

Technician

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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Bell Tower Briefs



Gantt speaks to students

Harvey Gantt, former Charlotte mayor, spoke to students at the University Student Center ballroom on April 9.

Gantt, who is seeking the U.S. Senate democratic nomination from North Carolina, focused on the growing cynicism in America in his speech.

N.C. State's College Democrats sponsored the event. Gantt will run against Charlie Sanders in the primary on May 7. The winner will face Rep. Jesse Helms on Nov. 2.

Gantt has been touring local universities encouraging students to vote.

Horse protection course will be offered

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service in association with the Animal Protection Society of Orange County will sponsor the Fifth Horse Protection Officer's Short Course April 30 through May 2 in Raleigh at the Brownstone Hotel and N.C. State's Equine Educational Unit.

This short course is designed to educate animal cruelty investigators about acceptable management practices for typical horse operations, 24 hours of instruction in addition to a manual will be provided to all participants. Special emphasis will be placed on the management and treatment of the debilitated horse and on recognition of grossly inadequate feeding programs, health practices, facilities and management techniques.

Short Course topics include investigation training, protocol for court preparation, equine evaluation techniques, stable management techniques, equine psychology and restraint and a discussion of home-county investigations.

Courtesy of NCSU News Services

University counsel adds appointee

Mary Kurz of College Station, Texas, has been appointed university counsel at N.C. State following approval by the UNC Board of Governors and the NCSU Board of Trustees. She will begin work at NCSU on April 15.

Kurz, who earned her degree at the University of Maryland, where she served as vice chancellor and general counsel. Kurz will live in Cary.

Her responsibilities as university counsel will include providing legal services regarding business issues, contract review, compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, student issues and employment issues.

A native of Scranton, Pa., Kurz attended Marywood College there.

She is a member of the state bars of Maryland, Michigan, Montana, the District of Columbia and Texas. She will apply for membership in the North Carolina Bar after she moves to the state.

Kurz served as president of the National Association of College and University Attorneys in 1992-1993 and as a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association in 1993-1995.

Courtesy of NCSU News Services

Film and lecture series focuses on Holocaust

The series is named after the late Lawrence Rudner, a former English professor at N.C. State.

By JEFF FOX
Staff Writer

Fifty years have passed since the Nuremberg trials, but some will not let the memories of that tragic period in the history of the world be forgotten.

In remembrance of the Holocaust, N.C. State is having a film and lecture series dedicated to the memory of Lawrence Sheldon Rudner.

Rudner, an associate professor of English at NCSU and expert on the Holocaust, died at the age of 48 last

May from a brain tumor. Rudner taught at the university for 16 years.

The Holocaust Film and Lecture series began Feb. 13 with a lecture by Dr. Gerhard Weinberg of the UNC-Chapel Hill department of history, an expert on Nuremberg and adviser to President Clinton on Holocaust issues.

"Shop On Main Street," a 1965 Czech film, and "Europa, Europa" have already been featured in the series.

Sally Ann Drucker, an NCSU English professor who began teaching "Rudner's literature of the Holocaust" class this year, organized the series and chose the films that will be shown.

"I wanted a European perspective," Drucker said. "Each film reflects a

time period and the concerns of that time and place."

English professor Joseph Gomez, who was a close friend of Rudner, introduced and led a discussion on "Shop On Main Street."

According to Gomez, he incorporated his personal experiences with Rudner into his discussion. Gomez said he and Rudner probably would have disagreed on the film because of its ramifications about the Holocaust and its comic elements.

Gomez said he felt that it is important to remember the Holocaust and its social impact.

"Those who do not learn from mistakes are doomed to repeat them," he said.

"Films are a way of reminding

people of what happened. It gets an emotional and intellectual response from people."

Gomez said that he hopes a film series will be presented again next year with documentaries about the Holocaust.

Gomez said that he thought Rudner would be honored to have the film series named in his memory.

"He cared about teaching history and thought of it in terms of moral consequences," said Gomez. "He was dedicated to stopping injustice and genocide and he did that by creating the [Holocaust literature] course. He would be pleased to be remembered in this context."

Drucker also said she felt that naming the film series in memory of Rudner was a good idea.

"He was thought very highly of and everyone misses him," she said.

The third and final film in the series, "The Nasty Girl," will be shown Tuesday and Wednesday April 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center of D.H. Hill Library. Film critic Andrea Mensch will introduce the film and lead a discussion during the April 16 screening.

Mensch, who teaches film studies and college writing at NCSU, is a native of Germany. She will introduce the film in a German context and from the director's (Michael Verhoeven) point of view.

"The Nasty Girl" is based on a true story about a high school girl in a

See HOLOCAUST, Page 5

Walk this way



Leslie Vlasewich, a freshman in natural resources, conducts a campus tour for high school seniors Thursday afternoon.

Festival kicks off Saturday

The Pan-African Festival kicks off Saturday and lasts until April 20.

By JENNIFER SORBER
Assistant News Editor

The annual Pan-African Festival, a week showcasing African-American culture and talent on campus, will kickoff tomorrow morning with a festival parade down Cates Avenue.

The Black Students Board is sponsoring the festival, which will include a variety of concerts, exhibits and lectures.

The week's purpose is to "inform the campus about the history and culture" of African-Americans, said Wayne Williams, president of the BSB.

In addition to annual activities, N.C. State alumni will take part in this year's festival.

"Alumni can come back and see what some organizations they may have participated in are doing now," Williams said.

After the kickoff parade, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament will take place at Carmichael Gymnasium and a Jazz Mixer will be held in the University Student Center's Ballroom.

The Jazz Mixer will "allow students on campus to mix with NCSU alumni," Williams said.

Sunday events include a worship service in the Student Center's ballroom. New Horizons Choir will also hold their alumni concert that evening.

The concert will be in preparation for the Choir's 20th anniversary concert, which will take place next year, Williams said.

An African-American art exhibit, story-telling and African drumming & dancing lessons will take place on Monday. Chuck Davis' Dance Ensemble will perform and instruct classes, Williams said.

Sankofa, an Akan word meaning "one must return from the past in order to move forward," will be the title of a lecture that will help audience members learn more about their past. The lecture will take place on Monday.

Tuesday's events include Black Connections, an African-American quiz show which will "mimic TV shows while asking question about African-American history," Williams said.

"Images in Black," the Black Repertory Theatre at NCSU, will put on a variety of shows including dancing, skits, prose and poetry reading and singing. All performances will be by NCSU students.

A fashion show by Black Finesse Modeling Group and an African-American health fair highlights Wednesday's events. The focus of the health fair is to promote health within the African-American community.

Williams said he is "hoping for a diverse crowd" for the evening's event, a rap session held in the Student Center's Ballroom.

See FESTIVAL, Page 5

Software teaches children about plants

Two N.C. State professors have designed educational software.

News Staff Report

A bespectacled, bug-like alien wearing a purple T-shirt, baggy shorts and sneakers could one day be a teacher in your child's school. The intelligent animated "alien," called Herman, can work one-on-one with children through computers, shuttling them from one fantastic planet to another to teach them about plants.

The Design-a-Plant software, featuring Herman, is the first part of an initiative by researchers at N.C. State to develop a new generation of smart educational software populated by interactive animated characters.

James Lester, assistant professor of computer science, and Patrick FitzGerald, visiting assistant professor in the School of Design, have founded the IntelliMedia Program to create the software, which combines artificial intelligence with sophisticated multimedia technologies.

"Though we'll never be able to provide every student with their own human teacher, we'll soon be able to provide every student with their own virtual teacher — an intelligent animated character that will give highly individualized problem-solving advice on demand," Lester said.

The research team anticipates the Design-a-Plant software will be ready to market to educational institutions within two years after it is refined and field-tested in schools.

Lester and FitzGerald began the project in the fall of 1995 by

enlisting the help of their computer science and design students. They worked with them to create the prototype Design-a-Plant software, which teaches botanical anatomy and physiology to children ages 9 to 14.

In Design-a-Plant, Herman accompanies the user along the journey to four planets, explaining the fundamentals of how plants work and describing the climate and terrain of the planets.

His descriptions contain hints

See SOFTWARE, Page 5

Inside Friday

Sports: Boy, that new soccer league is fun, huh Preston? Page 3

X-tra: Theatre students show off at Thompson. Page 5

Opinion: African-American Studies program is vital. Page 6

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Baesler supports more loans

One congressman said he was in favor of increasing student loans.

By JAMES RITCHIE
The Kentucky-Kentucky
University of Kentucky

U.S. Representative Scotty Baesler said the government needs to do more to help college students finance their education.

Baesler answered questions and solicited opinions from a small group of students yesterday in the University Student Center at UK. He distributed a report about the federal government's role in financing higher education that said that student loan borrowing more than doubled from between 1990-95.

Baesler said that providing funding is the federal government's primary role in higher education.

Because of tuition increases and limited funds, a disparity exists between the amount of aid that

students need and what the government can provide, Baesler said.

With more students entering college, Baesler said he is concerned about the future.

"It's going to be a severe situation in the next few years," he said.

He said that the bottom 40 percent of students economically can usually obtain student aid, and the top 40 percent can generally rely on funding from their families. But the "middle-income" families that make up the remaining 20 percent often have trouble paying for a college education.

He said there are no experts on the topic of federal student aid, because everyone is still trying to figure out what works best. Many of the proposed changes to financial aid are not student friendly.

"I think we're going backwards," he said.



Technician Rewind

Ten years ago..... Controversy surrounds new grading system

April 1986

Faculty criticizes feasibility of new plus/minus system

John Lee
Staff Writer

State professors are rejecting the decision last year to use plus and minus grades after the first year of the two-year experimental project and are now questioning the feasibility of the project.

Associate Provost Murray Downs said faculty members "have been asked to indicate plus and minus grades where possible."

Downs said the new budget plan for increasing the feasibility of the new system are whether enough faculty members will use it and if it will affect the plus and minus grades of all those who received GPAs.

Although he said it is much too early to draw positive conclusions,

faculty members have the option of giving a minus grade, Downs said.

For now, said Downs, although the plus/minus system "will not affect those students' GPAs," he is aware of "from a faculty point of view."

The faculty has a hard enough time deciding on giving a student a B or a C, Downs said. He said the plus and minus grades would only complicate the process and will only affect those students who are on the borderline.

According to Carmine Prioli, an English professor who opposed the plus/minus system, the system is needed for the same reason.

The present system is unfair to students, Prioli said. Someone who makes an 89 gets a B, while another student who makes an 88 gets a C.

Towards the end of the spring 1986 semester, N.C. State faculty members were criticizing the new plus/minus grading system, which was in its first year of a two-year experimental phase.

Associate Provost Murray Downs said faculty members were questioning the feasibility of the system. Many members were concerned that not enough professors were using it and that it would have a negative effect on students' GPAs.

Fall 1985 semester results showed that more minus grades were being used than plus grades, thus prompting university officials to launch a study of the system.

The study, which concluded in fall 1987, showed that overall student GPAs dropped by .061 points during the two years the system was in use.

English professor Carmine Prioli, who originally proposed the system, said at

the time that a system without a plus/minus system was unfair to students. He also said the standard system did not encourage students to excel in their classes.

The Faculty Senate decided to reject the system during the spring 1987 semester.

The system resurfaced, however, in fall 1992 when the Faculty Senate approved a recommendation to re-implement it after a poll revealed two-thirds of NCSU's faculty supported the system.

After student leaders protested in January 1993 by marching from the Brickyard to Holladay Hall, where they met with Chancellor Monteith, the chancellor approved a re-implementation of the plus/minus grading system on Feb. 26, 1993.

-Compiled by Jason King.



Technician File Photo
Jimmy V still roamed the sidelines at Reynolds.



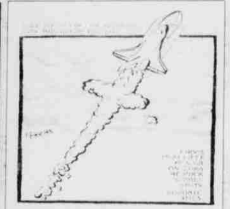
Technician File Photo
The Busboys were scheduled to be the main act at Wolfstock '86.



Technician File Photo
Bruce Poulton was the chancellor.



Technician File Photo
Ronald Reagan was president



Technician File Cartoon
January 28's Challenger explosion was still big in the news.

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Sports

Technician

April 11, 1996

Michael Preston

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Hey, let's hear it for your Wiz!

You're trying to tell me this won't catch on in the United States? Hooley.

Major League Soccer, known as the NASL by the layman, was launched as an official professional league last Saturday night.

For those of you who didn't happen to catch it (and according to the overnight Neilsens, there were plenty of you), the San Jose Clash Scorpions beat the other team they played, 1-0 before a crowd of about 35,000.

Really, this must have made the league's founder very, very rich, er, happy.

The league was created by a man with the driving desire to turn Americans on to the sport they call "football" in every NFL city. So after the World Cup was widely popular, despite being attended mostly by tourists, one man hoped these same people would mortgage their homes and fly back to this country to see the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut Tri-State Area MetroStars play the Dallas Burn.

And that innovator's name escapes me at the moment but when the league folds faster than a deck of cards, I'm sure I'll hear it a lot. Probably often followed by the phrase, "who was high on marijuana when he came up with the idea for a pro soccer league in America."

But the league, despite its individualism, is still largely under control of FIFA, which stands for Guys Who Control All The Soccer Played Everywhere.

For example, in the inaugural game of this new soccer league, a referee made the stadium's ground crew get rid of the league's logo that was painted at midfield.

"It was too colorful," was I believe the wording used by that particular official. People still actually wonder why fans with bottles have been known to chase referees across entire continents?

Unfortunately, these same people weren't consulted when it came time to select team nicknames.

The design and marketing powers-that-be at Nike, Puma, adidas and Reebok were allowed to name and design the uniforms for this brand-spanking new league. Unfortunately, none of them were legally safe to drive.

Among the teams, Kansas City was cursed with the most unfortunate of all nicknames. Ever in any league. But this is a league that has as its members the Crew, the Burn, the Revolution and the Galaxy.

But Kansas City got the royal shaft-job. They are the Kansas City Wiz and actually not too upset about it. Answer to your next question before you ask it: Team color does not include yellowish-green.

Not only was their nickname created by an adidas employee who had too much apple juice at lunch, but the actual slogan they planned on using was, "We'll make you go!" I kid you not.

Well, the backlash of this little gimmick was felt the same way you would feel a kick to the kidney — with immense pressure. The campaign was pulled and has been replaced with "We'll ask you to put the seat down when you leave, mister!"

Even worse has to be the public address nightmares, this must create when trying to get the faithful revved up for their team: "Ladies and Gentleman, Let's here it for your Wiz!" Yuck.

As far as the game went, I got caught up in watching the grass grow because that was far more interesting than the actual play.

The only thing lacking now are denim uniforms. Call Converse.

The long arm of the Law(ler) plates four in win

SPORTS STAFF REPORT

Well if there were any significant problems with N.C. State Baker (4-1) was solid for the four innings he threw against UNC-W. In that time, he allowed just three hits with no walks and three strikeouts.

N.C. State	12
UNC-W	5

Raleigh with a 12-5 win over UNC-Wilmington Wednesday night at Brooks Field, the Wolfpack chased one out of the game before the end of the third inning.

Of the dozen runs State put on the board, nine of them were supplied by the three-man juggernaut of Robbie Lasater, Scott Lawler and Mandy Jacomino. The trio combined for 10 hits, half of which were of the extra-base variety, in 16 at bats.

Lasater went 4-for-6 with two RBIs, Jacomino 3-for-5 with three RBIs and Lawler finished the day with a 3-for-5 performance and four RBIs.

Lasater and Jacomino each homered in the seventh and first inning, respectively. For each, it was the seventh time this year they went yard. Lawler didn't homer, he only hit his 10th, 11th and 12th doubles of the season.

The victim of a large portion of this offensive outburst was Seahawk southpaw Jason Ramsey, a pitcher poised to catch Anthony Young in the area of futility on the mound.

His record fell to 0-8 for the year but, in his defense, there was no defense.

Of the seven runs that crossed the plate while he was on the hill, only two were earned. The Seahawks committed four errors on the day.

After five innings, highlighted by a five-run third, State had a 9-0 lead and set the controls to cruise.

Needless to say, Ramsey didn't make it out of the third, an inning

where the Pack sent 10 men to the plate and Lawler brought in three with a bases-loaded double.

Meanwhile, Dustin Baker (4-1) was solid for the four innings he threw against UNC-W. In that time, he allowed just three hits with no walks and three strikeouts.

Rodney Ormond, Kurt Blackman and Whitney Hughes pitched the last five innings and allowed five runs, four of them earned, but the Seahawks never got within shouting distance of the far too powerful Wolfpack.

With the win the Wolfpack, ranked anywhere between 18 and 21 in several national polls this week, picked up its 30th win opposed to only nine losses. The Seahawks fell to 16-21.

This weekend, the Pack hosts a three-game series with the Duke Blue Devils. Currently, the Devils are a half game ahead of the Pack in fourth place with a 6-5 conference record.

The series begins under the lights of Doak Field at 7:00 p.m. tonight and continues Saturday night at the same time.

Tickets are free to students and will be available to the public at the front gate.

ACC BASEBALL STANDINGS

(Through Thursday Night's Games)

Team	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Fla. State	12	0	1.000	32	5	0.865
Ge. Tech	7	2	.778	24	10	0.706
Clemson	8	4	.667	30	7	0.811
Duke	6	5	.545	29	7	0.806
N.C. State	6	6	.500	30	9	0.769
Virginia	5	10	.333	22	14	0.611
N. Carolina	4	8	.333	21	17	0.553
Maryland	2	7	.222	13	12	0.520
W. Forest	3	11	.214	18	23	0.439

Today's games

Clemson at North Carolina, 6 p.m.

Duke at N.C. State, 7 p.m.

Saturday's games

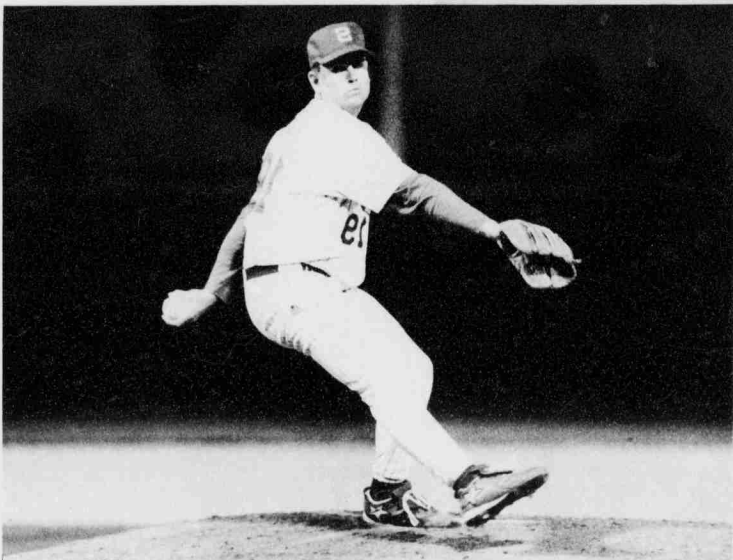
Clemson at North Carolina, 1 p.m.

Duke at N.C. State, 7 p.m.

UNC-Wilmington at East Carolina, 2 p.m.



Tom Sergio, coming off a 1-for-4 performance against the UNC-Wilmington Seahawks, and the rest of the Pack gets ready to host a big three-game series against Duke this weekend.



Pitcher Mike Black, he of the spiffy 2.97 ERA and even spiffier won/loss record of 8-1, will be key in the pivotal series this weekend against the rivals from down Interstate 40 - the Duke Blue Devils. In 11 appearances this year, a total of 66.2 innings pitched, Black has whiffed 51 and walked only 8 batters.

Three-game series will determine fourth place

SPORTS STAFF REPORT

Who would've known that the Wolfpack's fifth conference opponent of the year may possibly be its most important.

The fourth place Duke Blue Devils come into Raleigh with a half game lead over Ray Tanner's team and the series could either build momentum or send them scrambling to salvage it.

State has lost five of its last six conference games against Florida State and Georgia Tech, the first- and second-place teams in the ACC, respectively.

However, Florida State won all three games against the Pack 5-4 and sans the 9-0 loss to the Yellow Jackets, lost 3-2 after taking the first game 10-6.

Up until that point, State was 5-1 in the conference including a sweep against Wake Forest during a 10-game winning streak.

Brett Black and Corey Lee are probable this weekend for the Pack and key performances will be needed. Black is 8-1 with a 2.97 ERA but both of those stats pale in comparison to the following: In 66.2 innings pitched, Black has allowed just eight walks.

Lee is just as impressive. With a 2.25 ERA and a 6-2 record, his strikeout to walk ratio is almost two-to-one (60 SO, 28 BB).

On the offensive side, the Pack just had batting practice against UNC-Wilmington, Mandy Jacomino, Matt Postell, Tom Sergio and Jake Weher will be turned to for average, power and run production.

Technician Sports Spotlight

It's not just for the beach anymore

The N.C. State Ultimate Frisbee team (16-4) is currently number two in the country, a spot ahead of East Carolina by only three votes.

Here are the current Top 10 teams based on the UFA college rankings as well as local and ACC schools.

Rank	Team	Power Rankings
1.	U.C. Santa Barbara	1636
2.	N.C. State	1581
3.	East Carolina	1578
4.	Wisconsin	1526
5.	Stanford	1520
6.	UNC-Wilmington	1516
7.	Carleton	1466
8.	Louisiana State	1452
9.	Georgia	1379
10.	Oregon State	1371

OTHER TEAMS RANKED: Florida State (21), Appalachian State (22), Duke (34), North Carolina (48), Rutgers (49), Clemson (59), Guilford (62), Georgia Tech (64), Maryland (65), Virginia (75).

The following are two more installments of the Technician Sports Spotlights. If you have any ideas for future graphics, please contact the sports department at 515-2411 or through e-mail using the following: Sports@smo.sca.ncsu.edu

On the left is the current rankings for the N.C. State Ultimate Frisbee team and on the right are the prospects for the vacant N.C. State basketball position.

Technician Sports Spotlight

SINCE LES ROBINSON'S RESIGNATION THREE WEEKS AGO, THE COACHING RUMOR MILL HAS COVERED THE GAUNTLET OF SPECULATION. WITH THE APRIL 10 DEADLINE COME AND GONE, HERE'S HOW CLOSE THE CANDIDATES ARE TO REYNOLDS.

COACH	SCHOOL	WHERE THEY CURRENTLY STAND
Dave Odum	Wake Forest	Six more years with Deacs
John Callipari	UMass	Makes more money than Trump
Roy Williams	Kansas	Waiting for UNC job, not NCSU
Perry Clark	Tulane	Says he's happy in New Orleans
K. Sampson	Oklahoma	Makes \$400k at OU but ties to Yow
Tim Floyd	Iowa State	Drooling for shot that he won't get
Herb Sendek	Miami (Ohio)	Front-runner from mediocre MAC
Bob Bender	Washington	"Love Seattle" and losing Huskies
Jeff Capel, Sr.	Old Dominion	Could this be the sleeper pick?
Frani Frachilla	St. John's	Probably not ready to leave yet
P.J. Carlesimo	Portland (NBA)	Would he want to return to NCAA?
Rick Majerus	Utah	Seen on campus? Doubtful at best
Don Nelson	None (ex-NBA)	Wouldn't this be a pleasant surprise
D. Whittenberg	Go. Tech asst.	Threw the best airball in State history
Sidney Lowe	None (ex-NBA)	Former T'wolves coach was awful
Kay Yow	NCSU women	Leave the good team for pay cut?

X-tra

Technician

April 12, 1996

Student plays at Thompson

Spring Student Studios are featured at Thompson Theatre.

By ELIZABETH BOOKOUT
ASSISTANT X-TRA EDITOR

Thompson Theatre's Spring Student Studios are being performed this week with two featured plays — "The Temp" by Roy Friedman and "The Bald Soprano" by Eugene Ionesco.

Both plays are directed and performed by N.C. State students who are not getting paid, and they aren't even doing it for class credit.

"It's entirely for the love of the theater," says Diane Ocilka, Thompson Theatre's audience development and public relations specialist.

"The Temp," by Eugene Ionesco, is the first and shorter of the two plays.

Directed by Gail Hall, "The Temp" is performed by a cast of three women and takes place in the fast-paced office of Miss Jane DeSantis. The set is simple and effective, consisting of little more than two desks and a coffee table.

Jane's secretary, Alice, is the first character on stage. Alice is portrayed by Nancy Hulbert, a senior majoring in biology. From her first few lines spoken to Jane's demanding boss, Mr.

Brown, it is obvious that she's accustomed to the stressful environment of her workplace and has her own ways of dealing with it — one of which is her sickeningly sweet, sarcastic telephone voice.

Mr. Brown wants Jane's report by 1:00 sharp... "Not at 1:15, and not even at 1:10," Alice mimics, and promises to Mr. Brown to give Jane the message when she arrives at the office.

Then enters the temp, played by Deborah Lederer, a freshman majoring in English. It's Georgiana Pritt's first day on the job, and the exasperating, utterly incompetent temp manages to make a bad impression before Alice even finishes introducing herself.

The fact that Miss Pritt chooses to be difficult to work with soon becomes obvious to Alice, and the temp's antics, coupled with repeated phone calls from Mr. Brown, stretch Alice's patience.

By the time Jane (Laura Stevens, a freshman majoring in history) saunters in, Alice reaches her tolerance level and is on the verge of becoming explosive.

Miss Pritt spills coffee on the report, botches a telephone call from Mr. Brown and completely alienates Alice — not to mention Jane. Just when Jane thinks she'll never get rid of Miss Pritt, she



PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMPSON THEATRE
Nancy Hulbert and Laura Stevens are two students in "The Temp," one of two student plays at Thompson Theatre.

See STUDIO, Page 7 >

Learn the four levels of leering in the computer lab

Funny Bones

By JAY CUTHRELL
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps we are all guilty of the activity known as computer lab leering.

You may be wondering what computer lab leering is all about so you can tell if you have been part of this particular phenomenon.

Basically, there are four levels of computer lab leering: 1) The Dart 2) The Stare 3) The Query and 4)

The Stalk.

Let's start with the least easily detected level of leering and work our way to the more blatant varieties.

The Dart involves you being very busy with something like Word Perfect, an Xcess spreadsheet, CAD, or even working on your web pages with intense fervor. You may fancy a person/persons either close to you or a few work stations away.

When you pick up on their existence you have a place where your eyes will drift when you take a break from what you are doing. These intervals of watching typically last for no longer than one to five seconds.

There is no drooling or frothing at

the mouth at this level. Eyes are averted from the CRT momentarily and the chin may rise slightly.

The Stare is easily detected and denotes writer's block or Maple/Sexual Frustration. In this case the duration of watching goes beyond the five second mark and can reach up to 14.3 seconds.

Drooling can be observed but is usually wiped away. Furthermore, different styles of The Stare are a function of the computer lab location and layout.

For example, The Stare in Aven Ferry Lab will differ from that in Leazar.

In AFC there is a tendency toward the longer stares due to the lack of columns that block view and

the fact that only UNITY workstations are found there.

The Query involves the elements of The Stare, but additionally, there is an attempt at learning more information about the person in front of the workstation. The Query is possible for those involved in serious web browsing and non-academic computing.

The tools of The Query are many: finger @machinename; finger loginid; hes loginid; whois "lastname, firstname"; netscape <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~loginid>.

Some may argue that these actions constitute The Stalk. However, it must be noted that this information

See FUNNY, Page 7 >

theNFO Entertainment Calendar of Events

TODAY

EVENT — Pi Kappa Phi fraternity will hold its fifth annual Push-America golf tournament. The tournament is a fundraising event dedicated to helping severely handicapped people across the country. Entree fee is \$50 per person. Contact Noel Richardson at 512-6384.

FILM — "Father of the Bride Part II" is showing today at the Witherspoon Student Center. Times for the film are 7, 9 & 11 p.m.

SATURDAY

EVENT — The Institute of Industrial Engineers will have a car wash at Kmart on Western Boulevard. Donations will be accepted.

FILM — The Oscar-winning "Sense and Sensibility" will be shown at the Witherspoon Student Center at 7:30 and 10 p.m. and Sunday at 5:30 and 8 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE — The College of Veterinary Medicine will hold an open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The college is located on the corner of Hillsborough Street and Blue Ridge Road. For more information, call 829-4421.

POW WOW — There will be a Native-American Powwow from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Lawrence at 512-6332.

SUNDAY

CONCERT — New Horizons Choir will hold its annual Spring concert as part of Pan-African Week at 4 p.m. in Stewart Theater. Call Ticket Central for more information.

TUESDAY

DISCUSSION — Gay and Lesbian Role Models will be featured in a panel discussion at 7:30 p.m. in the Bowen-Reed Hall Study Lounge. For more information call 515-7882.

MEETING — The Nutrition Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Polk Hall, Room 110. For more information contact Emily at 852-1118.

PLAY — Meredith students perform to present "Win/Lose/Draw," three one-act comedies about women. Today through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Studio Theatre, Jones Auditorium, Meredith College. Call 829-2840 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

MEETING — The Social Ballroom Dance Club will hold a meeting for beginners from 8:15 to 9 p.m. and intermediates from 9 to 10:45 p.m. in Carmichael Gym, Room 1206. No experience or partners needed.

INFORMATION — Bruce Northam will host a free discussion for college students on "How to Travel Around Cheaply" in Caldwell Hall, Room G-111 at 6:30.

MEETING — Want to learn how to walk and talk Shakespeare, not just read him? It's not as scary as you think. The Shakespeare Society will meet at 3:30 p.m. in Thompson Theatre.

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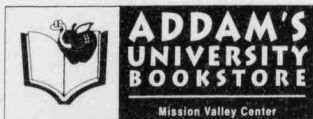
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Kids in the Hall BRAIN CANDY



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Exclusive Engagement!

Holocaust Festival

Continued from Page 1
German town who writes a paper about prominent members of the city and their ties to the Holocaust, which causes an uproar. Later in college, the girl continues the research and she "stirs a wasp nest," Mensch said.

Mensch said she plans to incorporate her personal identity into the discussion of the film. Mensch grew up in a town in Bavaria, much like the one depicted in the film. She said she became interested in the Holocaust at the age of 16.

"As a young German in academia, you could not escape the [Holocaust] debate," Mensch said. "It was intensified emotionally for me when I married someone Jewish whose family had been persecuted."

Drucker's literature of the Holocaust course will be offered once a year every spring, and she said she hopes to have the Lawrence Rudner Memorial Film and Lecture series again next year.

According to Drucker, the month of April is set aside every year to remember the Holocaust. Congress set aside the week of April 14-21 to remember the Holocaust.

The 15th annual State of North Carolina Holocaust Memorial Service will be Sunday, April 14 at 4 p.m. at the North Raleigh Hilton.

Rudner's widow, Laura Rudner, donated all of her husband's Holocaust literature to D.H. Hill Library to form the Lawrence S. Rudner Holocaust Memorial collection, which now consists of 200 works.

In addition, the NCSU English department set up an endowment fund to help support Rudner's work. Those interested in contributing to the endowment may contact the Friends of the Library at D.H. Hill Library.

Continued from Page 1
"Real Talk with Yasmin" will begin Thursday's events.

"Yasmin will be picking at all the television talk shows," Williams said.

Dance Visions will hold their spring recital in Stewart Theatre Thursday evening.

A block party outside the Free Expression Tunnel will be held on Friday afternoon. Also on Friday, a step show and a comedy show will take place in Stewart Theatre. The comedy show will feature such comedians as Joe Clair, Redd Grant, Dominic and Charles Pickett.

"Black Out" will take place on Saturday in North Plaza, behind the Student Center. This event will include a number of games and vendors, as well as live music performed by up and coming artists.

"Vendors will include a lot of students who are trying to start their own businesses," Williams said.

A concert in Reynolds Coliseum featuring artists such as Method Man, Genius, KRS - One, Mad Lion, Shelly Thunder and Kut Klose will also take place on April 20th.

The last event will be a '70s jam on Saturday night in the Student Center Ballroom.

Most of the events are free of charge "to make them accessible for everyone," Williams said.

"This is not a festival strictly for African-Americans," he said. "We are showing off a part of our community for everyone to see."

Technician News:
We need more people to like, write stories and stuff...Yeah, uh huh.

1996 Pan-African Festival

Saturday, April 13

- Festival Parade, 11 a.m. Cates Avenue/NC St. Campus
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Carmichael Gym
- Jazz Mixer, 9 p.m. - 12 a.m. University Student Center Ballroom \$3 single / \$5 per couple

Sunday, April 14

- United Student Fellowship Worship Service, 11 a.m. University Student Center Ballroom
- New Horizons Choir Alumni Concert, 4 p.m. Stewart Theatre \$2 students / \$3 general public

Monday, April 15

- African Awakening! (Dress in African Attire Day)
- Art Exhibit, Story-Telling, African Drumming & Dance Lessons w/ Chuck Davis, African American Dance Ensemble, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. University Student Center Ballroom & Galleries
- Sankofa, 7 p.m. Whitcombroom - Student Center Campus

Tuesday, April 16

- Black Connections, 12 p.m. (African-American Quiz Show) University Student Center Lobby
- Images in Black, 8 p.m. (Black Repertory Theatre) Stewart Theatre

Wednesday, April 17

- Black Finesse Fashion Show, 12 p.m. University Student Center Lobby
- Keeping The Heritage Alive & Well, African American Health Fair, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. AASHS & African American Student Affairs University Student Center Ballroom
- Rap Session, 7:30 p.m. Society of African American Culture University Student Center Ballroom

Thursday, April 18

- Real Talk With Yasmin! 12 p.m. University Student Center Lobby
- Dance Visions Spring Recital, 8 p.m. Stewart Theatre

Friday, April 19

- Black Party, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free Expression Tunnel!
- Stephen's Comedy Night, 8 p.m. Featuring comedians Joe Clair, Redd Grant, Dominic, & Charles Pickett. Stewart Theatre. 58 students / \$10 general public

Saturday, April 20

- Black Out, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Block party, games, vendors & featuring DJ Quest, Backyard Brawl & "Bionic" University Student Center North Plaza
- Concert, 7 p.m. (Artist to be announced) Reynolds Coliseum (Call for ticket information)
- '70s Jam, 11 p.m. - 3 a.m. University Student Center Ballroom (Tickets available at the door only)

Software

Continued from Page 1

about such things as what plants grow in different levels of soil acidity and with what rainfall amounts. The program includes 30 animations on botanical anatomy and physiology and 160 audio clips.

The user chooses from an array of roots, stems and leaves with different properties and graphically assembles a plant. If a child makes a wrong choice, Herman gently points it out and offers a tutorial.

After a child successfully creates a plant, Herman yells "Yippe! I'm so excited. You've done it. You've done it," turns a cartwheel and performs an activity such as bungee jumping off a cliff or skiing down a

mountain.

The package contains four types of environments with four complexity levels each, for a total of 16 different problems. The software's artificial intelligence adjusts to the user's level of knowledge by building a model of each child that notes such things as how long the user takes to choose a leaf.

The program decides which environment to bring up next to meet the user's level of understanding and to challenge appropriately by considering how much time the child spends on part of the design. The program also decides what kind of advice to give and in what order to give it.

Seventh-grader Helen Dombalis, one of several students from Martin Middle School in Raleigh to try out

a Design-a-Plant for the developers, laughed when Herman indicated her choice was not a good one and modeled when she heard hints in the explanations.

She said the program would help kids at school because "when the teacher explains something, she goes over it only once, and so you don't learn a lot."

Fit/Gerald said that one of the biggest project challenges was to design a program for students like Helen that was educational and easy to use, while still being fun.

Maria Earnshaw, exhibits developer for Exploris in Raleigh (formerly the Children's Museum About the World), attended a demonstration of Design-a-Plant and said that software succeeds on several levels.

"First, I learned more in 30 minutes than I could from a textbook," she said. "Second, the program was amazingly funny and geared to kids. Third, the graphics were beautiful."

The research team is now in the process of adding interactive and real-time explanations to the software and an interactive system that requires users to justify their choices.

They also are working with Sharolyn Converse, associate professor of psychology at NCSU, to conduct an in-depth study with children to gauge the program's effectiveness as a teaching tool.

Initial funding of \$70,000 was provided for the IntelliMedia Program by the NCSU office of the Provost.

CRYPTOQUIP

QNLGCL PNT: XRWFQGLG
TGCZIHGK INKYNIG-YNI
QZHG PPRW FZGKK
TZCXNKTZH.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Equals P

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The **Cryptoquip** is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Kissing bandit?	45 Gerryman-derers' work	dance	19 Waggyish
6 Wyo. hrs.	47 "How Green Was My Valley" star	2 9mm sub-machine gun	21 Roulette choice
12 Blue hue	49 Caroline, discovery	3 Anger	22 Candle count
13 Cry of love	52 Conclusion	4 Vicinity	24 Foundation
14 "How — do you love her?"	53 "Take to the skies"	5 Crowd	26 The tie that binds?
15 Bill address	54 So all can hear	6 Hardly conceded	28 Wore
16 Cell structure?	55 "L.A. Law" actress	7 Avoid	30 "—Wiedersehen"
18 One way to improve your lot	56 Kilt accessory	8 Trucker's unit	32 He has inside information
20 Do nothing	57 "Monopoly" mos.	9 Unimprovable	33 Ball-bearing device
21 "Norma —"	DOWN	10 Firewater	34 Polar employee
23 Mos. and mos.	1 Discor-	11 "King Solomon's fees	36 Namesake of a soft
24 Bound bundles		17 Shone harshly	38 Bike with an engine
25 Freudian concepts			39 Sheepish
27 Different			40 Lingerie
29 Toothy?			42 Jordanian money
31 Carol start			45 "J'Accuse" writer
35 Held the scepter			46 It starts at Lake Victoria
37 1971 Spielberg TV-movie			48 Sala-mander
38 Repeated figure			50 Director's cry
41 Group of seals			51 Mag. staffers
43 Lump			
44 It takes the cake			

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APRIL 12TH

Opinion

April 12, 1996

Technician

Dating policy gets an "A"

Students and instructors should not become intimate with one another.

College instructors who trade sex for grades and pamper student lovers with state funds may sound like the stuff of soap operas. Such actions have occurred close to home, though, and the scandal-weary UNC System has taken action.

Because of unprofessional relationships between teachers and students at UNC-Chapel Hill and the N.C. School of the Arts, the UNC System recently adopted a policy which sets limits on relationships between students and faculty members. Of interest to the board were amorous and sexual relationships.

The report, entitled "Policy on Relationships Between Students and Faculty," says it's improper for an employee to evaluate or supervise a student and date that student at the same time, and faculty may be punished for misconduct if such relationships are discovered. This policy is necessary and responsible.

In and of themselves, dating relationships between students and professors or teaching assistants aren't problematic. However, a definite conflict of interest is created when teachers date students who they instruct or advise. Any grade the instructor gives the student can't be taken seriously, as emotion can play a role in grading.

The rule can be taken one step further, because even relationships between students and teachers who share a department are circumspect. An amorous teacher can sway other instructors'

feelings about the student, which could lead to skewed grading. The instructor can influence others to get the student better grades, or teachers who don't approve of a colleague's relationship with one of their students could take that disapproval out on the student's grade.

It would be nice to believe that students and teachers in the Ivory Tower have the ability to separate emotion and work, professional life and social life — even when they're dating. After all, students are taught by college professors and teaching assistants to strive for objectivity and look at situations from a number of angles. Grades are subjective, though; there's no way around that. In addition to exams and papers, attitude and attentiveness of the student play a part in final marks. An intimate relationship outside the classroom is bound to affect judgment of work done for class.

Like the UNC System Board of Governors, the NCSU Faculty Handbook says it is improper for those in direct supervisory roles to have romantic or sexual relationships with those they teach. But romances between students and instructors in the same department, as well as those between students and instructors who work together directly, have undue influence on professional relationships, academic reputations and grades.

To keep a soap opera from bubbling up at N.C. State, students as well as faculty and staff must be informed of the impropriety of intimate relationships outside the classroom and the consequences of carrying on affairs.



Commentary

AAS program offers opportunities

Marcela Musgrove



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Several weeks ago a column was published on this page saying that there should be more public debate on the issue of creating an African-American Studies program. Unfortunately, from there the author depended on condescending assumptions in order to make his point.

The column's main argument was that an AAS department would only harm African-American students since it was extremely impractical and unmarketable. The author claimed that it eventually would be "a self-esteem booster for kids who are unable to get into college in a specialized field." The author added that since the students would be "no more academically skilled when they started than when they arrived," it would be better for them to go to a technical or community college to learn a skill rather than being "fed hundreds of hours of inconsequential material."

Looking over the list of courses offered in AAS, there is nothing remedial about them. They range from Inter racial Communication to African-American Literature to Francophone Culture of Ghana and Togo to Swahili. The departments which offer AAS are all part of the standard liberal arts thoroughfare including communications, English,

French, history, psychology and sociology.

If the argument is to be made that the AAS department should not exist because it is too "impractical" and "inconsequential," this also seems to imply that the departments which offer classes in AAS are also impractical and inconsequential.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences?

The fact is that liberal arts graduates do actually acquire analytical thinking and writing skills that help them later in life and in the workplace. My best example of this is a good friend of mine who, instead of attending a technical college to acquire a skill, decided to attend Rice University and major in possibly the most impractical major — Latin and Ancient Mediterranean Studies. Despite being fed heaps of "inconsequential material," he's been accepted to Harvard University to study international public policy. There are many more examples of liberal arts graduates who go on to careers in public policy, business, the professions, education or any of a variety of fields.

In fact, in this rapidly changing and unpredictable marketplace, some businesses prefer liberal arts graduates because of their flexibility, extensive background and communication skills.

But when it comes down to it, an immediate payoff in terms of a job is not the only motivation for choosing a major. As the president of my former college once said, "The purpose of a liberal arts education is to make your head a more interesting place to live inside for the rest of your life."

During a recent forum on the status of AAS, I asked how non-African-American students could benefit from an AAS department and why they should take AAS studies classes. The response I got was that African-American culture is an important part of American history and society as a whole. While this society and America's ethnic make-up is rapidly changing, it is more important than ever to break down old stereotypes and biases and learn more about other people. I am reminded of the stated policy in the NCSU Student Handbook: "Prevention and education are the best tools for elimination of racial bias and harassment." Whether it's learning more about your own culture or learning more about someone else's culture, knowledge is power.

Currently, Latino and Asian students at Columbia University are having a hunger strike in order to bring Chicano and Asian-American studies courses to the university. More than 25 years ago, black students at this university led protests that shut down final exams in order to get the first AAS classes offered here. Now, a variety of classes are offered in the AAS program, and all that is left now is to create an official major. Is that so much to ask?

Elections clean, professional

Thanks to the Student Senate Election Board, this year's elections went smoothly.

Third time's a charm. After two years of mistakes in the N.C. State Student Government election process, the Student Senate Election Board got things to go its way. During this year's elections, there were no broken AllCampus card scanners, no repeat voters and no uncounted votes. The Board also handled candidates' violations of the campaigning rules swiftly. It was a clean election this year.

The Election Board's job started March 22, when 18 candidates received warnings for violating campaign rules. When Josh Hawn's campaign staff broke a rule set by the board, it responded promptly by issuing a warning to the candidate. Hawn was threatened with disqualification, and all the candidates were warned. Violations were dealt with swiftly,

even though some of the rules are a little odd, such as having tape not show on the front of campaign posters. The Board kept the candidates in line.

Compared to previous years, the board worked to improve the Student Government election by changing the process. Volunteers who manned the election booths were better trained to monitor them professionally and keep an eye on who was voting than in previous years. No one appears to have voted more than once.

Last year, some students took advantage of the broken scanners and voted more than once. Two elections ago, people discovered a box of untallied ballots that seemed to appear magically. But this year every vote apparently has been counted.

The Board and volunteers who manned the booths should be congratulated for the fine job they did with this year's elections. Perhaps this diligence can be maintained for later elections.

Death brings love and life into focus

James Trotter



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The dreary months have lingered a painfully long time this year — gray days that discolor life. The thousands of branches of the campus trees, lonely without the warmth of their leaves, softly cry in the cold wind that blows through them all too often. The harsh cold and the constant bad weather have claimed the lives of many people, most of them elderly or homeless. It has indeed been a hard winter, challenging the spirits of us all.

That's why I was not really surprised when my friend Charlotte called with her story. Death seemed to fit like a damn glove.

Usually, when the phone rings and she's on the other end, it makes my day. Charlotte lives in Florence, S.C., and is still in high school. We have been friends for years, and although she is one of the most beautiful girls I have ever known, it is her soul that I have always loved best. And then there is her voice. It is so close to an angel's it often brings tears to my eyes.

When I picked up the phone this time, though, her voice was streaked as streaked with tears as a scratched old record. It turns out that two of her close friends were in a bad accident. One was

dead and the other in intensive care. The story made the news a few nights ago. It was a speeding cop who had broadsided the boys while they were on the way to the gym. It was her first real experience with death.

The cop wasn't chasing anyone. He wasn't on the way to stop a robbery or a girlfriend. He was taking some blank tickets to another thing he had pulled over someone and then realized that he was out. It was an incredibly pathetic excuse for the pain that he brought for so many people.

I'm sorry, I tell her. At a loss for words I was, I could not hold her. That ran through my head: you cannot hold her — the best medicine for her illness. She told me her friend's dad moaned loudly when he cried and told her over old photographs of the boy that his son had loved her, even though the dead boy had never told her, so she didn't know what to say to the mourning father, and I told her I knew how she felt.

Life is what it is sometimes. And isn't it the best medicine for her illness. She told me her friend's dad moaned loudly when he cried and told her over old photographs of the boy that his son had loved her, even though the dead boy had never told her, so she didn't know what to say to the mourning father, and I told her I knew how she felt.

When we hold back, though, when we hesitate to tell someone our love, then it can be harmful. Who are we to say that we will be here tomorrow to tell them?

Normally I feel I will never die — living life on the edge, the way it should be lived. Most of us do — hell, we're young. But, it is things like this — the freak events that should never happen but do — that tend to remind us of our own mortality, and if life is not fleeting then what is? How quickly we could become nothing more than a memory.

I told her all of this, and that sometimes things happen for no reason, things we cannot control. The river gives us fish to eat, but in its waters we can also drown. So goes life. I wasn't sure if any of this mattered to someone who had just lost a close friend.

When Charlotte says she must go, that she can't talk anymore, I tell her OK and that I love her. She says, "I love you." For a ridiculous moment as I hang up the phone I thought one of her tears was somehow on my face.

I looked out the window at another colorless day, and thought about lost love and life. We have the chance to love, the opportunity to love, but the boy who died no longer has either. I whispered to the winter and asked it to leave, and from the reflection in the window pane, I knew it was her tears I had felt when I had hung up the phone.

Technician

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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

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'Fear' Marky Mark's acting



David (Mark Wahlberg) and Nicole (Reese Witherspoon) find love at the carnival (above). Margo (Alyssa Milano) gives the evil eye to Nicole in James Foley's 'Fear' (above).



Grade: C

■ "Fear"'s Marky Mark terrorizes a family, but not with his music.

BY CLARENCE MOYE
EDITOR AT LARGE

The "boyfriend/girlfriend/sadist from hell" plot is probably one of the oldest in the book. "Fatal Attraction" made the formula hugely popular a few years ago with Glenn Close hunting down Michael Douglas.

And ever since, there have been countless variations (rip-offs) of this well-trodden genre. Now, Mark Wahlberg, better known as Marky Mark, takes on the role as the relentless psycho-killer in James Foley's "Fear," a film that blatantly cannibalizes Martin Scorsese's better "Cape Fear."

Wahlberg plays David, a guy who's just so nice and sensitive that he immediately attracts the naive Nicole, played by Reese Witherspoon. In a very slow and tedious first 30 minutes, David radiates charm and wit to get into Nicole's life and family.

But, of course, her father, played by William Petersen, doesn't like this guy one bit. He sees the evil in his eyes but is unable to convince his daughter otherwise. And then you know what happens next.

Foley, director of such art-house fare as "Gleengary Glen Ross," tries to run themes through this film such as

the dissolution of the family structure, but they are nothing new.

Martin Scorsese tried the same approach in "Cape Fear" with much better results. That film was a tense roller coaster ride of pure terror. At its best, "Fear" is the cinematic equivalent of remembering that you've left the iron on.

The acting in these types of films is usually pretty good. Petersen and Witherspoon (who puts less than Alicia Silverstone) have some good father-daughter strife scenes, but they look awfully like the ones in "Cape Fear."

The biggest surprise here is that Alyssa Milano of "Who's the Boss" fame turns in a very good performance as Nicole's best friend, Margo. She's given little to do but spit out humorous lines and have sex, but she's very convincing.

The fate of psycho films really hangs on the acting chops of its psycho, and Mark Wahlberg is ... funny. He's not a menacing enough presence to attempt a DeNiro impression. Instead, he delivers his lines like a pissed-off pizza delivery boy.

Ultimately, "Fear" is entertaining if not for the joy in seeing the plot inconsistencies or Wahlberg's attempt at serious acting. But for true relationship terror, there are better films than this.

Grade: C

Student-directed production running at Thompson Theatre

■ If you are into absurd theater, you'll love Thompson Theatre's student production of "The Bald Soprano."

BY ELIZABETH BOOKOUT
ASSISTANT X-TRA EDITOR

"The Bald Soprano," directed by Adam Majewski and written by Eugene Ionesco, is an absurd play set in 1940 in a London flat at night.

The furniture on stage consists of a couch, two chairs and a coffee table, which seems ordinary enough. But "The Bald Soprano" is far from ordinary.

The backdrop, an intriguing, surrealistic depiction of a grandfather clock and a mantel, is perhaps the first clue that this play is different.

The musical selection played before the lights go down — songs from the movie "Four Rooms" — further foreshadows the bizarre nature of "The Bald Soprano."

But even with the music and the backdrop as warning signs, there's no way to prepare yourself for this one.

"The Bald Soprano" begins with Mr. and Mrs. Smith (Deborah Lederer and Linh Schladweiler) opposite each other in their sitting room.

Mrs. Smith is babbling away incessantly, and Mr. Smith is reading the paper and gnawing on his pipe, occasionally grunting in reply.

Finally, Mr. Smith speaks, and the two become engaged in a ridiculous argument that makes you wonder about the intelligence level and/or sanity of these characters. The more they talk, the more bewildered and confused the audience becomes.

And throughout the entire play, the clock chimes irregularly.

Mary, the French maid, (Desiree Morgan, a freshman majoring in textile management) interrupts the couple, recounting a date she's just returned from, and almost as an afterthought reports that the Smiths have visitors who have been waiting outside for an hour. The Smiths leave the room and the Martins (their visitors) enter.

Cameron Pearce, a junior in communications, plays Mr. Martin, and Maggie Clark, a freshman majoring in

biology, portrays Mrs. Martin.

They sit on opposite ends of the couch, and Mr. Martin asks his wife if they know one another because she looks familiar. Mrs. Martin says he looks familiar, too, and they may have indeed met, but she says repeatedly, "I'm sorry, sir, but I do not recall it, sir."

They spend several minutes trying to place each other, and both keep saying "How curious, how bizarre, and what a coincidence!" as they realize that not only are they married, but they have a daughter, too.

Pearce and Clark have the audience roaring with their repetitive banter and wondering what is going on?

Finally, the Smiths return to their guests, and shortly thereafter, the doorbell rings, spurring another mindless argument between Mr. and Mrs. Smith. It's the fire chief, played by Andrew Cooke, a junior majoring in communications, who reconciles the couple. And the clock chimes irregularly.

He arrives in hopes of finding a fire because work is slow. The fire chief visits awhile and tells several boring stories that cause the Smiths to nod off.

The audience can relate because at this point the pace d-r-a-g-s, albeit intentionally. This scene would've been better if it were edited slightly.

Several things about this play are confusing. Why does everyone seem so stupid?

What exactly is wrong with the clock? Why is everyone always kissing one another?

Why is it called "The Bald Soprano"? (The phrase was only mentioned once during the play.)

And most of all, what exactly is going on? The confusion, the repetition and the absurdity of it all makes this performance unforgettable.

"The Bald Soprano" will leave you echoing the Martins, "How curious, how bizarre!" Although the pace is a bit slow in places, it is worth it for the last few minutes, which will make you laugh until you cry.

"The Bald Soprano" will be performed April 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. and April 14 at 3 p.m. For ticket information, call Ticket Central at 515-1100.

Studio

Continued from Page 5 figures out the perfect way to handle the temp.

The actresses in this play are perfect for their parts. They have great chemistry and complement

each other well.

The play moves at a rapid pace, and the costumes and props accurately depict a contemporary office scene.

"The Temp" will be performed April 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. and April 14 at 3 p.m. in Thompson Theatre.

Funny

Continued from Page 5 is not acted upon for The Query classification.

The Stalk, as alluded to previously, is basically The Query with the person being approached in some way either via electronic or physical means. This may include but is not limited to zwinging,

iteration of The Stare, email and actual physical confrontation. The latter is reserved for only the boldest of persons or those that have not yet mastered the task.

So, ask yourself "Have I done

this?" The answer may astound you.

Potentially, there is a new dating scene at the expense of our computer resources. Until next time, remember to blink.

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