

# SWEET POTATOES SCORES

## SWEET SOUTHERN COMFORT FOOD IS SURE TO SATISFY EVEN THE YANKEE CUSTOMERS

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Sweet potatoes, the staple of American holiday fair and southern cuisine, are the one food I cannot stand. It wasn't always that way. When I was little, I'd tolerate them. But as my taste buds matured, and my craving for all things sweet waned like my love for the Easter Bunny, I grew to despise them. Their taste. That tough rind. Even their stupid orange color.

So when my good friend Charlie at *The Student* offered me the chance to join them in reviewing Trade Street's hippest new restaurant, Sweet Potatoes, I'll admit a chill ran down my spine.

Lucky for us, the entire experience, save the slight wait for a table on a busy Saturday night, was incredible.

Sweet Potatoes has quickly established itself as a cornerstone in the rapidly growing area in downtown Winston known as the Avenue of the Arts at Sixth and Trade Streets.

Patrons flock from all parts of town to enjoy the southern comfort in the small dining room. It is so popular in fact that on Gallery Hop nights, the wait can be several hours long.

Dim lighting and paintings of jazz legends accent the hardwood floors and mellow walls of Sweet Potatoes. Despite relatively noisy clientele, the tables are circular, small and intimate – ideal for a date and good conversation.

Fresh flowers and candlelight are a good,

simple touch.

"There's no 'kind of' about it – this place is swanky," one of our friends said during dinner.

While the atmosphere is comfortable and enjoyable, it understandably takes a backseat to the delicious soulfood.

The brief menu includes some classic southern appetizers, such as red and white fries, a mix of traditional french fries and thick cut sweet potato fries topped with spicy seasoning.

And for all you sweet-potato haters out there, just trust us and eat a few of the red ones – they're delicious. The restaurant also offers fried green tomatoes and okra and a "Carolina Crab Dip." A variety of dinner salads are also available but went untested on this particular trip, which leaves us one of many pleasant excuses to return.

The handful of entrée selections are all worthy of their own description and accolades.

Just to cover some highlights – the "southernly" fried chicken is tender and expertly breaded with just the right amount of spices. The pan fried trout is delicate and flavorful.

The "drunken" pork chops are

prepared with light, tasty apple gravy and were easily as good as homemade. Another friend asserted that this culinary experience was just like his mom's cooking.

Each entrée is accompanied by a unique side dish such as smashed sweet and garlic white potatoes, black-eyed peas with okra and corn, fluffy stuffing cakes, or traditional southern greens. The stone-pounded grits were creamy, rich and outstanding. As we all stuffed our faces and licked our plates clean, one person remarked, "the sides are better than the entrees, and the entrees are excellent."

The rest of us couldn't disagree.

Sweet Potatoes' desserts are good but are defeated by the main dishes. The homemade chocolate cake and the caramel apple pie drew average reactions, but the sweet potato pie, surprisingly enough, is a must.

While a trip to Sweet Potatoes is a bit more expensive than a typical college dinner, it is well worth it. The portions are generous, the service is friendly and attentive, and the food is as good as any restaurant in town. It is a great place for a date, for parents, or for a small group of friends who just prefer to do something nicer than the Loop or something different from Village Tavern for a change.

Sweet Potatoes is southern comfort food

at its best and given its location, atmosphere and growing popularity, is no doubt a deliciously unique Winston-Salem dining experience.



Graphic by Jessica Pritchard/Old Gold and Black

# Books: Students seek better deals

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"The way to fix the problem is not to go around the problem, it's to fix the problem, and that is the prices being set by publishers," Moser said. He said that he didn't yet know how this would be possible.

"You can't get four gas stations on the same corner to all agree on the price of gas, and these publishing companies are competitors too, real businesses who want to make as much money as possible."

When his economics textbook was not bought back by the campus bookstore, Horne sold it at amazon.com for \$50, which he described as "better than nothing."

The main problem with Amazon.com, Moser said, is that their prices are not fixed like those of the university bookstore. When more people want a book, Amazon.com can raise their prices.

Sophomore Alli Soule, a communications major, said she spent about \$500 last semester on books only to receive \$50 during the buyback period.

"It's especially frustrating when you pay \$70 for a book you might use once all semester," Soule said. "That's the way it is at every college campus though."

The prices at the university bookstore at set by using an industry average that tells proprietors what is acceptable in terms of trying to make money, Moser said.

"Most of my professors seem to just want us to know what's included in the lectures," sophomore Nicole Longa said. She added that she didn't plan on buying all of the books listed as required for the courses if she didn't think she would use them.

"I think we spend less and less the longer we're here, with maybe the exception of the science majors," Horne said. "What it comes down to is knowing when 'required' means 'needed' and when you can still do an acceptable job by simply attending class."

Horne cited the textbook for HES 100: Lifestyle and Health and HES 101: Exercise for Health as a good example of a book that is not needed to successfully complete the course. He received an A in Lifestyle and Health without the book. Last semester the textbook, *Lifetime Physical Fitness and Wellness Seventh Ed.*, was sold at the campus bookstore for \$45.

The number of new editions, especially with science textbooks, also raises prices, Moser said. He added that he could not fault educators for wanting to get students the most current information in the new editions.

Until prices come down, Moser said the relationship between the bookstore and the students must be one of trust. "The students need to believe they're getting the best deal here and we'll have what they need like we need to trust that they will buy their books here," he said. Moser took over operation of the facility five years ago.

All profits from the bookstore and textbook sales, minus donations made by the bookstore to certain organizations, go directly back to the university, he said.

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# HOT list



Life's best picks to see and do this week

**1** So we lost to Texas ... big deal. What better way to get over a loss than to go into Cameron and beat the Dookies?

Because rankings don't come out until after Saturday's game, you have the second and third best teams in the nation going head to head. As a league game, emotions will be high and the action will be furious. You won't want to miss out. Tip off is at 1:00 p.m. and the game is on ABC. Duke+ABC= High Probability of Dick Vitale ... keep a radio nearby and your finger on the mute button. You've been warned.

**2** Not doing anything Sunday night? Head down to Burke Street and drop by the Rubber Soul for a Battle of the Bands.

Groups from all over the triad area will be performing. The contest will feature four bands and will cost you only \$5 – a great deal, even if the bands are mediocre. Because it's only the first week and you probably don't have anything better to do on Sunday night go check it out. Live music and cold beer go well together and will make this Sunday night worth going out for. Music starts at 10:00 p.m.

**3** There's nothing quite like going to a monster truck rally. This Friday and Saturday, the U.S. Hot Road Monster

Jam will visit the Greensboro coliseum for two crazy nights of mullets and car-crushing madness. In addition to the trucks, there will be freestyle motorcross and a robot that transforms into a car-eating, fire-breathing robot dinosaur. Watching the rednecks react to this thing eating a car is worth the price of admission alone. Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door.

**4** Men's Rush officially started Jan. 14, but there's still a full week left. Rush is definitely worth going out to, regardless of whether or not you're interested in joining a fraternity. It's a week of food, parties and fun, all at no expense to you. Turn the Xbox off for a few nights, get out of your room and interact with some real people. You don't have homework, so why not?