

CHECK OUT THE INFO ON WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

MARKS FALLS INTO THE TRAP OF AGING AND REMEMBERING THE OLD DAYS. WETZELL TELLS HOW TO USE COMPUTER GEEKS TO FIGURE THEIR WORLD.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY AND ONE WRITER TRIES TO FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT IT IS.

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Campaign reaches a new height

■ The Campaign for N.C. State Students has accumulated over 95 percent of its original \$80 million goal.

TIM CRONE
Assistant News Editor

N.C. State has historically been lacking in competitive scholarships and grants.

Most public universities, according to the World Wide Web site of the Campaign for N.C. State Students, have private scholarship endowments that are about twice those of NCSU. This means that other schools are able to recruit the best minds, leaving NCSU with what's left.

"No university can expect to maintain its competitive edge in recruiting the best minds without significant endowment support, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels," said Chancellor Larry Monteith of the issue.

The Campaign for N.C. State Students is seeking to change all that. By creating a goal of an additional \$80 million in scholarship endowments, NCSU is attempting to draw a little closer to its competitors in terms of recruiting ability.

With more money, NCSU will be better able to offer incoming freshmen reasonable amounts of financial aid. Larger endowments will mean

Campaign For NC State Students

COLLEGES	Percent of University	of Goal attained
Agriculture & Life Sciences	15.8	75
Design	2.4	83
Education & Psychology	6.3	78
Engineering	22.7	98
Forest Resources	3.9	159
Humanities & Social Sciences	11.4	85
Management	9.9	119
Physical & Mathematical Sciences	4.7	88
Textiles	3.0	89
Veterinary Medicine	1.5	140

more scholarships and, therefore, greater recruitment of desirable athletes and intellectuals.

Each college or school set a specific goal of additional endowments. Other scholarship-awarding bodies, such as the Alumni department and Athletics, also set goals for endowment growth.

The Campaign, which began in April of 1997, has nearly 17 months left to meet its goal of \$80 million — and already the coffers are bursting at the seams.

The campaign has reached a total of 95 percent

of its goal, with individual line items varying from 75 percent to a whopping 159 percent success.

College- and school-specific endowments are, as a whole, close but not quite at the hoped-for level. Notable exceptions to this include the College of Forest Resources, which has already achieved 159 percent of its \$2.575 million goal, the College of Veterinary Medicine, at 140 percent of its \$4.12 million goal, and the College of Management, at 119 percent of a \$1.2 million

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Senate adopts privatization resolution

■ The Staff Senate is still concerned about privatization.

JACK DAILY
News Editor

The N.C. State Staff Senate approved a resolution on July 1 that called for the UNC Board of Governors, the NCSU Board of Trustees and the NCSU administration to adopt various guidelines in its research into privatization.

"One of the main objectives of this resolution is that the staff is very concerned about any current or future privatization efforts," said Greg Holden, chair of the Staff Senate.

Holden said the resolution is intended to let the administrative bodies know that the Staff Senate has not changed its position on privatization, nor is it less troubled over the matter, even though the last time the university privatized any positions was in October 1997 at Centennial Campus.

"Even though there hasn't been any activity since then, there is still concern," he said.

The Staff Senate is also concerned that NCSU is racing ahead too quickly on the issue of privatization.

"Though this is a system-wide mandate, some of our constituents

feel that NCSU has taken the lead," said Holden.

In the resolution, the Senate also calls for the administration to make decisions regarding privatization "on clearly defined goals and cost-effectiveness criteria, not ideology...on long-term perspective rather than focused on short-term gains...[and] that all costs be included in the formula to determine whether or not privatization is justified, and that these findings should be made public."

The Senate also made the recommendation that an Ad Hoc Committee be established to monitor whatever progress is made on privatization. However, the establishment of the Committee may be delayed as the Staff Senate is in the midst of transitioning into new Senators. Sharon Byrd will be the new chair of the Staff Senate.

Privatization has been a topic of conversation between the Staff Senate and the administration since NCSU began to consider possibly outsourcing housekeeping jobs to private companies. Jeff Mann, associate vice-chancellor for business, has said in the past that privatization is not a done deal, and that NCSU is only conducting research to explore the possible benefits of privatization.

A learning experience



PHOTOS BY MIE PITTMAN/STAFF

Vet students from around the world visited N.C. State's vet school as part of the International Vet Conference.

(Above) A student learns veterinary techniques during the conference.

(Left) Students worked with Dr. Spalding to practice Ultrasound techniques.



Research yields answers to Down syndrome

■ Study yields new insights on effects of Down syndrome on nutrition.

NEIL HEBERT
Staff Writer

The question of why infants and children with Down syndrome do not grow and thrive at the same rate as other children has been perplexing physicians and parents for decades.

Now, thanks to a batch of research

mice and a \$60,000 grant from a Los Angeles charitable foundation, a group of N.C. State scientists is a little closer to answering that question.

James Croom, a professor of nutrition and physiology at NCSU, has been leading a study examining the effects of a Down syndrome-like condition on the ability of a genetically altered mouse to absorb nutrients and carbohydrates.

Croom's team was not sure at the study's outset whether the mouse would be a suitable animal model

for the study of trisomy 21, the human genetic condition responsible for 95 percent of Down syndrome cases. Trisomy 21 refers to the extra chromosome joining pair number 21, giving people with Down syndrome 47 total chromosomes.

Over the course of the two-year study, the results of which were recently published in the journal Growth, Development and Aging, Croom found that the mouse was indeed a good model. Thus, the research has raised a host of new

questions that are now being addressed in a continuation of the study.

For the Down syndrome community, this is encouraging news.

"If you search the literature, there's a lot of anecdotal evidence [about metabolism] from doctors and parents, but a paucity of scientific studies," said Croom. "Because of differences in metabolism caused by Down syndrome's extra chromosome, it's

■ N.C. State recently played host to veterinary students from around the world.

LEA DELICIO
News Editor

An international affair took place at N.C. State's College of Veterinary Medicine during the past two weeks.

Students from about 24 countries gathered at NCSU for the meeting of the 47th Congress of Veterinary Medicine. The event took place over a 12-day period, during which students discussed veterinary medicine on a global scale, according to Linda Hayes-Dingfelder, a third-year veterinary college student and one of the event's organizers.

The Congress of Veterinary Medicine has been meeting since 1951 in an attempt to help veterinary students from all over the world understand the differences in the ways veterinary medicine is practiced in various countries, Hayes-Dingfelder said. "It's an exchange of information, knowledge and culture," she said.

The students gathered for labs and lectures, but also for tours of local veterinary hospitals and research sites. All events were aimed at helping students to begin to understand that the way veterinary medicine is practiced in North

Carolina might be different from the way it is practiced in other areas of the world, noted Hayes-Dingfelder.

Students also tend to administrative duties each year at this conference, such as whether they wish to make any changes to their official constitution, she said.

The hopes of the congress are that students will exchange ideas and different ways of doing things and take these new innovations home with them.

Some of the countries represented at the conference included Denmark, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, along with smaller countries like Malaysia, Croatia and Romania. "They're truly from all over," Hayes-Dingfelder said.

Students also held an auction to raise money for veterinary education in lesser-developed countries. Each student was asked to bring something from his or her native homeland that could be auctioned off. Money from the auction will be dispensed to schools who are in need of funding for different programs and research, according to Hayes-Dingfelder.

NCSU was voted this year's meeting place at the meeting of the 46th Congress of Veterinary Medicine last year when four representatives went to Paris and petitioned the voting body to have NCSU be the next meeting location.

OUTSIDE

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A new "Still Life"

■ The N.C. Museum of Art opened its stage to local rock band the Connells.

MATT LEQUICK
Asst. Features Editor

It was a perfect evening — the skies were clear, the breeze was fresh and cool, and the mercury remained in check at a surprisingly mild level for mid July. The sun set a brilliant red and the many who gathered at the Joseph M. Bryan Theater at the North Carolina Museum of Art basked in an atmosphere of spirit as pleasant as the atmosphere overhead.

The reason for this festive congregation at the museum's splendid outdoor venue was to hear and see a band, which proudly calls the Capital City their home. A band who has established themselves as strong, solid musicians and songwriters to fans and critics alike in a musical genre in which bands arrive like fresh diapers and depart like dirty ones.

The Connells, whose ancestry can be traced back 15 years (making them dinosaurs of the modern music scene) were born when brothers Mike (guitar) and David (bass) teamed up with schoolmates George Huntley (guitar), Peete Wimberly (drums), and Doug MacMillan (vocals). After seven years passed, the band had already found itself among the forefront in the college music scene, and fellow schoolmate Steve Potak (keyboards) was ordained the last Connell. That was the one and only change the line-up has seen.

Now, shortly after the release of their seventh album, "Still Life," the band continues to expand the already sizable ledge it occupies on the mountain of



Raleigh's own Connells joined other local artists Hobex and Six String Drag for a show this past Saturday.

modern rock. Here, in their hometown, home state and home region, the band's popularity is high. It is their intention that this, their latest album, will appeal to their fellow countrymen's ears as much as that of their overseas brothers. The band's name and fame are even bigger in western Europe, due to the belated release of the "74-75" single from their "Ring" album.

The Connells took the stage following local acts Hobex and Six String Drag. Both these bands warmed the crowd fairly well, and some of Hobex's material off their "Payback" EP saw substantial response from the sold-out group. A bit of dancing ensued during a particular new number from their recent release "Back in the '90s."

The group itself was an interesting mix of college students, couples, small groups of friends, families, old, young, and middle-aged. And there were lots of them on hand. In fact, many people coming prepared for some partying, equipped with coolers and blankets for the grassy lawn, were reduced

to hanging around outside the perimeter of the fence to listen to the show upon finding that it was sold-out. Parking for the event poured over to fill the museum's lots, and then sequentially the lots of the nearby businesses in such a way that some spaces were conveniently located at the southeast edge of Umstead park. Even so, no one complained — everything else was just right.

Not surprisingly, most of the Connells set was comprised of the new material. The crowd seemed to enjoy the new songs, and rightly so. The opener, "Soul Reactor," and its immediate follow-up, "Bruised" both off "Still Life," sounded great live, and though they were new, they possessed that classic-Connellian gleam.

Such was the case for most the new material. "Curly's Train" may have been a bet of an exception with its playful blues, almost honky-tonk flavor, but the rest of the material was surely panned by and for the Connells. New numbers "Lover" and "Gauitler" sounded excellent, and everyone moved to Doug's gentle croons

"If you stick around this time/ you might get a chance to be somebody."

Of course, some of the staple Connell pieces were played, noticeably a collection off "Ring," their best-selling CD to date. Their overseas number one hit, "74-75," saw a swarm of more fans walk right up to the area in front of the stage, where people gathered to see the band perform their magic close-up. Other staples included "New Boy," "Get a Gun," and "Stone Cold Yesterday." By the time the got to this material, the stage was surrounded by a standing crowd wanting to see just how close they could get to the band's cozy "living room."

Nay, there was wary a dull moment, especially toward the end of the show when the band made two encore performances. Before leaving (for good), the enthusiastic crowd was the group had drawn were told that they were the best crowd the band had ever encountered. "And we don't say that often," Doug quirked with a discounting smile.

Sound Advice

- ***** John Lennon - instantly improves karma.
- **** John Coltrane - good enough to blow you away.
- *** John Frusciante - well, sometimes.
- ** John Denver - just take me home.
- * John Tesh - please pass me the revolver.

Creepers Lagoon - "I Become Small and Go" ****

Unlike the images conjured by the name, Creepers Lagoon has a sound all too inviting. Yet it is forbidding as well, but in that arousing type of way, like the beautiful limestone cliffs that stand on the opposite side of the lake, or that engulfing glance you get from the mysterious stranger across the café.

Musicians by choice but experimentalists by nature, Creepers Lagoon, a four-piece act from San Francisco, have pooled together for "I Become Small and Go," an astounding debut release on the NickelBag Records label. They have recorded a diverse array of tracks that are capable of standing impressively alone, but when juxtaposed together form such a magical collage that you can't help but stare, listen and mentally wander.

The experimental nature of the band is evident not only in the sound, but also in the credits. Just reading the liner notes cues you into the fact that this is something different; listed alongside guitar, drums, bass and sampler are flute, piano, mellotron, magnetic tape loops, an audio, belt buckle and bic lighter.

Laggard vocals from Ian Seftchick remain a constant from track to track, though the music remains recorded in the tongues of a thousand nations. Ian, also playing the guitar, shares his double-duty position with Sharky Laguna, and the two seem to also share the same vocal delivery. The quartet is completed by Geoff Chrisolum on bass and David Kostiner on drums.

The arrangement on the opening song, "Wonderful Love," is but a microcosm of the diversity present within the album. "Tracy" sounds like a tune straight off Everclear's "Sparkle and Fade" until the chorus of "Chasing Tracy is all I do/ Tracy's rotten all the way through" arrives. "Empty Ships" changes pace like a four-year-old girl changes outfits, and "Dreaming Again" is the ultimate story of the confusion of dreams and reality. "Prison Mix" features an Indian vocal track, and "Dear Deadly" is far to fast, peppy and joyous to have the word "dead" in its title. "Second Chance" is slower, sadder, and more sad than anything else on the album, and the closing "Claustrophobia" is carried by a piano melody, a simple rhythm and sustained vocal work.

With no-holds-barred sampling a la Beck and guitar a la Pavement, Creepers Lagoon has found a crevasse in the genre glacier and for the time being, they appear to be standing alone. I only hope they remain as pure as the surrounding drifts of snow, untainted by any of the evils of the success they may meet. —M.L. Lequick

The Figs - "Couldn't Get High..." #12

High-spirited and fun; a mixing of traditional rock licks and a brash snottiness — that's the Figs in a nutshell. Yet somehow they seem to take all the fun out of being fun; sex, drugs and booze has never sounded quite so mundane. If their latest release, "The Figs Couldn't Get High..." was parody, it would be weak at best. But unfortunately, they don't even seem to be smart enough for satire.

From the first chords of the opener, "Said Enough," and on through the song's tired drum beat and way-too-soaring vocal chorus, it is apparent that little will transpire over the record's 12 tracks. And indeed, "Wait on Your Shoulders" delivers little except the defensible, yet still vacuous rally cry of "They'll have to drag me from this bar!" "A Fave About To Blow" is like an early eighties new wave dupe, all synthetic snarl and uncatchy guitar hooks.

And on and on. If vocalist Mike Gent's vocals weren't so laughable, "Not Involved" would at least be fake grunge crap. But instead, it isn't even that. The Kiss-like chant vocals of "If That's What You Want" are at least fun, but I could never imagine having any of it stuck in my head or anything.

So basically The Figs are a party band who ruin the party. The keg is dry and they're the only ones drunk enough to be having any fun, while the rest of us sit bored on the couch. It's the ultimate rip-off: they're like the Rolling Stones with no stones. I'd rather just listen to Motley Crue. —R. Greene

Farrelly brothers take to love

■ A love story... a la "Naked Gun."

MATT LEQUICK
Asst. Features Editor

"The guys who brought you 'Dumb and Dumber' and 'Kingpin' bring you a love story."

Whoa. Hold it right there, buddy.

Did you say "Dumb and Dumber?" Followed by "love story?"

With only that to go by, I should have known what I was in for upon venturing to the theatre to see "There's Something About Mary." This, the latest film from the zany Farrelly brothers, really is a love story. But it's their best movie to

date. Why?

This film is funny. Very funny, so expect that. While the line on the movie poster reads "love story," focus less on that than on the "Dumb and Dumber" portion. Don't go expecting the next "English Patient" love story, or you'll be severely disappointed and offended. But go just to laugh out loud and see a collection of oddballs, and you will be most impressed and satisfied.

Oddball number one is the high school loser Ted Strohmann (Ben Stiller), a man of little luck — and the little he has isn't the good kind. Yet, somehow, he pulls off a date to senior prom with a dream girl named Mary Jensen (Cameron Diaz), and falls in love with her. Unfortunately, senior prom was the only time Ted went out with Mary, and due to a little mishap (a painful, debilitating mishap mind you), Ted left Mary that night — for a stay at the hospital.

Yet, 12 years later, Ted is still



Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox
Ted (Ben Stiller) is hooked on getting Mary (Cameron Diaz).

See MOVIE, Page 4 ▶

Your Horoscope

COURTESY OF NAVIS FEATURES

Aries (March 21 to April 19)

Beware of what you say this week. People rely on your honesty, but you could make promises that you cannot keep. If you maintain a low profile socially this weekend, all will turn out great.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20)

Don't procrastinate — tend to those chores that are left undone around the home. You'll feel so much better once you have completed everything. By the weekend, you'll be able to relax and enjoy some outdoor activities.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20)

A deal is a deal, and you need to recognize it. The latter part of the week is best spent with friends and family. You learn some valuable lessons from them.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22)

It isn't the best week for a sit-down chat with a partner — which could lead to a number of misunderstandings. Wait until this person is more receptive. Finances are the major problem here.

Leo (July 23 to August 22)

While you feel independent, you are seriously considering a lifelong commitment — either professional or personal in nature. Weigh this important decision carefully. The rest of your life depends on this.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22)

Cantankerous relatives are the bane of your week. Instead of being trapped by bickering and complaining, go about your business. It's best to bite your tongue and swallow your pride.

Libra (September 23 to October 22)

Avoid signing on the dotted line. Contractual agreements are not favored. Be aware of those who would take advantage of a weak moment you could be having. Trust your instincts.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21)

Don't be overly secretive. Confiding in a close pal could be the answer to your pressing problems, so don't be shy. An intriguing financial deal is possible this weekend.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21)

Money could be the subject of a debate with a loved one. You seem to know just how to handle the problem. The weekend is calm and togetherness is accepted.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19)

Don't allow minor annoyances to get your week off to a bad start. Avoid squabbles with loved ones who are having personal problems. Children are relying on your strength.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18)

You and a partner share important responsibilities equally. While you disagree from the get-go, it all falls into place as the week progresses. This weekend is a good to relax.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20)

While you could be in an indecisive mood on the job, it doesn't hamper harmony on the home front later on. A quiet weekend with a partner or family member brings a surprise.

Weekly Schedule

Cinema

Campus Cinema

Thurs., July 16 "Boogie Nights" at 8 p.m. FREE
Tues., July 21 "B.A.P.S." at 8 p.m. FREE

N.C. Museum of Art

Fri., July 17 "Fairy Tale" at 9 p.m. \$4

Music

Berkeley Café

Thurs., July 16 Back Porch Circle
Fri., July 17 Ghezzi (jazz/blues/rock)
Sat., July 18 Cracker (blues/rock)

Brewery

Wed., July 15 Dayroom, Gumption
Thurs., July 16 Osbeck, Evergem
Fri., July 17 Veldt, Marvelous Three, Collapsis

Sat., July 18 Amateurs (reggae)
Cat's Cradle
Thurs., July 16 Brave Combo
Fri., July 17 The Make-Up, Lung Leg, Deep Lust
Sat., July 18 Rocket from the Crypt, Creepers Lagoon, New Bomb Turks
Sun., July 19 Sunday Showcase
Mon., July 20 Mandators
Tues., July 21 Screwtape, Robustos, Articles, Easy Big Fella
Lizard & Snake
Wed., July 15 Vast listening party, Goodhead 7
Thurs., July 16 Mid Carson July, Milemarker, Ethyl Messerve
Fri., July 17 Demon Speed, Stanley, The Scaries
Sat., July 18 Joan of Arc, Rainer Maria
Local 506
Wed., July 15 Half Baked Beans, Scrapers
Thurs., July 16 Guitar Wolf, Pipe, Festus
Fri., July 17 Gumption, Morris
Sat., July 18 Lou Ford, Come on Thunderchild
Sun., July 19 Jim Lamppost Band, Peasants
Tues., July 21 Balboa
Record Exchange - Hillsborough St.
Wed., July 15 Joshua at 6 p.m.

Thurs., July 16 Leftovers at 5 p.m.
Fri., July 17 Gullenspire at 7 p.m.
Sat., July 18 Joe Knowlton at 7 p.m.
Mon., July 20 Fallout at 7 p.m.
Tues., July 21 Half Baked Beans at 7 p.m.
Walnut Creek
Wed., July 15 Michael Crawford
Fri., July 17 Four Tops, Temptations
Sat., July 18 Widspread Panic, G Love & Special Sauce
Tues., July 21 John Fogerty

Performances

Charlie Goodnights - Raleigh
Fri., Sun., July 17-19 Rodney Carrington

Events

ArtsCenter - Carrboro
Thurs., July 16 Third Thursday Swing (big band) at 8 p.m. \$5
Fri., July 17 Kid Sister CD release party at 8 p.m. \$6
Sat., July 18 Bill Frisell at 7:30 p.m. \$15
Cameron Village Regional Library - Raleigh
Thurs., July 16 David M. Foy on his new title "Great Discoveries and

Inventions by African Americans" at 7 p.m. FREE
N.C. State Fairgrounds
Fri., Sun., July 17-19 Special Olympics Sat., July 18 State Treasurer's Property Auction in Scott Bldg.
Mon.-Thurs., July 20-23 State 4-H Convention
REI - Crossroads Plaza, Cary
Wed., July 15 Climbing 201: More Details at 7 p.m. FREE

Exhibitions

N.C. Museum of Art
"Contemporary Considerations of the Portrait" through Feb. 28.
"Inventing the American Landscape" through April 30.
ArtsCenter - Carrboro
"New Impressions," mixed media by Sara Downham, July 18 through Aug. 12.
Bryan Center - Duke West Campus
"Celtic Myths of Redemption," drawings by Leroy S. Young, through Aug. 21.
NCSU Witherspoon African American Cultural Center
Multimedia works by UNC system professors & students through July 24.

Editorials

Driver beware

■ Cops are getting harder to detect.

The scene is always familiar. The black and silver Ford Crown Victoria comes blazing by drivers on the highway, tracking down a traffic offender or possible escaped convict. Eventually, the "Crown Vic" has the offender pulled over, and folks from all around can tell it's a State Trooper on the side of the road, with the assistance of their eyes and radar/laser detectors. Yet these days are numbered. The State Troopers are using more and more unmarked vehicles, increasing their level of stealth.

For example, some motorists have seen Chevrolet Suburbans on the side of the road, at first thinking that the off-road vehicle was stranded or having some sort of mechanical problem. Motorists are quickly realizing that the two previously mentioned scenarios are dwindling. There are unmarked Suburbans in the fleet of the North Carolina State Patrol, ready to track down oblivious offenders. If a person has a radar/laser detector, then some warning can be issued, but to those motorists who lack the ever-so-necessary detectors, then

they are sitting ducks. How many people these days would expect a monster Suburban to pull them over? Probably not many, but hopefully some of those folks will have checked out this editorial.

Local police forces also use peculiar unmarked vehicles. For instance, cars impounded from drug busts are often converted to police specs and added to the growing number of unmarked cars in police fleets. Don't be too surprised if you're pulled by a Cobra Mustang, a Lexus LS-400 or a Nissan 300-ZX. They are out there.

The police are indeed defenders of the law, but the growing number of unmarked cars resembles some sort of secret police force. People should be aware of the types of cars that are being added to the unmarked cruiser fleets, like the Suburbans and drug cars, to give them some sort of warning as to what might yank them on the side of the road. Always check to see if these cars have permanent state plates. If they do, drive with caution. You might get pulled by a peculiar looking vehicle if you make a mistake, and the expected Crown Victoria or Caprice Classic will be nowhere in sight.

"And so castles made of sand slip into the sea, eventually..."

j.m. hendrix
Castles Are Made of Sand



Merger speculation

■ Look out for an airline merger.

Since the deregulation of the airline industry, many smaller, regional airlines formed to serve travelers with cheaper fares in the late '70s and early '80s. Two such examples are western powers America West and Southwest Airlines. Although these two carriers have slowly pushed their way towards the East Coast in the 1990s, their primary customer base lies in the western half of the United States. When two competing entities are neck and neck in their respective businesses, merger speculation often pops up in daily business conversation. In the long run, a merger is usually in the best interests of two businesses.

This could be the case for America West and Southwest Airlines. America West is based in Phoenix, with a major hub at both Sky Harbor International Airport and McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. The airline has the largest market share for flights in and out of those two airports, with Southwest Airlines in second. America West enjoys revenue from flights that take off and land somewhere out west. A strong computer subsidiary, America West Express, operates out of Sky Harbor and takes passengers throughout resort cities, such as Aspen, Telluride and Santa Barbara. America West has a very young fleet, with more than

200 aircraft at passengers' disposal. Southwest, however, has enjoyed just as much success, if not more, in the last 10 years. In addition to the hub at Phoenix, the airline has a hub at Houston Hobby Airport, in the city where Southwest is based and has recently completed a hub at St. Louis International Airport, which serves as the airline's gateway to east coast destinations. This airline also has over 200 aircraft and has repeatedly won awards for on-time performance, service and affordability. Although not as strong as America West in access throughout the western United States, Southwest is becoming the leading airline for passengers traveling east.

Now, these are two very strong airlines, fighting neck and neck to get passengers. Due to the high growth rate of Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, California, New Mexico and Texas, the two airlines will continue to have prosperous business activity. If they merged, an airline with over 400 aircraft would be formed, taking a commanding lead over the western United States in passenger base. The other major airlines like Delta, United and American would have serious problems competing with a merged America West/Southwest carrier.

There are no definite plans for a merger like this, but don't be surprised if one takes place in the future. One old saying that would apply to this is "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

Today for the first time in my entire life, I feel old. I woke up and everything was seemingly fine, continuing on like it always does. Then, sometime around 9:45, I realized that things weren't necessarily the same anymore. And they wouldn't necessarily be the same again.

I started innocently enough — there I sat scribbling down some upcoming errands and, amid all of the dates to remember, somehow my 20th birthday slipped in between the lines and what had begun as a simple to-do list became this tremendous wake-up call. I'm going to be 20. Little 'ol me is turning the big 2-0. I've walked this planet for two decades, long enough to see three whole presidencies, four leap years and five Olympic games (at least until they started that every-two-year deal, which throws off my count).

I guess I should have seen it coming. I've had a few brief flirtations with antiquity as of late — you can't help but feel a little old when the kids you once babysat are now in middle school. I find myself not being able to do things that came easily as a child — things which involve bending, like splits and back-walkovers. And then, there's this creepy geriatric feeling that sits on your skin as you listen to the songs from your childhood being played on a light-mix station that specializes in the "best of the '60s, '70s and today..."

I almost wanted to cry the day I realized that my little sister, three years my junior, has no recollection of Strawberry Shortcake and only a vague remembrance of the Snorks. I'm

afraid I'm of the last generation of kids to listen to Mousercise on record and to even know what a record is and how it works. Thinking back to the stays of my childhood — the Smurfs, pogoballs and You Can't Do That On Television — I get nostalgic. I'm afraid I might start lecturing to small children, "You don't know how good you have it. In my day, when I was your age, we had nothing but Debbie Gibson and Tiffany to listen to. And we loved it!"

I realize that I'm not the only person to ever turn 20. And I realize that by turning 20 I'm a long ways away from knocking at the nursing home door. But I feel like I'm hitting a milestone birthday. I can remember how exciting 10 was — it meant double digits and that I was a "ten-ager." I was crossing the threshold of adulthood, entering the corridor of teenage years that I would one day emerge from as a wiser and more experienced person. Now, here I stand with my hand on the doorknob, and all I have to do is take that last little step. But what happens then? I'm not a teenager anymore. I'm old.

I'm not quite sure how to handle it yet. I've always been the last of my friends to age. My summer birthday was sort of a curse growing up — making me the last to get my license, the last to be able to get into R-rated movies and, in elementary school, the only one who didn't get to have a cupcake party in class.

But to be truthful, I didn't mind being the youngest. I never really wanted to be much older than I was, except when I was 12 and wanted desperately to be 13 so I could have my own phone. Turning 16 was nice too, on the

account of the freedom a new set of wheels and a license allows, but after 17, I was never one to count up the years. And I'm not ticking off the days until my 21st, either. In fact, I often forget my age when people ask, and unless I take the time to do the math I'll usually short myself two years or so.

I'm just used to being young. I've never looked very old — I'm one of those "late bloomers" always referred to in books about puberty and growing up. It's hard to look very old when you're hovering just above the five-foot mark and have a face that hasn't really changed since your first grade photo, except for that front tooth which finally grew in. Until recently, I could still order off the kiddie menu, no questions asked. If my mom and I were to drive through the teller machine at the bank, the nice ladies would ask politely, "Wouldn't your little girl like some candy?" And I still get questioned about my age at movie theaters, convenient stores and clubs — a question whose answer is usually viewed with suspicion until I can provide some verifying ID.

I've never felt very old. It's scary to suddenly have to admit that I am.

And what have I been doing with my 20 years? What have I to show for my time on earth? I'm not a kid anymore and I can't use youth and inexperience as an excuse. I have to be out doing real-world things. I'm supposed to be accomplishing goals and leaving my mark for future generations to find.

But how can I do that? In 20 years, I've produced nothing of any real lasting value. I've written some essays about inane topics, left behind a few really atrocious attempts at poetry and dabbled with my paints and pencils. I can

hardly expect those things to matter tomorrow, much less years from now. It's no wonder people put so much stock in their children — they're one of the only things one can produce in a lifetime that lives on. Am I doomed to do nothing more important than generate offspring? Is there anything more important? I feel so mortal. Being conscious of how much time I've used makes me wonder about how much time is left.

Do we really have to grow up? I don't wanna. Ah, I've gotten way off-track. In my old age, I'm sure I'll go senile — it just seems to correspond so well with the line of reasoning I currently employ.

This little anxiety attack will pass — every birthday morning I wake up expecting to feel different, and every birthday night I go to bed feeling exactly the same. Age isn't something that grabs you one day, knocking the wind out of you and yelling, "POW! You're old!" Instead, it's this sneaky little guy that creeps up behind you and keeps tapping you on the shoulder and running away. You know it's there, but you can't prove it. And you have to shake off your suspicions until the day you look over your shoulder and catch it off-guard, and it's suddenly staring you in the face. But I have a ways to go. I'm young enough to still play games with time. I have a good 10 years or so to go before I'm really old.

Kelly hopes she hasn't offended any of her elders. And she wants to let it be known that she is welcoming all forms of birthday presents and monetary gifts. Please arrange drop-off points through email at kmmarks@unity.ncsu.edu

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BRETT WETZEL
Staff Columnist

Love and respect your local computer geek

When I first came to N.C. State, I was afraid of computers. I couldn't figure out WordPerfect, so I wrote all my papers out by hand. It was useless. Basic advantages of the word processor like "cutting" and "pasting" were mere traps to steal my text and hide it in that black hole known intimately to experts as "the clipboard." I looked in every little window on my computer and never could find where that clipboard was with all my precious text.

On a campus full of engineers and mathematicians, a breed of people who mysteriously do not lack the intuition to distinguish the computer's power button from the diskette eject button, it is easy for many to assume that people who, well, write their papers by hand, are somehow intellectually lacking.

Computer knowledge is the fundamental fuel of so many students' egos, the very students who echoed nasal giggles behind me in the computer lab when I couldn't figure out how to double-space.

So many of these computer experts guard their knowledge and loathe divulging any actual useful information to naive freshman or naive graduating liberal arts majors. To make sure no one else can steal their knowledge and dilute their power, many people who understand how to use a computer, heretofore referred to as "geeks," will explain things in a rapid jargon-packed dialect (often accented by the aforementioned nasal voice) to intimidate the novice and avoid any risk of them actually learning something. Geeks love opportunities to flex their knowledge, but the novice must

beware and understand the nature of these people. Many users insist on learning on their own and will warily drag the mouse cursor over each button, pausing, then trying ever so hard to perfect the art of the double-click, while the eager geek agonizes impatiently. Often in these conflicts the geek may erupt in a series of superior sighs and seize the mouse, scoot you and your swivel-chair aside and chase your hesitant hands away from the keyboard. With a magical spray of machine-gun typing, all is well, and the computer novice is left in God-like awe of the geek.

Now you understand why computer manuals are so hard to understand. You're not supposed to be able to understand them, only geeks are. Keeping the pool of knowledgeable users down to a minimum not only keeps the geeks' egos big, it keeps the market

demand for geeks high. Only insiders know what staple words of manuals like "dialog box," "icon," and "toolbar" really mean. If you should ever stumble upon words like "foo bar," a popular CSC 114 term, drop everything and run — you have gotten too deep. Why do you think computer courses are so hard? They don't actually want you to learn anything, they want to scare you out and keep the field pure with only true geeks. Dark tales of phrases like, "It's on the test because you're doing it for homework next week," are all too true. There is hope for those that want to beat the system. I know, I did it. Befriend these geeks; they have a secret desire for cool friends. Then you can penetrate the veil of jargon, develop your own monitor tan and even impress the opposite sex with witty zephyrs and flex exploitation.

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Goal

Continued from Page 1

endowment increase. Other schools hover around 80 or 90 percent of their goals.

Other scholarship awards included in the Campaign for N.C. State Students are the John T. Caldwell Endowed Alumni Scholarships, Graduate School Endowed Fellowships, Endowed Scholarships for Student-Athletes and the University Merit- and Need-Based Endowed Scholarships.

Most in excess are the Endowed Scholarships for Student-Athletes; despite setting a \$7.21 million goal, they have already collected over \$8.8 million in donated funds. In a

far second, the Caldwell Endowed Alumni Scholarships have collected exactly what they anticipated, going a slight \$28 thousand over in the process.

Lagging far behind both of these are Graduate Fellowships and Merit- and Need-Based Scholarships. Endowed Fellowships, which hoped for an increase of only slightly more than three million dollars, currently still has only about \$2.5 million; Merit- and Need-Based Scholarships, arguably the most vital of all the departments, still has just barely three-fourths of their requested \$8.88 million.

In spite of this, however, the generosity of NCSU alumni has led Chancellor Larry K. Monteith to challenge the Campaign to increase its goal to \$100 million.

Study

Continued from Page 1

highly likely these kids' nutrient needs are different and that their ability to absorb nutrients from their food is impaired."

One of the study's goals was determining if an outside agent could enhance absorption of nutrients. Croom's team administered a promising peptide (a naturally occurring compound made up of amino acids), known as peptide YY, to the mice and monitored the nutrient intake against control mice.

They found that the peptide dramatically increased the ability of mice to absorb glucose and, most likely, amino acids as well. Increases in absorption ranged from 50-200 percent, depending on the strain of mice. Croom hopes to turn findings like this into therapies for nutritional deficiencies caused by Down syndrome.

But making the leap from mice to humans is not easy, and for this he will need to compare his information with that of clinicians working in the Down syndrome community.

Croom hopes to suggest studies to clinicians based on findings from his team's work, in order to generate information which he can put back into his own future experiments with the mice. Such studies, Croom says, could be conducted from simple blood sampling of people with Down

syndrome. He says his own research will continue as long as there are "results and funding, in that order."

Naturally, such specialized research doesn't come cheap: the mice are \$60 each and adding peptide YY to the feeding regimen is, says Croom, "extremely expensive." However, with many of the project's contributors coming from Los Angeles' entertainment industry, the second half of the "results and funding" equation seems secure.

With respect to the "results" part of that equation, Croom sees the study continuing for some time. "We are finding very interesting differences that were not known about people that seem to exist in the mice," says Croom. "The data, in the preliminary form, is extremely interesting and enlightening and may explain a lot of things." Though it is too early to publicly release details about his current findings, Croom is excited about them.

This is a big turnaround from the day four years ago when Croom's work was first approached to do the research by trisomy 21.

"We initially declined [to conduct research for the trisomy 21 group], because we didn't know anything about Down syndrome."

It was only when the group mentioned to Croom and his colleagues that they felt Down syndrome kids were having trouble with digestion and absorption of food, that they realized they were equipped to research Down

"We had already developed technologies to study [digestion], if there was an animal model available, and there was. That's how we got involved."

Because so little is known about the metabolism of people with Down syndrome, Croom's study has the potential to broaden the scope of inquiry dramatically. Croom says in a short time, he and his colleagues will have considerably more knowledge of the effects of trisomy in mice than on its effects in humans.

Scientists elsewhere are now trying to improve upon the mouse model for trisomy 21, to get it even closer to a condition resembling human trisomy. So what does a trisomic mouse look like? To the casual observer, the differences might go unnoticed.

"There are subtle differences in appearance," says Croom. "Their ears tend to sit further back on their head. They have what appears to be a dowager's hump and they are more erratic and hyperactive. They have a flattened forehead, and they tend to be a bit smaller. The ears are the big giveaway."

While the ears may be the giveaway, it is the size of the mice that most concerns Croom. The trisomic mice do not seem to be utilizing their food as efficiently as their control counterparts.

And this is "one of the big mysteries: they eat exactly the same amount of food as their control counterparts, per unit of body weight; they weigh less, and their basic metabolic rates are lower.... The food is passing right through."

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Movie

Continued from Page 2

head over heels about Mary. At the recommendation of his friend Dom (O'Dball number three), Ted seeks the help of an insurance claims investigator named Pat Healy (Matt Dillon) who has the connections to look up Mary in Florida, where she moved to at the conclusion of her senior year. Pat, the oil-slick, hawaiian-shirted bastard that he is, finds Mary, who is currently more beautiful than ever and headstrong into a promising medical career. Pat, wanting this wonderful woman for himself, returns to Ted to tell him that Mary is a fat, wheelchair-bound mother with four kids and a listing as a mail-order bride. Ted's shocked.

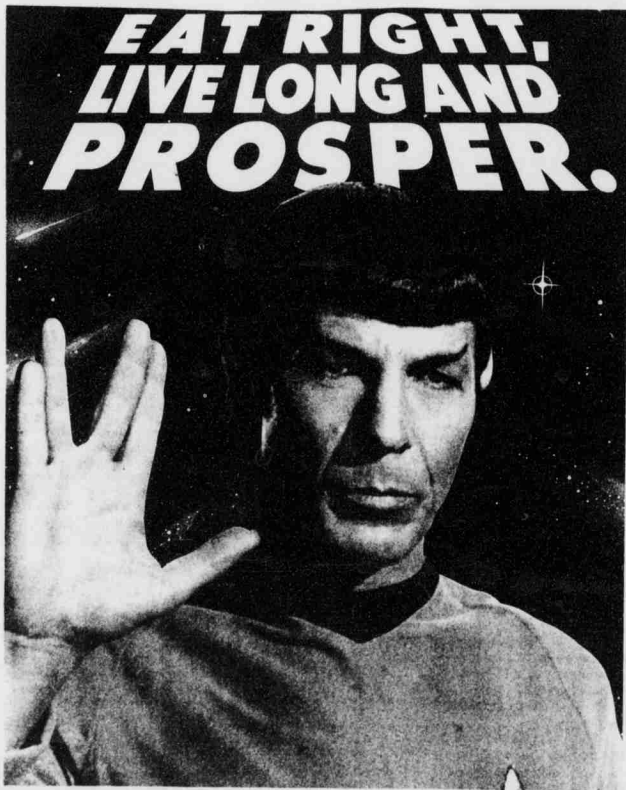
Confusion follows. Pat lives an extravagant lie in an attempt to win Mary over, and after hearing from another friend that Mary is in great shape in every facet of her life, Ted leaves Florida-bound immediately with intentions of rekindling a long ago burned out "romance."

Apparently Ted and Pat aren't the only guys May has attracted. She changed her name to avoid a stalker from college, and even her closest friends are really after her. In an extended period of hilarious pandemonium in Florida, these guy eventually discover each other. How do they resolve the confusion over who is right for Mary? Easy - they all converge, unknowingly, at her apartment - Ted's there, Woogy is there, Pat is there, Nate is there, Brett is there - and they ask her who she wants. There is no tense, nailbiting sequence of seconds to follow this possibly life-altering scenario, but the lack of tension is

all too appropriate for the scene.

Sure, the film is tasteless. It's outrageous, goofy, stupid, wacky, crazy, sometimes offensive, sometimes raunchy, and everything else of the sort critics will use to describe it. But that's what makes this one: it's a relationship story a la "Naked Gun." The "Dumb and Dumber" and "Kingpin" influence is as much a part of the Farrellys as their blood, and a love story is no justification for a transfusion.

Of course, this is a comedy, and the ending is what you would expect. No gut-wrenching, mind-blowing or thought-provoking twists here. In fact, that's one thing the film does extraordinarily well - prevents thought. It's pure escapism, and as such, it's good. So, don't go looking for anything more, and you will surely enjoy laughing to and with "There's Something About Mary."



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Notes

Continued from Page 6

Qualifying Tournament at Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.

Harrington, the player of the year in the state of Massachusetts as a senior last year, scored nine points off of the bench in the gold-medal game as the team defeated Argentina 91-66.

The 6-4 shooting guard also added 10 points in the semifinal drubbing of Venezuela last Friday. The U.S. won that game by a score of 103-79.

Local players shine for Raleigh Wings

Eight former Wolfpack women's soccer stars have helped the Raleigh Wings to an 11-0 start in the W-League in women's soccer, and they have done it with a flare.

Three of those players showed their skills for the local semi-pro team, as they all scored goals in a 4-0 win over the Hampton Roads Pirates on Friday.

Former Wolfpack players Kim Yankowski (Class of '93), who coaches the Cary High School team, current N.C. State assistant coach Betsy Anderson (Class of '94) and Megan Jeidy (Class of '98)

all scored in the rout.

Five other Wolfpack stars are also contributing to the Wings. Midfielder Stacey Hampton ('98), forward April Kemper ('88), goalkeeper Katherine Mertz ('98) and defender Sandy Miller ('95) round out the former State players on the roster. The team has dominated the W-League, and sits in first place with an undefeated record.

The team competes in the Elite Division of the Southern Conference, which is in the United States International Soccer League (USISL), and plays its home games at the WRAL soccer center.

Curle

Continued from Page 6

fall back in love with the game. In an era of high-paid egomaniacs who pride themselves on themselves, McGwire's unselfish and warm demeanor help to put back some of the shine that was tarnished by the strike. Fans from around the country take time out of their day to once again talk baseball around the water cooler, describing the awe inspired by one of McGwire's blasts from the night before.

How widespread is the love affair with Big Mac? Busch Stadium, home to a St. Louis team that is five

games under .500 and 11 1/2 games out of first place in their division, routinely sells out, averaging over 42,000 fans during this weekend's series with Houston.

More proof? How about an opposing pitcher being booed by his own fans for intentionally walking him?

But can you really blame the guy? What pitcher, or manager, wants to make Sportscenter as the guy who made the mistake of pitching to McGwire right before he jacks a 530-foot homerun off of him? The prospect of pitching to McGwire is gutwrenching, and is evidenced by his league-leading 19 intentional walks.

Talk to pitchers and they say they hate to see McGwire striding to the plate.

Talk to fans and they say their

mouths water at the prospect of another towering McGwire homerun. He's put the fun back into watching baseball, and into following the stats in the newspaper. If for nothing else, McGwire should earn a spot into Cooperstown simply for helping to return baseball back to its former status of a game for the fans and not for the players.

Just the way it should be.

Editor's Note: Curle played a little baseball back in the day...that's right: T-Ball. I guess that makes him our resident baseball expert, eh? If you'd like to chat baseball with him, write him at james@ma.sca.ncsu.edu or call him at 515-2411.



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Wednesday, July 15, 1998

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Technician

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James Curle

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Lovin' the Big Mac attack

JAMES CURLE
Commentary

The homerun. Baseball's special moment. Rich Eisen of ESPN refers to it as "busin' out the whoopin' stick."

Never before in the history of Major League Baseball has the term "whoopin' stick" been more appropriate than when describing the bat of St. Louis Cardinal slugger Mark McGwire.

He has literally beat the daylight out of opposing pitching in the National League this season, redefining and resetting power numbers and records seemingly with each swing of his bat. On Sunday, McGwire hit two homers in a 6-4 victory over the Houston Astros, pushing his staggering homerun total so far this season up to 40.

It's the quickest any player in the sport has reached that plateau, hitting his 40th in plate appearance number 281. This broke the previous record of 294, which not surprisingly he himself set back in 1996 when he hit 52.

Want more power numbers? Try these on for size: He hit his 40th just 90 games into the season, one game quicker than Babe Ruth's 1928 mark. It was his 47th multi-homer game of his career, surpassing both Harmon Killebrew and Mickey Mantle at 46 for eighth on the all-time list. For his career, Big Mac has hit 425 dingers during his 12 years in the league. That includes the strike-shortened season of '94, as well as the '93 season, in which a damaged left heel that required surgery held him to just 27 games.

And how about those legendary distances that accompany his homers? He has two homeruns this season that have surpassed the 500-foot mark, including a 545-foot blast against Paul Wagner of Milwaukee on May 12. Add up the distances of his nine homers that have traveled over 450 feet and it comes to a grand total of 4368 feet, or over eight tenths of a mile. While Ken Griffey, Jr. and Sammy Sosa have challenged McGwire so far in the race to see who can surpass Roger Maris' 61 homeruns in a season, not nearly the number of blasts from these two sluggers can compare to the moon shots launched from the bat of Big Mac.

When he hits it, you know it. You feel it. Everyone in the ballpark knows it and feels it. As soon as he lifts the bat at the end of his swing, there's no doubt in anyone's mind on where that ball's going: deep. So this home slugger must brood around the lockerroom, right, indulging himself in the media blitz that inevitably follows him after a game? Wrong.

In fact, it's the farthest thing from the truth. He's the "slugger with a Heart of Gold," if you will, who loves his son very dearly and can't understand why he gets more attention after a game when he doesn't hit a homerun than one of his teammates who just pitched a three-hit shutout. He credits his three homers over the weekend to a kiss his son Matthew laid upon his bat prior to taking the field. He gives enormous sums of money to charity in the fight against child abuse, and gets very emotional when the subject comes up.

Which is just what the sport of baseball needs. As Big Mac stated at the All-Star game, baseball still bears a scar from the strike-shortened season of '94, and fans have been looking for a reason to

Women's cross country Women look to repeat . . . again

■ The Wolfpack women's cross country team will be gunning for the fourth straight ACC Championship in 1998.

K. GAFFNEY
Sports Editor

The Wolfpack women's cross country team is on course to make history again this season.

In 1997, the Pack won its third straight ACC title, something that only State had ever done before, and now in 1998, the women, along with the men's team, look to win the conference championship in the same fashion as last season—in a blowout. The women were barely challenged for the title last season and have a slew of talent returning, which means that the big wigs in the ACC's offices in Charlotte should have Jackie Coscia's and Meredith Faircloth's ring sizes memorized by now.

From Flanders, N.J., and Raleigh, respectively, the two have been integral parts of the Wolfpack's success for the past three seasons, and it looks like nothing will be changing in 1998 during their senior campaigns.

Both are two of the five returning all-ACC members of the women's team.

The only losses from last year's squad are Ami Herrman and Laura Rhoads. Herrman didn't compete for the Wolfpack in 1997, but Rhoads will be a major loss to the team, and one who would have been hard to replace without the foresight of 17-year coach Rollie Geiger and a little luck.

Rhoads was the Pack's top runner, winning the District III meet and earning All-American honors for the second year in a row. Rhoads was also State's top finisher at the ACC meet.

But it would be unlike Geiger not to have talent waiting in the wings.

One of the top freshmen to enter the ranks of the ACC best in cross-country didn't even compete last season. Kate Sabino sat out last season, redshirting her first season with the Pack.

Joining Sabino on the sidelines was former all-American Christy Nichols, who sat out both the cross-country and track seasons with injuries.

Nichols comes off a year's "vacation" from the team, after a successful freshman season where she was the Wolfpack's top runner in four races, including the District III national qualifier meet in Greenville, S.C., where she finished second for the team.

In her first meet with the Wolfpack, Nichols finished third in the 1996 Wolfpack Invitational, behind Coscia and Faircloth.

Behind the trio is a group of three freshmen, all of whom experienced a disappointing finish at the National

meet.

Last fall, the women's team won all five of the meets and the invitational in which they ran at prior to the NCAA championships, a run in which they smoked all of the competition in the district.

Ranked among the top seven teams in the nation going into the final meet of the season, the women walked away from Greenville 11th, an improvement over the 13th place finish from the previous year, but a definite disappointment.

Among the runners suited up for State that Monday were Amy Beykirch, Erin Musson and Sarah Gray, all who return this year, surely looking to wipe that memory out of their minds.



Rain or shine, the Pack has a habit of dominating every event.



Coached by Rollie Geiger, State's cross country team is nothing short of a dynasty. Its 26 conference championships and countless All-Americans are proof of that, indeed.

Sixteen and counting

■ With several key members returning for the Wolfpack, the rest of the ACC will have its hands full with the red and white once again.

K. GAFFNEY
Sports Editor

After last season, No. 17 should be a cinch for the Wolfpack women.

While Wake Forest's Janelle Kraus picked up the Atlantic Coast Conference's individual title last season, the ACC Championship meet was utterly dominated by N.C. State.

And with the talent returning from last year's squad, combined with the new and extremely talented incoming faces, the biggest question surrounding this year's ACC Championships won't be whether the Pack will win it or not, but rather will the Pack have any competition at all for their 17th conference title.

Since 1978, the Pack has failed to claim only four conference titles, with only three other schools ever standing atop the podium in the ACC for women's cross country.

When Virginia claimed the 1981 and 1982 ACC titles, the Pack finished second and third, respectively. In 1986 and 1994, State failed to post a team score in the conference championship.

1997's meet left people wondering if even an all-star team made up of the best of the best runners from the conference's other eight schools could beat the Pack, as State placed four runners in the top 10. Last season, the Pack had to go all

of the way to the National Championship to find competition, which might be the case again this season.

In last year's District III meet, held two weeks before the NCAA's, at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., the women sent the message that they were ready for at least somewhat of a challenge, blowing away a field that was supposed to be the best teams in the Southeast region.

The Wolfpack finished with 36 points in the 15+ team race as senior Laura Rhoads, winning the individual title, posting the second fastest Regional Championship time in the nation.

ACC foe Wake Forest, who had run close the Wolfpack a month and a half earlier at the North Carolina Championship meet in Charlotte, had to battle James Madison for the second team spot at the NCAA's.

Wake beat the Dukes by just one point, but still finished 60 points behind the Wolfpack.

At Nationals, the Wolfpack's young but talented squad suffered their first loss of the season. And while State didn't go into Greenville expecting to win, the 11th place finish was all but devastating, and came down to two factors: injuries and inexperience.

The Pack ran three freshmen in the race, and had a few minor injuries and illnesses that were nagging enough to effect one or two races, and subsequently, the team's score.

But with the line-up that State has back, don't be surprised if 1998 looks a lot like 1997, just with a happier ending.

Wolfpack notes

■ Baseball players get early start, Basketball recruit shines overseas, women's soccer players excel for local team.

STAFF REPORT

Pack players make immediate impact

Unlike football and basketball players who turn professional, college baseball players do not have to wait until the next season starts to begin contributing.

Four players from the 1998 Wolfpack baseball team have already begun their careers in professional baseball, and they have done it with a bang. All of the following statistics are current through July 9.

Catcher Brad Piercy, who decided to leave N.C. State after his junior year to pursue a professional career, has had a successful debut as a designated hitter in the Montreal Expos' farm system. Piercy has played in 15 games for the Montreal's class A affiliate in Vermont, batting a respectable .259 with 15 hits and nine runs batted in.

GTE Academic All-American Jake Weber has made an incredible transition to the pros as a member of the

Seattle Mariner's organization. Weber, who holds several career records at State, is playing in the outfield for Seattle's class A team in Everett. So far, the 5-11 Weber has managed to hit .376 from the plate in 24 games including 35 hits, 12 RBI's and three home runs.

Two pitchers are also making their mark on the minor leagues.

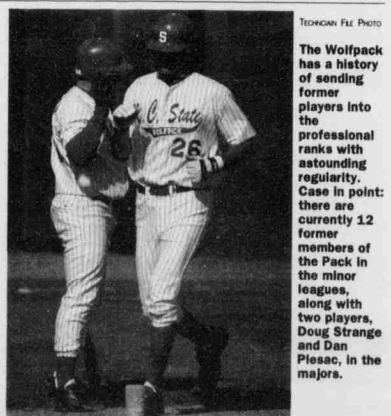
Righthander Kurt Blackmon has started four games on the mound in the rookie team for the Philadelphia Phillies, picking up only one decision. Unfortunately for Blackmon, that decision was a loss. Blackmon has given up 29 hits in 19 1/3 innings, and has struck out 10 batters.

Fellow righthander Bubba Scarce has fared better in an organization famous for its pitching. Scarce has been used by the Atlanta Braves' class A team in Macon, Georgia in a relief role. Scarce has seen action in seven games, saving two games while compiling a 1-1 record. Scarce has a minuscule 0.75 earned run average in 12 innings, striking out 11 and surrendering only seven base hits.

Recruit making waves internationally

Incoming freshman Adam Harrington was recently selected as a member of the 1998 USA Men's Junior World Championship team, and has helped the squad to a 6-0 start in international competition.

Coached by Syracuse's Jim Boehm, the team won the gold medal in the COPABA Men's Junior Championship



The Wolfpack has a history of sending former players into the professional ranks with astounding regularity. Case in point: there are currently 12 former members of the Pack in the minor leagues, along with two players, Doug Strange and Dan Pleasac, in the majors.