

Up Front

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# See it, hear it, smell it

## Here comes the 121st annual N.C. State Fair

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Candy apples. Cows. Cotton candy. The Enterprise. Salt-water taffy. The Pirate. The Smallest Horse in the World. Fudge. Bumper cars. Gorilla-woman. Fried dough. Ferris wheels. Funnel cakes. Fireworks. Foot-long hot dogs.

The sights, the sounds the *smells* — and it all begins in less than 24 hours. With the theme, "Goodness Grows in North Carolina," the 121st annual North Carolina State Fair kicks off tomorrow in Raleigh.

Fairs are truly wonderful creations for college students because they enable us to practice some

of our finest skills (excluding beer drinking) like wasting money trying to win a tacky stuffed animal, eating (pretty much everything in sight from a variety of the 150 concession stands); and pushing the boundaries of common sense (and our stomach linings) to the limit on rides that take us backwards and forwards, turn us upside down and spin us round and round.

And we pay for it. At 35 cents a ticket, most rides cost between about \$1.50 and \$2 each. But they're fun, and you'll only be young enough to handle them without turning green (or at least not caring) for a few more years. Try to curb your craving for that corn dog until after you've hit the rides — "natural disasters" are not one of the fair's prettier sights.

On the midway you'll find 75 different adult and children's E. James Strates' rides and dozens of games where you can try your luck at winning anything from a stuffed animal or banana to a heavy-metal mirror. Your sweetie will be so thrilled if you manage to squirt enough water into that clown's mouth to pop the balloon over its head and win that ugly little dog. This is where that wasting money talent really comes in handy. It's only money, right?

For those of you who are perhaps a little more thrifty, here's a partial list of events and times in case you might want to stretch yourself and actually go to an exhibit. I realize it's a long shot, but if you find you've completely stuffed yourself eating all that junk food, spent most of your money without winning *anything* and your stomach can't handle riding on the Roundup *just one more time*, you don't have to call it a day yet.

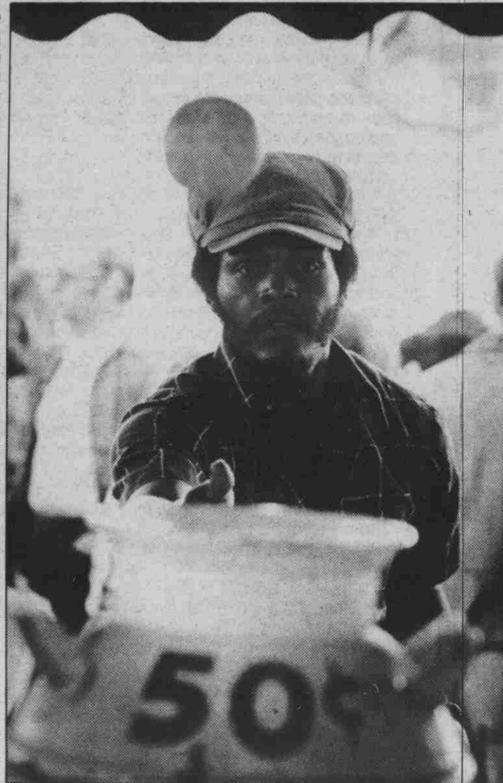
There are almost 22,000 more exhibits and events left to see beyond the midway. And, here's that favorite word of college students nationwide: most of it is FREE.

#### Dorton Arena Shows:

All shows begin at 7 p.m. each night; doors open at 6 p.m. and seats are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Friday — The Charlie Daniels Band  
Saturday — The Spinners  
Sunday — Jerry Clower, The Tennessee River Boys  
Monday — Ricky Van Shelton  
Tuesday — Juice Newton  
Wednesday — T.G. Sheppard  
Thursday — Loretta Lynn  
Friday, Oct. 21 — Ronnie McDowell  
Saturday, Oct. 22 — Kathy Mattea  
Sunday, Oct. 23 — Singing Americans, Florida Boys  
But, wait, there's more.

**Tractor Pulling Contest:** Yee-Haw! You'll have to go to the grandstand and pay \$5 for to see this, but isn't it worth it to see the raw power of tractors and trucks and the spirit of competition between the contestants? Sure, it is. This is the last contest



It's in the hole! Give me my teddy bear. Now.

for the North Carolina Tractor Pullers Association, and these guys are going for the big bucks — \$20,000 in premiums for seven events. A must see, I'm sure.

**Auto Thrill Show and Demo Derby:** Well, this one will cost you \$4, but no where else will you see the Flaming Man and Happy the Clown as well as other participants in these spine-tingling, death-defying feats. Destruction is always fun to watch. For the auto thrill shows the schedule is: Oct. 14, and 18 through 21 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Oct. 15 at 2, 5 and 8 p.m.; Oct. 22 at 1, 4 and 8 p.m.; and Oct. 23 at 8 p.m. The demolition derbies are on Oct. 19 and Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. If for no other reason, go to see why the Flaming Man burns and just what makes Happy the Clown so happy.

**Scheer's Lumberjack Show:** This you've gotta see. See the skill, the comedy, the wonder of it all as these guys and their sister Tina speed-climb 50-foot poles and chop through two-foot logs in seconds or throw an ax into a bulls-eye 30 feet away. They make it look easy, but watch out if they ask you to walk a slick log floating on the lake. If you can do it, there may be big bucks in store for you — if not, well, maybe October hasn't been too cold so far.

**Village of Yesteryear:** Be careful, this one wants to teach you something — about N.C. craftsmen. Thirty-eight years ago, 14 craftsmen displayed their works in a small building. Today it's one of the largest and most popular attractions at the fair with 100 craftsmen, all from North Carolina, who will exhibit such works as banjos, guitars, stone carvings, tin crafts, canvas-backed ducks, and hand-painted eggshells.

**Great American High Dive Team:** Each day of the fair this internationally-acclaimed team will perform at 12, 2, 4 and 6 p.m. near the Industrial Building. They combine physical prowess and diving expertise with comedy antics for their aqua-mania segment. Then, one of the divers performs "the incredible high dive" from an 80-foot platform.

**Commerford's Petting Zoo** is open to all ages. Go ahead and talk to the animals here. And feed them. And, of course, pet them. You'll find a unique menagerie of animals from all over the world including the Indian zebu, dromedary camel, Barbados sheep, Sicilian donkeys, Pygmy goat kids, and black Karakul lambs. If you're brave enough, you may even want to ride an elephant or camel or pony. They might not smell great, but they'll show you a good time.

**Robinson's Racing Pigs:** Just ain't nothing like watching a bunch of swine run like hell. Head for the outdoor stage near Gate 11 at noon, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9 p.m. to catch the action as these porcine "steeds" race down the 100-foot track vying to be the first to cross the wire and receive a cookie. The piggies are dressed in orange and blue silks and a fan in each section picks a pig to win. The fan who picks the winner gets an "I Picked the Winning Pig" ribbon of his very own. It's free, but go early because the crowd builds faster than you can fry bacon.

**NCSU 4-H Collegiate Canoe Rides:** On the lake at the northwestern corner of the fairgrounds you can take a break and head out for a leisurely canoe ride. Rides are available weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and they cost \$1.50 per person. Each canoe holds three people and there is no limit to the number of rides. The rides are sponsored by 4-H Club members, all of whom are fully trained in canoe safety.

**Fireworks Shows:** Every night at 9:45, look up



Board "The Pirate," if you dare, for the ride of your life. The midway offers 75 adult and children's rides.

to the skies for a dazzling display of fireworks. Displays will include multi-color star shells, Oriental chrysanthemums, and traditional multi-break shells. They'll light up your life no matter where you are on the fairgrounds.

Since this event often draws a slight crowd, Fair officials provide the following services to help cut down on problems:

- Lost Kiddie Colony is located in the Red Cross Lounge building. Children are watched by volunteers while their parents are being notified on the public address system.

- Wake County Red Cross First Aid Station, in the same building provides professional assistance in handling minor first-aid problems.

- Emergency Medical Service is made up of rescue units from across the state to handle transportation for any medical emergencies.

- Police, Fire and Sheriff's Departments are on-site to offer their assistance with any number of problems.

- Information Booths are located throughout the Fairgrounds and manned by helpful folks who will give directions, event times and other general information.

- Towing Service is available at no cost for those unable to get their cars out of the parking lots due to bad weather, minor mechanical problems (dead battery, flat tire) or keys locked inside the car.

To get to the fairgrounds, take I-40 East and exit onto Wade Avenue. Troopers will be there to direct you to fairgrounds parking. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$1 for children 6 to 12, and children under six and adults over 65 are admitted free. The fair runs from Oct. 14 to Oct. 23. Gates open at 9 a.m. weekdays, noon on Sundays and close at midnight. Exhibits close at 9:45 p.m.

No one should miss the fair. Even if you don't get into rides and exhibits, you can pretend you're a State student and hang out with the cows. No one will ever know. Last year about 705,000 people attended the fair — some of them must have had a good time, right?



What a lucky duck! This infant is already getting hooked on the midway's games of chance.



Children of all ages attend the State Fair every year.