

# On the Turning Away...

The last one. This is the ninth and final issue of *The Stentorian* I have been associated with. And I'm happy to say that the sixteen pages that you're holding in your hands is something I've wanted to achieve for a long time. It's the biggest *Stentorian* ever.

I was told that the last issue of *The Stentorian* was the best by some, and the worst by a few. One residential advisor told me it was all just a bunch of opinions. Quite the contrary, the issue had opinions, news, features, and sports. However, I understand what was meant. The issue did attack, to some degree, the administration and staff for insensitivity and infringement of student freedom. Every page seemed to highlight more and more problems with our school. I would like to mention, however, that the articles were all written privately and independently. The issue wasn't planned to be that way- it's just a reflection of the feelings of the students.

And now, in a very similar way, the spread on the opposite page addresses racial issues. Every problem thus far addressed seems to lead me to the conclusion that there is a major communication gap between the students, staff, and administration. And everyone wants to blame somebody or something else.

... But that's not what the last issue of the year is for! Life at Science and Math wasn't all bad. We worked a lot. We played a lot. We learned a lot about responsibility and growing up. We'll all remember a lot. Though I don't have much control over what the wills say, I don't want this last issue to leave a bad feeling on the school community. There have been good times and bad times; no need to forget about the good ones.

As you and I count the hours until we graduate (or "commence"), do a really big favor for someone. Anyone. Try to consider the school as if we were all on the same team. If you believe this, it will be true. But if you carry a chip on your shoulder, it wasn't the school's fault, and it will not disappear when you leave S&M.

Peace, JOHN GJERTSEN

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# How Much Input Do We Really Have?

DANIEL ALDRICH  
editor-in-chief

"...the School of Science and Math in Durham refused to run the ad. Others, such as Chapel Hill, Jordan, and Riverside high schools, accepted it."  
—From the News and Observer, 4/28/92, page 6E

The ad referred to here was an advertisement by the group OutRight, which wanted "to let more teens know about the support group." OutRight is a youth group that supports "gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens." Our administration refused to allow *The Stentorian* to run the ad, providing the weakest of explanations. Does this mean that the administration believes all students at our school to be heterosexual? I'm glad the administration has such progressive, open minded attitudes towards us.

I wonder how many other decisions have been made by the NCSSM administration without student notice? It is difficult for us to get involved in policy decisions unless we know what issue is being discussed.

Consider other issues which the administration has quietly swept under the rug, or attempted to control: the radon contamination (see last year's *Stentorian* spread on environmental issues) present in Hill, the serious injuries inflicted on students who were mugged in 1989 (see last *Stentorian* issue for information), the vandalism done to the RA transport van, and the attempted break in to the school while we were away on break last year. All of these topics were "handled" by the administration- that is, not mentioned to us at all, until we found out ourselves.

Perhaps the juniors present this year will be able to crack the tight shell of secrecy surrounding all the major decisions made at this school, and even put some of their input into it.

For example, just recently the new policy to take down all lofts present (including those covered under the grandfather clause) in Bryan, Hunt, and Hill. We students certainly have no interest in this law- we are forced to take down lofts that we have not only put down \$100 deposits on to the school, but that we had to pay for or build ourselves.

And consider this: since there will be no standing lofts present next year, the school will make \$100 per loft, as it will require every loft to be covered by the deposit. That is a lot of money for the school to hold on to.

Did any student help to make this decision? Are we not mature enough to be involved in the running of our own lives? This seems to be the case when the administration is willing to take full control of them.

How about the latest decision to have the seniors arrive back at NCSSM after the juniors arrive next year? How many returning seniors want this policy instigated? A faculty member told me quietly that "The administration is going to have more faculty than students on the orientation committee." If we are supposed to be leaders, can we not lead ourselves?

Well, I'm leading myself right out of here- and into college. If you juniors want to make a change, go ahead and try. Its your right- no, better yet- its your responsibility.

