



Outreach center teaches science education

Shelley Sink, coordinator of earth sciences instruction at The Science House, an award-winning outreach center at N.C. State, has brought innovative science education programs to more than 20,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students and teachers statewide this year.

Sink uses a mobile teaching lab that is equipped with toothpaste volcanoes and paper-mache dinosaur eggs as teaching devices.

"Our mission is to reach as many kids as we can with the message that science and math are exciting and relevant to everyday life," Sink said. "That's not a message you can communicate through rote memorization and lectures. You have to go into classrooms, roll up your sleeves and demonstrate it."

Sink and other Science House instructors' programs feature hands-on activities that use everyday objects as learning tools, to reinforce the concepts that science and math affect life all around us and can be taught to nearly all teachers and parents using low-tech teaching aids.

In "EarthCycle," Sink's earth sciences program, elementary school students dig chocolate chips out of cookies to learn how paleontologists unearth fossils.

Thanksgiving vacation begins Tuesday

Don't forget: Thanksgiving vacation begins at 10:20 Tuesday night. Classes will resume at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 1.

University Student Center and Atrium dining facilities will close at 3 p.m. on Tuesday and resume their regular hours on Monday, Dec. 2.

The Fountain Dining Hall will close at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and reopen for dinner on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Inside Technician

Sports: Wolfpack defense strong in season opener.



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Opinion: Turkey Day gives us a lot to be thankful for.

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Frontiers: Were Martian globes once beings?

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# Technician

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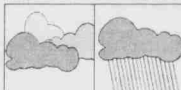
Raleigh, North Carolina

November 25, 1996

Volume 77, Number 39

Outside

Today Tomorrow



Evening showers 80% chance  
HI 65 LO 45 HI 63 LO 55

## University considers reducing PE requirement

The Student Senate is pushing for a change in the number of PE hours required for graduation.

By DANIELLE STANFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

The age of four required physical education classes may be coming to an end for N.C. State students.

The Student Senate has proposed a reduction in the PE class requirement from four classes to two. Student Senate President Mark Nippert said there are two reasons for this proposal.

"For one, students only get credit for two hours out of the four they must take," Nippert said. "And two, we (the Student Senate) think PE should focus on education, not skill." Other UNC System institutions, as well as other schools throughout the nation, require two or fewer PE classes.

The Senate's proposal is currently being reviewed for recommendation

by the Council on Undergraduate Education. A motion for the proposal will be determined at the council's next meeting.

The PE department has changed significantly within the past year. Last March, the department dropped the PE 100 requirement and instead required students to take one of six specialized health and fitness courses.

Nippert said the Student Senate is not against PE altogether. "It is great to have [PE] available for those to enjoy it, but it's not the university's role to require skill," he said.

Student Senate has researched the financial impact this proposal might have on gym facilities and found that since the gym is supported by student fees, only funding for PE classes and teachers would change.

"No one's arguing that PE is bad. It is really about priorities and a clear focus on the university's requirement," Nippert said. "There is a big issue here, and we hope to win."

Amy Cummins, academic committee chairwoman, said she believes the PE Department's current curriculum is unnecessary. "Four semesters are not needed for PE," she said.

If the Council on Undergraduate Education moves to pass the proposal, Provost Philip Stiles will review the proposal.

"Together with the Faculty Senate, they will make a decision by the spring for the 1997-1998 school year," Cummins said. "My job is to write letters and individually contact the faculty about the need for this proposal."

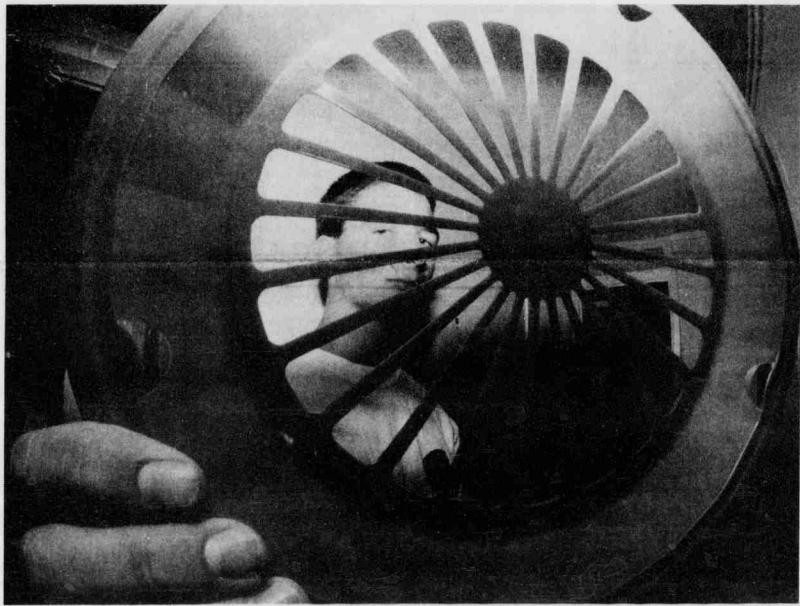
Associate Provost Frank Abrams said the provost and the Council on Academic Policy Procedure, which includes all deans and vice chancellors, will review the Senate's PE requirement proposal and make any necessary changes.

"There is not a deadline for the proposal to be passed," Abrams said. "But it is recommended that there be a decision this year."



Students who dreaded taking PE 100 got a break last March when the department scratched the course. The university may also lessen the number of PE hours required to graduate.

## In your face



Freshman Jeff Schonauer shows off his new frisbee after giving it a workout.

JAKE OBI/STAFF

## Class's production gets national exposure

A television production class is reaping national recognition for two videos.

By MARK MCCRAW  
STAFF WRITER

N.C. State is generally recognized for its prowess as an engineering school, but there are other relatively unknown aspects of NCSU that have received national recognition.

The television production classes at NCSU offer students a unique opportunity to explore alternate forms of communication and expression of their intrapersonal world through various audio and visual mediums, said an award-

winning communications instructor.

Terry Kauffman, whose credentials include over 12 national first place awards and an Emmy nomination for her work in audio and visual communication, as well as receiving the CHASS outstanding lecturer of the year award last year, teaches production classes at NCSU.

"There is something that resonates between two people that is more powerful than speech," Kauffman said. "A lot of students are trying to discover new mediums." The national recognition Kauffman's students are receiving indicates they have been successful in their endeavors. "Front Porch," a fully original

teleplay written by Caroline Guthrie and produced and directed by Kauffman's advanced TV production class, has been broadcast on community television and is still being aired in several rotations.

The video is based on the dialogue of two old southern sisters and provides a satirical look at the interaction between individuals and society.

"It's more of a classic kind of traditional Southern genre," Kauffman said. "It is a really captivating, witty telling of the truth."

Also, a video called "Unusual Arts," which was inspired by NCSU professor David Greene and

edited and directed by James Cowgill, a senior in communication, recently received the first place experimental video award from the National Broadcasting Society in Los Angeles.

"Unusual Arts was produced to be the opening of a symposium," Kauffman said. "By taking a look at experiments and phenomena in a science lab and making them come alive as an art form, the video was able to interweave a theme of the contrast between cold, inhuman technology and humanity."

"We're interested in the creative

See VIDEO, Page 7 >

See SAFETY, Page 2 >

## Windhover offers perks for best literary works

The publication is giving away prize money for the best submissions it receives.

By CHRIS BAYSDEN  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Students looking for a few extra dollars to spend need only find a pen and some paper.

Windhover, N.C. State's literary arts publication, is giving away \$200 in prize money for the best submissions it receives this year.

All written work received by Dec. 9 will be considered for the contest. The author of the best overall work will receive \$100. In addition, \$50 will be given to the author of the best prose work, and another \$50 will be awarded for the best poetry submission.

Windhover will accept submissions for publication until Jan. 20, but only those received by Dec. 9 will be considered for the prize money.

Windhover editor Jason Cooke, a senior in English and botany, said students, faculty, staff and alumni are welcome to enter the contest. Windhover accepts almost any kind of literary work, including poetry, fiction, essays or drama.

"We're open to any type of submission," Cooke said. "There's no limit on content."

Cooke said submissions will be judged by Windhover's literary staff on very flexible criteria.

"Literature, there's really not a fixed, step by step process," he said. "The most rigid thing is that it has to be well-written."

Cooke said that debate amongst the staff will probably be the deciding factor.

Windhover also accepts visual art submissions for publication, but they will not be judged in the contest.

According to Cooke, the publication, which has been around since the 1960's, exists "to represent the artistic aspect of the NCSU community." He said that while NCSU is well-known for its technical majors, there is still an abundance of literary creativity on campus.

Many of the submissions come

from engineering or other technical majors, Cooke said. They are not just limited to the English department.

"We get a lot of good stuff from places people don't usually expect," Cooke said. "It shows how diverse we are."

Windhover usually prints about 7,500 books. Last year, 12 poems and five short stories comprised the literary section. The staff received over 200 total submissions.

See WINDHOVER, Page 2 >

# Safety

Continued from Page 1

"None of them chose to speak to me, which is something I would have encouraged," Mann said. "It is hard to deal with problems that [I am] unaware of."

Harper said Quesnel and Lamb were referring to a meeting on May 23 between the director and the Fire Protection division when they got the impression that he forbade them to go outside the department with complaints.

Harper said he actually told the division that they were not allowed to go outside of the department to solicit help with tasks that were solely Fire Protection's responsibility.

In order to substantiate his accusations, Quesnel produced what he claims are the minutes taken from the May 23 meeting. After having a week to review a copy of those minutes, Public Safety has refused to confirm or deny that they are legitimate.

According to the minutes Quesnel provided, Harper told the Fire Protection Division: "If any of you go outside of the department in an attempt to make or change current

policies without [my] express permission, your employment will be terminated."

According to the minutes, Harper then went on to say that the Public Safety administration would go on to fight any grievance filed by the terminated employee "for the next three years in support of [the] decision."

"There will be no rumbles," Harper is quoted as saying, "and no calling on people outside of this department as to decisions that will be made or that have been made by upper management...[I do] not allow other divisions in the department to question [my] directives."

"This is not a democracy and this is not a team. Whether you believe it or not, you do not have a vote," the minutes stated.

A source close to Public Safety who agreed to talk only under the condition of anonymity, said Harper "doesn't care about people. He rules by intimidation. He sees people as more of a tool than a resource."

"Supervisors are afraid of making any real decisions," the source said. "We were belittled, we were badgered, we were yelled at, and we were accused," Quesnel said.

Mike Williams, former SAVES (Student Assistants Volunteering in Emergency Situations) chairman, said Harper cursed at the SAVES members and called them names.

"The turnover rate of officers is high because of poor management," the anonymous source said. "They're overworked and they're stressed out...a lot of people get out of law enforcement after they work at Public Safety...[employees] are always going to be despondent with him there."

According to the minutes provided by Quesnel, Harper told the Fire Protection division members, "[I] treat all of you with respect. [I] give you everything the department can get you, and these poor attitudes are going to change whether you want it or not. [I] know you work hard and that's what you care, but that is not good enough."

"Everything he does is right from his standpoint," Williams said. "He has answers for everything."

The anonymous source said the current Public Safety administration could endanger campus.

"There is a pretty good chance someone is going to get hurt because of the way Public Safety is run," the anonymous source said.

# NATIONAL NEWS



# Feds announce more versatile air bag plan

**Under new plan, customers will be allowed to disable their air bags, which will be built with slower deployment speeds.**

By TOM INCANTALUPO  
NEWSDAY

Federal officials Friday announced steps to reduce the risk to youngsters and short adults from air bags, a plan that seemed to address the demands of the major protagonists in one of the most hotly debated auto safety issues of the decade.

The plan, most of which had been anticipated, acknowledges the inherent drawbacks of air bags, a safety device whose benefits have

been sold so successfully to consumers that it is difficult now for car makers to sell a new vehicle that does not have two of them. They are believed to have saved 1,500 lives but also are known to have caused the deaths of 31 children and 19 adults.

The new plan from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration requires new labels warning of the potential dangers on new cars within 90 days and proposes that owners be allowed to have their driver- or passenger-side air bag deactivated by a shop, something that a car owner can legally do now but for which a shop must have governmental permission; that car makers be allowed to depower air bags by up to 35 percent, possibly within a

year; that "smart" air bags, able to sense if an infant seat or a child is in front of them, be phased in beginning with 1999 models; and that car makers be given until Dec. 1, 2000, to install passenger-side air-bag cutoff switches in vehicles with no rear seat, such as sports cars and pickup trucks.

The proposals could be adopted after required comment periods and administrative review.

The Big Three domestic car makers — General Motors, Ford and Chrysler — welcomed the steps; they have been urging the government to allow them to depower air bags and have said that, under the specifics of their proposal, the slower units could be in new cars in as little as six months.

# Windhover

Continued from Page 1

Windhover has received recognition on a national level. The 1995 book won both a Pacemaker and a Best of Show award from the Association of Collegiate Press.

Cooke said there are several benefits to having one's

submissions appear in the book. First, it offers students a chance to be published before graduation, but there are also less-tangible benefits.

"There's personal satisfaction knowing someone else finds the work valuable," he said.

Students wishing to have their work considered for publication can submit it either by dropping it off at one of the Windhover submission

boxes or by e-mailing it to Windhover@ncsu.edu.

Drop boxes are located at the following locations: Caldwell Lounge, the first floor of D.H. Hill Library, the first floor of the University Student Center, the first floor of Witherspoon Student Center, the School of Design Library, the first floor of Leazar Hall and the Crafts Center.

# WORLD NEWS

**The new plan will help the Russian economy as well as eliminate some problems that have surfaced in past agreements dealing with uranium sales.**

By THOMAS W. LIPPMAN  
The Washington Post

Russian and U.S. negotiators have reached agreement on a five-year contract that will greatly accelerate the amount of bomb-grade uranium from dismantled Soviet missiles sent to this country for peaceful use and pump more cash into Russia's struggling nuclear industry.

The new contract is a modification of one of the most ambitious words-

# U.S., Russia agree on uranium sales contract

into-plowshares agreements of the post-Cold War era, a landmark deal that calls for Russia to take weapons-grade uranium from thousands of SS20 missiles, dilute it and ship it to the United States for use as fuel in commercial nuclear power plants.

The original 1994 contract called for quantities and prices to be negotiated anew each year, which enabled the Russian nuclear energy minister, Viktor Mikhailov, to regularly seek better terms. Now, prices and quantities have been established for the next five years, U.S. officials said, removing the uncertainties that had hung over the program.

At the same time, stabilizing the contract should clear the way for the

U.S. agent in the deal, the U.S. Enrichment Corp., based in Bethesda, Md., to be privatized in 1997, corporate executives said.

USEC, which Congress spun off from the Energy Department, is owned by the federal government, but the New York investment banking firm Morgan Stanley & Co. has already begun evaluating its balance sheet in preparation for sale to private investors, USEC president William H. Timbers Jr. said.

USEC and Mikhailov's Minatom signed a \$12 billion, 20-year contract in 1994 providing for Russia to dilute about 500 metric tons of weapons-grade uranium — the equivalent of 22,000 nuclear warheads — and ship the material to USEC for resale to utilities here.

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S	E	A	W	A	T	E	R	L	E	I	C	H
H	I	T	O	N	L	E	S	S				
G	A	L	E	N	C	L	E	O				
E	R	I	E	C	H	E	S	T	E	R		
T	A	M	O	R	E	A	T	Z	E	D		
B	E	T	W	E	E	N	W	I	N	O		
H	E	A	R	P	H	O	T	O				
T	A	L	E	N	T	E	S	E	R	I	A	L
A	L	L	I	E	R	I	A	L				
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STALLONE  
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TONIGHT

Men's basketball vs. Penn State, 7:30 p.m.

# Sports

STATE STAT

7,507,679 fans have attended basketball games at Reynolds Coliseum.

Technician

November 25, 1996

Volume 77, Number 39

J. P. Giglio

COMMENTARY



## It's turkey time

It's just not a Thanksgiving without the accompanying column.

There are some things that you don't want to do, but you end up doing them anyway. Watching the football team play is one such task that comes to mind. Another would be writing the same column that appears in hundreds of newspapers across the country. I'll knowingly write this gratuitous column not to be like every other columnist, but the idea of giving thanks on Thanksgiving seems like the right thing to do. If you think about it, just having this column is a reason to give thanks. In my mindless ranting and ravings over the last two years, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that I actually have a purpose. What that might be is debatable, but let's give thanks for it anyway. So here they are, in no particular order, things that I am thankful for. **Herb Sendek**—This seems like a silly thing to be thankful for, but the return of Wolfpack basketball is no laughing matter. Will Coach Sendek turn things around in one season? Of course not, but his relentless pursuit of recruits leaves me with a great deal of hope that there will be a third national championship banner in Reynolds Coliseum before the year 2001.

**Damon Thornton**—On a related note, Thornton is a breath of fresh air in the Wolfpack locker room. The freshman is surprisingly adept at answering reporters' questions. Of course, it doesn't hurt that he can jump out of the gym. His two dunks on Friday were almost divine.

**George Tarantini**—The men's soccer coach is probably the most appreciative person of the work that Technician does. That's not to say I need someone to devote a holiday to me because I write an interesting article, but a simple "thank you" goes a long way. **Carson White**—Of all the athletes, not just soccer players, at State, Carson is my favorite. He led the team in scoring this past year and played each contest, no matter the injury, with every ounce of energy he had.

All of this, without a scholarship or hoopla. **Vanderbilt University**—There are no words to describe the gratitude I have for every person even remotely related to the Commodores. The pathetic football team, their wanna-be-Duke basketball team are a perfect match with Mr. Turner.

**Rollie Geiger**—The cross-country and track coach continuously wins ACC title after ACC title, with little or no fanfare. If he could keep wild dogs away from his star runners, who knows how good the Pack could be.

**Barry Jacobs**—The only sports writer who bothers to converse with me on a regular basis at basketball games. When I introduced myself to Sendek at a press conference, Jacobs told Sendek, "He's tough but fair." It's good to be recognized by a nationally-known author and stringer for *The New York Times*. My colleagues at Technician and WKNC—I've been known to throw an occasional chair, spew a couple of profanities and generally

See GIGLIO, Page 4

# Wolfpack wakes up on Senior Day

It won't erase the memories but it might help ease the pain.

By James M. Lail  
Sports Editor

N.C. State's 37-22 win over lowly Wake Forest Saturday was just what the Wolfpack seniors hoped it would be — one final win at the place they've called home for four or five years — Carter-Finley Stadium. "It's real emotional," senior tackle Tom Dombalis said. "This place has been my home for five years. I wouldn't trade anything to be anywhere else. "I love this place."

Dombalis and his fellow seniors, who have compiled a 31-26-1 record wearing the red and white, closed out their Wolfpack careers in classic fashion on Senior Day — by manhandling the Demon Deacons for the tenth time in eleven years. The 1996 State seniors have never lost to the Deacs, and in their home contest, despite being overshadowed by junior tailback Tremayne Stephens and freshman quarterback Jamie Barnette, the seniors had a huge hand in the victory.

Marc Primanti, who leads the ACC in field goal percentage with a perfect 1,000, continued his perfection Saturday, kicking three times from distances of 45, 27 and 35 yards. His three kicks extended his conference record for consecutive field goals in a row



T.D. Young/Staff

See SENIORS, Page 4 Tremayne Stephens rushed for a season-high 153 yards in Saturday's win.

The Wolfpack wraps up its home football schedule in style with a 37-22 thrashing of Wake Forest.

By James Curle  
Staff Writer

Saturday's game against Wake Forest was the final game at Carter-Finley Stadium for the seniors on the Wolfpack football team. It was those seniors honored before gametime that made it one to remember.

The Pack started the scoring early with the help of special team defender Chris Coleman. After Wake Forest stalled on their first drive, Coleman broke through the punt coverage and blocked the kick by Wake's punter Tripp Moore. Coleman promptly scooped up the loose ball and ran it back 47 yards

See WAKE, Page 4

## Pigskin Picks: The Finale

Where has all the time gone? All of the sudden it's the end of the college football season. So signals the end of the Pigskin Picks. It's only fitting that the winner of the coveted Golden Bass Trophy will come down to the last week.

Since this is the final newspaper before the last week of games, we'd thought you'd like an update. So signals the end of the Pigskin Picks. It's only fitting that the winner of the coveted Golden Bass Trophy will come down to the last week.

You may wonder why this is the

last week of Picks. Well, if State doesn't play in a bowl game then we really see no reason to prolong the agony.

Don't fret, before the last newspaper of the semester, there will be a bowl games reunion. Here's a sneak preview of this week's games:

**N.C. State vs. East Carolina**—Marc Primanti needs eight field goals to tie the NCAA record.

If that happens he's a shoe-in for the Heisman.

**Florida at Florida State**—This is the one everyone east of the Mississippi has been waiting for.

Kendra or Busby, it won't matter, look for the Gators to roll.

## Pigskin Picks Standings

Through Week 12

Sen. Helms	130-50	.722	---
Dr. J.D. Smith	128-52	.711	2
Gov. Hunt	127-53	.706	3
Debra Morgan	126-54	.700	4
Greg Frey	124-56	.689	6
Bob Langford	121-59	.700	9
James M. Lail	116-64	.672	14
Guest Slot	116-64	.672	14
Michael Preston	114-66	.633	16
J.P. Giglio	105-75	.583	25

## Melvin leads Wolfpack Women with double-double

The Wolfpack Women rebounded from the NIT in a big way.

By K. Gaffney  
Staff Writer

It's a good thing there are two halves to a basketball game.

Led by junior Chasity Melvin, the

N.C. State women's basketball team bounced back from a scary first half to defeat Georgia Mason, 75-51.

Melvin scored 16 points and collected 14 rebounds in the second half to push the Pack to 3-2 overall.

George Mason 51  
N.C. State 75

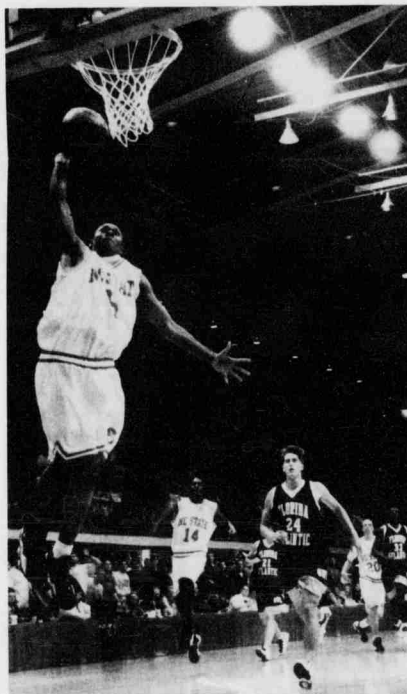
For State, ranked No. 8 in the nation, it was the team's fifth game in eight days.

The Pack jumped to a 16-7 lead early in the game, but the Patriots brought the game back to within one point in just two minutes.

State once again struggled with turnovers, as well as getting their shots to fall. The Pack committed 11 turnovers in the first half, and 25 total on the night.

"Turnovers are still plaguing us," Yow said. "Travelling mainly. That is going to be a point of emphasis, and it's something that we have total control over, and we are really going to have to concentrate on that."

## Revenge!



ALBERT WHANGBO/Staff

Ishud Benjamin puts the finishing touches on Florida Atlantic Friday night with this one-hand jam.

Freshman Damon Thornton leads the way in Herb Sendek's debut.

By J.P. Giglio  
Staff Writer

It was billed as new coach Herb Sendek's night, but fellow newcomer Damon Thornton stole the show.

Thornton scored 18 points, including two breathtaking alley-oop

Fla. Atlantic 53  
N.C. State 68

jams to lead State to its season-opening win over Florida Atlantic, 68-53.

A tenacious Wolfpack defense caused a gaudy 35 turnovers and frustrated the Owls, who were looking to repeat its 1994 upset at Reynolds Coliseum.

"The defensive effort in the first 37 minutes showed signs that we were well prepared," Sendek said. "But the last three minutes we didn't play with the same focus."

Sendek removed the second unit after a brief stint. He was adamant after the game about his team's need to avoid becoming complacent.

"There shouldn't be a sense of relief after a win and it shouldn't be the end of the world when you lose," Sendek said. "We have to keep each game in perspective and move on to the next one."

Thornton made sure the Pack would have its way. The freshman hit 7 of 9 shots and grabbed eight rebounds. His two slam dunks in the last two

See STATE, Page 4



Chasity Melvin (44) led the way for the Wolfpack Women past George on Saturday Night to increase their record to 3-2. They'll play again Tuesday against ECU at Reynolds Coliseum.

TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

second leading scorer was named to the NIT All-Tournament last week.

Melvin converted a three-point-play with less than half a minute

ticked off the clock in the second half to set the ball

See GMU, Page 4

# Wake

Continued from Page 3

for the score. "We had situations like the blocked punt for the score, but we weren't out of the ballgame at that point," Wake Forest head coach Jim Caldwell said. "We had an opportunity to come back and put some more points on the board and just didn't execute well enough."

Things kept rolling for the Pack during the rest of the first quarter. With 7:38 left in the period, All-American kicker Marc Primanti capped a 22-yard drive with 45-yard field goal to put the Pack up 10-0. It was Primanti's 22nd straight field goal, extending his ACC record for consecutive field goals made.

The Pack never looked back after that, scoring another 10 points

before Wake could respond with a score of their own.

As expected, this game was not an impressive defensive show on either side of the ball. Both teams amassed over 400 yards of total offense, with the Demon Deacons posting 352 passing yards. The Wolfpack distributed the ball more evenly, recording 286 rushing yards along with 274 passing yards.

Accounting for 153 of those rushing yards for the Pack was tailback Tremayne Stephens.

Stephens started off slow in the first half, only able to post 40 yards on the ground. But Stephens turned it on in during the third quarter amid a flurry of scoring on both sides.

On the second play of the drive following a Wake Forest touchdown that closed the gap to 27-15, Stephens took the handoff from quarterback Jamie Barnette 69 yards up the middle of the field for

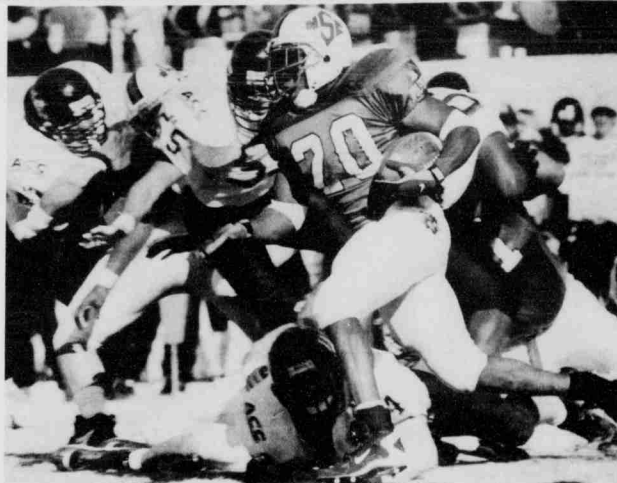
the score. The rush gave Stephens his fourth 100-yard rushing game of the season and the 12th of his career.

"We got him into the secondary quite a bit, but we couldn't maintain that," State head coach Mike O'Cain said. "We couldn't continue it, and he finally did break one."

The seniors played strong during the entire game.

Co-captain receiver Jimmy Grissett led all Pack receivers with 52 yards and a touchdown. The other co-captain, free safety Kenny Harris, recorded an interception mid-way through the third quarter to stop a Wake Forest drive. And Primanti, a Lou Groza award finalist, was perfect on the day with three field goals. His streak now stands at 24 consecutive field goals.

The Pack travels to Charlotte next weekend to play arch-rival East Carolina at Ericsson Stadium.



Tremayne Stephens (20) rushed for over 100 yards for the fifth time this year.

T.D. YOUNG/STAFF

# Seniors

Continued from Page 3

to 24. He scored 13 points against Wake, over one-third of the Pack's offensive output.

But for Primanti, the streak and the scoring was the farthest thing from his mind.

"My one goal," Primanti said, "was to kick one more in Carter-Finley."

Jimmy Grissett made four catches for 52 yards and one touchdown against the Deacs, but it was the manner in which he snagged his final score at Carter-Finley that made him — and the Wolfpack fans

— smile.

With time running out in the first quarter and the Pack up 10-0, quarterback Jamie Barnette scrambled out of the pocket and looked for Grissett in the right corner of the end zone. Barnette threw a floater towards the corner, but the well-defended Grissett had to outjump his defenders and turn around mid-air to make the catch.

But like Primanti, Grissett just wanted to win one more game at home.

"I had a weird feeling," a grinning Grissett said. "It was kind of like 'Just get me to the fourth quarter.'"

State coach Mike O'Cain was understandably happy for his seniors.

"They've had a hard two years, but to win their last two games at Carter-Finley (State beat Duke, 44-22, two weeks ago at home) is great," O'Cain said. "At least they'll have a fond memory of their last game here."

Despite the Pack's 3-7 record, the departing seniors, who will play their last game in a State uniform this Saturday in Charlotte against East Carolina, continued to show support for their embattled coach.

"All [the coaches] want is for us to succeed here," Dombalis said. "It's a big relief to get this one under [O'Cain's] belt."

Senior co-captain Kenny Harris had an interception in his last game for State.

# GMU

Continued from Page 3

rolling for State.

"I thought Chaisty Melvin really brought her game up in the second half," State head coach Kay Yow said. "Umeki Webb also, they really hit the boards hard and played pressure defense really hard in the second half, and it made a big difference for us."

"There was a big difference for the whole team," Melvin said. "In the second half we all came out really intense, and I just tried to match the team."

An 13-to-4 run in the middle of the half put the game out of reach, with the Pack receiving offense from reserves Constance Poteat and starter Ly-Schale Jones.

George Mason guard Kristeena Alexander hurt the Pack in the paint and along the perimeter. The standout freshman from Christ the King in New York City led the

Patriots with 13 points.

Melvin finished with an 18-point, 16-rebound double-double, her second of the season. Smrka-Duffy scored 16 and Webb added 13, while both pulled down seven rebounds.

State out rebounded the Patriots 49-22, allowing George Mason just seven in the second half.

Kristen Gillespie saw twenty minutes of play time for the Pack. It was the 5'11" sophomore's first game in an N.C. State uniform, as she has missed the beginning of the season due to an elbow injury. Gillespie played with her left elbow heavily wrapped, but was able to bring the ball up the court for the Pack. She scored three points and picked up three rebounds.

State takes on East Carolina tomorrow. The 7 p.m. tipoff at Reynolds will feature Melvin facing off against her younger sister, Danielle.

"I'm really excited," Melvin said. "I just hope my sister doesn't play inside."

# State

Continued from Page 3

minutes of the game, were reminiscent, in leaping ability, to another State player with the initials "DT."

"Across the board, from the first two exhibition games on, Damon has continued to get better," Sendek said. "We're still going to have work to do, but he's going to be a terrific player for us."

On the first dunk, the more impressive of the two, Thornton took the back-door alley-oop pass from Isha Benjamin and threw it down over his head after a 180-

degree turn.

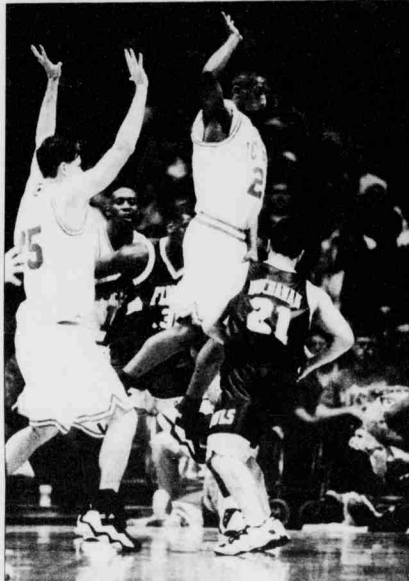
The second was from the same offensive set up, but this time the 6'8" skywalker reached far above the rim and with one hand thunderously closed the door on Florida Atlantic.

The game started exactly the opposite of its highlight reel finish. Both teams combined for 34 points in the first 10 minutes. With the score tied 11-11, State closed the half with a 23-8 run.

Timely three-point shooting by Benjamin (12 points, 6 steals), C.C. Harrison (10 points) and Al Pinkins (10 points) factored to be the difference. The Pack went 4-of-9 beyond the arc while the Owls managed only one three.

Craig Buchanan led Florida Atlantic with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

State's next contest is Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Reynolds against Penn State. The Nittany Lions, who made it to the NCAA Tournament last season under the guidance of former Raleigh resident Jerry Dunn, should pose a more formidable challenge than the Owls.



Florida Atlantic's Craig Buchanan (21) would rather pass a kidney stone than the ball.

ALBERT WHITNEY/STAFF

# Giglio

Continued from Page 3

be a difficult person to like. I don't know if they all like me, but at least they put up with me.

**The Giglio Family** — I have the two best older sisters a guy could have and my parents have given me every opportunity in the world. There's not much more that I could ask for.

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# Frontiers

Technician

November 25, 1996

Volume 77, Number 39

## Astronaut is not too old, even at sixty-one

■ As a senior citizen, this man does things that young people only dream of.

By WILLIAM HARWOOD  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

HOUSTON — Sailing off into the orbital sunset one last time, 61-year-old astronaut Story Musgrave blasted off on his sixth and final shuttle flight last week, becoming the oldest human being to fly in space.

"I think I'm right at my best," Musgrave reflected in a recent interview. "It's unbelievable, but I

know darn well for certain that I'm better in my 60s than in my 50s or 40s. Every single day our performance is measured. It's such a complex business, and experience does count."

By that standard, Musgrave, a bald, twice-divorced father of five in near perfect physical shape, could easily qualify for any number of shuttle missions.

He joined NASA in 1967 and waited 16 years for his first flight, blasting off on the shuttle Challenger's maiden voyage in 1983 and taking part in the shuttle program's first spacewalk. Ten years later, during his fifth mission,

**"I go to school at night the way other people might go to a movie."**

— Story Musgrave, NASA Astronaut

he led the spacewalking team that repaired the Hubble Space Telescope.

He served on two satellite-launching missions, including a clandestine flight to deploy a

classified spy satellite, and took part in a Spacelab research mission highlighted by a dramatic engine shutdown during the climb to space.

An accomplished pilot, Musgrave has more than 17,000 hours of flying time in 160 different types of aircraft — 7,500 hours piloting high-performance jets.

As if that's not enough, he has more than 500 parachute jumps to his credit, including more than 100 experimental free falls to study human aerodynamics.

And along the way, he somehow found time to pick up undergraduate degrees in mathematics and chemistry,

master's degrees in business administration, biophysics and literary criticism and a doctorate in medicine.

Musgrave expects to earn two more master's degrees next year, one in the psychology of creativity and another in history.

"I go to schools at night the way other people might go to a movie," he said before his fourth shuttle mission.

A walking legend at the Johnson Space Center here, Musgrave is a clear standout in a world of super-achievers. But there are younger astronauts waiting their turn, an international space station to build

and only so many shuttle flights to go around.

So when Musgrave was selected to join the crew of the shuttle Columbia for a 16-day astronomy and technology-development mission, he was politely told not to expect another flight assignment.

"Someone had to make that decision," he said. "I can't walk away from it."

Born in Boston on Aug. 19, 1935, Musgrave joined the Marine Corps in 1953 and served as an aircraft crew chief during assignments in

See ASTRONAUT, Page 7

### Background

Researchers at Stanford University and NASA announced Aug. 7 that they had found evidence that communities of microbes lived on Mars 3.5 billion years ago. They based their claim on tiny tube-like forms discovered on a meteorite picked up in Antarctica in 1984, then misclassified — and therefore not carefully studied — for more than 10 years. Researchers believe that the rock comes from Mars because it shares the same mix of minerals as 12 other known Martian meteorites. A similar announcement — about the discovery of Martian fossils — made headlines around the world in 1961, those "fossils" turned out to be ordinary pollen and ash.

— LOS ANGELES TIMES

## Meteorite continues to evoke controversy

■ Scientists continue to argue about the Mars meteor and possible discovery of life, questioning the definition of life itself.

By K.C. COLE  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When the world learned last summer that scientists had found evidence of ancient life on Mars, it let out a collective gasp at the awesome possibility.

Now, scientists have begun piecing together perhaps the most formidable forensic puzzle ever. Can they prove that the microscopic forms found on an extraterrestrial meteorite are bodies of long-dead beings, rather than "globs of Martian goo," as one astrophysicist put it.

Unraveling the true identity of the Martian visitors will require expertise from biology, chemistry, physics, geology and astronomy.

Researchers are sifting through the evidence to answer questions never faced before:

What would the corpse of an alien life form buried in rock for 3.5 billion years look like?

What traces, if any, would it leave behind?

Beyond that, scientists are worried that they might be blinded by humanity's egocentric view of what life can be. "Everything we know about life we learned from Earth," said NASA Ames Research Center astrophysicist Christopher McKay. "We have to be careful about jumping to conclusions."

Some think that linking the tiny globs to life is already too big a leap itself. The scientific community is divided on the question. "I don't know a better explanation for what we're seeing," said chemist Richard Zare, whose Stanford University lab identified the rock's organic compounds.

However, Norman Pace, a biologist at the University of

California at Berkeley, says some of his colleagues are so skeptical they dismiss the sausage-shaped forms as "turd."

William Schopf, an ancient life expert at UCLA, is the "official skeptic" brought in by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for "balance" at its Aug. 7 news conference announcing the find. Schopf, who discovered the oldest known life forms on Earth, says his own experience makes him wary: These don't look like any fossils he's seen.

"I personally hope they're right," he said of the Mars rock researchers. "But if I used the same evidence to argue for life on Earth (at 3.5 billion years ago), I'd be laughed out of the business."

Even those convinced that the fossil-like forms are the real thing admit that their claim may be impossible to prove. At best, they say, they can prove that the forms can't be anything else.

The first chunks of the rock to reach Zare's lab traveled under pseudonyms. "They (NASA scientists) called them Mickey, Minnie and Goofy," said Zare. NASA had mixed the pieces with ordinary meteorites, he explained, so chemists could be as objective as possible in their tests.

The now-famous rock known as Allan Hills 84001 had a well-traveled history even before it reached NASA. Believed to have formed on a warm, wet Mars about 4.5 billion years ago, it got knocked off the red planet by a crash-landing asteroid and spent 16 million years looping around the sun.

About 13,000 years ago, scientists say, the chunk of Mars got sucked in by Earth's gravity, and fell in Antarctica, where it was found 12 years ago. This theory about the remarkable odyssey of ALH84001 is generally accepted by researchers.

Right now, Zare is looking for traces of one of life's primary

building blocks: amino acids, the chemical compounds that make up proteins. But progress is slow. "Research is like poetry," he says. "It's hard to tell how fast you can do it."

If Zare can make a map of amino acids, and if the map matches the pattern of the tube-shaped forms, it would be a powerful piece of evidence in favor of the fossil life hypothesis.

If he doesn't find amino acids, or if he finds them in the wrong places, then he'll have to back up and "be suspicious about everything," he said.

Even a perfect map of amino acids wouldn't be the final proof, however. As Zare points out, science can only prove things false. His research could conclusively prove that the forms are not fossils; but it could never conclusively prove that they are.

"The best we can do," he says, "is

See METEORITE, Page 7

OK, I know you're all probably tired of this life on Mars stuff. We want something different, something new, something exciting. Or, maybe you have some other gripe about Frontiers. Well, what do we know? Nothing... unless you tell us something. Send your comments and suggestions to [Woody@sma.sca.ncsu.edu](mailto:Woody@sma.sca.ncsu.edu)

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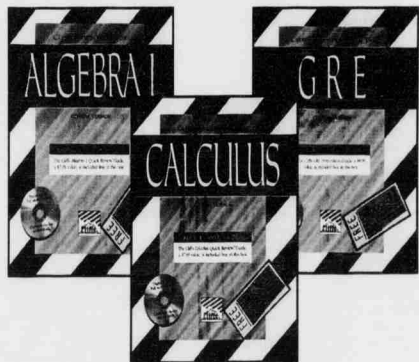
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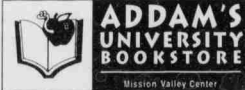



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# Opinion

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 a blank.  
 Technician, vol. 1, no. 1, February 1, 1920

Technician

November 25, 1996

Volume 77, Number 39

## Turkey day is about family

Remember what Thanksgiving is really about.

It's that time of year again. The first frost has come and gone. The leaves have turned beautiful shades of orange, red and brown. And John Madden has a monstrous, six-legged turkey waiting for the winner of the Dallas-Washington game. Yep, it's gotta be Thanksgiving. This week, most of us will journey home to assemble with the rest of our extended family for one of America's most hallowed traditions: the Thanksgiving feast. Together again, the family will watch the Macy's parade, eagerly anticipating the giant Garfield float, or simply making fun of hosts like Regis and/or Cathie Lee. We'll jockey for position at the dinner table so as to be as far from Aunt Myrtle and her wet kisses as possible. Some of us find it a perfect time to share our Christmas wish lists with the rest of the family (hey, they're all there, might as well make the most of it). Most important of all, we will abide by a single motto: "Carpe turkem" (Latin for "Seize the bird"). Yes, we will stuff ourselves silly with yummy turkey parts, dressing drowned in gravy and the ever-popular cranberry

sauce. And after we've had more than our fill, we will be forced to eat the leftovers for the rest of the weekend. But amidst the gluttony, we should remember what Thanksgiving is all about. It may have started out as a nifty story about the Pilgrims and Native Americans, but it has evolved into an American institution. It's our annual reminder that we all have "family" we love and should give thanks for. "Family" doesn't have to be blood relatives, although they often are. No, family is the group of people we depend on. They are the friends, neighbors or lovers who are there for us. They are the sisters and brothers who we shared our childhood with. They are our parents or parental figures who give us guidance and stand by us even when we make mistakes which they warned us about, but we were too arrogant to listen. And yes, family is Aunt Myrtle, whether we want to admit it or not. So while you're gobbling down that last serving on Thursday, take some time to look around and see who your "family" is. Be thankful for them, and the love they give you. Because that's what this holiday is about. Carpe Turkem.



## Unity through logo

New logo type symbolizes more than unity.

If the Board of Trustees approves of a new logo type in February, people receiving information from N.C. State will see a common look from the university. The new logo will feature a red line border with "N.C. State University" in the corner. The question for organizations now will be which logo type should be used. Already there are at least three different symbols used to identify a group as belonging to the NCSU community. There are at least that many variations of the university's name. For some groups, adding another symbol and name to the list can cause problems. The symbol is supposed to give NCSU a more "professional image." The new logo type will be required on the official university letterhead, and may be used by whoever chooses to use it. But, if you look at most stationery at NCSU, you see the university seal with the Bell Tower in it. A new logo type seems to be a way to keep all the different groups of the university the same without distinction. Joe Sanders, associate vice chancellor for Public Affairs says that when a university's communications have no unity, people assume the university

itself lacks unity. Does that mean that the little wolf the athletic department will put on its letterhead with the new logo type will make people think NCSU lacks unity? Does that mean that organizations throughout campus that don't use the logo type lack unity with other organizations? While it is true that some organizations seem to act autonomously, it is for a reason. The College of Engineering is different from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. If you received a letter from each of them and the chancellor and only looked at the new logo type, you would think that these letters came from the same people. Without freedom to use a logo type of your choice, you run the risk of just being another face in the NCSU crowd. Organizations that decide not to use the new logo type should promote unity with the university through two simple things — using N.C. State or a variant of the university's name and using the symbol of its choice consistently. NCSU is full of diverse individuals and groups and there needs to be a standard to make sure people know that a group belongs with the NCSU community. But if organizations use one of the many symbols and title consistently there should not be a need for a new logo type.

Call me the Thanksgiving scrooge. Bah, humbug! Technically, Thanksgiving is not a religious holiday, nor is it a holiday celebrating any kind of freedom or independence. To view it as either would be hypocritical. The original holiday was to have a feast celebrating the bounty of the year's harvest and to give thanks that the village had enough to survive another year. Once a year, we Americans still set aside a day to give thanks by gluttoning ourselves. In Christianity, isn't gluttony considered a sin? The Pilgrims certainly had some sort of freedom after coming to the New World. Ironically enough, it was religious freedom. The coming of the Europeans was the beginning of the white man's crusade to take away the independence of the natives who had already inhabited this land for thousands of years. As children in grammar school, we learned to associate the Thanksgiving holiday with caricatures of Pilgrims and Indians in their traditional period costumes, as well as the turkeys and cranberry sauce. Those of us who live in the Eastern United



States, or rather those of us who are of white European decent, are seen as the descendants of the original Pilgrims. Have you ever wondered what happened to all the Indians? At the time of the first Thanksgiving, the Indians were portrayed as cooperative, friendly and downright essential to the Pilgrims' survival. What happened there is unfortunately history. At that time in history the Indians were not considered as advanced and civilized as the white Europeans. Did that give the Pilgrims the right to judge? If I am not mistaken, that is another Christian sin. And let's not forget

the main underlying reason for the Europeans to stay put in this new land: greed. We, descendants of those early Europeans, stayed and plundered and made our claims all the way across the New World. The Jewish religion has a better awareness of what one should be thankful for. Yom Kippur, a day of atonement and fasting, is part of their ceremonies. Maybe we as North American Christians, can learn something about our priorities from this holiday, which is similar in meaning yet very different in celebration. The American Thanksgiving seems to be a slap in the face of the North American native, whose population has been reduced to around one million and whose homeland has been reduced to set-aside acreage with living conditions barely equaling that of some Third-World nations. After another year of harvesting our fast-food containers, plastic soda bottles and grocery store bounties, we sit at our tables on Thanksgiving Day and count our blessings, giving thanks to our Lord. Do we ever think about the Native American Indian in any other way except as a paper cut-out

decoration in our children's classrooms? Our easy way out is reasoning that there is no turning back. What is done is done, but that should not make your turkey and pie taste any better. History demonstrates that what we as a nation have done for ourselves and for others is very black and white. Into our society, we have taken in the black people, the freed African slaves, the Jews and immigrants of all nationalities, but yet we cast aside those whom we took from. There may be no way to take it back, but our nation is still young enough to try to atone for our past mistakes. Our history was not made that long ago. You can still find arrowheads in the back yard but it is rare, even non-existent, to find a Native American Indian living in the community. As we continue to send troops all around the world to help protect the rights and freedoms of other nations, we also should consider our own third world, which exists within our country. We want to be the great nation who sets examples for the rest of the world, but what examples do we set for ourselves?

## Holiday gives little to be thankful for

## Going home brings joy and pain



That's actually one thing I'm grateful for. I can go home, totally relax and not worry about what to eat and whether or not I have money. During the holidays, parents can be annoying, but they're one thing I wouldn't give up being. Besides, who else can cook like mom? When you do get home and providing that you're broke, which personally I see as a great incentive for going home, you get money. Not to spend on yourself, but on Christmas. As soon as the last bit of turkey has been consumed, people hit the stores. These have been prepared for this "Grand Example of American Secularism and Consumerism Excess" since Labor Day. Shops love it, we love it — it all balances out. Eating turkey on Thanksgiving Day and watching football and the parade is preparation for the weeks to come — weeks of fighting the crowds, scraping cash together to get something for loved ones and finding time to do the other

euphoria of going home wears off quicker than it does for others. (Let's just be thankful that Thanksgiving has food involved. Good food.) Parents start harassing, being interested and concerned about our lives. A curfew may be enforced, and you're no longer your own person — you're "one of the kids." You come home expecting to be treated like the adult you feel you have become, but to Mom and Dad, you're still their little kid.

holiday things — caroling, eating, cooking, eating, visiting, eating and decorating. Did I mention eating? In between Thanksgiving and Christmas is the dreaded exam week. ("Psycho" shower scene music, if you please.) They try to cushion the blow with food from Thanksgiving vacation and presents from Christmas vacation, but it doesn't always work. You come back relaxed from Thanksgiving, used to sleeping in, and suddenly, things take a turn for the worst. You're pulling all-nighters, drinking coffee like there is no tomorrow, and Vivarin is your personal aspirin. Then again, at least you have Christmas and new classes to look forward to. When Nov. 28 comes, think about what you are really grateful for — friends, family, other loved ones, professors who will hopefully give you A's and anything else that has been truly beneficial to your life.

## Technician

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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It's that time of year again, and since Monday's paper is the only one coming out this week, I feel it is my right and privilege to discuss a holiday that is almost forgotten in the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Thanksgiving Day is coming soon to kick off the holiday season. Towards the end of November, college students everywhere gear up for their trip home. It's a chance to visit your loved ones. It's also a chance for real food — turkey, stuffing, cranberries and everything else that is part of the stuff-yourself-until-you-pop tradition. Lastly, it's a chance to get money to celebrate commercialism (also known as Christmas). Some students don't go home until Thanksgiving, and mom and dad are grateful to find college hasn't turned their kid into a perpetually drunk party animal. Because of that, for several days, they willingly hand over food, money and the washing machine. Of course, for some students, the

The Campus  
**FORUM**  
 This "laundry check" because if this

check would give athletes \$50 to \$75 a month, then it would not discourage anyone from accepting illegal offers. These illegal offers range from free meals to brand new cars. I am not saying that the check should be for more money, but I think that the idea of giving athletes a certain amount of money per month is ridiculous. Although the athletes are very talented and

bring in great sums of revenue to schools, most of them already receive scholarships and other benefits for being associated with the athletic department.  
**Nathan R. Strickler**  
 Freshman, Engineering

# Astronaut

Continued from Page 5

Korea, Japan, Hawaii and aboard the USS Wasp. He joined Eastman Kodak in 1958 as a mathematician and operations analyst and completed a surgical internship at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in 1965.

After being selected as an astronaut, Musgrave worked on the Skylab space-station project and helped develop spacewalk equipment and techniques for the shuttle program.

Last Tuesday at 2:53 p.m., Musgrave and four crew mates lifted off on the 80th shuttle mission. Columbia's flight will mark the sixth time in 13 years that Musgrave has flown in space, tying a world record set in 1983 by astronaut John Young.

While he claims to be afraid of shuttle launches — "It just frightens the heck out of me" — Musgrave clearly relishes the experience of weightlessness.

As always, Musgrave says, he will close his eyes at the moment Columbia slips into orbit and imagine stepping off a cliff to fully experience the head-long rush of

free fall. "There's nothing more delicious!" he exclaims.

As always, Musgrave carries a thick set of index cards into orbit listing interesting, educational or amusing things to do in his spare time to more fully experience the space environment — like going to the bathroom upside down or riding the shuttle's vacuum cleaner as if it were a witch's broom.

"I don't know why it wouldn't fly," he mused. "If you sit on a vacuum cleaner, and it's blowing air out one end and it's sucking on the other, you ought to propel yourself."

And as always, Musgrave will mentally send out a greeting to any aliens in the area, saying, "I would like to talk. Even more, I would like you to come get me."

As his final launch approached, Musgrave was overwhelmed by a flood of phone calls, e-mail and letters from senior citizens inspired by his ongoing adventure.

"It gives people immense hope," he said. "I'm having a better time in my 60s than I ever had in my 20s, 30, 40s or 50s. I'm amazed myself that life begins in your 60s. It's hard to imagine, but it's a fact."

# Video

Continued from Page 1

process through any medium, such as documentaries, music programs, and art music," she said. "The better you can communicate, the better off you will be."

Kauffman's classes will also concentrate on discovering the origins of creativity.

"There is an abnormally high correlation between manic depressant and abnormally creative people," Kauffman said. "What we are interested in is alternate ways to

channel these feelings in a positive manner."

Kauffman, who has recently completed a Ph.D. in the areas of Psychology, communication, creative expression, and therapy, said she feels that the four areas are very closely connected.

According to Kauffman, alternate forms of communication can sometimes serve as a more effective, interpersonal expression than conventional means.

"Phenomenologically communicative irregularities seem to exist," she said. "There are many mysteries of communication that have yet to be explained."

# Meteorite

Continued from Page 5

exhaustive falsification." They can prove that the forms can't be, say, mineral deposits. They can't prove they were life.

Indisputable proof of the latter would have to come from missions to the planet itself. For now, the researchers will have to settle for what they can wring from this rock.

Aside from experimental obstacles, the researchers face an even thornier question: What is life anyway? Is what we know all there is? Should we open our minds to other possibilities? If we define life too narrowly — based on life as we know it — will we miss drastically different alternative forms? Life on Earth consists mostly of a few simple ingredients: carbon and water with nitrogen, and sometimes sulfur and phosphorus.

Zare said he thinks biologists may be unnecessarily narrow-minded in confining their speculations to carbon-based life. After all, he points out, it wasn't that long ago that scientists thought life needed oxygen and sunlight. Recently, researchers were shocked to discover large colonies of organisms thriving miles beneath the ocean in pitch-dark water next to boiling sulfurous vents. "They don't use oxygen or light," said Zare. The truth is, he says, "We really don't know that much (about the requirements for life)."

McKay agrees. Perhaps the best definition, he proposed, is: We'll know it when we see it. "If we get more specific (than that), there's a danger we'll ... miss something."

Most scientists agree that life needs liquid water and some kind of energy source, whether it comes from the sun or from geological processes like volcanoes. Early Mars, they think, almost certainly had both flowing water and active volcanoes. Three-and-a-half billion years ago, Mars might have been temperate and wet like Earth, said McKay.

But just because life was possible on Mars doesn't mean it actually took root. To prove that it did, scientists need to concentrate their attention on deciphering the secrets of ALH84001 and its passengers.

Zare, NASA geophysicist David McKay (no relation to Christopher) and their colleagues base their claim of Martian life on, among other things, the presence of crystals and mineral formations that are commonly produced by Earth bacteria and of organic compounds known as PAH's in roughly the same locations. Finally, there are the tiny tube-shaped structures themselves.

Although both the minerals and the PAHs could have been produced by nonliving processes, the fact that they are all clustered into "hot spots" is what has led the researchers to conclude that they are traces of ancient life.

Schoff, however, feels this evidence isn't nearly good enough. The main problem, he says, is that life has to have some way to separate itself from its environment. Even a skin as tenuous as a soap bubble could qualify if it lived on a completely quiet world. But on the dirty, wind-blown Earth we know, "it has to have a membrane that's resistant," he said.

And under that membrane it has to have an internal cavity. "There has to be room inside for stuff (like metabolism) to occur. Because that stuff is what we call living."

Schoff says the only evidence that will convince him that life once existed on Mars will have to come from the tubular forms themselves. And he doesn't think the forms look like fossils. For one thing, he points out, fossils probably wouldn't be in such good shape.

"They're 3.6 billion years old and none of them has collapsed, none of them is broken, none is degraded, none is flattened," he said.



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