



Scholarship renewal forms are on the way

Any student who has not received scholarship renewal forms should not panic. Julia Rice-Mallette, director of financial aid, said.

The renewal forms were delayed for some reason this year, Rice-Mallette said. But the forms are now being sent out.

Students should have the renewal forms filled out by March 1 if they want their scholarship renewed, she said. Students who do not receive the forms within the next couple of weeks can come by the Financial Aid office and pick up similar forms.

Statistics scholarship available

Julie G. McVay, an emeritus faculty member in the College of Education and Psychology, has pledged \$100,000 toward the endowment fund of the Francis E. McVay Scholarship for undergraduates in statistics in NCSU's College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

The scholarship, named for McVay's late husband, was established at his retirement in 1982. Julie McVay retired from NCSU in 1987. A past president of NCSU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, she earned both her master's and doctoral degrees at NCSU.

The income from the endowment provides annual scholarships of \$1,000 or more to outstanding students in statistics.

Black Students Board event

"Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored" will be shown Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Witherspoon Student Center, hosted by the Black Students Board.

The production is free and open to the public.

Inside Technician

Sports: Women's basketball team gives Florida State a good thrashing. Page 3

Opinion: Whose arena is it? Page 6

Frontiers: America Online could be in big trouble. Page 5

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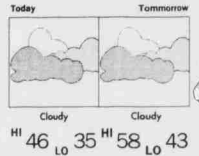
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Outside



Festival celebrates King's message of hope

The activities at the 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. festival were as diverse as the crowd in attendance.

By JOSH JUSTIN
STAFF WRITER

Martin Luther King Jr. instilled a legacy for all of us to follow. This weekend, that legacy was celebrated in proper fashion, with the 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Festival at the McKimmon Center.

The festival consisted of a collection of educational activities. It was sponsored by the African American Cultural Center in cooperation with St. Augustine's College and Shaw University.

Brenda Allen, N.C. State textiles professor and coordinator of

"We must let our dreams propel us into the future."

—Brenda Allen, Keynote speaker

African-American Student Services in the College of Textiles, was the keynote speaker at the dinner following the festival activities.

One of the most intriguing parts of the festival was the Cultural Hour, which included guest performances by the Black Repertory Theatre, the New Horizon Choir, Torkwase, the Collage Dance Company, and New Images.

Jessica Alacron, who goes by the

stage name "Torkwase," recited a series of poems during the Cultural Hour and the dinner. Jessica, 16, has been writing and reciting her poetry since she was nine years old.

"The festival is very good," Alacron said. "It has different forums to discuss different issues. It makes you more aware."

Jessica is a student at Raleigh's Enloe High School, and she hopes to teach someday. She recently completed a collection of short stories, and is working on a musical album.

"The sky's the limit for me. I want to reach out to people," Alacron said.

Another figure of prominence at the festival was the poet Sadiqa Malik. Malik, who works with the Durham Arts Council, recited poems and recollections of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream.



The Collage Dance Company performs at Saturday's festivities.

"I've been performing since 1982," Malik said. "I've made an appearance here at the festival for the last six or seven years. I try to go to as many cultural events as possible, and this is one of the best." In addition to the Cultural Hour, Malik also recited her inspirational

See MLK, Page 2

Chancellor listens to student concerns

Chancellor Monteith addressed last year's tuition increase and plus-minus grading at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting.

By PRESTON MOON
STAFF WRITER

Feelings of the present and visions of the future were in the docket at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting. N.C. State Chancellor Larry Monteith spoke at length with senators to give his insight on some current matters of student interest.

Monteith made it a point early to address last year's tuition increase. He said he knew students did not like paying more for their education, but backed up the increase by attempting to put it into perspective.

Monteith said students only pay for a quarter of the value of their education. "You purchase only 25%...and the state pays the other part of it," he said. This is in contrast to private schools who have their students pay the full price of their schooling.

"We don't want N.C. State to become an elitist institution," Monteith said.

In order to make it possible for some students who could not afford NCSU otherwise, the university needed to increase funding for need-based scholarships, Monteith said. Half of last year's tuition increase went to those scholarships.

The other half was necessary to cover the effects state budget cuts had on non-academic resources, he said.

"The university chose increasing tuition over having larger class sizes and offering less," Monteith said.

The senate asked Monteith to address recent squabbles over the plus-minus grading system. Though he expressed an opinion of the system, Monteith explained that he has no direct control over the grading policy.

"Academic policy is generally the role of the faculty," Monteith said. "I will not dictate to them what the answer should be."

Having been a faculty member in the past, Monteith said he understood how hard it is to discriminate between the basic five grades. He said he did not see a need to have eight more grades to decide between.

"If I'd have been a faculty

member, I'd have voted against it," he said.

Monteith said that the main problem with the system is the affect it has on those students who receive a grade of A minus who would have received a perfect GPA under the past grading policy.

However, Monteith does not think that the issue measures up to some other problems NCSU faces. "I think you can take this fairness argument, which is real, to an extreme," he said. "Grades get refigured anyway when you apply to go elsewhere."

When asked how to approach sexual orientation in a professional atmosphere, Monteith answered with advice to students on projecting themselves in their future careers.

"Our differences are our assets and not our liabilities," he said. "You've got to function with people who are going to hold differences of view." The chancellor also brought an issue of his concern to the attention of the senate. He said that the graffiti at the Free Expression Tunnel was creeping out of its intended boundaries and is becoming a potentially harmful eyesore.

"The tunnel was put there for you to express yourself," Monteith said, "but this thing is growing like a virus. It is very important that we look at safety and appearance."

Monteith said he was afraid that younger generations who are thinking of coming to NCSU may be turned off by the progressive painting. He posed the question to the senate of how to contain the graffiti where it was intended to be.

Monteith wanted to leave the senators with thoughts of their futures. "The time may come in which students have to do more with their learning," he said. "Education is changing in very dramatic ways."

"Your life is going to sweep by you," Monteith said. "Don't delay anything in your life that is important to you...take a little risk."

In other Student Senate news, three student groups were granted funds to aid in their activities in the coming semester.

The Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians, and Allies (BGLA) was appropriated \$500 to continue their public awareness campaign, the African American Textile Society

See HOUSING, Page 2



Susan Thompson, a senior in veterinary science, holds a ferret before it goes into surgery.

Clinic stitches up exotic pets

If your turtle is feeling a little under the weather, it's your lucky day — help is just across campus.

By SALVADOR FAREAN III
STAFF WRITER

Iguanas and ferrets and snakes, oh my!

If your unusual pet needs a check-up, has a fracture, or if you want to prevent the procreation of

more unusual pets, the College of Veterinary Medicine can be an invaluable resource. Through March 28 the school will be offering a clinic on special species that benefits the students as well as the community.

So far this year the clinic has seen hedgehogs, iguanas, ferrets, rabbits, snakes, turtles, and a fish; and that's in less than two weeks. The clinic sees cases such as traumas, fractures, tumors, and population control.

Michael Stoskopf, professor of wildlife and aquatics at the CVM, is in charge of coordinating the rotation this winter. His duties include managing the students and faculty involved. The clinic is actually one of the two-week courses (VMC 888) that the students take during their senior year.

"The rotation is run in order to let the vet students get a chance

See ANIMALS, Page 2

Director of housing: only residents will pay for air conditioning

Most students will not have to pay for renovations to a few residence halls.

By MARK McCRAW
STAFF WRITER

Students who are concerned about student housing increases as a result of the air conditioning renovations for the 1999 Special Olympic Games can rest easy.

Despite N.C. State Student Senate accusations that "...this facilitates

improvement...shifts the burden of cost for air conditioning spaces onto the students," the fact remains that only those students who wish to pay for the cost of air conditioning will have to.

According to Tim Luckadoo, Director of University Housing, the cost of air conditioning will be charged to the five buildings being renovated.

"The financing will be borne by the residents who will be benefiting from it," said Luckadoo.

The difference between the cost of housing for residence halls with air conditioning and those without air conditioning is approximately \$300 per room, per semester.

Another plank in the Student Senate Resolution called for the North Carolina General Assembly to pay for the cost of renovations incurred by the Special Olympics. The plank stated that "the cost incurred by University Housing to provide housing for these participants is \$388,225."

According to Luckadoo, this cost is correct.

"Our expenses, such as utility costs, staffing costs, desk services, etc., are upwards of \$300,000, and should not be paid by students," Luckadoo said. "Hosting the games is very rewarding, but costly and time-consuming and it shouldn't affect your rent."

Despite the plank in the Senate resolution, the General Assembly still may not consider paying for the renovations.

"Hopefully they'll come through and cover our costs," said Luckadoo. "However, there is a lot of good publicity to the university as a result of the games, so there is still a lot of value to us in hosting them."

According to the office of George Hall, N.C. Legislative Services Officer, no legislation has yet been introduced at the General Assembly in regards to the resolution.

See HOUSING, Page 2

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Animals

Continued from Page 1
to practice on more unusual species," Stoskopf said.
Virginia Brown, Dan Hudson, Johnson Russell, Karen Taylor, and Charles Ward are the five professors involved in this course; and yes, the students will receive grades at its conclusion. In this particular course it is safe to assume that students are not the only ones that are concerned with their grades. The patients and their owners, who usually visit one of the faculty members at a private practice, also have a lot at stake.

The experience gained through this course will help the future healers of our pets deal with the abnormal when they join the professional world.
"Their anatomy and size are obviously different [from that of

the more common pets]," said Gayle Burrell, one of the senior vet students. "The anesthesia requirements might be different. It's not quite as routine."

The clinic sees, on average, eight to ten of these special patients a day, five days a week, primarily on an outpatient basis.

One of the more common problems encountered is pets not eating well.
"Many pets are on improper diets," said Stoskopf. "Due to the nature of the unusual species, owners often do not have access to dietary info."

Another problem addressed at the clinic is population control. After all, as Stoskopf put it, "people need to get iguanas spayed too."
For access to special pet dietary information, or to make an appointment for a furry or scaly one, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital small animal receiving desk can be reached at 821-9500.

Housing

Continued from Page 1
At any rate, it is important to recognize the distinction between rent increases to cover the cost of staffing expenses and those concerning air conditioning renovations.

All on-campus residents will see a slight increase in the cost of housing if the General Assembly needs to pay the additional money NCSU needs to cover staffing. But only residents in the soon-to-be air-conditioned halls will have to bear the extra \$300 increase.

"The renovations were going to be made regardless of the Special Olympics," said Luckadoo. "They just force us into a certain time frame."

Senate

Continued from Page 1
was given \$200 in start-up funds, and The Grains of Time a Capella group received \$2500 to help them afford travel expenses for their upcoming tour of the West Coast.

The senate also overturned Student Body President Robert Zimmer's veto of a resolution passed two weeks ago. The resolution urges the North Carolina General Assembly to come to University Housing's aid in affording the cost of installing air-conditioning and sprinkler systems in five of NCSU's residence halls.

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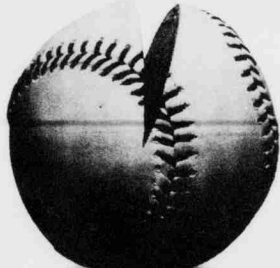
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MLK

Continued from Page 1
poem "Love Is The Medicine of Life" during the dinner. Malik placed emphasis on love and ancestry in her poem.

"With love, the whole world sees right," Malik said. "Listen to the wisdom of your ancestors."

The keynote speech given by Brenda Allen focused on the festival's theme, "Igniting the Spirit of a New Generation."

In her speech, Allen expressed the vast importance of Martin Luther King's dream.

"We celebrate it in America and all over the world," Allen said. "We must take time to name societal problems and find solutions."

Allen is a figure who has seen many of the different societies that the world has to offer. In 1993 and 1994, Allen took trips to Ghana, West Africa, visited three universities, and examined the textile industry in the country.

Accomplishments are the results

of dreams, Allen said, and she spoke of how vital it is to keep dreams alive.

"Consider South Africa," said Allen. "Dreams that seemed impossible at one time are now a reality."

"We must let our dreams propel us into the future."

One of the critical elements of achieving victory is involvement, and Allen placed this idea on a pedestal of importance.

"Each of us has a part in making a contribution," Allen said. "We need to ignite for social justice, so we can march on until victory is won."

Involvement was a large part of the Martin Luther King Festival, and an enormous amount of the participants and spectators were young people. James Burrell, a junior in Electrical Engineering, witnessed the festival for the first time this year.

"It teaches the kids what the Martin Luther King Holiday is all about," Burrell said, "and that it's not just another holiday."

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Men's Basketball:
The Pack is suffering through its first 0-7 ACC start since the 1966-1967 season.

Sports

Technician

January 27, 1997

Volume 77, Number 50

Got a problem?
Fat Boys are back? And you know they could never be whack? Call us at 515-2411 or write to us at sports@sma.sca.ncsu.edu



This old house

It may be taking its toll right now, but the construction is very much underway.

Building stuff takes a lot of precious time and several different types of wrenches.

I once spent the better part of a summer working on a construction site. Every morning during that summer, my father and I would go to work, where I would be forced to stand in the heat for what seemed like upwards of 15 hours.

During that time, while my dad would sit in his office and yell at people, my union buddies and I would shovel, hammer, drill and scaffold things.

Eventually, after that summer ended, I could stand and look proudly at the fruits of my tireless labor and behold the beauty of... absolutely nothing. Just some steel girders and something that resembled a snack truck.

In this case, I am just talking about building an intricate piece of architectural mastery I found myself working to complete. And, believe you me, since renovating a hospital wing is no picnic, I can only imagine what kind of job is going on over at Reynolds Coliseum.

No, the gymnastics team is doing fine (five-hundredths of a point, be damned). I'm talking about the men's basketball team.

For the longest time, people in the media found it interesting to have Les Robinson compare rebuilding his program to the Maryland Terrapins. And a few years later, to the Clemson Tigers.

But while Maryland and Clemson have both been rebuilding their homes, N.C. State has displayed the vocational wherewithal to successfully staple gum its shirt to the floor.

Eventually, the word "rebuilding" became as much a part of the vernacular on this campus as "the Les Robinson invite" and "O' Cain lost to Carolina, again."

Well, the new Bob Vila sitting in the office at the Case Athletic Center is Herb Sendek, and he is desperately hammering, gluing and spot-welding his team together.

And, as all good home-repairmen should, Sendek is following a time-honored tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation. He's making sure he only uses his own parts.

Apparently, this donated stuff isn't going to cut it.

You see, in the past three games, the only bench more useless than the one in Reynolds was at the O.J. trial. Especially now that Al Pinkus, er, Pinkins is gone.

Hey, if you ever bump into Don Shea at Reynolds, tell him that Pinkins deserves and earned the respect to have his name spelled right on the coach's show, all right?

In case you can't tell, the new program at N.C. State will be built with quality Sendek-signed players like Damon Thornton and the incoming freshman class.

Yes, C.C. Harrison will indeed factor into things next year, as well, primarily because he, along with Jeremy Hyatt, are the best things to happen to Reynolds since Everett Case.

Let's put it this way: Harrison and Hyatt are to fundamental basketball what the Rat Pack was to the Copa

Wolfpack all over Seminoles

The Wolfpack Women got a much-needed ACC win over Florida State.

By K. Gaffney and M.J. HARRIS
STAFF WRITERS

Nothing could go wrong for the N.C. State women's basketball team.

Nothing could go right for the Florida State women's basketball team.

The Wolfpack women came off of a road loss in Chapel Hill, to down the Seminoles, 75-36 this weekend in Reynolds Coliseum.

The Seminoles, who haven't won an ACC game yet, had to struggle through the second half without head coach Chris Gobrecht.

The first-year coach was ejected with 26 seconds left in the first half. Gobrecht was obviously upset with the officiating of the game to that point.

"I thought that we had earned some trips to the line," Gobrecht said. "We've had a rough season so far, and this was just an atrocious outing offensively."

Official Melinda Vinson slapped the 'Noles coach with a technical, and then official Tommy Salerno ejected Gobrecht after she left the coaches box and proceeded to walk out on the court.

At that point, State already had

the game in control, with a 37-16 lead.

Katie Smrcka-Duffy started off the game with a three-pointer off a pass from senior Umeki Webb.

State started the game with a 10-0 run behind the offense of Smrcka-Duffy and Chastity Melvin, both of whom finished the first half with 12 points apiece.

"We were aggressive from the start," State's head coach Kay Yow said. "We were getting good rotation of the ball, and full court pressure."

Florida State took 35 shots in the first half, but hit just six, shooting a measly 17 percent from the floor in half, and just 23 percent for the game.

Melvin and Webb took advantage of a breakdown in the Florida State defense.

Melvin pulled down eight boards, and scored 11 point in the paint.

Webb drove the lane three times, finishing with 11 points.

"They weren't collapsing on defense," Webb said of the Florida State defense.

The Pack got key minutes at the end of the game from freshman reserve Nailah Wallace. Wallace scored a season high seven points, including a long three-point shot at the buzzer to finish off the game.

Melvin finished with game-high totals of 25 points, 12 rebounds and three steals.



SAUNDOR FAIRMAN/STAFF

See FSU, Page 4

There's no where to pass when the Pack's Peace Shepard is simply playing fundamental basketball.

State misses out on first ACC win

Matt Harpring leads Georgia Tech to a 54-53 ACC-win over the Wolfpack.

By J.P. GIGLIO
STAFF WRITER

ATLANTA - For the past two seasons, the N.C. State basketball team has found seemingly every possible way to lose a conference game. It has lost 16 games during the span by 10 points or less.

Saturday at Georgia Tech, the Wolfpack found a lot of something new, a little too much of something old, and it left feeling blue after a 54-53 loss at Alexander Coliseum.

Coach Herb Sendek saw his hopes of his first ACC win bounce off the back iron with Danny Strong's three-pointer as time expired. It was the first game in which State held the halftime lead, 23-22, but didn't win the game.

Dating back to last year, State (8-8, 0-7 in the ACC) has dropped its last 13 regular-season conference games.

"The solution is right in our faces," senior forward Jeremy Hyatt, who's played through it all, said. "It's frustrating, but we just have to keep going."

The refreshingly new wrinkle to the Wolfpack attack is the dominance of freshman Damon Thornton. The 6-foot-7 forward hit turn-around jumpers, swatted shots and flushed dunks with Kemp-like authority en route to a career-high 19 points and 12 rebounds.

"Damon was our highlight today," Sendek said. "It was his best game of the year."

The old part is the loss to the Yellow Jackets, which have bested State in seven straight contests. All-ACC forward Matt Harpring, held to a paltry performance of four points and 0-of-5 three-point shooting in the first half, exploded in the second frame for 12 points and a pair of timely three-pointers.

"Harpring is a fantastic player," Sendek said.



J.P. GIGLIO/STAFF

Guard Jeremy Hyatt looks for someone to pass to during State's one-point loss to Tech.

"It's a heck of an aspiration to try and shut him down the whole game."

Guard Ishua Benjamin, largely responsible for Harpring's first half struggles, picked up his third foul early in the second half and switched off Harpring.

Benjamin rebounded from his recent stretch of poor conference play, with an inspiring 13-point effort, which included a three-pointer with 48 seconds left to pull the Pack within a point.

Even more encouraging was Benjamin's lack of turnovers (2) and five rebounds.

"People want to make a lot about the last couple of games, but everyone is entitled to a bad day," Sendek said. "[Ishua] just keeps playing."

State controlled the tempo for the majority of the game and stretched its lead to 38-33 on a C.C. Harrison three-pointer at the 10:50 mark. Tech replied with three-pointers in its next three possessions.

State took the lead back two minutes later, but left the door open with missed free-throws. Harrison, Strong and Benjamin failed to complete one-and-one opportunities in the last six minutes. Overall, the Pack went 8-of-17 from the charity stripe.

"I really thought they had us," Tech coach Bobby Cremins said.

See JACKETS, Page 4

This kid can play

Freshman Damon Thornton is turning his potential into a reality.

By J.P. GIGLIO
STAFF WRITER

ATLANTA - Eddie Elisma didn't know what to do. Damon Thornton hit a turn-around jumper, a baby hook and a simple drop-step layup. All of this in the first 12 minutes of the game.

"Eddie, come on, the kid's only a freshman," Georgia Tech assistant coach Kevin Cantwell barked from the bench. "Think, will ya?"

Thornton certainly gave his senior counterpart something to think about. The 6-foot-7 freshman from Tidewater, Va., ended the best day of his young basketball career with 19 points on 8-of-10 shooting and 12 rebounds.

"I just keep working hard," Thornton said. "It helps when my teammates keep coming to me as they have been."

See THORNTON, Page 4

Swimming and diving team splits

It was a bittersweet weekend for the State Swimmers and Divers.

By JENNIFER TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

After losing to Maryland Friday night at Carmichael Gymnasium, the N.C. State Swimming and Diving Teams pulled through on Saturday and got a win against Alabama.

"I was thrilled and proud with the all-around team effort," State coach Scott Hammond said.

The Wolfpack's relay team of Brandon Walts (24.98), Philip

Hardin (50.93), Greg Phillips (1:13.64) and Ed Riley (1:34.84) finished first in the 200 Medley.

State's 200 Freestyle Relay Team with Phillips, J. J. Marus, Carlos Santander and Aaron Swartzman (1:24.73) also took first place.

Brandon Walts finished first in both the 100 and the 200 Freestyle, while Hardin finished first in the 50 Freestyle at 20.76 followed close behind by Marus at 21.42. Phillips (51.14) finished first in the 100 Butterfly followed by Marus (51.50).

Magnus Ohlsson (53.78) and Chris Albury (54.14) finished first and second, respectively, in the 100

Backstroke. Santander finished first in the 500 Freestyle at 4:38.75.

Todd Smith led the Men's Diving team by placing first in both the one-meter and the three-meter diving competitions. He was followed by teammate Kevin Cutts in each division.

The Wolfpack men finished with 154 points.

Kristen Brown, Gina Galligan, Elizabeth Maguire and Kirsten Doerf (1:49.34) placed first in the 200 Medley Relay against Maryland. Carmen Baker placed first in the 400 Individual Medley.

Gina Galligan placed first in the 100 Breaststroke, while Cindy

Schuester (58.93) and Maguire (59.11) placed first and second, respectively, in the 100 Butterfly.

The State women dominated the diving competition on Friday night against Maryland. The Pack claimed first, second and third in the one-meter diving division. In the three-meter diving division, Korney Schell claimed first place while several others took third and fourth.

Despite a strong State effort, the final score for the women was Maryland 133, N.C. State 110.

"Our women did a tough job," Hammond said. "Last year Maryland beat the women by about

50 points and this year only by about 20."

After winning only seven-out-of-26 total swimming and diving events, the Pack pulled through with a tremendous victory over Alabama on Saturday at Carmichael.

"This weekend was a dress rehearsal for the conference championship," Hammond said.

Ohlsson gave State nine points when he came in at 15:43.85 in the 1650 freestyle. Ohlsson also grabbed first place in the 500

See WET, Page 4

See PRESTON, Page 4

Penn State has edge over Pack gymnasts

State dropped a close one to Penn State.

By James Curle
Staff Writer

Few things on this earth can be measured in terms of five-hundredths. The time it takes to blink an eye. The thickness of a grain of sand. Or in this case, the margin of victory for Penn State's gymnastic team.

On Saturday the Wolfpack gymnastics team hosted the Nitany Lions, along with Radford and James Madison, in its second meet of the year.

Defining the meet early for the Wolfpack was the vault, consistently one of the team's strongest events.

After two solid vaults from Stephanie Flanagan, the Pack lost two of their all-arounders to injuries. Jennifer Sommer fell from competition with a knee injury, while Ashley Hutsell vaulted despite pulling a calf muscle during warm-ups.

"We took two people out of the lineup that we were counting on for all the other events," Pack coach Mark Stevenson said. "That hurt us a little bit."

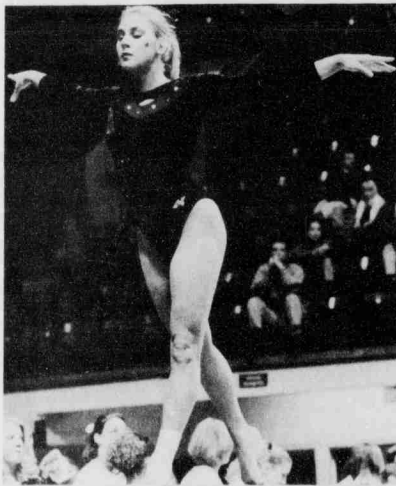
With two key members of the squad lost for the evening, State needed a strong performance to keep the pressure on the Nitany Lions. They got it from senior tri-captain Liz Bernstein.

Cool, calm and collected, Bernstein nailed her vault for a score of 9.85. Her clutch performance earned her top score for the evening on the event, but more importantly kept the Pack in contention with PSU.

"Liz did a great job for us tonight," Stevenson said. "She competed in three events and hit in all three events."

The weak event for both teams was the uneven bars.

Penn State, competing with only five gymnasts on the event, was forced to take the opening score of 7.45 from junior Joanna Knox. While her teammates put up solid scores of 9.7s and 9.8s, Knox's mishap knocked the Lions down to a combined score of 45.95.



Liz Bernstein drilled a 9.75, good enough to finish second for State.

However, it was still enough to best the Pack. Despite performing with more consistency, the Wolfpack could only manage a combined score of 45.8.

"All together, I think we did great except for bars," Bernstein said. "We just have to clean up. We've got to start sticking our landings."

Going into the final round the Pack was up by a slim four-tenths of a point. Penn State put the pressure on, finishing up the night with a solid performance on vault.

In order to win, State needed to put equally impressive numbers up on the floor exercise.

But things started rough. Missing Hutsell and Sommer from the lineup, State had to call on four sophomores and a freshman to assist tri-captain Stephanie Wall in securing the win.

Wall did her part, scoring a 9.65, but it wasn't quite enough. The Pack's combined score on floor was 48.0, edged out by Penn State's vault score of 48.450.

And so the meet ended, with the final score of 190.625 for Penn State and 190.575 for the Wolfpack. The margin of victory for the Nitany Lions: 0.05.

"It's too bad that we lost by half of a tenth," tri-captain Heather Cicero said. "You have to take it with a grain of salt."

The loss was a tough one for the Pack, but head coach Stevenson isn't dwelling on it.

"They're consistently ranked anywhere from eighth to 12th to 15th. For us to be within five-hundredths of a point of them is a great job, and we're really pleased with how our program's moving."

Thornton

Continued from Page 3

there have been many this season. Over the last two games Thornton has unleashed an offensive arsenal that many Wolfpack fans thought would be absent this season.

Including his 15-point effort against Duke, Thornton has scored more points (34) in his last two ACC games, than in his first five (32).

Thornton only starting playing organized basketball during his sophomore year at Atlantic Shores Christian School. By his senior year, he averaged 14.5 points and 11.5 rebounds.

His high school coach Mark Phelps has seen every game that Thornton has played. He is now the Director of Basketball Operations at State.

According to Phelps, Saturday's

performance ranks among his best, but the ends didn't justify the means.

"I think Damon would have gladly traded the numbers for a win," Phelps said.

To Phelps, there is a simple answer to Thornton's growth as a basketball player.

"He just wants to get better," Phelps said. "He has a desire to improve every time he practices or plays."

Elisma and future opponents may have to resort to fouling Thornton. The freshman struggled from the free-throw line making only 3-of-7 attempts Saturday. On the year, Thornton is hitting just above a 50-percent clip from the line (25-of-48).

"I just have to slow down and concentrate," Thornton said.

With the prospect of plenty of repeat performances, the rest of the league hopes Thornton takes his own advice and pulls the throttle on his own prodigious progress.

Wet

Continued from Page 3

Freestyle with a time of 4:36.08. Stephen Harrison took first at 1:54.76 followed by Will Coenen at 1:55.19 in the 200 Individual Medley. Then, in the 200 Breaststroke, Coenen came in first at 2:07.05 followed by teammate Harrison at 2:08.50.

For the diving division of the competition, Smith placed first in both one-meter and three-meter diving. The Wolfpack men scored a total of 130 points while Alabama

scored only 113.

The State Women's Diving Team was led by Shelly Cavaliere who placed first in the one-meter diving and second in three-meter diving. The women scored a total of 63 points.

"The divers did a tremendous job, and I felt we raced hard," Hammond said.

State will go on the road and challenge the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, currently ranked No. 2 in the nation, on Friday, January 31.

"We want to challenge our best against them," Hammond said. "We are looking for experience."

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K. performed the National Anthem with the Pips (Gladys had a case of the greidrops) before the first game in the inaugural ABL at Columbus, Ohio. K. enjoys finger-painting, Water Pkks, carbon dating, and the WCW.

Turn-offs: Big knees, Jay Heaps, and international espionage.

Boxing fans may remember K. as the ill-fated "Fan Man" from the Caesar Palace fight between Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield.

Collector's Card 4 of 10

Jackets

Continued from Page 3

Guard Gary Saunders, who finished with 11 points, provided the winning margin with a tip-in with just over a minute to play.

After a 6-1 start, State has gone 2-7, including losses in its last five games. The Wolfpack travels to Charlottesville, Va. Tuesday night to finish the first cycle of the ACC season against Virginia.

FSU

Continued from Page 3

Melvin, who posted her sixth double-double of the season, has scored 73 points in the last three games for State.

Guard Jennifer Howard hit three treys, scoring 11 points.

State's perimeter shooting came through after struggling in the past two matchups. State shot 60 percent for the game from beyond the arc, hitting six threes.

State hasn't put in more than five treys since the January 5th matchup against Georgia Tech.

Webb also finished with 11 points and added seven assists and five rebounds.

Althea Penn was the only Seminoles in double figures, scoring 13 points.

Lysa Moorefield scored nine points and added seven rebounds.

"It was good to get a big ACC win," Yow said. The Pack's conference record improves to 3-5, as State prepares for a mid-week contest against ACC opponent Wake Forest, and then will head west this weekend to take on Colorado.

Preston

Continued from Page 3

Room at the Sands. But the new and improved house that is Wolfpack basketball will be put together slowly. Very slowly. Slower than Forrest Gump on downers.

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Frontiers

Technician

January 27, 1997

Volume 77, Number 50



Crystal Carter, a grad student in Dr. Nina Allen's lab uses a powerful new microscope.

ALBERT WHANG/STAFF

Center uses lasers to produce plant videos

■ A campus research center sheds new light on plants and gravity.

By RON HUNTER
STAFF WRITER

On a still night, if you are away from the lights of our fine city, you might see a point of light zooming across the sky. This is probably not (we hope) a killer asteroid coming to plunge humanity back into the "dark ages" but is more likely a man made object. Since launching rockets (or exploding them on the pad) has become common place these days, we all tend to overlook the kind of detailed research that went into getting us there.

There is a facility right here on campus that is widely considered the best and most modern of its kind in the world, bar none. The research here has drawn the

attention of NASA and elicited nearly five million dollars in grant money for further investigation. With that kind of funding you would expect what... Lasers? Rockets? Well, there aren't any rockets but they definitely have lasers.

Known as NSCORT or NASA Specialized Center of Research and Training in gravitational biology at NCSU, the facility, housed on the fourth floor of Gardner Hall, is equipped with a custom designed microscope component system that will keep their research on the cutting edge for the foreseeable future and out of the boneyards or past technology that many campus basements have become.

The players in this saga of federally funded investigations into the microscopic include twelve faculty members and several graduate and undergraduate

assistants headed by Dr. Eric Davies. The lab is managed by Dr. Nina Allen who holds a patent for developing video-enhanced-contrast-light microscope methods. These researchers, drawn from many sub-disciplines such as botany biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology, examine the problem from differing angles and regularly report to NASA and publish articles in various journals.

The combined effect of a custom designed microscope with up to 10,000 power magnification and four lasers in the UV, krypton, argon and helium-neon ranges for illumination provide excellent color video which, when computer enhanced shows the processes by which molecular calcium is absorbed by plants.

The video records of the

See CENTER, Page 7

AOL may be SOL if they don't fix problems

■ A major internet player is in major trouble.

By LAWRENCE J. WOBKER
STAFF WRITER

America OnLine, Inc. (AOL) America's largest internet service provider, is in some major trouble following a massive price structure change and advertising campaign. Usage is hitting all time highs, customers are unable to connect, and lawsuits against AOL and some

of its members are all creating havoc at the Dulles, Virginia corporate headquarters.

You may remember the recent campaign where AOL advertised a move from their time-based service charges to a flat, once-a-month fee of \$19.95. The fee change promised to catapult AOL even further ahead in the race to bring the Internet to people's homes.

Six weeks later, nothing is going right for the internet giant. Traffic on AOL's modem banks has hit

constant-use levels far above the forecasted peaks, and users are starting to complain, loudly.

Users who were used to regularly connecting on the first try are now going hours without an open modem, as many people are taking advantage of the unlimited usage option and simply remaining connected all day, every day.

Many members sampled have chosen to have a second phone line installed, and simply leave their computer connected to the internet

permanently. And despite the promise by AOL management to spend \$350 million over the next six months to help upgrade and add equipment, the additional lines will simply not be in place soon enough to stem the massive tide of complaints from the over 8 million users who can no longer get connected.

On top of customer complaints, many state attorney generals are considering possible lawsuits against AOL, with charges ranging from generally poor service to

deceptive advertising techniques. The charge is lead by New York Attorney General Dennis Vacco, who has publicly said that he wishes only for AOL "to stop allegedly deceptive business practices" and for customers to "win refunds" for the service that they have been unable to receive.

At a press conference in New York on Wednesday Vacco said, "You don't sell 10,000 tickets to a theater that you have only 3,000 seats for." "Consumers that want refunds

should be able to get refunds." AOL Chairman Steven Case has responded: "I'm positive AOL will be able to work out its problem with the state of New York and others..." but made it clear to reporters that the idea of issuing refunds to customers was not looked fondly upon.

Perhaps the most troubling and potentially damaging claims against the company are unrelated to the

See AOL, Page 7

SENIORS



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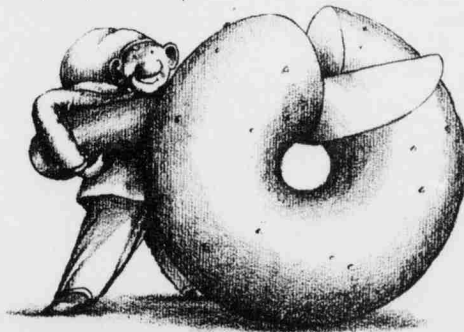
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Opinion

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

Technician

January 27, 1997

Volume 77, Number 50

Amendment applies to all

Should the line between pornography and art be drawn?

With the release of the controversial new movie, "The People vs. Larry Flynt" many people find themselves asking, "What is the price of free speech?" Women have called attention to the fact that publications such as "Hustler" are degrading to women and that pornography should be declared legally obscene. However, if pornography begins to be censored, who's to say that pictures of Michelangelo's David sculpture won't be next?

All of us have heard how novels such as "The Catcher in the Rye" or "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" have been censored or banned from public school libraries, until time or public outrage successfully overturned the ruling. While "Hustler" (or any other pornographic publication) is by no means on the same level as classical literature, it is still protected by the First Amendment.

If you start censoring one

thing, there is no guarantee that quality art and literature will not be left uncensored. Who decides what is quality art and what is pornography is debatable. But the only fair way to do so is to let each person decide for him or herself. If government were to make that choice for the people, the rights protected under the First Amendment would be eroded. An example of this is the increasing desire to censor what is increasingly available on television and the Internet. It is ultimately up to the individual what he or she wishes to view — despite the censors.

Our forefathers fought hard to guarantee that Americans would have the right to free speech. The First Amendment is too important to make exceptions to the rule. If censorship existed, once again, who is to say that it would stop anywhere? And who would stop the other amendments from also having little extra rules just for certain activities? The Constitution is for the liberty of one and all — no matter how they may use this freedom.

New growths of free expression

Free expression growing outside of the tunnel creates eyesore.

At a meeting with the Student Senate last Wednesday, Chancellor Larry Monteith shared his thoughts with senators about the growth of graffiti outside of the Free Expression Tunnel. "The tunnel was put there for you to express yourself,"

Monteith said. "But this thing is growing like a virus. It is very important that we look at safety and appearance." With this statement made, is the Free Expression Tunnel in jeopardy?

The boundaries of the tunnel, according to the Physical Plant, extend to the covered areas underneath the railroad tracks and the road beside those tracks. Of course, the unspoken rule was that students can paint anywhere along that tunnel, including exhaust vents and on Dabney Hall.

But this graffiti, which has traditionally been a cherished way to express students' thoughts, has extended to adjacent buildings and nearby

brick walls. Removing the paint usually requires chemicals or sand-blasting of the areas. When the Physical Plant covers graffiti not in the defined tunnel boundaries with gray paint, people just cover the paint with more "expression."

Monteith is not condemning free expression, but he is disturbed by the fact that the tunnel's boundaries become larger every year. He worries about the effect this might have on potential students viewing the school, and on the precedent it sets for future generations. Most new students probably view the tunnel as interesting and unique to NCSU. However, when it goes out of its bounds, it is an eyesore and an unattractive addition that does not impress anyone.

Students painting the free expression tunnel need to confine their activities to the inside of the tunnel.

Acceptance to a university is supposedly an acknowledgement of our maturity, and we should exhibit that maturity by knowing where it is acceptable to paint.



Raleigh wants new arena more than NCSU

Chris Baysden



not to mention costly, mistake.

First of all, this thing is supposed to be for NCSU. You wouldn't know that by reading the newspaper. We've got plenty of folks involved in the discussion over this building — Mayor Tom Fetzter, the Raleigh City Council and my personal favorites, the Centennial Authority. Now which of these represents the university's best interest?

The politicians? Doubt it. The Centennial Authority? Please. These guys are in this for their own personal gain, whether that be financial, political or prestige. More than anything, they're a bunch of glorified used-car salesmen hellbent on making the ultimate sell. Face it, nobody out there is looking out for us.

How can I tell? It's easy, just look at what these folks have been

planning. First there's the location. The original idea of building it by Carter-Finley Stadium was bad enough. There's no way the same number of students would attend games if the on-campus population can't walk to them. Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill and Wake Forest all understand this concept — it's not that difficult to grasp.

As if the Carter-Finley site wasn't bad enough, now there is talk of moving the darn thing downtown. Excuse me? I thought it was going to be NCSU's arena. Would it make sense if it was actually built on NCSU property? Obviously not. Silly me.

And what about this whole National Hockey League thing? I'm not going to debate the merits of Raleigh having a team, rather, I just want to know why they would play in our arena. But wait, that's just the point. Is this NCSU's arena? Sounds to me like this is Raleigh's arena. How else would you explain the presence of a professional sports franchise? I don't know about you, but the only people I want skating around in our arena is the NCSU hockey club team.

Here's another question to ponder: Has anyone asked us lately what we want or need? I'm not convinced the athletic department wants this arena anymore. I'm sure they would like "improved facilities" — all athletic departments want those. But will this arena really be an

improvement? I've talked to Les Robinson on a number of occasions in the past (although not about this issue). I'm convinced he's an honest, decent guy. So I want to hear him, under no coercion from our "friends" on the Centennial Authority, tell the NCSU community that this arena is what NCSU needs. I want to hear Herb Senek, who will be the building's most important resident, tell me that he wants to leave fan-friendly Reynolds so he can room with another sports team (and a zamboni). I want Chancellor Larry Monteith to promise us that the arena is in the best interest of the university.

Finally, I want someone to ask the students at this university if they really want this arena (sounds like the perfect job for Steve Stroud). And I want NCSU's Student Government to endorse the final proposal for the arena. If all these N.C. State folks think the arena is a good idea, then damn it, I'll concede. I'll admit that I'm the only one who thinks this is a bad idea and I'll capitulate. But I refuse to let Sun, Sabates, Fetzter and all the rest of them tell NCSU what's good for it. Call me crazy, but I think someone's got to look out for us.

If Raleigh wants an ice palace next to the capital, more power to them. But don't screw up my university to get it.

Activities cure weekend boredom

Christine Oldham



(I do know some people who find this very fulfilling and enjoy it tremendously. Watching movies, I mean.) or sitting around and complaining about how there is nothing to do, there are actually many things to do on the weekend.

First of all, you can get involved. I spend several hours every weekend faithfully sweating over Technician related activities. Clubs are always having retreats, meetings or a blast somewhere with free food. Residence Hall councils also offer some sort of activity (involving food and entertainment) at least once a week.

There are also intramural sports for those of us who are not talented enough to play for the school. And, seeing as it always waits until Friday night/afternoon to rain, you

can go play mudball. (Which is basically dirty and grungy, but, hey, you're washable!) You're also bright — make up your own rules.) I suggest waiting until warmer weather for this one.

If you don't like participating in sports, you can always be a spectator — either in one of the events here on campus or elsewhere, like a hockey game. And, if all else fails, you can go out with your friends and watch them ice skate or bowl. These are good choices as your friends have a much better chance of hearing you taunt them for falling on their butt or "granny bowling." They are also less likely to hurt you for making fun of them.

There are also cultural events to experience on the weekend — Stewart Theatre often has something happening. You just have to get your ticket early, before all the other people who live in Raleigh snag it. On B.C. Ridge Road, there is the N.C. Museum of Art, which is worth as many trips as you can make. It constantly exhibits new artists and ideas.

In Chapel Hill, the Planetarium has a few good shows. It's located right on Franklin Street, which I'm sure most of us are familiar with. There are several other museums in the Triangle area and the Discovery Place in Charlotte.

My next suggestion is a bit harder to implement, but I really like it. If you have access to a car, convince your friends that they simply must go on a road trip. It doesn't matter where, really, though the mountains or the beach are both equally good choices. As you may know, half the fun is getting to your destination — you can drive fast, sing at the top of your lungs, have meaningful conversations, yell at people walking by, and gorge on convenience mart food. Now that is a great way to travel! (Just don't forget that you do have class on Monday, so get some sleep.)

Actually, get some sleep anyway.) This last suggestion is a bit more far-fetched but for those with a really wild and crazy side, you might like it. Walk around campus and act out your favorite musical, costumes (and costume changes) included, or just "Monkee" walk everywhere, singing the theme song at the tops of your lungs. You might scare a few people, but hey, you'll have great stories to tell your kids. (I forgot — you could also start a kissing booth somewhere. Sounds great, right?)

Now, before I'm renamed official NCSU tour guide, I'll stop. If none of my suggestions made you want to get up and strolling until 3 p.m., well, carry on then.

Technician

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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Center

Continued from Page 5
absorption of calcium in one singular root cell of the species arbidopsis.

This plant, called "the guinea pig of plant research" by Dr. Allen, is used for repetitive research because it doesn't have any close relatives said Dr. Davies. This allows for careful monitoring of the plant and makes the test subjects easy to reproduce so testing can proceed as if it were done on just one plant.

The videos the facility generates provide a vastly superior picture of the electro-chemistry in the plant

which heretofore could not be observed except in frozen stages wherever the shutter happened to trip.

With this information NSCORT is able to document their theory that calcium plays an integral part in how the plant determines which way is up.

In other words, as the NSCORT homepage puts it, "A combination approach, employing molecular, cellular and biochemical techniques will be used to elucidate the central function of calcium as a primary mediator of gravity transduction in plants.

Transgenic and pharmacological methods will be used to alter cellular calcium homeostasis and

the effects of altered calcium homeostasis on plant responses to gravity will be studied."

This research has become the proverbial tip of the iceberg. Besides NASA, it gets funding from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, and the National Science Foundation. The reason that this large amount of funding was directed to a very detailed and seemingly over simplified aspect of plant metabolism is because of its application to long term space programs such as a journey to Mars or a permanent Moon base.

Researchers may someday want to know how to feed space travelers on long stays in space.

If you are interested. There is a number of undergraduate positions open at various times during the calendar year and there is an undergraduate course in space biology pending. Currently, however, the course is only available at the graduate level.

To inquire about graduate or undergraduate positions available the center can be reached by email at nscort@ncsu.edu. There is, according to Dr. Allen, regular funding available for qualified students.

Visit their webpage at: <http://www2.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/project/ncsu-nscort/lock/homepage.html>

AOL

Continued from Page 5
usage problems, but far more severe.

A woman from Miami, Florida, has accused AOL of creating "a home shopping network for pedophiles" after her son was seduced by an AOL member, then photographed and videotaped.

The images and video clips were sold and distributed by Richard Russel under such titles as "Trading Teen Pics" and "Young Boys For You." If the case is filed and won, AOL faces a torrent of other, similar suits, and damages approaching \$10 million per suit.

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Advertisers are big winners in Super Bowl

■ With 140 million viewers, companies are willing to pay up to \$400,000 a second to air their commercials during the event.

By Gary Gately
The Baltimore Sun

When Fred Astaire, with an assist from computerized special effects, comes to life and dances not with Ginger but with Dirt Devil vacuum cleaners, David Blum will be watching every move with more than passing interest.

Like all the high-priced advertisements debuting during Sunday's Super Bowl, it's the stuff of endless fascination for Blum, a strategic planner at Baltimore's Eisner & Associates who has become a nationally recognized guru on Super Bowl advertising.

Major ad agencies, corporations such as Coca-Cola and Delta Airlines, journalists and others who simply share his fascination call him from throughout the country in the days leading up to and after the Super Bowl. His annual study of Super Bowl ads—based on a detailed nationwide survey of 1,000 people—is perhaps the most widely quoted and influential anywhere.

Some of the ads, he knows, will

become cultural icons with a life span far beyond Monday morning water-cooler talk. The Bud Bowl is back for its ninth year, and who could forget Apple computer's 1984 spot that played off George Orwell's "1984"?

Others will be destined to become high-priced duds, quickly forgotten.

National



NEWS

For Blum, the annual Super Bowl study is pure joy. "This is the granddaddy of events for advertising, and I get as enthused at seeing the ads and how consumers are going to react as those Super Bowl players getting ready to go into the game," Blum said. "It's the ad bowl, and it's the one event where the ads rivet people's attention, and people actually talk about the ads for days to come."

Based on his research and the nationwide telephone survey, Blum offers a detailed look at what will influence the way the ads will play in the high-stakes battle for America's

mind—and untold millions in disposable income.

With an estimated 140 million viewers watching at least part of the game, corporations pay dearly to enter the competition: A 30-second national spot costs an average of \$1.2 million, or \$40,000 a second. That's on top of the tab for creating the commercials, which easily can exceed \$1 million.

For this year's Packers-Patriots matchup, Blum says, the lack of a big-draw team such as the Dallas Cowboys or household name such as Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino will make the sell that much harder.

While overall viewership remains relatively stable, only 15 percent will watch primarily because of the teams, the matchup or the players—down from about 25 percent last year. More plan to gather around a tube to socialize instead of closely watching the game or the commercials, Blum said.

Who will rise above the rest in the annual quest for advertising's Holy Grail?

Before the champagne even dries in the winning team's locker room, results of a USA Today viewer's poll, conducted as the ads air with hand-held rating machines by a sampling of viewers, will be broadcast on ESPN.

China unclear on human rights

■ Hong Kong residents are scared of changes that might occur when China reclaims the territory from the British in July.

By Maggie Farley
Los Angeles Times

HONG KONG— Sending mixed messages on the prospects of Hong Kong's human rights after it reverts to Beijing rule, China freed a Hong Kong-based journalist from a Chinese prison Saturday even as it is pushing ahead with plans for tightened controls on the territory's civil liberties.

Chinese authorities paroled Xi Yang, a Chinese-born reporter for Hong Kong's Ming Pao newspaper, after serving three years of a 12-year sentence on charges he stole state secrets. Xi won release because he "showed signs of repentance," the official New China News Agency said.

Newspaper colleagues greeted Xi with a large cake on his arrival back in Hong Kong late Saturday night. His sister read a letter from their father expressing joy and his gratitude toward those who protested Xi's 1994 conviction, which came in a closed court hearing.

Xi was arrested while on assignment in China in 1993 after reporting on Beijing's policies on interest rates and gold before the government officially distributed the information. The severity of his

sentence shocked Hong Kong journalists and human rights activists, who took it as a warning for the media here after China reclaims the territory from Britain in July.

Hong Kong's British governor, Chris Patten, who strongly had condemned Xi's imprisonment but could not intervene because Xi was a Chinese citizen, said he was delighted by the release, calling it "very good news for Hong Kong."

Xi's release, surprisingly, came during a crackdown on the media in

China and followed recent warnings to



journalists in Hong Kong to stop reporting unfavorably on the Chinese government or its policies on Taiwan and Tibet.

On Tuesday, a Chinese-language newspaper in Hong Kong published guidelines on how reporters here should write about the upcoming hand-over, stating that Britain never had sovereignty over Hong Kong but merely "carried out colonial rule" in the "Chinese territory."

But Xi's parole may be timed to reassure Hong Kong residents outraged by plans announced last week by a China-backed committee to roll back some of the territory's human rights after the hand-over.

A group of legal experts on the Preparatory Committee, charged with overseeing Hong Kong's transition from British to Chinese rule, recommended stronger restrictions on political freedoms, including requiring protesters to request police permission for a demonstration a week ahead of time and formally to register all meetings of more than 20 people. The panel also moved to void core provisions of Hong Kong's Bill of Rights.

The action drew criticism from around the world, and local activists say they expect it to be discussed at an upcoming human rights conference in Geneva. Despite public opposition, changes to 25 laws are expected to be rubber-stamped by the China-backed that will replace the territory's elected body July 1.

The recommended revisions were on the agenda at the Provisional Legislature's first meeting Saturday in the Chinese border town of Shenzhen. Although the shadow body will not exist legally until after the hand-over, its members elected pro-China legislator Rita Fan as their speaker and began preparations to set up new laws after the transition. It will meet in China until July to avoid legal challenges in Hong Kong.

After the meeting, Hong Kong's future leader, Tung Chee-hwa, defended the proposed controls on civil liberties. Restoring strict controls, he insisted, "is not going backward.... It's finding a way forward for our own community."

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