

# Technician

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

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Wednesday

November 17, 1993

## Students use shortcuts to burn test

■ If you're taking the GRE this fall, you may be in luck. One section is easy — if you know the trick.

By CHRIS BAYSDEN  
STAFF WRITER

This year's Graduate Record Exam contains a new set of questions designed to see if test takers can identify numerical patterns.

But according to Kaplan Educational Centers, there are problems with these new questions, which are called pattern identification questions.

Researchers at Kaplan discovered that test takers can beat some questions without doing any math. They can do this by using a code or trick.

"We had these strategies devised for the October test so our students can use them," said Jose Ferreira, director of the GRE programs for Kaplan.

Students who used the Kaplan strategies were able to finish the pattern identification questions in half the allotted time.

The tests' administrators will probably throw the questions out. Still, the questions have caused problems, Ferreira said.

"For most students, pattern ID

questions are confusing and time-consuming. We feel they are not a good measure of students' abilities," he said. "Since students who have no idea what they're doing can still get many questions right using the Kaplan approach, it is extremely unlikely that ETS [the Educational Testing Service] will be able to use this item on future exams."

"Kaplan broke the code and published it, so we are removing the questions," Ferreira recalled. ETS representative Doreen Vanderbeck said.

This year, about 400,000 college students will take the GRE, making it the second most taken test in

America, behind the SAT. Test results are used to measure several criteria.

Master's of arts, master's of science, master's of fine arts and doctor of philosophy programs review students' scores when admission time rolls around.

State and federal scholarship programs consider the results when reviewing applications. Instead of using arithmetic to solve the pattern ID problems, Kaplan students used a trick as simple as drawing arrows.

Although Ferreira said the questions will not be on the

See DRIVE, Page 2 ▶

### The Kaplan Approach to Pattern ID

The answer for this example is E

## It's like this



Stan Varnas, junior in computer science, argues with a Brickyard religious speaker Monday afternoon in the Brickyard. Preachers often visit the plaza around noon to try to spread their views among college students.

ANNE TUCKER/STAFF

## Late graduation stems from leap

■ Thanks to a calendar quirk, graduation will be unusually close to Christmas this year.

By THOMAS TAMPLIN  
STAFF WRITER

Graduating seniors who plan on attending this semester's graduation ceremony will be going home for Christmas a little later than normal this year.

Thanks to leap year, ceremonies won't take place in Reynolds Coliseum until Dec. 22. That will make it the latest fall graduation in the four years they've taken place.

Fall graduation ceremonies always take place on the first Wednesday following final exams. Every four years, leap year causes the Wednesday after final exams to fall closer to Christmas, said registrar James Bundy. The earliest fall graduation will be Dec. 18, 1996 before the cycle starts over again, Bundy said.

N.C. State University uses a four-year running academic calendar, which is proposed by Bundy. It is then passed on to the Registration and Record's Calendar Committee. The Calendar Committee then submits the calendar to Faculty Senate and the deans and associate deans of each department for approval.

See LATE, Page 2 ▶

If any changes need to be made, it is sent back to the Calendar Committee for a final revision. The calendar is finally approved by Chancellor Larry Monthie, by John Ely, chairman of Registration and Record's Calendar Committee and by a professor and coordinator of advising in civil engineering.

One problem that some students run into because of the late graduation is that they sometimes don't know if they have passed a class they needed for graduation, Ely said.

"Some students bring their parents to Raleigh and then find out later that they didn't even graduate," Ely said.

The Calendar Committee is working on a quick-key process in which graduating seniors' grades will be turned in separately from other students' grades. The grades can then be posted more quickly, Ely said.

"The new process will hopefully speed up the posting of seniors' grades so they will know if they are actually going to graduate or not," Ely said.

Bundy said the late graduation hasn't caused any problems.

"We haven't had any complaints about the late graduation so far," Bundy said. "But I definitely think

## NCSU profs and students: friends?

■ A philosophy already in place at other universities will soon try to improve teacher-student relations at NCSU as well.

By MIKE FEHER  
STAFF WRITER

If you think faculty members don't care about you, you may need to think again.

Rob Lynam, residence director for Bragaw Residence Hall, has begun instituting the Faculty Involvement

Program (FIP) which brings students in contact with faculty members through social activities.

"The whole idea behind it [is this]. Housing and Residence Life puts on different programs from time to time," Lynam said. "They will foster a sense of community between students and faculty members."

"It will close the gap between the two."

Lynam said the program remedies the current situation between

See SOCIAL, Page 2 ▶

## Food drive over hump, has high hopes

■ Raleigh families who might otherwise do without this Thanksgiving will enjoy some of the holiday's customs.

By JENNIFER MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

For most families, Thanksgiving means food and fellowship. But to some single-parent families in Raleigh, it can be dreary.

Most families with only one parent earning income cannot afford the traditional turkey dinner.

This is where the student councils from the University Undesignated Program and the University Transition Program come in.

"The closer it gets to Thanksgiving, it has picked up more."

— Carol Maidon of the Undesignated Program

For their fall service project, the two councils have adopted a single-parent family. They have been collecting non-perishable foods from students across the N.C. State University campus to give to a needy family on Thanksgiving.

The two programs work together every year on service projects. They are spring projects, but Carol Maidon, assistant director of the University Undesignated Program, said the two councils decided to do two service projects — one in the fall as well as one in the spring.

The two councils began this special food drive at the end of October and have been accepting donations of non-perishable items from students and faculty. These items, including canned foods, rice and macaroni and cheese, will be accumulated through the month of November and then given to the adopted family before Thanksgiving.

Maidon said the food drive struggled at first.

"But now that more people know about it, and the closer it gets to

Thanksgiving, it has picked up more," Maidon said.

At the end of the food drive, the two programs will buy those items that were either perishable, such as vegetables and turkey, or those items which were not donated by the public, Maidon said.

Different instructors from the University Undesignated Program have been collecting the food, so there's no accurate count of how much has been accumulated so far.

The councils are not strangers to service projects. For the past two years they have visited the Hillhaven Convalescent Center in Raleigh where they have visited and talked to the senior citizens.

## Sigma Chi, Phi Beta Sigma sleep out for homeless

■ Some campus Greeks recently crossed racial lines to benefit the poor.

By DAVE BLANTON  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

When two fraternities, one historically white and the other historically African American, met last week to raise money for the homeless, they forged a bond between the groups' members — a bond they say others should emulate.

A 12-hour stint in the cold is nothing new to the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. It was the sole sponsor of last year's event. But for this year's "Sleep Out For The Homeless," the dozen or so students had help — Sigma Chi Fraternity.

The vice president of Sigma Chi, Brad Hatcher, said about 50 of his brothers came out last Monday to raise money for the Raleigh Homeless Shelter. The event, which

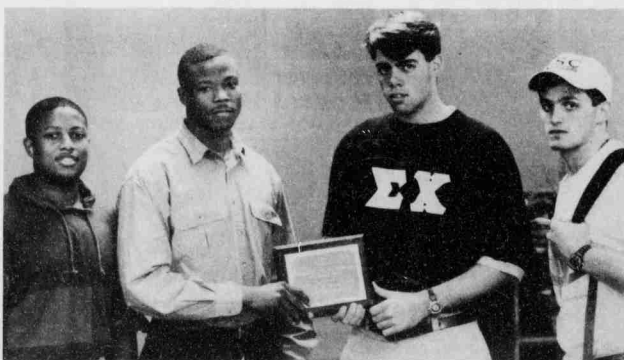
raised about \$600 for the shelter, served to bring the two fraternities — and the two races — together. "It worked out well," said Erik Ness, the Sigma Chi project chair of the event. "Toward the end of the night, we started throwing the football around. It was something special."

George Barksdale, Phi Beta Sigma member, said the sleepout was rewarding in two ways. In addition to making new friends, he learned that the plight of the homeless is something to take seriously.

"If I become wealthy, I'm going to put some time into helping the homeless," he said. "No one should have to live like that."

He hopes others will should emulate what his fraternity and Sigma Chi have done.

"I think it might have opened up relations between the two races," he said.



Ray Douglas (left) and Rob Schroderbek (right) accept an award from the Raleigh Homeless Shelter.

ANNE TUCKER/STAFF

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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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Mailing address: Technician, Box 8608, Raleigh, NC 27695  
Offices: Suite 323, Student Center Annex, NCSU Campus

# News Notes

## NCSU guidance counselor dies at 77

George Fisk Needham III, 77, died Saturday at Springmont Retirement Center. George Needham was educated at Western Maryland College and Harvard University. Before coming to Raleigh, Needham was employed as an educational psychologist for the Baltimore Public School System, the U.S. Armed Services during World War II and the Carnegie Technical Institute, Pittsburgh. From 1957 until present, he was a guidance counselor at N.C. State University.

A memorial service in celebration of his life will be held today at 11 a.m. at Smedley Chapel, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Canterbury Road, Raleigh.

COMPILED BY DAVE BLANTON FROM STAFF REPORTS AND NEWS RELEASES

## Drive

Continued from Page 1  
December version of the test, he does not know if they will appear on later GREs.

"I'm honestly not sure if this question will show up now because of what we did," Ferreira said. "We could have killed the question."

If the numbers do not change direction, Kaplan suggests students look for "anchors," which are double-digit numbers with relatively obvious steps between them. The anchors strategy is a reliable complement to the arrow method.

Students who want to obtain the

### TODAY

**MEETING** — Hillel — the foundation of the campus Jewish community — invites you to our planning meeting Wednesdays in the Campus Cooperative Ministry office in the University Student Center. Newcomers especially welcome. Call 942-4087.

**CAREER PREP** Career in sports for athletes and non-athletes. 4:30-6 p.m. in the Student Center Annex Cinema. A special event panel sponsored by the Career Planning and Placement Center.

**CLUB MEETING** — NCSU Advertising Club. "My Job and How I Got It." Meet with Cindy Sawyer from Cable Ad Network today at 7:30 p.m. in the Nelson Hall Board Room. All majors welcome.

**FESTIVAL** — Japanese Animation Festival in the Student Center Annex Cinema today from 7-10 p.m. Sponsored by NCSU Japanese Animation Club. Several short-length animated movies will be shown. All have English subtitles. For more information, call Jeff Cornelius at 546-0285.

**NAFTA** — The NCSU

Politics Club will sponsor Professor Clifford Griffin of the NCSU political science department to speak on NAFTA. Tompkins G112 at 4 p.m. Refreshments afterward. Everyone is welcome.

**MEETING** — The Society of Women Engineers will meet today at 5:30 p.m. in Riddick Hall, Room 222. Topic: stress and time management.

**BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS** — Come today to the West Campus Intercultural Bazaar from 4-6 p.m. Located between Lee and Bragg. Free food, demonstrations, and information.

**WORKSHOPS** — The Fall Leadership Development Series has come and gone, but you can pre-register for spring 1994 workshops now. Come by the Student Center, Room 3114, or call 515-2452 for details.

**CHARITY DRIVE** — Help earthquake victims in India. Please make checks payable to The Hindu Society of North Carolina. Mail before Sunday to ISC Program Office, Box 7306, NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27695-7306. For details, contact Ashwini at 515-

7604 or Rajat at 515-3323.

**BOOK DRIVE** — Wanted: books. The Friends of the Library of NCSU needs books of all types, CDs, video and audio tapes for its fifth annual book sale. Call 515-2841 for information about drop-off points.

**WANTED** — An experienced magician to perform for the 1993 Madrigal Dinner. Contact Charles Martin, Thompson Theatre, 515-2405.

**EXHIBIT** — Sheila Wright's exhibit, "Volatile Natures: African-American Women in Management Positions," will be displayed at the African-American Cultural Center Gallery. The exhibit is running today through Dec. 17.

**VOLUNTEERS** — Organizers need volunteers for the Martin Luther King Cultural Festival on Jan. 22. Interested faculty, staff and students should attend an information session Jan. 18, 4-5:30 p.m. and Jan. 21, 6:30-8 p.m. Call Davis at 515-5210.

**THURSDAY**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### WORKSHOP

Interview techniques workshop for non-technical majors Thursday, 4-5:30 p.m. in Mann Hall, Room 321. No registration needed for the walk-in session sponsored by the Career Planning and Placement Center.

**MEETING** — Interservice Christian Fellowship, West Chapter, meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in Williams Hall, Room 2215. Come Thursday to hear Davis Hughes speak on chapter two of the book of Jonah.

**PRIME TIME** — Everyone is welcome to come check out Prime Time, sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. Every Thursday in Carmichael Gymnasium, Room 104 at 7:30 p.m.

**SYMPOSIUM** — The Self Knowledge Symposium meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Tompkins Hall, Room G123. The symposium is a non-denominational student group in search of the life worth living.

**MEETING** — Society of American Foresters will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Jordan Hall, Room 1132. Ron Bost, president-elect of the Forest Farmers

Association, will speak. Everyone is welcome.

**VISITING LECTURER** — A representative from the College of William and Mary's Master of Public Policy Program will be in the Student Center, Room 3134 Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. All interested students are invited for an informal chat.

**LECTURE AND DIALOGUE** — "Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind." Albert Einstein. "Insight" into religious beliefs is freedom. 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Student Center Board Room.

**FRIDAY**

**CIDER SALE** — The 42nd Annual Horticulture Club apple cider sale is Friday from 4-9 p.m. and Saturday at 8 a.m. until cider is gone. Sale is at the corner of Brooks Avenue and Hillsborough Street (behind Kilgore Hall).

**EXHIBITION** — AIDS memorial quilt will be displayed Friday through Dec. 10. See two sections of the "Names" project, one in the Student Center and one in the Student Center Annex. A compelling,

compassionate response to AIDS.

**BREAK AWAY** — Great fellowship, food, recreation and ministry at Maranatha Springs (Chatham County) Friday and Saturday. Leave Friday at 6 p.m. from Carmichael Gym and return Saturday afternoon. For more information, call 859-4373 and leave message. \$12 for students.

**MEETING** — Gaming Club meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in Tompkins Hall, ground floor. Many role-playing and strategy games offered. Members get discounts at the Foundation's Edge and H o b h y n a s t e r s .

Questions? Call Donna Nolen at 851-8010.

**SATURDAY**

**DIGNITY** — Gay, lesbian and bisexual Catholics will celebrate Mass at 7 p.m. a presentation and discussion about women in the Ministry will follow. Phone Mark at 826-8793 for more details. All are welcome.

**SUNDAY**

**MEETING** — The Happy Atheist Club meets Sundays at about 2:30 p.m. in Caldwell 1107A. Everyone is welcome.

### What's Happening Policy

What's Happening items must be submitted in writing on a What's Happening grid, available in Technician's offices, at least two publication days in advance by noon. Space is limited and priority will be given to items that are submitted earliest. Items may be no longer than 30 words. Items must come from organizations that are campus affiliated. The news department will edit items for style, grammar, spelling and brevity. Technician reserves the right to not run items deemed offensive or that don't meet publication guidelines. Direct questions and send submissions to Dave Blanton, Assistant News Editor.

strategies to these questions in case they do reappear can call Kaplan at 1-800-KAP-TEST. They will send students the strategies for free.

Ferreira said he thinks Kaplan's release of this strategy is important because it directly contradicts what ETS says. ETS tells students that programs such as Kaplan's do not work, Ferreira said.

"The message is that coaching works," he said. "Students should

definitely prepare because it can significantly increase their score."

Ferreira said students who use Kaplan's strategies have increased their scores by several hundred points.

Kaplan Educational Centers is one of the nation's largest test preparation organizations. Each year, the centers help over 150,000 students prepare for college and graduate admissions exams.

## Social

Continued from Page 1  
faculty and students. He said the only contact is during class, and that does not offer much chance for social interaction.

"Teachers are harder to reach that way," Lynam said.

Lynam said the program will feature social events such as educational documentaries and group trips to Thompson Theatre productions.

"We've made some laid-back social events," Lynam said. Lynam said there has been a move among participants to introduce biweekly dinners between faculty members and students. He said general discussions would follow the dinners. Lynam said those discussions may not necessarily be academic in nature.

"[It gives participants] opportunities to share their other passions and interests in life," Lynam said.

Lynam said Don Rhodes, a professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering, came to talk about his experiences in the former Soviet Union before the breakup.

Lynam said the program — which began Wednesday — has been slow to gain popularity.

"It's slow taking off. Involvement at this point is low," Lynam said. But Lynam said Provost Phillip Stiles said he felt FIP was a good program.

The program would encourage faculty members to take time out of their busy schedules to interact more with the students on campus, Lynam said. The laid-back atmosphere and the non-academic discussions would be less threatening to students.

Lynam said anyone who is interested in FIP is welcome to attend the series.

Lynam said the issue of faculty involvement is a hot topic these days. It is becoming more important for faculty members to show an interest in student life and to have a shaping effect on their students, he said.

"It's not original. There's quite a bit of information on it," Lynam said. "Eastern Michigan [University] has done it before."

Lynam said across the country there is a movement on university campuses to have more contact with faculty members. He acknowledged it is difficult to keep such a large program organized.

"Making it work — that's the hard part," Lynam said.

Lynam said the advisers and students want to have the program expanded beyond just Bragg and Lee residence halls.

"A lot of halls are trying to get this started. It's not specific to us," Lynam said.

Lynam said long-term benefits of FIP would include a better sense of self-worth among students. He said when faculty members actively take part in students' educational lives, it alters their fears.

"It will make for a more productive relationship between students and faculty. It builds up contacts for students," Lynam said.

Charit

Next year's fall graduation will be Dec. 21.

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Late

Continued from Page 1  
we would if the ceremonies ran any later."

Bundy doesn't believe that this late ceremony will hurt attendance.

Read Technician

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## Pack debuts with win behind Fuller

N.C. State 93  
Charlotte Royals 82

BY JEFF DREW  
STAFF WRITER

Bryant Figgins brought some excitement back to Reynolds Coliseum Monday night. Todd Fuller and Lewis Sims helped the N.C. State basketball team leave with a win.

Fuller scored 19 points and grabbed 17 rebounds while Sims scored all 12 of his points in the second half to lead the Wolfpack to a 93-82 exhibition victory over the Charlotte Royals AAU team at Reynolds Coliseum.

"We had some players have good individual moments tonight," N.C. State coach Les Robinson said. "But we showed that we have an awfully long way to go."

Figgins, who came a long way back to play his first game in 30 months, evoked a sizable roar from the small Reynolds crowd when he was introduced before the game and when he entered as a substitute.

But the 6-foot-6, 239-pound junior forward drew his biggest cheers when he scored his first basket on a layup and ran back down the court with his arms raised high above his head.

"I was really satisfied because I had worked so hard coming back," said Figgins, who finished with six points and five rebounds. "It was sweet."

Figgins' return came after two years of rehabilitation from a knee injury that sidelined him for the 1991-92 season and a gunshot wound that kept him out last year. The Wolfpack victory came after a comeback of slightly lesser proportions.

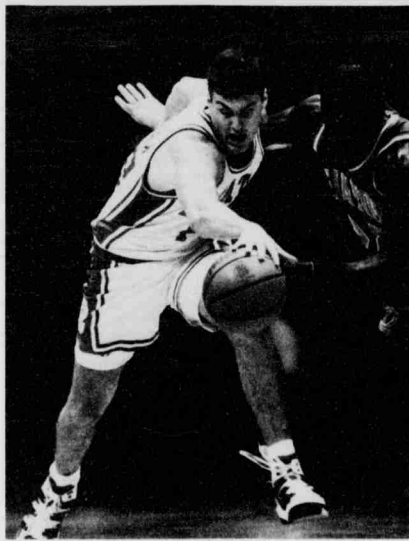
State, in fact, jumped to an early 16-4 lead. Fuller and Curtis Marshall knocked in two baskets each during the run that was capped by Figgins's layup.

The Royals, which featured former college players such as Duke's Jay Bilas, rallied when Robinson substituted. The new Pack players missed several rushed shots, and the Royals pulled with 30-28.

State's starters returned, but the misses continued. Charlotte then took advantage of poor defensive floor balance for several fast break layups en route to a 37-34 halftime lead.

"We got off to a good start, maybe too good a start because the players on the bench saw how easily we were scoring and they wanted to go in and do the same thing and it just didn't happen," Robinson said. "Then our starters went back in and kept doing the same things."

While the reserves struggled somewhat in the first half, they did give Robinson substitution options he didn't have in last season's injury-plagued 8-19 campaign. After playing as few as seven available players last season, State had 13 players get playing time and



ERIC BLANCH/STAFF

Bill Kretzer fights for a loose ball in State's 93-82 exhibition win.

12 score Monday night.

The depth helped State outscore the Royals 59-45 in the second half. Junior college transfers Sims and Ricky Daniels joined freshmen guards Jason Sutton and Jeremy Hyatt in scoring during the Pack's second half rally.

"We had some new players look impressive at times," Robinson

said. "We settled down in the second half."

Fuller scored three baskets to help the Pack tie the score at 50 with 15:28 remaining. Marshall then made a diving steal and passed to Fuller for a fast break dunk that got the crowd back in the game.

See FEGGINS, Page 4

## State runners capture title

Women		Men	
1. N.C. State	90	1. Wake Forest	69
2. Alabama	117	2. Florida	136
3. Clemson	151	3. Tennessee	144
4. Virginia	153	4. Clemson	158
5. North Carolina	154	5. N.C. State	165

BY DAVID HONEA  
STAFF WRITER

The N.C. State women rolled into the NCAA cross country championships with a win at the District III meet in Greenville, S.C. on Saturday while the Wolfpack men saw a frustrating season end with a fifth-place finish.

The State women ran a conservative race, only needing to finish in the top two to secure an automatic bid to the NCAA meet. Still, the Wolfpack put on an impressive display, placing four runners in the top 17 of the nation's largest cross country meet. Over 290 women ran in the race.

The Wolfpack scored 90, comfortably ahead of second place Alabama's 117.

Clemson (151), Virginia (153), and North Carolina (154) were well back in third through fifth, but all three received at-large bids for the NCAA meet.

State was led by ACC champion Kristen Hall, who finished third, running 17:08 for the 5000 meter course. She was joined in the top 10 by Kelly Cook, who finished tenth in 17:26.

State also got top 20 finishes from Heather Hollis (14th, 17:34) and Kathy Knabb (17th, 17:36). Kim Goode completed the State scoring, running 18:17 to finish 51st.

"We ran very well today with our top four," said N.C. State coach Rollie Geiger. "This is probably the best we've done through four in several years. We can do very well at the NCAA championships if we can improve at the fifth spot."

Monday's NCAA appearance will be the seventh consecutive for the Wolfpack. State has finished fourth or higher seven times since 1979, but has not placed better than eighth since 1988. This year's team hopes to move back toward the top.

Hall, the team's top runner all year, is strong candidate for a top 15 finish. Cook, Hollis, and Knabb could also earn all-America honors (given to the first 25 finishers who are U.S. citizens) with strong races. Four runners in the top fifty could position State for a top five placing, if the fifth runner is not too far back.

"We should be more ready this year, compared to last year when we finished 11th," Geiger said. "Last year, most of our runners were freshmen and the race may have overwhelmed them. Now, they've been through it once, and they've just run against the biggest and deepest district in the country, so we should be able to hold our own."

The NCAA cross country championships are Monday at Bethlehem, Pa.

With a team that literally limped into the meet, the N.C. State men failed to qualify for the NCAA meet despite several outstanding individual performances.

The biggest blow to the Wolfpack was the loss of senior Kristian Agnew. Agnew had been State's third finisher at the ACC meet despite running with a pinched nerve in his hip. This time the

See WOLFPACK, Page 4

### INTRAMURAL-RECREATIONAL SPORTS

#### Club Sports

• The N.C. State club hockey team has two upcoming home games. It will play Georgia Mason Saturday and Sunday. Both games begin at 1:30 pm. All hockey club home games are played at Dorton Arena. Admission is free.  
• The men's soccer club will host its second annual Soccer Club Shootout Nov. Saturday and Sunday. Anyone with questions about the tournament should contact Chris White at 859-2114 or Erik Fields at 851-4764.

#### Outdoor Adventures

• The Swamp Tour by Canoe at Goose Creek State Park near Bath, NC Saturday is coming up, and everything is provided the trip. If interested, contact Brian Miller at 1000 Carmichael Gymnasium or call 515-3161.

#### Intramural-Recreation

• An Athletic Directors Meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. in Room 104 Carmichael Gymnasium.  
• Registration opens Monday, Dec. 6 and closes Thursday, Jan. 13 for Women's

Residence/Sovinity, Residence and Fraternity five-player Basketball. A mandatory organizational meeting will be on Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. in Room 104 Carmichael Gymnasium.

• Congratulations to the following flag football champions:  
Womens All-Campus: Chi Omega  
Co-Rec: Hurricanes

Men's Residence "A": Bragaw South II  
Fraternity "C": SPE  
Men's Open: Gulls & Glory  
Men's All-Campus: SAE

#### Informal Recreation

• Congratulations to the winners of the Snick Super Hoops 3-on-3 Tournament held at Carmichael Gymnasium last Friday. Both the men's and women's champions advance to the regional tournament at East Carolina University.

Men's Champion: NOVY Anthony Terry, Frank Bailey, Carlton Clemmons and Cwame Jenkins

Women's Champions: DEFENSE (Stacie Deyton, Amy Stone, Gina Gates, and Amy Hunt)



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# The Seminoles enter the ranks of the big-time chokers

Florida State's program has seemed nothing short of professional in the past five years, but the professionals they compare to aren't wearing rings.

The Denver Broncos. The Buffalo Bills. Florida State University. As of 7 p.m. Saturday, the Seminoles assured they will remain consistent with the ranks of the above for at least another year. FSU, like Denver and the Bills, are an excellent team that could never win the big one.

But what's funny is you're not going to hear anyone on the east coast ridicule the Seminoles for being three-time losers. The response to Florida State losing the national championship has always been pity, never scorn. That's the difference between FSU and the above football teams. Not from me. Not any longer. I'm sick and tired of watching the Seminoles take yet another number-one ranking, wrap themselves in newspaper as the east-coast's media darlings, contend through two-thirds of the season for a national championship, and fumble.

The media's response to Florida State's annual collapse is like that of a mother changing a baby's diaper. Oh, no, junior messed himself again. What it should be like a parent catching a six-year old regressing from potty training. We're tired of you doing this time after time.

The inside front cover of Florida State's media guide proudly proclaims the Seminoles finishing six straight times in the AP top four. True, that is testament to the "Noles program," controlling their destiny to the bitter end.

Last year Dan Mowrey shanked a field goal wide right against Miami after Charlie Ward and the offense ground down to the 22. A year earlier it was Gerry Thomas going wide right against the Hurricanes' on the next-to-last game of the season, precluding a 14-9 loss to Florida. Now this. When you think about Florida State destroying everyone up to Notre Dame this year, add to that its eight-game winning streak in meaningless bowls, and throw in its reputation for folding when the microscope focuses even harder, how do they possibly deserve a reputation less than that as a bunch of chokers?

Am I going to hear anyone criticize



Owen S. Good  
The O-Zone

Bobby Bowden for scheduling Notre Dame? No. He's now one of the saints of the media, canonized last year when Notre Dame and NBC "screwed" him out of the Cotton Bowl and another shot at the title. Boo hoo. In my opinion, if there's an undefeated team among the top three teams of the nation at the end of it all, they're the national champs. No excuses.

And I don't think anybody would have screamed for a Miami rematch if they had lost last year, but I digress. If you take the Irish and replace them with any team from the current top 10: Nebraska, Ohio State, Auburn, Tennessee, West Virginia or Texas A&M, all the others are currently scheduled, you have a much more winnable game, even by last year's standards, home or road (with the exception of Ohio State on the road). Just another solid top-10 victory. FSU's

schedule against Florida, Miami and North Carolina doesn't need the extra garnishment of the Fighting Irish. Just an Aggie or an Orangeman would do.

Even if you consider that Bowden couldn't have had the foresight to predict Auburn's rise, or the fact their schedule is dominated by the 12-team SEC, you could still throw in Oklahoma or Colorado. And if FSU wound up with Michigan, Penn State or Syracuse, three of this year's biggest flops, it's an even easier cakewalk and nobody could, or would, blame them for the other team's failures.

Florida did not need to beat Notre Dame in the regular season to earn the national championship this year. You don't have to kick everybody's ass to get respect in this region. The Tar Heels proved that by scheduling the weakest non-conference slate in the nation and still getting loving strokes from the press. Christ, they're Cotton Bowl contenders.

If Bowden is so concerned with knocking off the top programs, why not take on the Cornhuskers, number three in the nation and even worse than the Seminoles in big-game situations? Haven't they lost something like six straight bowls?

Instead, what we'll get is "Bobby Bowden is the only coach in the nation with the guts to do something like that."

I call it stupidity. In cliché-speak, he bit off more than he can chew.

I guess I'm mad because getting our transmissions cleaned by Florida State this weekend would have meant the first time we'd ever played a number-one team in the 102-year history of N.C. State football. Now we have to wait until next year. If FSU doesn't choke before that either. That strips my gears.

It also burns me up that they didn't drop below second place in either the AP or the Bowl Coalition polls (the BC poll is a total of the AP and CNS polls). There's another example of the media bias.

I hope the Pack is fired up enough to see that FSU doesn't deserve a rematch with the Irish, and believe they're the only ones that can take it away. And if State wins, maybe, just maybe, you'll finally hear the ripping sound of bad press coming down on Tallahassee.

Bowden said after the game that Florida State's "big game" is the one it loses. At least we know the Seminoles will have one big game a season.

## Wolfpack

Continued from Page 3

injury severely affected his race, and he dropped out when it became clear he couldn't help the team's finish.

State may have taken a bigger hit emotionally due to ACC champion Tony

Riley's struggle with a strained Achilles tendon. The Wolfpack had hopes of a top 10 NCAA finish for Riley, a junior, but he struggled home in 17th Saturday and will not get the chance to repeat his all-American performance of last year.

"I think time just sort of ran out on us," Geiger said. "Running injuries tend to get worse if you keep running, but these guys were

trying to get through the season and help the team make it to NCAA's."

State was led by freshman Pat Joyce, who ran 31:00 for 10,000 meters to finish 13th. Joyce was the top freshman in the meet and had the highest finish ever for an N.C. State freshman.

## Feggins

Continued from Page 3

Charlotte used several putback baskets to reclaim the lead before State got a boost from Sims, a 6-8 225-pound forward from Anderson Junior College. After an 0-5 shooting first half, Sims hit four of five shots, including two three-pointers, and added two free throws in the final 10 minutes.

Marshall, who finished with 13 points and eight assists and Lakista McCuller, who had 11 points, also contributed to the game ending 33-19 run.

"I was just anxious in the first half," Sims said. "But I want to take the three pointer when it's there."

State plays its final exhibition game Sunday against the Australian National Team. Tip-off is a 1 p.m. at Reynolds Coliseum.

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## The Cross Experience

■ Folk singer, Mike Cross, discusses the informal college education that led him to success.

By MARIA MCKINNEY  
Senior Staff Writer

Mike Cross is the epitome of haphazard success. He earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is now a popular southern folk singer.

After last Thursday night's show at Stewart Theater, the singer signed CD's, which were available in the lobby, and then reclined in a then-empty theater seat to talk candidly about himself.

"None of it was ever planned," Cross said. "I know the best way to do anything in life is to set a goal and determine a path you need to follow, and step by step, follow that path, but that is not the way I turned out to become a musician and a performer."

"The musician, in fact, stumbled unintentionally onto his path of success. He began playing music as an enjoyable pastime and eventually began to perform for other people."

"That led inexorably toward performing in different places and larger venues for more people," Cross said.

The artists' chance meeting with fame doesn't seem so out of place when paralleled with some of his beliefs. Cross is not one for

adhering to a strict, formulaic pattern of doing things. His thoughts on the college experience exemplify this philosophy.

"I enjoyed the experience of being in a college town and being in an environment that a college town creates," Cross said. "But the formality of the classroom was never something that I enjoyed after the first year."

Still, he learned most of what he knows from his environment, not the classroom.

"I continued to learn so much by being around people who were learning things and I would hear them talk about certain books and things they were studying and it would make me curious about those things," Cross said.

He did a lot of reading in college to satisfy his curiosity, but it didn't contribute to his own studies.

"I don't know how many hundreds of books I read in college," Cross said, and then with a jovial laugh added, "not many of them applied to the courses I took, unfortunately."

But it was a successful learning device.

"I learned a load of things about a lot of different subjects just by being around people who were fascinated with things. I wasn't familiar with," Cross said.

Still, the artist recommends college for students interested in breaking into the music business. But he insists that it need not be done in a traditional fashion.

"You don't necessarily have to do it in a straight line," Cross said. "I think, especially in today's world, there are a lot of things you can learn to do without having to be in a formal classroom setting, because, as in the words of Abraham Lincoln, 'the knowledge is all in the books and it doesn't matter where you read them.'"

Cross admits that a person should have a specific goal in mind before going to college, in order to experience the full effect.

"The four years I spent in college, in a really practical sense, were not much more than post-adolescent summer camp," Cross admitted,

"because I never really got focused on a specific goal the way I should have. My parents would have been better off just giving me money to live on and letting me do something else for four years."

All in all, Cross is grateful for his college years.

"If I hadn't been in that particular environment, I probably would not have learned to do the things I learned to do," Cross said, "but it wasn't college as much as it was being in the location of a college."

Cross spends a lot of his time now in the proximity of colleges. This time around, though, he is appearing as a performer.

Cross performed at N.C. State University last Thursday night and particularly enjoys the atmosphere of Stewart Theater.

"Stewart Theatre is a very comfortable place," Cross said. "It has a very special feel to it. It really is kind of like being in a big living room with some friends who stopped by for an evening."

Cross' roots with NCSU go back to the beginnings of his career, so the singer has a particular soft spot for the university.

"I was playing a place called The Pier here in Raleigh," Cross said. "It was while I was playing [there] that the person who was then the director of student activities at State came in with some friends. They

enjoyed the show and invited me to play here. That was in 1978 or '79. Fortunately for the last 12 or 14 years, I've gotten to play [NCSU] regularly."

Cross' performance was filled with humor and warmth mixed moments of seriousness. Cross began the show on a humorous note by singing a song about his best friend stealing his wife. Cross then proclaimed in the chorus, "I never liked him then, but Lord, I like him now."

Cross continued on this humorous vein by picking one of his favorite themes—ridiculing the South, all in good fun of course. Cross sang songs about inbreeding, drunkenness and uneducated, tobacco-chewing relatives.

Cross enjoys one theme better than ridiculing the South—glorifying it. Cross went on to sing his popular tune, "Carolina Calling," which could fill any North Carolina native with pride.

One of Cross' most amazing abilities, besides successfully pulling off his polar themes, is the command he has over his audience. The singer took the audience from gales of laughter to overflowing pride to thoughtful insights about love and other cultures.

Cross received a standing ovation at the end of his performance. Boy, did he deserve it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUGAR HILL RECORDS  
Mike Cross takes entertainment to new heights.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUGAR HILL RECORDS  
Chapel Hill graduate and singer, Mike Cross, entertained NCSU students with his humor and songs during a Thursday night performance at Stewart Theater.

## In their own words

■ Four North Carolina writers gathered last week to share their work at N.C. State's first Southern Writers Festival.

By GREG REASONER  
Senior Staff Writer

The Southern Writers Festival not only had an impressive line-up of writers, but it also had an almost equally impressive gathering of books in the lobby of the Student Center Annex Cinema earlier this month.

N.C. State University Bookstores provided for the display and sale of the books, whose authors read like

a genealogy chart of Southern literature. Books by William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe, Eudora Welty, Alice Walker, William Styron and many others helped to remind all present of the literary history connecting these writers' divergent visions of the South.

Lee Smith, NCSU's writer in residence, and Randall Kenan, an African-American writer from North Carolina, started the festival off on Monday night. Dr. Lucinda Mackethan, professor of English here at NCSU, pointed out in her introductory remarks the ways in which the works of Kenan and Smith "help to define the parameters of what we call


Southern literature." Kenan read first. He chose a story from his collection "Let The Dead Bury Their Dead," entitled "The African-American child visits with his great aunt. Over the course of the evening, the boy learns respect both for his great aunt and for the past. Kenan, blessed with a rich voice, brought the characters alive with his masterful use of dialect, and the story's poignant conclusion was made more so by the wistful power that Kenan invested in its telling. Smith chose not to read from a


See WRITERS, Page 6

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# Poetry from the piano

State student, Wanda Spell, stars in "The Piano Lesson" now playing at Thompson Theatre.

By JEAN LORSCHMEIDER  
STAFF WRITER

August Wilson's "The Piano Lesson" is a haunting drama set in Pittsburgh. The play takes place in 1936, and is one of a cycle of plays that deals with the African-American experience in the United States during different time periods.

And to relate the African-American experience to the student body of N.C. State University, the Black Repertory Theatre (BRT) will bring this play to Thompson Theatre tonight.

The play centers around a piano that is owned by a "human dynamo," Boy Willie, and his stubborn sister, Berniece. Intricate carvings on the family heirloom detail events in the siblings' family history. Boy Willie wants to sell the piano. He plans to use the money from the sale to buy the Mississippi land his family had worked on for generations as slaves and sharecroppers. Boy Willie sees the piano as a key to the future.

Berniece wants to hold onto the piano, which stands in her apartment. She has already turned down several would-be buyers, and doesn't plan to give it to her brother. To Berniece, the piano is a symbol of the family's history.

"The Piano Lesson" is filled with history lessons about the black experience in the United States — legends and traditions

from the slave era and the Great Depression are seen throughout the play.

"It is a joyous African-American play," Dr. Patricia Caple, director of "The Piano Lesson," said. "It has its own kind of poetry ... its own sharp angle on a nation's history as African-Americans see it, its own metaphorical ideas of drama and its own ghosts."

Several mysterious deaths have occurred because of circumstances involving the piano. Now the ghost of the original owner, Sutter, haunts the instrument.

"It is not a play for the faint of heart," Caple said.

Wanda Spell, a junior double majoring in business management and Spanish, agrees. Spell plays the part of Berniece. She said the play's special effects are really frightening, so getting into character wasn't too difficult. Berniece becomes frightened when the piano plays by itself and when the ghost makes eerie sounds.

"I'm not one to play with ghosts," Spell said. She is familiar with wayward spirits because her real life aunt claimed she could see them. "You could be getting ready to sit down somewhere and she'd say, 'Don't sit there. Somebody's already sitting there.'"

Experience with the paranormal is not the only thing Spell has in common with her character. She identifies with Berniece's strength and steadfastness.

"She's gone through a lot, but in spite of it all, she still keeps her head up, and I can relate to that," Spell said.

Like Berniece, Spell has had to remain strong after rough times. After having a

little girl in July 1989, she stayed out of school for two years. During these years, she had to decide whether to stay home with her daughter, Ashley, or return to school. She decided school was the best route to take.

"In order for me to be able to provide for her later, I have to be in school now ... even if it means for us not to be together. It took a lot for me to do that," Spell said.

"I can relate to the role of Berniece because I know a lot of times when she should be crying, she's not. That's how I feel. I have to keep going."

A variety of responsibilities and activities occupy Spell's time. In addition to school, acting and her family, she also works part-time at Baskin-Robbins in Crabtree Valley Mall.

Also, singing has played a major role in Spell's life. She sings with the N.C. State New Horizons Choir. When in her hometown of Wilson, she sings with the Unity Mass Choir and her church choir.

"My mother is a minister, so I grew up singing behind her with my sisters and brothers. We all sing. We were like her choir. Even now, we still sing," Spell said.

Without really meaning to, Spell got involved with acting. In the fall of 1988, she and a friend were walking by Thompson Theatre when they decided to offer their help behind-the-scenes. Spell ended up auditioning and won the supporting actress role in "Amen Corner."

Coming out of yourself and taking on a role helps combat shyness, Spell said. "I think it helps me to be more outspoken.

Smith. "I heard that Lee read last night from a work-in-progress," she said, "so I thought I would too. You know how Southern women are."

Her piece, about a woman looking back to her troubled childhood for insight into her difficult life, was darkly reminiscent of Gibbons' first novel, "Ellen Foster." The upcoming book promises to be just as compelling.

Finally, UNC-Greensboro's Fred Chappell brought the proceedings to a close with a Halloween story entitled "Ember."

The story is about a man who kills his lover in a fit of passion and tries to elude his pursuers by taking a path over the haunted Ember Mountain. Chappell's telling of the encounter on Ember Mountain was as suspenseful as the story itself.

The author's rumbling voice and meaningful pauses sent shivers down at least a few spines. At the tale's frightful conclusion, Chappell waited for a few moments, and then ended the evening with a quiet "Boo!" — to the delight of the enthralled audience.



"The Piano Lesson" chronicles African-American life in the 20th century.

more outgoing. Performing onstage contributes to this positive vibe. Spell said she feeds off the energy the audience provides.

"The laughter and presence of an audience makes it so much more real," Spell said. "I just love the audience." Spell said that BRT has been a good social opportunity as well as an artistic outlet. Through the theater, she has made close friends, who she described as "people you just don't lose contact with."

She also finds her experiences with BRT rewarding because the group helps others. The Ebony Man Contest, Showtime at the Apollo and other events raise money for

charity. "A lot of the money that comes to BRT is used to help others. We sponsor a family that doesn't have what we have," Spell said.

Since mid-September, the players have been concentrating on "The Piano Lesson." Every night they have rehearsed from 7 p.m. until midnight. On weekends, rehearsals have often run until 2 a.m. or later.

As much as she enjoys acting, Spell said she will be glad to get her life back to normal. Still busy, but normal.

"The Piano Lesson" is scheduled to run in Thompson Theatre Nov. 17-20. For more information call 515-2405.

## Writers

Continued from Page 5 published work, instead she picked a work-in-progress, tentatively entitled "Grace." The author started with a Biblical verse about snake-handlers, Mark 16:17, intended to be at the front of the book. Smith got a big laugh when she admitted that she didn't know whether that was supposed to be an "epigram" or an "epitaph."

The selection was a childhood memory of the book's female protagonist, about the incident that had led her family to settle down in the mountains of North Carolina. Smith's comically gentle description of the girl's fiery, well-meaning preacher-father made this character one of the Festival's most memorable.

Rocky Mount native Kaye Gibbons kicked off the Festival's second night of readings with a work-in-progress of her own, and with a wry acknowledgement to

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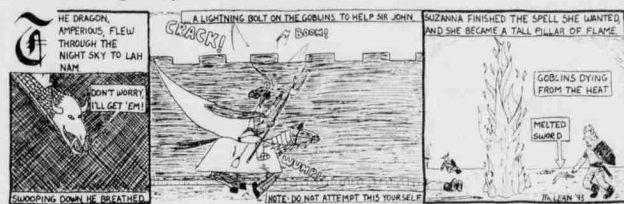
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# Serious

November 17, 1993

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## Good Knight by Sean McLean



## Turtlenecks by Para Tollison



## Dinkin by Chris Morley



## C-Life With Rhesa by ak Gupta



## Nitrous Oxide by McBride Small Town by Elle Rae



## Sidewalls by Alan W. and Mark P.



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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

## Building on Centennial

■ Voters' recent passage of the University Improvement Bonds should provide the boost Centennial Campus needs — an Engineering Graduate Research Center.

On Nov. 2, N.C. voters approved a total of \$740 million in bonds. The largest of the four bond requests was for the UNC-System. It could not have come at a better time.

The approved bond garners \$310 for the UNC-System, of which \$43.9 million will go to N.C. State University. The money will be used to construct three new facilities for NCSU: \$34.9 million for an Engineering Graduate Research Center (EGRC); \$4.5 million for Agricultural Programs and Laboratory Animal Facilities; and \$4.5 million for an Agricultural Communications Building.

The construction of the EGRC on Centennial Campus is an important step in NCSU's effort to become a worldwide technological leader. It promises to breathe new life into Centennial Campus, where NCSU hopes to innovatively merge industrial and academic research.

Since NCSU acquired the land for Centennial Campus in the early 1980s, only five buildings have been constructed — the 300,000-square-foot College of Textiles, three smaller research buildings and one major

corporate tenant, the ABB Transmission Technology Institute. A smaller corporate client has also located itself at Centennial Campus, and another is expected to join soon.

That rate of construction, especially corporate construction, is far from what planners had hoped.

According to The News & Observer, "the recession ... halted the state money needed to build the academic research centers that were supposed to lure corporations."

With the passage of the bond referendums, however, hope for Centennial Campus' success has been reignited.

The building is expected to attract corporations to rent research space or lease entire buildings on Centennial Campus. Jim Sineath, president of Commercial Carolina Corporations, a Raleigh real estate firm, told the N&O that "[The EGRC] could have the same impact that IBM had on RTP in the early years."

Steve Stroud, a major fund-raiser for NCSU and chairman of Carolantic Realty, told the N&O that "Before [the bonds' approval], we were working against ourselves. How do you market something that you know you can't build?"

But with construction expected to start within a year, NCSU now has something to sell. After spinning its wheels since the early 1980s, the Centennial Campus can finally begin getting somewhere.

The vision is becoming reality.

## Access, not censorship

■ If Raleigh is going to sponsor public forums on its public-access cable station, it should not edit out any part of the debates.

Assistant City Manager Lawrence Wray shouldn't be punished for what he did on the Raleigh public-access cable station during a debate about the Raleigh Police Department's race relations. However, someone should tell Wray that he did the wrong thing.

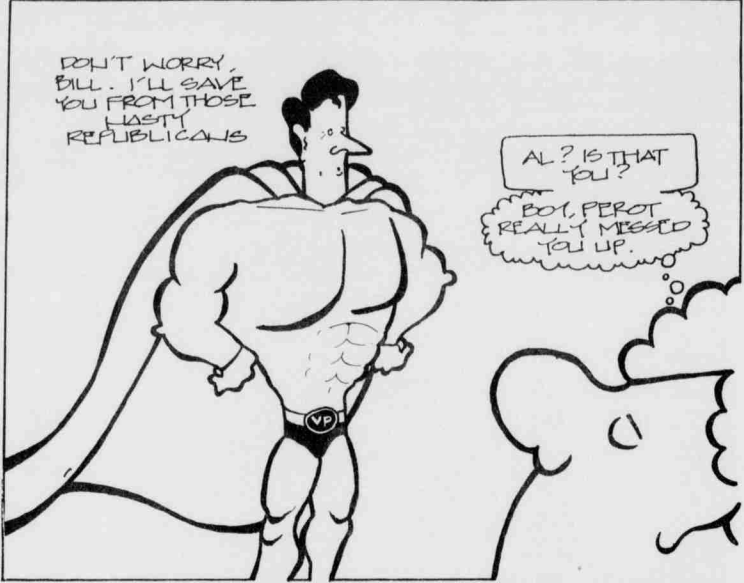
The assistant city manager had told engineers to "switch to something else" if anything unusual happened, according to The News & Observer. Something unusual did happen. A verbal altercation ensued following Police Chief Fred Heineman's demand to have more time to respond to charges that his department was racially biased.

It's understandable that the assistant city manager wouldn't want to air mass confusion. Wray told the N&O "it's not necessary for people to see

cussing and fussing," thereby defending himself from the charge of censorship.

But Wray's order was censorship. It's hard to believe that a little "cussing and fussing" is going to bring out angry Puritans demanding the end to the same cable community-access station that airs Dan Savage's "Sex Kittens." The program, put together by the city, was initially aired to provide a forum for discussing the charges leveled against Heineman. Forums can get nasty. Has Wray ever watched CNN's "Crossfire"? If "cussing and fussing" is part of the debate, so be it. It may be the only way core issues can be brought to the surface.

The City of Raleigh — Wray's superiors — should demand that no city intervention be allowed during future public forums. It is doubtful that Wray had any kind of agenda to that Wray had any kind of agenda to his actions. In the future though, the city should see to it that there is no doubt about a city official's motivations. The city should make its intentions clear and keep forums on the air.



## Commentary

### NRA, NARAL: same principles?

Everyone thought Kathryn Kolbert was crazy.

The gaunt woman with short, black hair was the defender of the abortion clinics in Pennsylvania while the Supreme Court was deciding the "Pennsylvania decision" in the spring of 1992. She had the backing of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) and Planned Parenthood, among others. In question was Pennsylvania's new law that required the following of women seeking abortions: a 24-hour waiting period, education about fetal development and spouse notification of the abortion.

On April 23, The New York Times ran an article on the front page headlined "A Gamble Over Abortion," and then sub-headlined "All-or-nothing Tactics in High Court Case. Appeal to Carry Risks for Roe Defenders." What was the panic? As the article read, Kolbert argued fervently for the one result this case is least likely to produce. She asked the justices to reaffirm their 1973 landmark ruling and to declare that the constitutional right to abortion is broad enough to invalidate every restriction in the Pennsylvania law.

Everyone thought wrong about Kathryn Kolbert. The restrictions were declared unconstitutional.

Ironically, Kolbert has a conservative counterpart in the handgun debate. Neal Knox has earned respect. As one of 75 directors on the National Rifle Association's Board, he has even earned a degree of regard from Mike Beard, president of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. Beard has a "grudging respect" for Knox, according to The Wall Street Journal.

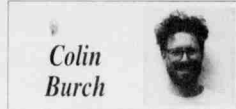
### Guns and pot different

In response to the Colin Burch commentary that appeared on the Nov. 10 editorial page, people don't walk up to someone on the street, pull out a joint and kill some innocent bystander. People with guns can and do do this. People make the personal choice to "kill" themselves by smoking pot, whereas the majority of deaths by guns are not suicides; they are people killing other people. The people who die from guns do not make the personal choice to be dead. Burch, your comparison of pot and guns is completely outrageous!

**Harry Griffin**  
Freshman, design

### Are unborns human?

In Wednesday's Campus Forum, Sean Korb argued for the necessity of keeping abortion a legal option. In support of this argument, Korb presented the following situations: "Crack babies: born into a world of addiction and abuse; citizens standing idly by while a woman resorts to self-inflicted abortion with a coat hanger; countless babies born to be hungry and neglected." That argument is designed to appeal to our sense of pity, and those are definitely undesirable scenarios. However, only if the unborn is considered to be less than fully human do those arguments work. Sure, we would like to avoid the abuse scenarios, but not at the expense of an innocent's human life. No one would kill a week-old baby if he or she suddenly realized that it was destined for a life of abuse and neglect. That's because the baby is a person — fully human. This line of reasoning does not intend to establish that the unborn is fully human.



Colin Burch

The Journal's article (which The News & Observer reprinted Sunday) wrote of Knox: "His allies and opponents alike call him the quintessential true believer, driven by an unshakable conviction that the Second Amendment — guarantees an absolute individual right to keep and bear firearms."

Knox also believes, according to The Journal, "that any firearms regulation, however modest, moves the country another step onto the slippery slope toward outright confiscation and tyranny." Thus, Knox opposes the Brady Bill, which requires a seven-day waiting period for purchasing handguns.

Will Knox have the same fortunes as Kolbert in his fight against the Brady Bill? We'll have to wait and see.

Although the abortion issue and the handgun issue are two totally different dilemmas with totally different implications for society, they should not be viewed as different if both rights are constitutionally guaranteed. With the Constitution as the country's standard, we should look to it, not to the opinion polls of the masses, for the law of the land.

In Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court discovered a "right to privacy" that suddenly had everything in the world to do with legitimizing abortion. (Thus Justice Ruth Ginsberg's criticism of Roe

vs. Wade.) It found this "right to privacy," of course, in the Constitution.

But the Second Amendment was written long before Roe. Recently, "the right to keep and bear arms" has been called into question because of the word "militia" that was included, although a bipartisan Senate Committee headed by Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) has determined that the framers of the Constitution did intend for the citizens to be able to arm themselves.

Either way, both the right to abort and the right to own a weapon are accepted as constitutional — at the moment. So how to approach issues that have become so volatile within the past decade or so, such as abortion and gun ownership?

Polls tell us that most Americans feel there should be restrictions on handguns and restrictions on abortions. It seems reasonable to restrict rights with such deep implications for our country and our future, but once a right is considered constitutional, thus guaranteed, how far do we dare go in creating restrictions? Won't this start us on a downward slope? These questions may never be answered, because there will always be different interpretations of the Constitution.

In the end, though, Kolbert and Knox tend to see the Constitution the same. They may seem like total opposites, but they are actually fighters in the "same arena" — one that holds constitutional rights as absolute rights, one where any restriction to a right actually kills that right.

And Knox and Kolbert are testimonies about those who fight battles based on principle: Often, they win.

## The Campus FORUM

only that the abortion issue rests upon the status of the unborn. If the unborn is not fully human, then abortion can be justified. If the unborn is fully human, then we should honor the sanctity of life. Let's stop appealing to pity and start arguing the real issue, because ignorance, sustained by denial, is crippling this country's response to the abortion holocaust.

**Stephen M. Puryear**  
Senior, mechanical engineering

### No smokers' rights

I have always been intrigued by this idea of smokers' rights. We Americans, of late, seem to be broadening our list of rights to encompass our list of desires. To my knowledge, nowhere in the Constitution, or the Bible, or the Torah, or the Koran does it say that people have a God-given or constitutional right to smoke. The whole idea that smokers have any rights other than those shared by the rest of us is ludicrous.

It has been medically established that second-hand cigarette smoke causes cancer. This may be disputed by some, but something on which more doctors agree. What on Earth makes people think that they have the "right" to spew carcinogens

inside public buildings for no other reason than to satisfy their own chemical addiction. If someone sprayed a can of mace into the air at a restaurant just for kicks, they'd be arrested or at least kicked out. Why are smokers so protected?

I've been told that this is the kind of thing I have to put up with living in North Carolina. Why? I think we're selling ourselves short to say that we can't survive without tobacco. But, even if we couldn't, when will these farmers and manufacturers take a moral stand and say, "Sure I'm making money, but this stuff kills people by the thousands." I feel only slightly more sorry for them than I do for the coca and poppy farmers.

Smoking harms people other than smokers, plain and simple. If you want to kill yourself, I'm sure you can find a way of doing it without harming the rest of us. I, for one, am thrilled that smoking is banned in campus buildings and I'm glad to see the university make an ethical choice rather than kowtowing to the side its bread is buttered on.

**McClellan Phileck**  
Junior, political science

### LGSU thanks parent

I want to applaud Technician for its continued support of the Lesbian and Gay Student Union. Gay and bisexual men and women are still far from being treated as we deserve — equally and with respect, but the help of family, friends and allies makes today pleasant and tomorrow even more promising. Thanks, Technician.

**Steve Grand**  
Senior, philosophy

## Technician

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