

Former student: I'll jump to my death

A man who warned police of his plans to jump to his death was persuaded to step away from the bridge.

By Ron Batcho, Assistant News Editor

More than two dozen police and counselors spent their Saturday night coaxing a former N.C. State

student from a suicide attempt. Nehal Asher kicked off a five-hour standoff was started around 7 p.m. when he called Public Safety from a phone near the bridge he said he would jump off.

Asher later called Public Safety and told them he intended to kill himself. "The call came in at 6:58 Saturday night from the blue light phone on Pullen," Ellis said.

Ellis said the work of several departments kept the event from turning tragic. "There was inter-agency cooperation helping out," he said.

Ellis said the work of several departments kept the event from turning tragic. "There was inter-agency cooperation helping out," he said.

himself in the head with a .25 caliber handgun in November 1992. Jonathan Proctor, a freshmen in nuclear engineering, killed himself in October 1991 when he shot himself in the head with a .22 caliber pistol.

Report sparks debate

Despite some criticism, prominent members of the seminar said there are no serious problems with early drafts of the Watauga Seminar.

By Mark Tosczak, Special Projects Editor

When a controversial draft version of the Watauga Seminar report was circulated among some faculty and administrators in late January, some people thought it was the product of the provost's office.

That put Provost Phillip Stiles in a bind.

"The people in this were people who reported to me," Stiles said, explaining why he took the unusual step of publicly attacking the report, which centered on N.C. State's affirmative action policies in admitting students and the academic success of black students.

Stiles said he also sent out memos to black faculty and staff because he had asked the Watauga Seminar, an informal group of NCSU professors, to address the topic of diversity at NCSU.

"People told me that there was a report that had a lot of inaccuracies in it and also that it bothered a bunch of people," Stiles said.

In a Feb. 22 memo to black faculty, Stiles wrote: "Virtually everyone who has provided information to the seminar group that I have spoken with said they were misquoted, misconstrued, and, in some cases, misused in the draft of the Watauga Seminar report widely circulated."

In a 4 1/2 page memo to Watauga Seminar members, Stiles pointed out a series of alleged flaws in the draft report: "You have denigrated African-American students by your false statements about them."

Despite the criticism they've received, prominent members of the seminar said there are no serious problems with draft reports completed so far.

"We're fairly confident we were close to being accurate on the first and second draft," said John Riddle, a history professor who wrote part of the draft report.

"Administrators were searching for a way to attack the integrity and accuracy of the report."

In memos to the provost several administrators who gave talks to the seminar said their information was used incorrectly or inaccurately.

Bruce Mallette, associate director

See WATAUGA, Page 2



As the summer months approach, N.C. farmers display their fresh produce at Raleigh's Farmer's Market. The market, on Lake Wheeler Road, is open every weekend. Vendors display fresh fruits, vegetables and home-baked goodies.

Looks tasty

Avent Ferry Complex to cost \$2 million more than early estimates indicated

Several residence halls are under construction this summer.

By Dave Blanton, News Editor

N.C. State's newest dorm will cost students 50 percent more in student fees than was predicted in December, according to Jim Luckadoo, director of Housing and Residence Life.

The contract price for building the Avent Ferry Complex soared from \$4 million to \$6 million when the building and property needed extra repairs. Another reason was that contracting firms who bid for the project, he said, were at an advantage: it was a contractor's market. Contract firms could set their price, Luckadoo said.

Barnhill, a Raleigh firm, took the job in April, when its bid was lower than other competitors.

Early estimates were rough and didn't factor in the unknowable. When workers began pulling the building apart in April they found about twice as much asbestos in the

"The workers tearing a mess when they starting tearing the stuff out."

—George Worsley, vice chancellor of finance and business

walls than was expected. The cost of extra man hours add up, Luckadoo said.

There were other factors that made the early estimates fall short of the actual cost of renovating the building into a dorm.

For starters, the nature of construction leaves a lot of room for guess work, said George Worsley, vice chancellor of finance and business. You rarely know exactly what's behind a wall — until you remove that wall and look, he said.

"The electrical wiring was a big one [cost-wise] because it's difficult to estimate what kind of condition it's in," Worsley said. "The workers found a mess when they starting tearing the stuff out."

The bond issue being passed last November paved the way for most construction in the area. When there

are lots of jobs available, contractors can be picky, Luckadoo and Worsley said.

Ninety percent of the surprise costs are due to building codes that must be met in state buildings. The state imposes tougher codes on its own buildings than it does for private or commercial buildings.

Changes had to be made to the fire protection system. The addition of fire alarms and sprinklers drove the cost of the project up.

The building also had to meet strict Americans with Disabilities Act codes, something the hotel didn't come close to.

Other projects

Crews in Bragaw, midway through a project to give the dorm air conditioning and co-ed facilities, have said they will meet the August deadline, Luckadoo said.

The dorm is slated to be fully air-conditioned and house both women and men in the fall. While workers install air conditioning equipment, they will also wire the building for more extensive improvements, such as the Uniform Wiring Plan, scheduled to be implemented in 1995.

Work on a new 24-hour desk and game room has made meeting the 90-day deadline that much harder, Luckadoo said.

The wiring and its installation crew are funded by the Telecommunication Office.

"Some personnel from our own staff and others have been contracted out," Luckadoo said. "Profits from NCSU Telecommunication's long-distance sales will pay for most of the wiring installation."

Luckadoo said Housing and Residence Life should have the entire university wired by the summer of 1997.

"It'll be gradual, a little at a time. This is a big project," he said.

Right now, Watauga is the only dorm on campus to be equipped with the Uniform Wiring Plan.

Man attacks woman

A woman suffered minor injuries when she was attacked in an unlit campus building last week.

By Ron Batcho, Assistant News Editor

An unknown assailant knocked a woman to a bathroom floor in Winston Hall last Monday afternoon. She didn't see her attacker because the lights were turned off.

After examination at Wake Medical Center, X-rays showed the victim had a fractured foot and a bruised hip.

Police said they don't have any leads.

"We are still looking into it, and for more information," said Larry Ellis of Public Safety.

Ellis added that it was not a case of sexual assault.

"There is nothing that would indicate that at this time," he said.

In response, Public Safety has put up posters on campus with tips on avoiding attacks.

"During the summer, people get out more, which gives more targets for people to harm."

—Larry Ellis, Public Safety

The attack was within days of a rape that occurred in Pullen Park early in the morning of June 4, Raleigh police are still looking for suspects in that attack.

Warmer weather sets the stage for this type of violence, Ellis said.

"During the summer, people get out more, which gives more targets for people to harm," Ellis said.

"People need to be more aware of the dangers involved."

Ellis also gave other safety tips: "A lot of people like to leave their [car] windows rolled down during the summer," Ellis said. "But you should lock your doors and keep the windows rolled up to prevent carjacking."

There are several other ways to protect yourself, Ellis said.

"Escort service is still provided during the summer," he said. "Feel free to use the blue light phones or call Public Safety at 515-3333."

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Forget what you thought about new clothes' prices. There are some less expensive options.

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Kiefer Sutherland and Woody Harrelson combine to make for a not-so-dazzling silverscreen performance.

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News Notes

Fast-food chain commissions 18 students

The college students enjoying a fast food snack seem to be having such a good time that you overlook the unsteady camera work delivering the scene. "That's a big drink," the young man says to his companion. "Actually, that's a Biggie drink," she responds.

A Wendy's television commercial? Not exactly. It's a video clip from a marketing research study conducted by students from N.C. State's College of Management.

The fast food chain commissioned the 18 students in James Jeck's senior marketing class to design a survey to measure customer satisfaction and preferences at individual Wendy's restaurants in the Triangle area.

"We can measure wash flow, food and labor costs," explained George Patterson, Wendy's division vice president, "but no one in the industry has a daily or weekly measure of the most important element of our success — customer approval."

Patterson said information from the NCSU students' pilot survey will be analyzed and customers' product preferences will be passed on to the home office in Columbus, Ohio. Customer reactions could become teaching points in the employee training programs.

NCSU employee named group president

Lennie Barton, assistant to the dean and placement director at N.C. State's College of Textiles, has been named president of the North Carolina Placement Association.

The association's members represent 80 corporations and 150 universities and colleges from across the state.

Barton said the group's goal this year is to increase the networking opportunities for all members.

"For the first time in more than 10 years, we will be holding a joint conference in 1995 with the South Carolina Placement Association," Barton said. This conference will open the line of communication between the Carolinas, adding opportunities for both industry and college personnel.

Barton has held membership with the NCPA for 12 years, and has been placement director at the College of Textiles for eight years.

Compiled by Ron Batcho from staff reports and news releases

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

TODAY

AEROBICS — Evening aerobic sessions will be held weekdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in Carmichael Gymnasium, Room 1206. For more information, call the Intramural-Recreational Sports office at 515-3161.

DEADLINE — Students registered through TRACS for the 1994 Second Summer Session are reminded that full payment or complete verifiable financial aid information must be received by the University Cashier's

Office by Tuesday, June 21, or their registrations will be cancelled.

DEBATE — N.C. State will have a debate squad this fall. If you are interested, contact Jamie Larsen at 515-4124 or John Weaver, president, at 859-5472.

INFORMATION — Muslim? Interested in Islam? For information about activities, call Turk, 755-0888.

INTRAMURALS — Soccer will be held Wednesday, June 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Lower Miller Field. For information contact

the Intramural-Recreational Sports office at 515-3161.

THURSDAY

INTRAMURALS — Putting contest and challenge will be held on Thursday, June 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Carmichael Gymnasium Putting Green. For additional information contact the Intramural-Recreational Sports office at 515-3161.

FRIDAY

INTRAMURALS —

Table Tennis will be held on Friday, June 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. on Courts E3-E10 in Carmichael Gymnasium. For information contact the Intramural-Recreational Sports office at 515-3161.

MONDAY

INTRAMURALS — Grass Volleyball will be held on Monday, June 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Lower Miller Field. For information contact the Intramural-Recreational Sports office at 515-3161.

TUESDAY

DURHAM BULLS — Free transportation and admission to see the Bulls take on Winston-Salem. Open to students, faculty, staff and guests. Call 515-2452 to sign up. Sponsored by the Union Activities Board.

INTRAMURALS — Ultimate Frisbee will be held on Tuesday, June 21 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Lower Miller Field. For information contact the Intramural-Recreational Sports office at 515-3161.

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 Ron Batcho, Assistant News Editor.

Sullivan dorm will soon have new computer lab

■ A project that began in March will create the first computer lab of its kind on this campus.

DAVE BLANTON
NEWS EDITOR

Sullivan Residence Hall is close to having the first 24-hour universal-usage computer lab on campus. There have been several target dates, but construction personnel were unable to complete the project because they were short on manpower and faced other projects, men on the site said Monday.

Work began on the lab in March. The lab, which will hold about 31 terminals, is scheduled to be completed by Friday, workers said. The facility will also be equipped with two laser printers.

Steve Nettles, maintenance supervisor, could not be reached for comment. The computers are on their way. Once here, the N.C. State Telecommunications Office will install them.

Students, regardless of their majors, will have access to file servers across campus and around the globe through "gophers" and other internet software.

But for now, the room in Sullivan, located

across from the dorm's 24-hour desk; is equipped only with gray study carrels and carpet.

Tim Luckadoo, director of Housing and Residence Life, said the lab should be up and running by the end of June.

H&RL will furnish the space and security for the new lounge.

A portion of student fees, called the Education and Technology Fee, will pay for the computers and printers.

By the end of the summer, Luckadoo said, every room in the Avenet Ferry Complex and Alexander and Tucker Residence Halls will be equipped with the Uniform Wiring Plan.

Bragaw will not be so lucky. The installation of air conditioning in that dorm will put off wiring it for the Uniform Wiring Plan. H&RL is thinking ahead though. It will do the fundamental wiring while workers are inside the walls and conduits.

The procedures are the burden of both the members of Housing and some others, Luckadoo said.

"Some of the workers are from our own staff and many of the others have been contracted out," he said.

Every room in every dorm will be connected to the university's "net" by 1997.

Top brands at discount prices not impossible to find in Raleigh

■ Building a functional wardrobe may be less expensive than you think.

BY ANGELA GUPTA
STAFF WRITER

You've got to shop around... Students are always on a tight budget. And once they've bought books and paid tuition and bills, there may not be much left over to spend on extras — like new clothes. So it pays to be choosy where you shop; you just have to know where to go.

You may have to travel beyond the Wolfline, but hey, you're going to be saving money.

Ironically one bargain place is within a department store. Hudson Belk sends clearance items to the basement of their downtown location. There you can save up to 75 percent of the retail price on some items. If you want some jeans to knock around in, you can pick up a pair of Rios for \$6.25 and Polos for \$17.

Tracy Forbes-Smith, who works downtown, has been shopping there for nine years. She bought three blouses Saturday that cost under \$20.

You might have to browse the basement area, because the store has a limited size selection in some items.

Another discount store, EO Outlets, opened in February. Less than a quarter mile from campus on Hillsborough Street, this small

store sells some irregular clothing and discontinued styles from J. Crew, L.L. Bean, The Gap, Structure, Eddie Bauer, The Limited and Tweeds. Ladies' tank tops sell for less than \$5, men's shirts for \$10.

EO, and other stores like it, doesn't offer every size. But the money you'll save is worth the hunt.

Because it's summer, you just might want to slide into a new swimsuit. Check out USA Aquatics on Hillsborough Street near the Waffle House. It sells the latest styles of swimwear, but you can save 50 percent by buying last year's models.

Once you've got the right outfit, you'll need some nice-looking shoes.

Avoid the big chains and ritzy department stores — they tend to be over-priced. Go to

the SRI Warehouse on Old Wake Forest Road and save about 50 percent off retail prices.

Once you get there, you'll recognize the brands — Enzo, Aigner, Rockport and others.

They even carry athletic shoes like Reebok, Nike and L.A. Gear.

Because it's a warehouse, the shoes aren't on display cases. They're on rows of cardboard boxes, open to the side. All you have to do is browse, find the shoes you like, and try them on.

Nice concept. There are no annoying salespeople to bother you or make you wait forever looking for shoes in a stockroom. Employees are available if you need extra assistance.

The warehouse is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

With any luck ...

... Technician will soon have its own home page on the World-Wide Web. Be looking for information on this and other new developments.

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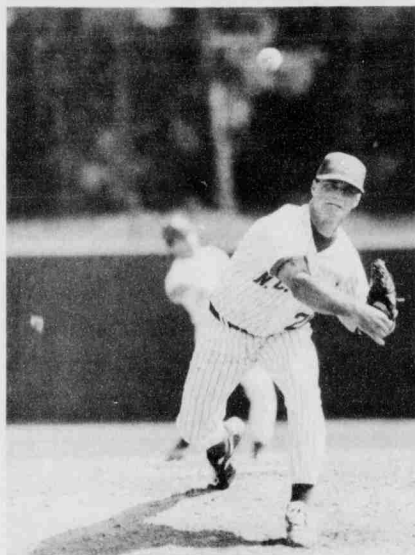
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Technician

From Carolina State University's Newscenter Since 1952



JAKE HUSTMAN/EL

For the third time, Terry Harvey has turned down the pros. This year, he gave up all the Texas barbecue he could eat.

Harvey doesn't mess with Texas

■ The two-sport star is staying at N.C. State after turning down a contract to play professional baseball with the Rangers.

By JEFF DREW
Sports Editor

Both sides called the negotiations professional. Both said the final offer was fair.

But when it came time for Terry Harvey to choose between N.C. State and professional baseball, fair wasn't good enough.

Harvey decided to return to the Wolfpack baseball and football teams Friday when he turned down a final contract offer from the Texas Rangers, who had selected the right-handed pitcher in the 11th round of Major League Baseball's amateur draft. Harvey was the starting quarterback on the football team last season.

"I just didn't like the offer. I don't want to get into specifics or anything like that," Harvey said Monday in a telephone interview from his home in Dacula, Ga. "I just felt it would benefit me more to come back to school."

Rangers officials and Harvey had two face-to-face meetings, the last

"We thought for an 11th-round selection he had a very good chance to advance with us. Any college pitcher who signs with Texas knows he's got a chance to advance quickly because of the state of our pitching [on the major-league level]."

— Sandy Johnson,
Texas Rangers' assistant general manager

one on Friday. The Rangers proposed one baseball-only contract and another that would have allowed Harvey to play college football and minor-league baseball.

Harvey had earlier decided he didn't want to play college football and minor-league baseball because of the physical and mental demands of playing both sports. He then decided that the Rangers had not offered enough money to give up football.

"It was going to take a lot to get me to give up on State," Harvey said. "I'm here for the duration. You couldn't get me out of here with a hand grenade, I guess."

This is the third time Harvey has declined to sign a minor-league

contract. Harvey turned down an offer from the New York Yankees in 1991 after his senior year in high school. The Yankees drafted him in the 19th round last year.

"He's a young man with a lot of options, we just gave him another option — a start in professional baseball," said Sandy Johnson, the Rangers' assistant general manager for player personnel and scouting. "We felt we made a very fair offer. He made the choice to stay in school."

Johnson declined to discuss the specifics of either offer.

Harvey has one year of eligibility left in baseball but has two in football because he redshirted the 1992 season. Harvey started seven

games at quarterback for the Wolfpack last season and helped lead the team to a 7-5 record and a berth in the Hall of Fame Bowl.

As a pitcher, Harvey compiled a 16-5 record with a 2.88 ERA in his first two seasons. He earned third-team all-America honors as a sophomore after posting a 10-3 record, including a no-hitter over Florida State.

Harvey struggled this spring after taking hits for a full season with the football team. Hampered by nagging injuries, Harvey's ERA swelled to 5.16 despite a 10-3 record.

"We looked at his potential, we didn't worry about his stats that much," Johnson said. "We drafted him in the 11th round because we felt we had a chance to sign him. We're sorry it didn't work out."

"We thought for an 11th-round selection he had a very good chance to advance with us. Any college pitcher who signs with Texas knows he's got a chance to advance quickly because of the state of our pitching [on the major-league level]."

Harvey said he plans to play football this fall and baseball this

See HARVEY, Page 6

Mitchum carries Slawter to Wolfpack repeat in North & South

■ The rising junior becomes the second consecutive N.C. State golfer to win the prestigious amateur championship at Pinehurst.

By JEFF DREW
Sports Editor

When N.C. State golf team member Mark Slawter told Kelly Mitchum he needed a caddy for his second round of match play at

the North & South amateur, his former teammate didn't hesitate to volunteer.

Mitchum completed a stellar four-year career with the Wolfpack golf team last year. An all-America in 1993, Mitchum celebrated his graduation with a victory at the North & South, the prestigious amateur championship held at the historic Pinehurst Resort and Country Club.

Slawter struggled in his bid to keep the North & South title in Wolfpack hands. His qualifying rounds of 73 and 76 last Tuesday and Wednesday barely qualified

him for match play. He played poorly again in the first round of match play but managed to slip past Scott Taylor of Tuscaloosa, Ala., 2 and 1.

While waiting to play his afternoon match, Slawter wandered over to a hitting range where Mitchum, a native of Southern Pines, was getting in some practice.

"He told me he was going to get a caddy because after the morning match, he didn't feel like logging his bag again," Mitchum said. "I told him I'd do it."

With Mitchum at his side, Slawter's play

improved dramatically. In a tight match with Justin Roof of Conway, S.C., Slawter needed a four-under 67 to take a 1-up victory.

"It was a tough match and he won it," Mitchum said. "It gave him a lot of confidence."

Enough confidence to pull out two more wins and advance to the 36-hole championship against qualifying medalist Kevin Kemp. After leading just 1-up after 18 holes, Slawter won the third, fourth and fifth holes at Pinehurst No. 2 to take a four-

shot advantage. When Kemp conceded a par putt at the 14th hole, Slawter had won the North & South title with a 6 and 4 victory.

"It was kind of hard not to be excited," Slawter said Monday. "I had my parents there and four or five guys from my team had come up to support me."

For Slawter, the victory is the most prestigious of an accomplished career. A former high school all-America, Slawter

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Money not the determining factor as State's recruiting class grows

■ A pair of walk-ons, center Steve Norton and forward Jonathan Grissett, add depth to an already impressive group of basketball recruits.

By JAMIE BROWN
Staff Writer

N.C. State's basketball recruiting class is a bit bigger — and a bit taller.

Steve Norton, a seven-foot center, has announced that he is transferring from Furman to join Coach Les Robinson's program. He will sit out next season.

Norton, who averaged 1.9 points and 1.9 rebounds at Furman last season, will not be on scholarship at

"I want us to be a contender in the ACC, and I think this is possible with the returning players and new people."

— Les Robinson,
N.C. State Coach

State this fall. He is the second Wolfpack recruit to turn down other scholarship offers to walk on at State.

Jonathan Grissett of Allegany (Md.) Community College

announced earlier this spring that he would come to State without a scholarship. A 6-foot-7 native of Fairmont, Grissett was widely recruited.

"By the time I'm eligible, I think they're going to be a real good team," Norton said. "Coach Robinson is trying to rebuild the program, and I like the idea of being a part of a rebuilding program."

Grissett and Norton add depth to a recruiting class ranked third in the ACC by recruiting expert Bob Gibbons. The class features highly regarded guards Ishua Benjamin and Clint "C.C." Harrison, and small forward Al Pinkins.


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June 16th from 11am to 1pm at the Brickyard between
D.H. Hill Library and Harrelson Hall.

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EEOC



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

Great access to poor stacks

■ Hello, DOT? Summer school is just as important as the spring and fall semesters.

This summer, DOT is repairing potholes big enough to swallow a Dodge Neon. This is part of their five-year maintenance program designed to repave campus parking lots.

Isn't it nice to know that all the money we pay the Division of Transportation for stickers and tickets is being put to good use?

They have made a miniature obstacle course of campus parking lots. All those traffic cones are great fun for us summer school students. They take us back to the good old days in driver's education when we would run over those big orange cones that were always getting in the way.

Though the university may consider summer to be downtime, freshman orientation is in progress throughout the month of June, with its attendant invasion of new freshman and their parents onto campus. And, of course, summer school is just as important for toiling students as the fall and spring semesters are, so all of the inconveniences are an unwelcome annoyance.

At the very least DOT could shut off the traffic lights at the corner of Dan Allen Drive and Dunn Avenue. Since the adjacent road and parking lot are both closed, that light is not needed to regulate traffic.

With courses crammed into five-week sessions, this university is anything but slow in the summer. So go ahead and hit one of those cones. And honk loudly as you drive past DOT.

Thanks for the parking

■ The library has a great future, a group says. Now what about the present?

Congratulations to D.H. Hill library for being chosen as one of the six "Libraries of the Future" by the Association of Research Libraries. D.H. Hill also moved up in its ranking from 90th to 67th in the ARL rankings for the school year. An advanced computer system that won the distinction from ARL will enable students to locate more information faster in the near future.

Future seems to be the key word here. For now, it comes as a surprise to N.C. State students to hear their library is top notch.

NCSU's library, one of the two research libraries in the UNC system, is ranked 10th or 11th of all 16 libraries. For a research library to rank this low defies its entire purpose. For example, while researching, students often encounter outdated books and not quite enough of the needed journals or periodicals.

If NCSU is to be known for its research capacities, it must have a substantial amount of new information coming in through journals. But for D.H. Hill to find money to keep its most vital subscriptions, it has had to cut costs not only by canceling other useful periodicals, but also by cutting staff, book budgets and hours. Fees seem to go up every semester and boosters pour money into the athletics program while the library is neglected.

In light of the fact that the Graduate Student Association recently asked legislators for more money to buy books and journal subscriptions, it is fair to assume that in the students' minds at least praising our technological advances will have to take a backseat to the need for more books and journal subscriptions.

Even though a new computer system may help us locate more information faster, the quality and quantity of the information available should be just as advanced as the technology being used to access it.



Commentary

Suicides not worth society's concern

Steve Crisp



This past weekend, a 21-year-old former N.C. State student stood on a Pullen Road bridge and threatened to kill himself. For over five hours, tying up police manpower and blocking traffic, mental health personnel attended to the foolishness of this action.

Finally Public Safety stepped in and told the kid to stop this insanity. Within 10 minutes he hid.

And why did all this happen? Because our society cannot deal with the cultural impact of death.

I don't approve of death. Fine. Be amused at what appears to be an inane statement, but I really mean it. Death is a waste of time. Not for the one dying, mind you, but for everyone else who has to put up with the histrionics. For any individual person, death is a blink of an eye, an indivisible moment of time. Granted, the process leading to death may be long and drawn out, but that is not death; it is mental illness, sickness or injury.

After the defining moment, the event has passed — never to be repeated. For the person who has died, what could be simpler? One doesn't even have to do anything.

I suppose death could put a crimp in one's social and professional life, but what the heck? After you've died, it really doesn't matter what you were doing before that point, does it? It certainly doesn't matter what you would have accomplished. That's all moot. While it may matter to others, it certainly won't bother you.

No, my disapproval of death extends not to the moment itself but to how others anticipate and react to the crowning event. We have built an entire culture around death.

On a grand scale, we have developed technological mechanisms for creating death. War. Euthanasia. Abortion. The death penalty. All big business. In fact, much of our country's gross national product goes into finding new and better ways to induce death.

On the other hand, an even greater percentage of our assets goes into stalling off the inevitable fact of death, sometimes

in the most bizarre ways. For example: We have a medical community that will pour a million dollars of technology into one person to defer his death.

We house the most violent of society in multi-million dollar prisons — ostensibly to protect the rest of the populous. Yet most of the cost of the modern penal system is devoted to protecting those inmates from one another.

We have an entire mental health system that stands ready to prevent suicides. And for whose benefit? Most often, not for the person attempting suicide — they want to die. It is so the rest of us may feel good. Because when a person dies, we are forced by our culture to experience grief. And we don't like to do this.

It is also very expensive to buy one's way out of grief. For starters, have you seen what it costs to hold even a simple funeral today? I'll spare you the breakdown, but let us suffice to say that you've done well if you can get a corpse in the ground for less than \$2,000. An average funeral service with moderate trimmings will run you \$5,000. All this because we have a need to venerate the carcass of someone who's gone forever.

Our society even treats the corpse with chemicals to ensure that the body lasts as long, or longer, than the grave marker.

Death drives an entire branch of legal services. You can't just die and leave your belongings to your chosen heirs. The state gets their part, the lawyers theirs.

We now have a government which is attempting to dictate what we can and cannot eat, drink, smoke and do, solely for the purpose of preventing death.

Society acts as if a tragedy has occurred when a 12-year-old child dies, yet excludes the capability of someone who waits until the age of 104 before dying. Although the end result is the same in both cases, in the

former instance the death is bad, in the latter, it is considered good.

Why? The mortality rate for all humans is the same. You are born. You die. 100 percent. No exceptions.

Some make it well past the culturally magic number of 70, others never get out of the womb. But we all die.

So let's get real about this whole process.

If someone wants to kill themselves, let them. If you feel a religious prohibition against suicide, then don't provide the means for them to do so, but don't stop them either. Adults, rational and irrational, are still adults, and as such are personally responsible for their actions.

If someone wants to hurl himself off a railroad bridge, well, certainly stop the trains underneath. That would be a real mess to clean up. But don't give people the satisfaction of thinking you are concerned about the pathetic lives of those who care so little about themselves.

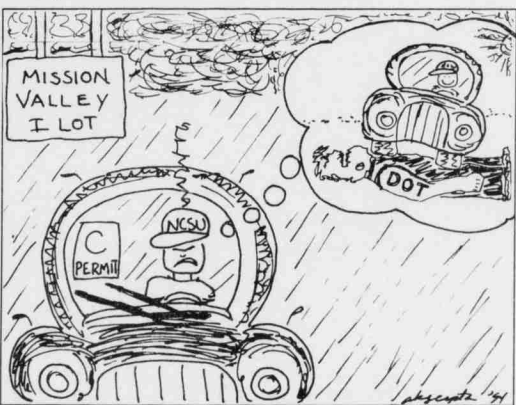
Ignore them. If they are not serious and just want attention, they will tire and go back to their disturbed life. If they are serious, who are we to interfere in the destiny of another person?

Don't give me this rot that each individual has a potential that must be preserved. Yes, we are all unique in our participation in society at large, but none of us are indispensable.

I can hear people calling me a callous bastard. So be it. I just don't have the self-imposed cultural concern about death that they do.

It is my obligation to do the best that I can while I am alive. When the day comes that I die, dump my body back into the food chain. No funeral, no grief. And if I attempt to hasten the event through suicide, let me. At that point, I've set my course.

Steve Crisp is a senior majoring in Scientific Knowledge Communication. He welcomes reader comments. You may e-mail him at Steve_Crisp@NCSU.EDU.



Technician

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

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Qualifications should be only basis for selection

I am disturbed by the story in last week's Technician about the Watauga Seminar report. The controversial proposal cited was "that one of the reasons that the university practices affirmative action in the admission process is to enhance the reputation of the university. We enroll minorities in NCSU to prove to ourselves and others that we are free from racial discrimination." While this should not be true, it largely is.

The way you wrote the story, it sounded as if someone used because someone had the chutzpah to call a spade a spade. My guess is that the anger was due to the policy itself. No one should be hired based on some overactive sense of previous discrimination.

Among other things, the fact that the policy exists and operates as the report describes demeans all of us — did you get your job because you earned it, or because of affirmative action? If we admitted students or hired faculty and staff based purely on qualifications, I believe standards would go up among applicants and diversity would be truly achieved.

The Campus

FORUM

Here's a comparison: Was it wrong to point out that our import quotas against Japanese cars existed because the domestic industry was not making cars Americans would buy? The anger should be that it is true, not that someone said so. Unless, of course, we want to pretend that it isn't.

Chris Garton-Zavesky
Graduate student, history

Prisoner wants to correspond with students

I am a prisoner at the Arizona State Prison, and I am writing to ask if you will put my request for correspondence in your

campus newspaper.

I am here doing a life term. I have no family. The few friends that wrote to me for a while when I first got here have kind of just trickled away. I am not really looking for any particular type of correspondent. I will answer any letters that I might get. I just want to get some mail and maybe make some friends to talk with through the mail.

Prison is probably one of the most boring experiences on the planet, and you actually have to think up ways to break the monotony once in a while or you will go nuts. I will be happy to answer any questions that anyone may have about prison life, about my court experiences and/or about my criminal activity. Or we can just talk about anything anyone there might want to talk about.

I very much appreciate any help you can give me in this matter and if anyone is interested, please write to me at the address following:

Time Lipps #47321
Az. State Prison
PO Box 8200
Florence, AZ 85232

'Cowboy Way' — no way

■ The Cowboy Way is not much more than a weak story with some cliched, predictable scenes thrown in for good measure.

By MICHAEL J. LEGEROS
Columnist

The former bartender of TV's "Cheers" is the sole reason to watch this clunky action/comedy about a pair of rodeo riders roaming the Big Apple to find their missing friend. When the partner turns up dead, they take their own approach to solving the crime.

"Coogan's Bluff" it ain't, but this caper comedy has about 40 minutes of wit worth watching. The best bits have Woody Harrelson stealing scenes with lines like "I wouldn't throw a bucket of water on your ass if it were drowning." The price of admission also buys the viewer a chance to see (a) Woody with a crew cut and (b) Woody wearing nothing but his hat.

How's that for a decent proposal? The rest of the film is a lame-brain sweatshop subplot that stops making sense after about an hour. The finale is an absurd horse and subway chase that's calmed by the sight of Harrelson and Kiefer Sutherland riding horseback through the city. Remember when they still made movies there?

Oddly, "The Cowboy Way" has much more cruelty than the PG-13 rating suggests. The demise of the villain, in particular, is quite disturbing and parents should be wary.



In the action-comedy "The Cowboy Way," modern-day rodeo cowboy Pepper Lewis (Woody Harrelson) attracts the attention of an ad executive.

'Maverick' is latest in trend of westerns

■ Look for some nice cameos in "Maverick," a film that revolves around Mel Gibson's adventures while on a journey to a high stakes poker game.

By TERRY FLORA
Staff Writer

A movie starring Mel Gibson and directed by Richard Donner, and it's not even Lethal Weapon 4? No, it's "Maverick."

"Maverick" is a movie that owes its life to trends. It is yet another in the current string of movies based on television shows.

But "Maverick" is not your typical western. It's a light-hearted romp through the wild west reminiscent of nothing quite so much as an

episode of "The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr."

If you're a country music fan, the cameos in "Maverick" alone are worth the price of admission. With a quick one-liner or two from almost anyone whose name you'd know in Nashville, it's like the country-music version of the "We are the World" video. I won't divulge any names, mainly because I enjoyed looking for famous faces, and I'd hate to deprive anyone else of that.

Plus I can't remember them all. Suffice it to say I was reminded of nothing so much as an album cover. The somewhat underdeveloped story of "Maverick" revolves around Gibson's adventures during his journey to a high stakes poker game where he will be playing against the best gamblers in

America. This idea, while certainly not an original one, serves its purpose, by forming a loose framework around which the events of the movie can be woven together.

The movie is really about Maverick getting into a series of problems along the way, including the classic runaway stage coach.

While "Maverick's" plot won't win any Oscars, the film is carried by good performances from Gibson and costars Jodie Foster and James Garner. The three appear to have had such a good time during filming, the viewer can easily get caught up in their fun. "Maverick" is at its best when they're bouncing lines off each other.

Gibson assumes the role of likable gambler Bret Maverick, a man whose luck seems to run out on him

when he leaves the tables. Mel seems to be playing a more refined version of his role from the Lethal Weapon trilogy, rather than trying to copy James Garner's TV Maverick. If you are going on the assumption that you'll see the show translated directly to the big screen, you'll be disappointed. I had no preconceptions about the film, due largely to the fact that I've never seen the show.

That's not to say the film is bad. Personally, I liked watching Det. Riggs tear up the old West.

If you enjoyed Gibson and Donner's work together in the Lethal Weapon movies, I don't see any reason for you to dislike Maverick. It's a fun, light movie that's not trying to change the world, just let you take a vacation for a while.

ENTERTAINMENT THIS WEEK

TODAY

COMEDY CD LaBove appears at Charlie Goodnight's tonight through June 18. Call 828-5233 (LAFF) for more information.

CONCERT Pitchblende, Edsel and Ashley Stove are appearing at Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. \$4 for admission. For information, call 967-9053.

CRAFTS The Crafts Center is now open for the summer. Summer hours are Monday - Thursday 12:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Classes are offered in wood, clay, fibers, jewelry, glass, art, and photography. Register in person for classes until they begin if space is available. Open through August 4, closed July 4. Located in the lower level of the Thompson Building, across from Reynolds Coliseum parking deck. Call 515-2457 for more information.

MOVIE - The National Film Board of Canada's Animation Festival celebrates 50 years of animation with an outstanding collection of 11 shorts and selected classic moments from the most popular animated films. They will be shown at the N.C. Museum of Art tonight at 7 and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$3 at the door. Films are programmed for adult audiences; parental guidance is suggested.

THURSDAY

CONCERT Knocked Down Smilin' CD release party at Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. For information, call 967-9053.

MOVIE "The Three Musketeers," starring Kiefer Sutherland, Charlie Sheen and Chris O'Donnell. Comedy and romance combine in this action-filled flick about three musketeers of the king of France.

Free. Showing at 8 p.m. at the Student Center Annex Cinema. Call 515-5146 for current bus office information.

PLAY Harvey & Claire, about two senior citizens finding love in a retirement home, premieres at Theatre In The Park. Performances on June 16, 17 and 18. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors 55 and older. For more information or reservations, call Theatre In The Park at 831-6058.

FRIDAY

CONCERT Picasso Trigger, Pipe and Rubbermaid are appearing at Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. Admission is \$5. For information, call 967-9053.

SATURDAY

CONCERT Combustible Edison and Squirrel Nut Zippers are appearing at Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 967-9053.

TUESDAY

CONCERT Thrillact, Gladhands and other bands are appearing at Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. Admission is \$2. For information, call 967-9053.

MOVIE "My Cousin Vinny," starring Joe Pesci, Ralph Macchio and Marisa Tomei. A Brooklyn lawyer tries to defend his cousin, who has been arrested for murder in Wahooz, Alabama. Free. Showing at 8 p.m. in the Student Center Annex Cinema. Call 515-5146 for current bus office information.

"Entertainment This Week" Policy

Entertainment This Week 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 Ron Batcho, Assistant et cetera Editor.

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