

Tactics for term papers

By TARA REINHART
Staff Writer

Paper-wad piles obscure trash cans. Stacks of musty-smelling books dominate desks. Dictionaries and thesauruses leave their shelves to assume rare, prostrate positions. Kroger's sells all its erasable-bond typing paper.

People enter Davis Library for the first time. The Undergraduate Library looks like a K Mart in mid-December. The click, click, click — ding — of typewriters and occasional profanities echo out windows.

It's that time of the semester. Having to write term papers fits in the sure-thing category with death and taxes. People handle the torture differently. "Half the time I wander aimlessly around the library," said Steven Valentine, a freshman from Scarsdale, N.Y. He does this to procrastinate or because he cannot find the research materials he needs, he said.

"It's really frustrating, because a lot of people are writing research papers right now," said Kelleigh Smith, a freshman from Wilmington. "The library is just scrambled."

Smith said she armed herself with a long list of books before looking for sources. She said she found few of the books she needed.

The professor who assigned the paper told students to start early, Smith said, to allow for research time.

Hank Powell, director of the University Reading and Study Skills Program, said people should plan far ahead before trying to write term papers.

A good guide is to double the time it takes to complete a paper, Powell said. This leaves time for problems that may arise, he said.

People always should begin with an outline, Powell said. "The reality is that most people just start writing and don't have a clear plan. We've all done one the night before it's due."

Bert Harrill, a senior from Winston-Salem, said he wrote each piece of a detailed outline on a separate notecard. He

then spreads the cards on his floor in outline form.

"I make my room a mess," he said.

By using the floor and notecards, Harrill said, he could rearrange his paper as often as necessary in minimal time. Since this organizes his paper so well, Harrill said, he usually writes only one draft.

"I've gotten away with it for four years," he said. "You're not supposed to do that."

Greg Needham, a junior from Charlotte, said he wrote out ideas and developed a thesis before beginning the body of a paper.

"I always have a specific plan," he said. "After that I'm fine to go and write."

"Any good paper," Powell said, "needs to have at least a couple of drafts. That takes time."

Students should put their ideas on paper as a first draft, he said. "Then, rework, cut, paste, x-out sections and move things around."

The Reading Program keeps drafts of professionally written works on file to show students the effort that goes into a good paper.

"If students could see the amount of rewriting and scratching out and dissecting that goes into a piece of professional writing," Powell said, "they'd see the value of taking time."

Teresa Smith, a freshman from Wadesboro, said she set deadlines to keep ahead of the schedule her professor set.

"Once you're behind, you'll have to do a rush job, and it shows," Smith said.

"I'm a bad procrastinator," Valentine said.

When attempting to write, he said, he sometimes takes breaks by spinning in a swivel chair. He also picks edges off spiral notebook paper and uses them as spit wads. "Sometimes I spit them into the air and try to catch them in my mouth," he said.

Quinton Smith, a junior from Alexandria, VA., said he delayed writing a paper by doing chores he ordinarily would not do.

"I write letters that I would never write," he said. "I do a lot of cleaning and organizing."

Smith said he waited until other assignments backed up and press him for time before he began a paper.

Students who have trouble starting term papers should refer to English 1 and 2 material, which provides the basics for writing a good paper, Powell said.

"For those who had English 1 and 2," he said, "don't forget what you did, and don't sell your handbook. It's all there."

Almost one in four adult Americans has high blood pressure. This amounts to 37,330,000 people according to an American Heart Association estimate.

American Heart Association



Burt Harrill, a senior religious studies major from Winston-Salem, sorting through his note card system

Surf's up and coming for student club

By MARTHA WALLACE
Staff Writer

A relatively new UNC club offers students fair-weather friends. The Surf Club organized last semester and is going strong.

The club now seeks a faculty adviser,

so it can gain official recognition.

"The Sports Club counselor wants us aboard as a club," said Brian Murray, club president. "It's just a matter of finding a faculty member willing to spend the time to do it."

Not having a club adviser hasn't stopped the club from meeting. "We meet once a week and watch videotapes of surf contests, which we review as a kind of training," Murray said.

The club also uses this information to enter surfing competitions. "We went to Cape Hatteras for a contest a couple of weeks ago and won a trophy," said club member Scott Smith. During the contest, two surf club members reached the semi-finals, and one reached the finals.

Most recently, the surf club competed against teams from UNC-Wilmington and East Carolina University, where they learned more tricks of the trade.

"It's good to meet people who know more and can teach you," said club member Jay Jones. "It's been great for me."

Occasionally a contest mixes partying with competition. Such is the case with the Wrightsville beach contest. This year, Surfabout had a \$25,000 purse, for which surfers from all over the East Coast competed.

The Surf Club was there. "Brian filmed Surfabout so we could review it later," Jones said. "We met a lot of the surfers, including one from Hawaii."

To non-surfers, Surfabout is known as one huge beach party, where hundreds gather at Crystal pier for cocktails and loud music.

The party may be one reason the contest meets in Wrightsville beach, known for its small surf. "The best surf on the East Coast is in the Outer Banks and Cape Hatteras," Murray said.

Another reason may be the commercial nature of Wrightsville beach. "The contest looks at how much merchandise can be sold in the area to the spectators," Jones said.

At least one club member has gained notoriety. Murray was photographed for the December issue of *Surfer* magazine. Club member Ward Callum, a contributing photographer for the magazine, submitted the picture.

Murray, who is from the Outer Banks, began surfing when he was in the sixth grade. But he doesn't expect all club members to have extensive surfing experience.

"Everyone in the club is at a different level," he said. "We have 18 members now and are seeking more."

Surfing can be therapeutic. "Whenever school gets stressful, I go surfing," Jones said. "It helps me to wind down, and when I get back, I feel totally relaxed."

Some trips to the shore, however, are unplanned. "Sometimes a big swell comes up in the middle of the week, and we all head to the beach," Jones said. "You have to be willing to travel to catch the big waves."

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