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Destroying the hall

STEVE CARPENTER

"Does your mom let you play rugby inside at home?" your SLI asks shaking his head. Even though you know he's been standing around the corner long enough to see you break three lights and put a hole in the wall, you still say, "Rugby? We weren't playing rugby. How can you play rugby with a football?"

Everyone laughs at your sarcastic comment, everyone except your SLI. Is this really funny? Besides laughing at the man who could snap his fingers and make a Level II appear on your door, you are VANDALIZING your own hall.

All over campus, students have been desecrating the ceilings, floors and walls of their residence halls. Writing obscene and insulting comments on people's dry erase boards, drawing graffiti in the Hunt stairwell, and vandalizing bulletin boards are just some of the things that students do that make residence halls look like inner city alleys.

Add imprints of people's bodies found on some walls in Hill House and dirty laundry that is kicked around for a few days, and our residence halls turn into hallways reminiscent of Compton after an earthquake.

No apparent reason for this vandalism exists, and it needs to stop.

Recently, junior James Grant's grandparents visited on a Sunday afternoon. At the

time Second Hill North only did housekeeping Sundays through Thursday, so as you can imagine, on that afternoon the hall was not in it's cleanest state.

On top of all the normal weekend wear, some people were so careless that the hall was littered with soda bottles, dirty clothes and various graffiti. Instead of just cleaning his room, James had to clean up the entire hall for his grandparents!

Put yourself in James's shoes. Your parents are due to arrive in an hour. You quickly clean your room, so you aren't yelled at, and you go downstairs to wait for them. On the trip up to your room, they notice the insults, conveniently inserted next to the name of your hall. Then, you pass your hall bulle-

tin board, where someone has amazingly arranged the names of you and your hall mates to spell out curse words. Finally, after dodging a barrage of trash, you arrive at you room, and a note on your dry erase board reads 'Call your [derogatory female term] back'. Have a happy car ride home!

So, next time you want to play rugby, THINK, heed your mother's advice and go outside. And if you want to write something on a wall, try something not offensive for once.

I hate to say it, but that SLI might be right for once. Try to do what he/she says and treat your hall like your home, because, after all, that's what it is to you and your hall mates, home.



Thanks

Encouragement from support staff appreciated

It is one o'clock in the afternoon and you have already had two tests and a pop quiz this morning. Your stomach is growling because you skipped lunch to finish a Miller paper due by 5, and you can still look forward to sports practice, club meetings, and tonight's homework.

You walk down the hall, wondering if there is any possible escape from the pressure that only students here know, when you hear a friendly, "Hey! How you doin' today?" from behind you.

It may be Chris Taylor, looking up from fixing a problem outside the hall, or Mervin Upchurch mopping the floor outside the Watts elevator, or Bobby Jackson standing outside the security office (but only if the greeting is followed by "little brother" or "little sister"). All of a sudden you start to cheer up, and you realize how much a little kindness can brighten a person's day. And if there is one group of people you can always count on getting a friendly greeting or a little help from, it is the security and maintenance

staff at school.

These employees work hard everyday in order to keep things running smoothly on campus. If you need a bench or an air-conditioner fixed, you just need to send a simple e-mail, and the problem will normally be fixed within the next few days. Even with matters that seem as trivial as a squeaky door, talk to a maintenance person, and if they are not in the middle of a major project, they will help you immediately. They make an RLA's life easier by delivering housekeeping supplies almost as soon as a request form is turned in. The security officers spend a great deal of time each night making sure that doors are locked and no one is roaming around school who should not be.

When you are beginning to feel out of touch with the real world and trapped inside the NCSSM bubble, talk to one of these people. And while you are talking to them, thank them for all that they do. They are so often taken for granted, and this school would be a less friendly place without them.

Note of apology

Due to the lack of response to the smoking survey from last issue, there are no results for the students opinions on smoking that would accurately represent the entire NCSSM community.

SGA Smoking Survey Results

Did you smoke before you came to NCSSM?
YES-16.23%
NO-82.55%
UNSURE-1.11%
NO OPINION-0%

Do you smoke now?
YES-18.28%
NO-79.26%
UNSURE-1.23%
NO OPINION-0.56%

Do you think that students should be allowed to smoke on campus?
YES-44.39%
NO-42.26%
UNSURE-8.35%
NO OPINION-4.90%

Do you think students should be allowed to smoke in designated areas on campus?
YES-64.31%
NO-25.94%
UNSURE-5.29%
NO OPINION-4.36%

Do you think that smoking should be allowed off campus?
YES-76.96%
NO-10.97%
UNSURE-6.68%
NO OPINION-5.39%

Do you think students should be allowed to smoke off campus if they walk around?
YES-72.45%
NO-13.97%
UNSURE-6.60%
NO OPINION-6.81%

Do you think that students should be allowed to possess tobacco products?
YES-67.04%
NO-21.69%
UNSURE-5.36%
NO OPINION-5.91%

Do you feel that a person's safety would be compromised if he/she had to leave

campus to smoke?
YES-50.88%
NO-33.44%
UNSURE-10.97%
NO OPINION-4.72%

Are you bothered by other students smoking?
YES-35.26%
NO-57.08%
UNSURE-5.88%
NO OPINION-1.78%

Do you think that faculty/staff ought to be allowed to smoke on campus?
YES-38.11%
NO-43.81%
UNSURE-9.91%
NO OPINION-8.17%

Do you think your parents' opinion on smoking should influence whether or not students at NCSSM are allowed to smoke?
YES-34.96%
NO-51.87%
UNSURE-8.41%