

SLI dissatisfaction:

Why the turnover rate is so high and what can be done about it.

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Imagine a Science and Math slightly different from the reality. Imagine that the word "level" only means being in a horizontal plane. That Monday nights after 7:55 check, the next half hour would not be spent listening to safety concerns, the PA testing schedule, and the occasional wisecrack from the hall clown. Imagine not running back from Happy Half at 10:29 to make check, or not stealthily sneaking into the lounge to microwave Ramen after midnight. Imagine being a NCSSM junior, and not waking up at 8:30 a.m. on Alt Day for SL101 time management classes. Imagine NCSSM without SLI's.

Now imagine a little longer; think a little harder. Realize that along with the absence of level's, hall meetings, and check, there would be another great void. Imagine NCSSM without women's soccer, cheerleading, food runs, van loops, MPC's, I-viz, words of wisdom, or a sympathetic ear to listen when the stress of NCSSM becomes unbearable.

"I feel like the SLI's are regarded merely as babysitters. But we are much more than that. Without us, there would be no programs, invites, or food runs. Many of the best aspects of this institution – the ability to pursue personal interests and residential life – would not be operative without us," said SLI Todd Glenn.

When SLI's accept this job, they understand that they will serve as the students' adopted guardians, enforcing rules, and carefully observing their comings and goings. They accept the job with a counseling background, hoping to offer the students the wisdom of a seasoned adult.

"When I was at NCSSM, I had a really good experience, including residential life. When the opportunity to work as an SLI arose, I accepted because I wanted to offer the same good experience I had to other students," said SLI Ashley Glenn.

The demands of the job itself are sometimes the source of dissatisfaction.

"We are required to work fifty-two hours a week. But that time does not include the times we interact with the students on a personal level outside of duty, including brother/sister hall activities, tak-

ing students out, or personal counseling. Therefore, we usually exceed that fifty-two hour requirement. And the salary just does not seem to balance out the amount of work we do," said SLI Amy Wheeler.

One of the most disgruntling aspects of the time requirement expressed by the SLI's is office duty.

willingly engage with students outside of those nine hours when you are actually available to us outside of class," said SLI Valerie Daniels.

SLI's not only give up a lot of their personal time, but their privacy also. Their lifestyles are often limited by their job.

"Pets, privacy, and

hoping as a stepping stone between jobs, there is little upward mobility in the growth advancement that NCSSM offers," said Wheeler.

Some SLI's feel a lack of respect from students, faculty members, and administration members.

"If there is one thing I hope will change, is to increase the respect the students have for SLI's. When you review the things the SLI's do for students and the pressures they face, I think you will see why SLI's have low morale. The very people you are charged to care for are the people who give you the least respect," said SLI Warren Basket.

"As SLI's, the administration treated us with little respect for who we are and the job we did. They did not support us with parents and with other school officials. Finally, they wanted SLI's to be glorified babysitters, effectively limiting the position to one that has high turnover, low pay, and generally disgruntled employees. Here you see SLI's being treated like children, yet having responsibilities of parents. What a strange dichotomy of expectations the student life administration has!" said former SLI Chris Smith.

One of the main concerns

~SLI P8~



SLI's are commonly seen in the Bryan office doing one of their many off hall activities: office duty.

"Nine hours sitting behind a desk is not what I would like to be doing. I'd rather put those hours to work for the students, or more for the school in helping the students. You [the students] are why we are here and sitting behind a desk as a secretary is not helping you in the least bit grow and mature. We can not possibly have an impact on you when we are closed in our little glass cage waiting to be released after nine hours of day duty. We are not able or rather are less likely to

pay! Having my apartment on hall can sometimes be really annoying because I'll be trying to sleep and the noise on the hall outside will keep me up," said SLI Kim Shankle.

The demands of the job are not the only reasons why SLI's leave. Some leave to pursue career interest.

"In many ways, the job is set up as an entry-level position. There is no seniority and the pay is not sufficient for the amount of hours that the SLI's put into their job. Usually

Duke~P6

After the awe-inspiring press conference, we moved on to the locker room interviews. We entered the locker room and were stopped dead in our tracks. The players we had seen on TV all those times were now right before us, in larger than life size. For those of you who are not aware, these guys are REALLY tall. Any previous bravado we may have had vanished at the first sight. While we were just mere high schoolers, the real reporters handled the giants with ease and grace. Numerous

people were interested in autographs and quotations. We were content to gaze in speechless wonder at the talented players.

Finally, our night came to an end. As we rode back to school, we could scarcely find the words to describe the evening. Excitement filled the air as each of us relived his or her own personal experience in silence. We had touched the stars and were now returning to our day-in and day-out existence, but nothing could make us forget this once-in-a-lifetime night.

Getting "Buff" at NCSSM

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Everyday after school, many students rush to the PEC to begin their weightlifting routine. The students at NCSSM not only possess intellect but many of them are also avid weight-lifters. Weightlifting helps students stay in shape, train for sports, recover from injuries, and relieve stress.

Lifting has become a social activity at NCSSM, relieving stress through a good workout and conversation. Students encourage each other to surpass their personal goals. Many friendships are made and strengthened in the weight room. Students also help oth-

ers by "spotting". When "spotting" students assist lifters, they are helping prevent injuries by making sure the lifters are correctly hoisting the weights. "I try to lift as much as possible so I can recover from my running injury," said Senior Erick Daniels.

Many athletes and students work on various machines depending on their target areas. Some students come to the weight-room to improve their PA (physical activity) test grades. Students work their upper body to help them increase the number of pull-ups. "Students try to gradually improve on a weekly basis, so they will be ready for PA testing when the

time rolls around," said Junior Stephen Rich.

Students enjoy getting away from their school work. "I love to lift weight because it helps me stay in shape. You can't become a championship level surfer by being lazy," said Junior Thomas Covington. Along with lifting weights, Covington follows a strict diet to stay in peak physical condition.

Weightlifting at NCSSM continues to be a popular past time. Students improve their physical condition and have fun doing it. It enables students to get away from their books and work out with their friends.