

STATE AND NATIONAL

# Scientists hope to create utopian community

By Adrienne Parker  
Staff Writer

It's not Utopia, but a group of scientists, their families and friends feel their attempt to form a community away from the hustle and bustle of the city could be the next best thing.

"We wanted a place where we could escape the insanity of the everyday world," said Tom Grizzle, a shareholder in the Potluck Nonprofit Corporation.

The idea came about three years ago as four couples sat in a hot tub in Nags Head. The couples decided they wanted

to move away from the city and live together in an old-fashioned community, Grizzle said.

When they returned to the Research Triangle, the couples placed an advertisement to try to find suitable land in the Agricultural Review magazine. The group found 147 acres for sale on the fringes of Person County, Grizzle said.

One family, the Bennetts, decided to involve N.C. State University architectural students in the design process.

NCSU sophomores, juniors and seniors, who are enrolled in a studio architectural course, have spent the semester

designing the community and a cottage for the Bennetts.

The students drew blueprints for the community using plans for co-housing, detached housing and a combination of both features, said Teri Canada, an NCSU sophomore from Greensboro.

Members of the Potluck community decided to use a plan in which each group lived in a separate cottage, said Angela Pridgen, an NCSU junior from Rocky Mount.

"Some (members) at the beginning were excited about co-housing," Pridgen said. "They tried to make it work, but

they couldn't."

Pridgen said there were many advantages to co-housing. With co-housing, the families could generate power from one source. Without co-housing, they will have to string electricity from house to house, build individual well systems and rebuild the road, she said.

Students also competed in designing a home for Potluck members Tim and Mary Bennett and their three children.

Pridgen said the Bennetts gave the class a basic floor plan: a bedroom, a kitchen and a living space downstairs and a loft for the three children upstairs. The Bennetts will live in the house for about a year and a half until a larger house is built, Pridgen said. Afterward, the cottage probably will be used as a guest house, she said.

Canada's design was chosen for the cottage. "I think it was chosen because it is very simple," Canada said.

The student designers also were concerned with the environment. Canada said the students' plans included ideas for passive solar heating and the use of recyclable materials such as windows and doors from old buildings.

Grizzle, who currently is building a "love shack" as a weekend getaway for himself and his wife, said he bought a tin roof from a chicken coop in South Carolina for the roof of the cabin.

The group, which consists of several

botanists and scientists who work with endangered species, is concerned with the environmental safety of their community, Grizzle said.

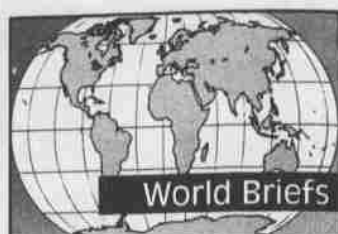
When members were organizing the project, they wrote a consensus document outlining the community by-laws. They also organized restrictive covenants, which Grizzle described as the "do's and don'ts" of living on the land.

The covenants include rules against the use of pesticides that do not degrade in one year. Such pesticides eventually pollute the water system, Grizzle said. There are also rules on how to use the area's creek bed.

All decisions about the community are made according to a consensus vote.

"One big thing I like (about Potluck community) is that it does provide a life for my daughter with a large number of adults who will be there for a long time," Grizzle said. "If one was living in a traditional American lifestyle, you have your parents, but outside that, adults tend to come and go." Grizzle added that he would enjoy the group's fellowship and being outdoors.

Many of the students working on the project said they thought the community was an interesting idea. "It's kind of like the '50s or '60s when you know your neighbor and help each other out," Pridgen said. "They are trying to recapture the essence."



## Swiss reject European free trade zone plan

BERN, Switzerland — Swiss voters on Sunday rejected a proposal to strengthen ties with Europe by joining a huge free trade zone on the continent.

A majority of the 23 cantons, or states, voted against the government's proposal, according to early returns.

It appeared that the plan also would fail to win a popular majority.

The Swiss were deeply divided in the campaign before the referendum, with the debate centering on the effects on the country's independence and future.

According to a treaty signed last May, the European Economic Area would be created by merging the 12-nation European Community with the smaller, seven-nation European Free Trade Association, of which Switzerland is a member. The result would be a massive free-trade zone from Iceland to Greece.

## Ax-wielding Hindus destroy ancient mosque

AYODHYA, India — Thousands of Hindu extremists wielding pickaxes and crowbars on Sunday razed a mosque that had stood for 430 years on the site where they claim a main Hindu deity was born.

Scores of people were injured by the falling debris at the site, which was swarming with tens of thousands of young and old Hindu men.

"Now the Muslims can get out of India," shouted the militants as the mosque came crashing down. The end came a little less than six hours after thousands of people stormed the site, overrunning weakly guarded police barricades.

In destroying the mosque, the Hindus defied a Supreme Court order and their own leaders' instructions.

In a rare statement, President Shankar Dayal Sharma condemned the destruction.

## British man could be flogged in Saudi Arabia

LONDON — A British hospital manager working in Saudi Arabia has been sentenced to 50 lashes for swearing at his staff, the Foreign Office says.

David Brown, 32, is appealing the sentence. He and his family in Britain have requested that no detailed publicity be given to the case.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper reported that Brown swore at Saudi employees after an argument at the British-run King Khaled National Guard Hospital. He was arrested by the religious police and appeared before a religious court.

The flogging is likely to be carried out in public with a bamboo cane, the paper said.

—The Associated Press

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# Bentsen to be tapped for Treasury position

The Associated Press  
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen has been informed that he is President-elect Clinton's top choice for treasury secretary, sources said Saturday, with a formal offer of the Cabinet post likely to come next week.

New York investment banker Roger

Altman, a Treasury Department official in the Carter administration, is the top choice to serve as Bentsen's deputy, one of the sources said.

This source, familiar with the discussions on building Clinton's economic team, said Harvard professor Robert Reich, Clinton's senior transition economic adviser, was likely to land as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Robert Rubin, a co-chairman of Goldman Sachs and a prominent Democratic fund-raiser, is the favorite to lead a new Economic Security Council, this source said. "It won't be on paper until the middle of the week, but that's the way it looks now," this source said.

"You'll know next week," was all Clinton would say Saturday when asked about published reports that Bentsen was his treasury pick. "I never discuss appointments 'til I make them."

But two sources familiar with the treasury search said Bentsen was Clinton's choice and had been informed of that late last week. Both spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bentsen spokesman Jack DeVore said late Friday that no formal offer had been tendered to Bentsen, the Senate Finance Committee chairman who was the Democratic vice presidential nominee in 1988.

Bentsen declined comment Saturday on speculation that he had been offered the treasury secretary's post.

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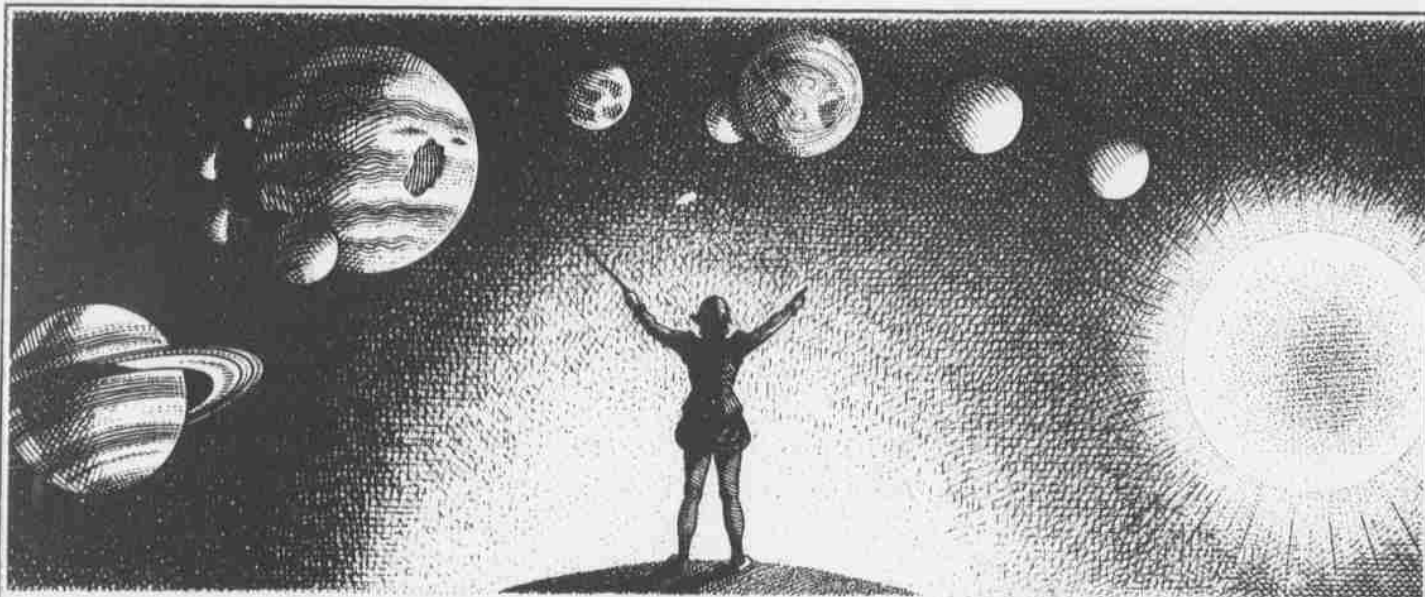
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