

Addressing campus safety

Staff editorial

Teenagers will be teenagers, and teenagers want to go places. Student security and transportation are two issues that go hand in hand and have been long debated at NCSSM. With the recent occurrence of the robbery near Erwin Square and the neighborhood becoming increasingly dangerous, these issues have been brought to the forefront.

At a recent faculty council meeting, the idea of initiating Friday and Saturday night van loops to entertainment areas for students was proposed. This would replace D'Weekender, which is known to be often unreliable and late. We applaud this idea and the quick response by the administration to the safety of students. Van loops would be more reliable and there would be more of a feeling of responsibility by drivers towards riders.

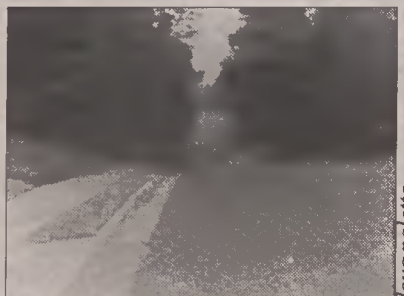
In addition to the already proposed idea, we suggest a student survey to determine where the loops should go. We also suggest that more than one van be employed per night so that students can go to various parts of Durham

without a lengthy wait.

Apart from what this incident has made the administration aware of, it should teach everyone to exercise caution when traveling off-campus. We commend the students involved in the recent incident for traveling in a large group of mixed sex. Though the students were walking off-campus after dark, a definite breach of school policy, they otherwise acted responsibly, and there is no telling how a perpetrator in such an incident would take further advantage of his victims if the group had been comprised of just two or three females.

In addition, we commend the administration for acting so generously toward the students involved, being supportive of them in their dealings with the police. The entire community, staff, students, and administration, has been sympathetic and understanding.

We hope that a joint effort between students and administrators will make Science and Math a safer and more enjoyable community.



Many students are used to walking down streets like this one near Erwin Square to get to hangouts, despite the dangers.

doug paletta

Intellectualism and 2000

heather fried

As the millennium approached, it was interesting to note that while other countries were busy preparing by writing symphonies and remembering their histories, celebrating their past thousand years of their culture, Americans were buying bottled water and batteries. Sadly, we have missed a great opportunity to make the beginning of year 2000 memorable. The Y2K bug may not have destroyed our computers, but it did batter the spirit of intellectualism in this country.

One has to ask whether this lack of cultural motivation is the result of living so long as a commercial country. In a society where shopping is a pastime and the citizens believe themselves to be superior to the rest of the world, perhaps it is impossible for us to extend ourselves beyond our money and democratic principles for the sake of cultural advancement. Why should we have culture when we could have money? No one could possibly have written a novel when they knew for sure that the stock market was going to crash come midnight on December 31, 1999.

The United States could not even usher in the New

Year with a celebration that reflected anything more than a gross display of idiocy. Millions of Americans watched MTV as icons of pop culture danced with animal tails in their hair and made fools of themselves on television. While people in China held hands and sang, and Korea conducted traditional ceremonies, thousands of Americans packed together and stood on their feet for nine hours to watch a ball of lights fall for ten seconds. For every person in Times Square, there must have been fifteen more elsewhere intoxicated to the point that they probably will not remember New Year's Eve.

Since the official start of the millennium does not start until 2001, Americans need to wake up and take advantage of the time we have left. We should take the example of Great Britain, who has founded a seed bank containing seeds of every plant known to man. They have also constructed a huge building larger than the Georgia Dome in Atlanta dedicated solely to education. Or perhaps we could learn from Italy, where the Roman Catholic Church is undergoing what they have termed historical purification. This entails examining their mistakes throughout history, such as the injustices done against Joan of Arc and Galileo and their indif-

ference to the deaths of Jews in World War II. All over Europe, countries funded projects to better their nations, while we sat at home fretting about the end of the world. The rest of the world will leave symphonies, architecture, and literature, and we will have issues of *The National Enquirer*. This is the legacy the world's leading nation will leave behind.

American authors, composers, artists, historians, philosophers, politicians and citizens all need to take some initiative. We have already taken a step in the right direction with the founding of the Museum of Native American History in Washington D.C., but that should not be the only thing that stands as a worldly monument to a thousand years of history. Every community should try and do one positive thing to help us remember our past and plan for our future, whether it is founding programs for cleaning the environment or working to help reduce poverty in their community. The government should act as well. Certainly they could set up a committee to make suggestions and initiate action in the country. The culture is there to be preserved and created, we just need to get out from in front of our televisions and find it.

Y2K: the controversy

laura pipe

At the start of a New Year we are left with lots of thoughts of what may come—new ideas, new inventions. But this year is different; we are not just entering a new year, but a new Millennium. So what is on the mind of some Americans? Well, I can say that when I found out what some were worried about, I was a bit baffled at the stupidity. And, no, I am not talking about the Millennium Bug. The worry on America's mind is what are we going to call the first ten years of 2000.

Earlier in 1999 I came across a little known controversy, that has some people in a whirlwind of craziness. The whole debate is centered around what we are going to call the years between 2000 and 2009. We had the roaring 20's, the swinging 50's, the groovy 60's, the hip 70's, and so on... So the point in question is now that the 90's are gone and past, what are we going to call the 00's? While many Americans worry about World peace, economics, pollution and more important matters, some Americans are worried

about naming the 00's of the Millennium. This whole thing actually gets me a little worried. I mean, if people can get worked up over this, what will they do when they find out that no one cares?

There seems to be some circulation of ideas on what to call the first ten years of the new century. Some individuals suggest the Zero-Zero Method, which in my mind makes the decade sound kind of depressing. Who really wants to say I graduated in zero-zero-one or worst zero-zero-zero? It makes the time period sound like it was a big fat ZERO. Others suggest the Oh-h Method, which is a little catchier and not quite as unsuccessful sounding. But to me it still lacks the pizzazz needed to start a new century. Then there is my personal favorite, the Double-Oh Method, it might be a little strange at first, but when you get to seven it can be a lot of fun. You can say, 'we mined the Moon in Double-Oh Seven'. It makes me want to name the rocketship that goes to the Moon 'Goldfinger' in honor of the year.

Things are just heating up

in the debate. The recent suggestion of the Double-Zero Method seems to have tipped the favor. I mean, how can we, as good Americans, sit back and let the first decade of the century pass us by and not name it. I know how, pop some Blink 182 into the C.D. player and let the days go by. How stupid are we if we let this kind of stuff become a debate. I mean come on, does it really matter? Fifty-years from now historians are going to call it whatever they want anyway; so why waste the brain-power?

Retraction

We apologize for a factual error in my article "Clubs: Genuine motives or self-promotion?" The Inner Child and Tension Relief clubs did not request or receive SGA funds, as we indicated.

The intended purpose of my article was to express that people should not join clubs simply to use for resumes. We apologize to the clubs that we unwarrantedly attacked, the Respect Club, Anime Club, Spirit Club, and Inner Child Club.

the stentorian

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