

HIPPO increases hall spirit in Hunt

By: AHMED ZAEEM

The Hunt Intramural Ping Pong Organization (HIPPO) is taking Hunt Dormitory by storm.

"It originally started as a joke, but has developed into an underground ping pong league", says senior Zach Herbst.

Herbst is the CEO of HIPPO, along with junior Corey Su. As opposed to the already chartered Ping Pong Club, HIPPO does not have any ties to the school or student government: it is completely student run.

Here's how it works. As its name suggests, HIPPO is exclusive to residents of Hunt Dormitory. Each residence hall picks its top three ping pong players, known as champions. These three then compete against champions from other halls in scheduled matches.

The matches take place at midnight every Friday and Saturday at the home team's

arena.

The number one seeds from each team play each other, as do the number two and three seeds. Matches are played in a best of three game format; each game goes to eleven points, alternating serve every two points.

At the end of the three matches, the team with the most wins is declared the winner of the match. Each match is refereed by "certified" HIPPO officials.

In addition to the champions, there is a coach for each team. Coaches are responsible for determining seeding and also serve as figureheads for their halls.

They are also given the ability to call up to two timeouts per player to slow down the opposing player when they are on a streak. Coaches can also offer tactical advice to their players when they see a potential strategy.

Each hall will play every other hall only once. At the end of regular season play, there will be four top teams who compete in the HIPPO playoffs.

The hall that wins the playoffs will be the Hunt Intramural Ping Pong Champions. Although this organization is exclusive to Hunt, Herbst wants to organize a Hunt vs. Hill All-Star match where the top players from each dormitory compete.

There is also potential for a Hunt East vs. Hunt West All-Star match that follows similar guidelines.

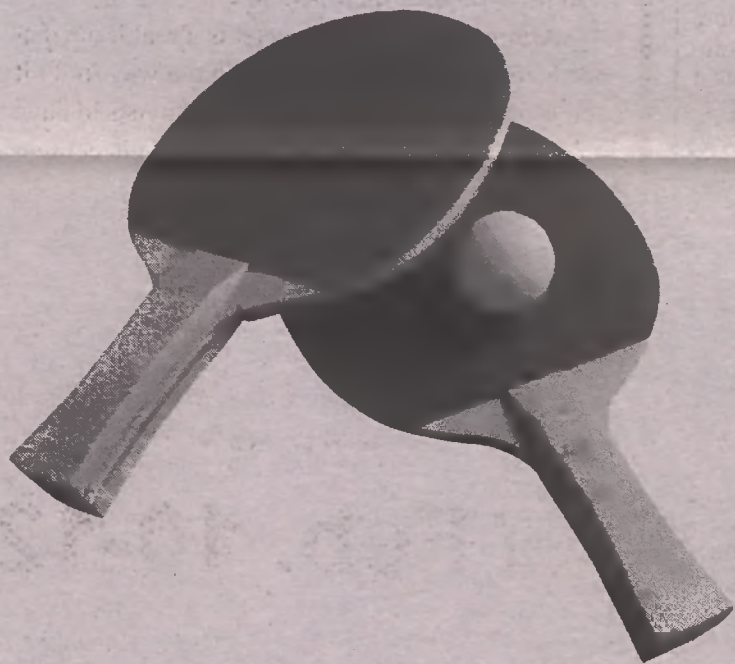
Herbst is pleased with the development of the organization and how the players and fans are so involved. Arenas (in the lounge of the hall) are normally filled with fans cheering on their halls to victory.

Herbst would like to keep HIPPO an underground league because it allows for the students to do what they want with it.

Chartering the club would require a sponsor and would require a change in the match times. In addition, chartering the club would mean that it would be available to all students, but since it's HIPPO (H being Hunt),

Herbst would like to keep it as an unofficial student run organization.

With the season still in full swing, it's hard to tell who's going to take the championship. But according to the most recent standings, Hunt Fourth West is at the top.



Courtesy of HIPPO

Key Club gives back

By: JOY HILL

One of NCSSM's core values is the tradition of donating time and effort to those in need. Community service occupies a huge time segment of many students' schedules, especially those who actively participate in service organizations on campus.

stories and memories, or read poetry to the group.

Also starting this year will be loops to volunteer at the Durham Rescue Mission. Duties there will include serving meals to the hungry and offering aid in the thrift shop.

Key Club isn't just about service; it is also about



Seeds Educational Garden.

Courtesy of TarHeelFoodie.com

One way to get involved is through the NCSSM Key Club. Key Club meets once a month to discuss its monthly activities, but also hosts a variety of year-long service opportunities.

Every Wednesday at 4:45, a group of students participate in SEEDS, where they tutor children in whatever subjects they may need help in.

This service opportunity has been a part of the NCSSM Key Club for the last few years, and has a solid group of 10-15 students who participate every week.

A new activity to the club this year is visiting the Durham Center for Senior Life, which are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. A small group of 5-10 students visit the senior participants to share

awareness.

Each month will have a theme "issue" the club wants to showcase to the student body. February will consist of informing the student body about the hungry not only in North Carolina, but all around the world.

NCSSM frequently strives to stress the importance of volunteering and giving back to the local and national communities. Key Club's mission is just that.

Have an idea for Key Club? An issue you'd like to raise awareness for? An event your previous high school's Key Club sponsored that NCSSM should be involved in? Send an email to ncssmkeyclub@gmail.com or join the Facebook page today.

NBA lockout comes to an end

By: CARL YIN

After months of intensive talks between NBA team owners and the NBA players union, a settlement was finally reached on Dec. 8.

Even before training camps started this season, owners and players were negotiating on the new collective bargaining agreement, a contract between the NBA team owners and the NBA players union that decides financial decisions within the league.

The major issue regarding the new collective bargaining agreement between the owners and players was player salaries.

Due to the economic trauma currently affecting the United States, owners were losing money and wanted to cut player salaries by as much as 40%.

Eventually, both sides arrived at an agreement after

several months.

On Dec. 25, the NBA

regular season restarted. The lockout lasted five months,

but not without consequences.

The regular NBA season was shortened by almost two months. The regular season this year now contains 66 games, as opposed to the normal 82 games. This is to allow the season to fit in the new allotted time frame.

Though the lockout only lasted two months of the regular season, its impact was felt across the country.

Seasonal arena workers were out of jobs and had to struggle to pay their bills. TV stations such as ESPN and TNT lost nearly a billion dollars on advertisement revenue. NBA clothing and gear sales took a temporary plunge, as well.

However, with a new deal reached and the NBA financial future looking positive, the season is in full swing again.



NBA league commissioner David Stern announces the end of the NBA lockout.

Courtesy of BET