



4.  **Morgan's Last Stand**
Richard Morgan says
goodbye and Humphrey
has a Spring fling.

6.  **Spotlight on...**
"The Mummy Returns,"
"Driven," "Shrek" and
"Town and Country,"
plus student art in A&E.

12.  **Walking the plank**
Baseball duels with
Pirates, lacross checks
in and Steve rants... in
Sports.

Wednesday
May 2, 2001

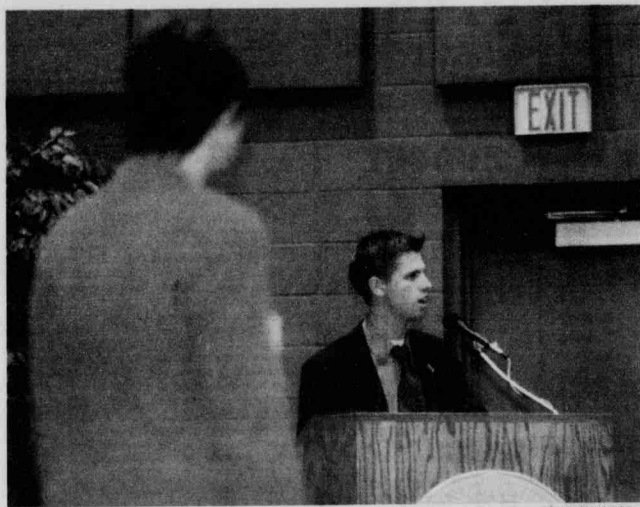
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NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

	Today	Hi 82
		Lo 59
	Tomorrow	Hi 84
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Budget reduction will cut into 'heart of the university'



Chancellor Fox and Andrew Payne addressed members of the N.C. State community Tuesday night.

◆ **Chancellor Marye Anne Fox discussed the proposed UNC System budget cuts with members of the N.C. State community at Tuesday night's town hall meeting**

Andrew Buchert
News Editor

Members of the N.C. State community gathered in the Witherspoon Student Center Campus Cinema Tuesday night to discuss student response to the N.C. General Assembly's proposal to implement a \$125 million UNC System budget reduction over the next two fiscal years.

"Financial aid, faculty positions, everything is at stake here," UNC Association of Student Governments President Andrew Payne told the audience of students, faculty and staff. "The budget cut will identify smaller schools and wipe them out."

"We shouldn't penalize students for where they go to school," he said.

The town hall meeting was held in preparation for today's March on the Capitol, which will begin at the NCSU

Bell Tower at 11 a.m. Participants will march down Hillsborough St. to the Capitol in downtown Raleigh to protest the budget cut.

"Schools from all over the state will be at the march," said Payne.

"Remember that we are all in this together," said NCSU Student Body President Darryl Willie.

Payne said that aside from fighting the proposed budget cut, which would amount to an approximate seven to 10 percent reduction in the state appropriation to NCSU, students are also battling the timing of the legislation.

"We have to mobilize now because we are not going to be here when [the General Assembly] votes," said Payne. "We are fighting the cuts and the time."

"When constituents aren't around to protest, that is when the legislature passes the bill," he said.

NCSU Chancellor Marye Anne Fox explained at Tuesday night's town hall meeting that the proposed UNC System budget reduction could result in significant damage to both the university and the entire UNC System. She said that the cut could lead to the loss of 1,800 positions system-wide.

See BUDGET, Page 2



Symposium highlights undergraduate research



Mary Dowd, Nancy Wooten and Julie Mayberry look on as English professor Tim McLaurin explains the beauty of snakes.

◆ **N.C. State's 10th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium was held at the McKimmon Center last month.**

William Stufflebeam
Staff Reporter

More than 120 poster and oral presentations were presented at N.C. State's 10th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium held at the McKimmon Center on April 19.

The symposium is intended to promote faculty-supervised research by undergraduate students at NCSU, said Matthew Zingraff, the 2000-01 chair of the UGRS committee.

"The objectives of the symposium are to demonstrate the importance of research in the undergraduate experience, to recognize the contributions made by NCSU undergraduates to research and to stimulate

research among the next generation of research scholars," he said.

Undergraduate students from many different areas of NCSU put together presentations of research work that they have done to present at the symposium. Each presentation is grouped into one of four categories depending upon the nature of the research.

The categories are biological sciences, engineering and technology, physical and mathematical sciences and humanities and social sciences (which also includes management and design).

The first three categories have poster sessions, while the humanities and social sciences category has oral presentations. Each category has its own panel of judges that rate the presentations.

"Judges for each division assess the quality of each pres-

entation with respect to research hypotheses and questions, research design, analyses, findings, organization and clarity of presentation, figures and graphics," said Zingraff.

"All in all, student research is subject to the same basic and accepted standards for judging any other level of scientific inquiry."

Some students work alone, while others work in groups, but

all are shooting for the same goal, to be judged as one of the winners. If they do end up winning, they receive a check for \$200 and a certificate of recognition, both of which are awarded by Sigma Xi at the Scientific Research Society annual banquet.

The authors of the winning presentations are also cited at

See RESEARCH, Page 2

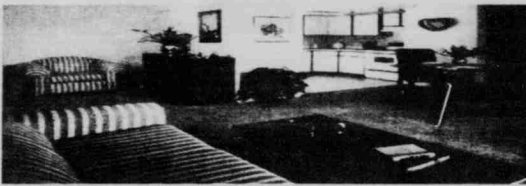
Correction

In Tuesday's news section, Technician reported that "one N.C. House bill has been introduced that would cut state-appropriated financial aid to all UNC institutions except N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill" ("NCSU state student aid in danger," Tuesday, May 1).

The bill in question, House Bill 1392, actually would, if passed, cut off state-appropriated financial aid to NCSU and UNC-CH, as the two schools are the only research institutions in the UNC System.

Technician regrets any inconvenience created by this factual error, which was not the fault of the reporter.

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News
Senior Corner

◆ **Graduating? Don't really know what to do but just want to get out of here? Check the Senior Corner for more information.**

Cara Froedge

Assistant News Editor

The Raleigh Entertainment and Sports Arena will be the site for the 2001 N.C. State Spring Commencement. Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on May 19, the NCSU British Brass Band, conducted by John Entri, will play until 9 a.m., when the graduation exercises begin.

At 1:30 the college and departmental exercises will start.

The graduation exercises will include speakers Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, the Reverend Julie Denny Hughes, Harm de Blij, Senior Class President Dock Winston and student speaker Henry Ward.

Ward is a graduating senior majoring in computer engineering. He applied and was chosen by the graduation committee to

speak to fellow graduates at the university-wide ceremony.

"Undergraduates sometimes think that graduation is more focused on graduate students receiving Ph.D.'s," said Ward. "I want to give graduation an undergraduate focus [in my speech] by highlighting the undergraduate experience."

Ward said this speech, entitled "Wolfpack Spirit," will address the "caring attitude that I have come to notice in all of the people at NCSU. It will focus on our sense of community and present a challenge of service to others," he said.

"Speaking at graduation will give me a chance to really bring to light the experiences that have unified us as a class," said Ward. "There are things that did not happen to faculty or students in other levels, but that unify us because we experienced them and lived them."

After graduating, Ward plans to complete an accelerated master's degree in computer networking at NCSU before applying

for a position in the corporate sector.

The Grains of Time, an a cappella group from NCSU, will also perform.

Beginning Thursday, May 3 at the lower level of the NCSU Bookstore, students may pick up their caps and gowns. The bookstore will be open for distribution as follows:

- * Thursday-Friday, May 3-4, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- * Monday-Friday, May 7-11, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- * Monday-Friday, May 14-18, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- * Saturday May 5 & May 12, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The gift that graduating students will give to the university this year is a new fountain to be put in the Mary Yarborough Court, in addition to providing new perennials.

C h e c k www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/reg_recor ds/grad_inf.htm for more information concerning graduation. Questions can be sent to graduation@ncsu.edu.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 2

including 700 faculty positions. "We don't know if the budget cuts will be a flesh wound, or if they will hit some vital organs," she said. "The UNC System is the economic drive of North Carolina."

To illustrate the potential effects of the budget reduction on NCSU, Fox listed all of the university programs and services that would be cut back if the university were faced with the proposed budget reduction.

She said that after these entities, including student services, library resources, student support and distance education, had

been cut, faculty and staff positions would still need to be cut in order to meet the approximate seven to 10 percent reduction in state appropriations.

"This is not showcasting," she said. "These are severe cuts into the heart of the university."

NCSU Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Tom Stafford explained that the cuts in student services would primarily affect the Office of Financial Aid and Registration and Records.

In response to a student's question concerning the possibility of a tuition increase in order to offset the state's budget deficit and as an alternative to the proposed UNC System budget reduction, Fox said that the tuition increase would

amount to more than \$1,000 per student.

"I vigorously oppose an increase in tuition, but if the budget cut is placed solely on the backs of the students, it will be \$1,500 per student," she said.

Fox said that she will be sending a letter to the families of NCSU students to notify them of the gravity of the General Assembly's proposed UNC System budget reduction.

"I can tell you that I believe that education, including K-12 schools, community colleges and universities, should be the last thing to be cut," said Fox. "My hope is that we will not have to face this cut."

Avren Jackson contributed to this story.

RESEARCH

Continued from Page 1

the University Honors Convocation.

There is not a higher level competition to which the winning presentations automatically advance, but according to the UGRS Web site, the winners are

"strongly encouraged to offer their research papers in other appropriate forums."

Zingraff explained that Sigma Xi will be holding a regional undergraduate research symposium next November, and the society has already been given a full list of the participants in the UGRS.

"They passed out flyers at our event announcing their event, as

well," he said.

Thirteen different presentations received cash awards from this year's symposium. The list of winners and additional information about the UGRS can be found on the symposium's Web site at <http://www.ncsu.edu/ugrs>.

The 11th annual UGRS will be held on April 18, 2002.

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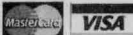


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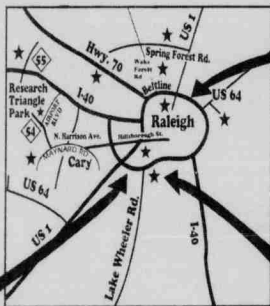
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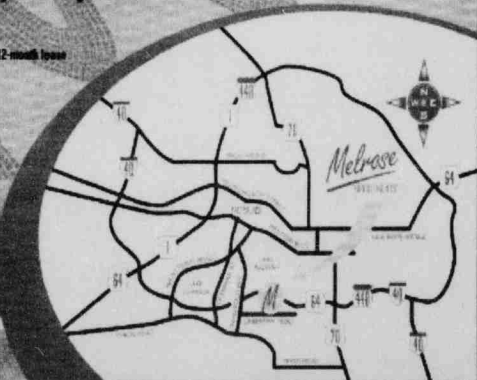
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FORUM

Continued from Page 4

environment with reversed priorities. Turlington Hall was recently placed under new management. Although the RA staff in our hall has remained the same for the past two years, a new Resident Director was commissioned over the summer of 2000. I returned to an extremely different Turlington lifestyle. For starters, the only study lounge in our building was converted to the RD's personal office, even though another smaller office was completely sufficient for that purpose in past years. Not one time was the opinion of any resident requested or acknowledged. This decision has left our hall with no area that is conducive to studying. It is obvious that this "director" has no regard for my academic needs. Not once has remorse been shown or an apology been offered. This direction is appalling to the ideals this institution proclaims it instills. During this academic year alone, I have signed three petitions, two requesting that the study lounge be restored, another for soap-dispensing facilities in the bathrooms. Not one of these petitions has been addressed to date. Another interesting fact is the social atmosphere that is created by the RD at hall-wide activities. There have been incidents that suggest racial prejudices between the RD and a staff member. This has also raised several concerns throughout my hall. In recent months, University Housing has had the audacity to pummel us with "satisfaction surveys," to make it seem like they really care what we think. If they had any concern for our personal needs, they could have the RD come down to my hall, and asked me personally. My personal opinion has never been requested in-person or at Hall Council meetings or other programs; in fact, the Director has never once attended any RA program that I've been at. If asked, I'd tell him that my academic needs are not met here, that I am not comfortable with his leadership in my hall. Also, my hall mates and I deserve a refund.

These surveys should contain an essay question that asks, "Is University Housing meeting your expectations, please list why or why not?" I would have to pull my pencil out for that one. Since Turlington Hall has remained as an all-male dormitory for decades, the "Distinguished Gentlemen" theme has lingered. How can a hall maintain this standard of excellence when the leadership does not exemplify this? How can an organization continue to overlook the needs of all residents by endorsing unprofessional ideals? For as much money as my student loans invest into my housing experience, I would hope that University Housing could hire staff members who truly cared about personal and academic interests. Until the quality of life in this hall is returned to the standard that it was in previous years, I deter any residents from ruining their on-campus experience. After having attempted to maintain the spirit of this hall for years, I think it is pitiful that our hall dynamic is smothered by the inactivity and incompetence of a sub-standard Director. I will be relocating out of housing this semester due to a number of recent amendments to housing policies. However, if there is any impression that I would like to leave on University Housing, it is that an increase in rent should be justified with an increase in living, and management, standards. On the University housing website, one may view the abbreviated duties of the RD, these include: "Assess the needs of the residents ... Act as a resource for residents ... Attend student activities ... Make efforts to know residents and maintain a higher level of visibility." None of these duties have been fulfilled in our hall this year. I would like to ask University Housing to complete a survey of my own: Do you feel that you are meeting the needs of the residents on campus? Do you feel confident that the residents are pleased with their living environment? Do you feel confident with your Residence Directors (specifically of Turlington Hall)?

D. Mathews (and other Turlington Residents) Senior Engineering



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The Opinion Page is currently hiring for the Fall 2001 semester!

We're looking for a wide variety of people to fill columnist positions in the coming school year. Technician would love to have as many campus interests represented as possible. Remember, if you want your voice heard, you need to speak up!

Email Opinion Editor Greg Volk at oped1@hotmail.com for more information.

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It takes balls, y'all



Decker Ngongang

STAFF COLUMNIST

It takes testicular fortitude to write opinion pieces every week. This is one of my last of this semester, and I want to let you know I have tried. I wanted to mix knowledge with understanding mixed with some humor. I may have or may not have succeeded, but I tried. I want to let you know I will never be a perfect writer or even be able to cover everything you guys want to hear about. I think that as long as I try to be the best I can, that I will inch closer and closer along the way.

Today I want to express my love for this school, and my belief that it is like no other in the world. I am thankful for many things that have happened to the since enrolling last year. I today want to highlight the bad things that have happened, for they have made much more of who I currently am. I want to say thanks to the young man who called me a Nigger last year while walking to Subway. He, in his own comment, opened my eyes to ignorance I had not been aware of before. I learned that everyone doesn't like me, and that there are still people who think I, as a black man, don't deserve the education I am receiving.

On the flip side, I learned how ignorant I was, that I perpetuated many of the stereotypes I claim oppress me. I learned through that whole ordeal that college would prove to be a test to see if I had the testicular fortitude to get through life. Whoever the Nigger caller is, he doesn't even know how much I needed that.

I also want to thank the dining hall for being the first of my many victims last year through my forum letters to Technician. I learned to verbalize my aggression and oppression into a medium that proved more powerful than anything I could physically do to the dining hall. My semi-activist zeal spread to the other issues on campus; including safety, elevators, and other school related problems. I learned more from this situation

also, that schools are part education and part public relations machines. After writing about the lack of security presence and lights on campus, I was asked to meet with an official from public safety who cared more about the way in which my article was worded instead of how vulnerable students are walking through the campus at night. I learned that my voice alone means little but we, together, put the fear of God in them.

Why? We pay the money and we are the ones who sell this school year round. I value getting rejected by a girl. I tried my best, but in the end came up short. One thing I think guys don't get is that we aren't really competing for these ladies. It took me competing for this girl to realize that, and now she is a good friend. Just because a girl doesn't like me, instead of another guy, doesn't mean she doesn't care for regular guys. Guys, we will all be on the other side one day when the next guy gets ditched for us, and I figure I wouldn't want him being pissed at me. We need to mature on this until the next dime crosses our path.

Earlier in the year I wrote an article about girls being players; those who didn't understand what I meant blasted me. I love the ladies, all of them, and I am sure you ladies love us. It all revolves around respect, and I think I have gained a newfound respect for men and the fairest sex.

Lastly, I thank the NC General Assembly for proposing the budget cuts. I don't favor them - hell, I hate them. But this school has never united for the will of a whole like we have this week. Looking at how Student Government has combined with various organizations to fight this is miraculous. We have grown tenfold in just five days, and I hope this continues, for if they pass the budget cuts, we will all need to support one another.

This is way bigger than we are, but we have taken on the Goliath and together we can have that rock of unity at the capital. I am blessed to be alive, be learning, and to be Decker. I appreciate your support.

Email Decker if you can give him a ride back from the march or just want to chat at dmgonga@unity.ncsu.edu.



Ryan Hill

Features Editor

Flash-forward to present day. The first remake of "The Mummy" made over \$400 million worldwide and made star Brendan Fraser a hot commodity. Sommers mixed campiness, fun and jaw-dropping special effects to make a film worthy enough to carve its own niche while competing against "The Matrix" and "The Phantom Menace."

Now expectations are running high for "The Mummy

Pharaoh's Army

WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT UNIVERSAL PICTURES WAS DOING A REMAKE OF THE HORROR CLASSIC "THE MUMMY," GROANS COULD BE HEARD THROUGHOUT THE LAND. WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT STEPHEN SOMMERS, WHO'S BIGGEST HIT UNTIL THEN WAS A LIVE-ACTION VERSION OF "THE JUNGLE BOOK" AND WHO WAS FRESH OFF THE STING OF "DEEP RISING," THOSE GROANS TURNED INTO REPULSION.

Returns," which returns all of the original stars (Fraser, his love interest Rachel Weisz, Arnold Vosloo, John Hannah and Oded Fehr) plus a new one: The Rock as the Scorpion King. Expectations may be high, but '95 percent of the pressure always comes from myself," Sommers said. "There's more pressure because I have all my friends in the movie, so I was like, oh man, I don't want to screw this up. We all said let's not do a lame-ass sequel."

To help alleviate the pressure, Sommers decided to keep things exactly as they were, only make them bigger. "A lot of sequels make the mistake of changing tone dramatically, so many sequels are dark and edgy and people go 'Oh this isn't what I

wanted to see,'" Sommers said. Arnold Vosloo, who plays the Mummy, feels that "the reason this movie works on such a cool level is that there is a mix of incredible special effects and a retention of humanity."

"Those special effects come at a cost to the actors," The only way to approach it is to give it a meaning, make it your own," said Oded Fehr, who plays Ardeh Bay. "You try to make it something real to you. You have to be precise in your reactions because you're fighting a really silly-looking guy in a blue suit." Vosloo agrees that doing special effects work is difficult. "There are just some days where it does take so long and there's a point where you wanna tune out but you can't," he said.

To keep the effects from draining out the humanity, Sommers cast newcomer Freddie Boath as Rick (Fraser) and Evie's (Weisz) son. "The special effects element is bigger," co-star Hannah said. But "the kid gives the film a more emotional core."

Throw in all of these elements and you have a recipe for a big summer blockbuster. Sommers went the extra mile when he cast The Rock, then an unknown to most of the cast and crew.

To fill the role of the Scorpion King, Sommers needed a "big badass guy." The Rock came into play when "Joanna Colbert (the casting director) called me up and said I want you to meet this guy The Rock, and I found him to be funny and charming

and smart," Sommers said.

Making the transition from the WWF to the big-screen was an easy one for The Rock. "I think what helped the transition was just being involved in the WWF industry," The Rock said. "I feel like I was wise enough to know I needed good people around me."

There were also obvious differences to the two mediums that provided unique challenges for The Rock. "The noticeable difference is the live audience," The Rock said. "Everything is live reactions and it's only one take as opposed to performing for a director and the grips. It's take after take after take, and it's many hours of work."

The change from WWF superstar to action films will "eventually

happen" for The Rock, but for now the wrestling world suits him fine.

"The ties to the WWF will always be there, because that's where The Rock was created," The Rock said. There's nothing better than performing in front of a live audience."

Mixing familiar elements with new ones re-creates the fun of the first "Mummy" while at the same time making "The Mummy Returns" a new experience unto itself.

"The Mummy Returns" opens nationwide on Friday, May 4.

IMAGE (TOP) FROM UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IMAGE (LEFT) OF A SCARAB BEETLE AMULET

Driving Mr. Stallone

Zack Smith
 Senior Staff Writer

Sylvester Stallone, a young character actor, was sick of being cast as thugs and toughs 25 years ago and wrote a script for himself called "Rocky." It was a huge critical and popular hit, and Stallone went on to a somewhat flaky career of writing and acting, never quite recapturing the flavor of the original "Rocky" film (except, of course, in that film's four sequels).

Stallone's track record is fairly amazing for someone considered a major Hollywood star; he's had more flops than almost any other major motion picture star still making movies, as made evident by the likes of "Cobra," "Assassins," "Over the Top," "Judge Dredd," "Daylight," "The Specialist," "Paradise Alley" and "Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot."

Not to mention all the films that have been all but forgotten by the general public, including "Rhinestone," "L.A. 2," "Oscar," "Lock Up," come to think of it, has Stallone ever made a good movie that didn't have "Rocky" or "Rambo" in the title?

Well, yes. 1993's "CrimINAL MINDS," which Stallone also wrote, was a pretty entertaining piece of summer action fun. It was also Stallone's only hit in the last decade, which is probably why Stallone has taken up the pen again and re-teamed with "CrimINAL MINDS" director Renny Harlin for his latest effort, "Driven."

"Driven" casts Stallone in a smaller-than-usual part as Joe Tanno, the mentor-figure to a group of young race-car drivers. Most prominent among these drivers is young Beck look-alike Jimmy Blye, played by "Remember the Titans" star Kip Pardue (love that name).



Driven

★★

Director:

Renny Harlin

Starring:

Sylvester Stallone

Kip Pardue

Jimmy has a lot of skill on the track and is in line to win the world championship, but damn it all, he just can't get his head together on the track. So Carl Henry (Burt Reynolds), the team's owner, calls in Joe to get Jimmy straight so he can beat the current champion, Beau Brandenberg (Grant Tinker, Van Damme look-alike Di Schwegler).

Tensions are made even thicker by a love triangle between Brandenberg, Jimmy, and Brandenberg's long-suffering girlfriend Sophia Simone (misd and soon-to-be "Planet of the Apes" star Estella Warren).

Back up for just a moment. The major characters in this film are named "Joe Tanno," "Jimmy Blye," "Carl Henry," "Beau Brandenberg," "Sophia Simone" and another character named "Memo Moreno." So that's about six characters, three of which have alliterating names. The other three are referred to by both names throughout most of the

picture, i.e. "Carl Henry's going to have you fired," "Jimmy Blye can't do it," "Joe Tanno's a has-been" and so forth. This should give you an idea of the kind of film "Driven" is, not to mention the kind of writer Stallone is.

There's nothing but one cliché after another in "Driven," and Harlin's rapid-fire editing doesn't help one bit either's a cut pretty much every time a character so much as speaks a word. Most of the major sequences in the film will strain viewers' suspension of disbelief to the breaking point—one sequence, where Jimmy steals a prototype car and takes it on a 195 mph joy ride through Chicago with Joe in hot pursuit is fun to watch, but completely improbable.

Some of the acting is passable (Robert Sean Leonard is a standout in the role of Jimmy's sleazy, but likable manager/brother), but for the most part, there is little to the film except cars and explosions.

Which, ironically enough, is what redeems "Driven"—the race sequences. There are some truly impressive special effects at work in the crash scenes, including a vertigo-inducive POV shot from an upside-down race car about to crash into a track.

Many of these scenes work very well and give "Driven" an energy and excitement the rest of the film lacks. Harlin is a very good technical director and is at his best when in an action sequence—he gives the scenes a hyper-kinetic, unapproachable quality that serves him well in films like "Deep Blue Sea" and "The Long Kiss Goodnight," which have a campy, goitfully enjoyable quality to them. "Driven" is a film that works when it's racing along at full speed. It just runs into trouble whenever it goes off the track.

RACE: JOHN WARDEN/BOCA/95

Whenever people go to the movies, the title of a film can play a very large part as to whether or not they see that movie. For example, a film with a good title like "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" or "Along Came a Spider" has a higher chance of being seen than a film with a really bad title like "Monkeybone" or "10 Things I Hate About You." By now it's obvious that "Town and Country" falls into the second of these categories and commits another cardinal sin: the name has absolutely nothing to do with this movie. Save a few long (and extremely long) bird's-eye shots of Los Angeles (Town) and Sun Valley (Country), there is no reference made to it or explanation for it.

Considering that this film is about little more than friendships and adultery, the title was a little baffling. But as the film was reaching its final act, it was all beginning to make sense. "Town" and "Country" are two completely different things, as are the two halves of this movie. The first half consists almost totally of Porter (Warren Beatty) and Griffin (Garry Shandling) sneaking around with whoever they please trying not to get caught by their wives. Ellie (Diane Keaton) and Mona (Goldie Hawn), respectively. The second half takes place after they've both been busted, and this is when they start introducing new, likable characters that do much more for the film than its leads.

These two parts are so differ-



Town & Country

★★

Director:
Peter Chelsom
Starring:
Warren Beatty
Goldie Hawn

ent that it would be nice to give them two separate ratings, simply because one is likable and funny while the other is not.

The first half (which we'll call "Town," rating: ★) is a comedy that puts to the test "open eye syndrome." This takes place when one is seeing something

so awkward and bad that it's actually getting harder to close the eyes.

As the film begins, there are many attempts at humor and all of them miss. Beatty and Shandling have horrible line delivery, the sight gags aren't funny at all and the emphasis is

on and on until my eyes were blurring and beginning to dry out from being open far too long.

Then in one scene, the movie finally breaks the ice. It gets some big laughs, gives the audience's eyes a chance to rehydrate, and then the two men

Two sides to every story



never in the right place to get a laugh. The only person that is funny is Goldie Hawn, who is barely given any screen time until much later in the film, and so for 45 minutes this drags

head off to Sun Valley for some time away from it all, leading into the second half (we'll call it "Country," rating: ***).

The mountains are loaded with hilarious characters, from Jenna Elfman as a store clerk that Porter spends Halloween with to Charlton Heston (who is explosively hilarious here) as the crazy father to the crazy woman (Andie McDowell) that Porter begins to get involved with. Here the scenes are funny, the dialogue is sharp and fast, the predictability (that plagued the first half) is gone and everything that was going wrong in the first part is fixed here.

The last 15 minutes of the

movie are still jumpy, and even with the second half scoring big it still doesn't work. Beatty and Shandling stay dead throughout the entire film and the females are left to make up for them by earning all of the laughs.

With any movie there are on two things you remember the most about the movie, those parts that were simply the funniest or scariest. With "Town and Country," the most memorable and funny scenes go to Charlton Heston and when he's the funniest person in an enormous cast of people that call themselves comedians, that's a bad sign.

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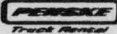


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Shrek hits a bulls-eye



Joel Isaac Frady
Assistant Features Editor

There should be a warning on all previews for and prints of this movie warning people the side effects that may be caused by watching this movie. Something along these lines:

WARNING! Viewing of Dreamworks Picture's "Shrek" may lead to fits of uncontrollable laughter lasting as long as 90 minutes as well as sharp pains in the side caused by this excessive laughing.

This film was painful to sit through and not the kind of painful that is mentioned with films like "Antitrust" or "Red Planet," when they are so bad you're just wanting it to end. This is the kind of pain (as was mentioned in the warning) that is caused by laughing throughout the entire movie, and this happens with "Shrek," which is trying not to put any corny slogans on it) one of the funniest films ever to grace the screen.

Most comedies have a hit and miss joke scale in which they write a lot of jokes, a lot of them make the movie and the film is rated on how many hit and how many miss. A hit gets big laughs. A miss gets small laughs or often none at all. A bomb gets groans and boos. Even the best of comedies (recent examples being "Meet the Parents" and "Chicken Run") missed quite a bit, but there are moments of hilarity that make up for it.

What's so special about

Shrek

★★★★

Director:

Andrew Adamson

Starring:

Cameron Diaz

Eddie Murphy

Mike Myers

"Shrek" is that they don't miss. Whether it's one joke that they lay down, a sight gag or many jokes piled up on top of each other, they're all funny. And such a wide variety, too. They have some very witty humor derived from the fairy tales mentioned in this film; they have incredibly funny dialogue, some excellent sight gags (that were probably only possible through animation), characters not seeming what they are and even some very, very adult jokes (cover the kiddies ears).

The film is about an ogre named Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers with his "So I Married an Axe Murderer" Scottish accent), who is trying to live peacefully in his swamp when Lord Farquaad (voiced by John Lithgow) banishes all the characters from Fairy Tales out of his land and into Shrek's swamp.

Many of these characters we know, including the three blind mice (wearing shades) along with Snow White and the Seven Dwarves ("Dead broad off the

table!"). There is also a talking Donkey (Eddie Murphy), who quickly tries to make friends with the mean ogre, and they go on a quest to Farquaad's castle (which is quite large, they notice) to get the swamp back. That turns into a trip to a castle surrounded by a Dragon to rescue the Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz). Much like the other Dreamworks CGI film, "Antz," the animation here is sharp and colorful and has gotten a bit smoother since that film. The voice talents are not only some of the funniest talents of today, but their work here is exceptional. They hit all the right cues, ones hard to hit when doing voice-only work and even take the proper pauses in between jokes when they pile four and five on top of each other.

Though an animated film, this isn't what would be called a "kiddie film" by any stretch of the imagination. The jokes and allusions are all very smart, most of which are over the heads of kids who will enjoy it simply for the fairy tales and the talking donkey. For the slightly older audience, the humor is priceless. There are laughs from the beginning straight through to the end; it never gives way to typical animated movie stereotypes and even pokes fun at them. This will be remembered for many, many years to come and you'll walk out happier having seen this movie.

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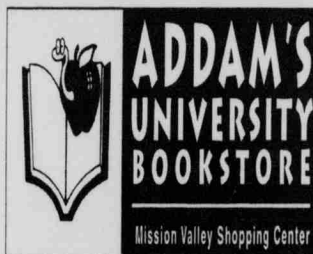
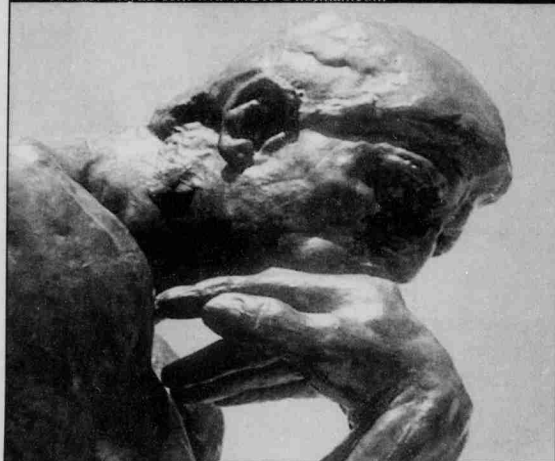
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STEVE

Continued from Page 12

books or one for the trash can. Now some of you may argue that worrying about German soccer is as un-American as rooting for the former Soviet Union in the Cold War. Fine. There are enough quality soccer-watching opportunities within the States to satisfy anyone.

The American men are busy qualifying for the 2002 World Cup — and they're actually winning. Three games into qualifying, the U.S. National Team is undefeated, having beaten three of its toughest foes in Mexico, Honduras and

Costa Rica.

The United States stands on top of CONCACAF, the North American region, by a commanding four-point margin. Barring a meltdown comparable to what the N.C. State men's basketball team had in 2000, the team is a lock for the World Cup.

Perhaps the biggest thing happening in soccer in the United States these days is the beginning of the WUSA, the new women's league.

Coming off the success of the U.S. Women's National Team in the 1999 World Cup, the WUSA opened play in eight cities, including Chapel Hill. The league is another landmark for women's athletics, but it is more than just a nov-

elty act.

With international stars such as Mia Hamm, Sun Wen, Pretinha and Sissi, the league features some of the best soccer talent in the world. Also of interest to many fans, the WUSA allows many members of the U.S. women's team to compete against each other for the first time since college.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of the league is that after every game, the players stick around and sign autographs until every fledgling soccer fan is appeased.

I'd like to see Rasheed Wallace do that one.

Comments? Steve Thompson can be reached at 515-2411 or stthomp@unity.ncsu.edu.

LAX

Continued from Page 12

— occupy the field for each team. Generally, attackmen stay on the offensive end of the field, and defensemen and the goalie remain on the other. Midfielders bridge the gap, running up and down the entire length of the field.

Checking is an integral part of the sport, and players wear helmets, shoulder pads and heavily padded gloves.

Much like hockey, there is a penalty box, and a team assessed with an infraction is forced to play a man down. Penalties range from slashing and cross-checking to the use of

an illegal stick.

The goal is 6 feet by 6 feet, and the goalie uses a stick with an enlarged pocket to protect the net.

State's club will hold an organizational meeting early next fall, and those interested in playing should attend.

"It would be great for more people to come out and get

involved," Knopp said. "It's really fun to play, it's fast paced, and there are a lot of hard hits. It's also exciting just to watch."

The lacrosse club has also set up a web page with information for current and prospective players. It can be reached at <http://www.geocities.com/ncsulax>.

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Club lacrosse sticks at State

soccer Just for kicks



◆ The revitalized lacrosse club played a full schedule of games this spring and is looking to expand.

Jerry Moore
Assistant Sports Editor

Editor's Note: Technician continues its look at N.C. State club sports with the lacrosse club.

One of America's oldest sports got a fresh start on N.C. State's campus this year. Lacrosse, a game originally played by Native Americans, has been part of State's club sports scene for more than 25 years. Recent improvements, however, have made the current incarnation one of the best in recent history.

"Our club went through a lot of restructuring this year," President Stephen Knopp said. "Basically, it had hit rock bottom. We were barely playing any games, and it was really just a sad situation."

Last fall, the club joined the Southeastern Lacrosse

Conference, which offers a higher level of organization and competition than its previous league. The club's membership dues increased significantly as a result of the switch, but Knopp feels that it has been the right decision.

"It was definitely worth it," he said of the move. "It's much more organized, and now we're really looking to be a national powerhouse."

State jumped out to a quick start this spring, winning its first three games. The team finished with a 4-5 record, which was good enough for second place in the SELC's Division 2.

As a result of its 18-8 loss to Florida in the regular season, however, State was denied a chance to play in the league's championship.

According to SELC rules, only one team new to the league can play in the championship game, and both State and Florida were newcomers. The Gators went on to take the title by beating South Carolina.

"The competition is just amazing," Knopp said. "With teams like Florida, Auburn and Virginia Tech, the competition is stiff."

State's club receives a small

amount of support from the university, but most of the funds needed to run the team are collected from participants. This year's team was young but had a good time getting to know one another.

"We were really like a first-year team," Knopp said. "The guys that played this year hadn't ever played together before."

Knopp is already looking forward to next year's competition. The club will likely participate in a fall tournament and a full slate of spring games.

"We took it upon ourselves to build the team back up," Knopp said. "We got into the new conference, and that has made all the difference."

Lacrosse is played with a hard rubber ball, which is slightly smaller than a baseball. Players use sticks with traditional leather or mesh pockets on one end to pass, shoot and check opponents.

Faceoffs begin play, and almost non-stop action follows. Teams routinely score close to 20 goals per game.

Ten players — three attackers, three midfielders, three defenders and a goalkeeper

It's a shame really. Some of the most intense athletic competition is occurring across the world now days, and many sports fans either are unaware or simply don't give a damn.

I'm not talking about the N B A Playoffs, of course. One month of effort does not atone for the six months of attitude and listlessness. If you don't care about that, I don't blame you.



Steve Thompson

I'm also not talking about the NHL Playoffs. Hockey's certainly held in a higher regard than the aforementioned NBA. It seems to be infiltrating the American sports scene fairly well, however, so there's no gripe there.

The sport I'm talking about is soccer. Yeah, I know you've heard this refrain one too many times, but humor me.

Right now, the world is in the midst of a flurry of soccer activity — Union of European Football Associations Champion's League semifinals, down-the-stretch battles in many European Leagues, World Cup qualifying and the beginning of the Women's United Soccer Association.

Despite this, many would rather watch Rasheed Wallace throw another tantrum on the basketball court. I just don't get it.

The UEFA Champion's League, perhaps the most coveted and elusive professional sports championship in the world, has no parallel in the American sporting world. The league pits the winners and runners-up of each of the major European professional leagues against each other to determine the best in all of Europe.

This year's semifinals pit Bayern Munich (Germany) against defending champion Real Madrid (Spain) and Valencia (Spain) vs. Leeds United (England). The teams will play a home-and-home series with the aggregate winner advancing to the May 23 finals in Milan, Italy.

Recent years have seen intense drama unfold in the finals. Last year, Real Madrid out-duled Valencia 3-0 in an all-Spain final. Two years ago, Bayern Munich controlled the match for 88 minutes, only to surrender two goals in the waning moments to give Manchester United the crown.

What's most amazing about the Champion's League is that it runs throughout the regular season for each of the involved teams. Thus the top teams in each league play essentially two seasons, each equally important to their fans.

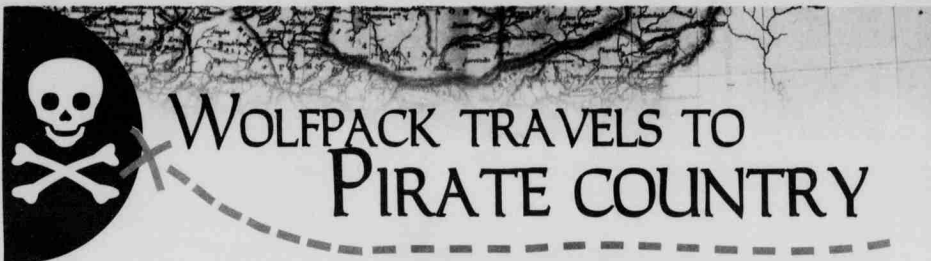
This year, Bayern Munich has been one of the more successful soccer programs in the world, but it could finish with no titles. After avenging its 1999 Champion's League loss to Manchester United in the quarterfinals, Bayern Munich looked invincible.

In the Bundesliga, the German professional league, Munich ran into trouble, drawing one match and losing two others to fall out of first place. With only three games left in the season, Munich stands in a tie for first with Schalke 04.

Thus, Bayern Munich now has three weeks to either make its year one or the record

See STEVE, Page 10

Lacrosse club President Stephen Knopp eyes the competition in a game against Georgia Tech this spring.



◆ The N.C. State baseball team heads to East Carolina for its last non-conference contest of the season.

Justin Sellers
Staff Writer

The academic semester isn't the only thing that is coming to a close at N.C. State.

The baseball season is winding down as well. The Wolfpack has five games remaining, beginning with East Carolina tonight in Greenville.

State (25-24) has won only two of its last eight games. Its two most recent losses came in a three-game series at Duke last weekend.

"I was very disappointed with our play against Duke," said head coach Elliott Avent. "It was very disappointing. I thought we played hard for the first couple of days, but we had a lot of things go wrong that hurt us."

The Pack took the first game of the set 9-5. With the contest tied at five in the 10th inning, State took control after Justin Riley hit his seventh home run of the season. Then, with the bases loaded, Brian Wright singled up the middle, bringing in a pair of runs, and Jeremy Dutton scored the last run of the game on a passed ball.

Games two and three, however, went to the Blue Devils. The Pack suffered a heartbreaking 11-10 loss Saturday. After leading most of the game and ahead 10-8 going into the bottom of the ninth inning, State allowed three runs and suffered the loss.

In the third game of the series, Duke didn't waste any time capitalizing on State's mishaps. Led by Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Week David Mason, who earned the honor with a batting average of .750, the Devils rolled to a 10-6 victory.

"We lost a heartbreaker Saturday with one of the most bizarre innings I've seen in a while," Avent said. "Then we had to turn around and play again on Sunday. There we were up 5-3 and in the sixth suffered another injury where Justin Riley steps on the bag and turns his ankle, and so now we lose one of our leading hitters. At that moment, we just went into a little shock, and the next thing you know, we lost."

The Wolfpack has had little time to regroup before it travels to face a very talented ECU (41-10) team.

"It was a tough loss for us," said Avent. "All we can do now is regroup. We've played hard and played well for the most part of the second half of the season. We've just got to regroup and get it back together before Wednesday night when we go to East Carolina."

The Pirates have lost only twice in their last 15 games and grabbed a 6-4 win over the Pack in extra innings last week at Doak Field.

The recent success has moved ECU up in the national rankings. The Pirates are now ranked No. 10 in the Baseball America poll. ECU also obtained its first outright Colonial Athletic Association regular-season championship since 1990.

Two reasons the Pirates have done so well are Bryant Ward and John Williamson.

Ward, whose .366 batting average is second best on the team, went 3-for-11 with three RBIs and one run in last weekend's series against George Mason.

Williamson drove in a couple of runs during ECU's 9-3 victory over the

"Corey Mattison probably did something against East Carolina that hasn't happened all year," Avent said. "They said that no right-hander could beat East Carolina before we played them, and I think Corey shut them down like they



The Wolfpack lost a close game to ECU at home last week and pays a visit to the Pirates today.

Patriots on Sunday. He is right behind Ward with a .363 average and has 50 RBIs and 10 homers.

State will try to counter ECU's dangerous offensive attack with some offensive production of its own. Defense and pitching may be even more important, however.

ECU's matchup with the Pack will be its last home game of the season.

"They play great at home," said Avent. "It's going to be a great environment. They'll have it packed. I think it's been sold out for a couple of weeks, and it will be quite a challenge for our players."

Im/Rec Notes

Gym Hours

Carmichael Gymnasium courts 1-11 will be closed for renovations May 7-22. During this time, the lights on Miller Fields will be turned on (weather permitting) for recreational use until the facility closes.

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Club sports — results

In what is believed to be the first intercollegiate disc golf match in history, the club disc golf team trounced North Carolina on Saturday by a

score of 179 to 99. The Wolfpack won matches on its home course, Kentwood Disc Golf Course, and UNC's course. The top three finishers for the Pack were Steve Johnson (-16), Dana Haake (-15) and Mike Gallagher (-13).

The club baseball team had a successful weekend, going 3-0 to bring its overall record to 16-2. The Pack defeated the Tar Heels 18-17 Saturday in a four-hour slugfest. Jarod Cheney went 3-for-3 at the plate with four walks, and Karl Zellman was 4-for-6 with three doubles to lead the

Pack's hitters.

The baseball team also took two against Wake Forest on Sunday by scores of 7-1 and 16-4. Justin Putnam and Chris Bentley each threw complete games in two strong pitching performances. The Pack finishes the season next Sunday against UNC-Wilmington at Broughton High School in Raleigh. Game time is set for noon.

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drop-in, so come out and join us. Stop by the Intramural-Recreational Sports office or call 515-3161 for more information.

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See LAX, Page 10