



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL READY FOR
ACC SCHEDULES

LEBOEUF PONDERES...
SHOULD YOU BELIEVE STATISTICS
OR SHOULD YOU IGNORE THEM
FOR THE LIES THEY MAY BE?

LATEST INSTALLMENT
IN ALIEN SAGA IS
A MAJOR BUG BOMB



WEDNESDAY

December 3, 1997

Vol. 78, No. 45

TECHNICIAN

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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Computing requests big fee increase

Education and Technology wants more money from students.

PHILLIP REESE
News Editor

In what may turn out to be one of the largest student fee increases in N.C. State's history, students could be asked to pay \$70 more for computer and "wet lab" services next year.

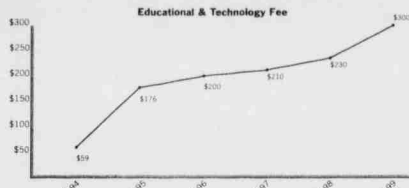
Currently, NCSU students pay \$230 per year to maintain and upgrade computer labs and other educational laboratories. But if a request by Bill Willis, associate provost of academic computing, is approved, students will pay \$300 next year for computer and wet lab services.

Many student leaders find the proposed increase outrageous.

"I don't think students can afford a \$70 increase next year," said Student Senate President Jim Claggett. "It's that simple."

Claggett and others, including Student Body President Chad Myers, said they are concerned about a lack of information regarding what projects will be funded by the increase.

"I'm for increasing the quality of wet labs and computers, but if we are going to be forking out an extra



\$70, I would like to know what that money is going toward," Myers said.

According to Willis, specific details regarding the use of revenue generated by the increase are not yet available. He said such details will not be available until January or February, when individual NCSU colleges put in requests for computer and "wet lab" upgrades.

However, Willis said he is certain that the money will be put to good use.

"I think it's important that students know that this money is spent on things students use," Willis said. "This is for equipment or experience."

This explanation is not good enough for many student leaders, including Student Senate President

Pro Tempore Susan Kohlhausen.

"I don't think [Willis] should ask and then all the money," she said. "It should be a policy of asking for what you need. That's how all the other units on campus work."

Kohlhausen said Willis' department should look toward other potential sources of revenue, like corporate sponsorships.

"We live in RTP. Why aren't we looking toward them for sponsorship?" she said.

According to Willis, such sponsorships are very rare.

"You are not going to get those coming along often enough," Willis said. "They are not just going to come and give us free hardware."

But, according to Claggett, there are other ways to earn revenue besides corporate sponsorships. He

suggested lobbying the N.C. legislature.

Claggett went on to say that the potential increase comes at a terrible time — two years after a \$400 tuition hike.

"I don't think it will get past the Board of Trustees," Claggett said. "In the last 10 years we have seen a 184 percent jump in tuition and I think they know that."

Willis said he understands that many students are facing heavy financial burdens, and he promised to try to keep costs as low as possible. But, he said, the \$70 fee increase is still needed.

"Something is going to have to give," he said. "If we don't increase access, the lines are going to get longer and we will not be able to provide some services."

However, Claggett feels that the need for more computer access does not outweigh the need to alleviate strained student wallets.

"We're not going to get everything we want; they are not going to get all the things they want. ... That's just a fact of life," Claggett said. "There are other student interests here than getting the fastest, shiniest, slickest computer."

Willis' department has asked for a student fee increase each year since the Education & Technology fee was approved in 1993.

Student leaders question events leading to proposal

PHILLIP REESE
News Editor

Many student leaders were surprised to hear that Bill Willis, associate provost for academic computing, is asking for a \$70 student fee increase.

According to the minutes from a Student Senate meeting last November, Willis told the senate that his department would "make the level to \$150 a semester by asking for a \$20 annual increase." But, this year, Willis is asking for a \$70 increase.

Willis denies stating that his department would only ask for a \$20 increase each year.

"I did not. But if [the minutes] say I said that, it's incorrect," Willis said. "I am a lot smarter than to project what I would like to see ahead of time."

Many senators, however, remember differently.

"He's got some explaining to do," said Student Senate President Jim Claggett. "He stated last year

that that's the way it's going to be, and it's not."

Student Senate President Pro Tempore Susan Kohlhausen said she was also upset when she saw a copy of the minutes from the meeting at which Willis spoke. She said the senate might not have approved Willis' request for a \$20 student fee increase last year if it had known that another huge increase was coming down the pike.

"That's one of the things we based our decision on," she said. "And now he is asking for more."

During the same interview last week, Willis added that he did not think his department would ask for a large fee increase next year, stating that \$300 per year would be enough for a while.

But Kohlhausen said such promises are empty.

"Based on his past comments, it's very difficult to believe this won't happen next year," she said.

"It's almost like an addict thing — just one more, just one more, just one more."

Site helps sell books

Student Government World Wide Web site is book bulletin board.

JOSH JUSTIN
Assistant News Editor

It will soon be easier to get those essential textbooks.

This semester, the "Used Book Marketplace," a World Wide Web site that allows students to post their textbooks for sale, is being promoted for student use.

"We're trying to get students to use this," said Chad Myers, student body president.

The site, which is sponsored by N.C. State Student Government, enables students to buy and sell textbooks online, cutting out the hassles often experienced when dealing with Raleigh's competing bookstores.

"It's a marketplace for books," Myers said. "We're facilitating a place for a book sale."

One of the goals of the Used Book Marketplace is to "cut out expensive bookstore prices," says an advertisement for the site.

"I'm sick and tired of students buying a book for \$90 and only being able to sell it back for \$30," Myers said, referring to policies of placing high prices on books, and then buying them back from students for far less than the original price.

The Used Book Marketplace was actually created by NCSU student Fabrice Daguelet.

"While learning JAVA, [Daguelet] wanted to put together this page," said Myers. "He had it going a few semesters ago."

This semester the site is an experiment for Student Government, but next semester, it should be "full speed ahead."

"We're having a real trial run this semester and we're going to make it a big deal next Spring," said Myers. As time passes, the site will become easier to use.

See **BOOKS**, Page 4

Happy soldier



Soldier Mary Miller, a member of the N.C. State ROTC program, is shown here getting ready for the end of the day by folding the U.S. flag. Miller is a junior at NCSU, studying mass communication. This symbol of our proud country is changed on a daily basis at the beginning and end of each day.

SPIN, NETWORK/STAFF

Administrators review policy

Agreements simplify community college transfer processes.

TIM CRONE
Staff Writer

Pre-major articulation agreements.

A phrase that has been on the minds of many of this past few weeks, pre-major articulation agreements could mean new realms of simplicity for community college transfers, and new cooperation between the N.C. Community College system and the UNC system.

The agreements, which outline acceptable courses for transfer into a specific major, are designed to streamline the transfer process from a community college to a four-year university. They inform prospective students of the requirements of their intended major, and list the courses that should be taken at their local community college. If a student completes the courses listed, he or she will gain 44 semester hours of credit toward his or her major.

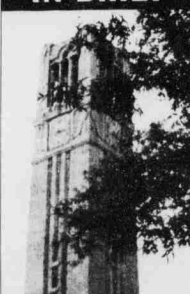
Almost all of the courses in the agreements are general education requirements, such as English, history and language courses. However, some of the courses will have to function as prerequisites for higher-level courses at the university level, a necessary circumstance that has stirred up many department heads.

Many departments, realizing that they will have to accept 44 of a maximum 53 general education hours from another school, have come to the conclusion that the articulation agreements will force them to allow students with less knowledge about a particular subject, or with similar but not identical background in a course, into a higher-level course. They fear a drop in educational expectations and a drop in real knowledge.

However, said Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Frank Abrams at a recent University Academic Operations Council meeting, "it's the compromise that

See **POLICY**, Page 4

Wednesday IN BRIEF



Money to be raised for alleged assault

There will be a party/fundraiser to benefit Joseph Hall, an N.C. State senior who was recently assaulted at the corner of Pogue Street and Hillsborough Street.

Hall, who was allegedly beaten with a tire iron, sustained numerous bruises on his face and back, scarring on his right eye and a cut above his right eye. Hall will need about \$5,000 worth of reconstructive surgery.

"This is a good example of student solidarity," said fundraiser organizer Spencer Brantley. "Joe's a really good guy. Everybody knows him. He has a really big heart."

"The party/fundraiser will be held at the '5-0,' located above the 'Big Bad Wolf' on Hillsborough, from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. Friday.

The fundraiser costs \$5 for students, \$8 for everyone else. Donations will be collected all night. Donations can also be made otherwise. Just call 834-5811 and ask for Spencer.

NCSU to honor Regina Benjamin at dinner

N.C. State will honor Regina Benjamin, an Alabama physician known for her contributions in rural and family medicine, at the 16th annual University Community Brotherhood Dinner.

The dinner will be held on Friday, Dec. 12, at the McKinnon Center.

Hosted by Chancellor and Mrs. Larry Monteith, the event honors an African American who has made significant contributions as a scholar and a humanitarian.

Six outstanding African-American students representing St. Augustine's College, Shaw University and NCSU will also be honored at the dinner. Attendance is by invitation only. NCSU students to be honored are Tagbo C. Ekwueme-Okolofe, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, husband of Felicia M. Ekwueme-Okolofe, and Angela Sykes of Waterbury, Conn., a senior majoring in chemistry.

NCSU breeds pest control experts

Thanks to pest scouts — and N.C. State — if you buy a N.C. tree, you now can be pretty sure your ornaments will adorn a lush, fresh tree rather than a bunch of dried-up twigs.

Christmas tree pest scouts are people who, for a fee, regularly inspect tree fields, looking for insects, weeds, diseases or hungry deer that threaten the crop. Then they tell the farmers what they have found, enabling the farmers to control pests.

Commercial Christmas tree scouting is burgeoning in North Carolina. NCSU forestry extension specialist Jill Sidebottom started the first training school in the nation for commercial Christmas tree pest scouts. "In row crops, like cotton, scouting has been around for years. More than 98 percent of the cotton in North Carolina is scouted by someone the farmer was hired. We want Christmas tree growers to have the same opportunity," says Sidebottom, who works at the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service.

OUTSIDE

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GRAD TECH BRIEFS



Affirmative Action upheld by graduate group

Following spirited debate at its Annual Membership Meeting in New Orleans, the National Association of Graduate Professional Students (NAGPS) has adopted a resolution favoring affirmative action programs.

The measure was adopted after a strong majority of the nearly 60 graduate student organizations present voted in favor of the resolution. The vote took place during the 12th NAGPS National Conference held Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, 1997, in New Orleans.

"This vote is consistent with past NAGPS votes on human diversity issues," said NAGPS Executive Director Kevin Boyer.

"Members adopted pro-affirmative action legislation at our 1995 National Meeting in Miami and adopted a resolution opposing California Proposition 209 at our 1996 meeting in Santa Monica, California. While NAGPS recognizes that this issue is controversial and that opinions vary widely, our organization remains convinced that significant inequality continues to exist in our society and that efforts to redress unequal opportunity, including affirmative action, must continue."

For more information on the resolution, contact Kevin Boyer at (847)256-1562 or Bryan Hanegan at (714)824-1133.

Graduate school guide available

A new graduate school guide has become available and is being touted as the ultimate insider's map of the intellectual issues practical that await you in graduate school. The only guide based on hundreds of interviews with professors, graduate students, and administrators, "THE REAL GUIDE" explores the ins and outs of 23 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. It's as if the best professors in each area, a university library, and a job market hot-line were all there to advise and guide the prospective graduate students. Most guides merely list degrees offered, addresses, and telephone numbers or are simply "how-tos" on getting in and paying your way. Only "THE REAL GUIDE" covers those areas and much more, including: tips on getting in and paying for graduate school, overviews of each of the 23 disciplines' intellectual histories, from their founding missions to their current debates and most exciting new sub-fields, the low down on the academic job market by discipline, assessing how the name schools stack up for jobs and how choice of school will affect the graduate's job prospects, vital analysis of departments, rankings by discipline, resource listings of web sites, journals and other

sources of information for each discipline. To order: e-mail to bonacc@linguafranca.com, FAX to: 212-302-0336, ext. 221, web: www.linguafranca.com/orderguide.html; mail: Lingua Franca Books, 22 West 38th St., 4th floor, New York, NY.

On line recruiting registration open

Graduate students are encouraged to register now for the next round of on-line campus recruiting that will begin in January. The list of companies participating will be published by the University Career Planning and Placement Center before the Christmas break. Graduates may register at the Career Center's home page: <http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/career>

Graduate student fellowships available

The Department of Defense National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship is open to U.S. citizens who are at or near the beginning of their graduate study and who are pursuing a doctorate in mathematical, physical, biological, ocean or engineering sciences. The deadline is January 21, 1998.

The U.S. Department of Energy Computational Science Fellowship supports graduate students in applied sciences or engineering disciplines with applications in high performance computing. The program is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents in their first or second year of doctoral study. The deadline for this program is January 28, 1998.

The U.S. Department of Energy Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Fellowships are available to support students pursuing master's or doctoral degrees in disciplines related to the management of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Entering graduate students and other graduate students who have not selected a thesis topic are eligible.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy Nuclear Engineering Health Physics Fellowships are available to support graduate students interested in the development and maintenance of nuclear power technology. The program is open to entering and first-year master's or doctoral students. To be eligible for either program, applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The deadline for both fellowships is January 26, 1998.

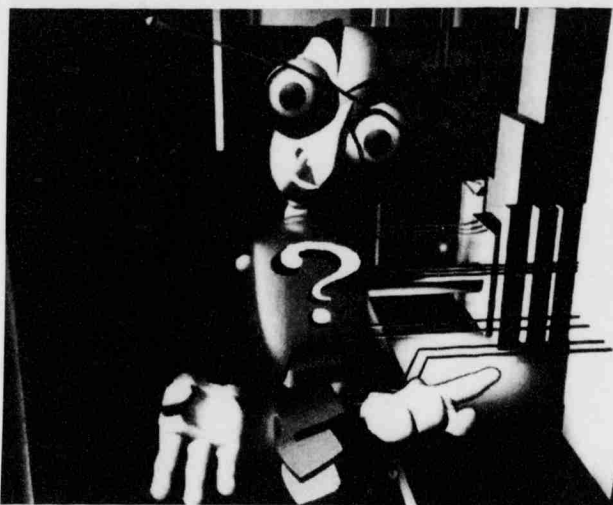
For further information, contact David Shafer in the Graduate School at 515-462 or via e-mail at David_Shafer@ntiui.edu. Information on these and other fellowship programs is also available on the Web at http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/grad_fello/wsfindex.html.

Intellimedia graduate students redesign the future of teaching

Grad students turn learning into a captivating game.

DANIEL McDEVITT
GradTech Editor

Imagine working for a company and your next promotion depended on you becoming an expert on a system you abhorred so much that even the thought of studying it caused you to search for any excuse to procrastinate. Then imagine that someone realized your situation and created a process of learning the system that made you forget you were studying. Imagine this "instructor" created a 3-D environment that allowed you to visualize the concepts and components of the system you're trying to learn. Better yet, imagine the instructor puts the course in a game format, a game resembling Super Mario (Doom is a little extreme) where you control a figure that walks through the system you're studying. Imagine that the environment allows you to record scenes for viewgraphs, take notes along the way, explain every device you can see on the screen and actually design the game for future replays as you play it. The game is so riveting that when you recall what you've studied, your memory is of a virtual tour inside of what you studied (a virtual tour of a photo-copy machine, for example). Imagine that the game lets you ask questions along the way and changes scenes and view angles for each question. Then imagine that the game knows when to start and at what level to begin instructing you after you initially told it at what level of comprehension you're at. Finally, imagine that the Super Mario character actually talks back to you and adjusts the game



Cosmo, the quintessential teacher of the future, giving a lesson about using e-mail.

independent of your interaction with it. Heck, with all this interaction you'd lose sight of the fact that you're even learning!

We'll imagine no more because the computer science and school of design grad students in Intellimedia have made this "game" reality. These two distinctly different groups played a large role in developing the above "game" scenario to capture the student's

attention while simultaneously interacting with the student during the entire learning process. How the school of design choreographed the "game" story line while the computer science students implemented the story line deserves retelling.

"Your major target audience is kids and if kids get bored, you lose them, quick," explains Tim Bue, a graduate student in the school of

design. Consequently, animated characters became the medium used to transfer knowledge from the computer to the student. One of these characters, Cosmo, effectively accomplishes the transfer. Cosmo, the hovering, quasi robot-insect being who instructs on e-mail quickly becomes accepted as a legitimate sentient being as the e-

See COSMO, Page 11

Networking: not just for CNN any more

Describing the ins and outs of building and having an effective network.

DANIEL McDEVITT
Staff Writer

If the term "networking" isn't a familiar one, consider the following situation.

Imagine you have a financial, medical, emotional or job-related emergency and you have to make a call at 2 a.m. Do you have enough people, outside relatives, you could call to cover you for any of these catastrophes at 2 a.m. and expect a positive response?

Most people would not have all these bases covered in an emergency. Most people would not have a network. Defining, developing and maintaining this network is exactly what "Dig Your Well Before You're Thirsty," by Harvey Mackay, allows you to do.

Aside from insurance for a catastrophe, Mackay begins his book explaining that a network is crucial just because of the current job situation. He explains that in today's modern working

environment, talent, more training and education, the government, self-reliance, dedication, competence and loyalty will no longer protect a person from potentially devastating financial and economic loss.

"If I had to name the single characteristic shared by all the truly successful people I've met over a lifetime, I'd say it is the ability to create and nurture a network of contacts," Mackay writes.

By successful, Mackay doesn't necessarily mean being wealthy. Throughout his book, successful people are those with a network that helps them easily find jobs after downsizing, finds the best schools for children when moving into a new neighborhood, provides for financial advice and even a ride to work each day.

If those aren't good enough reasons to motivate building a network, Mackay cites ten basic reasons for needing a network.

1.) "A network replaces the weakness of the individual with the strength of the group."

2.) A network allows a person to see how they really look (i.e. how the presentation sounds before

giving it).

3.) A network allows people to keep tabs on their enemies (recall the movie "The Godfather": "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.")

4.) Others in your network can help you expand your network. (Most people, when asked for advice, will be more than happy to refer you to someone in their network who is an expert on the requested subject matter, thus increasing your network.)

5.) A network allows you to enrich your life anywhere in the world. (Before traveling, someone in your network may know a person in that area who can give you a perspective on the region you would never get from just touring the area.)

6.) "A network can provide you with new experiences and knowledge."

7.) Networking can help you help others. Becoming involved in charity organizations and alumni recruiting, for example, gives one the satisfaction of passing on experience to others.

8.) A network gives one the job security that a corporation or the

government, for example, can't provide.

9.) "A network can make you look good." Keeping up to date with people in your network means not falling into the embarrassing trap of asking the wrong questions (like, how a long lost friend's wife is when they've been divorced for quite a while).

10.) "A network expands your financial reach infinitely." With a network, one can get services and goods performed free of cost by other people when getting the services done would have been difficult to arrange. For instance, a radio station could give what would have been unfilled advertising time to an airline, in exchange for unsold airline tickets. Both sides come out with something they otherwise wouldn't have.

Now that the merits of creating a network have been discussed, it's important to know exactly what a network is.

Mackay describes a network by saying what it isn't. He uses the analogy of an anthill. An ant colony is a strictly organized entity where

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Graduate student scholarships increasing

Campaign for N.C. State students generating scholarships for grad students.

DANIEL McDEVITT
GradTech Editor

The Campaign for N.C. State students is in full swing and has already achieved 71 percent of the original goal of \$80 million. The campaign still has two years to go and will provide additional scholarships for graduate students.

The campaign was developed as the first time North Carolina would use alumni, current graduate students and undergraduates to solicit past students of NCSU for money towards endowments. The thought was that not only would students be cheaper to hire than a

professional solicitor, they would be much more effective.

The thought is that you can't just call people up and ask them if they would like to give money to the school. Instead past grads are called by current students or alumni and asked to give money since people give money to people, not to organizations.

The important part of the campaign is not that money is being asked for, but how that money will be put to use. In this campaign all the money will go exclusively to students in the form of scholarships and fellowships. Cash gifts will be accepted and the donor will realize the maximum philanthropic and tax advantage to the gift but an endowment would be much more useful.

Once an endowment is made, the

money endowed or is turned into a fellowship or scholarship that provides a steady supply of capital to offset or pay for a graduate student's education. Most endowments have a minimum of \$300,000 and are put in low risk equities. Then, 5 percent, (typically \$15,000) is given to the student per year. The remainder of the funds goes back into the fellowship for it to grow. Typically, endowments are solicited for graduate students of technical degrees with the idea of using the resulting fellowship as a recruiting tool. This is especially helpful in the interdisciplinary programs, where the cutting edge of science and the majority of research breakthroughs are made.

Federal funding is nice but it suffers two disadvantages to endowments:

1) Often the funds are competitive which makes it difficult to use for a recruiting tool.

2) Typically the grants don't last long enough to fully fund a graduate student during their entire research time. If the grant runs out before the student finishes the research, the student may have to start all over.

Endowments have the advantage of being a constant flow of cash, controlled at the university level and with indefinite longevity. The fellowships created from an endowment also give the university the flexibility of matching federal fellowship money, providing a cushion of support when the federal monies go away and providing buffer money to areas of research

See CAMPAIGN, Page 14

ACCEPTED HERE

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State Stat:

N.C. State men's basketball team is 34-27 all-time against Georgia Tech.

Sports

Wednesday, December 3, 1997

Vol. 78 No. 45

Technician

Page 3

Wolfpack men, women, ready for ACC foes



Freshmen Ron Kelley (center, #40) and Archie Miller (right) have made an immediate impact.



Point guard Justin Gainey hit a crucial three to give the Pack the lead in the last meeting.

N.C. STATE v. GEORGIA TECH

Game Time: Thursday at 7 p.m. in McDonald's Arena on Georgia Tech's campus in Atlanta.

Georgia Tech at a glance:
Coach: Bobby Cremins (South Carolina, '70)
Career Record: 407-260 (22 years)
Record at Georgia Tech: 307-190 (16 years)
1996-97 record: 9-18 overall, 3-13 in the ACC
Conference Regular Season Finish: 9th
Starters Lost: Gary Saunders, Eddie Elisma, and Kevin Morris.
Starters returning: Matt Harpring (1st team All-ACC) and Michael Maddox

Series Record: 34-27, advantage Wolfpack
Last meeting: 1st round of the 1997 ACC Tournament. The Pack won the game, 60-46, enroute to the Tournament Finals. State had trailed for most of the game, but behind threes from Jeremy Hyatt and Tournament Ironman Justin Gainey, the Pack outscored Tech 27-9 over the last 8:39 to pick up the win and advance. C.C. Harrison led the Pack with 19 points and four rebounds in 39 minutes of play. For the Yellow Jackets, Matt Harpring played 37 minutes, collecting 18 points and five rebounds.

What to watch: The threes could sting the Jackets once again this year. Gainey and Harrison are back again, and with the help of freshman Archie Miller, pose an even more dangerous threat from long range. With Damon Thornton sidelined with a fractured foot, guarding Harpring may be a baptism-by-fire for the Wolfpack freshmen down low.

N.C. STATE v. FLORIDA STATE

Game Time: Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Reynold's Coliseum.

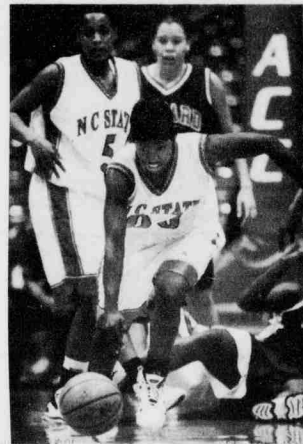
Florida State at a glance:
Coach: Sue Semrau (California-SD, '85)
Career Record: First Year
Record at Florida State: First Year
1996-97 record: 5-22 overall, 0-16 in the ACC
Conference Regular Season Finish: 9th
Starters Lost: None
Starters Returning: Llatrice McLin, Jen Robinson, Latavia Coleman, Lysa Moorefield, and Wendy Hampton.

Series Record: 9-3, advantage Wolfpack
Last Meeting: Jan. 26, 1997. The Pack won by a very convincing 39 points. Then first year Seminole coach Chris Gobrecht was ejected from the game after picking up her second technical foul before the end of the first half. Wolfpack center Chasty Melvin scored 25 points and collecting 12 rebounds. Aetha Penn scored a career high 13 points, but that was pretty much it for Florida State.

What to watch: It looks like the Pack may have a repeat performance on its hands. State hasn't lost to the Seminoles since 1994. Melvin has already earned ACC Player of the Week honors this season. Wolfpack guard LySchale Jones is coming off of a career-high performance. And the Wolfpack's newcomers have already impressed home-court fans. State also happens to be 6-0. FSU may be returning all five starters, but the only reason Kay Yow has to be unsure of her lineup is the depth of the Wolfpack bench.



Nailah Wallace scored seven points the last time the Pack faced Florida State.



LySchale Jones scored a career-high 18 points against DePaul this weekend.

On to nationals again

Four N.C. State runners are set to run with the best in the nation.

K. GAFFNEY
Sports Editor

As if being the No. 6 team in nation wasn't enough, the N.C. State men's cross country team, or at least four of its members, will be proving itself at the national level this weekend.

This Sunday, freshmen Chris Dugan, Ryan Woods and Aaron Keller, along with red-shirted sophomore Mike Fitzula, will be running in the Junior National Championships in Portland, Ore. Aside from just recognition on the national level, the top six finishers will qualify for spots on the Junior National Team.

According to State Coach Rollie Geiger, Dugan has a chance of qualifying for the national squad.

"He finished sixth at the FootLocker National Championships last year, and he will be running against a lot of the same guys, so he has a good shot," Geiger said.



Chris Dugan, left, was part of the team that won the Southeast Regionals this season. Dugan, along with three other teammates, will race this weekend at Junior Nationals.

Dugan, a top prep star last year at Southmoreland High School in Pennsylvania, was the only member of the 1997 freshman class not to red shirt this season, running in five of the six meets in which the Pack participated.

In his first race with the Pack, Dugan posted a ninth place finish in the Wolfpack Invitational and followed that up with a 17th place finish in the Paul Short Invitational when State traveled north to Pennsylvania.

At the N.C. Collegiate Championships, Dugan was part of the eight-man sweep of the race, finishing seventh.

Dugan was the Pack's eighth runner at the ACC Championships, where the Pack earned its third-straight conference title. Finishing in 14th place, Dugan had a time of 24:56. This was better than the No. 1 runner on five of the other

See NATIONALS, Page 6

Hockey closes out fall season

N.C. State hockey team wraps up home season Friday at Dorton Arena

TIM HUNTER
Staff Writer

As far as most people in the Triangle know, the only ice hockey teams in the area are the Hurricanes and the Icecaps.

Perhaps one of the best-kept secrets in the area is the N.C. State Hockey team. The team may not be quite as well known as those other hockey teams, but they have talent and know how to play.

The club ice hockey team is an active member of the Atlantic Coast Collegiate Hockey Association (ACCHA), which functions at the Division II level of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA). The team plays mainly local teams including the UNC at Chapel Hill, Duke and Virginia. Liberty Baptist, Virginia Tech, Old Dominion and Fort Bragg also have teams in the ACHA. The ACHA was founded prior to the 1995-96

season. All of these teams compete at the club level as opposed to varsity.

The pucksters play a very unique and demanding five-month-long schedule. The season encompasses both fall and spring semesters, beginning in October and ending in late February.

Coach Bob Moccock has led the Wolfpack team to a 2-6-1 record so far this year, against some very formidable competition. The Pack has lost games by only one goal several times this season, and has not been shut out yet.

In their most recent match, the Pack dropped a tough one to the perennially strong Hampton Road Ice Pirates of Old Dominion University by a score of 9-4.

To begin the season, the Pack battled UNC-CH to a tie in overtime at Sportsplex, located in nearby Hillsborough. Since then, the Pack has posted a win against Wake Forest, and has dropped three

See HOCKEY, Page 6

Wolfpack NOTES



Gymnastics team signs three recruits

Mark Stevenson and the N.C. State Wolfpack gymnastics team have announced the signing of three recruits for the 1998-99 season.

According to a report from the N.C. State Sports Information Office, Stevenson has signed Kellie Brown, Angie Welch, and Aimee Panton to letters of intent.

Brown, out of Spruce Creek, Penn., won the vault competition at last year's USAIGC Nationals, as well as finishing third in the all-around.

Brown was joined by fellow signee Welch on the Region II team that competed at the Level 10 Nationals last year. Welch, who comes to State from Richardson, Texas, finished third in the all-around.

Panton competed with current Pack team members Lauren Mazzurco and Courtney Petrovic, and chose State over New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Three ACC volleyball teams make NCAA cut

Three of the nine ACC volleyball teams have been selected to participate in the 48-team field for the 1997 NCAA Championships.

Regular season champion Maryland, with a 35+ conference match-up winning streak was broken at the ACC Tournament two weekends ago in Raleigh, is making its third straight appearance in the tournament, taking on Princeton in College Park, Md. later this week.

ACC Champion Clemson, who knocked off the Terrapins in the semi-finals, earned an automatic berth, and will travel to Wisconsin to take on the 27-3 team from Central Florida.

The Florida State Seminoles, who finished second both in the regular season and in the ACC tournament, will join Clemson in the Central Region. The 25-8 Seminoles will take on South Florida in the first round.

The three teams have a combined tournament record of 3-7 in the last four years.

Two teams advance in NCAA soccer tourney

Two of three ACC men's soccer teams advanced to the Regional Championship round of the 1997 NCAA Championship this past weekend.

ACC Tournament Champion the University of Virginia advanced with a convincing win over Georgetown, 5-1. Junior forward Ben Olsen scored two goals, and freshman Ryan Trout added a goal and two assists.

In the third round, the Cavaliers will face American University.

American advanced by beating 1996 ACC Champion Maryland, 1-0, off a goal scored by junior midfielder Scott Weber in the 83rd minute of the match.

The Clemson Tigers also advanced to the round of eight, with a 1-0 overtime win over in-state rival the University of South Carolina Gamecocks.

This is the farthest that the Tigers have advanced since winning the title in 1987.

ACC

Women's Basketball Overall Standings

N.C. State	6-0
Virginia	5-0
Duke	4-1
North Carolina	4-1
Georgia Tech	5-2
Clemson	3-2
Maryland	3-2
Florida State	3-1
Wake Forest	2-3

Fixing IRS's taxing computer problems is no easy task

Policy

■ A former New York state tax official has been hired to update the IRS computer systems and fix the Year 2000 problems.

STEPHEN BARR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When Arthur A. Gross, the new computer czar at the Internal Revenue Service, decided to recruit technology executives for the IRS, he put a little snap into its

humdrum job ads. In bold type, the ad said IRS wanted managers to overhaul "the world's most complex and sophisticated computer systems." The newly forming executive team, the ad said, would "rebuild America's Tax System."

The ad concluded in capital letters: "PLEASE NOTE: THESE POSITIONS ARE NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART."

Inside the staid agency, the ad created a stir. It wasn't the way the

IRS usually did things, a number of insiders sniffed; besides, what did Gross mean by this "faint of heart" stuff?

Months later, Gross, a former New York state tax official brought in to fix the IRS's aging and overburdened computer system, points to the results: 2,000 inquiries and more than 850 applications. Gross hired six of them.

"I've approached this position in a single-minded, probably very driven way," he said. "There's that old

story — sometimes you have to break a few eggs to make an omelet. It's been a challenge here for the organization to accept some of my personality traits."

The next two to three years will be technologically risky for the IRS, where many employees remain stunned by the harsh and emotional charges of taxpayer abuse that poured out at recent Senate hearings.

In coming months, Gross will oversee long-range plans to modernize agency computers, while

working to ensure they do not crash because their internal clocks do not recognize the year 2000. As an added complication, Congress has approved a three-year rewrite of the tax code, which will require reprogramming software so more taxpayer data can be collected. For example, Form 1040 Schedule D for reporting capital gains and losses has grown from 23 lines to 54 lines. Gross has given a clear direction to

See IRS, Page 13 ▶

Continued from Page 1

we have to deal with. I don't think it's a serious one."

Yet for the colleges who have already written articulation agreements for their curriculum, and those who have plans to do so in the future, other issues were of concern as well. Community college professors, claim many, are often not as well educated as those in a university, and while minimum standards for education must be met, departments fear that under-qualified educators may be providing a weak foundation for N.C. State to build on.

Other meeting attendees mentioned a fear of competition from community colleges, either for summer school attendance or for the first two years of education.

Books

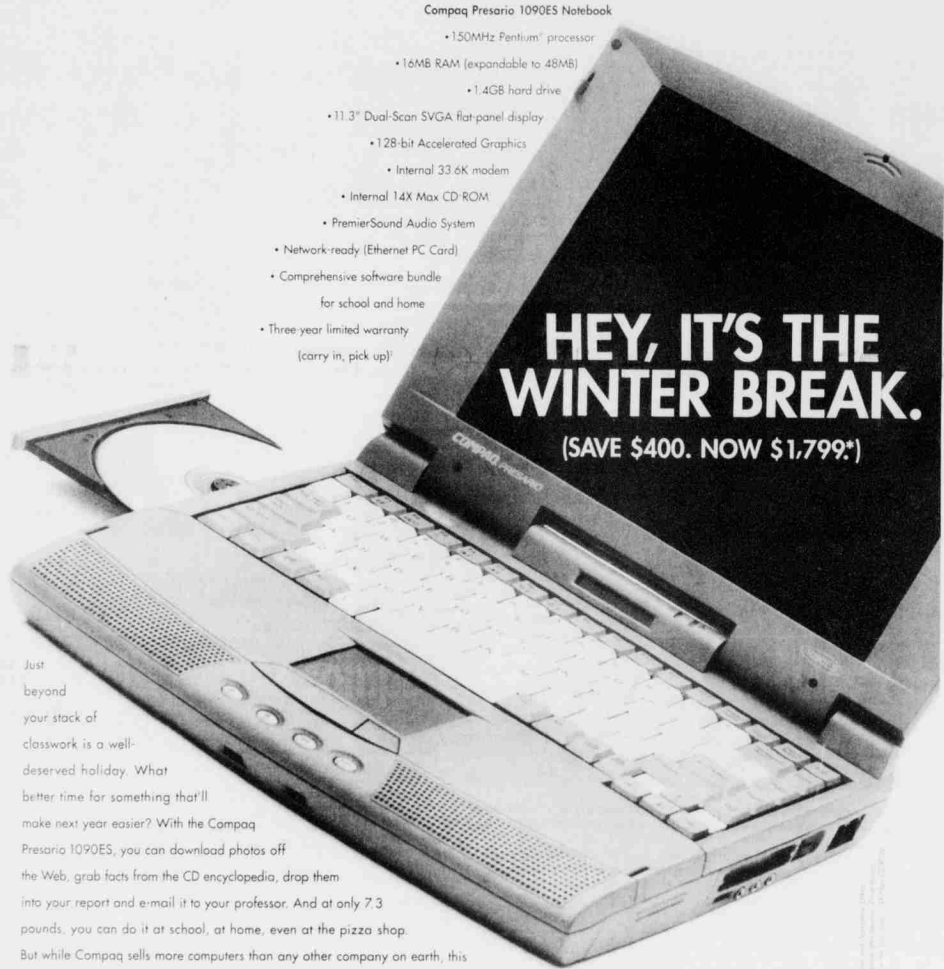
Continued from Page 1

"We're improving the page, and we're making it user friendly, and as easy as possible," Myers said.

Student response has been positive, although no bookstore has yet made a public announcement concerning the site.

"The students are excited about it," Myers said. "Each party saves money. It's totally free-market." For more information, consult the Student Government home page at http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/stud_g_ovu/.

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Serious

Wednesday, December 3, 1997

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Technician

Page 5

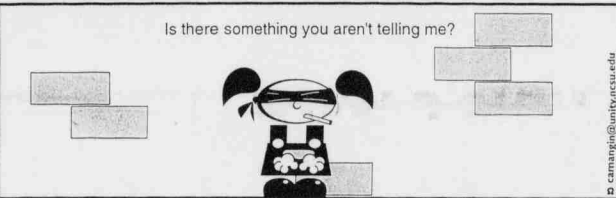
The Man by Steven F. LeBoeuf



Bisnick by the Bisnick



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L'Absurde by Steven F. LeBoeuf



THE INFAMOUS STEVEN LeBOEUF GOES TO KFC...



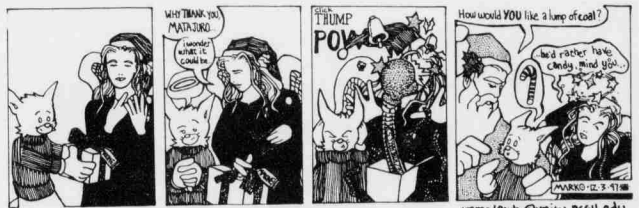
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HOW M^J REALLY LOST HIS SECOND GLOVE...

Doughboy by Marko



ROLL CALL...

CHARLES, MARK, DANNY, STEVEN, JASON, UYARE, ERIC, UCIANI, ALLEN, PAUL, MATT (MY ESTEEMED PARTNER IN CRIME), DARREN, AND KEVIN... UP IN MY HOUSE FRIDAY, DEC 5 (FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROVIDED) QS CALL KRISTY. THE GRAPHICERIDE WOULD LIKE TO SAY GOODBYE TO TECHNICIAN THANKS FOR EVERYTHING - I'LL MISS YOU GUYS... MISS KRISTY DUCKWORTH

Mrs KRISTY! Thanks for showing me where to put what. Thanks for hooking me up. Thanks for helping me wipe areas. I had those hard to reach areas. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed. Kristy did a shitpile of work to make the Serious page happen. Now the baton has been passed to me. Of course I have high hopes for next semester. Anyone who wants to draw a paper that is read by thousands of your peers should email me (Rattmouth@aol.com). Hopefully we can make some really interesting things happen. I sold my soul to John Denver to get this far. Later SK8er.

Wish List SAVINGS DISCOVER NOVUS VISA

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Florida Pink Grapefruit

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Dozen Bakery Fresh Christmas Tree Sugar Cookies **2.69** **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

7.75-8 Oz. Ralston Chex Mix **1.99** **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

12 Oz. Harris Teeter Chocolate Chips **1.49** **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

2 Liter Diet Pepsi, Pepsi or Mt. Dew **99¢** With VIC Card

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6 1/2 Inch Poinsettias **5.99** Each

Prices in This Ad Effective Wednesday, December 3 Through December 9, 1997 in Our Raleigh Area Stores Only. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities. None Sold To Dealers. We Gladly Accept Federal Food Stamps.

Hockey

Continued from Page 3

to Duke, among others.

The team has done especially well considering the fact that its made up mainly of underclassmen. Over half of the roster is comprised of freshmen and sophomores.

The Wolfpack practices at nearby Ice House and plays all of its home games at Dorton Arena.

The Pack will close out its home and fall seasons this Friday evening against Virginia Tech. The two teams have not met this season and split two games last fall. The Pack beat Tech in the Hokies' home opener, but lost a few weeks later at Dorton. The win was significant, as Virginia Tech finished the 1996-97 season with an impressive 10-7-1 mark.

State will pick up its spring schedule on Jan. 10, against rival UNC-CH at Dorton Arena.

All supporters are encouraged to come out and support the Pack this Friday at 11 a.m., when State goes head to head with the Hokies at Dorton Arena.

U.S., Britain start new Holocaust survivor fund

■ One provision of the fund is that donating countries can specify that their money be spent on survivors within their own borders.

JOHN BURGESS
The Washington Post

LONDON - The United States and Britain announced Tuesday they would give almost \$6 million to start a new relief fund for Holocaust survivors and called for donations from 15 European countries that are in line to get about \$60 million in gold stolen by Nazi Germany.

The plea came as delegates from 41 countries opened a three-day conference aimed at documenting the Nazis' systematic theft of gold during World War II and its fate after peace returned in 1945.

Later in the day, delegates from

Luxembourg disclosed plans for an unspecified donation to the fund, conference officials said.

Argentina, which is due no gold but had dealings with Germany during the war, also indicated it would provide money.

Stuart E. Eizenstat, the U.S. undersecretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs, called the initial U.S. \$4 million deposit into the fund a "down payment" toward \$25 million that Washington will give over three years, providing Congress approves.

"No one can do perfect justice in this situation," he told reporters, referring to the looted gold's unhappy history. "But imperfect justice is much better than no justice at all." Britain pledged 1 million pounds, now worth about

See FUND, Page 13 ▶

Nationals

Continued from Page 3

eight teams and better than the No. 3 runner on all eight teams.

Dugan's performance earned him a spot among the seven Wolfpack runners to compete in the 10K Southeast Region Championships.

After finishing 41st with a time of 31:55, Dugan prepared for the NCAA meet but didn't run, deferring to two-time All-ACC and former Foot Locker National Champion, Abdul Alzindani and 1995 ACC Champion and All-American, Patrick Joyce.

But the training for nationals helped Dugan, according to both him and his coach.

"Not running in the Nationals is going to help Chris. He will be that much more rested than everyone else," Geiger said.

"It is an 8K race, where as for

districts and national, it is a 10K race," Dugan added. "At this point, you aren't going to get any fitness anyway."

The way in which the three other Wolfpack runners have been training for the meet has been dramatically different.

Woods, Keller and Fitzula haven't run a single race for the Pack this season; they're all red shirting.

During their prep careers, Woods and Keller were both members of teams that won N.C. High School cross country championships in 1996, in the 4-A and 1-A/2-A classes, respectively. Keller won the 1-A/2-A individual championship in that same year, just his second in the sport.

Fitzula was an integral part of the Wolfpack success in 1996. Fitzula ran in all six races for the Pack and posted top 25 finishes in four of the five, one of which was the national championship.

Geiger says that while these three runners didn't run for the Pack this past season, this Junior National

meet will be important.

"This is like any other meet we would run," Geiger said. "We need these guys for next year, and this is obviously great for experience in a big time meet."

The four underclassmen aren't the only runners affiliated with NCSU that will be taking part in Sunday's meet.

A five-member team called "adidas Inside Out" will be running; the team consists of current Wolfpack assistants and former runners Jason Vigilante and David Honea, along with former Pack runners Todd Lopeman and Christian Agnew.

Also running will be former All-Americans Bob Henes and Laurie Gomez-Henes. Gomez-Henes, an assistant coach with the Wolfpack who was also named the women's District Coach of the Year, will be running with the adidas National team. And Henes, a three-time All-American, will also be running with the adidas national team.

BOOKSTORES **515-2161**

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Movie leaves much to be desired

These aliens would have been better off not resurrected.

MONIQUE THOMAS
Staff Writer

I was more than excited when I was given the chance to see the fourth Alien movie, "Alien Resurrection," because I have been a fan of the Alien movies since I was eight. Finally, after seeing this long-awaited movie, I found myself just short of speechless. I admired the first Alien movie because it wasn't some blood-soaked slice-and-dice horror movie that substituted gore for a story line; it was a true science fiction movie. It was obvious that its creators spent a great deal of time developing a realistic creature and a realistic scenario in which to place it. This made for a wonderfully written movie that kept audiences on the edge of their seats. The quality of the story was enhanced with quality actors who brought life and personality to their characters. The second and third movies put twists on the original story, but still continued in the great Alien tradition. This fourth movie, however, was by far not only the worst Alien movie yet, but was quite possibly the worst movie I have seen in the past couple of years.

The movie's biggest flaw is its writing. For all practical purposes there isn't any. In the previous movies there were no holes in the story. Everything and everyone was accounted for. Nothing was left to guessing games because the writer did an excellent job developing an airtight story. The audience could become emotionally invested in the story unfolding before their eyes because they understood it. They didn't have to stop, ask questions, and try to make sense of a muddled mess before them. This was not the case in "Alien Resurrection." If someone has never seen any of the previous Alien movies, they will be completely lost when watching this one. Any sequel that relies heavily on characters and events from the previous movies should, at the very least, incorporate some type of brief review for newcomers.

One of the biggest problems in the movie is that nothing is explained. The

writer decided to bring Sigourney Weaver's character, Ripley, back for a starring role in this movie. The only problem with that was that she died impregnated with an alien in Alien 3. So the writer simply created a clone of Ripley to take the real Ripley's place. However, she is not just a clone, she is some type of alien/human hybrid with the looks of a human but the acidic blood of an alien. How and why the scientists in the movie chose to create her is only lightly touched upon; yet, the whole movie seems from her creation. The writer only had to put forth a minimum amount of energy to come up with some type of explanation, but he didn't even do that.

As far as character development, Ripley's character is a foggy mess throughout the entire movie. The audience has difficulty identifying with her because she never emerges clearly. It is hard to determine where exactly her sympathies lie. She seems to hate humans, but spends almost the entire movie killing aliens (now her blood relatives) for them. If the writer was trying to create a complex, conflicted Ripley he failed in developing an understandable character. I didn't know what to make of her or any of the other characters in the movie.

None of the characters in the movie are developed. I barely knew three characters' names throughout the movie, if that many. And next to their names, I didn't know anything else about them. The entire plot of the movie consists of some underdeveloped characters running through a play trying to escape from the aliens pursuing them. The writing failed to create three-dimensional characters the audience could relate to and understand. When there's no one in the movie to side with and no one the audience really "gets," the audience doesn't care what happens to anyone. For all I cared, the aliens could have eaten every single person in the movie and I wouldn't have missed any of them. Good writing should evoke an emotional response other than apathy.

The acting in the movie also left a great deal to be desired. The movie had excellent actors such as Sigourney



Even acting powerhouses like Sigourney Weaver and Winona Ryder couldn't save "Alien Resurrection" from a bad plot and cheesy special effects.

Weaver, Winona Ryder and Ron Perlman, but the dialogue and writing were so poor that none of them could display their acting talents. Ryder's character is especially whiny, irritating and sappy. Her character, like Ripley's,

is conflicted, which only detracted from the movie. Ryder's character, Call, is a staunch humanitarian, but at the same time, wants to destroy all of the aliens.

See **MOVIE**, Page 12

Sound Advice

- ◆◆◆◆◆ Kick Ass!
- ◆◆◆◆◆ Beefcake!
- ◆◆◆◆◆ Makes you want to wretch, but in a good way.
- ◆◆◆◆◆ This was such a bad CD, that when people listened to it, they said, man is this a bad CD.

◆ It killed Kenny.

Andrew Dorff: "Hint of Mess" ◆◆

Some people are content to do their own thing. One of these people is Andrew Dorff. What makes his sound entirely his own? The fact that none of his contemporaries will garner much of anything from his music, and will instead choose to leave it for him and him alone.

Most of "Hint of Mess" is more than just a hint of mess. It is a combination of poorly written lyrics with a whiny voice that sounds much like a tiny engine straining through its way through well-worn gears. The music is characterized by tastes of many different genres, which are tied together with some studio-produced rhythms. The result is palatable on two or three tracks. Unfortunately, Dorff has assembled a collection of eleven. That makes for two or three which border decent, and eight or nine which are just plain bad. That is, of course, unless sniveling voices and vacuous lyrics are your thing.

About halfway through the album, you feel just a touch of sympathy for Dorff. You can't deny the fact that the album does have a flavor — Dorff's voice, to put it succinctly, is unique as it slides through its incomprehensible walls, and some of the musical sounds do successfully blend genres. I'd almost relate to and even identify with this character, who fits into the "alienated artist" stereotype rather well, if it wasn't for the fact that he sold himself to the Sony label.

Dorff is at his best for "Rosey Red" and "I Splash." "Rosey Red," in anyone else's hands, would be a ballad — the music is soft, acoustic, and includes some piano/organ chords. But with Dorff's whimpering voice, the ballad-like atmosphere is destroyed, despite the hints of sincerity trying to make their way to the surface of the song. "I Splash," a song which seems to echo "Singin' in the Rain," incorporates some interesting steel guitar work and percussion, but Dorff's voice eats away at the affinity the non-vocal portion provokes.

Dorff is near his worst, or so I hope, during the other nine tracks of the album.

"Hints of Mess" shows a fraction of a glimpse of potential, but it needs a good deal of work. Musically, it shows a willingness to cut and paste sounds from a variety of musical arenas, but lyrically and vocally it is lacking.

The Dandy Warhols: Come Down ◆◆◆

The Dandy Warhols are rock stars whether you know it or not. One glimpse into the sprawling Come Down delineates this notion; the band — led by icon

in his own mind Courtney Taylor — truly exhibits an aura of rock 'n' roll divinity unlike anything, this side of Oasis, that we've seen in a while. Does that mean that the music is vital? Well, if you have an abundance of patience and this is the only record you have lying around, the answer could be yes. But since your stereo doesn't work when the power's out, rainy day recordings are pretty useless anyway.

Most of the songs on Come Down circle and swirl like gases around a gravity source, pulling together — after usually extensive and belaboring intros — to form a sound that is altogether pleasing. The problem, however, is that within the first few strums, beats, and booms you have the gist of the song, and you can move on. Unless you are particularly interested in hearing Taylor's take on his terrible life, you're probably going to get real sleepy. The record's opener, "Be-In," sets Come Down's spacey mid-tempo motif perfectly — at once cosmically normal and down-to-earth intriguing. But when Taylor sings about something "Antiquated beyond belief," you wonder if he gets the joke. "Boys Better" undermines its own energy with a tired devotion to monotony, although the swooping moog is pleasant. And "Minnesota" sounds like either a demented Wallflowers ripoff, or a normal Neil Young ripoff — but a ripoff is a ripoff nonetheless.

A few songs, however, save Come Down. If Taylor and Co. are ever going to become the stars they already perceive themselves to be, the undeniable "Not If You Were the Last Junkie on Earth" will be the catalyst. Crooning sixties-style with proper 90's cynicism, the sing-a-long mocks the need by the "alternative" universe to push itself closer to the fringe as the mainstream pounces — whether they understand what the fringe really even is. With its ridicule of the fair-weather gay movement and the chiming chorus, "I never thought you'd be a junkie because heroin is so passe." "Junkie" is a fitting, and catchy beyond belief, swipe at nineties-dom.

"I Love You's" daunting repetition completely steals the meaning of those three little words, properly exhibiting love's displacement within pop culture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY MUSIC

Score soon with TOL

Technician Online is gearing up to offer free airfare with a new pick'em contest.

LAWRENCE J. WOBKER
Webmaster, Technician Online

It's that time of year again, and the Cardiac Pack kicks off the ACC season tomorrow night in Atlanta against #25 Georgia Tech. In celebration of the many changes at Technician Online (TOL), we're kicking off the ACC season in style by running TOL's inaugural Hoops pick'em contest.

The way it works is simple — Every week you log into TOL and make your picks for the ACC basketball match-ups for that week. At the end of the season, the picks are tabulated and totaled, and we start handing out prizes.

Prizes, you ask? Well yes, we're giving away round-trip tickets on Valujet as the grand prize, with weekly prizes to be announced throughout the season. The procedure to enter is simple enough, just point your browser to the TOL games web site at <http://www.sma.ncstate.net/Technician/games/hoops> and hit the "register" link. Fill in the requested information and you'll be transported to the weekly picks page. The first two weeks of the season are the exhibition season, but after January 1, every game counts.

The person with the most correct picks at the end of the season wins the grand prize. We'll start posting official standings the week after classes begin.

The TOL Hoops contest is just a start to the large number of changes that the TOL



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.SMA.NCSTATE.NET/TECHNICIAN

staff has in store, as we're planning more contests and interactive events throughout the spring semester. You can look for special ACC and NCAA tournament contests soon to follow, as well as new sports columns to augment the sports section from the print edition of Technician.

Breaking news around the N.C. State community is another major interest of ours. Look for the Front Page section of TOL to more closely cover events around campus as they happen. TOL opinion polls are being designed as we speak to allow the student/alumni population to voice its views. Keep tuned to www.sma.ncstate.net/Technician for more info as it becomes available, and good luck with your picks.

the Self Knowledge SYMPOSIUM

THE MOMENT OF ZEN

The Moment of Zen

When Bankei had read the petition he called everyone before him. "You are wise brothers," he told them. "You know what is right and what is not right. You may go somewhere else to study if you wish, but this poor brother does not even know right from wrong. Who will teach him if I do not? I am going to keep him here even if all the rest of you leave."

A torrent of tears cleansed the face of the brother who had stolen. All desire to steal had vanished.

Got some Zen? Can we have it? If you've got it, send it to the Self Knowledge Symposium web site at www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/stu_organ/sks or drop by Tompkins G113 at 7:30pm every Thursday at one of our weekly meetings where you never know what's gonna happen.

Editor's Note: "The Moment of Zen" is a weekly feature in Technician's Tech To. It features a Zen lesson followed by a relating story. The ideas expressed herein are those of SKS and do not reflect upon Technician.

- Friday, Dec. 12 Spaw 7, 9, and 11 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 13 Spaw 7, 9, and 11 p.m.
- p.m., and Todd Dengler at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 4 Chris Blue from Solace at 7 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 5 Decoy at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 6 Smokestack Lightening at 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 9 Tackled at 7 p.m.
- Record Exchange- Mission Valley
- Saturday, Dec. 13 Fathead Otis at 7 p.m.
- Stewart Theatre
- NCSU Music Department Christmas Concert Series, Tickets: \$8, General Admission; \$5, NCSU Faculty/Staff; \$3, Students, Senior Citizens; Children under 12 admitted free with an adult. Call Ticket Central at 515-1100.
- Friday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. Instrumental Christmas: British Brass Band, Christmas Concert Band, Raleigh Civic Symphony, Pipes and Drums, Jazz Band.
- Saturday, Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. Children's Christmas Matinee: Bett Padgett, Ladies in Red, Pipes and Drums, and Jazz Band.

See **SCHEDULE**, Page 8

Schedule Weekly

Cinema

Campus Cinema,

- \$1.50 with Student Identification, \$2 without
- Thursday, Dec. 4 Forever Mozart 7 and 9 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 5 G. I. Jane 6:30, 8:45, and 11 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 6 G. I. Jane 6:30, 8:45, and 11 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 7 National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 7 p.m. FREE

Music

The Ritz

- Friday, Dec. 5 Medski Martin and Wood
- Cat's Cradle
- Thursday, Dec. 4 Gibb Droll with Ekostatic Hookah
- Saturday, Dec. 6 Stereolab with High Llamas
- Lizard & Snake Cafe
- Thursday, Dec. 4 Bunny Brains, Earthy Emf
- Sunday, Dec. 7 Underbrush
- Tuesday, Dec. 9 Block
- Lake Boone Country Club
- Wednesday, Dec. 3 Jimmie's Chicken Shack
- Friday, Dec. 5 Gran Torino
- Saturday, Dec. 6 Last One Standing
- Record Exchange- Hillsborough Street
- Wednesday, Dec. 3 Jimmie's Chicken Shack at 5

See **SOUND**, Page 12

ALBERT R. BROCCOLLI'S EDN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS PIERCE BROSNAN AS IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND 007

Tomorrow Never Dies

ALBERT R. BROCCOLLI'S EDN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS PIERCE BROSNAN AS IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND 007
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Opens Nationwide December 19, 1997

Schedule

Continued from Page 7

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. Choral Christmas: Varsity Men's Glee Club, Women's Choir, New Horizons Choir, Chamber Singers.

The Carolina Theatre
Thursday, Dec. 4 Jim Brickman 8 p.m. Tickets: \$28, \$24, and \$20.
Friday, Dec. 5 Holiday Pops, the North Carolina Symphony 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 10 Winter Solstice Concert: A Celtic Christmas 8 p.m.

The ArtsCenter
Sunday, Dec. 7 Open Jazz Jam with Beverly Botsford. Tickets are \$3. Participating musicians admitted free of charge. Show starts at 7:30 p.m.

N.C. Museum of Art
Sunday, Dec. 7 Mallarme Chamber Players at 3 p.m. European Galleries. Free admission.
Friday, Dec. 12 Raleigh Flute Choir at 8 p.m. Museum auditorium. Free admission.

Events

University Scholars Program
Friday, Dec. 5 Scholars and Sullivan Semiformal, "An Evening in the Park." Tickets are \$5, on sale now. For more information, check out the Scholars Council homepage at http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/univ_sc/scholars/council/.

Holiday Decorations Workshop
Saturday, Dec. 6 Kathleen Turner teaches participants to make wreaths and table-top arrangements. 103 Kilgore Hall \$50 fee, call 515-3132.

N.C. Museum of Art
Saturday, Dec. 6 Holiday Festival from 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Features two drop-in parent/child workshops in ornament-making, tours on "The Christmas Story in Art," dulcimer performances, and animated holiday shorts. Free admission.

Hillsborough Candlelight Tour
Sunday, Dec. 7 Tours of decorated buildings and homes, live entertainment, carriage rides. 1-7 p.m. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 children under 12. Call 732-8156.

Candlelight Vigil Against Violence
Sunday, Dec. 7 Durham County Administrative Complex, 200 E.

Main St. 6:30 p.m.

Light up Durham
Monday, Dec. 8 Ceremony at Civic Center Plaza, 6 p.m. March through Downtown into Durham Bulls Athletic Park, 6:20 p.m.

The Chancellor's Residence
Thursday, Dec. 11 "I, Elvis" Confessions of a Counterfeit King" An afternoon with Professor William Henderson from 3-5 p.m. Hosted by Friends of the Library, tickets cost \$12.50 for Friends members and \$15, General Admission. Call 515-2841 for info, RSVP by Dec. 5.

State-a-Thon
Sunday, Jan. 4 Skate-for-the-Kids. Proceeds will go to Wake Medical Children's Center. \$5 Registration Fee. Call 212-0604.

Performances

The Goodnight Lounge
Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 Rod Reyes and Brad Trackman. Call 828-5233 (LAFF) for reservations and information.

Duke University
Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 "December Dance" at Reynolds Auditorium. Students, faculty, alumni, and guests showcase a variety of dance styles. Call 684-4444 for information.

ArtsCenter
Friday, Dec. 5 Improv Theater: TET (Transactors Experimental Theater) All tickets are \$3, show starts at 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12 Friday Night Live! The Chapel Hill Improv Co. Shows at 7 and 9 p.m. Tickets \$3.

Broughton High School
Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13 Choral Department Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$5.

Paul Green Theatre, Country Club Drive at UNC-CH
Wednesday, Dec. 3-Sunday, Dec. 21 Nutcracker, 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays \$9-\$20

Raleigh Memorial Theatre
Friday, Dec. 19-Sunday, Dec. 21 "The Nutcracker" Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 & 6 p.m. \$17-\$39.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 The North Carolina Symphony: Viennese New Year's Eve Concert and Gala, 7:30 p.m.

Lectures

N.C. Museum of Art
Wednesday, Dec. 3 "Hope Well:

The Rhythms of Healing" World AIDS Day Observation. Lecture runs from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free admission. Contact Brooks Britt at 839-6262, ext. 2186 for more information.

Sunday, Dec. 7 "The Louvre Museum" Museum auditorium at 3 p.m. Free admission.

Research Triangle Science Fiction Society

Wednesday, Dec. 10 Discussion: "An Overview of Role-playing Games" 7-10 p.m.

Opportunities

Thompson Theatre
Tuesday, Jan. 5 and Wednesday, Jan. 6 Auditions for "Tartuffe" by Moliere at 7 p.m. Needed: 7 males and 5 females for show which will be presented February 12-21.

Meredith Performers
Thursday, Dec. 4 and Friday, Dec. 5 Auditions for "A Piece of My Heart" by Shirley Lauro from 6-9 p.m. Needed: one male to play variety of roles in the show which will be performed February 10-15. Call Catherine Rodgers at 829-8586 for information.

Playmakers Annual Toy and Gift Drive

Friday, Nov. 28-Sunday, Dec. 21 The Siena Hotel lobby, 1505 East Franklin Street, Barnes and Noble Bookstore, New Hope Commons shopping center off of 15-501, or Paul Green Theatre lobby. Gift should be wrapped and labeled with a description of the item, including size in case of clothing, and age and gender for whom the gift is intended.

Exhibitions

N.C. Museum of Art
"Art for the People: Recent Museum Acquisitions" through Jan. 4

"Beyond Likeness: Contemporary Considerations of the Portrait" through Feb. 28

ArtsCenter
Wednesday, Dec. 3-Sunday, Dec. 14 Gallery: Chatham Country Open Studio Exhibit

Durham Arts Council
"Not in Newsprint: Photography by M. J. Sharp" at the Allenton Gallery from Dec. 11-Jan. 19. Reception Thursday, Dec. 11, from 5-7 p.m.

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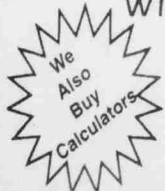
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Opinion of the day:
I am afraid we must make the world honest before we can honestly say to our children that honesty is the best policy. - G.B. Shaw.

Opinion

Wednesday, December 3, 1997

Are your knickers in a twist?

E-mail TechForum-L@ncsu.edu.

The whole campus could share your thoughts.

Vol. 78 No. 45

Technician

Page 9

Editorials

Show them the money

Another fee increase.

In Monday's edition of Technician, it was reported that the Transportation fee was going to go from \$38 to \$54 next year, while parking pass prices are being raised by 10 percent. But, hey, they presented the facts: without it, no Wolfline and no repaired parking spaces. So, most students think to themselves, "this isn't too bad."

But then they remember the fee hike before that and the hike before that. And, now, there is yet another fee increase.

This time, it's the education and technology fee, possibly going from \$230 to \$300.

How many of you are familiar with the following concept? You see a flyer for a store that says "Nellie's Curling Salon Unlimited." Nellie is offering a great deal — unlimited curls for a mere \$8. So, you check out Nellie's and like what you see — your hair is really curly, and so you become a regular customer. None of the other salons in the area are as good as Nellie's, after all.

But then Nellie begins to charge a little more each time you go in — one time, it's for that special shampoo. Then, it's for those really

nifty scissors she uses.

At first, you don't really mind — after all, Nellie's Curling Salon Unlimited is a great place and you don't really want to go anywhere else. But when you look at your next bill, you realize that Nellie is charging you for this and charging you for that — and she's charging you too much for this and for that. Sure, it's all in the name of a great head of hair — but still.

N.C. State is doing the same thing. The university is constantly raising this or that fee — all in the name of good causes. But still.

Fee increases don't have to be wrapped up in a fancy package — they will still be fee increases. The university's different areas need to get together, decide what needs to go up and for what reasons, and let us know. Students aren't stupid — we know when we're being nickled and dimed to death, and that's exactly what is happening. What, do they think it's going to cost less because it's for 20 different things? No, it's not.

Students don't need 20 different increases to make them think it's great to pay more money. Tell it like it is. It's not like the school had any problem with that in the past when they raised tuition.

Online sales

Finally, some web shopping we can all enjoy.

At the end and the beginning of the semester, trying to purchase used textbooks is near to impossible. Flyers litter campus and crowds shuffle into bookstores to get books for the incoming semester. We hope this will be lessened some in the coming semester, thanks to the N.C. State Student Government. The organization is sponsoring a web site to help students buy and sell textbooks online.

The web site, entitled the Used Book Marketplace, enables students to post books that they are in need of, or books that they would like to sell.

The benefits of this online book sale are avoiding paying the outrageous prices at the local bookstores — it eliminates the middleman.

Also, some classes require more than one textbook, making it hard for students to purchase all the necessary books at a reasonable price. Despite the fact that bookstores are in competition, which supposedly lowers prices, the cost of textbooks is still ridiculously high. There are around 25,000 students on campus, and all they need books. Students usually have a lot of problems covering the necessities for each class. The right books for each class the first week of the semester is something virtually unheard of.

Not only does the new web site

save students money, but it also diminishes the long lines and traffic jams at the bookstores. There is nothing worse than waiting for 30 minutes for a parking space at the bookstore only to go inside and discover that they are sold out of the book that you have so desperately searched for. We trust that this new web site will make every student's life easier. No long lines, traffic jams or too outrageous prices.

Also, bookstores are infamous for buying books back from students who are strapped for cash for the holidays and then selling them back with the prices jacked up.

Whenever a student spends close to \$100 for a textbook, and its buy-back worth is not even \$25, the student suffers. The web site could help with this, as well.

Students all know that the prices of textbooks will continue to be high, and that college bookstores won't really lose their racket. But, kudos to the Student Government for making an effort to help end the hassles affiliated with the ending and beginning of semesters. One less hassle and a few less dollars spent on your books makes everyone's life easier.

Be aware that this is the first semester that the online service has been offered. Be patient; the more students who use the online service, the greater the chances of continuing the web site.

Connect to http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/stud_govt/ to link to the site.

Campus Forum

Racism a problem at N.C. State

I am a minority student at N.C. State, and I feel that there is a definite problem with racism on campus. I have been the victim of several racial comments, jokes and intolerance. I have a proposal that I feel will help to alleviate the intolerance on campus. First, let me share an example of this:

I stepped into an on-campus elevator humming one of my favorite tunes. I pressed the button for the first floor, and the elevator began moving. Someone, in the rather large group of people that stood behind me, snickered. The snicker made others laugh. I began to feel very uncomfortable standing alone in the crowd. The elevator stopped on the third floor. The people who had gotten off of the

elevator could no longer contain themselves and exploded with laughter. As the doors closed, I overheard someone say, "He ought to go back to wherever he's from." This made the other people in the elevator laugh harder. I got off of the elevator and quickly made my way outside.

This incident happened to me only a few days ago as I was going from my dorm to the Wolfmart across the street from University Towers. This type of thing has happened to me on several occasions on or around campus. Are we all still living in the past? NCSU has a problem with racism. We need to make a change.

I see that there is a need for change, and I propose just that. The change would come from positive reinforcement. Teaching respect for different races would help children of this generation learn about responsibility, leadership, tolerance and confidence. Bridget Builders, started by Becky Wilson in Memphis, Tennessee, and sponsored by the local Episcopal

See FORUM, Page 10



Statistics: fact or fiction?

STEVEN LEBOEUF
Staff Columnist

Politicians love to spew out figures and statistics that defend their authoritarian policies. (In fact, I think they get off on it.) But I acknowledge the ignorance of my elected officials, and when I hear these figures, I simply blow them off. What scares me is that many people do not.

You see, politicians realize that humans are basically rational beings. But if voters were to make intellectual decisions on everything, they would soon acknowledge the absurdity of their elected officials, and these politicians would simply not get elected. As a result, politicians must manipulate the emotions of their voters in order to avoid reelection.

The solution is simple. First, politicians choose a hot topic, such as gun control, and give an emotional speech about the glory or danger of using a gun for self-defense. After the voters' emotions are worked up, the politicians pretend to be intellectual: they vomit statistics into the crowd to support their claims. Politicians realize that once the crowd has been emotionally swayed to support a given view, the source and validity of the statistics is impertinent. If the statistics support the voters' new-found viewpoint, then the statistics

are accepted as God's word.

But please, before you believe a statistic, consider judging the source of the data as well as the method of obtaining and analyzing the data. For example, in high school I read a statistic stating that one out of every ten United States citizens is a homosexual. Though the validity of this finding made little difference to me, it simply did not make common sense, as there were over 350 students in my high school graduating class, and only 5 claimed to be homosexuals.

But yes, I soon saw the light: the "research" was performed by a seedy organization that was apparently trying to convince conservative Americans to battle against an imminent "homosexual plague." They used questions such as, "Have you ever found another man good looking?" to diagnose homosexuality. Interestingly, your humble opinionator would have been classified as a "flaming homosexual" by this test, as I accept the fact that there are good-looking men in this world... but let it be known that I'm not attracted to any of them.

Perhaps you recall the interesting research performed by the Reagan Administration, where government statistics "proved" that the higher a teacher's salary the worse the student's SAT scores. It was noted that the "high-paid" teachers of

California graduated students with lower average SAT scores than the "low-paid" teachers of Louisiana. This seemed to prove that increasing the salaries of educators would not enhance the academic quality of the students. With this concluded, it would only seem reasonable to direct tax dollars away from education into the budget of the Cold War. (Can you see a motive here? ... I knew you could!)

What the administration neglected in analyzing the data is the inherent difference between the students taking the exam in each state. In California, almost all high school students take the SAT, but in my home state of Louisiana, only the brightest students attempt to brave the rapids of the SAT. The result is that the average score of students in California is notably lower than that of students in Louisiana. This isn't because of teachers' salaries, but rather because of fundamental differences between the areas taking the exam.

Despite the inherent flaws of the conclusions made from this data, the data was used by the Reagan Administration to discourage support for increased government funding of public schools. Though I strongly support the abolition of public schools, I resisted the temptation to be blinded by this

See LEBOEUF, Page 12

Engaged and stressing

LARRY MARSHBURNE
Staff Columnist

Merry Christmas and Happy Exams.

That was how I intended to start this column. And that I did. It was everything else that came as a surprise.

You see, although I know holidays can be hard, I was going to have a nice Thanksgiving dinner with my future in-laws. Then, on Thanksgiving Friday, I would leisurely write this column: something about how precious life is and the importance of not getting overwhelmed by the stress of exams and Christmas and family and such. And how important you are as an individual. And how suicide is such a downer. And how much you'll be missed here if you're not back in January whether you graduated, flunked out, dropped out, got a job, chose the easy way out, etc.

Well, that was the plan. I knew, of course, that this "blending families" stuff would be difficult but my fiancé, her daughter and I took off to "Grandma's" in the minivan. My fiancé's son was spending Thanksgiving with his father, and my 22-year-old daughter was probably at her maternal grandmother's. (Yes, I'm a bit older

than the average undergraduate).

Believe it or not, the part with my fiancé's family wasn't bad. It was extremely tiresome, but not bad. I was exhausted, so I asked my fiancé to drive for a few minutes when we left her mom's house. I would take a quick nap in the car before I began driving. It sounded like a plan to me. Then the radio thing started. Have you ever tried to take a nap in a car filled with music that you don't want to listen to? In a car driven by a driver who's about as tired as you are? Wondering how you're going to spend the next two-and-a-half hours in a car with someone who seems totally unsympathetic and totally unreasonable? Someone whom you claim you wish to spend not just the next two-and-a-half hours with but the rest of your life? It's irritating.

It's also irritating (for her) to be perceived as unsympathetic and unreasonable — by the person who claims to want to spend the rest of his life with her, by the person who always chooses the music when he drives. It was an unpleasant ride home.

Well, I stressed out over all that. And I spent my Thanksgiving Friday — instead of writing this column — trying to figure out if I wanted to spend the rest of my life with a woman with whom it can be

tough to spend two-and-a-half hours.

She, on the other hand, gets less caught up in things than I do. She spent her Thanksgiving Friday shopping. And I know she bought at least one present for me that she can't use herself. So she's at least planning on being engaged through Christmas.

That's the end of that story.

And that's my excuse to explain why I never got around to writing the column about how precious life is and the importance of not getting overwhelmed by the stress of exams and Christmas and family and such. So if you're back in January because you didn't graduate, flunked out, drop out, get a job, chose the easy way out, etc., then be warned. I may write that column next semester. Or I might write more about the sympathetic and understanding woman with whom I plan to spend the rest of my life.

Merry Christmas and Happy Exams.

Larry's in love. Can you tell? And on top of that, it's the Christmas season. It's too much cheese to handle at one time! Expect to see more from him next semester. E-mail him at Larry@msa.ncsu.edu.

TECHNICIAN

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

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How to Reach Us

Internet Services:

TOL: Technician OnLine

<http://www.sman.ncstate.net/>

Technician

Campus Forum:

techforum@ncsu.edu

Press Releases:

techpress@ncsu.edu

Information:

technfo@ncsu.edu

Phone Numbers:

Editorial - 515-2411

Advertising - 515-2029

Fax - 515-5133

Address

323 Winterspoon Student Center

Box 8608, NCSU Campus

Raleigh, NC 27695-8608

Forum

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churches, is used to bridge the gaps that separate different ethnic groups by breaking down the racial barriers between people of different races.

The program consists of outdoor activities that involve a whole group of participants working as a single unit to overcome an obstacle. The outcome of Bridge Builders will be tolerance, awareness, responsibility and confidence. The exercises are designed to make the

participants overcome their qualms about working with people of other races. This will not only promote acceptance, but will also give the participants confidence in themselves. Usually, if a person lacks confidence in himself, he will try to put someone else down in order to make himself feel better and more confident. These put-downs do nothing but further strengthen barriers that separate students.

What makes the Bridge Builders program better than any other programs aimed at racism? The program is aimed at a small audience and thus can be controlled

better than if the program was on a national level. The program is aimed to help everyone with racism. What is the cost-benefit analysis of the proposal? The benefits of the program are that everyone will be more receptive to different ideas, religions and people. They will have been taught to solve problems, to assign duties and to function as a team. There are no negative outcomes of the program. If the program fails to change the participants' attitudes, they will leave with the knowledge that there is a problem that needs addressing.

The Bridge Builders program can

prove to be very beneficial for students, if it is made a part of the NCSU program. NCSU is already a highly reputable school for math and sciences. Why should it not be highly reputable for its racial tolerance, and its endeavors to stop the spread of racism in the American society?

Yashpreet Hanspal
Freshman, Physics

Campus Forum Policy

Technician welcomes Campus Forum Letters. They are likely to be printed if they:

1. Are limited to approximately 350 words.
2. Are signed with the writer's name, and if the writer is a student, his/her major


Technician will consider all submissions, but does not guarantee they will be published.

All letters are subject to editing and become the property of Technician. Letters should be brought by Suite 323 of the Witherspoon Student Center, P.O. Box 8608, N.C. State, Raleigh, NC 27695-8608.


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New Forms

Cosmo

Continued from Page 2

mail course progresses. His antennas droop when the wrong response is chosen, conveying disappointment, his eyes grow large and disproportionately round when he's afraid and his arms are continuously gesticulating to indicate one particular piece of equipment after another. His voice is pedagogically soothing but firm. The developers realized Cosmo would only be an effective instructor if he was different from the typical Saturday morning cartoon. He had to be as close to a real teacher as possible.

So, as the story line developed the school of design graduate students considered things like what he eats for breakfast, what he likes/dislikes, where he's from and the rest of his history. Even something as common as his voice sound would impact his appearance. Buie explains this with an example of another character he's developing that was to have either his voice or another guy's voice. If Buie's voice was used, "the character would be a cranky old guy with a massive jutting, under biting jaw hinged all the way at the back of his head". If the other guy's voice were used, the jaw would be smaller, not overly under biting and naturally hinged at the front of the face. This illustrates animation's "ability [and power] to allow suspension of belief and having the rug pulled out from under you" without becoming turned off, Buie explains. Animated characters with their exaggerated stretching of arms or perpetual lives have become so ingrained in our culture that their actions do not turn off the audience. Instead their exaggerated behavior enhances the learning environment.

After Cosmo's appearance was settled on, the impact of him interacting with the student came into play. Design students working with animation are used to running the animation sequence from start to finish without interruption. This provides for a lot of detail, detail created by assembling a character from many polygons. The greater the number and the smaller the size of the polygons, the greater the detail. Cosmo, however, must be able to interact with the user. This means that other items must appear in his environment like stop/start buttons, maps and other peripheral feedback images. These additional items coupled with a continuously moving character and the student's interaction slow down the computer considerably. The design students had to optimize the amount of detail required for Cosmo's appearance with the least amount of time for the computer to respond to the user.

To optimize this appearance, they studied such things as facial expressions and hand gestures and tried to streamline the number of factors needed to create the effect. When asked how he studied facial expressions, Tim Buie says he tried everything from, "looking in the mirror...to video taping the actress doing the voice and drawing points around her mouth to reference the sound to her mouth shape." Other considerations like not having to necessarily match the mouth shape with the sound when the camera pans away but having to match it when the camera pans in close were also made. In the end, though, to make all the responses, movements and sounds appear lifelike requires artificial intelligence. That's where the computer science grad students come into play.

As Charles Callaway, a graduate student in computer science puts it, "not everything that looks intelligent is intelligent, just like all that is intelligent doesn't [at first] appear intelligent..." just like people, you have to interact with them over a time period. "Computer and arcade games are a classic example. For all their bells and whistles, if played long enough, one notices that for each input, the response is one of a limited number pulled from a library. If one plays

the arcade game long enough, a pattern emerges. So, artificial intelligence is not simply getting more powerful computers to do higher level sequences. Instead, the artificial intelligence must be able to independently (without input from the user) plan, move naturally, learn and if required sound natural.

Planning means the device, Cosmo in our example, must be able to independently (without the user's input) determine whether or not the user is seeing everything it needs to see to understand the instruction. If Cosmo thinks the user needs to see something up closer he uses a tool similar to how

a painter paints. As Charles puts it, "think of a painter...he paints the background first. Then to make things appear closer, he covers up part of the background, for even closer images he would cover up the background and other images. The closest image would not be covered up at all but would cover up other images". When Cosmo decides to shift a view to another angle to assist the user in an inquiry, the object under question will be "painted" closest. One of the key things to keep in mind is that Cosmo is not reacting to stimuli from the user, he is independently determining, with the

final goal of instructing uppermost in mind, how to optimally present the material to the user. This is the same way people plan trips. The goal is the destination and the processes of arriving on time for the plan, picking up luggage, renting a car, etc, are sub-processes we use to achieve the goal. Cosmo uses the same process when he's moving. Objects are repainted to show his relative position to them in time. The learning aspects of artificial intelligence haven't been attacked yet by the IntelliMedia group.


Achieving proper voice sounds for an artificially intelligent device requires that the device is capable

of speaking any text word input, not selecting a sound bite from a vast library of options. The concept, still under development, is to use a natural language device that takes text and turns it into sound with the correct pitch and range for a particular personality. Then, for the instructional part, the words would have to be automatically matched up with the movement of the mouth muscles. The trick is to match the voice with mouth movements in real time without reverting to selecting from a vast library of options.


Once all these issues are tied together, learning will have made a

quantum leap. The instructor for a system will never call in sick, will be able to go to any environment, won't require pay and will provide employers with the option of teaching a large number or individuals whenever, wherever they want. All of this thanks in large part from the IntelliMedia graduate students from the computer science department and school of design.


For more information on IntelliMedia check out their web site at <http://multimedia.ncsu.edu/media>




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Network

Continued from Page 2

each individual specializes in one task: some ants gather leaves, some clean the nest, some produce manna to feed the colony, some attend the queen and some are soldiers that raid other colonies for food and slave ants.

In other words, an ant colony is a team. Each member does his/her part for the team. At no time does one ant go to another ant and say, "Hey, I'm tired of carrying seven times my body weight in leaves all day. If I can arrange for some extra manna for you, could we swap jobs for awhile, and I'll clean the nest?" That is what a network is: it is not a team.

"A network provides a path, a way of getting from point A to point B in the shortest possible time over the least possible distance." In other words, its finding who you need to talk to get something in the least amount of time, while helping that person, too.

One of the key themes to a network that Mackay continuously emphasizes is that it is not politics; it is a collection of people helping each other achieve mutual wants and needs.

On that theme, it's important to

point out that a network is not the "30-second bonding maneuver," Mackay writes. This is the familiar scene where the "perpetrator expects you to be convinced that he/she is so very sincerely interested in everything about you. By the way, what did you say your name was?"

You can spot them all the time. They are the people who talk "to you" while their eyes scan the room for "their next victim," said Mackay.

They term their approach as "being seen," but they don't see how many people are on to it. Politicians are the best examples of this action.

"Networking is not a numbers game," Mackay points out. "The idea is not to see how many people you can meet; the idea is to compile a list of people you can count on." The people you can count on are people who know you have taken a sincere interest in them.

Other things networking is not: sharing gossip with others, since this will alienate people from the one being gossiped about, as well as other people at the office.

Networking is not shuffling incompetent people between departments, since it is a disservice to the shuffled people, as well as the effectiveness of the department.

Networking is not agreeing with the competition to participate in unethical behavior (judging quota,

price fixing, etc.) and doing other people's dirty work.

Now that networking has been defined, its important to understand how to maintain it, Mackay uses the acronym, R.I.S.K. for this task.

Reciprocity; in the professional world, networks should be based on people who can provide you with something you need and vice versa. "If you only do business with people you like [family, friends], you won't be in business for very long," Mackay writes.

Interdependency: many companies and departments try to establish structures with the attitude, "This is the way things will be done here." Networks realize this is unrealistic and those sharing common responsibilities (middle managers) constantly talk to other managers, assisting each other in achieving the company's common goal.

Sharing: it cuts through the bureaucracy of an organization and allows ideas to flow horizontally (instead of just vertically), assisting everyone to efficiently meet the company's goals.

Keeping it up: once someone is established in your network, they must be periodically contacted, not only to mutually share information, but you never know when and where your next break will come from.

So, now you have a clear idea of what a network is and is not and how to maintain it. The next step is getting it started. For that task, Mackay provides a description with many details and examples. I invite you to buy the book.

"Dig Your Well Before You're Thirsty," by Harvey Mackay, is published by Doubleday and is available at all bookstores.

LeBoeuf

Continued from Page 9

poorly collected data. Despite the fact that Reagan's statistics supported my view, I allowed myself to question the validity of the data by simply utilizing that grey matter the government tries so hard to prevent me from using.

For every Ku Klux Klan statistic "proving" the inferiority of black persons, there is a Nation of Islam statistic "proving" the inherent evil of white persons. For every pro-life statistic supporting the negative side effects of having an abortion, there is a pro-choice statistic supporting the happy endings from terminating an unwanted pregnancy. For every statistic supporting the funding of welfare programs, there is a statistic suggesting the futility of such programs. Each side argues that the

statistics of the rivaling side are not valid, yet each side is unwilling to question the validity of their own findings.

The ability to organize, analyze and utilize statistics is one of the greatest things about being a human being. We are constantly developing our own database of statistics, often without even thinking about it: what kind of people are most likely to be our friends, what kind of neighborhoods are not safe for travel, which kind of foods make us feel the healthiest, etc. Good researchers use statistics objectively as a tool in developing practical solutions to real problems.

Unfortunately, we are both subjective and objective creatures who tend to use statistics to support not only objective findings but our personal beliefs as well. When we hear statistics supporting our subjective beliefs, we tend to instantly accept the finding, regardless of the source, method and nature of the research. Special

interest groups, such as the government, are quite aware of this human weakness and manipulate it for their own good (and often at our expense).

My suggestion is simple. Whenever someone regurgitates a statistic, consider their motives and attack the statistic with common sense. If common sense supports their findings, challenge them further by judging the source of their data. If the source is sound, challenge further by evaluating the method used in acquiring the data.

It takes a little brain work to solidify the claims of a statistic, but the price of believing a misleading statistic is too significant to be ignored. Many lives have been destroyed by blind faith in the judgment of others. Challenge EVERY statistic—regardless of its source.

Steven would like us to warn you that most statistics are misleading... and he's got the statistics to prove it. (stleboeuf@eos.ncsu.edu)

Movie

Continued from Page 7

The audience has a hard time believing her in this role because she doesn't make it believable. She spends most of the movie performing humane acts, not blowing up aliens. Her character would be much better received if the writer created a healing role for her instead of trying to splice her with Rambo.

In addition to poor writing, many of the scenes in the movie use computer-generated aliens that look like the part. Computer-generated images are fine as long as the audience can't tell that they are

computer-generated. Once again "Alien Resurrection" missed the mark.

About the only saving grace for this movie is its creature design and make-up. There are also a few surprises, but unfortunately the movie's bad points far outweigh its good points.

My friend and I spent the whole movie waiting for it to end. I'd rather not expend the energy to actually lift my thumb high enough so that I can point it down for this movie. Needless to say, I don't recommend it. I don't suggest paying \$6.50 to see this movie. In fact, I don't suggest paying \$1.50. Rent it when it comes out on tape, but that is it, and only if. "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" is already taken.

Sound

Continued from Page 7

"Every Day Should Be a Holiday" sounds strangely like mid-80's Duran Duran, missing only the "doo doo doo doo do's." And when "Good Morning" finally gets going, it achieves a vitality that the other methodical bores can't match.

All-in-all, Come Down is really just a statement. Of what exactly, I don't know; the record is too hit-or-miss to tell. The Dandy Warhols are obviously intelligent and talented, but if the rest of their output sounds as didactic as Come Down, I wouldn't mind if they just Go Back Up. - R. Greene

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Non-profit health care system proposed

Health industry representatives say HMOs have played a crucial role in containing health care costs and improving accountability for doctors.

DAVID S. HILZENRATH
The Washington Post

In one of the nation's leading medical journals, more than 2,000 Massachusetts doctors, nurses and other health care professionals are calling for an end to for-profit health care and argue that the rise of managed care is threatening the soul of American medicine.

"Canons of commerce are displacing dictates of healing, trampling our profession's most sacred values," says an article in Wednesday's issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. "Physicians and nurses are being

prodded by threats and bribes to abdicate allegiance to patients, and to shun the sickest, who may be unprofitable," the article says.

The article by the Ad Hoc Committee to Defend Health Care, accompanied by a 4-page list of 2,288 people endorsing it, is one of the most conspicuous protests yet in the backlash against a market-driven transformation of the health care industry. But critics, including one of health care's more prominent consumer advocates, faulted the statement as simplistic and misguided.

Since Congress rejected President Clinton's effort to restructure the health care system, the corporate world has brought about profound changes. Businesses have taken over many historically not-for-profit hospitals and health insurance plans. The newly dominant

managed care plans typically impose controls on the treatment doctors provide. Where it was once the norm for physicians to be paid on a fee-for-service basis that rewarded them for doing more, many are now given incentives to economize.

The JAMA article's authors include David U. Himmelstein, an associate professor of medicine at Harvard who has long advocated a government-run health care system, and Bernard Lown, co-founder of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which received the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize. The endorsements included Harvard Medical School's classes of 1997 and 2000 and Boston University Medical School's class of 2000.

Headlined "A Call to Action," the article offers no specific plan of

action, and Himmelstein said his group is divided as to how the problems should be fixed.

Calling for a moratorium on takeovers of hospitals, health maintenance organizations, physicians' practices and other Massachusetts health care businesses by for-profit corporations, the article contends, "Pursuit of corporate profit and personal fortune have no place in caregiving."

In a broadside against the managed care plans through which about three-quarters of American workers receive employer-sponsored health benefits, the article called for unfettered choice of physicians and a prohibition on "business arrangements that allow corporations and employers to control" patient care.

NATIONAL NEWS

No consensus on rating internet sites

Under the proposed system, parents can configure a Web browser protocol to filter out certain sites.

RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - When it comes to protecting children in cyberspace, the online industry loves to chat up software products like Net Nanny, SurfWatch and Cyber Patrol, which attempt to restrict access to adult-oriented material.

Major Internet service providers have agreed to begin offering the software to subscribers for free or at a nominal cost. This week, the online industry, seeking to avert new regulation of Internet content, said it would mount a broad public-education campaign to encourage parents to use the technology.

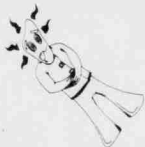
But mention rating Internet sites, which many people see as the next step in keeping the global network child-friendly, and the consensus vanishes.

Conservative groups and some technology companies are pushing for development of a single rating system as a new and stronger way to keep objectionable material from minors. On the other side, free speech advocates, contending ratings would impose a burden on Internet publishers, warn that a single system would be hard to enforce. In the middle are a host of businesses and trade groups seeking to strike a compromise by developing several separate ratings systems.

"Ratings are an incredibly thorny issue," said Christine Varney, a former Federal Trade Commission member who is chairing a meeting here this week of industry and government officials to discuss child safety on the Internet.



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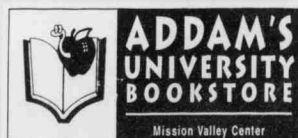
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