually speaking, every N.C. State student is guaranteed to see at least this: a detour sign.

Yep, an orange sign plastered in the middle of a dense traffic area that suggests another route. This University is always reconstructing this, remodeling that, fixing some thing else or building something new.

Even during the summer, a student can't turn a corner without seeing a chain link fence, detour sign, plywood or even an arbitrary piece of heavy machinery parked next to the trees (maybe it's supposed to be out of the way).

But, with all the extra miles of walking, a slower traffic pace, saws piercing a lecture room or even a truck blocking a street, they are all worth it.

Think about it. All of these things are necessary for NCSU to stay at the top of the class. Each reconstructed building, remodeled floor or newly paved road is necessary in order for the campus to func tion at a higher speed or with more efficiency. And, they all need to happen when it serves as little as a

distraction as possible to the most amount of students.

In other words, it has to happen in the summer when there are 25,000 students less attending classes. Five-thousand students can maneuver a lot easier than 30,000. Last year, the University was

ranked among the nation's ugliest schools. So it must be a good thing that no one comes here to admire the buildings.

No, students come here because of the quality of education and if a floor or building must be remodeled in order for students to have the newest technology and capabilities at their fingertips, then remodel we must.

It doesn't help, however, that orientation is held during these time periods of mass construction. Parents and potential students are attending the campus greeted by dump trucks and saw blades. But, the good thing is they have already enrolled and it is better for new students to see these things at orientation rather than every student see them in the fall.

Therefore, it is imperative that these projects be completed on time or ahead of schedule. No one wants to see these things happening come fall. The results will speak for themselves.

We just have to look a little further down the road — there's no detour sign down there.

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



school supplies Back to

It is that time of the year again. August is nearly upon us, and to-morrow I hit the stores and start my back-to-school shopping. I wouldn't

normally be so excited about

squandering

my day off

work at the

mall; spending more than an

hour perusing endless aisles of

clothes, linens

and cookware

seems about as



Kenneth Ball

much fun as Mel Gibson at a Bar Mitzvah. However, there is an aura about back to school shopping that makes looking for a new bedspread tolerable, if not particularly excit-

ing. Even you poor saps taking sum-mer classes can't escape the lure of late July commercialism. Techni cally, you may not be going back to school but I know you have your eye on some new stuff before the full comestant fall semester starts.

Everybody is feeling the call of the mall. The geeks are out scour-ing the land for a deal on a wireless router. The Greeks will soon march on the designer stores, always on top of the latest fashionable fad. The engineers are about to bust over the latest incarnation of the TI-89. Everybody is beefing up his or her personal arsenal of stuff in preparation for another four months on the collegiate battle-field.

Maybe I'm taking things a bit too far with the analogies here, but my point is that if you aren't shopping yet, you will be soon. I me be your quartermaster. I'll fill you in on what is hot and what is not in this back to school shopping season.

That's right, I've prepared a checklist of five things you'll want to have handy for a successful Fall'05

1. "Total Recall" DVD: This is an essential tool for any hard par-tier. There is no better remedy for

your Saturday afternoon hangover than Arnold Schwarzenegger's timeless romp through the Martian landscape. Trust me, go pick up some Bojangle's and pop in this movie; there is no better way to waste a couple of hours.

Appropriate substitutes for this item include "John Carpenter's Es-cape from New York" and "Army of Darkness. 2. A cool pair of shades: You

won't want to leave home without sporting some ocular style. Dress your face to impress with the right pair of sunglasses. Some Gucci knockoffs, classic aviators or those cool wrap-arounds (they're on sale I think) will send everyone around you a very clear message: "Don't mess with me, I know how to ac-

cessorize." For added effect, wear your sunglasses indoors with some croakies. You are one cool customer.

3. A quality writing instrument that you can lose during the first two weeks of school: Go to your favorite office supply store and spend five or ten dollars on a really nice pen or pencil. Sure, you will end up leaving it in the computer lab (although you will be suspi-cious that someone ganked it off you while you weren't looking), but it wouldn't be a real school year if you didn't lose something of value. Better to part with a nice pen than that new laptop for which you just shelled out a couple grand. **4. Ramen noodles:** You can

never have too much of the poor man's spaghetti lying around. Even if you can afford better food or have a meal plan, you won't want to be without this dietary staple. A true Ramen chef can cook up a feast of Asian-American cuisine equipped only with Tupperware and a microwave. The culinary adventure of Ramen noodles expo nentially increases while the cook of the final product may decrease. Nonetheless, Ramen deserves its own brick in the food pyramid as an essential part of any healthy university diet.

5. One or two large and cumbersome novels: Nothing says, "I'm one cultured SOB" like some hefty literature to display on some vacant shelf space in your room. Of course you won't read any of it, you will probably spend your time playing video games or watching television.

I would suggest a selection of Leo Tolstoy along with Herman Melville's "Moby Dick." Telling someone you are a third of the way through "War and Peace" and having a copy of the novel to back up your story may reflect poorly on your taste in literature, but it will speak volumes about your intellect and that is what we are here for.

OK, so maybe these five things I've mentioned don't seem that important. A banging pair of sun-glasses won't help you make the Dean's List, and Ramen noodles won't get you anywhere with the Lit's (List and Carbon Line) and the superstant of the second sec ladies (although it might work for the drunk ladies).

However, having all of this stuff However, having all of this stuff will give you an edge during your everyday life as a student, whether you live on campus or off, whether you are in CHASS or the College of Engineering and whether you eat at the Fountain or cook for yourself.

So, fellow student, when you go out and hit the stores as you prepare for the next four months don't forget the importance of the little things. Of course you will want to pick up the bare essentials for yourself, whatever those items may be.

However, sometimes it is the junk in your drawer that will turn out to be the most valuable to you in the long run. The things I've mentioned today are only the be-ginning of a very long list of gener-ally useless stuff that could turn out to be useful to mut

This university has its priorities right where they need to be — or not

Remember the days when receiving a parking ticket meant having a bad day, and the absence of low-fat food items on the cafeteria menu was the cause of major controversy? Well those days have long left us. With



Underwood

Saturday night's "Shanghai Express Shooting" — sort of sounds like a Hong-Kong Thriller, does it not? — N.C. State has officially made it to the big leagues. While sipping espresso at Hill of Beans or cramming for an upcoming chemistry test in their dorm room, stu-

dents nowadays have to be on guard against random acts of violence. Every week a new felony is committed

somewhere on or near campus So far we have both fatal and non-fatal shoot-So far we have both fatal and non-fatal shoot-ings, a double stabbing, sexual exploitation of a minor and an alleged terrorist connection to campus. Nevertheless, I guarantee you that some self-centered students are more outraged at the election of The Pirate Captain as student body president. This campus really is going crazy.

As you have no doubt read elsewhere, last Saturday night, Jose Constanza shot former coworker from Shanghai Express, Jose Con-treras, in an alley behind the restaurant on Hillsborough. Fortunately no one was killed.

Hillsborough. Fortunately no one was killed. And, of course, this terrific incident comes on the heels of a double stabbing. This past May, an NCSU student stabbed two employees at a Hillsborough Street barber shop, right across the street from the Bell Tower. Johnelle Lowery, a sophomore in computer engineering, stabbed the barber and another employee in the middle of receiving his haircut. Some of my friends who have attended class with Lowery describe him as have attended class with Lowery describe him as being "distant" and "spacey." From what I have read, Lowery committed this assault without ap-parent motive.

So whether you are looking to grab a quick bite to eat or a haircut before a Friday evening date, your life is being placed at considerable risk.

As if this was not enough to turn the relatively quiet area surrounding campus onto its head, a former chemical engineering student, Magdy el-Nashar, was questioned in connection with the

recent London bombings. And Harrelson Hall was reportedly suspected of being a Nuclear Missile Silo. But fears were as-suaged when officials searching for WMD were only able to find an aggravating spiral ramp and scores of students twisting madly in their uncomfortable chairs. Alright, I made that one up! Last September, I left a football game early

and headed out to my vehicle. There were cop cars and police tape everywhere. I later learned

that NCSU student Timothy Johnson shot and killed Kevin McCann and Brett Harman in what would thereafter be known as the "Tailgate Murder." The University immediately placed restric-tions on future tailgating, since obviously there is a direct connection between tailgating before football games and premeditated murder.

Just last year, Wesley Abram Mincey, a fresh-man in computer science, was found in posses sion of child porn. Reports indicate that videos of grown men engaged in sexual activities with children as young as six were found on his dorm room computer. He soon surrendered to Campus Police

Seriously, what is going on here? Are most university communities like this? I highly doubt it. Oh, I almost forgot! I was walking along Hillsborough Street after lunch the other day when I saw a car which had run onto the sidewalk and smashed head-first into an electric pole. Some bystanders told me that a man jumped out of the car and took-off running through campus

When the police arrived they snooped around in the car for a minute then received word that their missing driver had been apprehended in the middle of North Campus, right beside the Laundry Building. The cops hopped back into their cars and tore through campus. With nothing but time to kill, I walked over

there and saw the driver hand-cuffed and bleeding profusely from the nose and mouth. As I later mentioned to my girlfriend, no day is with-out excitement around here. In light of all this insanity, you might be won-

dering what, if anything, we can do to fix things around here. But I certainly do not have the answer to that question. Nor have I any idea why this stuff happens; it all seems so unpredictable and unprovoked. Could it be due to a failure of the educational system to assimilate children into a peace-loving democratic society? Is it all the result of the media's glorification of violence, the relentless sexualization of America's youth, and entire genre's of music dominated by artists acclaiming the proverbial "Thug Life?" Perhaps all this criminal behavior is born out of the re jection of religion and morality in American culture — the losing of America's soul, one may say. We can count on the local newspapers to consistently deliver exciting news stories — however sad it may be that the only really good news is bad news

But hey, look on the bright side of things. At least the University is tackling the really important issues on campus like renovating the first floor of the library and expanding Carmichael Gymnasium.

E-mail Daniel at viewpoint@technicianonline.com

4





TECHNICIAN

POKER

was 16, a group of middle-aged men from Cary would routinely come in to buy poker decks and chips. Gracz became friends with the group and they invited him to join their Monday night poker games. He said he used his weekly paychecks and allowance money for the buy-in.

money for the buy-in. "They were playing all kinds of crazy games, so they kicked my butt," Gracz said. "I had no con-cept of what they were doing."

Gracz said he bought books to

study the game and began to get a feel for how to play. After six months, he said he started taking home money on those Monday night games — instead of losing

it all "When I lost the \$100, I'd just go home, driving on fumes in my Tercel," Gracz said. "But I got bet-ter at it. Once I read some books, I understood why I was losing. I caught on to the games." Gracz said those books now

comprise a library in his townhouse of poker know-how.

Once in college, Gracz started playing three to four times a week, and eventually quit his job

waiting tables once he realized

"I played poker, that's how I made my money," Gracz said. In fact, Gracz said he spent the majority of his free time in college at the poker table. Instead of spending spring and fall breaks at the beach, Gracz headed north to Atlantic City or out west to Vegas to play, sometimes three or four times a year. "The only thing I did at State

was occasionally go to class," Gracz said. "People were either out drinking on Thursday night or studying for an exam. I'd leave class at 5 o'clock, play poker at 6 and sometimes we wouldn't finish until noon the next day. Gracz said although his parents

are fully supportive of his career, at first they were tentative. Towards the end of college, he said, they urged him to find a job outside of poker. When he won the Trump Classic and decided to quit his job at Sageworks, they were a bit nervous. But he said his success in the following

tournaments helped changed their minds. Parents were definitely against it for the longest of times. Now they've finally come around,'

Gracz said

Gracz said his years at State have come in handy during his poker career.

He took four statistics classes at State, which have helped him understand the probabilities of winning hands. And because he came into so much money from his poker earnings, Gracz said a finance degree helped him off the table.

"I took most of the money and invested it, put it away," Gracz said. "Finance definitely helped with knowing where to put the money."

Gracz said poker hopefuls must remember the importance of pa-

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appt.

tience. "The hardest thing about poker is that a lot of people give up, they just don't have the nerves," Gracz said. "You have to be able to sustain some big swings. Keeping yourself stable, that's the most important part of poker.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005 PAGE 7

He warns, however, that poker is not cut out for everyone. Lowbudget buy-in tournaments, he said, won't make one a poker

star. "Vegas is comprised of a lot of Gracz said. hometown heroes," Gracz said. "A lot of those go home. They went out to Vegas and lost all their money."

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 74 Typer of salt
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 41 Year in Acapulco
 55 Protuberance

 44 Type of salt
 57 Asta's mistress

 45 Genetic letters
 58 Actor Rip

 48 French schools
 60 Chilled

 51 Breadbasket
 61 Cooking fat

 53 Artless
 62 Bump off

 54 LSD, to users
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6 French auto-race Solutions

Crossword



Joe Overby

Las Vegas.

gold bracelet

everyone else.

players.

kitchen counter. The Kid, as he's known in the poker

world, is Michael Gracz, a 2004 N.C. State graduate in finance — and one of the best up and coming poker players in the world.

Gracz, 24, and Page, a Meredith College graduate, do not live the tra-ditional professional life of a couple in their mid-20s.

They have spent most of their sum-mer in Las Vegas at the World Series of Poker. And on June 11, Gracz struck

gold— winning the 7th event of the World Series. He pocketed nearly \$600,000 and earned a World Series

Deputy Sports Edito



TECHNICIAN =

Velez goes gold twice

State swimmer sets record, wins three medals at Maccabiah Games in Israel

Sports staff report

At the Maccabiah Games in Israel last week, N.C. State se-nior swimmer Dan Velez set a competition record in the 100meter breaststroke with a time of 1:03.76 to take home the gold medal. Velez also won a bronze medal

in the 200-meter breaststroke and added another gold medal by swimming the breaststroke leg of the United States' 400-yard medley relay. The medley relay team also posted a record setting time of 3:45.47.

time of 3:45.47. Held every four years in Israel, the Maccabiah Games are some-times referred to as the "Jewish Olympics." The games unite the best Jewish athletes from around the world for an Olympic-style competition. Increasing participation in

recent years has made the Mac-cabiah Games the fourth-largest international competition in the world. Velez is just one of the 6,000 athletes from 50 different countries participating

this year. While it's Velez's first year com-peting in the Maccabiah Games, it's also his first year competing for State. A transfer from Penn State, Velez has only been swim-ming for State since January.

But he's already made a few waves in that time. His 55:15 time in the 100-meter breaststroke was the second-fastest time in school history, and propelled him to a fourth-place finish in the ACC cham-

pionship. Velez was also a key component of a State medley relay team that took home the ACC championship. Again swimming the breaststroke leg, Velez — along with teammates Kevin Devine, Kevin Velleca and Cullen Jones — set an ACC record with a time of 1:27.46. The foursome qualified for NCAA competition where they finished 12th in the country.

The Germantown, Md. native will remain in Israel until the closing ceremonies July 21.

- COMPILED BY MICHAEL BREEDLOVE

Poker: A 'Kid's' game ALUMNUS MICHAEL "THE KID" GRACZ HAS WON A \$1.5 MILLION PRIZE AND A WORLD SERIES OF POKER EVENT SINCE MARCH

ing \$295,275

Gracz went back to work for two weeks, then entered another weekend tourna-ment, this time in Tunica, Miss. After a profitable showing, Gracz decided it was The Kid walked into his North Raleigh townhouse Tuesday afternoon holding a stack of cash, about the size of five bricks strung together — his earnings from the past few weeks in the right moment to take his chances on a career in poker — now or never. "You want to go shopping?" The Kid joked to his girlfriend, Katie Page, as he slammed the heavy bundle on the

"I keep thinking, I've got this \$100,000 sitting here — if I'm going to take a shot at poker, this is it right now," Gracz said. "I walk in, it's raining or snowing, and I'm like, 'Listen guys, I'm going to play poker

lion IV tournament on a cruise out of San Diego, Calif. Gracz beat more than 700

others

in the

week-

long

is ever the same. "No, we don't [have a typical week]," Gracz said. During the World Series, their weeks

were particularly hectic. Page would work sometimes from 7.a.m. to midnight, work-ing public relations for multiple players at the tournament. Gracz would start play-ing poker around noon until 3.a.m. Gracz would sleep for five or six hours, then do it all over again. "It's like Groundhog Day, every single day," Gracz said. "In

Vegas,

playing at the World Series of Poker, it's a marathon. It's every day, no time off. It's

really taxing." Grazz said his weeks in Raleigh are quite easygoing, however. He'll play poker three or four nights a week and spend time relaxing. But success for Gracz was not instan-

taneous. As a teenager growing up in Raleigh, Gracz worked at Games Galore and developed an interest for the game. When he POKER continued page 7

Michael Gracz's recent tournament earnings

er	0	250000	500000	750000	1000000	1250000	1500000
Dec. 2004		\$29	5,275 (Trump	Classic)			
Jan.	\$\$8,637	(World Poker	Open)				
Feb.	\$8,124	(L.A. Poker Cla	issic)				
March				*****			(PartyPoker Million IV
June				594,460 (Wo	rld Series of Poke	r. event no. 7)	



Croquet excites travelers at St. Benet's

Nicholas Jeffreys Staff Writer

With two wickets remaining and the final pole in sight, anything can happen in the sport of croquet. In England, soccer, known as foot-

ball in every country except the United States, is king. But at St. Benet's Hall in Oxford, England, croquet is the sport attracting all the boys – and the girls - to the yard, which needs only a ball, a few wickets, a pole and a mallet in order

to commence the match. The objective is to strike the ball with the mallet through the tunnel-shaped wickets until it gets to the pole, which is the final destination.

On the way to the pole, one facet of the game is the ability to send an opponent's ball off the yard. Rising sophomore David Giovannini explained this aspect of the game. "If you hit someone else's ball along



Croquet is a favorite after-dinner activ-ity at St. Benet's, a permanent private hall of Oxford University in England.

your journey, you put your ball beside theirs and you send it wherever you want," Giovannini said, who studies textile engineering at N.C. State. "And you get an extra shot. When you go through wicket, you also get an extra shot. After participating in croquet for his first time at St. Benet's, UNC-Asheville history student Jon Spoon said he

viewed the sport as one that requires a lot of skill.

"Croquet may appear skilless and frivolous to its sceptics," Spoon said. "But that does not describe it at all. Croquet involves skill, strategy and the ability to see both yours and your opponent's next turn.

Upon arrival at St. Benet's, the majority of the group said they believed the sport was a nice game where no harm could be done. After being around the sport for a couple of days, nearly everyone disagreed.

At first, I really though was simple," State sophomore Vansana Nolintha said. "Then I saw that in order to win you had to have strategy – that required hitting other people around the field, and that's when I realized the sport could get pretty nasty." Traditional rules allow the sender to

place a foot on his or her ball to avoid sharing the disadvantageous position with the opponent. But at St. Benet's, the aid of one's foot cannot be applied.

"By knocking someone else's ball, you improve your position and at the same time you have the chance to put your opponent in a bad position," State junior Justin Fowler said.

Fowler said nice guys finish last in a game of croquet. "It's not a nice game," Fowler said. "To play well, you have to use other people and put them in a bad position. If you

don't, you lose The game brews intensity when the

the ladies step forward, creating a passionate sport. Alisha Belk, a senior in psychology

Arisna berk, a senior in psychology at State, said originally she was upset because she never got to play. "The first time I ever played was dur-ing study abroad at Oxford University,"

Belk said. "It started out as a predominately male activity, simply because they

hogged the court." After Belk stepped on to the field, she

had an extreme outlook on the sport. "It seems like such a high class game," Belk said. "But in the end it becomes cutthroat and your best of friends be-come your worst of enemies."

Oxford Program Director Jim Pressley said he knows the tradition will continue every summer at St. Benet's Hall.

"Croquet has been going on for many years at St. Benet's and I'm sure that the sport will live on and continue to be played in the upcoming years," Press-

Wilton Barnhardt, academic director for the program, said he enjoyed watch-ing the playing of croquet but was disappointed to see the altered style of play.

"Early on in the program next time, we are going to have to set the rules straight," Barnhardt said. "Back when I lived in Oxford, we played the correct way. But as long as everyone has a good time, I guess the rules can be bent a little



peted in the World Poke Tour's PartyPoker Mil-

"They [his employer] were like, 'Alright, buddy, good luck with that." Gracz took his chances anyway— and it paid off. In mid-March, Gracz com-