

Walltown Shortcut:

Who Should Decide?

by Amar Setty

The sound of Motley Crue rang through the air as two students from NCSSM entered the dark and ominous section of Durham called Walltown. Unprovoked attackers assaulted the innocent teenagers and knocked them to the ground. The NCSSM students, however, assumed the form of Super Nerds and beat up the attackers; they then proudly walked back to school as the music ebbed on...

This event at the Hall Theme Dance last weekend, while portraying a humorous interpretation of the Walltown incident, underscored a theme of levity towards the event and the decision made by the school declaring Walltown off-limits.

The school had an obligation to enact its ruling; Walltown should be off limits for the protection of all students on campus. In late August, two students were assaulted without provocation at the dead end of Earl Street in Walltown. Two students were treated for minor injuries. Common sense clearly dictates what an individual's reaction should be to this situation:

Walltown is unsafe; therefore, avoid it. Since there are plausible alternatives, there should be no motivation for entering Walltown at all.

NCSSM, by accepting its role as a residential school, also accepted the responsibility of enacting all measures necessary and proper to insure the safety of each student on campus. Each student, in turn, accepted these rules for the benefit of attending the school. Much like the sign out policy or the disciplinary policy, the school designed rules for

"Every student has a duty to accept the school's policy"

"Walltown should be off limits."

student protection. Essentially, every student has a duty to accept the school's policy. The Walltown Decision was enacted to emphasize the danger of entering the area. People have been hurt, and probably will be hurt again unless Walltown is avoided. Those who enter Walltown do so at their own risk.

Opposite view

by Scott Lamana

Walltown. For NCSSM students, the name of the residential neighborhood on the other side of Broad Street evokes two contrasting images. One of these is the relaxation of a stroll with friends to Northgate Mall, and the other is the terror induced by the threatening actions of violent strangers.

Which of these views of the neighborhood should we have, in light of the late August assault on three of our students and the administration's response?

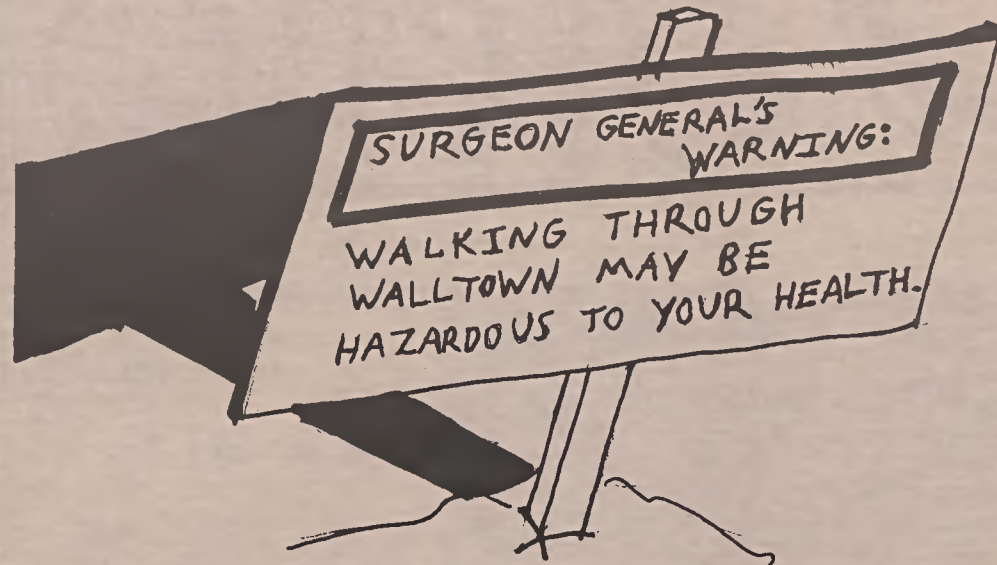
To answer that question, the specific actions of the administration concerning this situation need to be considered.

The decision to declare Walltown Park off limits was certainly an understandable one, since as a residential school NCSSM has been entrusted by parents with the responsibility of protecting its students.

The alternate routes suggested by the administration's memorandum are another problem with the new policy. Many students feel safer traveling to Northgate via Earl Street and Walltown Park than via Club Boulevard. And while the Broad Street - Guess Road route may be the least dangerous of the three, it is far enough out of the way that some students would not even consider taking it.

With this choice, of course, we must accept responsibility for our own well-being and take the blame ourselves if something happens to us. That's what we're going to have to do out in the real world. Doesn't it make sense to start now?

However, it seems doubtful to me that this new policy can be enforced effectively. Some students are already cutting through Walltown on their way to Northgate with no response from RA's or other adults on campus.



S. Rockwell

PFM Meets Approval

by Rob Owen

As you walk in to give your number, nothing seems different at PFM. When you step further in, however, you see the cool, fresh, right-colored salad bar and two lines for entrees.

These are a few among the changes at PFM this year. They may not be great big changes, but Jess Sellar has done plenty with limited resources.

Students should realize that the cafeteria is a real job for a handful of

hard-working people. They aren't there for the glory, as anyone knows.

All they do is try to make their services better for their customers, but they can't do it if students are stealing from them.

Have respect for the cafeteria, and enjoy the free meals available now. It won't be so easy after NCSSM.

I think PFM has improved, but only moderately. It still has some minor details to fix

enough cups available for the number of people coming through for a meal. Another

On Sept. 11, 59 seniors and veteran staff were asked to what degree PFM has improved this year. The results of the poll appear as follows:

66% said PFM improved moderately.

20% said PFM improved little or none.

13% said PFM improved greatly/significantly.

Higher Enrollment Not Needed

by Shannon Oliver

Have you been close to the cafeteria at 5 p.m.? Then you know the problem -- a line past the security desk, a minimum 20-minute wait and not an empty table in sight. Other places that are overly crowded include New Dorm lobby, the laundry rooms, and even the fish tanks during social half-hour!

These situations can all be attributed to the fact that there are 553 students at NCSSM, and this year the question seems to be -- "Are there too many juniors?"

"Are there too many students?"

There are only 25 more juniors (289) than seniors (264) this year, but there are 113 more students. This apparent "invasion" of juniors really began last year with the class of 1990. There were 270 juniors last year and only 170 seniors. There is a significantly smaller difference in the enrollment of the two classes this year.

When NCSSM was in planning, the projected enrollment was 900, but after the Watts Hospital site was chosen, this changed to 600.

One might think that the more students S&M has, the up, for example, keeping

lower the standards, but this is not the case. According to school officials, admission standards are as high as ever, and in no way are they "just trying to fill dorm rooms." While there has been an increase in enrollment, there has also been an increase in the quality and quantity of applicants.

According to the administration, population will never increase over its present enrollment. Obviously, our facilities can't handle even 50 more students as we are already facing overcrowding problems.

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 Special thanks to John Woodard for assistance with article printing.