

NEWS



ARGUS

NEWS BRIEFS

Amtrak to Run Second Train

Sam Hunt, the state transportation secretary, announced earlier this month that the state will begin running a second train, The Piedmont, between its two largest cities, with seven stops (Cary, Durham, Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury and Kannapolis) on May 26.

The Piedmont and the other Amtrak train, The Carolinian, will offer round-trip daily service between the state capital and the population centers along Interstate 85.

"BOOK'EM"

A patented new Textbook Protection system called "BOOK'EM" hopes to put a stop to textbook theft. Manufactured by Virginia based "BOOK'EM", Inc. (a division of Collegiate Designs, Inc.), the system is based upon a proven concept in theft protection: benefit denial.

Removal of the owner's ID renders the textbook unsellable and therefore eliminates the incentive to steal it.

NC College Students Present Demands to State Legislature

BY KIMBERLY TERRY Staff Writer

There's a rumor going around that WSSU students and many students on other campuses are apathetic.

Well, apathy get out of the way! Two months ago students from Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina State University and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, marched to the state capitol in Raleigh to tell members of the legislature: No More Increases on Student Tuition At State Colleges and Universities.

In 1993, the General Assembly directed the Board of Governors to establish a 25 percent tuition surcharge for students taking more than 140 degree credit hours in a four year program or degree credit hours in a five year program. The General Assembly also directed the Board of Governors to ensure that students at each campus in the state of North Carolina averages 15 credit hours per semester.

Students in the UNC System, held a press conference where a representative from each school explained how this increase was affecting their college's campus.

Keith Diar, UNC-Chapel

Hill's representative said "NC students are no longer going to stand by and let the government have it's way. This is unprecedented and it's been a long time since students have gotten together for something like this."

Researchers have found that the N.C. Public College and University System is one of the best in the country and by passing the 25 percent surcharge would only decrease the quality of education in the state. The state legislature doesn't see the quality of education decreasing; they feel the surcharge will act as an incentive for college students to complete their education on time.

Shana McCatt, president of the N.C. Black Student Government Association, didn't see it that way. She wonders if "the Legislature took time to review the effects of it or was it an oversight when they concluded to place money before the education of our young adults?"

Student athletes will also be affected by the surcharge. The National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) minimum number of hours is 12 hours per semester (instead of N.C.'s proposed 15.) North Carolina athletes would be at a disadvantage in any national competition against athletes that could take

See March, page 3

Ram Watch: Is Watching You

BY DEVONA MCPHATTER Staff Writer

Have you ever felt a little nervous about making that short but somewhat dark walk back to Atkins, Dillard or Wilson Hall after leaving the library at night?

Well, WSSU has come up with a service that will eliminate some of your worries!

The Ram Watch has been created to help you. This idea was the brainchild of Joelle Davis and some influential Rams have helped this idea become a reality. The walking student service officially began in March.

Michael Harpe, a member of the student services staff

and Freshmen Class Advisor, took on another obligation when he decided to become the advisor for this service.

"My obligation was to create the escort service. The purpose was to get students to start helping students. This campus has a lot of people looking at the reactive stance of everything, instead of looking at the proactive stance," said Harpe. "What I mean by that is, everyone eyes are on what has happened in the past and the stage that we are in presently, no one looks ahead to the future. All I am trying to do is to get people interested in the future."

Harpe researched similar programs at ECU, UNC-

Greensboro and Appalachian State, that have such programs. He discovered that the programs had computers and the student volunteers received stipends. He then devised a program that would suit WSSU's budget.

Harpe and Alex Wood then held a sign-up drive in the Student Union, where over 50 students showed an interest about the program. Approximately two weeks later Harpe, Willie Cumbo and Thomas Leach, held the official orientation meeting for The Ram Watch. At this meeting the volunteers received safety tips and some very important do's and don'ts.



Michael Harpe

"The service runs Monday through Thursdays 5 P.M. to 12 A.M. and Friday through Sunday generally 5 P.M. to 1 A.M.," said Cumbo, the student union's night

See Ram Watch, pg. 3

INSIDE

- Being Blackpage 2
Softballpage 6
Student Loanspage 7
What's Cookingpage 9
Valarie Robbins.....page 11

Did You Know . . .

John "Jackie" Robinson retired from baseball in 1956. At the age of 37, he started a new career as a businessman. For eight years after retirement, he was vice president for personnel with Chork's Full O'Nuts, a chain of restaurants in New York City.