

First and Third

N.C. State senior Matt Postell finds success around the diamond. See page 6.



TECHNICIAN

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Sci-fi action-packed film

High speed runaway roller-coaster ride. See page 2.

Outside

Today	Hi 70	Lo 46
Tomorrow	Hi 77	Lo 55

Engineering falls short

◆ A recent U.S. News and World Report placed NCSU as the 30th proficient engineering graduate school in the country.

JIMMY RYALS
Senior Staff Writer

Thirty can be a special number. There are 30 days in four months out of the year. In the NBA, a player averaging 30 points per game is a shoo-in for a scoring title. Thirty dollars can buy an N.C. State sweatshirt at the bookstore.

But how special is the number 30 when it refers to the national ranking of a high-profile college of engineering, namely, the one here at NCSU? Upon the release of U.S. News and World Report's listing of the top engineering graduate schools in the country (published in this week's U.S. News), this question was posed to John Gilligan, associate dean for research and graduate programs of the NCSU College of Engineering.

"I'm not satisfied with the ranking because it doesn't take into account the rankings of the individual departments," said Gilligan of NCSU's position (30th, up from 31st last year).

Gilligan referred to the criteria for overall ranking as his primary problem with the magazine's method for ordering the 221 engineering schools it considered. The news weekly took into account reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources (number of Ph.D.'s among faculty, number of National Academy of Engineering members on the faculty and the number of Ph.D.'s granted in 97-98) and research activity (total money spent on research and money allotted per faculty member for research).

The rankings would be more useful to students if they were based on the college's position in individual departments.

"What's most important to a student is the department he or she will be in for grad school," said Gilligan.

U.S. News did rank departmental and specialty areas, but only the top 10 universities in each department were published. NCSU's Nuclear Engineering department placed seventh in the country.

While further rankings were not made available,

Top 15 Engineering Schools

Rank	School	Score
1.	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	100
2.	Stanford University	91
3.	Georgia Institute of Technology	86
4.	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	86
5.	University of California- Berkeley	84
6.	University of Illinois- Urbana-Champaign	79
7.	California Institute of Technology	77
8.	Carnegie Mellon University	76
9.	Perdue University- West Lafayette	74
10.	University of Texas- Austin	72
11.	Cornell University	71
12.	University of Southern California	68
13.	University of Wisconsin- Madison	68
14.	Texas A&M University- College Station	65
15.	Northwestern University	61
16.	Penn State University- University Park	61
17.	Virginia Tech	55
24.	Virginia Tech	55
30.	North Carolina State University	49
33.	Duke University	46
35.	University of Virginia	45

source: U.S. News and World Report and the respective schools

Gilligan noted that NCSU's engineering departments typically place among the top 20. In the 1997 U.S. News poll, NCSU placed six engineering departments in the national top 20: Biological/Agricultural (sixth), Industrial (10th), Materials (14th), Civil (19th), Electrical (19th) and Aerospace (20th), according to Gilligan.

These departmental rankings correlate well with NCSU's rankings in another prominent survey, the one conducted every 10 years by the National Research Council (NRC).

All of NCSU's engineering departments placed in the top 20 in the NRC's most recent poll, conducted

in 1995, according to Gilligan.

Overall, Gilligan was not complimentary of U.S. News's ranking system.

"I think that some of the things that keep us out of the top 20 to 25 overall are pretty artificial," he said.

The top five schools in the survey were the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and the University of California at Berkeley. The only other area school to be included among the top 50 was Duke University, which tied for 33rd with the University of Colorado at Boulder.

NCSU Professor advises U.S. Senate

◆ Robert Clark, an N.C. State economics professor, recently addressed a U.S. Senate committee on a controversial new plan to save Social Security.

CARR FROEDGE
Senior Staff Writer

Social Security Reform has hit a little closer to home for N.C. State students now that a professor of economics and business management has recently helped policy-makers in Washington.

Robert Clark recently shared his knowledge to the U.S. Senate's Special Committee on Aging. He was there to present information about a possible shift from today's current Social Security system to a future system requiring individual retirement accounts.

"By and large," Clark said, "about the time that today's college students retire, the trust fund will be exhausted," adding that in his opinion, the system needs to change.

Right now, the system is set up so that each person pays a tax on their earnings while they work, and at retirement, they basically get that money back to live on.

Describing the future problem, Clark said that: "The population is getting older. Right now we are taking in more money than we are spending." However, he explained, by the year 2034, this will not be the case.

In order to prevent that from happening, policy-makers are debating different types of reform. "One way to get more money is to raise taxes or cut benefits. People don't want to do either," he said.

During Clark's trip, the discussion was focused on an idea requiring individual retirement accounts that would allow each person to invest how he or she prefers but require every person in America to have one.

However, some critics fear that a policy requiring these accounts would negatively affect women, Clark disagrees and spent his time in Washington arguing his belief.

Based on his upcoming book, he presented the results of an intensive study on the issue.

Clark looked to 87 companies and 150,000 employees with yearly salaries that ranged from \$10,000 to \$150,000. Through his work, he discovered that women of similar age, job tenure and earnings are actually more likely to invest their money and tend to contribute a larger percentage of their earnings than men do, proving the skeptics wrong.

"I think individuals accounts are a way we could resolve financial integrity and generate a net new system," he said.

Symposium offers research evaluation

◆ Upcoming undergraduate presentations assess the caliber of work done by dedicated students

MICHAEL RUBELE
Senior Staff Writer

The eighth annual Undergraduate Research Symposium is just over two weeks away. On April 22, juniors and seniors will present their research projects at N.C. State's McKimmon Center.

The symposium offers juniors and seniors the opportunity to display their research in a competition-based format. Each student presenting a project will do so in one of the following four categories: Biological Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences or Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

According to Lynda Hambourger, a

member of the Symposium Planning Committee, the Research Symposium is "important at the undergraduate level for several reasons, one being that it offers students the opportunity to see interesting research."

In addition to having the opportunity to see and hear about interesting research being done by other undergraduates, the Symposium offers students the chance to present their research, which, is an invaluable lesson, Hambourger said.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium is a perfect venue for all types of learning, catering not only to the participants, who eagerly await the announcement of the winning projects, but to interested persons who show up just to see what types of new ideas are out there.

Students entered in the Symposium will compete for cash prizes. An undetermined number of projects will be selected at the Symposium to receive a cash award of \$200.

The deadline for applications was April 1. To this point, there have been 128 entries, which is a significant increase over last year when 104 entered.

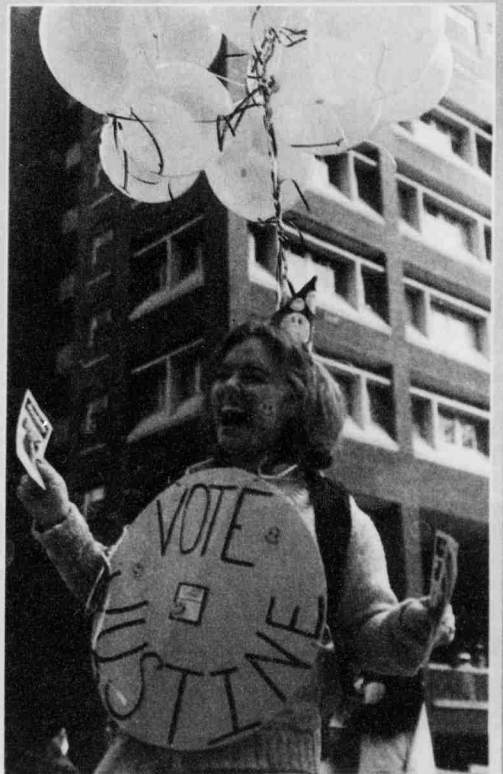
"We're very pleased with the increase in participation," Robert Morrison, the Chairman of the Symposium, said.

According to Morrison, each entry must be reviewed and accepted before it can appear in the Symposium. Each project will be reviewed by the applicant's mentor, who serves as the faculty advisor responsible for directing the project. The possibility then exists that an entry may be denied.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium offers the opportunity for students to see not only the type of work their peers are doing but also the caliber of work they're doing.

To get more information on the Undergraduate Research Symposium, check the Symposium's website at www.ncsu.edu/ugrs/

Just smile, just vote...



Taking a more animated way to campaigning, Senior Shanon Levell talks to the Brickyard in colorful yellow garb to promote Justine Wilson for Student Body President.

Haven't voted? Vote online!

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or vote at any one of these on-campus locations:

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- Tunnel Inn C-Store
- The Quad C-Store
- Fountain Dining Hall

Professor mourned

◆ NCSU lost a distinguished Spanish professor last week to a heart attack.

ASHLEY B. PERRY
Senior Staff Writer

Gilbert "Gib" Smith, professor of Spanish and Spanish Literature at N.C. State, died in his sleep last Tuesday of an apparent heart attack. Smith was 61 years old.

According to Lawrence Schehr, head of foreign languages and literature, Smith was at the forefront of distance education. "He gave people good advice. He was an admired friend and colleague."

Schehr went on to say that he had a good sense of the theatrical, which could be seen in the videos of his lectures. Smith's love of the arts extended throughout his personal life. As well as being an ardent fan of theatre, Smith also enjoyed painting and playing the piano.

"Gib was an extraordinary person," recalled Joan Stewart, professor of French and former department head. "He had a special kind of genius. He was extraordinarily charming and witty. He found humor in everything. He had an excellent sense of humor and a sense of the absurd. He was a scholar, painter, musician and actor. He will be very much missed."

As a published writer and researcher, Smith devoted the bulk of his work to the 19th Century Spanish novelist, Benito Perez

See Prof. Page 4

FYI:

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Spotlight?!

...doesn't exist anymore, our only staff writer quit. Hey Natalie, have a good time in India, we'll miss you.

Reeves battles in 'The Matrix'

RYAN HILL
Senior Staff Writer

Cypher (Joe Pantoliano) who is a traitor, and Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) a woman who is as deadly as she is beautiful.

When some people hear that Keanu Reeves is in a new movie, they sigh and say things like it will be ludicrous or it will have a lot of unintentional humor to it. Granted, the boy has made some duds ("Chain Reaction," "Johnny Mnemonic") but, aside from the two "Bill and Ted" movies, he has made some good movies, most notably "Devil's Advocate."

It was with "Advocate" that it seemed like Reeves finally decided to put all his bad acting aside and try to make sure he gets acting jobs for a long time to come. In "The Matrix" Keanu tries to screw it up, but everyone around him is too good to let him make this a bad movie.

Reeves plays Neo, a hacker who has been recruited by Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) to help fight the machines, or the matrix. Morpheus believes that Neo is "The One," meaning that Neo will bring an end to the war against the machines. Sound familiar? It should.

Neo is brought into "the real world" and learns how to fight, among other things. This does not take a very long time, because the information can be downloaded into his brain in a matter of seconds. Once Neo is ready, Morpheus and his crew go out and fight against the machines, led by Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving). Along the way Neo meets members of Morpheus' crew, including

The Matrix

B

Director:
The Wachowski Brothers
Starring:
Keanu Reeves
Laurence Fishburne

Many people will see this movie so they can get a glimpse of the ground-breaking special effects (the best of which is a stop motion scene in which Neo dodges bullets), but that is only part of the fun of "The Matrix." The fight scenes are excellent, bringing to mind John Woo movies. Even the story, as close as it is to "Dark City," is still interesting.

The kicker to this movie, aside from the special effects, is finding out what the matrix really is. I won't give it away, but Morpheus put it best when he said "It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to shield you from the truth." There are also references to "Star Wars," "Terminator 2," "E.T." and many others.

See **Matrix**, Page 4



Neo (Keanu Reeves) and agent Smith (Hugo Weaving) have it out in Warner Bros.' futuristic action-thriller, "The Matrix," also starring Laurence Fishburne.

Exploring a different world

CHRISTINE OLBHAM
Extra Editor

Indian culture, traditionally mysterious and inaccessible, is gradually becoming more everyday. Madonna, the icon of everything pop, recently appeared on video in "mendhi," the traditional Indian art of applying henna in intricate designs on the skin. A recent fad was wearing a bindi to decorate the forehead, a small jewel that is a religious symbol sacred to Hinduism.

And as Indian culture becomes more popular and accessible with Americans, less of a mystery, so does the American culture to Indians.

For those who are both Indian and American, there's a great decision to make. Follow the new, or follow the thousands of years of traditions that Indians have made?

In "Sharmila's Book," Bharti Kirchner deals with this question, probably a question she has grappled with herself as an Indian-American. The main character, Sharmila Sen, is raised in America and her parents try to instill their values from India in Sharmila. Sharmila rebels and is a more like a stereotypical all-American girl. Pretty, popular with boys, smart, educated. And, by the time she is 28, everything her parents dreamed for her to find in America, she has found — except for a husband.

While in today's American society, there is considerably less pressure to marry early lest a woman be considered an "old maid," that idea has not yet faded in India, or in transplanted Indian culture.

So, Sharmila, much to her own chagrin and her parent's joy, agrees to an arranged marriage which will take her away from her life as a graphic artist in Chicago to a new life in Delhi as an Indian bride. Sharmila arrives in India, excited and scared about her new life, joined to a man she has never even met.

See **Sharmila**, Page 4



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Technician's View Surprise in rankings

◆ NCSU ranked number 30 overall out of 221 engineering graduate schools considered by U.S. News and World Report.

When someone who does not attend N.C. State reflects on the school's reputation, its prominence as a math, science and engineering university generally comes to mind. In fact, for many years, the university has prided itself on just such an identity.

But a recently published ranking of the nation's top engineering graduate schools in the country by U.S. News and World Reports may raise a few eyebrows — NCSU did not even place in the top 25. In fact, the university's overall ranking of 30 seems disproportionately low.

Although individual departments have in the past ranked as high as number six (biological/agricultural engineering in 1997), herein lies the problem: The magazine only publishes the top 10 department and specialty areas. So although NCSU's individual graduate engineering departments have ranked in the top 20 in the nation before, nuclear engineering was ranked seventh this year, information was not readily apparent to a casual reader — or prospective student.

Thus, it is up to the university to do its own public relations in terms of individual department rankings — or strive to raise its overall number. Even though the graduate program's ranking is up from its position as number 31 last year, one would think that a school known to a large degree for its engineering programs would have placed somewhat higher.

Although John Gilligan, associate dean for research and graduate programs of the NCSU College of Engineering, said he felt some of the things that kept NCSU out of the top 25 were "pretty artificial," the criteria for overall ranking do not seem that out-of-line. They include reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources and the total amount of money spent on research and the research money allotted per faculty member.

It could easily be argued that such things overlook what is going on within individual departments or specialty areas. But to do so would be ignoring a much larger point: If the engineering graduate program was to be judged solely on overall rankings, without the unpublished higher individual scores, the university's reputation as an engineering school is bound to suffer.

Take, for instance, the fact that the only other area school to be included in the news weekly's top 50 was Duke University. How many people actually think of Duke as an engineering school?

If NCSU is to maintain its reputation as one of the premiere engineering schools in the Southeast — or to become the "MIT of the South," as some university administrators seem to want — then something should be done. Whether this means higher rankings or better publicity remains to be seen.

CAMPUS FORUM

Debunking Melrose's myths

Since many students may be considering a move next year to Melrose Apartments off Trailwood Road, I thought it was important to let them know what's really in the leases they sign.

Contrary to the glowing descriptions offered by Melrose staff about their "flexible" living arrangements, it is nearly impossible to get out of your lease early. Even if you find someone to take up the lease, the sublet is subject to approval and could cost you \$175 in fees.

Further, Melrose can move you at anytime to another apartment within the facility and they don't need a reason (just five-day notice). Similarly, Melrose can move anyone into an open room in your apartment at any time, without notice (the only restriction is for mixed-gender roommates, which requires pre-approval).

While Melrose touts its Roommate

Matching Program to place similar lifestyles together, don't count on it. None of those guarantees are in the lease.

So, next time you drive through Melrose and see the nice pool and the rooms with private baths, think about what it would be like to meet your new roommate, after they move in.

Lance Scott
Senior, Biochemistry

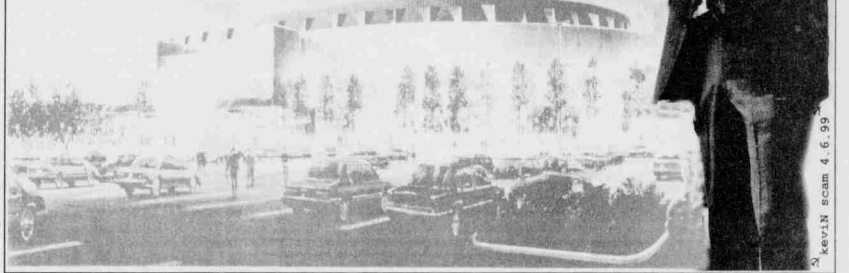
Peaceful solution to Kosovo

NATO and some other countries are making a terrible mistake using troops to solve the problem between the Albanian minority in Serbia and Serbia.

If Serbia has not occupied another country. This is not the same situation as Iraq such that it makes an "excuse" for starting a war. This

See Forum, Page 4

WHAT ABOUT ME? the JIM VALVANO arena: Just another example of N.C. State selling out to corporate interests???



The real Kosovo cause

MUHAMMAD ALY BALAGMURLA
Staff Columnist

A sight common to all of us on Hillsborough Street (and many other places in the city) is the dirty, unkempt people who can be called a lot of things: pan-handlers, winos, bums, homeless people, street people, etc. The "homeless" are those members of our society who are currently in a rut.

This may be due to reasons like poverty, unemployment, booze and drugs. Nevertheless, whatever the reason, these people have one thing that we all have: an identity. They are still John, Harry, Mary or Jane. They are still citizens of the United States, they still have rights, and they still have the ability to bounce out of the rut and start leading normal lives.

Shift your focus now from your city to a small region, miles away. A place where people who were once fortunate to be living normal lives are now without their homes. Moreover, not only are they without their homes, they are without any identity. People are being forced to leave the sanctity of their homes, to leave their lives, to leave their homeland. People who are being stripped of every piece of evidence they have as to their identity. People who are being murdered by the hundreds. People who lived in a region called Kosovo. Why? What was their crime? What

sin did they commit to be treated this way? I'll tell you: none. Absolutely none.

Then why are these people being subjected to this treatment? Subjected to torture and hardships? Being forced to leave all they have, all they possess, all they love, all they know, behind them and flee for their lives? Why? Because they are different in race? Because they have a different ethnic background?

Contrary to what the media may say, I say no. They are not being persecuted because they are "Ethnic Albanians." They are not being subjected to "ethnic cleansing." They are being subjected to these horrors because of their religion. A religion they share with over 1.2 billion people around this world. A religion they share with over seven million people in the United States. A religion they share with over 500 North Carolina State University students. A religion that calls for belief in One God: the Supreme Being, the Creator, the Sustainer and the Provider. A religion that calls for belief in the message brought to this world by a Prophet 14 centuries ago. A message of peace and submission to the Will of God. A message that provides them with Divine guidance in every aspect of their lives. They are being subjected to this persecution because they are Muslims.

So what are the other countries doing with this is happening? Nothing. Why do I say nothing? Isn't NATO bombing Belgrade? Isn't NATO attacking the infrastructure of Belgrade? Hasn't NATO offered to absorb the

refugees into its member countries? I'll tell you why I say they are doing nothing. They are doing nothing to stop the mass exodus and the brutal cold-blooded murder of people.

Air strikes on bridges in Belgrade will not stop this senseless slaughter in Kosovo. Absorbing the refugees will not help ease the pain of losing all that one owns and possesses. The Kosovars do not want to spend their lives living in refugee camps and living off food stamps. They do not want to move to a place and a culture that is foreign to them. They do not want to live with the memories of their sons, their husbands and their fathers, who were brutally martyred, for no rhyme or reason. They do not want to have to live off charity for the rest of their lives. They do not want to live in a country that stood back and did nothing while these atrocities were being inflicted on them. They want to live in the land they know. The culture they know. Live with people they know. They want their sons, their fathers and their husbands back.

They want the thing that the United States was built on. They want freedom. They want those troops that are destroying Belgrade to help them preserve their identity. They want NATO to send in troops to Kosovo to stop the atrocities of the Serbs. They need our support. They need NATO to send in troops to Kosovo. They need their identities back. They need their lives back.

My problems with the Christian religion

RICHARD MORGAN
Staff Columnist

With Easter now passed, Christianity put its feet up after another busy holiday and smiled smugly at the thought that, out of all of the world's religions; it's the one that does the whole God thing best.

Well, I'm writing today to point out some of the problems with contemporary Christianity. But first, as a safeguard, I should clarify that criticism of Christianity as a religion, a man-made institution, in no way equals criticism of Christianity as a form of spirituality, a God-made institution. I myself am a Christian, and it is very difficult for me both to confront personally and to discuss publicly problems with my faith, which I feel is the core of who I am.

The defense mechanisms of all the Christians who read this article, I hope, have stood down from red alert. With any luck, they're willing to confront issues that, though they may not apply to them specifically, certainly apply to Christianity as a worldwide movement.

Enough pandering. One of the core problems with modern Christianity is its acceptance of ignorance. Almost all Christians have a pretty good grasp on the basics — Christ's teachings. His breaking of the bread, His crucifixion and resurrection — but in a religion with dozens of denominational divisions, most Christians would be hard-pressed to explain the differences between Methodism and Lutheranism, or Southern Baptism and Episcopalianism. And, when members of a denomination do not have a thorough

knowledge of their own denomination as well as of others, that's ignorance.

This problem, of course, doesn't even begin to deal with Christian ignorance about other religions or worldviews. This is a shame because knowledge really is power. The more that Christianity is able to understand why someone would believe in Islam, reincarnation or Darwinism, the more Christianity will be able to present its views in an intelligent, relevant manner rather than the disappointing defense of "well, the Bible is right and that's all there is to it."

Another problem with Christianity is its shamefulness. Most of this campus and most of this nation would bubble in "Christian" on a survey about personal beliefs. However, the Bible talks about Christians being "doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 2:22). Still, it seems that many modern Christians are ashamed about their faith — at least, they play it down. Modern Christians cuss at friends, cheat on Maple and indulge in alcohol or pornography — not because they are actively rejecting their Christian side, but rather because they are actively accepting their worldly side, which is a way of rejecting Christianity and God.

The Bible continues to say that "religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 2:27). Further it says that "if we say we have fellowship with [God] while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth" (1 John 1:6). This shame is what allows the Christian

holy days to be turned into commercial holidays. It is what allows something as incredible as God becoming a man to be related to something as juvenile as a jolly elf delivering toys around the world thanks to flying reindeer. It is what allows something as convicting as Jesus Christ carrying the burden of our sins to the point of death and then defeating death so that we may have eternity in Heaven with something as ludicrous as a bunny hiding colored eggs in kids' backyards.

All of these problems can be balled into modern Christianity's larger problem of silence and faithlessness. The reason modern Christians have such ignorant understandings of their own beliefs and the beliefs of others is that ignorance is bliss. Christians are scared to delve into deep questions like "do you really believe in God?" or "are we predestined?" because they're scared about what they might find. They have such little faith in God that they think He might crumble under such speculation.

The reason modern Christians are willing to compromise their beliefs for an unbelieving world is because they're scared to stand up and declare "I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior" — and so they remain silent. Few Christians pray in public, even fewer attempt to maintain any level of Christianity outside of Sunday morning. We're hesitant to offer the power of prayer to friends or co-workers or teachers — and even when we do dare to pray, it's halfhearted requests that God's will be done in such-and-such matter. God's will is going to be done

regardless of prayer.

But fear and insecurity plague modern Christianity, causing many believers to do nothing with their beliefs. Nothing is the worst thing someone can do. We don't ask God to take away our parent's cancer because, if the parent remains sick, what then? Has God failed? Of course not. But that's exactly the kind of ridiculous fear that keeps many Christians from growing in their faith.

In closing, "[we] do not have, because [we] do not ask. [We] ask and do not receive, because [we] ask wrongly, to spend it on our passions. Draw near to God and he will draw near to [us]" (James 4:2-3; 8). The problems of modern Christianity are not rooted in problems in God or problems in His teachings, but rather in the problems of modern Christians. So, what to do?

To defeat ignorance, Christians must learn not only what they believe, but why they believe it. To defeat shame, Christians must not allow themselves to fall victim to compromise. To defeat silence, Christians must speak their views and speak their hearts; a body whose heart belongs to God has lips that belong to God as well.

These are not quick answers; these are not simple applications. If it were easy, it wouldn't be a problem. I struggle with my faith. We all struggle with our faith. The best we can do is focus as much on God, His teachings, and His word as possible. With God as our filter, we'll be sure to live Christian lives the way He intended.

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Prof

Continued from Page 1

Galdos. His interest in Galdos even extended to his license plate, which displayed the author's last name.

Smith grew up on a farm in Anson, Texas, where his family raised cattle. After earning degrees from Baylor, Tulane and Brown University, Smith came to NCSU in 1972 and became an Associate Professor.

Before coming to NCSU, Smith had served as professor at Wake Forest College, Brown University and Vanderbilt University.

According to his obituary in *The News and Observer*, Smith relished the opportunity to make a tart-tongued statement on university policy. Smith, referred to as "Gib" by his friends, did not appreciate those who would sacrifice academics for the sake of athletics.

Avid in the university political scene, Smith became chairman of faculty senate in 1996.

Funeral services for Smith were held Saturday at 10 a.m. at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church. Married and divorced twice, Smith is survived by four children and five grandchildren. Memorials to Smith should be sent to Artpace in downtown Raleigh.

Matrix

Continued from Page 2

Directed by the Wachowski brothers (the ingeniously written "Bound"), "The Matrix" never quite gets too slow or too boring, and the brothers keep the action moving right along. They aren't really sending a new message here, but they definitely came up with a new way to convey that message. Even the acting here is not too bad. Fishburne and Weaving are definitely the best, with Weaving speaking in a monotone voice that is almost hypnotizing. Keanu, well, is Keanu, but at least he isn't annoying here.

"Devil's Advocate" had one or two Keanu moments (times where you want to smack him because he's doing such a bad acting job) but here there isn't really one. There is one part that is cheesy near the end, when Trinity is talking to Neo, but I won't go into that.

"The Matrix," while it has some flaws, is a good, intellectual, entertaining action film. It never really allows itself to become a dumbed down shoot em up, but it uses a mix of gunplay and kung fu to make some wild action sequences. If you can get past the fact that this movie hails Keanu Reeves as a savior, then this should definitely be checked out. All I have to say is here's to hoping the sequel is called "The Matrix Strikes Back."

Forum

Continued from Page 3

is the case, according to NATO, that Serbia violates the rights of Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. So, the question that arises here is why NATO chooses to protect some specific minorities and not others that have the same and more serious problems?

II) The Balkans are the powder keg of Europe. It is NOT the region that weapons can be easily used to solve problems. We must not forget that undesirable events that happened in the Balkans were the occasions for starting the first and the second World Wars. I hope that this time the war will not involve other countries.

III) There are other peaceful solutions to Kosovo. *War is not the way to solve problems.* This is a Balkan problem. Other neighboring countries like the European Union must take initiative in solving it by using political tools and exhausting all diplomatic means.

All bombing must now stop and immediate talks must start between Serbia and all other neighboring countries. Violence and war must be avoided at all costs because they mean, aside from other calamities, the loss of human lives that are invaluable and unique. We must not welcome the 21st century with yet another bloody war in Europe.

Spyros P. Stamatoopoulos
Graduate student
Department of Economics

Right to work

After reading the article on "human rights," it seems that Mr. LeBoeuf (Mr. L) does not really comprehend what human rights

are. The big dogs at the UN and the little puppy at NCSU (Mr. L) seem to think that they understand human rights, human nature and just about everything else. I disagree with Mr. L when he claims that "humans are creatures of self-fulfillment..." It is true that people seek their own goals and want what is best for themselves, but it is also true that there are some humans who are not driven by greed, power or even hunger. Some humans live for the benefit of others.

Also, I don't understand how Mr. L concludes that you have the right to force someone to hire you, if you accept that you have the right to work. To me, the right to work means you have a choice, a choice to work or not to work. I don't have a right when it comes to forcing someone to hire me. I can't choose to force anyone to hire me as it is not my right, but I still have the right to work if I choose.

Mr. L also states that "the government cannot manipulate free enterprise...without violating human rights." This means that when governments crack down on child prostitution in India, Thailand and child pornography in the United States (all these are examples of free enterprise), they are violating human rights. I don't know how Mr. L would feel about this sort of government intervention, but I completely support using government, a tool of society, to amend and control the negative elements that are so pervasive today. Lastly, I would like to knock on Mr. L's head and tell him that human rights and human nature encompass more than he will ever be able to know or understand.

S. Khurram Qadri
Senior, Natural Resources Management

Sharmila

Continued from Page 2

After her arrival, the book doesn't take long to progress from a look at one woman's personal conflict to a guided tour of India.

For those interested in India, this provides a tantalizing glimpse of the land and people. Through Sharmila's eyes, we see the sights, sounds and smells. In some ways, these aren't very different from American ways. At the airport, a woman trying to get through customs greases the palm of the customs agent. In other ways, though, the culture is truly foreign. For example the servants, rather than being friends and equals as they are in American life, are expected to act humbly. Sharmila doesn't need to know her husband — her parents have supposedly done a good job of finding a match for her.

And, one of the biggest differences is the caste system that today is supposedly outlawed in India but still strongly affects society. Sharmila, used to dealing with people in an egalitarian fashion, must learn to deal with this, and the way that women are treated. Although many American things are accepted in India such as credit cards, malls, workouts and some things are not, such as woman walking about unescorted.

Upon arriving in India, Sharmila takes countless tours with her chauffeur, Prem. This is both one of the strongest and weakest parts of the book. Sharmila develops a relationship with Prem, who is a "Dalit," or untouchable that dips into the deeper conflicts of India and her conflict with traditional Indian ways of life. And on these drives, the dialogue occasionally changes from work of fiction to a work of tour guide. The dialogue becomes stilted as characters say things like, "Those are ashok trees. You see a lot of them in the city. They're very popular because they're evergreen. Legend has it that they were planted back when India was evergreen," and "...a lovely resort, tucked away in a mountain valley, famous for a gorgeous waterfall..." and on and on, extolling the virtues of India.

But Kirchner does a good job of portraying India as a beautiful land, leaving less and impression of a plot and more on a tantalizing view of a fascinating place to visit. Sharmila, struggling to accept Indian culture with all its complicated rules that are usually ingrained from birth, does eventually compromise on American and Indian ways, leaving the thought that there is no right or wrong culture — just interesting blends of all.

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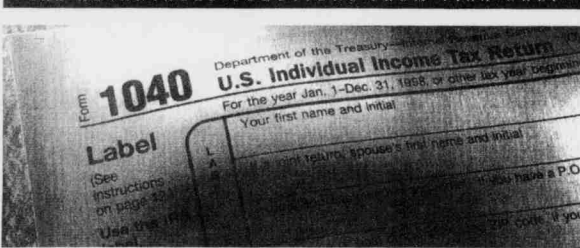
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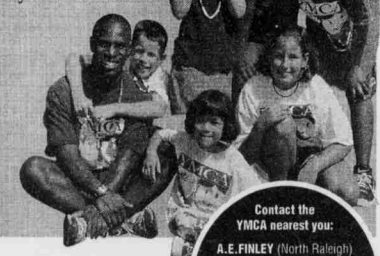
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Postell: Playing at the corners

◆ Matt Postell isn't picky about where he plays, just as long as he sees his name on the line-up card.

K. GAFFNEY
Sports Editor

After the Wolfpack's three-game Atlantic Coast Conference series with the Virginia Cavaliers, a new statistic made it into Assistant Sports Information Director Bruce Winkworth's game notes: the number of different line-ups used by Wolfpack head coach Elliot Avent.

By the end of last week, they could have also included a running total of the number of positions that Matt Postell has seen time at in that line-up.

"He's done everything that we've asked of him this season," said Avent of the senior. "Who knows, maybe one of these days he will pitch an inning for us."

Avent's comment about Postell appearing on the mound was in jest, but with the way Postell has been performing, it might not come as much of a surprise.

Opening day of the 1999 season, Postell's name wasn't in the starting line-up, in fact the six-foot-four-inch ball player saw just one-half an inning of action on the field, and didn't step to the plate once.

But of the 31 games that the Pack has played since, Postell's name has been found in the starting line-up in all but two.

Postell has seen time at first and third base for the Pack and with teammates like Todd DeMikes and Luis Figueroa finding their way back to those corner spots from injuries (DeMikes a minor shoulder injury sustained at Virginia and Figueroa an elbow injury that he has been fighting for most of the season), Postell has had a shot at the designated hitter position. Which is just fine with him.

"It doesn't matter where I play, I just like hitting," says Postell, who

has become accustomed to moving around. According to Postell, in his high school playing days at Hunter-Huss High School in Gastonia, his high school coach played him at more positions than Avent has.

"One day he'd pitch me, the next I was at short or third, I was always moving around," said Postell. "It gave me the experience I need, now it



In the first 33 games, Postell posted a .981 fielding percentage.

doesn't bother me."

Apparently not.

Despite the uncertainty of his on-field position, Postell's bat has been one of the Pack's most consistent this season.

Postell carried, unknowingly, an 11-game hitting streak into the Pack's final game with the Cavaliers, a loss.

In the Pack's Wednesday-night loss to UNC-Wilmington, Postell put the Pack on the board early, with a solo home run to lead off the top of the fifth inning. Postell's shot got out of

the park so fast, Wilmington's right-fielder didn't move, except to turn his head and watch the ball sail over the fence in right-centerfield.

Most recently, Postell was 5-11 this weekend against the UNC-Chapel Hill Tar Heels, helping the Pack improve to 5-7 in the conference.

Coming into the weekend, the senior was ranked in the top ten in individual batting in the conference, with a .385 batting average and an on-base percentage close to 500.

According to Postell, part of the secret to his success has been getting himself together off of the field. "Last year I didn't have as much time as I wanted to, to go to church and stuff like that, and it really bothered me. This year I've had a better opportunity to go to church and re-establish my relationship with God, and that has had a big influence on the way that I am playing now," Postell went on to say.

With all of the roles that he has played on the N.C. State squad this season, Postell has picked up another one.

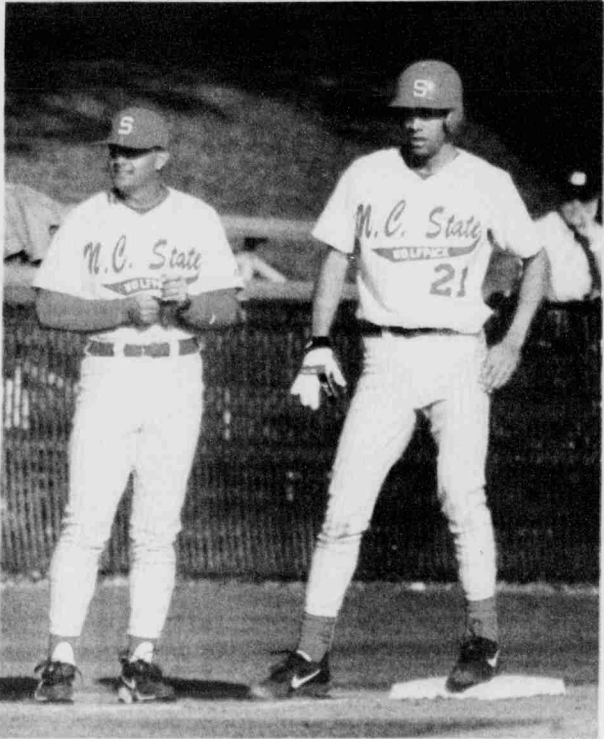
"My main goal is to have a spiritual effect on the team. Being that I am a Christian and most of these guys are not, I want them to see something a little different in me," said Postell. "Also, I just want to be able to help these guys out as much as I can, as a leader."

As for his success, he is taking it in stride, knowing full well that a few weeks on top can easily be followed by hard times.

"It takes a lot of work like Coach (Billy) Best says all of the time, you can put a lot of work into it, but you aren't expected to get anything out of it. It is just the way that the game has been treating me this year," said Postell. "I have been fortunate enough to have good pitches thrown to me where I could hit them."

And as far as a perfect senior season, there is one last thing that Postell is looking for.

"The only thing that we have to do now is win an ACC Championship."



Senior Matt Postell has been among the Pack's leaders at the plate, ranking in the top ten in the ACC in individual batting coming into this weekend. He is currently batting .370 through 34 games.

Jackets top Wolfpack

◆ Men's tennis is defeated, 5-2, by Georgia Tech in Atlanta, GA.

Sports Staff Report

ATLANTA - Georgia Tech sophomore Sergio Aguirre rallied from a match point deficit to down N.C. State's Devang Desai at No. 6 singles to clinch Georgia Tech's 5-2 win over the 24th-ranked Wolfpack in Atlantic Coast Conference men's tennis action Sunday afternoon at the Bill Moore Tennis Center.

Aguirre won 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 to clinch the team win for the Yellow Jackets (10-4 overall, 3-1 ACC).

"The key to the match was

Sergio fighting his back," said Tech Head Coach Kenny Thorne in a press release. "After dropping the first set, he evened the match in the second despite facing match point. He then finished things off pretty quickly in the third."

"I am very proud of the guys," Thorne went on to say. "We turned things around in doubles and swept all three matches which we haven't done much this year. In singles, we were a little sluggish coming off of yesterday, but we hung in there to get the win."

The Jackets opened the day by winning the doubles point, before No. 41 Benjamin Cassaigne topped 52nd-ranked Roberto

Bracone, 6-1, 6-2, and No. 1 singles to put Tech up 2-0. N.C. State's Keith Salmon then topped Tech's Romain Corraut, 7-5, 6-4, at No. 3 to close the gap to 2-1.

The Jackets and Wolfpack split the two remaining singles matches with State winning at No. 4 and Tech winning at No. 5.

Jeff Smith was the winner at No. 4, defeating Roberto Suarez of Georgia Tech in a close match, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(1).

The Wolfpack will be in action again this Tuesday, when State heads to Durham to take on the Duke Blue Devils.

Georgia Tech 5, No. 24 N.C. State 2

Doubles
1. Benjamin Cassaigne/Tim Bibby (GT) d. Eric Jackson/Devang Desai (NCSU) 8-6

2. Robert Wright/Roberto Suarez (GT) d. Roberto Bracone/Shawn Thomas (NCSU) 8-2

3. Matt Cozad/Sergio Aguirre (GT) d. Deval Desai/Keith Salmon (NCSU) 8-5

Singles

1. No. 41 Benjamin Cassaigne (GT) d. No. 52 Roberto Bracone (NCSU) 6-1, 6-2

2. Matt Cozad (GT) d. Eric Jackson (NCSU) 6-3, 7-6(4)

3. Keith Salmon (NCSU) d. Romain Corraut (GT) 7-5, 6-4

4. Jeff Smith (NCSU) d. Roberto Suarez (GT) 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(1)

5. Jason Jeong (GT) d. Shawn Thomas (NCSU) 7-6(1), 2-6, 6-4

6. Sergio Aguirre (GT) d. Devang Desai (NCSU) 4-6, 7-5, 6-1



The Wolfpack men's tennis team returns to action against the Duke Blue Devils on the road in Durham this Wednesday.

State rips ECU

◆ The women's tennis team defeated the Pirates 8-1 Monday.

Sports Staff Report

N.C. State, ranked 64th nationally, improved to 10-6 overall with an 8-1 win over East Carolina in women's tennis action Monday at the Wolfpack Tennis Complex.

The Pack swept all six of the singles matches in straight sets. At No. 2, junior captain Marissa Gildemeister of Durham, N.C., improved to a team-best 11-2 record with a 6-4, 6-1 win over ECU's Carolina Torres. Nena Bonacic, a senior from Croatia, earned a 6-3, 6-3 win at No. 1 singles for State.

The Pirates lone win was at No. 1 doubles, where Hrushida Kamthe and Asa Elbring defeated Francine Barragan and Pilar Piana 8-6.

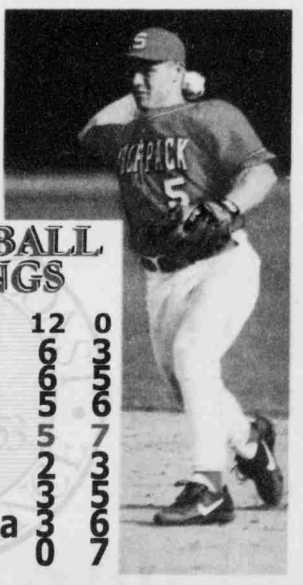
The Wolfpack (10-5, 0-4) return to action on April 7 when they host rival North Carolina at 2:00 in the final home match of the season for the Pack. East Carolina fell to 9-3, 1-0 on the year.

Two wins last weekend over the UNC-Chapel Hill Tar Heels propelled the Pack into fifth place in the Atlantic Coast Conference baseball standings. Of the four conference series that the Pack has yet to play in the 1999 season, only Wake Forest is ranked higher than N.C. State. The Pack lights up Doak field on Wednesday against UNC-Wilmington and then heads south this weekend for a three-game set with the University of Miami Hurricanes.

ACC BASEBALL STANDINGS

Florida State	12	0
Georgia Tech	6	3
Wake Forest	6	5
Virginia	5	6
N.C. State	5	7
Clemson	5	3
Maryland	2	3
North Carolina	3	0
Duke	3	0

Kevin Korman, 6-99



Club/Rec/IM Notes

Sports Staff Report

Intramurals

For all golfers, Men's and Women's Open Golf registration is open and will continue through Wednesday, April 7, in the intramural-recreational sports office, 1000 Carmichael Gymnasium.

Club Sports

The baseball club continued its perfect season at 8-0 by sweeping a double header against UNC-Greensboro 11-1 and 5-2 and defeating UNC-Chapel Hill 14-2.

The men's club volleyball team is travelling to a national tournament in Maryland on April 7. The team beat Duke 15-10, 15-8 in the semi-finals of its conference tournament, and Virginia Tech 15-5, 15-6 in the finals. Ryan McGuire was named conference MVP for the regular season.

Men's Rugby will host Fairmont State on Saturday, April 10 at 1 p.m. on Lower Miller Field.

The Women's club soccer team beat Duke on March 27, 3-1. Kristy Ghiloni scored twice, one off a penalty kick, and the other was assisted by Danielle Stanfield. Kelly Parker scored once, and the goal was assisted by Natalie Montali.

The team tied UNC-Wilmington the next day 1-1. Ghiloni will be in the only goal. The team will be in

Clemson playing in the 5th annual Clemson shindig. The team will play UNC-W, Duke and Clemson.

Informal recreation/fitness

For all those excited about the beginning of the big league baseball season, Wiffleball tournament registration continues through Wednesday, April 14 in 1000 Carmichael Gymnasium.

A beginning Yoga Session will be held Thursday, April 8 from 5:15-6:30 p.m., Room 1211, Carmichael Gymnasium. Participants will continue learning poses, breathing techniques, and relaxation techniques.

A Nutrition Workshop: "Cooking Demonstration," will be held Thursday, April 8 from 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Case Dining Hall. Participants should meet at the intramural-recreational sports office. Room 1000, Carmichael Gymnasium. Participants will get a cooking demonstration on low fat cooking techniques and ideas for summer cookouts.

There is a home run derby on Friday, April 9 from 5:15-6:30 p.m., on Lower Miller Field. Sign in with the supervisor at the field.

Finally, racquetball will be held on Saturday, April 10 from 10:00-11:30 a.m., courts W12, W15, Carmichael Gymnasium. Anyone wanting to test their skills with the racquet should sign in with the supervisor at Court W12.