

TECHNICIAN

WEDNESDAY
JULY
23
2003

www.technicianonline.com

Raleigh, North Carolina

Textiles adds Polymer and Color Chemistry Program

The new program will give students a wider choice of advanced elective courses.

Shannon Holder
Staff Reporter

If variety is the spice of life, textile students at N.C. State will be happy with their new course selections. The new Polymer and Color Chemistry program beginning this fall offers students elective choices that are ground breaking and inventive.

"The new program addresses a broader range of students' interests, and offers a program that is better perceived by students and their parents," said Brent Smith, Cone Mills Professor of Textile Chemistry.

The changes to the program require students to take six required courses, instead of the former 16 specific textile chemistry courses. With less required courses, students select the rest of their courses from a variety of areas.

"The changes allow students to select electives for their own 'focus' areas (not concentrations) and to pursue focus areas in depth by taking 'advanced' electives," Smith said.

According to Smith, new classes will be offered in color science, color chemistry, consumer (product use/care) chemistry, medical applications of textiles (protective materials, products for inside the body), environmental science and more. The traditional courses of polymers and dyeing/finishing will still be offered.

"Additional textile-related focus areas may be added as student and industrial interest dictates," Smith said, noting that plastics, composites and cosmetics are potential future courses.

Students already enrolled in the previous Textile Chemistry program will have a "seamless" transfer into the Polymer and Color Chemistry program, according to Smith.

"The changes we made do not place any new degree requirements on students. The changes do not lessen or increase the technical content of our program," he said. "All students currently in the program will meet the new degree requirements."

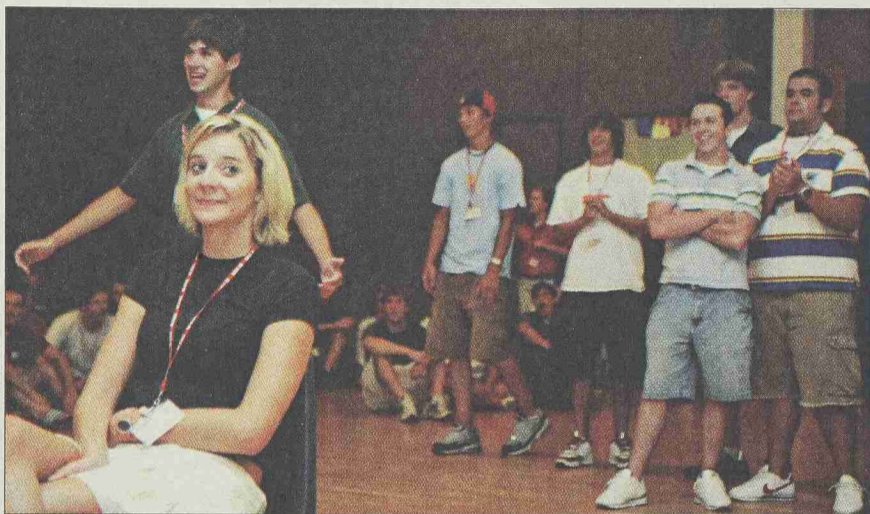
The expansion of the program took about 18 months to complete. The textiles program was started in the 1920s and focused on emerging trends in the industry. Through the years, NCSU has changed with the times to keep abreast of the most recent emerging trends, such as manmade fibers in 1950s or the improved machinery of the 1980s.

"When an 'emerging' technology becomes 'mature,' there are great career opportunities for our graduates in production settings that use the mature technology, as well as opportunities for our graduates to work in new 'emerging' technology areas in research and development," Smith said.

NCSU has the largest textile

TEXTILES see page 4

Bridging the gap



Sally Taylor of Charlotte turns away another suitor during the orientation game "Find a date at State," which is based on MTV's "Singled Out." (Right) Teresa Rouse from Goldsboro, sings during the "N.C. State Idol" contest, orientation's karaoke contest. Staff photos by Tim Lytvinenko

For many freshmen, orientation is the last stop before entering college.

Nancy Zagbayou and
Diane Cordova
Staff Reporters

For incoming students, New Student Orientation is one of the first chances to get to know the sprawling campus that will become home for the next year. But in between traversing the Court of the Carolinas and circling Hargett, it's also an important step in the transition from high school to college - giving new students time to meet with their advisers, a chance to be introduced to their peers and the opportunity to get acquainted with college life.

This year's orientation commenced in early July. Orientation, which is spread over two days, typically kicks off with campus tours, where students meet their orientation counselor (OC). Some first day activities include meetings with their academic advisers and academic success sessions with organizations, such as University Honors, University Scholars and Varsity Student Athletes.

The first day ends with a "Community Issues" session where OCs perform skits and share information regarding issues involving college life. Diversity is the essential focus of the session.

The OCs discuss stereotypes and the effects of social labels:

"People's appearance does not mean anything about their character. We must look past differences and find common ground. We should be able to work and live in an environment free of harassment," said one.

Students are also encouraged to "report harassment when it occurs."

Towards the end of the session, freshmen complete a University Planning and Analysis survey, which is required by the UNC system.

After the sun goes down, students can take advantage of a more laidback atmosphere at entertainment activities from "N.C. State Idol" to "Singled Out." For many, the free time is an opportunity to sit back, relax and start to meet their fellow classmates.

The second and last day of orientation consists of an Information Technology session, additional academic advising and a Telephonic/On-Line Registration Workshop after which students register for fall classes.

Because of its informative nature, orientation helps ease some of the doubts students and parents may have about NCSU and it makes them more confident in regard to joining the institution.

"Coming up here I didn't know what to expect, but [the staff and advisers] have made it an easy, smooth visit and put my mind at ease," said Pamela Powell, mother of Chauncey, an incoming freshman.

"I think the orientation was really good. A lot of time was put into it. You had ample opportunity to ask questions," said Rick Potter, whose daughter is an incoming freshman.

Shea Harris, a junior in mass media communications and OC, said that orientation provides the information needed to be successful in their first year of college.

Orientation counselors, with the help of faculty and student volunteers,



work rigorously every year to try to give incoming freshman an unforgettable experience. This year, alone, the 21 OC's will work an average of 18 and 10 hours respectively on the first and second day of each orientation session.

In addition, they have to take a class in the spring and are subject to 13 hour training days between orientation sessions.

As one OC admitted, "It is a lot of work and it can be stressful sometimes, but working with the students and seeing the results pay off makes it worthwhile."

Judging from its interaction with the new freshman class, Harris admitted that "most students coming in this year seem very eager to learn."

Sheena Leaven, another OC, found the new students very focused.

"A lot of students seem to have a close relationship with their parents, which will help them make a better transition to college," said Leaven, a sophomore in biochemistry.

In addition to the regular freshman orientation, many minority students

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The danger of downloading

The Recording Industry Association of America announced it will begin pursuing individuals involved in music file sharing.

Cetty Abraham
Staff Reporter

The question of downloading music from the Internet and sharing those music files is no longer just a moral question.

As of last month, the Recording Industry Association of America will begin pursuing any individuals who make available and share large amounts of copyrighted music through the Internet. And on Monday, CNN reported that the music industry is making good on their promise, already winning 871 federal subpoenas against computer users suspected of illegally sharing music files.

Lawsuits could be filed as early as mid-August.

The crackdown on the distribution and sharing of music files doesn't come as much of a surprise to most. According to a nationwide survey by the New Jersey Institute of Technology, a majority of Americans agree that copying or sharing music is stealing, which they believe should be restricted. But those polled under 35 didn't consider copying and sharing copyrighted material as a major problem.

Liza Frake, a recent N.C. State graduate in biology, concedes that she stopped downloading music when Napster was shut down a few years ago.

"I actually managed to download 800 songs over one semester, which pretty much took over my hard drive," she said.

The music industry association has commissioned the building of software described as "locator bots" that systematically scan Internet addresses looking to see if any of the common music sharing programs are active. Public directories of users of sharing networks will be scanned and individuals who offer or share music files will be located through their Internet addresses.

Violation notices will be sent to those who are found to be distributing large amounts of music files. The companies who enable the sharing of music programs are not being sued because they merely provide a means for people to share files of all sorts that don't carry a copyright, although it is also possible to share copyrighted music files.

And college students - who often take advantage of fast campus connections to stockpile their favorite hits - won't be out of dodge.

Four students were sued by recording com-

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The music industry is cracking down on illegal music file sharing. Staff photo by Tim Lytvinenko

Federal loan interest rates hit record low

New loan rates could mean savings for students borrowing for higher education.

James Sellers
Staff Reporter

As tuition rates continue to rise across the country, students may find some reprieve when it comes to federal aid.

Student federal loan interests rates dropped to a record low July 1, while President Bush's budget calls for increasing spending on Federal Pell Grants and direct student loans, according to a Department of Education press release.

Student loan interest rates are reset each July after they enter the repayment period. The rate is set by the U.S. Department of Education and is subsidized by the federal

government. The federal government subsidizes the interest rates given by private lending companies in order to attain the lower rate that students must pay.

"Record low loan interest rates may make the difference for many students considering whether to pursue postsecondary education," U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige said in a press release. "These new loan rates will mean significant savings for borrowers and will help make higher education more affordable for all students, goals that President Bush is seeking through his 2004 budget request now before Congress."

Financial aid is restricted, however, to students who have no drug convictions, are legal citizens and, if male, have registered with the armed services.

Students will not benefit from these lower rates unless they are paying interest while in school, according to Shera Hube, College Foundation Inc. vice president of

marketing, savings and student services. Once students graduate and enter the repayment period, they have no guarantee that the rates will stay this low.

Most need-based loans are completely subsidized by the federal government while the student is in school and do not require them to pay interest until after graduation.

"Lower loan interest rates are great for people who have already graduated, but I don't see how it makes education more accessible—except to the middle class who are paying interest while in college," said Brad Goodnight, a sophomore in computer science.

Students who have already entered the loan repayment period can consolidate their loans to take advantage of the lower interest rates. When students consolidate their loans, they are usually combining two or more loans

LOANS see page 4

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

NICKEL AND DIMED MAKES SENSE

OUR OPINION: "NICKEL AND DIMED" WILL FUEL DISCUSSION, NOT FORCE INDOCTRINATION.

Students at UNC-Chapel Hill and state legislators have continued to protest against UNC-CH's newest summer reading selection, "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America." It is their right to protest, but they are getting riled about a process that gives all students the chance to make up their own minds.

The book in question chronicles the experiences of author Barbara Ehrenreich in various low-paying jobs in different states. She works as a Wal-Mart clerk, waitress and housekeeper and uses only her wages from each job to pay her living expenses. She found, both in her own experiences and those of her co-workers, that many people are not able to live comfortably on their salary, and that minimum wage does not always cover the expenses that the average person encounters living a modest lifestyle.

Whether Ehrenreich has presented an accurate portrayal of the working class is up

to her readers, but UNC-CH has given its students the opportunity to make that assessment. No professor leading discussions in the fall will be telling his or her's students what this book should mean to them. The only outcome will be discussions that give each student the chance to voice their opinions of Ehrenreich's book.

Rather than wasting UNC administrators' energy during the summer months by forcing them to continuously defend their choice, the books' opponents would be better served to read the book and add their comments in a less repressive manner.

It is also extremely unfair for legislators to enter their opinions in the debate with a threatening undertone. State Sen. Austin Allran, a Republican from Hickory, said, "The state legislature is beginning to get a little bit tired of this [UNC-CH's summer reading list choices]."

The legislature's ability to determine UNC-CH's budget should not be a tool for them to force a change to an accepted and credible reading program.

Republican members have also suggested that the university reconsider its selection process and choose more appropriate choices such as classic literature. But the point of this summer reading program is to introduce new students to the school's intellectual environment and assigning classics will not challenge students to consider contemporary ideas or ways of life.

UNC-CH needs to continue assigning books that they feel will provide plenty for students to digest during their summer months, and the legislators and students who have spoken against this book need to realize that the only ones trying to "indoctrinate" these students are the ones trying to deny these students the chance to read a book that may or may not have a little light to shed on the thousands of low wage workers in the United States.

It would behoove NC State to consider adding a similar program for its incoming students because there is a lot to learn from what the students of the Committee for a Better Carolina called a "Marxist rant."

The unsigned editorial that appears above is the opinion of the members of the Technician's editorial board and are the responsibility of the editors in chief.

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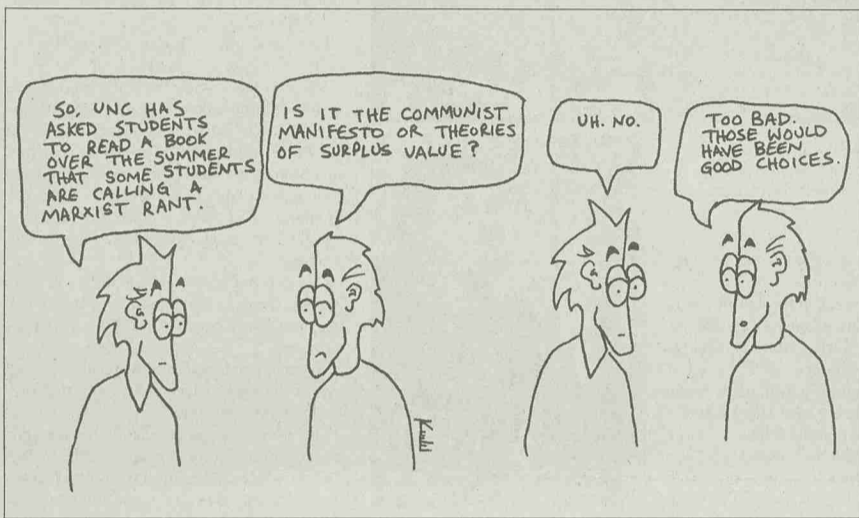
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Next year's summer reading

They aren't "Nickel and Dimed", but these choices could inspire some interesting "discussions" on Triangle campuses.

A summer reading program is an excellent way to get incoming or current students to take part in an all-inclusive activity that will help them discover things about our country and each other that we need to know as supposedly intelligent human beings.

Michele DeCamp
 Staff Columnist

Since "Nickel and Dimed" has not gone down as well as Mamma's apple pie, UNC-Chapel Hill will have to take more care next year not to disrupt half our legislators from their real job—getting out of session before school begins.

I have decided to comprise my own list of potential choices for UNC or N.C. State, if the latter happens to get off its butt and pretend to like the humanities, for next year. I have also taken the time to mention any possible "discussions" either school might face if they decide to select one of my choices.

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss: This particular book is about how the Once-ler brought ruin to a beautiful countryside of Truffula Trees by knitting thousands and thousands of Thneeds! It may take the average college student about fifteen minutes to read, but it is an important lesson in protecting one's environment. This may not go over too well with less environmentally conscious legislators, but just let them try and rebel against the Seuss!

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey: I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel like college can get a little crazy. This book, mostly immortalized by the Jack Nicholson film following its publication, is a

story of the battle between the rebel R.P. McMurphy and Big Nurse at a mental hospital. Most students will be able to relate to some of the characters that exist within McMurphy's mental ward, and if anything it will help them pose the question: What or Who is crazy? Unfortunately this book may come under some fire for using non-politically correct terminology when referring to its narrator Chief Bromden or the other patients, whether they are mentally handicapped or disadvantaged or different or disabled or challenged.

The Chosen by Chaim Potok: A tale of two boys who meet during a baseball game and end up becoming friends despite the fact that one of them is a Modern Orthodox Jew and the other is a Hasidic Jew—a more strict sect of Judaism. It is the perfect story for rising freshmen because it is about befriending people with opposite or conflicting beliefs to your own. When you enter a university with thousands of students it might help if you don't have a lot of hang-ups about diversity. However some community members may have issues with the religious history presented in this book. There are other religions beyond Christianity, and sometimes I think that our country needs a reminder.

The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula LeGuin: This book chronicles Genly Ai's experiences with the Gethens, a society of androgynous people living on a planet outside of Earth. He is trying to get them to join an intergalactic council (similar to our world's United Nations), but it is difficult because their lack of gender makes communication difficult for someone used to handling people that are either men or women. The gender issues that LeGuin explored in her book are essential for both men and women

to learn from, and any American could benefit from Genly Ai's mission to get the planet Winter to comply with his council. It is inevitable that someone will have a problem with the vague gender lines on Winter, but sometimes you have to explore the most unusual of worlds to figure out our own mistakes.

Wonder Boys by Michael Chabon: This book proves that it is possible to still be smoking pot, having random flings with women and getting mixed up with crazy transvestites at the age of forty (while maintaining your career as a creative writing professor). University faculty members will probably laugh at Grady Tripp's problems, but his plight to find meaning in his life is something that may save a few students from making the same purposeless journey through this next stage of their lives. Of course the transvestite, the pills, the pot and the adultery will probably not go down well with conservatives in the area who cannot decipher symbolism from sin. But we read Shakespeare and you know that Mercutio was sampling some drugs throughout his partying, so Grady Tripp isn't such a leap after all.

I know that the likelihood of NCSU or UNC-CH picking one of these books is pretty slim, but I'd like to think that our community is open-minded enough to at least attempt to read one of these books. I'm not sure what makes people so angry about certain literature. But all I can say is wake up and read the fine print people; books just hold ideas that only become dangerous in the hands of the ignorant.

Michele will be spending her last few weeks of summer reading each and every book on her list. E-mail her with your own reviews at: Michele@technicianstaff.com.

The difference a year makes

Washington, D.C., despite increased security and heightened fears, is still the 'people's capitol.'

I have had the fortunate opportunity to live and work in Washington, DC for the past three summers now. I have been writing from DC and have been experiencing a new world and life outside of North Carolina. Contrary to popular belief, Washington is not just politics, but it is filled with people that live, work, eat and breathe, just like everyone else. But because of their

location, residents of DC have a unique perspective on life that one cannot find anywhere else in the world. They live in the most powerful capital city in the world, where the American seat of government conducts its business.

While tourists from all over the globe come to take pictures in front of monuments, Washingtonians go about their lives, living among the marble temples of the government.

While it is a unique experience to live in the District, as natives refer to it, it also places them in harm's way. Everyone who lives here remembers where he or she was on Sept. 11th and it is a part of the collective consciousness. A year ago, Washington was a nervous wreck, still shaking from the attacks at the Pentagon, and the disruption of daily lives due to fear.

Fear is a powerful foe, but Washingtonians have overcome it. And the tourists have come back.

All three summers I have lived here, I would go downtown to the National Mall every Saturday and walk around. I would visit the museums and monuments. I would be a tourist. Everything is free, the museums, the monuments, the government buildings. The only expense was a Metro ticket. (Metro, being the subway system in Washington.)

Last year, there were very few people visiting Washington. The Mall was empty and the museums were only half-filled. No one rode the Metro, all out of fear of another attack. This feeling of fear hit the tourist industry hard all over the country, but it hit Washington especially hard.

Now, the tourists are back. This year, every weekend for two months, the Mall has been filled with people and there are lines stretching out of the museums. The Metro is choked with tourists, as well as natives, and every train is full during rush hour.

Washington has returned to normal, but there are visible signs of caution everywhere. In every museum and public building, there are security guards herding visitors through metal detectors and rummaging through bags. But nobody seems to mind; the

guards are there for protection and security. It hasn't kept tourists away.

It seems the nation's capital has finally taken a deep breath. It is business as usual once again; there are potholes to fill and more monuments to build.

As much as I want to go home and be in familiar surroundings, I believe I will miss Washington. DC has become familiar and as much a home to me as North Carolina is. I know my way around the city and can navigate anywhere I want to go. I have mingled with people from all walks of life and have become a part of their lives as they have become a part of mine.

My time here is coming to an end, but it has not been a waste. No, it is just another chapter in my life and more experience to put on my resume. Despite being one of the most expensive places to live in the country, I will more than likely return to this area, for a while at least. There is something about the city that is exciting and serene and breathtaking and peaceful all at the same time.

It is a city marked by time, yet is timeless. The same buildings have been around for decades and will continue to be there. You can't get lost; just look up and you will see the largest compass point ever made: The Washington Monument. Find it and you know where you are.

It is a city made for walking; everything, from entertainment, shopping and tourist traps are all situated close together. Most of all, it is a city for Americans, made for and by Americans. Yes, there is the cynical point of view that Washington stands for political backstabbing and enormous bureaucracy, but that is only half the story. Sure that sort of thing goes on here, but there is feeling that only Washington has: the sense of permanence and of unbridled patriotism.

New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, they all are just big cities. Washington is something more; it has a deeper meaning beyond the physical aspect. It exerts a power that no other city has; it represents democracy, much like Rome did in the ancient world. It is no wonder groups from all over the country come here to hold rallies and protests and demonstrations. This is people's capital, a true American Experience.

There may be more security around the buildings, but the feeling is still the same: this is my capital, I am a part of it and it is a part of me; a link inseparable and always binding. Now if they only built a Krispie Kreme and a Smithfields' BBQ up here.

The first thing Ben is going to do when he gets home is eat a proper barbecue sandwich. Email him at ben@technicianstaff.com to welcome him back to the land of cotton, where ole times there are not forgotten.



Ben McNeely
 Staff Columnist

DANGER

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panies in April. Although the lawsuits were settled out of court, the students agreed to pay the companies amounts ranging from \$12,000 to \$17,500 over the course of the next few years, in addition to shutting down their file sharing systems.

And some universities were among those recently subpoenaed, being asked to turn over the names and addresses of individual students based on their online nicknames.

It may seem to many that the music industry is making scapegoats of such individuals who are found.

However, Tomi Fapojuwu, NCSU alum and law student at N.C. Central, claims that legally speaking, music is intellectual

property and for that reason, the sharing of music files can be considered as stealing.

"Copyright laws arise where permanent copies are made for other people," he said. "But still, suing people for downloading music seems more like a fear tactic to me."

Since the music sharing programs are designed to share, the only way to keep others from downloading music on one's own computer is to uninstall the sharing program.

The music industry is also trying to counter illegal music sharing by encouraging consumers to buy music online.

Details are being discussed as to how to go about allowing colleges and college students to gain access to music online. Consumers would be able to hear music by either paying per song or by paying a subscription fee.

FRESHMAN

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attended the African American Symposium.

Symposium occurs a day before orientation and is designed to expose minority students to many cultural issues they could encounter in college. Studies have shown that Symposium is a factor that may give incoming minority students a better start at NCSU.

Tiffany Monet Stubbs, a freshman in the First Year College, said she thinks that everyone should go to symposium.

"I met great people and they covered a lot of things not covered at orientation," she said. "I learned that I am not here alone and that N.C. State has a great staff who is there to support us."

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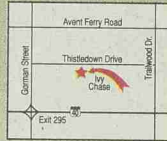
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LOANS

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into one.

The interest rate on the consolidated loan is a weighted average of the current interest rates on their loans, according to Hube. The final rate is stable and does not change every July. If a graduated student were to consolidate their loan now, the current low interest rate would be used to calculate their new rate.

Dependant students whose parents make too much money to qualify for subsidized loans can get unsubsidized loans; furthermore, their parents can qualify for the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS).

In addition to aid from lower interest rates, Bush's budget proposal increases funding for Federal Direct Student Loans by \$958 million, Federal Pell Grants by \$1.852 billion and Federal Family Education Loans by \$2.675 billion.

Direct Student Loans and Pell Grants are need-based financial aid while Family Education Loans are available to everyone and are primarily used by middle class families that do not qualify for

need-based financial aid.

But while Bush's budget calls for \$86.198 billion dollars to be spent on higher education, some NCSU students are still skeptical.

"It seems like Bush is really dedicated to education until you look at the actual numbers. He spends almost \$380 billion [dollars] a year on the military budget. The numbers show where his interests are," said Elena Everett, senior in political science.

Bill Clinton started the direct loan program as a way for the federal government to lend money directly to students instead of subsidizing the interest rates of private vendors.

There are now two sources for student loans: the school's financial aid office, if the school is involved in the direct loan program, or private lenders, usually banks or credit unions.

If a student borrows directly from the financial aid office, then they are borrowing money that the federal government provided as capital. If a student borrows from a private lender, then the federal government is subsidizing the interest rate for both subsidized and unsubsidized loans.

The difference between a subsidized loan and an unsubsidized loan is whether or not the loan is fully subsidized while a student is in school—they are all subsidized to a certain extent, according to Julia Mallette, director of scholarships and financial aid at NCSU, but on an unsubsidized loan, students will accrue a certain amount of interest while in school.

NCSU does not participate in the direct loan program because of the enormous amount of effort involved in having the financial aid office process loans and because it is questionable whether the federal government will continue the program, according to Mallette.

Clinton's direct lending program is unpopular in Congress because of the huge lobbying power of major banks.

When the direct loan program began, Mallette said, "Lending institutions went nuts because they knew they would lose a significant portion of a pretty stable market—student loans are essentially no risk loans."

Since the federal government subsidizes the lenders interest rates in order to achieve the rate that students pay, lower rates

means more federal money going to businesses like Chase Manhattan and Bank of America.

"We don't want to give favoritism to the vendors," Mallette said "but different lenders offer different advantages."

The College Foundation, for example, is the only non-profit organization that offers loans to N.C. State students. Since the College Foundation is non-profit, any profit they make translates into more student loans.

"Education loans are the only thing we do," said Hube "Education is part of our mission."

While many for-profit lenders view student loans as a source of revenue and therefore oppose federal direct loan programs encroaching on their market, the College Foundation feels comfortable in their niche as a non-profit organization catering only to North Carolina students.

"We focus on North Carolina students—those are the only people we want to serve. We're not trying to make more loans than anyone else in the country," said Hube. Hube says that the College Foundation encourages students to keep track of their loans and to not borrow more than they need to.



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TEXTILES

continued from page 1

college in the world and will be the only school that has a program like the Polymer and Color Chemistry program.

Smith added, "we want to be a leader, not follower, into the 21st century and beyond."

The program will add five new faculty members, as well.

The Polymer and Color Chemistry program hopes to gather more students interested in textiles, as the number of students applying for the college has

declined through the years.

Regardless of the numbers dropping, graduates of the college have an extremely high placement record (90 percent to 100 percent every year), and strong starting salaries (\$45,250 was the average for the 2001 graduate class), according to Smith.

Smith is excited about the new program. "Being able to let the students focus on their area of interest rather than forcing them into predetermined areas, this will increase the enthusiasm of students for what they are taking."

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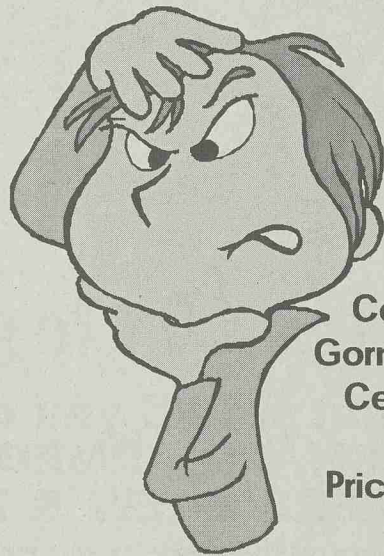


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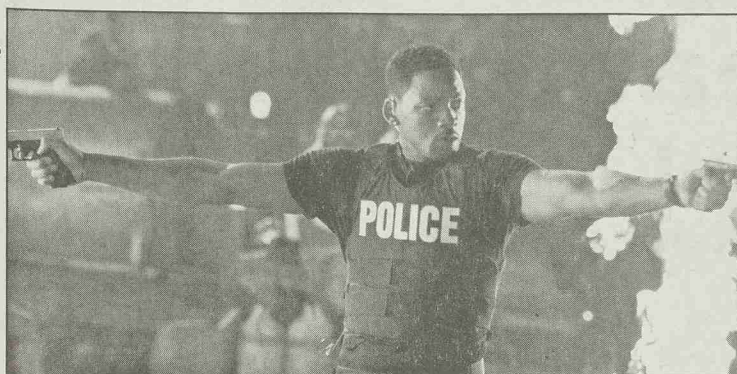
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Bean and bad boys: no match for these kids



Joel Isaac Frady
Head Diversion

"Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over"*1/2**
Starring: Daryl Sabara, Ricardo Montalban
Director: Robert Rodriguez

Just over two years ago, director Rober Rodriguez took a most unexpected turn from the violent action features ("Desperado," "From Dusk Till Dawn") he had been doing to make "Spy Kids," a bizarre, delightful romp that proved to be a huge success.

About a year and a half later, he followed it with "Spy Kids 2," which surprised many by bucking the trend of rushed, sub-par sequels, instead proving itself to be as imaginative and exciting as its predecessor.

Now, less than a year after the release of "SK2," his spies are back ... in 3-D. How, exactly, one man is able to write, film and edit a big-budget 3-D action film with heavy special-effects in under a year, we may never know. All we can do is hope that he keeps it up.

While many people (especially those reading this publication) may be looking forward to Rodriguez's return to action with "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" this September, the spectacle he creates in "Spy Kids 3-D" is nothing to turn up your nose up at. He blends his usual, offbeat sense of humor, peculiar plot scenarios and bizarre gadgets as we follow Juni Cortez (Daryl Sabara) as he travels into a new virtual-reality video game ran by The Toymaker (Sylvester Stallone, in his first theatrical release since 2001's "Driven"), where his sister Carmen is held captive.

The plot to this one is a little weak in a few places, and at times it seems like the train of celebrity cameos is being used to keep the older audiences happy, but the 3-D technology shines, the action's quite fun and it runs an appropriate hour and a half.

Part of me sees "Spy Kids 3-D" as an appropriate end to the "Spy Kids" franchise, but the other half knows that there will most likely be a "Spy Kids 4." However, having doubted Rodriguez three times just to be impressed three times, the idea of another does stir more hope than worry, and very few sequels manage that.

*Note: If your eyes start to hurt, you can simply close your left eye and look through the blue side and see a fairly normal image.

"Capturing the Friedmans"*1/2**
Starring: The Friedmans
Director: Andrew Jarecki

As I'm sure most of you know, documentaries typically include dozens of interviews that capture people of all ages and disciplines discussing the same thing. The difference with "Capturing the Friedmans" is that everyone in the film seems to tell the story a different way, with a different spin, so by the end you're not totally sure what really happened or who to believe.

That's the biggest strength of "Capturing the Friedmans," which could have been quite the pro-

vocative documentary if it didn't bounce between it's many subjects as frequently as it does. Changes in tone and pace, however, happen quickly and without warning, making the film feel about three times longer and a little less interesting than subject matter this disturbing should be.

Director Andrew Jarecki does succeed in documenting the late 80s sex scandal that tore the family apart with shocking honesty, and his choice to examine the questions of "How?" and "Why?" from every possible direction truly brings into question the verdicts of "Guilty" that the court hands out every day, and the police officers that try so hard to find guilty suspects.

There's also a lot of questioning about humanity underlying this film, and if for no other reasons it's these questions that will boggle the mind for hours after the viewing. Maybe it was Jarecki's goal to capture the madness that is the human experience, the way that everyone has such a believable, convincing argument even though none of them come to the same conclusions. Some would say this film would have been better on a more patient evening, while others would say it'd be more interesting if the right company had been present to discuss it with afterwards. Then again, some might say that it would have been worse under different conditions.

I'll just say that "Capturing the Friedmans" is one you'll have to check out for yourself, because there's no telling what you might say about it.

"Bad Boys II"*1/2**
Starring: Will Smith, Martin Lawrence
Director: Michael Bay

After helming both "Armageddon" and "Pearl Harbor," many people (including myself) were wishing there was a way to prevent Michael Bay from ever making movies again. After "The Rock," his style just became so over-indulgent that his nearly three-hour running lengths turned potential mindless amusement into long, painful, over-sappy crap.

Luckily, "Bad Boys II" puts Bay back in the realm of silly, violent action pictures where he belongs. While the 146-minute running length of "Boys" is still a bit much, especially considering that there's barely enough substance to sustain a two-hour picture, what he created is a picture that's *not bad*.

It's not good, either, by any stretch of the imagination, but when it was over, I didn't feel violated. Unlike "Pearl Harbor," Bay and producer Jerry Bruckheimer knew this film isn't about anything important, so it doesn't try to be important. None of the predictable emotional-string pulling of "Armageddon" is here, either.

It's just a normal, loud, occasionally funny and incredibly violent little picture, and since that's what most people are wanting in "Bad Boys II," they'll probably be entertained. Some may see it as sad that this much talent can only succeed when the picture is examined with standards this loose, but hey, it's better than another massive failure.

MOVIE see page 7

Sunny success story

Tim Coffield
Staff Writer

It has of late become my habit to lounge nude on my stomach in my backyard's soft, soft grass, bare as a grizzly, flesh glistening with coconut-scented grease under the fiery summer sun. I don't mind the bugs that crawl in hungry droves upon my exposed parts; I keep my eyes on the proverbial prize and know that the fruits of my labors will be worth their inconveniences for sure. No great reward in life is achieved without a certain amount of hard work, the lottery jackpot and current presidency notwithstanding. I am on a mission and will stop at nothing to get what I want.

I am, of course, tanning my buttocks. There is much to be said for a browned rump, specifically that the acquisition of one requires a certain amount of diligent dedication, and that once said buttocks are sufficiently sun-roasted and satisfactorily darkened, then one may experience the boundless delight that surely accompanies having an even skin tone from head to toe.

To pass the time until my bum is seamlessly and handsomely toasted, I sip lemonade from a straw. This is admittedly difficult, as my face (along with the rest of myself) is, of course, smooched against the ground and therefore an ideal leverage situation for effective straw use is simply not available.

Precisely halfway through the day, I roll over. A uniformity of skin tone, like Harry Potter chat clubs and creative uses of ranch dressing, is tremendously important to me. I am not one to do half a job. I finish what I start.

But Tim, the concerned reader might ask, Why do this to your-

self? Why put yourself at such an elevated risk of skin cancer and unfortunate bug bites? Why are you so determined? The concerned reader might also inquire as to the health and general well-being of my family. To this latter inquiry I would reply that my family is doing fine, with the only possible exception being my father's continued insistence that we play racquetball as a family every Wednesday morning at 5:30, while he drinks Natural Lite and videotapes us.

To the former questions, I will answer: I do this because it is the most critical step in achieving a longtime dream of mine. My ever-nearing acquisition of a browner bottom will mark my arrival at a state of physical faultlessness which will undoubtedly permit me to realize my aspiration. After I spent seven hours and seven tubes of Nair last week removing every inch of my bodily hair, I sensed I was close. Now as I watch elatedly my rump grow darker by the day, I'm certain my triumph is imminent.

Mark my words, readers (with a highlighter, preferably, but a pencil will suffice): Before the month is out, I will be a renowned male underwear model. By September it will be impossible to flip the pages of GQ, or Men's Health, or Boy's Life without coming across myself, clad handsomely and expertly in the latest briefs and thongs, my skin radiant and bald and homogeneous in hue, my smile genuine, my soul dancing across the heavens.

For months, I alternately scoured Calvin Klein catalogs and suffered rejections at modeling auditions. It was only after dozens of failed attempts at landing a modeling contract and countless nights pouring over magazine ads

for the secrets of the successful that I noticed: underwear models have no farmer's tans! Nor do they have hair anywhere besides their heads! It was as if a dark veil had been lifted from my eyes, my blindness suddenly cured, my destiny made clear. My dreams were suddenly within my grasp, ready to be snatched up and savored, like low-hanging fruit.

And so it is that I lie here like a bald chimpanzee, the sun searing its magical tanning power into my nether regions, my bathroom floor dusted with the remnants of my leg and butt hair, my heart aflutter, my spirits light. At this rate, it is very possible that I make it onto the pages of next month's male magazines.

Perhaps I'll start out slowly, conservatively, maybe model only boxers and traditional briefs this month. But I'll make love to the cameras with my eyes, and everyone will adore me. Soon I'll move onto racier fare, perhaps thongs and bikini briefs, flexing my perfectly hairless and eventoned rump for Men's Fitness and Maxim and others.

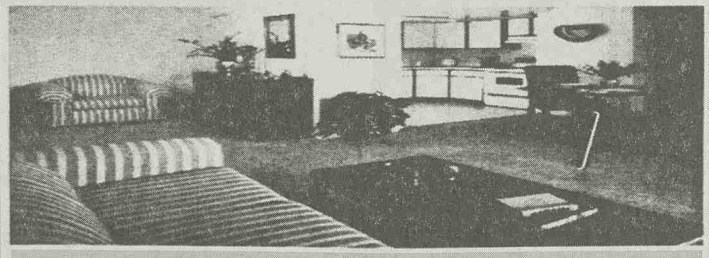
Men will swoon. I'll have to work hard to maintain my state of physical flawlessness, perhaps purchase a tanning bed and laser hair-removal services with the loads of cash I'm sure to rake in.

But that's all to come. For now, there's still work to be done. I'm far too close to let it all slip away now. It is 2:00 p.m. precisely. Time to roll over.

The sun warms me and I relax, naked and happy, like the day I was born.

Anyone interested in competing in Tim's bantam-weight bare-knuckled championships, contact tlcoffie@unity.ncsu.edu.

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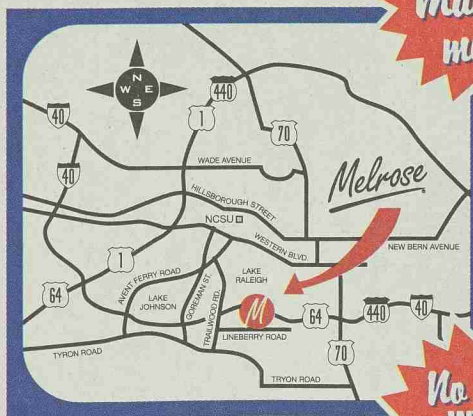
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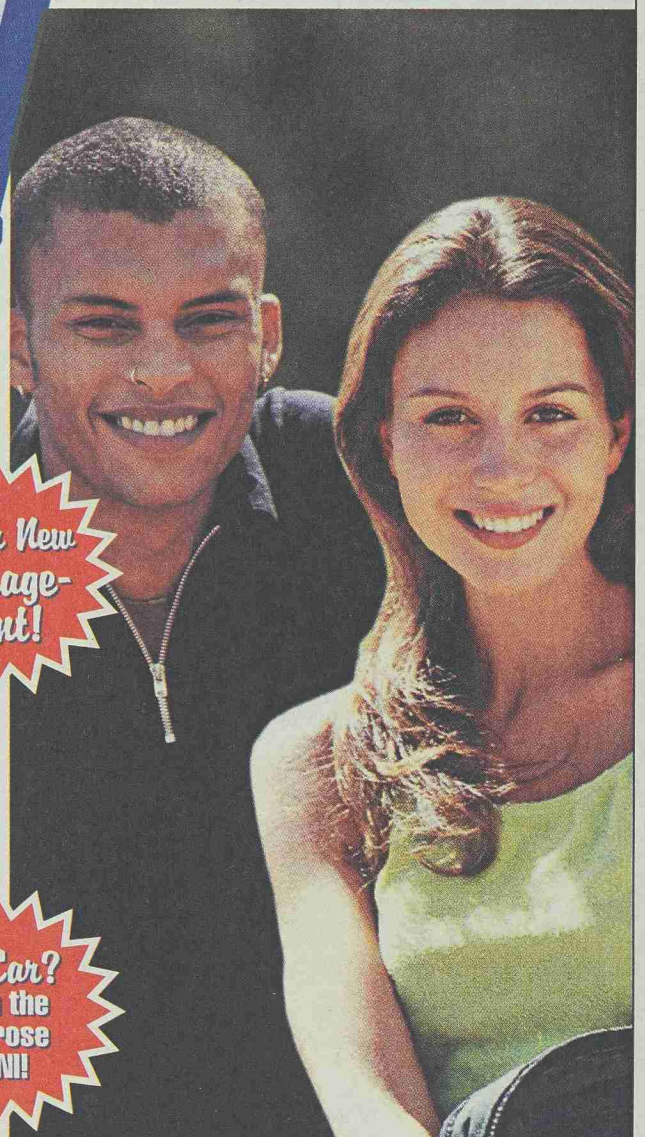
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Poll skewing

Andrew B. Carter
Commentary

The ACC media gathered in Greensboro, Ga. over the weekend to play golf, eat and drink for free and socialize. Amid all that, the league conducted its annual preseason football poll, and the writers blew it again. Here is my ballot:

- 1. N.C. State** — No other team in the country returns a 3,000-yard passer (Philip Rivers) and a 1,000-yard running back (T.A. McLendon) and receiver (Jerricho Cotchery). There hasn't been a threesome that good since Matt Dillon hooked up with Neve Campbell and Denise Richards in Wild Things. The Wolfpack will have its fastest team ever, and is Pacific-Ocean-deep at linebacker, wide receiver and in the secondary.
- 2. Florida State** — The Seminoles could have slipped to third in my vote if not for the fact that Bobby Bowden said "Chaaw-ly," referencing former FSU quarterback Charlie Ward. My roommate and I have always loved the way Bobby pronounces Charlie as "Chaaw-ly," and he got bonus points for making our day. Florida State would have been voted first if only Bowden would have gotten confused and started talking about how Chaaw-ly has looked good in spring practice. Like, if he would have said, "Chaaw-ly has looked real good, and dadgummit, Chaaw-ly just might win 'nother one of dem Highsmens, ya see."
- 3. Maryland** — Maryland gets back a healthy Bruce Perry, and the Terrapins return all but two defensive starters. Plus, you can no longer confuse Scott McBrien with a sandwich from McDonald's. He's McSolid. (And if I turn out any more lines that wretched, I better learn the phrase, "You want fries with that?")
- 5. Virginia** — If there's a team from the supposed "Fab Four" of the ACC that's gonna bust, it will be Virginia, despite Heisman candidate Matt Schaub. Each team above has proven itself over a given amount of time, and each of those teams are counting on veterans in the key positions. With the exception of ex-benched now-Heisman-candidate Matt Schaub, the Cavaliers are hoping all those sophomores really are that good. And they're hoping Heisman candidate Matt Schaub is really as good as he was in his one good season. Did I mention Matt Schaub is a Heisman candidate?
- 5-9** — Since predicting a football teams' finish in July is as accurate as predicting the weather on March 26, 2085, I thought it best to have some fun.
- 5. Clemson** — The Tigers return 13 starters, but most importantly bring back Tommy Bowden's daughter to the media guide. And that's why I voted them fifth.
- 6. Wake** — Perhaps the ugliest team in the ACC, the Demon Deacons manage to chop their way into contention each season. It's tough for any team to chop its way through Wake's vaunted attack, as the chopping is especially tough on one's knees. Not to say Wake plays filthy or anything.
- 7. Duke** — Fullback Alex Wade spoke like an angrier, edgier Shane Battier, and it made for the most entertaining interview at the football kickoff. Hearing him rip on Stuart Scott, other reporters and Bush (indirectly) made for some pleasant memories. Duke breaks the streak and wins at least two conference games.
- 8. Georgia Tech** — Do these guys even have a team this year? To quote Simon and Garfunkel, "Where have you gone, Kelley Rhino, Atlanta turns its lonely eyes to you ... ew, ew, ew."
- 9. North Carolina** — Sure, Carolina probably doesn't deserve this. But the clincher was Dexter Reid, who by far gave the worst interview in Greensboro, Ga. Reid produced more one-word answers than a Magic 8-ball, and had all the insight of my old talking-Alf doll.

Andrew Carter can be reached at andrew@technicianstaff.com.



State football coach Chuck Amato talks to reporters during the annual ACC Football Kickoff. Staff photos by Jon Page

Noles have company atop ACC

Jon Page
Senior Staff Writer

GREENSBORO, GA — Bobby Bowden had to scratch his chin, squint his eyes at the ceiling and reach far back in the past, beyond the two national titles and before the nine consecutive ACC Championships to remember what it felt like to be a perpetual underdog.

"Starting in 1987, we were favored every game," said Bowden. "We didn't win every game, but we were favored every game. We must have gone five years and never been an underdog."

But last season, Bowden's Florida State Seminoles lost five games and considering the much-improved play of conference foes like Maryland, N.C. State and Virginia, Bowden seemed to believe this would finally be the year - the first since FSU joined the ACC in 1992 - that another team would be the preseason favorite. It was a realization, or maybe a challenge, he almost seemed to relish.

"It would be fine with me to be picked second or third," said Bowden. "I'd kind of like to be an underdog [again], but I don't want it to stay that way for long."

Instead, thanks to a vaunted defense that returns all but one starter from a year ago,

Bowden will have to settle for an ACC preseason No. 1 ranking for an unprecedented 12th straight season.

For the first time since 1996, more than two teams received first-place votes. FSU garnered 35, but State was close behind with 26 votes, followed by Maryland (18) and Virginia (5).

The entire preseason poll, top to bottom, is: Florida State, N.C. State, Maryland, Virginia, Clemson, North Carolina, Wake Forest, Georgia Tech and Duke.

The parity at the top of the league, say players, is a sign that the level of competition is evening out across the conference and it's all just a matter of opinion who the best team is right now, says Wake free safety Quintin Williams.

"I think if you went to every team in the ACC and asked them who was the best team, I think you'd get a different answer from each one," said Williams. "Even the media people don't know who to choose."

But what about Duke, a team that hasn't won an ACC game this side of the new millennium?

Or Georgia Tech, a team with more question marks than proven players?

How could one of those teams possibly contend for the conference's automatic BCS Bowl bid?

Stranger things could happen.

After all, Duke does return 20 of 22 starters and Tech head coach Chan Gailey warns everyone to take his or her physical health into consideration before doubting his players.

"Walk into our locker room and tell guys they're not going to contend," said Gailey. "I'd like to see you do that. They don't understand that."

Someone who understands that uphill battle from preseason mediocrity to postseason glory is Virginia quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate Matt Schaub. Last season, his Cavaliers were picked to finish next-to-last, but bounced back from early losses to Colorado State and FSU to finish in second place and smoke West Virginia in the Continental Tire Bowl, 48-22.

He knows as well as anyone that games aren't won on paper.

"At any one time, any team can beat the other guys," said Schaub. "There used to be somewhat of a tier system, with teams at the top, then the middle and then a lower echelon, but now it's all seemed to balance out."

"I think that's great for the conference and it makes every thing more interesting."

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

ACC coaches, players upbeat on expansion

Matt Middleton
Sports Editor

GREENSBORO, GA — ACC expansion is nearly a month old, but the topic was hot this past weekend at the annual ACC Football Kickoff.

Players and coaches alike both sounded off on the issue, and -- not surprisingly -- the general consensus was most were pleased with the decision to add Miami, Virginia Tech and probably a 12th member somewhere down the road.

"Before it's all over, it will be 12," said N.C. State head coach Chuck Amato, who added he would like to see Notre Dame as the 12th school.

"I think going to 12 schools would be logical...it would be a lot easier for scheduling," said Florida State's headman Bobby Bowden.

As for the seniors who will undergo their last round in the league this year, they really had no opinion on the matter.

"Ask someone else," said Virginia quarterback Matt Schaub, when queried to give his opinion on expansion.

The non-seniors, such as the Wolfpack's Andre Maddox, were looking forward to the challenge of matching up against the two powerful teams next season.

"I was talking to guys like Andre and they said 'I hope we go down to Miami the first year,'" said State quarterback Philip Rivers.

Other weekend highlights:

Wade speaks While most of the player representatives of each ACC school talked strictly football and spending their free time playing video

games, Duke fullback Alex Wade held court with reporters on a number of non-football issues.

The second-team All-ACC runner chimed in on anything from the country's foreign policy (which he is extremely displeased with) to his senior thesis (how to determine which areas of science are reputable fields).

Every once in awhile Wade did talk a little football, which he thought about giving up once during his career because practices conflicted with his chemistry labs.

"College sports are cyclical; Duke isn't going to be bad forever," said Wade when discussing the school's 25-game ACC losing streak.

Bent-up Bobby Florida State's Bobby Bowden still threw in a few of his trademark "dagumits," he still reminisced over his Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Charlie Ward and even joked about his golf game, but the 50-year coaching veteran was clearly not his usual media-savvy self.

Bowden was so frustrated with the offseason criticism of his program that he took a hiatus from the media during the summer. Bowden sometimes played more than 36 holes of golf a day to clear his mind.

He noted that times have changed since he first started coaching, and negative events now are more publicized than they were 30 or even 40 years ago.

Still, Bowden plans to persevere on for more years of coaching.

"Do you know what my salary is?" the coach rhetorically asked. "I think I can handle another year."