

4.



Technology
Without the usage of newfangled inventions, Opinion wouldn't be able to get printed...

5.



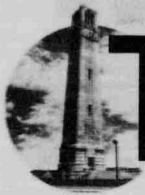
So many articles!
We've got tons of movies, extended play releases and Akira to boot!

10.



Summer jobs
The Coastal Plain League is giving N.C. State players some summer work.

Wednesday
July 11, 2001



TECHNICIAN

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

Today	Hi	92
	Lo	70
Tomorrow	Hi	86
	Lo	68



Spaine Stephens

News Editor

Nearing the end of a particularly painstaking budget session for the General Assembly, conferees from the House and Senate are beginning to meet to resolve approximately 12 to 15 major disagreements within their versions of the 2001-2003 state budget.

Some of that debate will yield resolutions that will affect N.C. State's allocations.

"We know it's a tough budget year, and we know we're going to get cut," said Mark Fleming, special assistant to the chancellor for governmental affairs. "It's logical that we fight to keep that cut as small as possible."

In a letter to some of the con-

ferrees, Chancellor Marye Anne Fox implored them to keep NCSU and the UNC System in mind when drafting the final budget.

Fox highlighted major programs and funding within the university that may be in danger of being cut, including funding for salaries, overhead receipts, SPA and non-teaching EPA personnel and distance education.

"There are big differences in the House and Senate budgets," said Representative David Miner (R-62).

Major differences between the House and Senate versions include:

- A \$1 million cut in recurring funding for "Summer Research" in the House version, which would result in a \$300,000 loss for both NCSU and UNC-

Budget in the balance

The final state budget is expected to come out in late July, and the university community waits to assess its situation.

Chapel Hill. The Senate budget does not include a provision for Summer Research.

- The Senate version cuts 2 percent for SPA and non-teaching EPA faculty with a NCSU reduction of \$3.3 million, while the House version cuts this funding 2.8 percent with a NCSU reduction of \$5 million.

- The Senate version funds distance education enrollment growth at 70 percent, reducing NCSU's funds by \$500,000. The House budget would allow full funding for distance education.

- The House version allows a \$17,953 cut from NCSU's overhead receipts, money from the federal government and private sources to cover the costs of research support, and a \$115,000 cut for NCSU in overhead receipts for photonics. The Senate budget does not include a similar provision.

- The House version includes 98.5 percent of the state payroll, a \$23.4 million cut for the UNC System and a \$6 million cut for NCSU. The Senate budget allocates 98 percent of state payroll, with universities exempted.

- The Senate version calls for increased faculty productivity for campuses whose faculty teach under 15 hours, while the House version calls for increased faculty productivity with no conditions. This is a \$3 million cut for the UNC System and a \$466,480 cut for NCSU under both versions.

- Before enrollment growth, the Senate cuts are 1.74 percent, and the House cuts are 4.24 percent.

As the only conferee from Wake County, Miner is an advocate for NCSU in the budget negotiations, and feels that dur-

ing difficult budget years, the university is more quickly brought under scrutiny.

He said that lawmakers representing the NCSU community take into account the protection of state economy and culture, and the university's role as a key research institution. Its reputation, he said, could work against it in cases such as the budget issue since some people tend to "attack an elite group of people when they're looking for money."

"N.C. State was under attack two weeks ago, with proposals to raise tuition for out-of-state students, and to take research money," he said.

In the letter to the conferees,

Fox mentioned the House amendment on tuition increases, writing, "... it places a counterproductive burden on graduate, special talent and out-of-state students. If this amendment were left in the budget, these students would likely go elsewhere, so we may actually lose money at the higher rate."

The research money, or overhead receipts, are important to NCSU because they fund research support for university faculty, and if that funding is given to other institutions, entrepreneurial efforts would experience shortfalls.

"It becomes important for faculty on campus to afford to have the latest lab equipment," said

Fleming.

There was also other opposition to these proposals, and Miner believes that in the end, NCSU will not suffer nearly as badly as first thought.

Miner said it is important for the conferees not to enter the meetings with an "us against them" mindset.

"Generally, you split hairs, but I think it will be important to find an agreement," he said, adding that NCSU's budget cuts will be somewhere between what the Senate and House versions suggest.

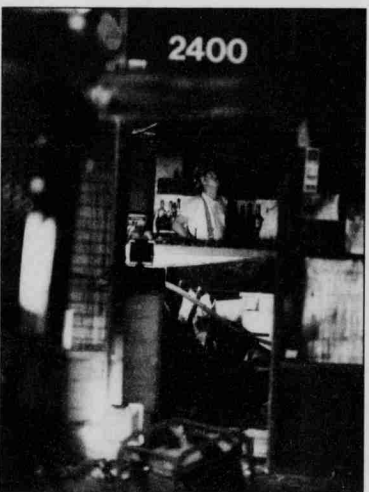
He said the final version of the state budget will likely come

See BUDGET Page 2



(TOP LEFT) JASON IVERSEN/STAFF (ABOVE) PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARK FLEMING
(Top left) North Carolina Legislative Building. (Above) Representatives Phil Haire (D-52) and David M. Miner (R-62) are members of the House Appropriations Committee.

Hillsborough eatery burns



(Above) El Rodeo's fire damage will take approximately three months to repair.
(Right) Firefighters rushed to the scene to put out the flames that engulfed El Rodeo on Hillsborough Street last Sunday night.

◆ A July 1 fire closed El Rodeo for the foreseeable future.

Jimmy Ryals

Staff Reporter

A July 1 blaze left little structural damage at the Hillsborough Street location of El Rodeo, but the damage sustained was enough to close down the Mexican restaurant for an extended period.

Three Raleigh Fire Department engines responded to the fire at 11:13 p.m., roughly one hour after employees had left for the night and more than two hours after the restaurant had closed. No injuries resulted from the fire, which firefighters had under control within 20 minutes.

According to RFD Battalion Chief Lynn Johnson, the fire started with a short circuit in a refrigerating compressor on a beer cooler located in the middle of the building. Estimates from an RFD report place total damages at approximately \$125,000: \$100,000 in content damage and \$25,000 in property damage.

"There's very little structural damage," Johnson said. "The damage is mostly cosmetic." Joel Ibarra, son of El Rodeo owner Jose Ibarra, could not confirm the damage estimates. Also uncertain is how long the



restaurant will be closed.

"It's probably going to be at least three months," the younger Ibarra said.

Golden Dragon, a neighboring Chinese restaurant, also suffered minor smoke damage.

Joel Ibarra also serves as manager at an El Rodeo location in Pleasant Valley shopping center.

In addition to heat and smoke damage to walls, partitions, tables and the like, the restaurant also lost the food that was inside and the contents of any

coolers when the RFD disconnected electricity to the eatery.

A relatively new piece of high-tech equipment saved the restaurant from further damage. Initially, Johnson and his crew believed they were facing a Code Three blaze.

"We almost called that fire worse than it was because of all the smoke," Johnson said. "It almost fooled us."

Using a thermal imaging camera, firefighters determined that the fire was actually a Code

Two.

Fighting a Code Three fire would have required using an unconnected 2- or 2.5-inch hose, rather than the preconnected, 1.5-inch hose that controlled the blaze. Unrolling and connecting the larger hose would have taken seven to 10 minutes longer.

The RFD currently has five thermal imaging cameras. The cameras have been among the department's equipment for about a year.

Not too rocky in first stage of restoration project

The first stage of the Rocky Branch Creek restoration project consists of placing new culverts under the streams and reshaping the stream walls.

Trey Godwin
Senior Staff Writer

Orange cones and black dirt will soon be replaced by more aesthetically pleasing recreational greenways along Rocky Branch Creek streams. But first, the dirty work must be completed.

As any passer-by has noticed, Sullivan Drive is a commuter's nightmare. That's because all culverts underneath the entrances to the Motor Pool parking lot and the Fountain Dining Hall/Bragaw parking lot are being scrapped for more spacious culverts that have more capacity for floodwaters, and in addition, a new sewer line is being placed under Sullivan Drive.

Barbara Doll, water quality specialist with North Carolina Sea Grant, said fall semester students need not panic because Sullivan Drive will resume as a major thoroughfare in a few weeks. Doll, whose job is to urge universities to address marine concerns, said all the construction is needed to create a wider flood plain for the creek and to create a recreational greenway along the creekside.

Currently, a couple of inches of rain have the potential to build up inside the narrow stream walls, and the force of the water contributes to erosion. This will change once 24,000 cubic yards of soil is hauled off and taken to university property at Lake Wheeler Farm, and the broader flood plain will dissipate storm water. Vegetation planted on the stream banks, such as shrubs, grasses and trees, will further reduce erosion.

Like any major renovation project, Rocky Branch Creek



The continued construction on Sullivan Drive will likely be completed by the time students return to campus for the fall semester.

hasn't been all smooth sailing. The culverts, which contain such utility lines as steam and

water, were originally installed in the 1960s. Two culverts, one at the entrance to the

Fountain/Bragaw parking lot and another at the Motor Pool driveway entrance, had to be

replaced because they had to make room for the new stream design and to increase the

capacity for utilities.

Since the work has closed the regular entrance into the Fountain/Bragaw parking lot off Sullivan Drive, a temporary construction and truck delivery entrance has been built directly off Dan Allen Drive. Jill Coleman, landscape architect and project manager for facilities planning, is optimistic that the culvert work will be completed by fall move-in weekend, August 17-19. Yet, once students return they will notice that seven parking spaces have been lost as a result of the stream work alongside the Bragaw/Fountain parking lot. Doll said the worst section of the creek is that area because of the slope created by tall, steep and eroded stream banks. Workers have already removed 20 feet of the lot to grade the stream bank to a more gradual slope. According to Doll, the water would get choked into small sections of the culverts and maintenance costs would skyrocket. "This particular area, along with the whole stream, is just a better design as a whole," she added.

The sewer line used to run close to the creek. In order to redirect the stream, however, the line needed to be removed so it wouldn't be threatened by the restoration work. Therefore, university officials decided to excavate the sewer line and place it underneath Sullivan Drive, which was in dire need of being repaved anyway. Redirecting the first 3,000 feet of channel from Gorman Street to Dan Allen Drive will cost slightly less than \$2 million. The stream restoration and greenway work should be completed in October.

The final piece of the puzzle is landscaping, which should be completed by January 2002. After that, Phase 2 work will commence. That work will reconfigure the stream behind Paul Derr Track, from Morrill Drive to Pullen Road. The greenway is being funded by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, with TEA Transportation Enhancement Funds, and additional money for the whole creek renovation project comes from NCSU, the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State Department of Environmental and Natural Resources.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

about toward the end of July.

"There are budgets we will have to reconcile, as well as deal with the future budget and a projected shortfall," said Miner.

He said there are options to increase revenue, including a state lottery, and local sales tax options.

Representative Phil Haire (D-52), also a conferee, said the process is still in its initial stages.

"We'll have to go back and look at the budget and make other cuts, and consider other revenue," he said.

He also mentioned the possibility of a half-cent local option sales tax on which counties can vote to help replace some income.

Whatever the options, this year has been a particularly painful one for many state agencies weakened by the budget shortfall. NCSU will inevitably be affected, and lawmakers on both sides of the issue will soon come together to decide how drastic the university's cuts will be.

"Every agency, including the UNC System, is going to have to give a little," said Miner. "There is some pain involved, but I believe N.C. State will come out good."

LSU researchers study mosquitoes, viruses

◆ The testing at the laboratory is part of a statewide program called Surveillance.

Zane Brown

The Reveille (Louisiana State U.)

(U-WIRE) BATON ROUGE, La. - Increasing mosquito and insect populations during the hot summer months have prompted Louisiana State University researchers to work to curb the spread of insect-transmitted vector-borne diseases.

The Arbovirus Testing Laboratory in the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is in its second season of surveillance testing to detect the presence of viruses that cause the deadly disease encephalitis, or brain inflammation.

The Arbovirus Testing Laboratory was established as part of the LSU-based Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

Alma Roy, coordinator of the arbovirus lab and associate director of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, said the disease

comes in three variations of viruses — eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile Virus.

"Lots of people get infected, but not everyone gets encephalitis," she said. "Those that do get it are seriously ill." Roy said the effects of encephalitis include high fever and in rare cases, death.

"The infection rate is low, but of people that do acquire these diseases, a small percentage die," she said. "There were a few people on the East Coast who died from West Nile Virus."

The diseases are most common during the summer months, Roy said.

"The diseases go from birds to mosquitoes, which feed off the birds, then to humans or horses, or the next host," she said. "From April to September or October is when mosquitoes are out feeding the most. That's when it becomes important to humans."

The testing at the laboratory is part of a statewide program called Surveillance, in which two different samples are tested for the virus, Roy said. "Mosquito control across the

state bring us samples of about 50 mosquitoes at a time from various areas such as ditches," she said. "We then test the mosquitoes for eastern equine encephalitis and St. Louis encephalitis."

Natha Booth, research associate at the laboratory, said the other sample comes from chickens placed in cages throughout different areas of the state. The chickens are then tested for the viruses.

"We get the samples of chicken [blood]," she said. "If the chickens have been bitten by mosquitoes, they will develop antibodies. We check them for the antibodies."

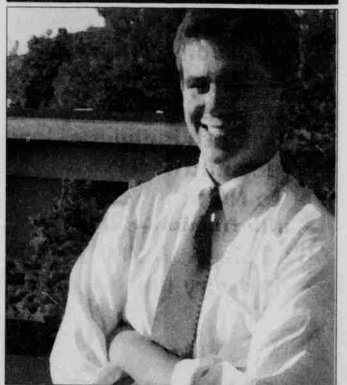
If there are lots of chickens with the antibodies, that is an indication that humans and horses will be next, Roy said.

Wayne Taylor, Director of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, said the research is giving those in the lab a better understanding of techniques for future research.

"We will apply these techniques to testing for other animal diseases," he said. "So far this year, there have been no positive results for the viruses, Roy said."

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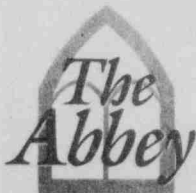
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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Scapegoating cell phone use

THE SIGNING INTO LAW OF NEW YORK'S BAN OF HAND-HELD CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING HAS STARTED A FRENZY OF OVERZEALOUS AND MISDIRECTED HYPE.

You curse the person in front of you who swerves uncontrollably as he yaks on his cellular phone, only moments later to answer a call yourself, taking your attention away from the other distracted driver and the road.

On June 27, Technician gave a thumbs-up to the state of New York's ban on the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. Rightly so: anything that truly makes the roads safer deserves a thumbs-up.

But, the concern here is that, in their haste to follow New York's lead in banning (read: scapegoating) the cell phone, legislators nationwide run the risk of allowing themselves to become as distracted by the mobile devices as the careless drivers they seek to regulate.

Thirty-five states have bills similar to New York's pending but that have yet to be passed (Reuters, June 28). These 35 states have the right idea, but only in part. There is a fundamental aspect missing from much of the talking and driving debate — all significantly distracting activities while driving must be illegal, not just cell phone use.

If talking on your cell phone is illegal while driving, then eating, putting on makeup and maybe even changing CDs should be, too. The reason cell phones are being so fiercely attacked is that cell phone use while driving occurs much more frequently and in more visible

ways. How many times a day do you talk on your cell phone or see someone else talking on a cell phone while driving? Once? More? How many times do you eat in your car each day? Maybe once? More likely, zero.

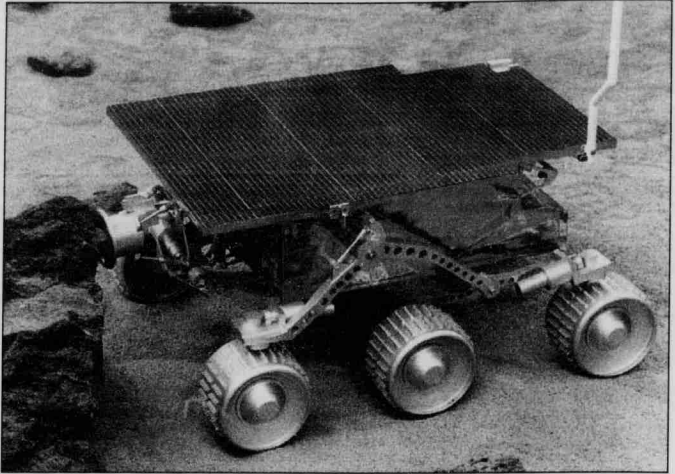
Further clouding the arguments are studies that have found that carrying on an intense and complex conversation while driving, whether you're holding your cell phone or talking with an ear piece, is one of the most significant frequently occurring distractions.

The fancy new legislation will do nothing to keep people from attempting to close the big deal or iron things out with a spouse over the cell phone en route. But it's much easier to legislate the hand-held cell phone ban than it is to legislate against eating and applying makeup and changing CDs, etc.

Time will tell, but the rush to get bans on the table now seems to signal a belief among state legislators that banning hand-held cell phone conversations while driving will solve the problems created by distracted drivers.

Doing so would be akin to putting a band-aid on a cancer patient and calling him cured.

Cell phones are bearing the brunt of responsibility for problems of which they are only a part. Banning cell phones shouldn't be avoided; rather, the same concern given cell phones should be extended to all driving distractions.



Mars Sojourner Exploration Vehicle · image from www.nasa.gov

Dang newfangled inventions!

Holly Bezant

GUEST COLUMNIST

I am a girl of convention most of the time. I must say though that a recent development has me very intrigued. If the invention of cars, TVs and space exploration put folks in a huff, they would be rolling in their graves right now.

At the beginning of last school year, there was a buzz about a new invention that the creator was keeping a secret. Through a lot of research on it, the only thing we got was that it would revolutionize our world as we know it — more so than even the Internet. I was very skeptical of it. Something more revolutionary than the Internet?

I could not see what useful things had yet to be invented, probably similarly to the folks who lived before we went to the moon. The other tiny tidbit that

we found about it was a rough sketch. It looked like a weird scooter. All we could think of was that it flew.

I was not impressed, fussed about its uselessness and soon forgot about it until a few days ago when I thought of it and wondered when it would be revealed. Coincidentally a magazine I came across yesterday actually has an article describing the invention, complete with a picture and all. It is indeed a scooter. But it is not any old scooter by any means. It runs on hydrogen and emits water instead of fumes. It also has some gadgets inside of it to make it run in sync with the body's positioning and balance, enabling the person driving it to make extremely sharp turns and travel at high speeds.

The scooter has the name "Ginger" written across the body of it. I was

unable to find out when it would be available to the general public but am fearful of how expensive it will be. Just as with DVD players, this scooter is going to be too expensive for most middle-class people to afford, and I, for one, would like to have one because, in addition to being conventional, I am environmental.

The coolest thing about the scooter is that it emits water. With that kind of technology, imagine how much less pollution there will be. What if it starts to replace cars in areas of the world? And it will provide water instead of harmful fumes in a period that is producing more and more acid rain. Now that is impressive.

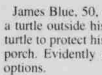
Questions or comments about Holly's own inventions? Email her at puz_rata@yahoo.com.

RULE OF THUMB

Congressman Gary Condit



In the first major development regarding missing intern Chandra Levy, Congressman Condit said he would allow his apartment to be searched and submit to a DNA test. However, Condit will not take a polygraph, saying, "I have nothing to hide. I just don't like having those rubber things on my nipples."

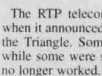


James Blue, 50, of Raleigh is being prosecuted for killing a turtle outside his home. Blue said he threw a brick at the turtle to protect his "grandbaby" as the turtle approached his porch. Evidently going inside or moving were not viable options.

European Honeybees



The Associated Press reported that test results released this week show the bees that attacked NC resident Kim Hoffman and killed her dog were merely European Honeybees, not "Africanized killer bees." Why does everything have to be racial?

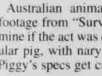


The RTP telecom giant shrunk a little more this week when it announced the cutting of 700 manufacturing jobs in the Triangle. Some employees were notified immediately while some were simply left wondering why their ID card no longer worked.

Matter/anti-matter



Matter vs. anti-matter? Duh! Matter! International physicists released research this week showing that matter is in fact tougher than anti-matter. Their discovery strengthens the Standard Model of the Universe and the Big Bang Theory, but not the Anti-Big Bang Theory, aka the "Really Small Thump Theory."

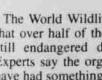


Australian animal rights groups are demanding to see footage from "Survivor" in which a pig was killed to determine if the act was criminal or not. All this concern for a regular pig, with nary a mention of the part where the human Piggy's specs get crushed. Sucks to your ass, Australia!

Recovering Backstreet Boy



The world held its breath (OK, the world comprised of 13-year-old urban schoolgirls) as boy band star AJ McLean's agent announced that he was being treated for depression and alcoholism. This could make for a more interesting "Behind the Music" should Backstreet's music ever last long enough to warrant one.

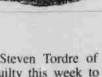


The World Wildlife Fund reluctantly announced Tuesday that one-half of the world's 13 species of great whale are still endangered despite decades of protection efforts. Experts say the organization's failed XFL experiment may have had something to do with the problems.

United States Postal Service



Despite mounting losses of up to \$2 billion, after careful consideration, the United States Postal Service has decided not to eliminate Saturday deliveries.



Steven Tondre of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., pleaded guilty this week to selling a faulty AIDS remedy via the Internet. Customers should have suspected it, as Tondre's other products boasted losing weight without diet or exercise, enlarging breasts with natural herbs and "The Weed Popper."

Animal cruelty



Alcatel Inc.



Animal cruelty II



WWF



Fake AIDS cure



Jonathan Smith

GUEST COLUMNIST

Like the script of "Debbius Does Dalius," which never lasted beyond a seasonal orgy in Roman theater, the movies of summer 2001 will ultimately (and hopefully) be forgotten.

The Highlights are Ivan Reitman's "Evolution," The Wayans' "Scary Movie 2," Michael Bay's "Pearl Harbor," Steve Carr's "Dr. Dolittle 2," Baz Luhrmann's "Moulin Rouge," and Steven Spielberg's "AI" (notice how the title alone strangely resembles ET).

In "Evolution," the characters (one of which is David Duchovny) ride around in a Jeep; pick up the comic relief and drive through several other films; "Ghostbusters," "Silence of the Lambs," "Jurassic Park" and "Men in Black." Then, with the climactic line, "Let's shampoo us some aliens," Duchovny adds little of his own personality, but much of someone else's. This is perhaps the best advancement of "Artificial Cinema" thus far. "Scary Movie 2," go back to the WB! Next, "Pearl Harbor," with that wonderful trailer, proves yet again the Hollywood algorithm: famous speech plus little action plus nearly 3 hours of crap equals a blockbuster.

With Eddie Murphy and a bunch of cute animals, how could "Dr. Dolittle 2" go wrong? One guess — it's stuck in the same trap that held on to "Nuttzy Professor 2's" fat but — bad writing. "Moulin Rouge" presents a relentless music video, featuring Twisted Sister and that girl with armpit hair, as well as two hours of bells, whistles, confetti, more banal dialogue and a paper gun that goes "poo!" when the climax arrives.

Finally, from the gods of the movie business, we have "AI." Impeccable, untouchable, all except for one incident. The kid, probably the best actor today, plays a wonderful role throughout the film. However, Spielberg, Kubric and even Lucas rip him apart. Haley Joel Osment (what a name) gets

kicked out of "Spielburg," wanders into the forest to find a Kubric fairy and becomes involved with "Star Wars." This incongruity, yet artistic fit perfectly exemplifies the "classic by committee" theory.

What source is reprehensible for this summer's bad movie Box Office? Well, right now, they chuckle while reading their own reviews of what they once wrote. Either in witty jest, or out of hostility, screenwriters, saying, "If actors can do it, we can do it!" have joined in a clandestine strike against Hollywood.

What I say is not without warrant. The evidence is clear. For instance, "Men in Black" was one of the greatest sci-fi comedies of the 90s written by one of the great screenwriters, Ed Solomon. "Men in Black 2," expected in 2002, was written by Robert Gordon and Barry Fanaro, all strike-breakers. Furthermore, Ivan Reitman, who directed "Meatballs," "Stripes," "Kindergarten Cop" and "Dave," all excellent films, suddenly bombs with "Evolution." Further still, Spielberg decides to write his own script for "AI."

What do we have to look forward to?

'Who's striking against Hollywood?'

"Jurassic Park III?" "Final Fantasy?" "Planet of the Apes?" Julia Roberts? Look at all the sequels coming out. The fourth "Indiana Jones," "Terminator 3," "Dolittle 2," "Men in Black 2," "American Pie 2," "Rush Hour 2," "The Matrix Reloaded," not to mention all those mentioned.

Some cling to the old maxim, "nothing new under the sun," which is supposed to explain the unoriginal quality of this summer's films. Wrong, I say.

They hold the public in contempt and resort to writing bad articles about movies; they make money on long novels and books of short stories. Perhaps they are fed up with actor after actor, director after director accepting the Academy Awards earned by their scripts, or just as a big joke, screenwriters have quit the business. What are movie watchers left to do?

The newest Harry Potter book should be out soon. Read it. But be warned about the new movie coming out.

Jonathan is hard at work on the sequel to this column. He needs some help if he decides to go on strike. Email him at jdsmit14@unity.ncsu.edu.

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AKIRA'S RETURN



by Zack Smith · Senior Staff Writer

For many people, the 1988 film "Akira" was their first exposure to Japanese animation, or "anime."

The film helped expose an entire generation to the vivid, more adult-oriented style of animation and helped to launch a craze that has lasted over a decade. Videos and DVDs of anime have flooded the shelves of video stores; younger-oriented series like "Pokémon" and "Dragon Ball Z" have become huge hits on television and other anime films like "Ghost in the Shell" and "Princess Mononoke" have enjoyed limited theatrical releases and cult followings on video.

With the anniversary of "Akira's" U.S. release coming up, the film has been re-released on video and DVD, and there is even talk of a return to theaters. Also re-released are the original comics, or "manga" the film was based on, in a series of trade paperbacks from Dark Horse Comics.

The original comics, written and illustrated by Katsuhiro Otomo, who also directed the film version, are slightly different from the film version. Manga stories frequently run for thousands of pages and "Akira" is no exception: Dark Horse's trades require six 300+ page volumes to tell the complete epic.

Consequently, the manga version of "Akira" is a less compressed, more intricate story than the film version. Parts of the film that seem rushed and ambiguous become much clearer in the manga and many of the film's most intriguing ideas are more fully explored (there's also a lot less of the film's often-annoying screams of "Kanedaaaaaa!" and "Tetsuooooooo!!").

The story of "Akira" is essentially an epic cautionary tale of the consequences of man meddling with nature, and of the monsters that dwell within ordinary people. The year is 2030, some time after an unknown accident destroyed much of Tokyo and triggered World War III. The city built from Tokyo's ashes, Neo-Tokyo, is a shell of

the former city, a place of bombed-out buildings, roving gangs and menacing, enigmatic government policemen.

Kaneda and Tetsuo are two teenage boys who live in this world, part of a small gang that spends their nights roving around on souped-up motorcycles causing trouble. Their friendship is shattered when an encounter with Takashi, an escapist from a government project, triggers Tetsuo's latent psychic abilities, which gradually give him incredible powers, but turn him into a paranoid, vicious sociopath. As Tetsuo's abuse of his new abilities lead to a violent confrontation between him and Kaneda, Tetsuo is recruited by the Colonel, the mysterious head of the government group, and becomes the lackey of Akira, the god-like source of the accident that ravaged Neo-Tokyo.

The story of "Akira" grows increasingly complex as it goes on, eventually shifting from a simple action drama to an "X-Files"-like conspiracy series to an intricate political drama. Otomo's storytelling skill helps keep the story moving throughout all this, easily going from breathtaking, epic shots of the ruined city of Neo-Tokyo to the fast-paced violence of the action scenes.

The world of "Akira" is so fully realized that it almost seems real; at times, it's as though Otomo isn't telling the story so much as simply observing it, letting the reader judge the characters for himself. The only thing that's black-and-white in "Akira" is the art; none of the characters fits a simple archetype. Tetsuo may be a sadist, but at the same time he's also a tragic, pathetic figure, Kaneda, the ostensible "hero," on the other hand, is also hot-headed, irresponsible and sexist.

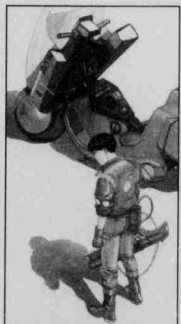
These moral ambiguities also contribute to "Akira's" sense of reality; even when something impossible or incredible happens in the story, it still manages to feel real.

"Akira" originally took 10 years for Otomo to complete and took nearly as long to be collected in the U.S., when it was initially reprinted in color from Marvel's Epic imprint. Most of those issues are nearly impossible to find (especially the concluding issues, which suffered from minuscule print runs), but the new collections feature a new size and lettering that's closer to the original material and should be completely collected by the end of the year.

The first three volumes are already available at \$24.95 apiece; the fourth volume should be out by the end of August. Check them out to rediscover the story that changed animation forever, or experience it for the first time. You'll be glad you did.

"Akira" is available at most major bookstores, or at local shops like Foundation's Edge and Capital Comics. For help locating a comics shop, or to learn more about ordering comics, try the toll-free number 1-800-COMIC-BOOK or the Web sites www.the-master-list.com and www.ordering-comics.com.

IMAGES FROM "A WIND CALLED AKIRA" AT [HTTP://WWW.NEO-ANIME.ORG/AKIRA/](http://WWW.NEO-ANIME.ORG/AKIRA/)



EXTENDED PLAY

John Boles
Staff Writer

The EP, formerly referred to as "extended play" records, really has no relevance in this time of CDs. But, these cute little marvels are a God-send to the post-Napster cheapskate who doesn't want to shell out \$15 every time he hears of a band that just might be good, not to mention to those diehard fans who just can't wait for their favorite band's next release. The band itself gets the added advantage of making some money off the b-sides that would probably never get released on a full-length album for whatever reason, and they keep their names in the public's mind. Anyhow, long story short, since the cost of EP's is anywhere from \$5-10, it would only be fair that I include a review of two EP's in one article, the cost of the two adding up to about \$15. So, think of this not as a review of two CD's that were cheap, but as a review of \$15 worth of music. Enjoy.

Belle and Sebastian

Sing Jonathan David
★★★★

The front cover of this CD is a rather weird picture of people in tunics, looking like a mix between a scene from late-1960s England and Roman times; definitely an odd cover. But, we're assured from the liner notes that this is just a depiction of David (of Goliath-naming fame) and Jonathan (his best pal at the time). After the listener wipes his forehead, relieved after reading the three-paragraph explanation of the story and the biblical verse to which you can refer, he can pop the CD into its player. The first song, "Jonathan David," is the reason for the esoteric biblical cover and explanation. This song is about Jonathan, who is jealous of his boyhood friend David, who, since beating Goliath, is king and gets all the girls. This quaint song has a very concrete story and sounds like it could have been an outtake from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with the same sort of early '70s feel and occasional harmonized vocals. The other two tracks on this EP are slower, but still have the characteristic Belle and Sebastian style of straightforward and poignant lyrics. And, after a recent binge in Radiohead (with "Kid A" and "Amnesiac"), concrete lyrics are very

refreshing. Neither of the next two tracks, "Take your Carriage and Shove It" and "The Loneliness of a Middle Distance Runner" are standouts but are nice in themselves and make for a pleasant listen. Each has an interesting message, one of a subservient office worker who lets his employers know just how important he is to them and the other of a lonely man in today's world. In all this EP provides three good songs, but no great song. At six bucks, I'd say it is well worth it, especially if you have never heard Belle and Sebastian before and want to know what they're all about. Unfortunately, this is nowhere near the quality of their full-length albums.

Death Cab for Cutie

Forbidden Love
e.p.
★★★★

This EP is more of the second category of EP buyer described earlier, the diehard fan who can't wait for the next release and is itching to hear some unreleased b-sides. With three n.s. tracks and two different versions of tracks from their last release We Have the Facts and We're Voting Yes, this CD delivers. All five tracks fit the theme of "forbidden love" very neatly. The first track, "photobooth," with its infectious drum machine loop along with live drums tells of a summer fling that

started in a photobooth that will never last past the fleeting moment with only the "scraping paper to document," makes for one Death Cab's best tracks to date. The other two new tracks that follow give us a small taste of what is to come from the band's next LP (slated for release in October). And if it can live up to these three tracks' quality, it should prove to be a breakthrough album for them. As for the two b-sides from their last album, they sound like early versions of great songs that hadn't been totally thought through. The first is an acoustic version of the great song "405." This version was recorded in 1998 and was obviously the original idea for the song and doesn't quite yet have the fullness of its final version on last year's LP. "Company Calls Epilogue" is just another mix of the final track from We Have the Facts... which sounds good, but basically the same as the original version. While it is interesting for the fan to see how songs can change, these two versions just sound like good songs that just aren't quite there yet (which is exactly what they are). Despite the last two tracks, the first three tracks more than make up for it, providing some of the best material from this band to date.

IMAGES: (TOP) BELLE AND SEBASTIAN FROM [HTTP://WWW.BEESTER.CO.UK](http://WWW.BEESTER.CO.UK) (BOTTOM) DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE FROM [HTTP://WWW.DCBC.COM](http://WWW.DCBC.COM)



So scary I couldn't remember:



One critic's decent into reviewing hell...

Zack Smith
Senior Staff Writer

I have no idea whatsoever how to review this movie. I mean, literally every tool that I have at use as a critic cannot be applied to it.

I'll do my best, though. Let's start with the plot.

OK, so there's this "Exorcist" parody with Andy Richter and James Woods in a role originally written for Marlon Brando, then there's two jokes about Woods defeating in 20 minutes, then the whole sequence is mentioned a total of once for the rest of the film, then there's this lengthy parody of "The Haunting" with half the cast of the first "Scary Movie" even those who got killed, and...

...well, that didn't work. Let's try the actors...

OK, so they have almost all the performers from the first film and Anna Farris does a reasonably good job with a role that mostly requires her to look shocked and then there's Marlon Wayans as the stoner and Shawn Wayans as the barely closeted gay character, and then Chris Elliot and David Cross as two disabled people who insult each other's respective disabilities, and I have no idea what the name of Tori Spelling's character was...

...this just isn't working. I think I'm in trouble here. Well, there's the "is it funny?" factor...

OK, now I have something to talk about. The first "Scary Movie" actually had some funny moments, mostly because 1) it parodied a type of film that was still popular (and practically parodied itself) and 2) it achieved unique highs (or lows) in gross-out humor. It was popular enough, in fact, that it actually out-grossed (literally and figuratively) most of the films it parodied.

"Scary Movie 2,"

though, was a rush job (it was literally green-lighted after the first film's opening weekend), and it shows in the finished product. Parody doesn't necessarily require a plot, but "Scary Movie 2" doesn't even have the creativity to mock its own lack of plot. Characters appear and disappear for long

Scary Movie 2

Director:
Keenan Ivory Wayans
Starring:
Marlon Wayans
Shawn Wayans
Anna Farris

scenes and without punch lines; the best punch lines appear to have been improvised. Actually, most of the scenes play like the filmmakers shot some material, then left the camera running to catch the actors' improvisations, then cut out most of the scripted footage. Which doesn't say much for the script, especially given that seven screenwriters are credited for it.

Even worse, most of the films parodied in "Scary Movie 2" aren't even worth parodying. The "story" is a lengthy parody of "The Haunting," and most of the scenes with the ghost/villain parody "Hollow Man," two films whose combined grosses were far south of "Scary Movie." The parodies don't even work that well outside of the context of the original films, so what you essentially have are unfunny parodies of movies almost no one's actually seen. The whole thing's edited so sloppily that with credits, it barely runs an hour and a half, and the few funny moments are homages to the first film.

The only good thing I can see coming from this movie is the possible end to Shawn and Marlon Wayans' 15 minutes of fame. It's unfunny, incoherent and worst of all, boring. ...oh, good. I finally came up with a review that's a load off. Now all I have to do is repress my memory of seeing this film...

IMAGES FROM WAPOL.COM



A DRAGON'S TALE

Joel Isaac Frady
Assistant Features Editor

One of the biggest complaints heard about the film industry today is how much different the actual movies are from the previews that people see for the film. The previews pump up the movies, making them look faster and funnier than they really are, and people leave unsatisfied after seeing the real thing. Almost all movies that come out nowadays are very different from their trailer and this is usually a bad thing.

So after seeing the previews for "Kiss of the Dragon," which were almost totally action scenes, expectations weren't very high for the actual film. Other recent action movies, like "Swordfish" and "Tomb Raider," had action-packed trailers, but only two or three actual action scenes in the movie, with long periods of dull plot in between them; and if there's one thing people don't want to see in a summer action movie, it's dull plot. What is

really wanted is action, fighting and as little plot as possible.

If you're looking for those qualities in a movie, "Kiss of the Dragon" delivers. Starring martial arts master Jet Li ("Romeo Must Die"), the film is loaded with big, fun fight and action sequences, and the actual plot is delivered in bite-sized doses in between some of the action scenes. It follows Liu Jian (Li), China's top secret agent, as he comes to Paris on assignment. But things are not as they seem and the people he comes to help turn him into their scapegoat and he becomes a fugitive.

This, of course, leads to several scenes where some goons who are out looking for him find him and crazy battles utilizing lots of interesting places and items follow. Li's one of the best martial artists working in film today and it shows. The fights are incredibly well chore-

Kiss of the Dragon

★★★★

Director:

Chris Nahon

Starring:

Jet Li

Bridget Fonda

ographed and well paced to match: they're fast, but not so fast that the camera and audience get lost in the process. The speed is just right. The only complaint that can be said of Li is that when it comes to personality, he's a bit stale. When it comes to speed and skill, it's hard not to compare him to the likes of Jackie Chan. But Chan isn't known simply for his fighting; he's also one of the funniest and most likable actors working today (think about it, how often do you hear someone say "I don't like Jackie Chan"? It never happens). Li doesn't have this fun side; he plays all of two characters and the only difference in those is normal and "pissed off."

The supporting cast also helps those periods of plot. Bridget Fonda ("Jackie Brown") plays Jessica, an American girl who was seduced into prostitution by Richard (Tcheky Karyo, "La

Femme Nikita"). Fonda, though melodramatic at moments, plays a very convincing and likable girl in need, which is a little different than the strong-willed women she's been known to play. Karyo is very over-the-top as the villain here, but when contrasted to Li's character, it adds to the feel.

This also shows promise for Chris Nahon, who makes his directing debut. He doesn't make a lot of the mistakes that many young directors make, keeping the pacing and action at a smooth, fast pace. Having Luc Besson behind you always helps though, as the famous writer/director of "The Fifth Element" and "The Professional" worked here as screenwriter (from a story by Li's) and producer.

What "Kiss of the Dragon" is, in the end, is exactly what people thought it would be: Jet Li beating the crap out of everyone in sight. There's no morals bogging it down, but the action is never silly either, it's just nice adrenaline-filled summer fun.

IMAGE FROM PARAMOUNT CENTURY FOX

ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER



Joel Isaac Frady
Assistant Features Editor

There are logical reasons some names and styles aren't mixed. For example, you would never see a Robert De Niro role given to Rodney Dangerfield and you couldn't replace Bea Arthur with Julia Roberts. This point is shown in "A.I.," as the project, started by the late Stanley Kubrick ("The Shining," "Eyes Wide Shut") was picked up and finished by Steven Spielberg. It tells the story of the not-so-distant future where human-like androids with incredible intelligence have been manufactured to serve the human race. Whether they are the cooks, servants or sexual toys, they begin to slowly fill every little

need that humans could ask... but Professor Hobby (William Hurt, "Dark City") has something new in mind. His idea is to create a robot that can love, truly love, the way a child loves his parents. So into the picture come Monica and Henry Swinson, two people whose son has spent years in a coma and things look bad. This sets up the first two thirds of the movie, which on its own would have made for a very good movie. The first act

A.I.

★★★★

Director:

Steven Spielberg

Starring:

Haley Joel Osment

Jude Law

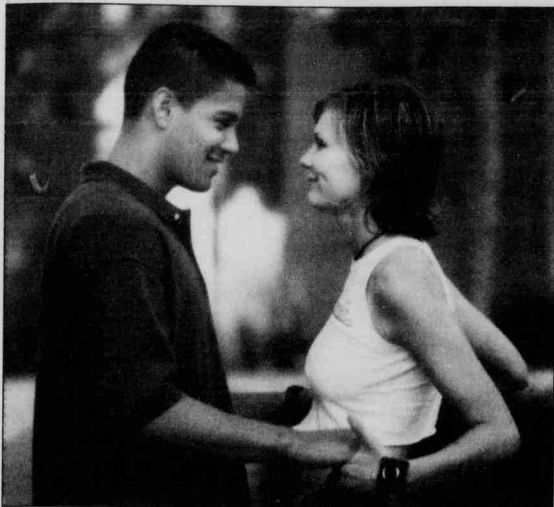
feels reminiscent of Kubrick's "The Shining," both in staging and atmosphere. The lines are few, the pauses between them is often as long as the line was. The house they live in is very barren (some might call it "very clean") and adds to the loneliness that everyone in the house is feeling.

The second act is the only part of the film that is great by any stretch of the imagination, with David hitting the streets, trying to find the "blue fairy" that will make him a real boy. Along his way, he meets Gigolo Joe (yes, gigolo, and this is Jude Law's best per-

formance to date), an android made to pleasure women who has been having some problems of his own. Here the visuals get absolutely incredible, from the Flesh Carnival to the lost city at the end of the world, it's eye candy with the plot and acting to go with it.

Then we hit this Titanic iceberg: Spielberg doesn't know how to end it. After the exceptional first two acts (***/12), it should have ended. The camera begins to pull away, the narrator starts talking; everyone's feeling the end credits! But then it starts going into this third act and we have to factor in this absurd and ridiculous last 20 minutes of the film (*). We won't go into it, just say

See A.I., Page 7



mildly troubled/beautiful

Zack Smith
Senior Staff Writer

Nicole (Kirsten Dunst) is a young girl in a perpetual state of funk, which she tries to drown out in a haze of booze, drugs and casual sex. Her family has gotten so used to her behavior that when she marches underwear-clad into the kitchen to retrieve a condom, the family maid doesn't even react. Carlos (Jay Hernandez), in contrast, is a young man so dedicated that he gets up in the middle of the night to be bused two hours to an upper-class high school. Carlos meets Nicole when she's picking up trash on the beach as punishment for her latest offense. She's smitten; he's intrigued. She gets him in trouble a few times, then begins a relationship that leads to...

...well, nothing. This is the problem I have with "crazy/beautiful," a film that comes frustratingly close to being one of the few truly smart teen films, but ends up the stuff of countless ABC Afterschool Specials.

There have been several articles (most notably one in Newsweek) regarding how director John Stockwell was made to many of the film's darker implications. This came on the heels of star Dunst deciding against doing a nude scene and a sex scene between Dunst and Hernandez being trimmed to half the length to get a PG-13 rating. Disney, the owner of Touchstone, the company releasing the film, had virtually all references to drugs and alcohol cut from the finished product. The sad part is, these cuts don't even effect the story that badly. I talked to a few people after the screening I saw and all agreed that it was blatantly obvious that Nicole was drunk and/or stoned throughout the film.

The problems with "crazy/beautiful" stem from the fact that there's a certain lack of conflict within the film. We never really see how Carlos' relationship with Nicole adversely affects him, other than the fact that he frequently seems to be late getting home. There are some nice reversals, such as the fact that Carlos' family disapproves of him dating a white girl and that Nicole's congressman father (Bruce Davison) likes Carlos so much that

crazy/beautiful

★ ★ ★

Director:

John Stockwell

Starring:

Kirsten Dunst

Jay Hernandez

he actually warns him about his own daughter. But clever scenes like these run hand-in-hand with forced scenes about racism, family crises and so on.

There's some very good performances in the film, particularly from relative newcomer Hernandez. Davison (who seems to be on a run of disapproving father roles lately), and especially Dunst, who puts a lot of effort into her work with her squished hairdo and virtually make-up-free face, she's equal parts sorrow and sensuality. But the film constantly feels like it's holding back. There's a lot of shots of Nicole crying and running around in a tank top and panties, but we rarely get to actually see most of her self-destructive actions and gradual revelations about the character reduce her to a sobbing bundle of "Daddy doesn't love me" clichés.

The film also has some odd discrepancies in the story. Davison's character is supposed to be a liberal who works extensively with minority groups, yet he keeps a Latino maid and initially mistakes Carlos for her nephew, while it's never really clear if Carlos' friends and relatives are racist, the victims of racism or both. The filmmakers aren't afraid to raise these complex issues, but the execution comes across as more confusing than thought provoking.

"crazy/beautiful" has some good ideas, and it's nice to see a teen film that isn't some brain-dead prom comedy, but it's too unfocused and restrained to accomplish what it sets out to do. I kept expecting the story to lead to some kind of tragedy; instead, we get a lot of tears and recriminations. There are a number of good films that cover similar ground as this (notably 1994's "Kids" and the underrated 1987 Robert Downey, Jr. vehicle "Less Than Zero") much more effectively than "crazy/beautiful" and it's frustrating that this film holds back when it should be pushing in. The reality of what teenagers can do is often very ugly, and the people involved in this film are smart enough to know that. They just don't know how to show it.

IMAGE FROM TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

A.I.

Continued from Page 6

that after the A.I. goes M.I.A. it meets E.T. (or A.I.E.T., you decide) and the plot goes B.S. Then the credits come!

This ending shows why the project shouldn't have gone on to Spielberg; while he had the knowledge of how to make a film with the Kubrick feel, he put a little too much of himself into it and reduced this from the great film it could have been to the passable one that it is. Not that everyone doesn't do their best to save it: Osment and Law are both phenomenal, the effects are amazing and the set design is gorgeous.

But in the end, all these rights are defeated by one wrong: a weak script. The moral questions here are not answered and the audience isn't really enjoying themselves the whole time. On the upside, there's this teddy bear android named "Teddy" that really makes the movie. He may be short and he may not be real, but let me tell you, he has "Best Supporting Actor" written all over him.

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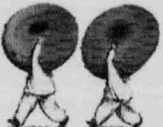
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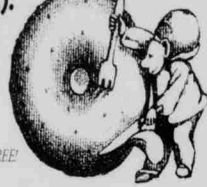
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1200 sq. ft. home with W/D and deck. 3 miles from NCSU, no pets, 2BDs, available/coming available. \$255-\$395 (depending on lease). Contact Tyler 310-3091

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Jamey Shearin has returned to the field after an ankle injury.

CPL

Continued from Page 10

and the CPL. "It's relaxed; you don't have as much pressure," Riley said. "That's pretty much the biggest difference."

As for Monday night's game, the Braves built an early 2-0 lead against Florence (S.C.), but four runs in the sixth and five in the seventh led to a 10-3 RedWolves' victory. Caldwell started on the mound for Durham and threw two no-hit innings, but he was lifted after three walks and a wild pitch and took a no-decision. Riley started the game at catcher and went 0-for-2 at the plate, while Shearin was 1-for-4 as the Braves' designated hitter.

Despite falling to Florence, the Braves completed their best first half ever last week. Durham secured a playoff berth with a 16-9 record at the season's midway point to take the Southern Division's first half title.

"The guys have been playing hard, and we've been doing the little things to win games," Trumm said. "And we've been having a lot of fun."

Caldwell said he struggled on

the mound in his early outings, but through Monday, he is 2-3 with a 2.65 ERA in seven appearances. Riley has started 26 of the Braves' 30 games and is hitting .171 with two home runs and seven RBIs. Shearin sat out much of the first half with an injured ankle and has only played in seven games, but he said the time off gave him a chance to heal other nagging injuries.

Other State players participating in the CPL this summer are Jeremy Dutton, David Hicks, Derek McKee and Joe Gaetti. McKee will represent the Asheboro Copperheads tonight at the CPL All-Star in Edenton after compiling a 3-2 record with a 1.67 ERA through the season's first half.

As well as the summer has gone for them in the CPL, the State players are anxious to begin preparing for next season with the Pack State made a memorable run in the ACC Tournament in May as the No. 8 seed, and the players want to ride that momentum into 2002.

"That was a fun run we had in the tournament," Shearin said. "Hopefully, we'll put that right back together and continue from there."

MOORE

Continued from Page 10

Armstrong's return from a bout with cancer to twice win the most prestigious cycling race in the world is one of the best sports stories in recent history.

Even so, cycling does not produce passion in most Americans the way football does. Few people buy wings, burgers and chips and invite their friends over to watch guys in tight shorts and funny helmets peddle through the European countryside.

Even casual football fans, however, congregate in homes, bars and parking lots to watch or attend football games on weekend afternoons in the fall.

Soccer is hugely popular all over the world, and most countries currently have a team attempting to qualify for a spot in the next World Cup. Granted, there are some soccer fanatics in the States, but discussions at the company water cooler are much more likely to be about Philip Rivers than Cobi Jones, even in the middle of July.

Wimbledon, the most celebrated tournament in tennis, ended last weekend. The tradition associated with the event is overwhelming, but there's something about all the rules and propensities of the tournament that doesn't sit well with Americans.

Football fans want to eat ribs and barbecue, paint their faces and take their shirts off when it's 14 degrees at the stadium. It's hard to envision Raiders fans wearing white shirts, white shorts and clapping politely only after each

play is completed.

To the dismay of some, Tiger Woods has actually lost a couple of tournaments, and it seems that interest in golf has waned just a bit. The sport's next major is the British Open, and again, maybe Americans just find it difficult to get excited about an event so far away.

When late August arrives, however, football will be right here. Even people who don't live near a professional team or big-time college program will venture out to the local high school on Friday night.

Like all other sports, football (at all levels) is just a silly game. Fat guys and skinny guys run up and down a field knocking each other over and trying to get a strange, oblong ball all the way to one end. But in the American psyche, it has become more than that. It has become an autumn spectacle.

Maybe baseball, cycling, soccer, tennis and golf could use a little more football atmosphere and pageantry. Maybe they need cheerleaders and marching bands. Maybe they need more sweat, blood, harder hits, more rowdy fans, shorter seasons, fewer rules and tailgating.

Because football has these things. Actually, football is these things. That's why so many people can't wait for the season to begin.

Jerry Moore's columns will appear sporadically throughout the summer. He can be reached at jerry@techniciansports.com or 515-2411.

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Pack adds two for future

◆ The N.C. State football team continues to upgrade its schedule for the upcoming decade.

Sports Staff Report

N.C. State Director of Athletics Lee Fowler announced June 28 two more additions to the Wolfpack's upcoming non-conference football schedules. The Pack will play a home-and-home series with Virginia Tech in 2005 and 2006 and will play two games vs. Notre Dame in 2009 and 2010.

Those two traditionally strong opponents join a state of several football powerhouses that State will play out-of-conference in the upcoming decade. The Wolfpack

also has upcoming home-and-home packages with Ohio State, Tennessee, Central Florida, Connecticut and Navy.

"Our commitment is to field a championship football team," said Fowler. "The additions and renovations at Carter-Finley Stadium and the upgraded quality of our upcoming schedules are evidence of that commitment. Coach Amato and his coaches are making sure that they do what it takes on the field to make that a reality, and we want to make sure that we give them all the tools needed to accomplish that goal."

State has never faced Notre Dame on the gridiron but has played the Hokies 44 times, posting a 17-23-4 mark. The last meeting between the

Pack and Virginia Tech was in 1992, when the teams battled to a 13-13 tie in Blacksburg, Va.

The Pack, which finished last season 8-4 after a victory in the MicronPC.com Bowl, will play Ohio, Indiana and Southern Methodist in non-conference action this year. State beat Indiana in a dramatic 41-38 come-from-behind win in Bloomington, Ind., last year. The Pack also defeated SMU in 2000 by a final of 41-0. State last played Ohio in 1998, defeating the Bobcats 34-31 in hurricane-like conditions.

State is scheduled to play East Tennessee State, Navy, Texas Tech and Massachusetts in 2002 before beginning its home-and-home with Ohio State in 2003.



The football team will play Notre Dame and Virginia Tech in the upcoming seasons.

Ready for football

August 25 and Sept. 9.

August 25 and Sept. 9. No, those aren't the dates that Barry Bonds will hit his next two home runs. They do mark, however, the regular-season kickoffs of college and professional football, respectively. And they can't come soon enough.

N.C. State fans will have to wait until Sept. 6 when Indiana visits Carter-Finley Stadium to witness the first

Jerry Moore

Wolfpack contest of 2001. That sure seems like a long time from now.

It's not that the sports world is void of action during the summer months, but nothing can quell Americans' desire for football.

The baseball season has reached its midway point, and the All-Stars converged on Seattle this week for the annual exhibition. It was a big deal, but every major-league team has already played more than 80 regular-season games and still has more than 70 to go.

Baseball is a truly great sport, but with so many games, it's hard to get excited about each one.

Conversely, nearly all football games are dramatic. Collegiate schedules of 10 to 12 games and professional slates of 16 mean there's little room for error, even early in the season. As evidenced by the Pack last year, one pass, one fumble or one yard in a September contest can dramatically change the course of a season.

Another problem with baseball can be summed up in one word — Yankees. Currently, the Mariners, Twins, Cubs and Phillies are all unexpected leaders of their divisions. That's great, but it won't matter.

The Yankees will lurk around the top of the American League East, make the playoffs and win their 27th World Series. That's super for Yankees fans, and it stinks for everyone else.

Thankfully, the NFL doesn't have a team like the Yankees. The salary cap, which baseball doesn't have, keeps most teams competitive, and picking the Super Bowl winner before the season is difficult at best.

Anyone who has predicted the last two champions — the Rams and the Ravens — should seriously consider joining the Psychic Friends Network. Dionne Warwick could use some help.

A handful of superpowers such as Nebraska, Florida and Florida State seem to rule college football, but there are always surprises. Few forecasters would have picked Oklahoma to go undefeated and win the national championship a season ago.

Tennessee wasn't a popular choice to win the title in 1998, a year after Peyton Manning had finished his illustrious career at the school. However, the Volunteers took the crown and it was exciting.

Beyond baseball, the summer provides a wide variety of sporting events around the globe. Maybe it's ethnocentrism or simple geography, but Americans want football. The Tour de France is underway across the big pond, and Lance Armstrong is trying to win the event for the third consecutive year.

See MOORE, Page 9

CPL offers extra cuts



Several N.C. State baseball players are gaining valuable experience in the Coastal Plain League.

Jeremy Ashton
Sports Editor

DURHAM — N.C. State's Justin Riley stroled to the plate in the bottom of the second inning Monday night for the Durham Braves.

With a runner on first and two outs, Riley took the first pitch he saw out of the strike zone for a ball, but he turned on the second one. Riley sent a towering shot down the left-field line that hooked foul — right into a light tower at the old Durham Athletic Park. The ball shattered one of the light covers, showering the foul ground with glass. Riley eventually grounded out to the shortstop, but his noisy strike kept the park buzzing for a few minutes.

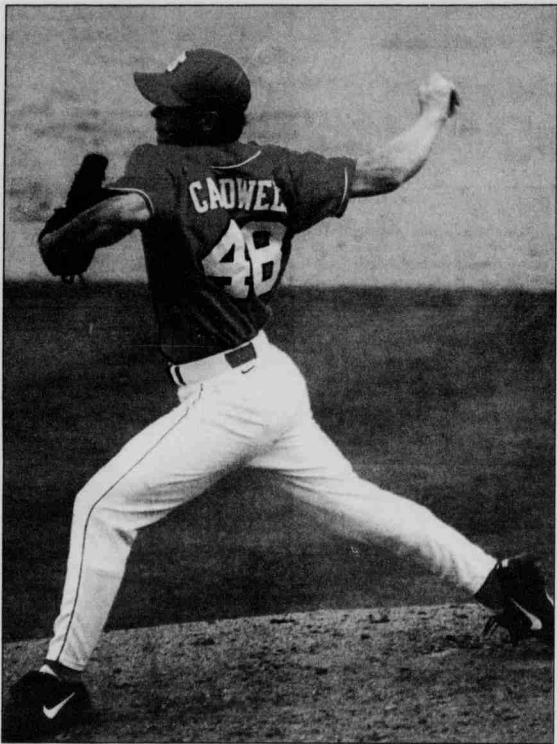
The ball that Riley ripped off the light tower looked like it was hit with an aluminum bat, which the Wolfpack catcher normally uses during the spring, yet the accompanying "ping" wasn't there. That's because Riley was hitting with a wooden bat.

"The power isn't as much a difference as you have a smaller sweet spot, so the consistency of hitting it harder is different," Riley said. "You can hit just as hard with wood but not as often."

Riley is one of several State players spending the summer in the Coastal Plain League, a league for collegiate baseball players from around the country made up of 11 teams scattered throughout Virginia and the Carolinas. Pitcher Daniel Caldwell and outfielder Jamey Shearin are playing in Durham with Riley. Pitcher Kyle Stephenson was also a member of the Braves, but he cut his summer short to rest a sore shoulder.

Durham head coach Tony Trumm, who spends the rest of the year coaching at Troy State, said that players are chosen for the league based on the recommendations of their college coaches. He sees the CPL as an ideal way for players to stay active before fall practices.

"The kids get an opportunity



(right) Daniel Caldwell is one of a number of Wolfpack baseball players honing his skills in the Coastal Plain League this summer. Through Monday, Caldwell is 2-3 with a 2.65 ERA for the Durham Braves. (left) Justin Riley and the other hitters in the CPL are benefiting from using wooden bats.

to get a lot of at-bats, play a lot of different games, try to polish up the things that they can take back to school and hopefully be able to win a starting position," Trumm said. "We're playing great competition, and we're pretty much playing every day."

The other major benefit of the CPL is the use of the wooden bats. For the hitters, that smaller sweet spot that Riley talked about translates into an improved swing when the play-

ers switch back to the metal bats.

"The wood's a little heavier, so it quickens the swing a little bit," Shearin said. "But really, it makes you concentrate on hitting the barrel on the ball."

The use of wooden bats actually helps the CPL's pitchers, as well. Since hitters aren't able to get around on pitches as quickly as they would with an aluminum bat, Trumm explained that the pitchers gain the confidence to

throw on the inner half of the plate.

"It's a lot easier for the pitchers because they don't hit the ball as hard as they do with the aluminum, and it's a lot harder for the guys to swing," Caldwell said. "It's totally to the pitchers' advantage."

Riley also thinks that there is a less tangible difference between the Atlantic Coast Conference

See CPL, Page 9

WolfpackNotes

Wilkins will transfer to Georgia

After playing two seasons at N.C. State and declaring for and subsequently removing his name from consideration in the NBA Draft, Damien Wilkins will transfer to Georgia, according to a story in the July 4 News and Observer.

Wilkins will join Coach Jim Harnack's Bulldogs, a team that finished with a 16-15 record a season ago. Georgia lost to Missouri in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Under NCAA transfer rules, Wilkins must sit out one season before he is eligible to compete.

Dominique Wilkins, Damien's uncle, played three seasons at Georgia before a long career in the NBA. He remains the

only Bulldog to have his jersey number retired at the school.

Wilkins decided to transfer after State coach Herb Sendek informed him that he would not be permitted to return to the Wolfpack.

"Having talked with both Damien and his father, Gerald, I have decided that Damien will not return to the N.C. State basketball team, even if they choose to withdraw from the NBA Draft," Sendek said in a press release. "They have demanded assurances and explanations that I am unable to provide and am not obligated to provide."

"Moreover, they have repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction with our program. As a result, I believe that his return would not be in our best interest and as caretaker of our program, I will continue to make decisions that benefit our team and N.C. State."

ESA to host NCAA Tournament games in 2004

The NCAA championships-competition cabinet confirmed at its meetings last week that N.C. State will play host to first- and second-round East Regional games of the 2004 men's basketball tournament at the Entertainment and Sports Arena. The dates of the contests will be March 18 and 20.

The other first-round site for the East Region will be Buffalo, N.Y. The South Regional games will be played in Kemper Arena (Kansas City, Mo.) and the Waterhouse Center (Orlando, Fla.).

Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio, and Milwaukee's Bradley Center will host the Midwest Region, while West Regional games will be played at the

Pepsi Center in Denver and Key Arena in Seattle.

Wolfpack center Greene to skip senior season

Christian Greene, a 6-3 center on the N.C. State women's basketball team, has decided to forgo her senior year of eligibility in order to concentrate on academics and pursue other career opportunities.

The Silver Spring, Md., native played in 30 games last year for the Wolfpack, starting 2.1 times. Greene averaged 2.8 points and 2.1 rebounds per contest.

Greene will remain in school at State to complete her degree in mass communications. She plans to pursue a career in radio or television production.