



Tyrell Taitt wins NCAA triple jump title

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Who's more evil? Don Johnson or T. Rex?

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Technician

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

Volume LXXIII, Number 103

Wednesday

June 16, 1993

Dining Hall closed over summer

By Arnel Collins
Staff Writer

Despite the closing of the Dining Hall over the summer, University Dining has not forgotten the culinary needs of on-campus students.

A number of main-campus cafeterias remain open for students' use. These are the University Student Center, the Sime Snack Bar and the Tunnel Inn, which is adjacent to the University Bookstore.

At the Student Center, University Dining is continuing to operate both the cafeteria and franchise outlets. The outlets consist of L'il Dino's and Taco Bell, which University Dining operates on a lease basis.

On campus adjuncts, McKimmon Center is available to patrons, and

Centennial Campus students can visit the Shuttle Inn.

In addition, Case Athletic Center, instead of the Dining Hall, is serving students who rely on the board plan, which offers three meals a day Monday through Friday. This arrangement is intended to minimize operating costs and provide a more intimate atmosphere for patrons.

"Last year, they [Case Athletic Center] were open, we were open," said Arthur L. White, the associate vice chancellor of Student Affairs, under whose jurisdiction University Dining operates. "In effect we were competing with them. That didn't make any sense, did it? The Dining Hall is built to accommodate several hundred students. Now, over the

"In effect we were competing with [Case Athletic Center]. That didn't make any sense."

—Arthur L. White,
Student Affairs

first summer session of 1992 there were about 80 students on the board plan and served by the Dining Hall. The second summer session saw 20 students on the board plan ... not a very feasible or comfortable arrangement."

Under the current set-up, University Dining acts as little more than a fee collecting center for students participating in the board plan. Case Athletic Center and its

staff handle the essential food preparation and service to students. "We provide the pay services through the University Accounting Office," White said. "We collect the money which is turned over to the Case Athletic Center. They in turn handle the other arrangements and all services."

Board-plan students can expect to save \$56 per session over people who pay for individual meals at

Case Athletic Center.

Although the on-campus dining service has been in operation for the past three weeks, many students are unaware of the all-you-can-eat arrangement at Case Athletic Center.

"I sure didn't hear about a meal plan," Richard Poyan, a senior in political science, said.

Other students, such as Percy Hewett, a sophomore in civil engineering, heard about the board plan through friends.

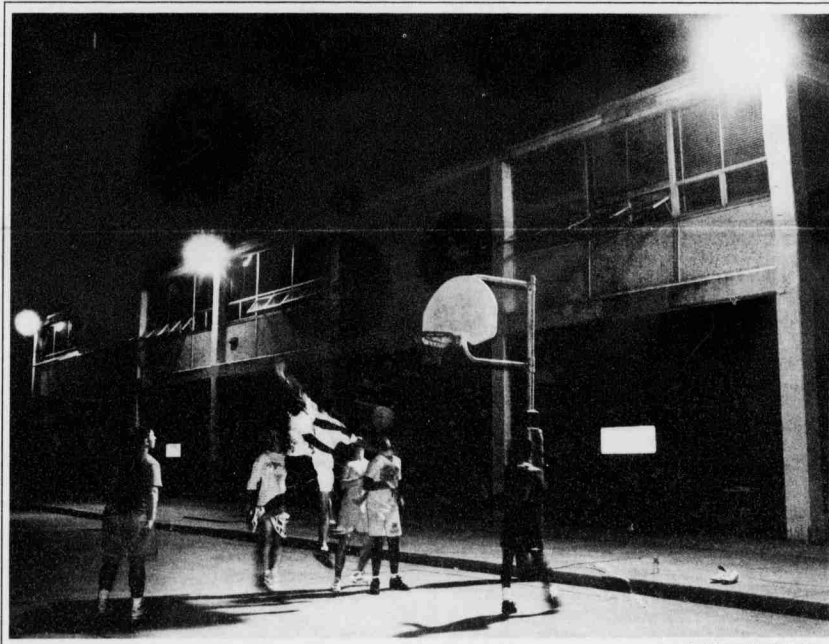
Several current patrons learned of the arrangement when they approached University Dining directly.

"I went to the office on West Dunn Avenue and told them I needed to be on the meal plan at the

Dining Hall for the summer. That's when I found out that it would be closed and I'd have to come to Case Athletic Center," Saad Jafri, a senior in computer engineering, said.

There are indications that a late decision to actually hold a board plan over the summer spurred the low publicity given the program. According to White, Housing and Residence was to inform students of the plan. However, an anonymous source from HR & L denied this.

"That is not our responsibility," the anonymous source from Housing and Residence Life said. "We were informed at the last minute that there was even going to be (a board plan)."



Todd Bennett for Technician

Late Night Hoops

The hard courts behind Carmichael Gymnasium have become a popular spot for people wanting to play a pick-up game. Monday night featured a collection of high school students and incoming freshmen here for orientation.

NCSU group courts China

By Mike Feher
Staff Writer

N.C. State University has a new student — China.

NCSU recently sent a delegation of 22 professors, researchers and administrators, including Chancellor Larry K. Monteith, to help teach the Chinese how to continue their on-going modernization process.

The delegates, except for administrators and two industrial liaisons, were from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering. The delegation also travelled to the island of Taiwan.

Ed Erickson, coordinator of the NCSU Office of International Programs, said the delegates hoped to achieve important exchanges on several technical fronts.

"There were a variety of objectives and payoffs to be achieved," Erickson said. "It's a very active relationship."

The trip took the group to Taipei for three days and to Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning province, for four days and included a host of topics aimed at establishing both a more progressive technical atmosphere with China and a greater pipeline of information and assistance toward mobilizing China's economy for growth.

"We are interested in establishing a formal liaison with them," Erickson said.

Erickson said the trip primarily promoted developments in agricultural research and energy alternatives.

"There was plenty of engineering, too," Erickson said.

Erickson said the past 10 to 12 years have seen a 10-percent increase in agricultural output per year. As a result, China is beginning to face the question of managing limited but vital natural resources, such as water, for irrigation.

Two other factors that led to this agricultural explosion were private initiatives for the agricultural community and the use of more environmentally friendly "green" technology, Erickson said.

Erickson also said the population has gone from 80-percent agricultural to about 60-percent agricultural over the last 20 years. He said this illustrates a move from an agricultural to an urban-industrial economy.

Erickson also said the delegates intended to help Chinese officials create agricultural research and extension services like those at NCSU.

"We're talking through the Ministry of Agriculture, Shenyang Cultural University and the

Liaoning Agricultural Council," Erickson said.

One of the highlights of the trip was a tour of two "anaerobic biogas digester systems," the work of NCSU's Jason Shih, a professor of biotechnology and nutrition in the department of poultry science. Without air, the systems convert animal waste into useful byproducts and can be used as an alternative energy source, especially for the agricultural community.

Another facet of the trip was the symposia on nuclear energy. Currently, there is nuclear power in both China and Taiwan.

"They are planning to build Tai Power Number Four, which is going to be a major power plant," Erickson said. "Liaoning province is building two nuclear power plants in the northeastern territories, and they will be operated as three-way consortiums, with 30 percent controlled by the territories, 30 percent controlled by the central ministry of energy in Beijing and 40 percent controlled by Liaoning province," he said.

Other topics of the trip included talks on robotics in Taiwan, precision engineering processes, advanced electronic materials processing, operations research and aerospace advances.

Erickson said that China has a long way to go in catching up to first-world standards of industry and commerce.

"I was told not to even try to make a phone call, that it wouldn't get through," Erickson said, defining the state of China's telecommunications system.

Erickson said China is rapidly becoming more progressive politically, socially and economically. He said China is anxious to learn from its mistakes of the past.

"I can see changes," he said. "They are trying to put Tiananmen Square behind them. They are ripping down cities and building them again."

Erickson also said these changes are mostly infrastructural and that they will pave the way for what he said is an inevitable move to an open-market economic system. A correspondingly open political system will follow, he said.

Erickson said the trip, which began May 12 and ended May 20, was a highly successful program overall and that the delegation hoped to receive reciprocal benefits from the symposia.

"I think we had a very productive mission. I think it was a very good mission, and I look forward to continuing to build," he said.

Book recognizes Southern women writers

By Pam Smith
NCSU Information Services

Lucinda H. MacKethan's new book "Daughters of Time: Creating Woman's Voice in Southern Story" fits comfortably on two sides of a coin. Heads, call it literature. Tails, call it history.

MacKethan, professor of English at N.C. State University, traces the written expression of Southern women from antebellum to modern days and provides a literary framework for the historical women's movement.

Her book reveals the strategies Southern women employed to gain control of their lives, to overcome patriarchal dominance to become writers, and to shape their own destinies.

MacKethan is aware that there are those who will roll their eyes and say, "Oh, another feminist with an ax to grind."

"We must take a longer look at history through Southern writers since the Southern region was so defined and determined by history. Moreover, the classics need to be informed by the Southern female perspective. These voices are important in part because you can't understand the master without hearing the slave," MacKethan said.

Historically, she said that the struggle for self-determination was more wrenching for Southern black and white women than for their Northern

sisters. She said the legacy of the male-dominated Southern culture, in which slaves and wives were possessions of the plantation master, has endured. In her book, MacKethan's emphasis falls on intersecting points that produce growth for all Southern women.

MacKethan's interest in the stories of Southern women was inspired by her childhood visits to Kentucky, where she heard her grandmother tell her family's oral history. She said that understanding the past gave her clues to her own identity.

Similarly, in "Daughters of Time," the present is rooted in the past. MacKethan examines the historical writings of Harriet Jacobs, a slave girl from Edenton who took an aggressive route away from bondage; the diary entries of Catherine Hammond, a plantation mistress trapped in the role of the delicate Southern lady; and the 20th-century autobiographical and fictional writing of Ellen Glasgow, Zora Neal Hurston and Eudora Welty.

MacKethan said it took the better part of the century for Southern women writers to find the will to tell their own stories and to say to those who would dominate them, "I am not who you say I am."

She said she believes William Faulkner's por-

trayal of fragile and weak-minded Southern women is no longer an appropriate literary model. Instead, she presents Lee Smith's "Fair and Tender Ladies" and Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" as examples of contemporary Southern writers whose characters honor their roots, lay claim to the future and find new ways to voice the Southern woman's experience.

"Daughters of Time" is being used as a textbook supplement by a public school system in Texas and at the prestigious Phillips Exeter Academy to highlight the literary and historic contributions of Southern women writers.

MacKethan is serving as a consultant for a National Public Radio play that is based on her account of Harriet Jacobs' stories. The program, scheduled to air in the fall, is supported by the North Carolina Humanities Council.

MacKethan also will pass on her knowledge this summer at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park (June 21-July 10), where she will teach 20 hand-picked public school teachers from across the country. "They will spread the word. That's the best kind of extension and outreach I can name."

Sports

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Taitt knows he's the best

By Kevin Brewer
Sports Editor

N.C. State's Tyrell Taitt is the top triple jumper in the nation. And he doesn't mind telling you about it.

"I told my coach, as well as my teammates, that I was definitely going to win NCAA outdoors," said Taitt, who captured the national title last week with a leap of 55 feet, 5 3/4 inches at the NCAA Championships in New Orleans. "I talk a big game but I back it up, so I expected to win it. I go into every meet expecting to win, and I'm disappointed with myself if I don't."

"It puts a lot of pressure on you. I think I'm a pressure person. I perform better under it."

Taitt made his championship promise after finishing second at the NCAA indoor championships in Indianapolis. His then-personal best of 54-6 placed him second behind Arkansas' Erick Waldor. The 5-foot-10 Taitt knew his strong showing from a short approach gave him hope for the national title.

But his title hopes seemed unlikely in New Orleans. Taitt entered the finals in seventh place, and his urgency to come up with a big jump resulted in a mistake. Approaching a little too hard, he fouled by about an inch.

"It was around a 56-high or 57-low jump," Taitt said. "That gave

me a lot of confidence, although I was upset it was a foul. I knew that I still had a big jump ahead of me because, for some reason, I have a history of getting better as the competition goes along."

And so, Taitt told his toughest competition and trash-talking partners, Waldor and Louisiana State's Reggie Jones, about it.

"I told them, 'Come on, guys, we came here to prove who the better man is. I think that guy is me. If I lose the NCAA's, the guys back home will never let me live it down, so ya'll are just going to suffer the consequences.'"

"In the last round, I walked up and told them, 'There's going to be a new leader in the men's triple jump. Put your suits back on.' It was close. I'm just glad it tipped over my way."

Taitt's 55-5 3/4 jump was just enough to edge Jones's 55-5 1/2 and Waldor's 55-4 1/2 despite the fact they had the advantage of jumping after he did. The closeness of the top three jumps punctuated a competition that was much stiffer than the indoor championships. A leap of 54-6 (Taitt's indoor jump) was only good enough for a seventh-place finish outdoors.

"I felt like it would be a big disappointment to finish seventh when I came into the meet ranked second," Taitt said. "I think that kind of pressure, along with the fact that we had

been talking junk to each other all week, helped me more than hindered me."

"I knew that I had to put one big jump together to put the pressure on those guys and luckily, they didn't respond. They're usually pretty big competitors, but I think they tried to do a little too much on their last jumps. In a way, I took them out of their game."

Taitt's winning jump was also the longest in ACC history, but it will not go down in the books because it was aided by a 2.96 meters per second wind. Winds of 2.0 or more void any record-setting jumps.

Taitt's leap of 55-3 at the ACC Championships equaled the ACC mark held by Maryland's Dennis Ivory, but it was also wind-aided.

"The wind really doesn't play a factor until you get into the 5-something mps," Taitt said. "It's frustrating to me because I want to get a jump in that's going to be in the books. But I'm not too worried about it because I don't plan on that being my longest jump before I leave N.C. State."

"Everyone had their opportunity. I just took advantage of mine. On the runway, with a 2-something mps wind, you don't really feel it, especially if you concentrate on what you're doing."

See **TAITT**, Page 5



Tyrell Taitt expects to win the national championship in New Orleans.

Mitchum captures Amateur

Sports Staff Report

PINEHURST — N.C. State's Kelly Mitchum erased any lingering memories left by his last collegiate performance by winning the North & South Men's Amateur at Pinehurst No. 2 Sunday.

Mitchum, who shot an eight-over 152 at the NCAA Golf Championships last week, redeemed himself by defeating Wake Forest's Ron Whittaker 3-and-2 in the scheduled 36-hole final.

Mitchum totaled nine birdies in the championship, while Whittaker posted a three-under par performance, including six birdies.

Both Mitchum and Whittaker finished the first 18 holes with an even-par 69.

Mitchum slammed the door on Whittaker's title hopes on the 201-yard, par-3 15th hole with a birdie. He then clinched the championship on the 16th when he matched Whittaker's par.

Mitchum has completed his college career and will turn pro after one more semester in school.

Tanner's not leaving yet, wants trip to Omaha

By Kevin Brewer
Sports Editor

During the past six seasons, N.C. State baseball coach Ray Tanner has taken his program to new heights. This season, the zenith was a school-record 49 wins and a number-one seed in the NCAA Regionals in Stillwater, Okla.

And although State has not been to the College World Series since 1968, Tanner isn't worried. In fact, Tanner is very secure with just about everything about the Pack baseball program.

Tanner talked June 2 about the future of the program, including the state of Doak Field and the hardships of losing players in the annual baseball draft. Four of Tanner's recruits and four current players, including two underclassmen, were drafted.

Technician: You've just finished a season

in which you set a record for wins and received a number-one seed in the NCAA Tournament. What do you think you have to do to get over the hurdle to the College World Series?

Ray Tanner: I'm not sure there's any one thing you can do. The important thing is to be in the situation to make that happen; we're in that situation now. We have been the last few years, and hopefully, we will be in the future. Our players are good enough. And to get to the World Series, you have to first get to the regionals. We've been to four straight regionals.

So when you get to the regionals, you have to play well and have a little luck. I was actually pleased with the way we played in the regional this year, we were 2-2. That doesn't get you to Omaha, but if you get a few breaks along the way, it might happen.

Tech: During the past season the team demonstrated the ability to bring many fans

out to Doak Field. At what point is the fund raising for Doak right now?

RT: Well, there's some work being done. To identify a particular time schedule is not possible at this time. But we have plans to fight Doak Field. We have plans to improve seating, restroom facilities, a clubhouse for the players. We have some plans to improve our amenities in a big way.

(N.C. State Athletics Director) Todd Turner is being very supportive. Our former players are having a hand in this with private resources, and hopefully we can even show some improvements by next year. To say what will be done at this time is impossible to do, but we're working towards that.

Tech: I know that things are just starting to happen now. Do you think there could be a top-notch stadium here in the future?

RT: As the baseball coach here, I'm not in the situation where I want to try to be better than Mississippi State or LSU or anybody

like that. I just want to have a situation that is right for North Carolina State. I think we're working towards that.

It's not our goal to have the best baseball facility in the country. That is not a goal of mine. I think there are programs that have very elaborate facilities that are unnecessary. I obviously think nice facilities are great for a program, but to spend \$5 million to improve baseball? No, I don't think that's a logical way to spend money. But we do need to upgrade our facilities, as you well know. So we're trying to design our place to make it

See **TANNER**, Page 5

THE TANNER FILE

Coaching Record			
Year	W	L	Pct
1988	45	16	.738
1989	35	21	.625
1990	48	20	.706
1991	48	20	.706
1992	49	17	.742
Totals	271	112	.716

• ACC Coach of the Year, 1990.

• assistant coach with the Wolfpack under Sam Esposito, 1981-87.

• four-year starter at third base for the Pack, 1977-80

• all-ACC selection, 1980

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A paper that is entirely the product of the student body becomes at once the official organ through which the thoughts, the activity and in fact the very life of the campus are registered. College life without its journal is blank. Technician, vol. 1, no. 1, February 1, 1920

New fees must stay here

If the North Carolina General Assembly approves a \$200-a-semester surcharge for N.C. State University students, those funds must go completely to NCSU. In fact, history dictates that it would be best if the new funds never left the boundaries of the campus.

According to Jim Newli, fiscal analyst of the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly, the breakdown of the surcharge would be allocated as follows: 50 percent to raise faculty salaries, 30 percent to the Financial Aid Office and 20 percent to D.H. Hill Library.

Money allocated to these three areas important to the university would be beneficial. During recent years, NCSU and UNC-Chapel Hill have both been losing quality faculty members to more prestigious schools that offer larger salaries and increased benefits. The only leverage the university has in keeping an outstanding professor is increasing salary and benefits — and that doesn't always work.

A similar situation applies with student financial aid. With yearly tuition increases, the need for financial aid is becoming more and more poignant. Giving more funds to financial aid helps the university keep its students.

And who can deny the library's need? More journal subscriptions were canceled this past year. D.H. Hill has lost the ability to purchase new books due to the double punch of inflation and decreased funds.

In these cases, the surcharge is justifiable. The breakdown of percentages seems reasonable, too — though some unavoidable quibbling will ensue concerning how much of a priority the library should be in proportion to the other areas.

Furthermore, Jeff Davies of the UNC-System general administration said, "Prices have gone up in

the past three years, so there might be fee increases that could be justified."

What is not reasonable is the potential for these funds to be swept into the General Assembly's general fund. This is a black hole from which no glimmer of light — much less a couple of copper pennies — ever escapes. The irresponsibility of North Carolina's legislators when it comes to handling finances can be seen in the library's decline — it's pathetic, regardless of tuition increases.

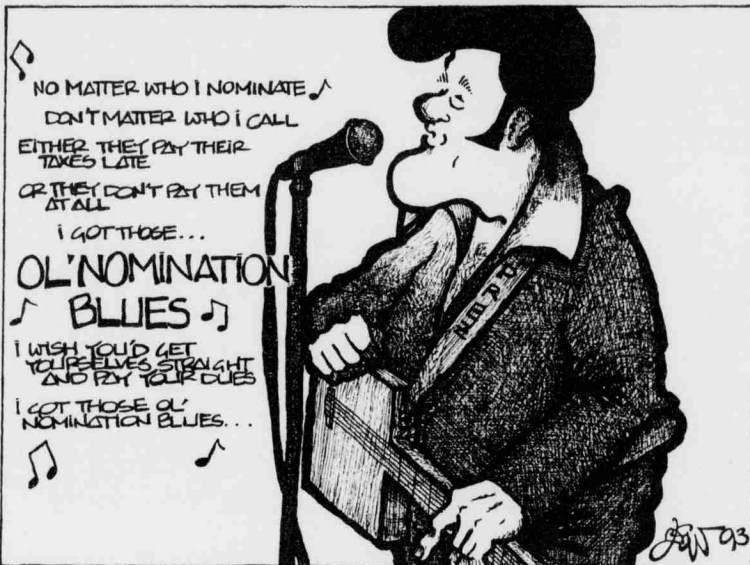
The surcharge seems to be a way to give relief where it is needed most. If the money stays where it is needed most, rather than being sucked into the general fund's pit and reallocated, it can make a difference.

And if fee increases are the only response to rising prices, then that is understandable.

But unfortunately, in the past, the members of the General Assembly have not responded to the interests of the university as much as they've responded to their innate, greedy drive for more, more, more. The surcharge may show that the legislators — many of whom were elected with the help of student votes — are actually alert to campus needs today, but can they be trusted with this fee increase? Can they assure the student body that every single dollar of the surcharge will go toward NCSU and not toward their own circus?

Perhaps the litmus test for their sincerity will be whether or not the library receives funding it can actually use to resurrect its former glory.

State legislators decide whether tuition goes up. They've raised it every single year. Now they want to tack on this surcharge, and if the money doesn't stay within the boundaries of the campus, the effect will be like that of all the tuition increases: Students will receive less for more.



Columns

Gay friends versus the gay agenda

In the fall of 1991, I was coming back from a date and I spotted a motorist in the median of Glenwood Avenue between St. Mary's Street and Lassiter Mill Road. I helped the guy move his truck over to a side street where he tried to get it to crank while rolling it down the hill.

It didn't work, so I drove him to a motel where he was a night clerk. On the way I asked him what church he attended.

"Metropolitan Community Church," he replied.

I later found out that this is a gay and lesbian church.

Not that this shocked me. Some things you can tell about people, and if a guy is gay, often there's some mannerism that makes it obvious.

What did shock me, though, was what he was doing the next time I saw him.

In one of the Harnelson Hall men's rooms, one can often find penciled solicitations for homosexual activities. One I had seen several times was "tap your foot three times under this door for [a sexual activity]."

One evening in the spring of '92, as I stepped out of one of the stalls, I saw the same guy. He was stepping in front of each stall and pecking a little under the door. There was a look on his face — an expression of intense desire and anticipation.

Herein lies the difference between the gay lifestyle of the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather (and the media at large) and the gay lifestyle of the real world.

Look at it this way. Someone recently asked me to close my eyes and imagine two men embracing each other. That was easy. Love is fine.

But then he asked me to close my eyes and imagine a scene like that of the Rodney Mapplethorpe photos. Now that wasn't so easy. Those photos were often disquieting and brutal — and yet, the subject of so

Colin Burch

Opinion Columnist

many of them was homosexual relationships. (If I remember correctly, Mapplethorpe did those portraits for that very reason — to show how it is to live such a lifestyle.)

An obvious conclusion is that homosexuals who are sexually active are driven primarily by an intense desire for sex and for complete acceptance of their ways. What other conclusion could one come to after CNN's pictures and Citizen magazine's report following the Gay Pride March in Washington, D.C.?

The marchers, who supposedly just wanted to be accepted for who they are, were chanting "Ten percent is not enough! Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!" (The 10 percent is a reference to the supposed number of homosexuals in the nation — a number that has recently been challenged as being a bit high.)

One topless lesbian climbed a statue and started pumping her hips toward the White House while calling for Chelsea Clinton. These are facts.

What makes a homosexual a homosexual will be long debated. Some say genetics. Some say being molested or raped. Some have even said that a weak or abusive father can create a homosexual inclination.

Many of us who may not like or approve of the homosexual lifestyle nonetheless have friends who are gay or lesbian, as I do. We love them like the rest.

But calling for recruits, as some do, is not a benign agenda of love and acceptance. Luring children into this lifestyle is not something for the rest of America to live and let live. It is an agenda of antagonism. When it comes to children, it is an agenda to force a decision about a sexual lifestyle before a child has even been given a chance to decide for him or herself.

Groups such as ACT-UP have been known to hand condoms out to third graders. Some gay lobbyists are trying to infiltrate the education system, with the blessing of the media. Is this an attempt to overcome young, impressionable minds — to recruit? Meanwhile, the media portray the "religious right," who have brought up legitimate criticisms of the gay agenda, as being more dangerous. Objective, intelligent individuals all along the political continuum will tell you that both groups are simply using American, democratic means to achieve their goals, but the media refuse objectivity in the name of advocacy!

The country seems to be on the edge of sweeping changes in its view of sexual morality. The media's consensus is that this is a good, just cause. But before sweeping changes are made that affect our educational system and everyday lives, we must, if we truly want to be objective, consider counterpoints such as the following.

Anthropologist J.D. Unwin, author of Sexual Regulations and Cultural Behavior, thoroughly studied 88 major world civilizations in human history.

Each culture began with a strict moral and sexual code. Each culture eventually allowed more and more permissive and untraditional behavior. And Unwin showed conclusively that when those cultures began to extend sexual freedoms that were against nature, cultures soon fell apart and died. History has shown us no exceptions.

Each culture began with a strict moral and sexual code. Each culture eventually allowed more and more permissive and untraditional behavior. And Unwin showed conclusively that when those cultures began to extend sexual freedoms that were against nature, cultures soon fell apart and died. History has shown us no exceptions.

I personally think that this system is great for the dorms but it doesn't work for ESKV. Although I am writing this letter of my own, everyone at ESKV feels the same as I do. On June 2, a letter signed by many of us at ESKV, was sent to Dr. Luckadoo at Housing and Residence Life, voicing some of our concerns about this new system. I do hope that the rights of a minority are not sacrificed for the sake of the greater interests of the majority.

Krishna Kumar
Ph.D Student, Wood and Paper Science

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E.S. King hurt by Telecommunications

This is in reference to Gary Wise's article in the Technician (6/2) regarding the new telecommunication system to be implemented in all residence halls. I am writing this letter as a resident of E.S. King Village and am going to outline below why most of us in King Village do not like what we are getting.

The new system is not cheaper in many respects, when compared to the existing system. First let us look at the local calling charges. Southern Bell has options such as the Thrifty Calling Plan that helps people who do not make many local calls. This is the case for many of us at ESKV. The package from the Telecommunications Department (TD) doesn't have that option. When it comes to long distance calls, it is another big story. Ask any international student the cheapest long distance carrier, and he will immediately say MCI. The package offered by TD has AT&T as the long distance carrier. Also we are not eligible for the various plans like Reach Out America or Reach Out World that AT&T offers. These plans are very important for us because a majority of our calls are long distance. Anyone who has used these plans will understand how cheaper the rates are when compared to the regular direct dialed rates. The package offered by TD has a 10% discount on Direct Dialing rates.

From the very beginning it seems that we were never taken into confidence in a decision making process that affects us the most. The forms for the survey conducted by the TD were never given proper considerations. From our conversation with them, many of us got the impression that if we didn't like the new telecommunication package, we don't have to stay in ESKV. So far we haven't been informed as to what the new calling rates would be for long distance calls. This in spite of the fact that the new telephone system is going to be implemented this weekend. In fact, at the time of writing this letter (June 3) many of us still don't know what our telephone numbers are going to be. Talk about good service! Our repeated requests to postpone the installation of the new system until we get more information on the long distance rates have not been heeded. Also personal long distance codes might work for someone living in a dorm to avoid roommate squabbles. For those of us at ESKV (single graduate student and married students) having to dial a four digit number every time one makes a long distance call is a pain in the neck. If this is such a great package, I don't understand why we are literally being forced to take this package. If we want to

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Technician (ISSN 0361-9812) is the official student newspaper of N.C. State and is published every Friday. Publishing and Printing Department, 2200 South Main Street, Raleigh, NC 27695-8608. Telephone: (919) 973-2200. Postmaster: Please send address changes to Technician, Box 8608, Raleigh, NC 27695-8608. POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to Technician, Box 8608, Raleigh, NC 27695-8608.

Tanner

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best for N.C. State and the community, to bring baseball the atmosphere we think it deserves.

Tech: Since you took over the program in 1988, there has been a noticeable improvement. Other than the goal of the College World Series, how far do you see the program going?

RT: I never really sat down and said, 'I'd like to do this or I'd like to do that.' I don't have any individual goals. I just want to have a team that can win 40-plus games a year. That's your goal, because usually if you can win 40 games, you can get to a regional. And the regional gives you a chance to go to Omaha.

I don't really get carried away with individual accomplishments and things like that. I just think

that it's the atmosphere and the environment, to get your degree. It's really a great experience. I mean, think about it. 'Hey, I'm going to get a college education and I'm going to play on a national-caliber baseball team, have a great career at N.C. State and a lot of fun.' To me, that's what it's about.

Tech: Did you do anything specific when you came in that resulted in the turnaround we've seen?

RT: I think that the important thing is when you have good teams, you have to have good players. And we have worked endless hours recruiting them. Jim Toman is our recruiting coordinator, and he works tirelessly to make contacts. We went to the regional (in Stillwater); he's still not home. We left him in Texas. As soon as we finished our last game, he's gone. He's on the trail. And I just signed a kid today.

We continually strive to bring in quality players and quality students, and that's your bread and

butter: to have good people, good students and good players. And I think if there's any one area where you can get ahead, that's where it is. Now, with all the amenities, improved stadium, facilities, that helps you. But you have to work at the recruiting process to improve your program, and you have to persevere and you have to persist. We do that. We figure that hard work will help you get closer.

Tech: Last season, you were one of the top candidates for the Miami job. How close were you to taking the job and what kept you here?

RT: I was in the final three candidates. That was the first time I had been through an experience like that, to be considered for a job that was considered one of the top jobs in the country. I only thought that it was fair for me to look into it, to learn about that process and what there was out there.

I played at N.C. State and I grew up in North Carolina, went to graduate school here, worked for [former State] Coach [Sam] Esposito and I've been a head coach here for six years. This is a great place for me. I love it here. I'm not looking to go anywhere, but I think you always have to consider your options to make sure what you're doing is the right thing. I wasn't that close to leaving, but I didn't get offered the job either. But even if they had offered the job, I'm not sure that it would have been what I'd want to do.

The fact that our administration and Todd Turner had interest in keeping me was important to me. They want our baseball program to improve. As far as facilities are concerned, he's made a commitment to me for that, and that was important to me. You can only do so many things without your support staff. And that support is here and baseball is important to this administration.

Tech: As you said before, this is a big day for players everywhere and for you. When you lose players — whether they're players with State or players you've recruited — how to you go about recovering from the losses in such a short time period?

RT: It's difficult. But due to the fact that we've recruited well over the years, we now have a network that gives us some sources to retrieve. We got Tim Tracey late last year, and he turned out to be a great player for us.

I've been in it long enough now that I understand it better. There are some years where it really hurts you. Last year, we lost four high school all-Americans. You feel good that you recruited the right people, but they don't end up on your campus. It is a very trying time for us, but that's the nature of the business. You just have to regroup and do the best you can. It's not easy.

Tech: You signed about 14 players out of high school, and you could lose a number of those. How hard is it to compete with the major leagues, since other sports don't have to do that?

RT: It's unusual. I talked to the football coaches this morning about that. They were asking me questions, because they don't have to go through anything like this. You never feel comfortable.

We have an early signing period, and things go great because at that time, you're not competing with the major league draft. And then, all of a sudden, they come in and undo what you've done. It's difficult, but it's part of the process.

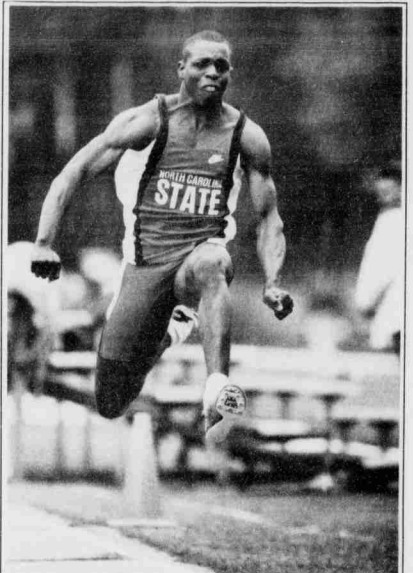


Photo Courtesy of NCSU Sports Information

Tyrell Taitt has been developing his jumping and confidence for years.

Taitt

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It seems nothing — not even the wind — can stop Taitt if he is determined enough, but he is keeping everything in proper perspective. He remembers suffering a near career-ending back injury two years ago.

After winning an indoor title his sophomore season, Taitt began to notice the back problems. He was forced to redshirt the outdoor season and even sat out the next outdoor season when the problems resurfaced. The extreme amount of pressure on Taitt's back was being caused by the planting of his foot.

Wolfpack assistant coach Gail Olsen developed a technique that put less pressure on Taitt's back and emphasized his leg strength more. Taitt and Olsen had a large task in front of them, considering Taitt faced the possibility of having some vertebrae fused, a procedure that would have ended his

career.

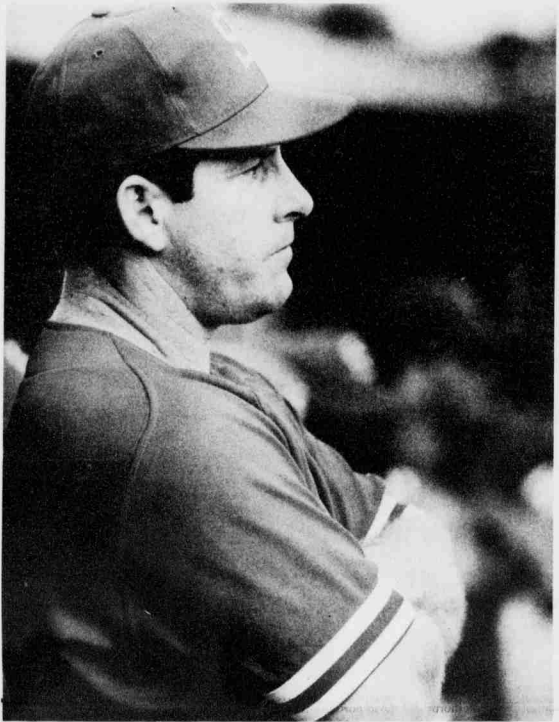
"When I came back, I started jumping a lot farther than I ever jumped," said Taitt, who finished only his second outdoor season. "That's when I started developing my confidence. I always have been a competitor, and I looked at the back problem as being an opponent. I didn't want to lose to it."

Now, Taitt is grabbing the opportunity to do all of the things he missed when he was injured. Last year, he qualified for the Olympic trials in New Orleans, but the injury kept him away. This year, he made the trip and his dream of a national championship came true.

During the year Taitt was red-shirted, the NCAAs were held in Eugene, Ore. This week, Taitt will be there to compete in the U.S. Championships for a spot on the World Championship team.

"To keep me off the team for next week, three people will have to jump 58 feet or better," Taitt predicts.

Sure, Taitt talks a big game. But he never fails to back it up. Just ask him about it.



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