

MARGE wins contest for engineers

■ It seemed unlikely that NCSU could beat teams from Stanford, MIT and Brown in the American Association for Artificial Intelligence competition last week. So guess what happened?

By GARDNER PAYNE

STAFF WRITER

The members of N.C. State University's Center for Robotics and Intelligent Machines team entered MARGE the robot in a national competition two weeks ago hoping only to broaden their education.

They returned with national recognition.

"We wanted to get people to see our robot ... to know that we existed and that we were working in the field," said Steven Goodridge, a graduate student in electrical engineering and a member of the team.

MARGE (Mobile Autonomous Robot for Guidance Experiments), the team's 51-inch, 450-pound robot, helped them do that and more in the three-day competition hosted by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) in Washington, D.C., July 13-15.

MARGE stunned entries from other universities such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford and Brown to win one of three events designed to test autonomous mobile robots and their problem-solving methods. This was the first time a robot from

NCSU participated in the competition.

NCSU's entry won the third event, which was titled "Office Rearrangement." The robots' task was to find specially marked boxes placed among immovable objects and move them into a pattern at one end of the arena.

MARGE used its large size to move all four boxes in 15 minutes. No other robot successfully completed the event, and the next-best robot took 30 minutes to move three boxes.

But despite MARGE's domination of that event, the victory didn't come easily. The biggest robot in the competition had one of the smallest crews.

While most of the other teams consisted of six to 12 members, the

NCSU squad had only three team members: Goodridge, Harsh Potlapalli and Eric Scott.

Each team member had a specific role in the robot's success. Goodridge was in charge of all the robot's controls. Potlapalli was in charge of the robot's vision and Scott handled the sonar work.

As rookies in the competition, none of the team members knew what to expect.

"I really had no expectations at all," said Scott, a senior computer engineering major. "I had never been to anything quite like this."

Goodridge also said the success surprised many other universities.

"We were three students working very hard with very little words from our advisor," Goodridge said. "We pulled this off and surprised a

lot of people doing it."

NCSU's team had prepared for this competition only since early March. Many of the other universities had been preparing since last year.

"We definitely were the underdogs in any way which you want to measure it," said Potlapalli, a graduate student in electrical engineering. "In terms of man power, we were just a team of three. Everyone else had six, eight, 10 people. In terms of advising, we had one professor; they had a huge team with lots of money. They also had been working in the field for a long time. They were surprised we could do so well."

A few new ideas helped fuel NCSU's success. MARGE was one of only a few robots that had the

power for on-board vision processing capabilities. This caused its problem-solving techniques to be different from the other robots. Goodridge programmed MARGE to simulate the nervous system of an insect, which allowed the robot to very quickly turn senses into an appropriate reaction. That was much different from the other universities' attempts to set up symbolic models in which equations describe the environment and those things are then placed on a map.

"Instead of trying to create a logical world model and looking at the whole thing like playing chess, I was interested in very rapidly being able to avoid obstacles that are

See MARGE, Page 2 ▶

NCSU helps youth compete

NCSU INFORMATION SERVICES

In an effort to provide rural high school students the same quality of chemistry and physics programs that are available to their peers in urban areas, N.C. State University is launching a special program combining teacher education and interactive computer equipment.

Called Team Science, the project is a joint effort of the NCSU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the College of Education and Psychology.

The program will begin this summer by providing a training workshop in the latest computer technologies to 15 chemistry and physics teachers from nine high schools in Northeastern North Carolina and will encourage cooperation and networking among the schools.

During the school year a master teacher from NCSU will bring high-tech computer and laboratory equipment to each school and help the teachers use it in their classrooms.

"I think it's going to give students in rural areas a totally new perspective and spark their interest in science once they have access to this advanced computer equipment and teachers who know how to use it," said John C. Park, NCSU assistant professor of math and science education.

Park is one of three coordinators of the Team Science program along with David G. Haase, director of The Science House at NCSU, and Alton J. Banks, NCSU professor of chemistry.

Administered through The Science House, the program is being funded by a \$759,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Teacher Enhancement Program and a \$25,000 equipment grant from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus

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Technician is committed to accuracy. If you find an error or if you know of something that we ought to be covering, please let us know.

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Chill out!



JOHN LOHMEIER FOR TECHNICIAN

As temperatures soared into the upper nineties on Friday, the showers grew more popular at the third annual Lollapalooza festival at Walnut Creek Amphitheater. The all-day festival drew a large crowd with its bands and sideshow atmosphere.

Cultural differences cause of Bosnian conflict

■ The conflicts in Bosnia may be considered a new war, but its origins are centuries old.

By IVAN CASAS

STAFF WRITER

"Brotherhood and unity." That was the slogan that prevailed during Josip Broz's (more commonly known as Tito) regime of the Yugoslavian Federation. Nowadays this fraternal phrase does not stand up anymore in a former multi-ethnic nation where Slovenians, Croats, and Serbs the majority of the population.

This south Slavic unity (as the term Yugoslavia refers), however, is a relatively new political realization. The first Yugoslavian state, called the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, was formed in 1918 after the first World War. The second Yugoslavia was formed after the second World War under Tito's leadership and was divided into six republics, and two autonomous provinces. Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, being the republics, and Kosovo and Vojvodina the autonomous. Before World War I, some Balkan countries had their own statehood, like the kingdom of

Serbia and at some time in history they directly or indirectly dominated politically and economically by the five great empires of the time, Ottoman, Russian, Austro-Hungarian, British, and French. Robert Rupen, professor Emeritus of Slavic Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, explained how important it is to grasp the history of the Balkan states in order to understand the current conflict.

"It is important to understand that the main reason of this states to unite was to defend themselves against the aggression of former empires, most of which were in the neighboring area." Rupen said. "Proof of this are the two Balkan wars in 1912 and 1913, and the Austrian-Hungarian and Serbian conflict that started the first World War."

"There were some serious talks about unity since the nineteenth century, but at the same time there were some groups in the Balkans oppose to that unity. They finally united after the first World War, but it would be inaccurate to say that there was a complete ethnic harmony."

During Tito's second Yugoslavia, this fraternal relationship between the different ethnic groups was, according to some experts and

many citizens of the former Yugoslavia, not very harmonious.

"During Tito's communist government any nationalistic movement was suppressed, by force if necessary," said Nick Pesovic, a Serbian citizen from Belgrade and a junior in electrical engineering at NCSU. "They expected that previous conflicts between ethnic groups would be forgotten, which did not happen. Such is the example of the killings of Serbs by the Fascist Croatian government during the Nazi occupation, which we do not forget."

"Before World War II, when the first Yugoslavia was formed, there were also some ethnic tensions. In the late 1920's, and 1930's the nationalistic forces merged. In the 1920's, for example, in a parliamentary session, one of the Croatian representative was killed by a Montenegrin representative."

"I think that Ethnic rivalry started to come up to the surface when economic and social conditions started to worsen."

Josip Simunovic, a Croatian citizen from Osijek has a different opinion. He sees the rivalry more as a question of political autonomy.

"During the early 1970's, when the republics wanted additional independence in dealing with their

financial resources there were some arguments, but mainly because they wanted to decentralize the system. The ethnic tensions, at least where I'm from, has been manipulated, into happening by the media. The real ethnic tensions started when Milosevic (the President of Serbia) came to power and manipulated the media and put Marshall Law in Kosovo, and as a result the other nations in Yugoslavia started to scramble for independence. People in Croatia are aware that there are different ethnic groups, but there has been a number of mixed marriages and friendships. I, particularly, was not brought up to hate the Serbs or any other ethnic group. However, it frights me to think that perhaps some of my Serb friends were brought up hating Croats. I think that some hidden hatred was already built up, in order for the Serbs to do what they did in my hometown. I don't think this came over night. I never felt any animosity until they destroyed my home."

The arm conflict in the current Yugoslavia started after the Slovenians, and later the Croats agreed by referendum to become independent states in June of 1991. Bosnia-Herzegovina followed after that, and at the moment that is where the conflict is taking place

and where most of the lives and damages have been done. The Yugoslavian Federation did not recognize their independence and as a result, war broke out. According to Simunovic, the Yugoslavian Federation was reluctant to recognize their independence since the Serbs did not want to loose land and natural resources as well as political control. Pesovic, on the other hand, thinks that the army at the beginning was acting as a unified ideological force that did not want to see the nation broken. Later on, under Serb leadership, they wanted security for their Serb brothers in the other republics.

Could the war, which has caused so many deaths, and material damages, have been avoided? In the opinion of Robert Koescherger, a professor of journalism at NC State who lived in Slovenia in 1991, the war could have been postponed, but, he does not think it could have been avoided.

"The Balkan states have been in constant hatred and conflict for hundreds of years, so is something that has historical basis," Koescherger said. He does think,

See BOSNIA, Page 2 ▶

News Note

The Industrial Extension Service (IES) at N.C. State University's College of Engineering has published the 1993 edition of North Carolina Plastics Industry Directory.

The directory provides information to purchasing agents, suppliers and those in need of plastics-related service and parts. More than 350 in-state firms engaged in processing plastics are listed by geographical regions.

The 1993 directory includes information on each company's location, contact person, phone number and number of employees. Also listed are each company's type of operation, industry segment, recycling endeavors, processes used, major plastics processed, functions performed and principal equipment.

The cost of the directory is \$30 plus a 6 percent sales tax. IES also offers the North Carolina Metalworking Directory for \$25 plus tax, and the Directory of Consulting Engineering Services in North Carolina for \$15 plus tax.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TODAY

ART EXHIBIT—Running through Aug. 6 in the NCSU African-American Cultural Center Gallery. "African-American Faculty Exhibition" features multimedia work by artists Chandra Cox, Walt Davis, Edgar Pinner and Charles Joyner. Free and open to the public weekdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information, call 515-5210.

THURSDAY

MOVIE—"The Breakfast Club" at 8 p.m. Student Centre Annex Theatre.

SUNDAY

MEETING—Dignity/Tranigle

(Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Catholics and Friends) meets every Sunday night at 6 p.m. for worship and fellowship. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Mark at 836-8793.

TUESDAY

MOVIE—"Coming Home" at 8 p.m. Student Centre Annex Theatre.

THE NCSU TENNIS CLUB meets every Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Carmichael Tennis Court #1. Reserved court times, play list. New members welcome! Any questions, call Kim at 676-4161.

WEEKENDS

Nothing

What's Happening Policy

What's Happening items must be submitted in writing, at least two publication days in advance at noon, on a campus calendar form, which are available in Technician's offices. Space is limited and priority will be given to items that are submitted earliest. Items may be no longer than 30 words. Items will be edited for style, grammar, spelling and brevity. Technician reserves the right to not run items deemed offensive or that don't meet publication guidelines. Direct inquiries to Dee Henry, News Editor.

Team

Continued from Page 1

Foundation. The Science House is then college's outreach program to public school teachers and students.

During the summer training workshop, teachers will learn how computers can be used to collect data and, in some cases, control experiments. In addition, they will learn new types of teaching strategies and actually plan their classes for the year so that they can best utilize the equipment, Haase said.

A van containing eight Macintosh computers will visit the teachers throughout the school year. The computers can be hooked into interfaces, boxes that link the computer to devices used in doing experiments.

For instance, Banks said, you can link a computer to a device that will note color changes taking place during a chemical reaction, or to a device that will measure and transmit to the computer acid/alkaline levels of certain liquids.

"It isn't that the computer allows you to do the experiment, it just allows you to do the experiment better, so that you can easily gain more information," Banks said.

Whereas in a regular experiment without the computers you can take

two or three measurements, with computers you might be able to take 50 to 100 measurements and gain a far better understanding of the process taking place, Banks said.

"It allows students to really explore the scientific process," Banks said.

The project coordinators surveyed school system science supervisors and teachers about the equipment available to them and their interest in participating in the program.

From that survey, they chose teachers from Archdale, Dudley, Goldsboro, Henderson, Kinston, Rocky Mount, Smithfield-Selma, Tarboro and Wilson to participate.

Team Science coordinators will encourage networking among teachers and students, cooperative and competitive projects and possible electronic communications to enhance the program's outreach. In addition, they will conduct follow-up evaluations to determine the program's success.

Although the program currently is funded for just three years, the coordinators will seek additional grants to continue.

"We are trying to plant a seed, hoping that this program will continue long after the initial funding runs out," Banks said.

day's first event, "Escape from the Office." The robot had to first find and exit through one of three possible doorways to an obstacle course. MARGE did not participate in this event because of battery trouble.

"Office Delivery," the second event, required the robots to navigate through several offices and hallways in search of a specially marked coffee pot. None of the robots successfully finished this task.

Bosnia

Continued from Page 1

however, that there has to be some diplomatic solution for this complex conflict.

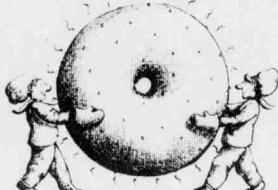
Robert Rupen and Simunovic, on the other hand, think that the UN diplomats did not act fast enough to avoid the problem, and for that reason the Yugoslavians people, and especially the Bosnian Muslim feel resentful towards the UN.

Pesovic said that the conflict could have been avoided if it had been given the chance to decide where they wanted to live, before submitting the referendum on independence.

Tuesday, there will be, theoretically, a peace talk on Geneva between the Serbs, Croats, and Muslim Bosnian government. The outcome could be crucial to the war in Bosnia, and the international community and the students from the former Yugoslavia are hoping for a viable solution.

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MARGE

Continued from Page 1

sensed by the sensors and gravitate towards sounds that it saw with its cameras. Goodridge said.

A vacuum grip arm, which pulled the boxes along, as well as whisker type sensors also lent uniqueness to the robot.

Those advantages were undone by an old problem with robots in the

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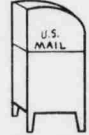
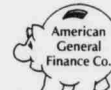
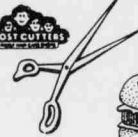
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Sports

July 28, 1993

Page 3

USA Today's Top 25 Programs in the NCAA

Women's Sports

	Field Hockey	Soccer	Cross country	Volleyball	Swimming	Basketball	Tennis	Golf	Softball	Outdoor track	Total
1 Stanford	0	15	0	20	20	12	19	10	0	0	96
2 UCLA	0	0	0	19	14	0	8	11	18	0	89
3 Arizona	0	0	7	0	15	0	17.5	7	20	11	77.5
4 Texas	0	0	0	11	18	2	20	19	0	6.5	76.5
5 Arizona State	0	0	0	7	12	0	13	20	1	13	66
6 Florida	0	0	0	17.5	19	0	17.5	0	0	11	65
7 North Carolina	17.5	20	0	0	5	6	0	12.5	0	0	61
8 Iowa	19	0	8	0	0	17.5	0	0	10	0	54.5
9 Southern Cal	0	0	0	10	7.5	7	11	16	0	0	51.5
10 Duke	14	19	0	0	0	0	15	1.5	0	0	49.5
10 Penn State	15	0	14.5	12	0	8	0	0	0	0	49.5

12. Georgia (42), 13. Virginia (39.5), 14. Georgetown (39), 15. Connecticut (37.5), 16. Louisiana State (36.5), 17. Michigan (34), 18. California (33.5), 18. Wisconsin (33.5), 20. Brigham Young (32.5), 21. Long Beach State (31), 22. Auburn (29), 22. Illinois (29), 22. Ohio State (29), 25. Massachusetts (28.5).

Men's Sports

	Cross country	Soccer	Football	Wrestling	Swimming	Basketball	Tennis	Outdoor Golf	Baseball	Total
1 Michigan	16	0	16	10	19	19	0	0	0	80
2 Florida	0	0	10	0	12	0	9	16	20	67
2 Texas	20	0	0	0	18	0	17.5	0	16	67
4 Arkansas	20	0	0	0	0	10	0	20	14	64
5 UCLA	0	13	0	0	16	0	17.5	12	3	61.5
6 North Carolina	0	0	3	5	7	20	4	0	18	57
7 N.C. State	11	15	6	14	0	0	0	0	10	56
8 Duke	0	17.5	0	0	0	11	16	0	11	55.5
9 Louisiana State	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	18.5	3	50
10 Tennessee	0	0	9	0	13	0	10	17	0	51

11. Georgia (48), 12. Arizona State (47.5), 13. Notre Dame (47), 13. Stanford (47), 15. Arizona (44), 16. Kansas (42), 17. Florida State (41.5), 18. Clemson (40), 18. Ohio State (40), 20. Georgia Tech (36.5), 21. Iowa State (35.5), 22. Alabama (35), 23. Southern Cal (31.5), 23. Wisconsin (31.5), 25. Indiana (31).

Source: USA Today

See, this season wasn't so bad

Jeff Drew

On the Line



OK, I admit it, I was shocked. When I read that the N.C. State men's athletics program ranked seventh best in the country, I thought there must have been some kind of mistake. I figured that there must have been some kind of screwy scoring system or that they had given us pity points for being so backward.

In actuality, I had only looked at Steve Williams' rankings in USA Today to see where North Carolina was rated. After all, UNC isn't just the most annoying athletics program in the ACC, it's also the best.

And those dainty Tar Heels were there, perched in all their glory in sixth place; one point ahead of us.

One point ahead of N.C. State.

My shock slowly turned to elation. Could it possibly be true? N.C. State, that insignificant redneck college, has one of the best men's athletics departments in the country. Seventh in the country. That's not relatively good, that's really good. It was too good to be true.

But it is true. Take a look at the chart on this page and you'll see how the Pack stacks up against the nation's big boys. Based on national rankings in the top 10 sports according to the number of athletes participating, State ranks ahead of national teams such as Notre Dame, Stanford and Tennessee.

We even managed to edge out Duke by a half-point. Guess those New York doctors and lawyers aren't quite as superior to us farm boys as they would have you believe.

Of course, we didn't fare quite as well on the women's side. But, hey, what do you expect? There are about 30 guys for every girl on this

campus, and we don't even field teams in three of the 10 sports in the rankings.

We do field teams in all 10 of the men's sports and our depth helped us considerably. We scored points in five sports and got top-10 points in four of them.

The amazing thing is we could have easily done even better. Our golf team whipped UNC in several tournaments this year, but had a poor NCAA tournament and missed the cut. The Tar Heels played out of their minds and finished third. Reverse those NCAA performances and NCSU finishes second in the overall rankings. UNC drops to 20th.

We came close to doing better in several other sports. The men's soccer team was a sudden-death overtime goal away from its second Final Four in three years. And the football team was three field goals away from 11 wins and an almost certain top-10 finish.

Of course, the what if? scenarios could easily be reversed, so maybe it's better to appreciate how well State did. After all, given all the gloom surrounding the men's basketball program, 1992-93 had seemed like a disappointing year.

In some ways it was. State captured only two team ACC titles (Men's and women's cross country) and they came in one day in the fall. The rest of the year, the Pack seemed destined merely for either

second-best or also-ran status. There was no glory.

Some of the losses were particularly painful. The wrestling team lost the ACC title to UNC by one point because heavyweights Sylvester Terkay beat up his opponent so badly UNC's coach threw in the towel. If Terkay had scored a pin, something he did often in his undefeated season, State would have received six points and the ACC title. The Pack ended up with four points and bridesmaid status.

The baseball team's second-place finish was even more difficult to accept. After losing an early round game to UNC, coach Ray Tanner's squad battled through the loser's bracket and earned a final, winner-take-all showdown with Clemson. The Pack then took a 7-3 lead into the eighth inning and looked to have the title in hand. But a tired pitching staff couldn't hold the lead, Clemson exploded for eight runs in the eighth and the title slipped away.

Of course, second place comes with the territory. It's easy to accept relative success in West Raleigh. State students are constantly barraged with reminders that UNC and Duke are "superior" schools with better reputations and national images. NCSU is number-three in the Triangle and that's only because Wake Forest moved to Winston-Salem a few decades back.

But maybe it's not so bad here. These rankings serve as a reminder that while our football coach may have quit and our basketball team may still struggle, some teams on this campus quietly continue to improve and excel.

For that, they deserve our heartfelt congratulations.

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Opinion

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July 28, 1993

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

Questions about Sheridan

When Dick Sheridan became football coach at N.C. State University in December 1985, few people could have predicted he would provide the answer to the team's problems.

Sure, Sheridan had guided Furman University to a national championship game and two whippings of NCSU, but taking a Division I-AA school to the top was a much different challenge than reviving a dormant Wolfpack program. Sheridan's new squad had lost 24 of 33 games from 1983-85, with every team from Penn State to East Tennessee State enjoying big wins over the Pack. Losing had become common place in Raleigh.

But Sheridan installed a new regimented system that established order in the Wolfpack program. A team that had been drifting in defeat suddenly became disciplined and focused. Winning became possible.

Sheridan's first NCSU squad recorded an 8-3-1 record, beat North Carolina for the first time in eight years and reached its first bowl game since 1978. Those accomplishments made Sheridan the consensus national coach of the year, and the momentum of that first year bred more success. After a 4-7 aberration in 1987, NCSU won 40 of 61 games, beat the Tar Heels a record-five straight times and earned five consecutive bowl bids. Sheridan had indeed provided the answer.

There are few answers today. Questions cloud the upcoming season. Sheridan is now just an adviser to the program and his quarterback coach, Mike O'Cain, is now in charge. No one knows for sure how these changes will affect Wolfpack football. No one can be sure who will provide the answers.

Sheridan didn't provide many when he suddenly and shockingly quit June 29. He said simply that he was quitting because he had some health problems that prevented him from giving 100 percent to his job. He refused to specify what those problems are.

Shocked NCSU fans can only speculate about the nature of Sheridan's problem. Unless Sheridan or a close confidant breaks the silence, they can

only guess at the answers.

The guessing is likely to continue. Wary of outside influences such as the media, Sheridan ran a very controlled, tightly wound program. Loyalty and discipline were essentials, and any media leaks caused Sheridan great discomfort. He has limited that possibility in this instance by telling only a very few exactly what the problem is. Even his players don't know why he quit.

The irony in this situation is that the very qualities that provided the answers seven years ago are creating the questions today. The Sheridan system that salvaged Wolfpack football requires a great deal of physical and mental resolve from players and coaches. And the intense discipline and purpose that fueled the program's success is merely a reflection of the man who brought it to Raleigh.

Nevertheless, the winning ways of Wolfpack football are likely to continue, at least for the immediate future. Sheridan's staff remains mostly intact, and many of them have been in the system for more than a decade. They won't suddenly forget what's made them successful.

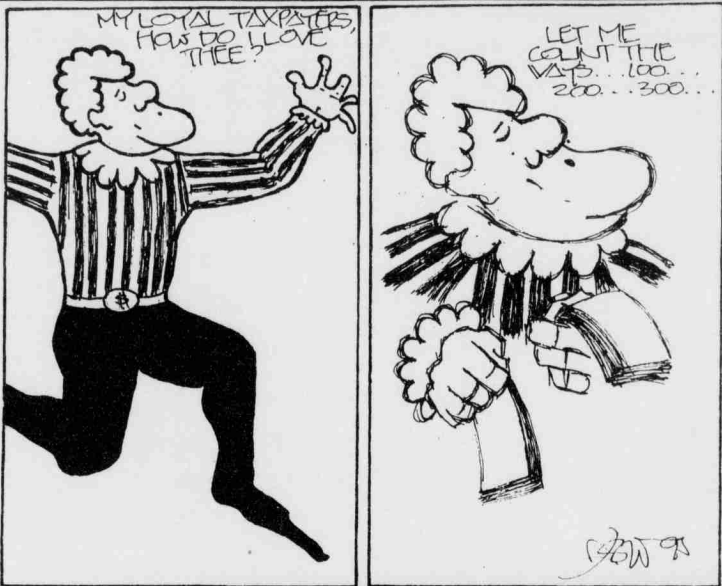
Sheridan, on the other hand, must adjust to life outside the system. After devoting himself to football coaching for nearly 30 years, Sheridan finally has a chance to take a step back and evaluate his life and priorities.

That process, of course, has already begun. A man like Sheridan doesn't just leave his vocation on a whim. Certainly the death of his close friend, Jim Valvano, had a great impact on him. There likely were other private struggles as well.

But, in the end, the motivations behind the resignation aren't really the public's business. While Sheridan is a highly paid public figure, his private problems are exactly that — private. Whether he reveals them or not is his decision.

Wolfpack fans, in the meantime, can only speculate what the real problem is. And perhaps that's what frustrates us the most: The man who solved the problem seven years ago has left us only with questions.

And now he's not providing any answers.



Commentary

Do whatever — it's just America!

Freedom and responsibility, or just rights?

Having "rights" brings to mind, in this day and age, being owed something. It means that superfluously created "victim groups" can get something if the smallest, no-count weenie in the sandbox of society knocks down one of their sandcastles.

Forget what Mom said: You're supposed to cry over spilled milk in the 90s. Why? Because you'll get something back, regardless of the cost to principle or to taxpayer. Push the system further — it's your right.

We're seeing such demands more and more. Kudos for the postmodern age. We've obviously misdirected where rights come from.

What price was paid for America? The American Revolution cost rivers of precious human blood. The Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence were bold acts of rebellion, and Mother England was going to beat her child into submission.

With the selfless giving of blood, the United States of America, in all her glory, wouldn't be here today.

What have we forgotten? In the Middle East and many other places in the world, governments and human-rights policy are antiquated and, at times, outrageous. We didn't just end up with something better on this piece of soil. Our forefathers earned it with stress,

determination, anxiety, hope and the loss of their brothers, sons and fathers.

What they gave us was a land in which we could be ourselves, print what we wanted, worship how we wanted and pursue our dreams. But in an age of decorum and respect, the founding fathers thought it obvious that responsibility would be coupled with rights. They were trying to get away from tyranny, not resurrect Babylon.

What we've made it into is a land of an ever-increasing government that costs more and more of our money, time and creativity to run. And, implicitly, it seems to acquire more control of lives in the process. The N.C. General Assembly's ever-growing control of the UNC-System is an apt example of the incessant growth of government.

What we've taken are well-intentioned freedoms and turned them into license to offend and degrade. If people should have a freedom from religion (rather than freedom of religion) in our public schools and universities, shouldn't there be some consciousness about how some may feel when

they see T-shirts with the infamous "F word" boldly displayed? (I've seen this shirt on campus).

Furthermore, one needn't look any further than MTV to see women displayed as sex objects. Half the population are given merit merely on whether or not they are visually sexually arousing.

Scariest still are the ages of the children sitting in front of MTV. I sure don't want my sister acting like the women in Aerosmith's "Rag Doll" video. Children learn behavior from adults. If MTV had an ounce of maturity in its executive board, perhaps it would exercise a little social responsibility with its freedom.

Meanwhile, liberals decry any restriction on profane, four-letter words in the name of "free speech" but then tell Joshua Tanner, a campus disk jockey at Eastern Oregon State University, that he can't play Christian rap on the radio because it's "too spiritually explicit." Is the absolute language of the Constitution being replaced by the whims of the interpreters? Obviously.

Think about the priceless freedoms of our country. Think about the responsibility that is a necessary component to those freedoms. Otherwise, if we can't respect our freedoms and enjoy them responsibly, we'll have the government and an increasingly activist Supreme Court doling out "rights" where they see fit — regardless of our Bill of Rights.

Colin Burch

A look at the future of America

In a few decades, historians may have a tricky decision to make. They'll have to decide exactly when the United States gave up on the unique freedoms and individuality that once were the nation's hallmarks.

After all, they may reason, government has sought to dominate people in almost every other time and place. What happened in central North America from 1776 to roughly 1965 was an aberration. We couldn't expect the elite to forever surrender the idea that they know what is best for others.

Of course, the 1960s are just one of several decades scholars may select. They may eschew the Lyndon Johnson "Great Society" era and instead select Roosevelt's "New Deal." Or they may pick that one commentator has dubbed the "Raw Deal" — the cheerful 1990s.

Whichever they choose as the most important, they surely will agree that all were necessary for their lifestyle. Even if they secretly disagree, they'll assent in public. Otherwise, the government may fire them or cut off their grant money.

Then again, that might not be such a bad thing. There really won't be much reason to have a job or receive money.

People will send almost all of their income to Washington so it will be redistributed more fairly. Even if someone inexplicably decides to work, there may not be an available job.

Why do some need yachts when others can't afford them? One Supreme Court justice will ask. "If we raise that tax to 400 percent, we'll discourage conspicuous consumption while also raising revenue."

The resulting windfall may even cover a fraction of the retraining costs needed for the former yacht craftsmen who lost their jobs.

The justices will feel compassion.

Leaders of the only remaining branch of government, they will be able to relate to



J. Keith Jordan

normal people. They'll have servants, after all.

After the Supreme Court realizes around 2005 that Congress is redundant, it will simply declare that body unconstitutional. You see, the main purpose of Congress in 1993 is to pass laws. But the court will eventually realize that it is already doing that, and much more intelligently.

Each morning before meeting, Congress will honor predecessor Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was among the first to admit in her Senate confirmation hearings that she had no problem in making decisions based on her conscience instead of the law. Way back in 1993, she explained that the political process sometimes doesn't move quickly enough to suit her tastes. What could any caring judge do, she asked, but ignore both the Constitution and the lack of a public mandate and make law anyway?

Here on campus, things will be a little different. Tuition will be free, paid through taxes, and admissions will be first-come first-serve. If one student has better qualifications than another, admissions officers will decide it is only because he or she is lucky, and luck shouldn't be rewarded.

And if I'm still alive then, I'll hardly recognize my beloved Technician. The paper will, among numerous other changes, no longer use the word "woman."

Protesters will have pointed out that the word describes an unimportant biological difference instead of the profound gaps that exist in culture and background. As a

response, a Technician editor-in-chief will decide that "female-American" is more empowering. The paper will gain in polarization and political bias what it loses in accuracy.

After all, that editor will decide that the paper isn't here to be descriptive and accurate. It's here to please its constituency.

So is all of this a foregone conclusion? Not by a long shot. But to keep it from happening, we have to stop letting ourselves be fooled.

Whenever we passively watch politicians increase our tax rate because they say they can spend your money more wisely, we lose more of our financial independence. More and more people join the public doles because they have less money and the government gives more out.

And when we idly watch a president try to guarantee his side permanent victory by appointing judges willing to legislate, we elect legislators to draft legislation; we don't want to see their work overridden simply because the judicial branch doesn't like it.

The most basic thing to remember is that any time a powerful body attacks one group's freedoms, it attacks everyone's. We are tempted to feel that as long as the paper bans certain words, it's OK if it doesn't affect us; if the government is going to tax someone into bankruptcy, it's OK if we're not the target.

But somehow, it always catches up with us sooner or later.

Technician

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Technician (ISSN 055-050) is the official student-run newspaper of N.C. State University and is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout the academic year from August through May except during holidays and examination periods. Mailing address is Box 2608, Raleigh, NC 27695-0608. Subscription cost is \$45 per year. Printed by Hixson Press, Durham, NC.

POSTMASTER: Send any address change to Technician, Box 2608, Raleigh, NC 27695-0608.

Features

July 20, 1993

Page 5

Lollapalooza '93: The Aftermath

By JOE COREY
Staff Writer

Lollapalooza is not Woodstock. It's just another prepackaged concert.

Lollapalooza: The Festival

Even though Walnut Creek advertised the show as starting at noon, main stage bands didn't start until 2 p.m. The local second-stage band, Archers of Loaf, didn't rev up until 1 p.m. Was this Lollapalooza's way of lessening the traffic jam or sucking people into buying lunch on the grounds?

There was no traffic entering the grounds at 1 p.m. However, a crowd the size of a football field was backed up in front of the entrance.

After two Lollapaloozas, you'd figure Walnut Creek would learn how to process people. Perhaps an express lane for people without purses or keys would help. The Strange and Wicked of the Valley had horrifying prices.

The piercing booth was a shocker. All the fans

Arrested Development



seemed to want their eyebrows pierced. The poke above the eye cost \$30.

The LSD simulator cost more than the tabs of acid rumored to be sold in the men's rooms.

The Cyber pit was a flop. It consisted of a row of PC computers with lame program selections. You could choose what charity gets the 50 cents of every \$30 ticket sold. But funding to send Lollapalooza founder, Perry Farrell, to the

Betty Ford Center wasn't a selection.

You could type in something to be flashed on the message board over the main stage. There was a problem with this. There was no message board over the main stage.

The forum proved that talk radio has one plus. You don't have to see the whiners and complainers as they make their petty statements heard. The space was intended to be a debate circle for great issues.

However, most of the debates turned into showing matches with pleas for charity donations, calling concert-goers sheep and shouting "You can't do this except in America." Makes you think about those oppressed people in Canada, eh?

Next year they should call the forum and put in a rifle range.

What about the music?

The genius who scheduled the bands ran the second stage acts at the same time as the main stage acts. This cut into the number of people willing to venture from their seats. The X-rated puppet show turned messy as a rabbit puppet pumped fluid onto the crowd.

Rage Against the Machine was a red-hot angst machine. They seemed a bit like the Rollins Band with their hard-edged thrash tones. But they were less likely to jump into the crowd and beat you up like Rollins.

Lead singer Zack de la Rocha performed the only listenable tirade. He told the fans that they could not buy Rage Against the Machine T-shirts at the concession stands because the band refused to bow down to the promoters that demanded the shirts sell for \$23 and the venue get 40 percent of the sale.

Rage on, Zack!

Tool was a lost cause because at the same time on the second stage was Mosquito. Any band named after a fake band on Gilligan's Island wins out for attention.

Steve Shelley, drummer of Sonic Youth, and Jad Fair of Half Japanese have created a band that sounds like its name. The constantly distorted and devious vocals made Fair the most irritating singer not to play. Branson, Mo. Shelley's invigorating drum beats sucked blood from the audience. Mosquito is a band that knows how to enjoy amateurish delights.

Techno-dance band Front 242 suffered from the daylight and lack of a light show. Their beat was powerful (most of it seemed to come from tapes), but the crowd seemed reluctant to dance. The two lead singers gave off a nasty Frankie Goes to Hollywood vibe.

Arrested Development gave a good show with their "Life Music" mix of old Sly and the Family Stone tunes. But the old guy they have on stage got really annoying. What is the old codger's purpose? He didn't play any instruments. He didn't sing backups.

Fishbone is the first band to repeat on the tour. They did the Florida dates on the first Lollapalooza festival. This was Fishbone's chance to finally pump the masses with their hardcore funk. They could easily launch themselves to the level of Ice-T or Pearl Jam.

For a band that relies on keeping a hard beat, Fishbone has no sense of timing.

They opened with "Everyday Sunshine." A fine song at four minutes. But then they stretched it to nearly 14 minutes. When the song finished, Fishbone seemed finished.

The next batch of songs were lame. The mob at the front of the stage was still during several numbers. Fishbone had become boring. Finally, the band burst into "Sunless Saturday" and the crowd came alive. Things got even more hectic during "Swim." Then



Fishbone's set ended.

What happened?

In this moment for Fishbone to shine, they chose only to glow.

Dinosaur Jr. did not lumber onto stage. They attacked it.

J. Mascis' solos ripped the crowd apart. His mix-matched speaker pile showed he wasn't too intent on this happening. His solo on "Nothing Much to Say" was the aural equivalent to the eyebrow piercing.

Sure his singing voice isn't quite up to snuff. But why should everyone live up to Roger Clinton's standards?

Dinosaur Jr. was the only band to truly grab the giant crowd and demand the attention.

Alice in Chains was like Black Sabbath without the humor.

Their set's highlight was an impressive version of "The Rooster."

Fishbone's Angelo Moore accented the song with a sax solo. Primus' guitarist Larry Lalonde, added punch to the gut-wrenching riffs. The intense song proved Alice in Chains was worthy of being on the bill.

The question — Should Primus have been the headliner? — would make a nice debate.

Primus is an acquired taste, not a pop group. The fans reacted as if they were all having their first whiskey shot. Many smiled. A lot ran out to the parking lot spitting the taste out of their mouths.

Lollapalooza was OK. It'd just be better if they'd let you pack a lunch.

Primus (below), Fishbone (left).

JOHN ILCHOFFER (5)



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