



# BAT CETERA

Technician

June 21, 1995



PHOTO COURTESY OF D.C. COMICS

## "HOLY RUSTED METAL, BATMAN"

■ Riddle me this, riddle me that, who's ready for an even hotter bat?

BY SHARON CORKERY  
STAFF WRITER

If you're one of those people who never could get used to Michael Keaton as a sex symbol, much less a super hero, you're gonna love the Val Kilmer version of Batman — new and improved.

Not only does the Caped Crusader have nicer buns in "Batman Forever" than the "Mr. Mom" hero in "Batman" and "Batman Returns," he's got a sexy, young partner (Chris O'Donnell) who helps take the focus away from the villains who stole so much of Keaton's thunder.

Not to say that the villains this time around aren't outstanding. Jim Carrey's Riddler and Tommy Lee Jones' Two-Face rival Jack Nicholson's Joker. This time around, however, we are spared the long history of why the villains are the way they are — something that slowed the action in previous Batman flicks. It was never clearly explained if the Penguin was born a penguin or became one from association. Either way, Danny DeVito's bad guy kind of makes you want to skip that next visit to the zoo.

Two-Face's origination is explained in a flashback. Batman was unable to save him from being scarred by acid. Not only did the acid mutilate one side of his body, the event scarred his psyche as well. The combination of scars and derangement allows him to wear some pretty strange outfits and date two very different women — one for each side of his body.

The Riddler develops right before the audience's collective eyes in the midst of a plot with intermingling storylines. The technique is similar to our introduction to Catwoman, but much more believable.

The skin-tight vinyl-suited villainess, Michelle Pfeiffer, gave the audience something to look at, but Carrey is genuinely funny and does not need to rely on special effects to entertain us.

But there are special effects. The Riddler creates himself after being snubbed by Bruce Wayne (the man behind the mask for those two people who have been living in a cave all their lives) for developing a mind-controlling device. There are 3-D TV images and spooky green brain sucking machines that will intrigue sci-fi fans. Carrey's Riddler gets crazier every time he comes on screen.

Carrey was made for this role, and his performance is flawless. Even if none of the other characters were any good, Carrey alone would be worth the price of the ticket — evening prices, too, not just matinee.

The two villains, or three if you count Two-Face's two personae, aren't just looking to cause trouble for all of Gotham — it just happens to be in the way of their plans. They have a combined revenge scheme reminiscent of the TV series specifically intended for the super hero. And they almost succeed.

Luckily, the not-as-moody-as-Keaton-but-still-brooding Batman has an acrobatically enhanced Robin to lend a hand when he's in a pinch. Two new bat vehicles, the awesome batboat and batplane, help catch the vile villains. The latter even turns into a bat submarine after crashing in water. Did Mattel make a deal with producer Tim Burton or what? And yes, Kilmer does say the much publicized Mickey D line, "I'll get drive-thru" after Alfred asks about Batman's dinner plans.

Robin's revenge-for-Two-Face theme gives director Joel Schumacher a chance to exploit the death of Bruce Wayne's parents once again, as if we didn't have to see enough dead-parent stories in "Batman

Returns." Apparently the hidden-past theme has run its course, so don't expect it to appear in Batman IV.

The only thing missing from the film is a believable female counterpart for Kilmer. Nicole Kidman, with straightened blonde hair, comes off looking more like a horny, talk-show therapist than a talented and beautiful psychiatrist. As Dr. Chase Meridian, she's got that look — you know the one, intensive gaze captured on all McDonald's merchandise — and she keeps pulling out that one look as if she knows she has no other real purpose in the plot.

Wicky Vale makes no appearance this time around (you won't miss Kim Basinger's scream), so the audience has to accept Kidman as the only available love interest. But at best her role as a psychologist called in to help reveal the identity of the Riddler seems contrived. Considering she offers little help, and Batman and Alfred do her work for her, Mrs. Cruise is only in Gotham to serve as a batchick. She has no really good lines, and not even her wardrobe will make you want to look twice.

While the audience can easily see why she wants both Batman and Bruce Wayne, Kilmer's come a long way from "Top Gun." His interest in her seems to stem from a general lack of available women in Gotham City. You get the idea of how desperate he might be by checking out Two-Face's two women, played by Drew Barrymore and some other actress. Barrymore keeps her top on here, but her appearance probably won't do much for her career. She's had finer moments.

Even with the many fast-food and toy promotions, the sexy dynamic duo will entertain the adult audience first. Look past gratuitous golden arches for one heck of a summer movie.

Grade: B-

VAL KILMER PORTRAYS THE DARK KNIGHT IN THE SUMMER FLICK "BATMAN FOREVER"

## "Batman" music just doesn't fly

**Batman Forever Soundtrack**  
Various Artists

Every summer, like executive producers crawling out of the woodwork to try and get a piece of the summer box office pie, Hollywood's big-name movie vie for a chance to cash in on the music side of films.

This year's heavyweight is the "Batman Forever" soundtrack. Now, the general idea for soundtracks is to throw a few tunes into the main character's car stereo

or on the compact disc player as people have fake sex. Unfortunately, it usually sounds bad. Take a random sampling of 12 tracks that might play during your average day. Unless you listen to one radio station all day, they probably sound haphazardly and randomly thrown together, as they should.

What makes a good car tape doesn't make a good soundtrack. Last year's "The Crow" soundtrack is a perfect example. It was a diverse sampling of what a goth-chick or industrial-guy might listen

to. "The Crow" soundtrack is a way to test the waters of what was, unfamiliar territory for most people. "Batman Forever," like most soundtracks, has a couple of good tunes. The standouts on this album include U2's "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me, Kill Me," Seal's light "Kiss From A Rose," the Offspring's cover of the Damned's "Smash it Up," PJ Harvey's guitar-heavy "One Time Too Many," Nick Cave's dark "There Is Light" and Sunny Day Real Estate's "8."

However, the rest of the album is filled with second-rate material. To

make matters worse, my brother and I could only count two songs, not including the U2 credit-ender, that actually appeared in the film. What happened to the other 11 tracks?

If you are a completist, this would be worth the \$14. Since Sunny Day Real Estate are rumored to have broken up and PJ Harvey has abandoned the guitar, fans of these two groups should run and pick up a copy. But otherwise, save your cash for the movies.

- James Ellis



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The Riddler (Jim Carrey, r.) and Two-Face (Tommy Lee Jones)

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# Sports

Technician

June 21, 1995

## Benjamin Unplugged

J.P. GIGLIO  
Sports Editor

On May 18, N.C. State men's basketball coach Les Robinson suspended rising sophomore Ishua Benjamin indefinitely. Last season, Benjamin started at point guard in all 27 games for the Wolfpack, leading the team in assists and averaging 14 points per game. The Concord native was named to the ACC's All-Freshmen team. Monday, Technician talked with Benjamin about his suspension, his first season with the Wolfpack and the future of the program.

**Technician:** The press release said you were suspended for not taking your "academic responsibilities seriously." In your words, what was the reason for the suspension?

**Benjamin:** For just being lazy. I wasn't doing what I was supposed to do. I did things like not going to class, not turning assignments in and I put schoolwork off to the last minute. I wasn't being as mature as I should have been.

**Technician:** Since the suspension is by Coach Robinson and not the university, many people speculate that you will be suspended for the summer and fall semesters and reinstated for the beginning of the season. According to what Coach Robinson has told you, is that true?

**Benjamin:** I definitely will sit out — at least the first three games. If I show improvement, I will get to play. If I don't, I won't play at all.

**Technician:** What are your impressions of Coach Robinson?

**Benjamin:** It's hard, as far as my suspension is concerned. I got pissed off about getting suspended, but when I sat down and thought about it, and talked to my mom, it was for my well-being. I was using school for the wrong reasons. I was only playing basketball, and you can't look at it that way. I came here to get an education, and he's making sure that I do that. Sometimes, I don't agree with what he does but that is his job. He is the coach, and I have to listen to what he says.

**Technician:** Do you think he takes a lot

**"I got pissed off about getting suspended, but when I sat down and thought about it, and talked to my mom, it was for my well-being. I was using school for the wrong reasons."**

— Ishua Benjamin,  
N.C. State point guard

of undeserved pressure from the media and the fans?

**Benjamin:** He is just as good a coach as anybody else. He came in and did his job, turned the program around. Academic wise, he built the program up. A lot of people take him down because we are not winning right now.

But he is more concerned about you succeeding in life. Not everybody is going to be a professional basketball player. He makes sure you get your degree. He is worried more about my personal interests first, then basketball. I would rather have a coach who cares about that and not just a winning record.

**Technician:** The amount of media attention surrounding your signing with State is the most since Chuck Kornegay signed in 1992. After his freshman season, Kornegay was suspended by the University and since then has transferred to Villanova. What are the similarities between Kornegay and yourself?

**Benjamin:** [Assistant] coach [Al] Daniels told me not to do some of the things that Chuckie did. He wasn't going to class at all, and didn't get his work done. They preached to me that I don't want something like that to happen to me. And it did. Now I'm taking the heat for what I did.

**Technician:** There have been rumors that you are going to transfer. Will you transfer like Kornegay did?

**Benjamin:** The rumors are just that — rumors. Transferring has crossed my mind a couple times, but I can't do it. I like it here. It would be bad for me to leave because of the situation that I'm in.

**Technician:** There were high expectations for you to come in and be the "savior" of the program. Was it difficult on you to perform under those circumstances?

**Benjamin:** I expected a lot out of myself. The first couple games, I wasn't going to be stopped. As the season went on, the pressure started to mount up on me. I was just trying to figure out a way to handle it.

A combination of a lot of things — the media, coaches, family and friends. You've got people all around pulling you in different directions. A person can only take so much.

**Technician:** After the win over North Carolina, the team hit a lull. The team started losing, and a season that started out so promising ended in the play-in game of the ACC Tournament. What was hardest part of the second half of the season?

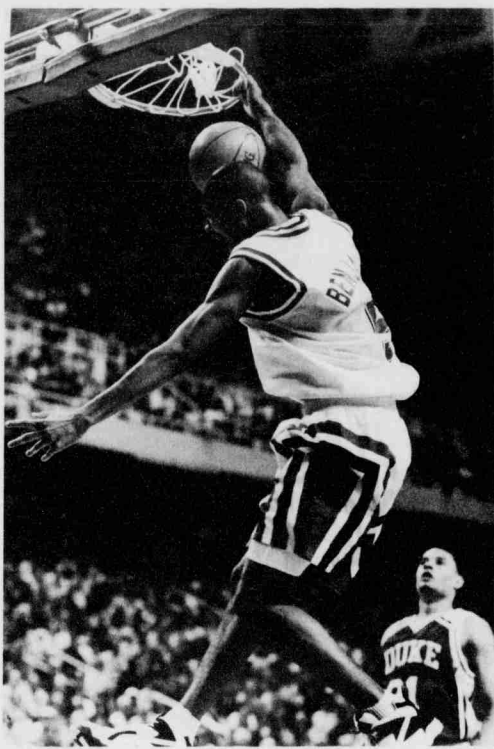
**Benjamin:** My biggest problem was frustration. We won the first couple games, and then we just hit rock bottom. After the Carolina game we got comfortable with what we had achieved. During the lull there was a lot of frustration going on. By losing you are going to get frustrated.

In high school I went from winning — to here and losing. Whenever the team is down, I take it upon myself to do more. I don't like to look behind. I'm looking forward to next season and applying what I have learned."

**Technician:** Will next year be the year the team puts a consistent season together and returns to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in five years?

**Benjamin:** If I have anything to do with it, I will make sure we make it to the tournament. You can't have the talent that we have coming back and not make it.

**Technician:** Coming into the year, one of your goals was to win the ACC Rookie of the Year. Were you disappointed when Clemson's Greg Buckner won?



Ishua Benjamin: 'I will make sure we make it to the tournament.'

**Benjamin:** I know what I can do out there. At first, I was. But when I thought about, Buckner deserved it. He was more

consistent and Clemson won more games than we did. I was more popular than he was, but overall he deserved it.

## Wolfpack players pick up post-season honors

■ Since the end of the baseball season, plenty of awards have come the Wolfpack's way.

By MATT LAIL  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Despite not making the NCAA Tournament for the first time in six years, several N.C. State baseball players received postseason honors.

Outfielder Tony Ellison was named a third-team All-American by Mizuno and Collegiate Baseball magazine.

Right fielder Jake Weber was named a first-team Freshman All-American by Mizuno and Collegiate Baseball.

Ellison led the Wolfpack this season with a .398 batting average, 72 RBIs and 72 runs scored, while

drilling 14 doubles and stealing seven bases. Ellison finished the season belting five homers in the ACC Tournament — three of them in one game. He missed winning the conference's Triple Crown by one RBI.

Weber had a solid freshman campaign, batting .326 with 11 doubles, four triples, 10 home runs, 54 RBIs and 10 stolen bases. He committed only two errors all season — both coming in the final game of the season.

For the season, Weber finished second on the team in runs scored (70), triples, home runs and stolen bases, while finishing third in RBIs and hits (84).

Weber is N.C. State's fourth Freshman All-American in the last five years, joining Tom Sergio, Terry Harvey and Pat Clougherty.

Tony Ellison and second baseman Tom Sergio have been named third-team All-Americans by Baseball America magazine.

Ellison finished his junior season by breaking two ACC Tournament records, the most homers for the entire tournament (5) and the single-game mark (3). Ellison was named first-team All-ACC and first-team All-Tournament, as well as being named National Player of the Week twice during the season.

Sergio, a sophomore, was invited to the USA Baseball Trials at Millington, Tenn. He batted .391 with eight doubles, six triples, five homers, 35 RBIs, and 17 stolen bases. Sergio reached base safely in all but two games last season.

In the innings in which Sergio reached base, the Wolfpack scored



State's Tom Sergio picked up some post-season kudos. 67 percent of its runs. His 26-game ACC this season hitting streak was the longest in the

## Wolfpack Notes

### Lane leaves Pack post for Florida

N.C. State assistant basketball coach Brian Lane has accepted the top assistant position at Florida Atlantic, he said Monday.

Lane will be coaching at his fourth different school in a five-year period. Before his two-year stint with the Wolfpack, Lane was an assistant at the University South Carolina.

The expanded responsibilities are what enticed Lane to Florida Atlantic.

"Since I am the third assistant, the NCAA does not allow me to recruit here," Lane said. "At Florida Atlantic, I will be in charge of recruiting."

Lane, 27, spent his first season as a graduate assistant at UNC-Charlotte.

He played college basketball for his father, Don, at Transylvania University.

The Lexington, Ky., native joins Ray Martin, a former State assistant under Jim Valvano, on the Florida Atlantic staff.

### Lawrence arrested for sexual battery

All-time N.C. State sack leader Tyler Lawrence was charged Saturday with sexual battery in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The Broward Sheriff's Office said a 25-year-old Pompano Beach woman claims Lawrence, now with the New York Giants, performed sexual acts upon her Friday night at the hotel where the team was staying.

The Giants were in Florida on Friday for a charity softball game with the Miami Dolphins.

Lawrence, a two-time all-ACC performer, was held Saturday at the Broward County Jail charged with sexual battery and false imprisonment.

The Greensboro native, who finished his career with 24 sacks in 1993, signed with the Giants last season as a free agent.

## On your mark, get set ...



The National High School Track & Field Championships were held at N.C. State's Paul Derr Track last weekend for the first time.

Technician Sports: Come and knock on our door. We've been waiting for you.  
Technician Sports: Smarter than the average bear.  
Technician Sports: Stringin' it for Jesus.

Technician Sports:  
Book 'em,  
Dano.

# Opinion

June 21, 1995

Technician

A paper that is entirely the product of the student body becomes at once the official organ through which the thoughts, the activity and in fact the very life of the campus are registered. College life without its journal is a blank.

Technician, vol. 1, no. 1, February 1, 1920

## Student Health errs on bite

■ N.C. State's Student Health Services misses the mark twice diagnosing a young woman's ailing arm.

The Student Health Services generally does a good job of providing medical care at a low cost for students. It's not on par with Duke Medical Center or the Mayo Clinic, but for what each student pays in student fees, it is a bargain — and on campus. Now it sounds as if Dee Dee Davis got something of a raw deal from the friendly health-care professionals in Clark Hall.

Davis went to Student Health Services last month seeking treatment for an insect bite on her left arm. The wound developed into a black mark, and the area around the site became a red, bumpy painful rash. Even though Davis suggested that she might have an insect bite because the rash did not itch, the nurse practitioner diagnosed it as poison ivy. The nurse prescribed a tetanus shot and cortisone cream — a treatment consistent with the diagnosis and one that would help alleviate the symptoms.

But Davis returned four days later when her arm had worsened. The diagnosis was the same — poison ivy — and she was given a bottle of calamine lotion. A week and a half later, Davis checked into Rex

Hospital's emergency room with a swollen arm, numb and blue extremities and swollen lymph nodes. Dr. Robert Moseley, who treated her at Rex, diagnosed the rash as a bite from a brown recluse spider.

Moseley responded to the situation by saying that since doctors don't look for rare conditions initially, the brown recluse diagnosis was overlooked.

This is certainly understandable — it would be foolish to search for a possible food allergy just because somebody has a stomach ache, and it did sound like the bite in early stages could be confused with a bad case of poison ivy. But one would think that if this case worsened after four days of treatment with cortisone cream, that something else might be the culprit. The question then is why wasn't Davis correctly diagnosed the second time?

This is not to say that Student Health Services provides substandard care. On the contrary the care is quite good. But a mistake was made, and the situation needs to be rectified so that similar missed diagnoses do not occur again. Davis' second visit, with her left arm showing prolonged and more severe symptoms, should have resulted in something better than a carbon-copy diagnosis and a bottle of generic calamine lotion.

## Yankee avoids, insults NCSU

■ A visitor from up north visits the Triangle and misses the best university completely.

A writer from Gentleman's Quarterly Magazine a.k.a. GQ paid a visit to the Triangle area last fall to investigate what Money Magazine dubbed as the best place in the country to live. His remarks were somewhat disparaging, and his brief description of N.C. State was downright insulting.

The three major universities, as described by Joe Queenan, are "North Carolina, best known for basketball; Duke, well-known for basketball; and North Carolina State, only known for basketball." A confessed yankee displays the kind of narrow-minded ignorance he would likely accuse Southerners of passing down through the generations.

Although NCSU is known for basketball, there is much more to the red brick corner of academic heaven than hoops, and any yankee visitor sorely needs to be disabused of such misguided notions.

Queenan for instance failed to notice the eminence of Wolfpack football. The Pack was ranked in the top 15 programs in the entire nation last year, gaining even more respect for the ACC as an up-and-coming football conference. But then again, yankees don't care much for football

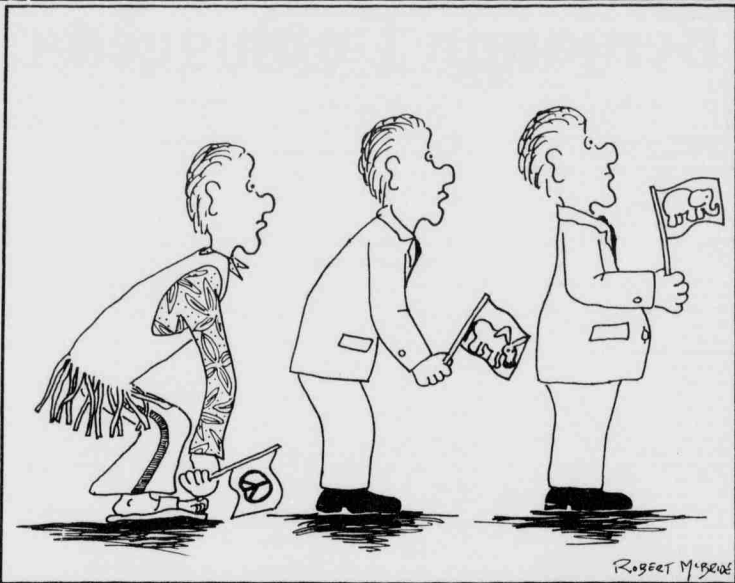
anyhow.

Speaking of national prominence, NCSU geneticist Bruce Weir will be testifying for the prosecution as a witness in the O.J. Simpson trial this week. The trial has drawn out some of the best minds in the country — legal as well as scholarly. Weir, whose specialty is population genetics — the study of the deviations of DNA in plants and animals — is expected to defend the credibility of DNA as forensic evidence. Although this may be a giant leap of logic, a double-helix strand and a double-pump jumper are two totally different things. But then again, what do a bunch of dumb Southerners know anyway?

NCSU is also known for its advances in agriculture, medicine and textiles. The tomato harvester, denim-recycling technology and the artificial aorta were invented on these rolling, West Raleigh hills. The yankee visitor most likely lacks an appetite for tomatoes, a need to save the landfills or even a heart, so such oversights are understandable.

Of course, it did not dawn upon Queenan until the end of his stay in the area that he was judging the Triangle as the place to visit rather than the place to live as Money Magazine says it is.

Nobody ever said this place was a huge tourist magnet. So much for yankee ingenuity.



## Commentary

### Judicial system problems need to be aired

This is the first in a series of columns discussing N.C. State's student judicial system. Beginning with broad statements, the column will narrow to and encompass a presentation of flaws, suggestions for improvements, along with public letters to and accusations against university officials. I plan to present my personal experiences as a student caught up in the system and a formal written grievance against the following four individuals: Tom Stafford, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Evelyn Reiman, Director of Student Development; Bob Bryan, Associate Director of Student Development; and Paul Cousins, Coordinator of Judicial Programs.

Copies of this series will be delivered to the four individuals mentioned above, Student Body President John O'Quinn, Student Senate President Robert Zimmer, Provost Phillip Stiles, Chancellor Larry Monteith, current and newly elected members of the Board of Trustees, Chair of the Board of Governors, General Administration

David Sandgren

President C.D. Spangler Jr. and Governor Jim Hunt.

I am very uncomfortable making my statements public for fear of reprisal. Cousins has already tried harassment and intimidation to silence me. I will not respond favorably to such tactics, but only to fair and honest treatment, which I have thus far been denied. I would much rather not be in this position, but the university's treatment of me leaves me few alternatives. Having been through the system, I understand that judicial hearings are hardly fair, lack commonly understood and assumed judicial principles and disregard written procedures. The appeals process is a reprehensible sham, and the current grievance process is not only inadequate and badly in need of rewriting, but is equally a sham.

My responsibilities and allegiance

are to the students of this university, not to the officials who deceived me and were dishonest with me. Cousins should understand that the best way to silence me would be for him and Stafford to plead guilty to violations of due process of the code of student conduct, violations of the procedures manual, intentional dishonesty and unethical conduct. The two should also accept a substantial suspension without pay and other appropriate punitive measures and make such changes as necessary to enforce judicial fairness for students in the future.

Having lost respect and trust in the university system, I will present my comments publicly to protect myself, to demonstrate the need for substantial change within the judicial process and to inform students about current unfair practices within the system.

David Sandgren is a senior majoring in computer science. His e-mail address is: desandgr@eos.ncsu.edu

### Ending senseless lawsuits is best tort reform

While everyone is sweeping up the confetti of false political "revolutions," what we should be looking at is the quiet plank of the "Contract with America:" the plank that tries to eliminate "frivolous lawsuits."

The problem of frivolous lawsuits is a pressing one. Our civil judicial system is swamped with cases. Why? Because we love to sue each other. A woman spills hot coffee in her lap at a drive-through at McDonald's? She sues the big clown and gets a few million. Your place of employment has faulty equipment that injures you, and you can't work? Sue your boss for medical costs. A child throws a cookie at your child's eye? Sue the cookie company and make a fortune.

Some suits that come to trial are valid. If a doctor leaves a pair of scissors inside you, the doctor should be held accountable. And some suits are stupid. If a kid throws a cookie in my kid's eye, I should yell at the kid and threaten to call the cops until he cries, not sue the bakery for making cookies that don't break apart upon impact

James Ellis

like your average commuter airplane.

Then there are some suits that lie in the middle. If coffee gets spilled on me and I need to go to the doctor, I would expect the franchise to pay my bill. But millions of dollars for a brisk early-morning wake-up? No way.

Republicans want to make it look as dangerous as possible to try to sue. "Loser pays" laws are an attempt to make people who have silly claims think twice about going for the big bucks. Lawyers — whose main point is getting a percentage of the award if they win — are in big trouble as their clients now incur a risk by suing.

What will happen is that poor people who have a valid claim will not want to tangle with a company with expensive lawyers on the payroll. Let's say the We Hate People Corp. accidentally dumped

a ton and a half of toxic sludge in your yard. You could sue it to clean up its mess if it refuses. But you know that if you take the company to court and lose, you will not only have a spill to clean, you'll also have your own lawyer as well as the defendant's gaggle of pin-striped sharks to pay. It won't be pretty.

You should have the right to sue. You should feel relatively unencumbered when trying to right a wrong. But at the same time, a problem exists.

So, what is fair? Well, the closest I can imagine is if we pull together and stop suing each other. For God's sake, you should be embarrassed, people. What are you thinking? Just because you accidentally get bumped by a car doesn't mean the driver should pay your way through school. Suers (if there is such a word) should stop trying to make a profit out of life's little mishaps. It's disgusting.

James Ellis is a graduate student in political science. His e-mail address is: ellosjo@hcl.chass.ncsu.edu

## Technician

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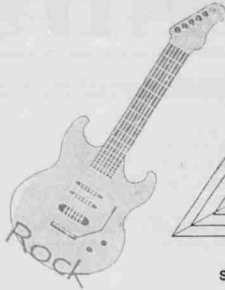
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Shown on Fox 22  
Late Night Thursday 1:30 am



Shown on WRDC/28 Late Night Friday  
After Friday Night Videos  
2:00 am

**EO**  
Summer Sale

Jeans & Chinos - \$10.00  
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New Shipments Arriving Daily  
Catalog clothes you love...  
...Prices you can afford

**EO** **OUTLETS**  
SAVE 50% EVERY DAY ON CATALOG AND QUALITY LABEL CLOTHES  
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Pizza • Breadsticks • Wings  
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MEXICAN RESTAURANT

For the finest...

...in authentic Mexican Cuisine

7341 Six Forks Road  
2811 Hillsborough St.

This Saturday  
Doolittle  
Autumn  
Creamy Velour

June 23 - N.S.D., IT Liza, Magic Candle  
June 24th - Doolittle, Autumn, Creamy Velour  
June 30th - Circular Impressions, Snidely Whiplash,  
Goodnight My Love  
July 1st - LUBA & Gaujroy  
July 7th - No More Moral, Fare First, Bone Shelter

July 8th - Peasants of the Apocalypse  
July 14th - Magic Candle  
July 21st - Lil' Dave Band with Plaid Circle  
July 28th - The Stegmonds, The Lincolns, Amber Drift  
August 18th - National Records Artist Stuck Mojo!

# Players

Nightclub

7440 Six Forks Road  
Across from Celebration Shopping Center

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Close to You

**LIVE WEDNESDAY**  
June 28th

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doors open at 8:00pm

for info 8285233

email us nb90@aol.com

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HIGHER EDUCATION  
ADVANTAGES

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