

ROUNDABOUT

NC STATE STUDENT MEDIA

Fall 2022

THE AGAINST ALL ODDS ISSUE



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- 05. From Plague to Prosperity
- 07. Notorious Underdogs
- 11. The Story of SolarPack
- 23. Instant Pot: The Legend

ROUNDAABOUT STAFF



BRAN POSTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



EMILY PEEDIN
PHOTO EDITOR



AUDREY JAVAN
COPY EDITOR



JOSHUA COBB
DESIGN EDITOR

EDITOR'S NOTE

ABOUT US

The newest NC State Student Media outlet, Roundabout is a glossy general interest magazine that covers student life, arts, and culture.

MAGAZINE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief	Bran Poster
Design Editor	Joshua Cobb
Photo Editor	Emily Peedin
Copy Editor	Audrey Javan
Adviser	Martha Collins

CONTACT

Phone	(919) 515-2411
Email	roundabout-editor@ncsu.edu
Office	307 Witherspoon Student Center
Director	Patrick Neal
Business Adviser	Zanna Swann
Sales	media-sales@ncsu.edu

THE COVER

SolarPack's car careens down the track July 8 at the Heartland Motorsports Park in Topeka, Kansas.

Photo by Bran Poster

Dear studious scholars, jaded box plotters and ludomaniacs,

I think Huckleberry Finn is overrated, but I've got to give it to Mark Twain for his legendary aphorism: "there are lies, there are damn lies and then there are statistics." Woe to anyone who is dissuaded from pursuing their dreams by numbers that show unlikely success. Where would Henry V be if he had decided to surrender before the battle of Agincourt because he had 8,000 soldiers to his opponent's 30,000? Where would Elizabeth Blackwell be if she had decided not to pursue a doctor of medicine degree because no other American woman had done so before her? A 99% chance of failure is still a 1% chance of success. Even if one doesn't achieve an improbable goal, they are often immortalized in the attempt. Inside this Against All Odds issue of Roundabout, you'll find stories of how chance can be overcome – and is being overcome – at NC State.

Teamwork (and opposable thumbs) enabled humans to become Earth's most dominant species, and likewise enabled Roundabout magazine to come into being. It is only through the combined effort of countless champions that we exist, and I am immensely grateful for all of them. Earsplitting shoutout to our indomitable photo editor Emily Peedin, who, in addition to captioning and correcting all our photos, assisted junior photographers at nearly every interview. Many thanks to our beast of a design editor Josh Cobb, the magazine version of Pygmalion, who has worked relentlessly to craft a publication that truly enamors its readers. Cyclopean laudation to our eagle-eyed copy editor Audrey Javan, who doesn't need a scope to hunt down ways to make writing more pristine. Kudos to Martha Collins, our sage adviser, whose counsel and wisdom kept my idiosyncrasies in check. Further thanks to Zanna and Tim over in the Student Media business office who fill our pages with ads and our bank balance with dough.

Thanks to Patrick, our benevolent leader. Thanks to all our interviewees, who let us into their spaces and answered our many questions. And last but definitely not least, many many thank yous to the supremely talented artists who graced this magazine with their efforts. Together, we have created a magazine that hopefully inspires you to follow your aspirations, no matter the odds.

To the Wolfpack with love,

Gerbrand (Bran) Poster, Editor-in-Chief





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A statue of Jim Valvano, former NC State men's basketball coach, stands beside Reynolds Coliseum Oct. 3. Valvano was known for leading the 1983 NC State men's basketball team to win the NCAA Championship against all odds.

Photo by Emily Peedin

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SECTION 1 —

Stories of the
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The Champions

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ACCESSIBILITY, RESPECTABILITY:

By Evie Shackles

NC State's Disability Resource Office

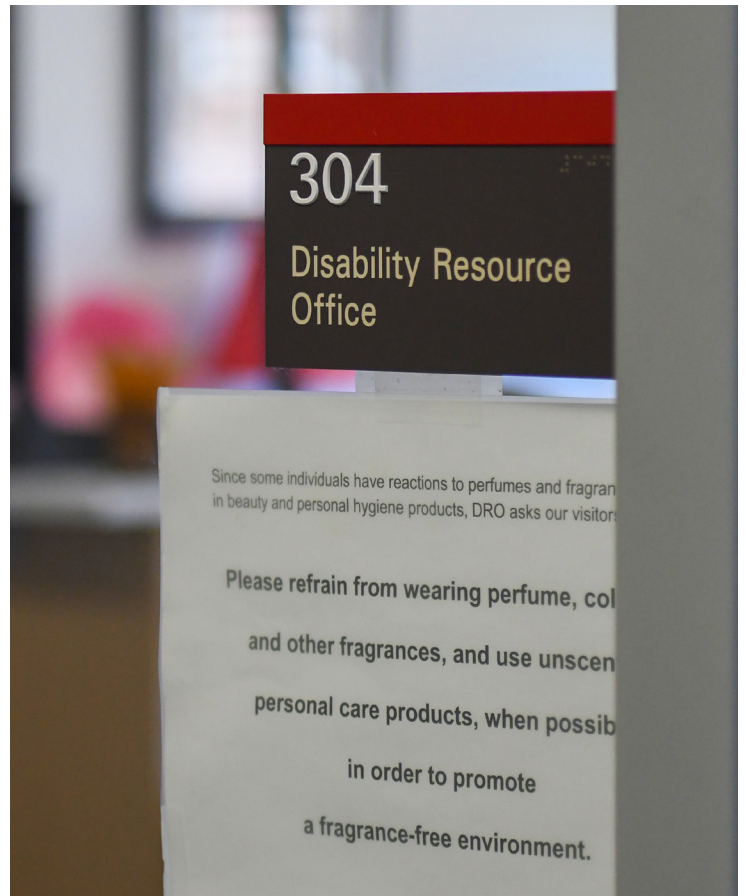
All students at NC State face challenges, whether those be time management, difficult classes or new relationships. Students with disabilities, however, have to face these challenges in a society that marginalizes them. Students in wheelchairs may struggle to travel around campuses built for the non-disabled. Students with learning disabilities may have a hard time comprehending assignments created by teachers who don't understand their needs. Some students may even have difficulty listening to their professors' lectures in classrooms designed without hearing assistance as a consideration. With so much ableism enmeshed into our culture, it can be extremely hard for these students to have equity with their peers. This is a problem that Mark Newmiller, the director of the Disability Resource Office, wants to solve.

Newmiller grew up in a rural town just north of Syracuse, New York. He babysat many of the kids in his neighborhood and helped them with their schoolwork. He enjoyed working with those kids, many of whom had disabilities, and those experiences inspired him to become a special education teacher. He moved to Raleigh in 2001, and two years later, he got a job at NC State with the Disability Resource Office. Since then, he has become the director of the DRO, and he works to make sure students at NC State who have disabilities can succeed in college — and in life.

“So what we do is we determine if a person is recognized as a person with a disability at NC State, and then what, if any, academic adjustments or policy modifications, otherwise known as accommodations, would be necessary,” Newmiller said.

Some accommodations the DRO provides are text-to-speech software, extra time on exams and microphones for professors so the student can hear better. These accommodations are meant to make things fair for students with disabilities while still making sure they are demonstrating the knowledge necessary to succeed in their career; it's not about giving them an easy A, as some might argue, but about putting them on equal footing with other students.

“The time it takes really isn't as critical as the knowledge being passed, right? So extended time: for someone with a learning disability, it's going to take them a lot longer to be able to read and comprehend what that test is asking before they can even start to process any answer. So they need more time,” Newmiller said.



The sign for the Disability Resource Office welcomes students Aug. 30 to Holmes Hall. The Disability Resource Office assists students with disabilities to receive accommodations.

Photo by Emily Peedin

He also acknowledges that in some cases, you can't give students certain accommodations. He gives the example of Veterinary School, where students might have to identify animal organs in a test. The DRO can't give students extra time on that test because they can't get extra time in real life.

"You only have a certain amount of time that you can have the animal open under anesthesia, that type of thing, so time is essential," he said.

In instances like that, the DRO works with instructors and students to see if there are any practical aid options available to them. Sometimes there are workarounds, and other times there aren't.

The DRO will try to accommodate where they can, but sometimes, students decide not to use them.

Newmiller thinks we can reduce that stigma by promoting awareness and making places more accessible, whether that be adding ramps for wheelchairs or just making people more aware of the resources available to help them.

NC State has come a long way. There's more awareness and acceptance of people with disabilities, which is helping to tear down the stigma. Also, according to Newmiller, more students with disabilities are coming to college now than would have considered it 10 years ago. Disabilities no longer have to hold students back. The DRO, along with all of us at NC State, can help achieve equity for students with disabilities against all odds.



Mark Newmiller, the Director of the Disability Resource Office, explains different accommodations available to students with disabilities Aug. 30 in Holmes Hall. Newmiller became a member of NC State's DRO team in January 2003.

Photo by Zach Needles

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FROM PLAGUE TO PROSPERITY:

By Max Nicely

Student Orgs. Recover from COVID

During the height of COVID-19, the leaders of student organizations shared the same concern: how do upperclassmen transition leadership to newer students when student engagement itself is plummeting?

“That definitely was a concern of mine. It still is. I think pre-COVID it was always a concern. During COVID it was much more so,” said Student Body Treasurer Harrison Andrews, who has served in the treasury department for almost four years now.



Harrison Andrews, a fourth-year studying political science and communication, smiles for a photo Sept. 12 inside Talley Student Union.

Photo by Max Nicely

Andrews is a fourth-year majoring in political science and communication, and it's his job as student body treasurer to help allocate money to student organizations through the appropriations process. So then, in many ways, it's not hyperbole to say he has had a rare front row seat into the chaos and severe inactivity that ensued in student organization microcosms here at NC State during the pandemic.

“We didn't spend our budget that much that fiscal year due to multiple reasons, including COVID stopping our appropriations process. We didn't do much as a student government. The fall of 2020 was our smallest appropriations cycle in the past 10 years,” Andrews said.

Less money going to student organizations in 2020 is hardly surprising. Stagnation wasn't just reflected in monetary statements — Andrews saw it as a leader in Student Government too.

“We had a hard time engaging with students just because everything was virtual and no one liked doing any extra Zoom than they already had to with ... online classes and stuff. I think coming out of COVID, at least last year, it was hard for many organizations to engage with students since a lot of stuff was still online. And there was still some hesitancy due to COVID, which is fair.”

Student engagement was at record lows, and when students' options were either to contend with yet another Zoom session or simply to forgo extracurriculars, many students chose the latter.

So all this begs the question, how are organizations doing now? Despite all that the Wolfpack has been through, it's clear to see that we're bouncing back!



Talley Student Union, pictured here Sept. 25, is used for a variety of purposes, providing students a place to eat, meet, and relax. Talley Student Union opened in 1972 and is located at 2610 Cates Avenue.

Photo by Emily Peedin

“We’re going to hope to give out about 160 to 170-ish thousand dollars this fall to student organizations through our fall appropriations cycle. So that’s the biggest amount yet for a single cycle, which I’m proud of,” Andrews said. As it turns out, a lot of money is effectively left over from the pandemic. Now it’s being put to use by new and rekindled organizations. What’s more, student organizations are seeing turnout that rivals pre-COVID levels. Student Government itself saw record attendance at one interest meeting for the fall 2022 student senate elections; around 50 people showed up, and many expressed their interest in the 10 open senate seats, something certain to ensure a competitive race. These numbers are in addition to all the engagement Student Government has been able to attain through events like

the Student Wellness Fair and Packapalooza.

Transitions of student leadership are now on the rise, too. “During COVID, seniors left and they wouldn’t tell the new officers what to do. So I think now we’re seeing much more interest from the current officers that went through that situation trying to have better record-keeping systems and processes, and trying to make future transitions as smooth as possible,” Andrews said.

Even though COVID upended student engagement, and despite the fact that the pandemic rages on in other parts of the world, at NC State, the horizons have never been brighter.



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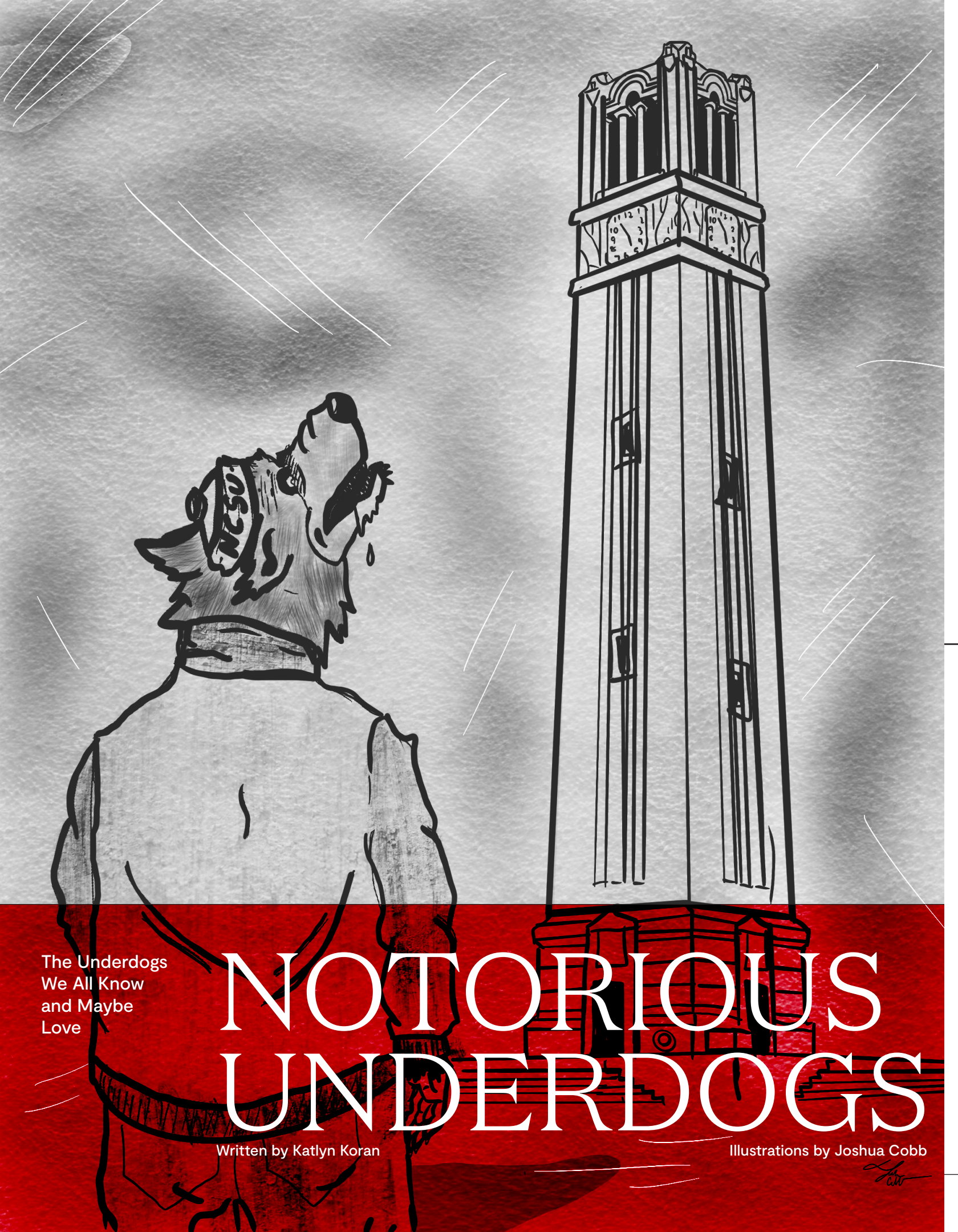
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The Underdogs
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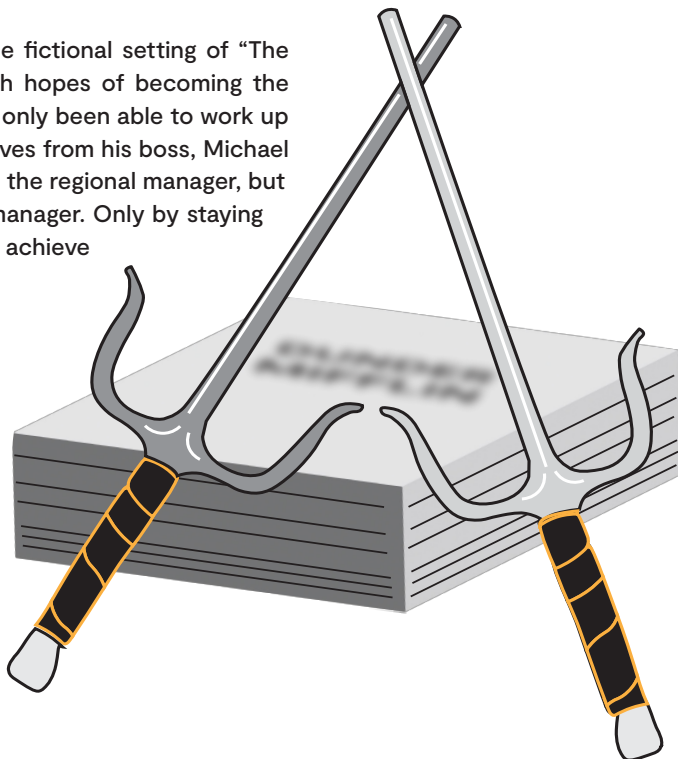
NOTORIOUS UNDERDOGS

Written by Katlyn Koran

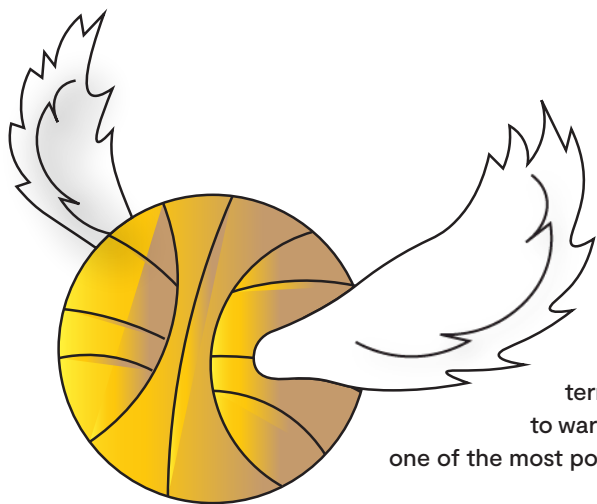
Illustrations by Joshua Cobb

Dwight Schrute

Dwight Schrute is an employee at Dunder Mifflin Paper Company, the fictional setting of “The Office.” He prioritizes selling paper over everyone — even himself — with hopes of becoming the regional manager of the Scranton branch. However, over the years, he has only been able to work up to the top salesman position; he still does not get the recognition he deserves from his boss, Michael Scott. Earlier in the show, Dwight receives the made-up title of assistant to the regional manager, but towards the end of the show, Dwight finally receives the title of regional manager. Only by staying true to himself in spite of all the forces trying to put him down did he finally achieve his dreams, and everyone came to recognize him for his talent.



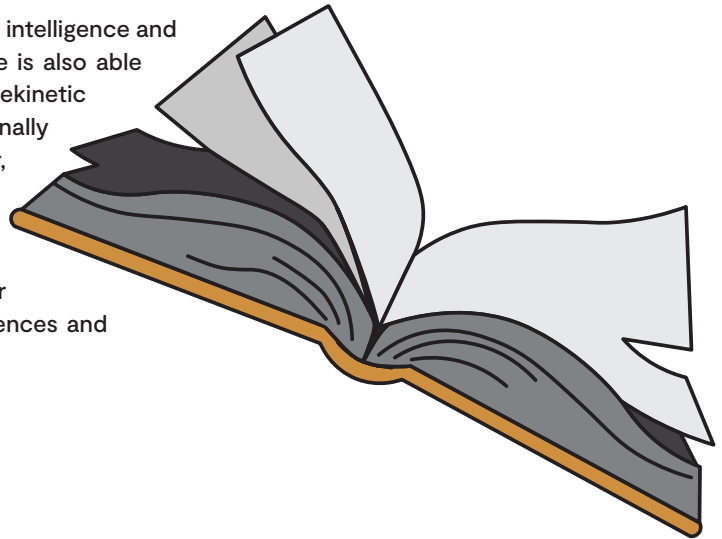
Harry Potter



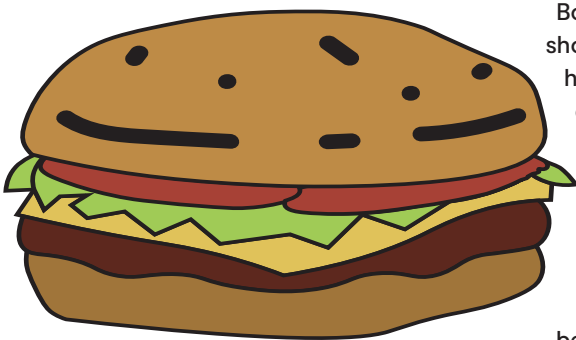
Harry Potter is one of the most well-known fictional underdog stories. Harry Potter came from quite literally nothing. After his parents were killed, he was adopted by a family who did not care for him at all, let alone love him. Harry's adopted family did not think he was worth any more than a mouse, not even good enough for a real bedroom until he was twelve, at which point he still wasn't good enough to be seen during a dinner party. Even when he moved to Hogwarts for school, there was never a point when he wasn't facing either targeted bullying or mortal danger. Anyone would find this a difficult environment, one not suited for a growing boy. Harry grew nevertheless. He fought to keep his head up through every bout of torment, teaching and terrific trauma, and in the end managed to raise himself up from forgotten orphan to war hero. Harry was raised to think he was less than nothing when in reality, he was one of the most powerful wizards in the world, equally loved by the good and feared by the evil.

Matilda

Matilda was neglected by her parents, who did not recognize her intelligence and verbally abused her regularly. But Matilda is not only intelligent. She is also able to control things with her mind. She would experiment with her telekinetic powers to escape the torture she endured at home. When Matilda finally started school, her intelligence was recognized by her teacher, Miss Honey. However, even at school she wasn't safe; Principal Trunchbull did everything in her power to make school agonizing for children, and it was up to the little bookworm Matilda to stop her. Although Matilda endured psychological abuse throughout her entire childhood, she was able to move past those negative experiences and save the school using her telekinetic powers.



Bob Belcher



Bob Belcher owns a burger restaurant where his family works and lives above. The show makes it clear that the burger restaurant is not very successful. Bob's Burgers has one consistent customer: Bob's good friend Teddy. Besides Teddy dining in every day, there are not many customers who enter the store. The show Bob's Burgers depicts Bob as a consistent underdog. Bob is in constant competition with the restaurant across the street, Jimmy Pesto's. It is clear that Jimmy Pesto's is the more successful restaurant, but Bob still perseveres to be on top. Although Bob's Burgers is struggling to stay afloat, he is still happy and puts all of his efforts into making the best burgers. Bob's story shows how you can be considered an underdog your entire life, but you can still make the most of it and be happy with where you are and what you have at the current moment in your life.

SECTION 2 —

The Science

Test tube tribulations
from around campus

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SOLARPACK of NC STATE

The Story of SolarPack: NC State's Solar Car Team Breaks Speed Record Against All Odds

By Bran Poster



Sean Harris, a third-year student studying mechanical engineering, works on the door of SolarPack's car July 2 at the Heartland Motorsports Park in Topeka, Kansas.

Photo By Bran Poster

Oscar Wilde, you are proven right once again: life does indeed imitate art far more than art imitates life. NC State's solar car team, SolarPack, proves it. This summer they competed in the Formula Sun Grand Prix (FSGP) and drove the fastest lap in the history of the competition.

The lap, three minutes and one second on a two-and-a-half mile track, was especially impressive given the countless challenges SolarPack faced both at the race and in the years leading up to it.

SolarPack's car is a converted 2001 Volkswagen Golf GTI that weighs over 2800 pounds, by far the heaviest car at the FSGP. According to SolarPack's high voltage team lead, Harrison Strag, this was a severe roadblock to the car's performance.

"The heavier a car is, the more energy it needs to move," Strag said. "When you're in a race that's based more on distance than it is on speed, to go the farthest distance you need to have the lightest car. That's why you see the lightest cars are winning these solar races."

SolarPack purchased the original Volkswagen Golf body during the height of COVID-19 for just \$1000. They wanted to show that solar energy could be practically applied to existing car models, but they also needed to conserve money during that difficult time.

"The few sponsors we had that would have been able to [fund SolarPack] had to focus

on their companies and make sure that they would survive through the pandemic," SolarPack technical director Ben Nichols said. "Buying the Golf cut about \$30,000 dollars in car body fabrication costs."

COVID handicapped SolarPack in other ways as well. During the first six months of working on the Golf, the club had to operate out of a team member's driveway because they were unable to use university space. To be safe, only five people were allowed to work on the car at a time.

The race itself was full of trials and tribulations. The truck pulling the car's trailer broke down en route to Topeka and had to be replaced. A flight was delayed and then canceled. SolarPack came to the race with their battery pack untested.

"We worked tirelessly getting the battery pack assembled and into the car but we never had the time to test the pack before we were off to the race," Nichols said. "This was a huge risk for us, but we had no other choice than to trust our capabilities and head to the competition."

The untested pack led to problems later on, as it was discovered that two of the cells in the 1,352 cell battery pack had come loose. This was triggering the car's Battery Protection System,

The hood of SolarPack's car is open July 3 at the Heartland Motorsports Park in Topeka, Kansas.

Photo By Bran Poster

which prevented the car from moving. The high voltage team had to stay up for an entire night so they could fix this issue. Harrison Strag believes this was the most difficult ordeal SolarPack had to overcome at the entire event.

“It involved re-doing a lot of what we’d already done: reassembling the battery enclosure, reassembling the battery pack, bringing individual cell modules up to charge, which takes time, and is a little more difficult to do,” Strag said. “We had to then disconnect all the cables, all the wires, then reconnect all the cables, all the wires. We had to take a whole busbar off and remake it almost entirely.”

High voltage team member Theodore Holshouser described the legendary all-nighter: “At its worst, it was like a fever dream, at its best, it was a really good showcase of human effort.”

The car’s electrical drama climaxed with a 400-amp battery shortage that put a wrench out of commission. All SolarPackers were thankfully wearing the necessary protective gear, and no one was harmed. Incredibly, the car was able to get

on the track a few hours after the shortage occurred, 45 minutes before racing ended that day. For SolarPack’s hardworking engineers, seeing the car finally get on the road as onlookers cheered was a euphoric experience. “It felt amazing. Getting on that track and getting laps done and doing so much better than we did last year, it made all the work and all the long nights this summer feel worth it,” Strag said.

“It was actually more moving for me to hear the reception from the people [at the track]. Hearing that ovation... I almost broke into tears,” Holshouser said.

SolarPack completed a grand total of 75 laps, 15 times more than the last time they went to the FSGP. This is in addition to getting the award for fastest lap. Against nigh-interminable adversity, SolarPack prevailed and exceeded their team’s highest expectations.

SolarPackers throw up a "wolfie" for a photo July 8 in Independence, Missouri, after their record-breaking performance at the FSGP.

Photo Courtesy of SolarPack



INVENTION, INNOVATION, EXCELLENCE:

The NC State Entrepreneurship Garage

By Audrey Javan

Centennial Campus is a hilly plain lined with modern engineering buildings and parking garages. It feels a little like you could get plucked out of the sky by a large bird, but perhaps a high-tech bird. In the Partners I building there, accessed by just the scan of a student ID, lies the Entrepreneurship Garage, where someone very well could be making those high-tech birds.

Inside, it's cleanly industrial. Large exposed lightbulbs hang from the high ceiling down to hover over the kitchen counter, where someone stirs their microwave ramen next to a basket of free packaged snacks. A couple of students eat together at one of the round tables in the passageway between the kitchen and the large classroom. Speakers used to do monthly talks there before COVID-19 pushed the seminars online, but now, they can return to the building.

As of last year, the garage boasts around 1,200 members. To become a member, you just have to fill out the application on their website and complete a few orientation modules. After that, you have complete access to everything the garage has to offer: free coffee and tea, heavy-duty prototyping equipment, a host of local entrepreneurs through the program's partner Raleigh Founded, a long list of rentable tools and — arguably the most important resource — other members.

The program's now-retired founder Thomas Miller used to say that it's all about “beneficial collisions.”

Eren Hebert, Technical Lead at the Entrepreneurship Garage, discussed how the garage helps students in all aspects of business, from physical creation to networking Sept. 9.

Photo By Emily Peedin





A small NC State logo waits in a display case Sept. 9 at the Entrepreneurship Garage. This figurine was 3D printed by a member of the Entrepreneurship Garage.

Photo by Emily Peedin

“These beneficial collisions are bringing ... NC State students together that are like-minded [and] entrepreneurship focused,” said Eren Hebert, garage manager. “And we’re bringing together their skill sets [and] their minds to create and collaborate to build something great.”

One of the program’s most important building spaces is the Prototyping Space. It houses all the garage’s machinery, including a laser cutter, a 3D printer, a direct-to-garment printer and more, as well as a separate, thoroughly safety-labeled woodworking room. Members have no-charge, 24/7 access to the equipment, so if inspiration strikes at midnight, Hebert insists that members come work it out.

Not only does the garage not charge its members, but it also proudly takes no profit from young entrepreneurs’ intellectual property; everything they create, even using the garage’s resources, is 100% their own product.

“That’s something Thomas Miller fought for, and it’s something that was really near and dear to his heart. And I think for students that are aware of it and that are familiar with this, it’s a really important offering that we have in our space,” Hebert said.

At one of the dozens of networking and showcasing events held by the university, members can find confidence and a foothold in the quick-moving world of entrepreneurship. They can also find money. At Entrepalooza 2022, held Sept. 22 at Stafford Commons, a stunning \$2,250 was awarded to the winner of the Minute to Pitch It competition. Anyone is encouraged to register to compete as long as they have an idea that they’re confident enough to share; if your confidence is lacking, peers at the Entrepreneurship Garage are willing to help with that, too.

“You can take any idea you have and really take it to the next level,” Hebert said, “and that’s really what the garage is all about.”

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PACK PULLERS PULL PLACEMENT IN PEORIA:

From Raleigh to Illinois, the NC State Mini-Tractor Team Gets it Done.

By Phelan Murry

Photos By Emily Peedin

Team Captain Max Hooks and the Pack Pullers work on the Power Howler late one warm summer night. Three days of competition have passed with one day left to go. One year's worth of work and dedication comes down to the next 24 hours. The Power Howler has lost all power from its transmission. With the clock ticking towards tomorrow's event, the 2019 competition tractor — now the spare parts tractor — is rolled out with the hope that there is enough time and parts to be ready to finish what they traveled 14 hours to Peoria, Illinois to do: compete and win.

The Pack Pullers are NCSU's American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers quarter-scale tractor competition team. Led by Hooks and adviser Grant Ellington, Pack Pullers compete in the International Quarter-Scale tractor competition against teams from all over the U.S. (some notable names such as

University of Nebraska and Iowa State University) and some schools from Canada. They compete for over four days in a variety of events that display characteristics such as durability, performance and maneuverability, and then for an overall award.

A notable difference between the Pack Pullers and many other organizations is that they are student-led in the design and application of concepts taught in the classroom into a practical environment. The Pack Pullers are only given two parts for their tractor: the engine and the two back tires. The rest of the tractor, nicknamed the Power Howler for the 2022 competition, was designed and fitted by students here at NCSU. The front suspension, the seat rigging and finishing touches such as the wolf's head shift knob and the machine cutout of the tractor's name are some examples of the student designed and implemented ideas on the 2022 competition tractor. The

Pack Pullers are given one year to make their tractor competition ready.

Not only are they expected to be ready for the physical events, but they must also keep note of all parts used in their tractor. Notes such as the kinds of screws or bolts used, the cost of the materials and the sheer number of parts used must be detailed in a manual that will be sent to a competition committee prior to the in-person events. The committee will collect all manuals from competing schools and subject them to a lengthy review process that will factor into their final overall score following the four-day event. With the tractor ready to compete and the manual submitted, the Pack Pullers ready themselves and head out to the competition with all team members invited to go and support the Power Howler.

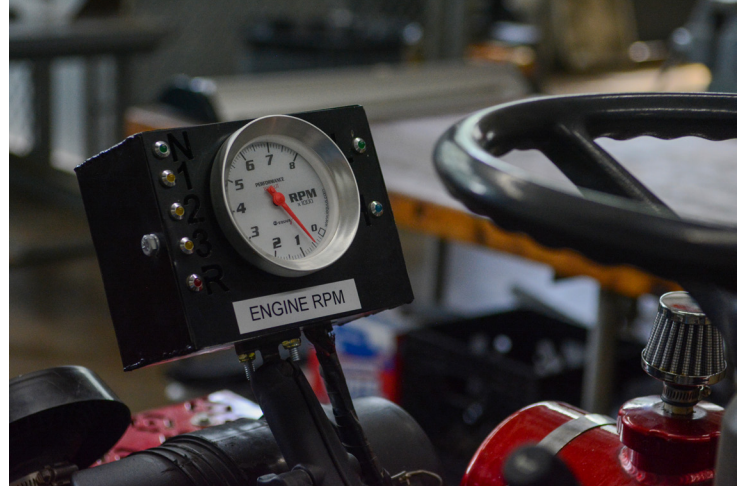
The Pack Pullers finished the 25th anniversary of the International Quarter-Scale Tractor Competition, which was its first return to in-person events following the COVID-19 pandemic. After a long year working on the Power Howler, the Pack Pullers walked away from this competition finishing sixth overall out of 24 schools with first place in durability, third in performance and fifth in maneuverability. This was a significant accomplishment for the Pack Pullers and rookie Team Captain Hooks. It was also a big step towards first place, because most team members are expected to return to the 2023 competition with a better understanding of how to win.

For more information on how to join Pack Pullers, email associate professor Grant Ellington.

ghelling@ncsu.edu



A small wolf's head is found on one of the Pack Pullers' tractors Sept. 8 inside Weaver Laboratories. Grant Ellington, an extension associate professor and the advisor for the Pack Pullers, mentioned that the wolf's head was actually 3D printed.



The RPM gauge on one of the Pack Pullers' tractor is displayed Sept. 8 inside Weaver Laboratories. Other than a few select parts, the quarter-scale tractors are built almost entirely from scratch by students.

Grant Ellington, an extension associate professor and advisor for the Pack Pullers, discusses Pack Pullers Sept. 8 inside Weaver Laboratories. Ellington talked about the entire process students go through to design and build a quarter-scale tractor for competition.



The Pack Pullers logo is etched onto a tractor seat and displayed Sept. 8 inside Weaver Laboratories. Pack Pullers is a student organization that builds a quarter-scale tractor for the ASABE International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition annually.



"Power Howler," one of the Pack Pullers' tractors, sits in the lab Sept. 8 inside Weaver Laboratories. "Power Howler" was the quarter-scale tractor submitted for the 2022 competition.

Photo by Emily Peedin



SECTION 3 —

The Funnies

Trick die wonders to get
you geeked and giggling

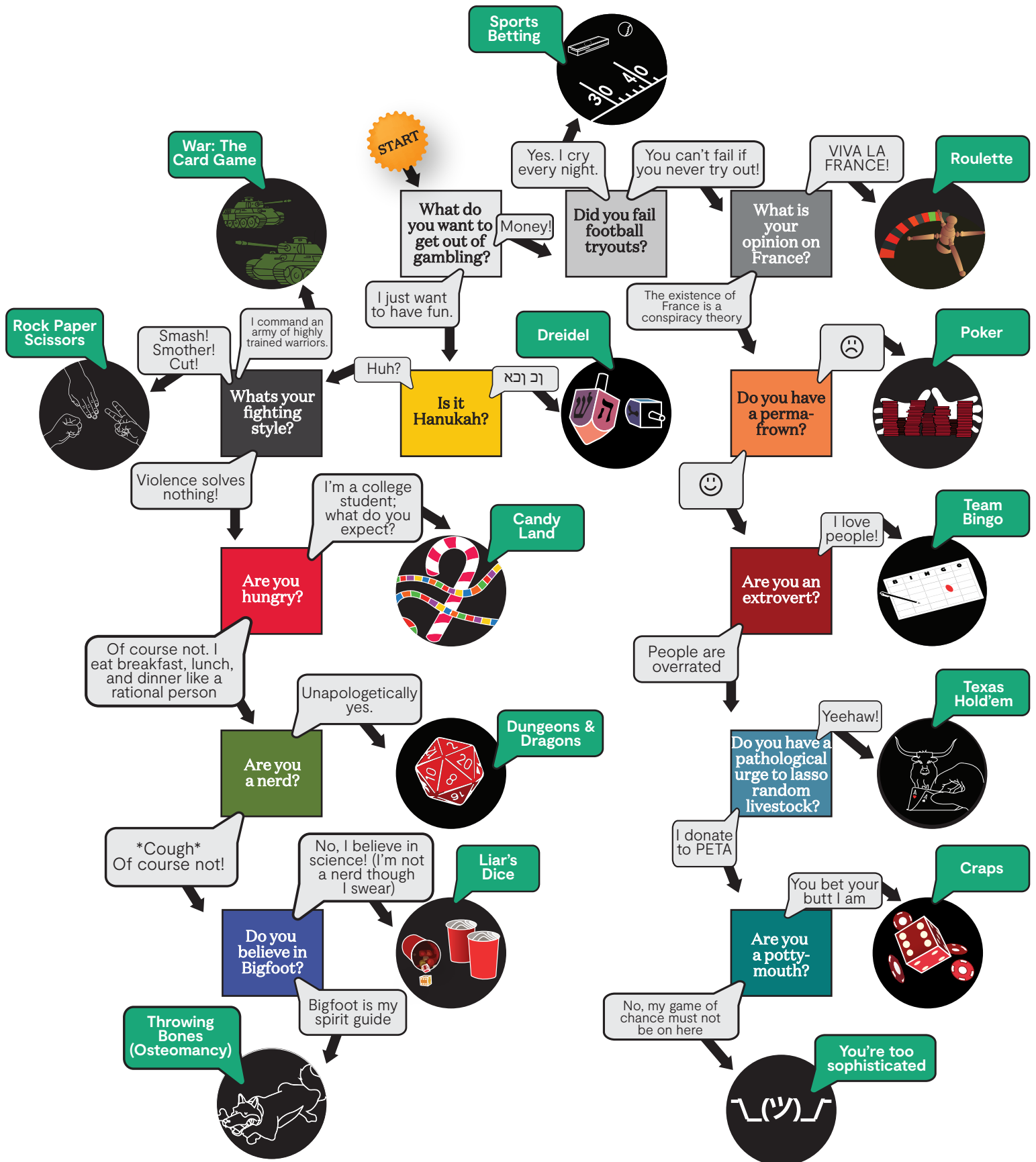
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What's Your Game of Chance?

Written by: Bran Poster and Evie Shackles
 Design by: Joshua Cobb

Start at "START", follow the arrows, make choices, and see what the odds are.



Video Poker Killed the Race-Betting Star

- A Short History of NC Gambling

By Bran Poster and Audrey Javan

Victor Hugo? Too miserable. Voltaire? Shockingly bad. No, the canon of great writers needs some fresh blood, and what better place to find fresh blood than the 1791 General Assembly of the State of North Carolina. Enter Mussendine Matthews, Hezekiah Spruill and Ebenezer Slade. These three legends penned what might just be the greatest masterpiece of human penmanship since the cave drawings in Lascaux: Chapter Five of the Laws of North Carolina. This great work, which includes a tax on “ftud horfes” and “carriage wheels of pleasure” is revolutionary even though it was created after the American Revolution. Why? It cracks down on the scourge of civilized society: public gambling tables.

According to our friends from the 1791 General Assembly, public gambling tables are “deftructive of the morality of the inhabitants of this ftale” and “tend greatly to the encouragement of vice and diffipation.” I’m not sure what “diffipation” is but

it sounds like an unhealthy duodenal process. Thankfully, the General Assembly declared these terrible tables “totally forbidden to be ufed in this ftate by any perfon or perfons whatever.” A few decades later, the legislature banned private gambling tables, as well as lotteries and slot machines. So, with all this gambling suppression, most of which still in effect, where can one go to indulge their ludomania?

Unlike some other Southern states where residents can hop through a loophole onto a riverboat and gamble freely (a Kentuckian can bet on the Ohio River as much as they want, granted the ship docks in Illinois), North Carolinians are land-bound. Technically, one could send a ship out into the Atlantic and gamble there, but sailing towards the Bermuda Triangle is enough of a gamble on its own. But, in a win for destination gambling fans, the first major North Carolina casino was cleared to open in November, 1997.

After nearly a decade of effort, an Eastern Band of

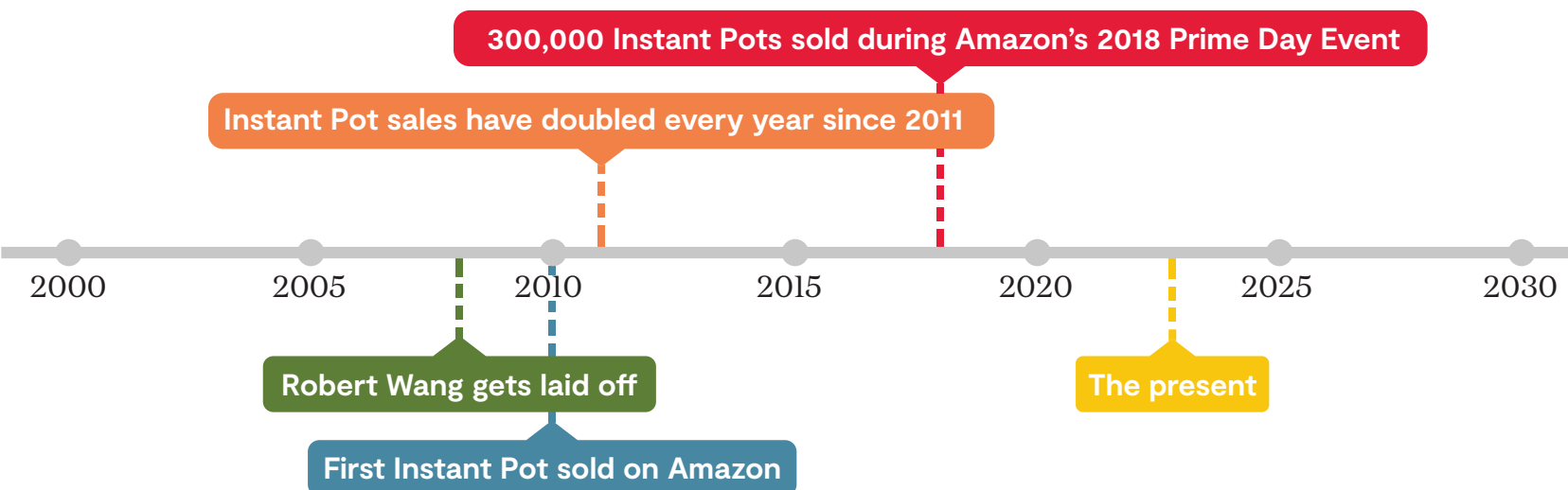
Cherokee Natives was able to open a casino on their land in western North Carolina. Just like our great forefathers Matthews, Spruill and Slade, some tribal leaders worried that introducing gambling would be the downfall of their community. Chief Jonathan “Ed” Taylor continued regardless. Table games with live dealers and alcohol are prohibited, but that didn’t stop the casino from becoming wildly popular among North Carolinians; video poker, like the early 2000s computer games my brother and I played, held the public so securely that casino officials had to ask them to give it a rest.

At the same time as the casino opened up, though, another gambling venue was outlawed: the dog track. While Greyhound racing was never popular in North Carolina, it did have a short stint post-World War II, where pari-mutuel betting, part of racing tradition, was tentatively allowed—and rapidly struck down. Amid humanitarian (or caninitarian) conflicts, it was banned state-wide in 1998.

The more tried-and-true Southern sport of horse racing is similarly in the doghouse; since betting on horses—a gentleman’s pastime—is illegal, races aren’t profitable enough to be worth putting on, in the eyes of organizers. The big bucks and big hats of thoroughbred-happy heathens will have to stay out.

The future of Carolina gambling is still up to chance. In 2005, North Carolina’s first and only female Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue broke a tie on the bill to create the North Carolina Education Lottery so it could be signed into law. Since then, a bill for expanding the legalization of NC sports betting has been put forward, and it’s expected to come before the House this year. Will it succeed? Maybe a political science major can tell you.

Written By: Katherine Wan
Illustration By: Katherine Wan &
Joshua Cobb
Recipes By: Bran Poster



Robert Wang loves making cooking easy. He lives with his wife and two children in Ottawa, Canada, and nearly every meal they make relies on the three Instant Pots sitting on their countertops. It just so happens that Wang is the inventor of the Instant Pot, a cooking device that has revolutionized cooking for millions of households across Canada and America.

According to Andrew Duffy from The Ottawa Citizen, Wang had previously studied computer science and artificial intelligence, working with Nortel Technology and Airwide Solutions before getting laid off in 2008. But getting laid off didn't keep him from success. In fact, it was the catalyst for inventing the Instant Pot. Before creating Instant Brands and making the Instant Pot, Wang always felt that he and his wife were too busy to cook healthy meals for their two children, and wanted a solution to this. Well before he was laid off, he was already thinking about a new cooking device that would combine his background in computer science and AI with inspiration from Chinese pressure cookers to create a product that would address several cooking difficulties at once, many of them from personal experience.

After testing many variations of his Instant Pot, Wang was able to put a healthy dinner on the table within 30-40 minutes. He didn't have to worry about burning food as the cooking device came with a sensor that he developed. Furthermore, he utilized the Instant Pot to free up counter space, as it had several functions that could replace multiple cooking devices with just one. Wang had put in over \$300,000 of his own money into this product, and worked on developing the first model for two years. There was a lot on the line, and unfortunately, success wasn't as instantaneous as cooking with the Instant Pot was.

Wang had originally turned to small, local shops to sell his product, but very few customers were willing to take a chance on such a new and unknown product. So he shifted his focus to Amazon, and made his first sale there in November 2010. Within around a decade, the Instant Pot has rapidly grown in popularity, largely due to word-of-mouth between friends and family. The brand's products have gained a somewhat cult-like following, with many social media accounts dedicated to recipes using just Instant Pots. Tom Huddleston Jr. from CNBC stated that the Instant Pot has become one of the best selling products on Amazon, with over 300,000 sold during Amazon's 2018 Prime Day event. Their success has been exponential, as sales for the Instant Pot have doubled every year since 2011.

Even with all his success, Robert Wang has still remained ambitious. He wants the Instant Pot to be in every kitchen. To this day, he continues to read Amazon reviews on his product, and states that he's read around 40,000 and counting. These Amazon reviews tell him what the customers like about his products, what they wish the products included, and how the products can be improved. Wang takes this very seriously, so when an Amazon user suggested a yogurt making function on the Instant Pot, Wang developed it, and sent a free model to the user as a token of his gratitude.

As far as being in every kitchen goes, Wang has college students covered. The Instant Pot allows for fast, easy, and convenient cooking all with just one device. Not only does the device help save space and time with cooking, it also gives college students an easier way to eat healthy and deal with fewer dishes at the end of the night. Alongside this article we have some easy recipes for whichever Instant Pot model you decide on!

Instant Pot Very Simple Mac and Cheese

The perfect weeknight meal

Ingredients: One 16 oz box of pasta (any kind), 4 cups of your chosen cheese (cheddar works great in my experience), ½ cup milk (you can also substitute melted butter)

1. Pour four cups of water in your Instant Pot .
2. Add the pasta.
3. Pressure cook on high for 5 minutes.
4. Once the timer is done, do a quick release.
5. Remove any excess water from the pot and add the milk and cheese.
6. At this point you can mix in any other desired flavorings, from hot sauce to oregano to garlic powder. Enjoy!

Instant Pot Grape Juice

This is excellent for using cheap, mushy grapes

Ingredients: Just Grapes!

1. Pour 3 cups of water in your instant pot
2. Insert the trivet
3. Crimp a square of aluminum foil into a makeshift bowl that fits on top of the trivet.
4. Using a knife or fork, poke holes in your foil bowl. Make sure the holes are smaller than the grapes you're using
5. Carefully put your grapes in the foil bowl. They do not have to be removed from the stems
6. Pressure cook on high for five minutes
7. Once the timer is done, natural release until the pot has released all pressure. You can quick release, but that will lose some of the juice.
8. Using mitts, remove the foil bowl from the pot and dump the hot grapes into a kitchen towel. Once the grapes have cooled enough to not hurt your fingers, bunch up the towel and wring the remaining juice out of the grapes.
9. You have grape juice! You can freeze it to make popsicles, mix it with seltzer, or simply enjoy on its own.

Instant Pot Hard-Boiled Eggs

A great way to get protein fast

Ingredients: Just Eggs!

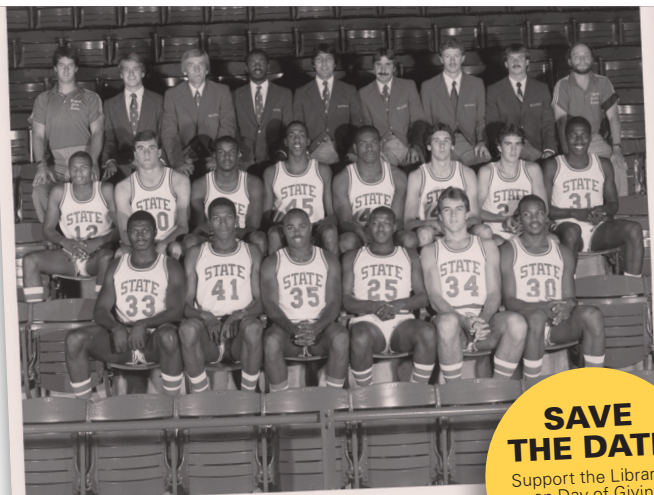
1. Pour 1 cup of water in your instant pot
2. Insert your pot's trivet. All current instant pot models come with a trivet, so if yours doesn't have one it's either older or there was a packaging mistake
3. Add a desired amount of eggs. You can add as many as your trivet can fit.
4. Pressure cook on high for:
 - 3 minutes if you want runny eggs
 - 4 minutes if you want jammy eggs
 - 5-6 minutes if you want firm eggs
5. Once the timer is done, do a quick release and place the hot eggs in water. The water cools them down and makes them easier to peel.
6. Enjoy! Hard boiled eggs go great with ketchup and toast, or you could use them to make egg salad.

Instant Pot Caveman Mashed Potatoes

So easy a caveman could make it

Ingredients: 4-5 Medium Potatoes, preferably Russets, and 1/2 cup milk or melted butter. Salt, pepper, and other seasonings to taste.

1. Pour 1 cup of water in your Instant Pot. You could replace the water with chicken broth for more flavorful potatoes.
2. Insert the trivet.
3. Place the potatoes on the trivet, there's no need to peel them if you don't mind the skin. Otherwise peel them beforehand.
4. Pressure cook on high for 10 minutes
5. Once the timer is done, natural release until the pot has released all pressure.
6. Place the cooked potatoes in a large bowl, add the milk or melted butter, and mash them together with a fork until smooth.
7. Mix in salt, pepper, worcestershire sauce, and any other desired seasonings. Bon appetit!



1983 N.C. State University Wolfpack, NCAA champions,
Atlantic Coast Conference champions.
University Archives Photograph Collection.

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Ghost-Hunting Friends Expose Wolfpack Ghosts

Written by Audrey Javan
Illustration by Joshua Cobb

It was a dark and overall clear night. Zoë Huffman and I, first-years at the time, had just doused the lights and settled down to a peaceful night's rest... or so we thought.

Across the room, I heard Huffman hum a couple of times, the way she does when she's trying to get my attention. A clear "Huh? Huh?" sort of sound. If your roommate likes you, you'll know what I mean. I asked her what was up, thinking she was about to read me a funny Instagram post or something.

She was silent for a moment before repeating, "What?" back at me in a shaking voice.

She hadn't said anything.

According to her, the sound was a seal-like whooping — nothing at all like what I heard and nothing at all normal. Outside our windows, where we would often hear people passing, there had been altogether nothing to indicate that either simultaneous sound came from a person. Or maybe it was a person, but one who... well... was a person.

The point being: NC State is super haunted.

Between tragic deaths, rush horror stories, orphanage fires, war hospitals and just generally really old buildings, there are hundreds of reasons for spirits to linger here. Many stories are Wolfpack legend, but some are based on actual deaths that occurred on campus. As far as I know, no one has ever died in Bragaw, or at least not horrifically enough that they would be forced to wander the earth forever, doomed to a fate of pranking girls at night. That being said, Bragaw was littered with random frigid spots, no matter the time of day or weather outside. Lost items would turn up in peculiar places as if placed there, such

as Huffman's One Card that she found face-up, packaged neatly inside her folded jacket. Who's to say that wasn't paranormal activity?

Second-year Owen Johnson had similar experiences with probable ghosts in her dorm; she used to hear walking and banging from the unoccupied floor above her when she attended UNC Wilmington. Her dorm then was brand new, meaning probably no incidents, and yet, the impossible walking persisted. This experience — and the photo she bravely took of the teddy bear perched menacingly outside the locked fifth floor access door — is what brought her into our ghost hunting team, which isn't accepting applications at this time, sorry in advance.

As up-and-coming ghost hunters — emphasis on the "up-and-coming" and also on the "ghost hunters" — Huffman, Johnson and I didn't take these interactions lying down. We took them sitting up in bed, freaking out over what we might see if we turned on the light, which is leagues more lionhearted. But don't for one second think that we're scared. In fact, we're excited for any opportunity to push our limits as ghost hunters.

Dear reader, I encourage you to do the same! As Halloween approaches, read up on campus hauntings. D.H. Hill is notoriously haunted, so don't even worry about that, but what about your dorm, or your lecture halls? Do you ever feel watched? Do you hear things in the dark? Maybe something more than a metal stand inhabits the Mr. and Ms. Wuf mannequins in Reynolds Coliseum. Maybe the scratching in the walls is just a rat.

But maybe, just maybe, it's a ghost rat.

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