

TECHNICIAN

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BEN AUSTIN/TECHNICIAN

Campus Greens, an organization concerned with environmental and political issues, show off the "anti-SUV," a Suburban that runs on vegetable oil. The SUV has taken numerous road trips across the country to environmental events.

Campus Greens educate public

The Campus Greens organization has refueled this fall with a new car and political aspirations.

Ben Akroyd
Staff Writer

The official vehicle of Campus Greens is now a Chevrolet Suburban.

Brad Goodnight, speaking on behalf of Campus Greens, was aware of the irony. "Yeah, it's humongous. Usually we don't like SUVs, but I think it's OK since it's completely green."

Goodnight wasn't referring to the paint job. The Chevy's diesel engine has been slightly modified to run on vegetable oil. Goodnight says the engine's performance and fuel economy are virtually the same as when it ran on diesel.

The engine lets off only eco-friendly emissions, which, according to Campus Greens Web site, happen to smell like french fries.

Nearly pollutant free, the exhaust boasts a 100 percent reduction of sulfur dioxide emissions and large reductions of all other pollutants. A small amount of particulate matter is the only real "pollutant."

The vegetable oil used is recycled; Campus Greens members get it free from local restaurants, which usually have to pay a fee to have waste vegetable oil disposed.

"It's a win-win situation," Goodnight says.

The N.C. State chapter of Campus Greens, in partnership with the Wilmington chapter, Triangle Greens, and the North Carolina Green Party has been driving around the state using the converted car to help inform people about alternative fuels, as well as gather petition signatures to allow Green Party Candidates ballot access in North Carolina. They call the undertaking "Project Green Bus," a spoof on the HBO series "Project Greenlight."

The idea for the project came from a student in Wilmington, who seeing a vegetable oil powered car in the documentary *at of the Land* thought if they could do it, so could he.

Goodnight believes that the student's ideas have developed into something more. He hopes that it will convince the public to wean themselves from a depen-

GREENS see page 2

Budget cuts affect library resources

State imposed budget cuts will lead to a decrease in written materials available to students.

Brigid Ransome
Staff Reporter

N.C. State and other universities and colleges in the Triangle area are dealing with ways to combat the state imposed budget cuts.

The lack of finances has forced individual departments to reassess their spending, including the NCSU libraries.

The new budget cuts come as a result of a shaky national economy and increased enrollment. The rise in the number of students attend-

ing school increases the need for more classes, stretches the class size and places strains on university resources such as transportation, housing and dining.

NCSU has suffered a total of \$14 million in reductions. Consequently, the NCSU library is battling similar budget cuts that directly threaten the ability for D.H. Hill to serve and provide key information and resources to students and professors. According to information provided by D.H. Hill administration, the university has reduced the collections budget by 3700 titles and the library has canceled 550 journals to save \$512,000.

"With cuts like this, the library cannot help support new programs like biomedical engineering, research ethics and medical textiles," said Carolyn Argentati, the associate vice provost and deputy director of libraries. "Budget cuts reduce

the ability for the library to grow in communication and technology."

The library is dealing with budget cuts by reducing the amount of new books, references, indexes, journals, electronic data and audio-visual media that were readily available in the past. They are also engaging in a more in-depth and effective process of evaluating the resources that are really needed.

"It is always a process where you look at what is needed and what isn't and establish a sound balance," said Nancy Vaupel of the administration staff.

Last fall, the library administration dealt with another severe budget cut by reducing the hours of operation for students. As a result, the student body protested and requested that the

operation hours be restored to their original times.

When asked if the administration will ever embark on such measures again to deal with deficits in the budget, Argentati responded, "The library suffered a loss last year and took cuts in the personnel areas; We lost 26 filled positions.

However, if the state mandates a cut there is nothing you can do, but we are not going in that direction in terms of operating hours. We do not want to disrupt campus by changing the hours."

Although students will not feel the pinch as compared to last year with the reduction of hours, the effects of the budget cut to D.H. Hill library will be gradu-

"We do not want to disrupt campus by changing the hours."

-Carolyn Argentati

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Faces in the Pack

Make room for this bedazzled face

Editor's Note: Josianne Lauber will be chronicling the thoughts and lives of N.C. State students this fall. Each week she will choose another student to showcase as a new addition to "Faces in the Pack." Keep an eye out because you could be next.

Josianne Lauber
Senior Staff Reporter

Emily Jane Carlucci cracked a smile as soon as she began her story. When she described her family, all I could think was "My Big Fat ITALIAN Wedding."

"My family is so important to me. I am so far away from home right now, but I am so glad I took the opportunity to go away now because when I grow up I don't want to live more than a few towns away because my family is so big and close," Carlucci said.

"We are the big Italian family who lives on the same street. Each of my parents is one of five and then all of my aunts and uncles have kids of their own - it's kind of scary, I could tell you whom my seventh cousin is if you wanted me to. I am sure I am going to scare my future husband away with them. Because when he meets my family he's going to think they are crazy," Emily said. She also mentioned that she has two uncles named Luigi and Mario.

Carlucci is from Franklin, Mass., but she heard all about N.C. State because of her dad.

"I'm an Italian girl and grew up a big Wolfpack fan because of Jimmy Valvano and my dad always talked about NCSU. I ended up here even though I applied all over the country because this school fit me best," Car-

lucci said. She is currently a junior in the communications department.

When asked what set her apart from everyone, Emily automatically referred back to her family.

"My brother Adam is an All-American golfer, my sister Maurica is an All-American runner and my youngest sister is already getting calls from agents and acting scouts from New York and L.A. because she is very talented. Growing up, I never had one particular thing that stood out. While my siblings put so much emphasis on one element in their lives, I would put my energy into a lot of different things. My interests are just so broad. I love everything from *West Side Story* to Pearl Jam to *Sleeping Beauty*. Anything but country music is cool with me. I love Adam Sandler

and Eddie Vedder," she smiled as she said. "If I could spend one night with each of them I'd die a happy person, especially Eddie Vedder." Emily feels she is different from her friends because she says, "wicked." "When I say wicked, nobody down here understands me, so I guess that's one thing that sets me apart from my peers," Carlucci said.

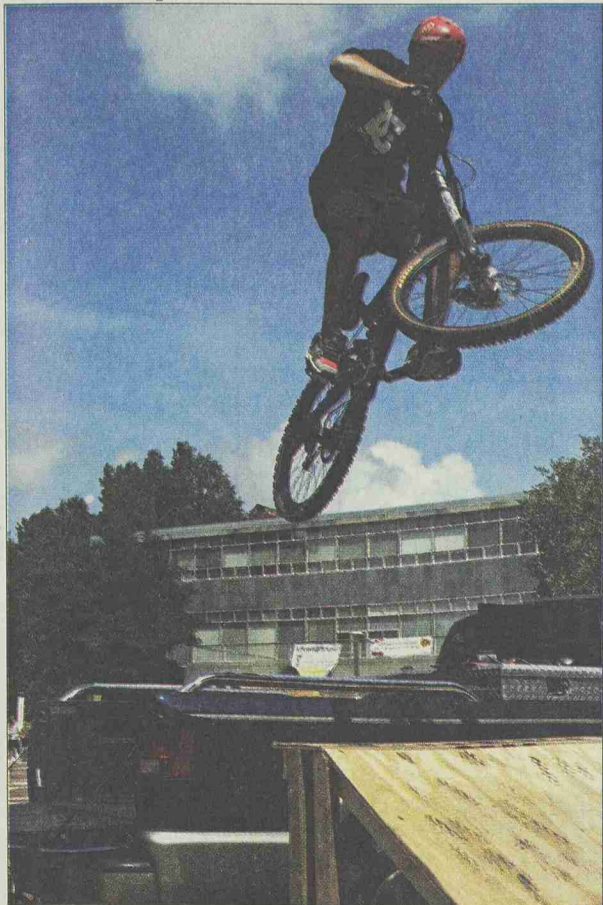
Now it is time to really understand what makes Carlucci a unique NCSU student.

Josi: How would you describe yourself?

Emily: I am very energetic. If you look at a pair of my sweat pants they are bedazzled with gems and diamonds because I like to spice things

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Inside Sports



BEN AUSTIN/TECHNICIAN

Brad Stevens, a sophomore in mechanical engineering, shows off some moves on his bike, jumping off a ramp clearing a small truck in the brickyard. Stevens, Chris Engle, and Graham Auten have started N.C. State's first Free Ride Bike club this year.



TASHA PETTY/TECHNICIAN

In the Know

News briefs from around the world

U.S. resolution seeks more international help in rebuilding Iraq

William Douglas and James Kuhn
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration began circulating a draft resolution Wednesday among United Nations Security Council members that calls for foreign countries to donate more troops and money to help stabilize and rebuild Iraq.

With U.S. soldiers dying daily and anxiety rising across America and in Congress, administration officials pressed Wednesday to sell the draft U.N. measure that would put multinational military units under U.S.-led command and require the United States to report to the United Nations about operations in Iraq on a regular basis. It also would urge Iraqis to set a timetable for elections and establishing self-rule.

"Today we have begun a new effort with respect to our diplomatic efforts to generate international support for Iraq," Secretary of State Colin Powell said during a hastily arranged news conference. "With this resolution, you're essentially putting the Security Council into the game."

Bush's decision to seek U.N. help, a dramatic shift in administration policy, was well received internationally and in Washington. Domestically, the measure could run into fierce opposition from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who has insisted heretofore that the United States must run operations in Iraq effectively alone.

Rumsfeld met privately with Bush Wednesday; he was not present Tuesday when Bush gave Powell the green light to seek broader U.N. support.

"Rumsfeld and the vice president (Dick Cheney) ... want political, military, and economic control to remain entirely and absolutely in the hands of the Americans," a senior administration official told Knight Ridder.

Government investigating sharp rise in gas prices

Sumana Chatterjee
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON - The federal government is investigating the recent 12-cent-per-gallon spike in gasoline prices to an all-time high, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham announced Wednesday.

Last week, gasoline prices hit an average of \$1.75 a gallon after the one-week surge, raising concerns that the oil industry might be taking advantage of the Northeast power blackout, the war in Iraq and other factors.

"The nature of this (price) fluctuation struck me as being unusually large ... and in need of greater explanation," Abraham told the House Energy Committee. He said his department's toll-free consumer hot line (800-244-3301) had been flooded with complaints about soaring gasoline prices.

Market factors could be to blame for the spike, Abraham said, citing temporary shutdowns of six oil refineries during last month's electricity blackout in the Midwest and Northeast. In addition, a gasoline pipeline in the Southwest was disrupted and late-summer vacation driving pushed up the demand for gas.

Deputy Energy Secretary Kyle McSlarrow said some increase in gasoline prices was predictable but not one so big and fast. "The question is, and what we'll look into and work with our colleagues at the FTC about, is whether anybody took advantage of the situation in terms of market manipulation," McSlarrow said.

"We'll hopefully get some additional insight into whether or not this was really a market reaction only or if other factors were involved," Abraham said.

Identity theft wide-spread and on the rise, FTC warns

Kevin G. DeMarras
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.) (KRT)

HACKENSACK, N.J. - More than 27 million Americans have been victimized by identity thieves over the past five years, the Federal Trade Commission said Wednesday.

And the problem is growing, with almost 10 million people victimized in the past year, to the tune of \$53 billion.

"A fair number of thieves have found this is an easy way to make money," said Howard Beales, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, in announcing the results of the first national consumer identity-theft survey.

The survey is intended to help federal, state and local law enforcement, the business community and consumers know the extent of the problem and to work together to combat it, Beales said.

"For several years we have been seeing anecdotal evidence that identity theft is a significant problem that is on the rise," Beales said. "Now we know."

Consumers lost \$5 billion in out-of-pocket expenses, much of it by the 38 percent of victims who never reported the incident, Beales said. Almost two-thirds of victims had no out-of-pocket costs.

The findings are based on a telephone survey of more than 4,000 consumers conducted for the FTC this spring, Beales said. "The survey was as large as it was because I thought we would have a hard time finding victims. Unfortunately, that was not the case."

Better imaging targets tumors

Kim Sim
Daily Trojan (U. Southern California)
09/03/2003

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES - A University of Southern California neurological research team said it may have found a more precise way to remove brain tumors by using thermal imaging.

Babak Kateb, a neurosurgery research fellow, began a project last year to use an infrared thermal imaging camera to identify the boundaries of a tumor.

The study, proposed by Kateb and put into surgical practice by John Peter Gruen, LAC-USC Hospital medical staff association president-elect, uses the difference in temperature between brain tumor tissue and normal brain tissue to distinguish the two regions during a brain tumor operation.

Because tumor regions release more heat than normal tissue, a thermal imaging camera can detect the difference and translate it into a visual image using a color gradient.

What makes the complete removal of a brain tumor so difficult is that, to the naked eye, the tumor is not visibly distinguishable from normal brain tissue. "When you take out the tumor from the brain, it doesn't look any different from the brain tissue itself," said Gruen, an associate professor of neurosurgery. "You may inadvertently take good stuff too, because you can't tell visually."

Unlike in other regions of the body, digging too deep into normal brain tissue poses the unique danger of causing memory or function loss. Not removing the tumor completely, on the other hand, can allow the remaining tumor cells to multiply and come back.

Thermal imaging was used to assist surgeons during two brain tumor operations at USC University Hospital over the summer -- the first time thermal imaging has been used to identify metastatic tumors in the brain.

Primary brain tumors are those that originate in the brain. Metastatic, or secondary, brain tumors

spread to the brain from another part of the body, usually from a tumor in the lung or breast.

Edwards campaign losing steam

Will Rosenthal
The Chronicle (Duke U.)

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. - It has been a tough few months for John Edwards in his quest to win the Democratic presidential nomination for the 2004 election.

The North Carolina U.S. senator has slipped to the middle of the pack of Democratic candidates, dropping from the top three in most polls and trailing in fundraising, leading some to question whether he will stay in the race.

The Democratic primary is now seen by many political analysts as a two-man race between Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and former Vermont governor Howard Dean. The pair of northern Democrats hold substantial leads over the other contenders in most polls and have garnered the most media attention.

Edwards, on the other hand, has failed to distinguish himself significantly from the other candidates and is now in a battle for third place nationally with Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut.

In Iowa, site of the first Democratic caucus, Edwards is currently running fifth with the support of just 6 percent of likely caucus-goers, according to a Research 2000 poll last week. Despite the low numbers, Edwards officials remain optimistic.

"We've always said we don't expect any movement until the fall when [Edwards] spends more time here in Iowa," said Kim Ruby, a spokesperson for Edwards' Iowa Campaign Office. "Right now, certain candidates have advantages in Iowa: Gephardt has won the caucus here before, and Dean has spent more time here because he's not in office."

Many students at risk for back damage due to backpacks

Rita Sharshiner
Daily Utah Chronicle (U. Utah)

(U-WIRE) SALT LAKE CITY - How much does your book bag weigh?

With the incredible amount of books the average student has to carry, students bend over backward to get from class to class.

Due to the wide variety of book bags available to students, a simple backpack is not the only choice anymore. Men and women are styling shoulder bags, backpacks, sling bags and book bags on wheels.

As exciting as all these new choices and styles may be, there is a hidden danger lurking behind these bags that many U students are not aware of.

Monica Ludlow, director of the U Spine Center and a licensed physical therapist, says that many of her patients who seek out help for their aching backs are students who often come into her office with enormous book bags.

Ludlow says that carrying a heavily loaded book bag "is not always the cause [of back pain], but it definitely adds to it."

There is also a good possibility that those kinks in the neck that feel like they just need to be stretched can lead to more serious problems such as headaches, pain in the shoulders, complications in the upper spine and even trouble rotating the neck.

Some other rare, but serious, complications include tingling sensations in the arm and fingers due to the book bag pinching the large nerve bundle in the upper arm region and lower back pain.

Student groups wanted for homecoming

On Monday, student groups are asked to send one representative to a Homecoming meeting to retrieve information about the upcoming festivities.

News Staff Report

This year, Homecoming won't just be about bonding campus together behind the Wolfpack. Instead, it will be pitting student organizations against one another to battle in the name of school spirit for a host of prizes.

To get involved, the Homecoming committee is asking one representative from each student

organization to attend a meeting on Monday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Association Conference Room.

During last year's "Red Wolf Rising" celebrations, student groups competed in three separate competitions: a banner contest, a parade float contest and a group spirit competition during the parade route. Prizes and titles were awarded in different categories for each separate event.

This year, however, prizes will be given to student organizations that collect points with activities throughout the week. While the banner contest and parade competition will hold some of the weightiest points,

groups can also get their names on the board by buying T-shirts, entering a "Chuck" look-a-like contest, participating in "Wear Red, Get Fed" or just attending the informational meeting on Monday.

One of the grand prizes will be 100-seat block seating for the game and dinner at Chuck 'em's restaurant.

For informational packets, registration and more details, groups are encouraged to send one representative to Monday's meeting and to check out Homecoming 2003's Web site at: www.ncstatealumni.com/homecoming.

GREENS

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dence on oil. "It has to be done eventually...oil will run out and it will ruin our economy if we don't get alternatives now."

The Greens point to the Wolfline's switch to biodiesel fuel as a positive sign. Biodiesel is made predominately from vegetable oil.

Their efforts to get Green Party candidates on N.C. ballots have not been as successful. House

Bill 867, the Electoral Fairness Act, which the Green Party and other third parties had hoped would pass has not even been considered for a vote. The bill would have drastically reduced the number of signatures necessary to get a candidate on the ballot. Supporters of the bill contend that North Carolina requires more signatures to get a candidate on the ballot than nearly every other state in the country.

Republican Speaker of the House Richard Morgan had the

following to say, "House Bill 867 was not heard by the house for the crossover deadline...therefore, that bill is ineligible for further consideration in the 2003 session."

Taking their successes and their setbacks in stride, Campus Greens remain optimistic about future ballot initiatives, and say they will continue to work for the causes of social justice, non-violence, ecological wisdom and grassroots democracy.

FACE

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up a little bit. That's a good word for me...bedazzled. I like to bedazzle my life because I am a girly girl. I like to get my nails done, but I also like to go for a run and get all dirty, sweaty at the same time, of course showering immediately after.

Josi: What makes you mad?
Emily: I hate brushing my teeth and then wanting to drink something. I hate orange juice and toothpaste when they are mixed together. I hate it when someone leaves a sip of juice left in the fridge; if you're going to have a sip left, then take the last bit. I hate it when boys don't shave; I like a nice, clean face. I mean it's one thing if you're Brad Pitt, you could get away with a little scruff, but when you're average Joe, you have to step it up a little, take it to the next level. I hate morning radio stations because they never play music and that's when you want to listen to music to wake you up in the morning...that pisses

me off.

Josi: What makes you happy?

Emily: I'm all about Orlando Bloom and Johnny Depp, so having them together in *Pirates of the Caribbean* was like ecstasy. I love little kids, I love babysitting, I wish I could just freeze-frame them there forever. I love previews before movies; they are almost the best part of the movie. I love going to Boston and I love going to Fenway Park, but I don't like the Fenway franks, ewwww. I love Nomar Garciaparra. I got really into *The Man Show* this year because of my boyfriend. I love going to NCSU sporting events, everything from going to a track meet and going to a football game. They are all fun to watch.

Josi: What are you passionate about?

Emily gets real serious here, the first time in the interview.

Emily: I am passionate about relationships, whether it's just a relationship with a teacher or a relationship with a grandma or a relationship with a friend. I think relationships are so real, you can't touch them, but you can feel them more than any-

thing else.

Josi: What would you do for this world?

Emily: There's your typical answer, but I think that is too big to do. But I think if I could personally change something, I think it would be nice if everyone got a letter once a day from someone, not an e-mail, those don't count, but a letter, something to open up, to come home and be excited about. Don't you love getting mail? Just so you know that someone out there is thinking about you and took the effort to go to the mailbox and spend 37 cents, which would be nice.

Carlucci likes to laugh, and she has a lot to share with her fellow students. Her warmth and fun-loving personality make her a welcome addition to NCSU. As for Carlucci, she is not single, wants to have five kids (girls specifically); she has the names all picked out! and likes to "Paaaark her caaaaaa" when she goes home. She is now an official part of NCSU's own 'big fat college family.' She is a face in the Pack.

BUDGET

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ally noticed especially within the graduate student population.

Vaupel states, "When dealing with a strong research institution such as NCSU, there is a greater need for a higher level of research material. The graduate students are more likely than undergraduates to feel the effects of the budget cut." Vaupel also advo-

cated an intense call for a richer and stronger collection fund.

"The higher the level of education you support, the greater the need for a strong collection."

The Collection Management Department also plays a major role in determining how the library deals with the budget cut. They work in conjunction with faculty and staff and also follow the university's guidelines regulating spending to determine which materials are necessary for academic programs.

To obtain more information about the Collection Management Department you can visit <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/colmgmt/>

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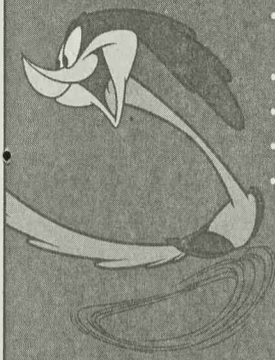
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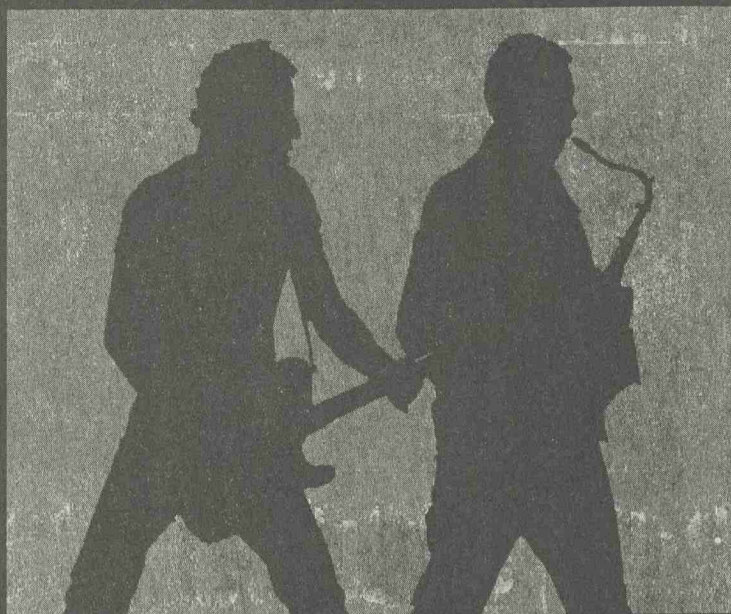
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Diversions

Inside the Local Scene

By Grayson Currin / Senior Staff Writer

A decade ago, writers and critics across the land were calling Chapel Hill the next Seattle, a seasoned scene of innovative artists ready to devastate the national music scene with jangly guitar pop or Pixies-like post-punk. That, needless to say, didn't happen. But the seeds for a strong, self-sustaining music community were indeed there, and to this day, the prolific area between Raleigh, Chapel Hill

and Durham continues to produce some of the finest indie and underground acts anywhere. With explosive emcees like Kaze and Spectac and amazing units like Little Brother, hip-hop is emerging as one of the area's most prominent forms. But rock - from straight-ahead punk to jamgrass to Americana - still gets its due in these parts. 20 local bands that deserve your attention follow.

Caitlin Cary

www.caitlincary.com

On tour Nationwide; Local date coming soon



Never make the mistake of saying Whiskeytown, the alt-country staple and critical paramour out of Raleigh, was Ryan Adams' band. Sure, Adams may have the fame and the part-time tabloid status, but Whiskeytown's brilliant fiddle player and background vocalist Caitlin Cary has earned her stripes as one of the best and most poignant voices anywhere. An Ohio native who came to North Carolina to pursue creative writing at N.C. State, Cary is a critical darling. Her solo debut, "While You Weren't Looking," was selected as the album of the year by The Washington Post in 2002, and its follow-up, a gorgeous Chris Stamey production entitled "I'm Staying Out," is an affectionate, dreamy-eyed pop gem complete with a crooked grin.

Chatham County Line

Chathamcountyline.com

Bluntly put, Chatham County Line is making not only some of the best bluegrass-based music in the Triangle, but in the world. The formula: four best friends taking extraordinarily smart chances with acoustic instruments and well-mapped harmonies while subscribing to the '70s roots rock maxims of kindred spirits Robbie Robertson, David Crosby and the ilk. Dave Wilson writes charismatically timeless lyrics about the Tennessee Valley Authority and sexy things on the sidewalk, and John Teer, a multi-instrumentalist of the highest order, makes them shine. Band of the moment.

Grand Piano Falling

www.grandpianoofalling.com

Kings Barcade: Sunday, Sept. 28

This Raleigh five-piece is a melodic tour de force waiting to be discovered. Kile Blair sings with the atmospheric conviction of Remy Zero's Cinjun Tate, and their three-guitar attack recalls at once the nightmarish abrasion of Radiohead and the honeysuckle-sweet of Travis. It's young, tight rock 'n' roll with the potential to exhilarate, explode and self-destruct. With shows so energetic and abandon-prone, their sets have actually been cut short by venue management concerned about house gear.

The Cherry Valence

www.thecherryvalence.com

Kings Barcade, Saturday Oct. 4

You'll be hard-pressed to find a band in Raleigh with more onstage energy and enthusiasm as The Cherry Valence, a two-drummer five-piece with thick, sing-your-heart-out melodies a la visceral Cheap Trick. Prepare to sweat like never before, and don't come if you don't want to move. Rock 'n' roll fun.

Thad Cockrell

www.thadcockrell.com



Just a few years ago, Thad Cockrell, the surprisingly broad-shouldered son of a preacher, was the Cinderella of the alt-country universe. Though he headed into the studio with his Starlite Country Band and producer Chris Stamey to lay down

a one-day demo, Cockrell left with a nine-track album that was hailed by many as an instant classic of the genre. For his second album, keenly entitled "Warmth & Beauty" and due out September 23, Cockrell tells the story of love lost and found time and again, bolstering his country base with touches of Springsteen rock and first-decade Dylan magic. A fantastic, mature record by a clever storyteller with a natural bent for imagery.

Countdown Quartet

www.countdownquartet.net

The Pour House: Every Thursday Night

If you bring your ass to a Countdown Quartet gig, they'll bring the shake - guaranteed! Formed after Steve Grothmann and Dave Wright toured through The Big Easy with the now defunct Tonebenders, Quartet packs a party inside a tight sound shaped by Dixieland jazz, sweltering R&B and pure funk. Their CD release party for their third and best record, "Sadlack's Stomp," found the band jamming in a circle on the dancehall floor of the musically abandoned Humble Pie, making the people smile and dance without fail.

Go*Machine

www.gomachinemusic.com

Local 506: Friday, Sept. 26

Hats off to Texas for sending the four Dallas boys that form Go*Machine, one of the area's most creative indie rock acts by a mile, our way. Imagine Roger Miller collaborating with Johnny Greenwood, The Dust Brothers and Beck Hansen. Daniel Hart, former violinist for The Polyphonic Spree, is an instrumental wizard, shifting seamlessly from the violin to turntables to the guitar in a few numbers. Alex Lazara perpetually wows virgin ears with his world of Theremin and keyboards. With tunes that indicate scholarly attention to The Beatles' "White Album," '80s pop and fundamental hip-hop, these guys are at the front of the local eclectic.

Grand Piano Falling

www.grandpianoofalling.com

Kings Barcade: Sunday, Sept. 28

This Raleigh five-piece is a melodic tour de force waiting to be discovered. Kile Blair sings with the atmospheric conviction of Remy Zero's Cinjun Tate, and their three-guitar attack recalls at once the nightmarish abrasion of Radiohead and the honeysuckle-sweet of Travis. It's young, tight rock 'n' roll with the potential to exhilarate, explode and self-destruct. With shows so energetic and abandon-prone, their sets have actually been cut short by venue management concerned about house gear.

Little Brother

www.abbrecords.com

Cat's Cradle: Saturday, Oct. 4

Most people would probably laugh until they hurt if you told them that one of the best hip-hop albums of the year was envisioned and recorded on their very own back porch. But it's true. It seems that Little Brother - the Triangle hip-hop trio of 9th Wonder, Big Pooh and Phonte seems to be on the verge of national explosion. Rave reviews keep pouring in for their debut album "The Listening," and a spot on MTV's "You Heard it Here First" - as well as a recent opening slot with Cypress Hill - seems to be shedding some light on the Justus League underground that has been thriving in Raleigh for several years. Buy "The Listening." Remember why you loved catchy hip-hop in the first place.

North Elementary

www.northelementary.com

North Elementary is nearly everything a Chapel Hill rock band in the year 2003 should be: whimsical interesting pop intent upon strong hooks (a la The Flaming Lips) masked at points by clever, apropos snatches of noise and clutter. Violin and banjo accentuate the guitar-heavy mix, making for a captivating, slightly lo-fi auditory acid trip.

The Mighty Burners

www.themightyburners.com

Every Tuesday at The Retail Bar

If the Mighty Burners are able to get their debut record, appropriately entitled "Hot Ones Now," into the hands of the right A&R man at the right record company at the right time, they will strike gold. Why? In a band where talent and virtuosity are given instead of bonuses, they craft potentially overpowering, but patiently tempered,

genre-bending "jazz tunes" with the help of the area's best guitar player (technical wizard Chris Boerner) and two of the area's most knowledgeable DJ's (Merlin and Mooney). Their rhythm section is exceptionally tight, chock full of beats where others would lay back. These guys can be giants.

Ohio Farm Cats

With the right liquor and the right generation, and without the painful drug addictions that almost killed him, it's not hard to imagine Steve Earle as Dave Kepford fronting the Ohio Farm Cats. Writing about women, whiskey and work without trimming the fat or adding sugar, Kepford writes roughneck songs with a touch of Southern grace. A marvel of a bassist maximizes the potential of Kepford's rather simple progressions, and a drummer chases him down in convincing ways. Save the Cats' technically uncomplicated, emotionally commanding rock 'n' roll for the night when your girl leaves and you feel like cussing instead of crying.

Parklife

www.parklifeband.com

The Brewery: Thursday Sept. 4

It's easy to dismiss a guitar-driven rock band stuck on its own strongly British-influenced melodies, especially when their name is taken directly from the 1994 Blur record, "Park Life." Just a few short months ago, Parklife was that band. With the addition of a steady drummer, however, and a veteran guitarist who can make his Rickenbacker weep and sing, Parklife is finally onto something. Despite the sometimes dreadfully obvious hints of Queen, Led Zeppelin and Radiohead inside the arrangements, this would-be Raleigh super group (long story) occasionally makes those rare rock songs that you'll be humming days after the fact. Most improved local band of the year.

Pico vs. Island Trees

www.pvities.com



If they wanted the job of Raleigh's best fraternity band, they could easily have it. But the talent inherent in Pico vs. Island Trees is easily matched by ambition, and these boys dream of tour buses, not keg parties. Melding the intensity and vibrancy of Guster and Dispatch with the melodic ideas of John Mayer and Jack Johnson, these recent high school graduates (who maintain that college in two different states won't break the band's hopes) have been working on what they call their debut opus for the past six months with DAG's Bobby Patterson in his Raleigh basement.

The Prayers and Tears of Arthur Digby Sellers

www.prayersandtears.com

When would-be pundits mistake Conor Oberst for "the new Dylan," they fail to recognize one of Oberst's weaknesses as one of Dylan's constant strong points -- the amazing capacity to cut to the quick of the song without fail or hesitation. Indeed, Oberst may have some of the best songwriting ideas (both lyrically and structurally) of anyone not born before Vietnam, but his genius often gets buried behind his own pretentiousness, production and verbosity. Perry Wright, the unnervingly brilliant youngster behind The Prayers & Tears of Arthur Digby Sellers, learned from Dylan, delivering on Bright Eyes' biggest misses. Signed to Bu Hanan Records, Wright has the education and the musical chops to do something remarkable. Screw Omaha.

Kenny Roby

www.kennyroby.com

I was introduced to the work of Kenny Roby by a friend who told me that if I listened closely, Roby would make me cry. Of course, I listened; of course, my friend was right. Roby is one of those guys with the craft to take you into his inner sanctum and show you what's there, letting

you feel the pain behind his father's death, behind a shocking breakup or behind yet another of life's missed chances. Something of a pragmatic sap with life experience fitting for a storyteller of such high standards, Roby writes loaded guns of emotion. And his voice? Incredibly personal.

Round Two

www.roundtwomusic.com

Lincoln Theatre: Thursday, Sept. 4



Some college students spend their summers backpacking Europe, and others sell their souls for internships at Intel. But Round Two, the campus rock quartet of Travis McCann, Mike Sivilli, Geoff Bradshaw and Graham Jarman, spent a good deal of their break living somewhere in the Virgin Islands for free, lounging by day and rocking a club by night. McCann is entirely capable of writing hooks as memorable as anything on G105, and Sivilli is the guitar-wielding jack of all styles. If they can succeed in distilling their influences, which range from reggae to sad-eyed songwriting, into one consistently smart sound, watch out!

Tift Merritt & The Carabines

www.tiftmerritt.com

When John Teer of Chatham County Line first began practicing at the Blue House, he remembers sitting between jams and being transfixed by the voice, so beautiful, as if of ether, warbling on the second floor. That was Tift Merritt learning the ropes with her band, the fantastic Carabines. Her sessions with Two Dollar Pistols stand as one of the alt-country pinnacles of the past decade, and her own "Bramble Rose" (Lost Highway, 2002) is regarded as one of the absolute masterpieces of the twenty-first century. She could be the next Norah Jones; then again, she may just always be a local legend. If you don't respond to her voice, you're missing a heart.

Two Dollar Pistols

www.twodollarpistols.com

Excuse John Howie, Jr. Someone once told the poor fellow he could dance, but he can't. Fortunately, someone also told Howie he could sing. His voice, full of sad words about love lost and abandoned, will break your heart. His songwriting is some of the most painfully gorgeous this side of Nashville, and his stories paint perfectly tragic portraits of relationships and lives gone south. The articulate guitar playing of Scott McCall fits like a glove.

WaylandSphere

www.waylandsphere.com

The Pour House, Friday Sept. 26

David Titchener and Stephen Koster earned local attention fresh out of high school in former jam band favorite, Burgeon. These days, Titchener and Koster are pursuing the grassroots approach with their Ellington-meets-Morrison take on sweaty, Southern freeform rock. Touring like madmen, they've made some impressive friends in the jam community and developed a devoted legion of fans from here to Colorado. Their EP, "Salt Works Meditation," is hurried and muddled at turns, but it indicates a band with the potential to strike a good balance between improvisation and solid, straightforward studio work.

The Weather

www.theweatherrocks.com

Kings Barcade, Saturday Sept. 19

When The Weather hosts its CD Release "Par-tay!" at Kings Barcade on Sept. 19 for its debut LP (due out Sept. 30th), expect one of the year's biggest shindigs. During the recording, they borrowed time, equipment, instruments and advice from bands across the area. In return, they'll invite most of their musical friends and roommates onstage at Kings. Somehow, these guys manage to tie the inexplicable passion of primordial punk to songs that pack hooks as large as anything seeping from The Lower East Side these days.



TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

AACC NEEDS TO MIX IT UP

OUR OPINION: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER SHOULD HAVE AN ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL MISSION.

The African-American Cultural Center opened in January 1991. Its mission: to support "the academic, cultural and social needs of NCSU's African American community while providing a vehicle for increased cross-cultural understanding for the entire university." These are broad goals to attain to. But this is what the AACC was created for.

In the News & Observer yesterday, a report stated that the AACC was going through "...a painful change in its mission..." as a student resource center. According to the article, the AACC is moving towards more academic endeavors and away from being just a student resource center for African-American students at N.C. State.

For example, the AACC sets a theme for their programming every year. This year's theme is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of

Education decision. Events, such as forums and guest speakers, are planned for the year.

That is fine, but the AACC is also a place where African-American students come and get the resources they need to succeed in college. Though the official mission of the center is to be an academic forum for the study of African-American culture, it should also be a place where students can go and get the help they need when they need it.

The reasoning behind these cultural centers is to provide academic and social help for those groups that are in a minority of a student population. In a perfect world, everyone would have an equal chance at an education, but as it is, things not being equal, the retention and graduation rates among minorities are below that of the rest of the student body. That is where the cultural centers come in to play. They are an invaluable resource for students that are trying to get an education. They cater and reach out to groups that might not get the

attention needed otherwise. This should be, and is, the purpose of the AACC.

The cultural centers should also have an academic component to them: one that encourages learning about other cultures through forums, guest speakers, libraries and cultural art programs. They should be open to all students on campus who are interested in engaging themselves about a different culture. The AACC does this as well.

Above all, the AACC should provide a safe environment for all students, not just African-American students, to come in and get away from the pressures of university life and mix and mingle with those of different backgrounds. As a university entity, funded by student funds, this should be an integral part of the AACC's mission. But the perception of most students on campus is the AACC is strictly for African-American students only. This misconception should be cleared up if the AACC is to fulfill its mission to the campus community.

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

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Opinions expressed in the columns, cartoons, photo illustrations and letters that appear on Technician's pages are the views of the individual writers and cartoonists.

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15 minutes of fame (and counting...)

Editor's note: Because of the media coverage of the Mike Peterson case, we asked Brent to write about his experiences in the circus, uh, trial.

I interrupt my regularly scheduled political ranting (per my editors) to bring you a sordid story of sex, money, cyberspace and murder. Amazingly, it all involves me, your humble columnist. Well, everything except the "murder" part. Before I begin recounting my tale, I need to offer a little background information.



Brent Wolgamott
Staff Columnist

If you've been in a cave somewhere, you need to know that the state of North Carolina is currently trying

a local successful novelist, Michael Peterson, for first-degree murder - specifically for the murder of his wife, Kathleen. The case has dominated the news in the Triangle area for months. Furthermore, the trial is being televised on Court TV every day. The national networks offer weekly updates on the case to the country. Simply put, it's a circus. Think O.J., but on a regional scale.

Additionally, a few years back, before I became a student at N.C. State, I started saving money for tuition by doing some part-time work as an escort. A male escort. A gay male escort. Some people won't like that, but I'm not going to apologize for it - we all make our own choices, and I did what I thought I needed to do at the time for my education. Also, while doing this part-time work, I was a soldier in the U.S. Army. They didn't ask, and honey, I sure as hell didn't tell.

Now that you're up to speed, here's where it gets interesting. The prosecution discovered that a scant two months before the murder, Peterson had been e-mailing back and forth to set up a rendezvous with one gay male escort. Yep, you guessed it: your humble columnist. The chain of events that followed eventually thrust me into the national spotlight, of which I wanted no part. To make a very long story short, I was subpoenaed (against my will) and, after much legal wrangling, I took the witness stand (looking fabulous) and testified under immunity on national television in *State vs. Peterson*.

In the weeks preceding my big day, a boring mish-mash of forensics witnesses had testified; thus, the courtroom spectators were few and far between. On the day I hit the stand, though, the gallery was packed. Nothing like a gay ex-hooker to drum up business, I suppose. And if I thought

the trial itself was a circus, then my testimony was the World's Fair. While I walked to the courthouse steps, six TV camera crews started following me. After making it into the courthouse unscathed, the security guard gave me that "I know who you are" smile. At least he was cute. If not for the cameras around, I might have slipped him my number. But I digress.

My testimony itself was rather perfunctory, especially given that I had no knowledge of the murder and that I never met Peterson. True, we had e-mailed quite a bit, but nothing ever came of it. To this day, I'm still wondering why the judge let it into evidence. I remember listening to his "legal" reasoning regarding the matter; I sat there thinking, "Could they not afford a real judge?" There's nothing like having your reputation dragged through the mud based on the whim of a star-struck jurist.

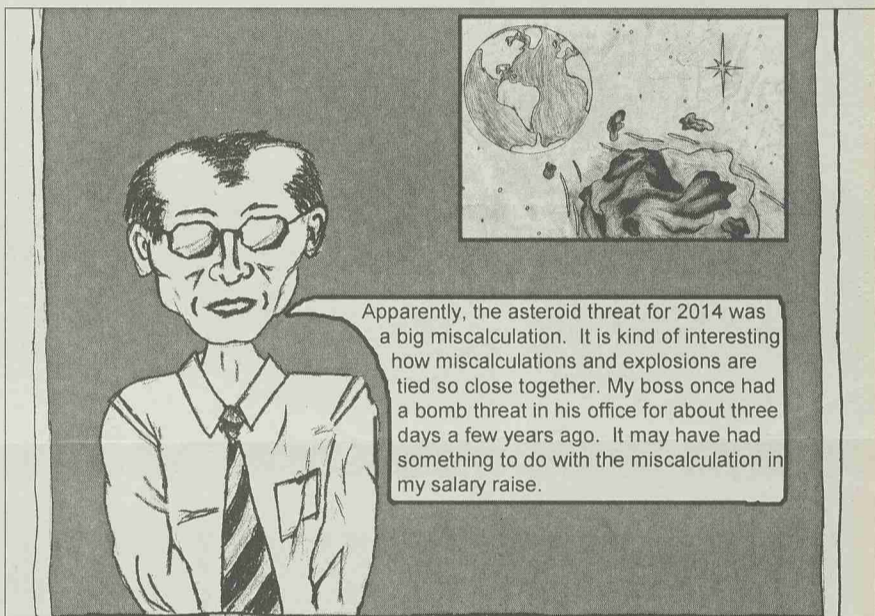
On a positive note, I had a great deal of prior experience speaking in public. So once I accepted my fate, I really tried to enjoy myself on the stand, and it showed. The press would later report that I came through as a credible, likable, easy-going guy; Court TV's Lisa Bloom called me "the hooker with a heart of gold." A poor man's *Pretty Woman*, as it were. The difference was that I didn't get to shag Richard Gere on a piano.

After my part was done, the real fun started. I got phone calls that day from ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, the AP and some French movie crew documenting the whole damn thing (I'm still holding out for the Animal Channel). The local papers (save Technician) slapped my face on the front page, with headlines that read "Ex-escort: Sex for hire fizzled" or some such sensationalism. I was recognized everywhere in town (it still happens). I got e-mails and phone calls from folks I hadn't seen in

years. My professors checked up on me to make sure I was well; hey, who says they don't care?

In sum, now that everything has died down, my editors and I thought it might be prudent for me to reflect on the experience. I can simply say that I have both a newfound respect and healthy skepticism for the media, of which I am now a part. Recently, a friend reminded me that Nietzsche says that whatever doesn't destroy us makes us stronger. In short, it didn't destroy me. And, indeed, I am stronger.

E-mail Brent at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com



Apparently, the asteroid threat for 2014 was a big miscalculation. It is kind of interesting how miscalculations and explosions are tied so close together. My boss once had a bomb threat in his office for about three days a few years ago. It may have had something to do with the miscalculation in my salary raise.

Let me whine about gasoline

Ben Strickling takes a look at the gas price hike from a different perspective: how we complain too much.

Those of you who own cars probably have noticed the rising gas prices. And even if you don't own a vehicle of some sort, if you've watched the news



Ben Strickling
Staff Columnist

lately I'm sure you've been bombarded with sob stories about how they can't afford to pay for gas anymore. In fact, there seems to be so many news stories out there about gas prices that I'm ashamed to be adding yet another article to the already decaying compost pile of news stories on this topic. But I really am tired of hearing people on the television whine about the price of gas.

Here's how the stories usually go. A five minute, disembodied monologue begins telling us that gas prices are getting too high; we all agree and find ourselves nodding in affirmation as we placidly sip our beverages and recline in our chairs. Then the voice begins telling us why prices are getting higher; we say, "That's interesting." We trust this voice. It is calm and reassuring, logical. It is the voice of expertise and authority, like the voice of God itself coming to us through our television, telling us why we have to pay more for our gas.

The divine voice pauses benevolently to allow a common gas-buyer

to give her side of the story. It always seems to be a woman, standing next to her SUV, her glasses perched on top of her head. She seems to be in a hurry, even though it takes fifteen minutes to quench the thirst of her vehicle. Why is it always a woman? Maybe the cameraperson has a predisposition to approaching women, or perhaps the news agencies feel that women are easier to portray as victims. Regardless, it always seems to be the same woman in every news report, as if she were one person, running around trying to get into as many news reports as possible.

News reports such as these always seem to make Americans out to be extremely whiney, though half the time we don't notice it because we really have become a nation of complainers. Just look at the number of people who read and write opinion columns. Gasoline prices seem to be our latest thing to complain about. It's funny how these things seem to come in waves, as if what we whine about were as much apart of popular fashion as the clothes we wear.

I personally am glad that gas prices are going up. As Americans we have it way too easy and we've slipped into a deadly pit of complacency. We complain when we have to pay more than \$1.60 a gallon. We take it for granted that we have some of the lowest gas prices in the world. Many countries pay the equivalent of over \$2.00 per liter (that's \$7.58 a gallon!). And we complain about our measly \$1.60 per

gallon. Too many Americans seem to have forgotten that not even three decades ago there was a time when many Americans had to either wait in incredibly long lines for gas, or buy gasoline by appointment. We really have nothing to complain about.

I'm also tired of hearing SUV drivers complain about having to spend more than sixty dollars a week to keep their vehicle running. How whiney can we get? If you buy a vehicle that costs twice as much, gets half the gas mileage, and has almost a thirty-gallon gas tank, then you have no right to complain about how much you have to pay a week to keep the thing running.

I hope the gas prices keep rising. That way the 50 to 70% of the population that supported President Bush in his "war" in Iraq will see the consequence of their choice. That way maybe we'll see fewer and fewer SUVs on the roads and maybe we'll get on the ball and start investing in more efficient sources of energy. That way maybe we'll start to realize that we really don't have it that bad. Maybe a rise in gas prices is just what we need to shake us out of our complacency. Maybe then we won't be the kind of people who make choices and then complain about the consequences.

Ben hopes someone will email and whine at him about whining about how much we whine. Here's how:
viewpoint@technicianstaff.com

CAMPUS FORUM

VIEWPOINT@TECHNICIANSTAFF.COM

In response to death penalty editorial

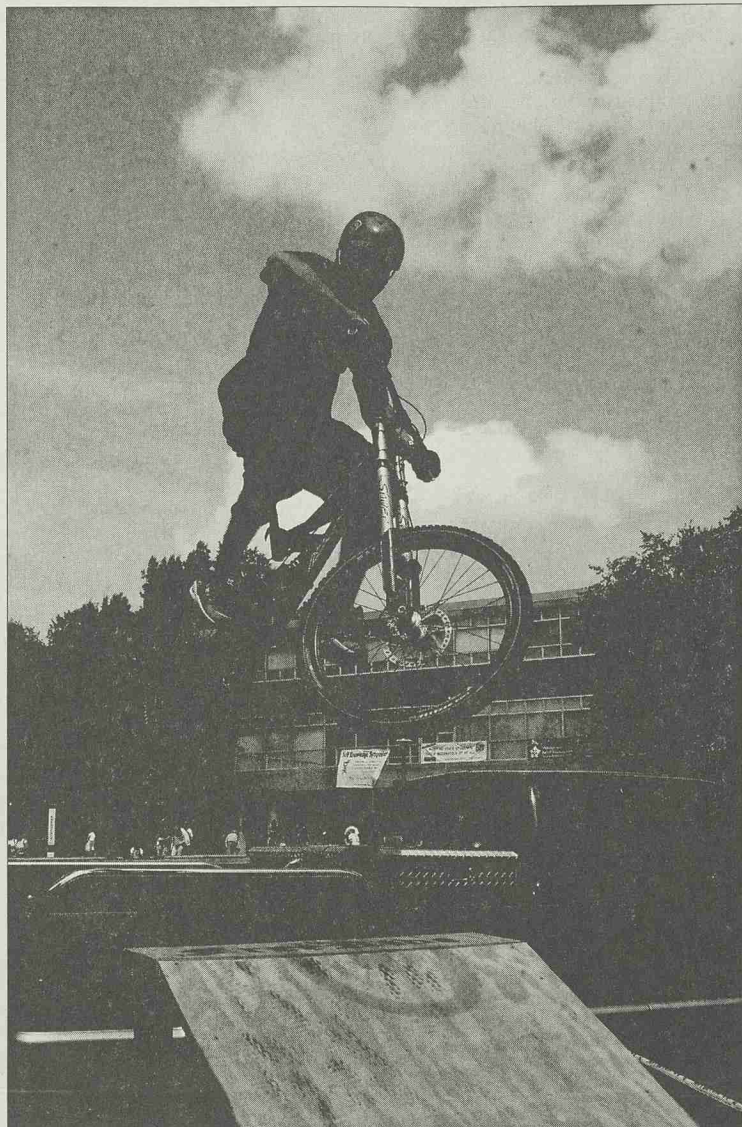
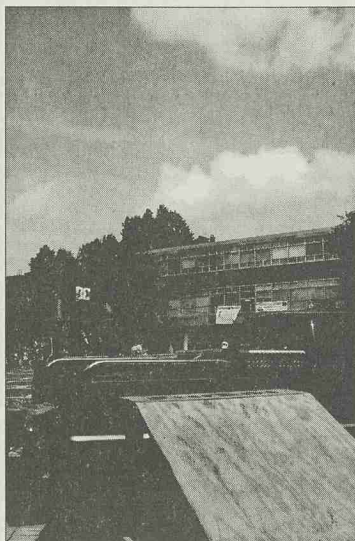
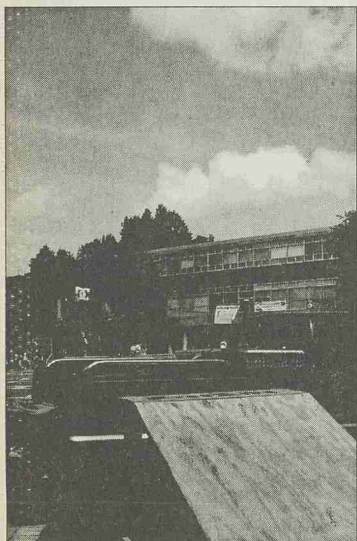
Your article calls for someone's death, which is inhumane and sadistic. It is no different if I were to say that George W. Bush should be executed because I think he is a murderer himself. And as far as "undermin[ing]

the judges" goes, you obviously don't realize that that was the point. If the Supreme Court said that these people were sentenced unconstitutionally, then the Supreme Court did determine them and had every intention to do so. So are you basically saying that money is more important than life?

The last time I checked the Constitution is said that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property." Nowhere does it state that tax money is more important than justice.

Gene Feldman

Bumps bruises & bikes



THE FREERIDE BIKE CLUB STARTED ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO BUT HAS ALREADY GAINED POPULARITY AMONG N.C. STATE STUDENTS.

Ryan Reynolds
Staff writer

A group of N.C. State students stood in the Brickyard distributing fliers Tuesday afternoon, each person with evidence of an injury – a scraped face, scabbed arm or a bruised leg.

Later that night, the same group met again in the Brickyard. Many of the students wore long sleeves, gloves and shin guards that concealed the injuries. But pedestrians walking through NCSU's campus around 9 p.m. didn't have to see the scrapes to witness some of the wrecks and injuries that occurred when the latest meeting of the FreeRide bike club took place.

Members of this new club met and immediately started jumping stairs, riding benches and had several wipeouts spurring concern from some of the students walking through campus. But the club seemed to like the attention more than they cared about the pain, as they showed themselves to people as the most extreme club on campus.

The FreeRide bike club was started a little over two weeks ago by sophomores Graham Auten, Chris Engle and Brad Stevens. The club meets at night and rides anywhere from around the State campus to downtown Raleigh. The members perform a variety of tricks, such as riding walls, stair gaps and monster drops.

"One reason we started the club is because there wasn't one on campus, and it is a club that covers everything we like to do," Auten said.

Since the club was just started, it is considered a student organization, but the members applied for it to officially become a club sport.

"The club affiliation would give us a small amount of funding," Auten said. "We might have some small fundraisers, but maybe we'll get to the point where we'll need dues. We would keep the dues way down because we just want to ride and have fun."

The organization has many goals it would like to accomplish if it can officially become a club sport, but one sticks out in all the members' minds.

"We're hopefully getting some dirt jumps," sophomore Sean Chastain said. "We're in the process of talking to the inner-residence

council and other people within the university to find out where we can put it and what permits and liabilities we need to deal with. Hopefully, we can get it going this year or maybe even next year."

If NCSU doesn't allow the FreeRide bike club to become a club sport, then getting dirt jumps built will be difficult without funding from the university. The decision, however, won't affect the members of the organization.

"We'll keep on riding," several members said.

The club started with only 12 members but nearly tripled after its appearance in the Brickyard on Tuesday.

"We got a lot more support than we thought we would," said Stevens. "Free ride biking is a new sport that not too many people know about, and we're trying to increase awareness and at the same time get our name out and let people know what we're about."

Sophomore Taylor Keaton and freshman Seth Yowell recently joined the club after finding out about its existence. "We would usually ride by ourselves," Keaton said. "This allows us to ride around with a group of people."

Despite being one of the newest organizations on campus, the club has already received some complaints. Two students bikers received a warning from the campus police for building bike ramps. The members were told to take down the ramps for their own safety.

"Campus Police doesn't want to see us hurt anybody else or mess up campus property," Auten said. "That's one reason we need the dirt jumps, so we can ride and have fun."

Most of the members of the club wear helmets and shin guards but don't seem to care for their safety as much as Campus Police does. Injuries from members in the club range from scraped faces to broken arms. A couple members have been hit by cars when free riding.

"It's all in good fun, and it makes you get better," Auten said of the injuries.

If a broken arm or moving car won't stop them from riding, then Campus Police doesn't stand a chance.



CARL HUDSON/TECHNICIAN

Sophomore Brad Stevens, putting on an exhibition in the Brickyard Tuesday, is excited about the start of the FreeRide bike club.

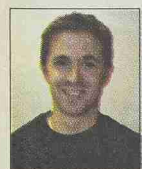
Schedule
 Football at Wake Forest, 9/6, 12
 M. soccer vs. UC-Santa Barbara, 9/5, 5
 W. soccer vs. Tulane, 9/5, 7:30
 Volleyball vs. Texas Christian, 9/5, 7

TECHNICIAN

Sweet September

Baseball stinks. Just ask everybody.

For instance, if you were reading a typical, textbook essay — like the one they require all junior high kids to read before moving on to high school — on baseball and the month of September here's how it would sound:



Andrew B. Carter
 Deputy Sports Editor

The month used to be special, meaningful, big-time. It had a feeling. An aura. A mystique so thick, it could be cut and grilled and made into a good meal. September lived.

The sport lived with it. Not anymore.

Then the guy would start foaming at the keyboard and spew lines upon lines of rabid junk about how football has become this country's sport and how baseball should be called boreball and how nobody cares about pennants and races and magic numbers and triple crowns and MVPs and Cy Youngs and September call-ups and suicide squeezes and extra-innings and game-winning sacrifices and Fenway and Wrigley and hot dogs and cracker jacks and "take me out to the ball game" and grand slams.

And with the exception of me, Kevin Costner and my Iowa cornfield friends, everyone would agree. Oh yeah — Chicago and Boston.

They would disagree, too.

And with good reason. Not since the birth year of Jesse Orosco -- 1908 -- have both Chicago teams played meaningful games in September. The delirium over baseball -- America's real sport -- has almost caused some Windy City fans to forget that Kordell Stewart is the Bears' quarterback. What else, besides a really hard, dangerous drug, could do that? Why, with the excitement over baseball so hopping-crazy, Stewart could throw 18 interceptions in his first game and no one would even think to throw him in Lake Michigan until November.

Boston is a little more cautious. It has to be. Like an unloyal pet who won't stop biting his owner in the ass, the Red Sox have been soft and cuddly before. The Sox have nestled in laps, provided comfort and joy. Boston has fed its team only the best Purina brand chow, but the Sox do nothing but get run over in the street by 18-wheelers (the Yankees) each year.

Fenway Park, has been home to a whole Cooperstown wing of Hall of Famers. The Green Monster has seen his share of meaningful games. Look at the past and it seems like they're played in Boston almost as much as the national anthem. But like every September, this one brings hope that the Red Sox will actually win those games.

That's why September still belongs to baseball. Hope. Dreams. The thought that things might be different this year. September means pennant races. September means history, both making and reviewing. It means tradition. Shoot, September means something.

It's not like the NFL, in which a team that's terrible one month is next month's Super Bowl champ. Or the NHL, in which any team can squeeze through playoffs that include over half the teams. Or the NBA, in which the regular season counts as much as the league's substance abuse policy.

In baseball, September counts. And Boston and Chicago have been counting long enough.

Chicago over Boston in seven. Sorry Red Sox.
 Cubs are due.

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

The United Nations. of *Wolfpack* soccer

By Jon Page / Senior Staff Writer



Japan native Hiroki Kawase (8) anchors the midfield with teammates Haddon Kirk (7) and Ryan Gonzales in N.C. State's recent win over Georgia Southern. Kawase is one of five Wolfpack players born in countries other than the United States.

He would often play barefoot on dirt, because there was no grass, using a ball made of tape and rubber bands, yet these were the least of Laye Traore's worries as a young boy playing soccer in Liberia.

When Laye was 6 years old, various rebel groups in Liberia started uprisings to overthrow the government (including one rebellion led by former president Charles Taylor). Among other political agendas, rebel groups wanted to kill Mandingos, the ethnic group to which Laye and his family belonged.

So Laye, his parents and his little brother changed their names, trusted no one, traveled only by foot and hid with friends in houses along the road out of Liberia. They spent one year in a war camp until they reached freedom in the Ivory Coast and soon after they learned that Laye's grandparents, aunts and uncles had also reached safety in Guinea. Laye and his immediate family lived in Guinea for a few years before following his stepmother, a Peace Corps worker, back to the United States, where he has been a citizen since 1992.

But throughout his escape, despite the uncertainty of whether or not he would ever see his grandparents again or even live to the age of 10, Laye played soccer.

Now a sophomore at N.C. State, Traore is forced to watch practice from the sidelines. He's set to undergo surgery on his left knee to repair his ACL, damaged in the Wolfpack's preseason Red-White scrimmage, which will likely require him to redshirt this season. But the six-foot-one midfielder couldn't bear to turn his back on the rest of the season, not to offer support at practices and games, simply because he cannot play. This team, he says, means too much to him.

"It is a family," Traore said. "We watch out for everyone and make sure we don't get in trouble."

It is a family as diverse as they come in the ACC, with seven players on the roster claiming another country as place of birth.

Traore visits his extended family in Guinea at least once a year, but other players are not as lucky to have their parents, brothers and sisters live in the United States. While all the foreign-born players say they communicate with their loved ones in their native countries easily by e-mail, it hardly shortens the distance between here and there.

"I don't have a lot of friends apart from soccer," Federico Peria, sophomore midfielder, said. "This group of guys, they are very nice, they are my family here."

When State coach George Tarantini first spotted the native of San Isidro, Argentina at

a tournament in Florida, Peria had never heard of the Wolfpack or N.C. State University. But, he had heard the name Tarantini.

That's because George's brother, Alberto, played on two World Cup teams for Argentina, including the 1978 version that won soccer's most coveted crown. And, while George doesn't like to freeload off his brother's fame, he won't deny that it is a nice name to share.

"Of course it helps," Tarantini said. "Winning the World Cup in South America is like winning the World Series or the Super Bowl here. It's huge."

It is so huge that Tarantini boasts two other players from his native country on the roster in addition to Peria. Martin Cini and Santiago Fusilier both hail from Buenos Aires, and this season the Pack acquired the services of Fernando Ortega, a volunteer coach, also of Argentinean birth.

Including Guatemalan native goalkeeper Jorge Gonzalez, there are four players and two coaches who claim Spanish as a first language, causing some to wonder how Tarantini can field a team without a translator.

High school curriculum in Argentina and Guatemala includes English, but most of the Spanish-speaking players were not even close to speaking fluent English when they came to State. Granted, they had to

take the SATs just like everyone else that goes to college, but adjusting to the everyday spoken language was tough at first. Still, native English speakers on the team say they have never experienced communication breakdowns.

"When they speak I understand them fine," Traore said. "They have their accents, but they speak pretty good English."

Senior midfielder Hiroki Kawasee didn't experience such a smooth transition when he moved to the U.S. from Yokohama, Japan when he was 13 years old.

"I couldn't even spell A-B-C when I got here," he said.

His family moved to Germany when he was still an infant, moved back to Japan and then landed in Maryland where he perfected English and starred on the soccer team at McDonogh High School. He spent one year of college in Japan, but decided to leave behind the dusty, grassless fields in his native country for the lush, green playing surfaces of the United States.

It's a decision he relishes making, and he's happy to be a part of the most diverse team in the ACC.

"I think our diversity is a strength," Kawasee said. "I never feel left out. If I were the only foreigner I think I would, but we have guys from all over the world. We have so much to talk about because we're all so different and we respect one another."

