

TECHNICIAN

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
14
2004

Raleigh, North Carolina

TECHNICIAN INVESTIGATES:

Battle of the Buck

Technician takes a look at which bookstore boasts the best prices around campus.

Michele DeCamp
News Editor

Tuition. Rent. Parking Pass. Food.

Some of the staples in college life are not to be bargained with. But there's one place where taking time and looking at all the offers might save a buck or two: buying books.

"In some ways it's great that we have all these bookstores, but when you're trying to shop around and find the cheapest one then it is a hassle to have to run around to four different stores," McKenna Miller, a junior in science education, said.

Technician visited the four bookstores closest to campus - NCSU Bookstore, Packbackers Student Bookstore, Hillsborough Street Textbooks and Addam's University

Bookstore - and the Internet site Amazon.com to compare their prices, availability and the little extras they offer.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE STORES

The textbook business is not limited to university stores. There are many national companies who run chains of textbook stores in major college towns. Follett Higher Education Group runs the Addam's University Bookstore chain, one of which is located in Mission Valley Plaza across from the Avent Ferry Complex.

Both Packbackers Student Bookstore and Hillsborough Street Textbooks have moved recently, but both stores are still on Hillsborough Street. Both are also privately owned, but Hillsborough Street Textbooks is independent.

The NCSU Bookstore is a completely different animal because it is non-profit company run by the university. NCSU receives the book lists first and the other area stores pay a fee to have access to the list of required and optional texts

requested by the professors for that semester's classes. The off-campus stores see the list at the same time or within a few days of the NCSU Bookstore.

"We [all the bookstores] work extremely well together," Robert Hayes, the director of the NCSU Bookstores, said. "They respect the way that we run our operation here, and most college communities do not have that kind of relationship."

BOOK PRICES

"Students look at one thing - price," Hayes said. "We lowered our prices two years ago because we felt like some of the books were getting too expensive."

Using three real schedules from a senior English major, a junior chemistry major and a freshman engineer and buying only used books, Hillsborough Street textbooks offered the best prices.

"Last year I had a bunch of books I had to get, and they were definitely cheaper here

BOOKS see page 3



RAY BLACK III/TECHNICIAN
Josh McCall talks to friends at the fall commencement ceremonies.

Graduate steps into 'real world'

The transition from student to employee is proving to be difficult for Josh McCall.

[Editor's Note] This is the first part of a series profiling one recent graduate's transition from college senior to working adult.

Michele DeCamp
News Editor

"My plan is to be able to hold off from working for as long as I can," Josh McCall, a recently graduated chemical engineer, said.

McCall is about to join the rat race. He graduated from N.C. State in December, and is still looking for a job in his field. However, he's not completely upset about the free time.

"I've got enough money that if I spend wisely I can take a road trip and go see some friends," McCall said. "I've got friends all over the place - New Orleans, Cincinnati, Maine."

But before he could head for the road he had to get that black folder with his degree in it.

The months leading up to December were tough for Josh.

"I regret saving any hard classes for my last semester," he said. "You don't want to do anything at the end."

At the end of the year, he could pin-

JOSH see page 2



TAYLOR TEMPLETON/TECHNICIAN
Master's Student Brandon O'Daniel purchases a book at the NCSU Bookstore as Gwen Ribble looks on.

Faculty asks legislators for salary increase

The Faculty Senate passed a resolution that will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

Charles Duncan
Senior Staff Reporter

Undergraduate graduation and retention rates topped the agenda at Tuesday's Faculty Senate meeting along with concerns over the state budget's effect on teacher salaries.

The faculty senate passed by acclamation a resolution asking the North Carolina General Assembly to increase

university employees' salaries. The resolution reads "[the] Faculty Senate asks the General Assembly to consider other means to address the budget shortfall than by allowing another year to pass without at minimum a cost-of-living increase for state employees."

The last state budget, passed in June, did not provide for salary increases for the second year in a row.

The resolution also asks that the General Assembly to fund the Comprehensive Compensation Fund, which would make merit-based salary increases available for, in the resolution's words, "outstanding employees meeting or

exceeding job expectations."

Having received support from both the Faculty and Staff Senates, the resolution will be sent to the General Assembly for consideration while forming the state budget.

The other major issue on the agenda centered around the report from the task force on undergraduate retention and graduation rates.

Setup during the last spring semester, the retention task force gave its report to the senate Tuesday. Thomas Honeycutt, faculty senator and chair of the academic policy committee gave the report, which outlined six recommendations to

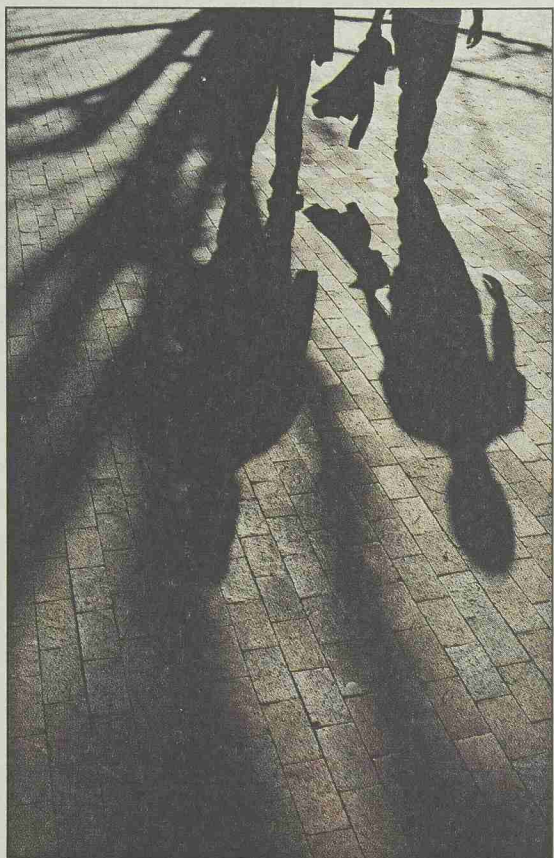
increase retention and four-year graduation rates.

Oblinger reported a statistic that of entering freshmen, 97 percent want to be full time students in their undergraduate career, but by sophomore year 53 percent of students end up becoming part time.

The task force report centered on the roles of advisers, student monitoring and new student orientation and the effect that they can have on retention and graduation rates. The report reads that the university should, "strongly

BUDGET see page 2

SHADOWS



TAYLOR TEMPLETON/TECHNICIAN
James McKinney walks, coat in arm, with Jake Still in the late afternoon. Yesterday the temperature climbed to an unseasonable 60 degrees.

Hillsborough owners struggle

Businesses complain that ordinances, off-campus events and a bad reputation keep students away.

Charles Duncan
Senior Staff Reporter

On the last Friday before exams, senior tradition ensures that Hillsborough Street teems with students getting out, taking a break and enjoying themselves during the "Hillsborough Hike."

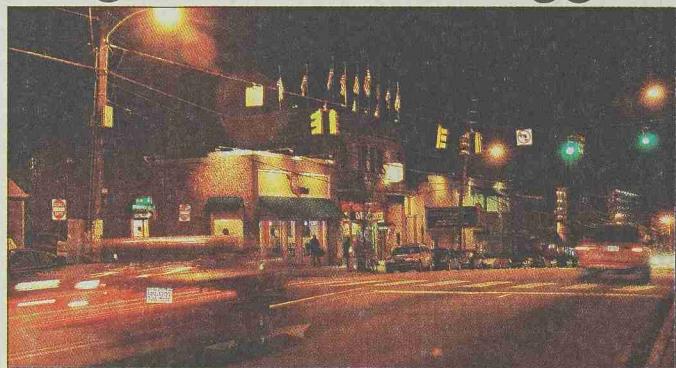
This December, true to fashion, sidewalks bulged, would-be customers of Mitch's encountered a line outside the door and Sadlack's had standing room only.

But Hillsborough Street business owners say that during the rest of the semester, that's rarely the case.

"Sometimes I just close early, there's really no business on Saturday nights," Sylvia Sestito, owner and familiar face of Sylvia's, said.

She and other owners say that the stretch from Oberlin Road to Gorman Street - which runs parallel to N.C. State's main campus - hardly sees its share of the university's 28,000-plus student body. They put the blame on city regulations, off-campus athletic events and the rise of a bad reputation.

"Hillsborough Street is not



TAYLOR TEMPLETON/TECHNICIAN
Many students feel that the stores and restaurants on Hillsborough Street do not provide for a night life.

a place for celebration, there are no attractions, no shops, no events to bring people here," Sestito said.

Jennifer Cunningham, a graduate student in ancient history and Raleigh native, remembers a different Hillsborough Street.

"When I was 14, Hillsborough Street was the place to be," Cunningham, said.

She even let it slip that that is where she would go when skipping school. "Fifteen years ago [Hillsborough Street] was cool, it was rockin'," she said.

These days, Cunningham said she goes to the movies, Glenwood South or Applebee's on a Saturday night.

"Glenwood has become the new Hillsborough Street," she said, referring to the southern portion of Glenwood Avenue which caters to students and young professionals with bars, restaurants and nightlife.

Business owners place the blame for Hillsborough Street's decline in a number of places.

Michelle Morock, the owner of Encounters Cafe, said that when major sporting events were held on campus they would always give a boost to Hillsborough Street business. Today, both men's basketball and football have moved off campus.

"Before they moved a lot of the events to the RBC Center,

people could park here, eat here and walk to the game," Morock said.

Morock gave another reason for Hillsborough Street's decline.

"Between the university and the Homeowners Association, they have made it really hard to get liquor permits," she said.

Morock gave anecdotal evidence of this by way of the Five-O example. For those who don't remember, the Five-O was the little upstairs club across from D.H. Hill that had a bar and live music. When a local businessman tried to re-open the club, the

OWNERS see page 2

BOOKS

continued from page 1

[Hillsborough Street Textbooks,] Miller said.

For instance, the Riverside Shakespeare, a required text of ENG 487, rings up \$48.25 at Hillsborough Street Textbooks. Their used price is at least a few cents cheaper than all its competitors.

Two other books, Calculus: Concepts and Contexts for MA 141 and Introduction to Psychology were also cheaper.

Sometimes the difference is a dime or two different from another store, but some shoppers find they notice the difference at Hillsborough Street Textbooks.

"I know one semester I ended up saving \$25-30," Miller said. "It's not much, but it adds up."

Adam Bliss, the textbook manager, was not surprised.

"We take great pains to provide the best prices," he said.

While Packbackers and the NCSU Bookstore trail Hillsborough Street Textbooks by only a few dollars once the shopping is done, Addam's prices are higher.

For a used copy of Readings in Ancient History for HI 207, you will pay at least \$2 more at Addam's than anywhere else. You will also pay at least \$2 more for the psychology text mentioned before.

Some of their new text prices are higher as well. FLS 101 students will pay over \$10 more at Addam's for their Plazas package, which includes a new text, workbook and supplementary materials. Addam's sells it for \$168.45 for a new package, but you can get the same package new at all the other bookstores for under \$158.

A spokeswoman with the Follett Education Group feels that their

buyback program makes Addam's a good choice for students.

"We offer a guarantee buyback," Pam Goodman said. "If you bought it at Addam's and you sell it back at Addam's you will receive 50 percent of the purchase price whether or not the professor is going to use it again." Other stores do not advertise any similar programs although all of them buy books back from students.

BOOK AVAILABILITY

"We have more used textbooks at our stores than anyone else," Goodman said on behalf of Addam's University Bookstores. So do the NCSU Bookstore, PackBackers and Hillsborough Street Textbooks, according to their own estimations.

The campus bookstore has the most books overall, but the ease of shopping on campus means they run out of used texts faster.

Before classes started on Monday, the NCSU Bookstore had already sold out of their used packages of the ENG 101 requirement Simon and Schuster Handbook for Writers. According to Hayes, students have been shopping for textbooks for at least a month before classes started, so their used book selection had already dwindled. But NCSU will always have enough books for every student on campus.

"We definitely have the most titles," Hayes said. "We're required to carry every book for every course for every student. The other bookstores are not."

But some of those books might have to be new copies. That's where the off-campus stores come in.

They don't always have enough copies for every freshman English student, but because they see less traffic they still had used versions of expensive packages such as the Simon and Schuster set for ENG 101 and the Plazas set for FLS

A Used Textbook Price Comparison

The following are texts that many students will be looking for this semester. In five out of nine cases, Hillsborough Street Textbooks had lower prices on used versions of the book. This chart does not show the quantity of used copies available in the stores, but at press time, all stores had used copies of the books unless otherwise noted.

Course	Textbook	PackBackers	Hillsborough Street	Addam's University	NCSU Bookstore
ENG 487-003 Shakespeare: Later Plays	Riverside Shakespeare	\$48.85	\$48.25	\$51.80	\$48.40
ENG 488-001 Intermediate Fiction Wr.	Writing Fiction	\$38.45	\$39.25	None At Press Time	\$39.40
CH 431-001 Physical Chem. 1	Physical Chemistry	\$75.25	\$74.25	\$74.35	\$74.25
HI 207-001 History of the Ancient World	Introduction to the Ancient World	\$24	\$23.95	\$22.50	\$24.00
	Ancient Near East	\$20.20	\$19.95	\$18.75	\$20.25
	Readings in Ancient History	\$34.80	\$33.25	\$37.10	\$33.45
PSY 200-006 Intro to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology	\$49.80	\$47.75	\$52.20	\$47.85
MA 141-001 Calculus 1	Calculus: Concepts and Contexts	\$99.65	\$78.25	\$78.75	\$81.60

(PRICES VERIFIED BETWEEN MONDAY AND TUESDAY OF THIS WEEK) MICHELE DECAMP/TECHNICIAN

101.

Sometimes there may only be one place to buy a book.

According to Mike Studley, one of the co-owners of Hillsborough Street Textbooks, each store has a few professors that only submit their lists to one particular store.

"We have two or three instructors that have exclusives with us, and I think all the stores have professors who do that," Studley said.

There are also times when the NCSU Bookstore is the only store that carries a book because the publisher ran out of stock. Students in PY 341 can only purchase their Flat and Curved Space-Times text at the campus store.

Students usually end up just picking a store that works for them.

"I always do my textbook shopping at the NCSU Bookstore because they are the most likely source for finding all the books I need for my classes," Heather

Baker, a senior in chemical engineering, said. "It's also at a very convenient location on campus."

THE EXTRAS

Some advantages aren't measured on the shelves or in the pocketbook.

Parking has become a concern for students - it's park of the motivation for PackBackers move to their new location.

"We wanted a better location for the students," Gabrielle Grainer, the store manager at PackBackers, said. "We now have free parking in front and back of the store."

For students who cannot walk to the NCSU Bookstore and don't own a parking pass, 30-minute parking meters stand outside.

All four stores also have Web sites where students can either order their textbooks and have them shipped to their door, as is the case with PackBackers, or have the store staff compile their stack for them as do Ad-

damis, the NCSU Bookstore and Hillsborough Street Textbooks.

Most of them also tout their customer service as a key component to their sustainability.

"I think we have pretty good customer service," Grainger said. "We try and help everyone, and I don't feel that other stores necessarily worry about that."

WEB DEALS

If you log onto Amazon.com and try to purchase novels for ENG 405, an adolescent literature class, you'll find a copy of Lord of the Flies can be bought for one cent from independent dealers in partnership with the Web site.

In fact, many of the novels required for the class are less than a dollar.

But buying from the site means the shopper could potentially be getting novels from 13 different sellers. Amazon guarantees that its "used" book sellers are under agreement to ship their wares in one to two days and the company never shares your credit card

number with the independent dealers. But Hayes warns that if you buy the book from a Web dealer then you won't be able to sell it back at the local textbook stores.

"How do you sell your books back to Amazon?" Hayes asked. "You can't."

And some books may not be available online.

NCSU professors sometimes assign books that are written by local professors or NCSU versions of a particular text, so these types of books often can only be found in local stores or through NC dealers on the web. Amazon.com also does not carry course packs tailored for particular classes.

THE BOTTOM LINE

In the end, at least for Jay Carter, a junior in aerospace engineering, the important thing is just to get the book.

"I just want books that are in decent condition and pretty cheap."

Amazing Facts!

The first documented gold find in the U.S. was at the site of Reed Gold Mine in Midland, N.C.

Source:
<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/reed/reed.htm>



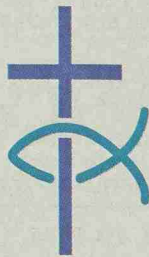
60% of State students haven't smoked cigarettes in the past year

2003 NC State The Health Survey n = 397

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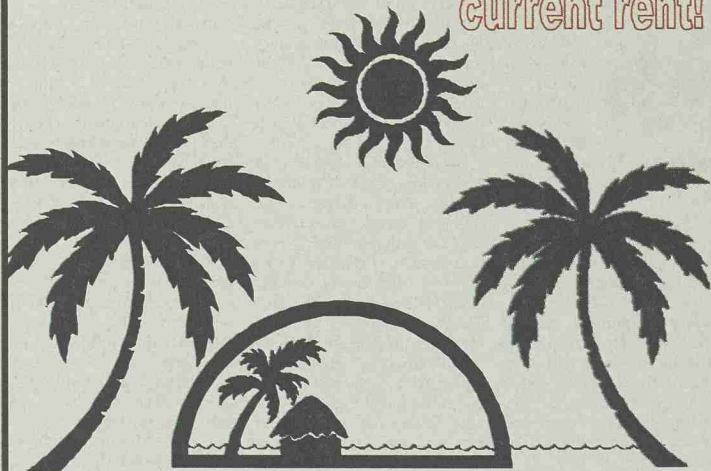
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AND JUSTICE FOR ALL - CHAPTER 1:

The Call of Duty

STORY BY: JONATHAN HAMILTON

ILLUSTRATION: MARY GELLAR



"The footfalls, the shouts, the gunfire, the engine, all were closing in on him - he needed a way out."

Stone fled down the Main Street sidewalks of Westchester, Pa., dodging and weaving through confused, panicking pedestrians, his feet slapping the pavement like hard rain as a surging cloud of black-suited men thundered behind him. Less than a minute ago he had been enjoying a cup of coffee in a downtown diner before the men in black had stormed inside and demanded his surrender, and now he found himself outnumbered and outgunned, once again on the run. He heard the leader of the black suits, who had identified himself as Agent Edwards in the diner, shouting at the lunchtime crowd to get inside. People began disappearing behind doors, their faces filling windows to marvel at the spectacle in the street. Stone knew that the local police would be on the way in moments; if the men in black hadn't notified them, the dozens of witnesses would. He growled in frustration and looked back to yell at his pursuers. "Couldn't let me finish my coffee, could you?" He shed the jacket of his gray suit, revealing the revolver in his shoulder holster, and threw the jacket back at them, but nothing could slow them. A motorcar engine roared

nearby. There was no way Stone was going to outrun justice. Edwards pulled a small rectangular device from his jacket as he ran and shouted into it. "Mobile, Stone is armed! Intercept at Main and 4th!" Putting the device away, he yelled to his squad, "Hold your fire until the civilians are clear, and for God's sake try to take him alive!"

Stone ducked into the alley between the boardinghouse he'd been staying at and the sundry shop next door. The footfalls, the shouts, the gunfire, the engine, all were closing in on him - he needed a way out. He couldn't just run back to his room because men were likely waiting for him there. The boardinghouse was two stories high with a fire escape down the side. He had a slim chance of evading the agents by hiding on the roof... almost too slim, but slimmer had saved his life before. He dropped low, sprinted and sprang up toward the ladder, reaching for it desperately. His hands closed in a vice-grip around the bottom rung, and he pulled himself up quickly with his powerful arms. As he ran up the steps toward the roof, he glimpsed a black motorcar speeding up to block the alley from the other side. "I'm

never stopping for breakfast again," he grumbled.

On the street below, the car's engine cut out, and an uneasy silence fell upon the afternoon. Stone stood ready at the center of the roof, glancing around in all directions, wondering why he hadn't heard a police siren yet, and why he didn't hear the men in black shouting orders. He held his breath and listened intently. He could hear the scuffle of footsteps on the ground below, lots of footsteps, but he couldn't tell how many. Alone on the roof of a building in broad daylight with at least a dozen men in pursuit of him, but still no sirens... it didn't add up. This wasn't just about capturing him as a fugitive.

A loud clang jarred him from his thoughts. They had lowered the fire escape ladder. He could half feel them now, all scaling the ladder, the steps, soon to be on top of him. He drew his revolver. Stone had been on the run for almost 30 days, and he wasn't about to go down without a fight. Not back to the Vault. He leveled the weapon at the edge of the roof, right where the stairs led, waiting for the point man to come into the clear. No one was moving; excited whispers buzzed in the

air just below. Stone cocked the hammer of the revolver back. "I don't want to hurt you men, but there's no way I'm going back!" There was no trace of fear in his voice. It was the authoritative steel of a man used to being in charge and being good at it. He wasn't negotiating - he was giving orders. The agent who had demanded his surrender back at the diner, Edwards, came up the steps slowly, his hands in the air, apparently unarmed. He took a few steps forward but kept a safe distance from Stone.

"There is no escape, Mr. Stone. The building is surrounded, and my men are well armed. Our orders are to bring you back no matter what." Like Stone, Edwards sounded used to being in charge. Stone lowered his weapon and looked past Edwards. The alley between the boardinghouse and the pool hall was easily fifteen feet wide, probably more, with a one-story drop to the roof. If he was going to make a run for it, this was his only chance, and over a dozen armed men stood between here and there. He released the hammer of the revolver and took a hard look at the agent in front of him. They were about the same build: a little over six feet tall, broad-shouldered, strong,

Edwards exuded authority with his closely clipped black hair and stern, angular features, his lined face carved by experience. Stone might have easily been his older brother with his salt-and-pepper crew cut and face that had weathered twenty years of military service. He looked down at the revolver for a long moment. He didn't want to shoot Edwards. He was going to have to run for it.

In a single fluid motion, he whipped the pistol like a boomerang right at Edwards' head and broke into a sprint for the edge. Edwards, surprised, moved to dodge the pistol. Stone saw the entire ballet play out in the slow speed of a pleasant dream: his own arms pumping as he ran, sunlight gleaming on the gun-metal, the agent's hand closing around

the revolver as he ran by, and a sea of black suits waiting just over the edge of the roof. He squatted down low and leapt forward, but something went wrong. He found his legs flying out from beneath himself. He swung down towards the side of the building and hit the bricks like a wrecking ball, knocking the wind out of him. Dazed by the impact, he squinted up through the sunlight to see what had happened. He heard the familiar click of his own revolver. As his eyes focused, he found himself staring down its barrel, and on the other end was Agent Edwards, holding him by the wrist. "As I was saying," Edwards said, "your country is in need of you, Agent Stone."

TO BE CONTINUED:
Chapter 2: Pro Patria Mori!

Eden: sinking, again

Electronic screens are the hub from which much (90 percent?) of my sense of well-being originates. It is from these screens



Tim Coffield
Senior Staff Tim

these beautiful, magical monitors! - that my precious trifecta radiates: cable television, role-playing video games and "Internet" "chat" rooms.

From these I derive intense pleasure, but alas, as is the case with all Pleasurable Things (nail-chewing, Hardee's Thickburgers) such spastic rapture comes with a price. My screens are slowly destroying me, I'm certain, even as they are my sole inspiration for heaving myself from my bed each afternoon. But let us first celebrate my loves, then only later will we demonize them -

Oh, readers! to bask in the dim glow of a 3 a.m. rerun of "Full House!" The smartly subtle humor of Bob Saget plus the endearing charms of the Olsen twins (turning 18 on June 13, for those keeping track) make for the most euphoric sedation this side of hospital grade morphine.

If I had but one wish, my altruist heart would demand that

each of you, readers, had the opportunity to see the episode where D.J. falls in love with the paperboy, which gives Rusty the idea to play a prank on her by writing a "love letter" from a "secret admirer." But the trick backfires!!! Everyone in the house, from Stephanie to Danny, intercepts the letter and falls for it! Everyone but D.J., that is!! I laughed so hard!!! Really, it's the best episode of them all. Which is saying a lot. I think.

The beauty of the whole thing is, every time I hear that unmistakable jingle and realize the rolling credits are intro credits (and not ending credits), a wave of passionate satisfaction comes over me, which erodes away the stressful distractions of the daily grind. For example, last Thursday I forgot to pick my slow-moving grandmother up at the airport. Luckily, there was a TGIF marathon on all night, which I watched, and made myself forget I forgot. I hope she got home all right.

Of course, sometimes it's better to do something other than passively watch TV. I realize this. Sometimes, one needs to actively participate in one's life. This is why I'm so serious about my video gaming.

Often, I'm bitter I was born in such a boring time as this one. Honestly, I probably belong in medieval times. Back then, men

were really *men*; they, like, kicked each other's asses with big swords and metal balls, etc. Also, many people had magic powers. This is why The Legend of Zelda feels like home for me.

When I nestle my ergonomically advantageous controller between my sticky pink little hands, I'm transported back to a better place. My thumbs, they come alive, dancing gracefully across the buttons, delicately manipulating the rubber joystick. Meanwhile, the rest of me frolics, chest out, across sublimely majestic landscapes, rife with dangers and adventures, which I fearlessly confront. Such thorny hassles as bills, homework and private hygiene cease to be sources of stress. I am free - free to be myself, glorious and strong.

I know what you are saying. You are saying: "Tim, these things are all well and good, but what of social relationships? As the famous proverb goes: 'Man cannot live on the Olsen twins Internet photos alone.' Feel you no need for interpersonal connection?"

To this, I say: "Oh, silly readers, worry not your precious heads, for I have taken care of." Yes, it is true: I have discovered "Internet" dating "chat" rooms. See, I go to this Web site (only \$2.99 per hour), and I converse with actual attractive women for extended periods of time. How do I know they are attractive?

Because they tell me, right there on the computer.

I don't mean to brag, folks, but I seem to have become quite the stud: the girls never want to stop talking to me! I'm like, "baby I gotta go" and they're like "noooo keep talking to me! I luv u!" and I'm like "but..." and they're like "guess what? I'm not wearing underwear!" So, I stay, and type to them for a few more hours. I mean, I gotta give the ladies what they want! (wink, wink.)

Oh, but readers, like Adam's fateful fruit, my delicious electronic TV and PC screens have (the irony!) proven to be my downfall. They are ruining my vision, so says my optometrist.

I'm going to have to get stronger contacts. This, I realize, is vaguely poetic: now, it will take looking into extra screens (lenses) for me to look at my beloved original screens, which themselves precipitated the need for the new screens in the first place.

In retrospect, I'm now sort of glad I wasn't born in medieval times. I'd be dead meat for sure. Since corrective lenses had not yet been invented, I'd never see the giant swords swinging at my head.

First on Tim's New Year's resolution list: stop procrastinating. He will complete the list later. Contact: tcoffie@ncsu.edu





Student Help Wanted!

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MicroThermics, located in North Raleigh on Wellington Ct., needs two students for part time positions of up to 30 hours per week. Work schedules are flexible around school schedules. Pay is from \$9.50 per hour based on experience, and you must have your own car.

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

CAN I GET A RECEIPT PLEASE?

OUR OPINION: THE NCAA, AMID CONCERNS THAT THE MONEY IS BEING USED FOR ILLICIT ACTIVITIES, SHOULD TIGHTLY REGULATE SCHOOL MONEY USED FOR ENTERTAINING ATHLETIC RECRUITS.

Student-athletes are among the most respected and envied students at a university. Through their performance on the field or court, they bring national recognition and millions of dollars to their respective colleges. All this is possible because the National Collegiate Athletics Association regulates what student-athletes and universities can and cannot do in order to "level the playing field" so to speak.

Recruiting players is an integral part of any athletics program. Prospective recruits are allowed five official visits to schools of their choice. Part of the visit is entertaining the recruit. The university's athletic department can provide up to \$30 to a host player for entertainment

purposes, as per NCAA regulations. The only regulation spelled out is that money cannot be used for T-shirts or institutional mementos. In most cases, the money is used for movies, bowling and meals.

But some former athletes have attested that the money is being used for other things, such as alcohol and strippers. Former football players at Duke have said they would chip in and rent strippers for the evening and former athletes here at N.C. State have said they have taken recruits to keg parties.

This becomes a legal problem because most recruits are underage, even too young to get into a strip club. The NCAA says it is up to the individual universities to oversee where the money is spent. Most coaches require a receipt to be turned in at the end of the visit.

At N.C. State, the host player is required to sign a verification form, stating the \$30 was spent.

Some coaches require receipts from

their players. Others, like football coach Chuck Amato do not.

Free money to buy alcohol and strippers to impress a recruit is intolerable, by any standards.

When athletes are using the money to buy strippers, university administration, and the NCAA, should do something about it. A blanket regulation should be put into place, applicable to all schools, stating specifically what the entertainment money cannot be used for and require receipts to prove where the money was spent. If the host players do not comply, scholarships should be revoked and the offending players suspended from play. Coaches also should be held responsible for their player's behavior. N.C. State needs to step up and enact a more stringent policy in the spirit of fairness to all students.

The NCAA claims they "can't regulate everything." But when student-athletes are paying for booze and strippers for minors, the NCAA is obligated to act on it.

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The last first day

Abbie Byrom reflects on her last first day of school and the life she will lead after graduation.

The hustle and bustle of the holidays has come and gone, and I have forgotten most of what was sitting under my Christmas tree. 2004 is already old news, and New Year's is over. I am back into my normal "start of the semester" routine: buying books, supplies, dreading another 16 weeks of classes. Then it hits me. Like a dead weight sinking to the bottom-



Abbie Byrom
Senior Staff Columnist

less depths of my

to think of it, I may start paying off professors to write me stellar recommendations. Basically, I just want a job. I think, that I am now like every other senior on campus, nervous about the prospect of life without the safety net of college. From now on, (after graduation that is) I cannot just skip work when I feel like it...and then e-mail my professor with a bad excuse to get credit for whatever I missed... (don't lie, we've all done it). I can't stay up all night long and go to work on an hour of sleep. I can no longer go out on a Wednesday and Thursday night. I am about to find out, in 16 short weeks, exactly what it is like to live in the "Real World." Yeah, you're right...I'm scared. No, take that back...I'm terrified.

stomach, it hits me. Monday is my last first day of school. Monday marks the beginning of the end for me. Monday starts the onset of a multitude of anxiety attacks and undue stress when I start to think of my upcoming financial responsibility and the need to find a job - any job, just somewhere that will put me on a payroll since I hold a piece of paper that says I "graduated." I could reminisce about my times here at N.C. State, but I still have a semester of memories to add to that infamous "I'm graduating, this is my last column" column. Instead, I want to talk about the panic attack I am having over the idea of starting my last semester here at State.

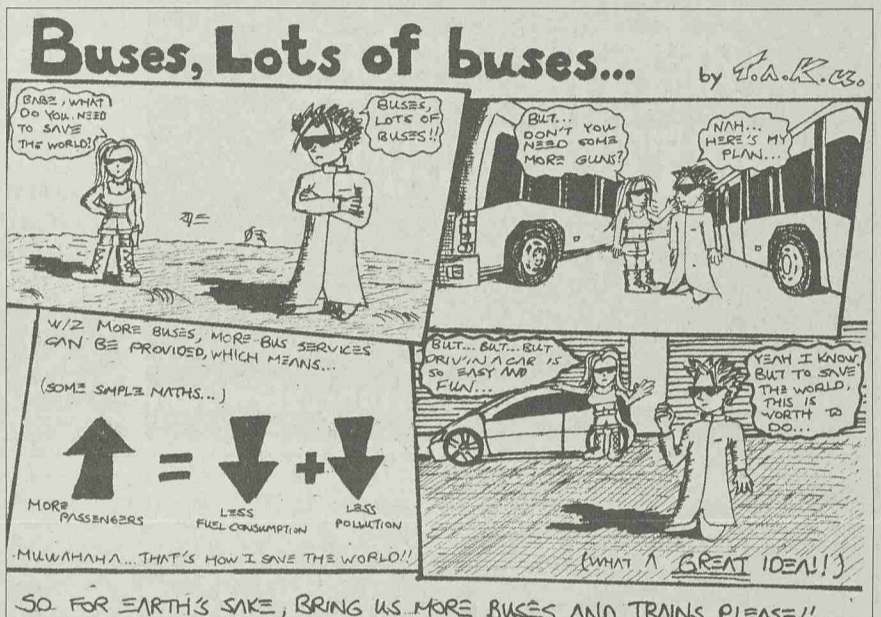
"That feeling in the pit of my stomach is getting worse. Graduate school? Job? Become a bohemian and globetrot for a year?...I have no idea what comes next, or what I want to come next. Other than a big graduation party, lots of checks and maybe a new car."

All of a sudden, I realized this is it. I have one more semester of basketball games, bad teachers, lines at the Atrium, late hours in the library and staring at the multitude of red brick surrounding me.

However, I now have this frenzied desire to fix the resume I should have done a year ago and post it on every job Web site I can think of. I feel like going door to door to let employers know that I am definitely available at whatever price they are willing to pay - but then again, that might be considered a form of prostitution. Come

next, or what I want to come next. Other than a big graduation party, lots of checks and maybe a new car. Fantasies aside however, I have to start looking at options, jobs and grad schools, and it makes me realize this semester will be like no other and college will never be the same again. My career as a party and bar hopping socialite is over, it is time for me to grow up and become...gasp...an adult. Wish me luck. I wish all of you luck, too.

E-mail Abbie your comments on graduation and life afterward at viewpoint@technicianstaff.com



Stick-To-It-iveness

Zack Medford learns from his hilarious mistakes and encourages others to own up to theirs, no matter what.

I think that our generation has a lot to prove. Thanks to the increased weight problems facing our society and our short attention spans, our generation is perceived more and more as apathetic to the world around us. They think we don't care about what goes on in our world, and that we're more willing to do what we've always done than to try anything new.

I disagree; from the moment I got here, I've seen people who will do anything for a cause they believe in. I've seen a girl spend every single spare second of her life fighting to keep tuition affordable for underprivileged students - and she's on a full scholarship. I've seen a guy work day in and day out to make sure that his residents actually feel comfortable at their new, huge university - and he's only been here for one semester. I think the one thing that holds us back is the fear of making mistakes. It's easier to drift through life doing what everyone else does rather than to stand up for something you believe in.

In my life, I have made a lot of mistakes. When I was just a cute young little boy, I realized quickly that mistakes happen and you have to live with them. When I was 8-years-old, I really truly wanted a new bike for Christmas. My friend Alex had just gotten a sweet, new bike from his parents for his birthday, and it had like a million gears. My crummy old bike had a mop handle where the extra bar was supposed to go. Yeah, it was my sister's old bike. So, I wanted a new bike for Christmas really bad, and one night I told my dad how good I was going to be to get it. I started doing

all my chores before I was asked, and I stopped cussing out in the backyard even if I thought no one could hear me. Things were going pretty good! Even my mom noticed that my 'accuracy' had improved in the bathroom. Unfortunately, that December I learned that I could jump from the toilet upstairs holding a plunger, and hang from the ceiling. Well, I live in an extremely old house (we're talkin' 80 years) and the ceilings weren't really made to support a child's weight while he was hanging from a plunger. The fact that mildew had weakened the ceiling beyond repair didn't really help matters. So, one fateful day I plunged to the ceiling, going for a record hanging time. The ceiling gave way; I fell to the ground and quickly began to cry. My mother heard the noise and ran upstairs to see what the matter was, but I was quicker than she was. I slammed the door shut before she could see what happened, and wouldn't let her in. I did continue to cry loudly however, and for two agonizing hours, I refused to open the door. Safe to say that my mother caught me, tanned my hide until it was red, and the next day the plaster man paid an expensive visit to the Medford household. I learned quickly that you can't ever hide anything from mama.

At first, I figured it was pointless to even try to be good again. I'd destroyed our ceiling and really pissed my parents off. Not even a lifetime of proper bathroom etiquette could get me that bike now.

On the last day of school before winter break, we made snowflakes in class. I gave my mom the snowflake

because it was stupid and I didn't want it. For some reason though, she didn't think it was stupid at all. In fact, she thought it was wonderful and she smiled the rest of the day. That's when I realized that maybe I still had a chance to get that bike. Instead of giving up and going back to being the little bastard of my past, I kept trying to be as good as possible.

The point of that story is that life goes on. We all make mistakes every single day of our lives, and it's easy to be caught up in them. The important

thing is that you learn from your mistake, and you make damn sure it never happens again. Basically, when you blow it, admit it. So, you screwed up and your girlfriend caught you cheating on her with the waitress from the Waffle House. Call her and apologize, and remember to never cheat on the next girl who gives you a chance. Don't give up though. There are a lot of things that are wrong with our university, our city, and our nation. When I lost my election, the only thing I could think of at first was to just quit. I wanted to find some way to hurry up and graduate, and forget about the whole thing.

Well, you know what? I'm not going to quit fighting for what I believe in because the system doesn't agree. I will never quit. Philip Rivers hasn't given up just because we didn't make it to a championship or win the Heisman. Jimmy V didn't give up when he was diagnosed with cancer. We all go to N.C. State, and we will never give up.

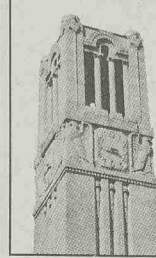
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Zack Medford
Senior Staff Columnist

"I'm not going to quit fighting for what I believe in because the system doesn't agree."

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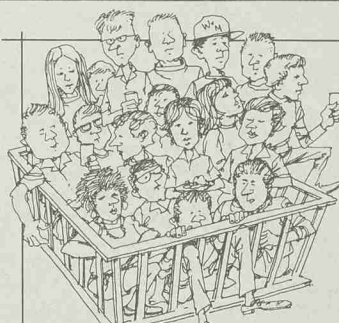


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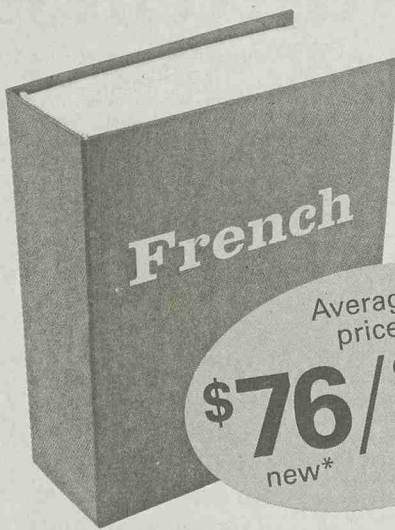
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Wrestling at North Carolina, 1/14
Gymnastics at Pittsburgh, 1/16
Swimming and Diving, 1/17

TECHNICIAN



Turnaround time

Dealing with talk about being fired has become a rite of passage for Herb Sendek during his career at State. Since implementing his offensive system in 2001, the basketball team's season has become more predictable than an episode of "The O.C."



Austin Johnson
Commentary

Start the season by beating teams with names like Wolford and Fairleigh Dickinson. Struggle against

teams that are mediocre at best. Lose an ugly game or two to an inferior opponent, especially on the road. Listen to State fans call for Sendek to be publicly executed - I mean fired as basketball coach. Win a big game against a top-10 opponent. Watch State fans shut up. Make the NCAA tournament.

Repeat. Until this year, I was one of the vocal majority that would jump on the anti-Sendek bandwagon. But this season he's finally won me over - I even went so far as to describe him as "fired up" during the BYU game. In the past, I've used the phrases "fired up" and "Herb Sendek" together about as much as Rick Hilton uses the words "my daughter Paris" and "proud."

This year has convinced me of something I never thought I would see myself write: Herb Sendek is a good coach. What he's accomplished the last two seasons is hard to argue with. Two years ago Sendek was starting two freshmen and implementing a completely new offensive system - but it wasn't even Christmas before the N.C. State faithful were trying to put him out of a job after ugly losses to Ohio State and Massachusetts.

The team responded by beating two top teams on the road, Syracuse and Virginia. The Wolfpack didn't lose to an unranked opponent from that point on that season, losing the ACC tournament final to Duke and coming within a Caron Butler of making the Sweet 16.

Last year was rocky all around after State's best all-around player, Anthony Grundy, left, but fans became particularly unhappy after a bad home loss to Boston College.

State then went out and beat rivals Duke and Carolina at home to squelch the complaints. It survived the rest of the regular season, and then beat Wake Forest in the ACC tournament before being torched by Duke's J.J. Redick in the finals.

The Pack got back into the NCAA tournament only to lose a heart-breaking overtime game to California. This year the calling for Sendek's removal seemed to be as loud as ever after the road loss to South Carolina. He lost his only inside presence in CBA first-overall draft pick Josh Powell, along with his point guard and best perimeter defender in Clifford Crawford - but his detractors still wanted him out.

Once again, the team responded by winning against previously unbeaten Virginia, blowing out an above average BYU team and escaping Florida State with a win.

Can State fully repeat its performances from the last two years? It has three games against top-10 teams this month to try.

I've ragged on Sendek as much as anyone in the past, but the fact remains that he's consistently gotten the job done.

State has come a long way from the Les Robinson invitational days, coming off two ACC tournament final appearances and two NCAA tournament appearances.

And for a good week or so more, Sendek has earned some quiet about his job security.

Austin Johnson can be reached at 515-2411 or atjohns2@unity.ncsu.edu.

CASHING IN ON RECRUITS

STORY BY JON PAGE

In between practices, games and meetings, college coaches across the country in all sports are currently driving and flying distances short and long to woo, plead and possibly even beg high school seniors to run with the Wolfpack, roll with the Tide or roar with the Tigers next year.

Included in the process, recruits are allowed to make up to five official visits to different schools where they stay with current student-athletes for a weekend. For each day a recruit stays on campus, the school is allowed to give the host player up to \$30 to cover entertainment expenses.

But according to current and former athletes from schools big and small, student-athletes often abuse that privilege. And without a clear-cut policy to regulate the use of the money, the NCAA is effectively letting its institutions write their student-athletes blank checks that often pay for alcohol on a Friday night or provide spare change for the player and recruit.

THE RULE

Rule 13.02.5.1 of NCAA Division I rules under "Permissible Recruitment Activities for Enrolled Student-Athletes" does not specify what qualifies as "entertainment," but NCAA spokesperson Kay Hawes said the \$30 could cover the cost of a trip to the movies or food, among other things.

"There might be parking fees, there might be different things that they need and it would be an undue burden on the players to ask them to entertain recruits and to not provide them with any money for expenses," Hawes said.

As for restrictions, the rule only states two: "these funds may not be used for the purchase of souvenirs such as T-shirts or other institutional mementos."

STRIPPERS AND BEER

"Usually when a freshman comes they don't want to drink, but they at least want to go out to a club," said a former East Carolina football player.

"Host players would use it to buy beer, though. Some people said you could take them to a movie, but I don't know if anybody ever took a recruit to a movie."

At Duke, student-athletes sometimes bring the show to their own living rooms.

"If there were about 20 recruits coming into town for the weekend, each player that had a recruit would throw in \$10 [from the recruiting money we received] and we would get a stripper," said a former Duke football player. "But that's what the money is for - entertainment. There's nothing else to do in Durham in the winter so we've got to do something."

And sometimes the player just puts the money away for a rainy day.

"We would take the recruit to a keg party, get cups for free and that \$30 would usually end up in our pocket," said an ex-wrestler from N.C. State.

As for the notion that the money should be used for food, the ex-Pirate said that was hardly a necessity since the athletic department supplies most of the recruits' meals.

"You eat the whole time that you're here," he said. "The first night you and your family go to a steakhouse and eat. In the morning you eat with a coach, for lunch you usually eat at the strength center or facility. For dinner you eat at another restaurant."

ACCOUNTABILITY

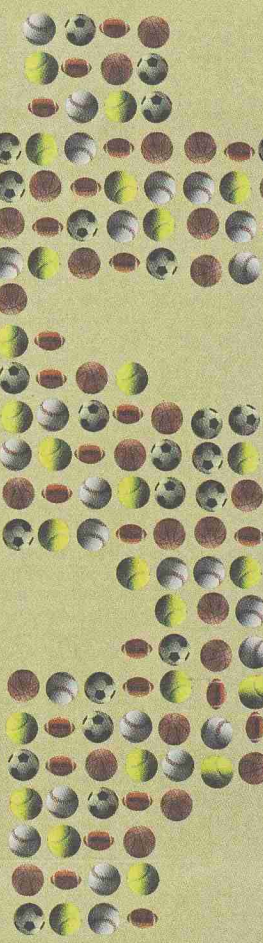
The NCAA mandates that schools account for receipts if a coach takes a recruit and his or her family to dinner, but does not require schools to collect receipts from the student-athletes to confirm how they spend the money intended for entertainment purposes. Instead, Hawes said that individual schools are trusted to regulate how the student-athletes spend the money.

"There are a bunch of big rules in the manual that say you have to have a compliance program, you have to have institutional control, you have to run a responsible system," Hawes said. "It's up to the institution to manage their compliance and to decide how to do that. An institution has some latitude in what they think is appropriate for their situation."

N.C. STATE'S POLICY

Many schools require coaches in every sport to collect receipts from the players while other schools, like State, leave the decision up to the individual coaches.

Some coaches, like swimming coach Brooks Teal and volleyball coach Mary Byrne, require their



Recruiting regulations

NCAA rule 13.02.5.1, under the heading "Permissible Recruitment Activities for Enrolled Student-Athletes" states student-athlete hosts may receive:

- A maximum of \$30 for each day of the visit to cover all actual costs of entertaining the prospect ... excluding the costs of meals and admission to campus events. These funds may not be used for the purchase of souvenirs ...
- A complimentary meal ...
- A complimentary admission to a campus athletics event ...

players to turn in receipts. Football coach Chuck Amato does not require players to return with receipts from the weekend's purchases.

According to Jon Fagg, Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance at State, after the football recruit goes home, the host football player signs a statement verifying that he spent all of the \$30.

"Everything is documented," Director of Football Operations Bob LaCivita said. "We go through regimented procedures. It involves everything." But when asked to elaborate on what the specific "regimented procedures" were, LaCivita declined further comment.

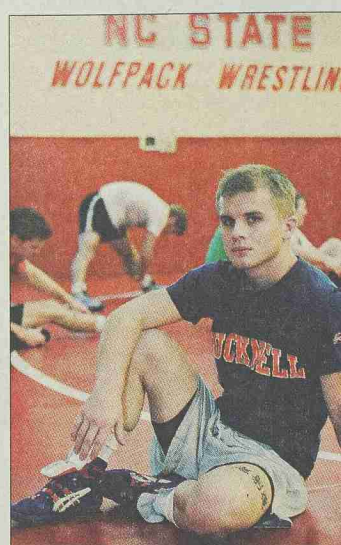
Though several current and former State players have privately admitted to using the money to pay for alcohol, Fagg contends that such behavior doesn't exist at State.

"The kids don't have any [wrong] intentions," Fagg said. "They don't need it. It doesn't benefit them anyways. They don't have any reason to go out there and buy the recruit something they shouldn't."

"They're signing a statement saying that they won't. So [they won't do it] unless they're going to lie, in which case they have committed an ethical conduct violation."

RECRUITS see page 7

WRESTLING



Jeremy Hartrum shows his intensity during a recent practice.

Small guy delivers big results

Jeremy Hartrum is ready to anchor the 125-pound weight class for State.

Jay Kohler
Senior Staff Writer

College wrestling, especially N.C. State's program, is perpetually pushed into the shadows by the bigger and more profitable football and basketball teams. So, it could be assumed that when most State students hear about wrestling, their first thoughts are of Hulk Hogan, WWE or body slams being delivered by huge men leaping from the corner ropes.

Imagine then, a wrestler weighing in at a mere 125 pounds wrestling against another man of the same weight. Some might yawn and ask if one of the wrestlers could hit the other with a chair to make it more interesting. Those people are dead wrong.

Jeremy Hartrum, a redshirt freshman from Pennsylvania is here to prove that. Hartrum enters this year taking over a position that had been dominated by George Cintron since the 1999-2000 season. In the 125-pound weight class, quickness is the key and Cintron was like lightning on the mat. It's a good that that Hartrum also possesses that quickness. Yet, he doesn't want to be Cintron part two. He's out to create a name for himself.

"George has great stuff. I worked out with him last year so it helped me out," Hartrum said. "I'm not saying that I can live up to his expectations but I want to accomplish some of the things that he was unable to accomplish. He never made All-American but I'd like to do that. I don't know if I'll ever be George Cintron but I want to do all that I can."

Hartrum grew up knowing that wrestling wasn't the realm of Ric Flair and company. Real wrestling was what he knew. He attended matches featuring his uncle before he was in preschool.

"I've been into it ever since," Hartrum said. "I've got it in my blood. My Dad wrestled also, so I started wrestling, too."

In high school, Hartrum was a North Carolina state champion in 2002. He admits quickly that it is his greatest wrestling accomplishment to this day, but he regrets that he was unable to win multiple state titles while in high school. Hartrum left Wilson High School with 148 wins, which was the most in school history, while compiling only 24 losses.

In college, Hartrum started out at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania. He didn't stay long, however, and quickly decided to transfer to State. Unfortunately, his decision cost him and he had to sit out last season because Edinboro did not release him.

"[Wrestling] is a lot bigger up there," Hartrum said. "I'm biased, so I think Pennsylvania is the best wrestling state. Crowd-wise, it is big. Once you wrestle there, you come down here and there isn't really the crowd support. You aren't shocked by anything, because you've been around the big crowds."

Hartrum got his career with the Pack off on the right foot by beating Drew Forshey of North Carolina 7-4 at the Southern Scuffle, which was

HARTRUM see page 7

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