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TECHNICIAN

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1920

Today	H: 70
	L: 48
Tomorrow	H: 74
	L: 49

City council candidates debate at NCSU

◆ Candidates Benson Kirkman and Thomas Croom discussed such issues as the Nuisance Party Ordinance and Hillsborough Street.

Andrew Buchert

News Editor

In a first-of-its-kind event, N.C. State was host to a debate between two candidates for the District D Raleigh City Council seat Tuesday evening. Incumbent Benson Kirkman and NCSU student Thomas Croom debated such issues as the rejuvenation of Hillsborough Street, the Nuisance Party Ordinance, a local option sales tax and public transportation. A small crowd attended the debate, which was also broadcast on WKNC 88.1 FM.

A third candidate for the District D seat, Michael

Gardner, declined his invitation to the debate, said Association of Student Governments President Andrew Payne, who moderated the debate.

Payne said that one of the issues that most differentiates Kirkman and Croom in the minds of students is the Nuisance Party Ordinance. Kirkman, who first brought the Nuisance Party Ordinance before the city council, is largely thought of as the power behind the shutdown of the Brent Road party, he said.

"Before I brought [the Nuisance Party Ordinance] to the table, our attorneys said we needed to shut down [the Brent Road party]," said Kirkman. "The party itself was illegal."

Kirkman said the Brent Road party had become known for its preponderance of underage drinking, and it had been taken over by high school students,

soldiers from Triangle-area military bases and visitors from out of town who traveled to Raleigh for the party.

"There were also some pretty nasty things that happened to females," he said.

Kirkman, who is a Brent Road resident, said that tolerance is needed on the sides of both the city and the residents on Brent Road.

"There's a right to have a party, but there are limits to what a party should be," he said. "That's not a party."

Croom, however, is against the Nuisance Party Ordinance in its current form.

"The party is not illegal," he said. "Some of the activities [at the Brent Road party] are, but we need to delineate that [difference]."

"I would push for and ask for the repeal of the Nuisance Party Ordinance."

Croom said that he has a revised form of the Nuisance

Party Ordinance that he would like considered by the city council.

"I used to live on Brent Road, too," he said. "What the students had to say was, 'We don't mind the police here, but we want them here 52 weeks of the year.'"

Croom also proposed moving the Brent Road party to Hillsborough Street and converting it into a back-to-school bash that would close the street and would involve the Hillsborough Street businesses, including alcohol-selling establishments. It would be held in collaboration with NCSU's alcohol-free Crossroads event.

The future of Hillsborough Street was also an issue addressed by the two candidates.

Kirkman and Croom both agreed that Hillsborough Street is an important landmark to the university and to

the city of Raleigh, and both concurred that pedestrian access and safety must be a priority in order for the rejuvenation of the street to be successful.

"We need to rezone, increase sidewalk space and increase safety on Hillsborough Street," said Croom.

One way to increase pedestrian safety, said Croom, is to install audible crossing signals to assist blind people in crossing the street, an improvement that Croom said he brought to Kirkman last year.

Kirkman said Hillsborough Street will be host to a pilot study of a new model of crossing signal that will maximize the safety of blind and deaf pedestrians crossing the street.

"We're going to have the first in North Carolina of the most up-to-date crossing signals," said Kirkman.

See COUNCIL, Page 4

Student arrested for assault, damage to property

◆ Public Safety arrested the student for two separate incidents in Fountain Dining Hall and Sullivan Residence Hall.

News Staff Report

An N.C. State student was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon and damage to property in two separate incidents on campus Sept. 16 and 17, according to Crime Prevention Officer Sgt. Jon Barwell.

John Seth Dilday, a junior majoring in chemistry and a resident of Sullivan Residence Hall, was arrested by Public Safety in both incidences, which occurred in Fountain Dining Hall and Sullivan Residence Hall.

The first incident took place in the dining hall on Sept. 16.

According to Barwell, Dilday was standing in line at the dining hall waiting to get something to eat when he overheard a conversation that bothered him. He apparently lost his appetite and went back to his room in Sullivan Residence Hall where he found a steak knife.

Dilday then returned to the dining hall with the steak knife, located the student whose conversation had upset him and began walking toward that student with the steak knife in hand, said Barwell.

"The dining hall staff apprehended him, and Public Safety arrested him when we arrived on the scene," said Barwell.

Dilday was charged with assault with a deadly weapon in that incident.

Barwell said that Dilday was apparently released from the Wake County Jail within 24 hours of his arrest because Public Safety arrested him again in Sullivan Residence Hall the afternoon of Sept. 17.

In that incident, Barwell said Dilday broke several windows and a phone in the computer lab, lobby and TV lounge on the first floor of Sullivan Residence Hall. He was charged with damage to property.

University Housing Associate Director Susan Grant and Office of Student Conduct Director Paul Cousins were unavailable for comment Tuesday afternoon.

Dilday was a 1999 recipient of the Park Scholarship. He served during the 2000-2001 school year as co-chair of the Campus Arts Council. Also during the 2000-2001 school year, he was a member of the Council on Undergraduate Education, the Union Activities Board Issues and Ideas Committee and the Student Center Board of Directors.

NCSU fares better than expected in state budget cuts

◆ The university sustained a 4.3 percent cut including receipts from a 9 percent tuition increase.

Spaine Stephens

News Editor

With the state budget negotiations over and the numbers in, N.C. State and the UNC System are focusing on what those figures mean and when the crunch will begin to be felt.

George Worsley, vice chancellor for finance and business, said that although the university community will experience the absence and reduction of some services, the cuts are not as drastic as they could have been.

"We've had some cuts, but they're not as significant as we expected during the course of the long, torturous negotiations," he said.

Worsley said cuts to the UNC System schools could have been as high as 7 percent, but N.C. State fared considerably better with a 4.3 percent cut including receipts from a 9 percent tuition increase.

With that tuition increase, "we did pick up some slack where we would have had additional cuts," said Worsley.

Along with reductions, N.C. State did also receive an approximate \$15.4 million increase for enrollment funding including tuition receipts from new students, and there is around \$57.5 million for repair and renovations in the UNC System.

"We're confident that our allocation (of the repair and renovation allocation) will be between \$8-10 million," said Worsley.

He said education emerged from the budget crisis in a relatively comfortable position compared to other state agencies.

Many students who feel the pain of

the tuition increase may not see comfort in the situation.

"Students may not think it's better," said Worsley. "The price is up considerably than last year, but there are real opportunities for students in the increase."

He said the increase would help with financial aid and assist in "modest adjustments" to retain quality faculty. Additional funds for the increase are also being considered for student opportunities.

"The initiatives will benefit a lot of the student body," said Worsley. "From the student point of view, they'll see the cost increase, but also continuing quality."

He said another tuition increase is likely.

"The challenge we locally have, and our Trustees, as we look to the future, is our ability to recruit and retain good faculty," he said.

Worsley said the state economy is not encouraging, and trying to predict projected salary increases for next year does not bring any relief, with General Assembly funding unclear for that time.

"It's hard to be very positive about that," he said, adding that the issue of an additional tuition increase in the future will be much debated, with the benefits to students and faculty in mind.

As students begin to count their losses handed them by the budget cuts, Worsley said they will see less faculty support.

"For the most part, what students will see is less support for some faculty, some people missing in administrative positions and an impact on classroom supplies," he said. "While they will see some diminution for support of the classroom experience, it's not that significant."

At the same time, efforts will ensue to improve classroom and learning envi-

ronments. While the library is taking cuts, there is also money going in from the enrollment funding.

As for faculty, Worsley said they did not receive cuts as harsh as expected. Of the approximately \$9.5 million total reductions, about \$900,000 will affect faculty.

Budget 'best we could do,' says senator

◆ After a particularly frustrating budget negotiation in the legislature, Sen. Eric Reeves discussed his take on the state budget and the future of education.

Spaine Stephens

News Editor

Even though the state budget for fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03 has been approved by the legislature and many lawmakers are heading home, the status of the state economy and the budget crisis are still fresh on the minds of others.

Sen. Eric Reeves (D-14) has gone through about five budget negotiations, and this year's situation stands out to him as the worst one yet.

"This is the most difficult one I've seen," he said. "I'm not even remotely happy about the budget that came out, but it was the best we could do under the circumstances."

Reeves said his frustration stems from a feeling that the legislature was not making much progress during the negotiations, and many of the more difficult issues dealt with education and human services.

"We all want to talk positive about

the budget, and it could have been so much worse," he said.

Months ago, it was feared that state agencies and the UNC System would lose much larger chunks of state appropriated funding.

"So we ended up in a better position than was originally planned," said Reeves, "but it sure was a tough road getting there."

One of Reeves' main concerns is the state's estimated economic growth projection, which is around 4 percent, according to professional economists. Reeves, however, is not that optimistic but will "go with what the experts say."

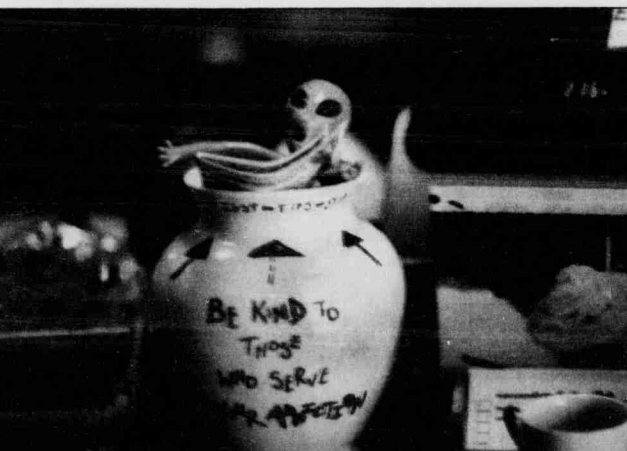
His own opinion comes from seeing local economies and unemployment rates firsthand.

"I've been in every corner of the state, and it is not pretty," he said.

If the projected growth does not occur, lawmakers might have to revisit the budget for next year; if it is close to what the economists predict, there will be more of a chance for the state to thrive and continue to grow economically.

Reeves said that education and Medicaid make up 80 percent of the budget, and that almost every other agency besides those two got cuts.

See BUDGET, Page 4



Aliens invade the tip jar at Encounters Cafe on Hillsborough Street.

Design School hires professional for Web site overhaul

◆ Some students in the School of Design may have the opportunity to participate in the redesign of the school's Web site.

James Sellers

Staff Reporter

N.C. State's School of Design is currently engaged in the process of developing a new Web site for the design school.

After the School of Design was awarded funding for the project, they reviewed potential companies to design the site, finally choosing Burney Designs for the task.

"One of our requirements with the Web developer is that they be located within a 30-minute drive of campus so that students will be able to observe and participate in the process," said Catherine Lazorko, information officer for the School of Design.

Burney Designs is considered to be a reputable company, said Lazorko, and it is run by an alumnus of the School of Design and is located within

See WEB SITE, Page 4

Additional vouchers

170 tickets not picked up.

Valid vouchers: 2441-2611

TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

From bad to worse

N.C. STATE'S NEW TV ADVERTISEMENT IS DOING LITTLE TO PROMOTE NCSU AS A RESPECTABLE INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING.

There are times when changes are necessary. There are times when changes are made and, looking back, what was changed proves better than the changes made. This is the case with N.C. State's new TV advertisement campaign.

For the past several years, NCSU's TV commercial, played before home games at the ESA and during half-time of televised sporting events, has been ridiculed and scarcely praised. Students made fun of "We all go to N.C. State" at almost every opportunity. The grade-schooler who proclaimed, "I wish I could see the future" at the beginning also caught his fair share of criticism. With pouring grain and cheesy, cliché-like expressions throughout, the TV ad made NCSU look somewhat like a joke, but a joke that anyone could attend ... according to the ad.

Half-time of the home football opener versus Indiana U. saw the debut of a new TV ad campaign. We were optimistic, hoping that this commercial would portray our university as the storied, intellectual institution we have always strived to

be. If you missed the commercial debut, you need listen or watch no further than to read the words: "We are hunters and knowledge is our prey." This is the thought that rings over and over in the viewer's head. The footage of a pack of wolves prowling the ESA played before basketball games is sufficient for its purpose — getting everyone pumped up. What we don't want, however, is the image conveyed to other universities and people around the nation to be one of the predator-prey relationship. This makes us seem both common and violent.

With the debut of this new TV ad, we are wishing desperately for the old one. How can we wonder why UNC-Chapel Hill students stereotype us (falsely, of course) as backward-minded when this is the message our university administration is sending out on national television? At least we, the students, know NCSU is an excellent, academically respected university; we'll have to take solace in that and cheer that much harder at football games ... especially against UNC-Chapel Hill.

CAMPUS FORUM

Students urged to be better fans

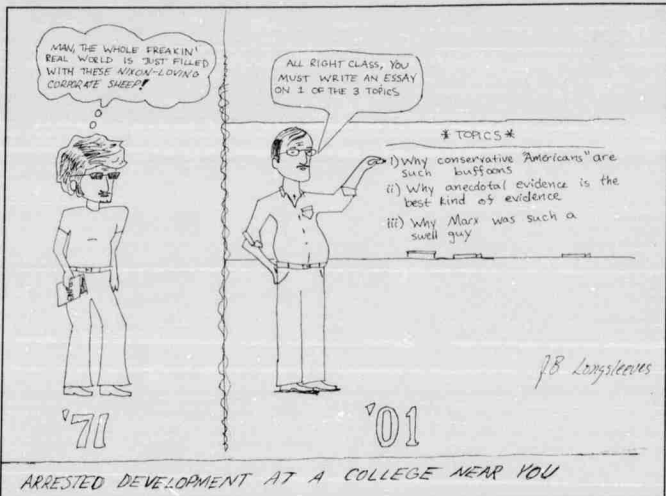
As an N.C. State graduate and long-time supporter (50 plus years) of Wolfpack athletics, I have been disappointed with the lack of support and enthusiasm exhibited by many State students. At basketball games the student section is often sparsely populated, and at some football games many seats in the student section are vacant. (However, I must say that I was pleasantly surprised at the Indiana game to see that the student section was full and that nearly everyone was wearing a red shirt. It looked great. Keep it up!) I would like to offer a three-part challenge to all State students: 1. Attendance — Attend as many NCSU athletic events as possible, including non-revenue varsity sports. If school is not in session for a particular game and you don't live too far away, go to the game before you go home. 2. Attire — Wear as much red as possible, especially above the waist. Take red and white flags, towels, pom-poms etc., and wave them. I would also recommend that you get black jeans or pants to wear instead of blue jeans. You don't realize it because you can't see it, but from across the field the mass of blue jeans make our student section look more like Carolina than State. 3. Noise - Make more noise. You do a great job on third-down defense. Let's see if we can't make that kind of noise on almost every down. Please step up and accept the challenge. The players will appreciate it!

Erv Thompson
Raleigh, NC
Class Of '58

Bush Administration should 'slow ship'

As a 48-year-old full-time grad student here at State, I fully support any message your page conveys in the direction of restraint in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. The "Powell has best advice for Bush" column is in the right direction; let's hope Powell stays true to his history. Please help those of us who have been enough of this kind of thing to encourage enough of the ship's passengers to put their hands into the water and slow the ship before it strikes the iceberg. In this time, news publications should ask the following kinds of questions: "What did the Bush Administration do if anything, to thwart the attacks?" If the answer to that is "nothing" or "not much at all in the face of a credible threat that everyone and his dog knew of," ask, "Should we conclude that we're being led by an Administration that is profoundly negligent and irresponsible at best?" "Can we trust them to do anything responsible now?" "What can the rest of us do to force the administration to find some competence STAT?" For myself, I have many more of those kinds of questions than do many of our fellow countrymen. Their sense of things is very understandable given the horror of what happened and how the Administration has leveraged anger. Our priority now, though, is to slow the ship.

Richard Anderson
Graduate Student
Computer Science



Martha and Steve exposed

Greg Volk

STAFF COLUMNIST

You may not see it at first, but Martha Stewart and the Crocodile Hunter, Steve Erwin, have quite a lot in common. Both are pop icons at the pinnacle of their "industries" (household niceties and wildlife interaction, respectively). Our fascination with these individuals is only exceeded by their apparent expertise and seemingly endless ingenuity. Who would have thought to tile a swimming pool with cut-up, used credit cards? Who would have thought to poke a large stick at an even larger rattlesnake guarding his den? (I guess some people may have thought of this, but how many people would willingly do this on camera, exclusive of the entire crew of MTV's "Jackass"?) This is why I delve into the mystery behind the magic that makes Martha and Steve so interesting.

Every interior decorator aspires to be Martha Stewart, every wildlife guru the Crocodile Hunter. I'm sure that even Jack Hannah, although he'd never admit it, would jump through hoops to reach the larger-than-life status of the Crocodile Hunter. Face it Jack: you just don't have the charisma (read: balls, stupidity). But here's the thing ... Martha and Steve *must* be incredibly talented, knowledgeable and creative - you just don't get to the top with only elbow grease. However, people always say that, as anyone ever featured on "Behind the Music" will tell you, stay-

ing at the top is much harder than getting there; it's like an inverted game of Jenga.

I would go so far as to posit that both *must* have teams of support people working under and for them. How else would Steve know everything about every animal everywhere ... like that the Flying Tree Squirrels of Trinidad are mostly nocturnal animals? I don't know if Trinidad has Flying Tree Squirrels and, if so, whether they would be nocturnal, but I bet Steve would. How does Martha come up with so many knickknacky things to do with mundane household refuse? And I though all the compost pile in my backyard was good for was building "sand" castles!

I aim not to defame Martha or Steve, only to slightly pierce the armor protecting their god-like status among cable TV personalities. The American people know that celebrities like Martha and Steve are not doing this by themselves. In that respect, Martha and Steve are not dissimilar to Osama bin Laden and his network of terrorists. The financial, cultural and intellectual resources at their disposal are astounding. The difference is bin Laden's operatives aim to disseminate worldwide chaos and terror instead of interior design conventions or methods for transporting crocodiles. Hey, to each his own I guess.

What about our beloved network

news anchors Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings and Dan Rather? Don't try to tell me these gentlemen, although very learned and sharp no doubt, are able to find out about all the news that happens everywhere around the world everyday. The only possible conclusion I can reach is that they have people working with and for them, helping them to learn the "news" they "report" everyday. Heck, they may even have some of this "news" written down for them, so all they have to do is read the stuff!

In the case of our President, he may have as many as a hundred people working for him. How else would he have been so prepared on such short notice to answer questions about his campaign's alleged use of subliminal messaging. I've heard that, like movie stars, someone even tells him what to wear. (If this person exists, he/she must like big hats and jeans.)

I hope these thoughts are making you think twice before leaping head first into a pool of faithful awe for a media or public personality. Don't fall for the propaganda. Martha, Steve and all the others are just like you and me, except that they make a hell of a lot of money and are doing exactly what they want for a living.

If Greg could iron a shirt, he'd put a towel underneath it as Martha suggests. Email him any comments at dieshus@hotmail.com. It's a good thing.

International schoolyard shenanigans

McGill Tribune

U-G-MCGOTT

(U - W I R E) MONTREAL — It is said that World makes strange bedfellows. Over the past week, nations that barely communicate in the best of times have rallied in solidarity and acted in lukewarm friendship in reaction to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. China, Russia and Iran are now on the same side of a fight that has no end in sight. A strange game of Red Rover, indeed.

But no country faces a greater backlash and uncertainty right now than Pakistan. Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf is the leader of a highly unstable nation. Self-appointed after ousting and jailing the previous president in 1999, his administration faced religious warfare and severe poverty on a regular basis. He now must contend with additional civil unrest following his pact with the United States.

During the Cold War, Pakistan and the United States were allies, fighting against a Russian invasion of

Afghanistan. As soon as it ended, the two countries parted ways, the United States all but forgetting its so-called friend.

Now Pakistan has been called upon again to play America's best friend. And like any good schoolyard politics, the offer is complete with bitter-sweet incentives.

In 1998, Pakistan was hit with economic and political sanctions for its nuclear testing. In exchange for agreeing to help the United States, these sanctions have been lifted. What this means for the future of nuclear arms testing remains uncertain, but this surely cannot set a good precedent. The global community should not be thought of as ungrateful, but Pakistan has yet to take any large steps towards ending its nuclear testing.

Discussions will also be held this week regarding the rescheduling of some of its \$32 billion USD international debt.

Pakistan has little choice in whether or not to corroborate in the attacks on Afghanistan. Should it

refuse, it risks trouble with both India, an eastern neighbor with whom it has hostile relations, and the United States. Not exactly a desirable political sandwich.

But when the dust settles, and things return to some degree of normalcy, what will happen to these newly formed alliances? It is hard to believe that this cause will unite all countries, great and small, for any lengthy period of time. In predictable paradox, countries and governments will continue to be divided along their previous lines. Human rights, nuclear testing, and economic differences will again distinguish between nations.

As before, the same world leaders will eat in the cool part of the cafeteria. They'll play with the same people at recess. The nerds, geeks, and obviously content stamp collectors will resume their positions in the corner of the dining hall.

But when excess time comes, someone will need to borrow someone else's notes. And they will be the most trivial of friends.

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Modern slavery examined

Justin Greene
STAFF COLUMNIST

While academics, politicians and pundits endlessly debate the pros and cons of reparations for the descendants of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, the possibility of modern day slavery on the continent of Africa has received curiously little attention. News articles and television reports have raised attention to the matter, but lately, any actual investigation of the alleged abuses has largely been left to the resources of private and non-governmental organizations such as Christian Solidarity International.

According to the American Anti-Slavery Group (AASG), headed by Charles Jacobs and Mohammed Athie, 80,000-90,000 residents of the West-African nation of Mauritania are completely owned as slaves by other people. These chattel slaves, who are not indentured servants but are bought and sold as property, reportedly share the fate of tens of thousands of likewise enslaved blacks in the war-torn nation of Sudan. According to reports, the militant Islamic militias of northern Sudan often conduct raids on the Christian and animist southern portion of the country, systematically burning villages, killing the adult men, gang-raping the women and enslaving the children.

In a 1996 article on slavery in Africa, writer Joseph R. Gregory quoted Catholic missionaries in Sudan as saying, "nothing has changed in the way of life of these [northern Sudan] Arab groups for the past hundred years. Their only progress has consisted in the provision of large amounts of modern weapons and up-to-date transportation. The time of long lines of enchained slaves marching north is over. Now truckloads of children are seen in the same train, only in the direction." These truckloads of children, many of whom will have no memory outside of slavery, have seen those who try to escape being branded, castrated and having their Achilles tendon cut.

When Mr. Jacobs of the AASG first attempted to enlist the aid of the NAACP, the Congressional Black Caucus and Rev. Jesse Jackson, he was initially faced with skepticism and a lukewarm response. Included was a general unwillingness to rock the boat of supposed black solidarity while one of its most visible members, Louis Farrakhan, was on board. According to Mr. Jacobs, "they were loathe to get into a fracas with the Nation of Islam, which has dismissed the allegations of slavery as propaganda, an attempt by Jews in the United States to discredit Arabs and Islam." In short, said Mr. Jacobs, "no bad white guys, no news."

The reports of indifference to black slavery are not mere accusations. Joseph Gregory also records Abdul Akbar Muhammad, the Nation of Islam's spokesman for interna-

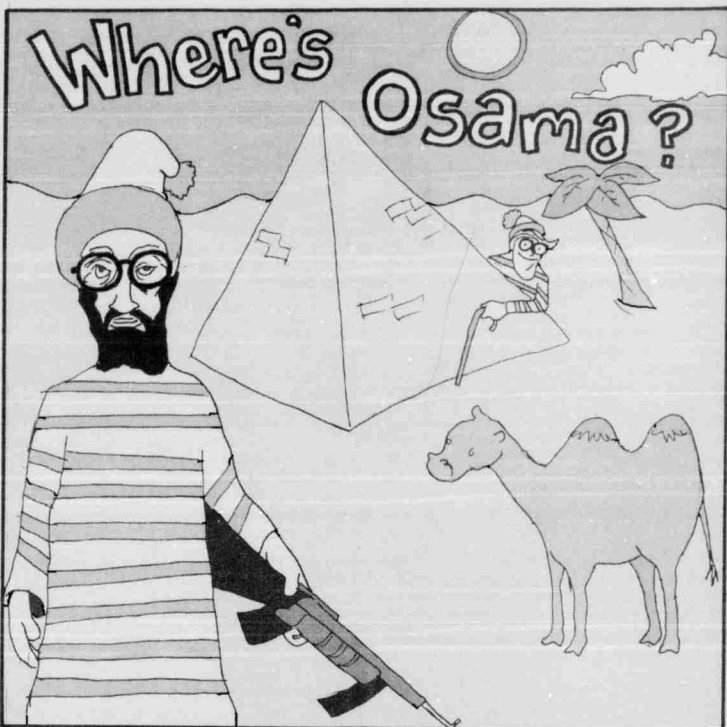
tional affairs, saying the American Anti-Slavery Group is a front for Zionist propaganda and that Mr. Jacobs "is using this suffering to judge a religion and not the people of the religion. It is also an attempt to curtail and divide an already divided black community on the issue of Islam and the influence of the Nation of Islam under Minister Louis Farrakhan." This is a curious response, especially considering the fact that Mohammed Athie, the American Anti-Slavery Group's executive director, is a practicing Muslim.

The Web site of the Nation of Islam's magazine, The Final Call, included an article on the slavery issue. The writer of the article, Cedric Muhammad, downplayed the issue of slavery, especially in Sudan. Muhammad singled out the Swiss-based human rights group Christian Solidarity International as an example of Zionist lies and deceit regarding the issue. Although Muhammad did raise interesting questions about the practice of CSI slave buy-backs and whether or not these are legitimate, he damaged his argument by including the anti-Semitic tones and wild theorizing of NOI writer Charles Carlson. Carlson summed up the Nation of Islam's denial of slavery in the Sudan by attempting to discredit CSI saying, "We believe Christian Solidarity International is 'Christian' in name only. We are still waiting to meet a Jesus-Christian in the organization ... in fact its curious name, 'Solidarity' seems more Bolshevik than Christian. Unlike the Mailorder Missionaries, CSI's motive does not appear to be money, and it never has appeared to worry about fundraising. Rather, it appears to be bent upon control of Sudan, probably for its well-heeled client [Israel]. You can bet American taxpayer money is indirectly financing CSI."

To the credit of the Black Caucus and the NAACP, both organizations issued statements and resolutions condemning slavery in Sudan and Mauritania.

A quick study of the issue has shown me that many questions still surround the practice of slavery in northern and western Africa. What is not clear is why the mainstream press and the government have not responded to this issue with the vigor that was applied to apartheid in South Africa. Many groups are disputing the existence of slavery in Africa as if it were unimaginable, but not many have voiced an argument supported by facts of their own. The United States must take a leading role in examining the evidence, reporting the truth and helping to justify any atrocities.

Justin encourages Nation of Islam members to entertain him by defending what's found on their Web site with documentation. Write him at jngreene-justin@hotmail.com



To Bill, with love

Shawn Barnes
STAFF COLUMNIST

Bill was my first. (Well maybe he wasn't my actual first, but he's the first I remember clearly for myself.) He was the best; Bill made me feel safe and happy. Through it all — the good and the bad — I felt good about being with Bill. No, Bill wasn't perfect no matter how you look at it. Some say that if Bill had been firmer way back when that guy S- tried to take away what we had, maybe things would be better. If Bill had let the world know that no one could tear us apart, maybe these things wouldn't be happening. But we can't live life wondering about the "ifs." But Bill was so trusting; he's everybody's friend. He's my friend, and I just wanted to share with you my letter to Bill:

Dearest Bill,
I still think of you everyday. I miss your Arkansas twang. You made me feel safe and secure for so long. Eight years we were together, growing and sharing. Who would have thought we would be pulled apart? Oh well, those are just the rules of life. Yes you were criticized and ridiculed; always remember that the best often are.

What we had wasn't always perfect. At times I must admit you hurt my heart with your actions and decisions. But I was once told that if relationships were easy, everyone would have one. That's why the others are so jealous; they possess too much hate to ever have what we had. They knew what we had was real and strong so they waited and waited for the inevitable. They waited for the weak moment that was sure to follow.

What is it about eight? People who are long gone, who don't know us or understand us, said we could only be together for eight years and not a day longer. Believe me, Bill — I was not ready to let you go. Even when you hurt me the most I was not ready to let you go. For you, Bill, are a shining star.

I'm sure you've heard that George has come and tried to take your place. But he will never have my heart. Oh Bill, how I wish you were here. You see George; He, well, he drinks — a lot. He said he would never do it again, but he does. Late at night he sneaks to the Blue Room (he doesn't think I know), and he drinks himself silly and walks around the house in cowboy boots and a holster.

My darling Bill, he's extremely aggres-

sive, and I'm scared. He's from Texas, so he likes to fight. Like I said, he's sneaky. Bill, I can't be sure what he's done, but I know he's done something really bad in hopes of winning me over. I beg him to talk to me, to tell me what he knows, but he refuses to share. Doesn't he understand that a relationship cannot, will not, survive without communication?

He knows he has me scared, and I want to leave. He taunts me. He leaves my passport and credit card on the table right beside my favorite chair, you know, where I like to sit and read. He leaves these items there, knowing he's made me too afraid to get on a plane and escape from him. He thinks he can force me to love him by offering me no other alternative (his father did the same thing). But believe me Bill, I may be with George on paper, but in my heart I'm yours.

Forever yours,
SB

Do you have a letter for Bill? Send it to Shawn at shawn_barnes@hotmail.com and she'll forward it to Bill's new Harlem address.

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COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

Croom said that, besides safety issues, transportation problems plague Hillsborough Street.

"The simple fact is that transportation is blocking the way to good business," he said.

Croom believes the solution lies in public transportation improvements.

"Public transportation is really the key," he said. "We have to find a way to move students and the citizens of Raleigh around."

Kirkman is the city council liaison to the Raleigh Transit Authority, and he said he has been pushing for NCSU students to receive a discount on CAT bus fare by showing their student ID.

Croom said that the CAT bus system is in need of an upgrade in order to increase its ridership.

Automobile transportation on Hillsborough Street is also an issue.

Kirkman, who is a strong supporter of the Hillsborough Street Partnership's plan for Hillsborough Street, said that construction of a roundabout at the corner of Pullen Road and Stinson Avenue is in the city's capital improvements budget.

"A roundabout there will be very successful," he said.

Roundabouts are not traffic circles, but they are designed to integrate pedestrian and automobile movement, said Kirkman.

Kirkman said that the businesses on Hillsborough Street must also make a greater effort to advertise on campus; similarly, NCSU must seek out Hillsborough Street businesses to advertise in university publications and functions.

"The current mayor says the

problem is all of the food services on campus. I don't agree with that," he said. "The businesses must advertise on campus."

"The university is playing the largest role it can on Hillsborough Street due to its budget, but it can do more."

Both Kirkman and Croom agreed that the success of Hillsborough Street is not dependent on establishments that sell alcohol.

"We need to try to attract businesses other than bars," said Croom.

"I fully agree we don't have to have more alcohol on Hillsborough Street to improve business," said Kirkman.

The two candidates also debated the issue of a local option sales tax in the city of Raleigh, such as a tax on prepared food.

Croom is opposed to such a measure, while Kirkman is not against it.

"A sales tax is not a regressive tax," said Kirkman. "It is not going to keep me from eating at a place."

"If you can afford McDonalds, 10 cents more is not going to hurt, and if you can afford Angus Barn, \$1 more is not going to hurt."

Croom said that he would not support a tax increase of any kind.

"Sales tax is in fact the majority of taxes paid by students," he said. "Students would spend more money every single day."

Croom cited the city's increased growth and decreased taxes over the last 10 years as proof that it is not necessary to raise taxes or institute a new type of tax.

"Over the past 10 years Raleigh has managed to grow without raising taxes, but lowering them," he said. "We can make it without increasing taxes."

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

"If we come back next year, there's nothing left to cut, and nobody wants to do that," he said. "If taxes do not solve the problem, it's going to be a real big issue for the universities and education."

Reeves said the tuition increase in the UNC System was discouraging but necessary.

"It's just reality," he said. "It would be a great world if we didn't have to do that," but there were few alternatives if any.

Of course, the terrorist attacks are also weighing heavily on Reeves' mind as well.

"It appears that our federal government is going about this the right way," he said.

He said he first feared hasty reactions by leaders, but it was more comfortable with the situation this week than he was last week.

"Shoot first, ask questions later. I don't think that's the American way," he said.

Heightened security in the country is evident at the North Carolina Legislative Building as well. Several highway patrolmen stayed close to the building and the street.

"I'm definitely in the minority about the security stuff, but I view my service as that's just part of it," said Reeves. "There is a certain risk involved. But as FDR said, 'A person's life and fortune are not secure without liberty and free institution.' Those terrorists want us to live in fear, and that would be a step between free institutions."

"The question becomes, what amount of civil liberties do we want to let go of in order to have security?" he said. "For me, serving in the legislature is keeping this institution going."

WEB SITE

Continued from Page 1

walking distance of campus. The School of Design chose Burney Designs from 25 different company bids.

The School of Design received quotes ranging from \$20,200 to \$297,000 for the design of the Web page. The school evaluated the six least-expensive companies by looking at their previous work and decided that Burney Designs was the most reasonable proposal, priced at \$30,000.

Despite budget reductions, the School of Design places a high priority on the site.

"Because we are a school that prides itself on its education and teaches Web design as part of its curriculum, we believe that our site needs to show cutting-edge technology," said Lazorko.

"The majority of our graduate

students come from out of state and out of country so our Internet presence is one of the most important communication vehicles we have."

The current Web site is four years old with outdated graphics and incorrect content, said Lazorko. The new Web site will not only be a means of communicating to out of state or out of country prospective students, but it will also serve as a place to feature student work and inform faculty.

"We hope to have an internal site that would function to provide information to faculty, class scheduling, room reservations and also as a place to feature students' work," said Lazorko.

The school hopes to be able to display student work such as animation and video, which will require a site that can adequately support those functions, said Lazorko.

"We'd like a professional

developer to come on board to give us some suggestions and routes we can take to really make a stellar site," said Lazorko. "We are the college of design, we respect the work of professional designers, and we repeatedly bring professionals into the educational environment in order to improve the quality of our education."

By having experienced designers develop the site, students will be able to play an active role in the site's development.

"We're looking at having some of the design labs for graphic design students observe and possibly participate in portions of [the project]," said Lazorko.

"Even after the site is developed, there will be a lot of room for in-fill where faculty and students are placing a lot of interesting material on the site, so we really want the designer to give us a good framework," she said.

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COOMBS

Continued from Page 8

bumped up my mileage and my intensity a lot, and it took a year to adjust to it. I also had more the summer before my sophomore year, so that made the following season disappointing."

That sparked the beginning of a year of redshirted seasons and a quiet rise to the top of the team.

"About eight weeks out of mono I think she could have made our varsity team," Henes said. "But she would have been borderline, and there were only a couple of meets left, so we didn't want to use her eligibility. But we saw a major leap in her running starting in the track seasons. Even in her first indoor meet at Virginia Tech we could tell improvement right away. Her first indoor 3,000 was a personal best."

Coombs also saw a major improvement during this part of her career.

"Things started to come together during the indoor season," Coombs said. "Then in outdoor, I ran personal bests basically every time I ran. I ran a 5,000 best in my first meet, and I also saw consistent improvement in the steeplechase, which was a new event for me."

Coombs really seemed to find her niche in the steeplechase during the 2001 outdoor track season. She earned a win in one of her first competitions at the Duke Invitational. Two weeks later she dropped ten seconds off her time with a second place finish in the Penn Relays Olympic Development race.

"Doing the steeple last spring really helped out my strength, which will show a definite benefit in cross country," said Coombs. "The steeple relies on a lot of strength, and so does cross country, so I think I am seeing the benefits from that."

After running unattached all season, Coombs had the chance to compete in the steeplechase in June at the U.S. National

Track Championship, a meet for the best collegiate and professional runners in the country. While teammate Katie Sabino placed fifth in the event, Coombs fell in her preliminary heat and did not qualify for the finals.

"She had been training awfully close to Katie, and Katie finished fifth at U.S. Nationals," said Henes. "I think Megan would have qualified for the finals had she not fallen. I think a lot more people would recognize her name now if that was the case."

Because of Coombs' relatively slow start to her college career, some of this year's freshmen are buoyed by her perseverance and determination.

"Megan is a great example for the younger athletes, in particular the ones who struggle their freshmen year," said Henes.

"Through her, they can see that it can only take a year of dedication and hard work to get up to the level you want to."

WolfpackNotes

Students get chance to meet coaches

The Faculty Fellows Program of the First Year College is sponsoring "Meet the Coaches Night" tonight from 5-7 p.m. in Fountain Dining Hall.

Several coaches from N.C. State's athletic programs, including basketball coach Herb Sendek, will be in the food service line meeting students. All students are welcome to attend this event.

Cross country moves up in polls

The N.C. State men's and women's cross country squads moved up in the NCAA Division I polls this week following their performances at the Great American Cross Country Invitational in Charlotte.

The women's squad, now ranked No. 3 nationally, defeated five ranked teams and tallied 41 points to take the victory. The women were led by Kristin Price, who took third overall at the meet. All-Americans Katie Sabino and

Christy Nichols took 12th and 15th, respectively.

The men moved up to No. 8 in the nation after taking first overall in the men's competition in Charlotte. Chad Pearson was the top State finisher, taking third. Pearson was the highest ACC finisher at the meet. The Pack posted a score of 34 in the meet, far ahead of 19th-ranked Michigan's 67.

Hero to handle coin toss duties

N.C. State alumnus John Cerqueira will handle the coin toss duties at this weekend's football game against North Carolina.

An employee at Network Plus, a telecommunications company formerly housed on the 81st floor of the north tower of the World Trade Center, Cerqueira went upstairs following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack to help anyone who need assistance.

Cerqueira and a co-worker carried a woman in a wheelchair down 68 flights of stairs to safety, clearing the building just five minutes before its collapse.

Worsley advances at USTA event

N.C. State junior Loni Worsley will play in Wednesday's feature match of the USTA/Capital Association Pro Circuit event at the North Hills Racquet Club in Raleigh.

Worsley defeated Sheryl Gershon 3-6, 6-0, 6-4 on Monday and Antoinette Mmoh 6-4, 6-4 on Tuesday to advance. She will face international junior standout Ally Becker of Raleigh Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Worsley, a Winston-Salem native, played under Coach Martha Deal at R.J. Reynolds High School. She was a four-year letter winner who went undefeated in regular season action as a senior.

The tournament is in its second year and is sponsored by the Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. The 32 players in the main draw began action on Tuesday. Admission is free until Friday. Tickets will be \$5 during the weekend, all proceeds going to breast cancer research.

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Built to Spill

lands at the Cradle



John Boles
Senior Staff Writer

BANDS: Built to Spill, Brett Netson, Rainer Maria and The Delusions

The first rule of playing live shows is you do not play "Freebird." The second rule of playing live shows is you DO NOT play "Freebird." The third rule of playing live shows is play mostly songs to promote your most recent album along with your most famous songs from before.

On the other hand, the first rule of lasting any length of time in the music world is that you can't follow any rules. Built to Spill broke all of these rules and many others Monday night at Car's Cradle in a four-hour show with four bands interchanging members left and right.

It was pretty obvious that the first performer, Brett Netson, did not come along for his solo-performing prowess. His three or four songs all sounded pretty similar and depressing. Leaving the delay pedal on the entire time, he weaved incredibly long songs that didn't showcase much more than his likely state of depression. Netson did help out The Delusions and Built to Spill later on in the show with his guitar (which probably was the main reason he tagged along).

Next on the roster was Rainer Maria, whose incredibly lively performance got the entire crowd

into their stuff. Guitarist and backup vocalist Kyle Fischer took every opportunity he could to jump around, do a kick here and there and fall on his back, all while playing his guitar. Caitlin de Marrais even got into dancing as the show wore on. It was nice to see a band with really good chemistry playing some good tunes.

The Delusions came out and put on a pretty good set, although being more familiar with their material would help to enjoy this type of band more. They did employ the help of former solo wonder boy Brett Netson in some songs, and Doug Martsch (of Built to Spill) casually sat in the back and sang backup vocals in some of the songs. The Delusions just seemed like a prelude to what the entire audience was waiting for: Built to Spill. And this crowd was not to be disappointed.

Doug Martsch and Built to Spill started out with an older tune, "Made-up Dreams," from *Perfect from Now On*, letting the audience know that this was not just going to be a live rendition of their latest album, *Ancient Melodies of the Future*. In fact, they played about three or four songs from each of their LPs, making for a very balanced set while satisfying those new to the band and those hardcore fans yelling out requests in between songs.

Of course, they didn't play some of their most popular or expected songs from *Keep It Like A Secret*, such as "The Plan" or "Time Trap." I think many were disappointed that they didn't play

these songs, but they did play many other perennial favorites like the extended jam of "Velvet Waltz" and the extremely poppy and older-crowd favorite, "Car."

The crowd on stage grew as the show wore on, eventually multiplying from a three-piece to a seven-piece band. Once they had used up all the members of The Delusions, they even employed who was perhaps a roadie (or maybe The Delusions' drummer ... not really sure) to play the tambourine.

Perhaps more surprising to the crowd was the fact that the band played three seemingly uncharacteristic covers. Surely because of the Chapel Hill locale, they played an old Ben Folds Five b-side. They also played a song from the Cars, which stunned everyone because, well, it was by the Cars.

But the grand finale was "Freebird." That's right, "Freebird." Armed with three guitarists, a bassist and a drummer, Built to Spill ripped into the song with all they had. By the end Jim Roth of The Delusions wowed the entire crowd with an extended and double-speed solo-scorching solo.

Thoroughly surprising and satisfying, Built to Spill maintained their reputation of being a staple in rock today with their show on Monday night. One can only wonder, after covering such a wide range of songs in one night, just where the band is headed for their next album. I guess we'll have to wait and hope to be surprised again.



Glitter
MARIAH

Director

Vondie Curtis Hall

Starring

Mariah Carey
Max Beesley
Da Brat

Joe Partin

Staff Writer

Unfortunately, all that glitters is not gold, and in the case of Mariah Carey's new movie "Glitter," the viewer is served a big plate of poire. Poor Mariah has had a tough year. She watched her first single ("Lovejoy") from her new album fail, she had a nervous breakdown, and she stars in one of the worst films about the music industry ever made.

While "Glitter" is bad, it's a bit of escapism from all that has happened in recent weeks. The film (at least a majority of it) takes place in 1983 when Billie (Carey) is a typical '80s clubber. She and her friends Louise (Da Brat) and Rosanna (Tia Texada) have few worries and spend most of their lives dancing the night away at New York clubs.

While clubbing one evening, the girls meet a shady producer who wants them to sing back up for a wannabe singer who has problems hitting her high notes (much less any notes). Of course, Billie can sing and the producer sees her some to "glitter" the singer. The secret is discovered by DJ Dice (Max Beesley, doing his best Mark Wahlberg impersonation) who takes on Billie as his girlfriend/producer. From here on out, the movie touches on every industry cliché imaginable.

Billie is marketed as a sex object, her friends are shunned (but for some reason have no care that they are being screwed), Dice is overbearing, and Billie has dreams of singing at Madison Square Garden. All of this and more happen in just about a year of Billie's life.

The film is based loosely on Carey's real life. Dice closely resembles Carey's relationship with ex-husband Tommy Mottola, who was said to have shaped (and controlled) her career in the beginning. At times, Dice seems sympathetic and overbearing, but we as the audience don't know if we're supposed to like him or not.

The film does have some redeeming qualities, though not many. Director Vondie Curtis Hall ("Gridlock'd") uses some clever editing techniques that give the film some rather stylistic qualities, but the performances by the actors are mediocre at best, and in the case of Carey, robotic.

Whoever decided that Carey should cross over into film is probably looking for a new job right about now. "Glitter" also tries too hard to pull at our emotions in some scenes.

See *GLITTER*, Page 6

TECH IT TO THE LIMIT

NIMDA STRIKES BACK

Jon Morgan
Staff Writer

Code Red and Nimda. These two computer viruses used to prey on the many vulnerabilities of Microsoft's IIS software, which is used for serving Web pages. They are highly malicious yet completely preventable.

With the simple process of applying a few patches, which were released months ago, a system will be immune to viruses that exploit the weaknesses used by Code Red and Nimda. It doesn't cost anything, and it's not hard to do, so there is really no reason why somebody running IIS should not apply these patches. So why are Code Red and Nimda still around?

Carelessness, ignorance and laziness, that's why, and one ISP Speakeasy DSL agrees. This is why they have started to disable the accounts of all users with vulnerable systems.

Small networks, such as those found in DSL service areas, are particularly vulnerable to this type of virus. The virus spreads to "nearby" computers so computers on a smaller network will be hit over and over again. DSL and Cable Internet services in some areas have slowed to a crawl and Speakeasy DSL has the solution: suspend the accounts of all infected users.

They reason that if somebody refuses to fix a potentially damaging vulnerability, then they're doing harm to the system as a whole. Some service providers have been e-mailing their infected users, but

even this strategy is relatively ineffective, so the suspension of accounts has begun, and it seems to be working.

Computer science major Samuel Polak agrees. "In the old days, people had to know about computers to use them. Now they don't even have to know when something on their computer is annoying other people." As cynical or high minded as this may sound, it's the truth. "It is a good thing to hold people responsible for their own systems."

That is the theory Speakeasy is working with. The user should be accountable for his or her computer. The only problem is that this is only a temporary solution, and anybody who is running Microsoft's IIS software is a potential threat to the system — patch or no patch. They are no longer vulnerable to this particular virus, but there will be more. Can the average computer user be expected to install the nearly weekly patches released for IIS?

Computer science student Chuck Ellison thinks so. "I don't think it's a problem because after the user patches, they re-enable the account. But really, all people with IIS are already disabled." This is a growing sentiment in the computing field.

Code Red, the first of the two, exploited security holes in Microsoft's server software. Nimda came along several weeks later and exploited the very same holes. There's an old saying, and it goes like this: "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

That is exactly what a larger and larger

See *TECH*, Page 6

Insane Fashions

Chad Butterworth

Staff Writer

The weather is cooling off, and girls around campus will be putting some clothes on. To commemorate this change, we've got the fall-fashion insane interview. I felt that I wouldn't be able to get a subjective viewpoint on women's fashion if I were talking to someone who wore women's fashion, so I sat down with Doug Steigerwald, a sophomore in computer engineering who wears men's apparel exclusively.

TeCh: Do you think the one-strap tank tops were inspired by Andre the Giant's one-strap unithard?

DS: I never thought about that, but it does look a lot like it.

TeCh: Which wrestler do you think will shape women's fashion in the future?

DS: Triple-H

TeCh: Do you think the tables will turn and women's fashion will start influencing what wrestlers wear?

DS: No. It would be interesting, but no.

TeCh: Which wrestler would look best in a tube-top?

DS: Mankind.

TeCh: Is he a good guy or a bad guy?

DS: He's not really good or bad.

TeCh: Do you think wearing a tube-top would make him a good guy or a bad guy?

DS: It would probably make him a bad guy, and everyone would want to kick his (expletive deleted) really bad.

TeCh: Despite the allure of heavy-eyebrowed women like Brooke Shields and PJ Harvey, women are plucking their eyebrows like there's no tomorrow. After they get rid of their eyebrows, what will they want to get rid of next?

DS: They will probably start with laser surgery to get their mustaches removed.

TeCh: Lots of women are getting their bellybuttons pierced. When I see a small piece of metal protruding from a girl's abdomen, I

See *FASHION*, Page 6

PHOEBE THE LOVEBIRD

Brian Schuch
The Mad Somnieteer

If I pecked your finger
Would you be so brave
If I pecked your finger
To stick it in my cage

I'm a lovebird, lovebird
That only thinks of hate
I will kill you, kill you
And pull you through the gate

If I pecked your eyes out
Could you see the blood?
If I pecked your eyes out
Could you see the love?

I'm a lovebird, lovebird
That wants to peck your head
I'll be happy, happy
Once I peck you dead

TECH

Continued from Page 5

number of IT experts are saying about IIS. John Pescatore, a computer analyst and the Vice President of Gartner Group, suggests that "Enterprises with Web applications should start to investigate less-vulnerable Web server products." In fact, The Gartner Group, a computer consulting firm, is advising all of its clients to replace IIS with Apache or another one of the many choices for less vulnerable server software.

In the end, this is the only solution to the problems with IIS: stop using it. If a piece of software proves time and again to be problematic, it shouldn't be used. It's that simple.

GLITTER

Continued from Page 5

while disregarding them in others (Billie's relationship with the mother that orphaned her is a rather extraneous back-story) and much of the dramatic scenes evoke snickers.

While "Glitter" is a bad movie, it is certainly not the worst film ever made. It's one of those movies that you are able to sit through. "Glitter" is light on its feet but too closely resembles the standard Hollywood films that we have become accustomed to recently.

Nothing about the film is original, but if you're looking for something carefree and superficial, then "Glitter" is worth a matinee (maybe).

FASHION

Continued from Page 5

think "Aha! She's a robot!" for a split second. The mixture of metal and flesh just kind of reminds me of "The Terminator." Maybe that's what girls are going for, though. After all, there have been a lot of sexy robot women. Who is the sexiest robot woman you've ever seen?

DS: Did you ever see "Toys" with L.L. Cool J and Robin Williams? There was this one chick in there that was pretty hot.

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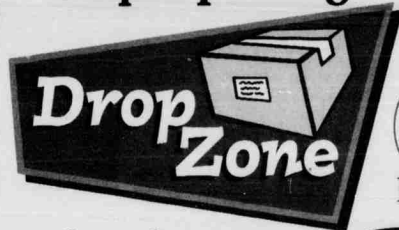
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Stadium security tightened

◆ New security measures will be instituted to ensure the safety of fans at this Saturday's North Carolina-N.C. State football game.

Jerry Moore
Assistant Sports Editor

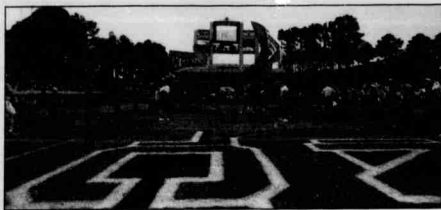
Football fans attending N.C. State's showdown with rival North Carolina on Saturday should expect to see increased security at Carter-Finley Stadium.

The athletics department and Public Safety, along with Raleigh police and the FBI, joined forces to design a new security plan for this weekend's big event and all upcoming football games.

John Dailey, deputy director of Public Safety, described the process.

"We talked to other schools first," Dailey said. "Then we got together with [the athletics department]. We had an FBI agent come in, and then some of us as public safety got together and discussed what we needed to do here."

"The conglomeration came up with a list of changes designed to increase security



Fans should expect to wait in line before entering Carter-Finley Stadium.

at the event, which figures to draw more than 50,000 fans.

Large bags, backpacks, coolers or any objects deemed hazardous by stadium management personnel will not be allowed through the gates. Small bags, purses, fanny packs and other containers will be subject to a complete inspection.

Pass outs will be allowed but only at Gates two, three, eight and nine. Fans

must show both a ticket and pass-out stub in order to return after exiting the stadium, and all who re-enter will be subject to inspection again. Police will be charging for violations, including the possession of airplane bottles.

Because of the increased security measures, game attendees are encouraged by Public Safety to arrive 30 minutes prior to kickoff and prepare to wait in line before

entering Carter-Finley.

"Before when you came to a football game, you didn't think too much about it," Dailey said. "Now it's a big deal. It's going to take longer to get through the gates, and people need to plan for that."

The recent terrorist attacks have led to sweeping changes in security measures at sporting venues across the country, but officials say that security is always tightened for State-UNC contests.

"This is a big game regardless," Dailey said. "We're having to anticipate what might happen after the game as far as celebration and all that. It's a tough event for us all the way around."

The Federal Aviation Administration has ruled that planes will not be permitted to fly over the stadium on game days. Stadium staff will conduct a sweep of the area before the gates open. The Raleigh Police Department's K-9 unit will also conduct a bomb sweep of the stadium.

"I think people are so much more aware of safety issues now in light of everything that happened two weeks ago," Dailey said. "People are taking so many more precautions, and fans are expecting more as far as security."

BASKETBALL Go away Mr. Jordan

For basketball's sake, Michael, change your mind and stay off the court.

Your return has been rumored for months, and Tuesday it became official. There's no doubt that this made a lot of people extremely happy.

The media will flock to Wilmington on Oct. 2 when your team, the Washington Wizards, opens training camp. Thousands of fans will rush out to buy the new Wizards' jerseys with Jordan on the back.



Jerry Moore

The big shots at Nike and Gatorade will laugh as they watch the money flow into their wallets, which are already quite padded, thanks to you. NBA Commissioner David Stern will hail the return of his league's savior and rejoice because his silly commentators with Charles Barkley will no longer be the most exciting part of professional basketball.

In fact, Michael, you might be the happiest of all because being a basketball player again means you'll have to relinquish your last position as Washington's president of basketball operations. As you know, the Wizards had a terrible 19-63 record last year and haven't won a playoff game in 13 years.

So I don't blame you for looking down from your skybox at the MCI Center and thinking that you're better than every other player on the team. But you're going to give up the ability to make player-personnel decisions in order to put your sneakers on again?

I realize that you're an extremely competitive athlete and that your return provides a type of personal challenge. Well, if you want a real challenge, try making the Wizards a playoff contender from the front office and not the free-throw line.

While many people will be overjoyed by your decision to return to the NBA, there is a serious reason why you shouldn't — even beyond all the arguments you've heard in recent months.

Ignore the people who remind you what a high note you left on last time as you beat the Bulls with a last-second shot to give the Jazz their sixth NBA championship. Forget that; even with you, the Wizards might not make the playoffs this season, much less have a chance to win the title. Never mind that you probably won't be nearly the player we all remember.

Throw out all of these legitimate observations, and there's still a reason you should remain retired — that's the health of professional basketball.

Obviously your return will cause a quick spike in the NBA's popularity, but it will prove detrimental in the end. Michael, you provide a short-term fix to a long-term problem.

As we've seen in the three years since your last retirement, it might take some time for the league to regain the level of prominence it reached when you were in your prime. It will be a painful process that will include lackluster play on the court, nearly empty arenas and pitiful television ratings.

Eventually, however, new stars will emerge. Your return takes the focus off the young players and stunts the league's attempt to find new spokesmen to represent itself.

The NBA needs new faces to appear in game highlights, television commercials and on billboards. Until you leave for good, you will hog the spotlight.

But face it Michael, you can't play forever, and soon enough the NBA will have to deal with life without you. Why force it to put off the inevitable? For the general well-being of basketball, stay away and let the rebuilding process begin now.

Jerry Moore's columns appear on Wednesdays. He can be reached at 515-2411/jerry@techniciansports.com.

COOMBS EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS

AFTER SITTING OUT LAST YEAR, A MUCH IMPROVED MEGAN COOMBS HAS RETURNED TO THE N.C. STATE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM.

Todd Lion
Staff Writer

Last Friday's Great American Cross Country Festival saw many familiar names at the front of the race. One was probably a mystery for a lot of people, however, especially those not familiar with the N.C. State cross country team.

"I think that a lot of people looked at the results from last weekend and asked, 'Who is Megan Coombs?'" said

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Henes. Coombs, a redshirt sophomore from Jewett City, Conn., did not find immediate success on the State cross country team.

"Megan was a typical five minute miler in high school," said Henes. "She

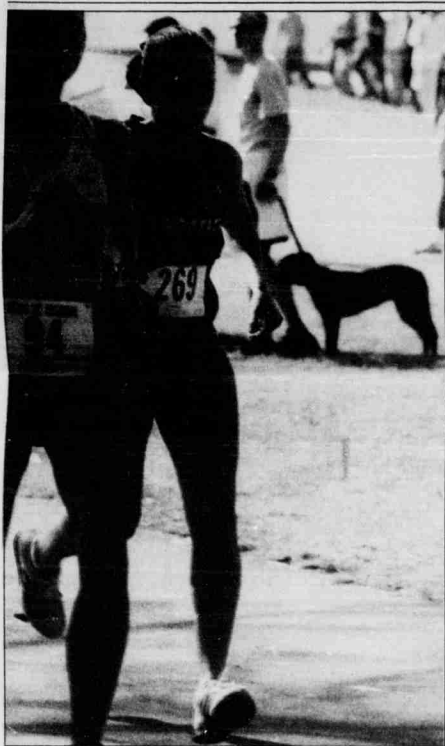
worked hard but didn't have a lot of competition in most of her meets. She struggled a bit during her first year."

"She said to me after her freshman year, 'I don't want to be mediocre; that's not why I came to this program.' You can pick a lot of programs where you can go to the top right away. Megan picked this program so that wouldn't be the case, so that she would make big improvements over a few years."

As a freshman, Coombs competed for the Wolfpack in the final two meets of the cross country season. She placed 46th at the District III Championships and 203rd at the NCAA finals. In the spring of her freshman year, she placed well at the indoor and outdoor ACC Championships, finishing sixth in the indoor mile run and 10th in the outdoor 3,000-meter race.

"I think I struggled a lot my freshman year because it was just a big transitional period," Coombs said. "I

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Megan Coombs finished sixth at last weekend's race.

Red-hot Heels set sights on the Pack

◆ Coming off a landmark victory over No. 6 Florida State, North Carolina turns its attention to N.C. State.

Matt Middleton
Staff Writer

The celebration is over. The commemorative T-shirts have been printed. The gouspots have been replaced. And Franklin Street has finally returned to normal after North Carolina's upset victory over Florida State.

John Bunting couldn't have scripted a better return to his alma mater for his first home game as head coach of UNC, a 41-9 victory over the sixth-ranked Seminoles. The Tar Heels (1-3) utterly dominated a Florida State team that looked more like Florida A&M instead of the rulers of ACC football.

In addition to being the first win of the season for UNC, it was the first win over a ranked opponent for the Heels in four years.

"We're obviously thrilled to be able to come out of there with a win, our first win," said Bunting in his weekly press conference on Tuesday. "It's a big thrill for our players, especially for our seniors, that we had that kind of a game."



Stopping Julius Peppers (49) will be the Wolfpack offense's main concern in Saturday's contest vs. the Tar Heels.

Bunting attributed the win to several factors, specifically the play of his defense that surrendered just 244 yards to

the high-powered Seminole offense, while forcing four turnovers.

Three of those turnovers can be attributed to the propensity of Seminoles quarterback Chris Rix to constantly run with the ball nonchalantly in one hand, resulting in three costly fumbles.

"Our defense played well; they played their best," said Bunting. "They stopped the run, [which] is important in any football game for a defense to do."

In addition to stopping the run, the Heels were able to establish a ground game that was mildly effective but, more importantly, didn't turn the ball over. True freshman

Jacque Lewis averaged almost six yards per carry while sharing time with starter Andre' Williams. "The big thing is there were no balls on the ground," said Bunting. "Andre' Williams did a tremendous job hanging on to that ball. Ball security is the number one improvement in our offense."

Another key area that allowed the Heels to pull off the stunner was its play on special teams. In losses to Big 12 powerhouses Texas and Oklahoma, UNC dug its own grave with spotty special teams play that not only turned the ball over, but gave up mammoth kickoff and punt returns.

"Our special teams performed very, very

well, the best by far," said Bunting. "We can't win ball games without them playing well."

Special teams play will be crucial again this week for Bunting's squad because N.C. State has a reputation for blocking both field goals and punts. In last year's contest, one of the turning points of the game was a botched fake punt attempt by the Heels that set up an easy Wolfpack score.

"They are extremely good in many phases of the special teams, particularly their punt rush," said Bunting.

The Pack will provide a stern test for the Heels who are no strangers to big-time opponents, having already played Texas, Oklahoma and Florida State.

"They're a very good football team," said Bunting. "They do a lot of different things to put pressure on you both offensively and defensively."

Bunting, who was an All-ACC linebacker for the Heels almost 30 years ago, made clear the implications of this rivalry game.

"It's a rivalry that when I was here 30 years ago was abuzz, and I don't expect it to be any different this week," said Bunting, who had a 2-2 record against State in his four seasons donning a UNC jersey.