1007-20-186   **Josh Barnard*** (`jbarnard@math.ou.edu`), Department of Mathematics, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019, and **Noel Brady**. *Distortion of surface groups in free-by-cyclic groups.*

We discuss a technique for constructing non-positively curved 2-complexes with free-by-cyclic fundamental groups. We produce examples of linearly, polynomially (of any degree), and exponentially distorted closed hyperbolic surface groups inside these groups. In the linear and exponential examples the ambient free-by-cyclic group is hyperbolic. (Received February 21, 2005)