

2.



The good old days
Listen to all of the old timers rant and rave about the days of yore in Opinion.

4.

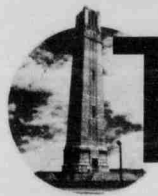


Puss in Boots
Nick Fury, Cats & Dogs, The Score, and Final Fantasy are up to bat in Features.

8.



Work in progress
The first round of construction at Carter-Finley Stadium is nearing the end.



Wednesday
July 18, 2001

TECHNICIAN

www.technicianonline.com

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

Today	Hi 87
	Lo 69
Tomorrow	Hi 85
	Lo 68

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has new associate dean

For Kenneth Esbenshade, the associate dean's job was the right one at the right time.

Trey Godwin
Senior Staff Writer



Kenneth Esbenshade is a new CALS assistant dean

The past two weeks have been a virtual cram course for new College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Associate Dean Kenneth Esbenshade.

That's because he's been going through a steady stream of files, trying to absorb information that he's rapidly becoming acquainted with. After a

20-year membership to the university, he still doesn't know every twist and turn. Even though he's been at N.C. State longer than entering freshmen have been alive, the collection of knowledge he must inhale that comes with his new job can, at times, be overwhelming.

"Come back in a couple of months and give me a quiz," he joked.

Indeed, his new job consists of a whirlwind of duties. Between overseeing such CALS offices as research, corporate extension, business and foundations, he still gets an opportunity to meet with students. It's all in a day's work as serving second in command at the nation's third largest College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Ebenshade was an assistant professor of animal science for 10 years before serving as director of CALS' two-year Agricultural Institute from 1991 to 1996. While heading the Institute, he gained an inordinate amount of knowledge that furthered his understanding of the role that CALS plays for the state of North Carolina. His administrative duties allowed him to meet with industry and policy experts in the science and agricultural fields to get a firm grasp of what types of programs were critical for the economic development of the state.

He learned first-hand the importance of his college to the state. It is one of only two land-grant colleges within

the UNC system — the other being North Carolina A&T State — that serves as the basis of knowledge for the agricultural, industrial and manufacturing economies of the state.

Ebenshade's horizons were broadened and in 1996, Esbenshade's career shifted. He was chosen to head the department he formerly taught in. As head of animal science, he never taught, but he still did what he always loved — interacting with students. He met with students to get input both on policy that was set within the department and what they expected of their education. Then, when former CALS Associate Dean George Barthalamus announced he was going to retire in June, a bulb in the back of Esbenshade's head flickered.

"I thought the knowledge I learned and the skills I perfected in the previous 20 years would be perfect for the continuing enhancement of the university," Esbenshade said, sitting at his meeting table littered with green and yellow files. According to Esbenshade, James Ohlinger, dean of

CALS, wanted to conduct an internal search for Barthalamus' successor. Esbenshade applied for the job and was one of two interviewed for the position before he was chosen.

CALS is currently on solid ground. It is one of two colleges at NCSU that has its own career services center, which helps ease students' transitions from the university to the working world. The college publishes its own newsletter that is mailed to alumni to keep them posted on recent happenings and maintain an invaluable base of contacts for future students. The college also continues to preserve first-rate faculty, who bring a global influx of knowledge to the classroom through experiences gained in teaching, research and extension missions overseas.

Ebenshade understands that CALS' professors and students are only a minute portion of the academic world that are an asset to the "global village."

"We must continue to bring an international perspective to the classroom," said Esbenshade.

His sentiments are further echoed in the fact that, at one time during his stint as animal science head, two-thirds of the faculty had traveled internationally either conducting extension work, teaching or doing research.

But professing policy and implementing policy are totally different things, especially when resources are limited. Due to the economic woes of the state, public education is taking a hard hit. Esbenshade, like many university leaders, faces the tough task of providing students with adequate skill sets that are hindered by trimmed resources.

The House version of the budget funds university salaries at 98.5 percent. Faculty, however, are already paid well below many of the faculty at peer institutions. Further complicating

See DEAN, Page 9

Indirect research costs in jeopardy

◆ Because of the state budget crisis, N.C. State research could lose crucial funding.

Spaine Stephens
News Editor

With the state budget problems threatening many programs at N.C. State, university researchers are becoming well aware of the value of electricity and cold water.

Two luxuries that most people take for granted are vital to some NCSU research experiments; their funding is also considered an indirect research cost, or "overhead receipts." These costs are a percentage of the total of each grant awarded for research, used for supplemental research needs. Other indirect costs include staff and administrative support for research, supplies, equipment and library expenses.

While all these commodities are necessary for the ongoing research NCSU is known for, there are proposals in the House of Representatives for the state to retain some of the university's overhead receipts to help with the state budget crisis.

This could cripple ongoing experiments on campus and cause the university to lose out on competitive edge, key faculty and students.

"These are costs indirectly related to research, and that's exactly where

they should be spent," said Charles Moreland, interim provost and vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

When grants are awarded for research, 47 percent of the total cost of the experiments can be put toward indirect costs like stipends to graduate students for their work and supplies for research.

"Many of these grants have a lot of strings attached on what the money has to be used for," said Mark Fleming, special assistant to the chancellor for government affairs.

Despite the extensive research support needs, not all agencies from which grants come pay that full amount for the indirect costs. In effect, the university has to pick up the bill and fund the rest of the necessary expenses.

"NCSU is already promoting research for the state, and covering most of our own costs," said Moreland.

He is concerned that if the state retains some of the overhead receipts, the money will not be used for what it was originally intended. The federal government places regulations on NCSU when funds are released, and they have to be used for what they were earned for.

"If you stray too far away from their intent, you lay yourself open to having the federal government audit you," said Moreland.

His solution is simply to not alter the

present system of spending the money on the support of the faculty researchers whose work brings in the indirect cost money.

"Spending the money on anything other than to support the research efforts of the faculty is a very bad message to send to them," he said. "We should be accountable for where that money goes. We're willing to stand for that, and willing to stick to that obligation."

Such cut and dry concepts as spending within guidelines is what opponents of the House proposals are trying to drive home in the Legislature.

"We've expressed our objection, and explained to them that it's not appropriate [for the state to retain the overhead receipts]," said Moreland. "We feel they'll probably listen to us."

Approximately \$1 million are at stake, so many researchers have their fingers crossed that legislators will listen.

The precarious state of the university's research enterprise will affect those who earned the grants first, and then take its toll on support staff, whose salaries come directly from the indirect cost money. In the long run, the university as a whole will be hurt if the state chooses to retain the overhead receipts.

"It will damage ongoing research," said Moreland. "If someone takes that budget away, the research enterprise can't operate."

Hot Town, Summer in the City



ALL PHOTOS BY JASON PEISTER/STAFF

Top: General Johnson and Chairman of the Board performed at Oldies 100.7 FM's Beachstock 2001 Sunday at the Entertainment and Sports Arena. Other acts were Sammy O'Banion with Mardi Gras, Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs, Clarence Carter and Chubby Checker.

Middle: Prior to the music, Beachstock 2001 hosted an antique auto show outside in the parking lot. Pictured is a red 427 Shelby Cobra.

Bottom: Melonie Godfrey (left) and Katie Patterson shag during Beachstock 2001 at the ESA on Sunday. The ESA floor was transformed into a beach for the show with the addition of sand and inflatable palm trees.

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

A burning debate

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO OUTLAW THE DESECRATION OF THE U.S. FLAG IS A POOR IDEA.

Congress is at it again. Reuters reported Tuesday that, for the fifth time in 12 years, Congress (the House of Representatives currently) is considering a proposed amendment that would outlaw desecration of the U.S. flag. This was a bad idea the first four times and remains so to this day.

Proponents of both sides are trying to win support by throwing around weighty terms like "freedom," "democracy" and "unity." However, the only true democratic and patriotic choice regarding this amendment is against it. Passing this amendment would limit free speech, which, in turn, limits freedom in general and weakens the strong foundations upon which our nation was built.

The desecration of the flag, in and of itself, is a futile and destructive act. However, freedom is weaker without the right to desecrate the flag. The United States, despite ongoing worldwide criticism, remains the greatest and noblest nation in the world. China just recently won the right to host the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing even though it has little respect for international standards of human rights. In China, burning the flag could get you jailed or worse. In the

United States, burning the flag could (and should) get you heated criticism and protest — nothing more, nothing less.

The freedom of speech will not always support our government and the American way of life we hold so dear. The right to burn a flag, however, is the same right that allowed the protests that sparked the civil rights and women's suffrage movements.

Perhaps Secretary of State Colin Powell, as reported by Reuters, put it best when he said, "I would not amend that great shield of democracy to hammer a few miscreants. The flag will be flying long after they have slunk away."

Powell spoke out against the same amendment when it was debated in the House in 1999.

We should not desecrate the U.S. flag. On this point, most are agreed. However, we should not prevent people from having the right to desecrate the flag. The flag is only a symbol, a symbol of freedom, democracy and unity. Burning the flag only bolsters that or which the flag stands as the freedom this nation grants the flag burner allows him to do so.



Hillsborough Street (near present day Darryl's) mid-early 20th century image from <http://www.raleigh-nc.org/planning/Hillsborough/hist.htm>

Hillsborough Street renaissance

Kate Lingerfelt

GUEST COLUMNIST

A week into my freshman year, with no car and no idea of what to do in Raleigh, I was desperate to get off campus. I decided to journey to Hillsborough Street. Ah, the sights and sounds! I discovered the best Chinese food under five bucks and about 85 pizza places. Now, I realize Hillsborough Street is not as entertaining or exciting as I had once thought. In fact, Hillsborough Street doesn't have much to offer — unless you really like cheap pizza or homeless people. There are some stores that sell cool clothes, comics and records, but these stores are few and far between. And sure there are few good restaurants like Golden Dragon (cheap stuff) and Frazier's (a little extra), but they are outweighed by the mediocre places. As for bars? Pantana Bob's and East Village work, not because they're good bars, but because they're convenient.

Hillsborough Street hasn't always been this way. My cousin and my father went to N.C. State, and they would tell me stories of the partying that took place on Hillsborough. Although my decision to come here was not because of wild parties, it didn't hurt. After big wins in basketball and football the entire street would erupt in pandemonium (sans rate crops and teargas). Except for the

Hillsborough Hike, there's not much that draws the students out, making them feel that Hillsborough Street is a great place to hang out.

So what can be done? Some changes are already in place. In May, the Raleigh City Council decided to spend about two million dollars to build roundabouts on Hillsborough Street to help alleviate the traffic problem. Also, NCSU is helping out by creating a bus-only road to keep the buses off of Hillsborough Street. So that takes care of the traffic. But what about things to do? What about better stores, restaurants and bars? And what about the fact that the street looks dirty?

A man named Val Valentine just acquired some area next door at University Towers at the corner of Dan Allen Drive and Hillsborough Street. He developed University Towers and the gravel parking lot near the train tracks. Valentine plans to build apartments and shops on the two acres across from Cup A Joe's.

A majority of plans suggested to developers such as Valentine stress the importance of making Hillsborough Street more pedestrian-friendly. I think they are going to take this idea too far, however. Hillsborough Street is not Disney World — it isn't a mall. Besides, families only show up on occasional Sundays. The students use Hillsborough Street the most, and the

students should have a say in what stays and what goes.

So here it is, my grand plan for Hillsborough Street. Do not turn it into another Franklin Street. Let UNC-Chapel Hill have its Gaps on every corner for the students to spend their parents' money. NCSU deserves better, more unique, different places — a street with some personality. Get rid of the empty, useless buildings. Put something in the old movie theater/McDonald's and in the old Colorado's. We need a bar that doesn't look like a seedy, hole-in-the-wall joint, perhaps something a la "Coyote Ugly." We need a dance club with a dance floor bigger than a Post-it note (something boasted by both the Cantina and Kelly's). Put in more shops that sell clothes, CDs and unusual items at more affordable prices, or maybe something similar to Slacker's but within walking distance. And what it kill anyone to open up a Krispy Kreme?

But let us not forget the most important thing: every last place of business must have some area full of NCSU paraphernalia (thank you Brother's Pizza). Hillsborough Street belongs to the Wolfpack.

Questions? Comments? Email Kate at klinger@unity.ncsu.edu.

Bush, Americans and gas

Jonathan Smith

GUEST COLUMNIST

Like the slimy, grotesque aliens I find on Independence Day, "Americans will soon discover a path to galaxies billions of light years away. July 12, 2001: a compromise between the Bush administration and the Senate opens up 1.5 million acres of the Eastern Gulf for drilling.

With government funding and our infatuation with modern technology, we can expect this achievement in ... oh, say two years. Furthermore, SSETI will retrieve old ideas of pouring kerosene over the vast areas of Asia, igniting colossal, geometric flames on the side of the Earth in order to make neighboring aliens aware of our stupidity. They will then know how wasteful we are with energy, and how we hasten the destruction of our own world. Meanwhile, our military will have developed ways to create bio-armor.

Presently, the Bush administration exhausts all possibilities of drilling around our own nation, since the Middle East has been sucked dry. The Gulf of Mexico is first. Our shorelines are next, after that, the National Parks; then, our rural land. Last, our own residential areas.

After we extract all oil and gas from the earth, burn it and make it a hot ball of toasty ear wax, we can say goodbye to her. By then, we can jump ship to the nearest galaxy.

Whenever a blue, brown, white and healthy planet suits out of the darkness, we'll make our landing. Then, Bush can drill some more.

Like the aliens, we'll have big scary suits. However, unlike those from "Independence Day" who sought to

exterminate everyone, our preliminary visits will ensure that inhabitants will be dependent upon petroleum products and gas-electric energy. Therefore, they will have no means to seek out solar energy, wind or waterpower. We'll have to drill for them (and us). Once we've raped their world, Americans can move on.

And that will be our life. Next thing you know, our ships will have green shields over them, our heads will get big and slimy (probably from oil), and we'll revert to obliterating capitol buildings all over different planets in the universe.

Meanwhile, all those countries that decided to seek alternate energy sources on Earth will do just fine at home. They'll have better things to do like developing artificial intelligence.

Our story — a rip-off of an older summer flick — "Bush, Americans and gas" is destined to come true. Many

may dismiss it as fiction, but with an exponentially expanding population, with an ever expanding need for gas, the citizens of this country can expect to find themselves flocking to outer space. Our government doesn't want to interfere with a market's choice of energy. Ha!

If he can't do it in 4 years, perhaps we all have a chance. Vote him out of office, and Gore can come back and save the world.

I hate to get into politics, just as much as I hate having to use gas, and more so than having to write a column about it all. In the end, however, bio-armor sounds pretty damn cool.

Jonathan wrote this column in the dark with a piece of charcoal. Email him at jdsmit14@unity.ncsu.edu with your own take on the energy crisis and tips to fix it.

RULE OF THUMB

World Peace



Russian and Chinese Presidents Vladimir Putin and Jiang Zemin, respectively, respectfully signed a friendship treaty between the two "superpowers." A puzzling clause in the document will allow for Putin to compete in synchronized swimming in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

An Associated Press story uncovered a rash of surreptitious service charges for 911 users in North Carolina totaling more than \$1 million. Perhaps using 1-800-COLLECT would have saved a buck or two. Those most affected by the fee were grandmothers who had "fallen and can't (couldn't) get up."

911 Fee



Driver's licenses for illegal aliens



Mexican President Vicente Fox made a plea to Illinois Governor George Ryan to issue driver's licenses for illegal aliens in his state. If they're gonna be in the United States illegally, the least they can do is to know when to make a right on red and what a "No Passing Zone" sign looks like.

State grant money

An investigation in The News & Observer uncovered a gross misuse of state grant money intended to ease the cost of attending public colleges in North Carolina. Investigators became suspicious when they noticed that those set to receive money for 2001-2002 included Damien Wilkins and Jesse Helms.



The innocence (ignorance) of youth



The BBC reported the results of a survey Monday that found myths regarding pregnancy to be widely held among British teens. The success of Coca-Cola, wrist watches and significant milk consumption as contraceptives seemed to be some of the most popular urban legends found by the study.

2001 Dodge Caravan

The best-selling mini-van received the worst crash test rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. In the tests, the area beneath the driver's feet crumbled and a fuel leak started. This makes one question the "Dodge Different" campaign and whether "Every minute in a Dodge is a minute worth living."



More shark attacks



Since the attack on an eight year-old last week, there have been two more shark attacks reported in Florida waters. This time, however, no arms were severed (or reattached), barely making the events newsworthy.

North Carolina Consortium

An Associated Press report this week showed that a "consortium of 51 North Carolina cities" is \$5.4 million in debt due to electrical costs created during the 1980's and 1990's. The cities are trying to figure out what they'll do to get out of debt and just what a "consortium" is.



Sliced peanut butter



After three years of tweaking, researchers at Oklahoma State University have developed a sliced peanut butter product that can be used on sandwiches or simply and conveniently be consumed as a hearty snack. In other peanut butter news, there is still no explanation for why crunchy remains more expensive than smooth.

Bible thumper

Mark Venuti, 36 of Elizabeth, New Jersey, was shot to death by police officers Saturday after he attacked them with what he said was a gun. The police found out later that his "gun" was really a Bible, and not even one of those big hard-bound ones but a paperback study Bible. What an idiot!



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Time management helps students stress less

◆ List-making and planning what notwithstanding, students may have difficulty completing tasks because of procrastination.

Liz Guard

Daily Egyptian (Southern Illinois U.)

(U-WIRE) CARBONDALE, Ill. - Sunset Concerts, inviting drink specials at bars and the beautiful outdoors that surround Southern Illinois University are all tempting reasons students might not want to concentrate on their studies this summer.

Time management, or lack of it, and procrastination can be some of the biggest stresses for college students. Many students have a hard time balancing school, work and social time, but there are some simple solutions that can help students manage their time without constant procrastination.

Barb Elam, stress management coordinator at the Wellness Center, said procrastination and time management are some of the most common reasons students seek help.

"Students have to first ask themselves if the problem is time management, or if it's procrastination or if it's just poor study skills," Elam said.

To avoid wasting time, students should make and follow a daily schedule that allows time for all activities that need to be done. It should include time for classes, homework, meals, exercise and a job. The activities should also be

ranked in order of importance.

"Making lists is a great practical way to deal with time management," Elam said. "Research has shown that people who write things down finish difficult tasks faster. But it is important to have a reminder book because a lot of students just write stuff down on little pieces of paper, and you know they're going to lose them."

Mandy Beck, a junior in elementary education from Mattoon, Ill., has a job, a social life and takes classes, but doesn't feel like she has a hard time balancing everything, even without a reminder book.

"I don't use anything to manage my time because I'd probably leave it at home or not even look at it," Beck said.

Students may also be pressed for time because they have a hard time saying no. According to the University of South Florida's Counseling Center, when students volunteer for every opportunity that comes their way, they can become over-stressed. Even though students may want to please everyone, it is almost always in their best interest to not take on more than they can handle.

After making a list and planning what needs to be done, students may still have difficulty completing tasks because of a little thing called procrastination. Like so many other students, Beck has experience with procrastination.

"Of course I procrastinate: I put everything off until the last

minute, but it doesn't really bother me," Beck said.

Procrastination is one of the biggest time killers for students, but it can be kept to a minimum with some basic strategies. According to Elam, many times students cannot seem to get themselves motivated to complete the task at hand. Their brains can come up with some amazing excuses to avoid doing what needs to be done.

For Jason Simpson, an undecided freshman from De Soto, Ill., procrastination only affects him every once in a while.

"I kind of put things off sometimes, but I usually do things when I want to do them," Simpson said. "When I do put something off, I stay up until the wee hours of the morning finishing it. I always get things done."

Just because students get their work done is no excuse to continue procrastinating. According to professionals in the field of stress management, putting things off only makes students feel worse and continuously nags at their minds until the task is complete.

"Most of the time, just getting started is one of the most difficult things," Elam said.

When trying to get started, dividing tasks into smaller parts can help students deal with difficult obligations. By dividing a job into smaller steps, students will feel less overwhelmed.

Students may also put off certain tasks off because they

feel they cannot accomplish them.

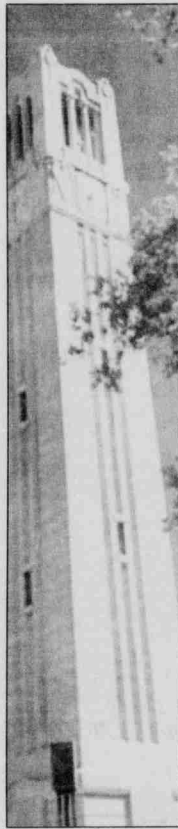
"They say, 'I don't want to do this because it's too hard,'" Elam said. "These negative statements students make to themselves are not logical. Anyone who has gotten into college has already had to do difficult things. They just get panicky and think they can't do something."

It is important for students to start a task whether they think they can finish it or not, because the inevitable fact is that it must be done. Elam said once students start a job that must be done, the rewarding feelings of accomplishment will soon come. Once started, students should set up a reward program for themselves.

"You set up little deals with yourself, like 'If I read one chapter then I can watch that TV show I wanted to,'" Elam said.

According to Elam, most traditional students have enough discretionary time to balance their daily activities. But for some, time management can become a problem that can cause unnecessary stress. Balancing daily activities can be an easy task with a few key points.

"Students shouldn't feel guilty about socializing because that's part of college too," Elam said. "They've just got to watch those distractions, like friends calling or dropping by, and not get sucked in. There's a time and a place for everything."



DEAN

Continued from Page 1

matters is that the House wants to alter the present system of returning all research overhead funds to the campuses. These two proposals will seriously affect CALS' ability to sustain and lure faculty.

"I just hope budget cuts aren't crippling," Esbenschade said. "It's not fair to the incoming students who won't have the same infrastructure as past and present students. We also can't slash support programs."

No matter what hand NCSU is dealt, Esbenschade knows those people who manage various CALS academic programs will make the best of what they have. His strong faith in them is witnessed in his managerial style. He's a hands-off guy. Esbenschade is convinced that those within each department are best equipped to enhance the curriculum and reputation.

Because CALS is a diverse college, each area has its own concern. He views his job as charting a middle course between all parties' concerns.

"I help deal with vision, accountability and support," said Esbenschade.

Esbenschade's resume is proof that providing help when called upon shouldn't be a problem.

He said he works closely with an administrative team that polishes his understanding of established policy as well as debating other issues that a technology-centered college is constantly faced with.

"He is in tune with the challenges facing our department heads, and this experience will allow him to provide a valuable perspective on our college's management team," said CALS Dean James Ohlinger.

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Secret Agent Man

Zack Smith
Senior Staff Writer

"Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D." has one of the most dubious pedigrees in the history of comics.

Initially, the character of the hard-fighting, tough-talking Nick Fury was created by Marvel Comics in 1963 as a World War II title called "Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos," designed to compete with DC's popular line of war comics.

A few years into that title's run, Fury was spun off into the anthology comic "Strange Tales," where he was placed in charge of a spy agency, cashing in on the James Bond spy craze of the 1960's. What started out as a derivative, fairly unoriginal concept quickly became one of the most ground-breaking comics of the 1960's — if not ever — once Jim Steranko came on board in 1966 as the writer and artist.

Steranko's work helped to elevate "Fury" to the level of the best pop art being produced in the late 1960's and created a comic that has been analyzed by art historians and cinema theorists alike. For years, his work has been out of print in the U.S. (it's enjoyed a massive following overseas in the meantime), but now Marvel has finally reprinted all of his work for a new generation to discover.

"Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D." is a simple tale of good vs. evil, with the rough-but-heroic Fury leading the agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. ("Strategic Headquarters International Espionage Law-enforcement

Division") battling the evil forces of Hydra, a green-masked organization devoted to world domination that resembles a cross between the Nazis and the Communist Party (other stories pit Fury against Scorpio, a masked terrorist and the Yellow Claw, the villain who set U.S./Asia relations back by a decade).

Most of the stories actually make very little sense on their own and almost always involve Fury using some kind of bizarre spy-device to infiltrate the villain's lair, followed by his escaping death in some equally strange, off-panel manner explained by a large, wordy chunk of text.

The initial stories were constricted by their relatively short length, and they often end almost as soon as they start, but the plots are less important than the Steranko's way of relaying them. Many comics of the 1960s relied on the usual format of the 5-6 panel page with occasional splash pages, but Steranko took the styles used by noted Marvel artists Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko and infused them with his own unique, expressionist style, which he called "Zap Art." Repeated images, photo collages, hidden images and elaborate double-page spreads soon became the norm for "Nick Fury," with one story even featuring an elaborate, four-page foldout that required the reader to buy two copies in order to see the complete image (the trade collection, thankfully, reprints it in its intended format).

Steranko further understood how to use the format of a comic book to create elaborate, cinematic imagery, and he employed the cinematic technique of montage in his later stories.

When Fury graduated to a full-length solo book, he opened the first issue with a two-page silent sequence that is still studied today; in the second issue, he ran another silent sequence, a one-page love scene between Fury and his girlfriend Val that was amazingly daring for its day (and still packs an erotic punch).

Steranko also became more daring in his storytelling, ending the Yellow Claw story with a paranoid twist straight out of the TV series "The Prisoner," and using the ongoing series to tell everything from science-fiction thrillers to straight horror to one that juxtaposed the story of Fury's fighting Scorpio with the stories of a gambler on the run and a gangster after him, leading to an ironic ending that was homaged over 30 years later in last year's Oscar winner "Traffic."

Steranko himself did little comics work after "Fury," save for a few issues of "Captain America" and "X-Men," along with a few short stories for Marvel's other anthology titles and some covers.

His few works of note include several crime graphic novels, including a Raymond Chandler homage called "Chandler" and an illustrated version of Chandler's novel "The Little Sister" and an uncompleted history of comics, along with doing storyboard work for films like "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Bram Stoker's Dracula."

Most recently, he did the covers for a series of paperback reissues of the novels of suspense writer Cornell Woolrich. While much of his work remains out of print (and what has been reprinted has been subject to some legal problems with Marvel regarding royalties), his S.H.I.E.L.D. work remains one of the most visually unique and influential works ever produced in any medium. Nick Fury may have been a clichéd and derivative character, but in the hands of Jim Steranko, he did more than imitate pop-cultural trends — he set them.

"Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D." is available in two volumes from Marvel Comics, "Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D." (\$19.95) collecting the short stories, and "Who is Scorpio?" (\$12.95) collecting Steranko's run on the ongoing series. Both volumes are available at local shops Foundation's Edge and Capitol Comics, and at bookstores like Barnes and Noble and Borders Books and their online counterparts like amazon.com.

COLLAGE BY JIM STERANKO FROM NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.



The truth about Cats & Dogs

Zack Smith
Staff Writer

Cats and Dogs

★★★★

Director:
Larry Guberman
Starring:
Sean Hayes
Tobey Maguire
Jeff Goldblum

"Cats and Dogs" is a fun movie, albeit one for a younger audience. There are relatively few jokes aimed at an older audience, save a few bits like the one where a shocked dog utters "Son of my mom!" It works, though, because it remembers that it's a kid's movie and doesn't try to be anything other than that. "Cats and Dogs" concerns the conflict between the titular species, which here takes on global proportions. It seems that cats led by the maniacal Mr. Tinkles, are secretly plotting against mankind. Mr. Tinkles (voiced by "Will and Grace"'s Sean Hayes with James Bond villain relish) is determined to gain the upper hand on the dogs by stealing a formula developed by Professor Brody

(Jeff Goldblum) designed to cure human allergies to dogs.

The dogs attempt to retaliate by planting an agent in the Brody home, but unfortunately, a non-agent puppy named Lou (Tobey Maguire's voice) finds himself there instead. Lou quickly finds himself attached to the Brody's son (Alexander Pollock), much to the disgust of his superior, Butch (Alec Baldwin's voice), while Mr. Tinkles and his Jon Lovitz-voiced lieutenant prepare to make their move...

If this sounds silly, it's because... well, because it is silly. Very silly. But there's an almost ridiculous logic to the silliness, giving "Cats and Dogs" a strange, cartoon-like feel. Most of the humor comes from the fact that the animals are allowed to simply act like animals, Lou

See PETS, Page 5



DIRECT SCORE

Joel Isaac Frady
Assistant Features Editor

The Score

★★★★

Director:
Frank Oz
Starring:
Robert DeNiro
Edward Norton

When people are discussing a heist or crime they want to pull off, nine times out of 10 they use the word "smoothly" to describe how they want it to go. They want to plan out every little detail of the task, prepare for every possible scenario that could happen and get it done and be gone before anyone notices.

Almost every year there is a movie or two about such heists, but there is always one big problem. While filmmakers are telling stories about these perfect crimes that plan out every detail they don't seem to put as much work into planning the film as their characters put into the crime, and the majority of these pictures have very dismal results. Just last year "The Opportunists" was released (starring Christopher Walken), and while having a plot exactly like this one, the playoff was slow and the film was boring.

Other heist pictures focus too much attention on the action (like the 1998 film "Hard Rain"), and the film feels contrived and rushed. In addition to a great score, impressive cinematography and knock-out performances by the entire cast, "The Score" moves at a pace that's never dull and never too fast; it moves along very smoothly.

The film stars Robert DeNiro as Nick, an aging thief who, like most of our aging professionals, just wants to work

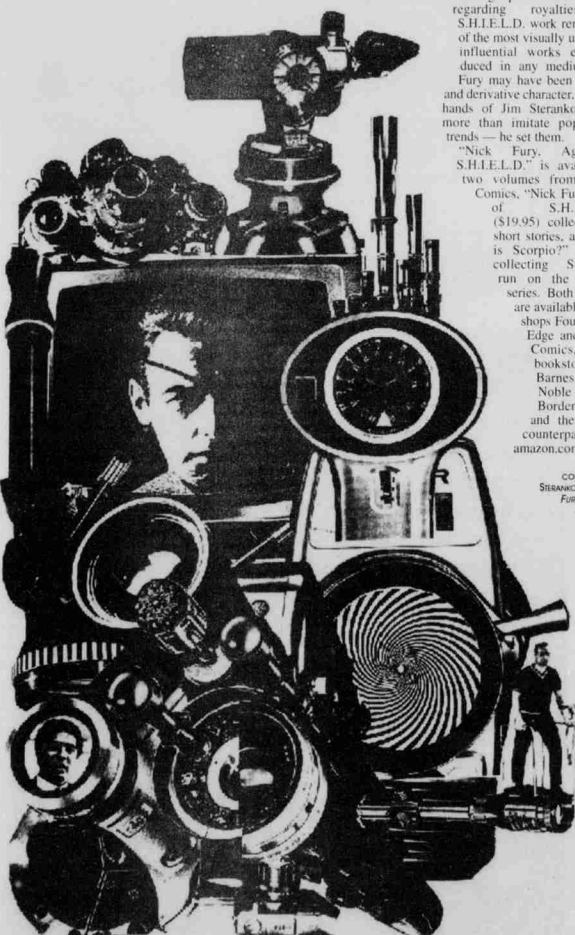
that last big job and retire to a life of peace. He has everything a man could ask for as well: an amazing home, his own jazz restaurant, and a lover (Angela Bassett, "What's Love Got To Do With It") who's accepted him for who he is.

He's finally ready to retire, but Max (Marlon Brando, "The Godfather") arrives and tells him about that final heist he's been waiting for, which has been set up by

Jackie (Edward Norton, "Fight Club"). The cast is one of the best ever put together, and it shows. DeNiro plays the man who is trying to keep his head out to a tee. Granted, he's played very similar roles, but he plays Nick as a calmer, more likable character. Brando and Bassett also give excellent supporting performances. Brando having fun with a strange character and Bassett coming through strong in some key scenes, but the film is topped off with a great performance from Norton (who has an abundance of great performances). With as many scenes as he has, he plays some comically, others seriously, but the one thing you're never quite sure of is who Jackie really is. What you do know is that it's enjoyable watching him either way.

The cinematography also differs a lot from other heist films, which use fast edits and close shots to create the suspense. "The Score" is full of long and

See SCORE, Page 5



Fantastic Voyage

Joel Isaac Frady
Assistant Features Editor

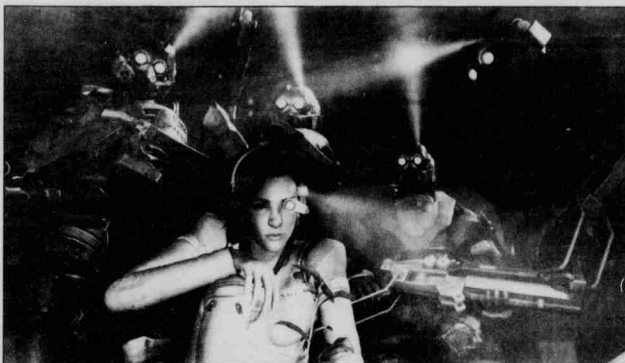
For more than 10 years now, the "Final Fantasy" video game series has been wowing game players all over the world. These games have always had plots better than most movies and, when mixed with the great animations, fight scenes and mind-challenging play, people couldn't get enough. I was one of these players. When I was about 12, I remember getting Final Fantasy III for the Super Nintendo, and for days after that I had to be told to go outside, an activity that I normally preferred over the Nintendo. The string kept going as I then proceeded to Final Fantasy II, VII and VIII (not that long ago). So when I found out a movie was coming out, I was excited.

There were a lot of doubts, though. Another of my early-teen favorite games, "Tomb Raider," had already been mutilated in the game-to-film transition. In the past, "Super Mario Brothers" and "Street Fighter" were also adapted into terrible movies. By the time the Final Fantasy film was getting made, people like me were already a little jaded.

Finally, there's a reason to be a little less jaded. For others, there's a reason to let your jaw drop, for this film has the best special effects that have been seen on the film screen to date.

Taking place on the same world as the game series (though, sadly, a lot of similarities to the games stop there), we find an Earth that's struggling to stay alive. The threat: these strange creatures called "phantoms" that came to earth on a meteor but then proceeded to start wiping out the human race (this would sound familiar if anyone had gone to see "Evolution.")

How the story plays out, at points, is the only major disappointment of this



Final Fantasy

★★★★★
Director:
Tetsuya Nomura
Starring:
Ming-Na
Alec Baldwin

film. While it has the fast-paced action sequences down pat, the scenes in between them have many problems. Despite looking like a casual humans, the conversations between them seem scripted, as if the characters are reading off of cue cards. There are also many elements (that we won't go into) that are in the plot from the game series, and while fans of the games will understand these scenes, everyone else will be pretty confused.

In the area of animation, however, this film breaks ground that people didn't know we knew how to break yet, using animation that could pass as live-action. Attention was paid to every last detail, from the vehicles they drive to the way they move. When air-vehicles land, the tires actually compress under the weight of the machine. You can see the fabric and stitching of the clothes worn by the characters, and as they move, their clothes wrinkle in perfect synch with their bodies. The hair on their heads and faces, something almost impossible to show through animation, looks amazingly life-like. It's one thing to have a few dots for a beard, but it's totally different when you can't tell the difference between your five o'clock shadow and the character on the screen.

The bizarre and beautiful landscapes

of the games are also brought here in perfect form, the film opening with a shot of a sunset over a desert, the land full of reds, yellows, oranges and any other applicable color. The cities also seem as dark and dirty as those in the games, everything the same grey, wet brown and devoid of daylight.

How much people will enjoy this depends on how much of the film they buy. For anyone wanting to see the best eye-candy all summer, this is for them. For people looking for a big, fun sci-fi, this is for them. Just don't come hoping to see anything that is going to involve too much thought; unlike the games, you can enjoy this without trying to figure out how many different hiding spots the key to the basement could be in.

IMAGE FROM COLUMBIA
SQUARE PICTURES

PETS

Continued from Page 4

spends most of his time chasing his own tail and remains fairly naive over the course of the story, while Mr. Tinkles is made to endure endless hideous outfits supplied by his comatose owner's maid.

Some fairly outrageous sequences concern the antics of cat assassins, who include a pair of Siamese ninjas and a grouchy Russian hitcat who conceals his weaponry in his hairballs. There are also several nicely subtle jokes, like the presence of a dog reporter named Wolf Blitzer and the soccer-loving son's enthusiastic reaction to winning free tickets to a game: "It's an exhibition match between Uruguay and Chad!"

There's not a lot to "Cats and Dogs," and it's possible some older audience members might be bored. But it's not really meant for them; this is a kid's movie, first and foremost, and on that level the film works very well. It's just a fun, goofy movie filled with special effects, with no ambition other than to entertain, and it succeeds in what it sets out to do. It's not overly intellectual, but it's a good time.

And what's wrong with that?

IMAGE FROM WACO.COM

SCORE

Continued from Page 4

distasteful shots, and then others are shot from interesting angles and in darker lighting, creating a smooth, easy-to-watch picture.

The suspense is played up in the musical score, composed by NAME ("CREDIT"), which is never too loud but plays along with the action perfectly.

All of this is blended together in just the right way, led by director Frank Oz ("To & Out"), who knows what to look for after the amount of time he's spent in the business (he started off as a puppeteer for "The Muppet Show").

This is the kind of film that feels like they really cared about it when it was being made. The movie feels like they actually went through as much trouble as the criminals it shows to make every aspect of it go as planned, and like the characters in this type of movie, they score big with this one.

IMAGE FROM WACO.COM

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Changes coming for men's NCAA Tournament



Lee Fowler will oversee changes in the NCAA Tournament next year.

◆ New procedures will allow teams to play closer to home in the first and second rounds.

Sports Staff Report

The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee has adopted new bracketing procedures that will enable more teams to stay closer to home in the first and second rounds of the Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

Beginning with the 2002 championship, the committee will assign the top four teams in each region. Then it will assign those teams to first- and second-round sites with an emphasis on placing them in the most geographically compatible sites, regardless of where they will play in the regional following week.

For example, a team located in an eastern state that is seeded second in the West Region may play its first- and second-round games at a site in the

eastern part of the country and then play in the West Regional.

Prior to this change, all teams placed in a particular region played their first- and second-round games at one of two sites in that region and then advanced to the regional in that same region.

"The committee wanted to maintain the event as a 'national' tournament, with four evenly balanced regions, while at the same time keeping as many teams as close to their natural geographic area as possible," said Mike Tranghese, chair of the basketball committee and commissioner of the Big East Conference.

"For student-athletes, it means less travel, fewer missed classes and a more exciting atmosphere in the arenas. For parents, friends and alumni, it means easier access to their favorite teams' games," Tranghese said. "For the coaches, the committee has maintained the fairness and equity of competition."

Lee Fowler, director of athletics at N.C. State, will replace Tranghese as

chair beginning Sept. 1.

"As far as someone watching it on TV [who is] not going to any games, it's going to be the same tournament it's always been," Fowler told the News and Observer. "The people that are going to the games are going to feel it more ... and then the [teams] aren't going to have to travel as much, and there's more money, too. So it's a perfect world."

Beginning in 2002, the committee will also have the flexibility to place the fourth team selected from a conference into the same region it placed the highest-seeded team from that conference. Previously, once the highest-seeded team from a conference was assigned to a region, no other team from that conference could be assigned to that region until the sixth team was selected from that conference.

"This adjustment will give the committee yet another opportunity to

See NCAA, Page 7

olympics

Olympic glory

Over the past few years, the Olympics have totally lost my interest.

After constantly hearing about corrupted organizers and doped-up athletes in the time preceding the games, once the Olympics arrive I am inundated with rampant commercialism and TV coverage that focuses itself on anything but the competition (showing only enough to remind me why these sports are only showcased every four years).



Steve Thompson

I remember as a young child being amazed by the pageantry and purity of the games. The games represented more than just a collection of official sponsors. The events and outcomes mattered. Winning athletes returned home as national heroes, their years of dedication rewarded on the highest stage.

Somewhere along the line, however, "the Olympic struggle" was replaced with "the Olympic struggle brought to you by Coca-Cola." Olympic glory was tainted, and the games quickly fell into ruin. Organizers and athletes alike began taking shortcuts in pursuit of their Olympic dream.

Something has been needed to reverse this trend and save the Olympics, which is why perhaps last weekend's decisions made by the International Olympic Committee were a step in the right direction.

While there was much debate concerning issues extraneous to the subject, the IOC eventually stripped away the irrelevant baggage to make two correct choices: selecting Beijing as the 2008 host city and electing Belgian Jacques Rogge as IOC president.

Although both decisions may seem unrelated to the recent problems associated with the games, both choices directly attacked current criticisms regarding the Olympics.

Preceding Beijing's selection, many had raised issues concerning the politics of Communist China. People brought up human rights violations and China's lack of a free market as reasons why Beijing shouldn't be allowed to host the games. Rep. Tom Lantos of California even proposed a resolution in the House of Representatives to urge the IOC away from the Beijing bid for these reasons. I find that laughable.

I'm not saying that China's human rights record isn't important. I just don't see how it affects Beijing hosting the games. Many Europeans disagree with American policies concerning the death penalty or our inability to abide by the Kyoto Protocol. If these criticisms of American ideology were used to keep an American city from hosting the games, I could see a fair share of Americans being rather displeased.

In the end, the decision was made that Beijing had the best proposal and was most deserving of the bid. The political nonsense was thankfully disregarded. I see this as being an extremely positive step for the IOC.

This decision shows that the IOC wants the Olympics to be hosted in the most possible location, which is putting the emphasis back on the games instead of on the irrelevant political issues.

The election of Rogge also seems to close the books on the corruption of IOC officials. The other two major candidates both had involvement in the Salt Lake City scandal. Canada's Dick Pound threw out many members of the IOC

See STEVE, Page 7

Building a football palace

The construction project at Carter-Finley Stadium is proceeding on schedule.

Jeremy Ashton
Sports Editor

The kickoff for the 2001 N.C. State football season is still a little less than two months away, but Wolfpack fans are already turning out in droves at Carter-Finley Stadium.

They're coming to Carter-Finley to witness the metamorphosis of the Pack's home stadium into a first-class facility. The hill that once occupied the south end zone has been replaced with 5,864 permanent seats, and a new, 160-foot scoreboard stands nearly complete at the opposite end, towering over the field below.

"It's kind of funny to see how many people just drive by and stop and look at the scoreboard and look at the stadium because it's such a great setting for college football," Athletics Director Lee Fowler said Thursday during a press conference at Carter-Finley. "It's really interesting to see during a day how many people just drive slowly by just to look at it and see it."

The changes at Carter-Finley are part of a five-year construction project that will update the stadium and turn it into one of the better college football venues in the Southeast. Bobby Purcell, the executive director of the Wolfpack Club, said that Phase I of the project, which will cost the Wolfpack Club \$55 million, should be complete by the first week of August. For Fowler, the conclusion of Phase I should run smoother than the finish of the last construction project he oversaw, the building of a new stadium at Middle Tennessee State.

"At Middle Tennessee, I was putting numbers on seats at 4:30 in the afternoon, and we opened up at 6 to play the game," Fowler said. "So I know about close finishes."

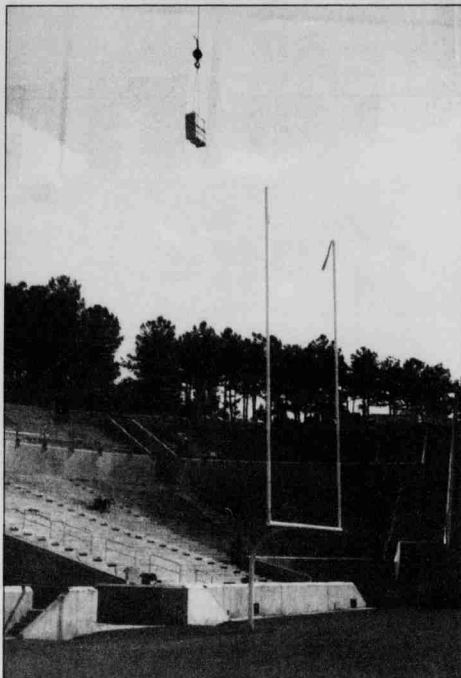
Fowler won't have to worry about that this time around because of the diligent



(right) The permanent seating in the south end zone at Carter-Finley Stadium is nearing completion. (top) Bobby Purcell, the executive director of the Wolfpack Club, believes Carter-Finley will be the top football venue in the Southeast upon the construction's completion.

work of the construction crew. Ray Brincefield, the Carter-Finley Stadium supervisor, said the crew has missed just three days of work all summer.

"They've worked an awful lot of time, and a lot of effort's gone into it," Brincefield said. "We hired good people, and the people that we hired are State people. And they're as excited or more



excited than we are about doing the project, and that's really benefited us."

In preparation for the construction project, Purcell and several other officials from State toured the stadiums at North Carolina, Clemson, South Carolina, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Florida and Florida State to gauge what it would take to make Carter-Finley competitive with

those schools. When the construction is finally complete, the hope among the State athletics department is that Carter-Finley will eventually top them all.

"Among everything we saw, when we're finished, I think we'll be the best," Purcell said. "We won't be the largest.

See STADIUM, Page 7

Wolfpack/NCAA Notes

Women's basketball set for holiday tournament

Next season's Honda Elite 4 Holiday Classic was announced with three coaches in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame leading their respective teams into the December doubleheader.

The tournament will feature Pat Summitt's Tennessee vs. Kay Yow's N.C. State and Louisiana Tech, led by Leon Barmore, vs. Duke.

The doubleheader will take place at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex near Orlando on Sunday, Dec. 2. ESPN will air the Tennessee-State game at 1 p.m. and ESPN2 will televise the Duke-Louisiana Tech matchup at 3 p.m. All four teams reached the Sweet Sixteen in this year's NCAA Tournament.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Honda Elite 4 Holiday Classic will be

played in the 5,500-seat fieldhouse, dubbed "The Milk House," at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex.

Last year's classic included an outstanding nationally televised doubleheader. Seventh-ranked Georgia beat No. 6 Rutgers 82-53, and eventual national champion Notre Dame, ranked No. 4, defeated North Carolina 78-55.

Wolfpack to host Day of Champions

The N.C. State football squad will get the 2001 season underway on Sunday, Aug. 12, when the team plays host to the first annual Day of Champions at the Entertainment and Sports Arena.

The strength and endurance event will be a part of State's annual Meet the Pack Day. The event will boast the Wolfpack's strongest and fastest players in a strength

and conditioning competition.

Following the Day of Champions, the State football team and coaching staff will be available for autographs on the main concourse of the ESA. The 2001 football posters and autograph cards will be available to all fans in attendance.

BCS announces revisions

Bowl Championship Series coordinator John Swofford recently announced revisions to the BCS standings format for the 2001 college football season.

BCS members have decided to add a quality win component to the standings formula. Teams that have regular season victories over opponents ranked in the top 15 of the BCS standings will be rewarded with bonus points. This component was added to further emphasize the importance of a team's strength of schedule.

"After a great deal of thoughtful discussion and research, we believe these revisions will enhance the BCS standings," said Swofford. "The changes address last year's concern about excessive margin of victory adversely influencing the computer rankings, and the quality win component encourages teams to play a stronger schedule and gives a significant reward for wins over highly ranked opponents."

Previously, the BCS members approved a contractual revision that guarantees automatic selection to the highest-ranked at-large team should that team be ranked either third or fourth in the final BCS standings of the regular season.

This will not alter an existing guarantee to any team from the WAC, Mid-American, Conference USA and Mountain West conferences or an independent that finishes the regular season ranked in the top six of the final BCS standings.