

Getting Down to Business

EMILY CURRIN

School is often thought of as a place where relationships aren't really welcomed or allowed. At typical high schools, relationships- dating, boyfriends, girlfriends, and the occasional hook-up - are aspects of the weekend. But what do we do when school is our home? Can anything be kept a secret? Are relationships here worthwhile or just a random connection between two people with very little in common? At our old schools most couples were seen doing the bare minimum: hand holding or little kisses. But where does school start and home begin, and how does the bare minimum get stretched?

Living on a hall of thirty guys sounds fun, right? What if you were a guy with a new girlfriend? How would an average guy handle all those typical questions that teenage boys love asking? Does he fib and say he got lots of play this weekend, or tell the truth about how he was excited to just get that one special kiss?

Pretend that this boy does fib; where is his girlfriend left standing? Her reputation could possibly be scarred. Boys on his hall may think she's easy, and worst of all, she is dating "an exaggerator." Many girls also face similar problems from their hallmates. Girls coming back from dates get asked millions of questions by their friends. Of course girls feel like they should be truthful, since they are talking to their friends, but what about the girls that judge each other for their actions? So someone kissed on the first date (or did more...Heaven forbid!) In the real world things like this don't matter, but to that sweet innocent girl, this hallmate of hers could be a seductress of the devil!

So here is a question to ponder: Are relationships at Science and Math of any real value? Take a peek at a typical couple:

**Steven Gentile
& Emily Chandler**

This adorable couple has been dating for eight months as of

Friday, October 26. They are always seen together and seem to be the best of friends. They go to an occasional movie, order take-out, and go on walks to the park. They like to joke, have arguments, and have playful fights.

What I see in this couple is an air of affection and friendship. Although they may get tired of seeing each other all the time, and having people ask them about one another, they don't let it bother them. They love spending time together and getting to know each other more and more every day. It seems nice to always have someone to count on and be there for you, but you don't have to have a

girlfriend or boyfriend to find these things; there are tons of great people here just willing to lend you a helping hand or a warm hug and they (usually)

don't expect kisses or affection in return.

And then there is that hooking up thing. It's just about as random and impulsive as it can get.

Watts Lawn, the I M Field...it's all the same

when you get down to it. Strange combinations of people, who are friends in the slightest sense, "getting down to business." Benji Smith feels that, "Random hook-ups should be non-emotionally involved." Like many people here, he believes that people



Emily Chandler

Emily and Steven enjoy each other's company at Prom 2001.

Be Kind to Mother Earth

LISA TURNER

You've heard of the three R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. At NCSSM, we're supposed to be all about environmental responsibility as part of our maturation into tomorrow's science and math leaders. Well, what does this mean in the context of our daily lives? What can we as students do to help out? And why are those stupid recycling bins all over campus when all we ever use them for is convenient trash

disposal?

Recycling means the return of reusable materials to the economy instead of their permanent disposal. It is important for several reasons. For one thing, it prevents the build-up of solid wastes and the use of more land for trash disposal. It keeps more trees from being cut and more mines from being dug. Also, it keeps costs down on materials like aluminum (which keeps us from having to pay a lot more for soft drinks). There are two major things we stu-

dents can do in our daily lives to help out with the recycling effort. We can use our recycling bins, which are located all over campus, and we can ensure that the bins don't get clogged

up with trash and fruit flies by not putting garbage in them.

Using the recycling facil-

ities is very simple; there are easy-to-follow guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Basically, all you have to remember is to rinse out the plastic bottles and aluminum cans, remove

bottle caps, and make sure you put the right types of paper in the paper bins. And

not putting trash in the bins is the easiest part of all. Just don't throw food products, Styrofoam, or other non-recyclable materials in the bins.

Recycling has been proven to be an environmentally sound and cost-effective way to prevent lots of unnecessary waste. We have an important role to play in keeping our school and environment clean. We owe it to ourselves and to each other to use our recycling facilities in a mature and responsible way.



Caroline Wong

NCSSM's omnipresent recycling bins.

Review: A Third Eye Awakening at Walnut Creek

HENRY HÉBERT

The night of the Tool concert was extremely cold, with temperatures in the mid 30's - but the turnout was unaffected by such trivial circumstances in expectation of an awe-inspiring show. The crowd made it clear that Tool personifies an art form that is accepted by a more mature audience - the average ticket-holder appeared to be in their early 30's.

It all began with a headlining act from Fantômas, a combination of members from Mr. Bungle and Faith No More, whose musical expression is a fright-

ening example of the capabilities of the human mind. The style can only be described as speed metal orchestrated by a three-year-old in a temper tantrum. Their marriage with Tool for this leg of the tour was not, in the audience's opinion, an appropriate coupling, as expressed by constant shouts of "TOOL!" and "GET OFF THE STAGE!" When Fantômas had finished their set and the techies completed their setup, the lights dimmed and the real performance began.

Above the heads of the expectant crowd, one could see a circle of eyes on two enormous screens at the rear of the stage. When the

members of the band appeared, the crowd went berserk - this is what they had come to see. With able rhythm section Justin Chancellor on bass and Danny Carey on the drums backing Adam Jones' skillful guitar, the band showed once again that vocalist Maynard James Keenan is not the star of the show. Certainly, he had a commanding stage presence for one of such small stature, writhing and tossing his head like one possessed by a demon, but Maynard's spectacle did not monopolize the audience's attention. Carey, surrounded by glowing geometric figures, cascaded down the drums. Chancellor

worked uncanny bass riffs, and Jones, with his artwork playing on the screens, produced a profusion of distorted tones.

Most of the set list was fairly predictable; tracks from Lateralus punctuated with favorites like "Pushit" and "Stinkfist". The band also decided to bring along a new tour accompaniment, the acrobatic team Osseus Labrint, which Tool had featured in their popular video for "Schism". Midway through the song, the acrobats made an appearance with their animalistic totter, the acrobats' subtle anatomical differences accentuating the notion of symmetry present

throughout the performance. They appeared again for "Triad", suspended by their legs 30 ft from the stage and moving like animatronic cuts of meat.

An accurate description of the show cannot be put into words. The result of a gathering of musicians of such magnitude? Pure unutterable bliss. In closing I will leave you with Maynard's words:

"Remember the feeling you're having right now - whether you're having a good time, a bad time, or an indifferent time... Take it home with you and in the coming weeks create something positive."