

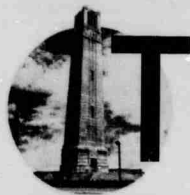
4. **Textbook Piracy**  
Find out what do gold dabbloons and your economics book have in common.



5. **Wolf Web**  
What exactly is brentroad.com? Plus, Silent Bob SPEAKS! Check out Features!



10. **The good, the fast... and the ugly.**  
Chris Dugan, Pack cross country and Duke football in sports today.



Wednesday  
August 22, 2001

# TECHNICIAN

www.technicianonline.com

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

Today	Hi	88
	Lo	68
Tomorrow	Hi	89
	Lo	70

## University officials expect large turnout at The Crossroads

◆ Five to six thousand people are expected to attend the UAB-sponsored welcome-back party Saturday.

Andrew Buchert  
News Editor

The Union Activities Board is hoping that the N.C. State community will meet at The Crossroads this Saturday. The second annual UAB event, planned to run from 2 p.m. Saturday until 2 a.m. Sunday, will feature entertainment, games and food, as well as performances by Yahzarah, Far Too Jones, The Beatnuts, Naughty by Nature and De La Soul. The concert featuring the four bands will begin at 7:00 p.m. and run through early Sunday morning in the Health Center

parking lot. Tickets are \$7.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door for NCSU students. The event is intended both as a welcome-back party for students and as a way to introduce the UAB and numerous other campus organizations to the NCSU community, said UAB President Jamar Owens. "The event is a way to bridge many organizations on campus and allow these organizations to build relationships [with each other and with the UAB]," he said. "The event will unite every form of diversity on campus." Although the event is geared towards NCSU students, Owens said that students from other schools and all members of the community are invited to participate. Admission to the event is free to NCSU students, but they must still pay to attend the concert. Other students can

gain admission to The Crossroads for \$5, and admission costs \$8 for non-students. Aside from providing an opportunity for students to catch up with friends and meet new people, The Crossroads is also intended as a "combustant to Brent Road," said Owens. "The event is intended to provide a way [for students] to meet friends in a fun-filled environment that is alcohol free, drug free and violence free," he said. "The event is intended to keep [students] from getting in trouble." The UAB inaugurated The Crossroads last year as a way to offer students an alternative to attending the Brent Road party and consequently putting themselves in danger of personal injury or arrest by city law enforcement, said Owens. "The event was intended to offer students another option

for their first week back to school," he said. "It is a way to end out summer activities with a bang to prepare for the rigors of studying." Owens added that another factor in the university's decision to host The Crossroads was that the Brent Road party often cast a negative image upon NCSU. "We want to show the city of Raleigh that we can redefine the bad name of the first week of school to something positive," he said. "We also want to show other schools that NCSU can have correct and positive fun," he added. An estimated 3,000 to 3,500 people attended last year's Crossroads event, said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Tom Stafford. This year UAB officials are expecting any where from five to six thousand



Wortham Boyle of the WKNC Boiler Room Radio Show fielded questions to Chancellor Marye Anne Fox yesterday on several issues including campout and Brent Road.

people to attend the event. Despite such a large turnout, however, Stafford said that there were no major problems last year, nor does he expect anything to develop this year. "Last year we had virtually no problems with crowd control or any other problems," he said. "Everybody was having a good time and it was a lot of fun." "It was just a nice atmosphere." Public Safety will be on hand at the event in case "anything were to develop," said Stafford. "But we certainly don't expect that to happen." Stafford said that the goal of The Crossroads is actually the opposite of the city's goals for

See CROSSROADS Page 2

## Last call for Brent Road?

◆ For the second year in a row, police are planning a firm crackdown on the annual Brent Road party.

Perrin Fourmy  
Staff Reporter

Over the past decade, the Brent Road party that occurs the first weekend after school begins has assumed an almost legendary status. But as of last year the image may have changed forever. In the past, estimates ran as high as 6,000 people, some from as far away as Ohio, coming together in what some called the largest block party on the East Coast. Of those 6,000 people, only a small subset were actually N.C. State students, said Paul Cousins, director of Student Conduct for the university. Last year the Raleigh Police Department coordinated an effort of roughly 500 law enforcement officers from over half a dozen state, county and municipal agencies, all working to ensure that the party did not get out of hand. Although police have no estimates for the number of people who will attend this year's party, RPD Captain Don Weingarten, the coordinating officer in charge, said they are preparing to deal with the event the exact same way they handled it last year. Of the officers present, Thomas Younce, chief of NCSU Public Safety, said that 11 of the officers will be NCSU Public Safety officers called in especially to handle cited and arrested NCSU students. They will also have the full arrest and detention powers of RPD officers for the evening. There will be driving checkpoints starting in the early evening, and as stated in letters to Brent Road landlords and residents, all parking along

the street will be banned from 8 a.m. Saturday morning until 8 a.m. Sunday morning, increasing the normal weekend traffic difficulties. The police are primarily there to prevent parties from getting out of hand, and to promote a safe environment, said Weingarten. "[The police] are not there to stop any parties. We're not there to harass folks. As long as people obey the laws, then they can have a good time," he said. The university administration has also stepped up efforts to ensure that students do not get into trouble at the party. According to Terry Stafford, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, former NCSU chancellor Larry Monteith initially recognized the problem the Brent Road party presented and began taking steps to alleviate it. In addition to supporting the Crossroads event, the chancellor's office has informed both students and parents of the dangers associated with Brent Road. Last year letters were sent to the parents of all students, but due to increased awareness of the anticipated police presence at Brent Road this year, Chancellor Marye Anne Fox decided that it was only necessary to notify the parents of incoming freshmen this year. NCSU Public Safety officials also spoke to new students at orientation over the summer. For the past several years, the university has also sent letters to the neighboring universities and nearby military bases. It was also noted by police in past years that many of the military personnel at Brent Road were causing problems, and as a result most are banned from attending the party by their base commanders. This year, Duke University also sent out letters to some of its students informing them about Brent Road and attempting to dissuade them

See LAST CALL, Page 3

## Keeping a tradition alive



Despite heavy police presence, students still flooded Brent Road last year.

◆ Brent Road residents and students are planning for the annual back to school bash.

Perrin Fourmy  
Staff Reporter

"It was like Spring Break." That was how senior Jimmy DeStephens, a veteran of the past four Brent Road parties, described the celebration of two years ago. With five to six thousand people, it was the largest Brent Road party in history. When referring to last year's party, DeStephens thought it was "an unnecessary show of force" intended to kill the party, although the police claimed that last year's massive police turnout was only designed to promote a safer environment. DeStephens said that he will not be attending the party this year, mainly because he does not know any residents who will be having parties. He said if he had a house there, he would throw a party. A lot of N.C. State students felt similarly, but some had just decided the party was not worth the risk. Local residents have been contacted by police and their landlords about the party and potential nuisance party ordinance violations. The police sent letters to most residents informing them about the parking ban from Saturday morning until Sunday morning. Jason Curtis, who lives at 500 Brent Road, said his landlord informed him that everyone at his residence cited for a nuisance party violation would be evicted. Other landlords along the street issued similar warnings. "The police department asked us to sign a piece of paper to basically say that we weren't

going to be involved and that if we knew of anything that was going on we would call the police," Curtis said. He went on to say that he had refused to do so, although he had no plans to be around that evening. Michael Dunbar, a sophomore in engineering who recently moved into a house on the corner of Brent Road and Gorman Street, said that his landlord came by and took all the names and license plates of the residents to ensure that only those legal residents were allowed to drive in the area. Other residents are being required to put up no trespassing and no parking signs in the yard. "Not all the students are willing to give up their tradition, though." Jake Morgan, a senior in mechanical engineering, is the founder of The Wolf Web (www.thewolfweb.com and www.brentroad.com), a local message board that caters primarily to NCSU students. He is planning a live Web cast from various locations on Brent Road, and he is spearheading a drive to increase the number of people who show up. Working from a base of approximately 2,500 authenticated users and through the use of a large ad campaign that began early this week, he hopes to have a contingent of 500 people at Brent Road this Saturday. Concerned about the behavior of those students who do choose to attend the party, Morgan said his main goal is simply to keep the tradition alive. He has put information up on the Web site informing users of the dangers associated with Brent Road and how to act appropriately. He hopes that with a strong, well-behaved turnout, they can help to "revive the party and the spirit of the party" so that it can remain a student-organized tradition. The parents of some students who live on

See TRADITION, Page 3



Police locked down the Brent Road attempt last year and plan to do the same this year.

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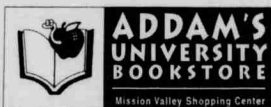
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## CROSSROADS

Continued from Page 1

the enforcement of the Brent Road party.

"By putting 500 law enforcement people on the street, and [the city] plans to do the same thing this year, their objective is to create an environment that will cause people to say 'this is no fun, this is not worth it,'" he said.

"We would like to see just the opposite reaction to Crossroads. Students come to Crossroads, have a great time, enjoy their evening, and say 'this was fun, and I'm looking forward to being here again next year,'" he said.

Owens said that the event will cause several disruptions in the traffic pattern on campus. Cates Avenue will be closed from Dan Allen Drive to the Tucker turnaround in front of Carmichael Gymnasium, and Dan Allen Drive will be closed from Hillsborough Street to Sullivan Drive, both beginning at noon on Saturday.

In order to better serve the N.C. State community, Technician has made changes to its distribution route.

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# Attention Freshmen!

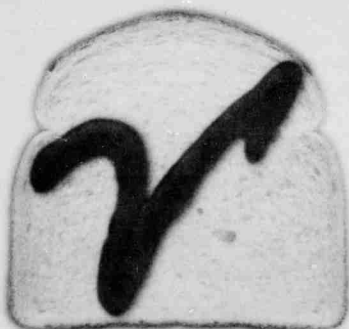
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## LAST CALL

Continued from Page 1

from attending.

Last year, a second Brent Road party took place two weeks after the first, largely contained. Brent Road party. The damage from this party was significant, and in order to prevent a similar occurrence this year, Weingarten said the police will place officers directly on Brent Road for the weeks following the Brent Road party, and they will have additional officers on call in case the party escalates.

But their primary concern remains this Saturday's event.

Cousins said the most at-risk students are transfer students and incoming freshmen, because they are usually unfamiliar with local and university policies and regulations. The most frequent violations that students face are underage drinking and open container infractions, although trespassing, parking violations and inebriated exposure have also been common problems in the past.

Whether an individual is cited or arrested will be left up to the discretion of the officer, said Weingarten, and a magistrate will be on site to immediately set bond for anyone arrested. In the event that it is an NCSU student, Public Safety officers will be informed and the case will be brought before the Student Conduct Board.

Because of the unique environment at the Brent Road party and the number of NCSU students who traditionally attend, Stafford said the university has exercised provisions at its discretion so that it may treat any violation at the Brent Road party NCSU student the same as if it were committed on campus.

"The university decided that any citation, any arrest on Brent Road...because of the event where the activity took place, would reach that [high] level of concern, and be sent to the campus judicial system," Stafford said.

Any student cited at Brent Road will come before the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action, said Cousins.

The general consensus among administration and law enforcement is that it would be best to avoid the party, with the university's preference being that students attend the Crossroads gathering.

When asked the safest plan for those who will be attending regardless of the police presence, Cousins said "the best possible scenario is having a friend on Brent Road and going to their home. Go in the house and sit down and have a good time. If you don't have a connection on the street, stay away."

## TRADITION

Continued from Page 1

Brent Road also has concerns about the threat a major party poses to the safety of their children.

Norma Gwen, the mother of an NCSU sophomore who recently moved to Brent Road, expressed concern over the effects the block party would have and the atmosphere it would present. She said she was relieved knowing that in recent years the police had been out in force, but she realized that "[the [back to school] party is just a one night thing. What goes on on this street happens every weekend."

Many other Brent Road residents feel the same way and have decided to forego the risks associated with having a party that weekend.

Some are planning to lock up their houses early in the evening and attend parties hosted by other friends.

Zach DeLeo, a junior in criminology who lives in an area just off Brent Road that the police will be patrolling as well, said he thought there was a strong likelihood that other large parties would pop up because of the focus on one single location. DeLeo said he left Brent Road and went to Abbey last year, and "there were about a thousand people out there in the parking lot."

Other students indicated that places like the Abbey, Melrose, or Lake Park could become the "new" Brent Road.

"Instead of everybody being crowded in one place where [the police] can regulate everybody, there's just going to be lots of parties everywhere," said DeLeo.

Because many people have decided not to throw parties or to only have parties to which friends were invited, most of the people wandering around are going to be those targeted by the police.

DeStevens and Dunbar both issued similar warnings, saying that students who know someone having a party can go and have a good time and act responsibly, but students should not go out wandering aimlessly.

"You should not go out there if you are under 21. You should not go out there if your plan is to get really trashed," said DeStevens.

Most students are planning on taking that advice, and those who aren't are going more to observe and see what is going to happen than to get drunk and party.

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

## Three topics

### NOT QUITE ENOUGH FOR A THUMBS UP/THUMBS DOWN, BUT STILL TOO MUCH FOR US TO LET SLIDE. HERE ARE THREE THINGS WE COULDN'T RESIST OPINIONATING ON.

N.C. State fails to break the top 20 in yet another collegiate poll, and it has nothing to do with (a.) research, (b.) men's basketball or (c.) humanities stapler and paper clips spending.

This time, it's the university's inactivity in the realm of partying that's been outlined in "The Princeton Review's 2001 list of the top 20 party schools in America. Administrators of new number one the University of Tennessee fear the sully of their university. Alcohol merchants in Baton Rouge, La., fear that they won't be able to stock enough liquor this year to supply number two Louisiana State University's binge for a return to the top. Everyone at Cal-Santa Cruz (No. 3) fears being mistaken for Cal-Santa Barbara (No. 20) and vice versa.

Well, at least East Carolina didn't make the list.

The old two-for\$2-Big-Macs-as-a-smoke:ren-for-stealing-\$13 million trick fails once again, as the

Federal Bureau of Investigations Tuesday arrested eight people for allegedly trying to scam McDonald's out of \$13 million through manipulation of the fast food restaurants slightly-more-popular-than-the-board-game Monopoly promotion.

The conspirators included members of the security firm overseeing game prizes and at least one member of the promotions team that developed the Monopoly game, according to an Associated Press report.

OK, so there wasn't really any link between the manager's special and the swindle. At least we didn't make any jokes about going directly to jail and not collecting \$200.

Continuing the stunning trend of innovation in its operations, the Miss America pageant will add a current events quiz for finalists to its 2001 pageant. We really don't feel a need to add anything.

## The reluctant guru

Daily Californian  
U of California-San Diego

Although the glass door bears the word "Fart" in neat beige lettering, there are no crystal balls inside Lesley Lupo's office in Tucson, Ariz. Sparsely decorated in neutral tones, home to one potted and one hanging plant, her office resembles that of a hotel manager. Lupo, dressed in slacks and a red blouse, with wavy brown hair, elegant makeup and startlingly blue eyes, looks like someone you might run into at the grocery store. Given that Lupo sees fractal-like energy fields around people, communicates with higher beings called guides and conducts psychic "personnel checks" for clients over the phone, she makes a remarkably normal impression.

The good thing about interviewing a psychic is that you don't have to ask many questions. Before I could ask her whether the future is already determined, Lupo groaned.

"I can't stand it when psychics tell people that something is going to happen. You can't escape your destiny? Bullshit. Of course you can change the future," she said.

Anticipating my next question — if the future is not determined, then what do psychics see? Lupo reached for a pink pad of paper and began diagramming. "A psychic is like high beams. I can show people the road that they are on, but they're the ones driving the car. A good psychic can show you a pothole. A better psychic can show you how to maneuver around the pothole. An even better psychic can look into your past and see why you are projecting that pothole out in front of you."

Pinching her index finger and thumb about 18 inches in front of her eyes, Lesley Lupo nodded and said, "This is where I see images flash, like on a screen." Then she pointed with her index finger to a spot about one foot away from her left ear. "And this is where I hear the guides." The cards, she explained, are just a tool. "I don't have to bubble them in moonlight to clear their karma or anything like that," she said, chuckling and stroking one of her five satiny ducks.

Lupo did not always feel comfortable disclosing her unusual abilities. When as a child she told her priest she saw beings no one else could see, he told her she was possessed by the devil and

should pray to Jesus every time she saw something or heard a voice that no one else perceived. Terrified, she did exactly what he said and managed to shut down her psychic abilities for a decade.

Even now, after 20 years of professional tarot card reading, the thought of "coming out" as a psychic in the public eye still makes her queasy. "I hate talking people. I'm a psychic," she lamented, "because it produces such intense reactions. Once I told this woman that I read tarot cards and she jumped back and crossed herself." Lupo feigned offense. "Don't give that woman a match!"

Despite her utterly normal appearance, pleasant demeanor and soothing presence, Lupo has still suffered some social isolation because of her gift. "It's hard to be a psychic and be married," Lupo said with a sigh. "I wanted to share my experiences with my husband, but it would just freak him out."

Being psychic and being single isn't much easier. "I go to parties, but sometimes I wonder if I was invited to be free entertainment. People start coming up to me and asking me questions, wanting 15-minute readings — psychics are hot tickets at parties. But, it's like everyone wants to know about being psychic, they're all fascinated, but then no one wants to go home with you."

"After years of subtle — and not-so-subtle — ostracization, Lupo proves to be more adamant about what makes her normal than she is about the power of her psychic gifts. "I love basketball. I can't balance my checkbook. I have children and puppies — I'm very human," she said with a smile.

Debunking the hocus pocus has become part of her personal mission. In addition to offering tarot card readings and working as a licensed therapist, Lupo demystifies the public about her profession, educating clients about scams and lecturing about what psychics can and cannot do.

"We cannot predict the stock market. We cannot cleanse other people's karma. And don't believe anyone who tells you that they are 90 percent of the time. If psychics were 90 percent accurate," she said with a laugh, "we'd all be in Vegas. You know, I'm still a Cub fan."

Courtesy of U-Wire.

Decker Ngongang  
STAFF COLUMNIST

Yes, we the students of North Carolina State University are, collectively, the tricks of the bookstores, professors and the general administration of North.

Carolina State University. I am now entering my junior year here at N.C. State and have noticed that one thing has been a consistent pain to the general student — the financial burden of classroom textbooks.

I can honestly say that I have forked out \$2000 worth of books in my stint here in school, and I am only a Political Science major. Imagine the plight of the physicists, computer scientists, or, heaven forbid, the double majors. This problem links itself to the students in several ways. I intend to highlight the highway robbery we go through each semester and to identify the "usual suspects."

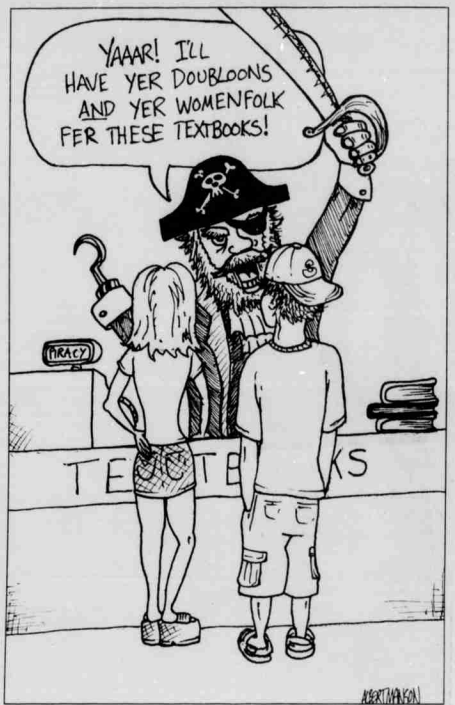
Professors here at North Carolina State University are among the lowest paid nationally, and that is truly saddening because we have some really good educators. With those good teachers we have the other side of the spectrum — the professors who basically suck. The one thing they all have in common is that they each have a significant amount of power over each one of their students. One decision by them can cost us an arm and a leg, all for the name of education.

Publishing companies understand this power and the seemingly bottomless pockets of students and court professors with book offers like agents courting Koren.

Robinson. How does this affect us? This drives the book prices up, and with professors and curriculums switching publishers and texts so often, we the students are often unable to sell back those \$100 books we bought new five months before.

Professors often know not what they do when they yield to these factions. When they write book after book, edition after edition, forcing us to purchase more books that are identical to preceding editions, they are working against the principles of education. They contribute to the introduction of greed as a second language.

With the best location possible and a cunning business plan, our bookstore is the most self-serving operation I have ever seen. They have a head start in contacting freshmen, and they are the first to receive books and orders from professors. As a consequence for all this convenience, we pay a hell of a lot more for books and supplies. Then the expensive books we buy from them are not even taken back or valued at far less than other stores. It puzzles me because we pay more for the books there, but they pay out far less than anyone else. I understand that university is strapped for cash, but this



as we let them know that we will do what is required to keep from being robbed, we might have a chance.

The Brent Road Party is thought to be such a serious issue to the NCSU student that useful funds and public safety prevent even the utterance of the street's name.

I question whether the university or Raleigh community take the same approach in addressing the students who can't afford adequate meal plans, or even half of their books or the students who excel as students but fail at opportunity. This is bigger than books, but today it is my avenue.

Government should start an e-mail dialogue with the student body to see how they can help.

This discussion hasn't been pretty, and I don't expect much to change, but as long

as we let them know that we will do what is required to keep from being robbed, we might have a chance.

The Brent Road Party is thought to be such a serious issue to the NCSU student that useful funds and public safety prevent even the utterance of the street's name.

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Decker thanks the cops for not busting his party at The Abbey. Email Decker at dngongang@unity.ncsu.edu.

## What's in a tradition?

Kate Lingerfelt  
STAFF COLUMNIST

Listen to fellow students and I'll tell you of a place — a far off place known as the Promised Land. This land is not filled with milk and honey, but with bonfires, campouts and even a few block parties. Everyone there celebrates with his fellow man when something good happens, like when a team completely annihilates some higher-ranking opponent. Sure, this sounds like a nice place, but what makes it so great? The fact that the citizens of this land are allowed to continue celebrating year after year without fear of nuisance ordinances, fire trucks, and every cop in the area waiting to end the party.

For those of you who are a little slow on the uptake, I'll do some explaining. This land is the great N.C. State University, or at least was at one point in time and should be once again. I will probably not be the only person to write about the lack of traditions this week, since Brent Road should be coming up this weekend (Who knows if it'll take talking though?). However, I am not just talking about Brent Road (see Decker's column). I am talking about traditions that seem to disappear each year, never to return.

For the benefit of the freshmen and the

transfer students, I'll give a brief history lesson. We have no homecoming tradition. There are no bonfires the night before the game, no activities planned and no sense of student unity. Although, two years ago we actually had a bonfire and a party with Clarence Carter where no one got hurt and no police troops were deployed. Now we finally have a decent football team, but there is no homecoming celebration to speak of.

Also, we used to have a campout for basketball tickets. Granted, our recent seasons have been somewhat lacking, but it wasn't just about the game — the campout was about pride ended a fateful night when a car bumper was stolen and couches were set on fire in the middle of the street. While it was the fault of some careless students, it was also the fault of the university for lack of police, communication and the fulfillment of promises. (This is an entirely different other column altogether).

As for the infamous Brent Road Party, ask someone in your classes or just stop and ask anyone in the brickyard to tell you about the big block party that brought new and old students together to start the new school year. That too ended, however, when the entire Raleigh Police

Department was sent to protect the city from one hour of drunken college students. I hope that, God forbid, no one was faced with serious trouble that night because help would have been a long way away.

So what do we do? When we blow the Tarheels out of the water at this year's football game, where will we go? When people want to feel like a part of this university, like they belong here with the thousands of other students, what can they do?

Bring back the homecoming we had two years ago. It was a good start, but we have to keep it going. Though Brent Road is gone, at least there is the on-campus alternative, Crossroads. As for campout, well, that is a work in progress. The main problem is the division between the administration and the students.

The students can't pull stupid crap and expect to get away with it. On the other hand, the administration needs to stop the severe attacks on the student population. Somehow, both sides need to reach a compromise ... and soon — I have to leave at the end of this year.

Want to start your own tradition for N.C. State? Email me at klinger@unity.ncsu.edu.

## TECHNICIAN

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## STRIKING BACK WITH SILENT BOB



**Joel Isaac Frady**  
Assistant Features Editor

It's been seven years now since "indie" filmmaker Kevin Smith made it big with "Clerks," a film that not only introduced the world to Smith but also the two characters that he has become famous for: Jay and Silent Bob. Since then, he has seen both fail-

ure ("Mallrats") and success ("Chasing Amy," "Dogma") in films with the two as minor to supporting characters. With "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back," he's giving the duo a film of their own.

The film, set to be released Friday, Aug. 24, has a gigantic cast that includes Jason Mewes and Smith (Jay and Silent Bob), Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Will Ferrell, Jason Biggs, Joey Lauren

Adams, Shannon Elizabeth and Chris Rock. Smith, who wrote, directed, edited and starred in "Strike Back," was able to speak about the film. "It's tough being the independent guy when I've only made one independent film," Smith noted, seeing as how his latter four films have all had studio budgets.

"I see indie as people that are shooting in a very independent style, and I haven't done that since 1993. I wouldn't go so far as to say I'm Hollywood, though."

Filming on "Jay and Silent Bob" began in January of this year, and it didn't take nearly as long as most studio movies do to film.

"We shot 54 days on this one, and a normal action flick normally shoots twice as long as that. After so many days, it just gets so repetitive and tiring, if I had to shoot any longer I'd cut my own head off."

After filming, Smith and producer Scott Mosier edited the film, something normally done by someone other than the director.

"I'm so familiar with the material I'd rather get in there and get my hands dirty myself," Smith explained. "It's an extension of writing, kind of a way to re-shape the material. I don't know why more directors don't do it. I think it happens more with writer/directors, because if you're a director hired to shoot someone else's script, you're not as close to it. And with modern editing equipment an idiot can cut a movie, I'm living proof of that."

This film wasn't taking up all of Smith's time though, as he has also found time to write the "Green Arrow" comic book series for DC comics, which has been a fair success as well.

"The first issue moved about 140,000 copies. I'm signed on for a year but I might stick around for another half year as well. I'd like to do about 12 or 18 issues."

There is some sad news for all you "Jay and Silent Bob" fans out there, as this film will be their last. Smith noted that "this is it, this is the last hoorah, and it's about time. I figure it's better to end it while people still like them instead of hanging around like Pauly Shore."

You can get more info on the film or merchandise at [www.viewaskew.com](http://www.viewaskew.com), and see the film "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" in theaters all over the country Friday, Aug. 24.

# Captain Corelli's Mandolin

**Joel Isaac Frady**  
Assistant Features Editor



**Starring:**  
Nicolas Cage, Penelope Cruz  
**Director:**  
John Madden

In a year full of decent ("Enemy at the Gates") to terrible ("Pearl Harbor") films that take place during World War II, we all know one thing for sure. People still want to see movies about this great war, and for those of you who can't get enough of the World War II channel (also known as "The History Channel"), the theater is a nice place to fulfill that hunger for knowledge.

Unfortunately (as I stated before), the theater hasn't been much help this year, with "Gates" barely satisfying that hunger and "Harbor" making you vomit at how bad the film was while giving you a headache from its stupidity that turned into a hangover the next morning.

This hunger can now be satisfied and then some with "Captain Corelli's Mandolin." The film is about a Mandolin (which is a small, pretty string instrument) that is owned and played by Captain Antonio Corelli (Nicolas Cage, "Raising Arizona"). He comes with part of the Italian army to a small Greek town (that everyone who sees this movie will want to then go to), where he is placed in the house of Dr. Iannis (John Hurt, "Contact") and his lovely daughter Pelagia (Penelope Cruz, "Blow").

Before he arrives, we learn that Pelagia is engaged to Mandras (Christian Bale, of "American Psycho" fame), a warrior that she loves but her father disapproves of. Above all of this, however, this film is about the Mandolin.

"Mandolin" works incredibly well on all the different levels that it plays on. As an epic, director John Madden (not that John

Madden, the younger Brit who also directed "Shakespeare in Love") and cinematographer John Toll ("Braveheart") capture not only the gorgeous Greek landscapes and architecture, but also capture it in colors that go along with the tone of the scene.

For example, a romantic scene takes place with the bluest seas roaring behind it on a hill, yet one of the attack scenes takes place in a field with very monotone, grayish colors. Adding to this is a wonderful score from composer Stephen Warbeck (who won an Academy Award for "Shakespeare in Love"), whose music is as beautiful as both the Greek countryside and the Mandolin.

The level that I wasn't expecting this film to play on involves the character development and how well we get to know these characters. After seeing the

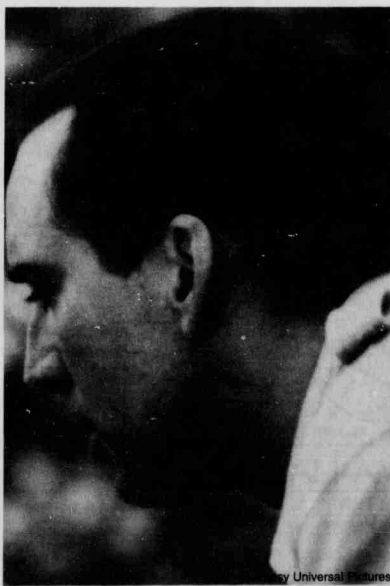
of the film, as we see Italians, Greeks and a German trying not only to live together peacefully, but as friends as well. Many other films came to mind during the film, films like "Almost Famous" and "Boys Don't Cry" that at first glance have nothing in common with this film.

What they do have in common is a passion for the characters and film, all spending much of the film creating characters that are

believable and that you care about, and with this the tension builds up slowly. In "Mandolin," everything builds up this way: from the romance between Corelli and Pelagia to the German Captain's (David Morrissey, who gives a heart-breaking performance) relationship with the Italian platoon, as he has to choose between the country and beliefs he was raised with and the friends he has made.

The only real complaint about this "Mandolin" (other than the Mandolin's sheer lack of screen time, because he could have been this year's Wilson) is the ending, which may be crowd-pleasing, but doesn't fit with the film's tone.

The film is about how the characters feel and react, not how the audience feels, and the ending feels as if the



trailers for this, you'd expect more of a war film, but "Mandolin" is about war in the same way that "Charlie's Angels" is

about law enforcement. Instead it's about the different cultures and how the war affects their lives. The first hour of the film builds-up the characters and the tension

executives forced the happy ending into the film. This note taken, "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" is still a beautiful, haunting, passionate film. As you watch it, you can tell that every person involved with its production had a passion for it, and not only does it show, but it's also passed on to the viewer.

Whether you're a big history buff or just a film lover, after the last few months you may be craving something that's actually good, and this "Mandolin" just might be the answer.

Wednesday

6

# AGE

## Attack of the Wolf Web



Nicolette Allen  
Staff Writer

Jason Ivester/staff

"I think I have a Panty Fetish."

This would be the title of the first thread in the Lounge section of the popular N.C. State-centered message board, TheWolfWeb.com. The thread was created by recent graduate Lauren Janning, who entertains herself during her workday by asking other Wolfpackers what kind of underwear they are wearing that day. This is one of the typical topics present on TheWolfWeb. The other most popular topic besides sex would, of course, be beer.

TheWolfWeb (TWW), which also goes by the name BrentRoad.com, is the creation of Jake Morgan, a senior in mechanical engineering. Morgan, with the help of his friend and roommate, Joe Akinc, also a senior in mechanical engineering, launched the Web site in April 2000.

"It started at first as a message board with only one section, and that was the only thing on the site, for just me and my friends, probably about 20 or 30 of us to talk about parties going on and stuff like that," Morgan said. "Then we realized that we kind of had something on our hands."

After realizing the benefits of TWW, Morgan launched a large advertising campaign at the start of the fall 2000 semester with Free Expression Tunnel paintings and fliers posted around campus. Since the start of the advertising campaign, membership has increased to its current amount of almost 3,000 users.

With the addition of new users, Morgan has also added new features to the Web site to accommodate the increased traffic. In the beginning, there was only one message board on TWW. However, to deal with the wide variety of topics discussed, now there are six message boards. These include "The Lounge," "Sports Talk," "Entertainment," "Tech Talk," "The Soap Box," "Classifieds" and "Study Hall." Some users tend to just frequent one or two of these sections, while others roam through all six.

TWW is not just a message board. Since its creation, Morgan has added several features that its users find quite beneficial. These include a photo

gallery for users to have a place to store pictures online, a calendar to announce events like parties, a book exchange as an alternative to bookstores, a Web cam and a mail system that acts like a private messaging system between users. In the future, Morgan hopes to develop a chat room for real-time chatting amongst users along with posts on the various message boards.

Although a lot of great things are happening on TWW, there are a few problems. A combination of insensitive/inappropriate users and moderators that moderate too much has led to some conflict. When a user goes beyond the rules and creates threads that have extreme vulgar content or make personal attacks, the moderators, who are Morgan and Akinc, will delete the thread, and if the user continues will suspend his account.

However, one of the users' largest complaints has been that Morgan and Akinc delete threads just because they want to. "There seems to be a lot of personal bias involved in the removal of some of these message threads," says Andrew Barnes, a sophomore in engineering. "It seems to me that one of the unwritten rules is that you have to be talking about something cool, hip, or trendy."

But not all users are of this opinion. "You should take into account that they pay for this message board and have spent a lot of time on it," says graduate student Travis Oakley, a frequent user. "Perhaps they could find a way to address the problem that would appease both sides without restricting creativity."

To respond to the conflict, Morgan is looking into user-based voting systems, so that the users can decide what should and should not be on TWW. The development of such an interface will take some time to develop, as it is hard to create a user-friendly interface that will not be open for abuse.

Despite its problems, TWW's users obviously like something about it; they keep coming back. Whether it is to talk about an upcoming party in "The Lounge" or the latest N.C. State basketball game in "Sports Talk," the users enjoy being able to talk to other members of the NCSU community about things that actually affect them.

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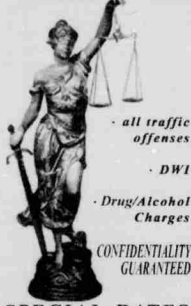
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- ACROSS**  
1 Age  
4 Knee  
8 **and arrow**  
11 Elderly  
12 Plural verb  
13 In reverence  
14 British (abbr.)  
15 Japanese sash  
17 Baby eagle  
19 Lead (p.t.)
- DOWN**  
1 Wading bird  
2 Concerning  
3 Fuss  
4 Sway  
5 Male pronoun  
6 Anger  
7 Tidy  
8 Toe dancing  
9 Morally obligated  
10 Moist  
11 Capable
- 21 Hotel**  
**23 Sesame plant**  
**24 British jacket**  
**26 Chasm**  
**28 Information**  
**31 Brown in summer**  
**33 Pull along**  
**35 Knot**  
**36 Near**  
**38 Well liked**  
**41 Tantalum symbol**

- 42 On the **\_\_ (escaped)**  
43 Armed conflict  
45 Sun  
47 Marine algae  
49 Tutelary deity  
51 Foundation
- 54 Black street substance  
56 Carry heavy burden  
58 Even  
59 Scottish textile pattern  
62 Male sheep  
64 Lithium symbol  
65 Self  
66 Variable star  
68 Dash  
70 Indicates not (prefix)  
71 Slanted type (abbr.)  
72 Small amount

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## DUKE

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you did last year, it can either make you hide behind the roster or motivate you to get better," said junior safety B.J. Hill, who sat out 2000 with a torn ACL. "I think it's done that. We're motivated and just working out harder this summer than I've ever seen us work out before."

Duke's defense returns seven starters from one of the worst units in college football. However, it should be improved for two reasons: the return of Hill and defensive end Nate Krill, who missed 2000 after undergoing shoulder surgery. Add to the mix sophomore standout Ryan Fowler at linebacker, and the Devils might just be headed in the right direction.

Offensively, the Devils must find a way to improve its ground attack. Although third-year coach Carl Franks, formerly an assistant to Steve Spurrier at Florida, dreams of one day bringing the Fun 'N' Gun offense to Durham, any hope of Duke fielding a respectable season begins in its running game.

Sophomore Chris Douglas will likely handle the bulk of the running responsibilities for the Devils. Last season, Douglas represented a lone star in a black hole of a running game at Duke as he averaged 4.6 yards per carry in limited playing time.

Directing the passing game will once again be junior, D. Bryant, who has the potential to be a great passer and leader. Bryant, who broke into the Devils' starting lineup halfway through last year, was named Duke's most improved offensive player in spring workouts. Last season, the Blue Devils' offense flowed more smoothly with Bryant at the reins, as he nearly led Duke to two wins late in 2000.

Oozing with confidence and with a year of experience, Duke expects big things from its quarterback in 2001.

"This past spring, he's done really, really well," said senior tight end Mike Hart of Bryant. "You can see the confidence he's building, and he's becoming the leader he needs to be."

Hart will also play an intricate role in Duke's attack. Coming off a season in which he was named All-ACC, Hart will provide veteran leadership and help to a young and inexperienced offense.

Even if Duke is headed for improvement it probably won't show Sept. 1 when it opens the season. Carl Franks and company have the Florida State Seminoles to look forward to on that Saturday afternoon. Perhaps FSU will be off their game.

"We look forward to playing them at home, getting them the first game of the season," said Hart. "They might be a little nasty."

The next week, however, Duke will travel to Houston to take on Rice in a very winnable game.

Regardless of the opponent, though, Duke is determined to bring a winning attitude to its football games this season. Duke doesn't just hope to win, it expects to win.

"Our expectation is we want to win," said Hill. "We're not looking at it as everyone else is where we went 0-for-last year, and we're trying to lose close. We're going out there to win."

And while the Devils may not want to book those bowl plans just yet, a four-win season, which would certainly be an accomplishment, is not out of the question.

## STEVE

Continued from Page 10

twilight of its dynasty.

Opportunity does not ring the bell, knock and then leave a message saying, "I'll be back tomorrow." With each passing major that Mickelson is in contention yet fails to win, he will become more and more synonymous with the great chokers of all time. Bill Buckner has already saved Lefty a seat next to Jean Van de Velde.

Steve Thompson's columns will regularly appear on Thursdays. He can be reached at [steve@techniciansports.com](mailto:steve@techniciansports.com) or 515-2411.

## DUGAN

Continued from Page 10

be completely different," said Dugan. "Just about everyone who has a shot at making our top seven has run in that kind of meet before. Add me and Chris Seaton, a transfer from Virginia Tech, and I think we will do really well."

Dugan's expectations for himself and the team do not come without precedent, however. During his first four years at State, he has raced and placed well in myriad races at the national level.

During his first year at college, Dugan won the U.S. Junior National Championship and qualified for the World Junior Championships in his trademark event, the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Following this, Dugan has met nothing less than success during the next three years.

He qualified for the NCAA Championship as a freshman in the steeplechase and followed up the next year with a fourth-place finish in the 3,000-meter run at the ACC Indoor Championships and another qualifying bid in the steeplechase during outdoor track.

The next cross country season only improved upon his success as an underclassman. As a junior, Dugan was part of one of the best teams in ACC history. He placed fourth at the ACC Cross Country Championships. The first three finishers were his teammates — Chan and Corby Pons and Abdul Alizandi. State's fifth runner came in shortly behind Dugan in sixth place, giving the team a total of 16 points and the record for lowest score at the ACC Championships. This team went on to place third at the national championships in Bloomington, Ind.

The next season, Dugan added to his list of accomplishments a second- and a fourth-place finish at the ACC Championships in the 3,000-meter and mile runs as well as a trip to Nationals in the 3,000-meter run.

At the 2000 ACC Outdoor Championships, Dugan was one of the strongest performers at the meet. He easily won the steeplechase, placed sixth in the 1,500-meter run, and placed fourth in the 5,000-meter run behind three of his teammates. Following the conference championships, Dugan ran in the steeplechase at the NCAA Championships, where he placed eighth in the finals.

Dugan redshirted the next cross country season, and he thinks that might have hurt his indoor and outdoor track seasons.

"Track is really dependent on getting a good base during the cross country season," said Dugan. "While I was redshirting, I sometimes didn't work as hard as I needed to to get in really good shape. When the track seasons rolled around, I just wasn't at the level I should have been. I thought I was, but when I raced at Nationals, I realized that I really wasn't."

Even so, Dugan still managed to notch several high finishes during the season. He placed 11th at the indoor national championships in the 3,000-meter run. He also won the steeplechase and placed second in the 1,500 at the ACC Outdoor Championships.

Continuing in the outdoor season, Dugan ran at the NCAA Championships in the steeplechase and placed seventh. After this race, he moved on to the U.S. National Championships, where he raced the steeplechase against professionals as well as other collegians. He finished an impressive 11th.

"It was a long season for me," said Dugan. "U.S. Nationals was on June 20th. The race at NCAAs was a pretty tactical race, and I might have been able to finish a little higher if the pace was faster, but I don't think I would have been in the hunt to win it. I thought I was beforehand, but, like I said, I thought I was in better shape, as well."

"My training this summer went pretty well. I will have a good supporting cast of people to run with this season, and I think we all will be running well by the end of the year."

## ACC

Continued from Page 10

capability to challenge for the ACC title this year, after their third-place showing in the tournament last year. However, they're going to have to do it without top runner Bob Thiele, who graduated. After being the only Cavalier to participate in the NCAA Cross Country Championships. Replacing a three-year all-ACC runner will be a tough task but rising juniors Justin Wood and Matt Ruhl are Virginia's best hopes.

North Carolina, which is returning the vast majority of its runners, hopes to expand upon its fifth-place finish at the ACC Championships. This year, the Tar Heels plan on participating in eight meets, including the UNC Challenge, the ACC Championships and the NCAA Championships. Fortunately for UNC, it is returning its top two runners, Matt Weiss and Nick Iauco, who helped lead the Tar Heels to victory at the NC Intercollegiate match last year.

Clemson, which had five runners, including four freshmen, finished in the top 50 at the ACC Championships and returns a young team. The Tigers finished up their season last year with a 14th-place finish in the NCAA Southeast Regional. This year's Clemson team contains only one senior, so the Tigers should field a very strong team next year as well.

Florida State bounced back last year from a disappointing seventh-place finish at the ACC Championships to finish in ninth place at the NCAA Regional Tournament. Nick Stuart, one of the top runners on the Seminoles was sick at that event.

After finishing sixth and eighth for the past two years at the ACC Championships, Georgia Tech is hoping that Kyle Rabbitt and Neil McDonough, both freshmen last year, can improve even more this year and bring the Yellow Jackets out of the bottom of the ACC. Tech, whose highlight of last year was its victory at the Georgia Collegiate Cross Country Championships, finished eighth at the NCAA South Regional last year. The Yellow Jackets will also rely on the experience of seniors Joe Stegall and Phillip Gable, who finished in 21st- and 22nd-place at Regionals.

Maryland's cross country team gains Trent Sanderson, an experienced former professional runner and former Florida State assistant as its new head coach. Sanderson was brought in to help turn around a Maryland team that placed last in the ACC Championships last year and placed only one runner in the top 50.

This year, State is the almost unanimous pick to lead the ACC men. According to the MONDO pre-season cross country rankings, the Pack is the top-ranked ACC team at the 15th spot. Duke is ranked 19th and Wake Forest is listed among the "Significant Others."

## PRIMED

Continued from Page 10

Colorado, Stanford, Wisconsin, Arkansas, and hopefully us as well.

"In addition to Dugan and Seaton joining the lineup and our top seven all returning, we have some freshmen coming off of redshirting seasons that could break into the top group," Geiger continued. "Ricky Brookshire, Joe Iaturo and John Huber all have a chance to make an impact on the team."

"This year's national championship will be held on the Furman Golf Course at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. "A lot of our runners have a lot of experience on this course," said Dugan. "We run our district championship there, and a lot of us have run in that meet before, and so does Virginia Tech, so Seaton has experience there as well. When you have a lot of experience on a course, that is always a major advantage. Add this with the experience and talent to run with this season, and I think we can break into the top four at Nationals."

## Men's Cross Country Schedule

Date	Event
Sept. 15	Wolfpack Invitational (Raleigh)
Sept. 22	Great American XC Championships (Charlotte)
Sept. 29	Greensboro Invitational (Greensboro)
Oct. 13	NCAA Pre-Nationals (Greenville, S.C.)
Oct. 27	ACC Championships (Clemson, S.C.)
Nov. 10	District III Championships (Greenville, S.C.)
Nov. 19	NCAA Championships (Greenville, S.C.)

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Members of the men's cross country squad prepare for a run and hope to return to the top of the ACC standings in 2001.

# Primed for a title run

Todd Lion  
Staff Writer

Last year, N.C. State's men's cross country team was not expecting too much from itself because it was such a young and inexperienced group of runners.

The previous year, the team placed third at the national championships, but five of the top seven runners on that team graduated, and one more was

planning to redshirt the next year. Even with last year's very inexperienced group of three freshmen, three sophomores and one junior, the team still managed a respectable 11th-place finish at Nationals.

This year the Wolfpack is eyeing the trophy stand. "We've got a lot of great runners coming back from last year's team," head coach Rollie Geiger said. "All seven of the guys that went to Nationals last year are coming back for us. We also have Chris Dugan coming back off of redshirt who should be up at the front of our team. Another new runner who should play a significant role in our team is Chris Seaton, a transfer from Virginia Tech."

Seaton is a new addition to the Pack, and he is looking to play a significant role on the team. His personal best time in the 5,000-meter run

is 14:13 ranks up near the best times on the State team. "Last year, only one of our runners had ever run at the national championships," said Dugan. "Now, eight of the people fighting for spots on the varsity team have that kind of experience, and that really helps once you get to a meet of that caliber."

Dugan looks to lead the team into action this year after a successful track season last spring. Dugan competed in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the NCAA Championships and the U.S. National Championships, where he placed seventh and 11th, respectively. Two years ago he finished as State's fourth man at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in 44th place overall.

Andy Smith exploded onto State's team last year as the team's only All-American and true freshman. Smith was the first freshman to cross the line at the ACC Cross Country Championships last year. His sixth-place finish helped him earn the honor of being named the ACC Freshman of the Year. He placed 45th at NCAAs last year and was the fifth freshman in finish.

Ryan Woods narrowly missed achieving All-American status at last year's championships with his 50th-place finish. During the 2000 track season, Woods posted the best time in the ACC for the 5,000 and placed second at the ACC Championships.

"I think we've got a solid nucleus of four guys up front right now," said Dugan. "But we also have a group of seven or eight runners fighting for those

## Dugan ready for return

Senior Chris Dugan has returned to the N.C. State cross country team after redshirting last year.

Todd Lion  
Staff Writer

Chris Dugan's junior campaign on the N.C. State cross country team ended with a disappointing individual performance at Nationals.

Dugan finished in 44th place in the individual standings, a good finish for most runners but not for Dugan. His team's third-place finish, however, more

than made up for his disappointment.

"Going into Nationals two years ago, I thought that I could finish in the top 20," Dugan said. "I was in great shape — probably the best I had ever been in for a cross country race — but I had a bad race. This year, I'm shooting for the top 15. If everything goes really well, I might even be able to crack the top five."

Following the 1999 team's success, three of its top five, and five of its top seven runners graduated, so head coach Rollie Geiger decided to use 2000 as a rebuilding season. Dugan redshirted the season to save his

final year of eligibility for a team with more experience.

Geiger's gamble certainly paid off. Last year's team consisted of all underclassmen — three freshmen, three sophomores and one junior, only one of whom had run in an NCAA Championship race before — but it still placed 11th. Now, with all of these runners returning with experience, Dugan hopes his addition to the team can return a finish similar to that of 1999.

"Last year's team was really inexperienced when they went to Nationals, but this year will

See DUGAN, Page 9

## ACC ready to hit ground running

Duke and Wake Forest should offer N.C. State its stiffest competition.

Jay Kohler  
Staff Writer

N.C. State's reign as the top team in the ACC faces a few challenges this year.

Last year, the conference sent three teams to the NCAA Championships: State, Duke and Wake Forest. However, Duke and Wake Forest's participation was earned by at-large bids.

One team that State is hoping to catch up with this year is Duke, which placed first in front of the second-place Wolfpack in the ACC Championships. Duke's placement in the NCAA Championships wasn't as stellar, but the Blue Devils could

prove to be a formidable force. Sean Kelly, the top runner at the ACC meet returns, along with six other seniors and sophomore Chris Williams.

Wake Forest, the third team to receive a bid to the NCAA Championships from the ACC, hopes to grab a piece of the championship pie for itself. It placed seven runners in the ACC Championships last year and finished fourth at the ACC Championships, fourth at the NCAA Southeast Regionals and 18th at the NCAA Championships. The Deacons are only losing one of those runners to graduation and are returning their top three runners: Ted DeVos, Garick Hill and Chris Estwanik.

The Virginia Cavaliers also have the

See ACC, Page 9

next three spots on the team. I think that in the end we will have one of the strongest fifth men in the country. But I could easily be wrong about the top four. Anyone can break into the lead, and if they do, then it's only better for the team. We have a former ACC champion and multiple-time All-ACC runner in David Patterson and Dean Bowker, but if you just look at the results from last year, they should be running about fifth and sixth on the team. That doesn't speak poorly about them — it speaks well about the team."

Junior Chad Pearson and sophomores David Christian and Devin Swann will join Bowker and Patterson.

The Pack also has some additional motivation to drive it to perform well this year. Last year, Duke won the ACC championship, breaking State's streak of five consecutive conference titles.

"Our main goals for the season are to win the ACC championship and qualify for Nationals," said Geiger. "We return everybody, but so do a lot of other teams. We are certainly a lot better than we were last year, but so is everybody else. There will be a very tight bubble up front with just a few points separating the perennial powers. Like

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## Duke will play to win

Despite an 0-11 season in 2000, spirits are high in Durham.

Andrew B. Carter  
Staff Writer

While it's highly improbable that Duke will be ranked among the nation's top 25, 50 or even 100 teams, the Blue Devils can lay claim to a fact that not even Texas, Florida or Miami can attest

to: no matter what happens this season, it will be better than the last.

After all, it can't get any worse.

Rebounding from its second winless season in five years, Duke will attempt to find solidity and consistency in its offense and improve on a defense that was most likely the most offensive part of Duke's game in 2000. On its way to allowing an eye-popping 458 yards per game, which was second worst in the country, the Duke "D" also had a hand

in allowing its team to be defeated by an average of 25 points per game last season.

If the Devils, picked to finish last in the ACC again, have any shot of breaking their 12-game losing streak (dating to Nov. 20, 1999) they know that they must work harder and longer than ever before.

"When you go 0-for-[the season] like

See DUKE, Page 9

golf

## Crumbling in crunch time

Another major golf championship has passed, and one man emerged as the clear-cut holder of a long-existing title.

So, step up on Phil Mickelson. You are the greatest player that has never won a major.

Last Sunday, David Toms won the PGA Championship. But who really cares? Sure, we're happy for the guy, but who other than his mother will remember this win three weeks from now?

Mickelson entered the final round in three of this year's four majors within two strokes of the lead. At the Masters, he shot an even-par 70 to capture third place. He shot an atrocious 75 at Southern Hills to finish in a tie for seventh at the U.S. Open. This past weekend, a final-day 68 left him one stroke behind Toms.

Currently, thanks to the recent slump of Tiger Woods, Mickelson is in position to overtake Woods to win the PGA money title. A win in the PGA Championship would have also pushed Mickelson ahead of Woods in the Ryder Cup standings.

The fact that Mickelson was not able to pass Woods shows why Woods, and not Mickelson, sits atop the golfing world. Mickelson seems destined to be the Atlanta Braves of golf, being in a position to win time after time only to lose.

In 22 tournaments this year, Mickelson has 12 times placed in the top five. He has 10 top-three finishes, yet he has only won twice — at the Buick Invitational and the Greater Hartford Open (not exactly Augusta National).

I'm not saying that \$4,256,383 in winnings and two PGA tour wins are not impressive. Phil Mickelson is a damn good golfer, which is why we expect him to perform better on golf's highest stage.

While he has the ability to nail a hole-in-one at the U.S. Open, Mickelson also has a penchant for lipping out a three footer or duck-hooking a drive into the trees when it really matters. On Sunday's 16th hole, Mickelson three putted from 50 feet, giving Toms the decisive one-stroke advantage.

And that is what's most painful to watch. Over the years, many players have fallen into rough streaks as fate denies them numerous majors (just ask Greg Norman). What is different when you look at Mickelson, however, is that he generally loses the tournament by himself.

Looking at Norman, one sees him beaten by Jack Nicholas's last hurrah at the 1986 Masters or Larry Mizze's 140-foot pitch-in at the 1987 Masters. Maybe fate denied Mickelson at the 1999 U.S. Open, when Payne Stewart sunk a 20 footer at Pinehurst to win. More times than not, though, the reason Mickelson has lost has been his shaky play down the stretch.

During his career, Mickelson has entered the final day of a major championship within five strokes of the lead 10 times, only to average over par in those 10 rounds. While Mickelson's talent will make people years down the road realize he was a good golfer, he will never be considered great without winning a major. Eventually, Mickelson's legacy may be that of a loser.

Consider the Buffalo Bills teams of the early 1990s. Those teams were certainly good, but three straight Super Bowl setbacks made those Bills forever losers in the minds of many. The same can and likely will be said about the Braves if Atlanta is unable to pull out another championship or two here in the

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The Pack has a number of new faces joining the returning veterans for the 2001 season.

