



Information sessions slated for NCSU's liberal studies program

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program at North Carolina State University will hold information sessions Monday, Feb. 24 and Tuesday, Feb. 25, for adults wishing to learn more about the program.

The information sessions will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the McKimmon Center, located at the corner of Western Boulevard and Gorman Street. The MALS program is an interdisciplinary, graduate degree program for adult part-time students. Students pursue individually designed programs. Classes meet in the late afternoon or evening.

Enrollment applications for the fall semester are due April 1. For further information, contact the MALS Program, N. C. State University, Box 1707, Raleigh, N.C. 27695-7107, or call (919) 515-2470.

AmeriCorps seeks college seniors — thousands of assignments available

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, has launched a drive to recruit college seniors to apply for a year of national service.

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Anyone wanting more information may call 1-800-942-2677 or visit AmeriCorps' worldwide web site at <http://www.cns.gov>.

Inside Technician

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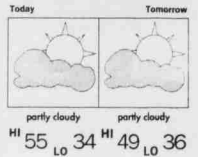
North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

Raleigh, North Carolina

February 24, 1997

Volume 77, Number 62

Outside



Trustees authorize \$28 student fee boost

Student fee increases will be used to support athletics, student government and education and technology.

By PHILLIP REESE
 News Editor

A little less for you; a little more for the university.

NCSU's Board of Trustees voted unanimously Friday to increase student fees by \$28. The board increased the amount students pay for athletics, Student Government and education and technology.

Trustee Butch Wilson said the fee increases were motivated by need. He said lack of student opinion about the increases also played a major role in the board's decision.

"In the absence of student com-

ment this year, we decided to go ahead and do it," Wilson said. "We didn't think the fees were overburdensome."

Wilson said the board might have acted differently if students had protested the fee increases.

The fee students pay to help fund NCSU's athletics program will increase by \$5. The revenue from the increase will go toward the Academic Support Program for athletes, Athletics Director Les Robinson said.

"Every school at our level has this sort of program," Robinson said. "If we didn't offer it, we couldn't compete. It's a major recruiting factor."

Robinson said an improved Academic Support Program will strengthen NCSU's athletic image. He said the program could not be

enhanced without the fee increase.

Student Senator Tina Brooks said student revenue should not be used to fund the support program for athletes. She said offering athletes special academic help is counter-productive.

"Special privileges breed irresponsibility in student athletes," Brooks said. "They came here knowing they had a responsibility to put academics first, and spoon-feeding them academics only makes them less responsible."

The fee students pay to fund Student Government will increase by \$3. The increase will probably be used to pay two professional secretaries who were cut from the University Student Center's payroll last year because of financial difficulties at the Center, Student Body

President Robert Zimmer said.

The secretaries play a vital role in the day-to-day and long-term operations of Student Government, Zimmer said.

However, former Student Senate President Pro Tempore Paul Zigas said the professional secretaries should be replaced by part-time student secretaries. He said student senators could handle the responsibilities of the two secretaries.

"If you get motivated senators with experience in the Senate, then they will have the practical ability to maintain a functional office," Zigas said.

Zimmer said replacing the current professional secretaries with student secretaries is a bad idea. He said the secretaries help new members of student government adjust at the be-

ginning of each year. He added that some documents the secretaries process could not be reviewed by student secretaries.

The education and technology fee will be increased by \$20. The increase will be used to supply campus-wide student computing services, Vice Provost for Information Technology William Willis said.

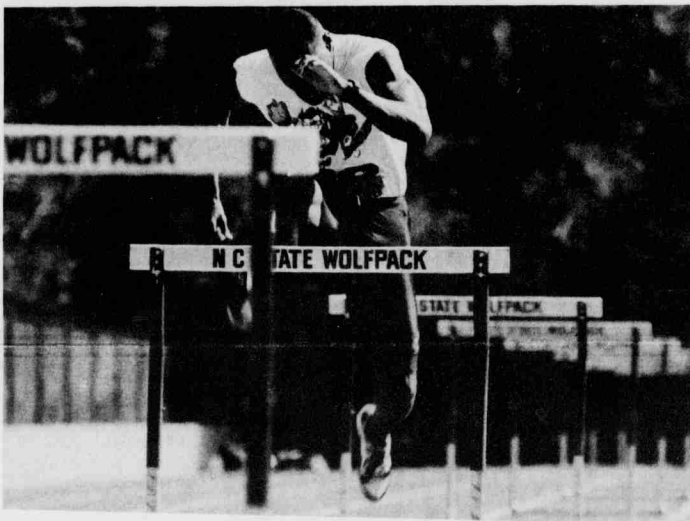
"This fee increase is for all students," Willis said. "It will be beneficial to everybody."

Willis said the fee increase is necessary to accommodate the jump in campus computer use and to implement the utilization of new technology.

All fee increases will go into effect this fall.

Staff writers Mark McCraw and Josh Justin contributed to this story.

Jumping for joy



Terry Reese, one of the coaches of NCSU's track team, enjoys Sunday's pleasant weather at Derr Track and Field.

Forum tackles controversial issue

The Student Senate Diversity Committee and the Presbyterian Campus Ministry sponsored a forum on same-sex marriages Thursday.

By DAWN WOTAPKA
 Staff Writer

Usually no one stands up and speaks when the minister asks, "Speak now or forever hold your peace." Weddings are usually just a formality and go off without a hitch.

However, this is often not the case with a same-sex marriage. Objections come from the left, the right, and the weddings never go as planned.

The hot-button issue of same-sex marriage was the topic of Thursday's Peace Lunch Forum in the University Student Center. The forum was co-sponsored by the Student Senate Diversity Committee and the Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM).

According to PCM leader Allen Proctor, the position of the Presbyterian Church concerning gay marriage remains the same as it has for the last 400 years.

"The activity is sinful, but gay people are welcome in our church," he said.

"However," he added, "Sexually active homosexuals are not welcome to be ordained."

The church sees this issue as one of equal rights. Proctor said the Presbyterian church is an advocate for equal rights for everyone, including homosexuals.

"Same-sex marriages are an issue for everyone in society," he said.

Rob Faggan, Student Services Administrator for the University Scholars Program, believes marriages have changed in the past 400 years.

"Marriage is now a commitment to emotional and psychological support between two people," he said.

He pointed out that the Roman Catholic Church blessed same-sex marriages until the 14th century.

Now, at the tail end of the 20th century, a backlash against these unions has occurred.

M.K. Cullen, the executive director of the N.C. Pride PAC for Lesbian Gay Equality, wants the same legal rights and privileges that regular marriages enjoy.

"We want the inheritance, tax status and power of attorney rights other partners receive," she said.

Cullen said that instead of passing laws to prevent same-sex marriages, legislatures should pass laws to

See MARRIAGE, Page 2 ▶

Conference helps to mold global leaders

Students gained leadership skills and learned about the global environment at the Fourth Annual Global Leadership Conference.

By JOSH JUSTIN
 Staff Writer

N.C. State breeds leaders. And this past weekend, the Fourth Annual Global Leadership Conference was held at the University Student Center.

The conference, sponsored by the university's Activities Board, involved workshops on global diversity and leadership issues. Ten different speakers from NCSU's faculty spoke in three sessions that focused on ethics, leadership and diversity.

"This is a great chance for the students to learn and develop leadership skills," Tom Stafford, vice-chancellor of Student Affairs, said. "I'm so pleased to see this many students came to this with a basket-

ball game next door," referring to NCSU's emotional game against ACC for Georgia Tech.

One important goal of the conference was to help students by giving them insight and putting them on a path toward a better understanding of the global environment.

One of the topics in Session One was "China and Hong Kong: Where are they Heading?" given by Oliver Williams, professor of Political Science. Hong Kong will become a part of China on June 30th, 1997. The implications of this "merger" of sorts will be felt in every facet of global affairs.

If anyone understands the overall importance of this conference, it is the Leadership Development Committee Chairperson Aimee Smart, who also took part in the conference last year.

"I'm really pleased," said Smart, who is a sophomore in Microbiology. "There is a larger number here than last year."

"The programs get people to think and show the students other views."

One of the sessions involved an ethics debate, coordinated by Gary Conner and Robin Magee. Participating students were presented with ethical dilemmas, like lending strangers money, abortion, and solutions to drug problems.

"We give people ethical situations," Conner said. "We don't care what their answers are, just as long as they have some answers for discussion."

Conner deals with ethical dramas every day in his University Housing position as Residence Life Coordinator for Avent Ferry Complex and Wood Hall.

The students involved in the ethical debates were grouped at different tables, and there was a distinct ethnic mix, which allowed for a variety of different views to be expressed.

The participants were very attentive and projected a large number of opposing opinions, many of which were based on economics and acceptance.

The conference has had many prominent

See LEADERSHIP, Page 2 ▶

Fraternity donates cash to local charities

NCSU's Delta Sigma Phi fraternity donated their lawn party proceeds to local charities last Wednesday evening.

By MARK MCCRAW
 Staff Writer

Various charitable organizations within the community will be able to continue their good work because of a N.C. State fraternity.

Proceeds from the Delta Sigma Phi lawn party were distributed to three local charities and two local scholarship funds at the Delta Sigma Phi cash Wednesday evening.

According to Dan Whaley, committee

chairman for this year's lawn party, the lawn party began 32 years ago as a small event on the front lawn of the Delta Sigma Phi house, but has grown into a major event that takes 100 brothers working year-round to plan for.

The party has become so successful, in fact, that \$80,000 has been raised over the last three years.

Whaley said, all profits from the party go to charity every year.

"A lot of people get the wrong idea about this," said Whaley. "The fraternity doesn't benefit in any way. After our expenses are covered, all of the money raised goes directly to charity."

Whaley said the money has historically gone to national charities. This year, how-

ever, the money was given to local charities so the work within the community could be seen.

Two thousand dollars was given to both the Anna Smith Scholarship fund and the Brian Cardini Scholarship fund.

Loaves and Fishes, a multi-cultural mentoring and educational enrichment program, received \$2,600.

According to Thomas Griggs, the president of the Board of Directors of Loaves and Fishes, the organization works with inner-city children and provides tutoring and mentoring from volunteer buddies and education specialists for them. The program works with children from the time

See CHARITY, Page 2 ▶

Student struck by car at crosswalk

Public Safety looks for suspects in a recent hit-and-run accident.

By DAWN WOTAPKA
 Staff Writer

At approximately 10:10 p.m. Friday, a N.C. State student was hit by a car in the crosswalk at the corner of Cates Avenue and Dan Allen Drive.

The black vehicle with a float-down hood was heading north toward Western Boulevard.

The driver stopped to ask if victim Steven Sutes was all right.

"As I was looking myself over, the guy drove off," Sutes said.

Sutes said the driver was responsible for the accident. He said that before crossing the street, he looked both ways.

"I really believe he wasn't running with headlights," Sutes said.

Sutes was not even aware that a vehicle was coming until he felt the pain from the impact.

Sutes suffered a bruised bone in his leg and two loose teeth, according to Public Safety Crime Prevention Officer Larry Ellis.

Sutes was able to call Public Safety from the call box located in Bragaw Hall after the accident.

"I think we need more lights around this crosswalk," he said.

He now crosses the street only with others, especially

See ACCIDENT, Page 2 ▶

Kentucky denies Latinos scholarships

The Latino Student Organization is seeking to provide minority status for Latinos in Kentucky so more scholarships are available to them.

By MATT ELLISON
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL (U. OF KENTUCKY)

(U-WIRE) LEXINGTON, Ky.— The University of Kentucky awards more than \$3.3 million in scholarship money every year. None of those dollars specifically go toward minority scholarships for Latino students. The reason? Latinos are not officially recognized as a minority in Kentucky. Neither are Asian Americans, Native Americans or Indian Americans. For an ethnic group to be officially recognized as a minority by the state, it must achieve a certain minimum percentage of the total state population. And with less than 20,000 Latinos residing in Kentucky, according to the 1990 census, Latinos are not considered a

large enough minority to be officially recognized, composing less than one percent of the state's total population. Blacks are the only official minority recognized by the state. Latino students such as Student Government Association President Alan Aja are not eligible for state-funded minority scholarships, which made receiving financial aid difficult for Aja and his parents. "When my parents looked into it, they were told that there were no scholarships available through the university for Latinos," said Aja, whose parents are from Cuba. Melanie Cruz, executive director of student affairs, also found out that there were no minority scholarships for Latinos at UK. She discovered that while other schools provided such scholarships through the funding of Latino organizations, UK had no such partnership. Instead, Aja and Cruz relied on other Latino organizations who did provide scholarship funds. Many Latinos in other states face the same dilemma, because Kentucky is one

of many states that does not officially recognize Latinos as a minority. But Michael Conuel, president of the Latino Student Organization, found no such trouble in his home state. Conuel, who attended undergraduate school in Massachusetts, was eligible to receive minority-based financial aid since Massachusetts officially recognizes Latinos as a minority. Conuel, who has served as president of LSO this semester, thinks Latinos are not recognized in this state because they are misrepresented. According to Conuel, many Latinos are not registered citizens of this state because they are migrant workers who are employed by farmers in Kentucky, especially tobacco farmers. "Because they aren't registered as citizens of Kentucky, the Latino population aren't always represented," Conuel said. One way Conuel and other Latino students on campus are responding is by becoming involved in LSO,

which is in only its sixth semester on campus. Conuel said many Latino students might not be aware there is a group for them on campus. "Obviously, the first step is to gain recognition as a minority," Conuel said. The LSO hopes to do so by becoming better organized and recognized as a group on campus. By uniting with other local Latino support groups, Conuel said they can become more active in the efforts to become recognized by the state. "The funding will come once we get the recognition," he said. Bringing more Latino students would benefit all involved, Aja said. Not only would more Latinos receive a college education, but also the rest of the students on campus would benefit from different cultures. "What are students going to do when they encounter Latinos in the workplace?" Aja said.

Charity

Continued from Page 1
they enter kindergarten until they reach college. In addition, the N.C. Wheelchair Athletes Foundation, a 1-year old foundation that was co-founded by a Delta Sigma Phi brother, received \$6,600. The money will be used to support wheelchair athletes all across the state.

Marriage

Continued from Page 1
strengthen marriages. Her question to the legislature is "What is making you so insecure?" North Carolina is the 16th state to pass the Defensive Marriage Act, which attempts to define and protect the institution of marriage. Cullen said her organization is willing to fight laws like the Defensive Marriage Act company by company, city by city, and state by state. Hawaii, it seems, is the first state to take an official pro-gay marriage stance. The state's Supreme Court voted that the state's refusal to al-

The Organ Transplant fund received \$6,600 to aid a local person in need of a transplant. The lawn party is good for charity, but it is also fun for those who attend. In recent years the lawn party has featured such popular crowd pleasers as Hootie and the Blowfish and the Squirrel Nut Zippers. Sponsors for this year's event included Dan Dollins from Dollins Bookstore, Randy Lait from University Dining, and Tim Harrison of Brothers Pizza.

low three couples to marry violated the state's constitutional guarantee of equal protection. "It is currently in appeal," she said. "We are awaiting the outcome with great anticipation." Faggart watches these cases with interest, because he and his partner of over two years want to get married. "My partner and I very much want a legal ceremony," he said. "We're just biding time." This luncheon gave freshman Mike Muniz hope. "They made it seem possible," he said. "Maybe there is a possibility that some of these laws will be overturned." Undecided freshman Erica Potter agreed. "I found this very informa-

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Leadership

Continued from Page 1
speakers and coordinators in the past. This year, Rhonda Mann, coordinator of the Women's Center; Darla Deardorff, Outreach Coordinator; Semyon Reznik, acclaimed author; and many others spoke. George McGovern spoke at the conference two years ago. "They've had some heavyweights at this conference," Tom Stafford said, "and we hope that continues."

Accident

Continued from Page 1
since he is so slow on his crutches. "I'd still prefer a crosswalk over dodging into the street," Stiles said. If you saw this incident or have any information, please call Public Safety at 515-2156.

If you would like to report for Technician News, please contact Phillip at 515-2411

From Technician's Fun Fact File...

Number 6:
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From Technician's Fun Fact File...

Number 38:
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Men's Basketball:
The 21-point loss was Tech's worst to the Pack since 1/10/81, when it lost by 25.

Sports

Technician

February 24, 1997

Volume 77, Number 62

Got a problem?
Our house? In the middle of our street?
Call us at 515-2411 or write to us at sports@sma.sca.ncsu.edu

Pack drills Tech by 21...

■ Herb Sendek celebrates his 34th birthday in style with his second home ACC win of the year.

By JAMES CURLE
STAFF WRITER

Saturday against Georgia Tech, the Wolfpack shot over 64 percent. And that wasn't from the free throw line.

It was from the floor. In one of the strongest shooting performances in recent years, the Wolfpack out-gunned, out-hustled and flat-out overpowered a beleaguered Georgia Tech team, 72-51.

"We got ourselves into a deep hole," Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins said. "We just couldn't get out of it."

Senior Danny Strong was on fire for the Pack, hitting 9-13 from the field. Five of his nine shots were made from beyond the three-point arc.

"I'm getting tired of seeing that guy," Cremins said. Strong finished the day with 23 points, and tied his career high mark for steals with four.

As a team, the State players shot

"I'm getting tired of seeing that guy [Danny Strong]."

— Bobby Cremins, Georgia Tech head coach
64.3 percent from the floor, connecting on 27-42 attempts. Their margin of victory, 21 points, was the largest in conference play since Les Robinson's first season in 1991. The Pack beat Maryland at home in that game, 114-91.

"The thing that probably stands out is the way we shot the basketball," coach Herb Sendek said. "Regardless of what offense you put on the blackboard, the final analysis is as good as the shot — going in or not."

"Today, we really helped ourselves by making shots." Freshman Justin Gainey once again turned in a consistent performance for State in the backcourt.

Starting at the point, Gainey played 39 minutes of error-free ball.



On an isolation play, C.C. Harrison is able to shake Gary Saunders (11) and finish his 19-point, six rebound day with an emphatic slam over Tech's Pablo Machado.

... Shoots lights out

■ The Pack turned in one of the best shooting performances of the decade, hitting at a 64.9 percent clip.

By K. GAFFNEY
STAFF WRITER

Not only did they do it, but they did it better than they have all season long.

En route to a 72-51 victory over Georgia Tech, the N.C. State men's basketball team turned in its finest shooting performance of the year.

"I was really happy with the way the guys executed the game plan on both ends of the court," State coach Herb Sendek said after the game.

State shot 64 percent from the floor in both halves, not even allowing the Yellow Jackets a chance to get into the game.

The Pack's shooting performance led to the most points scored all season in the ACC.

State has only shot better than 50 percent from the floor twice this season, against non-conference opponents Lamar and Texas Pan-American.

State's success from the floor was largely due to its shooting from three point range. Overall, State hit 10 of 18 shots from behind the arc.

Six of the Pack's threes came in the first half, and Danny Strong opened up the Pack's first half run with a trey.

The 6-foot-6 forward from Great Falls, S.C., who had a rough in-conference start, finished with 23 points, fifteen of which came from behind the arc.

"Danny just really stepped up and hit some big threes for us," C.C. Harrison said. "He pushed us all up a bit,

See SHOOTING, Page 4 >

State fifth at ACC's

■ But an individual championship and a unanimous coach of the year selection isn't bad.

SPORTS STAFF REPORT

Experience doesn't always mean everything.

In just her first ACC season, Shelly Cavaliere has already made a name for herself.

The 5-foot-4 freshman finished first on the one-meter springboard this weekend at the ACC Swimming and Diving Championships in Chapel Hill, helping N.C. State to a fifth place finish in the conference championships.

Clemson walked away with the title, scoring a total of 708 points. The UNC and the University of Virginia took second and third, respectively, and Florida State edged out State for fourth. The Pack finished with a total of 395 points as a team.

Cavaliere was fifth after the preliminaries, scoring 356.20 points; however, her total of 412 points in the finals was nine points better than that of University of Virginia sophomore Kathryn Caratelli, who finished second.

Third, fourth, and fifth place in the one-meter competition went to State as well, with Marica McKeel, Kelley Melton, and Samantha McDonald finishing in that order. McKeel also finished second in the three-meter competition, scoring 468.90 points, behind Caratelli's 506.70.

In the swimming events, State's Gina Galligan finished second in the 100-meter breast stroke, an event she won last year. Galligan's time of 1:02.96 was just half a second off the winning mark posted by Sam White of FSU.

Carmen Baker finished fourth in the 400-meter individual medley. Baker was seeded fifth in the competition, but posted a time of 4:23.24, two seconds faster than her seed time.

In a unanimous decision by the ACC coaches, N.C. State diving coach John Candler was named ACC Diving Coach of the Year.

Women up to third in ACC

■ The 82-69 over Georgia Tech enabled the Wolfpack women to jump four spots in the ACC.

By K. GAFFNEY
STAFF WRITER

Know when to walk away. In her last regular season game in Reynolds Coliseum, N.C. State senior Umeki Webb showed that she wasn't ready to walk away just yet.

The Wolfpack struggled early, but rallied behind Webb to defeat Georgia Tech and move into third place in the ACC with a 82-69 victory yesterday.

Webb, who has posted close to triple-double stats during the Pack's four game winning streak, posted close to double figures in four categories. Webb finished with 23 points, nine rebounds, eight assists, and seven steals in her final regular season game in a home jersey for the Pack.

Webb had just seven points and three rebounds at the half, but came through when the team needed it most, leading the Wolfpack's second half surge.

State started the contest strong, but fell to an eight point deficit late in the first half, as Georgia Tech senior Kisha Ford brought the Yellow Jackets back from six points down.

State's inside play in the last few



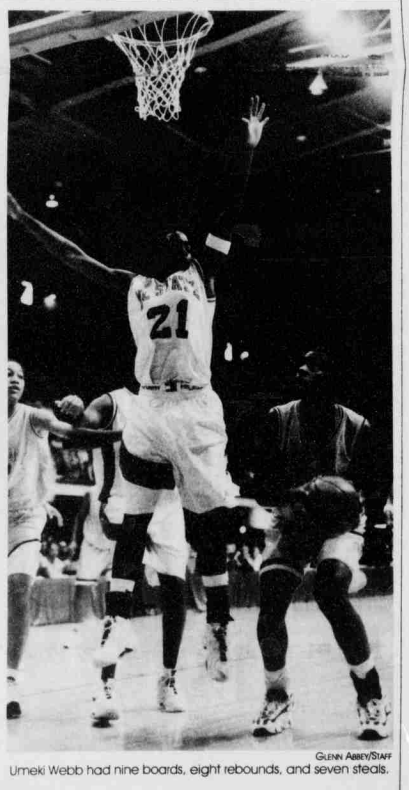
With a little help from Chasty Melvin, senior Umeki Webb (right) is able to get to the hole and hit two of her 23 points.

minutes of the half was strong enough to bring the game back to a 34-34 tie at halftime.

The key to the first half for the Yellow Jackets was keeping State's

Chasty Melvin, Jennifer Howard and Katie Smrcka-Duffy under control. At the half, the three had

See TECH, Page 4 >



Umeki Webb had nine boards, eight rebounds, and seven steals.

Veritable zoo of mascots beat up State

■ Tigers, Bulldogs, Gamecocks and Cougars all top Wolfpack in a tough weekend for State athletics.

SPORTS STAFF REPORT

No win situation for Pack Tennis

The N.C. State women's team hosted the No. 17 ranked South Carolina Gamecocks Saturday afternoon with, figuratively speaking, one hand tied behind its back.

State did not have players entered

Wolfpack Notes

in the last two singles events or in the three doubles events, and subsequently went on to lose 5-1 to the Cougars.

Head coach Jenny Garrity suspended four players for the ever-ominous reason of "violating team rules," which led to the default of the two singles matches

and one doubles match.

However in No. 1 singles, Blair Sutton turned in a solid performance when she defeated Celine Regnier of South Carolina, the No. 100 ranked player in the country, 6-0, 7-6.

Unfortunately, it would be the only win for the Pack (0-4), because Laura Cowman, Carey Causeway and Elizabeth Perry won a total of 12 games, all in straight set losses.

State's next match will be against UNC-Greensboro on Wednesday at 2:30 at the Wolfpack Tennis Complex.

Gymnastics team finishes third

It's a little hard to upset the No. 1 team in the nation when they don't record anything lower than a 9.900. That was the case for the Georgia Bulldogs, which totaled a 197.800, in beating the No. 14 Brigham Young Cougars (193.125) and the Wolfpack (188.600) in front of 9,100 people at Athens.

For the Pack, senior Liz Bernstein turned in team high-scores in the vault, uneven bars and on the floor exercise. Her 9.900 was good enough for a third place tie in the vault.

For State, the uneven bars were one of the most solid areas. After several meets of encountering problems in the event, every gymnast earned a score above a 9.150 at Georgia. On the beam, Stephanie Wall earned the top score for the Pack with a 9.675.

However, the Bulldogs were just too tough, especially at home. They captured the top spots in every event, sweeping the floor exercise, the uneven bars and the floor exercise. Kim Arnold and Leah

See NOTES, Page 4 >

1996: not a good year for flying

■ Prompted by the highest death rate in over 15 years, NTSB has recommended that all Boeing 737's undergo rudder repairs.

By SYLVIA ADCOCK
NEWSDAY

Last year was a deadly one for air travelers.

The number of people killed on U.S. airline flights in 1996 was the highest in more than a decade, pushed over the top by TWA Flight 800 off Long Island, N.Y., in July and the crash of a Valujet Flight DC-9 last May in the Florida Everglades. A total of 380 people were killed on noncommuter U.S. carriers, according to a report from the National Transportation Safety Board released Friday.

The report came a day after the NTSB fired a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration urging quick action to fix rudder problems on the Boeing 737, the most popular airplane in the world, and suggesting for the first time that the

plane is less safe than others. Last month, the FAA and Boeing announced plans to retrofit all Boeing 737's—about 2,800 worldwide—with a new rudder system designed to prevent the rudder, which helps the pilot steer the plane, from jamming. Jammed

FAA might wait too long before it required airlines to make the changes. "Recent tests indicate that the current B-737 rudder system does not provide the same level of safety as on similar transport category airplanes," the letter said. The FAA should require that 737 pilots be trained in how to maintain control of the plane if the rudder suddenly begins moving in the wrong direction, the letter said.

"They want the FAA to do this tomorrow, but you cannot just wave a magic wand and say you are going to design, certify and manufacture a new system in a matter of days or months," said Mike Rioux, senior vice president of safety and operations of the Air Transport Association, an airline trade group.

Travel agents have reported that passengers aren't trying to avoid the 737 when booking flights, said Chris Privett of the American Society of Travel Agents. "If you're traveling by air, chances are pretty good you're going to end up in a 737," he said.

NATIONAL



NEWS

rudder systems have been blamed for fatal 737 crashes in Pittsburgh and Colorado Springs, Colo., a few years ago, although the crashes are still officially unsolved.

The letter from NTSB Chairman Jim Hall said the safety board was "encouraged" by the announcement, but was concerned that the

Pill reconsidered in Japan

■ The pill has not been a legalized contraceptive for thirty years, although women's groups and doctors are now pushing for this right.

By ELIZABETH LAZAROWITZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TOKYO — Today's Japanese women can surf the Internet, run for Parliament and drive bulldozers, but they can't take the "pill."

That could change soon. Thirty years after vetoing the use of contraceptive pills, a government committee is expected to announce this week whether it will recommend legalization of the low-dose birth control pill.

Japanese media predict that the pill at last will prevail. But pro-pill

groups are wary, because even a positive recommendation from the committee could be quashed. In 1992, the government was on the brink of approving the drug when it suddenly got cold feet. Officials said they feared

legalizing the pill would discourage

condom use—currently Japan's main form of birth control—thus increasing the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Now officials have set up the pill for another shot at approval by announcing that low-dose pills are safe and effective and their use would have negligible effect on

AIDS transmission.

Critics wonder what has taken so long. Some finger the medical community, charging that doctors who perform abortions don't want to lose that lucrative source of income. Abortion is legal and ends one in four pregnancies in Japan.

Others blame the lack of a potent women's movement, or government concern over one of the world's lowest birth rates. Some feminists believe the pill is a health hazard and have not crusaded to end the ban.

"Japan is still a developing country" when it comes to hormonal birth control methods, said Dr. Kunio Kitamura, director of the Japan Family Planning Association.

Pill production was banned in Japan in 1967. By 1973, medium and high-dose pills were available by prescription, but only for use in correcting menstrual disorders.



WORLD NEWS



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Jackets

Continued from Page 3

posting four assists and no turnovers.

"If you want to trace improvement, if you want to break it down and look at individuals and say 'Why are we a better team now than we were earlier in the season?'" then Justin Gainey's one of the reasons why," Sendek said. "He came in, and in many cases early on, he was overwhelmed."

"Now he plays like he wants the ball, and we're a better team because of it."

Having another strong game for the Pack was junior C.C. Harrison.

The Pack's leading scorer finished the game with 19 points, hitting 70 percent from the field. He also

snagged a career-high six rebounds, four coming on the defensive end.

Notably missing from State's lineup on Saturday was the Pack's leading rebounder Damon Thornton. Thornton, an ACC rookie-of-the-year hopeful, sat out the game due to a hip injury. It is unclear when he will be back in action.

"Right now, we're obviously going to test the waters day-by-day," Sendek said. "I've got the feeling it's one of those injuries that there's nothing you can do other than let time heal it."

The Pack closes out the ACC season at home on Wednesday against Florida State. Tickets go on sale this morning at Reynolds Coliseum and are free to all students who have a valid All-Campus ID card.



Justin Gainey (12), Donny Strong and Ishua Benjamin converge to make the steal.

Shooting

Continued from Page 3

and it caught on."

Threes from Strong, Harrison, and Ishua Benjamin in a four-minute span in the second half pushed State's already convincing lead to 23 points.

State also hit 8-of-11 free throws in the second half, shooting better than 70 percent from the charity stripe for the game.

State also forced Tech into making their own mistakes, and then capitalized on the offensive end.

Georgia Tech committed just nine turnovers in the first half, but State was able to turn that into 19 points.

"I was really happy with the way the guys executed the game plan on both ends of the court."

— Herb Sendek,
N.C. State head coach

while the Yellow Jackets scored just two points off of four State turnovers in the first half. All told, State finished the game with 29 points off of Tech turnovers.

"They spread the ball around and played great defense. They made us throw the ball away, and they really shot the ball well, they deserved to win this game," Tech coach Bobby Cremins said. "If you can beat Wake Forest, you can beat just about anyone in the country."

Sendek and his players are looking to carry over the momentum from this weekend's game, especially when it comes to shooting.

The Wolfpack next matches up with Florida State in Reynolds Coliseum on Wednesday.

When the Pack met the Seminoles in Tallahassee, State shot just 32 percent from the floor. 17 percent from three point range and then proceeded to get pasted by 20.

State readies for tourney

■ With the win, the Pack may get some home games in the NCAA Tournament.

By K. GAFFNEY
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes there is more on the line than anyone in the crowd realizes.

In N.C. State's 82-69 win over Georgia Tech, N.C. State was fighting for more than just another entry in the win column.

Coach Kay Yow and the Wolfpack women came into the game No. 6 in the ACC, but regardless of the outcome, they knew they wouldn't finish there.

Before yesterday's game, the Pack had played their way into a sticky situation, in which the rewards were equal to the risk.

State started the ACC season looking sluggish, dropping close games to Georgia Tech, Clemson, and Virginia.

The Pack has finished strong, turning a 5-7 conference record around, securing themselves a strong position in the ACC Tournament and a berth into the NCAA Tournament in March.

After an overtime loss to Duke, the Pack defeated Maryland, ACC leader North Carolina, and Wake Forest.

A win over Georgia Tech would bump the Pack up to third place in the conference, while a loss would drop State down to seventh.

"I debated whether or not I should even tell the team," Yow said of the team's situation. "I think it put a little pressure on us, but I am glad that we played that game under pressure."

State's win means that the Pack will take out defending Tournament Champion Clemson Friday.

"This game determined whether N.C. State was in third place, or in seventh," Georgia Tech coach Agnus Berenato said. "I think it was that we have really arrived as a conference."

Georgia Tech was in the same situation previous to their meeting with the Pack. With the loss, the Yellow Jackets not only faces No. 2 Virginia in the first round of the ACC tournament next weekend in Charlotte, but their chances of a trip to the NCAA's are questionable.

Georgia Tech playing in the NCAA Tournament would mean

that seven teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference will be playing in March.

The victory actually leaves State in a tie for third place with Duke and Maryland. All three teams split their regular season series, but since the Wolfpack defeated the nationally-ranked No. 4 Tarheels last week, State received the No. 3 seed for the Tournament.

The ranking also leaves State looking like a lock for the NCAA tournament, and opens up the possibility of hosting a game or two.

"There is alot out there that is possible for us," Yow said. "We may not have played our last game here. We could have the chance to come back here and play a really big one, which would be really fun."

The outcome of this weekend's tournament in Charlotte will play a big role in the Tournament committee's decisions.

In the 1995-96 post-season tournament, Clemson, who had finished fourth in the regular season standings, defeated No. 2 Duke, 71-54 to walk away with the championship rings.

and ten lead changes.

"I think that around the ten minute mark we started to make our move," coach Kay Yow said. "We've played a lot of games that came down the stretch this season. I think that we did all the things that a team needs to do, we hit the free throws, we used the clock, we protected the ball, and did an excellent job with our execution down the stretch."

State finally took control for good with a three-point play from Katie Smrcka-Duffy and three free throws from Webby.

The two combined for another five points to push the lead to eight,

but a three point from Georgia Tech guard Danielle Donehev, last week's ACC Rookie of the Week, brought the Yellow Jackets within five.

"That was the closest that Tech would get. State hit 10-of-10 from the foul line to end the game."

"It was a tremendous game, a tremendous environment," Berenato said. "I think it shows the nation the parody that exists in the ACC, this was a great contest, and this is a great league."

Smrcka-Duffy finished with 18 points, hitting State's only trey of the game and sinking all five of her free throws.

Baseball team wins, then doesn't!

After breaking a 5-5 tie in the top of ninth to beat the University of New Orleans on Friday, Saturday's outcome was just the opposite.

Perennial powerhouse LSU scored two in the bottom of the eighth to take the lead and go on for the 3-2 win over the Wolfpack at the Winn Dixie Showdown, held in the Louisiana Superdome.

Brett Black (1-2) went the distance for State, giving up eight hits over eight innings of work. He also tallied four strikeouts and no walks in one of his best performances of the season.

However, the Tigers allowed only three hits and recorded six strikeouts on the way to the win.

Notes

Continued from Page 3

Brown each recorded a perfect 10 in the floor exercise.

State finishes middle of pack in ACC Track Championships
At the ACC Indoor Track Championships at the Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center, the N.C. State men's team finished in fourth place and the women's team finished sixth.

A highlight for the men's team was John Patterson's first place finish in the weight throw. Patterson shattered the ACC record with a distance of 64'05.25. The old

record was set in 1991 by UNC's Sean Murray with a throw of 62'02.50.

Jason Johnson captured second in the pole vault with a height of 16 feet, and Chan Pons and Mike Fitzula finished third and fourth, respectively, in the 3,000-meter run.

The women continued a long-standing Wolfpack tradition of domination in the 3,000-meter run. In seven of the nine years the event has been in the ACC Championships, State has won, and this year was no different.

Christy Nichols finished the race with a time of 9:29.14, almost 15 seconds ahead of Jen Gruta, the second place finisher.

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Technician

February 24, 1997

Volume 77, Number 62

Potato guns are for backyard, not campus

■ With a little common sense and inventiveness, you can send some spuds screaming and still be legal.

Chad Messer
THE BACKYARD

Big Brother is watching us, again. As summer rolls around, year after year, students find themselves with more time to do nothing but make mischief for the neighborhood and its pets. In many towns across America, thoughts drift to ways that trouble can be made at home, and sometimes, these thoughts center on the Potato Gun.

The Potato Gun, Spud Cannon, Idaho Mangler, whatever you want to call it, is a very dangerous and mischievous brand of fun. It is made with a length of plastic PVC pipe, between 5 and 15 feet, a holding chamber, some kind of alcohol based fuel, and an electrical firing mechanism.

The pipe, potato jammed inside, is attached to the chamber and the chamber is filled with the fuel, usually hairspray, although more advanced aficionados of home made mayhem use propane, compressed air, and other, more volatile aerosols.

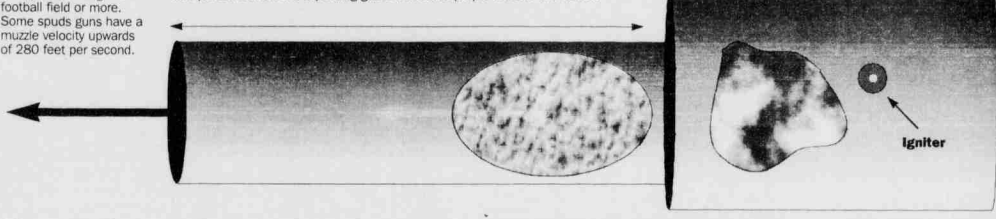
This fuel is then ignited with an unnamed type of mechanical or electrical spark, (like MacGyver, I

Anatomy of a Spud Cannon

Boom: With a satisfying fwump, the potato could sail up to the length of a football field or more. Some spuds guns have a muzzle velocity upwards of 280 feet per second.

The Pipe: The potato, or other projectile is stuffed into this part of the gun to await its one way trip through the wild blue yonder. The spud must fit securely so that pressure from the exploding gas is forced to propel it down the barrel.

The Chamber: The action starts here. After adding a few squirts of hairspray, the igniter is pressed to light the gas inside. This compartment must open to allow the fuel to be placed inside, then be sealed tight enough make the exploding gas move out the pipe.



cannot give you the last crucial ingredient, we don't want any eyes put out) and the projectile spud shoots out at upwards of 280 feet per second (190 miles per hour), ready to do untold damage to the neighbor's garage, the neighbor's pets, or the neighbors.

I hear many of you asking, out there in the real world, "How can something so fun, and yet so dangerous, be legal?" Well, amigos, it all depends on who you ask. Edward M. Owen, the chief of the

Firearms Technology Branch of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms states in a letter on the subject, in true federal style, that "Spud Guns, Potato Guns, or Spudzookas... are not firearms as defined in Title 18 United States Code, Chapter 44, section 921 [but] any similar devices which can be determined to be weapons... may meet the definition of a firearm."

In essence, they tell you that if your mommy says that it is OK to

peg the cat with Idaho spuds, then by God it is fine by them, too. Potatoes are evidently not weapons, even when they launched at almost 200 mph, except when you shoot them at the president, which would get you thrown in the lowest hole in Leavenworth for the rest of your miserable life.

N.C. State Public Safety has a more clearer view on the subject. They consider potatoes weapons when shot out of an air cannons, or any other cannon, for that matter,

and it is illegal to have or shoot Spudzookas on campus, no matter what your mommy says. Potatoes without cannons are still OK, as long as you don't throw them really hard.

Things such as potato guns are not a new thing in the United States. Slingshots, BB guns, and the like have been around for years, and do the same types of damage as a spud gun, and all can be illegal based on their usage. So, in your own home, it is perfectly legal to own, fire, or

fondle your own potato gun. You can shoot it from your yard into the air to hit stray birds. You cannot, however, fire them on public property, at other people or their property, including pets or any other heads of state.

You can shoot them at life-sized Dean Smith cutouts, though, as long as you don't do it on campus. Hope that sorts out the mess over the legality of spud guns. Just use common sense and have some fun, for goodness' sake.

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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

February 24, 1997

Volume 77, Number 62

Jeans celebrate equality

Blue Jeans Day helps to open the minds of N.C. State students.

Last week marked the annual Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week, sponsored by Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians and Allies (BGLA). To celebrate the week, the group painted the Free Expression Tunnel, sponsored three guest speakers. The group continued their celebration with a bowling night and a dance night and information booths across campus. But the main event was Blue Jeans Day on Feb. 19. Blue Jeans Day annually sparks controversy. Anti-homosexual factions claim that by using blue jeans as a symbol, the BGLA is trying to "trick" straight people into coming out of the closet. But that's not the case. Blue Jeans Day is not just a time for students to come out of the closet, rather, it is a time for straight people to support equal rights for all people. The day is not about uniting only the homosexual

community, but N.C. State as a whole. Jeans are chosen because they are something everyone has in their closet, not to "trick" people into showing support.

Some feel the whole week is unnecessary and that homosexuals are making others look gay if they wear blue jeans. Wearing blue jeans is not about being embarrassed to admit you support the BGLA — it's about a community banding together for a common cause.

The administration, media and groups everywhere are becoming more sensitive to the BGLA, especially after an attack on a member this past fall semester. This week helps to educate students about the BGLA and to peacefully argue for the group's acceptance.

The awareness week was not just about homosexuals — it's about making people look deep inside to see what they believe in. Even though wearing blue jeans may not be a loud and clear statement to some, it's enough, year after year, to get more people thinking with an open mind.

Give time to save lives

Giving blood benefits you, the receiver and the community.

Don't have much time? Can't take an hour or two off from studying, classes or work to do something for the community? Well, how about donating blood?

It only takes about 30 minutes and you get free cookies and a drink afterwards. Now that's an incentive that no college student should be able to resist.

Throughout the school year, N.C. State makes it easy to donate blood by bringing the bloodmobile right to our doors — that is, in or near a residence hall. You go in, fill out a questionnaire and then lie down for a few minutes and relax.

So, what else is in it for you? Well, the questionnaire will alert you to any high

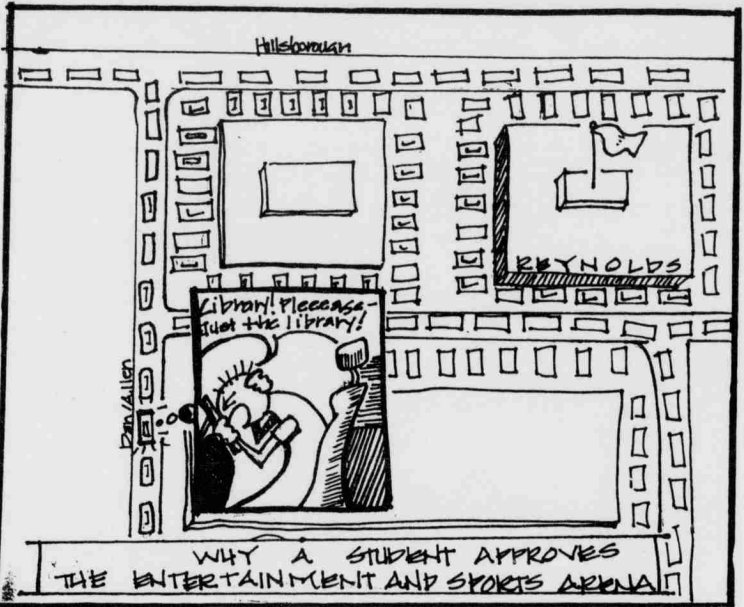
risk behavior you might be engaging in. Also, you learn your blood type, which is always interesting to talk about at a party, and your blood is tested for the HIV virus.

For many people, blood donation is a God-send because they dread going to their doctor and directly asking for an HIV test or they are too squeamish to use the new home-testing kit. Also, it does give you a chance to give back to the community and do something for the people who desperately need blood. You or a friend could receive some of your blood. Giving blood is a rewarding way to donate your time to help others.

The next time the bloodmobile rolls through NCSU, take time to run and donate a little of your time and your blood. And eat your free snacks. Only a few minutes of your time can help save someone's life.

Opinions expressed in the columns, cartoons, photo illustrations and letters that appear on Technician's pages are the views of the individual writers and cartoonists. The undersigned editors that appear on the left side of the editorial page are the opinion of the paper and are the responsibility of the editor in chief.

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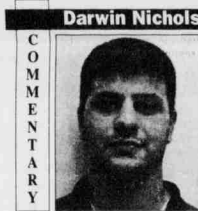
Officials are blind and deaf to people's needs

Well, well, well. It seems like I can finally say, "I told you so." The only thing that surprises me about the whole thing is that it happened much quicker than I expected.

Just in case you've had your head in the sand for the last few days, I have the extreme pleasure of informing you that Raleigh's National Hockey League dream is dead. That's right folks, the ownership group led by Felix Sabates has dropped its bid for an NHL franchise for the Raleigh area. It seems that Sabates and his management team were receiving conflicting signals from all of the parties involved in this little fiasco.

The items that couldn't be worked out consisted mainly of a lease agreement between the Entertainment and Sport Arena and the management group that was headed by Sabates. The management group needed the agreement so the NHL could be convinced that the Raleigh market was one that it really wanted to pursue.

Centennial Authority Chairman Steve Stroud received a fax from Sabates explaining what was happening: "Misinformation and misrepresentations by you and your



representatives in regard to the lease and commitments you have made... forced us to resign our efforts... We can no longer be a party to this charade. We frankly question your motives for initially inviting our ownership group into the process." Harsh words, if I do say so myself.

Hello? Did I not point this out to all you faithful readers several weeks ago? Did I not try and send a message to Chancellor Larry Monteith that this was never going to fly? Did he listen?

No. No one listened. No one thinks that college students have a clue about what goes on in the real world.

A large majority of this whole mess could have been avoided if the Centennial Authority, the Raleigh City Council and the Chancellor simply asked the opinion of the people that had the greatest vested interest in the whole thing — the students. Why is it that when an issue of this magnitude comes up for debate, the students opinions don't mean squat? Are we stupid? My tuition money and my parents' tax dollars pay these peoples' salaries. I want to know why they don't have to answer to us.

I haven't been approached by anyone and given the chance to voice my opinion. Thank goodness that I have this column to complain in or I would probably just blow up. Has anyone asked any of you if you want a new arena? I doubt it. I wonder if the people that are behind all this think that we, as a student body, are going to battle traffic on a Wednesday night to watch us get beaten like a pair of rented mules by those pansies down the road at Duke.

The next time they want to raise our tuition, could they please ask? How about the plan to build a monorail from main campus to Centennial Campus? Does your

opinion matter? You're going to be the ones riding on it after all. Or, on the other hand, maybe you won't be riding on it. They'll never know unless they ask.

Millions upon millions of dollars could be saved by our government and the N.C. State administration, if they would just take time out to ask the people that will be affected the most, "What is your opinion?" Is it that hard for Monteith to hold open forums, say once a month, so that everyone could be kept up to speed on what was happening? I think that open forums would benefit everyone involved.

The administration and the students would have a much stronger bond than they have now. This bond would allow both parties to behave in a much more constructive manner, allowing each to achieve their goals without running head long into one another. I don't want to gloat, but it gives me great satisfaction to have made this call several weeks ago. When everybody else had their head in the clouds, a voice of reason shined through. For future reference Chancellor, you might learn something if you just took the time to listen.

Sex offenders are people with rights too

America isn't putting up with sex offenders anymore, or at least we hope they aren't. A national law, dubbed "Megan's Law," after 7-year-old Megan Kanka, who was raped and murdered by a paroled child molester living across the street from her, requires states to adopt community-notification measures. Eighteen states, including North Carolina, now require law enforcement officials to notify neighbors when a released sex offender settles in their community, and some other states require limited notification. North Carolina also provides registry information at schools, child care facilities, state agencies, and offices licensing or screening individuals and organizations providing services to children.

These new laws have gained notoriety through heinous crimes against children, such as the Polly Klass crime in 1993 and the mysterious JonBened Ramsey beauty queen murder. Many crimes were committed by repeat offenders. Faced with growing pressure from the public, politicians have been enacting tougher laws, establishing longer prison sentences and setting up these procedures to notify the community.

While your gut instinct may be to applaud the people who are making this happen, what are the drawbacks



to the system? Well, most children face molestation from someone they already know — generally, friends of the family or someone from the family itself. Supposedly, America is at risk of an epidemic of sex crimes against children, because one in five have the chance of being molested before the age of 18. Of course, without these laws, you risk making friends with a child molester who is supposedly reformed and leaving this person alone with your child.

The phrase "supposedly reformed" also poses a question — how can you really tell if someone is reformed? The prison sentence and psychiatric care offenders receive is supposedly effective, but once released from jail, what then? Those that are truly reformed have

no way of starting over as protective parents, and rightly so — they are angrily ostracized from society. This apparently creates psychological pressures that make relapses more likely, doing more harm than good and making it impossible for these people to start over even after paying their debt to society.

Most people feel that they have a right to know when a sex offender moves into their neighborhood. Others feel it is a means of revenge, especially since the disclosures have led to dismissals from jobs, assaults and other forms of harassment against parolees and ex-cons. Proponents of these tougher punitive measures acknowledge that these laws don't even address the problem of how these offenders should be treated — no one really knows how.

On one side, if you live in a community and a sex offender moves in, you'd like to get him/her out of there. No law is too tough so far as protecting your children is concerned. However, doesn't this person deserve a chance to start over, just like anyone else released from prison? Due to the heinous nature of these crimes, many say no. But, these people will have to live the rest of their lives knowing what they have done and knowing everyone else

knows, too. It all comes back to protecting children, although I can't help but feel sorry for the person who may not be behind bars his whole life but might as well be.

Others feel as if this is violating the privacy of these individuals and that the punishment inflicted is unconstitutionally severe. And there are some people out there who would use the information not to protect children but to slander the person and perhaps make them lose their job.

For some states, limitations of time are set on these bills — if the person goes for so long without offending, they are free. In others, the person will be chained to his or her crime their whole life. Whatever side you take, it's a Catch-22 situation. These people will be treated differently than everyone else in American and punished for the rest of their lives.

This issue is too difficult to decide on — on one side, you want these people to be locked up, and when and if released, watched over their whole lives. But, they should be free to do what they want after being released from prison, because having a record is also a punishment. In the end, though, it all comes down to protecting children, the future of America — they are what is important.

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Deng death will adversely effect China

A mystery wrapped inside an enigma. The iron curtain? No, China. A new world order is on the horizon. A cliché, but the death of the "grand emperor," Deng Xiaoping, the last symbol of the old revolutionary communists of Chairman Mao's day, could make this event the beginning of an era of Chinese instability that could rival the former Soviet Union in scope. Big deal, who cares? This must be another one of those geo-global columns that doesn't change the price of pizza, beer or tuition — so why read further? Simple ... it's scary.

Deng's death means that two major world powers on the NATO security council are now on the brink of revolution, change and dissolution. This peaceful world order, a place where a balance of power exists, is in serious jeopardy. Europe is in disarray because of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Now the Pacific Rim is in danger.

Video games, Japanimation, computers, cars, cameras, etc. have an uneasy pulp fiction-esque future ahead. Due to internal power politics, China's foreign policy is far from certain. In order to placate a powerful army faction, a new leader could take a hard line toward Taiwan and other bones of contention in the Pacific Rim.

The new leader of the moment supports such controversial policies. The Clinton administration sends new Secretary of State Madeline Albright to touch base

J. Miles Layton COMMENTARY

With President Jiang Zemin, Deng's chosen successor, today. So what? But think of it in these terms.

In order to stay on top in such a factionalized country, Zemin must appeal to every block, which means he must make concessions that his mentor, Deng, wouldn't have had to make. Should he fail, on top of being purged or worse, Li Peng could take over. Peng is the one who gave the order to bring out the tanks in Tiananmen Square in 1989. Damned if you do, damned if you don't.

Of course, this is assuming the archaic communist government stays together. When the revolutionary generation guard in the Soviet Union changed to former Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, things snowballed. Economic liberalization policies went faster than anticipated and caused a collapse that fragmented the country.

Under Deng's direction, Beijing has implemented an economic liberalization program over the last 15 years and tried to keep a tight reign on reform. With that departure, will the communist government be able to keep an iron hand on an economy that has to become increasingly market and global oriented in order to maintain its superpower status?

With a gross domestic product (GDP) growing at over 13 percent

annually, China's 11 million GDP is the world's eighth largest and is predicted to become the fifth largest by the year 2000. Over half of China's economy has already escaped central planning's control. The center has lost control of tax collection, and even profit remittances from many of the state enterprises it owns. Virtually all gains since the 1980s have come from non-state industries that have grown from a meager 15 percent of the economy to over half. An unrestrained, growing market economy will bring political strife between reformists and hard line communists. Revolution, peaceful or violent, is around the corner.

The army is going to have a big say on the matter. Increased military expenditures, an independent base of funding, and millions at arms make the situation volatile. Over the last three years, defense spending in China has increased some 52 percent while all outside security threats have vanished. A renewed indoctrination of the People's Liberation Army now takes 60-70 percent of their training time. More tellingly, the People's Armed Police has experienced unprecedented growth in personnel and equipment as a way of coping with growing internal security threats.

With a seat on the security council, what does future foreign policy hold in light of internal chaos? In order to placate a powerful army faction and position

itself with a solid policy, Taiwan could experience more than just maneuvers off its coast. As an ally, North Korea could receive more than just technological help which could strain relations on the peninsula. Algeria and Pakistan are under the Chinese wing, which could heat Middle Eastern tensions up.

What does it all mean? It means things are going to disintegrate quickly. The pundits are saying all is well because everyone is still kind of numb, and they are taking this to mean there has been a peaceful transfer of power. There is no such thing in China. There will be internal strife, possibly violent, and one can only wonder what stance the possible winning faction is going to take. Will it be hard-line communist or market reformist? Fascist or pro-democracy?

Heightened insecurity in the region has already caused several nations to increase defense spending. Debate over Japanese holdings in the East China Sea and the South China Sea has long regarded as the key to Japan's prosperity. This further precipitates an arms race by economic powers who can afford more than sticks and rocks; namely, nuclear warheads from a cash-strapped Soviet Union.

What lengths will Taiwan take to keep from being invaded? Where will the United States draw the line?

Another hot spot on the horizon.

The Campus FORUM

Some need common sense rules

This letter is in response to Matthew Hamby's forum letter printed Feb. 14. Hamby, you are absolutely right: there should not be an amendment to N.C. State's non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation. Furthermore, there should not be a non-discrimination policy whatsoever. It's a matter of simple common sense that prejudices, in any shape or form, are wrong. However, this is the same reason we need this non-discrimination policy; because (and I'm not pointing any fingers, Hamby) unfortunately there are still unenlightened masses on our campus that lack the understanding of simple "common sense."

Hopefully someday, our world will envision equality as a universal concept; and prejudices will only be excuses for the under-educated to make themselves feel intelligent.

Michael G. Avery
Senior, Economics

everyone owns a pair of jeans, just as nearly everyone has a sexual-emotional orientation. Most people do not think at all about slipping on a pair of jeans in the morning, as most heterosexual people do not have to think about their orientation in the morning. However, people who identify themselves as not heterosexual must think each and every morning about their orientation. They must think about whether they can be themselves without being physically or verbally attacked, or whether or not they should "gender-bend."

Much like the 20/20 report where a white person dyed his skin darker to live as a "black" person for a day, or the physically sound woman who spent a day in a wheelchair to live as a handicapped person does, wearing jeans symbolizes conscientious thought about things in life we often take for granted — our skin color, our health and who we're attracted to.

I'd like to thank everyone who conscientiously thought about wearing jeans and chose to do so to support not only the equality of gays, lesbians and bisexuals, but also the equality of all people — whether black, female, handicapped, or of some other minority status.

Anne E. Lincoln
Senior, Sociology

Lack of fan support

I was shocked and appalled by the amazing lack of support displayed by the Reynolds Coliseum crowd at last Wednesday night's basketball game against Virginia. First of all, there was very little noise in support of the Wolfpack during the entire game. Have Wolfpack fans reached the point that we only cheer for our team when they are playing Carolina or Duke? Also, huge numbers of fans got up and left the coliseum early just because they perceived the Cavaliers' lead to be insurmountable. I didn't think we, as N.C. State fans, had fallen to the level of the wine-and-cheese that reside 20 miles up Interstate 40. Maybe I was wrong.

Jeremy Wilson
Senior, History

Day means unity and equality

I feel compelled to explain Blue Jeans Day, for its meaning has been greatly misconstrued.

There is a misconception that wearing jeans on Blue Jeans Day indicates one's homosexuality. Rather, wearing jeans has been selected to show support for the equality of all people and specifically for bisexuals, gays, and lesbians. Anyone who supports equality for all persons regardless of their social class, race, gender, etc. is encouraged to wear blue jeans on Blue Jeans Day.

The purpose behind wearing jeans (rather than arm bands or stickers) comes from the idea that nearly

Bad tastes caught by the fashion police

Whenever the weather starts to warm up and we come out of our coats for a day or two, we have a chance to really get to know one another. Sure, we're all friends here at N.C. State, but you never really know people until you know how they dress themselves when they live away from mama.

Not that I'm chief of the fashion police or anything — I have been known to wear white after Labor Day, and there was that time when I was nine when my mom forbade me to leave the house, because pink and red do not go together. All in all though, I'm pretty broad-minded about fashion trends.

There are, however, some things I cannot stomach. I used to date this guy who was about 75 pounds overweight, but wore the same size clothes: that he had worn 50 pounds ago. I went with him to Kmart once when he needed some new pants for work.

"What size?" I asked.
"Extra large."
"Are you sure?" I asked, regarding the overlap where his belly button touched his pants button. "Don't you want to try a bigger size?" My tender concern for the man was met with an icy glare. Not one to let such things bother me, I pursued the issue.
"If you would buy pants that fit you," I pointed out helpfully.
"Maybe you wouldn't bust out of



Kristen Spruill

them in two months."
My caring and astute observations were lost on him. Although he did try to explain.
"If I buy larger pants, it will mean I have accepted my size. I wear small pants to motivate me to lose weight."
Maybe it's a male thing.

This same guy would wear button-down shirts that were too small without an undershirt. So, the spaces between his buttons would always gape open and his, err, chest became glaringly visible through the thin veneer of polyester.

It was like looking at Brigitte (the obese chick in the calendars) in a negligee.
I am no skinny-minnie myself, but at least I try to wear clothes that cover my body. I think you should try to look good whatever size your

body is.
Another fashion "trend" I fail to understand is the baggy pants thing. I have heard that urban black youths adopted this style because they wanted to look like prison inmates.

According to this school of thought, black inmates are political prisoners, convicted of crimes solely because of the color of their skin. So, to show solidarity with their imprisoned brethren, urban black youth adopted this show-your-underwear, one-hand-holding-up-your-draws, indecent-exposure, baggy pants thing.

I prefer to think that the baggy pants thing was invented by the makers of boxer shorts who wanted to revitalize a sagging market for their product (pun intended). Before the hang-loose era, the only people who wore boxers were old men like my daddy. Now when I see someone's burgundy silk boxers glaring out from the gap between the long shirt and jeans which are held up by the sheer kinetic motion of walking, I think, ch-ching!

Another \$15 sale for Calvin Klein! I'm sorry, but when I walk through the mall and I see a group of people whose drawers are down way past the equator, I think of two things: Barnum and Bailey. When I was growing up, only clowns would

be seen wearing pants that hang off their butts.

However, not everyone who follows this style is a radical pant-dropper. As with any other trend, there are moderates.

With them you can only see the waistband of their shorts and maybe a little butt crack just above it. Add a tool belt, and you have my plumber!

Even if the kids are trying to emulate their politically imprisoned brethren, I fail to understand why. Aren't convicts supposed to be the bad guys? The modern-day version of the Big Bad Wolf? Why would anyone want to dress like they? Practice?

As I see it, there is only one way to solve both these fashion trends. We gotta get both these groups together and have a clothing exchange. Youth of today, unite and give the fat people back their clothes!

And fat people, reassert your rights. If you don't get into the Big & Tall stores soon, you'll be squeezing yourselves into straight leg jeans for the rest of your lives — and that may not be a long time.

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