

## Durham: city of champions?

heather fried

Now that the school year is well underway, the new juniors and the returning seniors have had the opportunity to examine the community the state picked to be home to NCSSM for the past twenty years: Durham.

One of the things we all appreciate about this wonderful city is its excellent transportation system. As we sit on the steps by Watts Circle we get to witness the amazing spectacle of fifteen buses whizzing pass the school without stopping to pick us up. The won-

derful men and women of the Durham Area Transit Authority are always looking out for their appreciated customers. They have no problems letting us get in an extra three hours at the mall before coming to pick us up. The drivers also show a concern for our education, as they are always ready to take us on a scenic tour of the city before dropping us off at our destination three miles from the place we got on the bus. And there is such a variety of places to go; two malls and a movie theatre. DATA really is everywhere we want to be.

Durham not only has great transportation, but tons of friendly neighborhoods. When walking through them it is almost certain that one will be shown a fine selection of metallic armaments. The people are more than willing to demonstrate them too. They are very friendly, and love nothing more than to stop and offer you a ride if they see you walking down the road. They are always looking out for their fellow citizens.

Durham is also one of the most diverse cities in America. Musicians, doctors, students, and miscreants can all

be seen enjoying a sub together in Jimmy John's on Ninth Street.

Jimmy John's is just one example of the city's fine cuisine. Ninth Street is home to many gourmet restaurants, including the fine Italian tastes of I Love New York Pizza, the delectable Mexican palates of Cosmic Cantina, and the scrumptious fine beverages of McDonald's drug store. Everywhere one goes there is a wide array of fine dining to choose from.

Another aspect of the city that puts all newcomers in awe is the fine architecture. An-

cient Rome can not even hope to compete with the sprawling cityscape of downtown Durham and the towering rocket outside the Life and Science Museum. One can only gape in wonder at the water fountain in front of the First Union bank, the city's greatest architectural feat of this century.

North Carolina really could not have picked a better location for North Carolina school of Science and Mathematics. The wide range of cultural and social experiences the city has given us will remain with us for years to come.



Unsuspecting NCSSM student dives head-first into the wrath of the change sucking dryers.

chris paul

## Clubs: Genuine motives or self-promotion?

jonathan raxter

Membership in a club can provide students with fun and often rewarding experiences. However, there are three outstanding problems concerning clubs. First, some of the clubs, new and old, are of questionable worth and should not exist. Second, some clubs that are good do not advertise enough to be known. Third, people that join clubs often do not participate sufficiently, which leads to difficulty in organizing and beneficially continuing a club.

A club should consist of group of people who have some common interest or motivation. These interests should then be explored with activities that are difficult to do in every day student life. For example, the Outdoors Club can go on an off campus tri, or the Step Team can organize a dance routine to perform. Activities like these are more easily coordinating through a club, and, therefore these clubs are reasonable to have.

However, some clubs such as Spirit Club, and Anime Club, and Respect Club are not reasonable. I don't see the purpose of a spirit

club, nor do I see activities that this club could do that would be unique or greatly beneficial in any way, except to raise money. The Anime Club watches cartoons, an activity that does not require or even justify a club. Finally, the Respect Club supposedly examines gender issues. This club seems more reasonable than the previous two, but when I heard a club official lobbying for members because it "looks good on my college applications," I questioned the motivation of the club.

Next, when a club doesn't advertise any, it is not a club, but just a group of friends making a pseudo-club. Clubs should be open to all; but when all don't know they even exist, this makes things difficult. For example, a list of SGA chartered clubs I acquired shows two clubs that I've never heard of, Inner Child Club and Tension Relief Club. After talking to club officials, I concluded that the clubs have basically the same goals. Instead of combining, these clubs are two different, inclusive groups of friends, wasting club charter money and creating yet more paperwork.

Finally, do

not join a club that you will not participate in fully. This not only makes you a hypocrite, but it also lessens the experience for everyone else. Key club president David Angeles said, "Our club cannot confidently schedule activities if no one shows up. Because so many people have taken advantage of our club's name, this year Key Club is trying to initiate a minimum requirement of hours." Another club president, Quyen Vu of the Asian Cultures Club stated, "Last year, many people joined ACC, but during Asia Fest only a few showed up to work. Yet, these non-committed people will still put ACC on their transcript." Clearly, lack of involvement is a problem our clubs face.

Joining six clubs does not appeal many to many colleges. When you join a club or organization, now or in the future, make sure that it is something that inspires or excites you, and that you are willing to be dedicated. For those of you who are thinking of starting bogus clubs next year...don't. It makes you look bad, and, besides, the extra signs clutter our hallways.

## The drowning of the laundry room

laura pipe

The Girls' Laundry Room is a major spot on the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Flood Zone. The girls' in Ground C can tell you, the laundry room we girls are forced to use is next to unusable. To step in the laundry room bare footed would be unfeasible, in flip-flops is next to unthinkable.

When going from washer to dryer you have to do this special little balance-hover to make sure that you don't drop anything on the floor. One drop and your clothes are covered by everything from lent deposits to all out mud. The mud made by the combination of the unpreventable dirt brought in by shoes and the water let out by the washers.

Which brings me to the idea that

very soon there should be an end to the era in the girls' laundry room. The washers and dryers can very possible; be the same washers and dryers put in when the school opened. The washers obviously leak, but half the time the dryers work the other half they don't. And that's just tough luck. I've put money in a dryer, it more than graciously took it, and after I pushed the little start button, it just sat there.

It disgusts me, the thought, that I have to wash anything in the laundry room. I am often left wondering if there is anything really accomplished by this little adventure of mine. Quite often I find myself thinking how much easier it would be to beg and plead until my mom comes and picks me up, so then I can wash

my clothes at home. But no I still go, and I still wait and wait and wait. The laundry room is a fixable problem, but it has yet to be addressed. So I sit there as my clothes tumble and think of all the other glorious things I could do, but no I am waiting for that dryer in the middle (because it works) to finish that final spin so I can yet again place fifty cents into the machine.

The delay caused by the fixing of this problem would be gladly waited out. I can't really see how waiting a few days to get washers and dryers fixed is any worse than waiting for your clothes to dry on the third fluff and puff cycle. So, if anyone in the right position would dare to challenge this, and take on trying to fix the problem, we would appreciate it. Having to wait

for at least three hours for what should only be an hour-and-a-half job is becoming a quite the pain. Many girls have no alternative; to have clean clothes they must fight the raging waters and do battle with the quarter-eating machines. Trust me, as much money as these inefficient machines are making off us, someone can surely afford to replace them.

You would think after the first flood, that reached right up to the doors of some of the girls on Ground Cs' rooms, that the school would replace the leaking washers and unusable dryers. But no, they are left in place and the in same condition as before and the girls in Ground C are left to wonder what will come tomorrow, another flood, or another day of dry peace.