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Flashback: NCSSM Security Revisited

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The muggings of NCSSM students in the fall of 1991 introduced feelings of insecurity and uncertainty to the school community. Suddenly, seniors discovered the danger of trusting the surrounding neighborhoods as they had before, and many juniors realized they were more vulnerable in the streets of Durham than they had been at home.

Although the incidents shattered illusions of a special school within a trustworthy community, they were not the first personal threats NCSSM students have encountered. In fact, since the early years of the school, numerous incidents involving students have occurred within the Walltown area.

An article entitled "Walltown Attack," by Kristi Young, from *The Stentorian* of September 27, 1989,

describes the attack on three NCSSM students as they walked through Walltown to Northgate Mall. The students were confronted and one jumped on by 5 to 7 men. After an ambulance and policeman arrived on the scene, the students were treated and released.

Surprisingly, the security files of Ken Horne show no record of the 1989 incident related in the article. Also, the incoming junior class of 1990 received neither a formal warning of the dangers of the Walltown area nor a description of the incident by the NCSSM Administration. These deficiencies are disturbing.

Only after the muggings of 1991 were the junior and senior classes keenly aware of the dangers offered by the community surrounding the school. To protect themselves, students now ride the van loops instead of walking through Walltown or along Ninth Street at night.

Yet entering students lacking initial information about the neighborhood surrounding NCSSM may find it difficult to judge the safety of their new environment. Perhaps the Administration should consider offering revised orientation sessions to the incoming juniors of 1992. These sessions would include brief descriptions of some past events that have helped to precipitate the present security policy of NCSSM. Perhaps the security department should issue an up-to-date description of all incidents involving personal threats to NCSSM students. The history of the school and its students is relevant to us all; a familiarity with past events will encourage present awareness about security issues. With an increased knowledge about the dangers of Walltown and surrounding neighborhoods, future students will better protect themselves.

Director has high goals
By Beth Crawford

Inner gym Revealed
By Dennis DeFau

Walltown Attack
By Kristi Young

And Now... Representing NCSSM
By Lauren Pelt



Incoming President, Ken Barner, (left) and Vice President, Steve Adams, (right) from the Student Body.