

features

Old friends to new friends

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When Juniors came to NCSSM in August, they left much behind. Many students had difficulty giving up home friendships. So, how have students dealt with this problem and do they still keep in touch with their 'old' friends? Not surprisingly, few students keep in touch with their home friends solely by phone. Students agree that the phone bills can add up quickly and most students are on a limited budget.

As a result, many students said that their main tool of communication has become the Internet. "I keep in touch through e-mail a lot. It's free and convenient," said Junior Anne Chesky.

Some students have kept in contact with their hometown friends, and

many say that if they have a problem, they will still consult their old friends first. However, in the diversity of the NCSSM student body, some have

ally found that being at NCSSM has helped them to grow closer to their hometown friends.

"My first instinct is to run to my friends back



Andy Lamb shows his friend Kate Compton how to play his favorite song in the quad in front of Hunt.

found more people they share common ground with.

"I've found that I've made better friends here," said Junior Jeffrey Millman. "We just fit in better."

On the other hand, some students have actu-

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home. I value their friendship and how well they know me more. We've grown closer," said Junior Megan Lamb.

Overall, students seem to agree that it is very hard to keep in touch, but e-mail is the best and most inexpensive way to do so.

think for the most part they all feel they can connect with at least one of us on some level," said Daniels.

Furthermore, as much as students hate receiving levels, SLI's hate issuing them. Each level involves tedious paperwork, and the higher the level, the more trouble they ensue.

The residential life program could be a very dynamic, challenging aspect of NCSSM. But instead of standing for principles, the NCSSM administration tends to take a path of least resistance with regards to the discipline of students. When SLI's are not supported, then it's all too easy for SLI's to begin looking the other way or even encouraging risky, inappropriate behavior, such as drinking, drugs, sex, leaving campus after curfews, climbing the smokestacks, entering Wyche, etc. Last year on 3rd West, there was a lot of dangerous behavior taking place practically

under my nose, but I felt that I was powerless to do anything about it," said former SLI Jeff Bray.

However, the administration feels that they are for the most part, very responsive to the SLI's needs, and in many instances, conflict has been from personal issues, not a general dissatisfaction. Improvements take time and change will be slow.

"There have been individual incidents of conflict in terms of enforcement of rules. But for the most part, we are consistent to the best of our ability. We are trying to instigate a lot of changes to improve the quality of life for SLI's," said Director of Student Life Joan Barber.

The administration has drafted proposals requesting salary increases, funds to pay for substitutes in case of SLI illnesses or emergencies, a day receptionist for the Bryan and Hunt SLI offices, computers in SLI apartments, an additional

While some students have found that absence from hometown friends has 'made the heart grow fonder,' others have found that fellow students at NCSSM relate better to them and believe they have made much better friends.

"My friends here understand me more than my friends back home," said Junior Dawn Pickett, "but I do always consult with my best friend at home, too."

Students have been drawn to NCSSM for many reasons. Some came because of the educational opportunity, some came for the diverse atmosphere the school offers, and some came because they simply wanted to get away from home. However, no matter what the reason for coming, all feel that they will take away something very valuable—lifelong friendships.

SLI for 1st Hunt, nightly supervised study halls, permission to have pets, funds for SLI apartments to be cleaned prior to occupancy, and funds to purchase new SLI furniture and appliances.

Even if all these proposals transpire, there is more that needs to be done to increase SLI satisfaction—the attitude of the students, faculty, and administration towards the SLI's needs to improve. Often times, SLI's leave because the benefits of the job do not outweigh the costs of the job—the costs in terms of disrespect, lack of privacy, and lack of support from the whole community. We, as a whole, need to realize how much the SLI's contribute and how, many times, they're taken for granted. Our parents have taught us since we were little, as much as we hate to admit it, we don't realize how much something is worth until it's gone. But in this case, we can do something to change it.

Newport News

My family and I were waiting in the Vancouver airport when we got hungry (customs had worn us out). We proceeded to get some food to tide us over until we got to Kelowna, another plane ride away. The total came out to be a little over \$20. My mom handed the waitress a hundred, and moments later gets \$120 back in change.

Now, it's not the exchange rate that immediately interested me, but the money. Canadian money is really interesting. In fact, the United States could use it as an example.

All of the bills have several things in common. First, the person on the front is always on the right of the bill, not in the center. To this person's left is always a building of some sort. On the back is a bird of some sort in its habitat, with CANADA sprawling across the background. When held up to the light, the person on the front can also be seen on the back, but the back can not be seen on the front. All of the bills are heavy white paper with colored ink.

The ink of the five dollar bill is tealish and has a Mr. Laurier, Canada's third prime minister ("or something," as my waitress, Pam, says), on it. He is staring towards the front of the bill, lips pursed and eyes confused. I believe his confusion is towards the American flag that sits atop the building to his left. On the back is a Belted Kingfisher in a pond, with a huge CANADA composing the sunset.

On the ten dollar bill is a Mr. MacDonald. And, no, that's not Ronald McDonald, but Canada's first prime minister. MacDonald is a lovely shade of plum as he gazes wide eyed at the American flag perched on the building that is also on his left. It should be noted that MacDonald's nose is rather large and his hair looks like Peter Robichaux's hair looked before he cut it. Only

purple. On the back, a bulbulard prepares to take flight over some rough waters with CANADA on the horizon.

The twenty dollar bill gets a little snazzier, for three main reasons. The first is that there's a woman on the bill. It's Queen Elizabeth II, looking slightly reminiscent of Jackie O., but since she's on the front of all the coins, she doesn't get her name on the bill as the guys do. Secondly, there's no American flag on the building (I think it's because she's looking away from the building). Lastly, there's this cool square in the corner. At one angle it's gold, at another it's bright green. On the back is a common loon, forgiven for its unoriginality because the front is so cool. The twenty is the same shade as our money.

Next comes my favorite: the fifty. It's a really nifty burnt red colour. There's some angry man named King on the front, and an owl on the back. It's got the cool square thing in the corner and everything. But above all, it's the color that makes this bill so neat.

Canada also has fun duo-toned two dollar coins and eleven sided dollars. They're both great, and a lot more original than our dollar.

My plea is this: get America new money. Why do foreign countries have all of the neat money? I can see where the government's trying, with the new bills and the new quarters, but frankly, Canada did the quarter thing before us and theirs were cooler. They had a contest to see which drawings would go on the back, and so little kids designed the backs of twelve quarters (one for each month).

Election time is coming up. So vote for the best candidate: the one who wants to change our money to something interesting; something aesthetically pleasing and yet functional. Just don't vote for Bush: he is in favor of old money.

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